

**June Committee Meetings @ QCB13 Board Office**

- Public Safety 6.6.18 @ 7:00 pm
- Seniors (SSSSNC) 6.7.18 @ 7:00 pm
- Land Use 6.11.18 @ 7:30 pm
- Youth and Education 6.12.18 @ 7:30 pm
- Economic Development 6.13.18 @ 7:00 pm
- Parks and Environment 6.19.18 @ 7:30 pm
- Health 6.21.18 @ 7:00 pm
- Transportation *Not Scheduled*

**GENERAL BOARD MEETING**

Monday, May 21, 2018 @ 7:30 PM

The Mighty St. Peter's Lutheran Church — 224-04 147 Avenue, Springfield Gardens, NY 11413

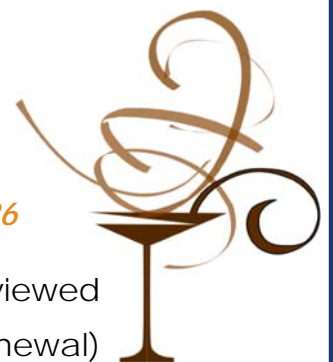
**AGENDA**

1. Community Time
2. Meeting Called to Order
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Welcome & Introduction of NEW Members: Andy Laine & Nantasha Williams
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 — April 2018
12. "Local Law 30" - Gas Shutoff Valve Installations — Presentation, by National Grid
13. Committee Reports
14. Adjournment

**NEXT GENERAL BOARD MEETING, Monday, June 25, 2018*****Bellerose Assembly of God 240-15 Hillside Avenue, Bellerose, NY 11426***

Liquor License Reviewed

Rollin Green of Bellerose, Bellerose (Renewal)





**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**  
Chair

**Mark McMillan**  
District Manager

### **DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – May 2018**

#### **Meetings Canceled:**

Transportation Committee  
Parks & Environment Committee

#### **Events/Meetings Attended:**

**April 23, 2018: Queens Community Board 13 General Board Meeting.**

**April 24, 2018:** Attend Public Hearing for Belmont Park Redevelopment Project at Elmont Public Library. **Chair Clive Williams, Board Members Michael O'Keeffe and Richard Hellenbrecht** were also in attendance.

**April 25, 2018:** Attend Department of Homeless Services Community Advisory Board Meeting at Springfield Family Residence in Springfield Gardens.

**April 26, 2018:** On-site meeting in Queens Village with constituent and Department of Parks & Recreation, Forestry, to determine liability for damaged trees.

**April 27, 2018:** Meeting in Board Office with **Council Member Barry Grodenchik** and members of the Creedmoor Civic Association regarding improvements for the open spaces along Winchester Boulevard near Hillside Avenue.

**April 28, 2018:** Attend Committee Chair and Vice Chair Meeting. Present were **Chair Clive Williams, and Board Members/Chairs and Vice Chairs: Lorraine Giffens-Bridges, Robert Glover, Felice Hannah, Richard Hellenbrecht, Bonnie Huie, Michael O'Keeffe, Ashok Satkalmi.**

**May 1, 2018:** TSINY tour of facilities at Creedmoor campus, Jamaica and Bayside with Dr. Larry Grubler, CEO.

**May 2, 2018:** Attend and participate in Public Safety Committee Meeting Chaired by **Michael O'Keeffe** and Vice Chaired by **Robert Glover**. Details will be shared in their report.

**May 3, 2018:** Photo-op at Queens Village Veterans Memorial Plaza Park with **Council Member Barry Grodenchik** and *DSNY Outreach Team* promoting "Compost Bags" – derived from the composting program with the brown bins – that can be used in your yard.

**May 7, 2018:** Attend and participate in Land Use Meeting Chaired by **Richard Hellenbrecht** and **Vice Chaired by Bess DeBetham**. Details will be shared in their report.

**May 8, 2018:** Attend and participate in "Healthy Community Day" planning meeting held at New York City Children's Center in Glen Oaks. **Board Member Bonnie Huie** was in attendance.

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.

**May 9, 2018:** Attend and participate in Economic Development Committee Meeting Chaired by **Curlene Nelson** and Vice Chaired by **Richard Hellenbrecht**. Details will be shared in their report.

**May 15, 2018:** Attend Queens Borough Cabinet Meeting. Topics:

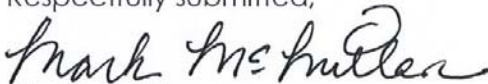
- I. **Overview of the Business Support Center** by Marian Cicoello, Director, Small Business Solutions, Business Support Center, NYC Department of Small Business Services.
- II. **Update on NYPD Neighborhood Coordination Officers** by Sergeant Wendy Geritano, PBQS, Sergeant Kevin Colvin, PBQN and Police Officer Kyle Fin, PBQN.

**May 16, 2018:** Host District Service Cabinet Meeting at QCB 13 office.

**May 17, 2018:** Attend and participate in combined Health Committee & Seniors Special Needs Committee Meeting Chaired respectively by **Bonnie Huie** and **Kangela Moore**, and Vice Chaired respectively by **Ashok Satkalmi** and **Jerry Wind**. Details will be shared in their respective reports.

**May 18, 2018:** Attend **New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli** presentation: "An Economic Snapshot of Queens", held at Queens Borough Hall. **Board Chair Clive Williams** and **Board Member Curlene Nelson** also attended.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark McMillan  
District Manager





## It's Supposed to be Hard



On a number of occasions, I have taken a group of friends and family a couple of hours upstate to a place called Mountainville, for a hike. What is nice about the drive up is the slow melting away of the cityscape – first through winding suburban roads of Westchester County – and finally, after crossing the mighty Hudson River on the Tappan Zee Bridge, entering the beautiful topography of New York State.

Approaching our destination on I-87, the feeling of being in the mountains begins. Large masses of rock dwarf the caravans of cars, buses and trucks going north and south. Inclines in this area can no longer be called hills. Exiting off of the interstate, we take a county road – aka “Blue Highway” – to reach the point where our vehicles will be parked. The cutout in the road is adjacent to a beautiful house with enough land around it for a football field. In the distance behind the house are mountains creating a picturesque image as we begin our hike.

The requirements for the day are: boots, lunch and water carried in a backpack. It is advised that you wear long sleeves and a hat. We cross the road and enter a meadow composed of tall grass, wild flowers, a single tree full and round with leaves. One feels as if they are in a movie, as any sign of man-made life rapidly vanishes behind. The energy of nature takes over as a feeling of euphoria emerges. The group is laughing, smiling and absorbing the natural beauty we are surrounded by. The trail is leading us to what appears to be a forest – all trees.

We are finally at the hill. We are too close to see the top but the trail markers will lead the way. This is a single-file trail so I lead the way. If you lose the trail you could literally be lost for hours; and there is no one to call to get you back. There are over 2700 acres with some trails that go 20 miles...

As we start to climb the conversation stops. The hill becomes steep and the trail meanders to and fro. There are parts of the trail where you are on the cusp of a cliff where one wrong step will have you tumbling hundreds of feet. After 30 minutes the complaining begins: How much longer before we get to the top? This is so steep; it is too hard; I want to go back down. This isn't fun anymore. After another 20 minutes or so, the complaining turns to anger as each person comes face-to-face with their level of fitness. We rest more frequently. We slow the pace. I can feel the anxiety of some who now regret coming on this adventure.

We finally reach a level part where a railroad track lies. This lone track goes as far as the eye can see in each direction. We pause again, sipping water. I caution everyone not to gulp all of their water so fast; the hike is far from over and it could lead to cramping. Some listen, others do not.

After resting, we cross the tracks and start walking uphill again. Many have gotten their second wind. Everyone is impatient to get to the top. Because of the effort already undertaken, the hill seems even more steep. Yet, everyone knows they have committed fully to the experience. They could turn around and go back down, but they could get lost. They also don't know what peril exists for a solo hiker.

We continue to climb. There is silence except for the rustling leaves and the sounds of condors overhead. Now I know we are approaching the summit. The height of the trees is getting lower. The sky is suddenly available to see. We take a couple of curves and the tree line is gone – just rock. We jump over a small gap and we are at the top. A collective gasp from all as the whole horizon can be seen in every direction. We are about 1700 feet up. Now it is time for lunch.

(...to be continued) 5.21.18

**Mark McMillan, District Manager**



## CONTACT US

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## **"EVERY DAY, THERE'S ANOTHER GARDEN GONE"**

The shift from gardens to concrete has been dramatic with the whole front of the house cobbledstoned.

In an April 30, 2008 vote, the Council approved the **Yards Text Amendment**.

The Yards Amendment addresses, among other issues, the paving over of front yards, by requiring that a certain minimum percentage of all front yards be landscaped, based on the length of the property's street frontage.

**BEAUTIFUL**



**ILLEGAL**



It also prohibits front yard parking in developments in the lowest density, single-family houses and establishes a minimum 20-foot wide side yard requirement for houses on corner lots, as well as requiring all interior lots to have rear yards.

It is a requirement of a minimum percentage of planting in front yards, based upon street frontage, ranging from 20% for narrow lots (less than 20' wide) to 50% for lots 60 feet wide or greater.

It is a requirement to provide rear yards, a 30-foot open area behind every building segment (row houses) to ensure a useable rear yard, whether or not a rear yard is required. On corner lots, the requirement is one side yard to be at least 20 feet wide.

Steeply sloped driveways are prohibited. Maximum slope is 11%.

In addition, to encourage parking in rear yard garages, the floor area increased for detached garage in rear yard from 100 square feet to 300 square feet.

Prohibits parking spaces from locating in the front yard.

Reduces allowable front yard fence and wall height from 8 feet to 4 feet, except that on corner lots, permit a height of 6 feet where a front yard overlaps a side yard.

Steps in front yards would be restricted in height to the first story above a basement.

For curb cuts serving paired driveways, increase maximum width from 15 feet to 18 feet, and establish a minimum width of 15 feet. This will ensure better access to driveways, a greater chance the 16 foot spacing requirement between curb cuts will be maintained, and allow sufficient space for the minimum front yard planting requirements be met.

By: Maxine Brannon

# Guest Op-Ed

## Studies are Bogus, Blockchain Can Help



HENRY FOLEY

Attorney General Jeff Sessions recently proclaimed that undocumented immigrants in Arizona were more likely to go to jail than U.S. citizens. His source was a study by the Crime Prevention Research Center.

But there was a problem. That study had a fatal flaw that undermined its conclusion.

This isn't the only example of an analysis gone awry. In fact, faulty research is common.

Faulty science has dire ramifications. Every year, our nation funnels billions of dollars into research that is then used to make crucial policy decisions.

Science must give us facts, not false impressions. That's where the emerging information technology known as blockchain could come to the rescue.

Roughly 2.5 million studies relaying innovative discoveries and solutions are published every year. These analyses are backed by huge investments.

The National Institutes of Health alone invests over \$32 billion annually in studies conducted at universities and research institutes worldwide.

But those studies can rarely be authenticated. Over two-thirds of scientists who have tried to replicate the results of other experiments have been unable to do so.

So, if a research paper incorrectly classifies data, makes an error, or reaches biased conclusions, there's no obvious method to correct that mistake.

Researchers themselves admit that the results of many studies are unreliable.

Take the words of Richard Horton, editor-in-chief of The Lancet, one of the world's most renowned medical journals. Horton acknowledged that up to half of all published scientific work could be wrong.

This has terrifying real-world implications. Consider cancer research. In 2012, researchers evaluated 53 renowned cancer studies that had been published in top-tier journals. In the end, only six of them could actually be replicated.

That's scary. Four in ten Americans will develop cancer in their

lifetimes. Researchers need to be able to identify correct science as they search for cures.

Scientists can share data prior to the publication of their studies, but have few venues and little incentive to do so. Blockchain would make sharing and certifying information much easier and render it nearly impossible to alter data.

Blockchain offers a secure chain of data in a "peer-to-peer" network. Any member of the network can access this data and use the blockchain to exchange information.

When a "block" - a unique set of data - has been added, everyone with access to that chain can see it.

Blockchain network would revolutionize research. Rather than release a data set upon publication of a scientific article, researchers could upload their data the moment they collect it.

A timestamp on the data would mark it as their own, preventing others from stealing it and settling

any argument over who made the discovery first.

All-in-all, blockchain would enable us to track records, verify data, and replicate results.

That's better than our current system. Now, some experts briefly read the study, make suggestions, and recommend whether it should be published. With blockchain, the entire scientific process would be transparent.

Researchers may not embrace blockchain on their own immediately. But if funding groups, especially the NIH, insist on the use of blockchain as a prerequisite for research funding, scientists would come to accept it.

And down the road, as blockchain becomes more widely accepted as the first-rate credibility standard, researchers could bypass the publisher middle-man and post results online directly, enabling scientists to share information more quickly.

Science is full of faulty practices. Blockchain can make sure facts are facts.

Henry C. Foley is president of New York Institute of Technology.

## Smell Gas. Act Fast.

Gas



Smell



Run



Call



1. Smell — Natural gas smells like rotten eggs.
2. Gas — If the gas is in the air, a spark can cause an explosion. Don't light a match, smoke, flip a switch, ring a doorbell, or touch any electrical appliances, including phones.
3. Run — If you suspect a gas leak, get everyone out immediately.
4. Call — When you're safe, call **911**, Con Edison (**800.75.CONED**), or National Grid (**718.643.4050**).

*Don't assume someone else has already called.*

*You can report leaks anonymously.*

[conEd.com/gassafety](http://conEd.com/gassafety)

q13

Went to a great event?  
Your Civic had a meeting?  
Something cool in your  
neighborhood?

Snap a picture and send it to us!

Your images may be featured in the  
monthly slide show!

Send images to [cince@qcb13.org](mailto:cince@qcb13.org)



# MTA bus reform plan may mean changed routes & fare collection

BY MADELINE NELSON  
editorial@qns.com / @QNS

The MTA New York City Transit unveiled an inclusive plan at the NYC Transit Committee meeting on April 23 reimagining New York's entire public bus system.

It's the result of an expansive review of the system that NYC Transit President Andy Byford commissioned. Byford declared improving bus service as one of his top four priorities on his first day in office in January.

"We've listened to our riders' concerns and are working tirelessly to create a world-class bus system that New Yorkers deserve," Byford said. "We're targeting challenges like traffic congestion and enforcement, undertaking bold initiatives like redesigning the entire route network, and pursuing advancements such as the latest computer-aided management, double-decker and electric buses, all-door boarding, and improved customer service with more real-time data."

As described, the NYC Transit Bus Plan details a completely redesigned bus route network. NYC Transit is preparing to redesign the route network based on public input and opinion, demographic changes and travel demand statistics.

MTA indicated that it will work with the



File photo/THE COURIER

city's Department of Transportation, the NYPD and local communities to expand arrival time displays at bus stops and bus priority technology, add and enforce bus lanes, and more. MTA also plans to advocate for more serious enforcement of the bus lanes by the NYPD.

Another element of the plan is off-board fare payment, allowing customers to board the buses through both doors

rather than waiting at the front door to board and pay. This new method, similar to a system already in use along Select Bus Service routes, will be tested after the MTA rolls out electronic tap-to-pay readers starting in 2019.

The proposals includes examples of planned technological advancements such as digital information screens providing bus route, next stop and real-time

service advisories. Seat availability listings on express buses will also be available through an app.

NYC Transit also plans to develop simpler and more dynamic, customizable and location-specific bus route maps and work alongside NYCDOT to add real-time bus arrival info displays to bus shelters.

MTA also mentions the opening of a brand-new Bus Command Center and upgrading to the latest dispatch and operations support technology, including GPS-based displays of bus locations to help bus operators and dispatchers work together to eliminate multiple buses arriving at a stop at once.

Lastly, the bus plan highlights the transition to all-electric buses as well as the city's first double-decker public buses. A pilot test of 10 electric buses began earlier this year, while a double-decker express bus will be tested on a Staten Island route starting this spring.

MTA plans on upgrading existing buses with digital displays to show real-time route, stop and service update information, as well as traffic signal priority and new fare payment technology.

Byford and Irick will discuss the bus plan at NYC Transit's next #AskNYCT Twitter chat, Thursday, April 26, from noon to 1 p.m. on the @NYCTBus handle.

## SPRING 2018 — DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STREET REPAVING



| ON STREET        | FROM                      | TO                             |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 250 Street       | Union Turnpike            | Elkmont Avenue                 |
| Shiloh Avenue    | 249 Street                | Little Neck Parkway            |
| 246 Street       | Union Turnpike            | Hillside Avenue                |
| 85 Road          | 241 Street                | Cross Island Pkwy S/R S/B      |
| 86 Avenue        | Cross Island Pkwy S/R S/B | 239 Street                     |
| 84 Road          | Hillside Avenue           | Cross Island Pkwy S/R S/B      |
| Linden Boulevard | 225 Street                | 235 Street (Cross Island Pkwy) |
| 120 Avenue       | 232 Street                | 223 Street                     |
| 117 Road         | Springfield Boulevard     | 219 Street                     |
| 223 Street       | Linden Boulevard          | 120 Avenue                     |
| 231 Street       | Linden Boulevard          | 120 Avenue                     |
| 231 Street       | Linden Boulevard          | 115 Avenue                     |
| 219 Street       | Linden Boulevard          | 119 Avenue                     |
| 91 Avenue        | Hollis Court Boulevard    | Springfield Boulevard          |
| 212 Place        | 91 Avenue                 | Jamaica Avenue                 |
| 94 Avenue        | Hollis Courtt Boulevard   | 214 Place                      |
| 92 Avenue        | 212 Place                 | Springfield Boulevard          |
| 214 Street       | 93 Avenue                 | Jamaica Avenue                 |
| 211 Place        | Dead End                  | 99 Avenue                      |
| Bellaire Place   | 104 Avenue                | 100 Avenue                     |
| 209 Street       | 99 Avenue                 | Dead End                       |
| 212 Street       | Hollis Avenue             | 99 Avenue                      |
| Hollis Avenue    | 212 Street                | 208 Street                     |
| 120 Avenue       | 238 Street                | 232 Street                     |
| 119 Avenue       | Springfield Boulevard     | 223 Street                     |



# City Council members from Queens disappointed in lack of property tax rebate in 2019 city budget

Qns.com., Wednesday, May 2, 2018

By: Ryan Kelley



Photo: Benjamin Kanter/Mayoral Photo Office.  
New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio announces his Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget in the Blue Room at City Hall on Thursday,

With the announcement of Mayor Bill de Blasio's fiscal year 2019 executive budget proposal on April 26, many City Council members from Queens were left wondering if their constituents would ever catch a break. A tax break, that is.

The \$89 billion city budget — which is \$3.82 billion higher than the budget adopted last year — does not include the City Council's plan to give a property tax rebate to middle-class homeowners. Proposed by Speaker Corey Johnson in response to the mayor's preliminary budget plan on April 11, the rebate would give \$400 back to homeowners who earn less than \$150,000. In a statement released the day after de Blasio's announcement, Councilman Robert Holden said that the budget is not what he had hoped for.

"Considering that this is the largest budget

we've ever seen, it would have been nice to consider offering a small refund to those that own homes across the city," Holden said. "I would have liked to see property tax reform addressed in this budget, because there continues to be undue strain on the middle class."

Holden's District 30 covers Maspeth, Middle Village, Glendale and parts of Ridgewood and Woodhaven, where 44 percent of housing units are owner occupied and the combined average household income is approximately \$78,000, according to the Department of City Planning.

During his April 26 announcement, de Blasio responded to a question about the property tax rebate proposal by saying that nothing is final yet.

"Look, we look to the Council's budget response," de Blasio said. "We thought there were some things we could address but a number of things were very substantial and we'd have to see what was possible going forward."

While negotiations between the Council and the Mayor's Office will determine the budget's final contents by the July 1 deadline, Johnson and other Council members like Holden have already made their positions clear.

In a joint statement between Johnson and Councilman Daniel Dromm, who represents District 25 in Queens and is the Council's finance chair, the pair expressed disappointment that some of their initiatives were left out, but hope that extra revenue expected in fiscal year 2018 will work to their benefit.

"The Council will continue to advocate for our priorities throughout budget negotiations and we plan to do so in a collaborative and transparent budget process," the statement said. "We urge the administration to fund the Council's priorities for the good of our neighbors and our city."

Much of the Council's frustration over property taxes stems from an ongoing lawsuit filed against the city by Tax Equity Now New York, a coalition of real estate stakeholders and civil rights activists. The research performed by the coalition alleges that the city's property tax system is discriminatory against neighborhoods that have a high number of minority residents, and more valuable properties are taxed at a lower rate than less valuable properties.

In a joint statement from Councilmen Justin Brannan, Steven Matteo, Joseph Borelli, Paul Vallone, Barry Grodenchik and Mark Gjonaj on April 30, they made reference to the inequalities of the system and made a much more pointed demand for their constituents.

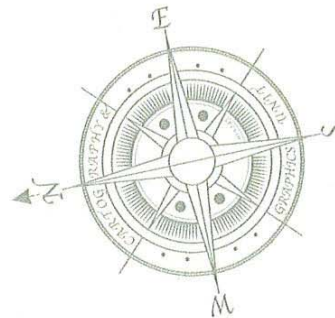
"I know we speak for just about every property owner in the five boroughs when we say, 'C'mon man, give us a break!'" the statement said.





# QUEENS 105TH PRECINCT SECTORS

| PRECINCT BOUNDARIES | DATED |
|---------------------|-------|
| SQUARE MILES        |       |
| MILES OF STREET     |       |
| PATROL POSTS (FOOT) |       |
| R.M.P. SECTORS      |       |







SCHOOL



FIREHOUSE



TRANSIT DISTRICTS



PRECINCT STATION HOUSE



POLICE SERVICE AREA

**Police Department City of New York**

ITB Administrative Division

Cartography & Graphics Unit • Revised March 9, 2018

## NYPD rolls out NCOs in the 105th Precinct

Brass says community's trust and involvement are key to crimefighting

Ochron.com., Thursday May 3, 2018

By: Michael Gannon

Officer Christopher Kissane of the 105th Precinct was addressing the crowd Monday night after being introduced as one of the precinct's new Neighborhood Coordination Officers.

"For this to work, we need to have dialogue," he said. "We want to be problem solvers."

The setting was the auditorium at the Queens High School of Teaching, Liberal Arts and the Sciences in Bellerose, where Kissane and everyone else in the room who earns an NYPD paycheck was preaching to an enthusiastic choir of about 400 residents.

The NCO program — chief architect Commissioner James O'Neill — is a relatively new take on community policing in which precincts are divided up into sectors with the same officers working in the same sectors every day. The aim is to build a relationship of trust and cooperation between the officers and the community members they serve.

The 105th is one of the last precincts in Queens to begin the program. Assistant Chief Fausto Pichardo, executive officer of the NYPD's Patrol Services Bureau, said all precincts in the city will roll out the program by the end of the year.

Pichardo first pointed to record lows in several major crimes in recent years, and a promising start to 2018. He said the community aspect that the NCO program is trying to foster has played a vital role.

"Don't believe for a minute that this reduction in crime was the NYPD working alone," Pichardo said. "It is a city working together. ... But we can always do better. One murder, one robbery, one burglary, one [stolen car] — each one has a victim."

Under the program, each of five sectors in the 105th Precinct has two NCO officers, plus a roster of steady sector officers and response officers. Sgt. John Collins has been selected by Inspector Jeffrey Schiff, commanding officer of the 105th, to supervise the NCO unit.

"I had a lot of applications," Schiff said. "These officers are the best of the best of the best, the cream of the crop."

The chief also engaged in a lengthy question-and-answer session with members of the public.

Each NCO has attended the criminal investigation training course mandated for all NYPD detectives. Each has undergone a five-day training program on how to utilize the right resources in the department and the community to assist each other.

"First and foremost, they are crime fighters," Pichardo said.

But all have also undergone a four-day course in mediation and dispute resolution given by the New York Peace Institute.

"Some problems you don't need to solve with an arrest or a summons," he said.

Pichardo said it can be compared to the old Community Police on Patrol program, which he said was limited because a precinct of 150 or 200 officers might only have 8 to 12 on CPOP.

Then came the explosion of crime in the 1990s, and a shift to Operation Impact, when rookies from the academy were flooded into high-crime areas.

"Did it reduce crime? Yes," Pichardo said. "But we lost something ... An officer answered a 911 call, and then what did he do? Answer another 911 call. And then? Answer another 911 call."

"If you live in Sector Adam and an officer responds to your home, where will he be tomorrow? Sector Adam. Where will he be next week? Sector Adam. Next month? Sector Adam."

He said people now will get to know their NCOs and sector officers.

"After the meeting, get their business cards," he said. "Get their emails. They have department-issue smartphones."

The NCO officers will be tasked with taking about two hours on every shift not responding to radio calls, but reaching out to civic groups, businesses, clergy and church groups and others, all in the interest of handling community issues before they get out of control.

"No problem is too small," said NCO Darnell Gating, who will take charge of Sector Charlie with his partner, Officer Jennifer Candela.

Information on each sector's NCOs, their contact information and schedules for future sector community meetings will be available online at [buildtheblock.nyc](http://buildtheblock.nyc) or on the NYPD's website at [nyc.gov/site/nypd](http://nyc.gov/site/nypd).

Laurelton resident **Bess DeBetham**, also a member of Community Board 13, gave the NCO program and Monday's meeting the highest grades.

"I've been wanting something like this for years," she said. "If I could jump and click my heels, I would."

Schiff and Pichardo afterward said the turnout of residents and business owners alone qualified the meeting as a success.

"Look at the size of the crowd," Schiff said, with few empty seats in an auditorium that holds 421.

Pichardo, who has presented the NYPD's NCO sales pitch at a number of precincts, pointed to the fact that he eventually had to truncate the official question-and-answer session — he stayed after the meeting and spoke with many in the crowd — after extending it a few times in the interest of allowing the meeting to end anywhere near on schedule.

"That's something I haven't had to do in some places," he said.



## Tourism industry producing thousands of jobs for Queens, but report warns of challenges

Queens Courier | May 10, 2018

By: Jenna Bagcal

Tourism continues to be a big boon for Queens' economy, according to a new report released on Monday.

In Destination New York, a report published on May 7 by the Center for an Urban Future (CUF), it is estimated that New York City tourism has created thousands of jobs in Queens, while also benefiting Queens residents who work in other boroughs.

According to the report, the borough is home to 3,272 "accommodations jobs," which is up from 2,396 in the year 2000. This represents a 37 percent increase over the last two decades.

The Association for a Better New York (ABNY) and Times Square Alliance funded the report, and found that the increase in tourism is linked to growth across multiple industries, including cultural attractions, restaurants, bars and shops. The number of Queens residents who work in bars and restaurants increased by 88 percent over the last 20 years. In 2016, Queens establishments employed 45,276 people, which grew from just 24,033 in 2000.

The benefits of tourism not only affect the borough as a whole, but also affect the individual neighborhoods within Queens. The CUF report said that that in Jackson Heights and Elmhurst, tourists are responsible for 12 percent of all spending in electronics stores and 10 percent of spending in discount stores. In total, tourists account for 6 percent of all total spending in those neighborhoods, which equals more than \$23 million annually.

CUF reports that benefits expand beyond individuals who work in Queens. There are 14,750 Queens residents working in the accommodations or hospitality sector, which is significantly more than any other borough. Second is Brooklyn, which boasts 10,986 hotel workers; third is Manhattan which has 8,324; the Bronx is fourth with 6,881; and Staten Island comes in last with just 1,819 hotel workers. The average employee in this industry earns about \$62,000 a year.

The report goes on to say that though the tourism boom has positively impacted New York City's economy as a whole, new challenges in the tourism industry could cause a job decline in the future. Some of these challenges include the strengthening dollar and growing negative perceptions of the United States, to capacity problems at the city's airports.

The study also finds that New York has never adequately planned for a city with 60 million tourists a year, or made sufficient investments in its tourism infrastructure to sustain that amount of annual visitors.



May 3, 2018

Queens Ledger • Glendale Register • Forest Hills Times • LIC Journal • Lead

## Northwell using tech for treatment in HIV hotspots

To reduce the number of new HIV diagnoses on Long Island and Queens, clinicians from Northwell Health's Center for AIDS Research and Treatment (CART) at North Shore University Hospital are using new technology and data to identify communities where the virus is highly prevalent, and target prevention and treatment efforts there.

The latest reports show there are 130,000 people living with HIV in New York State. On Long Island alone, 6,810 people are HIV-positive. In Queens, nearly 18,000 are infected with the virus.

To help combat this dangerous trend, Joseph McGowan, MD, CART medical director and professor at Northwell's Center for Health Innovations and Outcomes Research at the Feinstein Institute, presented data at a news conference at the hospital that identified local HIV "hot spots" such as Hempstead, Westbury and Huntington Station on Long Island, and Rosedale and surrounding areas in Eastern Queens.

The CART team developed an extensive survey and customized web-based software, known as RED Cap, to collect and analyze data. The software and epidemiologic data from Northwell and the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute is able to produce "heat maps" showing the locations of the highest incidence of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

"The software enables us to query, collect and analyze information regarding mental health issues, substance use, housing status and other social issues," said McGowan. "We've linked that to levels of treatment compliance, adherence to appointments and viral suppression rates.

"These data also demonstrates various health care disparities so we are able to get a comprehensive picture of people living in the community, which helps us better target our efforts," McGowan added. "We are working with community leaders to determine how to reach those affected and ways to engage them in care."

McGowan was invited to Atlanta last Wednesday to share his data and response plan with the US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.

Jeffrey Kemp, a 35-year-old

long-time Long Island resident, has been living with HIV for 15 years.

Due to the treatment he received at CART and a new social media app on his phone, he is stable and for the first time and has an undetectable viral load.

Kemp said the app was "a life-saver."

It kept him on track with doctor appointments, medication reminders and lab results. Users of the GET! app also have the ability to text peer educators, known as Peeps, for questions and support.

The GET! app was developed by Mount Sinai Applab and is currently available on android and iOS to study participants. They anticipate it will be widely available to the public in 2019.

CART is the only site in New York and one of nine nationwide selected to use the YGetIt app, developed by the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute. CART recently achieved a milestone of more than 100 app users.

Jessica Clark, community mobilization coordinator at CART, outlined several community initiatives being pursued by Northwell to encourage local residents to get tested for the virus, including a new collaboration this year with Walgreens in targeted communities to offer free, regular HIV-testing using Northwell's mobile health van, educating women in high-risk neighborhoods and other outreach efforts.

CART's new research will help identify the best approach for reducing health disparities in low-income communities and improving access to care. Many of the health disparities identified by Dr. McGowan's team reflect the social determinants of health, such as income, housing status, food security, trauma, and incarceration.

Health care teams from CART will focus resources and interventions on people with a history of domestic violence, suicide, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, mental health issues and other factors known to increase the risk of contracting HIV and to reduce adherence to care for those living with HIV.

"Our approach is unique," Dr. McGowan said. "We need to get interventions into the community, learn the root causes of health care disparities and communicate and act more effectively."



# Gut check: Eat the right kinds of whole grains with the right kinds of fiber to cut cancer risk

Can cutting back on whole grains be bad for your gut and deadly to your health? Though some popular diets promote the elimination of grains, a recent report from the American Institute for Cancer Research suggests this may be ill-advised.

Researchers say 47 percent of colorectal cancers can be prevented with lifestyle changes, such as adding whole grains to your diet and exercising more. Eating three daily servings of whole grains reduces the risk of colorectal cancer by 17 percent, the report says.

But the link between whole grains and cancer may be confusing. After all, the major benefit of whole grains is fiber, and fiber is fiber, right?

Here's the paradox about fiber: Americans have increased their consumption of fiber, including whole grains. In spite of that, bowel cancer is still one of the most common types of cancer. Not all fiber is alike. Understanding how whole grains and their fiber types go to work in the gut may hold the key to reducing the risk of colorectal cancer.

## A new kind of super-grain

First, we turn to the humble barley grain. It may be on the verge of a big

moment. Australian researchers spent 30 years breeding a variety of barley that contains more of the properties believed to reduce colon cancer. The result is a so-called super-grain called BARLEYmax.

What's special about BARLEYmax? This non-GMO grain has twice the fiber as most other whole grains, including wheat. It's also chock-full of a unique type of fiber called resistant starch. Scientists believe resistant starch plays an important role in keeping the gut environment healthy. BARLEYmax has four times as much resistant starch as wheat and oats, and scientists believe it's this resistant starch that may be the key link to fighting colorectal cancer.

## What do resistant starches do?

Why did the Australian researchers want to develop a grain that was high in resistant starches? Dr. David Topping, who headed the research team, points to previous research showing the link between diet and colorectal cancer.

Africans have a lower fiber intake compared to Americans and Australians, yet their bowel cancer rates are much lower, he reports. On the surface, this appears to diminish the role of fiber. Here's the

kicker: The African diet is much higher in resistant starches and fermentable fibers than American and Australian diets.

According to Topping, that highlights the key determinant of better bowel health and fighting cancer is that we eat enough of the right fiber types, from whole grain sources, rather than to focus only on the amount of fiber we eat.

## How do resistant starches work?

We've all heard about how important it is to make sure the gut is inhabited by the right kinds of bacteria. But it's not as simple as taking a probiotic supplement or eating yogurt for breakfast. Gut bacteria need food to thrive, and that's where resistant starches come in.

In the gut, resistant starches are a food source for healthy gut bacteria, and these bacteria keep the gut environment healthy. When diets are low in resistant starches, it creates a "hungry gut bacteria population." But increasing the availability of fermentable fiber-rich whole grains that feed the gut microbiota can potentially make us healthier.

## Good sources of good fiber

It's exciting to hear that boosting your

intake of resistant starches can have such a profound effect on your well-being and health. Getting the right foods that "feed" your gut has been tricky because, frankly, many are not appealing to American tastes.

Green bananas are a prime example. Although resistant starches are abundant in foods like cooked and cooled potatoes, barley and oats, these have to be eaten cold to get the full benefits, because these starches break down when heated.

Australian natural foods company Freedom Foods is the first breakfast manufacturer to bring the unique BARLEYmax grain to the U.S. under their Barley+ line of Toasted Muesli and nutritional bars. The format, which is much closer to American-style granola but without all the sugar, will provide Americans with a much more accessible way to access resistant starch than some of the more obscure sources currently available.

Barley+ Toasted Muesli and Barley+ Snack Bars are now available at grocers and other retailers. To learn more about the muesli and snacks, visit [freedomfoods.us.com](http://freedomfoods.us.com).

Courtesy BPT

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

MAY 3, 2018 • THE QUEENS COURIER 21

# 'Jamaica Together' brings street cleanings and employment opportunities to formerly homeless

BY SUZANNE MONTEVERDI

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

The latest in a series of revitalization efforts in downtown Jamaica brings cleaner streets and some new jobs for those in need.

On May 1, Queens Borough President Melinda Katz and local leaders announced the launch of the "Jamaica Together" cleaning initiative. The pilot program will bring cleaning services to the Guy R. Brewer Boulevard corridor between Tuskegee Airmen Way and 109th Avenue and will run until Oct. 30.

The cleaning services will be provided by full-time workers paid by the Association of Community Employment Programs (ACE), a nonprofit organization that works to provide the city's recovering homeless individuals with work experience, support services and motivation. The workers will focus on cleaning sidewalks and tree pits and removing unwanted graffiti from walls and public areas, according to Katz.

The program is also co-sponsored by the Jamaica NOW Leadership Council, community leaders charged with implementing the Jamaica NOW Action Plan. Developed by Katz and the de Blasio administration, the \$153 million plan seeks to revitalize the neighborhood by bringing in additional housing, commercial space and other improvements.

The press conference took place outside of the Thomas White Jr. Foundation's headquarters on Tuskegee Airmen Way, where cleaning supplies for the program will be stored.



Queens Borough President Melinda Katz and Jamaica leaders at the launch

Photo by Suzanne Monteverdi/The Courier

The initiative is also co-sponsored by Councilman I. Daneek Miller, Councilwoman Adrienne Adams, Community Board 12 and the city's Department of Sanitation, who will make additional visits to the neighborhood to pick up the excess trash.

Jamaica, a "community on the move," will be well-served by the cleanup program,

Katz said.

"It's an exciting time here in Jamaica, Queens," Katz said. "This is what happens when you have a community working together."

"We're just thrilled to have an opportunity to help more folks," said James Martin, executive director of ACE. "Neighborhoods are defined by the cleanli-

ness of their streets. We hope to make this a place where folks want to visit and live, continue to live, and work and play, and at the same time, give folks a second chance to work and live independently."

Jamaica was also recently awarded an additional \$10 million grant from the state as part of Governor Andrew Cuomo's Downtown Revitalization Initiative.



## State will spend \$800K on post-winter road repairs to Grand Central Pkwy. & Long Island Expwy. in Queens

BY EMILY DAVENPORT  
edavenport@qns.com / @QNS

Portions of the Long Island Expressway and Grand Central Parkway in Queens will undergo road maintenance to repair winter-related damages, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced on Monday.

Cuomo said he's allocating more than \$100 million in funding to repave and enhance roadways across the state that were impacted by the harsh weather this past winter.

Over \$800,000 will be allocated for the following concrete repairs for roadways and highways in Queens:

- \$38,000 for the eastbound side of Grand Central Parkway from the New York City Transit Authority Bridge to the entrance ramp of the Union Turnpike at Kew Gardens Interchange
- \$38,000 for the westbound side of Grand Central Parkway from the entrance ramp of the Union Turnpike to the New York City Transit Authority Bridge at Kew Gardens Interchange
- \$324,000 for the eastbound side of Nassau Expressway from Crossbay Boulevard to Farmers Boulevard
- \$213,000 for the eastbound Long Island Expressway from Maurice Avenue to Grand Central Parkway, including the service road from 74th Street to Junction Boulevard
- \$213,000 for the westbound Long Island Expressway from Grand Central Parkway to Maurice Avenue, including the service road from 98th Street to 74th Street

The projects will take place this summer and fall and will finish by the end of 2018.

"These investments are critical to our transportation system and essential for community growth and regional economic competitiveness," Cuomo said. "By infusing more than \$100 million in state funds to revitalize our roads, we are enhancing the quality of life for all New Yorkers while ensuring every traveler remains safe throughout the Empire State."

The State Budget originally had \$65 million in Extreme Weather Recovery funds for locally owned roadways. The added \$100 million, which is supported through the New York State Department of Transportation's five-year capital plan, will support the renewal of state-owned roadways.

## Pols, residents rip school gun violence

Elected officials rally with North Shore Towers activist organization

Qchron.com | Thursday, May 17, 2018

By: Neglah Sharma



Borough President Melinda Katz sang the national anthem last Sunday at North Shore Towers.

Amid the nationwide debate over what measures should be taken to protect schools from gun violence, residents of North Shore Towers and Country Club in Floral Park let their voice be heard. Borough President Melinda Katz, mother to a 7- and 10-year-old, expressed her staunch disapproval of easy access to firearms at a rally last Saturday organized by the North Shore Towers Political Action Committee.

"It leaves a mom and a dad and whoever is taking care of those children to figure out how to have those conversations as we move forward," Katz said. "And I think the conversations are valid and

frank. And as loud as the TV images are, we have to be louder in our opposition."

While conversations may begin at home, Assemblyman Ed Braunstein (D-Bayside) agreed with the rally's antigun rhetoric, and he believes that it is the federal government's job to enact stronger gun control to protect children and families.

"As mass shootings and school violence continue to rise in the United States, it is not enough to simply offer our thoughts and prayers," said Braunstein, a parent to two sons who will soon be joining public school.

The assemblyman argued that even if sales of certain weapons are banned in New York, people can simply drive down to a different state to purchase them, or high-capacity magazines.

"We need to put pressure on our lawmakers at the federal government, there's no reason in my mind why anyone needs to have an automatic assault weapon," Braunstein said. "What we need to do is change the mindset, and drive out voters who agree with us."

In school shooting history, attackers have used magazines holding 10 or as many as 75 rounds, believed to compensate for lack of accuracy and maximize the chance to harm.

"I am humbled by the sacrifice of all these lives, the violence, and mayhem and hatred that have become commonplace in our country" said Joan Perkell, a North Shore Towers resident who supports gun control.

Justin Connor, a field representative for Rep. Tom Suozzi (D-Suffolk, Nassau, Queens) at the event, presented North Shore Towers with an American flag in honor of school gun violence victims.

Despite the recent string of school shootings, including last Friday's at Palmdale High School in California, gun rights advocates believe that gun control laws give too much power to the government, resulting in potential tyranny, a concern of the Founding Fathers.

But some in the private sector have taken action without any new law. In February, for example, Dick's Sporting Goods Chairman and CEO Edward Stack — son of the chain's founder, Dick Stack — announced that his stores would refrain from selling handguns to anyone under 21, and that all AR-15 rifles and high-capacity magazines will no longer be sold at the store.

"I'm not saying take guns away from everyone," said Councilman Barry Grodenchik (D-Oakland Gardens), who emphasized that law-abiding citizens should be able to exercise their Second Amendment rights responsibly.



# Guest Op-Ed

## Prepare Teens for Freelance Future



DICK RESCH

Almost two-thirds of children currently in elementary school will end up in jobs that don't exist yet.

That's why students need transferable, creative skills. Unfortunately, they're not developing them at school.

Hiring managers say current graduates lack critical thinking skills, aptitude with problem-solving and attention to detail. New workers are also short on communication and teamwork abilities.

Students can hone these skills when schools empower them to think like entrepreneurs by using their knowledge to figure out solutions to real-life problems.

For example, instead of memorizing the names of U.S. presidents, students might pick one president and create a campaign poster, speech, or advertisement to learn how to communicate a key message.

Freelance learning environments teach students how to think critically, collaborate and communicate – the abilities that hiring managers say they're missing.

When college students have application-based experiences, like long-term projects or internships, they're more likely to be engaged at work upon graduation.

Entrepreneurship gives people freedom over their work, which also improves well-being. One study of 11,000 graduates from the Wharton School of Business found that those running their own businesses were happier than graduates in other jobs, no matter how much money they made.

Some schools have embraced entrepreneurial learning. For instance, at the Portfolio School in New York City, teachers give students interdisciplinary projects centered on a theme. One course focuses on how to make ice cream machines.

In the process, students learn

history by studying how ice became commercialized; science by seeing how states of matter change at different temperatures; and math by measuring ingredients to make their own batches of ice cream.

Other schools enlist outside programs to bring entrepreneurial thinking into the classroom. The Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship partners with underserved schools in cities like Chicago, St. Louis, and Los Angeles to teach students how to build a virtual food truck business or create an app.

To teach students to be adaptable, schools must ensure that the environments in which they learn are adaptable, too – that they reflect the real world.

One idea that's taking hold is the "makerspace" –

a studio-like classroom designed so kids can learn by doing. A makerspace may allow students to work with drills, three-dimensional printers, sewing kits, or even a soldering iron.

The product engineers at the company I lead, KI, constantly collaborate with architects and designers on research into how the furniture within a classroom can support entrepreneurial learning.

In one case, our research team found that teachers were improvising makerspaces out of everything from storage bins to old couches.

No matter where the future of work takes us, entrepreneurial skills will never be obsolete. That's why they should be the foundation of what we teach our children.

Dick Resch is CEO of KI Furniture.

## Martin Van Buren senior's involvement could land her at a top medical school

A high school senior in Queens Village has a shot at attending one of the most prestigious medical programs in the world.

Summera Shah is involved in many activities at Martin Van Buren High School. She is the President of ARISTA, New York's National Honors Society, and the Vice President of the Student Organization (S.O.). Shah has one of the top three grade point averages in her class.

She is also a member of the 2018 Yearbook Committee and a contributor to the school newspaper. She volunteers in the school library, for teachers during lunch, and even is a member of a school organization that encourages volunteerism.

Shah strives to be a surgeon and pos-



sibly attend the Sophie Davis Medical program at City College, an accelerated 7-year program that gives students their B.S. and M.D. degrees two years early.

## Did You Know?

New York City Department of Transportation

Traffic Rules *Title 34 §4-08 (m) (1)*

**Wrong Way Parking Prohibited.**

Except where angle parking is authorized, every vehicle stopped, standing, or parked partly upon a roadway shall be so stopped, standing or parked parallel to the curb or edge of the roadway.

On a one-way roadway such vehicle shall be facing in the direction of authorized traffic movement; on a two-way roadway such vehicle shall be facing in the direction of authorized traffic movement on that portion of the roadway on which the vehicle rests.

**Stopping, Standing and Parking**

If there is more than one sign posted for the same area, the more restrictive one is the one in effect. If a sign is missing on a block, the remaining posted regulations are the ones that are in effect. Please check the entire block and read all signs carefully before you park.

***All of New York City is a designated Tow Away Zone under the State's Vehicle and Traffic Law. This means that any vehicle parked or operated illegally, or with missing or expired registration or inspection stickers, may be towed.***



## City Council considers resident-only parking

Queens leaders express mixed opinions toward proposed permits

Qchron.com., Thursday, May 3, 2018

By: Ariana Ortiz

A bill that would implement a citywide residential parking system is being met with some optimism, and a lot of questions.

The bill, introduced in the City Council on April 25 and whose prime sponsor is Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez (D-Manhattan), chairman of the Transportation Committee, would reserve up to 80 percent of street parking at certain times for residents of a community. Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside) is also a sponsor of the legislation.

"I have long been a supporter of residential parking permits and I am proud to co-sponsor this new legislation," Van Bramer said in a prepared statement. "Prioritizing parking for people who use this neighborhood as a parking lot on their commute to Manhattan over parking for residents is ridiculous. People who live here shouldn't have to park blocks away from their homes or spend an hour looking for a spot because spaces are occupied by people who have no connection to this neighborhood."

Residents would pay fees for the parking permits, though the bill does not say how much those would be.

Mayor de Blasio said the idea is "worth studying," though he is unsure if it would garner the needed approval from the state Legislature. The city tried to implement a similar program in Brooklyn near the Barclays Center years ago, but Albany lawmakers did not pass the needed legislation. A separate Council bill would implement the system in northern Manhattan.

"So, I grew up with it since — born here, but a lot of my upbringing was in Cambridge, Mass. that had them, and I could give you the case for them, but I also have to caution — this is the most complex environment for traffic anywhere," de Blasio said during an unrelated press conference. "But we'll look at the proposed legislation. We'll give it serious consideration."

Some Queens community leaders are expressing a similar level of caution toward the bill.

"Honestly, I mean I understand they do this on private roads in Kew Gardens, I see it, but I don't see how it'd be possible when you have multiple dwelling units," Community Board 9 Transportation Committee Chairman Kenichi Wilson said. "I think it would be the same thing, people would still be fighting for a parking space."

John Corlett, chairman of AAA's New York Legislative Committee, said "we're not really sure" if the bill is the solution to parking in New York City.

"I think the view from Albany is they cast a wary eye on these things. Restricting the ability of nonresidents to park is a concern for many state legislators," Corlett said. "Generally, we think the streets belong to the public as a whole, not residents in particular."

Peter Beadle, co-chairman of Transportation Alternative's Queens Committee and a member of Community Board 6, expressed concerns that the bill, if passed, would encourage people to keep their cars instead of moving them to different modes of transportation.

"It doesn't seem to be another tool to move us to a more rational way of structuring our traffic," he added. "It seems to be an appeasement to people who are unhappy with the status quo, but doesn't really do anything to solve the problem that there are too many cars on the street. We need to make sure people have other ways to get around, and I'm not sure this gets you there."

He did say, though, that he's "not necessarily against it."

"Some neighborhoods will need it, especially those near public transit. Overall my concern is, this doesn't advance the issue of making traffic better."

Community Board 5 District Manager Gary Giordano says he needs more specifics on the bill.

"My first question would be, what would people who currently have two or three cars do with their vehicles?" he said. "If each of us who have our own homes were granted the space in front of our home, what would happen to all the extra vehicles?"

Community Board 13 Chairman Clive Williams is unequivocally in support of the bill.

"As the bill is, I support it," he said. "The problem is with the state Legislature, it's in trouble ... The state is the fly in the ointment, the unknown in this. Hopefully community boards can bring a perspective that might influence the state Legislature."

"I know it's not a bad idea," Williams said, citing the success of similar systems in cities like Portland.

## Three dead, eight hurt in Queens Village fire

Three still critical at area hospitals; cause remains under investigation

Qchron.com., Thursday, May 3, 2018

By: Michael Gannon

Harleen Maggo already had gotten herself and others out of the family's burning house late Saturday night, when, according to published reports, she heard her trapped grandparents calling for help.

The 32-year-old mother of two ran back into the wood frame house at 93-20 211 St. in Queens Village. Firefighters would pull Maggo, Pyara Kainth, 87, and Ragvir Kaur-Kainth, 82, from the inferno. All three would be pronounced dead at area hospitals.

Police said eight others, including two boys, ages 18 months and 6 years, and an 8-year-old girl, were injured in the blaze, with three, including the little girl, still in critical condition Tuesday.

The three children are at Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow, LI. While their injuries have not been made public, the hospital does have one of the few burn units in the region. Multiple published reports state that Maggo's two children are expected to survive, but do not yet know that their mother is dead.

Others who were hurt were taken to Jamaica Hospital Medical Center, Long Island Jewish Medical Center and NYC Health + Hospitals/Queens.

The cause of the blaze remains under investigation by the New York City Fire Marshal's Office.

According to the FDNY, the first call came in at 11:52 p.m., with the first unit arriving at the house in under four minutes.

The fire went to three alarms with 33 units and more than 140 firefighters responding. It caused damage to both neighboring houses.

It also took place five days after the first anniversary of a fatal blaze at 112-16 208 St. in Queens Village that killed Destiny Dones, 20, Jada Foxworth and Melody Edwards, both 16, Maurice Rayshawn Matthews, 10, and Chayce Lipford, 2.

Published reports said many family members had gathered in town for a coming wedding.

"She didn't work; she stayed at home and cared for her grandparents," neighbor Doreen Ramauth told the Chronicle. She said Maggo's family, either immediate or extended, has lived on the street for most of the 32 years she has been in the neighborhood.

"They're good neighbors," she said. "When I'm going out to my car in the morning, they're the first people to say hello. ... We look out for each other in this neighborhood. If someone is sick for a long time, you can understand their passing. It's hard when it's someone so young."

Officers from the NYPD's 105th Precinct were still on-site as of Monday morning, with Maggo's home and the most seriously damaged neighboring house still sealed off with crime scene tape. Mattresses, clothes, furniture and other personal belongings still were strewn in the yard and on both sides of the house on Monday morning.

Maggo's Facebook page belonged to a proud wife and mother, with colorful photos of her husband, daughter and son on festive occasions or just seemingly because. There is a Feb. 1 posting marking the couple's anniversary; numerous ones of a young girl, her little brother or both; the children in summer play clothes this past July 4th; and the entire family bundled up in front of the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree this past December.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL GANNON

Fire marshals are still investigating the cause of Saturday night's blaze in Queens Village that killed a young mother and her grandparents. The FDNY said the cause of the fire remains under investigation.



**Be sure to check out the fire safety educational tips provided by the FDNY on their website at [nyc.gov/fdny](http://nyc.gov/fdny).**



## **June 2018 Civic Meetings**

### **Monday, June 4, 2018 — Spring-Jam Civic Association**

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

### **Tuesday, June 5, 2018 — Rocky Hill Civic Association**

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

### **Tuesday, June 5, 2018 — Wayanda Civic Association**

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

### **Wednesday, June 6, 2018 — North Bellerose Civic Association**

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

### **Thursday, June 7, 2018 — Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association**

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

### **Thursday, June 7, 2018 — Federated Blocks of Laurelton**

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

### **Thursday, June 7, 2018 — Spring- Gar Civic Association**

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

### **Thursday, June 7, 2018 — Springfield/ Rosedale Community Action Association**

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

### **Monday, June 11, 2018 — Creedmoor Civic Association**

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

### **Wednesday, June 13, 2018 — Lost Community Civic Association**

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

### **Thursday, June 14, 2018 — Cambria Heights Civic Association**

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

### **Thursday, June 14, 2018 — Queens Colony Civic Association**

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

### **Tuesday, June 19, 2018 — Queens Village Civic Association**

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

### **Tuesday, June 19, 2018 — Meadowmere/ Hook Creek**

37 West Avenue, Lawrence, NY 11559

### **Thursday. June 21, 2018 — Bellerose/ Hillside Civic Association**

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

### **Tuesday, June 26, 2018 — Rosedale Civic Association**

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

### **Wednesday, June 27, 2018 — 105 Precinct Community Council**

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

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

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

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## NATIONAL GRID NEEDS TO INSTALL SHUT OFF VALVES

*In the next few weeks, National Grid workers will be in your neighborhood to install devices on their natural gas system to allow first responders to quickly turn off gas service in the event of an emergency.*

*This work will be done at no charge to you.*

*In order to complete this work, National Grid will need access to the gas meter and service valve in your home as well as your gas appliances, including a clear space of at least four square feet near the meter. It will take between two to four hours to complete. Before they leave, National Grid will turn your gas service back on and relight your appliances.*

*The New York City Fire Department and Department of Buildings has mandated National Grid to make these service upgrades. If you do not allow access, they will be forced to interrupt gas service to your residence.*

*National Grid's first priority is the delivery of safe, reliable natural gas to you.*

*They would appreciate your cooperation.*

*Thank  
You*