

# Freeport HERALD Leader



**It's Stakes  
time**  
Page 18



**An eatery with  
a higher mission**  
Page 2



**Gala held  
for the schools**  
Page 6

VOL. 82 NO. 23

JUNE 8-14, 2017

\$1.00



Maureen Lennon/Herald Leader

**JORDAN LAMAR, 9**, had a blast petting the bearded dragon at the annual Nautical Mile Festival in Freeport on Saturday.

## Nautical Mile Fest opens summer season

By **NADYA NATALY**  
nnataly@liherald.com

When outlining 5-year-old Dakota Whaley's face in paint at Freeport's annual Nautical Festival on Saturday, Abigail Aguilar, of Freeport, paid close attention to how her brush layered the colors.

When Dakota's transformation was complete, the Island Park resident jumped up from her chair to see herself in the mirror with a butterfly across her face.

Children could be seen up and down the Nautical Mile, a.k.a. Woodcleft Avenue, with their faces painted as butter-

flies or tigers, while their parents perused local vendors or lined up for fried Oreos.

This year's festivities started with a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by Freeport Mayor Robert Kennedy. The much-anticipated event is Freeport's unofficial start to the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

## Freeporters struggle to get around after NICE bus cuts

By **NADYA NATALY**  
nnataly@liherald.com

Adjusting her purse strap and glancing at her watch, Alicia Degames was growing impatient standing at the stop for the N43 bus off North Main Street and Randall Avenue in Freeport last Thursday. She had been there for 20 minutes already. Leaning on the stop's post, the 31-year Freeport resident suddenly smiled when she spotted a friend approaching.

"Hey, how are you doing today?" she said in her native Spanish as she hugged Graciela Alesio, a 24-year Freeport resident.

"How long have you been waiting?" asked Alesio in Spanish.

Too long.

Many Freeporters like Degames depend on Nassau Inter-County Express buses to get around Nassau County. Wait times for buses have, however, grown increasingly longer, and bus riders' nerves more and more frayed, since service cuts took effect on April 9 because of NICE budget woes.

"These buses run so late now," Degames said. "Bus 43 runs so late, and I use that route frequently. Before they changed the services,



Nadya Nataly/Herald

**FREEPORTERS ALICIA DEGAMES** and Graciela Alesio waited for the N43 bus off North Main Street and Randall Avenue.

the buses ran, at most, maybe 15 minutes late. Now I'm out here waiting 40 minutes for a single bus."

"I can't ride a bike. I'd never get there and I don't drive. I use these buses for everything," Alesio added.

In February, NICE CEO Mike Setzer wrote a letter highlighting the reasons for the cuts, saying Nassau County's ongoing fiscal crisis was to blame for a \$6.8 million reduction in funding for public buses.

As of press time, a NICE representative had not returned the Herald's phone calls. On its web-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



JOSEPH ARDITO, ESQ. • JOHN A. ARDITO, ESQ.

www.ArditoLaw.com

### ALL ACCIDENT CASES

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE WITH PERSONAL ATTENTION

PERSONAL INJURY • MEDICAL MALPRACTICE  
REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS • PROBATE • WILLS • TRUSTS



659 Franklin Ave. Franklin Square, NY

**516.825.0500**



HOME & HOSPITAL VISITS AVAILABLE  
FREE CONSULTATION ON ALL ACCIDENT CASES

917420