

ON THE ISLE / MARY ENGELS

# Is this advisory council necessary for Lamberti?

**N**OW IS THE TIME for all good Islanders to confess and tell how many New Year's resolutions you've broken.

And the diet ones don't count. That's nothing new even for a New Year's resolution. We're talking about biggies, folks. You know, like the one that Borough President Ralph Lamberti made by resolving to have an advisory committee help him with the problems of the isle.

In case you didn't know, he chose an even dozen to provide him with "insight into the needs of the borough and to suggest issues that the borough president's office should address."

Some Islanders are already asking, "Do we really need an advisory committee to advise the boss, especially Lamberti?"

One gets the feeling that he needs this council like Snug Harbor Cultural Center needs another consultant's study to tell the powers that be how to run the place.

In recent weeks the harbor board has been trying to resolve whether to seek landmark status as a special historic district. The public hearing on the matter comes up Tuesday in the Board of Estimate chambers in City Hall.

The proposed 80-acre historic district incorporates what was previously designated New York City landmarks, and approximately 22 additional structures which range in style from Greek Revival to Neo-Georgian.

The difference between a few landmarks and the whole district being landmarked can mean a few more

hurdles in the ever uphill battle to get funds for the place.

However, no one seems to take into consideration the cost of all those studies down the road, the many consultant reports that is, some of which were viable and others, just repeats of same.

Maybe someone could advise the advisory council, the new "eyes and ears of the community" on how to handle that one.

Then there is the matter of the "War of the Woods" controversy between the Protectors of Pine Oak Woods, an Island environmental group, and the Staten Island Developmental Center.

The Protectors won a partial victory in court recently when Supreme Court Judge Rose McBrien granted a preliminary injunction which called for a halt to the center's building of four group homes on a designated "natural area" known as Corson's Brook Woods.

It seems that Protectors' President Dick Bugler spotted some "40 trees cut down" in that area and cried timber all the way to the courthouse. All right "eyes and ears of the community," better known as the borough president's advisory council, how would you advise the chief on this one?

Better still, will Lamberti listen or turn a blind eye, and a deaf ear to certain issues.

We predict it should be an interesting year just seeing what issues the council will tackle in its crusade to tell Lamberti what's really going on out here.

For openers, coming up this week is the special Navy Procurement Conference which will take place on Jan. 11 from 8:30 a.m. until noon at the gymnasium at Fort Wadsworth.

This is for local businessmen and the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce will be assisting with the conference.

According to Rep. Guy Molinari (R-C-Staten Island), "Rear Adm. Joseph Sansone Jr., an authority on Navy contracting, will be present to discuss the many opportunities for area businesses to contract with the Navy or subcontract with prime contractors."

Molinari said: "With the possible home-porting of the seven ship Surface Action Group, this is a particularly timely conference."

Those attending will receive information on how to make their capabilities known to the military, what types of products the Navy needs, and how to find the prime contractors who can provide subcontracting opportunities to small businessmen.

There will be no charge for the conference but registration is encouraged.

For more information contact Molinari's office at 981-9800.

For those in the arts field remember that two application seminars dealing with how to obtain partial support for arts and humanities projects this year are being held tomorrow at the Staten Island Council on the Arts offices, 1 Edgewater Plaza, Room 212, from 1 to 3 p.m. and from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Qualified individuals and organiza-

tions may pursue grants of up to \$3,000 for projects on Staten Island, according to council leaders.

The program, handled for the first time by the Staten Island Council on the Arts, will make available more than \$60,000 for the support of the arts and humanities on the isle.

"Unsung Voices," an exhibit of unusual and dramatic ultrasonic instruments designed by composer and performer John Driscoll, will make its debut at the Staten Island Children's Museum, 15 Beach St., Stapleton, on Jan. 12 in the museum's performance gallery.

It is the fifth exhibit presented by the museum in its performance gallery, an auxiliary space adjacent to its major exhibit, a show about sound and music called "Soundtracks."

Visitors to the new exhibit will be given an opportunity to try out the various types of mechanisms to activate the sculptures.

Sounds like fun.

Lamberti will give his first State of the Borough message on Jan. 16 at the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce luncheon at the Staaten at noon.

Now what will his new advisory council advise him to say?