# WOODSIDEHERALD

SERVING SUNNYSIDE-WOODSIDE AND LONG ISLAND CITY

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25 CENTS

### New Anti-Tobacco Rules Taking Effect

U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-Manhattan, Queens) hailed strong new rules taking effect today that crack down on the marketing and sale of tobacco products. The new rules are the result of the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, which was passed by Congress and signed into law on June 22, 2009.

Among other provisions, the new rules require stores to place tobacco products behind the counter and out of the reach of children, prohibit tobacco companies from using deceptive terms like "light," "mild," and "low-tar" when advertising cigarettes, and require larger warning labels on smokeless tobacco products. More details on the new rules can be found below.

"These new rules make it clear that there are no 'safe' tobacco products, and make sure that stores keep tobacco out of kids' reach," said Rep.

Maloney. "No longer will Big Tobacco be allowed to blow smoke at consumers by telling them that cigarettes are 'light' or 'low-tar,' when in fact they are as deadly as ever. These common-sense rules will save lives and are yet another example of this Congress's dedication to public health."

Facts on tobacco use and the new anti-tobacco rules from Speaker Pelosi's office:

Tobacco is now responsible for about 1 in 5 deaths annually, or more than 400,000 deaths a year and tens of billions of dollars of extra health care costs. Tobacco companies continue to spend more than \$12 billion a year to market their products, often in ways that are designed to appeal to children.

Currently, every day, more than 3,500 young people try a cigarette for the first time, and another 1,000 will become new, regular daily smokers. One-third of these

youth will eventually die prematurely as a result.

Cracking Down on Tobacco Marketing and Sales to Kids

The new rules on tobacco marketing and sales to kids will:

Ban all remaining tobaccobrand sponsorships of sports and entertainment events;

Ban virtually all free tobacco samples and giveaways of nontobacco items, such as hats and t-shirts, with the purchase of tobacco;

Prohibit the sale of cigarettes in packs of less than 20 (eliminating so-called "kiddie packs" that make cigarettes more affordable and appealing to kids);

Require stores to place cigarettes and other tobacco products behind the counter, out of the reach of children;

Restrict vending machines and self-service displays to adult-only facilities; and

Place a national ban on the sale of tobacco products to people under age 18 (rather than

the current state-by-state bans).

Banning Use of Deceptive
"Light," "Mild," and "Low-

Tar" Labels Another key provision that takes effect today is a ban on terms such as "light," "mild," or "low-tar," when marketing and selling cigarettes. For decades, the tobacco industry has used these terms to deceive the public into believing that some brands of cigarettes are less harmful than others and to discourage smokers from quitting. Many smokers erroneously believe that using these products help reduce the risks from smoking. This is false, and the tobacco industry has long known it is false. The FDA should conduct a public education campaign to ensure that smokers understand that the only proven way to protect their health is to quit.

Requiring Larger Warning Labels for Smokeless Tobacco

Finally, another key provision that takes effect today is

the requirement of larger, bolder health warnings on smokeless tobacco products and advertising. Specifically, these warnings must cover 30 percent of package display panels and 20 percent of advertising. (Large, graphic warnings on cigarette packs and advertising are being developed and will take effect by 2012 or sooner.) The new warnings on smokeless tobacco products are important because these products are very addictive and cause cancer and other serious diseases. As smoking rates have declined and restrictions are where you can smoke have multiplied, tobacco companies have introduced new smokeless tobacco products and significantly increased marketing for them. The most recent government surveys have found that, while cigarette smoking has declined, smokeless tobacco has increased by more than 33 percent among 10th to 12th graders in recent years.

## SENATE MAJORITY SECURES FUNDING FOR STUDENT METROCARDS

The Senate Democratic Majority has achieved a major victory for New York children and families by securing \$25 million in state funding for a reduced fare student MetroCard program.

A budget agreement between the MTA, city and state will prevent cuts to the program and continue to provide students access to reduced-fare transit. Under the agreement, the state will pay \$25.3 million to fund the program in addition to a city contribution. The MTA will cover the remaining costs. All students who were eligible for reduced fare MetroCards during the previous school year will continue to receive the benefit starting this September.

The \$25 million in state funding is contingent upon the NYC Department of Education's receipt of the reduced fare student MetroCards from the MTA.

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student MetroCards is of tantamount importance to New York's students and families, who should never have to weigh the cost of attending school against getting to school," said Senator Martin Malavé Dilan, chair of the Senate Transportation Committee.

Facing a massive deficit, the MTA had proposed full elimination of the program, which would have affected the more than 500,000 New York City students who use the reduced fare MetroCards to travel to and from public school."Today, we kept our promise to New York's children by protecting their access to a reliable and affordable means of mass transit. While the benefits of a quality education are priceless, the cost of transportation for our students should remain affordable. I would like to thank Governor Paterson,

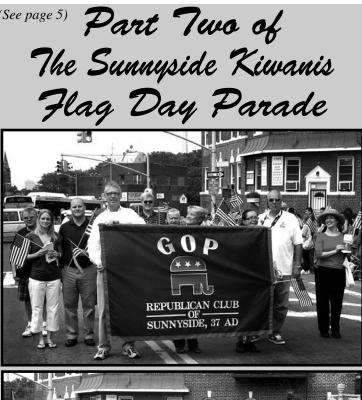
Speaker Silver, and my Senate colleagues, in particular Senators Martin Malavé Dilan and Joe Addabbo for their tireless advocacy on behalf of students," said Senate Majority Conference Leader John L. Sampson.

"I am proud to announce that strong efforts have been made to fully fund the student metro cards in this year's State Budget," said Senator Joseph Addabbo (D-Queens). "Together we rallied to send a clear message that eliminating student metro cards that allow students to ride the subway and bus at a substantially reduced cost would be catastrophic for working families. With the passage of the upcoming budget bills, our message will have been heard loud and clear."

It is expected that the legislation containing the agreement will be acted upon early next week.

#### 108 Pct Council Meeting Tuesday, June 29th @ 7pm

Sunnyside Community Center 43-31 39th Street
Please join us in saying good-bye to Deputy Inspector Thomas
Kavanaugh and wishing him much success in the future. Deputy
Inspector Thomas Kavanaugh has been with us for three and a
half years. We will also be introducing and welcome our new
leader Captain Donald Powers to our community.







On Friday, June 18th Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer united with Queens Library supporters, trustees, I.S. 125 students and representatives of DC9 and Local 1321 in front of the Sunnyside Community Library to address concerns about proposed budget cuts.

Council Member Van Bramer has been actively advocating on behalf of libraries all month long – from the multiple rallies on the steps of City Hall, to the 24 Hour Read-In in Brooklyn, the Council Member's efforts came full circle today in a personal rally he held for his district in Sunnyside, Queens.

Children, mothers, senior citizens and library advocates gathered together in front of the Sunnyside Community Library with the Council Member to hear and share their stories as to what libraries meant to them. The citywide campaign to save the libraries is in

full force and Council Member Van Bramer has pledged his support and has continued to fight on their behalf in the City Council's budget deliberations.

"Libraries are an essential part of our communities," said Council Member Van Bramer, in addressing the crowd. "These educational havens provide vital resources during such pressing times – now more than ever New Yorkers need libraries."

"Demand for library services here in Sunnyside and around the borough continues to grow and grow. Yesterday, we delivered over 100,000 signatures in support of keeping libraries open. I am pleased to stand here today with a real champion of Libraries, Councilman Van Bramer, to continue this fight to save service and save jobs for the 50,000 people who use our libraries every day," said Queens Library CEO Thomas W. Galante.

Attorneys-At-Law
Marc Crawford Leavitt
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Ira R. Greenberg
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Sherilyn Jo Sabba ...... Ed

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS AND EDITORS

Douglas Kennedy, Luke Adams, Patricia Dorfman

CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

Luke Adams, Patricia Dorfman

#### P.S. 152 BALLROOM DANCERS HONORED



During the New York City Council's monthly Stated meeting this June, Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer presented the talented Ballroom Dancers of P.S. 152 with a Proclamation of Honor for their stellar performances and outstanding achievements.

For the past two years, the talented fifth-grade students at P.S 152 in Woodside, Queens have participated in American Ballroom Theater's Dancing Classrooms Program, learning and mastering the Merengue, Rumba, Fox Trot, Tango, and

Swing. The Ballroom Dancers of P.S. 152 received a gold medal for their performances at the fall semester finals in Queens and on June 23rd, 2010, they will compete for the grand prize in the city-wide American Ballroom Theater Competition.



#### A VISIT TO NEWCOMERS HIGH SCHOOL IN LIC

During a tour of Newcomers High School in Long Island City, Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer met with Principal Orlando Sarmiento and high school seniors from Ms. Enriquez's Journalism class. The students had an opportunity to share their post-graduate aspirations with Council Member Van Bramer and discuss their excitement over their upcoming prom. In addition to meeting with students, the Council Member also toured the school gymnasium and library to speak with faculty members.

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### CROWLEY CONNECTIONS: NEWS FROM THE 7th DISTRICT

During these extremely tough economic times, we must keep our focus on putting people back to work and restoring the fiscal health of our country. We have brought the economy back from the brink, but too many Americans still feel the recession more than the recovery. No one can be satisfied when unemployment nationwide averages 10 percent.

That is why I was pleased that the U.S. House of Representatives passed two important bills to help put our small businesses back on their feet. Small businesses are the engine of our economy, creating two-thirds of the new jobs over the last 15 years. The best thing the federal government can do is lay a strong foundation that will allow entrepreneurs and small businesses to grow and expand. In doing so, we will help put our economy back on track. For this reason, I supported passage of:

1) The Small Business Jobs Tax Relief Act, which passed on June 15, 2010, will not add to the deficit and will:

-Spur Investment in small businesses by increasing the capital gains tax cuts for those who invest in small businesses this year;

-Reign in abuses by the IRS that disproportionately affected small businesses in which some small businesses were assessed penalties as high as \$300,000 for receiving a tax benefit of as little as \$15,000; and

-Increase to \$20,000 – from \$5,000 in current law – the deduction for start-up expenditures for investigating the creation of a business. This will allow entrepreneurs to recover more start-up expenses, so small business owners can focus on hiring new workers and growing their businesses.

2) The Small Business Jobs and Credit Act, which will:

-Provide loans to small businesses on Main Street to create jobs through a new \$30 billion lending fund for small and medium sized community banks to leverage up to \$300 billion in lending;

-Give \$2 billion in funding for new or existing state lending programs, which already exist in thirty states, to use small amounts of public dollars to generate substantial private bank financing; and

-Aid small business start-ups by creating a public/private partnership designed to channel investment capital to them.

Rest assured, I will continue to work with my colleagues in the Congress to create American jobs by helping small businesses stay healthy and strong.

Sincerely, Joe



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"Celebrating 22 Years...."



Queens Borough President Helen Marshall (right of center) and New York Hospital Queens President and CEO Steve Mills (C) officially open the hospital's new "West Wing," Wednesday, June 16th. Others on hand included City Comptroller John Liu (third from left) and Dr. George Heinrich (fourth from left), chair of the Board of Trustees. The new wing has 80 medical/surgical beds and an ambulatory surgery center with ten operating rooms and 33 recovery beds.

#### Statements...

"I remain concerned about the economic health of our small businesses," said Maloney. "Small businesses need access to credit so that they can expand their operations and hire new workers. It is for this very reason that I have been working with my colleagues on legislation aimed at freeing up capital for creditworthy small firms. I am pleased that the House passed this legislation today that will make it easier for small businesses to get the loans they need."

#### -Rep. Maloney on New York Job Numbers

"This federal grant will help Outward Bound give at-risk students access to top-notch academics and activities that build character and self-esteem," said Maloney. "Outward Bound is well-known for its wilderness programs, which teach kids respect for nature and promote teamwork. New York City Outward Bound brings those same valuable lessons to at-risk students right here in the urban heart of New York City. New York City Outward Bound is giving many of our city's most vulnerable kids a brighter future. I am delighted that Senator Schumer and I were able to help this outstanding organization help New York City kids."

- Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (D-Queens, Manhattan)announced a \$200,000 federal grant that she and Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) secured for New York City Outward Bound in this year's federal budget.

#### JIMMY VAN BRAMER BRINGS MOVEABLE MUSEUM TO QUEENSBRIDGE FOR FAMILY DAY



On Saturday, June 19th Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer joined Queensbridge Houses residents for their Annual Family Day. Friends and neighbors gathered together in front of the Jacob Riis Settlement House to enjoy a fun filled day of games and food.

The event which is hosted every year by the Queensbridge Tenant Association was made even more meaningful by the presence of the Museum of Natural History's Moveable Museum. As a result of Council Member Van Bramer's efforts to bring the Museum to Queensbridge, children had the opportunity to enjoy the museums mobile interactive exhibit focusing on dinosaurs at the Family Day Event. The traveling museum travels to schools, libraries, and community organizations within New York City's five boroughs.

#### ST. RAPHAEL SCHOOL'S MODERN TWIST OF "THE WIZARD OF OZ" PROVIDES GRAND ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE SUNNYSIDE COMMUNITY

By Rebekah Singh

interpretation of the wellknown Wizard of Oz was performed by students in all grades at St. Raphael School. It was a night of laughter and awe. The

On May 20, 2010, a current room was jam packed as people entered in for the great show. Beginning with the all famous band kicking things off to a great start, the evening kept growing in excitement.

#### **Kendra's Law Passes Senate**

#### Majority Extends Mental Health & Public Protection Program Through 2015

The Senate Democratic Majority announced the passage of legislation (S7254) to keep Kendra's law, an important mental health and public protection program fully operational through 2015.

The law had been set to expire at the end of this month.

Senate Majority Conference Leader John L. Sampson said, 'Kendra's Law honors the memory of a life lost too soon, as well as a mother who has fought tirelessly to ensure New Yorkers with mental illness have access to the treatment they need. This program is an effective, affordable, and humane form of treatment which keeps our communities safe."

Kendra's Law was named after Kendra Webdale, a young woman who was killed in January 1999 after being pushed in front of a New York City subway train by a person who was living in the city without being treated for his mental illness. That year, the Legislature enacted a law that creates a statutory framework for court-ordered Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT), to ensure that individuals with mental illness and a history of hospitalizations or violence participate in community-based services appropriate to their needs. The legislation establishes a procedure for obtaining court orders for certain individuals with mental illness to receive and accept outpatient treatment. A person cannot be placed under AOT unless:

The person is at least 18 years old;

·The person is suffering from a mental illness;

·The person is unlikely to survive safely in the community without supervision, based on a clinical determination;

·The person has a history of lack of compliance with treatment for mental illness that revealed serious violent behavior or required hospitalization;

·The person is unlikely to voluntarily participate in the outpatient treatment;

·The person is, according to his or her treatment history and current behavior, in need of the treatment to prevent a relapse or deterioration that would likely result in serious harm to the person or others;

· The person is likely to benefit from AOT.

Reauthorized in 2005, the statewide implementation of Kendra's Law has resulted in beneficial structural changes to local mental health service delivery systems. An independent study from 2009 showed that New York State's AOT Program improves a range of important outcomes for its recipients, apparently without negative consequences to recipients.

This legislation passed 55-0; it has also passed the Assembly.



The program consisted of each grade portraying a different scene from the film, and singing the pertaining song of that particular scene. It was great to see the creativity and uniqueness that each student brought to the table while acting. There were even group performances where some of the students sang beautiful solos. The anticipation grew more and more as each scene progressed, and left the audience astounded at how excellent the event was.

Refreshments were sold and hot food was available in addition to fun raffles. In the finale, the 8th grade class ended the show on an extraordinary note dancing to Michael Jackson's, *Thriller*. The execution of the choreography was great, and resulted in marvelous applause. Altogether, the show was a hit with a room crowded with relatives of the students in addition to several alumni.

To sum things up, the show was a blast and a beautiful spring



evening was well spent with friends and family. This event is one of the many different events that St. Raphael School has hosted in the past and will probably be one of the many that it will host in the future!

#### Assemblyman Gianaris' Redistricting Bill Clears Committee

Assemblyman Michael Gianaris (D-Queens), a leading reformer in Albany, announced today that his bill to establish an independent commission to reapportion legislative districts was approved by the Assembly Governmental Operations Committee.

By ensuring that voters choose their representatives instead of representatives choosing their voters, government will be more responsive to its citizens and the public will have more faith in its government," stated Assemblyman Gianaris. "Today's approval is a big step toward making this important reform a reality.'

Assemblyman Gianaris' legislation would strike at the core of the gridlock in Albany and has been lauded by former New York City Mayor Ed Koch, Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, and a number of good government organizations, including Citizens Union, NYPIRG, Common Cause/NY and the League of Women Voters.

In fact, Mayor Koch's organization NY Uprising and Attorney General Cuomo have both identified Assemblyman Gianaris' proposal as a key plank in their own reform platforms.

The New York Times has also called the Gianaris bill the real key to reform in Albany.

Assemblyman Gianaris' proposal would establish an independent commission to reapportion legislative districts every ten years, removing that function from the legislature itself and removing, along with it, the conflicting motivation for legislators to draw districts that primarily ensure their own reelections, rather than connect communities that share natural boundaries and local concerns.

Now that the bill has advanced out of the Governmental Operations Committee, it is a significant step closer to being brought to a vote, ideally before the end of legislative session.

More competitive elections lead to more accountable representatives, added Gianaris. I will continue to fight for reforms to end the gridlock and make our government more responsive.



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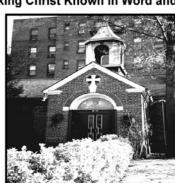


#### **Sunnyside Reformed Church**

48-03 Skillman Ave (48<sup>th</sup> St & Skillman Ave.), Sunnyside, Queens Reverend Neil A. Margetson, Pastor (718) 426-5997 Email: SunnyChurch@Verizon.net

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If you're concerned about whether you'll be able to afford retirement, you aren't alone. Consider the following figures from the 2009 Retirement Confidence Survey, published by the Employee Benefit Research Institute:

Just 13% of the workers surveyed said they are very confident about having enough money for a comfortable retirement. This represents the lowest level since the Retirement Confidence Survey began in 1993.

Seventy-two percent of workers — up from 66% in 2007 - are planning to supplement their income in retirement by working for pay.

These figures are probably driven, in part, by the recent recession, but they also reflect a general uneasiness among workers about how well they've saved and invested for retirement. As you know,

it's not easy to save for retirement and pay for your kids' college and make your mortgage payments. Like many people, you might have just done the best you could for all these years. But if you've finished paying off some major expenses, you might have more chances to boost your retirement savings.

Here are a few suggestions:

Increase your contributions to your employer-sponsored retirement plan. In 2010, you can put up to \$16,500 into your 401(k), 403(b) or 457(b) plan, or \$22,000 if you're 50 or older. Your contributions are typically made with pretax dollars, so the more you contribute, the lower your taxable income. Plus, your earnings can grow on a tax-deferred basis.

Increase your IRA contributions. Even if you have a 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan, you may still be eligible to contribute to a traditional or Roth IRA. In 2010, you can put \$5,000 into an IRA, or \$6,000 if you're 60 or older. A traditional IRA grows tax deferred, while a Roth IRA can grow tax free, provided you've held your account at least five years and you don't start taking withdrawals until you're age 59

Rebalance your investment portfolio. Maintaining the right mix of investments can be a balancing act. On one hand, you'll need to

own a reasonable percentage of growth-oriented vehicles to potentially boost your retirement savings. On the other hand, if you are within, say, five years of retirement, you may also want to reduce the effects of volatility on your portfolio, which means you'll need some income-producing investments that carry a relatively lower level of investment risk. There's no magic formula for achieving the correct balance, so you'll want to work with a professional financial advisor - someone who knows your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon, and who has the expertise and experience necessary to help you make the right choices.

Becoming an empty nester may provide you with opportunities to do things you haven't done before — such as concentrate your resources on building the type of retirement you deserve.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor Vincent Renda located at 47-01 Queens Blvd. Suite 203 Sunnyside NY 11104. Phone him at 718-361-1306.



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#### • LEGAL NOTICE •

NOTICE OF SALE, SUPREME COURT, COUNTY OF QUEENS, DANESH K. MAHINDRA and MADHU MAHINDRA, and LET'S HAVE A PARTY II, INC., Plaintiffs, vs. CRISTOBAL PARRA and C & C GLOBAL EXPRESS, INC., Defendants. Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale granted on or about March 30, 2010, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Queens County Supreme Courthouse, Court Room 25, 88-11 Sutphin Blvd., Jamaica, NY, on Friday, July 30, 2010 at 11:00 am, premises known as 70-09 45th Avenue, Woodside, NY. ALL that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Queens County, City and State of New York, Block: 1351; Lot 75, as more particularly described in the Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale. Premises will be sold subject to provisions contained within said Judgment and Terms of Sale, Index No. 17042/07. Approximate Amount of Judgment: \$1,546,684.50 plus interest and costs. David L. Cohen, Esq., Referee. Law Offices of Devang Shah, P.C., 116-55 Queens Blvd, #201, Forest Hills, NY 11375, Attorneys for Plaintiff. 6/25, 7/2, 7/9, 7/16









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By Dr. Ellenmonis Tiegeman, Founder and Executive Director

#### "It's All About Money"

New York Times by Jennifer Medina entitled "City Pushes Shift for Special Education" does not accurately reflect what is really happening.

The statement that New York State has had difficulty figuring out how to provide appropriate services for children with disabilities without isolating them is ridiculous. There is a committee review process and mandated State Education Department procedures that parents and educators follow in order to diagnose and place a child with a disability in special education. The issue is not whether children receive appropriate services but rather that the appropriate services are more expensive than regular education. The problem in special education is money. And this is the issue that is not adequately discussed by Ms. Medina.

Any time there is an eco-

The recent article in the nomic and/or budgetary crisis, the number of newspaper articles about special education increases dramatically. Special education costs more than regular education because there are therapeutic services which are built into the child's program. Typical children do not need occupational therapy, physical therapy, language therapy and/or a special education teacher. But it is not politically correct to "say" that disabled children should not receive the services because of money. So under the guise of "inclusion" there is now another push to remove students with disabilities from highly specialized schools to regular classrooms with typical children. If children with disabilities could be educated in regular classrooms, they would be there. The reason that they are not in regular classrooms is because they cannot function appropriately

in a classroom with a regular teacher and 25 typical children. In a regular classroom, children with disabilities would not receive the individualized and intensive instruction that they would receive in a specialized program. They also would not receive the therapeutic services that they need.

Let's stop sugar-coating this "sales pitch." This is all about removing children with disabilities from programs which have been highly successful and beneficial; programs that parents believe are highly effective. Once special education children are in regular classrooms, who is going to monitor if they are getting what they need? The public schools have a checkered record educating typical students and children with limited English proficiency. Do you really think that they are going to do a better job with children who have disabilities?

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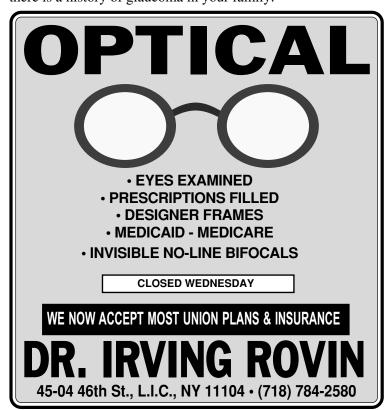




#### CHECKING PERIPHERAL VISION

If you're concerned about how good your side (peripheral) vision may be, try this simple experiment. Looking straight ahead of you, fix your line of sight on one particular object in the room. Still looking straight ahead, make a note of all the other surrounding objects in the room that are also visible. If your eyes give you a "full" picture, your side vision may be normal. However, this kind of test is not reliable and may give you a false sense of security. Only through tests made by your eye doctor can you be

Any defective side vision can be hazardous and may also be a sign of advanced stages of glaucoma, an eye disease that can cause blindness if not treated in time. In glaucoma, fluid pressure builds up in the eye, causing serious damage to the delicate structures within the eye. You should have your eye pressure checked at least once a year, especially if you are over forty, are nearsighted, or if there is a history of glaucoma in your family.



#### Student Essay Contest Winners Awarded Cash Prizes

On Saturday June 5, eight LaGuardia Community College students were honored for their inspirational writing at the "How LaGuardia Community College Changed My Life" essay contest awards ceremony, held at the College.

First prizewinner Michael Hodgins, second prizewinner Andrew Greene and third prize winner Naim Syla along with Honorable Mention awardees Ramona Hierro, Robert Hobson, Eileen Madison, Tony Pham and Crystal Voye were chosen out of almost 100 submitted essays. They were formally congratulated by Fern Luskin, Professor of Art History and creator of the contest, and were presented awards by The New York Times reporter Fernanda Santos.

After the prizewinners accepted their awards, Michael receiving \$500, Andrew \$300 and Naim \$200, each read his essay to the crowd of students, family and friends.

This contest was an idea that came to Professor Luskin after hearing LaGuardia's President Gail O. Mellow lecture on the importance of a community college education. Many of the honored students thanked the school for the essay contest because it provided them with an outlet and gave them confidence in their abilities. "I didn't expect that," said Professor Luskin, "They had to climb mountains before they even got here, they practically moved the mountains, and once they got here their lives transformed."

#### Letters To The Editor

The following letters are the opinions of its author and not necessarily those of the Woodside Herald.

#### RESPONSE TO JUNE 4TH **LETTER TO EDITOR**

REGARDING PARKING

#### Dear Editor,

In a June 4 op-ed, Sunnyside Chamber of Commerce President Ira Greenberg laid out the Chamber's transportation agenda for making Queens Boulevard better for business. One of his top recommendations was to allow for parking along the Boulevard at all times. This would not only be good for business, but it would also make the Boulevard safer for pedestrians.

For most of the day parking is allowed along Queens Boulevard, but from 7 to 10AM every weekday, there are No Standing zones on the north side of Queens Boulevard and Roosevelt Avenue. From 4 to 7PM, the south side of Queens Boulevard, Roosevelt Avenue and one block of 43rd Avenue are No Standing zones.

This restriction means that if morning drivers commuting to Manhattan stop for juice from Go Natural, they get parking tickets. Evening drivers who stop to pick up a bottle of wine from Lowery Liquors get tickets. Drivers who don't want tickets shop elsewhere, and that means that Sunnyside gets the pollution, noise and danger from the cars passing through, but receives no economic benefit to offset any of it.

The rush hour parking restriction is not just an economic hardship. Queens Boulevard in Sunnyside has been the site of numerous pedestrian injuries and at least four deaths. There is a very real danger of out-ofcontrol cars injuring people on the sidewalk. In 2007, the New York Times reported that a sixteen-year-old boy named Gonpo Dorjee was seriously injured while waiting to cross the Boulevard at 47th Street. He was unable to walk for months.

One thing that protects pedestrians like Dorjee from speeding cars is parked cars. Without the parked cars, the only things protecting pedestrians from a wayward vehicle are the parking meters, and they will be replaced by muni-meters in a few years. As Ira wrote, "Pedestrians waiting to cross every block feel unsafe as they stand inches from fast moving vehicles." When we feel unsafe, we shop elsewhere. A doublewhammy for the stores along Queens Boulevard: less business from drivers, and less busi-



ness from pedestrians.

This parking restriction is a relic of the old Department of Transportation, where moving traffic was more important than business or safety. Over the past several years the DOT has made protecting lives a higher priority. We have already seen this change on Skillman, 43rd and Barnett Avenues, where speeds have gone down and injuries are less common.

Removing the rush hour parking restriction is the next step in the direction of safety. It would not have protected Gonpo Dorjee, because he was hit on the corner, but it will protect thousands more. It will also bring more customers to Sunnyside businesses, in cars and on foot. Good for business, good for safety, good for Sunnyside.

> Sincerely, Angus Grieve-Smith, Woodside

#### Response to June 18th "Rezoning and **Affordable Housing in NW Queens**"

#### **Dear Editor**

Affordable housing is designed for people who work. It seems to me that the question is not whether there should be more affordable housing, but rather why there is still such great need. If a person in the United States works at a legitimate job for 40 hours per week, makes \$20,000 annually, (\$2.00 above federal minimum wage), why should there not be decent, affordable housing for their family?

The financial crisis was not caused by the thousands of people who were given mortgages which they could ill afford (once their interest payments increased); it was caused by Wall Street and the Banks' greed. They took no responsibility, they bundled these mortgages and sold them to other financial institutions which produced useless paper – for which they were handily paid.

Unions on the other hand, brought workers a living wage and therefore millions of families moved into the middle class; which is the backbone of America's democracy.

Let's not blame the victims; let's put it where it belongs, on institutionalized greed.

Linda Stein, Woodside

#### **Get Your Questions Answered About Retirement and Social Security**

You're invited...

After years of work, you now have the opportunity to experience the retirement you've always wanted. By taking some time now to prepare for life in retirement, you'll be more likely to enjoy everything you've dreamed about.

To get started, join us for our free Smart Choices in Retirement seminar. You'll learn 10 principles to help make your money last with the goal of providing a stable, steady retirement income. That's one of the best ways we know to help you prepare for the future.

Special guest, Ira Shapiro, Regional Director for social security Administration will be here to inform you about social security and to answer your questions about social security.

Seating is limited, so reserve your

Date: 7/14/2010 Time: 10am - 11:30am Location: St. Teresa Auditorium 50-20 45 Street Woodside NY 11377 RSVP: 7/7/2010

Vincent Renda, Financial Advisor, 47-01 Queens Blvd., Suite 203, Sunnyside NY 11104. 718-361-1306

God



A farewell gathering will be held after noon Mass this coming Sunday, June 27 at Queen of Angels Church to honor Father Michael Mulvihill, who will be leaving Sunnyside and the U.S. next week. Adored by his parishioners, his joyful presence and enlightened homilies and sermons will be sorely missed. We wish him godspeed, bon voyage and good health as he departs for England and Ireland.



**NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL** 

#### Speaker CHRISTINE C. QUINN

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> R.S.V.P. by 12 noon on June 28 2010 at 212-788-9221 or email: ctc2530@gmail.com