

BD. 3...
From page 2

with answer to come in February.

Ismene Speliotis, director of New York Acorn Housing Company, was at the meeting to announce a rehabilitation project, a small, city-owned apartment house at 37-60 98th St., Corona. The building, whose narrow side faces 38th Avenue, had nine apartments, but five of them are currently vacant, considered unsafe for occupancy. Speliotis said it made her sad to disclose that when renovations are complete, the building will contain just six apartments, which would effectively be a gain of only two. Tenants in the four occupied apartments must move out while work goes on, but their temporary housing will be provided for. Jimmy Smith asked if they could even afford to move back into the renovated building, and Speliotis said they could sign a commitment to return, and when they did would pay no more than 30 percent of income on rent.

When committee reports were made, Martin Maier of the landmarks committee reported that Urban American Properties' renovation of a four-floor 1920s apartment house at 83-09 35th Ave., Jackson Heights had run afoul of the Landmarks Preservation Commission. Urban American had not applied for a permit to do the work, LPC charged, and in renovating had improperly removed such original appointments as terra cotta dolphin figures and wrought iron fencing. (Several terra cotta human figures on the outside walls have stayed in place.) Further work must be delayed until they are restored, LPC demanded. Michael Anthony Nardiello, a board member, expressed his

about City Hall's one-sided Web site,

resentment of what he believed was Maier's disparagement of Urban American—which, he said, has done sterling work elsewhere in Jackson Heights, restoring places that had become run-down hangouts and drug dens.

Ernesto Medina has been a restaurateur in Corona for a long time, having run Uncle Peter's, at 83-15 Northern Blvd., since 1983. When he appeared before the board seeking approval of a liquor license application for a new restaurant three blocks east, he met a host of members familiar with and strongly respectful of him. The new place, at 86-09 Northern Blvd., is called Jardi. Several testimonials about Medina's value to the community, not to speak of his cuisine, preceded a unanimous vote of approval.

Juan Camilo Osorio, a geographic information system (GIS) analyst from the Municipal Arts Society, attended the meeting to run a computerized display of the evening's business and to advertise that MAS needs an intern in its maps program—perhaps a high school student willing to learn. He spoke with several people about prospective interns.

Ed Westley of the board made the sad announcement that Phil Saccone, founder of the Jackson Heights Neighborhood Association, has died. JHNA was founded in 1978 and met for many years at Atonement Lutheran Church on 31st Avenue and 87th Street. Saccone and co-founder Karl Christensen were there to conduct each meeting. In September 2005, Saccone announced that owing to illnesses suffered by Christensen and himself, and because no one was answering his request for persons to succeed the two of them, he had to disband the association.

Police...
From page 1

might be entitled.

"Our calculations indicate that Queens residents might be paying more than \$30 million in property taxes than necessary," she said. She urged homeowners in the audience to pick up an application in the lobby on the way out of the York College auditorium in Jamaica, fill it out and mail it in before the March 15 deadline.

Marshall also announced that her staff members are working with the mayor's office this year to create the first family justice center in Queens "to provide integrated legal and support services for domestic violence victims and their families".

Marshall's office is making a major effort to bring government closer to the people it serves. Toward this end, she added, with a grant from Con Edison, every community board in Queens will soon have a Web site with information about meetings, agendas, land use and budget issues that anyone with a computer can access.

Also in an effort to upgrade "the peoples house", as she called Borough Hall in Kew Gardens, Marshall unveiled plans for a major expansion of the building that will serve as a center of civic activity.

"It will provide a multipurpose space in the heart of Queens," she said. "This innovative project, to be known as the forum, will provide a 21st century venue for large public meetings, community performances, cultural and artistic exhibitions, public hearings and ethnic celebrations."

Marshall opened her address by citing the still new 2007 as a very exciting year, including the new Democrat-controlled Congress, with historic first ever woman speaker, "and better yet, a grandmother". At the state level, she said, Governor Eliot Spitzer had outlined an impressive agenda of reforms, while in the city, "We have a forward-thinking mayor who takes care of present problems but also plans for the future".

Major infrastructure and economic development projects are going forward in Long Island City, Flushing and Jamaica, Marshall said, but probably the "most spectacular" is CitiField, the new Met's stadium.

She said she has formed a CitiField Advisory Committee, co-chaired by Councilmember Leroy Comrie (D-Jamaica) and including Assemblymembers Jose Peralta (D-Corona), Jeffrion Aubry (D-East Elmhurst), state Senator John Sabini (D-Jackson Heights) and Councilmember Hiram Monserrate (D-Corona). The committee's task is to insure equal participation in construction and employment opportunities for all businesses, women, minorities and the general population.

Besides rejecting the Berger Commission's recommendation to close the new Parkway Hospital in Forest Hills and urging that panel to adopt her proposed changes, Marshall noted that several Queens hospitals are going forward with major renovation and improvement projects.

On the education front, she said another 12,000 school seats are in design and construction. "When I leave office [in three years] every child in Queens will have a seat included in the plan."

At the conclusion of the address, Marshall honored two Queens residents with Queens Lifetime Achievement Awards. Cecil Watkins, a Korean War veteran and former long-time park administrator helped bring summer community basketball programs to children across the city and later founded ELMCOR, the Elmhurst youth and adult activity program. Lifetime Grace Nirenberg assisted seniors through the Self-Help Community

not applied for property tax exemptions to which they

Services Organization.

Three other people received Citizens of Distinction awards:

- Aida Barlolome, director of the Foundation for Filipino Artists, CB 2 member and a founding member of the Borough President's General Assembly;

- Ernest Curry, businessman, long-time schools advocate and Marshall's appointee on the School District 24 (Ridgewood/Glendale) Community Education Council, and

- Harbachan Singh, formerly at the United Nations, who formed the Sikh American Friendship Foundation and serves as Alumni Delegate to the Queens General Assembly.

Budget...
From page 6

Citing much better economic times in the city, she said it was "only right" to cut property and business taxes. Quinn said she also agreed to the mayor's call for reforming and strengthening the city campaign finance system, saying "Questions of candidate fairness and special influences still need to be addressed."

Quinn also applauded the mayor's proposal to keep the commercial corridors in all five boroughs cleaner and more attractive.

Vallone (D-Astoria) said the mayor's budget proposal was "the best news New York City has had in a long time. Mayor Bloomberg is a man of his word," he added.

"After 9/11, he made a commitment to me and to the entire city that these increases were a temporary wartime tax," Vallone recalled. "Because of the sacrifice of our citizens, we have not just recovered, but prospered. Today, Mayor Bloomberg honors his commitment to lighten the burden on New Yorkers now that our darkest days are behind us."

Liu (D-Flushing) stated, "Hopefully, this is just the first installment of a tax rollback. The objective ought to be the repeal of the entire 18.5 percent property tax imposed in the aftermath of September 11. In addition, the administration should endeavor to have this property tax rollback trickle down to people who pay rent as well."

Padavan (R-C, Bellerose) said in response to the mayor's program. "It's encouraging that so many of my colleagues on the city and state level realize that taxes, specifically taxes in New York, are too high. High taxes suffocate homeowners and small businesses, and I applaud the mayor for his efforts thus far in helping to make New York a more affordable place for all of us to live and do business."

Gotbaum noted: "Homeowners have been socked over the past few years by the spike in the property tax rate and soaring assessments."

*The
St. Francis
Mausoleum
Extension*

St. Michael's Cemetery offers a full range of options, including our beautiful St. Francis Mausoleum Extension, as well as Graves, Niches and Cremation. An active participant in the lives of our families, Memorial Counselors are available seven days a week to discuss options and planning. To request your free Resource Guide, or for more information, call: (718) 278-3240

Savings Certificate
\$1,000

St. Francis Mausoleum Extension

This certificate entitles bearer to a \$1,000 pre-development discount on a companion crypt in our St. Francis Mausoleum Extension
(\$500 when applied to a single crypt)



St. Michael's Cemetery
Established 1852

72-02 Astoria Boulevard
East Elmhurst, NY 11370
www.stmichaelscemetery.com

Beauty



Dignity



Security





JOHN FARENGA & SONS
FUNERAL HOME, INC.

The Area's Most Preferred Family-Owned Funeral Home

38-08 Ditmars Boulevard
Astoria

718.726.6060

www.farengafuneralhome.com
LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED