

# WOODSIDE HERALD

SERVING SUNNYSIDE-WOODSIDE AND LONG ISLAND CITY

VOL. 93 NO. 8

WOODSIDE, L.I.C., N.Y. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2026

FREE

# SHELTER H I F T



Roughly two dozen homeless families living at the City View Inn in Long Island City were required to relocate after the facility was converted to house single adult men, according to reporting by the New York Post. The move affected 37 school-aged children and occurred during the academic year. For families who had been living at the site, the shelter represented a measure of routine during a period of housing instability. While temporary by definition, shelter placements can provide consistency for children enrolled in school and for parents working to secure permanent housing.

The New York Post reported that families were notified of the transition during the school year. The conversion proceeded despite calls from local residents and advocates urging Mayor Zohran Mamdani to intervene.

Under New York City policy, shelter residents must generally receive at least 48 hours written notice before a non-emergency transfer within the Department of Homeless Services system. The written notice is required to include the reason for the transfer and the address of the new placement. Residents also have the right to request a review of certain transfers.

It is not publicly known how much notice the City View Inn families received or whether the transfer was classified as non-emergency under DHS guidelines.

City officials have described such shelter conversions as part of broader system management. New York City's shelter network serves families with children, single adults and other populations, and facilities may be reconfigured in response to capacity demands and operational needs.

Advocacy organizations note that when families enter shelter, they are advised in writing of facility rules and resident rights. Department of Homeless Services policy allows for transfers when deemed necessary for administrative or operational reasons, though placements are not guaranteed to be permanent. Even when permitted under policy, transfers can present challenges for families already coping with housing instability.

A relocation may require adjusting to a new neighborhood, coordinating transportation changes and establishing new working relationships within a different shelter setting. While DHS guidelines require that a family's case file and housing plan transfer with them to a new site, the specific case manager assigned to a family may change depending on the receiving facility.

Advocates emphasize that continuity — particularly during the school year — can be significant for children experiencing homelessness. Community members in Queens voiced concern over the timing of the City View Inn transition, arguing that families with school-aged children should be given as much stability as possible. Some publicly called for city leadership to reconsider the move.

City representatives have maintained, according to the New York Post, that displaced families remain within the municipal shelter system and continue to receive housing and support services, albeit at different locations.

The episode reflects the broader tension within New York City's shelter infrastructure: balancing operational flexibility with the needs of families navigating temporary housing.

On paper, the conversion of a facility is an administrative decision. In practice, it requires families to pack belongings and adjust once again to a new temporary address while continuing their search for permanent housing.

Whether viewed as necessary system management or as disruptive midyear relocation, the City View Inn transition highlights the ongoing challenge of managing a strained shelter system while preserving stability for the children and parents who depend on it.

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# HOW TO STOP CONSTANT WORRYING IN YOUR LIFE

by Stan Popovich

Do you find yourself worrying about everything that is going on around you? It can be very tiring and depressing to constantly worry about your family, your job, your health, and everything else that is happening. Having things out of your control is very scary. As a result, here are 7 tips on how to overcome the cycle of worry and fear in your life.

1. **Focus on the facts of your situation; not your thoughts:** When people are stressed out, they rely on their fearful and depressing thoughts. Your fearful thoughts are exaggerated and are not based on reality. When you are anxious, focus on the facts of your current situation and not on what you think.

2. **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 example, 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.

3. **Take a break:** Take a deep breath and try to find something to do to get your mind off of your anxieties and stresses. A person could take a walk, listen to some music, read the newspaper, watch TV, play on the computer, or do an activity that will give them a fresh perspective on things. This will distract you from your current worries.

4. **Take it one day at a time:** Instead of worrying about how you will get through the rest of the week or month, focus on today. Each day can provide us with different opportunities to learn new things and that includes learning how to deal with your problems.

5. **Learn how to manage your thoughts:** Challenge your negative thinking with positive statements and realistic thinking. When encountering thoughts that make you fearful, challenge those thoughts by asking yourself questions that will maintain objectivity and common sense.

6. **Things change over time:** Regardless of your circumstances, your current situation will not stay the same. Everything changes over time. Knowing that your situation will improve will help give you the confidence that things will get better.

7. **Get some help:** Sometimes, it helps to be able to talk to someone about your stressful situations. Talking to a trusted friend, counselor, or clergyman can give you additional advice and insights on how to deal with the fear of the unknown. Remember that there is nothing wrong in asking for assistance.

## Lunar New Year Celebration

Monday, February 23, 5-8pm

Helen Marshall Cultural Center at Queens Borough Hall  
120-55 Queens Boulevard, Kew Gardens, NY 11424



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## QUINN MINUTE – PREHISTORIC HUMANS

by Rix Quinn

We don't give prehistoric people enough credit. These remarkable folks learned to walk upright, discovered fire, and invented the wheel. Sadly, they made that wheel out of wood, accidentally set it on fire...then had to start over again. Tribes painstakingly carved mud huts out of the earth. That must have been tough, especially if it rained and the kitchen cabinets flowed into the den.

One day at a hut housewarming, a neighbor said, "Cave Guy, your home really bores me. Why don't you put some original prints on the walls?" And Cave Guy said "Footprints?" The neighbor said, "No, I mean pictures. You know...landscapes, impressionist works, maybe portraits." Cave Guy then colored his walls with vivid scenes of ancestors and mythical creatures. Years later, scientists concluded the paintings told important legends. But Cave Guy – a practical person – realized he'd invented wallpaper.

Neolithic man, as you know, gets credit for building the first neighborhood. He realized if he chased woolly mammoths all the time he would never get "yard of the month." Well, pretty soon somebody built a hut next door, and one neighbor decided to construct a fence to keep their pet lizard in, and the stray sabertooth out. Yep, thanks to these early settlers, today we've got streets, carpooling, and neighborhood associations. In fact, if they'd known how to read, write, and mediate correctly, prehistoric humans might still be around today – 10,000 years later – sunning themselves.

But if they were...you would not want to see them in tank tops.

# OPINION | TOO MUCH

by Dr. Sharon M. Cadiz

There has consistently been a lot of talk about the new Mayor's plans to address the needs of New Yorkers. Most of it, from the very beginning of his campaign to run for the office, focused on criticizing the unrealistic nature of his platform. I must confess that when I first heard it, I was also convinced that it was more than what was possible. It took my 24 year old granddaughter to convince me that this man's mission was something that could actually happen. Although the voters coalesced with his vision resulting in his election to the office of Mayor, there are still naysayers who express their doubts and reservations. I would say that my response to the doubters is: if enough of us believe, it is not a possibility; but instead, a certainty that his agenda can become a reality. Critics like to throw stones out of habit because that has long been the nature of campaigns and political gamesmanship; however, life in New York City is not a game. It has been reduced to the harsh reality of staggering costs and an ever-widening gap between the "haves" and the "have-nots" where the "have-nots" grossly outnumber the "haves."

The new Mayor has apparently taken a great many walks through our beloved city and undoubtedly talked to a lot of people. What he has seen and what he has heard closely matches what many of us not only see and hear each day, but live each day. The criticism that he promises "too much" is a declaration of war against those of us who struggle to live, work and manage the reality that includes a growing number of store closings, job losses; rising rents; increases to public transportation; unexplained hikes in food prices and other essentials; the out-of-pocket cost of childcare and health care, and high utility and tax rates for homeowners. It seems ironic that the idea of free buses and child care is "too much" while the cost of living in this city is really what is "too much."

This morning I looked out of my kitchen window at about 5:45am and saw three women pushing strollers with babies, and another woman walking with a little boy in a rush; presumably heading to a babysitter before work. The woman with the little boy really got my attention because she abruptly stopped right in front of my building, then turned around and started walking in the direction from which they came. Curious, I kept watching to see if she returned, but I didn't see any trace of her and the little boy. At this point, I began to imagine that she had some problem that prevented her from proceeding. I thought maybe her babysitter cancelled. Even if my guess about the situation is inaccurate; what remains clear in my mind is that this woman met the challenge of rising early to dress herself and her little boy before 6 am on this cold winter morning, and something interrupted the plan. In any case, I have to ask: "Are the challenges too much?"

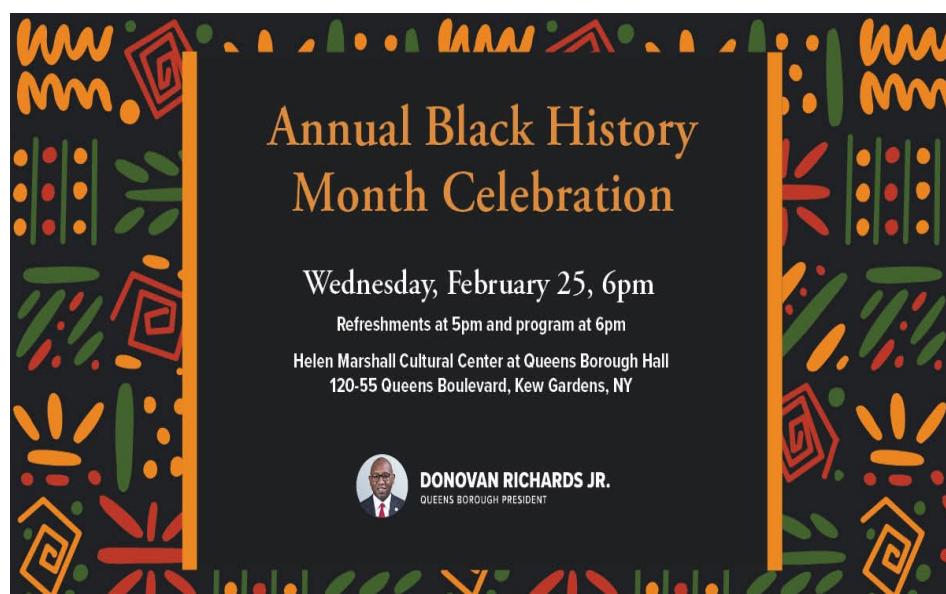
The reason that I thought about child care regarding this scene is because a couple of years ago a young mother in my apartment building rang my bell desperately asking for my help to watch her child because she had to get to work and her babysitter cancelled at the last moment. I felt surprised by the request, but I deliberated over the matter and agreed to help. The woman said that she started working for MTA on an overnight shift and would return in the morning at about 7:30am to get her daughter ready for school. True to her word, she arrived promptly the next morning and picked up her child. I can imagine how similar challenges arise for folks on a daily basis; if not about child care, perhaps about the cost of commuting or costly co-pays for doctor's visits.

Life in New York City consists of countless stories of challenge and struggle. When my husband and I walk to a local coffee shop for breakfast, we see a recreational vehicle parked on a corner in the shadow of a new luxury residential building. Looking at this picture, we see the shocking disparity of someone living in a recreational vehicle just a heartbeat away from a high rise building where the rent is "too much." Most New Yorkers cannot afford to live in this building; and certainly not the person living in the recreational vehicle.

Gig workers and freelancers in this city face all kinds of cash flow problems; some of which were recognized during the pandemic. The reality is that problems persist and have actually gotten worse as a result of funding cuts and various shutdowns and closings. Some people see the increase in public transportation as another burden on their limited financial resources. Seniors on fixed incomes face issues even with meager cost of living increases that get swallowed up by the expense of staying housed, or managing dental, vision or medical costs. My neighbor who is a senior told me that she had to pay \$300 out-of-pocket for eyeglasses, which was her portion of a total bill of \$600. She urged me to ask: "Who is listening and who cares?"

New Yorkers continue to pay "too much" while others, who could afford to pay more, pay "too little." I commend our new Mayor for hearing the outcries of New Yorkers, and I say shame on those who take a stand that what he is demanding is "too much." As 2026 continues to unfold in "the city that never sleeps," let's not sleep on the ways that we can build on the optimism of a new Mayor who sees promise and possibility in making the lives of New Yorkers better and more affordable.

*The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of Woodside Herald.*



**Annual Black History Month Celebration**

Wednesday, February 25, 6pm

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## Movie Time at Queens Borough Hall: *Puss in Boots*

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End Location: 58th and Woodside Ave

Registration deadline February 24<sup>th</sup> | [Aali@woodsideonthemove.org](mailto:Aali@woodsideonthemove.org)

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**02/24** Tuesday **Know Your Rights**  
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## STREET CO-NAMING IN LONG ISLAND CITY



New York City Council Member Julie Won joined the New York Irish Center, the Consul General of Ireland in New York, elected officials, and community members to celebrate the “New York Irish Center Place” street co-naming at the intersection of 50th Avenue and Jackson Avenue in Long Island City.

The New York Irish Center was founded 21 years ago as a cultural hub for Irish Americans in New York. Its roots reflect District 26’s vibrant Irish community dating back to the 1930s when Irish immigrants came to Woodside to find jobs after the Great Depression. The Center has since expanded its reach to include over 25,000 New Yorkers, serving as a hub for youth, seniors, education, and the arts.

In attendance were New York City Council Member Julie Won, George Heslin, Executive Director, New York Irish Center, Gerald Angley, Consul General of Ireland in New York, Angela Reily, Wife of the New York Irish Center Founder

“For over 20 years, the New York Irish Center has been a cornerstone of community, culture, and service in the neighborhood. It is an honor to co-name the intersection of 50th Avenue and Jackson Avenue to commemorate the Center’s legacy in our neighborhood,” said Council Member Julie Won. “The New York Irish Center has been a trusted partner throughout my time in Council, bringing people together through cultural celebration and community giveback. Thank you to George Heslin and the team at the New York Irish Center for their contributions to New York’s Irish Community and to Western Queens.”



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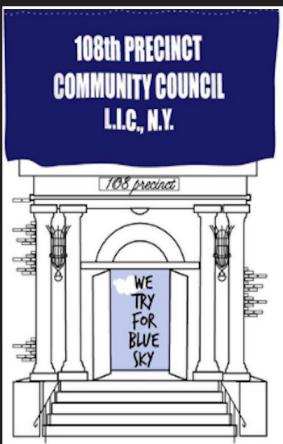


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# 108th Precinct Community Council Meeting

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The Community Council meets once every month on the last Tuesday of each month. (Except in July, August, and December) All are welcome to attend the meetings. We provide community updates and crime stat reports.

For Additional information please contact us  
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