

AMERICANS  
MONTH**May Committee Meetings @ QCB13 Board Office**

- Transportation 5.1.18 @ 7:00 pm
- Public Safety 5.2.18 @ 7:00 pm
- Seniors (SSSSNC) 5.3.18 @ 7:00 pm
- Land Use 5.7.18 @ 7:30 pm
- Youth and Education 5.8.18 @ 7:30 pm
- Economic Development 5.9.18 @ 7:00 pm
- Parks and Environment 5.15.18 @ 7:30 pm
- Health 5.17.18 @ 7:00 pm

**GENERAL BOARD MEETING**

Monday, April 23, 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. Introduction of **new** Board Members
5. Public Speaking Time
6. Elected Officials — Welcome
7. Chairman's Report — Clive Williams
8. District Manager's Remarks — Mark McMillan
9. NYPD Report — Inspector Jeffery Schiff, Commanding Officer, 105 Precinct
10. Roll Call
11. Approve Minutes — March 2018
12. Presentation
  - ✧ Queens Connection/ Proposed Community Benefits Package — Glen Greenidge
  - ✧ "Embrace Your Kids" — Patrick Blanc
13. Selection of "Nomination Committee"
14. Committee Reports
15. Adjournment

**NEXT GENERAL BOARD MEETING, Monday, May 21, 2018*****The Mighty St. Peter's Lutheran Church • 224-04 147th Avenue, Springfield Gardens, NY 11413***



## Queens Community Board 13

219-41 Jamaica Avenue  
Queens Village, NY 11428  
718.464.9700  
Fax: 718.254.2739  
qcb13.org



**Melinda Katz**  
Borough President

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

**Clive Williams**  
Chair

**Mark McMillan**  
District Manager

### DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – April 2018

#### Meetings Canceled:

Economic Development Committee  
Land Use Committee  
Seniors & Special Needs Committee  
Transportation Committee

#### Events/Meetings Attended:

**March 26, 2018: Queens Community Board 13 General Board Meeting.**

**March 27, 2018:** "Idlewild Park Walk-Through" with Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (PANYNJ), **Board Members Fay Hill, Jim Delaney, Curlene Nelson**, and Barbara Brown of the Eastern Queens Alliance who maintains an Eco-Center in the park. We went to inspect the cutting of the trees responsive to the PANYNJ requirement of them being a certain height based on proximity to the runway across Rockaway Boulevard, and to see the areas that were being replanted by DPR.

**March 29, 2018:** Meet with **Council Member I. Daneek Miller** in the Board office to discuss district priorities.

**April 2, 2018:** Participate in a Presser, giving an interview to NY1, promoting the "What to do if You Get a Summons" event occurring on Wednesday, April 4, 2018.

**April 3, 2018:** Attend "Cambria Heights Town Hall Meeting" hosted by **Congressman Gregory Meeks** at the Bridge House where he discussed United States Postal Service issues, immigration, guns, the GOP Tax Bill and JFK Airport development. **Chair Clive Williams** was in attendance as were **Board Members Bryan Block, Verdell Boncoeur, Barbara Clements, Bess DeBetham, Bob Glover** and **Steven Taylor**.

**April 4, 2018:** Attend "What to do if You Get a Summons" event hosted by **Council Member I. Daneek Miller** at the Bridge House, featuring **Commissioner Fidel F. De Valle**, Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH).

**April 7, 2018:** Attend QCB13 Executive Committee meeting.

**April 9, 2018:** Host a planning meeting on "Remembrance of the Queens Village Fire" that tragically killed 4 members of a family one year ago. A fire safety initiative by the FDNY to present at schools, senior centers and houses of worship was planned. Participants in the meeting include **State Senator Leroy Comrie, FDNY Queens Borough**



**Commander Assistant Chief Ed Baggott**, and representatives from the offices of Assembly Member Clyde Vanel and Alicia Hyndman.

**April 10, 2018:** Attend and participate in Youth & Education Committee Meeting Chaired by **Rhonda Kontner** and Vice Chaired by **Lorraine Giffens-Bridges**. Details will be shared in their report.

**April 12, 2018:** "Touch-base" meeting with **Michael Goldberg**, Executive Director of Northwell/Long Island Jewish Hospital at his office.

Speak at the "IS 109 PTA Meeting" in their auditorium.

**April 13, 2018:** Host a meeting with representatives from Verizon and Con Edison with leaders from the Springfield Gardens community on an upcoming sewer capital project. Those in attendance include Board Members **Fay Hill** and **Curlene Nelson**, members of the Rosedale Civic Association and the Eastern Queens Alliance.

**April 15, 2018:** Attend "Street Co-Naming Ceremony" hosted and organized by **Council Member Barry Grodenchik** for **deceased Board Member Jack Friedman**. Speakers included **Chair Clive Williams**, **Board Member Corey Bearak** and **Congressman Thomas Suozzi**. **Board Members Angela Augugliaro**, **Richard Hellenbrecht** and **Jerry Wind** attended, as did **Council Member I. Daneek Miller**.

**April 17, 2018:** Attend Queens Borough Cabinet Meeting. Topics:

- I. Presentation on **Storm Water Management Plan** by Mikelle Adgate, Senior Advisor for Strategic Planning, NYC Department of Environmental Protection.
- II. Update on **Street Activity Permit Process** by Dawn Tolson, Director, Street Activity Permit Office, NYC Mayor's Office of Citywide Event Coordination & Management.

Community Coordinator Maxine Brannon was also in attendance as she processes Street Activity Permits for this office.

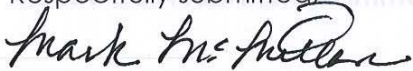
Attend and participate in Parks & Environment Meeting Chaired by **Fay Hill** and Vice Chaired by **Peter Richards**. Details will be shared in their report.

**April 18, 2018:** Host District Service Cabinet Meeting at QCB 13 office.

**April 19, 2018:** Attend "Educational Leadership Breakfast" hosted by **State Senator Leroy Comrie**. Other elected officials in attendance include **City Council Member Barry Grodenchik** and **Assembly Member Clyde Vanel**. **Board Members Alain Berrouet** and **Jackie Wilson** also attended.

Attend and participate in Health Committee Meeting Chaired by **Bonnie Huie** and Vice Chaired by **Ashok Satkalmi**. Details will be shared in their report.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark McMillan

District Manager



Every May, the Administration on Aging, part of the Administration for Community Living, leads our nation's observance of Older American's Month. The 2018 theme, **Engage at Every Age**, emphasizes that you are never too old (or young) to take part in activities that can enrich your physical, mental, and emotional well-being. It also celebrates the many ways in which older adults make a difference in our communities.

Participating in activities that promote mental and physical wellness, offering your wisdom and experience to the next generation, seeking the mentorship of someone with more life experience than you—those are just a few examples of what being engaged can mean. No matter where you are in your life, there is no better time than now to start.

**We hope you will join in and Engage at Every Age!**

## Some activities YOU can do to Engage at Every Age!

### Selfies

Engage by sharing a selfie (or groupie) on your Social Media. Simply post a photo online and use the hashtag #OAM18. You can also see others doing this activity!

### Stories

Here are several ways to celebrate this year's theme, Engage at Every Age, through stories.

- Interview community members who exemplify what it means to Engage at Every Age. Try for a mix of individuals, such as older public servants, elder rights advocates, back-to-schoolers, or people trying new careers. Everyone has a story. Interviews can be shared as written pieces or videos.
- Arrange for older adults to share or read stories. Call a community or senior center about a joint effort—perhaps they'd like older adults to share their skills or experience in a workshop. Alternatively, see if a local school would like to host a "Senior Day" where older adults speak to students. Or, contact libraries about older adults reading to young children.
- Arrange for local school students to interview residents of a retirement community, assisted living community, or nursing home, and write a short biography. Plan a program for the residents and other members of the community at which the students read aloud their stories. Invite your local newspaper, local blogger, or radio station to attend.

Ask your social media followers to share their wisdom, tips, and stories online—either using a unique hashtag or by posting to a page or forum you manage. If you take this approach, be sure to provide guidance, such as length or word limits, what you'd most like to hear, and a contact person for questions.







## Stuff

A friend of mine, who does very well, has a son who was graduating from college. This young man has everything he ever wanted, traveled the world and was attending an Ivy League college in the fall. What gift could I bring to someone who has everything for his graduation party?

I had to think long and hard as graduations are "rites of passage" and gifts given should have meaning as the graduate goes out on their journey of life. Ultimately, I got him a beautiful birch wood box with a brass lock, key and quadrant holders. Here was my note:

*"Dear Alex,*

*As you go through life you will acquire many things. However, the most important things will fit into this box. There is only one key and you possess it. If you fill it up too soon, and there is something else you wish to put in there, you will have to take something already in there out. If you put in something big, you will not have any room for anything else.*

*As time goes on much will be replaced, and that is as it should be. But if you hold on to this box, when you get older and hit various milestones, the person you are will be encompassed by what occupies that small space in that locked box. You will show it to your future spouse and even to your children and grandchildren, but whatever is in there is what you decide is most important for you to remember about your life.*

*The person you are today is not who you will be in the upcoming decades. Yet, I wonder how much of what you put in the box now will remain, if anything? Will you make this a time capsule or a space that captures the essence of your life? Be careful, sometimes we lose or give away things that we wish we had kept.*

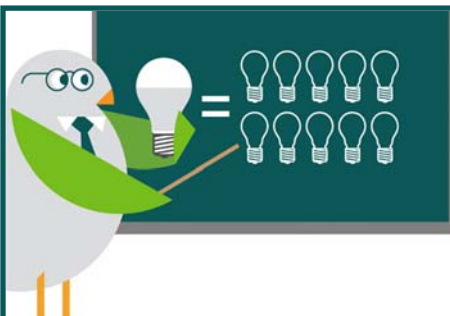
*Enjoy your journey."*

If you had a box that could hold something valuable, what would you put in it? Or wish you had put in it during earlier points in your life? For many of us our "stuff" – and we have a lot of it – has an enormous hold on who we are, how we feel and where we go. And there sometimes occurs a time when we have to get rid of our stuff and it is emotionally debilitating.

When we are gone, our descendants get rid of our stuff. But if we had a box, my bet is they would keep it.

04.23.18

Mark McMillan, District Manager



## Switch to LEDs

Slash your monthly electric bill by up to 75% with LEDs. They last 25 times as long as traditional incandescent bulbs and don't contain any potentially harmful toxins like mercury.



# Burn Calories, Not Electricity!

## Take the Stairs!

Walking up the  
stairs just two  
minutes a day helps  
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gain.

It also helps the  
environment!

Medical experts have  
confirmed that

**10,000  
STEPS**

per day is a  
worthwhile objective.



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Photo by Suzanne Monteverdi/QNS

Glen Oaks Village at 255th Street and 75th Avenue

## Glen Oaks co-op residents without gas service for over six weeks

BY SUZANNE MONTEVERDI  
[smonteverdi@qns.com](mailto:smonteverdi@qns.com) / @smont76

Dozens of residents living in a Glen Oaks co-op community have been without gas service for six weeks — with no end in sight.

A resident who spoke on the condition of anonymity told QNS that gas in the building at 255th Street and 75th Avenue, part of the Glen Oaks Village, has been shut off since Feb. 14, when a gas smell was reported. That day, Con Edison arrived to the site, determined there was a gas leak, and shut off service.

In November to December 2016, residents in 40 units part of the same co-op village had a similar issue when the gas was turned off for five weeks after a reported leak.

This time around, according to the resident, Con Edison discovered another gas leak in the area coming from a line for which the co-op management is responsible. Con Edison determined that gas valves behind the existing stoves in each apartment needed to be replaced.

Service has not been restored since.

In recent weeks, co-op management has issued multiple memos to residents informing them that they are working to complete the work according to "NYC Gas Leak Repair Protocols." The protocols, enacted by Mayor Bill de Blasio in 2016, require final inspections of gas pipe systems be conducted by the Department of Buildings. Gas service operators and owners must also notify the DOB within 24 hours of gas service being shut off in a building.

"These new [city] protocols have added layers of additional steps that

must be followed before the NYC Department of Buildings will allow Con Ed to turn the gas back on," reads a memo dated March 15. "It will now take a month or more to comply with all the steps now required by the city."

"The management office, they've done nothing to resolve this thing," the co-op resident said. "They need to do something. It's taken too long and it's not fair for the people over here."

To cook meals, the resident and his family had to purchase a small electric and gas grill and a slow cooker.

"We cook and we don't like junk food, going to McDonald's or wherever," the resident said. "And we can't afford going out to good restaurants for food."

Fellow resident Mohammad Islam, who has lived in the co-op with his family for about 14 years, said he has never had an experience like this before. Islam also had to purchase a small electric stove to cook for his family.

"This is sub-par living," he said. "We can do so little cooking. We're so frustrated."

Islam said he's had multiple email correspondences with co-op management, who say they're waiting on DOB permits and inspections.

According to a Department of Buildings spokesperson, a licensed master plumber hired by the co-op owner filed two permit applications for gas work on Feb. 21, following the gas leak. Both permits were approved by DOB on the same day.

On March 12, DOB arrived to the site to conduct an inspection at the site, the spokesperson added. The inspection resulted in a fail because

the plumber could not provide the city agency with access to the areas that needed inspection. Since then, the plumber has not requested an additional inspection.

"DOB will expedite any inspection requests related to this property once they are received, in the interest of returning safe gas service to the tenants as quickly as possible," the spokesperson said.

According to co-op board president Bob Friedrich, the delay is due to DOB's "outrageous, unfair and inequitable" new protocols.

"This whole thing has been delayed by the DOB because their protocols have created enormous delays, even though the gas leak repairs were completed weeks ago," he said.

Friedrich said the co-op completed repairs about three weeks ago; the work was then tested by master plumbers. However, when the city came in to inspect, he said they discovered a few of the gas dryers and washing machines within building units did not have permits: a problem "unrelated to gas leak issue." This resulted in a failed inspection.

Co-op management is working with DOB to schedule inspections and have the gas turned back on, Friedrich said. A meeting has also been set up for April 6 where senior management of Glen Oaks Village, DOB officials and Councilman Barry Grodenchik will discuss getting the gas turned back on and work out a protocol so a similar situation does not happen again in the future.

"The problem lies with the Department of Buildings," Friedrich said. "It's a horrible situation."



# North Shore Towers and Country Club: The 'best deal' in town for golf, tennis and luxury living

There may be other options for golf and tennis memberships in the Queens and Long Island area, but none offer the many amenities that North Shore Towers and Country Club provides to its members at a reasonable price.

"It's the best deal in town," says Mary Anne Langone, country club manager. North Shore Towers and Country Club is located right off the Grand Central Parkway, in Floral Park, and "offers luxury living with the added surprise of a beautiful 18-hole golf course, which is challenging enough for the low handicapper but still playable for the average golfer, and five Har-Tru tennis courts," she says.

In addition to the golf and tennis, sponsored members also get access to year-round indoor/outdoor pools, a fitness center, card rooms and restaurants.

Other country clubs offering golf and tennis typically hit their members with hidden assessment and social minimum fees, but not North Shore Towers and Country Club, says Langone, who has worked there for more than 30 years and served as manager for about the past 16 years.

There are close to 300 golfers and 50 tennis members, and nearly 100 of them are non-residents, who must be sponsored by a North Shore Towers resident to be approved, she says.

As general manager for the past 16 years, Glen Kotowski, employed by the Charles H. Greenthal Management Corp., oversees every aspect of the daily operation of the North Shore Towers community.

"We're right on the border of Nassau and Queens, and they call us Long Island's best-kept secret because when people come into the community, they can't believe" all the amenities that are offered, says Linda Rappaport, an on-site broker at North Shore Towers and Country Club.



Other amenities at North Shore Towers include express buses to Manhattan, a movie theater, a beauty salon, a drug store, a supermarket and a laundromat even though there are washers and dryers in the apartments, she notes. Studio apartments start at a "a very affordable" price of about \$200,000, while penthouses sell for \$1 million and up, she says.

Rappaport has been living at North

Shore Towers for 30 years and has an adult son who lives there with his wife and 2-year-old child (with another baby on the way), she says, adding that her mother and mother-in-law live there as well.

"Everybody loves it for different reasons," she says. "I love it for the convenience and all the shopping and the gym. The baby loves it for the indoor pool. My mother-in-law loves it. She likes to play cards

and there's several card rooms and bridge rooms. And my mother loves it for the fact that they offer over 60 fitness classes weekly in the gym."

"It's a melting pot of people that come here and lend their talents to make this a wonderful place to live," she says, pointing as an example to Maria Termini-Miller, a former board member who's been living there 20 years and helped design the North Shore Towers website.

Warren Glenn, meanwhile, is a new board member who's been a resident for about two years and chairs the House and Grounds committee. Glenn states one of the goals on his committee's agenda is "to help create an active, multi-generational community living in a country club setting."

He goes on to describe North Shore Towers as an "all-inclusive gated community" offering "luxurious living" with "beautiful" apartments and "terrific" amenities and services.

Mario Carmiciano, the board president and chairman of the Towers Country Club Committee, is looking forward to another successful country club season, he says.

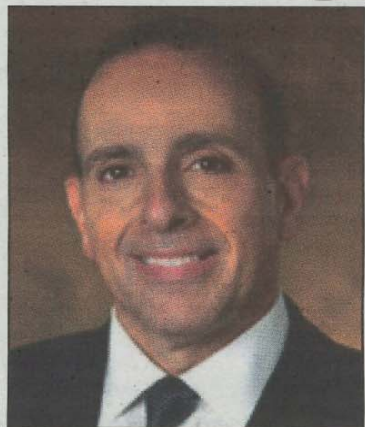
North Shore Towers and Country Club is presently offering a first-year, promotional rate of \$3,995 for golf membership, plus applicable fees. Junior golf memberships are also available. For details and to book a tour, call Bob Guido at 718-279-1848 ext. 5. North Shore Towers and Country Club is also offering a first-year, promotional rate of \$1,750 for tennis membership, plus applicable fees. For details and to book a tour, call Mary Anne Langone at 718-428-5030 ext. 0. Remember, these memberships include indoor/outdoor pools, a fitness center and so much more.





## TAX TIPS

# How Long To Keep Tax Returns and Records?



BY JOHN SAVIGNANO, CPA

The answer depends on the type of document and also the kinds of transactions you engaged in.

You should keep returns at least three years. As a general rule, that's how long the Service has to question items on your return and to bill you for any additional tax. It's also the time frame for you to file an amended return and seek

a refund. However, the IRS can go back up to six years if a return omits more than 25% of income. If fraud is proved, there is no limit. State tax returns may have to be retained longer.

Don't automatically throw out all returns and records after three years. Look over the old documents to see if you might need any parts of them in the future. Hold on to records that help establish the adjusted basis of real estate. You should have a separate file for each piece of realty you own, including your home. Retain the files until at least three years after you dispose of the property. Ditto for securities transactions. Be sure to keep your purchase documents for taxable mutual funds, stocks and the like. You'll need to include the purchase date and cost on your return in the year you sell the assets.

Among other records to keep: Those showing stock splits, dividend reinvestments and nontaxable distributions.

Heed this advice for property that you either inherited or received as a gift. For inheritances, you'll need to know date-of-death value. For gifts...the donor's cost. So you'd be wise to keep documentation of these figures until after you sell the asset.

If you've made nondeductible payins to IRAs or post tax payins to 401 (k)s...you should keep records until three years after the accounts are depleted. Be sure to file Form 8606 to report nondeductible IRA contributions. If you don't, those contributions will be treated the same as deductible payins when withdrawn. And remember that all distributions from your traditional IRA will be subject to tax unless you can show otherwise. So make sure you retain copies of Form 8606 and your 1040s for each year that such payins are made. It would also behoove you to keep Form 5498 or similar statements that reflect the amount of IRA distributions.

Businesses should keep payroll tax records for a minimum of four years after the due date for employees to file their income tax returns for the particular year. Data to be retained include wage amounts, payment dates and employee information. Also, copies of all W-4 forms, payroll returns and amounts and dates of tax deposits. Copies of worker health coverage forms should be kept at least three years after the deadline for filing these documents. These are the 1094 and 1095 forms that many employers are required to file to report employee health insurance data. Records on cost of assets, depreciation, etc., should be retained for decades.

*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.*

# As Sales Tax Deadline approaches, call center hours will be extended

The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance on announced on Thursday, March 15 that it will extend the hours of its call center on Tuesday, March 20, to assist taxpayers filing sales tax returns before the midnight deadline. The call center, which opens weekdays at 8:30 a.m., will have representatives will be available until 7:30 p.m., an additional three hours.

The Tax Department expects about 170,000 sales tax returns to be filed between Monday, March 19, and the Tuesday, March 20, deadline, with several thousand submitted within only a few hours of the midnight deadline. The total

dollar amount for those returns will likely exceed \$650 million.

Acting Commissioner of Taxation and Finance Nonie Manion urged filers not to wait until the last minute to file their sales tax returns.

"Filing guidance and answers to common questions are available on our website to help you electronically submit an accurate and timely return using Sales Tax Web File ahead of next week's deadline," Acting Commissioner Manion said. "This online service allows you to schedule payments, save bank account information for future payments, receive instant confirmation that your return was received, and

update business information."

Taxpayers with questions can also call 518-485-2889 for help in filing their returns.

## Wireless Communications Surcharge

Tuesday, March 20 is also the deadline for certain retailers to file their initial Prepaid Wireless Communications Surcharge return using Form WCS-2-PRE. The surcharge is imposed on each retail sale of prepaid wireless services that occurs in New York State, regardless of whether any tangible personal property is sold. The sale occurs in New York State if it takes place at

a seller's business location in this state, or is made to a purchaser located in this state.

Call center representatives will be available until 7:30 p.m. on March 20 to assist taxpayers as they file and submit Form WCS-2-PRE for the first time. Taxpayers with questions can call 518-591-5283 for help in filing these returns.

Retail sales of prepaid wireless services are subject to both the state surcharge and a local surcharge, unless the locality where the sale occurred has not enacted a local surcharge. For surcharge rate information, see PUB-452, Wireless Communications Surcharge Rates on Prepaid Wireless Communications Services.

Department of  
Taxation and Finance



## Ready, set, file!

From start to finish, our resource center and your Individual Online Services account have everything you need for filing season—and they're open 24/7.

You can:

- ✓ Verify your tax preparer and know your rights.
- ✓ See if you qualify for free e-file software.
- ✓ Check your estimated tax payment account.
- ✓ Sign up to get an email with your refund issue date.
- ✓ Respond to a letter from us.
- ✓ Make a payment.





## Zwanger-Pesiri opens new location in Laurelton

Zwanger-Pesiri Radiology celebrated the grand opening of their new Laurelton location with a ribbon-cutting on March 15. The facility located at 231-35 Merrick Blvd. features a 3T and full bore MRI along with low-dose CT scans, 3D mammography, digital x-ray, ultrasounds and other diagnostic tests. Shown at the ribbon cutting with Zwanger-Pesiri staff include Deputy Queens Borough President Melva Moore, State Senator Leroy Comrie, City Councilman Donovan Richards, Democratic District Leader Archie Spigner, Bishop Charles L. Snorris Sr. and Zwanger-Pesiri Owner Dr. Susan Zwanger-Mendelsohn, CEO Dr. Steven Mendelsohn, and Regional Market Manager Chante Jordan.

Photo by Allen Ngai



April 5, 2018

Queens Examiner

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# School parents lash out at DOE over school security

BY BENJAMIN FANG

bfang@queensledger.com

In the wake of high-profile shootings at schools like Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, local parents are alarmed about school safety in their own communities.

Last Tuesday night at a Community Education Council (CEC) District 24 meeting in Glendale, parents criticized a Department of Education (DOE) official who coordinates security protocols for area schools.

The CEC proposed a series of policy recommendations, including keeping all school entrance doors locked from the inside, additional training for school safety agents, placing armed police officers at each school building, and installing camera surveillance and buzzer systems.

When asked where the DOE stood on the resolution, Maurice Lindsey, borough safety officer for the Office of Safety and Youth Development, responded that he couldn't speak on the recommendations.

"All that information will be turned in to the hierarchy in the Department of Education," he said. "It will be reviewed by them."

Dmytro Fedkowskyj, co-president of the CEC, asked why schools are simply not allowed to lock their doors to prevent someone dangerous from entering. Lindsey said he couldn't respond.

"The response has to come from the central office," he said.

After he dodged more security-related questions, parents in the auditorium at PS/IS 119 were fed up. Some began screaming at Lindsey.

"No disrespect, but why is he here? He can't answer one question," said Mariann Miller. "Mr. Lindsey has no idea what he's saying."

Sergeant Reiman from the 104th Precinct was also brought in to answer parents' questions, but did little to assuage their concerns.

Miller said the two men "haven't a clue what's going to work" to prevent a shooter from entering local schools.

"We'll have another Parkland if nothing is

done," she said.

Lindsey explained that his role is to support schools and principals when it comes to safety. He trains each building's response team on protocols for different scenarios.

If there is a threat outside of the building, the school goes into "shelter mode," Lindsey said. School officials secure the exit doors to prevent anyone from coming inside. They also don't let anyone leave the building.

If the threat is the building itself, such as a fire, students and staff members leave the building. Schools are supposed to conduct these drills eight times a year.

Finally, threats inside the building are assessed as either low-level or high-level risks. If the threat is deemed low-level, the school goes into "soft lockdown," where students remain in the classrooms, the lights go out and teachers secure the doors. An administrator may patrol the hallway to figure out the situation.

In a high-level security threat, schools then go into

a hard lockdown, where everyone, including school safety agents, custodians and staff, remain behind locked doors. According to Lindsey, the main entrance door remains open so first responders can come in and address the threat.

Despite the current procedures, parents were not satisfied. Lucy Accardo, CEC 24's co-president who has four children in district schools, said the CEC has been asking for a buzzer system, locked doors and panic buttons since the tragedy in Sandy Hook five years ago.

But after writing to DOE, Accardo said the department responded that they did not believe those were appropriate safety measures.

"The school safety agents do an excellent job, but they have an open door right right in front of their desk. That puts them in harm's way," Accardo said. "They need protection, they need an armed officer, they need to lock the doors."

"We have to keep pushing," she added. "We're not going to stop until we make change happen."

Other parents chimed in as well. Susanna Campo, a parent at PS/IS 128, said there are armed guards at institutions like banks, so there should be officers at schools, too. Given how much the world has changed, schools have to adapt as well.

"How many more tragedies need to occur before we learn our lesson?" she asked. "My children asked me, 'will this happen to me?' They don't feel safe because they are not safe."

Jennifer Alivar, a parent at PS/IS 102 in Elmhurst, requested more safety agents at her school. There is only one agent for 1,300 students, she said.

The parents found a supporter in Councilman Robert Holden, who said installing a camera with a buzzer is a simple solution that "shouldn't be that expensive." He also supports hiring more officers, either on-duty or retired, to guard schools.

"I think that's doable for the safety of our children," Holden said. "No system is foolproof, but we need to protect our kids to give our kids a fighting chance."



## May 2018 Civic Meetings

### **Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association — Thursday, May 3, 2018**

Holy Trinity Church, 246-55 87 Avenue, Bellerose, NY 11426

### **Bellerose/ Hillside Civic Association — Thursday, May 17 2018**

Cross Island Y, 238-10 Hillside Avenue, Bellerose, NY 11426

### **Cambria Heights Civic Association — Thursday, May 10, 2018**

Community Bridge Home, 120-50 Springfield Boulevard Cambria Heights, NY 11411

### **Creedmoor Civic Association — Monday, May 14, 2018**

Living Hope Christian Church, 240-20 Braddock Avenue, Bellerose , NY 11426

### **Federated Blocks of Laurelton — Thursday, May 3, 2018**

Theta Chi Chapter, 219-03 Merrick Boulevard, Laurelton, NY 11413

### **Lost Community Civic Association — Wednesday, May 9, 2018**

MS 172, 81-14 257 Street, Glen Oaks, NY 11004

### **North Bellerose Civic Association — Wednesday, May 2, 2018**

MS 172, 81-14 257 Street, Glen Oaks, NY 11004

### **Queens Colony Civic Association — Thursday, May 10, 2018**

Holy Trinity Church, 246-55 87 Avenue, Bellerose, NY 11426

### **Queens Village Civic Association — Tuesday, May 15, 2018**

Our Lady of Lourdes, 92-96 220 Street, Queens Village, NY 11428

### **Rocky Hill Civic Association — Tuesday, May 8, 2018**

PS 18, 86-35 235 Court, Queens Village, NY 11427

### **Rosedale Civic Association — Tuesday, May 22, 2018**

Throop Memorial Presbyterian Church, 140-17 243 Street, Rosedale, NY 11427

### **Royal Ranch Civic Association — Periodically**

Glen Oaks Volunteer Ambulance Corp., 257-02 Union Turnpike, Glen Oaks, NY 11004

### **Springfield/ Rosedale Community Action Association — Thursday, May 3, 2018**

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 244-10 147 Avenue, Springfield Gardens, NY 11413

### **Spring- Gar Civic Association — Thursday, May 3, 2018**

Herbert Birch School, 145-02 Farmers Boulevard, Springfield Gardens, NY 11434

### **Wayanda Civic Association — Tuesday, May 1, 2018**

Hollis Avenue Congregational Church, 211-04 Hollis Avenue, Queens Village

### **Meadowmere/ Hook Creek — Tuesday, May 15, 2018**

37 West Avenue, Lawrence, NY 11559

### **Spring-Jam Civic Association — Monday, May 7, 2018**

Jamaica Chamber of Commerce, 157-11 Rockaway Boulevard, Springfield Gardens 11434

### **105 Precinct Community Council — Wednesday, May 23, 2018**

105 Precinct, 92-08 222 Street, Queens Village 11428



# 105th Precinct seeks a six-time burglar

Businesses lose electronics, cash

QChron.com., Thursday, April 12, 2018

By: Michael Gannon

The NYPD is asking for the public's help in identifying the person of interest wanted for questioning in a series of burglaries within the confines of the 105th Precinct between early March and this past Tuesday.

The first two incidents were reported on Saturday, March 3, the first at about 1 p.m. from a cell phone store at 219-19 Merrick Blvd., in St. Albans, less than a block from Roy Wilkins Park.

An employee noticed some merchandise was missing. Police determined the unidentified individual had forced open a rear door before taking about \$22,000 worth of electronics.

The second incident was reported later that day at about 6 p.m. from an auto repair business at 242-02 Merrick Blvd. in Rosedale, where once again an employee discovered items to be missing, this time about \$5,000 worth of electronics. They were taken by someone who forced in the side door.

The third and fourth burglaries were reported on Monday, March 12.

The third, also at an auto repair shop, was reported at about 8:30 p.m. from a business at 246-19 North Conduit Ave. in Rosedale, where a subsequent investigation determined that the man took electronics valued at about \$630 after forcing the front door open.

At about 8:30 p.m. that evening police were summoned to Rosedale again, this time to another cell phone store, this one at 139-37 245 St.

A side door had been broken in, and approximately \$2,500 in cash was reported taken from a safe box.

An electronics store was reported broken into just before 1 a.m. on Tuesday, March 27, 2018, at 214-35 Jamaica Ave. in Queens Village.

Police determined that a rear door had been forced open and an estimated \$1340 worth of electronics was removed.

The sixth incident, also in Queens Village, was reported on Tuesday, April 3, at approximately 3:15 a.m. from an auto parts store at 216-02 Hempstead Ave. This time the thief got in through a window and removed \$1,000 worth of electronics.

The individual is described as a male, last seen wearing a black ski mask and all dark clothing. Police said the accompanying photos were obtained from the first incident.

Anyone with information on his whereabouts is asked to contact the 105th Precinct Detective Squad at (718) 776-9252.

Those who might wish to do so anonymously are invited to contact Crime Stoppers at 1 (800) 577-TIPS (8477).

The public also can submit tips by logging onto [nypdcrimestoppers.com](http://nypdcrimestoppers.com) or by texting 274637 (CRIMES), then entering TIP577.

All tips are strictly confidential.



## DSNY Organics is Here!

- Collect food scraps, food spoiled paper and plants in any container or bag in your home.
  - Sprinkle baking soda in your kitchen container to prevent odors
  - Line your container with a compostable bag or a paper bag
- Empty organics into your brown bin
  - Tie the bag closed before putting organics into brown bins
  - Be sure to close the latch on your brown bin



**sanitation**

**Organics Collection Starts  
in May!**

Set your brown organics  
bins at the curb the night  
before your recycling day.

Separating your **organics** — food scraps and yard waste — helps our environment.



## March for Our Lives

# Make our schools gun-free

BY ROBERT A. SCOTT, CAROLE ARTIGIANI AND DEVIN THORNBURG

The shooting in Parkland, Florida, has prompted yet another round of discussions about guns in schools, gun control and mental health. This was yet one more of too many shooting incidents that have ripped the fabric of trust that is so essential to a community.

It is a basic tenet of a stable society that young people have a right to education in a safe environment, free of violence. Schools must be places of safety and security, where children can learn unimpeded by fear; places of inspiration, not intimidation; places of caring and inclusiveness, and never places of anonymity. The United States pledged as much in signing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Unfortunately, we are failing in these basic requirements. What happened in Parkland was 2018's 30th incident of what are labeled as "mass killings": the killing of three or more people at a time. It is reported that there have been 1,624 mass killings in the past five years, almost one a day. Of these, nearly 300 were shootings in schools, an average of almost one per week.

School shootings seem to have some common characteristics. They are mostly committed by young white males who own multiple weapons, including high-powered automatic rifles, and who have, at times, shown signs of emotional distress or isolation. They seem to have become disaffected with their schoolmates and teachers.

In response to the killings, people cry for greater gun control, increasing the age to purchase a gun, requiring a "waiting period" before completing a purchase,



Photo by Sean McCoy Photography

chase, and banning the mechanisms that turn a rifle into an automatic weapon. Now, some politicians are calling for teachers and school personnel to carry or have weapons available nearby.

Yet even in regions where this is allowed, the sentiment is negative. Educators and their colleagues overwhelmingly say they don't want to be armed or have access to a gun. They cite the evidence from research showing that more guns equal more killing. In schools where guns are allowed, the sentiment is, at best, cautious. As one school superintendent said, "We can't stop an active shooter, but we can minimize the carnage."

So, what to do? Instead of guns, schools need teachers with the time and training to be alert to students who show signs of trouble in their behavior, their speech and their writing. Schools need protocols for what to do with such information even as they protect the privacy of those exhibiting disturbing traits. This means that schools need trained counselors and psychologists, as well as teachers, who have the time to get to know the students and their families. Schools need to be small enough to help create a sense of community.

While the arguments for gun control are critically important, the requirements for school safety must not be drowned

out by these debates. We must consider broader and more sustainable strategies for protecting children.

Teachers don't need guns; they need support and respect. We don't need "friendly fire" in our schools; we need common sense controls over who has access to guns. We know that the answer to gun violence is not to make more guns available. The answer is to adopt public policies as if people matter.

Robert A. Scott is president emeritus of Adelphi University; Carole Artigiani is founder and president emerita of Global Kids, Inc.; and Devin Thornburg is professor at Adelphi University.

March 29, 2018

Queens Examiner

## Van Buren kids march in D.C.

BY JEN KHEDAROO

jkhedaroo@queensledger.com

On Friday afternoon, several students at Martin Van Buren High School wore a bright orange sweatshirt to school. The sweatshirt wasn't representative of the school's colors, which are red and blue, however, it was designed to have a special meaning.

Sophomore student Baswar Daraman explained that her leadership class worked with an activist to put together a trip to the nation's capital for the March for Our Lives to end gun violence in schools. A GoFundMe campaign to fund the trip raised \$4,000 in five hours.

About 41 students donned the orange sweatshirts, designed by fellow students, at the march in Washington, D.C. The students were accompanied by 50 adults, including Principal Sam Sochet.

"Talk about the ultimate in teachable moments," Sochet said. "We can talk, talk, talk, but we've got to be doing the walk."

His inspiration for joining the students stemmed from seeing how interested they were in participating in the march.

"I never want to let them



down, I love every single one of them," he added.

The sweatshirts read "The Lives and Safety of Children Must Come First," and senior Esther Pena said they planning to send sweatshirts to the students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

Sophomore Christine Parris said that a group of Martin Van Buren High School students will also send along a video of support to the students in Parkland.

"As a high school student, I could never imagine one of my friends dying, that would just tear me

apart, and for no one to seem like they care," Parris said. "Even though we're all the way in New York and they're in Florida, we still support their cause and we feel that gun violence shouldn't happen."

"While the Parkland shooting was a tragic event, many students, especially in New York, feels as if it can't happen to us," added senior Nile Robinson.

For him, the sweatshirts mean unity and support.

"Yes, the Parkland students are receiving support from around the world, but every bit counts," Robinson said.



### Did You Know?

As per NYC Traffic Rules 4-05(b)(1):

The operator of any vehicle shall not make a U-turn upon any street in a business district.



### Learn to Ride!

Saturday, May 26, 2018

11:00 AM — 2:00 PM

Bring a bike, a child and a helmet for this free, fun event!

Contact Shawn James at

718.393.7370

For more information.



NYC Parks



## Queens Village teen seeks career in the FBI

George Daniels, a senior at the Benjamin Franklin High School for Finance and Information Technology at the Campus Magnet Complex in Cambria Heights, is eyeing a career as a behavioral analyst for the FBI. Daniels has been an active member of student government for three years; is on the Campus Magnet volleyball team; and is on the debate team. He also achieved a spot on the school honor roll with an 84 GPA and has taken AP courses in government, U.S. history and literature. Daniels was accepted into five college and desires to study criminal justice and political science.



## New law seeks federal charges for phone scammers

A Queens lawmaker's bill to crack down on "spoofing" — a scheme where callers impersonate financial, police or government authorities to steal money or personal information — has been signed into law.

Congresswoman Grace Meng, whose district covers most of central and northern Queens, first introduced the "Anti-Spoofing Act" in 2013. The bipartisan legislation was signed into law as part of the omnibus spending bill on March 23.

In spoofing, thieves use technology to change the way their name and phone number shows up on caller ID. When residents answer the phone, the caller will then falsely claim they are from an official agency, like the IRS, and convince them to wire money or provide personal information.

Under the bill, spoofing attempts from abroad will be considered a criminal act under federal law. The bill also expands spoofing protections to cover text messaging and internet-based Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services, which enable perpetrators to make calls from computers or tablets.

*Suzanne Monteverdi*

FOR BREAKING NEWS VISIT [WWW.QNS.COM](http://WWW.QNS.COM)

oped

## Queens needs 'Freedom Ticket' to ride

BY BOROUGH PRESIDENT MELINDA KATZ

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (MTA's) "Freedom Ticket" program is gearing up to become a broken promise that represents a classic bait-and-switch on Queens.

In a transit desert like Queens, residents greatly rely on buses and the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) to get around.

The problem is that New York City buses — at \$2.75 a ride — are notoriously unreliable and overburdened. The LIRR, while more predictable and time-efficient, is often cost-prohibitive at \$10.25 for a one-way peak ticket between southeast Queens and Penn Station.

Enter: The Freedom Ticket.

First proposed in 2015 by the New York City Transit Riders Council, the plan calls for a discounted one-way \$6.50 fare for about a half-hour ride between six Queens LIRR stations (Rosedale, Laurelton, Locust Manor, St. Albans, Hollis and Queens Village) and either Penn Station in Manhattan or Atlantic Terminal in Brooklyn.

It's a great idea, and holds much promise. Many — myself included — endorsed the plan, and were pleased when the MTA, with much fanfare, announced over a year ago that it was poised to implement a pilot version of the Freedom Ticket concept. It was meant to determine whether lowering the LIRR fare would not only increase LIRR ridership, but assist in alleviating overcrowded trains on the E and F subway lines.

Then recently, and rather quietly, the MTA began discussions to revise the plan by totally omitting Penn Station from the pilot.

Instead — and much to Queens' dismay — they suggest that those who partake in the Freedom Ticket pilot from southeast Queens go only to the Atlantic Terminal in Brooklyn. From there, LIRR riders are forced to take the subway into Manhattan. By excluding the Manhattan option on the LIRR, as was originally proposed as the pilot, that's easily an additional 30 to 45 minutes each way on top of the existing commute.

So what would this mean in terms of transportation options for the families of southeast Queens?

Say you're going to midtown from Rosedale during the morning rush hour. You could

A) Spend 30 to 60 minutes driving by car and possibly pay a \$5.76 toll each way (we won't even discuss the parking once you get into Manhattan);

B) Cough up \$10.25 for a 37-minute ride into Penn Station;

C) Take the Q5 or Q85 bus from virtually the first stop to the last stop at Parsons and Archer, then hop on the E train for a 60- to 90-minute commute into Penn Station, OR;

D) Get a \$6.50 one-way Freedom Ticket for a 37-minute ride to first stop in Brooklyn, then transfer to the subway for an additional 30-minute ride to Penn. That's, of course, on a rare good day when the trains are actually running nearly on time.

It's not an ideal choice for any commuter. "Freedom" becomes a misnomer.

Let's be clear about the purpose of the Freedom Ticket. It's to offer the LIRR to commuters as a more viable, attractive mass transit option that saves riders both time and money, which would in turn help alleviate congestion on the roads and in the subways.

Instead, the MTA is trying to sell riders an inferior fare option that would add at least an hour to their round-trip daily travel in exchange for saving a few bucks. Who — if they had a choice — would even entertain that? Anyone's time is worth more than that.

The Freedom Ticket is not about charity. It is a pilot specifically to determine the effects a fairer LIRR price would have on the LIRR and the subway.

At a time when there is broad citywide agreement of the need to relieve congestion and prioritize public transportation, we must make every concerted effort to make transit options more equitable and much more viable.





Photo: Max Touhey

## Another milestone for new hotel at former TWA terminal at JFK

**BY EMILY DAVENPORT**  
[edavenport@qns.com](mailto:edavenport@qns.com) / @QNS

Crews have topped out the long-awaited TWA Flight Center hotel at JFK Airport.

Since the project broke ground in December 2017, the second hotel tower has been fully topped out and a seven-layer, soundproofed glass façade is almost complete on

the north tower. Once it is completed, the wall will make the TWA Hotel home to some of the quietest hotel rooms in the world.

Headed by MCR and Morse Development, the \$265 million project aims to recapture when the TWA Flight Center was built in 1962, reviving and rehabilitating the Terminal's iconic interiors by Charles Eames, Raymond Loewy

and Warren Platner. In addition to featuring a TWA Museum filled with vintage TWA memorabilia, the hotel will include 505 rooms, a rooftop pool, an observation deck, 50,000 square feet of event space, and eight bars and restaurants.

While it was originally meant to open this year, the hotel is now slated to open in the spring of 2019.

## Finally time for common-sense gun laws in America

**BY CONGRESSMAN TOM SUOZZI**

Since the Florida school shooting that ended the lives of 17 people, high school students across the country have served as an inspiration, and given us hope that our response to gun violence will finally include meaningful action. We have a responsibility to help these young people make their voices heard.

Congress also has a responsibility to act. There are no more excuses for inaction. Our sadness over the loss of more innocent life can never discourage us from doing what is right.

Let's look at the facts. Over 93 percent of Americans and 80 percent of gun owners support universal background checks. Ninety percent of Americans also support keeping those who are mentally ill from buying firearms.

That's why I support common-sense legislation like H.R. 4240, the Public Safety and Second Amendment Rights Protection Act. If passed, this bill would expand background checks to include all commercial firearms sales, provide reasonable exceptions for family and friend transfers, and preserve Second Amendment rights. States would also be given the incentive of more federal funding to keep proper record-sharing systems to help report criminals and the mentally ill, who we all agree should not be able to buy a gun.

Since the 1990s, background checks have blocked more than \$3 million in sales to people not allowed to purchase a firearm. But gaps in the system mean that gun shows and the internet are still perfectly legal places for criminals and the mentally ill to get their hands on a gun.

That needs to stop.

And while the right to "bear arms" is guaranteed in the Constitution as clearly as the freedom of speech, as with speech, there are limitations when necessary to curb the threat of violence. For example, you can't yell "fire" in a crowded theater.

I became the first member of Congress from New York to cosponsor the Gun Violence Restraining Order Act. This legislation would give relatives and law enforcement the ability to seek an immediate temporary restraining order from the courts to stop someone who is a danger to themselves or others from buying or possessing a gun.

We now know that the Parkland shooter had been showing signs of mental illness prior to the shooting. It's possible that a gun violence restraining order could have helped prevent this tragedy.

This would be a commonsense way to try and stop people who appear to be an imminent threat to public safety without curtailing their fundamental constitutional rights. In fact, all those petitioning for gun violence restraining orders must prove their case in court.

We've heard time and again the NRA's answer to these mass shootings – "more guns." That makes no sense. Americans already own more than 300 million guns.

The young people leading this movement need our support. They have inspired a nation to rise and declare, "not one more." It's time for the adults, and Congress, to do the same.

*Suoizzi represents New York's Third Congressional District, which covers northeast Queens, northern Nassau and northwestern Suffolk counties.*





## **HOW TO PAY FOR PARKING WITH OUT MOVING YOUR ...**

*"I use the PARKNYC app; it keeps me organized, on time and it is user friendly."*

*-- Maxine E. Brannon*

### **WHERE CAN I USE PARK NYC?**

Park NYC is available wherever there is metered parking in New York City.

- Download the Park NYC app from the App Store or Google Play
- Enter your phone number or email
- Create a password
- Enter your license plate information

### **MOBILE ALERTS**

Know when your parking is about to expire and extend time remotely.

- Set notifications – by app, e-mail, or text

### **CONVENIENCE**

No need to shuffle for coins or cards. Pay quickly and easily by phone.

- Enter your payment information
- Select an amount for auto-refill
- Use your PARK NYC app "wallet" to pay for parking

Be sure to look for the Park NYC zone numbers on Muni-Meter decals and signs at the end of each block. Places you frequent save as a "favorite" for example the Meter in front of the QCB13 Office # is 419354.

- Enter your zone number found on meter decals and signs on your side of the street
- Select length of stay
- Confirm your details
- Extend time, if needed to the maximum allowed

### **KEEP IT MOVING**

Pay for parking from the car, sidewalk, or anywhere – no receipt on the dash needed.

## **Alley Pond Park Super Hike**

Hiking and nature enthusiast are welcome on this lengthy one-way, guided hike from Alley Pond Park to Oakland Lake. There will be plenty of wildlife viewing, spring flora and history along the way.



**Sunday, May 3, 2018  
10:00 AM — 1:00 PM**

Be sure to wear appropriate shoes and bring water and snacks!



# Belmont Park Community Coalition Fighting Back With The Hiring of Norman Siegel

The Belmont Park Community Coalition (BPCC) is excited to announce that they have retained Norman Siegel, the former executive director of the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) and currently a partner at Siegel, Teitelbaum & Evans LLP, to represent them for all legal matters pertaining to the proposed redevelopment of Belmont Park.

Siegel is no stranger to this type of “David vs. Goliath” struggle, having represented countless individuals and communities against government incursions and corporate overreach that sought to displace, infringe upon, or to ram backroom development deals, past unwitting and unaware citizens across the state of New York.

Siegel, at the forefront of recent large-scale land-use struggles throughout New York, has represented communities surrounding the Atlantic Yards development, Columbia University’s expansion, and the property owners concerned about the proposed Willets Point redevelopment.

BPCC board member and community organizer Tammie Williams called Siegel “the best” and noted that it was her research into previous communities’ opposition to large-scale developments that informed her decision to call Siegel.

“The residents of Elmont, Floral Park, and surrounding communities need top-notch

representation to go up against the big corporate interests and their partners at Empire State Development Corporation that are trying to shove an unwanted, unnecessary monstrosity of a hockey arena right into our quiet, suburban



Civil liberties attorney Norman Siegel will represent a coalition opposed to a proposed \$1 billion complex at Belmont Park.

Photo Credit: Steven Sunshine

neighborhoods,” said Williams. “And Norman Siegel can sniff out a rotten back-room deal better than anyone.”

The coalition first met with Norman Siegel this past Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (January 15, 2018), a day devoted to justice and standing up to those that try to tilt the scales of justice away from the people. “During our first Coalition meeting with Norman,” Williams added, “he made everyone in the room more informed about the process, explained how the process is designed to work in favor of the people, and emphasized that those who abuse the process must be held to account. Over the course of our meeting, Norman became passionate about our cause and we felt we had the right advocate.”

Aubrey Phillips, Vice President of the Parkhurst Civic Association and member of the Belmont Park Community Coalition, explained that Siegel’s involvement would be beneficial to the entire community. “When we were deciding whom to engage to represent us against Empire State Development and New York Arena

Partners, Norman Siegel was at the very top of our list,” Phillips said. “Norman has been the leading champion representing marginalized communities involved in every major issue like this in New York for the past 35 years. His depth of experience on this issue makes him second-to-none, and we couldn’t be more thrilled that he is taking on our cause.”

Matthew Sexton of Floral Park and BPCC board member and community organizer added,

“We needed someone who is not only an expert on the relevant laws, but someone who knows how to speak for those who are being silenced. Our quality of life, our health, our children’s daily existence and our livelihoods, as well as exported potential local revenue are at stake here, and Norman is the right lawyer to fight for us.”

Siegel attended the Empire State Development Public Scoping Session on March 22, 2018, regarding the redevelopment of Belmont Park and spoke on behalf of the coalition. He assured the crowd, “If we come together, we can stop this project!”

Siegel has also emphasized the importance of doing things smartly, and explained that the first goal must be to work through ESD’s environmental review process, but noted that litigation to stop the development and arena will always be on the table.

During his testimony at the public scoping session, Siegel noted that the draft scope for the proposed arena at Belmont Park is “devoid of details as to how, when and to what extent community input will be sought and taken into account” and stressed the need for a tangible “community benefits agreement.”





# Mental Health First Aid for Veterans

Loree Sutton, MD  
COMMISSIONER

Jeffrey Roth  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

As part of the [ThriveNYC](#) initiative, the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is offering free Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training to all New Yorkers. MHFA is a groundbreaking public education program that teaches the skills needed to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges or crises.

## Research shows that Mental Health First Aid leads to:

- Greater recognition of behavioral health challenges
- Increased confidence in one's ability to help
- Increased amount of help provided
- Decreased stigmatizing attitudes

Adult Mental Health First Aid is appropriate for adults 18 years and older who want to learn how to help a person who may be experiencing a mental health related crisis or problem. The course teaches participants a five-step action plan to support someone developing signs and symptoms of a mental illness or in an emotional crisis. Topics covered include: anxiety, depression, psychosis, and substance use disorders. The adult course is available in both English and Spanish. Course participants come from a variety of backgrounds and play various roles in a community.

## Get certified in Mental Health First Aid!

As a component of *VetsThriveNYC*, **DVS is offering a free Certification Mental Health First Aid for Veterans.** This course is specifically designed for veterans, family members, personnel working with the military, and those who want to learn how to help a veteran who may be experiencing a mental health related crisis or problem. In addition to the impact of military service on the veteran, each has a circle of family (significant other, children, parents, siblings, etc.) and friends who are also impacted by their military service. Mental Health First Aid is a valuable resource that can make a difference in the lives of the more than 22 million veterans, their families, and the communities they live in.

For more information or to register for an upcoming course, please contact us at [vetsthrevenyc@veterans.nyc.gov](mailto:vetsthrevenyc@veterans.nyc.gov).

## About NYC Well

First Lady Chirlane McCray's *NYC Well* mental health line, announced on October 24, 2016, as a component of the *ThriveNYC* Mental Health Roadmap. This one-click, one-call connection to counseling, crisis intervention, peer support and referrals to ongoing mental health treatment services provides critical assistance to all New Yorkers in need of mental health care, including those in New York City's veteran community.

*NYC Well* is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year through phone, text and chat by calling 1-888-NYC-WELL, texting **WELL** to **65173**, or online chat by going to [nyc.gov/nycwell](http://nyc.gov/nycwell).

Mental health professionals are available to help New Yorkers who are struggling with suicidal thoughts, mental health problems like depression and anxiety, and substance misuse. *NYC Well* is accessible in more than 200 languages and is free and confidential regardless of immigration and insurance status.

Connect with us!



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[www.nyc.gov/vets](http://www.nyc.gov/vets)

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## Use Reusable Bags

Reusable bags look great, don't rip, and carry lots of stuff. Keep a box of them near your front door so you remember to take them to the store. It's surprisingly convenient!





## Foreclosures down in boro, but SE hurting

Queens down 13 percent in 1st Q of 2018 after steep rise last year

QChron.com., Thursday, April 12, 2018

By: Michael Gannon

Home foreclosures in Queens are down for the first quarter of 2018 following a 40 percent increase for all of 2017, but still are a problem in Southeast Queens.

The findings were published last week by PropertyShark, a website that chronicles and caters to the residential and commercial real estate industry.

Andra Rus of PropertyShark said in an email to the Chronicle that Queens saw 1,260 foreclosures in 2017, as opposed to 898 in 2016. The 2017 numbers were the highest in the borough since the housing collapse in 2010.

"It's difficult to say at this point if the trend spotted in Q1 for Queens will continue for the rest of the year, since many factors may influence the number of new foreclosures filed," she wrote. "For example, in Q1 2017, new foreclosure cases in Queens registered a 61% increase and then the borough ended the year with a 40% increase overall — still an increase, but much lower than what the first quarter showed."

She added that Southeast Queens, particularly in the 11434 ZIP code, and eastern Brooklyn still are seeing higher numbers of cases. The 11434 area includes all or portions of South Jamaica, St. Albans, Rochdale and Springfield Gardens.

Rus said PropertyShark's next quarterly report, to be released in July, might provide better insights of any trend.

Yvonne Reddick, district manager of Community Board 12, often gives foreclosure statistics at the beginning of her monthly report to the board.

The 11434 ZIP code makes up a large swath of District 12. She said Rus' numbers do not come as a surprise to her.

"When you say Queens is down for the first quarter, that includes all of Queens," Reddick said. "Community Board 12 is still hot in terms of foreclosures."

Rus said there appears to be fewer people entering the process in the first quarter. Reddick believes that could be attributable, at least in part, to more and more people seeking help through city, community and nonprofit agencies earlier in the process than they have in the past.

But she said many homeowners still wait to seek help, and in many cases do not act until it is too late to extricate themselves easily.

Much of that, Reddick said, comes from a sense of stigma. She said no matter where one lives, there is no shame in asking for help to save a home when that assistance is both needed and available.

"You need to get help when you receive your first notice," Reddick said. "Don't wait until the sheriff knocks on your door to call. Some people are proud — they don't want people to know. But when the sheriff shows up to evict you, people will know."

The city has dedicated millions of dollars for technical assistance and legal services to help people avoid foreclosure and eviction. Agencies such as Neighborhood Housing Services of Jamaica also are available. State Sen. Leroy Comrie (D-St. Albans), as another example, offers appointments for free foreclosure legal services that can be scheduled at his district office by calling (718) 765-6359.

59  
Street



### Bring Your Own

All those morning joes in to go cups can add up. Those one-use cups are so 2010. A reusable mug looks better, works better, and saves money. Replace your one-time use cup habit with a stylish and sustainable reusable bottle or mug. You will save money and our planet's precious natural resources.



# CB 13 Oks N. Conduit demapping proposal

Board also talks Spectrum strike; food delivery workers being robbed

QChron.com., Thursday, March 29, 2018

By: Anthony O'Reilly



Community Board 13 on Monday voted unanimously to back a proposal to demap what is technically part of North Conduit Avenue but for years has been used as the parking lot for a strip mall, but is owned by the city. The owner of Conduit Plaza — located between Springfield Boulevard and 144th Avenue — has been paying rent to the city since he constructed the shopping plaza in 2013, because his parking lot is labeled a part of North Conduit on the tax map, though it has never been used as one. It sits just north of the actual roadway.

If the measure is approved by Borough President Melinda Katz and the City Council, the owner of the plaza will be able to buy the land from the city for a price to be determined in the coming weeks.

Richard Hellenbrecht, chairman of CB 13's Land Use Committee, said the panel is also requesting the landlord create dedicated curb cuts to allow drivers to get to and from the parking lot. There will also be a deed restriction on the property requiring it to be used as a parking lot for the next 20 years.

In other news, CB 13 touched on the year-long International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 3 strike against Charter Communications, which owns Spectrum.

Tim Powers, a Local 3 electrician who spoke at the meeting, urged board members and residents to do everything in their power to end "Spectrum's monopoly" on the city's cable service.

"Cancel your Spectrum service ... tell your elected officials not to extend their franchise agreement with the city," Powers said. "The way they're treating their workers, it's appalling."

The union has been demanding an increase in benefits and pay, and has claimed Charter wants to quit financing its workers' pension and healthcare plans.

At least one board member has canceled his Spectrum service since the strike started — Clive Williams, chairman of CB 13.

"I can't tell you what to do," Williams said. "I made a personal decision to change my service ... I changed to DirecTV."

Spectrum has been invited to the board to present "their side," according to Williams, but has remained "tight-lipped."

Addressing crime in the area, 105th Precinct Commanding Officer Inspector Jeffrey Schiff said a task force has been created to crack down on a series of robberies committed against food delivery workers.

According to Schiff, the precinct has received several complaints of people ordering food for delivery and robbing the person bringing the food at gunpoint.

Merrick Boulevard may see some improvements in the near future, according to a representative for Councilman Donovan Richards (D-Laurelton).

The representative said new garbage bins, with smaller holes, will be placed along the corridor in the coming weeks. The councilman is also working to place improved lighting along the boulevard.



## Unofficial reserving of parking space



As a reminder, there is a rule that prohibits illegally saving parking spaces, New York City Department of Transportation "TRAFFIC RULES" [4-08\(n\)\(7\) states](#):

"Unofficial reserving of parking space. It shall be unlawful for any person to reserve or attempt to reserve a parking space, or prevent any vehicle from parking on a public street through his/her presence in the roadway, the use of hand-signals, or by placing any box, can, crate, hand-cart, dolly or any other device, including unauthorized pavement, curb or street markings or signs in the roadway."



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Verdell Boncoeur, Second Vice Chair

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Jackie Campbell

Samuel Elliott

Vernal Holder

Franck Joseph

Kangela Moore

Marcia O'Brien

Lorraine Gittens-Bridges

Tameka Pierre-Louis

## LIQUOR LICENSES

- ✧ Henrica's Restaurant – Renewal, 138-39 Francis Lewis Boulevard, Rosedale, NY 11422
- ✧ Pegasus Lounge – Corporate Change, 258-15 Hillside Avenue, Floral Park, NY 11004
- ✧ La Nueva Delicia – Renewal, 217-19 Jamaica Avenue, Queens Village, NY 11428
- ✧ Burger Joint – Renewal, JFK International Airport
- ✧ Starz Banquet Hall, Renewal, 231-36 Merrick Boulevard, Laurelton, NY 11413



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