

WOODSIDE HERALD

SERVING SUNNYSIDE-WOODSIDE AND LONG ISLAND CITY

VOL. 93 NO. 43

WOODSIDE, L.I.C., N.Y. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2026

FREE

QUEENS, NY — Thousands more New York City families are expected to gain access to free early childhood care under an expansion of the city's 2-K program, with 10,000 additional seats planned for fall 2027.

Mayor Zohran Mamdani and Gov. Kathy Hochul announced the next phase on October 19, outlining plans to expand the program to 17 additional school districts. Combined with the five districts already participating, the expansion will bring 2-K to 22 of the city's 32 geographic school districts, with a planned citywide total of 12,000 seats.

For families in northwest Queens, the announcement includes School District 24, which covers Sunnyside and Woodside, as well as parts of Long Island City and several other Queens neighborhoods. The expansion could create additional options for parents seeking affordable care while balancing work and family responsibilities.

The 2-K program provides free early care and education for two-year-olds through participating child care centers and licensed family child care providers. The city says the default operating model will remain full-day, full-year care, offering families a consistent option for their young children.

The expansion will extend coverage to every school district in the Bronx and all of Staten Island. Additional neighborhoods in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens will also be included, while the city plans to increase capacity in the five districts where the program began in fall 2026.

The announcement follows strong initial demand. More than 5,700 applications were submitted for the first 2,000 seats, according to city figures released in August. Those figures measure applications received, not the number of children ultimately enrolled. The expansion is backed by a \$1.2 billion state investment in the city's broader child care initiative.

For local parents, however, the citywide announcement is only the first step. Although District 24 is included, officials have not yet announced how many seats will be available in Sunnyside, Woodside or Long Island City individually. Placement will depend on the availability of participating programs, and inclusion in the expansion does not guarantee a seat for every eligible child.

The city plans to seek information from current child care providers and organizations interested in offering 2-K as it prepares for the next phase. Officials say additional details about the application timeline for families will be announced in the coming weeks.

For families across northwest Queens, the next milestones will be learning which local providers participate, how many places become available and when applications open for fall 2027.

What families should know-

The expansion is planned for fall 2027. School District 24 is included, but neighborhood-level seat counts and the application schedule have not yet been released.



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COPING WITH JOB LOSS: TIPS FOR CAREER & MENTAL HEALTH

by Stan Popovich

Losing a job can be a stressful and emotional experience that affects both finances and self-confidence.

Learning how to cope with this change can help you regain stability and move forward.
How Can You Cope With Job Loss and Move Forward?

Coping with job loss starts by managing your emotions, focusing on what you can control, and taking practical steps toward your next opportunity. Building new skills, managing finances, seeking support, and creating a job search plan can help you regain confidence and move forward during a difficult transition.

How Can You Handle a Demotion or Changes at Work?
Experiencing a sudden demotion or a reduction in responsibilities can trigger fear and anxiety about your career and self-worth. Even if you’ve performed well, unexpected changes in your role can leave you feeling uncertain about your value and future opportunities.

Stay grounded by clarifying your new responsibilities and expectations with your manager. Break larger tasks into achievable goals to maintain confidence and demonstrate continued competence. Seek professional development—such as training, certifications, or mentorship—to strengthen your skills and position yourself for future growth.

By focusing on what you can control, communicating proactively, and investing in your development, you can reduce stress, regain momentum, and turn a challenging situation into an opportunity to grow professionally.

How Can You Reduce Anxiety During a Possible Layoff?
Rumors of downsizing can create tension and spark anxiety, but it’s essential to separate facts from speculation. Evaluate whether there are real signs of risk or if your worry is driven by office gossip.

Take one deliberate step to strengthen your career and reduce anxiety—update your skills, pursue certifications, or build a portfolio. Reflect daily on your actions to see whether they increase your sense of control. Evidence-based steps transform fear into preparation, building both resilience and confidence in uncertain times.

How This Fits the Managing Fear Framework
Many people try to manage fear by searching for a single solution, but fear can appear in different situations and may require different approaches. The Managing Fear Framework combines multiple strategies and techniques to help individuals explore different tools, discover what works best for their situation, and develop a more flexible way to respond to fear.



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QUINN QUESTIONS – IMAGINARY QUOTES

by Rix Quinn

A historian once suggested “great triumphs should be recorded” Since then, when anyone did something important, a reporter wrote it down. Then audio and video got invented. After that, the newsperson simply pointed a microphone or camera at famous people. If the celebrity said something good, it made the nightly news. If the quote was something unexpected, it might become a “bloopers,” and could be replayed frequently...sometimes even at parties.

Here’s the point: If we had current technology a long time ago, we could have recorded these famous sayings (Unfortunately, since we didn’t, I had to make them up).

“Excuse me...is this East Texas?” – Columbus, on discovering the Bahamas.
“Honey, I’m starving. You heat up the stove, and I’ll ask the neighbors over for dinner.” – Melvin the Cannibal.

“So, while I was asleep under the tree, an apple fell on my head. I shall call it ‘concussion.’”—Isaac Newton, before he thought of the word “gravity.”

“How about we just eat ducks? I can’t get these dang turkeys in the pot.” – Pilgrim chef.
“Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered weak and weary, over some old catalog I had tossed out once before...”—first draft of “The Raven.”

“What do you think this is? A quick-print shop?” – Gutenberg, to an early printing customer.
“C’mon, masked man. Let’s duel. On guard!!! Hey...where’s my nose?” – Zorro’s fencing partner.




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STEVEN RAGA
TASK FORCE MEMBER
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NOV. 3, 2026

GENERAL ELECTION

CRUCIAL "LAST DAY" DATES:

OCT. 19:

For a registered voter change of address to be RECEIVED by DCBOE

OCT. 24:

For an application to be eligible to vote to be RECEIVED by DCBOE

For a Ballot Application to be RECEIVED by DCBOE (by mail or online portal)

OCT. 24- NOV 1:

EARLY VOTING: DCBOE, 97 Main St., Delhi

Sat-Sun 9am-5pm

Mon.-Fri. 8:30am-4:30pm*

(* Tues. Wed. extended hours to 8pm)

NOV. 2:

To apply in person at DCBOE for an for an absentee ballot

NOV. 3:

ELECTION DAY (Polls Open 6am-9pm)

Last Day for Absentee Ballot Postmark (or deliver to DCBOE or polling site)

Must be received by DCBOE by Nov. 10

FLIP THE BALLOT!

@sabine_french

NEW YORK CITY

CHARTER PROPOSALS

TUESDAY, NOV. 3, 2026

WHAT VOTERS NEED TO KNOW

OFFICIAL BALLOT

In addition to voting for candidates, NYC voters will decide on five proposed amendments to the City Charter – the rules that govern how our city operates.

THE PROPOSALS WILL APPEAR ON THE BACK OF THE BALLOT.

1

PUBLIC SPACE & OUTDOOR DINING

Streamlines the approval process for using public sidewalks and streets for outdoor dining, accessibility ramps, benches, planters and similar uses.

2

CITY CONTRACTING & NONPROFITS

Provides more flexibility in procurement rules to reduce paperwork and speed up the process for nonprofits and businesses seeking city contracts.

3

TRANSPORTATION, CITY LAND & OFFICE LEASING

Streamlines review of certain street-safety and transit projects, and changes processes for the sale or lease of certain small, unused city-owned properties and office space.

4

CONSTRUCTION PERMITTING

Creates a centralized permitting hub by bringing about 40 construction approvals from 18 agencies into one system, and moves waterfront permitting to the Department of Buildings.

5

RAINY DAY FUND

Sets a reserve target equal to 12% of the City's prior-year tax revenue and requires a formula for contributions to the revenue stabilization fund, subject to the annual budget process.

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE

OCT. 24, 2026

EARLY VOTING

OCT. 24 – NOV. 1, 2026

ELECTION DAY

TUESDAY, NOV. 3, 2026

FOR THE FULL, OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE, VISIT NYC VOTES (NYC BOARD OF ELECTIONS).

FALL INTO AUTUMN BIKING

by Cyclo Pete

Happy Fall, Woodsiders! After a few fits and starts, we have finally settled into a sustained streak of seasonal weather. On the best fall days you can both see your breath and feel warm in the sunshine. While it can be difficult to dress, make no mistake, this is one of the best times of year to get on your bike, while you still can. Read on for some ideas for biking deeper into the season!

The Weather's Fair

The arrival of legitimately cold weather changes our surroundings. From falling leaves to more pitched morning and afternoon shadows this is one of the prettiest times of year to be outside. The beauty of biking at this time of year is that it can be warm enough to be comfortable and cool enough to not break a sweat. We all experience cold differently and your mileage may vary, but a good rule of thumb is that if you're biking, leave one layer off as compared to walking. So if it's 50 degrees and you'd be wearing a sweater and a light jacket, leave the sweater off if you're going to bike. The weather's still fair for fairweather biking!

Dress flexibly

With Halloween right around the corner, things can also get spooky. Last Saturday was unusually chilly, and perhaps not the best day to get caught a layer short on a bike. If you were out there, don't be discouraged, be prepared. These days you can hardly go anywhere without a packable shopping bag or two. So why not pack a light layer too? I actually found myself taking out a summer windbreaker to wear over my sweater, and it did just the trick. Fall weather can be unpredictable, but you can beat the heat or the cold by thinking ahead and bringing along some contingency clothes for your ride.

Are you ready for cooler weather riding? If you don't feel you're up for it, you might try a quick bike share trip to see how it feels. Can't say the water is warm, but even swimmers can dress for cooler conditions. So take your bike out for nice scenic fall spin and ride safe, Woodside!

Voting is important for your, your family's and your community's health.

for Your Health!

Are you registered to vote? Registering to vote is easy and can be done online in less than five minutes.

You are eligible to vote if you:

• Are at least age 18 at the time of the election

• Are a U.S. citizen

• Have been an NYC resident for at least 30 days before the election

• Are not currently in prison or jail for a felony conviction

Are you unsure if you are registered? Visit nycvotersearch.com.

A HERO AMONG US

Dr. Richard Belli, a podiatrist in Sunnyside, Queens, is preparing to rejoin a medical mission to the Peruvian Andes in October 2026. The team of 45 doctors and staff will travel more than 14,000 feet into remote communities to care for families and children with limited access to medical care.

During the 2025 mission, the team treated more than 3,500 people in four days, and Dr. Belli personally cared for 200 patients. This fundraiser will cover medical supplies and travel expenses, with all proceeds going directly toward the mission so the team can reach even more people.

I'm grateful you took a moment to read about this work. If you're able, please visit the GoFundMe page through the shared link to donate or pass it along to someone who may want to support Dr. Belli's return to Peru.

<https://gofund.me/2460b620b>

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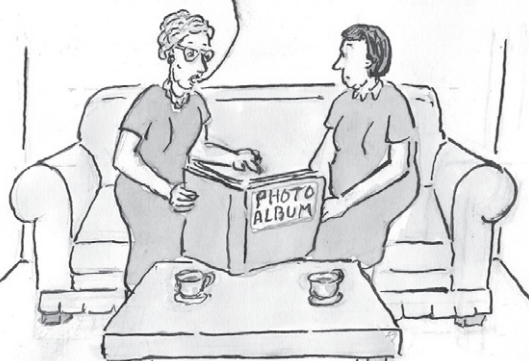
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THURS. NOV. 5 - AT QSHS FAIR
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4:30-7:30PM

SAT. NOV. 7 - IN PERSON
9AM | 11AM | 1PM

MON. NOV. 9 - IN PERSON
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FREE
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Claire Valdez

Councilmember
Julie Won

• LEGAL NOTICE •

LEGAL NOTICE •

LEGAL NOTICE

File No.: 2025-3001/B
CITATION
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE
OF NEW YORK
BY THE GRACE OF GOD, FREE
AND INDEPENDENT
To:
Calvin Roberts,
Rotchell Roberts,
Karen Roberts,
Attorney General of the State of
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The unknown distributees,
legatees, devisees, heirs at law and
assignees of MERVIN RICARDO
ROBERTS, deceased, or their
estates, if any there be, whose
names, places of residence and
post office addresses are unknown
to the petitioner and cannot with
due diligence be ascertained
Being the persons interested as
creditors, legatees, distributees or
otherwise in the Estate of
MERVIN RICARDO ROBERTS,
deceased, who at the time of death
was a resident of 31-17 97th Street,
East Elmhurst, NY 11369, in the
County of Queens, State of New
York.
SEND GREETING:
Upon the petition of
JACQUELINE M. MAZZOLA,
Public Administrator of Queens
County, who maintains her office
at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard,
Jamaica, Queens County, New
York 11435, as Administrator of
the Estate of MERVIN RICARDO
ROBERTS, deceased, you and
each of you are hereby cited to
show cause before the Surrogate
at the Surrogate's Court of the
County of Queens, to be held at
the Queens General Courthouse,
6th Floor, 88-11 Sutphin
Boulevard, Jamaica, City and State
of New York, on the 10th day of
December, 2026 at 9:30 o'clock
in the forenoon, why the Account
of Proceedings of the Public
Administrator of Queens County,
as Administrator of the Estate of
said deceased, a copy of which is
attached, should not be judicially
settled, and why the Surrogate
should not fix and allow a
reasonable amount of
compensation to GERARD J.
SWEENEY, ESQ., for legal
services rendered to petitioner
herein in the amount of \$94,067.01
and that the Court fix the fair and
reasonable additional fee for any
services to be rendered by
GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ.,
hereafter in connection with
proceedings on kinship, claims
etc., prior to entry of a final Decree
on this accounting in the amount
of 4.5% of assets or income
collected after the date of the
within accounting; and why the
Surrogate should not fix and allow
an amount equal to one percent on
said Schedules of the total assets
on Schedules A, A1, and A2 plus
any additional monies received
subsequent to the date of this
account, as the fair and reasonable
amount payable to the Office of
the Public Administrator for the
expenses of said office pursuant
to S.C.P.A. §1106(3); and why
each of you claiming to be a
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and why the balance of said funds
should not be paid to said alleged
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or deposited with the

Commissioner of Finance of the
City of New York should said
alleged distributees default herein,
or fail to establish proof of kinship,
Dated, Attested and Sealed
8th day of October, 2026
HON. CASSANDRA A.
JOHNSON
Surrogate, Queens County
Janet Edwards Tucker
Chief Clerk
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6/26

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Night: Between the hours of 10 p.m. and
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DONATIONS GREATLY APPRECIATED

FOOD BANKS

Let's Help Feed New Yorkers who Need it the Most

To find a food bank in your area visit:

bit.ly/Food-Bank-Locator

**NEW YORK STATE**

Office of Mental Health

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE



kind to YOURSELF

Call: 988 | Text: 988
Chat: 988lifeline.org/chat

**MOSAIC CHURCH**

**SCAN ME FOR DIRECTIONS**

**MOSAIC COVENANT CHURCH**



FREE FOOD PANTRY

MOSAIC COMMUNITY CENTER

43-01 46TH ST

DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED

MON-FRI 5-8PM

Deanery Queens²

FOOD PANTRY

Dispensa de Comida



St Theresa of Lisieux
50-20 45th Street
Woodside, NY 11377
718-784-2123 - Office
Food Pantry is Open
Tuesday 3:00PM to 4:30PM
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/>

For more information on Helping the Needy

Click on [Deanery Q2](#)
Or Use the QR Code



www.DeaneryQ2.org

