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CONGRATULATIONS NEW YORK SHARKS



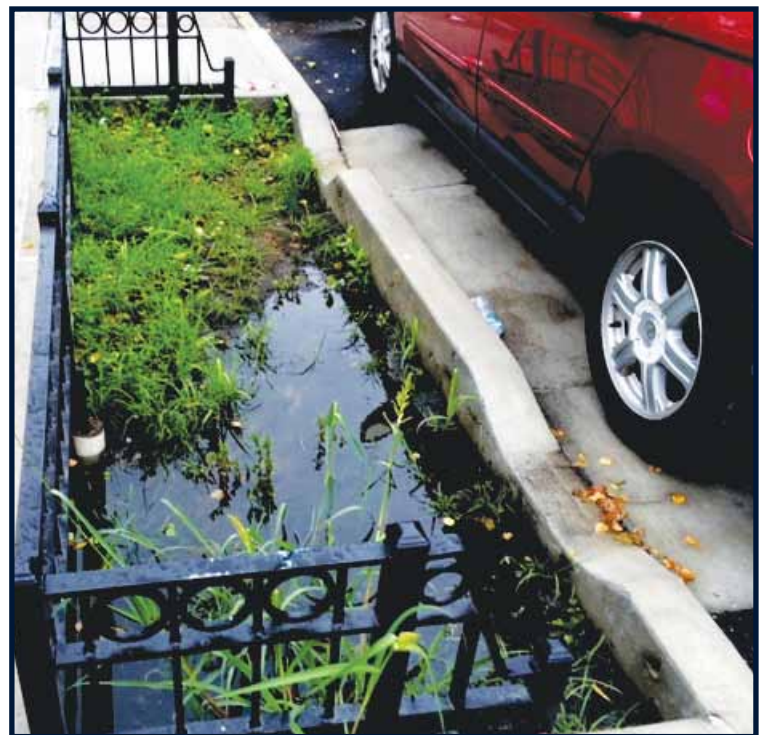
Trophy presented to owner Andra Douglas and WFA National Champions New York Sharks as they tackle their way winning 27-21 against long time challengers Minnesota Vixen. See story on page 4.

Bioswale's are the New Trash Receptacles and Breeding Grounds for Mosquitoes

The City of New York installed bioswales which are ultimately becoming trash containers and standing water hazards. As we all know, standing water is a breeding ground for mosquitoes. After asking many residents about the bioswale in front of their property all want to know why summons are issued to taxpaying residents for not cleaning the trash from these mosquito breeding garbage pits called bioswales.

Before the installation of bioswales, with the tremendous scare of "West Nile Virus" to the health of people, did anyone investigate the possibility that bioswales in high water table areas could become breeding grounds for mosquitoes?

The only people who have benefited from implementation of bioswals are the installers. The cost to build a bioswale is \$2,600.00 plus. The Taxpayers



Pictured above is what happens to a bioswale in an area with a high water table the water remains in pit.

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Eleventh Annual Feast in Honor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel



Pictured at the 11th annual Feast in Honor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is this year's Grand Marshal Assemblywoman Ari Espinal, with Councilmember Francisco Moya, Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Al Perna, St. Leo's and everyone who makes this feast a special staple of Corona year after year!

Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato Officially Announces Re-election Bid For NYS Assembly 23rd District



Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato says she's to ready to fight for our community. See story on page 2.

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Whirl With Merle

EAST SIDE, WEST SIDE, ALL AROUND NYC by Merle Exit



Two days of perfect weather as my nephew, Douglas Spires, drove from PA to Queens to visit me. Douglas is a 21 year veteran serving in the US Air Force as Technical Sergeant. PA and that story in itself is quite longer, so I'm skipping lots of details. What counts is that I haven't seen him about 15 years and that he brought his two off springs with him, who I had never met. OMG I'm a Great Aunt (as well as being a great aunt).

I wasn't sure that he was bringing 11-year-old Alex and 13-year-old Hailey and sort of prepared my mind of two adults until I viewed the car door opening and children coming out. Lunch first. We all agreed on getting grub from U-Me Sushi and have it delivered. What to do to not waste an afternoon of youngsters who have never been to....NEW YORK CITY! After chatting, I concluded that Haley had a ton of

interests including art. Queens Museum and the Unisphere!

They were both impressed by the panorama but the art exhibitions weren't Haley's "taste." Unisphere area was busy with dancing, music and the fountain, of course. A bit of a splashing experience for the both of them. I also pointed out the former State Pavilion and its role in the movie Men in Black.

More talking and getting to know each other brings dinner time. What will satisfy everyone? I turn to California Pizza Kitchen for that and we are off to Atlas Park. Instead of having dessert there, we trek to a Stop and Shop for snacks and breakfast food. It is now late in the evening when we get back. Douglas now has to find a parking spot. It took him two and a half hours to finally park the car and required a train and two buses to get back to my house. No more using the car!

There are many boat tours to get a glimpse of New York City and can get costly for two adults and children who might be charged a price for adults. We departed via taxi to the Hunters Point South ramp of the NYC Ferry system. At this location you can view the Empire State Building and United Nations. Although we did not get off any of the stops the boat docks at: Greenpoint; North Williamsburg; South Williamsburg; DUMBO; to Pier 11 in Wall St. You can ride atop and take photos and video that include the Statue of Liberty at a distance and get up close to the World Tower and One World building.

With so many areas of Manhattan to get a taste of New York City life, I chose Greenwich Village hoping to satisfy all. Flagged a taxi to Sixth Avenue and Bleeker St. with the first stop at Grom for authentic gelato. Walked up the block to an art gallery which

Doug and the kids explored and talked with the owner. Hailey loved this place. Me? I was a few doors away exploring an Italian bakery and indulging in a sfogliatelle. I had wanted to check out Murray's Cheese as a topic for an article. While the three went off to another art gallery, I went into the shop. I could in no way do a tasting at this point but will certainly return.

Why go back to Queens the same way when you can see more of the city from Wall St. to Rockaway. Having explained that when you see a photo of the Unisphere, it connotes the borough of Queens, the sight of the Coney Island parachute is paired with the borough of Brooklyn.

Dinnertime where I chose Thai Rock to chow down on due to both the food and atmosphere. Location at Beach 92nd St. looks onto the water just under the Crossbay Bridge. There is al-

ways a fabulous sunset and deck with outdoor seating and bar. Weekends, including Thursday, brings a live band (vs. corpses). For those wishing to participate in water activities, you can rent a jet ski, kayak or standup paddle. None of us did. We simply enjoyed the food.

Alex and Hailey got up and danced. So cute to see them. Hailey had her dance move and Alex could care less how he looked as long as he was dancing. I would not have expected anything different.

One other option to eating out was picking up a couple of steamed lobsters and shrimp from Crossbay Seashell Seafood, first calling ahead. It is a great idea to do if you are taking the Rockaway ferry to Wall St. since you are able to bring your own food on the boat. I think you might have to provide your own napkins and/or bib, though.

NEW YORK SHARKS WIN WFA CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

 by Merle Exit


Photo by Dana Sparkling.

Karma and history once again played a part with the New York Sharks women's professional football team not only winning the third round playoff and heading for the WFA National Championship game against the Minnesota Vixen, New

York clenched the title with a score of 27-21 in this July 27 nail biting game.

Let's look back again to the year 1999 when the New York Sharks were a flag football team and the women's tackle Vixen challenged

them to play it up with the Sharks having little time to learn the rules and practice as they vied in New York with the Sharks winning the game.

These two teams met again in 2016 in a semi-final game with the

IWFL in more than an edge of your seat battle as the Vixen took it at the last minute with double overtime. Although they went on to play in that Championship game, they did not score the win.

As herstory has it Douglas made

the decision to purchase the team 20 years ago using her 401K and recently sold it to the parents of one of the players who will now rename the team. This was the final season for

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New York Sharks Win WFA Championship Game

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the New York Sharks and what better way to end the long run than with the National Championship title and remaining the “winningest” and longest operating women’s tackle football team in the world!

This is the first time since 2004 that the New York Sharks appeared in a National Championship game. In 2002, operating as a full tackle team with the IWFL, the Sharks vied against the Austin Outlaws and tucked that title under their shoulder pads.

Just to sum up as to what lead to this herstoric game, each time there was the possibility of a final game at Brooklyn’s Aviator Sports Complex a win put them in another playoff for the title of WFA National Conference Champions. The third round game gave them home territory against the Tampa Bay Inferno with a winning score of 42-21 and now this 27-21win against the American Conference Champions Minnesota Vixen on July 27th.

It is all about the love of the game and teamwork as the players are not paid to play. In fact, these women, who have totally different careers of their own, have to shell out money each season. Motivation and success also comes along with coaches and a dedicated staff.

Over the years, coaches have come and gone but there are two other members of the staff that have been around since the beginning. Crystal Turpin had played flag football. Although she didn’t opt to play tackle, Douglas requested her talents to become the team’s General Manager. Dana Sparling is the Chief Financial Officer. No other women’s tackle football team has had this characteristic of man-agement.

Let’s also emphasize that it was Head Coach Fabian Alesandro and Assistant Coach Kyle Copeland that guided them into the winning game. Alesandro has been with the team since 2010 in various coaching positions.

Sometimes you just need to be supportive and play another game as Quarterback Karen Mulligan came back this season after retir- ing last year. “Mulli” has been with the Sharks since 2006 first starting with the positions of defensive end and defensive tackle. It was only a few seasons later when she was of- fered the quarterback spot and now quarterbacking for the first time in a championship game.

How did she feel about the win? “The game didn’t start out the way that I had wanted it to and it took a little bit to get comfortable and settle down. A lot of people stepped up so I really feel it was a whole team effort and I’m proud of the way that everyone stuck together and had each other’s back’s. That’s what it’s been about for us this entire season, sticking together. I couldn’t be more proud of any group than these ladies and our entire staff. We really are family. It’s taken a long time to get here and I don’t know that it has even really sunk in yet. It was an unbelievable feeling when that clock hit zero and we were national champions. This is kind of a storybook ending to my career and I couldn’t have asked for anything more. I’m so proud to have been a part of this organization for the past 16 years.” In addition to the team’s win, “Mulli” has been named WFA National Conference Offensive Player of the Year.

A former player, Toni Salvatore returned after several years of re- tirement to be their defensive coach. How more appropriate than a NY

Sharks championship win in 2002, assisting for this 2018 season and playing a part in their glorious win.

Some long time players, like Tia Hopkins, refused to leave the fam- ily. Hopkins became the General Manager as well as Offensive Line Coach.

Another story that needs to be told involves a player, Nhandi Brown. Nhandi expressed interest in playing football before the age of 10 as her father, Pat coached football as well as becoming the team’s broadcaster. Pat encouraged his daughter as she took part in flag football camps for girls 13-17 years of age provided free by the Fins Up! organization. High school found her in flag teams until she turned 18, when she was allowed to become a NY Sharks player going from flag to tackle. Since joining Nhandi has become quite an accomplished player. For this Championship game Nhandi upped her already high stats with about 7 open tackles helping in keeping the Vixen score down.

“I’ve never been more proud to be the owner of the NY Sharks,” said Andra Douglas. “From the first day of training camp, this coaching staff and group of players have been special. It was the perfect team to finalize the Sharks 20 season run and the fact that we punctuated the grand FINale year with a National Championship victory only empha- sizes the storybook magic of our franchise.”

This is not the last football game that this team will play as they will be heading to England the end of August representing the USA. Say what? Let’s just say that the New York Sharks are on their way to compete in England! Check out the website of www.nysharksfootball.com

Gillibrand Announces That Bipartisan Legislation to Train New York Students For High-Skilled, Good-Paying Jobs Has Been Signed Into Law

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand announced that following her push, the bipartisan Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act was signed into law today. The legis- lation includes provisions based on two of Gillibrand’s bipartisan bills that would promote techni- cal skills training and prepare students for high-demand, good- paying jobs in the 21st century economy. The Strengthening Car- eer and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act reauthorizes funding for career and technical education programs.

“I am very excited to announce that important provisions from my bipartisan Computer Science Car- eer Education Act and my bipar- tisan 21st Century SHOP CLASS Act have just been signed into law as part of the Career and Technical Education reauthorization,” said Senator Gillibrand. “Companies across New York have many high-tech jobs available, and these provisions will help train students with the technical and computing skills they need to fill these jobs.

This is great news for our state, and I will continue to do every- thing I can to make sure that our schools have the resources they need to better prepare students for high-quality jobs, no matter where they are in the state.”

Gillibrand’s provisions were in- cluded in the larger Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, which was signed into law today. Her bi- partisan Computer Science Career Education Act would help provide more opportunities for students to learn computer science skills, especially for women, minority, rural, and low-income students across New York State who are underrepresented in STEM car- eers, in order to prepare them for in-demand careers in computer science. According to the U.S. Bu- reau of Labor Statistics, by 2024, one in every two STEM jobs will be in computing, and there will be 1.3 million job openings in com- puting occupations due to growth in the field. However, fewer than 50,000 students graduate each year with bachelor’s degrees in

computer science.

The legislative package also included provisions from Gil- librand’s bipartisan 21st Century Strengthening Hands On Pro- grams that Cultivate Learning Ap- proaches for Successful Students (SHOP CLASS) Act, which would prepare teachers to offer expanded training for students across New York State in advanced manu- facturing technologies like 3D printers, laser cutters, and com- puterized machine tools. Modern manufacturing is increasingly high-tech and creates complex technical jobs that require tech- nical-skill training.

The Computer Science Career Education Act is cosponsored by Senator Roger Wicker (R- MS), and the 21st Century SHOP CLASS Act is cosponsored by Senator Todd Young (R-IN). Both provisions from Gillibrand’s bipartisan legislation would help train the future workforce for the 21st century economy and give more students the training needed for high-demand, good-paying jobs.

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