HERE COMES THE BRIDGE

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

As Island residents and businesses prepare themselves for the three-year water-main and sewer replacement project, New York City agencies are preparing themselves for the replacement of the City Island bridge.

Members of the City Island Civic Association attended an all-agency meeting convened by the Department of Transportation (DOT) on March 3, 2005, at which Gandhi Engineering Inc. presented its plans for the new bridge. The schedule calls for construction of a temporary bridge to begin in October 2007 and for the new bridge to be completed in October 2010. The sewer project will not be completed before the spring of 2008, but according to DOT, the two projects will not pose a conflict.

The temporary bridge will be constructed south of the present bridge and is designed to withstand storms and heavy tides for at least three years, the term of the project. The temporary bridge, which will have three lanes, including a fire lane, will be accessed through parkland north of the bridge and will enter City Island through the Catherine Scott Memorial Park. After the new bridge is in place, the temporary bridge will be demolished, the parkland restored and the traffic redirected to its present location.

Kurt Gandhi, president of Gandhi Engineering, described the new bridge as 20 feet wider than the present bridge, to accommodate bicycles, pedestrians and shoulders in addition to three lanes of traffic, one lane designated as a fire lane. The extra width will allow for bridge maintenance in the future without interrupting the flow of traffic.

The bridge is a cable-stayed design, with a 50-meter tower supporting cables extending to parkland on the north side and to City Island on the south. This design will eliminate the need for supporting structures in the water, as there are now. There will be a 12-foot clearance above the high water mark. 4 feet more than there is now, according to the engineers. The temporary bridge will also allow for boat traffic during the construction period, except for short periods during demolition.

According to the DOT schedule, the temporary bridge will take 9 months to construct, the demolition and construction of the new bridge will take 21 months and the restoration of traffic patterns and of the parkland will take an additional 6 months.

Cox Edison and Verizon informed those in attendance at the meeting that they were prepared to run expanded conduits, a gas main and power lines under the bridge as the construction schedule permits. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will also make certain that the water mains running under the present bridge to City Island are protected and that the installation of two new 24-inch mains be coordinated with Gandhi.

Frank Fitts, president of the City Island Civic Association, brought up several issues of concern to residents and businesses, specifically traffic control, the storage of construction equipment, security issues regarding the tower, graffiti, water traffic during construction and demolition and the appearance of the new bridge. He made a special request that the tower not be lighted dramatically like the Throgs Neck Bridge and that no leases be given for cell-phone towers on the bridge. He also requested traffic agents to be on duty during the construction period and an electronic traffic sign in Pelham Bay Park to alert drivers to traffic conditions on City Island.

In response to questions about the appearance of the new bridge, Mr. Gandhi said that the schematic drawings were not final and that enhancements to the design would be resolved in due course by the New York City Art Commission. He assured Mr. Fitts that there would be community input at each stage of the planning and construction process and that City Island Avenue and the parkland would be restored to its original condition, including the replanting of mature trees.

COMMUNITY CENTER AND MUSEUM AT RISK?

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Unless Haim Joseph, the proprietor of 190 Fordham St. Realty Corp., pays back taxes on two units in the old Public School 17 building on Fordham Street, the City Island Historical Society/Nautical Museum and the City Island Community Center could be in danger of losing their spaces in the building.

When New York City sold the building to Mr. Joseph in 1988, the deed contained a restrictive covenant mandating that the units be limited to “not for profit, City Island-related, museum and community center uses,” and the developer was required to issue 99-year leases to each organization. According to the indentation agreement between Mr. Joseph and the city signed Feb. 11, 1988, “this covenant shall run with the land and be binding upon the Grantee, the Grantee’s successors and assigns and every successor in interest to the property conveyed hereby.”

In spite of this agreement, Mr. Joseph has not paid real-estate taxes on the two units since 2001, when the building was converted to condominiums, although it was clearly stated in the Condominium Offering Plan that “Sponsor or its designee will be solely responsible for the payment of all Common Charges and other costs and expenses relating to the Non-Residen-
BRIEFLY...

BRONX MASON’S CLOTHING DRIVE will be held on Saturday, April 16, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the City Island Masonic Temple, 241 City Island Avenue. All clothes donations received will go to St. Athanasius Church in the Bronx. Please separate clothes into individual bags for men, women and children. These clothes will go to needy recipients. For more information about this one-day event, call Scott Meyer at 885-0343.

THE BRONX BIATHLON will take place in Pelham Bay Park on Sunday, April 17, from 7 to 11 a.m. This event closes off traffic going north on Shore Road and on the Hutchinson River Parkway, so those who wish to travel to Westchester County that morning will be obliged to use I-95 or some other route.

PETE’S BAR CABARET! The City Island Theater Group proudly presents their spring musical “Cabaret!” Performance dates are April 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30 at 8 p.m. and April 24 at 3 p.m. All performances will be held at the Grace Episcopal Church Hall, 104 City Island Ave. Tickets are $12 for adults and $10 for students, seniors, and Bronx cultural cardholders. Call 718-885-3066 to reserve your tickets today.

AUTHOR KATHERINE KIRKPATRICK will participate in National Library Week at the New Rochelle Public Library on Saturday, April 9, at 2 p.m. in a program called “The Autobiography of P. T. Barnum.” For more information, call 718-885-9268.

COMMUNITY CENTER GARAGE SALE: On Sunday, May 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., there will be a Community Garage sale held indoors at the City Island Community Center at 190 City Island Avenue. Items for sale will be books, games, toys, household items, and other small objects. For more information, call Karen Rauhauser Nani at 885-0984.

SEWER REPLACEMENT MEETING: The April meeting of the Island Civic Association will be held on Tuesday, April 19, at 7 p.m. in the Copal Church Hall, 104 City Island Ave. This meeting will be devoted entirely to a public discussion of the forthcoming sewer replacement project. For more information, call 718-885-1461.

CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT AT LE REFUGE: On Saturday, April 30, at 4 p.m., a chamber music concert featuring works by Beethoven, Poulenc and others, will be performed at Le Refuge inn, 586 City Island Avenue. The performers will be Janine Robinson, piano; Amy Kempton, flute; Alan Hollander, oboe; Michael Caputo, clarinet; Brad de Milo, French horn; and Donna Munzel, bassoon. Admission is free. If you wish to make a post-concert dinner reservations, call 718-885-2478.

Great Flowering Shrub and Landscape Shrubbery is the subject of a lecture that Vincent Simone will give at the Barrow Hall Museum on Shore Road on Sunday, April 17, at 2 p.m. Mr. Simone is director of Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park in Oyster Bay, New York, and teaches at the New York Botanical Garden and SUNY Farmingdale. He is the author of a newly published book entitled “Great Flowering Shrubs for the Home Landscape.” He will discuss exciting new varieties of traditional shrubbery and how to select the proper plant based on aesthetic value, landscape function or cultural requirements. Admission $8 per person. For more information, call 718-885-1461.

COMMUNITY CENTER GARAGE SALE: On Sunday, May 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., there will be a Community Garage sale held indoors at the City Island Community Center located at 190 Fortham Street. Items to sell are your cars, knock knock and two note books can be reserved for $10 per table by leaving a message at 718-885-1145. A bake sale and raffle drawing will be held during the sale. For more information please call 718-885-1145.

THE ISLAND CURRENT subscription rates.

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CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS: Russell Sabler Sr., Stephanie Ribaudo, Melissa Koller, Marge McNulty, Lorraine Neckett. Mosthead and special art by the late Theodore J. Mazaki.

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MTA TO TAKE OVER NEW YORK BUS SERVICE
BY BILL STUTTIG

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and New York Bus Service (NYBS) recently announced that they have finally reached an agreement in principle to transfer control of the express bus service to the MTA.

For more than 30 years, NYBS has served City Island and other communities of the east Bronx with reliable, bus transportation directly to Manhattan, serving more than 10,000 riders in the Bronx every day. Two buses are provided to take City Island residents to Manhattan each weekday morning and back to City Island from Manhattan late in the afternoon.

Many Island residents also take advantage of the reliable, comfortable service to and from Manhattan from transfer points in nearby Bronx communities, such as Pelham Bay and Co-op City. The service operates seven days a week and nearly 18 hours a day.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who first proposed an MTA takeover of the city’s seven privately operated express bus lines in December of 2002, set several deadlines in January. The MTA had agreed in February. Those two dates were January 28, 2005, and February 22, 2005.

For more than 30 years, NYBS has provided an excellent commuter service for Island residents to Manhattan each weekday morning and back to City Island from Manhattan late in the afternoon. Two buses are provided to take City Island residents to Manhattan from transfer points in nearby Bronx communities, such as Pelham Bay and Co-op City. The service operates seven days a week and nearly 18 hours a day from these nearby communities.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who first proposed an MTA takeover of the city’s seven privately operated express bus lines in December of 2002, set several deadlines in January. The MTA had agreed in February. Those two dates were January 28, 2005, and February 22, 2005.

In announcing that the two sides have reached an agreement in principle, Mayor Bloomberg said, “I am very pleased that we have finally reached an agreement with New York Bus Service. This is an important step toward completion of the transfer to the MTA of the franchise bus lines.”

Mr. Bloomberg also announced that NYBS would continue to operate the bus routes until the final details of the transfer of control are worked out, including operation of New York Bus’s depot near Co-op City. The transfer is expected to occur by late summer, according to a press release from the mayor’s office.

NYBS president James O’Reilly said, “New York Bus Service looks forward to working with the city of New York and the MTA in accomplishing a seamless transfer of express bus operation without any inconvenience to our riders. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our employees who have worked so hard in providing an excellent commuter service for our riders between the Bronx and Manhattan.”

Although almost everyone who uses New York Bus Service agrees that the service has been excellent over the past 30 years, many riders fear that an MTA takeover will mean a decline in service.

Transportation advocates in the Bronx have reported hearing many complaints from Riverdale residents about a decline in service to that community after the MTA took over the private Liberty Lines routes serving the west Bronx in January.

Congressman Joseph Crowley, in a recent letter responding to a constituent expressing concerns about the MTA, said, “My top priority is the continuation of bus service with high quality and the same route for my constituents, whether they be operated by private lines or the MTA, as well as labor and job protections for the workers of the MTA and the private bus lines. I am hopeful of the future role of the MTA; it is a new role but we will be monitoring the situation very closely.”

New York Bus Service is the third of the seven bus companies to announce an agreement with the MTA. Liberty Lines agreed in January, and Queens Surface Corporation agreed in February. Those two lines are now being operated by the MTA.

Easter Pageant and Egg Hunt
BY BOB CARMODY

The City Island Chamber of Commerce held its first annual Easter Pageant and Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 26, at Hawkins Street Park and was a huge success and fun for all.

The Easter Bunny showed up unexpectedly, causing a photo frenzy that lasted for about an hour and left a smile on everyone’s face.

The first event was a lively Easter Egg Hunt, in which children scrambled around the park and found about 1,000 prize-filled eggs. The children were then rewarded with special prizes for their enthusiasm.

The Piscitelli Family of Timeless Sweets handed out jelly beans and candy samples to everyone. They also served up fresh popcorn, cotton candy and various other treats. The Pizza Place across the street heated up their staff in order to be able to feed all the little egg hunters and volunteers.

The Chamber set up a raffle and information table. The 50/50 raffle winner was Sara Kim, and Mary Jo Byrne won the Basket of Cheer.

The second event was the Easter Bonnet and Hat Walk around the park. Participants of all ages let their imaginations run wild with their designing capabilities, and the winners were: Nautical: Nicholas Calbo; Original: Anthony Orzo; Humorous: Catherine Ambrosini; Classy: Julia Di Marco; Biggest: Amanda Brennan; Flowery: Amalise Vivolo; and Just Plain Silly: Joseph Kramer. Honorable Mentions went to Dusty Prohaska, Gina Di Marco, Celeste Zayas, Julianna Gonzalez, Benicio Hernandez, Jacqueline Vitataco, Brianna and Christine Whelan.

Prizes were donated by the following businesses and residents of City Island: Connie’s Market, Papa John’s, The Black Whale, the Pizza Place, Atlantic Emerald Realty, Bronx Equestrian Center, Island Produce, B & B’s Restaurant, the Chamber of Commerce, Geri Seiter, Pat Genovese and a secret donor!

There were many volunteers who made the event possible: Kelly Carmody (even though she was incarcerated), Maddy Piscitelli, Diane Carmody, Geri Seiter, Joanie Ramftl, Maria Swieciki, Terry Carmody, Freddie Ramftl, Peter La Scala, Kim Moran, Candy Mancuso, Marge McNulty, John Lippman and Paul Kline. Apologies to anyone whose name was inadvertently omitted.

The Chamber of Commerce thanks all the volunteers, donors and participants. See you next year!
Dear Commissioner Stark:

March 23, 2005

I am writing on behalf of the City Island Community Center and the City Island Historical Society that these two units are assessed at a considerably higher level than the condominiums in the building, can you explain why?

Most of the space in the school building was subdivided and sold as condominiums. The two spaces were to be maintained by the owner for non-residential use.

The tax liens on these two properties were sold at auction last year and there has been a notice of foreclosure on these two units. The property owner has not paid taxes on these two units since 2001.

My question and that of the organizations at issue here is since the two units are occupied by non-profit 501c3 organizations, why is the property subject to real estate taxes? I am informed by Barbara Dolensek from the City Island Historical Society that these two units are assessed at a considerably higher level than the condominiums in the building, can you explain why?

Please have someone in your office review the state of these tax liens and determine if the City should have sold them without notification to the two community organizations. In addition, please advise if the purchaser of the liens was advised of the restrictive covenants that exist on these properties. Lastly, what recourse would the holders of these 99-year leases have?

I am enclosing copies of the relevant pages from the sponsor’s offering plan and other relevant documents.

Adolfo Carrion Jr

Spring Cleaning

To the Editor:

“Whan that the month of May is comen
And please let’s not put our trash out on the lawn! We need to keep our environment clean.

General idea is that spring is coming and it’s time for spring clean-up after all the snow.

All of us are proud of our homes and gardens, and I wish we could look like Christmastime every day. Other than flora and fauna, let’s try to paint and spray up and think green. Think of those ugly, wire rusted fences and whatever else is still in the garage, basement and attic. (I’m afraid to look in mine after 50 years of living in this house!)

And please let’s put our trash out on a Saturday for Monday pickup. It spoils the appearance of the island and is sometimes a lure for animals. The annual beach clean sweep will soon be arranged. Let us work to preserve our historic nautical heritage.

Spring on! Spring at last.

Jackie Kyle Kall

Tsunami Relief Report

Last month The Current published an article about Father Eugene, formerly with St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church and now back in his native Sri Lanka, where he is involved in rescue and recovery efforts after the tragic tsunami struck the day after Christmas 2004. The following letter gives more detail about the kind of work that he is doing. For those who wish to support these efforts, checks payable to Father Eugene Sudath Gannenleke may be sent to his attention at St. Joseph’s College, Colombo 10, Sri Lanka.

To the Editor:

I am sorry not to have kept in touch with you, but I have been involved in many activities. My responsibilities keep me so busy that I have no time for correspondence. I hope you will understand.

Several schools in Negombo, which is a coastal area, were ruined due to the tsunami tidal wave, resulting in the displacement of many innocent schoolchildren. Therefore, the archbishop of Colombo wants to expedite the inauguration of a branch school of St. Joseph’s College in this area in order to help these children as soon as we can. This task has been fully entrusted to me, and I have already been able to donate the first set of items to a needy family, and I have placed orders for another set. I have also allocated some money to offer scholarships for some of the schoolchildren. Once I implement the project properly, I will come back to you with all the details.

I hope this mail finds you in good health. May God bless all your endeavors in life!

Father Eugene Sudath

May 23, 2005

Dear Commissioner Stark

I was hoping you could assist me with a matter of great concern to my constituents on City Island.

The City Island Community Center and the City Island Historical Society, located at 190 Fordham Street, are both housed in an old school building that was sold by the City in 1988 to a private entity. As part of the agreement to purchase the property, the purchaser signed an agreement to assign 99-year leases for the spaces in the building with the non-profit organizations. This restrictive covenant runs with the property. The space was subsequently subdivided and sold as condominiums. The two spaces covered by the restrictive covenant are the only two spaces in the building that were to be maintained by the owner for non-residential use. The tax liens on these two properties were sold at auction last year and there has been a notice of foreclosure for these two units. The property owner has not paid taxes on these two units since 2001.

I am requesting that your agency review the state of these tax liens and the restrictive covenants that exist on these properties.

The two units in the school building were sold at auction last year and there has been a notice of foreclosure for these two units. The property owner has not paid taxes on these two units since 2001.

I am wondering at the organizations at issue here is since the two units are occupied by non-profit 501c3 organizations, why is the property subject to real estate taxes? I am informed by Barbara Dolensek from the City Island Historical Society that these two units are assessed at a considerably higher level than the condominiums in the building, can you explain why?

Please have someone in your office review the state of these tax liens and determine if the City should have sold them without notification to the two community organizations. In addition, please advise if the purchaser of the liens was advised of the restrictive covenants that exist on these properties. Lastly, what recourse would the holders of these 99-year leases have?

I am enclosing copies of the relevant pages from the sponsor’s offering plan and other relevant documents.

Madeline Provenzano, Council Member

March 23, 2005

Dear Commissioner Stark

I was hoping you could assist me with a
Valentine’s Day 2005 was celebrated by many romantics on Sunday, Feb. 13, which was destined to become the one winter day when City Island experiences the heavy traffic of summer.

It was also destined to be the day that the Werkhoven family dog, a white poodle named Dudley, took advantage of an open gate and went wandering down City Island Avenue, at about 4:15 in the afternoon. Although the family went into search mode less than half an hour after his escape, he seemed to have disappeared into thin air.

Despite numerous sightings during that halt hour gap, he was nowhere to be found. Family members canvassed the neighborhood calling his name and, as anyone on foot on the avenue that day can attest, they questioned every pedestrian they saw.

By the time it got dark, the outlook was no better. As everyone questioned every pedestrian they saw, the family recovered him.

By 8 p.m. on that fateful Sunday, Andy Werkhoven started putting up posters that his wife, Christine, and daughter, Isabel, were making with markers; by 10 p.m. they were making posters on the computer.

The Werkhovens thought for sure that a well-meaning neighbor must have seen him in the street and picked him up for safekeeping. It made them ill to think that anyone on foot on the avenue that day could attest, they questioned every pedestrian they saw.

The following table indicates the tallies from Island voters, there was also interest in the local contests for New York State Assemblywoman Madeline Provenzano because of term limits. Let the electioneering begin!

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<th>Race/Candidate</th>
<th># C.I. Votes</th>
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<td>President/VP</td>
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<td>Kerry/Edwards</td>
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<td>State Winner: Jeffrey Klein</td>
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Campaigning has already begun for the 2005 November election. In the New York City Council race, former New York State Assemblyman Stephen Kaufman and Community Board 10 Manager James Vacca have announced their candidacy for the seat being vacated by Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano because of term limits. Let the electioneering begin!

First, a look back at how Islanders voted in the 2004 election. The Bronx Board of Elections recently reported that a record number of City Islanders cast their ballots in the November 2004 election. Among the 2,428 registered voters on City Island, 1,892 cast ballots, representing voter turnout of around 78 percent. A majority voted not to reelect George Bush as president, choosing John Kerry by a margin of 116 votes. Islanders did vote to return Senator Charles Schumer to the U.S. Senate and Congressman Joseph Crowley to the House of Representatives.

Although the national races for president and Congress received the most attention from Island voters, there was also interest in the local contests for New York State Assembly and Senate.

The following table indicates the tallies for Election Districts 60, 61, 62 and 63, based on the City Island vote total from the Democrat, Republican, Conservative, Independence and Working Families party lines.

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Islanders were relieved that lines were shorter than anticipated on Nov. 2, 2004, at P.S. 1/7, the polling site for all residents. On a side note, the traditional Election Day sale at P.N. 1/7 benefited from strong voter turnout and the support of Islanders.
The 19th-century carriage house, which is a short walk to the north of the mansion, is now open as part of the guided tour. Here visitors will view an old carriage and sleigh, a stable area that contains horse and pony models, a stable boy mannequin, tools and equipment needed for the care of the horses and the cistern that supplied water for the carriage house.

Another new service is the opening of the mansion on the first Friday of each month, when the new trolley runs between Pelham Bay Station, the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum and various stops along City Island Avenue from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

The tours are appropriate for all ages, although children must be accompanied by adults. Entrance fees are $5 for adults, $3 for seniors and students; children under six are admitted free. Wednesday is a free day for everyone. The location is 895 Shore Road (across from the Split Rock Golf Course). For more information, visit the Web site www.bartowpellmansionmuseum.org or call 718-885-1461.

The City Island Literary now has Spanish books for adults and children. For information about any of the programs below, call the City Island branch at 718-885-1703.

Adult Programs
E-mail Internet Workshop: Tuesday, April 12, at 11 a.m.

Arts and Crafts
Let’s Fly Kites: A kite making workshop on Monday, April 11, at 3:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Ages 6 to 12.

Millennium Babies will meet on Thursday, April 14, at 1 p.m. at the library for stories and songs.

Bilingual Picture Book Program: Thursday, April 14, at 3:30 p.m. Ages 4 to 8.

Picture Book Program: Thursdays April 7, 14 and 21. Ages 4 to 11.

FRAN’S TRATTORIA
105 City Island Ave. • Italian/American/Seafood
Warm & Cozy Atmosphere • Home Style Cooking
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RESERVATIONS OR INFORMATION: CALL (718) 605-2400 (Closed Monday)

Lunch: Tuesday–Sunday 12 noon–3pm
Early Bird Specials 3pm–8pm 20% off 3pm–7pm
Sat. & Sun. 12 noon–4pm

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**What’s Doing In Town?**

President Adolfo Carrion Jr. and the Bronx Delegation of the City Council. The gallery is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For further information, call Ron Terner at 718-885-1403.

On Saturday, April 9, Starving Art- ist Café and Gallery, 249 City Island Avenue, will have a reception at 3 p.m. for well-known City Island artist Mark Whitcomb, who will exhibit his latest works. Later that day, at 8 p.m., singer-songwriter Sam Leopold returns to the Starving Artist with his energetic act. The next two Sun- days will feature jazz. On Sunday, April 1, Robert Kudlin brings his jazz keyboard and vocals to the café / gallery, starting at 3 p.m., and on Sunday, April 24, the City Island Jazz Trio will go on stage at 3 p.m.

On Saturday, April 30, owner-proprietor Elliott Glick will lead a “great American songbook singalong.” Everyone is wel- come! Always on the menu at Starving Artists are Glick’s handmade jewelry cre- ations, as well as fine art / craft by various artists, coffee, tea, cappuccino, espresso and treats, including Jon’s Sweets, the pas- ties that are works of art.
This year, the St. Mary, Star of the Sea Basketball Program continued to grow in size and success. More than 125 girls and boys participated in the 2004–2005 season, which achieved its goals of “emphasizing sportsmanship and building confidence,” the program directors told The Current.

The season began with registration in September and ended with a broadcast on March 9, 2005, with over more than 200 parents and players in attendance. Every team made the playoffs, and the Junior Varsity Boys won the Bronx Championship. Each player received a trophy for his or her effort, and special trophies were awarded to recognize individual achievements.

Directors Frank and Kathy Cebek congratulate all the players on their great effort and thank the parents for their continued support and cooperation. They also expressed appreciation to all the coaches, especially those who are retiring after many years of service, for devoting so much time and energy to the children.

Additional thanks go to assistant director John Moore and his wife, Caryn, and to Tom and Helen McMahon for their continued dedication. The season would also not have been possible without the support of Father Michael, Nora Hertensteine and Jane Dennehy, principal of St. Mary, Star of the Sea School.

Coaches provided the following highlights of each team’s season and players.

**Boys Junior Varsity**

The 2005 Junior Varsity Boys team won the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Bronx Division Championship! The team played St. Margaret’s for the title and won 46 to 38.

The Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the tournament was Henry Sanchez, who led all scorers with 20 points and forced numerous turnovers. David Sexton played an impressive defensive game in the middle that proved to be too much for the opposition and added 14 points to the tally. Sal Kultka added 10 points and Jack McCabe 4 points. The remaining defensive standouts in the game were Reese Werkhoven, Ryan Pena and Brandon Iosua.

The boys had an outstanding season, compiling a combined record of 23 wins and 12 losses. They all worked hard and learned how to play as a team. A special thanks to coaches Bob Whelan and Andy Werkhoven for all of their time and effort.

The team would like to congratulate Cathy and Frank Cebek for a job well done running the program.

**Girls Gidgets**

The 2004–2005 Gidgets returned to the court this year with a desire to win, and that is exactly what they did. Their overall record showed 26 wins and only 6 losses. They made it to the semi-finals of their division. Aside from league games, they were entered into four tournaments. They placed second in two tournaments, took first place in another tournament and will play in a championship game in a fourth tournament.

The following girls received special awards: Amber Tudor for Most Improved, Victoria Strazzera for Best Defense, Victoria Volpe for Best Defense and Ashley Varuso for Most Valuable Player.

The coaches and parents are very proud of all the girls. Hats off to coaches Carlo Volpe and Frank Strazzera on a job well done. A special thanks to all the parents for all of their support. Until next year girls—time out!

**Boys Bantam Gold**

The Boys Bantam Gold (A) team had a terrific season, finishing in first place in their division with only two losses for the season. They were led by all-stars Makai Hawkins, Robert Pirraglia and Amir Smith, with Kevin Saulnier and Brandyn Reilly rounding out the starters. Strong bench support came from Daniel Clancy, Devon Navarro, Ryan Henning, Andrew Clarke, Dylan Cullen and Josh Williams. Congratulations on a great year.

**Boys Bantam Blue**

This year’s turnout in early October for the Boys Bantam team was much larger than usual, thanks in part to the enthusiasm coach Paul Saulnier mustered last season for the Bantams. Instead of turning away a squad of motivated players after tryouts were over, a new team was forged with help from Frank and Cathy Cebek. About half of the team came from the previous Bantam team and the other half were novices to the sport.

Coached by David Sexton and Paul Mankiewicz, the Bantam Blue team turned out a great season. Although the team had only one win, a few other games were nail-bitters. The parents helped make the games fun with their cacophonous cheering. Novice and returning players made tremendous gains in both their skills and knowledge of the game. Many of the players were first time participants in an organized team sport, so it is gratifying to see most of them moving on to the upcoming City Island Little League Baseball season.

The basketball season closed out by recognizing Kyle Zuma as Most Valuable Player and Tyree Shanley as Most Improved Player. Kyle and Tyree exemplify the great sportsmanship and hard work that were the trademarks of the team.

**Girls Varsity**

After losing their first five games, the St. Mary’s Girls Junior Varsity team made an exciting comeback by winning their next three games and finishing fifth and eight overall before losing a close game to Sacred Heart in the playoffs.

Leading the JV were Sarah Graves, team MVP, Amanda Hetterman, Best Defensive Player and Melissa Pryor, Best Offensive Player. Other starters were Charvette Thomas, Alyssa Manfredonia, Samantha Weynrauch, Julia Doyle, Marissa Ferris, Gabrielle Pirraglia, Larissa Pirraglia, Julia Hayes, Rebecca Rodstrom, Alyssa Molley and Roman Baker. Also on the team were fifth-graders Angela Accocella, Malena Allbright and Demi Atkins. Coaches’ awards were also given to Larissa Pirraglia and Roman Baker for sportsmanship.

The coaches would like to thank the players and their parents for a great season.

**Girls Junior Varsity**

The Girls Junior Varsity team made an outstanding year, finishing the regular season with a winning record and made it to the second round of the playoffs. The team was successful because of its competitive spirit and “never say die” attitude. The girls were in every game they played and were a joy to watch and coach.

The varsity was led by Sonia Andrades and Lauren Branley. Sonia, the team MVP, was the leading scorer and her athletic ability and love for the game was key to the team’s success. Lauren provided leadership on and off the court and her rebounding, clutch scoring and excellent defense kept the team in virtually every game.
Cormac McEnery, Esq.

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A Member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
Grace Episcopal Church

Receives Funds to Replace Roof

By JOSEPH NIXON

Thanks to a phenomenal growth in attendance and pledge contributions, Grace Episcopal Church, located at the corner of Pilott Street and City Island Avenue, is now in a position to address deferred maintenance issues on its historic buildings, including a replacement roof on the church building, new bathrooms in the parish hall and a complete upgrade of the parish rectory.

To get these major projects started, the church has received a $52,100 grant from the Episcopal Diocese of New York that will cover two-thirds of the expected cost to replace the badly damaged roof on the church hall. The balance of the cost of the replacement roof will be generated through fund-raising efforts, individual donations and parish funds.

Grace Church has also received generous grants from the parishes of Christ the Redeemer in Pelham and Saint Matthew’s in Bedford, where Mother Patricia Alexander formerly served as priest associate.

The church building was originally constructed in 1861–62 by ship’s carpenters for raising the necessary funds include grants, church bonds and equity loans.

Parish leaders encourage everyone who is interested in the renewal project or who wishes to make a tax-deductible contribution to “the little church on the corner of Pilott Street” to call the Parish Office at 718-885-1080 or to visit its Web site at http://gracecityisland.dioceseny.org. Contributions may be sent directly to P.O. Box 131, City Island, NY 10464.

WOW CELEBRATES WOMEN’S “HERSTORY”

On Sunday, April 17 at 11 a.m., City Island women and girls are invited to attend the annual celebration of women’s history month with WOW (Women On the Way), to be held at R&B’s restaurant at 316 City Island Avenue. This year’s theme is “Herstory” — women making a difference every day. The event will feature a keynote speech by Eleanor Rae, an Islander and Women’s History Month Committee member, and a performance by the Island’s unique folk and roots music band, Pilgrim Fuel Oil Co-op.

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Organization News

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

Current Calendar

APRIL
Sat., April 2 to April 30, Young City Island Artist Exhibition, Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue.
Sat., April 16, Bronx Masons Clothing Drive, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. City Island Masonic Temple, 241 City Island Avenue.
Thurs., April 21, Community Board 10 meets, 7:30 p.m., P.S./M.S. 194, 1301 Zerega Avenue, Bronx.
Sat., April 23, Little League Parade, sponsored by City Island Little League. Players gather at 10:45 a.m. at Catherine Scott Prom-
enade (Bridge Park).
Sat., April 30, POT'S Program, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kiloze Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Men's
 canned ham sliced with potatoes.
Tues., April 26, City Island Civic Associa-
tion meets, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fondert Street.
MAY
Sun., May 1, Community Garage Sale, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Indoors at the City Island Com-
munity Center, 190 Fondert Street.

Chapter 318 AARP

Our next trip to Atlantic City is on Tuesday, April 12. The bus departs at 9 a.m. from 113 Bay Street on City Island. Call Jean Ringel at 718-885-1479 or John Boncico at 718-885-1844.

Our next trip is to Ace in the Hole in Patterson, New Jersey, on Thursday, April 14. We will see a show and have an open bar for one hour, plus lunch served family style.

In May we are going to Mount Haven, Pennsylvania, for breakfast. For informa-
tion, please attend one of our meetings or call Florence Boncico at 718-885-1844 or Marie Tirelli at 914-576-6223.

Our end of season luncheon will be on Friday, June 10, at Marina del Rey. We will have a cocktail hour and a full sit-down dinner with an open bar from 12 to 4 p.m. This is a great evening for the price and we plan to see you all.

Remember, we have blood pressure readings taken the first Wednesday of each month. There is a notary public to nota-
tize any document for you free of charge. Please see Margaret Iacone.

Marie Tirelli

Trinity United Methodist Church

Happy spring, everyone! Winter is finally over, and that can repose! Our church services are every Sunday at 10 a.m. Sunday school meets in the lower level classrooms. So come as we attend our services and Sunday school.

Please leave the second Saturday of May open. That’s the date of our spring fair. We will be selling the usual varieties of homemade goodies and crafts that day. We hope to see you there.

Anne Sill

City Island Seniors

Now that spring is here, come out to our meetings on the first Thursday of the month. If you would like more information, please call 718-885-0521.

We will be honoring our new State Senator, Jerry Klein, that evening. So for an evening of food, dancing and horti-

Bob Berent

City Island Theater Group

“We are in the process of planning our annual garden tour for May. If you would like to volunteer your garden for the tour, please call Phyllis at 718-885-0521.

Gardening Hint: Divide overcrowded plants by digging up a clump of roots and then transplant them to a plant with sharp knife. Place one of the halves in the origi-
nal place at the same depth and the other half in a new location. Gently press soil back around the base and water well.

Phyllis Goodman

Temple Beth-El

Your Shul by the Sea, a welcoming Jewish renewal congregation, conducts Sabbath services each Friday night at 7:30 p.m. Our doors are open to all at 480 City Island Avenue (between Beach and Bowne Streets).

Our Torah study group will continue on Saturday, April 16, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, beginning with a short spirituality class. Rabbincular students Karyn Berger and Daniel Klipper will alternate leading the group.

Yoga-Tai Chi classes, led by Marc Kaplan, continue on Tuesdays in April from 6 to 7 p.m. His exercises will leave you feeling refreshed, more flexible and energetic. For more information, call Marc at 718-885-2445.

Ballroom dance classes, led by Elaine Belasco, begin on Wednesday, April 13, and continue on Wednesdays thereafter from 7:30 to 9 p.m. For information and registration, call at 718-885-8214.

SHOHOM classes led by Kathie Wiener offer Spiritual Healing Of Health And Mind and will be conducted on Monday, April 18, at 7:30 p.m. The classes are a pathway to personal and global spiritual transformation based on the mystical prac-
tices of the Kohenim, the priests of biblical Israel. (Free for members, $15 per class for non-members.)

Help celebrate our 75th anniversary at our Anniversary Dinner-Dance at the City Island Yacht Club on Saturday, April 16. We will be honoring our new State Sena-
tor, Jerry Klein, that evening. So for an evening of food, dancing and horti-

Bob Berent

City Island Averages.

Help me keep the Island current. Call 718-885-1065.

On Sunday, March 20, Temple Beth-el of City Island celebrated Purim, Judaism’s most dramatic, tun-fitted holiday. Seen here are members and guests of the City Island Young Farmers, royals and others from Persia some 2,300 years ago as they act out the story of Esther.

City Island Averagen. Call 718-885-1065 to reserve your tickets today.

Nick Nala

City Island National Museum

As some of you may have noticed, our doors have been shut on Sundays for the past few weeks. We are currently under-
going a major spring cleaning, which has involved repainting the Community and School Rooms. Furniture has been moved into the hall, and everything is pretty messy. However, great plans are afoot for the redesign of each room, and Tom Nye especially has been hard at work getting it all together.

Please watch for our sign underneath the flower boxes at the City Island Diner so you will know when we are reopen-
ing. In the meantime, anyone who wants to volunteer to help Tom reinstall the exhibits or to help us keep a spring-sum-
timer program of events should give a call at 718-885-0507.

Together with the Community Center, we are currently going through a crisis about our long-term leases, since our land-
lord hasn’t paid the taxes and the spaces have gone into foreclosure for possible auction later this spring. We are doing our best to make this situation right (see article this issue) and we ask you all to keep your fingers crossed for us.

Barbara Dolenske

City Island Current

April 2005

Page Ten
Harbour Pointe Marina
521 City Island Avenue, City Island, NY 10464

For more information, please contact:
Mercedes Guzman
Telephone: (718) 885-1800
In looking for films about immigration into the United States, I discovered that several fine examples have focused on the Mexican-American experience. First, some films about family. *Tortilla Soup* (2001) stars the superb Hector Elizondo as Martin Naranjo, a widowed chef who lives with his grown daughters Carmen (Jacqueline Obradors), Leticia (Elizabeth Pena) and Maribel (Tamara Mello). Carmen is a successful businesswoman. Leticia is a spinster schoolteacher and Maribel is a rebellious student. Raquel Welch plays the role of Hortensia, a very annoying wådy with Martin in her sights. It is a charming remake of the excellent Chinese film *Eat, Drink, Man, Woman* (1994).

*My Family* (1995) is a chronicle of the Sanchez family, whose patriarch, Jose (Jacob Vargas), walked from Mexico to Los Angeles in the 1920s. The story is narrated by Paco (Edward James Olmos), a writer remembering his family. Jose works as a gardener andmarries a nanny, Maria (Jennifer Lopez); together they have six children. In 1932, Maria, pregnant, is one of several thousand American citizens of Mexican descent who are rounded up by government troops and shipped in cattle cars to Central America. This is a moving drama about all six of the Sanchez children, including Jimmy Smits, who in a particularly moving subplot, agrees to marry a woman from El Salvador in order to keep from being deported.

A sweet romance that is also about family tradition is *Spanglish* (2004), written and directed by John Sayles. It is the complex, multilayered story of Mexican immigrants toward immigrants.

The finest of all the films on this theme is *Lone Star* (1996), written and directed by John Sayles. It is the complex, multilayered epic about the 1950s murder of a much-hated sheriff, Charlie Wade (Kris Kristofferson) and the aftermath of the event. Set in a Texas town near the Mexican border, the film stars Sam Deeds (Cooper Duck) as the sheriff on the case, who is always being compared to his father, Buddy (Matthew McConaughey). Wade’s deputy at the time of the murder, Elizabeth Pena is Pilar, with whom Sam once had a love affair, although both families were opposed to the Mexican-Anglo alliance. There is seamless moving back and forth in time with deeply felt emotions, secrets and interactions between Chicano, blacks, whites and Indians.

And until next time, happy viewing...
Slam Dunk Season

Continued from page 7

game, earning her Best Offensive honors. Delia Berger provided steady leadership on the court and her tenacious defensive play gained her the Best Defensive Player award. Jasmine Crowder, who won the Coaches' Award, provided strength under the boards and clutch shooting. She was a real force in every game.

Kristen Clark, the point guard, displayed excellent ball handling, tough defense and great heart. Alycia DaLoia-Moore played a strong defensive game and her speed was critical in stopping the fast break. Her steady play at forward and good court sense was a real asset to the team.

Bernadette McMahon provided excellent play at guard with key outside shooting and accuracy from the foul line. Her great desire to play made her a tactor in every game, especially in the playoffs. Bridget McGowan brought energy and enthusiasm to every game displaying strong defense at the guard position. She was a consistent threat to score from the outside.

Sarah Kothschuld possessed great speed and athletic ability. Her quick reactions on defense enabled her to make many key defensive plays. Phoebe Mankiewicz’s rebounding, clutch shooting and excellent defense made her a valuable player in every game. Her hard work and determination will make her a leader on next year’s team.

Sarah Pryor provided steady play at the forward position and with her capacity to hit the long jump shot, she kept opposing defenses honest. Nicole Cogy brought speed and desire to every game and gave

the team rebounding strength and clutch defense.

Coaches John Moore and Tom McMa-

hon would like to thank the parents for their wonderful support and congratulate them for raising such great young women.

They also congratulate the girls on their successes on and off the court. Each of these girls made important contributions to the team, but more importantly they are a great group of young ladies and were a pleasure to coach.

Finally, the coaches say a farewell to their graduating eighth-graders: Lauren Bradley, Delia Berger, Jasmine Crowder and Nicole Cody, who are leaving the basketball program and going on to high school next year. Congratulations and thanks for representing St. Mary, Star of the Sea so well over the years.

Boys and Girls Intramurals

The 2005 Intramural Program consisted of boys and girls eight years old and younger. They gathered on Saturday mornings learning the basics of shooting, dribbling, passing and playing defense. The participants developed so quickly that they were able to play games on a weekly basis. Their progress was amazing and St. Mary’s basketball will have many future all stars.

All of the children should be commended on a job well done. A special thanks to Anna Marie and Bob Whelan for running the program and to Charlie Ramos, Adrinio Carnon and Rod Rodriguez for helping on the sidelines.

See you all next season!
If you were to suddenly become disabled by an accident or illness, would you qualify for Social Security disability benefits? Although most people are aware of the basic requirements for Social Security retirement benefits, not many understand how—or if—they would qualify for disability benefits.

In addition to meeting the Social Security definition of disability, you must have worked long enough and recently enough (unless you are blind) under Social Security to qualify.

Here is a quick check-list you can use to see where you stand. Eligibility for disability benefits is based on your Social Security work credits, which are based on your total yearly wages or self-employment income. You can earn up to four credits each year. The amount needed for a credit changes from year to year. In 2005, for example, you earn one credit for each $1,260 earned; when you have earned $3,680, you would have your four credits for the year.

The number of work credits you need to qualify for disability benefits depends on your age when you become disabled. Before age 24, you may qualify if you have six credits earned in the three-year period ending when your disability starts.

From age 24 to 31, you may qualify if you have credit for working half the time between age 21 and the time you become disabled. For example, if you become disabled at age 27, you would need credit for three years of work (12 credits) out of the past six years (between ages 21 and 27).

From age 31 through age 62, you would need 20 work credits. The number of credits needed between ages 43 and age 62 or older rises each year. For example, at age 44 you would need 22 work credits, and at age 46 you would need 24 credits.

A convenient chart that shows the credits needed is located at www.ssa.gov/ oldbeneficiaries/credit.htm. Once you are age 31 or older, unless you are blind, you must have earned at least 20 of the credits in the 10 years immediately before you became disabled.

The Social Security statement that you receive each year is a good way to monitor your eligibility. The statement shows all earnings reported to date and also provides an estimate of the benefits for which you are eligible. Review this statement carefully to be sure it reflects all your earnings and notify Social Security right away if you find errors or omissions.

Although most people who work regularly will not have a problem keeping their disability coverage current, people who move in and out of the work force or in and out of covered employment, may not be covered.

The importance of having Social Security disability insurance protection is underscored by one statistic: there is a nearly three in 10 chance that a 20-year-old will become disabled before reaching retirement age.

For more information on the Social Security disability program and both medical and work requirements, visit our Web site at www.socialsecurity.gov or call our toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778), and ask for the Social Security pamphlet “How You Earn Credits.”

Social Security Online

Today, with just a click of your computer’s mouse button, you can bypass highway traffic and office waiting lines and conduct business with Social Security. Not surprisingly, this electronic service option is rapidly becoming a preferred way of doing business.

The numbers tell the story. In 2002 about 220,000 people completed Social Security transactions online; last year, that number rose to 611,000. The reason for this rapid growth of online business is clear—convenience, speed and security.

Here are just a few of the many things that people can do when they visit Social Security’s Web site:

**Screen for Benefits.** Many people visit the Web site to see whether or not they qualify for benefits. This can be done quickly by using our Benefit Eligibility Screening Tool. Just answer a series of questions to determine if you are eligible for retirement, disability or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program benefits. You can also find out if you might be eligible for Medicare benefits. The entire process takes less than 10 minutes.

**Apply for Benefits.** You now can apply for retirement, disability and spouse’s benefits over the Internet. Thousands of people have taken advantage of this convenient, easy way to apply for benefits. In fact, since the service became available in November 2000, nearly half a million people have applied for benefits online.

**Forecast Your Financial Future.** Social Security’s benefits planner is a convenient way to help plan your retirement or determine what benefits you or your family may qualify for in the unfortunate event of disability or death. Simply enter your estimated income for the years ahead to get an idea of what your benefit payments could be.

**Get a Medicare Card Replaced.** If your Medicare card has been lost, stolen or damaged and a new one is needed, it can be replaced by visiting the Web site. This eliminates the need to call or visit an office.

**Change of Address.** Even if you receive your benefits by direct deposit, Social Security needs to have your correct address so we can send letters and other important information to you. Your benefits could be stopped if we are unable to contact you. You should let Social Security know about your change of address any time that you move, even if you relocate for part of the year. For example, if you live in a different place during the summer than you do in the winter, you need to change your address each time you relocate.

You may be able to change your address online but not if you are a representative payee (someone who handles Social Security money for another person), or a Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiary. These individuals, and anyone else who prefers, may call Social Security’s toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).
Trolleys

Have you hopped a ride on the trolley yet? The good folks at the City Island Chamber of Commerce, the Bronx Tourism Council, and the Bronx borough president’s office have put together a new (and yet not-so-new) trolley service for City Islanders. It’s free, so what are you waiting for? Look out for “Big Red,” as the new trolley is sure to become known, on the first Friday of every month. It will be running continuously between the hours of 5:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. You can catch it to Bartow-Pell Mansion, to Pelham Bay or home again after a too-long day at the office. Give it a try.

Actually, the City Island Seaside Trolley is only the latest operation in a long line of trolley operations to and from our Island. For as long as the Bartow-City Island station was a functioning one for the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad—today we call it Metro North—there was a need for additional service to City Island. Many residents and visitors simply walked the extra mile, but many others opted to pay the nickel for the horse-drawn carriage ride to Rodman’s Neck. From there it was another nickel to City Island. In 1910 a monorail system was completed to take the place of the old horse and buggy. It was a little bit more of the horse and buggy for City Islanders and then a good, old-fashioned electric trolley. At the end of the long pole that connected the vehicle to its power source was a pulley called a troller. It is from the troller that trolleys take their name. The City Island Nautical Museum has a wonderful collection of old postcards in which you are bound to find examples of some of the past ways on and off our Island. Although they are closed for renovation until the end of April, check them out in May (open Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m.) or visit their Web site (www.cityislandmuseum.org). You won’t be disappointed.
Boat Show 2005: The 100th Anniversary Edition  
BY BILL CLANCY

New York’s answer to the mid-winter blues is the annual Boat Show. It is always anticipated, loved and looked forward to by all the boating folk on City Island and like-minded folks elsewhere. In recent years it has been scheduled on odd-numbered years, probably due to the logistics of attending. Last year it started between Christmas and New Year’s, this year on New Year’s Day. The rental fee might be less next year but it sure left me that it wasn’t a bad attendance.

My crew is different though. We are ready to go to a boat show anytime, anywhere. We are a very unique bunch. Last Saturday afternoon (the NFL playoffs were the next day), the crew consisted of sons Bill and Tom and me, Gregg, our fiancé. She is also known as Miss NPS of 83, doing God’s work over on Rhinelander Avenue, along with Adrienne O’Regan and Regina Dodds. The pure existence of a good crew cannot be understated. They bring a fresh outlook, new ideas and unlimited funding for the task at hand. This was a $2,500 budget. I knew we were in for a great day.

We started off at the Press Office, where the arrangements for her interpid reporter. I spoke to the same tall, beautiful gal as last year who remembered us as being from City Island. She was a frequent visitor to Sammy’s Fish Box and was carrying her pregnancy very well. I told her that it must be a lot of fun for two Island girls to know two other Island gals expecting as well, ever since arrived, and the mothers doing great (dads, too). T.G.

Pleasantries aside, we drove off our course onto the course of hands on instruction with details to be announced later in the year. Please excuse me if I do not make any comment on this course. I know too many good people who are so good at it all. We thought it might be. It was historically navigable as far north as Baghdad but in dire need of a dredging now. There are no schools of fish, but the schools of fish are to be found. Although it is about 400 feet wide in Baghdad, its primary outlet is a sewer. I guess Saddam is not into boating. Finish up those projects soon, Mike, Lloyds Neck is calling. Bill Gerhardt is planning a redux of one of those extravaganzas. Diane O’Sullivan will be called in as a consultant.

Another item I reported on last year was the annual Hidden Harbor Tours. Did not do any attempt. It will be held on Maritime Day, May 21. The date goes back to 1819 with the sailing of the Savannah, the first transatlantic steamship to sail from Pier 63, West 23rd Street from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sailing tidbits: Also reported last year was Vine’s Trop’hy for the fastest sailing trip around the earth. Steve Foster, the American record holder recently set a new record by sailing 12 on his 12,5-foot catama-  

The City Island saying is and has always been: “No Wood Is Good; use it”. When you could carry an advertisement that I had cut out of “Go Boating” magazine. It was an ad for Interceptor, a line of smaller speed-boats. It said “100% Wood Free Construction.”

In 1959 an outside contractor came to Minnifred Yacht Yard to build nine fiber-  

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**SCOUTS ADVANCE AT BLUE AND GOLD**

**Rochelle, Morris Park and Westchester Avenue.**

Tom Nye at UK Sailmakers made banners out of sailcloth with grommets for hanging, and the City Island mail carriers carried the poster on their rounds. Yolanda Cirulli searched and called the Werkhovens every day, and people stopped to tell the family that they were praying for them. Mrs. Lopez, the principal of P.S. 175 even made an announcement on the Monday after he disappeared.

It turns out that people the Werkhovens didn’t even know were looking for Dudley daily at Orchard Beach. City Islanders were stopping people walking with white dogs to ask them if they owned the dog or if they had found him. People e-mailed Christine everyday after scouring the found-pet ads to try to reunite the family with their dog.

As Christine puts it, “You fellow City Islanders blew us away with your concern and with the time you spent putting up signs, calling for him on your walks, calling us to see if we had found him and just asking if we were okay when you saw us on the street.”

Finally, on Tuesday, March 1, Christine tried to go back to work but she only lasted until noon. She took posters to Lydig Avenue and was in the process of hanging them when her cell phone rang. It was Andy exclaiming “We got him!”

“You do not!” Christine screamed in disbelief, and everyone on the street nearby looked at her as if she had gone insane. “Yeah, I do,” Andy said.

“Do you have him in the car? Are you holding him right now?”

When Andy said “Yup,” Christine screamed and grabbed the mail carrier standing next to her. “They have my dog!” she shrieked. He looked as if he were going to weep even though he was completely bewildered by her behavior. “God bless you,” he said. “He did,” Christine replied.

Earlier that afternoon, Andy had received a telephone call from a woman on 132nd street in Harlem. She said that she was dogsitting for a friend, and she believed the dog she was watching was Dudley. Andy went to meet her and Dudley leaped out of her arms and ran for him. After he got Dudley into the car, he called Christine to give her the good news.

The woman got her reward, and after two weeks and two days the Werkhovens finally got their Dudley back. They all nearly burst with joy. As soon as Andy got back to City Island, he and Christine went to P.S. 175 so that Dudley could see Isabel and Reese. Isabel’s teacher, Mrs. Ruth Eisen, a poodle owner herself who had suffered right along with the family, was in tears at the reunion!

The family is deeply grateful for all the well-wishers who called and prayed for Dudley’s return and wants everyone to know how much their support and concern meant to them.

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**The Cub Scout Pack 211 annual Blue and Gold Awards ceremony was held on Friday, March 18, 2005, at Trinity Methodist Church. The lighting of the ceremonial candles by the Arrow of Light recipients (shown above) is the culmination of their Cub Scout years. After these Webelos trained under the direction of leader Tina Ruggiero (right), they crossed the scouting bridge and were officially welcomed as Boy Scouts. The second year Webelos are (L to R) Kyle Williams, Kevin Whalen, Mitchell Santiago, Nicholas Ruggiero and Dan Masterson.**

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**The first year Webelos who received their awards at the March 18 ceremony are shown above with their leaders Mervette Laq and Regina Kreig. They are: Kevin DeCuffa, Haxhi Lajqi, Kyle Kreig, Andrew Clark and Ryan Fitzpatrick.**

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**SCOUTS ADVANCE AT BLUE AND GOLD Continued from page 5**

Leaders Pat Branley and Rosie Cierro flank the scouts who completed their requirements to receive the Wolf badge: Michael O’Connor, Marcello Cierro and John Branley.
Six Essentials of Social Security Benefits

By DIANA VALDES,
Social Security Manager, East Bronx Office

When I was in the grocery store check-out line the other day, I noticed the headlines on several magazines that were displayed above the checkout. In almost every magazine, there was a reference to "the 4 things you should know about..." or the "10 top reasons that..." I thought there must be a reason why people are so compelled to read those articles (I know that I did). So here is what I would consider the six essentials that everyone should know about Social Security.

Retirement

Benefits are payable at full retirement age (with reduced benefits available as early as age 62) for anyone with enough Social Security credits. The full retirement age is 65 for people born before 1938; the age gradually rises until it reaches 67 for people born in 1960 or later. Those who delay retirement beyond full retirement age get special credit for each month they don't receive a benefit before they reach age 70.

Disability

Benefits can be paid to people at any age who have enough Social Security credits and who have a severe physical or mental impairment that is expected to prevent them from doing "substantial" work for a year or more, or who have a condition that is expected to result in death. Generally, earnings of $810 or more per month are considered substantial. The disability program includes incentives to smooth the transition back into the work force, including continuation of benefits and health-care coverage while a person attempts to work.

Family Benefits

If you are eligible for retirement or disability benefits, other members of your family might be eligible to receive benefits too. These include your spouse if he or she is at least 62 years old or under 62 but caring for a child under age 16; and your children if they are unmarried and under age 18, or under 19 but still in school, or 18 or older but disabled; and your parents if you were their primary means of support.

Medicare

There are two parts to Medicare: hospital insurance (sometimes called Part A) and medical insurance (sometimes called Part B). Generally, people who are over age 65 and getting Social Security automatically qualify for Medicare. So do people who have been getting disability benefits for two years. Others must file an application. Part A is paid for by a portion of the Social Security tax paid by people still working. It helps pay for inpatient hospital care, skilled nursing care and other services. Part B is paid for by those who are enrolled through monthly premiums (currently $66.60) per month and from general revenues. Part B of Medicare helps pay for such items as doctors' fees, outpatient hospital visits and other medical services and supplies.

The EIC helps millions of working families. It is treated as a tax payment, and it is refundable if you have earned income, but not enough to owe income tax.

Survivors

When you or a certain member of your family may be eligible for benefits if you earned enough Social Security credits while you were working. Family members include: a widow(er) age 60 or older, age 50 or older if disabled, or any age if caring for a child under age 16; your children if they are unmarried and under age 18, under 19 but still in school, or 18 or older but disabled; and your parents if you were their primary means of support. A special one-time payment of $255 may be made to your spouse or minor children when you die. If you are divorced, your ex-spouse could be eligible for widower benefits on your earnings record.

The Costs of Household Employees

While a person attempts to work, there are incentives to smooth the transition back into the work force. These include your spouse if he or she is at least 62 years old or under 62 but caring for a child under age 16; and your children if they are unmarried and under age 18, or under 19 but still in school, or 18 or older but disabled; and your parents if you were their primary means of support. A special one-time payment of $255 may be made to your spouse or minor children when you die. If you are divorced, your ex-spouse could be eligible for widower benefits on your earnings record.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

SSI pays monthly benefits to people with low incomes and few assets if they are 65 and older or disabled. Payment amounts depend on a person's living arrangements and on their other income. Some states add money to the basic federal payment. To find out if you are eligible for SSI, contact your local Social Security office. (Note: SSI is not a Social Security benefit, and its benefits are not financed by Social Security taxes. They are funded by general tax revenues.)

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To find out if you might be eligible for any Social Security benefit, or for SSI payments, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or visit our Web site at www.socia sécurité.gov. Medicare information is available online at www.medicare.gov or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE.

Bibliographies

Edgar Loughman

Former Islander Edgar Loughman died on March 4, 2005, in Cairo, New York. He was 89.

Ed was born on City Island on July 7, 1915, and graduated from P.S. 17 in 1928. He was a New York City fireman for 21 years and then operated the lumberyard on City Island Avenue for his father for many years.

He leaves behind his wife of 64 years, Loretta, and eight children: his sons Ed of Virginia; John of Cairo, New York; Thomas of Danbury; James of Tomsneck, New Jersey; Daniel of Acra, New York; and William of Lawrenceville, Georgia; and his daughters Ann of Albany, New York, and Lore of Sterling, Virginia.

He also survived by 15 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

His interment followed a mass at Sacred Heart Church in Cairo.
As the long winter comes to an end we are preparing for spring and baseball. Our winter program was a great success, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Father Michael Chalinor and Mrs. Dennehy for allowing us to use the gym at St. Mary’s. We have begun to select our teams for the Minor and major leagues. We will also be sending a Junior league team to compete against other Bronx Little Leagues. We are looking forward to another exciting season of baseball here on City Island.

Registration for Minors (ages 7–9). Majors (ages 10–12) and Juniors (ages 13–14) are closed. However, registration for our instructional league is open at any time. Interested parents of nine- and ten-year-olds may join us on Saturday mornings at 9 a.m.

Our annual opening day parade and ceremonies will be held on Saturday April 23, 2005, at the City Island Little League fields. Parents are to meet at 10:45 a.m. at Catherine Scott Memorial Park near the bridge. We encourage all members of the community to join us and celebrate. Also feel free to join us at any time to enjoy a game or just say hello. If you would like to volunteer, please contact John Raimondi, L.M.T. (718) 885-0619, or e-mail cityislandlittleleague@yahoo.com.

FACING LIFE WITH A SONG

By MONICA GLICK

Her voice is crystal clear; her lyrics speak to the experience of all of us, about life with all its ups and downs, joys and disappointments.

Theresa Sareo is a singer-songwriter with informal roots in both the Starving Artist Café & Gallery, with selections from her latest CD, “Alive Again.” The 10 songs speak specifically of how we respond to the twists and turns of human relationships and daily living.

Ms. Sareo’s life took a big turn when she lost her right leg after being injured in a car accident. New York in June 2002 as she was on her way to drop off some of the songs on “Alive Again” resulted when her poetry was put to music; the other songs had been written before her accident.

Some of the poetry-turned-lyrics speak directly to grief for a lost way of life, feelings that all of us can relate to in our own life experiences. In “I Am the Light,” Ms. Sareo ponders: “It’s so unenviable / it’s all so unnecessary / it wasn’t anything predict-

a warning / just when I thought I was invincible.” In the same song, she sings: “I won’t hang my head in sorrow anymore / I won’t let my disappointment keep my head from looking up,” and “I am the light / I am reaching for.”

Theresa Sareo holds that hand of hope to others as well, speaking to and leading support groups for those who have lost limbs.

A number of Sareo tunes are just downright fun, like “Lipsticks,” the pulsing “Amazing,” and from her previous CD “Embrace,” the quirky “Breaking Up With You.”

Ms. Sareo grew up in Kimura, New York, and is now a Manhattan resident. It was her time living in the Bronx, on Allerton Avenue, that “citified” her, she says. “I have great memories of coming to City Island during those years,” she recalls.

The atmosphere is the same today as then—very artsy, very welcoming—and, of course, filled with great seafood restaurants.

Described by reviewers as “tender to powerful, sensual to gutsy,” Ms. Sareo is the first solo female singer-songwriter to play the Starving Artist, and she return ed July 1 and 2.

Starving Artist proprietor Elliott Glick, a musician and songwriter himself, has gradually been expanding the art featured at the gallery to include musical arts. He understands how it is sometimes difficult to find places willing to showcase music and their original work. “I want to provide that forum for them and offer that experience to my customers,” he says. He is toying with the idea of starting a singer-songwriters’ workshop at the gallery.

In the meantime, Theresa Sareo’s CDs are available for purchase at the gallery or on-line at www.starvingartistonline.com. And just as the title track to “Alive Again” unlocked the block for this song-writing talent, the pulsing “Amazing,” and from her previous CD “Embrace,” the quirky “Breaking Up With You,” Ms. Sareo grew up in Kimura, New York, and is now a Manhattan resident. It was her time living in the Bronx, on Allerton Avenue, that “citified” her, she says. “I have great memories of coming to City Island during those years,” she recalls. The atmosphere is the same today as then—very artsy, very welcoming—and, of course, filled with great seafood restaurants.

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Engine 70, Ladder 53, for his promotion

Rich Patterson, from City Island's own

Congratulations to Terrace Street's

are so proud of you, Austin!

come in threes. Your family and friends

been relocated to Rotterdam. Good things

Magda, received a new promotion and has

Earley Street's Austin Dooley Jr., who has

Good luck and special blessings to

28.

Matthew Sasko, who turns 13 on April

Birthday greetings to Buckley Street's

who turns four on April 30.

Happy April 27 birthday greetings to

Kim Zapata and to her daughter Emily,

Happy April 2 birthday greetings to

Kraemer twins. Amanda Kraemer is work-

Mary, Cathy, Anna, Masie and Joe.

love you, Bob, Susie, Tanya, Amanda,

15. You're growing up way too fast! We

Alice Donovan, who will be 10 on April

Happy birthday to our "sugar weasel,"

family are proud of you, Rich!

Captain Patterson gave a moving homage

to captain. Captain Patterson, a 9/11 hero,

will be stationed in Staten Island, Divi-

sion 8. At a celebration given at Arnie’s

by his City Island fireman brothers, his
dad, Thomas Patterson, who flew in from

California, made a poignant toast. In turn,

Captain Patterson gave a moving homage
to his friend and fallen 9/11 hero Lieuten-
ant Kevin Donnelly. Your friends and fam-

ily are proud of you, Rich!

Happy birthday to our “sugar weasel,”

Alice Dionisov, who will be 10 on April

15. You’re growing up too fast! We

love you, Bob, Susie, Tanya, Amanda,

Mary, Cathy, Anna, Masse and Joe.

Congratulations to those hardworking

Kraemer twins. Amanda Kraemer is work-

ing with CBS as a segment writer, and

Tanya works as a docent at the Barlow-Pell

Mansion Museum.

Happy birthday to the Sailmaker’s Judy

Iovieno, who will celebrate her big day on

April 23.

Happy anniversary on April 26 to Marc

and Chris McGuire, with love from your

family and friends.

A happy belated birthday wish to Janet

Hickey, whose big day was March 10, with

love from her family and friends.

Congratulations to Jacqueline Hickey-

London on her promotion to vice presi-
dent of the Quantum Group, a common

health company located in Parsippany,

New Jersey. Jackie resides at Mendham,

New Jersey, with her husband, Tom, and

her daughter, Jocelyn. The Hickey fam-

ily has lived on City Island since 1980. Jackie

relocated to New Jersey to further her

career in creative marketing.

And last but not least, Happy birth-
day on April 25 to The Talebearer, Maria

Swiecki, who is going to start countin