

Seniors... From page 22

Hevesi's office referred its findings to the state health department to determine whether those who benefitted from the scheme violated any law. An official said the health department would review the cases to try to determine whether the agency would seek to get the money back from those who collected it.

The monies that were paid out unnecessarily went to pharmacists and in some cases, to a nursing home.

Hevesi's office said the problem was that the health department had no effective program to learn when someone on Medicaid has died so they can remove his or her name from the Medicaid rolls. The audit found that 5,487 persons who had died were still on the Medicaid rolls.

The audit also found 4,277 people for whom payments for Medicaid services continued after death and discovered that almost 17,000 claims were honored and paid after people's deaths. ■

AARP... From page 22

Community Service recognizes members and volunteers who, through volunteer service, are significantly enhancing the lives of individuals age 50 and over. The award was formally presented to Barrett at a ceremony on November 8 at the Jing Fong Restaurant in Manhattan's Chinatown.

"This award acts as a symbol to members and the public that we can all work together for positive social change," Lois Aronstein, AARP New York state director, said. "AARP has long valued the spirit of volunteerism and the important contributions AARP volunteers make to their communities, neighbors and the programs they serve."

Recipients across the nation were chosen for their ability to enhance the lives of AARP members and prospective members, improve the community in or for which the work was performed and inspire others to volunteer.

The AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that helps people 50 and over to have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole. The association produces AARP The Magazine, published bimonthly, a monthly newspaper, AARP Bulletin, AARP Segunda Juventud, a bimonthly magazine in Spanish and English; NRTA Live & Learn, a quarterly newsletter for educators; age 50 and over and a Web site, AARP.org. The AARP Foundation is an affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. The AARP has staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Protest For Promised LIC Waterfront Library



Councilman Eric Gioia joined concerned Long Island City residents and advocates recently to petition for a library to be built at Parcel 8 on the Queens waterfront in Long Island City.

Despite an agreement signed by the major developers of the Long Island City waterfront four years ago to build a public library, no work on a library has begun at the site.

A coalition of community activists last week demanded that the developers, Avalon Bay and Queens West, live up to their agreement and start construction.

"The children of Long Island City need and deserve a library," City Councilmember Eric Gioia declared at a waterfront protest rally which included local leaders and neighborhood activists.

Gioia, who represents Long Island City, Woodside, Astoria, Sunnyside and Maspeth, recalled, "When I was growing up in Woodside, I went to the library every day after school at P.S. 11. That library allowed me to immerse myself in a world of books and gave me the chance to open my mind to new opportunities and ideas. Our children today deserve no less."

Assemblymember Catherine Nolan (D-Ridgewood) added: "We've worked hard to secure a large increase in capital library funding. Now is the time for the developers of Queens West to step up to the plate and keep their commitments to the community."

Gioia said he had secured \$1 million in city capital funds for the library construction project. The lawmaker said he had also gathered signatures from the community on a petition urging a go-ahead on the project.

Dorothy Hosey, a Long Island City resident and a member of Citizens for Queens West Parcel 8 Library, said, "Libraries have been a very big part of my life since my early childhood in The Bronx. It would be a shame not to have a library here for the children of this neighborhood."—**John Toscano**

Ask State For Laws To Stop Human Trafficking

Human trafficking, "a modern form of slavery", is a crime and the state legislature must pass laws saying so and also provide services for victims, the City Council stated in a resolution passed recently and sent to Albany.

Councilmember Helen Sears (D-Jackson Heights) declared, "It is astounding that in this day and age and in this state that human trafficking exists."

Sears, chair of the Women's Issues Committee, explained: "The victims of human trafficking are mostly women and children who are forced to work in the sex trade, sweatshops, farming, manufacturing or as domestic workers. We are calling upon the state legislature to enact legislation that criminalizes human trafficking, punishes its perpetrators and protects its victims."

Sears said human trafficking is a transnational crime with national and local implications.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Sears says, trafficking in persons, or human trafficking, is a form of modern-day slavery and is identified as the recruitment and transportation of persons within or across boundaries by force, fraud or deception, for the purpose of exploiting them economically.

"Human trafficking is a global nightmare. It is a modern-day form of slavery," Sears said at a City Council press conference with Council Speaker Christine Quinn.

Sears also noted that according to a U.S. State Department report, Trafficking in Persons 2006, which was released last June, active efforts and advocacy for anti-trafficking measures are causing trafficking to receive "the worldwide attention it deserves".

Sears said that Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has named 12 countries that have not met the minimum standards specified in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. They are: Belize, Burma, Cuba, Iran, Laos, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea), Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

"The movement to end human trafficking will continue to gain momentum, thanks to the support of Speaker Quinn and my colleagues at the City Council," Sears concluded.—**John Toscano**

Tartaglione Turns 100 Years Old



Margaret Tartaglione, a resident of Queens Boulevard Extended Care Facility, 61-11 Queens Blvd., Woodside since March 1999, celebrated her 100th birthday with her family at the facility on September 18.

New York City

Health And Hospitals Corporation PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, November 28, 2006, 6 p.m.
DSSM-Neponsit Adult Day Health Care Center, 230 Beach 102nd St., Rockaway Park. Advance registration deadline Monday, November 27. Speakers are asked to register in advance for an assigned speaking time of 5-minutes or less by writing or calling 212.788.3360. Speaking preference will be given to those who register in advance.