

The Island Current

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One Dollar

Tough Talk from New Commander

By KAREN NANI



Photo by PAUL NANI

The new commander of the New York City Police Department's 45th Precinct, Captain Russell Green, held the October Community Council meeting at the American Legion Hall on City Island. More than 70 Islanders and other Bronx residents packed the meeting on Oct. 7, 2010, and raised questions about motorcycle traffic, crime, illegal parking, bad neighbors and other quality of life issues.

In an effort to make it convenient for residents, the new commanding officer of the New York City Police Department's 45th Precinct, Captain Russell Green, held the October Community Council meeting at the American Legion Hall on City Island. More than 70 Islanders and other Bronx residents packed the meeting on Oct. 7, 2010, and heard the captain talk about the tough stand that the precinct is taking against traffic law violators and other criminals.

The meeting was opened by Bob Bieder, president of the 45th Precinct's Community Council, who welcomed those in attendance and reported that from now on the October Council meeting will be held on City Island. He then introduced the new commanding officer of the precinct, who began with the good news: crime is down almost 5 percent so far this year in the precinct, one of the largest geographical precincts in the city. Captain Green reported that there had been no violent crimes, such as shootings or stabbings, in City Island during the 28-day period ending Oct. 3.

However, police are investigating a number of automobile break-ins, stolen cars and other acts of criminal mischief on the Island.

Captain Green also announced that there had been arrests for cocaine possession on City Island on Oct. 1. Police issued a search warrant and recovered "large quantities of cocaine" from a Minneford Avenue residence (see story this issue). Captain Green credited the "hard work of plainclothes units" with this successful arrest. Later in the meeting, two undercover narcotics officers addressed the audience and urged residents to report any suspected drug dealing or use to the Bronx Narcotics Division at 718-653-7241. They can also email chet.wilson@nypd.org.

The captain also confirmed the arrest of Island resident, Bryan Barry, who was caught breaking into cars last month (see October issue of *The Current*). Mr. Barry resisted arrest and was also charged with assaulting two police officers. "We are working with the District Attorney's office to prosecute Mr. Barry. It's important to catch individuals such as this who can cause major problems in a small community like City Island," he told the crowd.

In terms of summonses issued across the 45th Precinct, more than 1,000 have

been issued for seatbelt violations; using a cell phone while driving; moving violations, such as running stop signs; and double parking. Some of these summonses were issued on City Island. The captain was

quick to add: "We are trying to balance the double parking summonses with keeping businesses running in the precinct."

He also cited progress in enforcing the prohibition of large commercial vehicle parking in residential areas, a problem raised by numerous Island residents over the years. "It used to be only a \$50 offense, but it has now been raised to \$250, which is making the owners of these vehicles think twice."

When he took questions from the audience, Islanders heard a sample of his tough views on law enforcement. He was asked about the ongoing problem of noisy motorcycles speeding down City Island Avenue during the day and in the middle of the night. "Reckless motorcyclists are a Bronx-wide issue. But we have an aggressive ticketing program, and we will put unlicensed motorcycles on a flatbed truck and tow them away." He expected that motorcycle traffic to City Island would decline with the end of the summer weather, but he pledged a visible police presence going forward starting with Halloween on Sunday, Oct. 31, when he will be on City Island.

Islander Carmela Pervizi told the captain about neighbors who put cones out to keep parking spaces open in front of their houses, making it difficult for other residents of the block to find parking spaces

(see *Letters to the Editor* this issue). She also said she had tried to report these incidents and was subsequently harassed by her neighbors.

"I will be happy to tow cars, give out summonses, and put criminals in handcuffs. It's what I like to do," he assured residents who are victims of crimes or harassment. But he stressed that these incidents must be reported to 911 (if it is a crime occurring now) or to the Community Affairs officers at the precinct (718-822-5411 or 718-822-5299).

One audience member complained about the new automated telephone system recently installed at the 45th Precinct, which makes it difficult to actually speak with an officer or leave a message. Captain Green said he shared their frustration, as the new system was forced on the precinct by the NYPD. He is trying to solve the problems and get the phone system changed to be more user-friendly.

The captain introduced other NYPD officers with information on how to prevent becoming a crime victim. Officer Pat Pappalardi spoke about safeguarding property and automobiles. "Don't leave cell phones, wallets or GPS devices visible when your car is parked on the street. Park under street lights and have multiple anti-theft devices and alarms to make your car dif-

Continued on page 3

MARINE STREET DEVELOPMENT MOVES AHEAD - AGAIN

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Community Board 10's Zoning and Housing Committee held an open hearing at the City Island Community Center on Monday, Oct. 18, so that City Island residents could be brought up to date on the development plans for east Marine Street, a project that has been in the works for over 20 years.

Representatives of the developer, GBG Corporation, presented elevation drawings of the Sea Breeze development, which will consist of two apartment buildings with 16 condominium units each, separated by a wide access walkway to the waterfront, where there will be slips for at least 41 boats and a public access to the water via a dock. There will be parking for 93 cars in the basement of the buildings.

Little has changed since the Civic meeting in November 2009, when the developer presented plans to the community, except that the architect has taken pains to make the exterior of the buildings more suitable for City Island. These will no longer have a stucco exterior but a clapboard look, with gables and other details that are somewhat more traditional than the original plans.

Nevertheless, some residents were surprised that these buildings were so large (although they are well under 35 feet in height, as stipulated by the Special City Island Zoning regulations) and that the developers chose to interpret the City Planning requirement for public waterfront access as an open area through the middle of the development. The developer of the IUC property on east Fordham Street chose to have the access off to the side and outside the gates of the condominium complex. Robert Kandel, attorney for the developer, said that City Planning had insisted on this open access because Marine Street no longer extended to the water but was demapped as part of the zoning change process that took place a decade ago, and he pointed out that this development would not be gated.

The Zoning Committee was asked to make a recommendation for four minor rulings regarding the development before the project went to the next approval step during the ULURP process (Uniform Land Use Review Procedure), and at the end of the meeting, they voted to approve the

developers' requests. The committee did, however, insist that the developer work closely with the community on the project, especially regarding the removal of contaminated waste, traffic and parking issues relating to construction vehicles and other issues that might arise during the construction process.

According to authorities who have granted permits for the cleanup of the site, once the location of Triboro Marine, and for work on the waterfront, the contamination consists mostly of oil, not of toxic elements. However, the contractors will be required to go through elaborate procedures to dispose of the contaminated soil.

The developer hopes to begin work on the site in the spring of 2011 and to be completed within two years. Bill Stanton, president of the City Island Civic Association, said that he worried about what the developer would do if he were unable to sell the units for prices that range from \$600,000 to \$1 million. Ken Kearns, district manager of Community Board 10, expressed concern that the developer might be tempted to make a deal with New York City to house the homeless. The developer's representatives said this would not happen, but they were not inclined to make any commitments in writing about the rental option.



Elevation drawings by the architect Charles Knapp for one of the two apartment buildings that is planned for the Sea Breeze development at the east end of Marine Street.

BRIEFLY...

BLOOD DRIVE, sponsored by the Bronx Masons, will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 9, between the hours of 3:30 and 8 p.m., at 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.

NEW PROGRAMS AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER! Jill's Playgroup on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for preschool children; no charge but donations are appreciated. Call 516-841-5751 for more information. Are you tired of feeling like the "little woman" when it comes to basic home repair? SheWorkHer is dedicated to helping women learn just how much they can do with a few tools and the right knowledge. Learn electrical and plumbing repair, painting, wallpapering and much more. Classes take place on Nov. 15 and 29 and Dec. 13 and 20 at 7 p.m. and will continue in January. The first class is free. Call Nancy at 646-235-1175.

"SO YOU THINK YOU CAN'T SING?" Come join a music-reading workshop for singers and would-be singers on Saturday, Nov. 20, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Grace Church Parish Hall. Grace Church Minister of Music Stephen Marcus will offer a free workshop geared toward anyone and everyone who would love to sing (in church, synagogue, the stage, the shower . . .) but simply lacks the confidence and basic music reading skill to do so. Steve has a gift for helping even the most resistant (and tone deaf) make beautiful music, so why not come along and give it a try? There is no audition or solo singing required; just show up with your vocal cords and your enthusiasm, and Steve will take it from there. All are invited for a morning of fun and beautiful music! Coffee and goodies will be provided. Grace is located at 116 City Island Avenue, at the corner of Pilot Street (across from the Lido Restaurant). For further information, please call the Parish Office at 718-885-1080.

HART ISLAND EXPLAINED: On Sunday, Nov. 14, at 2 p.m., marine historian Norman Brouwer, former curator of ships at the South Street Seaport Museum, will give a talk on Hart Island at the City Island Nautical Museum, 190 Fordham Street. This will be a unique opportunity to learn about the rich history of the island, which has been a prison, a hospital and a potter's field.

SWEET CHARITY, a musical production of the City Island Theater Group, will be performed at Grace Church Hall, located at 116 City Island Avenue, on Nov. 5, 6, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20 at 8 p.m. and on Nov. 7 and 14 at 3 p.m. For more information or to reserve tickets, please call 718-885-3066 or e-mail tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com. The Theater Group rarely does musicals, so this will be very special indeed. Don't miss it!

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during September and October 2010. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 3 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 3 - PETIT LARCENY
- 3 - CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
- 3 - ASSAULT
- 1 - BURGLARY

Police provided details on the following incidents for the period from Sept. 20 to Oct. 17, 2010.

9/24 - Police reported three incidents of automobile break-ins overnight on Reynolds and Pilot Streets. Three cars were broken into, but no windows were smashed. Police believe the cars were left unlocked.

10/1 - Police from the 45th Precinct arrested three suspects on Minneford Avenue and charged them with possession of a controlled substance. Police found cocaine and marijuana at the residence (see story this issue).

10/3 - At 6 p.m., police responded to reported assaults at 2 City Island Avenue. A male defendant allegedly struck two female complainants in the parking lot of a restaurant.

10/4 - On Bay Street, all four sides of an automobile were scratched in an incident of criminal mischief.

10/10 - Six unknown juvenile suspects were seen running from an automobile break-in on Hawkins Street at 9 p.m. A neighbor reported hearing a window being smashed. The incident is under investigation.

10/15 - On Belden Street at 10 p.m., police arrested a male and charged him with assault after he struck his girlfriend on the way into a restaurant.

10/17 - Unknown suspects burglarized a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue and Ditmars Street overnight. The incident is under investigation.

10/17 - Unknown suspects vandalized the bus shelter on City Island Avenue at Fordham Street. The glass was broken in an act of criminal mischief.

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Drug Arrests on Minneford Avenue

By KAREN NANI

Police arrested three individuals for criminal possession of controlled substances at 696 Minneford Avenue on Oct. 1 at 6 a.m., and recovered "large quantities of cocaine" from the Minneford Avenue residence, according to the 45th Precinct commanding officer, Captain Russell Green.

Police acted on tips from undercover officers, whose efforts were instrumental in this arrest, according to the captain. A search warrant was executed for the premises and several other illegal drugs were allegedly recovered by police at the scene, including marijuana and Ecstasy.

Kenneth Maisonet, 40, who resides at 696 Minneford, was arrested and charged with two counts of criminal possession of a controlled substance and three counts of criminally using drug paraphernalia. According to the arrest report, Mr. Maisonet was in possession of more than 500 milligrams of cocaine. Officers found bags of cocaine in the kitchen and basement of the residence, along with a spoon, a scale and other drug paraphernalia.

Also arrested were Barbra Lampon, 40,

and Amanda Tirado, 18. These defendants were charged with two counts of criminal possession of a controlled substance and unlawful possession of marijuana.

Upon entering the premises, police observed these defendants in possession of "loose orange-colored heart-shaped pills and cigarettes containing a dried, green leafy substance." The substances were identified by police as Ecstasy and marijuana cigarettes.

All three defendants were arraigned in the Criminal Division of Bronx Supreme Court on Oct. 2. All three pleaded not guilty to the charges, according to the Bronx District Attorney's office. They are due back in court on Nov. 30, 2010.

At the 45th Precinct Community Council meeting on City Island on Oct. 7, Captain Green credited the "hard work of plainclothes units" with this successful arrest (see story this issue). Two undercover narcotics officers later addressed the audience and urged residents to report any suspected drug dealing or use to the Bronx Narcotics Division at 718-653-7241.

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City Island, N.Y. 10464



EDITOR: Karen Rauhauser Nani

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

DISTRIBUTION: Emily Leni
SUBSCRIPTION: Rose Kolb
ADVERTISING MANAGERS: Joan Ramftl, Margaret Lenz
BUSINESS MANAGER: Judith Rauh

STAFF: Bill Clancy, Maria Swieciki, Carol Koschak, Ed Heben, Marsha Treiber, Jane Protzman, Bill Stuttgart, Tom Smith, Virginia Dannegger, Monica Glick, Maria Sutherland, John Sheridan, Miriam Kleinberg, Paula Huffell and Teresa Teto.

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MOVING FORWARD IN PELHAM BAY PARK

By JANE PROTZMAN

Work continues in the Turtle Cove marsh and natural areas of Pelham Bay Park, part of a major restoration project that began in June 2009 with funding from a National Fish & Wildlife Foundation grant. A seasonal field crew has been working over the past few months to clear and remove the woody debris in preparation for the renovation and for new trees.

As part of the Million Trees NYC project, supported by public and private funding, about 2,350 trees will be planted this fall, with an eventual total of 10,000 trees in the Turtle Cove area. The Parks Department's Native Plant Center on Staten Island works with Parks' Natural Resources Group to monitor the growth of native species and their sustainability for New York City Park areas before they are planted. At least 400,000 trees have already been planted citywide. Saturday, Oct. 23, was "Million Trees/It's My Park Day," and the Friends of Pelham Bay Park joined the Urban Park Rangers to begin the tree planting efforts in the high marsh areas.

The project will continue in the spring

with the planting of spartina grass in areas that will receive the increased tidal flushing. Spartina thrives in the difficult environment of tidal marshes and can tolerate changes in salinity and water depth as the tides flow in and out. It is hoped that its presence will enlarge the amount of salt marsh and increase the populations of fish, crustaceans and waterfowl that live there. Wetlands are vital to the environment; they filter pollutants, reduce erosion, capture floodwaters and provide nursery grounds for fish and invertebrates, as well as a respite for migratory birds.

After the tree planting this fall, Parks staff will put up stake-and-string barriers in the marsh area in preparation for the spartina planting. The barriers will keep the Canada geese from eating the young shoots after they have been planted.

Marianne Anderson, the administrator of Pelham Bay Park and Orchard Beach, says that the Parks Department will be looking for volunteers in the spring to help plant the spartina grass in the marsh alongside the Friends of Pelham Bay Park.



Photo by JANE PROTZMAN

Many egrets have been seen recently in the Turtle Cove wetlands, which are gradually being improved by the Parks Department, with the help of volunteers and state agencies.

Tough Talk

Continued from page 1

difficult to steal." He also encouraged drivers to participate in the precinct's VIN Etching Program, a process that permanently etches your vehicle identification number into the glass of your car and can save money on car insurance. For more information, residents are encouraged to call Officer Pappalardi at 718-822-5487.

Officers also reminded the audience that October was Domestic Violence Awareness month. Victims of domestic violence are strongly encouraged to call the New York State Domestic Violence hotline (800-942-

6906) for assistance anytime. Friends can also call anonymously on behalf of victims. "Abuse is not the victim's fault," they reminded the audience and the NYPD is part of a nationwide effort to reduce the amount of domestic violence.

Captain Green and Lieutenant Carlos Ortiz received praise at the meeting as well as questions. Bill Stanton, president of the City Island Civic Association, thanked the new commander and his officers for taking an early interest in City Island issues, such as traffic and illegal drug usage. Mr. Bieder praised the captain for adding four new officers to the precinct's ranks and for tackling issues like underage drinking.

The next meeting of the 45th Precinct Community Council will be on Thursday, Nov. 4, at 2049 Bartow Ave., Room 31 in Co-op City. All Bronx residents are encouraged to attend and ask questions or voice concerns.



Photos by JANE PROTZMAN

Nearly 150 volunteers gathered on Saturday, Oct. 23, to plant nearly 2,350 trees in the area near Turtle Cove in Pelham Bay Park as part of the city's Million-Trees program, which is underwritten by a combination of public and private funds. The trees include several native species, including silver and red maple, sweet gum, willow and pin oak, and more. The young trees are planted close together in order to create a canopy quickly so that invasive vines and shrubs and trees will not recolonize the site. The next planting will be in the fall of 2011 south of Turtle Cove in the area that was treated in recent months to remove invasive vegetation.



Already under way is installation of a new bridge to replace the berm that has separated the two watery areas of the marsh. The original berm once had culverts to allow the water to flow in and out but over the years, the openings have filled in and divided the coves. The increased tidal flow will provide for more saltwater wetland habitat. This effort is being undertaken by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

The berm first served as the path of the City Island monorail that functioned between 1910 and 1914, and it eventually became part of the marked Siwanoy Trail through the park, which begins at the traffic light on Shore Road which begins at the traffic light and continues through the woods east of the Turtle Cove Golf Range. The new bridge will be able to accommodate visitors on foot and bicycle, who can then continue across Park Drive into the Meadow at the south end of Orchard Beach. It will be a small "Bridge to Somewhere."

Much of the work being done by the Parks Department has involved the elimination of invasive vines and other species that have done considerable damage to the native trees and other vegetation. This work has been supported by the Park Department's Forest Stewardship Program, whose volunteer members are qualified to work in the forested areas and trails after a training program.

Con Edison will also be working in the area of Orchard Beach Road and Park Drive to repair a gas-main leak that many City Islanders have noticed and reported in this area. Other projects include the Amtrak bridge, which seems to be moving at a snail's pace

with a scheduled completion date in 2013. The Parks Department continues to monitor the project, meeting with NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) and Amtrak over issues at the work site. Safety and traffic concerns have been reported to the responsible agencies.

Another park area that will undergo change is the unmarked turnaround on the exit road off the northbound Hutchinson River Parkway. Drivers who take this exit frequently become confused or change their minds and cross traffic lanes or the grass strip in order to get back to the northbound Hutch. Many traffic accidents have occurred at this turnaround, and the City Island Civic Association and the office of Senator Jeff Klein have been working with the Parks Department and DOT to come up with a solution for this dangerous spot.

As if all of these changes weren't enough, the Orchard Beach sand replenishment project began on Friday, Oct. 29, with a "ground-breaking" ceremony. Thanks to Federal funding obtained by Congressmen Jose Serrano and Joseph Crowley, matched by state and city funds, this project will take place under the auspices of the Army Corps of Engineers over the next several months (see letter this issue).

Marianne Anderson would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in joining the Friends of Pelham Bay Park, planting spartina or learning more about the Forest Stewardship Program. She can be reached at marianne.Anderson@parks.nyc.gov or 718-430-4686. The website for the Park is www.nycgovparks.org/parks/pelhambaypark, which gives information about its history, activities and facilities.

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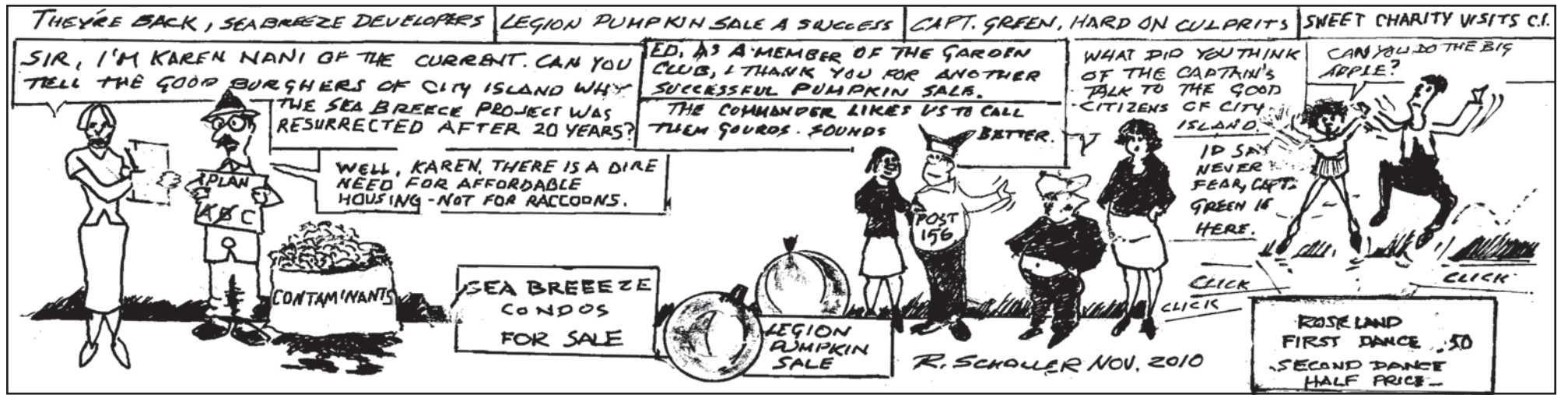
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Photo by MARY MCINTYRE

The cast of "Sweet Charity," which will be presented by the City Island Theater Group in November, stops for a photo during rehearsal. Standing (l. to r.): Leroy Mobley, Elizabeth Paldino, Annmarie Tomsen, Christina Drake, Susan Rauh, Catt John, Steven Bendler, John Geideman, Freddie Lando and Denis Zepeda; seated: Lindy Tabano and Susan Harrold. Missing are Margaret Cioffi, Justine Costanza, Ariana Joubert, Emily Rodriguez, Keith Rodriguez and Frank Siciliano. Performances will be at Grace Church Parish Hall, City Island Avenue at Pilot Street, on Nov. 5, 6, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20 at 8 p.m. and on Nov. 7 and 14 at 3 p.m.



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

Orchard Beach Gets Sand

Dear Friends of Pelham Bay Park and Orchard Beach,

I am writing to let you know that the long-anticipated Orchard Beach Sand Replenishment Project is set to begin. The Army Corps of Engineers, who are spearheading this project, awarded the contract and just completed their pre-construction meetings with the contractors and with Parks & Recreation staff. The contractors are beginning to mobilize their equipment on-site.

The sand replenishment project has been a long time in the making. Thanks to federal funding obtained through Congressmen Jose Serrano and Joseph Crowley, and equally matched with State and City funds, we were able to put the final paperwork together this year with the Army Corps of Engineers, and work together to get the project underway.

The project will help combat erosion at Orchard Beach by replacing lost sand. In addition, the south jetty will be repaired and lengthened to inhibit future erosion. The reconstruction work will make the beach safer by relieving overcrowding during the summer as well as eliminating dangerous drop-off zones.

Over 250,000 cubic yards of sand will be used to replenish the beach. The sand will be brought in by a hopper-dredge vessel and delivered to the beach through 3,500 feet of underwater hose. The hose will connect to piping on the beach and be slurried into place. Sand replenishment will begin at the northern sections of the beach (section 1) and move south as each area is complete. The contractors will operate via a portable staging area that will move along the beach as each section is replenished.

Although portions of the beach will be closed during the entire construction process, we will continue to work with the contractors to provide safe public access whenever possible. Visitors to the beach will be able to view the sand replenishment work from the promenade during the operation.

At the south end of the beach and promenade, work will be carried out on the extension of the jetty. This area will be closed entirely to the public during construction. The jetty will be extended over 350 feet, and work will involve the delivery of bedding rock as well as large boulders. Truck traffic to the beach will begin with 7 trucks per day, increasing to 14 trucks when the larger stone gets brought in.

The Orchard Beach sand replenishment project is scheduled to be completed by February 2011. Any residual work

thereafter will not impact the upcoming 2011 beach season.

I am sure that many of you are as excited as we are at Parks to finally see this project begin. Please don't hesitate to email or call me if you have any questions or concerns.

See you at the beach!

**Marianne Anderson, Administrator,
Pelham Bay Park**



Photo by JANE PROTZMAN
Shoveling the new sand at Orchard Beach are (l. to r.): Adrian Benepe, New York City Parks Commissioner; Col. John R. Boulé, Army Corps of Engineers, New York District; Congressman José Serrano; Congressman Joseph Crowley; Aurelia Greene, Deputy Bronx Borough President; and Hector Aponte, Bronx Parks Commissioner.

Community Center Complaint

To the Editor:

It was suggested that I write to you, following discussions with a few local resident advisers, who are either "mussel suckers" or "clam diggers."

As a long-time resident of City Island, a veteran journalist, university professor and owner of a condo at 190 Fordham Street, I'm concerned about how the City Island Community Center has failed to fulfill its mission: to provide our community a space for local residents to celebrate through educational, cultural and artistic events produced by and for City Islanders.

For too long those responsible have failed in their duty to supervise the center, creating the void that allowed a small group to control the multipurpose space, while forcing local groups to seek alternatives. This space is currently being rented out to non City Islanders, who drink, smoke and play loud music well into the night and without proper supervision.

I favor the creation of a fair administrative entity, developed and directed by residents who will provide the space to City Islanders. This would ensure that our groups and individuals would have access to this very important resource as well as expand and diversify programs for our residents. Please join this effort to insure that the center offers a variety of cultural programs and let's prevent any organization's monopoly over our City Island Community Center.

I understand that at one time, when the center was managed by Drew Breen, it was open to the community and was a much healthier, thriving entity because of her sincere interest in maintaining the center to benefit City Island and she received an award for her noble efforts. Unfortunately she passed away and so did the integrity of the City Island Community Center.

Roberto Soto

The Current offered the Board of the Community Center the opportunity to respond to the above letter. Their answer is as follows:

To the Editor:

The City Island Community Center is a not-for-profit organization run entirely by volunteers dedicated to maintaining a clean, open space for the use of local residents who are looking for a place to take classes, give classes, hold meetings, run free clubs and socialize. A column listing our schedule of classes and events is published in *The Island Current* each month, and it is clear that we offer a wide variety of activities.

Those who utilize the space have expressed over and over again what an invaluable and unique resource the Community Center is for City Island. We have heard nothing but praise for the ongoing improvements that have been made to the space, as well as to the running of the organization, despite a lack of funds and limited manpower.

We are always in need of both financial and volunteer support (membership is a great way to support and stay informed), and we welcome input from all Island residents. Any and all comments (including complaints) are always welcome.

**Board of the City Island
Community Center**

Traffic & Noise

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

Office of the Mayor of New York City
New York City Police Department
New York City Traffic Enforcement
All City and State Agencies or Officials

Dear City and State Officials,

I live on City Island, a small Island but huge part of NYC, sometimes called New York's best-kept secret, the Seaport of the Bronx, New York's Jewel and so on. Well, it's no secret anymore, nor is it a Seaport of the Bronx, and though it is still a Jewel, it doesn't shine as brightly as it should. We have had our share of incidents, most of which have been handled quite well by our NYPD and elected officials, but the exception is some quality of life issues, such as traffic and noise.

The traffic issue is a double-edged sword, in that it creates obvious problems for the residents but brings customers to the local businesses, which we need, so we are resigned to living with the traffic as long as it is effectively controlled by the NYPD.

The other issue, which is now out of control, is noise from loud music and racing motorcycles. We have lived with the firing range since it was first opened (although it is noisier than it used to be), and we don't like it but we have learned to ac-

cept it (especially since it will be moving at some point to Queens).

But the noise and motorcycle issue we can't live with. Why can't we get Traffic Agents here to help us out? They can help control the traffic but they can also issue tickets for noise, speeding, running red lights and other violations.

The money generated on City Island alone could pay for at least a dozen or more Traffic Agents and at the same time help with the NYC fiscal woes. Soon the "City That Never Sleeps" might have a chance to sleep when it wants.

After paying the cost of the Traffic Agents, additional proceeds could benefit education, after-school activities and so on. It is a win-win situation. I have spoken to many officials and residents about this simple idea and haven't had one negative reaction.

This is not a political "hot potato" so no burnt fingers. It's just a simple idea, but it may be too complicated for our current governing bodies. Please call 718-885-0088 if any explanation is necessary.

Bob Carmody

Police Meeting Follow-Up

To the Editor:

I am following up on my comments to police at the meeting on Oct. 7.

On July 9, 2010, my minivan was set on fire on Schofield Street where I live. The fire marshals said it was an act of intentional arson, and the case is still under investigation. There were several witnesses who described seeing a beat-up white van with blue halogen lights and two passengers. One of the passengers was seen getting out of the van and walking to my minivan, after which they turned and proceeded up Schofield Street. If anyone has any information about this crime, please contact the 45th Precinct. This was a horrible incident, and my children are still afraid of getting into a car and when they hear a fire truck siren.

I want to thank our very own City Island Fire Department, which responded so quickly and efficiently; it could have been much worse. Thanks to Council Member Jimmy Vacca for being one of the main crusaders for keeping our firehouse open. I would also like to thank Fire Marshal Joseph Sullivan and his supervisor for following up on the incident.

My other comment to Captain Green was about neighbors on Schofield Street who are constantly putting cones up in the street as barriers in front of their property to hold themselves a parking space. Some of these same people have their own driveways, which are not utilized to capacity. I was warned not to park in front of their homes and was told to park up where I live. Unfortunately, I do not have a driveway, and I try to park as close as I can to my home, but Schofield Street has only one-sided parking in my area and I am often unable to get a spot near my house.

I would like to thank both Sergeant Chan, for responding to my complaint and coming out to speak with one resident about the cones, and Captain Green, for taking this issue seriously.

Carmella Pervizi

WHAT A HAUL!



Photos by PATTY GRONDAHL and CANDY MANCUSO

On Sept. 25, 2010, a beach cleanup sponsored by the American Littoral Society and the Ocean Conservancy involved 25 volunteers, who collected debris to fill more than 20 bags. They also recorded the number of items gathered, including about 500 beverage containers, 300 straws, three beach chairs and enough fishing line to fill a large joint compound bucket. The hard-working crew is shown above (front row, l. to r.): Joseph Mancuso, Michael Mancuso, John Michael Cebollero and Carlo Fine; (middle row): Con Grondahl, Patty Grondahl, Ora Morrison, Toby Liederman, Violet Smith, Oscar Koreisz, Gene Fine, Lisa Fine, Angel Medina, Megan Kelly and Tina Kelly; (back row): Patrick Kenny, Gloria Kenny, Philip Fitzgerald, John Cebollero, Michael Morrison, Sandra Boer, Barbara Sulkowski and Adjie Henderson.



Congratulations also to the Hutchinson River Restoration Project Committee for organizing the first cleanup ever in the Thomas Pell Wildlife Sanctuary. It took over five hours and involved 66 volunteers, including eight Urban Park Rangers with canoes, two motor boats and captains; Pelham Bay Park Administrator Marianne Anderson, Bronx Parks Superintendent of Fauna Dave Kuntsler, numerous other park staff, and visits and support from James Vacca, Michael Benedetto and a representative from Ruben Diaz's office. The volunteers filled 80 large garbage bags, including 20 bags of recyclable bottles and 2 bags of returnable bottles, two boats, two ice chests and lots of rope.



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

At long last, one year after being displaced by a fire in their building, the Art of Beauty and To Go Express are once again in their original homes. The cause of the fire was deemed "inconclusive" by the Fire Inspector.

DEVELOPING A NEW VISION FOR THE WATERFRONT:

City Islanders Encouraged to Participate

By LINDA BALDWIN

The New York City Department of City Planning is in the final stages of developing "Vision 2020: The New York City Comprehensive Waterfront Plan," a document that will shape the city's agenda relating to projects along the waterfront for years to come. Since City Island is surrounded by water, this plan should be of great interest to our residents and maritime businesses alike.

Recognizing the waterfront as New York City's "sixth borough," City Planning has undertaken an ambitious project to revise its goals and identify new projects along the waterfront to further these goals. After extensive community input in each of the five boroughs, City Planning has made the draft recommendations available for review by the public (online at http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/pdf/cwp/draft_rec_full.pdf).

These recommendations are subject to change and are expected to do so, based on additional input from the public. The draft presents recommendations for city-wide policy and programmatic changes, as well as goals and policy recommendations for specific sites and areas along the 22 reaches, or segments, of the city's waterfront.

A public meeting on the draft recommendations was held on Tuesday, Oct. 12, and a number of City Island residents attended to learn more about the plan and to make public comment. Eleanor Rae, president of the Hutchinson River Restoration Project, has attended all of the public meetings addressing topics of importance to the Bronx, including a planning workshop held in May, which was attended by other Island residents as well.

As a result of the involvement of Ms. Rae and other Islanders, a number of projects, one right here on City Island, made it into the draft recommendations. After attending the workshop, Ms. Rae was excited to see how her participation had made a difference: "When I arrived at the workshop, the Hutchinson River was not even identified on the map. Now, not only is the Hutchinson appropriately identified, but three important proposals contained in the draft document are located along the Hutchinson River."

One of the three proposals along the Hutchinson River supports the cleanup of the river, a goal that received a huge boost from a cleanup event sponsored by Ms. Rae's organization earlier this fall. Ms. Rae credits not only the energy and commitment of the many people who showed up to work but also the support of local elected officials.

Thanks to the participation of the City Island Civic Association, represented at the workshop in May by Jane Blanks, Barbara Dolensek, Inge Otto and Tom Smith, a proposal to pursue dredging of Eastchester Bay and to complete the restoration of Belden Point also made it into the plan.

"The Belden Point project has been in the works with City Planning for years," Ms. Dolensek said, "and it would be great to get it cleaned up and restored to a more attractive and natural appearance." Ms. Dolensek has been involved for several years in efforts by the Department of City Planning to preserve the Island's unique characteristics. "Vision 2020 presents us with another important opportunity to reignite the City's interest in helping City Island maintain its connection with the waterfront," she said.

A number of Island residents, this author included, would like to see "Vision 2020" identify additional projects on City Island and in nearby Pelham Bay Park to improve the public's access to and use of the waterfront and waterways in the area. Susan Bellinson, a long-time activist on environmental and water-related issues, has been working on a proposal to transform the area at the north end of City Island Avenue just over the bridge. "It would be nice to create a more beautiful gateway to City Island as part of the vision that New York City has for the waterfront, incorporating recreational and cultural uses, as well as environmental issues, a place where City Islanders and others can enjoy all that our unique location has to offer," Ms. Bellinson noted.

She has submitted a proposal to the NYC Economic Development Corporation for the use of this property, which she is asking the city to reclaim for the community. She suggests that the area include public docks and a boat launch, concessions for kayak and bike rentals and tours and indoor and outdoor spaces for visual artists, dining and the performing arts. She would like to share her proposal with other Islanders who may have other ideas for this property as well.

The Civic Association learned about this proposal at its monthly meeting on Oct. 26, where Ms. Bellinson announced the formation of a subcommittee to review the issue of waterfront planning for City Island as a whole, as well as opportunities presented by the land on either side of the City Island bridge.

"We are planning a subcommittee meeting for November 2, and I hope we will get a good turnout," Ms. Bellinson told *The Current*. "This will give the community an opportunity to share its ideas about how to improve this location and others on the Island in order to generate more activity along the water. We would like to be able to send all of the community's ideas to the City Planning as a set of comments from City Island residents." Those with an interest in Ms. Bellinson's proposal in particular are invited to get in touch with her at sbellinson@usa.net.

The Department of City Planning has asked that all comments on "Vision 2020" be submitted by Nov. 12, 2010. Comments may be sent by e-mail through the City Planning website at http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/cwp/submit_comment.shtml.

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

Dr. Eyad Michel Hijazin has joined the **Medical Group of City Island**, which will enable the group to have office hours every weekday from Monday through Friday, to make house calls on City Island and to offer 24-hour immediate call-back service at 718-885-0333. Most insurance plans accepted. Call at any time for an appointment.

Gabrielle's Coffee Shop has just opened at 312 City Island Avenue (by the bus stop at Fordham Street). The shop will be open weekdays from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Come taste Rita's homemade baked goods, featuring cholesterol-free cakes and cupcakes, and watch for her decorative special holiday delights. Gabrielle is also introducing a full line of children's belts, key chains and goodie bags for children's parties, plus an array of last minute birthday gifts. Come in on a chilly fall day to say hello, browse through our large variety of magazines and try a cup of hot chocolate, herbal tea, Swiss mocha decaf or regular coffee.

An art exhibition will open at the **Focal Point Gallery**, 321 City Island Avenue, on Friday, Nov. 5, with a reception at 7 p.m.

The **Island Current Fleet** reports that the Long Island Sound blackfish season is in full swing and they will be sailing every day until Dec. 20, which marks the end of the blackfish season; then the fleet will head up north to Rhode Island for the winter codfish season. Day trips from City Island depart at 8 a.m. with all four boats; all vessels can be chartered privately for any day or evening for groups of all sizes at special weekday charter rates. The 50/50 blackfish trips are intended for serious blackfish anglers; the boat leaves at 6 a.m. with a 12-person limit, and the cost is \$120 per person. The unique aspect of this trip is that the boat takes \$720 and the other \$720 goes to the angler who catches the largest blackfish of the day. On Nov. 12 and 26, there will be a special

marathon blackfish special on the new *Island Current III* to seldom-fished spots; the boat leaves at 5 a.m. and returns in the evening, with a 25-person limit and a fee of \$95 per person. Please check out the website (www.islandcurrent.com) for winter fishing dates.

There is a lot—in both music and art—to give thanks for at the **Starving Artist Cafe & Gallery** (249 City Island Avenue; 718-885-3779) this Nov. A number of favorite acts return, including the Beatles tribute band, Rubber Soul (Nov. 6, 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. shows); Lipbone Redding (Nov. 13, 8 p.m.), and the Starving Artist himself, Elliott Glick (Nov. 27, 8 p.m.) with an evening of his original songs, with John Guth on lead guitar. Young people are showcased as well. Saturday, Nov. 20, features an art show opening reception for Lindsey Morano from 6 to 8 p.m., and then music from Morano and City Island's John Valesio, among others, starting at 8 p.m. Sundays are "songwriter Sundays" in Nov.; check full details at <http://www.starvingartistonline.com/>, and see what Fridays have in store, besides our traditional last-Friday-of-the-month open mic night for songwriters, musicians, comics, actors and poets. Don't forget our Thursday series, except for Thanksgiving; on that day, all at the Starving Artist give thanks for the talented artists and music-artists who fill our space with beauty to look at and listen to, and we are especially grateful for all who support us year-round!

Mr. America's Personal Training is proud to announce a new and exciting group program designed to tackle the upcoming holiday season, which brings us closer to our families and friends and also to an overindulgence in food and drink. So we are offering an Iron Boot Camp Club at 1603 Williamsbridge Road on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6 p.m. (plus a weekly consultation on nutrition and goals by phone, e-mail or in person). Each class will be 35 to 45 minutes and focus on strength training. The cost is \$150 a month for eight sessions and is open to no more than 6 members. Please call 718-824-7447 and reserve your membership now. If enough people want to start an early-morning club, we can set it up at 6 a.m. For more information, visit www.mramericaspersonaltraining.com, www.facebook.com/sniperfit or www.newyorkfitbodybootcamp.com.

Bartow-Pell Events

On Friday, Nov. 5, the Bronx Seaside Trolley makes its continuous loop from Pelham Bay Station to the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum to City Island from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.. At the Mansion, we will feature an evening of music by the McDonald-Bianculli Flute and Guitar Duo, self-guided tours of the mansion and light refreshments. Registration requested. Cost \$8 adults; \$5 seniors and children 6-17; members free.

Those interested in the Bolton stained-glass windows are invited to take a trip to see the windows at St. Ann & the Holy Trinity Church in Brooklyn Heights with Gregory Eaton, director of music and church historian. The bus will leave the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum on Saturday, Nov. 13, at 10 a.m. Registration required. Call 718-885-1461 for details.

Another Bolton event will take place on Saturday, Nov. 13, for children ages 6 through 10, who will learn about the 19th-century Bolton family of Pelham Priory as well as ways to document their own family history in order to create your own family tree (please bring photos). Children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required. Cost \$5 per child; members free.

The Holiday Paper Quilling Workshop will take place on Saturday, Nov. 20, at 2 p.m. The art of paper filigree has been around for centuries. At this workshop you can learn techniques that will have you curling, bending, cutting and gluing fine pieces of paper to make fabulous paper artwork perfect for a holiday card or present. Space is limited, registration required. Cost \$15; members \$10.

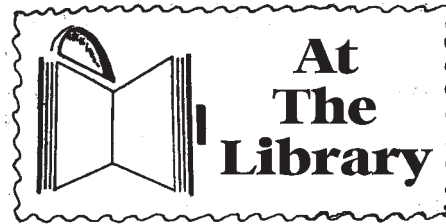
On Friday, Dec. 3, from 5:30 p.m. to

8:30 p.m., we will celebrate the Holiday Candlelight First Friday! The Bronx Seaside Trolley will again loop from Pelham Bay Station to City Island, via the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, where you can experience the magic of the mansion at night by candlelight and fully decorated for the holidays. Each room in the mansion features a Christmas tree inspired by a vintage children's Christmas storybook. Do a little shopping at our Holiday Shop, sample some homemade goodies and enjoy music by the wonderful Metropolitanones, a seven-sisters-college a cappella group. Light refreshments will be served. Registration requested. Cost \$10 adults, \$7 seniors and children 6-17; members free.

Our annual Holiday Family Day: A Storybook Christmas will take place on Saturday, Dec. 4, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Holiday spirit abounds during this fun-filled day. Children will delight at Christmas storytelling and holiday crafts, plus professional photographs with Santa (additional fee), holiday shopping, caroling and more. Storytelling takes place at 10:30 and 11:30; space is limited, so registration is required. \$20 for children age 1 and up; members \$15 (adults and children under 1 free).

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November Children's Programs

Lapsit Program: Wednesdays, Nov. 3 and 17; 10:30 a.m. Birth to 18 months. All welcome for story time and music.

Toddler Time: Tuesdays, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 11 a.m. 18 to 36 months.

Preschool Program: Thursdays, Nov. 4 and 18, 11 a.m.

Reading Out Loud: Thursdays, Nov. 4 and 11, 3:30 p.m.

Thanksgiving Arts and Crafts Program: Tuesday, Nov. 23, at 3:30 p.m.

Special Program: Story Time for Everyone: Featuring stories and tales from around the world, filled with action, humor and audience participation. Presented by Getchie Argetsinger. Monday, Nov. 8, 3:30 p.m.

Young Adult Programs

Graphic Novel Re-write: Every Monday at 3:30 p.m.

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FIVE TIMELESS TIPS TO REVITALIZE YOUR KITCHEN

By JERI STARK

What causes sleepless nights for millions of homeowners across the country at this time of year? Admittedly for some, it's the realization that the in-laws will be visiting for the holidays, but for a great many of us, it's the thought that company is coming AND the kitchen needs redoing. It can be a challenge to anyone's creativity and ingenuity, not to mention their schedule and budget.

A City Island couple recently asked me to help them modernize their kitchen. Although the kitchen was functioning, there were a lot of things that simply didn't suit them anymore. You might say it was as if their kitchen had gotten stuck in a time warp. In short, the kitchen looked outdated. It was okay for cooking daily meals, but it was no longer a place they wanted as the traditional center of activity for a festive family gathering.

During our initial consultation, I learned a great many things about the household, all of which would play an important role in redoing the kitchen. The homeowners, like most people, wanted to have maximum impact with minimal disruption to their home, their schedule and their budget. And they wanted to redo the kitchen in a timeless design that allowed flexibility, so that they didn't have to revisit this issue any time soon. With this in mind, we applied the Five Timeless Tips, a set of redo recommendations that can be easily implemented whether you are your own project manager or hire someone else to manage the project.

ONE: Organization

Organize. Organize. Organize. The

first thing we noticed was the amount of stuff on the countertops and other surfaces that were either unnecessary or could be updated, stored differently or eliminated. Common items such as dish racks, drain boards, toasters, knife racks, hand soaps, sanitizers, dishwashing liquid and empty vases clutter most kitchens. In addition, stored items, such as cooking utensils and dinnerware, are often unorganized and can use updating.

Typically, the decluttering process alone allows us to see a room's potential clearly. Emptying cabinets, top and bottom, and dividing items into three categories—prepping, cooking, and cleaning—helps us to decide what can be recycled or thrown away. Setting aside the streamlined items until after the redo is completed makes it easy for each group to be stored in the area closest to where it is most often used.

TWO: Cabinetry

Cabinets are an important feature in almost every kitchen décor. And there is a wide array of budget-conscious measures you can take to modernize your cabinets without necessarily replacing them. Sometimes a thorough cleaning will do the trick. Or maybe it's simply a matter of changing the hardware—knobs, pulls and hinges. Then too, you might want to consider refacing the cabinets. In this case, a faux finish was the perfect solution. Decorative artists applied a light-colored finish, which instantly brightened the room. It also changed the character of the kitchen, from lackluster to lustrous. Then we added new hardware to complement the new color.



The kitchen before renovation (above photo), and after (bottom photo).



THREE: Tile

Tile is another important element in kitchen décor, and it's extremely versatile. Because kitchen tile comes in a wide range of colors, sizes and materials, it is possible to mix and match them to produce a unique and affordable design element, whether on the wall, the floor or the countertop. To achieve a timeless quality, try to avoid fadish designs, which will quickly become dated.

For this project, the homeowner chose a 1-inch tumble marble tile to replace the Formica backsplash, and CaesarStone quartz to replace the Formica countertop. CaesarStone is the ultimate combination of style and function, because of its simple beauty and extraordinary resistance to stains, scratches and heat damage.

FOUR: Flooring

If replacing your kitchen floor isn't an option, consider painting it. You simply need to make sure you use the right products to achieve durable and long-lasting results. Just about any flooring surface that is in good shape can be painted: concrete, wood, ceramic tile, sheet vinyl, vinyl tile, etc. But be careful if you are thinking about painting an older concrete floor that is below grade or one that is in contact with a very wet soil and doesn't have a moisture barrier. Water that seeps into concrete can sometimes cause a painted finish to peel.

Paint itself won't be hard enough to resist years of foot traffic, dropped pots and today's cleaning products. So you will have to apply about three coats of clear urethane to harden the surface and ensure lasting beauty and durability. Done the right way, it will be a floor you'll be proud of.

The City Islander whose kitchen is featured here opted to replace the outdated linoleum floor covering with a prefinished wood floor. By using a prefinished floor, the homeowner saved time and avoided excessive inconvenience, because a prefinished floor arrives ready to install, with no sanding, staining or other finishing required. The installation of a hardwood floor in a kitchen is an "instant transformation".

FIVE: Faucet

You can add newness and sparkle to your kitchen simply by replacing the faucet. And when it comes to faucets, the one thing that almost everyone wants is something that lasts and requires little or no maintenance. You're probably better off going with one of the top-selling brands, such as Delta, Kohler, Moen or American Standard. One handle or two—well, it's up to you. As for the finish, you will get a "just-installed" effect from chrome, stainless, brushed chrome or satin nickel.

Our City Island homeowner decided on a single-handle stainless gooseneck faucet matched with stainless under-mounted sink for a smooth seamless appearance, a style that is already a classic.

Once you have accomplished your renovation, accent your kitchen with thoughtfully placed fresh fruit or cut-flower arrangements. An attractive arrangement of cookbooks or dishes will also enhance the appearance of your kitchen.

These Timeless Tips can be implemented separately or as a package, and there is still much more you can do to revitalize your kitchen, since I have mentioned only a few suggestions. Trust yourself, and trust that you have what it takes to hire the right professional if you decide to go that route.

Jeri Stark is a City Island resident who works as a project manager in the areas of general contracting and interior design for residential and commercial spaces. She would like to thank the following suppliers and contractors for their work on this project: Keith Manfredonia of Durock Construction; Lynda Karanikolas and Shara Shishieboran of Studio Murals; Sonia Luceno of Majestic Kitchen and Bath; Liebert's Appliances; Lights on Design.



Photo by RICK DEWITT

As usual, the annual pumpkin sale at the American Legion Post on City Island was a great success. Some of those who made it happen are (from l. to r.) John Ulmer, John Musto, Dave Carman, Peter Booth, Gene Valesio, Keith Ship, John Muhlfeld and Jack Grogan.



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Organization News

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

Current Calendar

NOVEMBER

Thurs., Nov. 4, **45th Precinct Community Council Meeting**, 7:30 p.m. at 2049 Bartow Ave., Room 31 in Co-op City.

Tues., Nov. 9, **Blood Drive**, Trinity United Methodist Church, City Island Avenue at Bay Street, 3:30 to 8 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 13, **Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner**, Lido Restaurant, City Island Avenue at Pilot Street.

Thurs., Nov. 18, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m. Co-op City, Riverbay Corp., 2049 Bartow Avenue - Room 31.

Happy Thanksgiving

Thurs. Nov. 25, **Thanksgiving Dinner**, sponsored by Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street, 1:30 to 5 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 27, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: Chicken or turkey cut up with rice and beans.

Sat., Nov. 27, **Holiday Tree Lighting and Carols**, Hawkins Park, 7 p.m., sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

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

DECEMBER

Wed., Dec. 1, **Menorah Lighting**, 5:30 p.m., Hawkins Park, Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.



Grace Episcopal Church

Weekly worship schedule: Grace Church celebrates Holy Communion every Sunday at 10 a.m., with childcare available on the first Sunday of each month. We also offer evening prayer in the church every Monday at 7 p.m., and morning prayer on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. For more information, please contact Mother Patty Alexander at 718-885-1080 or RevPPA@aol.com.

Here is an overview of what's happening at Grace Church during November, with a preview for December:

Sunday, Nov. 7, 10 a.m.: The Feast of All Saints and the Commemoration of All Faithful Departed, with Holy Baptism. If you have a loved one whom you would like remembered at the altar on All Saints' Sunday, please call the Parish Office at 718-885-1080 by Friday, Nov. 5. (Please note: "Lambs" babysitting is also available that day, beginning at 9:50 a.m. in the Parish Hall.)

Tuesday, Nov. 9, 7 p.m.: Bible study (Acts of the Apostles) in Grace Parish Hall. "Hearts and Hands," our knitting ministry for patients at Calvary Hospital, meets at the same time. Come and see!

Saturday, Nov. 13: Tour of the Bolton stained-glass windows at St. Ann & the Holy Trinity Church, Brooklyn. Please call the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum at 718-885-1461 for more information and to sign up for this field trip.

Tuesday, Nov. 16, 7 p.m. Bible study and "Hearts and Hands" ministry.

Thursday, Nov. 18, 9 a.m. Bimonthly memorial Service on Hart Island/Potter's Field. Please contact Anika Paris in the Picture the Homeless office at 646-314-6423 or anika@picturethehomeless.org by Monday, Nov. 8, if you would like to take part.

Saturday, Nov. 20, 10 to 11:30 a.m.: "So You Think You Can't Sing?" Workshop (Grace Church Parish Hall). Join Grace Minister of Music Stephen Marcus for a free, non-threatening and very sup-

portive introduction to music reading for singers. Everyone is invited for a morning of fun and beautiful music!

Tuesday, Nov. 23, 7 p.m. Bible study and "Hearts and Hands" ministry.

Wednesday, Nov. 24, 6 p.m.: Annual Grace Church Thanksgiving Service. Please join us on Thanksgiving eve for a simple service of Holy Communion and Thanksgiving for all of God's blessings. All are warmly welcomed to attend.

Tuesday, Nov. 30, 7 p.m. Bible study and "Hearts and Hands" ministry.

And please mark your calendars for Saturday, Dec. 11, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the seventh annual Grace Church Christmas Crafts Festival, featuring the very popular Grace Café.

Rev. Patricia Alexander

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El is an all-inclusive, egalitarian, multiethnic Jewish congregation for people of all ages. We are located at 280 City Island Avenue, between Beach and Bowne Streets. We conduct Sabbath services every Friday at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

On Sunday, Nov. 7, Rabbi Shohama will lead a discussion of a book of Jewish spiritual guidance entitled "Ways to Feel Closer to God and All that is Sacred," which was compiled in her honor by her colleagues. Coffee and Danish will be served.

Friday, Nov. 12: Shabbat service and installation of the new board of directors will be led by Rabbi Shohama.

Wednesday, Dec. 1: First lighting of the Chanukah Menorah in Hawkins Park will happen at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend this brief and festive occasion led by Rabbi Shohama.

Sunday, Dec. 5: Reb David is in charge of a Chanukah Party at the Temple from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 10: Reb David will lead Shabbat service.

Ken Binder

City Island Republicans

Please get out and vote! This is one of the most important elections in our lifetime. The results will make the difference in which direction our country will travel for at least a generation.

Most of our slate of candidates have been out campaigning hard and hopefully they will win.

At the polls, there will be plenty of help to assist all voters with the new voting equipment.

This is a short message this month since the most important message is that we must vote!

Fred Ramftl Jr.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

We began the month of November with the celebration of two special feasts: the feast of All Saints and the Commemoration of All Souls.

On Nov. 5, the first Friday of the month, we will hold our monthly Holy Hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 4 to 5 p.m. All are welcome to attend this special period of prayer.

Our special enrollment ceremony for those students preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation has been rescheduled for Sunday, Nov. 7, at the 10 a.m. Mass. Parents and students will participate in this initial event in preparation for the sacrament.

On Sunday, Nov. 14, we will have our monthly coffee hour in the rectory after the 10 a.m. Mass. All are welcome.

St. Mary's School will hold its annual Turkey Bingo on Friday evening, Nov. 19, in the school gym beginning at 7 p.m. This is open to all parishioners. Come and bring the family for an evening of fun.

Our annual Thanksgiving Mass will take place on Tuesday evening, Nov. 23, at 7:30



Photo by BOB BERENT

Rabbi Shohama Wiener and "Reb" David Marcus lead friends and members of Temple Beth-El of City Island in celebrating Simchat Torah. In addition to concluding the annual cycle of reading the Torah they danced and sang merrily carrying the Torah scrolls at the synagogue.

p.m. We hope that the Tuesday schedule will make it possible for more people to gather to give thanks as a community of faith for the many blessings given to each of us and to our community. At the Mass we will collect canned and dried foods, which will be distributed to the poor. All are welcome. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Sunday, Nov. 28, is the first Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the time of preparation for the coming of Our Savior to live among us as a man. We will place our Advent candle in a prominent place in the church as we mark off the weeks in anticipation of Christ's coming. We pray for peace in our world as we await the celebration of the coming of the Prince of Peace.

The Parish Council will meet on Monday evening, Nov. 29, at 7 p.m. in the rectory.

Sr. Bernadette, osu

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, and a prayer service is held every weekday at 9:15 a.m. We encourage you to bring your children to Sunday school to further their knowledge of the teachings of Jesus Christ. Trinity often has a coffee hour after the service. Come and join us for worship and fellowship.

The fall group Bible study began on Sunday, Oct. 24, and goes for five consecutive Sundays, ending Nov. 21. The study began with Acts, chapter 6, which was written by Luke, a Greek physician and companion of the Apostle Paul. Acts gives us the earliest record of the first Christians, who were all Judeans and became known as the followers of "The Way," and takes us to the inclusion of Gentiles into the early church. George Cavalieri, Trinity's Lay Leader/ Speaker, is the moderator. No registration or fee is required. Each session begins at 11:30 a.m., with Bibles and refreshments provided, and ends at 12:30 p.m.

Trinity will host a Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 25. If you can offer assistance of any form, call 718-885-1218 for more information. Helpers can come in at about 10 a.m.; dinner will be served starting at 1:30 p.m.

The Christmas Fair will take place on Dec. 3 and 4, so mark your calendars now.

The Budget Corner is now open! Will someone out there PLEASE volunteer to lead Budget behind the scenes? Myra Martin will work right along with you to help and train you for this responsibility. It basically involves contacting the established crew for work dates and help with the gleaning and pricing. We need your help; call Myra at 718-885-1049.

Rick DeWitt

City Island Nautical Museum

Now that the yacht clubs have gone out of commission and the boats are in dry dock for the winter season, you sailors should drop by the City Island Nautical Museum to see the collection and read up on City Island's history in the yacht-building industry.

We will host a talk by marine historian Norman Brouwer on the subject of Hart Island on Sunday, Nov. 14, at 2 p.m. Mr. Brouwer was for years curator of ships at the South Street Seaport Museum and is very knowledgeable on all aspects of maritime life, especially in New York City.

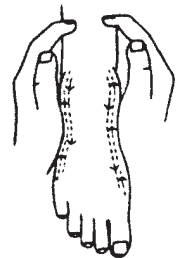
Beat the holiday shopping rush and pick up some lovely items at the museum gift shop. For a small donation, you can have a Christmas tree ornament or a leather bookmark or a book about City Island history. We are open every Saturday and Sunday afternoon from 1 to 5 p.m. There is no admission charge, but we always welcome donations, since that and our membership program are what support us.

To become a member, send a check for \$10 (senior), \$20 (individual) or \$25 (family) to the City Island Historical Society, P.O. Box 82, City Island NY 10464.

Barbara Dolensek

City Island Reflexology

David Cook
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718-885-1494



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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.

Open Monthly Meetings of the Board are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Main Room at 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend. For up to date information visit www.cityislandcommunitycenter.com or call 718-885-1145.

NEW PROGRAMS

Jill's Playgroup: for preschool children on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 12:30 p.m. No charge but donations are appreciated. Call 516-841-5751 for more information.

SheWorkHer: Are you tired of feeling like the "little woman" when it comes to basic home repair? SheWorkHer is dedicated to helping women learn just how much they can do with a few tools and the right knowledge. Learn electrical and plumbing repair, painting, wallpapering and much more. Classes take place on Nov. 15 and 29 and Dec. 13 and 20 at 7 p.m. and will continue in January. The first class is free. Call Nancy at 646-235-1175.

Weekly Schedule

YOUTH PROGRAM

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

Mommy and Me Fitness: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 to 10 a.m. A high-energy aerobics class that allows you to bring your children along up to the age of 6. For more information, call Sarah Persteins at 718-885-9122.

Fall Art Classes by Laury Hopkins:

REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

Narcotics Anonymous:

Sundays at 2 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.

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

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

Storytime Art for PreK ages 2 ½ and up. Must be accompanied by responsible adult. Monday or Thursday 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. **Story and Picture for Grades K-2.** Mondays 3:15 to 4:15 or 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. **Animal World for Grades 3-4.** Tuesdays 3:15 to 4:15 or 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.; **Portfolio Prep for Grades 5-8,** Thursdays 3:15 to 4:30 or 4:45 to 6 p.m.; All classes limited to six students; no exceptions. Ten classes beginning in September; the schedule to be determined by school/holiday calendar. \$100 per class. For more information or to sign up, call Laury at 718-885-3202.

ADULT PROGRAM

Gentle Yoga-Qi Gong Class with Norma: Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Get into shape, relax the body and mind and have some fun doing it! This class is a combination of low-impact Hatha Yoga and Qi-Gong (free form Tai Chi) and mild stretches. Although this class is geared to those who have not exercised in a while, all levels are welcome. Price per class is \$7. Please bring a yoga mat, yoga strap and yoga blocks. Most of these items are available at Barnes & Noble, Modell's, Target or K-Mart. Straps and blocks will be available for purchase on the day of the class. For more information, please call 718-730-3442. Namaste.

Fit for Life with Sarah: Hi-Lo impact aerobics, strength training/toning, kickboxing and more. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 5 p.m. For more information, call Sarah Persteins at 718-885-9122.

Zumba Gold: A fun-filled dance/exercise session with a salsa beat. Geared for ages 50 and up. Fee for the class is \$4.

Rhythmic Movement Exercise Class: A fun way to combine exercise with various styles of dance. Mondays from 6 to 7:15 p.m. \$15 per person. If you have questions, please call Judy Farnum, Group Fitness Instructor, at 914-548-4184 or e-mail judyfarnum@aol.com.

Belly Dancing: Shimmy by the Sea. Theresa Mahon (a.k.a. Salacia) teaches the oldest documented dance in the history of mankind—Egyptian belly dancing. It is a low-impact way to get in shape and tone your body while having lots of fun. Terry has been a professional belly dancer for 23 years and a teacher of the art for 15 years. Classes are held every Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. The fee for each one-hour class is \$15. Call 845-358-0260.

Aerobics with Mary: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: Half-hour low impact at 8:30 a.m. Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 to 10 a.m. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793. New class added: Saturday 9 a.m.

Tai-chi: Please join us at 9 a.m. on Saturdays for gentle Tai-chi and yoga sessions. Using bamboo props, balls, straps and partnering to increase flexibility and strength. For more information, please call Marc Kaplan at 718-885-2445.

Parenting in the 21st Century: Talks with Teacher John: Join an ongoing and free-wheeling discussion of the joys and pains of parenting led by Teacher John (parent, grandparent, school psychologist, parent educator). Learn to stop yelling, get what you want from your family life and create opportunities for your children to become responsible, loving and independent. Eight sessions (once per month) from 7:30 to 9 p.m. \$20 per session. Contact John Scardina at 718-885-9305 or through his website www.thinklaughlearn.com.

City Island Civic Association: Meets at 7:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of every month (except December).

Amy Gottlieb

PSS Healthy Senior Exercise Program

With the holiday season just around the corner now is a great time to exercise. Please join us at: Zumba with Stephanie on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. in the Community Center; Cardio Fitness with Mary on Tuesdays at 9:30 at Grace Church Hall; Sittercise with Patty on Tuesdays at 10:30 at Grace Church Hall; Orchard Beach Walk on Wednesdays (leave Pilot Street at 9:30 a.m.); Yoga Stretch with Michael on Thursdays at 9:30 at Grace Church Hall; Arthritis Exercise with Patty

PRAYERS FOR PAWS



Photos by EYVONNE BAKER and MIKE BUNYAN

The Blessing of the Animals was held on Oct. 3 at Grace Episcopal and St. Mary, Star of the Sea churches commemorating the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Mother Patricia Alexander and Father Augustus Onwubiko welcomed and prayed for Island pets of all shapes, sizes and species.

on Thursdays at 10:30 at Grace Church Hall; Indian Folk/Zumba with Adelaide on Fridays at 10 a.m. at Grace Church Hall.

Remember that you can attend all classes for \$20 per month, or all classes for \$6 per week. Or you can contribute to individual classes at \$2 for exercise and \$4 for dance.

Everyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services. Call Anthony Mazzella at 347-834-6466 a day ahead for transportation on and off City Island. Regular afternoon shopping trips are: Monday, Bay Plaza; Thursday, A&P; every other Wednesday: Shop Rite in New Rochelle. Trips are also made to Fairway, Target, Trader Joe's, the Christmas Tree Shop, Key Food, Stop & Shop, Empire City and more. Suggested contribution for a round trip is \$1 on the Island and \$2.50 off-Island.

For further information and a complete schedule of transportation and exercise programs, call Patty at 718-885-1891. Programs are funded by Presbyterian Senior Services, the NYC Department for the Aging and the NYC Arthritis Foundation.

If you would like to order discount tickets for the Christmas Spectacular featuring the Rockettes at Radio City for the 11 a.m. show on Tuesday, Nov. 30, please call Patty at 718-882-1891. (Orchestra tickets are \$55, third mezzanine \$32.) Tickets are also available for the Westchester Broadway Theater Musical Production of "Sleepy Hollow Christmas Carol" on Wednesday, Dec. 15 matinee at \$52, including lunch.

Pat Grondahl

Sons of the American Legion Squadron # 156

Dues are due for 2011; once again the amount is \$30. They can be mailed back to the Post or dropped off. Anyone interested can stop by. Your membership card will be given out once you are paid.

Our Monster Bash was held on Friday, Oct. 29, and was a great success, complete with fine food, costume contests and, of course, beverages of all kinds!

Fred Ramftl Jr.
Vice Commander, Membership

Legion News

I have gleaned the following information from the Island grapevine and sundry reliable sources:

The Bronx County Military Ball will be held Friday, Nov. 12, at the Villa Barone Restaurant. For those unable to attend this festive occasion, we suggest the Servicemen's Dinner and Dance at Post 156 on Saturday evening, Nov. 20, at 7:30 p.m. The fare will be a pork and chicken dinner. There will be an open bar and music by D.J. Ray. The cost of this gastronomic extravaganza is a mere \$30. Bon appétit!

Very little news to report report. Sick call: Dick Knapp is at the present time residing at a local nursing home. I recently

spoke with Genevieve Varian; she and Donald now reside at the Wartburg Adult Care Community in Mount Vernon. They would very much appreciate hearing from friends. Donald was for many years a very active member of the Post, and Genevieve was active in the Auxiliary.

The October issue of the *Current* contained the obituary of George V. Plaeger, a fellow comrade of Post 156. George, aka Vinnie, served in the Army Air Corps in World War II. Carl Snider, an associate member for many years, also passed away recently; he was the uncle of Dorothy Tomson.

Comrade Ed Shipp reports that the annual pumpkin sale was a great success as usual, and the Commander, Dave Carman, thanks all who helped.

For you Marines, Nov. 10 is the day we celebrate the birthday of the Marine Corps.

The following day, Thursday, Nov. 11, we celebrate Veterans Day. We will must at 10 a.m. at the Post and with other veteran groups will gather at the grove for a brief ceremony befitting the occasion.

Sunday, Nov. 14, we will participate in the annual Veterans Day Parade. Three Post WWII veterans will be honorary grand marshals: Comrades Robert Branizza, Thomas Costello and Russell Schaller. Bob and Tom spent months as prisoners of war, guests of the German government. Bob was a navigator in the 8th Army Air Corps and was shot down over Berlin in June 1944. Tom, a member of the infantry, was captured at Anzio, Italy. Russell, a member of the 9th Army Air Corps, served in the European theater of operations as a member of the 33rd photo recon squadron, which was the first Army Air Corps unit to operate from German soil. All their exploits can be found in articles in *The Island Current*.

Meetings for November will be as follows: regular meeting Monday, Nov. 1, and an executive board meeting Monday, Nov. 15. All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.

Russ Schaller, Sgt. Emeritus

Ladies Auxiliary of American Legion Post 156

Our mock baby shower was a huge success. Bagfuls of new baby clothes and various other baby items were received and will be donated to Good Council Homes. Linda Murphy was great as our "Mom To Be!"

Welcome to our new members who were sworn into the Auxiliary: Margaret Knapp, Maureen Grogan, Mary Delaney, Caroline Livingston and Ashley Livingston (Junior Member).

On a sadder note, the Ladies Auxiliary lost a valiant member, Lucille Masterson, who recently passed away. Lucille was an active member for over 70 years when she joined as a Junior Member. She will be greatly missed, and condolences go out to her family.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 3, at 7:30 p.m. at the Post. The Trim-the-Tree meeting will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 7.

Regina Murphy

Gabrielle's Coffee Shop

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Candy, Pretzels, Chips



Courtesans

In the past, courtesans were women educated from a young age to become highly paid companions of wealthy upper-class men, a concept that has been the subject of films from different cultures. We begin with **Gigi**, a Lerner and Lowe musical winner of nine Oscars including, best picture of 1958. The film stars Leslie Caron in the title role as a young girl raised by two Parisian courtesans, her grandmother (Hermione Gingold) and great aunt (Isabel Jeans). Gigi is destined to become the mistress of the wealthy Lachaille (Louis Jordan). Maurice Chevalier is on hand as the elegant elderly Honoré Lachaille, a role that made him famous for singing "Thank Heaven for Little Girls."

Also set in France, **Swann in Love** (1984) is loosely based on Marcel Proust's novel Remembrance of Things Past. The movie stars Jeremy Irons as the tormented Charles Swann, an obscenely rich Jewish gentleman living in Paris during the 1880s. The story is told as a flashback in which he tries in vain to resist his obsession with a beautiful courtesan, Odette de Crécy (Ornella Muti). This French-language film is an interesting period piece.

Moving back in time to another continent, we have **Kama Sutra: A Tale of Love** (1997), set in 16th-century India, which tells the story of Maya (Indira Varma), a lowly servant to Princess Tara (Sarita Choudhury). Tara is being prepared to marry handsome King Raj Singh (Naveen Andrews) before his television series "Lost". When Maya sees the courtesan Rasa Devi (Rekha) giving lessons in love to Tara, Maya is the more apt pupil. Eventually, the king is captivated by Maya with disturbing results in this visually beautiful and sensual film.

My favorite in this genre is **Dangerous Beauty** (1998), an American film set in 16th-century Venice. The beautiful Catherine McCormack stars as Veronica Franco, who is being trained by her mother, Paola (the equally stunning Jacqueline Bisset), to take her place as Venice's premier courtesan. Veronica is in love with Marco Venier (Rufus Sewell), whose parents forbid their marriage. Oliver Platt appears as Maffio Venier, who gets into a memorable dueling match with Veronica substituting poetry for swords. Eventually Veronica is accused of witchcraft by Vatican emissaries and garners support from unexpected places.

Moulin Rouge! (2001) takes us back to Paris in 1899. This film is a musical rendition of the doomed love affair between Satine (Nicole Kidman), a celebrated courtesan, and Christian (Ewan McGregor), a naïve young poet. It is set in the infamous fantastical underworld of Club Moulin Rouge, where Satine is the object of desire for many men, including a duke (Richard Roxworth). John Leguizamo is on hand as the painter Toulouse-Lautrec and Jim Broadbent plays the club's owner, Harold Zidler. From the opening black-and-white introduction to the closing colorful cabaret, this frenetically paced film interweaves 20th-century music into its story.

Set in Japan, **Memoirs of a Geisha** (2005) is the film version of the best-selling novel by Arthur Golden about how a young girl transcended her fishing-village roots to become one of Japan's most celebrated geisha. In the 1920s, nine-year-old Chiyo (Suzuka Ohgo) is sold to a Kyoto geisha house, where she endures harsh treatment

from the owners and the arrogant head geisha, Hatsumomo (Gong Li), who is jealous of Chiyo's stunning beauty. Chiyo blooms in her role as a geisha, is given a new name, Sayuri (Ziyi Zhang) and is mentored by Mameha (Michelle Yeoh), Hatsumomo's rival. To Sayuri's dismay, she is coveted by the General (Kenneth Tsang), a disfigured war hero, although she is in love with the General's business colleague, the Chairman (Ken Watanabe). Ultimately, World War II threatens to change her privileged life forever in this Oscar-winning period drama.

Chéri (2009) is set during France's belle époque era before World War I, when elegant cars, mansions and servants defined the lives of royalty and the courtesans of kings and millionaires. When the ravishing Lea de Lonval (Michelle Pfeiffer) contemplates retirement from her renowned stature as Paris's most envied courtesan, an older associate, Charlotte Peloux (Kathy Bates), asks Lea to teach the ways of love to her 19-year-old son, whom Lea has called Chéri (Rupert Friend) since he was a child. Chéri and Lea become lovers, and to everyone's surprise, their relationship lasts several years. When Chéri's mother arranges a marriage for him to Edmée (Felicity Jones), the daughter of another courtesan, their happiness is threatened with results that are unexpected.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .

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MIKE'S JOBS AND ECONOMIC PLAN

As someone who runs a small business in the Bronx and is Chairman of the Economic Development Committee of Community Board 4, **MIKE RENDINO** knows that helping our small businesses and creating jobs is critical to our city and state's future.

- Invest in Our Future
 - Tax incentives and research grants that would help universities and tech & green companies develop new innovations
- Invest in Our People
 - Grant small businesses a \$4,000 tax credit for new hires
 - Provide a tax credit to small businesses that provide on the job training
- Invest in New York
 - Place a cap on property taxes and state spending
 - Increase access to capital for startup and growing businesses
 - End burdensome government regulations on small businesses
 - Targeted incentive programs that favor capital reinvestment in existing businesses and redevelopment of distressed areas

ASSEMBLYMAN MIKE BENEDETTO HAS A RECORD OF ECONOMIC FAILURE:

- Voted with Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver over 99% of the time
- Increased taxes more than 285 times for approximately \$19.7 billion
- A Daily News "MTA Hypocrite" for cutting funding while imposing overbearing mandates
- Stood silent as dozens of "nickel and dime" taxes were passed onto the working class
- Refused support for budget reforms that would ensure greater accountability for our tax dollars

IT IS TIME WE HOLD ASSEMBLYMAN BENEDETTO ACCOUNTABLE.

The Bronx needs new jobs, new investment and more economic activity.
The Bronx needs an Assemblyman who will fight for small business.
The Bronx needs **MIKE RENDINO.**

GET INVOLVED OR MAKE A DONATION AT WWW.MIKERENDINO.COM



Photo by RICK DEWITT

The Nautical Museum was filled with visitors on Sunday, Oct. 17, for a talk on Pelham Bay Park and Robert Moses given by Doug Hearle and Tom Vasti, assisted by Tom Casey. A talk on Hart Island by Norman Brouwer will take place at the Museum on Sunday, Nov. 14, at 2 p.m.

of this Egyptian king up close. The Tut exhibit is food for thought and has inspired many creative projects. Pre-K through first grade had a "spooktacular" day at the Bronx Zoo. The zoo is amazing at this time of year. Our students have continued to learn about the animals and the different habitats they live in.

Because October is Fire Safety Month, the second grade took a trip to the Fire Museum in Manhattan. Our honorary firefighters were enthusiastic about fire safety and the wonder of fire trucks of today, as well as those from the past. Grades 4 and 5 also had a scientific adventure on their trip to the Sony Wonder Lab. This free trip is a favorite with our students every year, an entertaining learning experience. The American Museum of Natural History Moveable Museum made a stop at our school on Oct. 18 and was open to grades five through eight. The solar system was the main event. An all-day workshop was provided by the museum to help prepare our students for this great opportunity.

In the spirit of the season, and after a Halloween-themed morning, the entire school participated in our seventh annual Halloween Costume Parade on Oct. 29. The costumes get more creative each year. After the parade, each class enjoyed a party at which a traditional seasonal punch is served by the principal.

Band practice is once again under way for our St. Mary, Star of the Sea School Band. Our experienced ensemble meets each week, as our new members learn to read music and play a variety of instruments. In addition to our weekly music classes, students from grades three to eight have the opportunity to choose from many band instruments and have a semi-private lesson each week. They are beginning to practice for our Christmas assembly and will be performing at Barnes & Noble Book Store in Bay Plaza in December! The whole third grade is learning the recorder, and our fourth and fifth grades continue with the violin. Studying music is an integral part of a well-rounded education, and we are very pleased with the progress that our students are making.

School closed on Nov. 1 in observance of All Saints' Day. On Nov. 5, the eighth grade will take the Catholic High School Entrance Test (TACHS). They have been preparing for the TACHS Exam both in regular class and in a special class being offered two afternoons each week. We wish the students much luck as they continue their high school search.

The Parent Association annual dinner will be held on Nov. 10 at Villa Barone in Throggs Neck. School will be closed for Veteran's Day on Nov. 11, and on Nov. 12, the entire school will participate in our First Annual Fall Harvest Day, which will be a country fair set up by our Parent Association with games, rides and activities for all ages. The first marking period ends in November, and report cards will be distributed to parents on Nov. 23 at the fall parent/teacher conference. During our annual parish food drive, the children will be bringing in canned goods to donate to the poor for Thanksgiving. School will be closed on Nov. 25 and 26.

The following students were recognized during our First Friday Mass for being chosen as Student of the Month. Their teachers acknowledge their effort, good will, attendance and general behavior as outstanding, and each month one or two students receive a certificate showing that their hard work is appreciated. For October the Students of the Month for Pre-K were Patrick Clancy and Leilani Cox; for kindergarten, Amy Lilman and Andrew Rodriguez; first grade, Brooke Miller and Raven Reed; second grade, Anna Borovinska and Destiny Murray; third grade, Nicholas Badillo and Jordan Correa; fourth grade, Michael Bannister; fifth grade, Mateo Tomlinson and Destiny White-Foster; sixth grade, Raonna Jefferson and Anthony Perkinson; seventh grade, Taisja Roberson and Jabari Weste; and eighth grade, Ryan Medina and Bryton Snowball. We always strive to do our best, and these fine children have done just that. Everyone has an opportunity to be Student of the Month, and we look forward to our presentation each First Friday. The

community is invited to share our liturgy (prepared by the children of each class) on the first Friday of the month beginning at 9 a.m. Please come and enjoy our wonderful children's choir. First Friday Mass for November is on the 5th at 9.

This year we are again following a values-infusion program, which highlights a different moral virtue and a special saint each month. For November we reflect on the powerful meaning of trust in our lives as we study Pierre Toussaint, the slave from New York who is in the process of canonization. We trust that God will guide us through our school year and help us to make good moral decisions in everything we do. The classes will all work on projects involving trust and look to follow the example of Blessed Pierre Toussaint.

Public School 175

Our school year is off to another wonderful start!

As part of our Character Education Program, we are once again working with Lynne Hurdle-Price from Operation Respect on creating a positive school environment and anti-bullying strategies. Lynne comes to the school weekly to conduct classroom workshops and to create and work with student leadership groups. She also conducted an interactive evening workshop this month for parents to provide strategies for having conversations with their children about preventing bullying and how doing this work at home lays the foundation for what is being done in school.

Our Extended Day Program, which began the second week of school, provides students in all grades with academic support, as well as test preparation for the Specialized High School Exam and the TACHS for eighth-grade students.

After hearing in the spring that P.S. 175 would not have the Sports & Arts after-school program this year because of budget cuts, parents and students mobilized. Letters were sent to the Department of Youth and Community Development, as well as to our elected officials, and funding was restored over the summer! This year's program, which serves students in grades five through eight, includes a sports component that changes throughout the year, homework help, music, art and games. Another component of the Sports & Arts program is the many exciting trips that students attend during school holidays.

Although our art program was cut back this year, all students will be working with a teaching artist from the Bronx Arts Ensemble. Mrs. Moscone will also be working with the kindergarten and the second-, third- and sixth-grade classes in the visual arts. In addition, kindergarten through third grade will once again work with teaching artists from the Lincoln Center Institute, with this year's studies being on music and dance. We have also been able to reinstate our computer program for all grades.

Several exciting events will take place during the coming weeks. They include our annual Family/Pajama Night for kindergarten through third grade, a Halloween movie and snacks for the fourth and fifth grades, and the Halloween Dance for students in grades six to eight. The PTA is also having its annual Election Day Sale on Nov. 2. We hope to see many of you there! As always, we are greatly appreciative of all the support we get from our community!

September citizens of the month were: Fiorela Miria and Gwen Boyle (kindergarten); Joseph Persteins and Demitria Mantzaris (first grade); Isabel Whelan and Joseph Goonan (second grade); Daniel Pervizi and Nicholas Kola (third grade); Emily Gaudio and James McGaughan (fourth grade); John Cebollero and Connor Hanley-Piri (fifth grade); Kosovare Rugova and Shania Royes (sixth grade); Ashley Goldman and Kathleen Kramer (seventh grade); Alba Borici and Stephanie Morrissey (eighth grade).

Please keep in mind these important dates: Nov. 2, Election Day; school closed for students; Nov. 10-Parent-Teacher Conferences, 12:30 p.m. to 2:50 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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SCHOOL NEWS
2+2=4

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Fall is in the air! We are so excited to celebrate the joy of this season. As you walk through the halls of SMSS, the colors of autumn are everywhere, along with signs of Halloween and All Saints' Day. Both of our hallway galleries are filled with our children's art, and the talent is tremendous. Our art enrichment program under the guidance of Ms. Lais Moises crosses the lines of curricula. Religion, science, social studies, language arts and math are expressed through a variety of mediums and are a wonderful sight to behold.

On Oct. 8, classes 3 through 8 traveled to Manhattan to see the King Tut exhibition. Everyone had an amazing time and truly enjoyed seeing all the treasures

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Obituaries

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



Addie "Dimples" Pfleeger

Addie G. Wickman Pfleeger

Former Buckley Street resident, Addie "Dimples" Pfleeger, died on Sept. 10, 2010. She was 86.

Mrs. Pfleeger was born on Jan. 18, 1924, in New York City to the late Edwin and Gertrude Wickman. She grew up and spent most of her life on City Island.

She attended Good Counsel College in White Plains. On Jan. 29, 1945, she married William Pfleeger. They lived on City Island until 1972, when they moved to Chicago and later Nashville. Since Mr. Pfleeger's retirement in 1983, they have resided in Easton, Maryland.

Mrs. Pfleeger was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Talbot County Women's Club. She will be remembered as a devoted and loving mother, who often rang the dinner bell to call her children home on Buckley Street.

She is survived by Bill, her husband of 65 years; two children, Candace A. Taubner of Pelham Manor, New York, and William J. Pfleeger of Kelso, Washington; four grandchildren, Frank K. Taubner, Julie A. McEntee, William W. Pfleeger and Larissa A. Pfleeger; and two great-grandchildren, Jack F. Taubner and Lyla J. McEntee.

Mrs. Pfleeger was interred at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne, New York.

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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

NOVEMBER 2010									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Mon	0124	0.67	0721	7.51	1412	0.61	1954	7.23	Mon 01
02 Tue	0237	0.37	0833	7.90	1520	0.00	2109	7.43	Tue 02
03 Wed	0336	0.02	0933	8.29	1618	-0.57	2209	7.63	Wed 03
04 Thu	0430	-0.28	1025	8.60	1711	-1.00	2301	7.76	Thu 04
05 Fri	0520	-0.45	1114	8.77	1802	-1.23	2351	7.80	Fri 05
06 Sat	0607	-0.48	1201	8.79	1851	-1.24			Sat 06
All times are Eastern Standard Time beginning Sunday, November 7									
07 Sun	0040	7.73	0554	-0.35	1147	8.65	1840	-1.03	Sun 07
08 Mon	0028	7.58	0639	-0.08	1233	8.37	1928	-0.66	Mon 08
09 Tue	0117	7.39	0726	02.28	1321	8.01	2017	-0.19	Tue 09
10 Wed	0208	7.18	0815	0.69	1413	7.60	2107	0.30	Wed 10
11 Thu	0304	6.99	0910	1.08	1514	7.20	2200	0.75	Thu 11
12 Fri	0404	6.87	1012	1.37	1621	6.89	2254	1.08	Fri 12
13 Sat	0504	6.85	1117	1.52	1727	6.70	2349	1.29	Sat 13
14 Sun	0601	6.91	1218	1.50	1827	6.63			Sun 14
15 Mon	0041	1.37	0654	7.03	1313	1.35	1921	6.65	Mon 15
16 Tue	0129	1.34	0743	7.18	1404	1.11	2010	6.70	Tue 16
17 Wed	0212	1.26	0827	7.32	1449	0.84	2055	6.75	Wed 17
18 Thu	0249	1.14	0904	7.43	1530	0.56	2135	6.80	Thu 18
19 Fri	0318	1.00	0932	7.55	1607	0.32	2208	6.84	Fri 19
20 Sat	0342	0.84	0949	7.70	1639	0.12	2232	6.91	Sat 20
21 Sun	0413	0.68	1015	7.90	1709	-0.05	2256	7.02	Sun 21
22 Mon	0450	0.55	1051	8.08	1740	-0.17	2329	7.15	Mon 22
23 Tue	0532	0.46	1131	8.19	1818	-0.22			Tue 23
24 Wed	0009	7.27	0617	0.44	1215	8.19	1900	-0.19	Wed 24
25 Thu	0054	7.34	0705	0.47	1304	8.06	1946	-0.09	Thu 25
26 Fri	0144	7.37	0759	0.56	1356	7.80	2038	0.06	Fri 26
27 Sat	0238	7.35	0859	0.65	1454	7.46	2136	0.23	Sat 27
28 Sun	0339	7.34	1011	0.68	1559	7.11	2245	0.35	Sun 28
29 Mon	0448	7.38	1144	0.54	1718	6.85			Mon 29
30 Tue	0004	0.36	0607	7.53	1303	0.18	1849	6.81	Tue 30
DECEMBER 2010									
01 Wed	0116	0.23	0719	7.78	1408	-0.27	2000	6.92	Wed 01
02 Thu	0218	0.05	0820	8.04	1506	-0.69	2059	7.07	Thu 02
03 Fri	0315	-0.13	0915	8.25	1601	-0.99	2153	7.21	Fri 03
04 Sat	0407	-0.25	1006	8.37	1651	-1.14	2243	7.30	Sat 04
05 Sun	0456	-0.27	1053	8.37	1739	-1.11	2330	7.33	Sun 05
06 Mon	0543	-0.18	1139	8.25	1825	-0.92			Mon 06
07 Tue	0016	7.30	0627	0.00	1223	8.03	1909	-0.61	Tue 07



BOAT ON A BEACH

This is the time of year when City Islanders are most likely to wake up to somebody's boat on the beach. It is the end of the sailing season, when mooring lines are especially vulnerable. They have been relentlessly stretched and chafed, lifted and run over for months now. All of this strain, together with nasty northwest winds, virtually guarantees a wreck or two. It is an exciting occurrence, unless it is your pier the boat is smacking into on its way to the beach.

In 2008 the New York Police Department helped to coordinate the effort to remove 15 to 25 wrecks off of Rodman's Neck. In that instance, the NYPD had skin in the game, so to speak. They lease the land there and so had extra motivation to get the job done. Where is the motivation to deal with the wrecks, some sunken others only half so, within the City Island fleet? Certainly not from the boat owners themselves.

While fishing around online for answers to questions about abandoned and sunken boats in the waters surrounding City Island, we came across an interesting document from the New York City Council's own Committee on Waterfronts. In a prepared statement read before the Committee in December of 2008, Deputy Inspector of the NYPD Harbor Unit, David

Driscoll, had the following to say about submerged, derelict boats: "If it is deemed to be a hazard to navigation, we will secure that boat and will follow up with notification to the Army Corps of Engineers to make arrangements for removal of the boat from the water."

Sounds good, doesn't it? You can almost see the chain of command. Before it takes action, however, the Corps must consider any or all of the following factors: 1) location of the obstruction; 2) navigational difficulty as a consequence of the obstruction; 3) clearance above the obstruction; 4) type and density of marine activity in the vicinity; 5) physical characteristics of obstruction; 6) possible movement of the obstruction; 7) location of obstruction relative to existing navigational aids; 8) weather conditions; 9) history of accidents related to obstruction.

In other words, don't expect the Army Corps of Engineers anytime soon.

United States Congressman Anthony Weiner has an interesting idea. In the House of Representatives, he has called for "the creation of a \$25 million federal matching grant program for States and municipalities to remove environmentally hazardous boats." But that was before the recession.

We're on our own, boys and girls. Let's be responsible out there.

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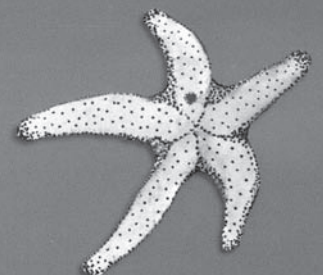


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"Parent", Like "Love", Is Indeed A Verb

By JOHN SCARDINA

Lisa Belkin recently wrote (*New York Times Magazine*, 9/12/10) about the time when "parent" was something you were, not something you did. That was also a time when the culture left the economic innocence of children alone and didn't target them as potential buyers. Sure, it was the 1950s: the Cold War, unbridled patriotism and Levittown utopia. Somehow the culture seemed in line with "family values," even when those values included racism, sexism, xenophobia and a healthy fear of nuclear annihilation.

But here Belkin was right: my parents didn't pay much attention to what they did with us, we just lived out our middle-class lives and became middle-class ourselves. It wasn't until my Ivy League freshman year (where I had more in common with the Italian groundskeepers than with my roommates) that I realized there was any other American dream or way of life out there.

I have often told parents that if they do not actively raise their kids, the culture will gladly do it for them. The media is ready and willing to shape children's lives to become good consumers: every other moral/social issue is up for grabs, and consumerism rules the day. Possessing things will make us happy and fulfilled, and we'd better get rich quick to be able to do that.

Indeed, how do we insert our values and goals and beliefs into our children's

busy lives? Where do compassion, social consciousness and right living come from? What can we do to avoid raising self-centered hoarders? Simple: we parent.

To parent doesn't mean to pamper our kids—in fact, just the opposite. By providing opportunities to develop independence and resilience, we act as guides, reinforcing our own family values by what we say and do and buy and share. By engaging as a family in community service, by the proper sharing of resources and an active political and spiritual awareness of the world around us, we live out our own lives and beliefs and bring our children along for the ride. Yes, it is active—just as love is active in any relationship—but it's for the best. You don't want to wake up and say with horror, "Whose kids are these anyway?"

So here's to "parenting" (and "loving") as a daily practice. Like exercise or meditation or playing the violin, it is an active choice, a part of our lives that enriches us as well. Just do it and you will be the parent you wish to be.

Island resident John Scardina is a certified school psychologist, child development expert and parent educator. Join his parenting courses at the City Island Community Center and Bronx Community College. Also check out John's website at www.ThinkLaughLearn.com.



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COOL COSTUMES!



Photos by KAREN NANI

Over 700 marchers participated in the 2010 City Island Halloween parade, which was supervised carefully by the captain and officers from the 45th Precinct. The creativity of the costumes was surpassed only by the fun had by all the trick or treaters on the short but sweet parade route.

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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.



Commander Andrew McCue

Good luck and Godspeed to Fordham Street's Tommy Bollati, who was recently sworn in as a U. S. Foreign Service officer at the State Department. Tommy is currently training in Washington, D.C., and will be leaving in June for his diplomatic post in the Consulate at Guadalajara, Mexico.

Happy 23rd birthday wishes to Bay Street's Bobby Swieciki, with love from Mom and Dad, Stephen and Maria.

And another happy 23rd birthday, this time for Richard Ferris on Nov. 4. It's so nice finally having you home to celebrate your special day. Wishing you nothing but happiness and success for your future.



Tabitha Martha Del Pozzo was born on Oct. 15, 2010.

Enjoy! Love, Mom, Joey, Marissa, Dad, Linda and the boys.

Best wishes to Commander Andrew McCue, who recently retired from the U. S. Navy. Andrew is the son of Jerry and Linda McCue of 238 Bowne Street and grew up in Levittown, Long Island. As a young man, Andrew was an Eagle Scout and attended Villanova University on an ROTC scholarship. He graduated from flight school and the U.S. Navy War College in Newport, Rhode Island. He has completed four extended tours in the Middle East and his last three years were spent teaching electrical engineering at the U. S. Naval Academy. He now resides in Arnold, Maryland, with his wife, Donna, and three children, Nolan, Haly and Devon.

Happy 20th birthday on November 5 to Anthony Grillo. We love you and miss you.

A very warm welcome to Bay Street's newest residents, Noelle O'Connell and Peter Lakatos and their brand new baby girl, Lili.

Another warm welcome to Bay Street



Jane and Tony Pascazio at their anniversary celebration with their aunt, Rose Maffia.

(and the world!) to Tabitha Martha Del Pozzo, who made her debut on October 15. Proud parents are Michelle and Ray Del Pozzo.

A very happy 15th birthday wish to Sebastian Whitcombe-Wiley. You're taller than me now! I couldn't be more proud of you. All my love, Mommy.

Happy 18th anniversary, Andrew, from your perfect wife. I love you, Christine.

Luca Toro Mazzeo turned 1 on Oct. 23. Mom, Dad, Nonni and Grandpa can't believe how fast the year went.

Birthday greetings to Bruce Weis who will celebrate his big day on Nov. 2.

Best wishes for a very happy birthday to Nicholas Ruggiero, who turns 16 on Nov. 21.

Happy 12th birthday wishes to Hawkins Street's Lily Kolb on Nov. 3.

Best wishes to Kim Nye, who will turn 21 this month.

A very big THANK YOU to all our veterans who will be honored on Veteran's



Photo by RON TERNER

Luca Mazzeo

Day, Nov. 11.

Jane and Tony Pascazio celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary with a recommitment ceremony at Trinity Methodist Church. Family and friends of the happy couple watched as the Rev. Susan Chadwick conducted the ceremony and then proceeded to an anniversary luncheon given by family members Joan and Fred DiSalvatore.

And best wishes for a very happy and healthy Thanksgiving to all our neighbors and friends.

Maria Swieciki

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