



## March Committee Meetings @ QCB13 Board Office

- Seniors (SSSSNC) 3.1.18 @ 7:00 pm
- Land Use 3.5.18 @ 7:30 pm
- Transportation 3.6.18 @ 7:00 pm
- Public Safety 3.7.18 @ 7:00 pm
- Youth and Education 3.13.18 @ 7:30 pm
- Economic Development 3.14.18 @ 7:00 pm

## GENERAL BOARD MEETING

Monday, February 26, 2018 @ 7:30 PM

Bellerose Assembly of God — 240-15 Hillside Avenue, Bellerose, NY 11426

### AGENDA

1. Community Time
2. Meeting Called to Order
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Public Speaking Time
5. Elected Officials — Welcome
6. Chairman's Report — Clive Williams
7. District Manager's Report — Mark McMillan
8. Presentations
  - ★ Andrew Hoyles, NYC Department of Sanitation  
Topic: ✧ Organics Bin Rollout in QCB13
  - ★ Chae No, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
Topic: ✧ Influenza
  - ★ Paul J. Stremel, Jamaica Postmaster  
Topic: ✧ Delivery Issues  
✧ Zip Codes/ Towns  
✧ Package Prevention Loss
9. Approve Minutes — January 2018
10. Roll Call
12. Committee Reports
13. Adjournment

***NEXT GENERAL BOARD MEETING, Monday, March 26, 2018 — Location TBD***

PRICE \$8.99

FEB. 12 & 19, 2018

# THE NEW YORKER





February is almost over with spring being anxiously anticipated. We were even gifted with a 78-degree day last week – a tease – but a welcome one.

Our country seems to be in upheaval these days. News and fake news. Investigations, indictments, guilty pleas, bots (fake accounts) on Facebook supposedly influencing our behavior. Another mass shooting. They are becoming so frequent it is hard to gauge one's sadness and outrage. Time Magazine this week is documenting the worst health crisis in American history – the opioid epidemic – while leadership gives lip service to addressing this calamity. And the #Metoo Movement with rich, famous and powerful men being called out seemingly almost every day for past actions...

I get the feeling that as a nation we are in a freefall, spiraling to place we simply cannot imagine at this point. Yet, the numbers indicate things are not as bad as they seem. The markets are up; high school graduation rates are up; consumer spending is up; unemployment is down as is violent crime. The mood should be more positive. But looking at the news, speaking to people and hearing them "off the record", America is a house divided.

We are divided by income level, educational attainment, place of birth, race, religion, and home address. We have permanent encampments in party politics demonizing the "other" for their "misinformed" (nice word) opinions. People - sometimes even within their own families - are afraid to bring up political conversations in fear of creating an environment that will remain toxic for the remainder of the time spent together. The ability to "agree to disagree" civilly has been lost behind accusations of racist, fascist, stupid (nice word) and other profanities. It seems most people want to go as far as possible in their respective corner unwilling to meet those with different opinions somewhere in the middle.

The American Experiment "to create a more perfect union" is going through difficult times. Courage in our leadership is lacking. Activism from either side of the political spectrum is filled with uncompromising anger. There is lack of understanding of civics, "pay to play" in our legislatures and an apathetic populace who often vote in single digit percentages.

We need a new agenda, a simple agenda, one that incorporates simple things for the greater good. How this happens is by speaking to someone who is different than you and sharing.

One of the beautiful things about QCB13 is its diversity. This diversity is reflected in the board membership. At our General Board Meetings, members tend to sit with other members from their own neighborhood commiserating during topics and commentary. Try sitting next to someone you do not know. Tell them your name. It always amazes me when I have to introduce board members to each other in December or January; new members start attending in April. Social events will be put together going forward to facilitate you getting to know one another. But there is nothing easier than your choice of seat on the fourth Monday of the month.

I am optimistic about our country, city and community board. Maybe that is because I have the pleasure of knowing each board member. Get to know someone you don't know now. You will be surprised how much you have in common.

The change you want starts with the person in the mirror. -- All the best!

Mark McMillan



**Queens Community Board 13**

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Queens Village, NY 11428  
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qcb13.org



**Melinda Katz**  
Borough President

**Vicky Morales-Casella**  
Director of  
Community Boards

**Clive Williams**  
Chairman

**Mark McMillan**  
District Manager

**DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – February 2018**

**Meetings Canceled:**

Economic Development Committee  
Transportation Committee

**Events/Meetings Attended:**

**January 24, 2018:** Attend CPC Community Mental Health Network Meeting at Creedmoor Psychiatric Center. **Council Member Barry Grodenchik** along with **Board Members Michael O'Keefe** and **Jerry Wind** were also in attendance.

**January 26, 2018:** Attend **Queens Borough President Melinda Katz's** State of the Borough Address at Frank Sinatra High School of the Arts. **Chairman Clive Williams** and **Board Member Rich Hellenbrecht** were in attendance.

**January 30, 2018:** Healthy Community Day 2018 Planning Meeting at Creedmoor Psychiatric Center. Board Members in attendance were **Bonnie Huie**, **Michael O'Keefe**, **Ashok Sathkalmi** and **Jerry Wind** all attended.

**January 31, 2018:** Attend "Still We Rise NYC – Human Justice Summit, Part V", held at New Jerusalem Worship Center. **Police Commissioner Paul O'Neill**, **Assistant Chief David Barrere**, **Commanding Officer of Patrol Borough Queens South**, **Inspector Jeffrey Schiff**, **Commanding Officer of the 105 Precinct** and all of the top NYPD Brass were in attendance. **Chairman Clive Williams** was also present. The discussion revolved around police-community relations.

**February 1, 2018:** Attend and participate in the Parks & Environmental Committee Meeting Chaired by **Fay Hill** and Vice Chaired by **Peter Richards**. The three topics included a quarterly update of Idlewild Park by Department of Parks and Recreation; a briefing on the upgrade to Cambria Park by Department of Parks and Recreation; a briefing on the demolition of the water tank on Springfield Boulevard and Grand Central Parkway by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Attend and participate in Seniors & Special Needs Committee **Chaired by Kangela Moore** and **Vice Chaired by Jerry Wind**. Details will be shared in their report.

**February 5, 2018:** Testify on behalf of Queens Community Board 13 at the "Queens Borough Board Public Hearing on FY19 Queens Preliminary Budget Priorities." **Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Council Members Adrienne Adams, Donovan Richards, Jimmy Van Bremer, Danny Dromm, Bob Holden**, were also in attendance.

Attend and participate in Land Use Committee Meeting Chaired by **Richard Hellenbrecht** and **Vice Chaired by Bess DeBetham**. Details will be shared in their report.

**February 6, 2018:** Attend and participate in "Joint Breakfast Meeting with Queens Chamber of Commerce and Queens Borough Board." **Queens Borough President Melinda Katz** was the featured speaker; **New York City Comptroller Letisha James** gave greetings. **Board Members Barbara Clements, Bess DeBetham, Bob Glover, Michael O'Keefe** and **Lourdes Villanueva-Hartrick** were also in attendance.

**February 7, 2018:** Appointed by **State Senator Leroy Comrie**, attend and participate as a member of the Community Advisory Committee for the "Belmont - New York Islanders Arena Project." The meeting was held at Gateway Christian Center in Valley Stream.

**February 8, 2018:** Attend and participate in meeting: "**NYC City Comptroller Scott Stringer Reports on City Spending in Minority Communities**." This meeting was held at the David N. Dinkins Municipal Building – One Centre Street, in downtown Manhattan. The report, handout and discussion revolved around city agency spending with MWBEs; and impediments for these companies in getting city contracts.

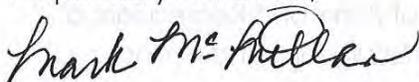
**February 13, 2018:** Meet with Scott Grimm-Lyon, new Executive Director of JFK Gateway IBID.

Attend and participate in Youth & Education Committee Meeting Chaired by **Rhonda Kontner** and Vice Chaired by **Lorraine Gittens-Bridges**. Details will be shared in their report.

**February 15, 2018:** Attend and participate in Health Committee Meeting Chaired by **Bonnie Huie**. Details will be shared in her report.

**February 21, 2018:** Host District Service Cabinet Meeting at QCB 13 office.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark McMillan  
District Manager

# BP Katz looks to the future in fourth borough address

BY BENJAMIN FANG  
bfang@queensledger.com

If everything goes according to plan for Borough President Melinda Katz, the future of New York City will be in Queens.

In her fourth State of the Borough address on Friday morning at the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts, Katz offered a vision of Queens that accommodates a growing population, offers reliable public transportation and fosters a creative hub for the tech industry.

With hundreds of elected officials, community leaders and other dignitaries in the audience, the borough president, recently elected to a new term, reflected on her accomplishments in her first four years in office.

She touted the restoring of confidence in the Queens Library system, the ongoing revitalization of downtown Jamaica and recovery of waterfront communities from Superstorm Sandy. She highlighted an 8.8 percent increase in jobs since 2013, the opening of new ferry stops, and the success of universal pre-kindergarten.

In her first term, Katz said she allocated \$300 million for capital projects in Queens. One-third went to public schools, universities and libraries. Another third went to parks for improvement projects. The final \$100 million was allocated for upgrades at cultural institutions, hospitals, housing and firehouses.

Even the New York State Pavilion, one of Queens's most iconic structures, received \$16 million for restoration. That project is underway and will soon be "back from the dead," Katz said.

"With all of these investments, what we've actually been doing in Queens is setting a roadmap and building the infrastructure for the future," she said, "of where we want the borough to be by the beginning of the next generation, by at least 2030."

Looking toward the future, Katz spotlighted con-



*Borough President Melinda Katz laid out her vision for Queens until the year 2030 in her annual speech.*

cerns that will need to be addressed in her second term and beyond. One of the most pressing needs is school capacity, particularly in areas where the population has exploded in recent years. Queens has more than 283,000 students, Katz said, greater than the entire population of cities like Newark and Buffalo.

Elementary schools are at 116 percent capacity, and high schools are at 113 percent, she said. The most overcrowded high school in the city is Francis Lewis High School in Fresh Meadows, which has more than double the number of students than the school was originally built to serve.

On average, Queens schools exceed capacity by 8 percent. Katz said the borough also receives the least amount of funding per pupil among the five boroughs, something she will look to change.

The School Construction Authority (SCA) has already dedicated more than \$1.9 billion to build an additional 18,632 seats in Queens by 2020.

"As we look to where we

will be and where we want to be by 2030, it's clear we need more," Katz said. "And our families deserve more."

Another area of focus is the growing technology sector in neighborhoods like Long Island City. With tens of thousands of housing units being built, Cornell Tech's \$2 billion campus on Roosevelt Island nearby and other educational institutions producing local talent, the waterfront community is on pace to become a hub of innovation and creativity.

Despite the potential, Queens has only seen 10 percent job growth in the tech sector, compared to 28 percent growth city-wide. Eighteen months ago, the borough president commissioned the "Western Queens Strategic Tech Plan" to create a roadmap to foster "equitable growth" and close that gap.

"By leveraging Western Queens' ample space for growth and its projected development, and by working closely with great partners for our future like EDC, we are steering our borough into the competitive lane of the digital age," she said.

Ahead of the 2020 U.S. Census, Katz said she will also convene a new committee to maximize the borough's participation in the count. At stake, she said, are federal resources for infrastructure, health services, schools and government representation.

"If we want our fair share, we can't afford to just be reactive," she said. "We must be proactive, and we must be counted."

By 2030, Katz said she hopes to end homelessness among veteran, provide health care for every veteran, set aside a portion of public housing units specifically for grandparents, and launch a branded tourism campaign for Queens.

She also joked that she would also want the New York Mets to win their sixth World Series by 2030.

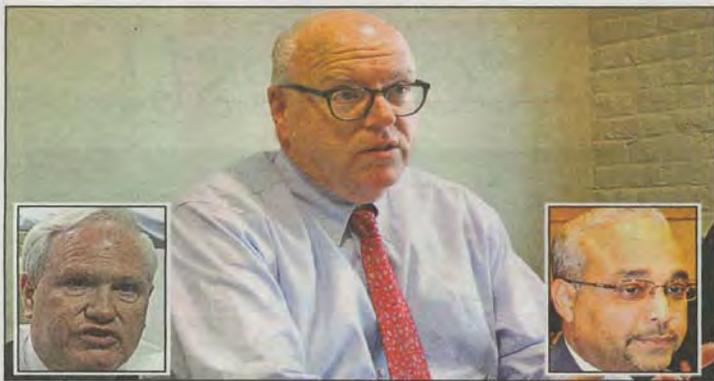
Though those accomplishments may just be a pipe dream, Katz said there are many realistic goals the borough could achieve by then, including ridding schools of classroom trailers, offering 3-K for every child, and expanding or even opening new library branches.

On transportation, Katz said Queens will reactivate the former Lower Montauk line for commuter rail, complete the overhaul of LaGuardia and John F. Kennedy airports, and even create a continuous, protected bike lane throughout Queens as part of a borough-wide bike plan.

She also envisions a fully-developed Willets Point that is home to tens of thousands units of 100 percent affordable housing funded by a new soccer stadium that will eventually host the 2034 World Cup. Nearby would be a transit hub that connects passengers to the 7 train, LIRR and an AirTrain to LaGuardia.

One of the questions that will remain is Sunnyside Yards, where Katz predicted that officials will "still be talking about it" by 2030.

"With a shared vision - our vision - New York's greatest potential, opportunities and future are all here," Katz said. "And in 2030, when I'm 64, we'll be able to look back fondly to today and how, together, we build our tomorrow."



Rep. Joe Crowley, chairman of the Queens Democratic Party, said state Sens. Tony Avella, left inset, and Jose Peralta must rejoin the mainline Democrats by April or he will sanction a primary against the lawmakers.  
PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER BARCA; INSETS, FILE PHOTOS

# IDC could 'suffer the consequences'

*Come back by April or face a 'head-on primary by everyone,' Crowley says*

by **Anthony O'Reilly**  
Editor

Rep. Joe Crowley (D-Queens, Bronx) said last Friday that Queens members of the Independent Democratic Conference have about three months left to come back to the mainline Democrats, or they will "suffer the consequences."

"They have until April to come back, or they will face a head-on primary by everyone," Crowley, chairman of the Queens Democratic Party, told the Chronicle's editorial board. "But I'm encouraging them to come back before that."

The IDC is a group of eight breakaway Democrats who have shared power with Senate Republicans since 2011.

There are two members from Queens — state Sens. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) and Jose Peralta (D-East Elmhurst).

Spokesmen for both did not respond to requests for comment on this story.

The congressman believes the IDC senators will face challengers.

"I think they're going to have a primary by disgruntled Democrats within Queens County, and I think that's reflected around the city as well," he said.

But whether those candidates will be backed by the party machine and state and labor leaders is up to the incumbents, Crowley said.

"If [Peralta] comes back then, we've agreed that he would have the support of the apparatus," he said. "If he comes back earlier, that I think is better for him ... if he doesn't, he will have a primary sanctioned by me and the state apparatus, as well as working with our friends in labor."

Jackson Heights resident Jessica Ramos, a former mayoral aide, has filed to primary Peralta and 17-year-old Tahseen Chowdhury, who will turn 18 in September, plans to run as well. Crowley did not directly answer a question on if he'd back a specific candidate. At press time, nobody had filed to run against Avella.

The Bayside senator joined the IDC in 2013, and the next year was unsuccessfully challenged by former city Comptroller John Liu, who was supported by Crowley.

Peralta switched to the group in January 2017, and faced major backlash from his constituents — some of whom called him "worse than Trump" at a town hall meeting he held to explain his decision.

For Crowley, their decision to join the IDC was, in effect, turning their back on those who helped them get elected.

"It's not as if Jose Peralta came out of nowhere and just became a senator," he said. "It's not like Tony Avella popped out of thin air and became a senator. Tony Avella was encouraged to do that by the Queens County Democratic Party in conjunction with the teachers' union and other unions that made a difference in that election."

"There are others who were engaged with, who were invested in that," he continued, "and when that's betrayed by supporting Republicans, that's meaningful."

Peralta, and others, have argued a benefit to being in the IDC is having the ability to bring financial resources back to the district — unlike those in the Senate minority.

Crowley called the funds "blood money." "It's money to enforce a Republican Senate in the state," he said. "I think it's wrong for them to have done that."

## Congratulations to our Council Members on their Leadership Assignments

### Council Member Barry Grodenchik (D 23)

Office Number: 718.468.0137

Chair: Parks and Recreation Committee

### Council Member I. Daneek Miller (D 27)

Office Number: 718.776.3700

Chair: Civil Service and Labor Committee

### Council Member Donovan Richards (D 31)

Office Number: 718.527.4356

Chair: Public Safety Committee

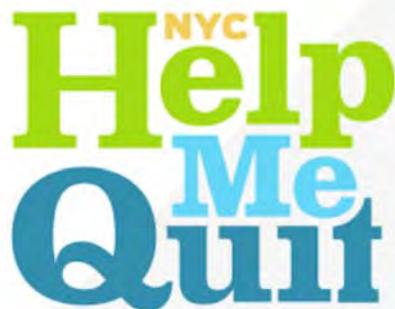


### UNVEILING OF THE 2018 BLACK HERITAGE SERIES STAMP HONORING LENA HORNE

Guest Speaker:  
NYS Assemblywoman Alicia Hyndman

Tuesday, February 27, 2018  
11 am to 1 pm

Robert Ross Johnson FLC  
127-17 Linden Boulevard  
Saint Albans, NY 11412



It is hard to quit smoking. Most people try several times before they are able to quit for good. The good news is, although it's hard, it can be done.

The NYC Health Department's new mobile app, **NYC HelpMeQuit**, is a free resource to help you say goodbye to cigarettes. It can track and celebrate your progress, offer tips on how to outlast cravings, and connect you with other quitters for support. The app also helps you stay motivated with personal reasons why you should avoid smoking, and it

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

### NEW YORK CITY IS RIPE TO BE THE NEXT SILICON VALLEY

According to the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC), New York City's tech ecosystem accounts for over 291,000 jobs and more than \$124.7 billion in economic output.

New York City's 7,500-plus technology firms raised in excess of \$9.6 billion in venture funding in 2016, and New York City has seen an 18 percent growth in tech sector jobs over the past ten years, continuing to stand at the forefront of entrepreneurial growth in the tech sector.

There is growing support for entrepreneurial companies in New York, such as accelerators, workspaces, business groups, and other government initiatives.

For example, NYCEDC programs like the International Innovators Initiative (IN2NYC) partner with Queens Chamber members Queens College and LaGuardia Community College – two of more than seven higher-educational systems in the borough – to allow foreign-born entrepreneurs access to uncapped H-1B visas in order to expand their businesses in New York and invest in local communities.

Compared to Silicon Valley, New York City is advantageous for two primary reasons: (1) its tech sector touches a diversity of sectors, and (2) it marries technology with consumer goods. As technology disruption moves into traditional industries, New York is

poised to leverage its diversity of industry.

The business revolution of the next several decades will be about transforming large industries that no longer meet their customers' demands into something more efficient and personal. That can happen only where those industries are located.

So, although Silicon Valley dominated the first wave of technology disruption, the advantage has shifted to New York City, with its vastly greater diversity of businesses.

In addition to the diversity of business, New York City also demonstrates a blatant diversity of background, culture, and gender.

City Hall has made a concerted effort to paint New York City's tech sector as more diverse, friendlier to women and people of color, and having representation from all economic backgrounds. Workers

here, as City Hall says, are not "siloeed in tech campuses far from the communities they live."

In fact, between 2009 and 2014, New York City had the largest number of companies with a female founder of any location in the country: 374 companies, 21 percent of all startups founded in the city during that time period, had a female founder. [Stats and analysis by Crunchbase.]

Furthermore, a study by the Center for Urban Future found confirmed the diversity of New York City's tech sector employees, with the results being 16 percent Asian, 11 percent Hispanic, and 9 percent African American.

As the Queens Chamber of Commerce continues its efforts to support our startups and the tech sector at-large, we encourage our members to remain active and let us know of any new initiatives on the horizon.



MAYRA DIRICO  
CHAIRPERSON

### TELECOM LEADERS PUSH FOR HIGH-SPEED WIRELESS

BY BENJAMIN FANG

Business leaders and telecommunications companies are pushing city officials to expand high-speed, wireless service throughout the five boroughs.

Traditionally, mobile users get their high-speed Internet from macro sites that are placed on top of buildings. But lately, companies are using "small cells," radio nodes that are placed on city infrastructure like utility poles, street lights and signs. They use small radios and antennas to provide service and are closer to the ground.

Carriers are employing this technology to meet growing consumer demand for wireless data and uses such as streaming, video conferencing, and even managing operations.

"In a crowded place like New York City, more people are doing more things on more devices," said Verizon spokesman David Weissmann. "There's a growing need for more capacity for networks."

According to Verizon, the demand for wireless data services has doubled in the last year. It's expected to grow six-fold from 2015 to 2020. The demand puts

pressure on the mobile network, telecommunications experts say, forcing companies to come up with new ways to "densify" the network.

*"In a crowded place like New York City, more people are doing more things on more devices. There's a growing need for more capacity for networks."*

- David Weissmann, Verizon

Small cells are usually deployed in dense, heavily-populated urban environments, similar to many neighborhoods in Queens. By providing more capacity, networks can serve more people and provide faster service.

Businesses are reliant on fast access to the Internet. Weissmann said companies use wireless technology to upload documents, process credit card transactions, and communicate. Some companies run their entire business on a wireless connection.

"If the Internet speed and connectivity are impacted," he said, "that would impact their businesses."

To keep up with the demand, business leaders are pushing the city Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DoITT) to let wireless providers and carriers lease the tops of city infrastructure to install the small cell networks.

More specifically, DoITT gives permission for hundreds of lamp-posts to be reserved, a process that can take up to 15 months.

But according to telecommunications companies, the city agency is restricting expansion below 96th Street in Manhattan to just 25 poles, despite the fact that the need for wireless service is greatest in Midtown. The restriction will likely push expansion to outer boroughs like Queens and Brooklyn, which are also becoming hotbeds of entrepreneurship.

Weissman said New York City is roughly one year behind to set up the framework to expand small cell network on local infrastructure. "We've been expecting it to happen sooner," he said.

Carriers are currently waiting for the city to release the Request For Proposals (RFP) to apply to become a franchisee, which would allow the businesses to build their own network. Other concerns include having a streamlined approval process and ensuring fair permitting fees.

Experts say small cells are also a stepping stone to 5G technology, the standards for which are being established now.

Weissman said if the foundation for small cells expansion is not created, the city will also fall behind getting to market with 5G. That would also negatively affect the city's business climate, he said.

"New York City considers itself a tech and innovation hub," he said. "It can impact the city's ability to retain tech businesses."

He said Verizon and other carriers and local businesses are ready for the expansion. They're just waiting on the city to give the green light. "We're ready to go," Weissmann said.



# Bellerose Update!

Newsletter of the Joint Bellerose Business District Development Corporation

Vol. 19, No. 2

"Two Counties, One Town"

Winter, 2017-18

## STATE ASSEMBLY PROVIDES FUNDING TO BELLEROSE BUSINESS DISTRICT

We are pleased to report that two grants in succession are being made available to the Joint Bellerose Business District Development Corporation as a result of efforts by State Assembly Member Clyde Vanel. We had honored him at our November 4 luncheon at Trattoria Lucia for a \$15,000 grant he secured, and shortly thereafter we received notice that the State will process another grant for \$6,250 through Mr. Vanel's advocacy on our behalf.



From left to right: Mary O'Donohue, JBBDDC President; James A. Trent, JBBDDC Vice President; and Hon. Clyde Vanel, Member of Assembly, 33<sup>rd</sup> A.D. (Queens Village.) Photo taken at November 4 luncheon at which Vanel was honored.

Funding is earmarked for a totally new website for the Business District that will include listings of all our catchment's businesses. Additional funding is being set aside for the banners program, and graffiti removal. Work on the website has already started, approval has been given for the general design and layout, and the data is now being uploaded. A new survey will soon be done to be sure of the current status of all our businesses.

The luncheon program also included a presentation by State Senator Tony Avella (11<sup>th</sup> S.D. Bayside)

The luncheon was one of the most successful ever, with tremendous input from so many in attendance. The civic associations were heavily represented, but we also had the District Manager Mark McMillan and Chairman of Community Board 13 Clive Williams present. From the Nassau County side, the mayor of Bellerose Village, Henry J. Schreiber, attended.

### What is a Business Improvement District?

A Business Improvement District (BID) is a geographical area where local stakeholders oversee and fund the maintenance, improvement, and promotion of their commercial district.

### What BIDs Do?

BIDs create vibrant, clean, and safe districts. They deliver services and improvements above and beyond those provided by the City. Working with the City and community, BIDs are a powerful voice for their districts.

BIDs services can include:

- Street cleaning and maintenance
- Public safety and hospitality
- Marketing and events
- Capital improvements
- Beautification
- Advocacy
- Business development

BID services do not replace those provided by the City. By law, City services cannot be reduced because of the existence of a BID.

# Queens Congress members are fed up with Postal Service

BY RYAN KELLEY  
rkelly@qns.com  
Twitter @R\_Kelley6

Members of Congress representing Queens are fed up with the borough's reported mail delivery problems and are calling for immediate action from the United States Postal Service (USPS).

On Tuesday, Congresswoman Grace Meng was joined by Congressmen Joe Crowley and Gregory Meeks to send a letter to the postmaster general of the USPS, Megan J. Brennan, highlighting the complaints they have heard from their constituents. Severely delayed mail, significant problems with package delivery, receiving incorrect mail and poor customer service at post offices are common problems that the Congress members said are unacceptable.

"New Yorkers rely on the United States Postal Service as an effective and dependable means of communication," the letter said. "It is critical that USPS maintain reliable mail delivery service. The current mail delivery problems plaguing the residents of Queens must be addressed immediately."

The letter also said that these problems have existed since before Winter Storm Grayson, though the storm led to a surge in complaints from residents who didn't receive mail for nearly a week. Many people still receive Social Security benefits, bills, vital medical supplies and prescriptions, government-issued identifications and financial documents in the mail, the letter explained.

The letter is not the first from Meeks, however, who sent a much more pointed message to the USPS in a letter on Jan. 18. Meeks said in that letter that he scheduled a meeting with a senior USPS official that was later canceled by the office of the postmaster general. The Congressman was "irate" at the cancellation and expressed deep concern for his constituents dealing with "demonstrated



Photo courtesy of J. Richard Parrott

J. Richard Parrott is an agent at Halstead Property in Long Island City.

incompetence" from the postal service, the letter said.

"I have already discussed the matter with my colleagues on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, as it is now clear to me that the problem is more sweeping than was originally reported and therefore warrants robust Congressional oversight," Meeks said in his letter.

A spokesperson for Meeks confirmed on Tuesday that his meeting with the USPS has been rescheduled and the details are being finalized. Crowley and Meng are also likely to join Meeks at the meeting, the spokesperson said.

Also on Tuesday, Borough President Melinda Katz held a roundtable discussion with members of the press before her

upcoming State of the Borough address on Jan. 26. When asked about the borough-wide mail delivery problems, Katz admitted that she is limited in how she can respond since the USPS is a federal institution, but she offered some advice to those who are affected.

"One of the ways we can actually be the most helpful is to try and keep track, throughout the borough, of complaints that we get," Katz said. "Let us know when there is a particular area that is having problems with the mail ... we can be better able to keep track of that and notify the Congress members."

Other local officials have also expressed their frustrations with the USPS in recent weeks. Back on Jan. 9 in the aftermath of Winter Storm Grayson, Councilman

Robert Holden told QNS that the lack of mail deliveries "can jeopardize people's lives," and he has seen the postal service fall into a "downward spiral" for years.

Councilman Eric Ulrich released a statement on Jan. 22 saying that he received 20 complaints about mail delivery in January alone. The statement also said that Ulrich's Ozone Park office has been affected as well, with time-sensitive and important mail being delivered after office hours or not at all.

"It is completely unacceptable that the community — and even government offices — have had such abysmal postal service," Ulrich said in the statement. "The snow has long melted and service continues to worsen. My constituents need answers."

14 THE QUEENS COURIER • JANUARY 25, 2018

FOR BREAKING NEWS VISIT WWW.QNS.COM

## TAX TIPS

# Pay Zero Tax on Capital Gains

BY JOHN SAVIGNANO, CPA

That's not a misprint. You can qualify for a 0% tax rate on some or all of your long-term capital gains realized in 2017.

**Strategy:** Figure out how much capital gain you might fit under the threshold. The 0% rate applies to taxpayers who end up in the 10% or 15% regular income tax brackets.

For instance, you may qualify for preferential tax treatment if your business incurs a loss or you defer a substantial amount of income to future years. Alternatively, you might shift some of your capital gain assets to your children or grandchildren who are eligible for the 0% tax rate.

Single filers with taxable income above \$416,700 and joint filers above \$470,700 face a maximum 20% rate for 2017.

If your income drops below the cutoff point, you can benefit from the 0% rate. For 2017, the threshold is \$27,950 for single filers and \$75,900 for joint filers.

Note that it doesn't have to be an all-or-nothing proposition. For instance, say that your taxable income before counting capital gains is \$55,900 instead of \$20,000. In that

case \$20,000 of the gain from the sale of stock (\$75,900 - \$55,900) qualifies for the 0% rate. The remaining \$30,000 of gain is taxed at the 15% rate, for a total of \$4,500.

If you have no shot at the 0% rate this year, shift appreciated capital gain assets like stocks and mutual fund shares to low-taxed family members. The transfers can be sheltered from gift tax by the annual gift tax exclusion of up to \$14,000 per recipient (\$28,000 for joint gifts made by a married couple). Any excess is covered by your annual lifetime gift-tax exemption (\$5.49 million in 2017).

However, under the "kiddie tax" investment income above \$2,100 received in 2017 by dependent children up to age 24 can be taxed at the parents' top rate. Also, shifting too much income might affect college aid eligibility.

The 0% capital gains rate only applies to assets held longer than one year. Short-term gains are taxed at ordinary income rates.

*John Savignano is a partner with Savignano Accountants & Advisors located at 47-46 Vernon Blvd., Second Floor, in Long Island City. If you have any questions or require additional information, please call John at 718-707-0955.*



# Columbus statue won't be touched

## But historical markers to be added; Italian Americans celebrate decision

by **Anthony O'Reilly**  
Editor

The Mayor's Office announced last Friday that the statue of Christopher Columbus in Manhattan's Columbus Circle will not be moved, but historical markers about his life and the monument will be added.

Additionally, a monument honoring indigenous peoples will be placed at a to-be-determined location.

"Reckoning with our collective histories is a complicated undertaking with no easy solution," Mayor de Blasio said in a prepared statement. "Our approach will focus on adding detail and nuance to — instead of removing entirely — the representations of these histories."

One statue that will be relocated is that of J. Marion Sims in Central Park at Fifth Avenue and 103rd Street. Sims is called the "father of modern gynecology," but conducted many of his experiments on black women without anesthesia.

The recommendations were made by members of the Mayoral Advisory Commission on City Art, Monuments and Markers, who held five public meetings in the five boroughs late last year — the first of which was held at Queens Borough Hall in Kew Gardens.

At the Queens meeting, there were a variety of opinions from historians, politicians, artists and more on whether images of Columbus and other historical figures should be moved.

The panel was brought together following the violence in Charlottesville, Va., over the planned removal of a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee, which was met with opposition from neo-Nazi and other white supremacist groups.



The statue of Christopher Columbus in Manhattan's Columbus Circle will not be moved by the city, Mayor de Blasio announced following a months-long public engagement process. FILE PHOTO

One rightist killed a counterprotester and injured many more in an alleged terroristic car-ramming attack.

De Blasio in August suggested the Columbus Circle statue — erected in 1892 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of his expedition — may be removed.

Italian Americans rejoiced at the news that the 125-year-old statue would not be moved.

"Good move and now the mayor's administration can focus on real issues," said state Sen. Joe Addabbo Jr. (D-Howard Beach). "You can't change history. Taking down the statue would not change history."

Some have pointed out Columbus was hostile, even murderous, to the Native Americans he found when he got to this hemisphere's shores.

In September, a vandal sprayed "Take it Down" and "Don't honor genocide" on a statue of Columbus in Astoria.

The commission's report did not focus on any monuments in Queens.

Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis (R-Staten Island, Brooklyn,) who unsuccessfully challenged de Blasio last year, called the city's decision "a victory for Italian-Americans and those who appreciate his contributions and recognize the explorer represents the immigrant experience."

Addabbo said he has "no problem" with the historical markers being added to the monument.

"As long as they're fair and they're accurate," he said. And the senator encouraged the city to go even further.

"Expand it into the curriculum in our schools," he said.

Councilman Eric Ulrich (R-Ozone Park) proposed legislation in October that would require a majority vote of the Council before statues on city property could be removed.

The bill, which was backed by Councilman Paul Valone (D-Bayside) and others from Staten Island and Brooklyn, was not voted on by the time the Council's previous term ended late last year.



## SPORTS BEAT

# Belmont boondoggle

by **Lloyd Carroll**  
Chronicle Contributor

I have to admit that I didn't share in the overall euphoria when the news broke last month that the New York Islanders would be getting a new home at Belmont Park.

If the Nassau Coliseum had not been refurbished, then I would have agreed wholeheartedly that a new arena was necessary. The problem is that there aren't enough events to keep all of the arenas in the metropolitan area profitable. There are no more Barnum & Bailey Ringling Bros. circuses to fill up a lot of the dates on the calendar. The Harlem Globetrotters are not the national draw that they were back in the golden days of Curly Neal and Meadowlark Lemon.

Putting all that aside, Islanders CEO Jon Ledecky's heart was into placing his team in New York City and he didn't seem to care about Nassau County until the management of Barclays Center basically evicted the team. It was only when he was out of options that he decided "to go all in on Belmont Park."

The only sports-related competition for the Isles was the New York City Football Club, which also put in a proposal for Belmont. The NYCFC, which the Yankees own part of, signaled that Long Island wasn't their first choice.

The funny thing is that a soccer stadium would have been a better fit for Belmont Park. Soccer is played outdoors and generally in

warmer weather, which would have created synergy for the race track. Attendance at Belmont has been languishing for nearly 40 years. NYCFC could have given a shot in the arm for the horse racing industry. A soccer stadium would also have provided an outdoor concert venue for national acts.

Soccer also has intangible advantages. Its fan base is far more ethnically diverse than hockey's. Based on my lengthy experience as a sportswriter, NYCFC's media relations department has been far more welcoming to journalists than the Islanders have.

Ledecky was smart to line up heavy hitters like Madison Square Garden CEO James Dolan and Sterling Equities/Mets CEO Fred Wilpon as his partners in building a new arena. That certainly had to help sway Gov. Cuomo steer the bid his way.

Dolan owns the Rangers, but his MSG Networks also holds the TV broadcast rights to Islanders games that run to 2032. The deal has been so lucrative for the Isles that it's been seen as the key reason why the team has never seriously considered moving. Given the cable industry's declining fortunes, there is a good chance that the Islanders, a team with a limited fan base, may find that their next TV deal won't be as sweet. There could very well be relocation talk 13 years from now or just 10 after the new arena opens, if things stay on schedule.

## A doggone honor for Schiff



Inspector Jeffrey Schiff, commanding officer of the Queens Village-based 105th Precinct, was honored at New York Fashion Week on Feb. 10 by the St. Rocco Foundation, an organization headquartered in Israel that advocates for animal rights.

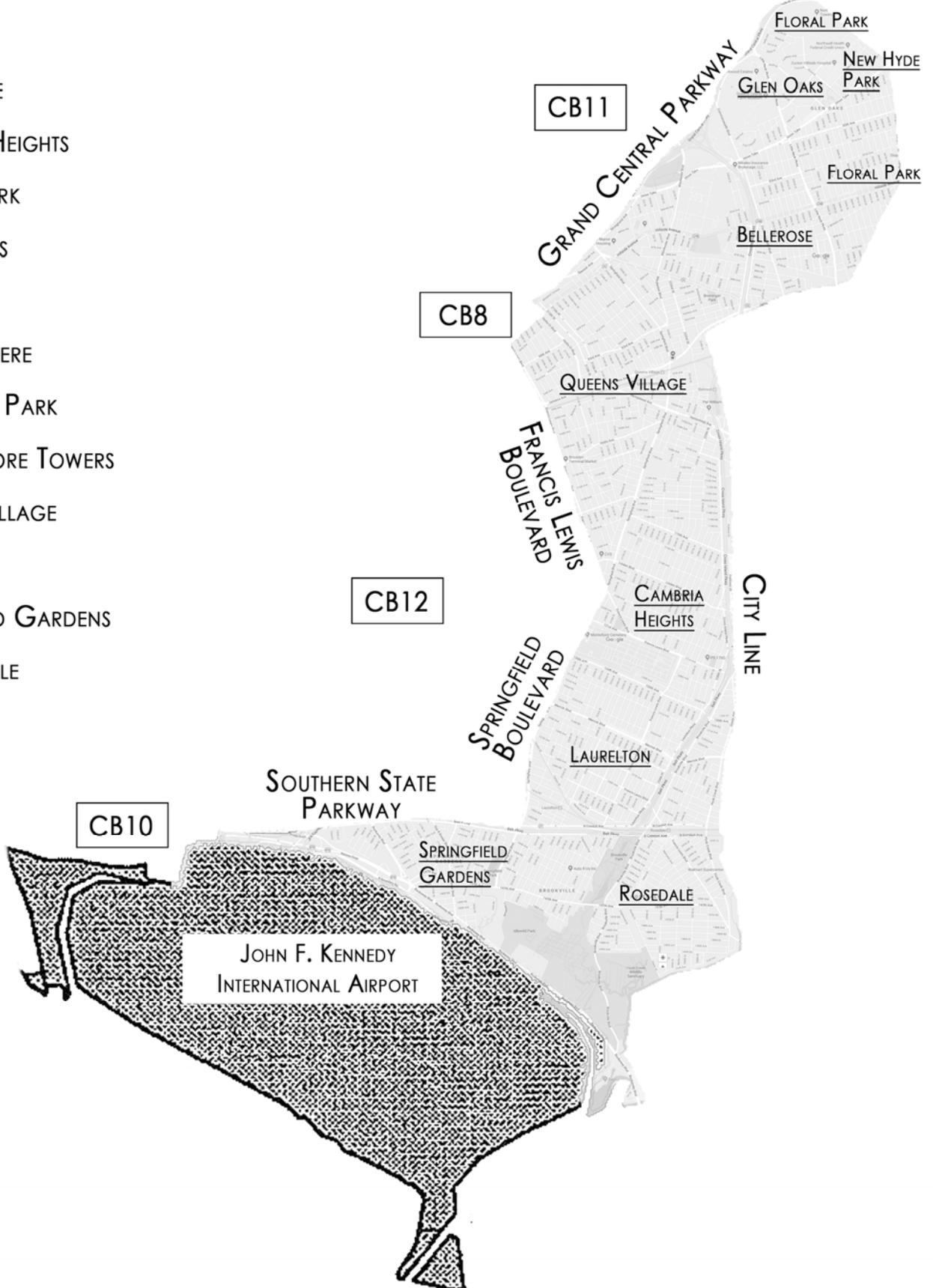
The groups says Schiff, who previously led the 106th Precinct in South Queens, has the best record in the NYPD of getting his officers to respond to animal cruelty and missing dog cases.

Schiff is seen here with members of his family and Neglah Sharma, left, who is spearheading the inception of the group in New York and is a Queens Chronicle freelance contributor.

Awards were also presented to award-winning fashion designer Anthony Rubio, New York Bully Crew Rescue, former Brooklyn Councilman Sal Albanese and Urgent Dogs of LA, a California-based national dog rescue group.

# HELP US IDENTIFY YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD BOUNDARIES.

- BELLAIRE
- BELLEROSE
- BROOKVILLE
- CAMBRIA HEIGHTS
- FLORAL PARK
- GLEN OAKS
- LAURELTON
- MEADOWMERE
- NEW HYDE PARK
- NORTH SHORE TOWERS
- QUEENS VILLAGE
- ROSEDALE
- SPRINGFIELD GARDENS
- WARNERVILLE
- WAYANDA



# Civic Association Meeting Dates

## March 2018

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9					1 <a href="#">Bellerose Commonwealth</a> <a href="#">Federated Blocks of Laurelton</a> <a href="#">Spring-Gar</a>	2	3
10	4	5 <a href="#">Spring-Jam Civic Association</a>	6 <a href="#">Wayanda Civic Association</a>	7 <a href="#">North Bellerose Civic Association</a>	8 <a href="#">Cambria Heights Civic Association</a> <a href="#">Queens Colony Civic Association</a>	9	10
11	11 <i>Daylight Saving</i>	12 <a href="#">Creedmoor Civic Association</a>	13 <a href="#">Rocky Hill Civic Association</a>	14 <a href="#">Lost Community Civic Association</a>	15 <a href="#">Bellerose Hillside Civic Association</a>	16	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>
12	18	19	20 <a href="#">Queens Village Civic Association</a> <a href="#">Meadowmere/ Hook Creek Civic Association</a>	21	22	23	24
13	25	26	27 <a href="#">Rosedale Civic Association</a>	28	29	30 <i>Good Friday</i>	31

## April 2018

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14	1 <i>Easter</i> <i>April Fool's Day</i>	2 <a href="#">Spring-Jam Civic Association</a> <i>Easter Monday</i>	3 <a href="#">Wayanda Civic Association</a>	4 <a href="#">North Bellerose Civic Association</a>	5 <a href="#">Bellerose Commonwealth</a> <a href="#">Federated Blocks of Laurelton</a> <a href="#">Spring-Gar</a>	6	7
15	8	9 <a href="#">Creedmoor Civic Association</a>	10 <a href="#">Rocky Hill Civic Association</a>	11 <a href="#">Lost Community Civic Association</a>	12 <a href="#">Cambria Heights Civic Association</a>	13	14
16	15	16	17 <a href="#">Queens Village Civic Association</a>	18	19	20	21
17	22	23	24 <a href="#">Rosedale Civic Association</a>	25	26	27	28
18	29	30					

## Glen Oaks Resident Dies In Weekend Fire

Queens Tribune, February 15, 2018

By: Sam Rappaport

A fire at a Glen Oaks residence left one man dead on Friday evening, the FDNY said.

A total of 12 units with 60 firefighters tended to the fire, which consumed the second floor of a two-story home at 82-44 262nd St.

According to a city Fire Department spokeswoman, firefighters—along with police officers from the 105th Precinct—arrived on the scene at 7:36 p.m. on Friday. The blaze was brought under control by 8:11 p.m.

First responders found an unconscious man on the second floor of the house and pronounced him dead at the scene. The identity of the man has not yet been released.

Three firefighters suffered minor injuries in the incident and were taken to the hospital for further evaluation. The cause of the fire remains unclear. An investigation into the incident is ongoing.



Page 18 Queens Ledger • Glendale Register • Forest Hills Times • LIC Journal • Leader/Observer • Queens Examiner • Greenpoint Star • Brooklyn Downtown Star February 15, 2018

### Queens Ledger ENTERTAINMENT Brooklyn Star

## Top tips for planning an epic family vacation

Are you dreaming about an incredible family escape your loved ones will always remember?

Perhaps your dream vacation is filled with adventure while eating around the world and exploring castles in faraway places, or maybe it's relaxing on a private island with picturesque views of crystal clearwater. Before taking off, you need to tackle the logistics.

Fortunately, with a few tips from those in the know, creating an unforgettable getaway can be as magical as taking one.

### Tip #1: Get the inside scoop

No idea where to begin? Talk with a trustworthy resource or fellow parent who has "been there."

The honest and reliable vacation tips you'll receive are invaluable and can ease the planning process. For example, individuals thinking about planning a Disney vacation should visit [www.disneyparksmoms-](http://www.disneyparksmoms-)

panel.com, an online resource providing authentic answers to guests seeking advice from in-the-know panelists with years of vast experience.

The panel, which recently announced the addition of 11 new moms, dads and grandparents, includes your next-door neighbors, your good friends, and above all else, seasoned vacationers you can count on for genuine advice when planning your next getaway to a Disney destination. The panel can give you a personalized response in English, Spanish, French or Portuguese.

### Tip #2: Find an all-appealing destination

You probably have a few ideas of where to go, but brainstorming destinations with your travel crew can provide helpful feedback and insight into everyone's interests.

Maybe your best friends are making brunch a priority for your girlfriends' getaway. Or Grandma has a

few "memory making" ideas for her vacation with the grandkids. Your fickle pre-teen even has a dream destination you might not know of, and your kindergartner is sure to throw a few ideas into the ring.

After you make a list of everyone's thoughts, do some research online.

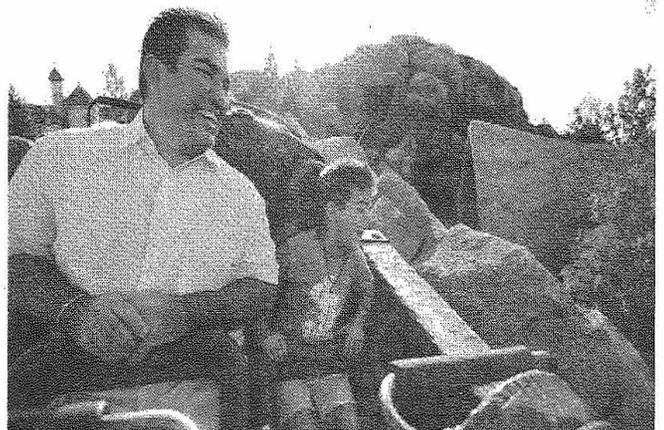
Poke around travel websites. With a little digging, you can find experiences that appeal as much to your toddler as your teenager and even your best friend.

The key is to make it a discussion, talk with others who are in the know and overall, enjoy helping you plan your escape.

### Tip #3: Be proactive about special requirements

Keep special needs top of mind when booking accommodations.

For example, all U.S. hotels are required to offer



wheelchair-accessible rooms, but international hotels follow different guidelines, so be sure to ask.

Additionally, if you have a sensitive child who prefers a calmer environment, book a hotel room away from the pool or other entertainment spaces.

Another common concern for families is food allergies. To ease worries, plan ahead.

Experienced jetsetters suggest asking restaurants for their ingredients charts and nutrition information

or requesting to speak directly to the chef. You can even call airlines and hotels early to ask about allergy policies.

Bottom line: It's easy to feel overwhelmed, especially when planning a family getaway. Each age has different considerations, but with some smart strategizing and advice from the right people, you can create memories to last a lifetime. These three tips will have you well on your way to experiencing an epic family vacation.

## The Many Benefits Of Home Improvement

Queens Tribune, February 15, 2018

By: Steven J. Dimare



Most people aren't aware of how many benefits are realized from simple home improvements. Although homeowners often have work done to correct problems, here are some important but overlooked benefits of having work done on your home.

**Beauty and style:** With a relatively small amount of money, you can transform your home. You can change your front door for less than \$900, while the windows or siding that faces the street can turn heads. Spend \$1,400 and put in a bay window that looks impressive on the outside and makes the room inside look much bigger.

There are hundreds of ways to spend a small amount, yet make a big impact.

**Operation:** New products generally work better than old products. You may find yourself using doors and windows you gave up on years ago. People discover wonderful breezes they haven't felt in years and save money on air conditioning at the same time.

**Increase the value of your home:** Whether windows, doors, siding, roofing or insulation, you can expect to recoup 100 percent of the cost. You may want to make your house look nice, but you will also put money in your pocket.

**Sell or refinance your home:** With many people selling or refinancing their homes, the appraisal amount is more important than ever. People don't realize that the person coming to appraise your house has leeway based on his/her opinion of your home. Sometimes that opinion is based on how your home looks. When thinking about the value of your home and the transactions involved, it might make sense to spend money to really make a great first impression. Whether it's the appraiser, realtor or someone considering making an offer on your home, the first impression is important.

**Save money on energy costs:** With new technologies, you can save as much as 50 percent on your electric, oil and gas bills. If you think about your house as a balloon holding hot air in the winter or cool air in the summer, you save the most energy costs by keeping that air in. Think about that air leaving your home through drafty windows, spaces around doors and hollow walls with little insulation. By changing windows and doors, putting new board insulation under siding and blowing insulation into your attic, you can seal up the leaks and keep that hot or cool air in.

**Going green:** Most people think a product is green based on the way it is made. Although that is a criterion, the other important factor is the energy savings that product generates once installed. You can save the environment and lower your energy costs at the same time.



If you had the 311 App, you would have known Monday, February 12, 2018 was Lincoln's Birthday.

NYC 311 is an app from the NYC Department of Information and Telecommunications that is New York City's one-stop shop for all government information and non-emergency services.

The NYC311 app is available for free for iPhone, iPad, and Android operating systems. You can use it to check if alternate side parking and meters are suspended, if garbage, recycling, and organics collections are suspended, and if public schools are closed. You can also make service requests to get help with noise, heat or hot water, rat conditions, snowy streets or sidewalks, potholes, and more.



Photo via New York City Mayoral Photography Office

The mayor visited Woodside to announce the record decrease in traffic fatalities in the city.

# Vision Zero's making Queens safer: Mayor

**BY ANGELA MATUA**  
amatua@qns.com / @angelamatua

Mayor Bill de Blasio visited an NYPD garage in Woodside on Monday to announce that 2017 saw the fewest traffic fatalities on record, with Queens beating its previous record low from 2011.

Citywide, pedestrian fatalities fell 32 percent since 2016 with 101 pedestrian deaths in 2017 compared to 148 in 2016. Overall, 214 people were lost in traffic crashes in 2017 compared to 231 in 2016. These numbers mark the lowest level of traffic deaths since the city began keeping records in 1910.

In Queens, there were 59 traffic fatalities in 2017 compared to 65 in 2016, marking a 9 percent decline. The previous low was recorded in 2011 with 63 traffic deaths.

"Everyone knows when we think about this history in our city, when we think about the lives that were lost our minds immediately go to Queens Boulevard," de Blasio said. "For too long in this city the idea was tolerated that there was a major thoroughfare that was known as the Boulevard of Death. That was never acceptable."

Councilmen Jimmy Van Bramer, who represents Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside and parts of Astoria, and Robert Holden, who represents Middle Village, Maspeth, Glendale, parts of Woodside and Ridgewood, attended the press conference to tout the initiative's successes.

Holden, the former Juniper Park Civic Association president, often criticized the initiative and the Department of Transportation's (DOT) plans to add more bicycle lanes in his district.

But he acknowledged that his criticism "was wrong."

"I was one of those Doubting Thomases on the civic level," he said. "We've heard it before from mayors: 'We're going to correct this, we're going to slow them down.' I want to thank the mayor. You can't argue with saving lives. You can never argue that that's paramount here."

Holden added that his district is experiencing issues with the traffic app Waze, which provides drivers with alternative routes to avoid traffic. The councilman said that because of traffic calming measures installed in major thoroughfares like Queens Boulevard, more drivers are using side streets to circumvent traffic.

"The bigger picture here is in Maspeth, we don't have a subway," he said. "In Middle Village, we live a mile and a half away from a subway so we need to address those concerns. Public transportation is important obviously if we're going to change people's mindsets on driving everywhere in New York."

One of the biggest projects that the city focused on as a result of Vision Zero was the re-imagining of Queens Boulevard. The major thoroughfare was referred to as the Boulevard of Death because of the high number of traffic fatalities. In 1990, 18 people were killed at the thoroughfare.

The first phase of the redesign began in 2015 and included the installation of a protected bike lane. It covered the 1.3-mile stretch of the thoroughfare between Roosevelt Avenue and 73rd Street.

In the summer of 2016, the DOT began the second phase of the redesign, which covered 74th Street through Elliot Avenue. The plan faced backlash from Community Board 4, which approved the redesign with one major stipulation: no bike lanes.

Prior to the Community Board's vote, a group of bicyclists gathered at the spot where Asif Rahman, 22, was killed after he tried swerving away from a double parked car with his bike. Rahman was hit by a truck and ever since the accident in 2008, his mother Lizi has advocated for major safety upgrades.

The mayor approved the plan despite the board's vote and the third phase from Eliot Avenue through Yellowstone Boulevard was finished last year.

The fact that no one has died on Queens Boulevard in three years is one of the biggest successes in this city," Van Bramer said. "You cannot underestimate how important it is that 10 years ago, five years ago, 20 years ago it was absolutely normalized that 10, 12, 17 people per year were killed in crashes on Queens Boulevard."

He also spoke about 8-year-old Noshat Nahian who was hit and killed by a truck in 2013 as he was crossing Northern Boulevard on his way to school.

"The face on his mother, the agony she was enduring is something that you would never want any human being to face," Van Bramer said. "That family was so devastated that they moved back to Bangladesh."

According to data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, traffic fatalities have increased nationwide more than 13 percent from 2013 through 2016. In New York City, there has been a 28 percent decrease in traffic fatalities since 2013.

"I'm really proud of Queens today because Queens is leading the way and Queens Boulevard is leading the way because if you can make Queens Boulevard safer you can make any street in this city or country safer," Van Bramer said.

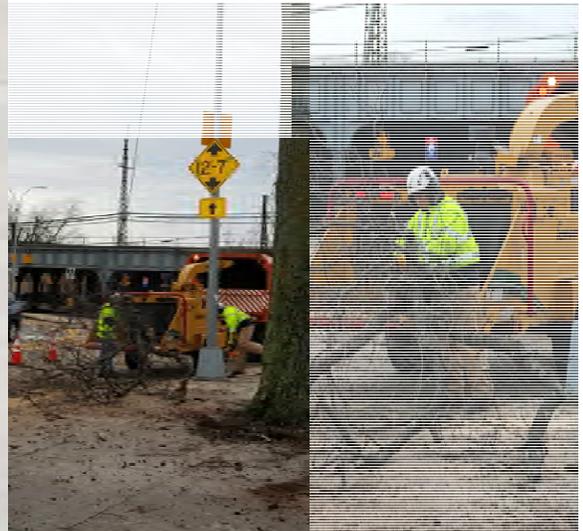
Thank you NYC Department of Parks and Recreation Forestry and Horticulture for your tree-mendous work!



Thank you for tree pruning at the intersection of Hempstead and Jamaica Avenues.



The process of safely removing tree branches.



Cleaning up.

## wellness

# The truth about what makes your skin dry and itchy in the winter

We wait all year for activities that come along with winter, like sipping hot cocoa by the fire or staying in to snuggle up under cozy blankets while re-watching our favorite movies.

The winter season also brings some less-than-desirable side effects, though. An all-too-common winter woe is dry, flaky skin that can feel itchy, tight or painful.

In fact, a recent survey conducted online by Harris Poll on behalf of CeraVe among more than 2,000 U.S. adults revealed that 55 percent of Americans feel having dry skin in the winter and having chapped lips are among the things they dislike most. Moreover, 57 percent of Americans said having healthy skin is more important than staying up-to-date on social media, 23-percent would move to another climate if it promised healthier skin and 18 percent would give up their favorite food for the duration of winter if it meant not having dry skin for the season.

The good news is that none of those trade-offs are necessary, because treating and preventing this wintertime discomfort can be helped with a simple change, says Dr. Michelle Henry, a board-certified dermatologist and cosmetic surgeon based in New York City.

"In the winter, the conditions are much harsher on the skin, which means your skin has different needs," Henry says. "So



when the seasons change, that just means it's time to switch up your skincare routine, just like you change the way you dress and how you spend time outdoors."

Henry shares some of the common causes of dry winter skin, along with her expert tips for cold-weather skincare so you can start feeling better all over.

## 1. Dry air is everywhere

You may think that the outside air is to blame for your dry skin. While this may hold some truth, heated indoor air also has very little humidity. When you spend your life basking in this dry environment, your skin eventually pays the price.

"During the winter months, the skin contains more moisture than the air," Henry says. "What happens is the dry environment leeches the moisture from the skin, leaving it looking and feeling dry and dull."

Moisture loss, dryness and cracking

comes as a result of damage to the skin barrier. To replenish your taxed skin, slather on a rich emollient that contains ceramides daily. Ceramides are like the mortar that holds the bricks of your skin together and are essential to healthy skin. For on-the-go relief, tote along small containers of moisturizer wherever you go.

## 2. Too much (or not enough) exfoliation

Make no mistake, exfoliation is important to year-round skincare, but adding it in the winter is essential. This process clears away dead skin cells and product residue, letting your winter moisturizers penetrate the skin and work more effectively, Henry says. Steer clear of products with beads and grains that strip and irritate the skin, especially in the winter. Instead, choose formulas designed to be gentle on sensitive complexions.

## 3. Too many long, hot showers

On a cold winter morning, a long shower that really steams up the mirror is relaxing and feels great. However, Dr. Henry says these long sessions are drying for the skin (and don't get you any cleaner).

"I recommend that my patients keep showers under 10 minutes in lukewarm water," Henry says.

Afterwards, she says, pat yourself with a

towel so some moisture is left behind on the skin, and then seal it in by applying lotion all over.

## 4. Excessive hand washing

Hands can take a beating during the winter months. With germs running rampant all season, hand-washing is important to stay healthy, but those who wash their hands frequently tend to suffer more from dry skin, she says. Give hands some extra TLC this time of year. After washing, always apply a thick lotion to protect against and heal dry, cracked hands. Henry recommends CeraVe Healing Ointment, a gentle formula that contains three essential ceramides to provide intense, long-lasting moisturization, while soothing dry, chapped skin.

## 5. Your products are too harsh

Your winter skin care regimen should be different from your summer routine. Many summertime products are designed to remove dirt, oil and sweat, but when it gets colder and dryer, these products may become drying and irritating. Henry recommends switching your facial cleanser or body wash from a foam or gel to a cream-based moisturizing formula.

For more ideas on how to get soothing relief and protection for your sensitive winter skin, visit [cerave.com](http://cerave.com).

Courtesy BPT

# Home foreclosures in Queens surge 40 percent in 2017: report

BY SUZANNE MONTEVERDI

[smonteverdi@qns.com](mailto:smonteverdi@qns.com) / [@smont76](https://twitter.com/smont76)

First-time foreclosures in Queens and throughout the city are approaching levels not seen since the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, according to a new report.

Queens saw a 40 percent increase in foreclosure cases from 2016 to 2017, a report from real estate site PropertyShark said. A total of 1,260 first-time foreclosures were recorded for the borough in 2017.

The 11434 ZIP code, which covers areas of Jamaica, Rochdale and Springfield Gardens, saw the most foreclosures last year in both the borough and the city, with 114 recorded cases. The area, a "known foreclosure hotspot," was the only Queens ZIP code to see more than 100 cases in 2017, according to PropertyShark.

The ZIP codes with the second and third most foreclosures were 11412 and 11413, which lie directly east of 11434. These ZIP codes include areas of St. Albans, Hollis and Laurelton.

In the western part of the borough, areas of Astoria, Long Island City and Rego Park saw the least number of foreclosures. In eastern Queens, Fresh Meadows, Hollis Hills and Glen Oaks posted the lowest numbers.

While Queens saw the highest number of foreclosure cases in 2017, it did not see the highest percentage increase year-over-year: Staten Island saw the most dra-



Photo via Pixabay

## Brick houses in Queens

183 in 2016, the borough saw a 134 percent increase year-over-year. Brooklyn and the Bronx also saw higher percentage increases.

In 2017, foreclosure auctions in New York City "exploded," according to PropertyShark. The numbers recorded

After peaking in 2008, new foreclosures in NYC dropped steadily in following years until numbers bottomed out in 2012. A "slow but steady" increase followed.

In 2017, a total of 3,306 New York City homes were scheduled for auction, repre-

almost doubled since 2015.

The PropertyShark study focused on residential properties scheduled for auction for the first time in 2017. Residential properties included were single- and two-family homes and condo and co-op units.



## When is the right time to introduce tech to children?

If you're a parent with a smartphone or tablet, it didn't take long before your little one first reached for your shiny device. If only their fingers weren't covered in slobber at the time, you may have been more willing to hand it over.

To your surprise — and theirs — learning how to swipe and tap objects to make them move on the screen came quickly and naturally. Oftentimes the challenge soon becomes how to keep their hands off the device. It's perfectly acceptable, even beneficial, for young children to have these interactions with technology ... but only with appropriate parental guidance.

**How young is too young?**

Young children can strengthen their interactions with other family members, as well as improve their familiarity with sounds, words, language and the world around them, through the responsible use of technology.

Most experts agree, however, that children under the age of 2 probably shouldn't trade their rattles in for tablets. There are enough real-world interactions to keep them busy, and whether they play with blocks or pull the cat's tail, these

tangible experiences are important to their development. There will be plenty of time to show them Angry Birds when they're a bit older, so allow them to develop their senses by exploring, touching things and even getting into a little mischief.

Once beyond the 24-month mark, you can begin introducing technology to your little tyke. Chances are he or she may already enjoy the privilege at preschool; many toddler day-care centers and preschools now incorporate technology, from computers to tablets, into their curriculum.

**Kids' access to digital media**

Whether at school or at home, most youngsters interact with screens before they turn 5. According to a survey conducted by the Joan Ganz Cooney Center, more than eight in 10 children from age 2 to 10 use digital media every week. In fact, two-thirds have tablets or e-readers.

While the interactions are practically inevitable, significant parental and caregiver involvement can help steer them in the right direction, ensuring kids are exposed to content providing the best opportunities for learning.

Between laptop computers, desktop PCs, tablets, televisions and smartphones, there's probably a screen in nearly every room of your home.

Although these screens can and often do serve as virtual babysitters, games, apps and other content should be carefully selected, and screen time should be limited to an hour or less a day for toddlers.

**Parental involvement**

By using technology with your children, you'll introduce them to the most beneficial content, while also bonding with them over an exciting, shared experience.

Something as simple and fun as taking turns in a game or reading together on a tablet can also help ensure technology is being consumed in a responsible way that can educate and aid development.

While education is key, it doesn't always have to be about learning your ABCs and 123s. Plenty of games and apps combine learning and entertainment experiences that are fun for kids. Checking the ESRB age and content rating information in console and online stores (like the Nintendo eShop, the PlayStation Store, the Xbox Store and Win-



dows Store) is a great way to find appropriate games for kids of all ages. ESRB ratings are also assigned to mobile games and apps in the Google Play Store, complete with content descriptors and interactive elements when applicable.

As your little ones mature from toddlers to tweens, their use of technology as well as the technology itself will certainly evolve.

The breadth of content they enjoy will greatly expand, highlighting the importance of parental involvement in managing and monitoring their time with tech.

Regardless of where our smartphones and tablets take us, parental involvement and engagement is key to ensuring kids enjoy a healthy, responsible relationship with technology.

## LEADERSHIP

### Black History Month

## WHEREITZAT

### 7 Leadership Principles to Learn From An Eagle

#### 1. \*Eagles fly Alone and at High Altitudes\*

They don't fly with sparrows, ravens, and other small birds.  
 \*MEANING\* Stay away from narrow-minded people, those that bring you down. Eagle flies with Eagles. Keep good company.

#### 2. \*Eagles have an Accurate Vision\*

They have the ability to focus on something as far as 5km away. No matter the obstacles, the eagle will not move his focus from the prey until he grabs it.  
 \*MEANING\* Have a vision and remain focused no matter what the obstacles and you will succeed.

#### 3. \*Eagles do not Eat Dead things. They Feed only on Fresh Prey\*

\*MEANING\*; Do not rely on your past success, keep looking for new frontiers to conquer. Leave your past where it belongs, in the past.

#### 4. \*Eagles Love the Storm\*

When clouds gather, the eagle gets excited, the eagle uses the storms wind to lift itself higher. Once it finds the wind of the storm, the eagle uses the raging storm to lift

itself above the clouds. This gives the eagle an opportunity to glide and rest its wings. In the meantime, all the other birds hide in the branches and leaves of the tree.

\*MEANING\* Face your challenges head on knowing that these will make you emerge stronger and better than you were. We can use the storms of life to rise to greater heights. Achievers are not afraid to rise to greater heights. Achievers are not afraid of challenges, rather they relish them and use them profitably.

5. \*When a Female Eagle Meets a Male Eagle\* and they want to mate, she flies down to earth, picks a twig and flies back into the air with the male eagle in hot pursuit. Once she has reached a height high enough for her, she drops the twig and let it fall to the ground while she watches. The male eagle chases after the twig and catches it before it reached the ground, then bring it back to the female eagle. The female eagle grabs the twig and flies to a much higher altitude and drop the twig again for the male eagle to chase. This goes on for hours with the height increasing each time until the female eagle is assured that the male eagle has mastered the art of picking the twig which shows commitment. Then and only then will she allow him to mate with her.

\*MEANING\* Whether in private life or business, one

should test the commitment of the people intended for partnership.

#### 6. \*Eagles Prepare for Training\*

They remove the feathers and soft grass in the nest so that the young ones get uncomfortable in preparation for flying and eventually flies when it becomes unbearable to stay in the nest.

\*MEANING\* Leave your Comfort Zone, there is No Growth there.

#### 7. \*When the Eagle Grows Old\*

His feathers becomes weak and cannot take him as fast and as high as it should. This makes him weak and could make him die. So he retires to a place far away in the mountains. While there, he plucks out the weak feathers on his body and breaks its beaks and claws against the rocks until he is completely bare; a very bloody and painful process. Then he stays in this hiding place until he has grown new feathers, new beaks and claws and then he comes out flying higher than before.

\*MEANING\*; We occasionally need to shed off old habit no matter how difficult, things that burden us or add no value to our lives should be let go of.

**\*YES, NEVER GIVE UP;\***

**\*BE AN EAGLE, NEVER EVER GIVE UP !!!!\***



## Start the year strong with this high-performance vegetable

Chasing a place on the podium isn't possible without the proper fuel for your body. Whether you're going for the gold or just passing the pigskin in honor of the big game, athletes and amateurs alike need the right combination of nutrients to take on their training, and sports nutritionists across the nation are recommending one vegetable in particular to get them there — potatoes! Here's why:

\* **Carbohydrate** — Potatoes are a nutrient-dense vegetable with 26 grams of quality carbohydrates. Carbohydrates are important for optimal physical and mental performance as the primary fuel for your brain and a key source of energy for muscles. And, because your body's own stores of carbohydrates are limited and may be depleted — even in a single session of intense and/or prolonged exercise — it's important to replenish them.

\* **Potassium** — Did you know a medium-sized potato with the skin has more potassium than a medium-sized banana? A medium (5.2 ounce) skin-on potato contains 620 mg of potassium, an important electrolyte that aids in muscle, cardiovascular and nervous system

function. The 2015 Dietary Guidelines mention potassium as an under-consumed nutrient of concern, and recommend consuming foods with high levels of potassium such as white potatoes.

\* **Energy** — Potatoes are more energy-packed than any other popular vegetable. Adequate energy intake supports optimal body functions and it's critical to take in the appropriate number of calories to match the demands of the day, especially while training.

Partial to pasta or rice? With as much — if not more — of several essential vitamins and minerals found in spaghetti, brown rice or whole wheat bread, potatoes are a smart addition to your other favorite performance foods (compared on a per-serving basis). What's more, a medium Russet potato with the skin has more vitamin C and potassium than a medium sweet potato.

There is a medal-worthy potato option to fit your tastes (and schedule) no matter what sport is your specialty. Leslie Bonci, registered dietitian and nutrition consultant for the Kansas City Chiefs and the WNBA, says, "I love potatoes for their versatility, affordabil-

ity and applicability to all types of culinary options. The carbohydrate, fiber and potassium make them a great choice for workouts and offer a change of pace and taste from other sports-focused foods." She created a recipe for portable and crunchy On-the-Go Potatoes for a quick savory snack for mid-hike or mid-bike that's ready in just about 30 minutes. Gearing up for a busy week? Make a batch of On-the-Go Potatoes on Sunday and freeze them. Defrost throughout the week by leaving in the refrigerator overnight, and then simply re-heat in the toaster oven (or enjoy cold).

### On-the-Go Potatoes

Yield: 8 servings (about 5 potatoes per serving)

#### Ingredients:

24 oz. petite yellow potatoes (about 40 petite potatoes)  
 2 tablespoons olive oil  
 2 tablespoons soy sauce  
 1 cup panko crumbs  
 1/4 cup tuxedo sesame seeds  
 2 teaspoons Chinese 5-Spice seasoning mix

#### Directions:

Put potatoes in a bowl and toss



with the olive oil and soy sauce. Mix to coat well.

In a separate bowl, combine panko bread crumbs, sesame seeds and 5-spice seasoning and mix well.

In small batches, put the potatoes in the bread crumb mixture and roll around to coat well.

Transfer to a cookie sheet. Bake at 450 degrees for 20 to 25 minutes, until cooked through.

#### Nutrition

Per serving (8 servings; about 5 potatoes per serving): Calories 174, Fat: 5.7 g, Cholesterol: 0 mg, Sodium: 257 mg, Carbohydrates: 26.8 g, Fiber: 2.5 g, Potassium: 485 mg, Protein: 4.3 g, Vitamin C: 7 mg

## CCRB discusses officer-civilian protocols

BY MEGHAN SACKMAN

msackman@queensledger.com

Last week, the first Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) meeting since the passing of the Right to Know Act took place in Long Island City.

Police officers, community members and elected officials sat down to discuss what could be done to improve police-civilian relations.

The Right to Know Act, passed late last year, encourages transparency and accountability between members of the NYPD and the public.

The law requires a police officer to clearly state his or her name, rank, command and phone number when making a stop. The officer also has to state his reason for the approach.

The CCRB divides complaints into four categories: force, abusive authority, discourtesy and offensive language. In 2017, the agency

received 769 complaints in Queens. Sixty-two percent were related to abusive authority. Many of these complaints are unsubstantiated without video evidence.

Many of the speakers were concerned with the familiarity between police officers and members of public housing developments.

"They'll bring [police] in from the Bronx, Staten Island, people that are not familiar with our communities, and they bring whatever mindset with them," said Karen Dennis. "So they're not really connecting. We don't really know who the officers are in our community, and sometimes that shows up very negatively."

Vanessa Jones spoke about how the local police conducted a planned raid on her housing development, Astoria Houses, on the first day of school. It was described as traumatic for the children who witnessed it.

When the community

expressed their outrage, the police actually came out and apologized and tried to make amends by organizing a family fun day for the development.

"We do have good officers, and even when I mentioned that they came into our community to do that raid, they did make amends to that because we were outraged when they did that," Jones said.

Jones went on to discuss how children see police in uniform getting away with doing things they know is wrong, and how it makes it difficult to look up to or respect them. The community member also offered some concrete solutions.

"They just need to be more engaging, they need to get involved with the young people," Jones said. "Come into the community and sit and chat with them. That would make a big difference."

Other speakers at the meeting were concerned

about why this relationship is so shaky in the first place. Jonathan Logan, vice president of the Cambridge Heights Civic Association and member of Community Board 13, expressed his concern that implicit bias is the underlying issue when it comes to police-civilian relations.

He spoke about how this was evident at the height of stop-and-frisk, how racial profiling played a part in this issue, and how quotas that are imposed upon police officers are causing harm to innocent people.

"Conversations and dialogues that focus around how interactions should be between the public and the police, they're kind of tuned in on how civilians should act when they are confronted with the police," he said. "I think that's somewhat of a reverse narrative, whereby I think that the real focus should be on how the police officers should interact."

# MTA Freedom Ticket: Joe says it really is so

Lhota says the district LIRR ticket plan is 'very, very close' for Southeast

Queens Chronicle, February 1, 2018

By: Michael Gannon



Southeast Queens residents have been waiting for discounted LIRR fares since October. Now MTA Chairman Joe Lhota has told the Legislature that a plan will be rolled out this year, and likely sooner rather than later.

The Freedom Ticket transportation plan appears to be back on track, with the chairman of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority saying last Friday that he expects to roll it out some time this year.

Speaking last Friday at a budget hearing in Albany, Joe Lhota told state legislators that a plan to let riders from Eastern Queens get discount rides from four Long Island Rail Road stations should be expected soon.

"We're working on it as we speak," Lhota said according to CBS News Channel 2. "We're very, very close. I fully expect it to happen this year, and my expectation, when I say this year, don't think about it as the end of the year. It could happen relatively soon."

Elected officials from Southeast Queens are reacting with cautious optimism.

They had been expecting a pilot program at the Laurelton, Locust Manor, Rosedale and St. Albans stations last October.

The aim is to save residents time that it normally takes to combine bus and subway rides into Manhattan; and money, with the riders paying a reduced fare for what otherwise would be an empty seat.

Assemblywoman Alicia Hyndman (D-Springfield Gardens), a member of the Transportation Committee, said Lhota was responding to her direct question.

"I have concerns because I was expecting to see this back in October and I didn't," Hyndman told the Chronicle.

Hyndman said she, state Sen. Leroy Comrie (D-St. Albans) and Assemblywoman Nily Rozic (D-Flushing) all subsequently tried to steer Lhota back to the subject, but could not elicit further details.

Comrie said he is particularly interested in learning just which stations the MTA now has in mind.

"Nothing on stations or any other specifics," the senator said in a telephone interview. "But I'm confident that he has now made a commitment that this is happening."

State Sen. James Sanders Jr. (D-South Ozone Park) on Wednesday was urging Lhota and MTA planners to include Far Rockaway in the mix.

"As someone who has used mass transit for most of my life, I understand the importance of making rides more efficient and less expensive," Sanders said in a statement from his office.

"I support Freedom Ticket, but I would like to know why everyone else gets "freedom" except for the Rockaways, which is a transportation desert in desperate need of more travel options. I am also concerned about what the price of the Freedom Ticket will be. It needs to be fair, equitable and affordable for all residents."

Sanders has introduced a similar bill in the state Senate called the Long Island Rail Road Fare Act, bill S6741 to demand that Far Rockaway be included in the LIRR's discount weekend fare program known as CityTicket.

"This is something I am still advocating for," Sanders added. "I think Freedom Ticket has great potential if it is planned and implemented properly."

## Three Reasons the Youth Should Work

### 1. *Teens build valuable work experience.*

These days, the job market tends to favor those with experience over education. Although a college degree is still very valuable, it's even more valuable when paired with a resume full of experience. Students who are able to work during their high school and college years are able to demonstrate this experience and build valuable entries on their resume. This experience also demonstrates that they are able to successfully balance work and education at the same time.

### 2. *Teens can build connections through working part-time.*

Another great way that part-time work benefits a teen's resume? References. By working part time, teens can establish contacts with adult employers that can function as references and give recommendations in the future. These connections may even be able to offer future job opportunities once students are able to work at a higher level.

### 3. *Teen jobs build confidence.*

As teens work at a part-time job, they learn just how capable they are, building confidence and self-reliance. This can help teens feel more independent, and develop a sense of responsibility as a young adult.

## tax tips

# Common tax mistakes to avoid in 2018

Life changes - getting married, having a baby, buying or selling a home, sending a child off to college or retiring - often come with changes to your tax situation.

Overlooking these changes when filing your taxes can lead taxpayers to make mistakes that leave money on the table, potentially impacting their refund at a time when the average refund is about \$2,800. Here is a list of common tax mistakes to avoid in the 2018 filing season to help ensure you don't miss any deductions or credits that you deserve.

## Using the correct filing status

One of the most common mistakes taxpayers make is selecting the wrong filing status. A taxpayer's filing status can affect which credits and deductions they're eligible for, the value of their standard deduction and their tax bracket.

One situation that can make choosing a filing status difficult is when more than one filing status seems to fit. For example, if a taxpayer with children is in the process of getting a divorce, they may not be sure if they should file as married filing jointly or married filing separately or, in some instances, whether they qualify to file as head of household. In this case, the taxpayers should run the numbers to see if filing jointly or separately is more to their advantage

rather than guessing.

In addition, common clerical errors such as mixing up names, forgetting to include information reported on your W-2, 1099 or other forms, or even making mathematical errors can also affect your tax benefits.

## Commonly overlooked credits and deductions

Most taxpayers file their taxes using the standard deduction, but you may be eligible for a variety of itemized deductions that could possibly save you more. Also, you may be eligible for "above-the-line" deductions and tax credits, none of which require you to itemize. And it's important to note that the newly passed tax reform generally does not impact these credits or deductions until you file your 2018 tax return in 2019.

## Earned Income Tax Credit for lower-income workers

Twenty percent of eligible taxpayers, particularly lower-income workers, do not claim the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Depending on their income and the number of children they have, these taxpayers may be eligible for an EITC of \$503 to \$6,242. Since eligibility can fluctuate based on financial, marital and parental status, taxpayers can be ineligible one year and eligible the next.



Under the PATH Act, taxpayers who claim the EITC and who file early will have their refunds delayed until mid-February. Despite the delay, taxpayers should file as they normally would to get their refund as soon as possible.

## Education credits

Depending on your academic program, what year the student is in, income and other restrictions, there are federal tax credits that can help offset the costs of higher education for yourself or your dependents. To qualify, you must pay for post-secondary tuition and fees for yourself, your spouse or your dependent. Depending on the criteria, a student may use the American Opportunity Credit of up to \$2,500 or the Lifetime Learning Credit of up to \$2,000.

Itemizing deductions: Itemizing can save taxpayers hundreds of dollars, as only one third of taxpayers itemize but millions more should - especially homeowners. Owning

a home is often the key that unlocks itemization, but some taxpayers with high state taxes and charitable contributions may also be able to itemize.

Itemizing enables eligible taxpayers to take deductions such as charitable donations; medical expenses that exceed 7.5 percent of adjusted gross income; personal property taxes; state income or sales taxes; casualty losses such as a fire, hurricane or earthquake; and mortgage interest payments.

## Not filing

On average, the IRS announces annually that approximately \$1 billion goes unclaimed in federal tax refunds. Taxpayers can claim a refund for up to three years after the filing deadline. So, in addition to filing your 2017 return, keep in mind to file your 2015 return by April 17, 2018. If not, you will lose your 2015 refund. There is no late-filing penalty if a taxpayer is due a refund. Also, even if you are not required to file a return, you may be entitled to a refund.

Taxpayers who want to ensure they get the maximum refund without a delay should visit <https://www.hrblock.com/offers/refund-advance/> to see if you are eligible for a Refund Advance, or you can make an appointment with a tax professional.

Courtesy BPT

## 116th Precinct Planning Process On The Fast Track

February 1, 2018 QueensTribune.com

By Jon Cronin

The new 116<sup>th</sup> Precinct's City Planning review process is reportedly being fast tracked, and plans for the new facility have already been viewed by Community Board 13 and Queens Borough President Melinda Katz.

**Mark McMillan**, the district manager of Community Board 13, said that CB 13 voted on the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) last week. The ULURP process typically takes a few months.

The community board's vote was nearly unanimous, with one member holding out since that person was in favor of funding going toward education, rather than a new precinct.

The precinct will be located at 242-40 North Conduit Ave. in Rosedale, which is the current location of the 105<sup>th</sup> Precinct's satellite building. The groundbreaking date has yet to be announced.

McMillan said that community activists have been fighting for a new precinct for nearly 30 years. He U.S. Rep Gregory Meeks (D-Jamaica) has been a long outspoken proponent of the idea, while Councilman Donovan Richards (D-Laurelton) has gotten traction on the issue during his first term in office.

McMillan noted that, geographically, the 105<sup>th</sup> Precinct—which covers Queens Village and several other Southeast Queens communities—is the largest in the borough and second largest in the city.

In June, the *PRESS of Southeast Queens* reported that Mayor Bill de Blasio—alongside NYPD Commissioner James O'Neill, Richards and several other Southeast Queens elected officials—honored **Bess DeBetham**, a long-time member of the Federated Blocks of Laurelton, for advocating for the new precinct for four and a half decades.

"I want to thank you for your leadership, your strength, your persistence," the mayor told DeBetham. "You were fighting for the safety of a community that has worked their whole lives to become homeowners."

The push to designate a 116<sup>th</sup> Precinct was a result of the 105<sup>th</sup> Precinct's vast size. Encompassing 12.7 square miles and more than 354 miles of roadway, the 105<sup>th</sup> has struggled for years to stretch its resources throughout a large section of the borough.

As a result, response times for emergency calls often lagged behind city averages. While the average city response time has hovered around seven minutes, the 105<sup>th</sup>'s emergency response time averages closer to 9.3 minutes.

To help with the issue, several concessions have been made. In 2007, the 105<sup>th</sup>'s satellite precinct was opened. It was meant to help keep a significant police presence in the southernmost part of the precinct's jurisdiction. In March, the satellite precinct service was expanded to include 20 new officers and 24-hour operation.

With the addition of the 116<sup>th</sup> Precinct, the 105<sup>th</sup> will essentially be cut in half. Community leaders hope that the new precinct will help to prevent the 105<sup>th</sup> from stretching itself too thin.

# HOMEOWNERS & TENANTS ENROLLMENT EVENT



## Homeowners

APPLY FOR AN EXEMPTION AND LOWER YOUR  
PROPERTY TAX BILL

- **STAR:** homeowners with an annual income of \$500,000 or less.
- **E-Star:** seniors age 65 and over with annual incomes of \$86,000 or less.
- **SCHE/DHE:** seniors age 65 and over, disabled homeowners with annual incomes of \$58,399 or less.
- **Veterans:** who served in the US military during designated periods of conflict, their unmarried surviving spouse and Gold Star parents.
- **Clergy:** for active and retired members of the clergy and their unmarried surviving spouse. Must be NYS resident.

For more information visit [nyc.gov/finance](http://nyc.gov/finance).

### TO APPLY PLEASE BRING :

- Picture ID
- 2016/2017 Tax Returns or Income Documents for all owners
- DD214 or discharge papers (for veterans)
- Trust documents (if applicable)
- Clergy verification letter on official letterhead (clergy)



## Tenants

SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES  
APPLY FOR SCRIE OR DRIE AND KEEP YOUR  
RENT FROM INCREASING IF YOU:

- Are at least 62 years old or 18 years old with a qualifying disability.
- Have a household income of \$50,000 or less.
- Live in a rent regulated apartment.
- Spend more than 1/3 of your income on rent.

### TO APPLY PLEASE BRING :

- Picture ID
- 2017 tax returns, W2, or 1099 Statements
- Income documents for all household members
- Copies of your 2 most recent leases and
- Social Security disability award letter (if applicable).

**\*\*NYCHA AND SECTION 8 RECIPIENTS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE\*\***



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## TUESDAYS 2018

Jan 16th • Feb 20th • Mar 20th • April 17th • May 22nd • June 19th

**10:00am - 1:00pm**

### Queens Borough President's Office

120-55 Queens Boulevard Kew Gardens, NY 11424, Room 200

To RSVP, please call 718-286-2661 or RSVPs on website at [www.queensbp.org/rsvp](http://www.queensbp.org/rsvp)

If due to a disability you need an accommodation in order to apply for and receive a service, or to participate in a program offered by the Department of Finance, please contact the Disability Service Facilitator at [nyc.gov/contactdofeeo](http://nyc.gov/contactdofeeo) or by calling 311.

# Sewage Treatment Worker Exam Information

## Agency Overview

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) protects public health and the environment by supplying clean drinking water, collecting and treating wastewater, and reducing air, noise, and hazardous materials pollution. With nearly 6,000 employees, DEP is the largest combined municipal water and wastewater utility in the country. DEP delivers 1.1 billion gallons of high quality drinking water per day to the 8.3 million New York City residents and more than 1 million people in Upstate New York. DEP collects and treats an average of 1.3 billion gallons of wastewater per day. The Bureau of Wastewater Treatment is responsible for the operation and maintenance of all facilities related to the treatment of sewage, including wastewater treatment plants, collections facilities, wastewater laboratories, harbor vessels and sludge dewatering facilities. The Sewage Treatment Worker positions are assigned to these facilities.

## Job Description

The entry level **salary** for this position is **\$334.08 per day**. The Sewage Treatment Workers, under general supervision, will operate, maintain, and repair machinery, equipment and structures in wastewater treatment plants, pumping stations, intercepting sewers, sludge treatment and disposal facilities and associated equipment facilities; take samples and carry out testing of sewage; and perform related work. Positions are available at DEP locations throughout the five boroughs.

## Qualifications

- A four-year high school diploma or its educational equivalent
- Three years of full-time satisfactory experience in relevant field\*
- Class A or B Commercial Driver's License ("CDL") or a valid CDL Learner's Permit
- Certificate Requirement - Within first three months of appointment, employees must obtain all of the following Certificates of Fitness: C92, F60, G22, G44, G46, G60, G98, S94
- NYC residency required within 90 days of appointment

## To Apply

Visit [www.nyc.gov/examsforjobs](http://www.nyc.gov/examsforjobs)

- Exam Number: 8327
- Application and Scheduling Period: January 26, 2018-May 1, 2018
- Testing Period: February 1, 2018-May 31, 2018
- Application Fee: \$91.00
- Testing Locations: Manhattan

2 Lafayette St.  
17th Floor  
New York, NY 10007

### Brooklyn

210 Joralemon St.  
4th Floor  
New York, NY 11201

### Queens

118-35 Queens Blvd.  
5th Floor  
Forest Hills, NY 11375

*DEP is an equal opportunity employer with a strong commitment to the diversity of our organization and workforce.*



\*For full exam information, visit [www.nyc.gov/dcas](http://www.nyc.gov/dcas)

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