

## QUEENS Today

— DECEMBER 20, 2018 —

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### SOME QUEENS REPUBLICANS DEMAND SLIWA/ULRICH DEBATE IN PUBLIC ADVOCATE RACE

Leaders of the Queens Village Republican Club, The Rockaway Republican Club, The Whitestone Republican Club and the Frank Kenna Republican Club have called on candidates seeking the Republican nomination for the vacant public advocate seat debate in a public forum by early January. The four organizations said they may favor Curtis Sliwa over Councilmember Eric Ulrich in the race.

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### FACTION OF QUEENS COUNTY DEMOCRATS BLAST AMAZON DEAL

At least 43 members of the Democratic County Committee of Queens County co-signed a letter to Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Mayor Bill de Blasio criticizing the Amazon deal as “anti-democratic.”

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### NYCHA NAMED CITY'S WORST LANDLORD

Outgoing Public Advocate Letitia James named NYCHA as New York City's Worst Landlord in her annual list of slumlords. James, the state attorney general-elect, also ranked 99 private landlords. The list featured a handful of Queens landlords, mostly concentrated around Ridgewood.

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### IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE WINTER RECESS

The New York City Parks Department is hosting a series of activities for the thousands of New York City school kids on winter break. The series includes a stop at Forest Park Visitor Center in Forest Park on Friday, Dec. 28 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Parks staff will run a Nature Crafts Workshop where children will “get crafty and use natural materials found in the park to create [their] very own masterpieces,” according to Parks.

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### QUEENS TRIBUNE FIRES ENTIRE NEWSROOM

The *Queens Tribune* has laid off the majority of its staff as it searches for new funding.

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### LOCAL LIC LEADERS DEMONSTRATE FOR NEW FIREHOUSE

Lawmakers representing Long Island City and its surrounding neighborhoods joined firefighter unions to demand that the city

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## Queens Judges Show Up to Support Their New Colleague



More than two dozen Queens County judges attended the induction of Judge Lourdes Ventura (front row, fifth from right).

By Andy Katz  
Queens Daily Eagle

More than two dozen Queens County judges gathered at Queens Borough Hall Tuesday afternoon to support their new colleague, Judge

Lourdes Ventura, during her judicial induction ceremony.

After receiving her gavel and robe and reciting the oath of office on a Bible that once belonged to her great-grandfather, Ventura

thanked the individuals who helped her on her path, including her friends, family and colleagues.

“What a day,” Ventura said. “I learned from

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## Tis The Season for Last-Minute Holiday Gifts



Tyler Mujko relies on family recipes to run his business Neve Organic, an artisanal soap shop based in Ridgewood.

Photo courtesy of Tyler Mujko

By Jonathan Sperling  
and David Brand  
Queens Daily Eagle

Queens holiday shoppers who have grown a little tired of hearing about Amazon may want to check out a few of the borough's small businesses to pick up some last-minute gifts.

But where to begin in a county of nearly 2.4 million people where small businesses employ more than 50 percent of residents, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration?

To help Queens residents looking for unique presents for their family members, friends and colleagues — or just looking to treat themselves — the *Eagle* has put together a handy holiday gift guide featuring local shops from around the borough.

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## Queens Community Coalition Condemns Proposed Soccer Stadium

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