

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Marshall Eyes Growth

In her second to last year in office, Borough President Helen Marshall laid out the plans for the borough's future in her State of the Borough Address.

"From Astoria to Douglaston and from College Point to Rockaway and all the neighborhoods in between, our borough has flourished," Marshall said. "As your borough president, I have had the privilege of leading this great borough into the future."

According to Marshall, Queens County has made a litany of strides such as a decrease in crime to expanding and improving cultural and educational institutions throughout the borough.

"We have invested more than \$44 million to strengthen and expand the best and the busiest library system in the world," Marshall said. "Our cultural institutions are expanding their already spectacular venues thanks to the more than \$55 million that I have allocated to them."

The future of the borough is steeped in changes.

With many major zoning changes of 2007, the borough will see rash developments of entirely new neighborhoods. The largest rezoning effort is the 368-block swath of downtown Jamaica - the biggest in the city's history.

"The zoning will bring new energy to downtown Jamaica creating a commercial wholesale mart that will bring 1,000 jobs and lead the way to a new airport village near JFK that includes new hotels, shops and traffic improvements," Marshall said.

Downtown Jamaica is not the only hub that will see improvements. Willets Point with its mangled roads will be given a facelift.

"We will transform this site into a new neighborhood with affordable housing, office and retail space, parks, playgrounds, a public school, a hotel and a pedestrian bridge to downtown Flushing," she said.