LIC’s Baccalaureate best in state

U.S. News ranks Queens HS for Sciences, Townsend Harris among top eight

BY REBECCA HENELY

The Baccalaureate School for Global Education in Long Island City has been named the best high school in New York state by U.S. News & World Report.

The school, which has Grades 7 through 12, is at 34-12 36th Ave.

The magazine also ranked two other Queens schools in the top 10 for the state. Queens High School for the Sciences at York College, at 94-50 159th St. in Jamaica, was ranked seventh in New York and Townsend Harris High School, at 149-11 Melbourne Ave. in Flushing, was ranked eighth.

The three Queens schools came out ahead of the prestigious Stuyvesant High School in Manhattan, which was ranked ninth, and the Bronx High School of Science, which was ranked 10th.

U.S. News & World Report also ranked the Baccalaureate school No. 21 in the country. Queens High School for the Sciences at York College was ranked No. 52 in the national list of best high schools and Townsend Harris came in right after at No. 53.

The Long Island City school is part of the Swiss nonprofit educational foundation International Baccalaureate. The organization says its educational style is high-quality, spans multiple age groups so students can get a continuous education from the program, encourages international-mindedness and has a positive attitude toward learning.

Based on the Regents, Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate exams to earn college credit, the Baccalaureate School students were ranked as 100 percent proficient in both English and math and having a College Readiness index of 100.0, U.S. News & World Report said.

Continued on Page 20

West Nile Death

Francis Coppola Sr. (r.) holds up a picture of his deceased wife Maria on the porch of their College Point home alongside Coppola’s son, Francis Jr. See story on Page 4.

Photo by Christina Santucci

Continued on Page 20

Cheating hearts live in posh boro nabes

BY PHIL CORSO

Suspicious Queens spouses just had a heaping dose of fuel poured onto their dubious flames.

An online dating site has brought to the surface an unpopular consequence for some

Continued on Page 20

Monserrate admits to fraud

BY REBECCA HENELY

In the final nail in the coffin of a notorious political career, former state Sen. and City Councilman Hiram Monserrate pleaded guilty in Manhattan federal court Friday to funneling taxpayer dollars through a nonprofit to finance his 2006 Senate campaign, the U.S. attorney’s office in Manhattan said.

Monserrate, 44, who served as councilman from 2002-08 and senator from 2009 to early 2010, entered the guilty plea to the October 2010 charges of mail fraud and conspiracy to commit mail fraud before U.S. District Judge Colleen McMahon.

Monserrate’s sentencing is set for Sept. 14, the U.S. attorney said, and his charges carry a maximum of 20 years in prison each.

Continued on Page 20
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After treating hundreds of patients, the doctors have a great understanding of each condition and they know what protocols to include for successful treatment.
Jamaica art peaks curiosity

‘Humps and Bumps’ forces people to reflect on their environment

BY RICH BOCKMANN

A newly installed speed bump near the corner of Archer Avenue and 153rd Street has Jamaica commuters slowing down — with some even coming to a complete stop.

The bump behind the Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning is not designed to slow down motorists, though. The bench-like public art installation near the transit hub invites passersby to stop, take a load off and give their urban surroundings a second thought.

The work, entitled “Humps and Bumps,” was designed and created by a collective of five artists known as BroLab, and commissioned by the city Department of Transportation under its Urban Art initiative.

Heng-Gil Han, JCAL’s visual arts curator, said the functional sculpture takes the iconic, everyday image of a speed bump and reappropriates it in a way that forces the public to reflect on their urban surroundings.

“It talks about the transit system,” he said, noting how the curves of the yellow and black-striped piece mimic the contours on the roof of the nearby subway station. “It doesn’t look like their image of sculpture, and that’s the point. It shifts our preconceived notion of what art is and what it looks like.”

The piece — which is 8 by 10 feet and about 3 1/2 feet tall — is in the shape of a speed bump turned back against itself, creating sloping curves that invite worn-down passersby to relax. It is a wooden frame coated with rubber pellets normally used for playground surfaces.

After the sculpture was installed last week, people making their way to trains and buses had varied reactions. Some looked on curiously and others sat and talked on their phones. Some simply walked up and poked at it to investigate.

“I like those behaviors,” Han said. “It breaks down the distance between contemporary art and daily life.”

Kevin Lin, 15, stared at the sculpture perplexedly as he was waiting to catch a bus to Fresh Meadows.

“It looks like a chair,” he concluded, a bit unsure. Adam Brent, one of the BroLab artists, said the group met in 2009 at an artists-in-residency program at the Bronx Museum. Their first collaboration was a performance art piece for Art in Odd Places entitled “Pump 14,” in which 12 individuals carried buckets of water on yokes back and forth along 14th Street in Manhattan between the Hudson and East rivers.

“We walked roughly 26 miles each and carried 400-some-odd gallons of water,” he said. “It was delirious at one point. It was so exhausting and staggering. We worked in shifts and we were usually by ourselves. Walking like that was somewhat lonely and contemplative and meditative. I think that’s an underlying tone in all our projects.”

The performance was the first time Han had seen BroLab’s work.

“I thought it was nonsense,” he said with delight. “They were wasting so much energy! But I was quite interested in the project.”

Brent, 38, said the most gratifying thing about seeing the sculpture completed is seeing how it enhances its environment.

“It’s rewarding to see young people — I have a son — chilling and talking on their cell phones,” he said. “It makes the place much more functional, more celebratory.”

“Humps and Bumps” will be on display for the next 11 months.

Reach reporter Rich Bockmann by e-mail at rbockmann@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4574.

Register now for Forest Park foot race

The 19th annual Running of the Forest Park Classic Four Mile Road and Trail Race will take off May 20 at 10 a.m., rain or shine.

Registration is open and early bird rates apply until May 14. The early registration fee is $15; the race day fee is $20.

Runners will begin at Victory Field in Forest Park and run 2 miles of trails and 2 miles on a roadway through the park.

Awards and trophies will be given. First place for men and women will get $100; second place will receive $75 and third place will receive $50.

Refreshments will be available for all runners.

Register online or print out an application form at forestparkrunners.org.

Proceeds from the race will benefit the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in its fight against pediatric cancer.

Jamaica Ball project to benefit nonprofits

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Don’t just party — party with a purpose.

That is the message Greg Mays, founder of A Better Jamaica, wants to send with the inaugural Jamaica Ball, a chance for community members to show their support for the nonprofits serving the greater Jamaica area as they eat, dance and party the night away.

More than 10 local nonprofits — such as the artist advocate Cultural Collaborative Jamaica and the Southern Queens Park Association — have signed up for the May 19 mixer at the Jamaica Performing Arts Center, at 161-04 Jamaica Ave. A full 90 percent of every $50 ticket, which can be purchased at thejamaicaball.com, will be donated to the organization of the buyer’s choice.

“I’ve been on enough boards of directors and enough spring benefits and anniversary celebrations to know that there aren’t enough friends of my organization to purchase the number of tickets needed for a big celebration,” Mays said.

“So I thought, ‘What can I do as part of my group’s mission to support the work of other nonprofits in Jamaica?’ And then I was like, ‘Oh, wow! Why don’t I just sort of pull all these folks together and have a joint fund-raiser?’ And that’s the Jamaica Ball,” he said.

Due to the size of the performing arts center, there is a 250-ticket limit, but Mays said if the event is a success, he would like to be able to host upwards of 1,500 attendees in a few years.

“Quite honestly, I hope to grow out of the venue,” he said.

The party is sponsored by the stalwart Greater Jamaica Development Corp., and Mays was able to secure corporate funding from JetBlue, a feat he said is no easy achievement in southeast Queens.

Coming up on its fifth anniversary, A Better Jamaica’s programming includes its Family Movies in the Parks series. Mays said similar events, such as Bryant Park’s summer film series in Manhattan, easily attract large corporate sponsors, which often overlook the Jamaica area.

The Long Island City-based JetBlue, he said, was eager to jump on board with the ball, which is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. and run until 1 a.m.

“I’m particularly happy with JetBlue’s support,” he said. “They’re a Queens-based company and I think that allowed them to see more value and opportunity.”

This summer’s series will screen movies in Cambria, Brookville, Baisley Pond and St. Albans parks. More information can be found at abetterjamaica.
West Nile Virus claims life of Queens mother

BY JOE ANUTA

A College Point family lost their mother to complications stemming from West Nile virus, and they point to standing pools of water and unkempt foliage across the street as the culprit.

Francis Coppola said his mother Maria died March 31 after suffering from an illness related to the West Nile virus for nearly seven months.

“We had such high hopes she was recovering,” Coppola said of his mother, who was 70 years old. “She was like the backbone of our family.”

His mother contracted the virus in September, according to Coppola, and was shuffled around to four different hospitals in the area before she died at New York Hospital Queens.

His mother grew up in Naples, Italy, and came to America after she married Coppola’s father, also named Francis. She came to New York and settled in College Point, working at a clothing factory in Manhattan before running the family restaurant, Coppola’s Pizza, near the corner of 14th Avenue and 132nd Street in College Point.

The city Department of Health confirmed her death and said it is looking into the causes.

“The Health Department is investigating reports of a Queens woman who died from complications of West Nile Virus,” a spokeswoman said. “The department treated all catch basins in College Point three times last year. Aerial larviciding was also conducted three times last season.”

West Nile can take two forms, the first being a typically nonfatal fever, but the virus can also cause fatal complications, including encephalitis and meningitis, which are referred to as neuro-invasive forms of the virus.

The Coppolas said they have complained about standing pools of water across from their mother’s home and unkempt weeds on the property of nearby businesses. They are planning legal action against the businesses there and the city for not responding to their complaints.

College Point is a known haven for mosquitoes carrying West Nile Virus, which is disproportionately fatal to the young and old. In 1999, it was the site of the first known case of the disease in the United States.

Last year, the department reported College Point as just one of two areas where the virus was detected in its last survey covering Aug. 28 to Sept. 16, according to department statistics.

In Queens last year, there were five confirmed cases of West Nile Virus, although a report issued by the Health Department said legions of cases go unreported.

In November, another Queens resident in Whitestone died from complications related to West Nile Virus, according to Coppola, who is organizing a group to bring awareness to the disease and is planning to speak at an upcoming Community Board 7 meeting.

The department outlined a plan to monitor and control the promulgation of mosquitoes infected with West Nile, emphasizing the importance of prevention by eliminating standing water and killing unhatched larvae with pesticide sprays.

But according to a lawmaker who toured the site across from Maria Coppola’s home and another down the street, the city is not taking standing water complaints seriously enough.

“The city has to take a more aggressive approach to West Nile,” said state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside), who said complaints by neighbors often never get past the initial stage of issuing a warning letter to the offending property owner.

Reach reporter Joe Anuta by e-mail at januta@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4566.
DMV’s computer system finds fraud has many faces

BY JOE ANUTA

A man named Chieu Nguyen walked into the College Point state Department of Motor Vehicles office March 27 and applied for a learner’s permit using forged documents purchased in the Bronx, according to a criminal complaint from the Queens district attorney’s office.

An inspector noticed the fake Social Security and green cards presented by Nguyen, and the 33-year-old man from Vietnam was arrested, charged with using forged documents, and eventually handed over to immigration officials, but many more cases in New York state go unnoticed by DMV inspectors.

Instead of relying on humans to spot fakes, the department has rolled out a new computer program that can see past even the most convincing forgeries.

“We’re really impressed with the results we’ve gotten from this,” said Owen McShane, who made a presentation to members of the community and Community Board 7 at a meeting earlier this year.

Thousands of New York residents create multiple identities which they can use to circumvent restrictions of their driving licenses or collect entitlement benefits, like welfare and Social Security, according to McShane.

A year after its inception in February 2010, the system had already caught 150 cases of identity theft, 5,500 people with multiple identities. Photo by Christina Santucci

In some cases, the program caught people taking advantage of the entitlement systems in New York state and beyond.

Last year officers wanted to arrest a woman who used five different identities to collect more than $500,000 in state and federal benefits over a four-year period — they had to wait until she returned from vacation in the Bahamas to slap cuffs on her.

The program has also been able to catch other foreign nationals who fell through the cracks of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, including immigrants who have been deported for violent felonies and re-entered the country under a false name, trying to get a New York license.

A computer program used by the state Department of Motor Vehicles has been catching many New York residents applying for multiple identities.

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Aqueduct top bosses fired

NYRA honchos removed after illegally withholding winnings

BY STEVE MOSCO

The New York Racing Association, which oversees the racetrack at Aqueduct, said Friday it fired two top executives after a state report revealed they illegally withheld $8.5 million in bettor winnings.

Charles Hayward, NYRA’s president and chief executive officer, and Patrick Kehoe, the association’s general counsel, were first placed on administrative leave without pay after the two “failed to perform their duties,” according to a statement by NYRA.

Days later, their full dismissal was made official Friday.

The state Racing and Wagering Board released a report April 29 indicating that NYRA withheld more money than what is legally allowed at Aqueduct, Belmont and Saratoga racetracks. The board oversees NYRA’s operations.

According to the report, NYRA charged bettors an extra percentage of money beyond the legal limit. NYRA’s problems did not end with two top executives getting the boot.

“NYRA takes the matters identified by the Franchise Oversight Board and the New York State Racing and Wagering Board extremely seriously,” Duncker said. “NYRA will take all appropriate steps and actions to cooperate with the state’s inquiries and insure the integrity of our operations. NYRA has worked diligently over the past number of years to improve the racing and agricultural industries in New York state and enhance its participation in the national status as an industry leader, and we will continue with that commitment.”

In response, Hayward said he was “extremely disappointed” with the board’s action and claimed that the report and the investigation were “flawed and admitted incomplete.”

“The interim report badly misinterprets documents and was prepared without interviewing me or any other individuals relevant to their investigation,” he said. “I have been fully cooperating and will continue to fully cooperate with the NYRA board. I look forward to the Racing and Wagering Board and the New York inspector general completing their investigations as expeditiously as possible. I expect to be fully exonerated when all of the facts come out.”

But NYRA’s problems do not end with two top executives getting the boot.

On Monday, Gov. Andrew Cuomo called into question the association’s history and said legislative action is being considered.

Nyra said he is considering legislative reform to NYRA, which has come under fire most recently for a rash of horse deaths at Aqueduct.

“It seems like there is a never-ending list of problems at NYRA,” Cuomo said in a radio address.

“We take this matter seriously and are pleased that the Racing and Wagering Board is investigating the association’s history,” said Alan Malonado, NYRA’s chief financial officer. “We look forward to the Racing and Wagering Board and the New York inspector general completing their investigations as expeditiously as possible.”

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The Annual Scott Joplin Memorial Concert at St. Michael's Cemetery will be held this year on May 19 at 2 p.m.

Refreshments provided by Gus Antonopoulos of Farenga Funeral Home, George Stamatiades of Thomas M. Quinn & Sons Funeral Home and David Funeral Home, Drago Funeral Home and John Golden of Martin Gleason Funeral Home.

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Established in 2000
Famed dance institute holds tryouts for kids in Queens

School of American Ballet auditions borough boys and girls in Astoria for fall enrollment

BY STEVE MOSCO

Hundreds of pint-sized dance hopefuls bounded into Astoria for a free audition with the School of American Ballet at the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts Sunday.

Children packed into the lobby, at 35-12 35th Ave., and were assigned numbers and placed in groups. Smiling and laughing, the youngsters danced, twirled and left the worrying to mom and dad.

“There are some nerves, but they seem like they’re having a lot of fun with this,” said Becca Retter, who brought her daughters Liza, 10, and Bella, 7, from their home in Rego Park.

Retter and her husband Thommie are both dancers as well, and they know that placing too much pressure on young minds can do more harm than good.

“We’re giving them as many classes and opportunities as we can without pushing them so they don’t get burned out,” she said.

The auditions, held by the School of American Ballet, were a great opportunity for those who attended. Professional dancers from SAB were on hand looking for young girls and boys with a passion for focused ballet dancing — and those selected would have a chance to enroll at the famed dance school this fall.

And getting into the school is just the beginning: New York-area children enrolled at SAB are featured annually in the New York City Ballet’s production of “The Nutcracker.”

After they were assigned their numbers, the children were taken upstairs — while the parents stayed behind — in groups of close to 40, where they met Garielle Whittle and Katrina Killian, former dancers with New York City Ballet.

The instructors called up each child individually, examining posture, flexibility and discipline.

“Every child is different, with different skill sets,” said Whittle. “It’s important to judge each one on an individual basis.”

One of those children, 6-year-old Maria Kiforuk jumped as her name was called and skipped up toward the two instructors. Maria’s mother, Liliya, had snuck upstairs to the studio moments before her daughter’s name was called. With a combination of stealth and perfect timing, Liliya was able to watch her daughter bend and flex for the instructors.

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“My heart is really going at it,” said Liliya Kiforuk. “I’m so nervous, I can hardly breath.”

Reach reporter Steve Mosco by e-mail at smosco@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4546.
Rosen gets three years for bribing lawmakers

BY STEVE MOSCO

A federal judge sentenced a former Queens hospital executive Monday to three years in prison for bribing three state legislators in exchange for lobbying on his institution’s behalf.

As his visibly upset family looked on in Manhattan federal court, David Rosen, former chief executive officer of MediSys Health Network — owner of Jamaica Hospital, Flushing Hospital and Brookdale Hospital — will begin to serve his term Aug. 8, pending an appeal.

Rosen, 64, had been convicted of bribing state Sen. Carl Kruger and state Assemblymen William Boyland Jr., both of Brooklyn, and Queens Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio with hundreds of thousands of dollars in a non-jury trial.

Rosen faced up to 70 years in prison and a $250,000 fine for the bribery scheme, but even the reduced sentence he received drew tears from his family members.

“He made this a government not of the people, but of the debauched,” said Manhattan Federal Judge Jed Rakoff as he imposed Rosen’s sentence.

According to the U.S. attorney in Manhattan, Rosen’s illegal actions included more than $400,000 in payments made to Seminerio through a sham consulting company; a no-show job given to Boyland between 2003 and 2008 that paid close to $35,000; and an attempt to bribe Kruger by steering Brookdale to do business with Compassionate Care Hospice, a concern in which Kruger had an interest.

Rosen’s lawyer, Elkan Abramowitz, contended that the hospital executive acted in the best interest of his community and asked that the judge sentence him to community service in lieu of a jail sentence.

Abramowitz said Rosen did everything he could to keep his hospitals open and serving his community. Three Queens hospitals — Parkway, Mary Immaculate and St. John’s — shut their doors between late 2008 and early 2009.

“He [Rosen] didn’t ask officials to steal anything for him. He did not ask them ever — ever to abuse their discretion for him,” said Abramowitz. “David Rosen stands before you having lost his job. He lost his career. He lost his reputation. He lost $3 million in severance. He lost everything.”

During his statements to the judge, Rosen, 64, said he was proud of his 40 years of service to populations in need, specifically those surrounding Jamaica Hospital.

“I took every opportunity to avail myself to improve the care of the largely indigent community around Jamaica Hospital. I tried to rally officials in Albany, but often found myself standing alone,” he said. “I tried with relentless persistence to rally other health care professionals and officials to recognize the plight of the safety net hospitals.”

The judge did laud Rosen’s character and noted that there should be no doubt the former hospital executive’s actions helped to strengthen health care in lower-income neighborhoods.

“There is no doubt Mr. Rosen is a good man in many respects,” said Rakoff. “There is no doubt the people of New York have benefited by his efforts to enhance health care in impoverished communities.”

But the judge said he could not overlook Rosen’s disregard for the law.

“The glaring and rather tawdry truth is Mr. Rosen knowingly and intentionally bribed one legi-
The Federal Aviation Administration has given a final approval for the RKO Keith’s Theatre project that would rise at the corner of Main Street and Northern Boulevard.

By Joe Anuta

The Federal Aviation Administration cleared plans to build a 16-story, mixed-use building around the landmarked lobby of the RKO Keith’s Theatre in downtown Flushing last week.

The project had been held up by concerns that it might have interfered with planes approaching LaGuardia Airport.

The green light from the FAA marks the end of a long application process for Patrick Thompson, the developer of the project.

He originally received confirmation from the city Board of Standards and Appeals to go ahead with the redevelopment last summer. The 162-foot structure would incorporate the beloved and landmarked RKO Keith’s Theatre lobby into the design, which also includes plans for 357 residential units and 8,000 square feet of retail space.

But on Sept. 23, the FAA issued Thompson’s lawyer, Howard Goldman, a letter saying the structure might interfere with the airport’s safe operation and that an investigation was needed.

Initially, that investigation was completed in December, but was not made final after a Virginia man filed an objection challenging the decision.

At the 11th hour Christian Kellberg, who has since testified at Community Board 7 about the dangers of having the building in the flight path of LaGuardia Airport, submitted a packet containing several reasons why he believed the project should have been disapproved.

It took the FAA several months, but on April 30 the agency sent Kellberg a letter alerting him that his objections have been overruled, which was a relief to developer Patrick Thompson.

“I am now free to finalize and complete the financing with the current partners and banks, and will begin constructing in the very near future,” Thompson said in a statement.

The FAA’s approval is valid until Oct. 30, 2013, which means Thompson must begin construction by then or go through the approval process all over again.

Recently, he put up a set of blue scaffolding along the front face to protect any pedestrians from crumbling pieces of the outer walls, according to a spokesman for Thompson.

But before any real work can be done, the developer and his team will need to submit new plans and permits to the city Department of Buildings to start tearing down the structure while preserving the lobby.
Community rallies to save Dutch cemetery

BY STEVE MOSCO

The remains of some of the earliest settlers in Queens rest in an empty lot in Fresh Meadows — and residents are trying to keep it that way.

Residents, elected officials and civic leaders rallied in front of the Brinckerhoff Cemetery, on 182nd Street and 73rd Avenue, to call on the city to declare landmark status for the historic burial ground.

“We are making this appeal on behalf of the residents of our neighborhood to retain the portion of our city’s past while maintaining the character of our community and our quality of life — instead of giving in to developers with profit motives,” said James Gallagher, president of the Fresh Meadows Homeowners Civic Association.

The cemetery, long since overgrown, was a private plot used by the Brinckerhoff family — considered some of the earliest settlers of Queens — between the 1730s and 1890s. Close to 80 bodies are believed to be buried at the site.

The city Landmarks Preservation Commission was scheduled to hold a hearing about the property Tuesday, when the commission will consider whether or not to landmark the site.

History and preservation advocates have been trying to secure landmark protection for the property for more than a dozen years, ever since former owner Ralph DeDomenico, of Florida, first began looking to develop the property for two houses, according to the civic organization.

His father, Joseph, purchased the property from the city in the 1950s after it had been seized for tax debts. The DeDomenico family sold the property to Ledan Cai for $105,000 in 2000.

Cai could not be reached for comment.

Advocates for the cemetery said the site should be valued for its historical significance and restored so it can be used for educational purposes. State Sen. Toby Stavisky (D-Whitestone), a former schoolteacher, said the site is an invaluable resource for area schoolchildren.

“We can instill a sense of history in our young people so they can understand a little bit about their past,” she said. “This is not an abandoned property, this is a cemetery and it should be treated like one.”

Also on hand at the rally were City Council members Elizabeth Crowley (D-Middle Village) and Jim Gennaro (D-Fresh Meadows), as well as state Assembly members Grace Meng (D-Flushing) and Rory Lancman (D-Hillcrest).

Gennaro said the city has an obligation to preserve the past and respect those who inhabited Queens in the early days before development.

“There is a sacred obligation. There are people buried here and it’s really not much more complicated than that,” he said. “This site should never be developed.”

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Representative from city agency cites spike in complaints from gentrifying western part of boro

BY JOE ANUTA

Hipsters who are moving into the neighborhoods of western Queens are pulling inspectors from the city Department of Buildings away from their usual hot spots in the eastern part of the borough, according to the department.

At a recent meeting hosted by Community Board 7, which encompasses the neighborhoods of Flushing, Whitestone, College Point, Bay Terrace, Queensboro Hill, Auburndale and Murray Hill, community liaison Anthony Iuliano said the board typically has one of the highest numbers of monthly complaints in the borough, which is not surprising.

Typically, the bulk of complaints about anything having to do with broken or decrepit buildings has been focused in eastern Queens, Iuliano said — that is, until the demographics in neighborhoods like Long Island City, Astoria and Jackson Heights began to change, he added.

“There is a trend in western Queens. Where there aren’t relatively many complaints that come through the 311 system, we’ve seen every community board start to spike,” he said at a recent meeting.

Iuliano wrestled with how exactly to describe the spike before attributing it to hipsters, whom he said were “more active in the community, observe things more in the community and call in complaints.”

The word “hipster” is often associated with gentrification movements that have transformed neighborhoods around the city, bringing service industry amenities, including restaurants and bars along with them, and edging out traditional inhabitants or taking over areas once used for manufacturing.

In this case, Iuliano decided on the term after clarifying that The New York Times had used it first.

Specifically, he was referring to the changing populations of western neighborhoods, especially Long Island City, which even Mayor Michael Bloomberg hopes will become a new business hub with the construction of new condos, office buildings and the addition of anchor businesses like JetBlue and Citi Group.

So far this year, community boards representing Long Island City, Astoria, Sunnyside, Woodside, Jackson Heights and parts of Elmhurst and Corona had a total of 449 complaints in January, 430 in February and 597 in March, according to a complaint database kept by DOB.

Community boards representing Flushing, Whitestone, Bayside, Glen Oaks and other eastern Queens neighborhoods filed a total of 556 complaints in January, 407 in February and 604 in March.

The gap between complaints has narrowed between March of this year and last, when the western boards logged 595 complaints compared to the east’s 677, although many months saw sporadic spikes in the numbers.

The DOB has less than five full-time inspectors for the entire borough of Queens, according to a lawmaker on the City Council Committee on Land use, although the department has at least 20 to 30 part-time inspectors. That means the most active boards, which along with CB 7 includes the greater Jamaica board of CB 12, will have to make due with less manpower.

“Now we’re going to have to share a little bit more, so we’ll have to see how that works out,” he said.
Senior center to lead Jax Hts Pride Parade

BY REBECCA HENELY

City Councilman Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights), who announced the marshals of the 2012 Queens Pride Parade Monday, looked back on how far the parade and the state had come since its inception 20 years ago.

“I was a young man when I started it,” Dromm said, “and I can’t believe 20 years have passed and so much has changed.”

The Queens Pride Parade and Multicultural Festival in Jackson Heights — an extravaganza that includes floats, elaborate costumes and LGBT groups from the borough and beyond — will be held Sunday, June 3, at noon.

The parade runs along 37th Avenue beginning at 84th Street and ending at 75th Street, the site of a festival which will run from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Some 40,000 to 60,000 people attend every year.

Dromm, who is openly gay, is one of the co-founders of the parade.

Marshals this year include the newly named Queens Center for Gay Seniors, at 74-09 37th Ave., Suite 409, in Jackson Heights, formerly known as Senior Action in a Gay Environment, and the family of Julio Rivera, whose 1990 murder in Jackson Heights inspired the parade.

Chris Calvert, who chairs the parade committee with Hank Krumholz, said this year’s theme is “Generations of Pride” and will feature both the senior LGBT community as well as student organizations, bringing together the past fighting discrimination and the present day. The 2012 parade will be the first held since New York legalized same-sex marriage last year.

“There’s been a lot of accomplishment, but very easily things can go backward,” Calvert cautioned.

John Nagel, president of the senior center, said the organization has been in operation as part of the Queens Community House since 1986. He described it as a place for LGBT seniors to feel safe and supported by members of their community.

“We’re really happy we’re going to be part of the Queens Pride Parade to promote LGBT seniors not only in Jackson Heights but in all of Queens,” Nagel said.

Rita Barakos, Rivera’s stepsister, came to the Monday announcement as a representative for the family.

“I’m very proud and I’m very happy about the parade because it keeps Julio’s memory alive,” she said.


“Even from those dark, ugly moments, rays of sunlight have come through,” Crowley said.

More information about the parade and festival can be found at queenspride.org.

Reach reporter Rebecca Henely by e-mail at rhenely@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4564.
Gianaris urges Koch Bridge check after 4th crash

BY REBECCA HENELY

State Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Astoria) said he is asking the city Department of Transportation to do another comprehensive review of the Ed Koch-Queensborough Bridge off-ramps after a fourth car accident took place near the bridge last week.

“I think the DOT has not done enough to fix the traffic pattern there,” Gianaris said.

In an echo of three accidents last year, a car coming off the exit ramp of the Queensborough Bridge May 1 lost control on the off-ramp on Queens Plaza South near Crescent Street in Long Island City, Gianaris said.

While there were no injuries and the driver declined medical attention, the senator called the incident “frightening” in his letter last Thursday to Queens DOT Commissioner Maura McCarthy.

Three cars got into accidents at the intersection in 2011, and two of those crashes resulted in casualties. On March 28, 2011 at around 4 a.m., Grant Riddell lost control of his Volkswagen while driving on the off-ramp and traveled onto the sidewalk, killing pedestrian Anthony Buscemi and destroying two stores.

Riddell, who lost his arm in the accident, is now facing two charges of vehicular assault, vehicular manslaughter, operating a vehicle under alcohol or drugs and aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, the Queens district attorney’s office said. His next court date is June 13, the DA said.

Nine days after Riddell’s accident on April 6, 2011, at around 4 a.m., Alexander Palacio lost control of his Volkswagen and hit the same stores. Palacio also lost his arm in the accident and was later charged with driving without a valid license. His passenger, Beatriz Rodriguez, died due to injuries sustained in the crash.

In May 2011, another Volkswagen driver lost control coming down the off-ramp. While concrete barriers that had recently been erected prevented the car from smashing into the stores, the Volkswagen hit the barriers and a livery cab.

Both Palacio and the owners of the stores have sued the city as a result of the crash.

Gianaris said while some of the drivers were allegedly speeding, the DOT must still ensure the ramps are as safe as possible.

“Finger-pointing does not make people safer,” he said.

Reach reporter Rebecca Henely by e-mail at rhenely@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4564.
Grads and Friends of New York City College of Technology/CUNY Honor the Special Women in Their Lives!

Mary A. Ago
Thank you for being an inspiration to my family and me physically and spiritually. – Love Mercy

Kate Falvey
A woman of excellence, great mom & professor. One of City Tech’s finest. The cream of the crop. Very modest and master of her craft. Happy Mother’s Day and thanks! – Maud White

Eleanor O’Brien
You are a special mom. – Love Precious

Cathy Price
You are a great friend and inspiration. – Alyce M. Johnson

Elena Roman
To a mom who fought against all odds for the sake of her children – and won! – All my love Jessica

Jessie Tunnell
In honor of my mom, the lovely rose of Sharon, Happy Mother’s Day! – Love, Sharon

Clothilda Augustus
Enjoy your blessed day. Love you. – Ken

Samuelle Giles
My high school teacher, THANK YOU for the support, friendship and mentoring you’ve given me from Lucy C. Laney High School to the present – Oliver Davis

Dorothy Craigwell
May this Mother’s Day bring you peace and joy. Stay strong woman! – Much love, Sarah

Giselle Duvivier
Bonne fête des mères! Je t’aimerai toujours! – Diana

Mary Harris
In Honor of The World’s Best Grandmother Ever. – Meleka Harris

Cheryl Pinnock
Mommy, thank you for always being my refuge from life’s inevitable storms. – Love, Ronald

Linda Stephan
In loving memory of a great mom. – Omayma

Mary M. Soffer
The best mother anyone could ask for. – Your loving and grateful son Steve

Giselle Thompson
Happy Mother’s Day, Aunt Giselle. – Joseph

Elayne Dobeh
You’re a rare gem! Keep sparkling! All my love this Mother’s Day, Zsa Zsa! – Sarah

Fadwa Khoury
I love and miss you so much. You will be in my heart forever. – Your loving daughter Norma

Dorothy Simmonds
Even though you are gone from me, you remain in my heart. – Gary

Aileene Tjompson
To the best mom ever, Happy Mother’s Day. – Joseph

Jewel Flowers Escobar
To the best mom in the world. Thanks for everything. We love you. – Richard and Ra’Nell

There exists no better wife, mother or grandmother. I love you! – Andy

Jacqueline Flowers Maisey
A great sister and friend. Happy Mother’s Day Jake. – Jewel, Mickey & Conrad

Irene Pollard
You are loved XO, XO, XO! – Ken

Lucille Taylor
Mother of all mothers, very compassionate, giving and caring. She embodies all the great qualities of what a mother ought to be. Lucille is the best peach cobbler maker ever. Happy Mother’s Day and thanks. – Maud White

Merry, Outstanding, Thoughtful, Helpful, Energetic, Respectful. These words describe my mother. We all love you! – Nereda

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Several dozen young dancers audition for the School of American Ballet during tryouts at the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts in Astoria Sunday. (Clockwise from top l.) a girl’s flexibility is tested; Ashton (l.) and Alexus Lee of Elmhurst wait their turn; Fresh Meadows resident Elizabeth Tang stretches; Rachel Aquino, 6, of Forest Hills twirls across the floor; full-time faculty members Garielle Whittle (c.) and Katrina Killian examine Flushing resident Emilie Cantante, 6; Miosori Polanco, 9, of Jamaica points her toes; Demitrios Retzios of Astoria helps his daughter Antoula pin on her number; and instructors bend back the toes of one participant.

Photos by Christina Santucci

Hopeful ballerinas audition for school
Bishop Reilly High School grads to reunite after 41 years

Research committee hopes to draw hundreds of former classmates to June picnic at Citi Field

BY PHIL CORSO

A committee of seven has been tasked with finding nearly 450 graduates of a Fresh Meadows high school that no longer exists. Members of the Bishop Reilly High School class of 1971 have organized a reunion set for early next month with hopes of bringing everyone together again.

“It’s always great to see your old classmates and what becomes of them,” said John Peiser, an organizer of the 41st reunion. “It’s an amazing thing. You find that you immediately reconnect and it’s as if you had been talking to each other yesterday.”

The Bishop Reilly High School once thrived where St. Francis Preparatory School now stands, at 61-00 Francis Lewis Blvd. Only eight years after it opened, the Diocese of Brooklyn sold Bishop Reilly HS in the late 1970s, making it difficult for graduates to find old classmate for reunions.

But that is not stopping Peiser and his classmates from organizing this year’s 41st-year high school reunion.

The class will gather at a combination picnic and New York Mets baseball game June 2 at Citi Field in Flushing. The picnic is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. inside the Bullpen Plaza before the game’s 4:10 p.m. start. A full section in right field was reserved for the group, Peiser said.

Peiser said the group tried arranging a reunion last year to mark 40 years since graduation, but a date was never confirmed.

According to Peiser, the class also secured a donation from a classmate’s employer, Hugh O’Kane Electric, to defray expenses and provide tickets to graduates who had entered the religious life.

But the biggest task, Peiser said, has been finding and contacting his former classmates.

“We spent an entire weekend going through Google searches trying to find and local people,” Peiser said. “I’m really excited to bring it all together.”

Peiser said the class of 1971 organized a reunion in 1981 and it was much easier to find her classmates after 10 years.

“This is a pretty big undertaking,” she said. “We want to get as big a turnout as we can. I’d love to see at least 200 of our classmates, considering there were more than 450 graduates between the girls and boys.”

She said that though she has been a lifelong Mets fan, the reunion is what is important.

Classmates looking for more information on the reunion can visit bishopreillyhighschool1971reunion.vzwesites.com or call Peiser at 917-881-9930.

“It’s nice that after all these years we will still get together like it was yesterday,” Perillo Pennisi said. “Only this time, we won’t be wearing uniforms.”

Reach reporter Phil Corso by e-mail at pcorso@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4573

Hit-and-run driver in fatal crash gets 7 years

BY JOE ANUTA

The wrong-way driver who fled the state after causing the death of beloved Maspeth bar owner George Gibbons was sentenced to up to seven years in prison Monday, the Queens district attorney said.

Rodriguez, 37, kept his eyes trained on the floor of Queens Criminal Court while members of Gibbons’ family read victim impact statements aloud ahead of Judge Dorothy Chin-Brandt’s ruling, according to one family member.

“The day he was killed was my birthday,” Gibbons’ brother, Brendan recalled saying in court. “I will never forget, every year on my birthday, what Peter Rodriguez took from me.”

Rodriguez at one point said the death of Gibbons, who was killed at 6:30 a.m. Oct. 15, was an accident, according to Gibbons’ brother.

Rodriguez was speeding in a 2002 gray Chrysler Sebring the wrong way down the eastbound Long Island Expressway service road when he collided head-on with a Lincoln livery cab, according to the DA.

Gibbons, 37, was thrown against the dashboard and was later pronounced dead from trauma to the head, the DA said, while the livery cab driver suffered head and neck injuries.

Rodriguez and a passenger both fled the scene, but the passenger later returned and was treated for injuries, according to the DA.

Rodriguez, though, went on the lam, the DA said.

A month later, acting on an anonymous tip, the U.S. Marshals New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force arrested Rodriguez, who already had a lengthy rap sheet, in Connecticut. He was subsequently brought back to Queens.

The sentence will not bring George Gibbons back, his brother said, but the fact that Rodriguez will do time is a small comfort, he said.

Last month Rodriguez pleaded guilty to criminally negligent homicide and leaving the scene of an accident, the DA said.

The 3 1/2 to seven years was the maximum sentence allowed by law, but a group of Queens lawmakers want to change that.

City Council members Elizabeth Crowley (D-Middle Village) and Peter Vallone Jr. (D-Astoria) stood on the steps of the courthouse to call on the state Legislature to pass a bill that would increase the penalties for anyone who leaves the scene of an accident.

When motorists flee accidents, there is no way for police to determine if they were under the influence of alcohol or drugs, according to the bill.

It had been proposed once before and passed the state Senate last year, but died in the state Assembly earlier this year. It was not immediately clear what killed the bill.

But the legislation has been reintroduced and, according to the lawmakers could ensure negligent drivers are held responsible.

“Right now our system fails to adequately hold criminally negligent drivers accountable for their actions,” Crowley said in a statement. “I will continue to work with the Gibbons family and the Maspeth community to call on the state Assembly to pass and Gov. Cuomo to sign this important bill.”

Reach reporter Joe Anuta by e-mail at januta@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4566.
105th Pct. assigned 34 new cops to combat crime

BY RICH BOCKMANN

The NYPD has fulfilled a request by Deputy Inspector Joseph Courtesis for more boots on the ground to combat rising crime trends in the 105th Precinct, but the community’s wishes for a new precinct appear to have been looked over once again.

The 105th’s commanding officer had made a request for an impact zone, an area where the department deploys an increased number of new officers fresh out of the academy to fight concentrated crime. Thirty-four new officers were deployed to areas like Queens Village and Cambria Heights beginning April 20, and will remain under Courtesis’ command for an indeterminate amount of time.

The community has also long sought to have the 105th split in half, with a new precinct created in the southern section. The NYPD opened a satellite precinct house in Rosedale in 2007, and community members want it to be made into the new 116th Precinct.

Dan Andrews, spokesman for Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, said it was a “longstanding request due to response time and length of precinct.”

Marshall made it one of her budget priorities this year, but Mayor Michael Bloomberg did not include it in his preliminary fiscal year 2013 budget released last week.

The precinct, which stretches along the Queens-Nassau County border from Glen Oaks in the north to Springfield Gardens in the south, is experiencing an overall increase in major crimes of more than 15 percent over last year, with the largest spikes coming from robberies, felony assaults and grand larcenies.

Crime is up compared to last year in nearly every category for the week of April 23-29. The precinct experienced a 17 percent increase in robberies, a 16 percent increase in assaults and a 32 percent increase in auto theft, although the precinct saw an 11 percent decline in rapes.

Detective Javoda Cooper, with the precinct’s community affairs office, said the impact zone will be constantly evaluated and the officers will be deployed based on analyses of crime patterns.

“They are targeting robberies, burglaries and shooting locations, for example. Officers will be posted along Springfield and Francis Lewis boulevards to combat bus stop robberies,” she said. “The officers will also address quality-of-life conditions such as disorderly groups during school dismissals, house parties, graffiti, drinking and marijuana use. By addressing these conditions, more serious criminal activity may be prevented.”

Courtesis had previously said he believed impact zones in the adjacent 103rd and 113th precincts may have been displacing crime to the 105th.

Reach reporter Rich Bockmann by e-mail at rbockmann@cnnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4574.

Queens officials push bills at BSA reform hearing

BY JOE ANUTA

Two Queens lawmakers are sponsoring bills that would provide oversight over one of the most controversial government bodies in the city, and the public got to weigh in last month.

City Councilmen Dan Halloran (R-Whitestone) and Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside) both sponsored legislation that would provide oversight on decisions made by the city Board of Standards and Appeals, the agency that grants variances for developers to build projects outside of zoning laws.

“In our district, the agency is highly unpopular,” Halloran said. “Civic and the community board almost universally have a negative feeling toward the BSA.”

The board is an independent body made up of five mayoral appointees who have the final say in variance applications. BSA did not respond to a request for comment.

One of Halloran’s bills that would make the BSA process more palatable to communities around the city was discussed at an April 27 Council hearing.

The legislation would impose stiffer penalties on landowners who do not reapply for expired variances.

Some businesses like automotive service shops must reapply to the city, but it is not uncommon for them to go a decade without doing so, according to Halloran.

Variances are supposed to be granted to a landowner if it is impossible to build on the property without getting relief from the zoning laws. But that definition would draw scoffs from many civic organizations and community leaders around the borough.

When a developer or landowner now wants a variance, they present their plan to the local community board and then the board president. Both of them make recommendations on whether to approve or disapprove the plan ahead of the BSA, which is supposed to take the prior recommendations into account.

According to Alex Camarda from the nonprofit Citizens Union, that does not always happen in Queens. Camarda testified at the hearing along with civic leaders and presented statistics about the results of the board’s hearings.

The BSA approved 97 percent of the 105 applications it heard within the last year, according to Camarda, and the board disagreed with Queens community boards 32 percent of the time — the second highest rate in the city.

“Amplifying voices of the community in BSA decisions is needed, as shown by Citizens Union’s review of BSA decisions in the last year on variances, which we prepared in advance of today’s hearing,” he said.

Van Bramer had two bills that were discussed at the hearing, where members of the public waited hours to testify. The first would add another layer to the process of obtaining a variance by creating a community advisory board. The other would change how the BSA hears evidence at hearings by creating a standard operating procedure.

Queens civic leaders have long called for BSA reform, but Henry Euler, of the Auburndale Improvement Association, said the bills heard last week do not do enough.

“It is a step in the right direction, but they really need to go further,” he said. “There should be an appeals process in place that doesn’t involve having to file a lawsuit.”

Reach reporter Joe Anuta by e-mail at januta@cnnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4566.
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Source: Scarborough 2011 (1)
Schools

Continued from Page 1

By the same criteria, students of Queens High School for the Sciences at York College were ranked as being 100 percent proficient in math and 99 percent proficient in English, with a College Readiness index of 87.0, U.S. News & World Report said. Townsend Harris students were also ranked as 100 percent proficient in math and English, although the school’s College Readiness index came in at 86.8, U.S. News & World Report said.

Other Queens high schools that were ranked by the magazine among the top 100 in the state included: Academy of American Studies, at 28-01 41st Ave. in Long Island City, at No. 49; and Benjamin N. Cardozo High School, at 57-00 223rd St. in Bayside, at No. 83.

Reach reporter Rebecca Henely by e-mail at rhenely@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4564.

Monserrate

Continued from Page 1

The disgraced lawmaker admitted to using more than a third of discretionary funding he allocated to the Corona-based nonprofit Latino Initiative Development Inc. to pay employees to work on his failed 2006 Senate campaign against incumbent John Sabini, U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said.

“Today’s guilty plea drives home the message that an elected official who betrays the public trust will be held accountable,” city Department of Investigation Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said in a statement Friday.

LIBRE’s services included English classes, immigration assistance, job placement programs and health education services. Monserrate had been instrumental in selecting both its staff and board of directors. It shut down in 2008 after the city Department of Youth and Community Development began investigating it.

Monserrate made headlines around the city for a 2006 assault against his girlfriend, Karla Giraldo, which got him booted from the Senate in February 2010, but he was engaged in the fraudulent activity before the domestic incident that ended with Giraldo in the hospital with her face slashed.

After giving $300,000 in 2005 and 2006 to LIBRE, Monserrate used about $109,000 of the funds in 2006 to pay some LIBRE employees to work for his 2006 campaign and collect signatures for him to capture the Democratic Party’s nomination as well as to conduct a voter registration drive through LIBRE where he campaigned, the U.S. attorney said.

After registering the voters in 2006, Monserrate deliberately did not give the voter database to the state Board of Elections until the last minute, which gave his campaign an unfair advantage, the U.S. attorney said. “Monserrate took money out of the pockets of needy people to fund his own political career,” Bharara said in a statement.

“We will continue to pursue and prosecute elected officials who foolishly think that they can corruptly use public money for their own benefit.”

The former senator had previously employed high-powered defense attorney Joseph Tacopina, who had represented Monserrate during his assault trial, but eventually revealed he could not pay him, as Monserrate had only earned $26,000 from his pension as a former police officer and $3,000 through consulting in 2010.

Tacopina had tried to get the court to appoint him Monserrate’s attorney, but McMahon refused and appointed Manhattan attorney James Neuman instead.

Willets Point

Continued from Page 1

since the city could reopen another eminent domain bid.

“We won,” a jubilant Rikon said May 2.

The city confirmed May 2 that it had dropped its current court case, but said some sort of project was still moving ahead.

“We’re very close to having a deal in place that will transform Willets Point into New York City’s next great neighborhood and continue the historic progress we’ve already made there,” said Julie Wood, spokeswoman for Mayor Michael Bloomberg. “Today’s action ensures that our plan will comply with the site’s myriad technical and legal requirements.”

Reports in The Wall Street Journal indicated that the city altered its plan for the first phase of the project, a 12-acre strip across the street from Citi Field, to include more retail at the behest of Related Co. and Sterling Equities.

The exact nature of the plan could not be independently confirmed, but a source said Related Co. and Sterling Equities were selected to build a mall on the site. Related is headed by Manhattan developer Stephen Ross and Sterling by the Wilpons, who own the New York Mets and Citi Field across from Willets Point.

Rikon signed a document May 2 indicating that the city would be dropping its bid, he said, therefore putting the original project on hold unless property owners were to sell their land to the city so it could continue with the development.

But the stipulations in the document would not prevent the city from attempting to use eminent domain on the property in the future, Rikon said.

Rikon was set to contend in court this week that the city violated the rights of property owners by not providing Spanish language translators at a public hearing. He also argued that the $3 billion redevelopment was not a valid public use.

It was unclear at press time Tuesday evening exactly how the city would proceed with the development, but any new projects would require another public review process.

Spouses

Continued from Page 1

living in financially affluent areas, naming several spots within the borough as some of the most scandalous in the city.

Promiscuous online dating site ashleymadison.com released a survey naming areas like Forest Hills, Douglaston and Howard Beach as some of the most likely places to find swinging spouses.

The top five cheating ZIP codes included Great Neck, L.I., in first place; Park Slope, Brooklyn, in second; Manhattan’s Upper East Side in third; Forest Hills in fourth; and TribBeCa in Manhattan in fifth. New City in Rockland County ranked sixth, Douglaston seventh, Riverdale in the Bronx eighth, Howard Beach ninth and Garden City, L.I., 10th.

Noel Biderman, CEO of ashleymadison.com, told the New York Post about a trend that appeared to tie richer areas to more members on the site.

“There seems to be a disproportionate amount of cheating spouses in affluent areas and neighborhoods in New York,” Biderman told the Post.

According to Biderman, the infidelity-driven site compared government census data to the area codes of its members to calculate a percentage. Based on the survey, Great Neck led the pack with at least 3.02 percent of the town’s adult residents as paid members of the site.

Ashleymadison.com, whose slogan is “Life is short. Have an affair,” matches cheating spouses with one another so they might share in each other’s illicit behavior from its headquarters in Toronto. The site currently has more than 13 million subscribers worldwide with more than 500,000 New York users making up the roughly 9 million nationwide.

In an interview with the Post, Biderman said infidelity could occur across several different demographics and races, noting that commuters to New York City were especially prone to cheating because of wealth.

He said women were more likely to cheat as their success level grows and men were more prone to join the site when they have children.

The city has dropped its attempts to use eminent domain to acquire properties in the Iron Triangle.

Photo by Christina Santucci
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events, news, relevant articles, and resources in a family
friendly format. We strive to exceed the expectations of
inquisitive moms and dads, and of our valued clients,
vendors, colleagues, and employees.

Currently, New York Parenting Media is seeking a highly
motivated full-time Sales Representative to sell
advertising in our magazines and digital properties.

**Requirements:**
- Prior sales exp, (print & digital ad sales a plus)
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- The ability to develop new business and grow
  existing business
- Car and valid driver’s license required

Our office is located in downtown Brooklyn, but
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