

WOODSIDE HERALD

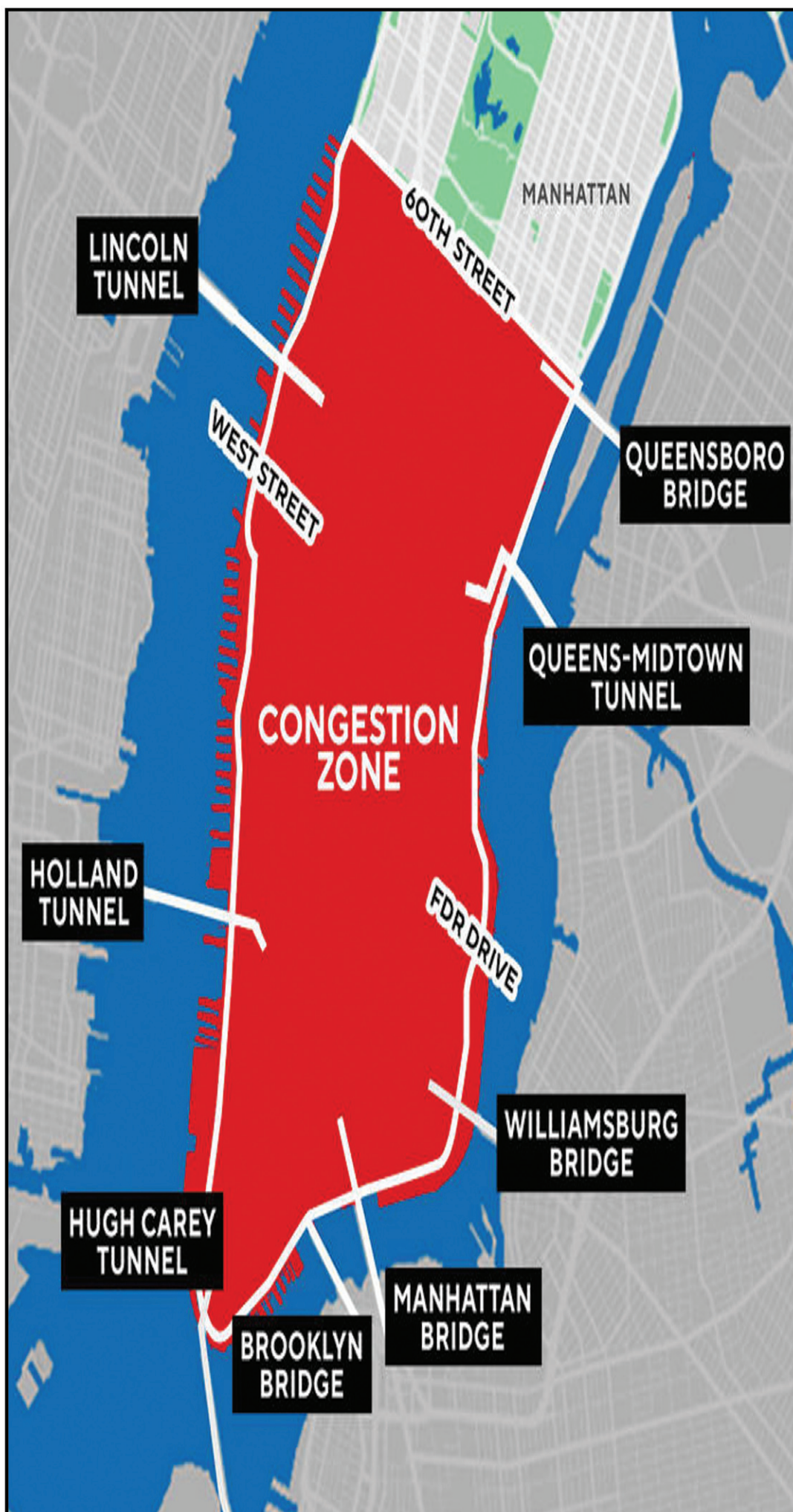
SERVING SUNNYSIDE-WOODSIDE AND LONG ISLAND CITY

VOL. 92 NO. 2

WOODSIDE, L.I.C., N.Y. FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2025

FREE

CONGESTION QUESTION



New York City's congestion pricing initiative, launched on January 5, 2025, aims to alleviate traffic congestion, enhance air quality, and generate revenue for public transit improvements. The program imposes a \$9 toll on passenger vehicles entering Manhattan's Congestion Relief Zone—areas south of 60th Street—during peak hours, with reduced rates during off-peak times.

The implementation has elicited diverse reactions from residents and commuters in neighborhoods such as Sunnyside, Long Island City (LIC), Woodside, and broader Queens. Many express concerns about the financial burden, particularly for those who rely on personal vehicles for daily commutes. The toll is perceived as an additional expense amid rising living costs, prompting some to reconsider their travel habits or explore alternative transportation options.

Local businesses, especially those dependent on deliveries, are also apprehensive. The trucking industry faces a \$21.60 fee for heavy-duty trucks entering the designated zone during peak hours, with planned increases in subsequent years. These added costs may be transferred to consumers, potentially affecting small enterprises operating on narrow profit margins.

Conversely, proponents of the initiative highlight its potential benefits. By discouraging unnecessary vehicular traffic, the program is expected to reduce congestion, leading to shorter travel times and decreased emissions. Advocates argue that the revenue generated will fund essential improvements to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), enhancing public transit services that many Queens residents depend on.

However, concerns persist regarding the program's broader implications. Residents in northern Manhattan and outer boroughs fear that drivers seeking to avoid the toll will park in their neighborhoods, exacerbating local traffic and parking shortages. This potential spillover effect could undermine the program's objectives by shifting congestion rather than reducing it.

In response to these concerns, city officials have outlined measures to mitigate negative impacts. Discounts and exemptions are available for certain groups, including low-income drivers, individuals with disabilities, emergency vehicles, and buses. Additionally, credits are provided for vehicles using specific tunnels, aiming to balance the financial burden across different commuter demographics.

The program's rollout has not been without challenges. Technical issues, such as increased traffic to the E-ZPass NY website, have been reported, indicating the need for robust infrastructure to support the initiative. Moreover, legal challenges from neighboring states, notably New Jersey, have been presented, though courts have thus far allowed the program to proceed as scheduled.

As the congestion pricing program progresses, its long-term effects on traffic patterns, environmental quality, and public transit funding will become clearer. Continuous monitoring and potential adjustments will be essential to address emerging concerns and ensure that the initiative meets its objectives without disproportionately impacting specific communities. Engagement with local residents and stakeholders in areas like Sunnyside, LIC, Woodside, and Queens at large will be crucial in refining the program to serve the city's diverse population effectively.

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GIVING UP IS NOT THE ANSWER TO YOUR SITUATION

by Stan Popovich

You are at the end of your rope and you can't take it any much longer. You are in pain and you feel there is no hope. The first step you need to do is to seek treatment for your mental health issues. Do not make the decision to end your life when you are in these kinds of fearful situations. With this in mind, here are seven reasons why suicide is not an option regarding your problems.

1. **Things change over time:** Regardless of your circumstances, events do not stay the same. Everything changes over time. Knowing that your situation will improve will help give you the confidence that things are not as bad as they seem. In addition, your loneliness will not last.

2. **There are always other options:** You may feel lost and confused, but the answers to your specific problems are out there. The key is that you have to find the answers; the answers to your anxieties and depression will not come to you. As mentioned before, the first step in finding the solution to your problem is to seek help from a qualified professional.

3. **You can't predict the future:** Remember that no one can predict the future with one hundred percent certainty. Even if the thing that you are afraid of does happen, there are circumstances and factors that you can't predict which can be used to your advantage.


For instance, you miss the deadline for a project you have been working on. Everything you feared is coming true. Suddenly, your boss tells you that the deadline is extended and that he forgot to tell you the day before. This unknown factor changes everything.

4. **Focus on the facts of your situation and not your thoughts:** When people are depressed, they rely on their fearful and depressing thoughts. Your fearful thoughts are exaggerated and are not based on reality. When you are depressed, focus on the facts of your current situation and not on what you think. Do not assume anything regarding your current situation.

5. **Worrying makes things worse:** A lot of times, our worrying can make the problem even worse. All the worrying in the world will not change anything. All you can do is to do your best each day, hope for the best, and when something does happen, take it in stride. The key is not to get upset and learn how to manage your negative thoughts.


6. **Go to the hospital when it is that bad:** If things are so bad that you are unable to function, drop everything and go to your local hospital or crisis center immediately. The people at the hospital or crisis center will take care of you right away.

7. **No situation is hopeless:** There are many people and organizations that are willing to help you, but you must be willing to take advantage of this help. Regardless of your situation, take advantage of the assistance that is around you. Every problem has a solution. You just have to find it.



Virtual Parent Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 14, 6pm
Held virtually via Zoom

**Donovan Richards Jr.**
QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT

RODENT HEALTH

by Rix Quinn

Say, do you have rats at home? I'm talking about critters with fuzzy ears and whiskers who slither around the house after dark, pick up crumbs, and eat from the dog's bowl. If they live with you, this information can provide them a higher quality life. See, rat researchers discovered that if you put older ones on a low-calorie diet for four weeks, it may keep them from aging.

Therefore, if you want mice to live longer, reduce their intake. Please follow these steps to insure elderly mouse health:

1. First, summon the rats. Simply yell out, "Dang, I just spilled my corn flakes...and I can't see a thing since we blew that fuse."

2. Next, determine if your mice are pubescent, middle-aged, or old. Show them a standard trap. The old and middle-aged will flee. Younger ones will laugh at the dated technology.

3. OK, so now you've found the grown-ups. Which ones are older? Darn it, you just can't tell! Here's why...

4. Mice — and their larger cousins, rats — live on the lowest rungs of the food chain. Hawks, crows, and owls serve them at cookouts. Foxes, dogs, and cats dip them in hot sauce. So...

5. Hardly any of them reach old age. Therefore, any mice you find — and switch to a low-fat diet — should be able to infest your groceries for months to come.

6. As you know, rat research led to discoveries that helped humankind. You save a mouse today, and it may save you tomorrow! But on the other hand...

7. Do you really want mice living with you? I don't...but my dog might enjoy them.

OPEN LETTER TO BUNGLING BUREAUCRATS: YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE

by Dr. Sharon M. Cadiz

Most Monday mornings it feels like I am running the Office of Public Outrage. For the month of December, I refrained from talking about certain issues to give myself, and perhaps you the reader a break. However, it is January, and a new year. I recently returned to New York City after a short vacation and found myself back in the all too familiar mix of situations, old and new, that warrant comment. I had six days of hot showers only to return to about three days of no hot water and cold radiators when the temperature dropped.

First up on the “hit parade” of bungling bureaucratic mismanagement and misguided policies is NYCHA. On re-entry, my husband and I were walking home after having breakfast at a local café and we came across a Ravenswood maintenance worker who has served residents in her assigned buildings for twelve years. In that time, she has forged a collaborative partnership with residents; been proactive in orienting new arrivals while keeping the grounds and building interiors well cared for, in spite of often being assigned to cover additional buildings and responsibilities; just like the maintenance worker who did likewise before her. Also, like her predecessor she was recently reassigned without a clear indication of the rationale behind the change. It fits into a pattern of administrative disruptions that overwork and disorient effective employees. There is no merit system. Instead, such workers are used to fill gaps created by undependable staff. Clearly, such practices erode morale and often cause experienced and effective NYCHA workers to get burned out; used and abused by thoughtless random actions taken by managers or petty tyrants with the title of supervisor.

Another example of bureaucratic bungling comes from the annals of NYPD history. We can take a stroll down memory lane to recall the now extinct “foot patrol” officer who walked a neighborhood “beat” gaining an astute familiarity with residents. Some may also recall its fleeting reinvention labeled as “community policing.” We even had Youth Officers who would attend some of the meetings I chaired along with the Youth Leadership Council members in Queens Community Boards 1 and 2. Gone are the days when officers are known by name even though a previous mayor attempted to pull this one out of his hat in a half-hearted effort to gain favor.

This pattern of forcing misguided policies and practices on the unsuspecting public is part of a familiar playbook labeled: “Fixing What Is Not Broken.” We are now paying for shopping bags at the market thanks to one policy. Congestion parking will be another. Are we better for it? I think not. Crime statistics; homelessness; destabilizing conditions that foster distrust and disharmony among neighbors in communities; the loss of small businesses due to excessive rents, taxation and penalties; carte blanche to real estate interests, and finally in the words of Paul Newman in “Cool Hand Luke,” we have “a failure to communicate.” The flow of communication between the people and City Hall was supposed to be advanced by the Community Boards and City Council, but it has largely become muffled by following the pattern of causing effective leaders to become overworked and burned out while others sit back and broker favors or influence that enables them to serve themselves instead of the people who elected them. Merit has been replaced by a pervasive trend toward mediocrity and weekly propaganda messages announcing progress that rarely is felt by the average New Yorker who is struggling to keep up with high rents; mass transit increases; traffic congestion along with promises about “zero waste; “deeply affordable housing; and the failure of “vision zero to significantly reduce traffic deaths by reducing speed limits. All the while, the public is being convinced that immigrants are the problem; even as we are being “zoned out” of formerly working class communities which have been re-named to attract new residents and businesses replacing the “old ones.” The level of change due to construction makes it challenging to get from point “A” point “B” and the end of the story is that more and more of us are getting lost literally and figuratively. Don’t look now, but homeowners and apartment dwellers are facing many of the same problems and the familiar terms “middle class” and “underclass” simply have no class. Folks are shooting up drugs on commercials as pharmaceutical companies strike gold in the weight loss arena.

Newly hired municipal workers have a laughable Tier 6 pension; and we are seeing a rise in suicide among young people, as well as growing mental health needs and a surge in lung destroying use of vaping among teens. In my modest opinion, it is time to pause for a message from our sponsor that brings us name calling identification with political leaders and parties; in addition to promoting consumerism; marketing economic rank that has made millionaires into trillionaires; and a simultaneous “media blackout” on global warming and sustainability. If your cable goes up or you can’t afford the newest phone, car or brand of yogurt, you may notice that we need to make Americans think again; especially since fewer and fewer citizens of this country still identify as Americans. They may tell you what sports team they support or political party they represent, but fewer connect with being Americans. Perhaps this disconnect begins with folks being disillusioned because of bureaucratic bungling. Well, I have only been back a couple of weeks, and I am ready to leave for another vacation. Let’s pray for Spring or positive change... whichever comes first. Happy New Year 2025!



747 SEMINARS

2025 Theme: “Change the Channel”

“There are better things ahead than any we leave behind.”

-C.S. Lewis, in a letter to poet Mary Willis Shelburne

2025 might be an ideal time to embark on a new path; taking a fresh look or changing perspective based on making different choices about that to which we commit time, energy and attention. If the feeling is one of stuck energy, wasted time or hijacked attention that forces you into the past or a troubled view of an uncertain future, I urge you to pull back, pause and contemplate a change of course. We are often consumed with visual stimuli and negative reports that sabotage our efforts to be self-directed and confident in our expression of life. This is a loving invitation to take heed of the “channel” you are tuned in to. Do episodes of exposure leave you drained, depleted or disillusioned and defeated? Well that might be evidence that you need to “change the channel.” 2025 is a splendid opportunity to challenge yourself with the prospects of a new “channel” or “path.”

You can think about embracing the positive possibilities of the year ahead free of the stuck energy obstructing your pathway to the future. By “changing the channel” you are opening up possibilities for the prosperity, health, happiness and abundance that I often talk about when wishing friends and family a “Happy New Year.” You stand to gain a perspective that will support you in manifesting the best of the year as it unfolds.

As in years past since 1994 when I began setting thematic intentions for the new year, you are invited to focus on a list of meaningful goals; identify a support team (cheering squad) that will also hold you accountable; write a prospective letter to yourself in which you will applaud all the successes that you achieved. The letter can be sealed in an envelope to read at the end of the year to see how close you came to successfully fulfilling your goals; or leave it open to stay focused on your intentions. When I do this every year, I am amazed at the high level of success that I reach with the majority of my stated goals. For those that I do not reach, I can either fold them into the next year, or determine that there has been a change in my focus. The goals should be based on purposeful/meaningful, value-based intentions that you think of as important.

The letter can open in this way, if you like...

“Dear Sharon:

What a fantastic year. There were challenges, but they did not diminish my success in reaching the following goals that I set: _____ . This is what I did and this is the positive/happy result. I am proud of myself and I feel more confident and determined than ever. The challenges provided me with some struggle along with a healthy dose of lessons learned that further fueled my efforts. These are some of the challenges, setbacks and hurdles that I had to address.: _____. I used color, symbols, songs, quotes and supportive messages to help me stay on track...”

As you prepare for the journey ahead, let me be the first to wish you “good luck,” all the while knowing that your success will have less to do with “luck” and more to do with effort, action and intention.

Happy 2025!

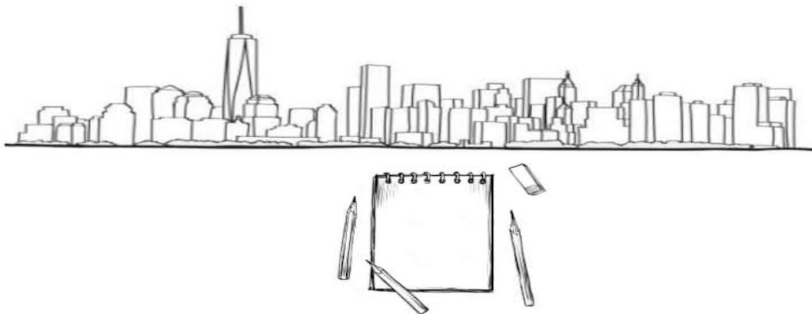
Sincerely,
Dr. Sharon M. Cadiz



QUEENS PUBLIC LIBRARY

BROADWAY

Draw Night at Broadway Library Creators over 18 join us for a late afternoon of artistic relaxing and creative fun!



Friday January 17th at 4:00 PM

Place: Lower Level Small Auditorium at Broadway Library

-Space is limited, so entry is on a first-come first-served basis.

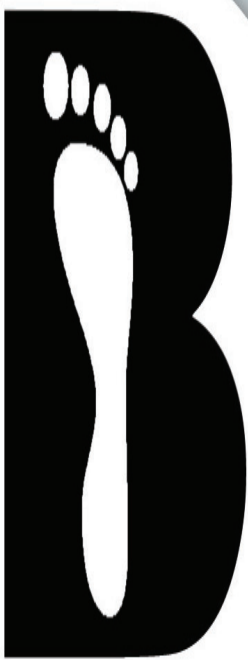
-You can also register in advance at the Adult Reference Desk or by calling us at 718-721-2462.

Supplies will be provided, but please feel free to bring your own!

Broadway Library


40 20 Broadway, Astoria NY 11103

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Surgery and Orthopedics.”*




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HOW TO STORE YOUR BIKE

[RE-PRINT]

by Cyclo Pete

Hello Woodside cyclists! Hope you had a great holiday, whether you spent it on two wheels or otherwise. Due to the snow and icy weather, we are going to start with a reprint on bike storage. So where do you keep your bike? It’s hard enough to use it at this time of year, but not using it can be even worse. Read on for some bike storage tips!

Bring It Inside!

The most basic rule of bike storage is to store your bike inside. Parking outside, even in good weather, is not at all safe for your components and because of the potential for theft. So, bring it into your garage, bike room, or apartment if you have the room for it. There are many interesting storage racks to be found online or at your local bike shop that won’t break the bank. If your bike is in a sheltered but not temperature-controlled space, like a garage, try to elevate the tires so they don’t freeze to the ground.

Mind Your Components

If you know you aren’t going to use your bike for a month or more, that’s a good time to give it a rudimentary cleaning or take it for a nice winter tune-up. It is best practice to remove all lights, water bottles, and even lock holders from the frame. If you have rechargeable lights, read the instructions as some brands have guidance on how to store and whether to run out the battery or keep it charged. If you can take it to your bike shop, the lubrication of the chain, pedals, and cables can help the bike weather a long period of inactivity, though keep in mind that you’ll often want to take it back to the mechanic after taking it out of storage.

If you do nothing else, bring that bike inside. Consider the investment of a small amount of money and space as a potential savings over having to buy service, new components, or even a new bike. A well-stored bike should only need a cursory wipe down, some air in the tires, and you should be good to ride again. So, for all the fair-weather riders, store your bike this winter, and until better weather comes, prepare to ride safe, Woodside!



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11 JAN

12PM TO 2PM

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\$5 SUGGESTED DONATION PER FAMILY
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Email pa@ps343.org to volunteer or if you have any questions!

Get plenty of exercise.

Each week adults need 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity, though some physical activity is better than none. You can build more exercise into your day by:

- Getting off the subway a stop early.
- Taking the stairs instead of the elevator.
- Biking to do errands.



Tips for Staying Healthy this Winter

NYC Health

NYC Queens 2
Community Board

WINTER COAT DRIVE

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DATE : DECEMBER 7TH - JANUARY 12TH
FROM THURSDAY TO SUNDAY - 12 PM TO 04 PM

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Our Selected Month:

January 2025

Stop & Shop Location:

**74-17 Grand Avenue,
Maspeth NY**



NYC Department of Youth & Community Development

WOTM Woodside ON THE MOVE

New York City Council
Julie Won
Council Member District 25

WOTM & Woodside Neighborhood Association Presents

COMMUNITY CLEANUP

WHEN: Saturday, January 18th, 2025
10 AM –12 PM

WHERE: WOTM Main Office
(51-23B Queens Blvd, 11377)

CLICK HERE

For any questions, contact Asif Ali at aali@woodsideonthemove.org





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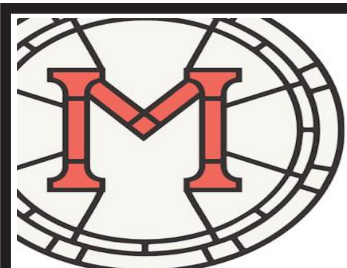
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Food Distribution 10AM
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Mosaiccommunitycenter.org



Alternate Side Parking Rules

2025 Suspension Calendar

The 2025 ASP Suspension Calendar is here!



Download a PDF or ICS file & add it to your Google or Outlook Calendar




New Year's Day*	Jan 1, Wed
Three Kings' Day	Jan 6, Mon
Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday	Jan 20, Mon
Lunar New Year's Eve	Jan 28, Tue
Lunar New Year	Jan 29, Wed
Lincoln's Birthday	Feb 12, Wed
Washington's Birthday (Pres. Day)	Feb 17, Mon
Ash Wednesday	Mar 5, Wed
Purim	Mar 14, Fri
Idul-Fitr (Eid Al-Fitr)	Mar 31-Apr 1, Mon-Tue
Passover	Apr 13-14, Sun-Mon
Holy Thursday	Apr 17, Thurs
Holy Thursday (Orthodox)	Apr 17, Thurs
Good Friday	Apr 18, Fri
Good Friday (Orthodox)	Apr 18, Fri
Passover (7th/8th Days)	Apr 19-20, Sat-Sun
Memorial Day*	May 26, Mon
Solemnity of the Ascension	May 29, Thurs
Shavuoth (2 Days)	June 2-3, Mon-Tue
Idul-Adha (Eid Al-Adha)	June 6-7, Fri-Sat
Juneteenth	June 19, Thurs
Independence Day*	July 4, Fri
Tisha B'Av	Aug 3, Sun
Feast of the Assumption	Aug 15, Fri
Labor Day*	Sept 1, Mon
Rosh Hashanah	Sept 23-24, Tue-Wed
Yom Kippur	Oct 2, Thurs
Succoth (2 Days)	Oct 7-8, Tue-Wed
Columbus Day	Oct 13, Mon
Shemini Atzereth	Oct 14, Tue
Simchas Torah	Oct 15, Wed
Diwali	Oct 20, Mon
All Saints' Day	Nov 1, Sat
Election Day	Nov 4, Tue
Veterans Day	Nov 11, Tue
Thanksgiving Day*	Nov 27, Thurs
Immaculate Conception	Dec 8, Mon
Christmas Day*	Dec 25, Thurs


Subway and Bus.

TIPS FOR YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY


What Can I Do?




Entrance
Use only entrances marked by a green indicator, where there is a clerk present 24 hours a day.




Ready
Have your money or metro card available.




Sit
Sit in the center of the car, away from the door, to avoid a purse or chain snatch.




Jewelry
Cover jewelry; turn stone rings toward the palm side of your hand.




Sidewalk
Wait for the bus on the sidewalk away from the curb.




Wait
Use designated waiting areas during off-peak hours.




Ride
Ride in the conductor's car during off-peak hours.




Walk
Wait and walk close to the wall.



Awake
Stay awake and aware and exit with the crowd.



Stay Alert
Be aware of your wallet/purse to avoid a pickpocket



Sit in Front
Sit near the front of the bus.

NYPD
www.nyc.gov/nypd

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EMAIL: hlbrick@aol.com
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IF OUTSIDE TEMPS FALL BELOW 55°,

IT MUST BE AT LEAST 68° INSIDE



NIGHT

10 PM TO 6 AM

REGARDLESS OF THE OUTSIDE TEMP,

IT MUST BE AT LEAST 62° INSIDE



It's Heat Season in NYC!

Heat Season runs from October 1 to May 31

NYC 311

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teenspace

Free online therapy + mental health support

for NYC Teens ages 13 to 17
talkspace.com/nyc

Pastoral Idea for your Church using QR Codes



Angelicus News
<https://angelicusnews.blogspot.com/>

If you can't use books or paper materials at Mass, why not invite parishioners to use their Mobile Device? Follow the Mass and more! See what Queen of Angels did. Check out the story on Angelicus News. If you have an Iphone, open up your Camera App and point it at one of the QR CODES.



MASS / MISA
DEVOTIONS



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PAGINA DE WEB



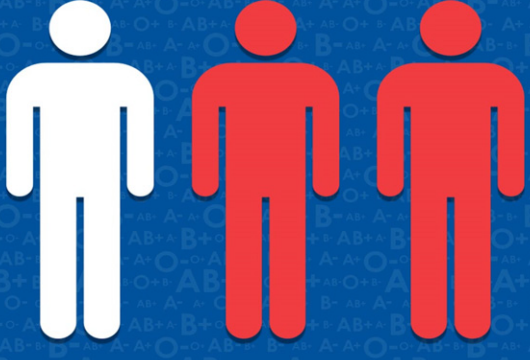
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BULLETIN

QUEEN OF ANGELS CHURCH
www.QueenOfAngelsNYC.org
Find Queen of Angels on    

1 IN 3 PEOPLE WILL NEED BLOOD IN THEIR LIFETIME.




New York Blood Center

THANK YOU NYPD

#ThankyouNYPD

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BRAVERY AND SERVICE



ALL OF OUR SAFETY MATTERS

Please email Articles, Photos, Letters and Opinions for Woodside Herald to

SSabba@woodsideherald.com

WOODSIDE HERALD
SERVING SUNNYSIDE-WOODSIDE AND LONG ISLAND CITY



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988

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5-8PM

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FOOD PANTRY

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Woodside, NY 11377
718-784-2123 - Office
Food Pantry is Open
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www.SaintTeresaChurch.org

Corpus Christi
31-31 60th Street
Woodside, NY 11377
718-278-8114 - Office
Food Pantry is Open
Wednesday 11:00AM to 1:00PM
<http://CCWoodsideNY.org>

St. Raphael
35-20 Green Point Ave Long Island City, NY 11101
718-729-8957 - Office
Food Pantry is Open
Thursday 10:30AM to 12:00PM
Saturday 1:30PM to 3:00PM
<http://StRaphael-Queens.org/>

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