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# Freeport • Baldwin

# THE LEADER

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## Health center 'not closing...yet.'

by Maurice Forge

Is Freeport going to get less medical care for its residents who cannot afford high health insurance rates or pay for their own doctors?

It is as hard to find answers during an election season as it is for the proverbial mice to get a volunteer to bell the cat.

Almost everybody directly or remotely connected with providing health care in Nassau County will tell you on or off the record that an increasing number of people who are unable to buy it at mounting health costs are looking for public health care. But no official will state flatly that Nassau County, which is responsible for providing health care to those in need, under State statutes, is about to make it more difficult in time, travel, expense and inconvenience for its current health services clients to get to see a doctor. Will the budgetary squeeze

cause some centers to close or others to take on heavy case loads?

"That would be terrible," says Edith Kirkland, a mother of six children, 16, 15, 11, 8, 6 and 5, who was in the waiting room of the Community Health Center at 460 North Main Street, run by the County Department of Health and its Center for Community Health Services.

As for now, Administrator Marguerite Barbor of the Freeport facility says, "The service we are providing has not changed. We turn nobody away. There may be longer waiting, but not in emergencies."

The Freeport Health Center is financed by the County and provides care for prenatal, maternity and child care and general medical care for those not covered by Medicare or health insurance plans. It is also mandated to pro-

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## Garbage strike is over!



CLEANING UP the accumulated garbage after the strike of sanitation workers in Freeport and other Long Island communities ended last week.

## Monkey and owners: Reunited and it feels so good...

by Maurice Forge

Happiness for Franco, the capuchin monkey, is to be reunited with his "family." For the Angelotte family, it is to have their lost pet and companion back in their

home on East Loines Avenue in Merrick.

As our readers will recall, residents of Baldwin, Bellmore and Merrick were startled by the sight of the monkey in various places on successive days, usually perched in trees. Alerted by

the Freeport-Baldwin Leader Bellmore Life and Merrick Life, the pet's owners and the authorities watched for the errant animal, and after a succession of failed attempts, Franco was recovered, given first aid for the injuries sustained during his flight,

and brought home.

Borsalino Angelotte got the monkey as a gift. He brought it with him from Palermo, Sicily, when he came here to marry Lizette and take her back with him to Italy. But his love for her was great enough to include her country. "I fell in love with America," Borsalino says, his eyes flashing.

Now they have a daughter, five-year old Jennifer, who was heart-broken when they found Franco was missing. Franco has been her playmate from birth, and she just couldn't face the future without him.

Even their year-old macaw, a colorful Amazonian bird, stopped chirping and playing during the monkey's absence.

Apart from the family's grief over the loss of Franco, they were especially concerned about the shock to Borsalino's grandmother, Loretta, when she returns from a visit to Sicily. She has been confined to a wheelchair and her grandson trained the monkey to tend to her. Franco has learned to fetch things for grandma, feed her and do little chores on request. He responds to

whistles, words and body motions.

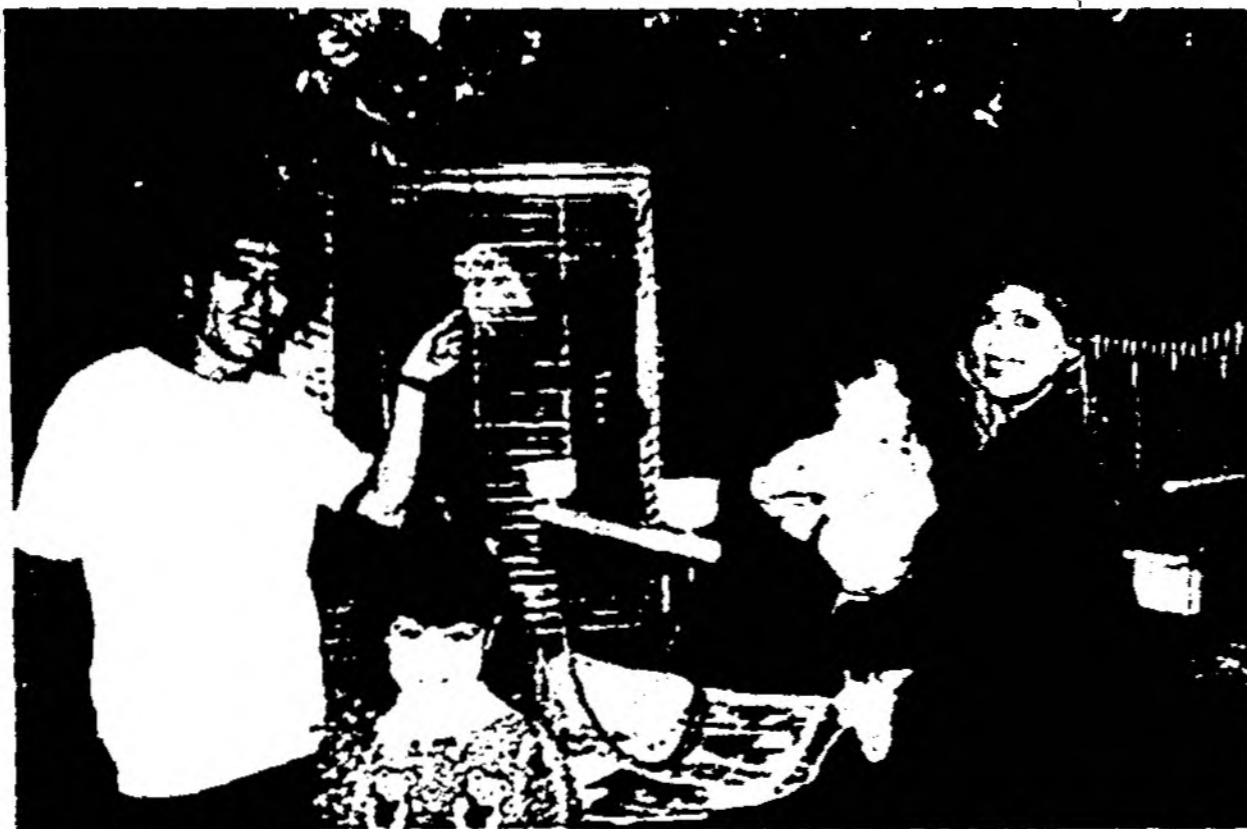
"The thing that has been so heart-warming," Mr. Angelotte keeps repeating, "is the way the community, the authorities and Dr. Goldstein and his staff responded to the occasion.

"Please tell your three newspapers how much we appreciate their help," he said, "and tell everybody in the community how much the entire Angelotte family appreciates their care, concern and help. We will never forget it."

Franco is eight and a half years old, and is about two feet tall when you catch him in a completely erect position. His tail is about as long as his body. Since he came from equatorial Amazon, the capuchin cannot stand cold. The family was worried that if the temperature dropped to 60 degrees Fahrenheit or below during the nights he'd probably have died.

Although he was hungry throughout his escapade, Franco was very cautious when offered food by strangers. At one time a policewoman gave him some

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REUNITED: Borsalino and Lizette Angelotte, their infant son Borsalino II and daughter Jennifer with their monkey Franco and macaw on their porch on East Loines Avenue in Merrick.