

# Editorial

## Water Park Offers Queens A Golden Opportunity

The \$168 million water park slated to be built on a slice of Randall's Island parkland where the East and Harlem Rivers meet under the Triborough Bridge may be open by Memorial Day 2008, and Western Queens should be ready.

The project, slated to break ground next spring, will be privately financed by Aquatic Development Group (ADG), based in upstate Cohoes, New York, under a 35-year lease with the city. The 18.75-acre water park, complete with wave pools, water slides, raft rides and an indoor beach, will also include a year-round 7.25-acre indoor park.

According to the Randall's Island Sports Foundation, which is overseeing plans to redevelop all of Randall's Island, ADG will offer free lifeguard training and a free swim academy for more than 2,000 children. The park will employ 600 to 700 seasonal workers and about 150 jobs will exist year-round.

ADG has designed and built 50 major water parks in the last 15 years, all outside urban areas. The Randall's Island water park is the only such facility to be located in

the middle of a city, which is what makes it unique—and presents a golden opportunity for this borough.

The water park is accessible by ground transport only by way of the Triborough Bridge. Motorists access the bridge via Hoyt Avenue South, which means visitors to the park from Queens, Brooklyn and Long Island will have to travel through local streets. We see this development as a golden opportunity for this area.

According to some reports, visitors to the water park will be able to leave the facility and return the same day without paying an additional admission fee. That means they can avail themselves of the many restaurants that line the streets of the neighborhood at the foot of the Triborough Bridge. Either on their way into the park or while taking a break from it they can venture a little farther afield and pick up water wings and scuba gear. If they want to picnic, any number of delicatessens and grocery stores can pack a lunch with only a few moments' notice.

The process of getting to the water park

offers another opportunity for development. It has been suggested that the park itself will provide vehicular transportation. Should that indeed be the case, parking facilities on this side of the Triborough Bridge have a sterling opportunity to expand. And of course, visitors to the water park who take public transportation to the Astoria Boulevard stop on the N/W elevated train line or travel by bus to the area can sample all the convenient stores and restaurants available here before boarding whatever transportation venue to the park has been set up.

The water park, aside from drawing thousands of visitors to New York City, presents the borough of Queens with an unprecedented opportunity for growth and economic development. To bring this happy circumstance about, everyone involved--the Department of Transportation, local business districts and development groups, community boards, civic organizations--should meet and devise a plan at the earliest opportunity. We should not hesitate to seize this chance as soon as possible.

### Other Side Of Development

To The Editor:

I am writing in response to the cover story about the proposed Silvercup West development project in the Western Queens Gazette issue of March 1. This is my second time submitting this letter, and I hope that you will be fair and publish it this time, since every viewpoint deserves to be heard.

As a member of the Screen Actor's Guild, the thought of more film production in New York is an exciting and welcome idea to me. As a resident of Long Island City, I feel I must be circumspect about any such enormous development project and urge its promoters to realize that we have heard many such promises in the past of waterfront access, the attraction of visitors and all those wonderful things when similar projects have been erected. One example is the City Lights complex, which did indeed provide a lovely waterfront park and then proceeded to block off its pier access last 4th of July to any person who did not have a special pass from City Lights. Can we expect this elitist attitude from Silvercup as well? Another example is the Shore Towers in Astoria, which promised improved waterfront access for all, and then 6 months after it was built closed off the waterfront "esplanade" to all but its own residents. What we are then left with are looming edifices that add to traffic and congestion and make it necessary for Con Ed to blast out more pollutants from their power plants to satisfy the increased need for electricity, but no real benefits for the existing citizens of Long Island City and Astoria. You do mention jobs, but how many locals will really get those jobs? And don't forget the many cell towers that will have to go up on every apartment building in the area to provide cell phone access for all those extra residents.

When we citizens of Western Queens read these types of articles, which only give the developer's point of view on such projects, we are easily taken in and persuaded of the wonderful new way of life we will all have when the project is

completed. We need for you to print points of view from opposing factions, as well as objective projections about the reality of the jobs, pollution, traffic congestion, etc., so that citizens can really ponder the pros and cons.

Sincerely,  
Georgina Young-Ellis  
Member - Long Island City Alliance

### Century-Old Statistics

To The Editor:

Show this to your children and grandchildren This will boggle your mind, I know it did mine!

The year is 1906.

One hundred years ago.

What a difference a century makes!

Here are some of the U.S. statistics for the Year 1906:

The average life expectancy in the U.S. was 47 years.

Only 14 percent of the homes in the U.S. had a bathtub.

Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.

A three-minute call from Denver to New York City cost \$11.

There were only 8,000 cars in the U.S., and only 144 miles of paved roads.

The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.

Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa, and Tennessee were each more heavily populated than California.

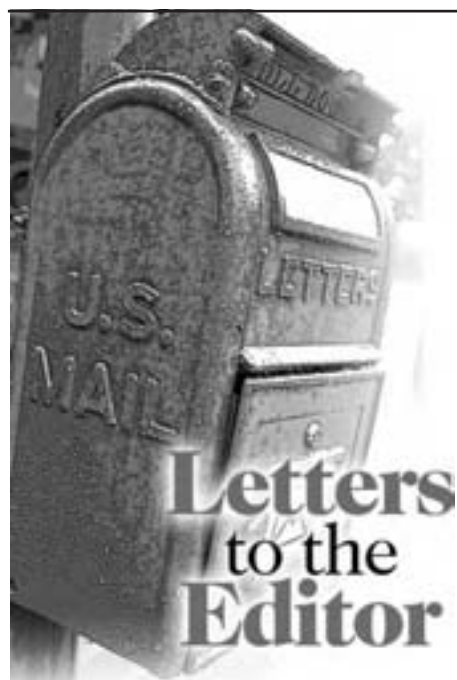
With a mere 1.4 million people, California was only the 21st most populous state in the Union.

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower!

The average wage in the U.S. was 22 cents per hour.

The average U.S. worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.

A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2,000 per year, a dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year and



### Erroneous Information

To The Editor:

I am contacting you regarding the story at this link: <http://www.qgazette.com/news/2006/0426/features/008.html>.

This story, based on a press release from Cartridge World Inc., contains erroneous information attributed to us, Lyra Research, a third party mentioned in the fifth paragraph of the press release.

Cartridge World corrected the press release and reissued it without mention of Lyra. Here is the revised press release issued by Cartridge World <http://sev.pnnewswire.com/computer-electronics/220060410/CGM06510042006-1.html>.

In order to cease and desist distribution of the previous version's misattribution of Lyra Research market information, please replace your current story with the above one.

Thanks for your prompt attention to this issue. Very truly yours,  
Andre Rebelo  
Marketing Manager, Lyra Research

The Queens  
**Gazette**

PUBLISHED BY THE  
SERVICE  
ADVERTISING  
GROUP INC.



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Display Advertising Copy Deadline  
Friday 5 p.m.

Camera Ready Deadline Monday 4 p.m.  
Editorial Copy Deadline Friday 12 noon

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The Queens Gazette ISSN: 1547-3538 is published weekly on Wednesday for \$20 per year by Queens Gazette Newsprinting Service Advertising Group Inc. 42-16 34th Avenue. Long Island City, N.Y. 11101. Periodical postage paid at Long Island City. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Queens Gazette 42-16 34th Avenue Long Island City N.Y. 11101. *The Gazette is not responsible for the opinions expressed in the letters or op-eds contained on these pages.*