

2 Community Leaders Battle in the 17th CD

This is the first in a series of closeup looks at the primary-election races in Queens.

By Caryn Eve Wiener

Joan M. Bryan and Archie Spigner share a concern about high unemployment and the flagging level of law enforcement in southeastern Queens. They also share the belief that many neighborhoods in that part of the borough need more sewer systems to correct prevalent problems of street flooding. And, as former colleagues in the 1960s, the two share a common history as office-holders in the Jamaica branch of the NAACP.

But later this month, Spigner and Bryan face off against each other in the Democratic primary in the 17th City Council District. Spigner, the 53-year-old incumbent seeking a third term in the working-class district, already has the Liberal line for the November election.

According to Spigner, his opponent is "a nice lady . . . and I have nothing negative to say about her." And Bryan, 43, an Eastern Airlines sales executive, agreed that the competition "is not a personal thing." She said she would not be running if she had not been drafted by dissatisfied community residents who were upset about what they saw as Spigner's lack of response to constituents' local concerns.

Sharing their dissatisfaction, she is far from being a reluctant candidate. "Archie has served as chairman of the [City Council] Economic Development Committee, but we have not seen the benefit of his position here" at the community level, said Bryan. She said that without further business development at the level of the neighborhood shops, unemployment would continue among

the district's minority population — and that inevitably accelerates the crime rate.

Spigner said, however, that his chairmanship had been pivotal for his district: "We can point to the local development corporations we have established on Linden Boulevard, Sutphin Boulevard, Hollis Avenue, Rockaway Boulevard . . . all funded with city and state funds, and I worked in seeing to it that we moved them along . . . And two of the four Special Business Improvement Districts in the city are on Jamaica Avenue, as a result of legislation that came through my committee."

Spigner added that, with his assistance, other inroads had been made. "The bulldozer and the detour signs are physical manifestations of progress," he said, referring to the Long Street sewer and the reconstruction of Linden Boulevard, two major projects among many for which he said he had helped secure necessary city dollars.

Spigner's own challenge to Bryan — one that recently failed in the courts — was to have her ousted from the ballot because she maintains a residence in a part of Hollis that is outside the council district. "I am surprised she didn't run against Sheldon Leffler [in the district] where she lives," he said.

"I have another residence in Hollis; I never denied that," Bryan said. "But I have voted from this address for the past 22 years," she said of the house at 114-78 175th Pl., St. Albans, that she calls her "family home."

Bryan, who has served on the executive board of the former Southern Queens Park Association and the advisory commission to August Martin High School, is a St. Albans native. She said her tenure in office would focus on increased law enforcement in the district's three precincts, along with establishment of programs to attract major companies' franchises to neighborhood shopping

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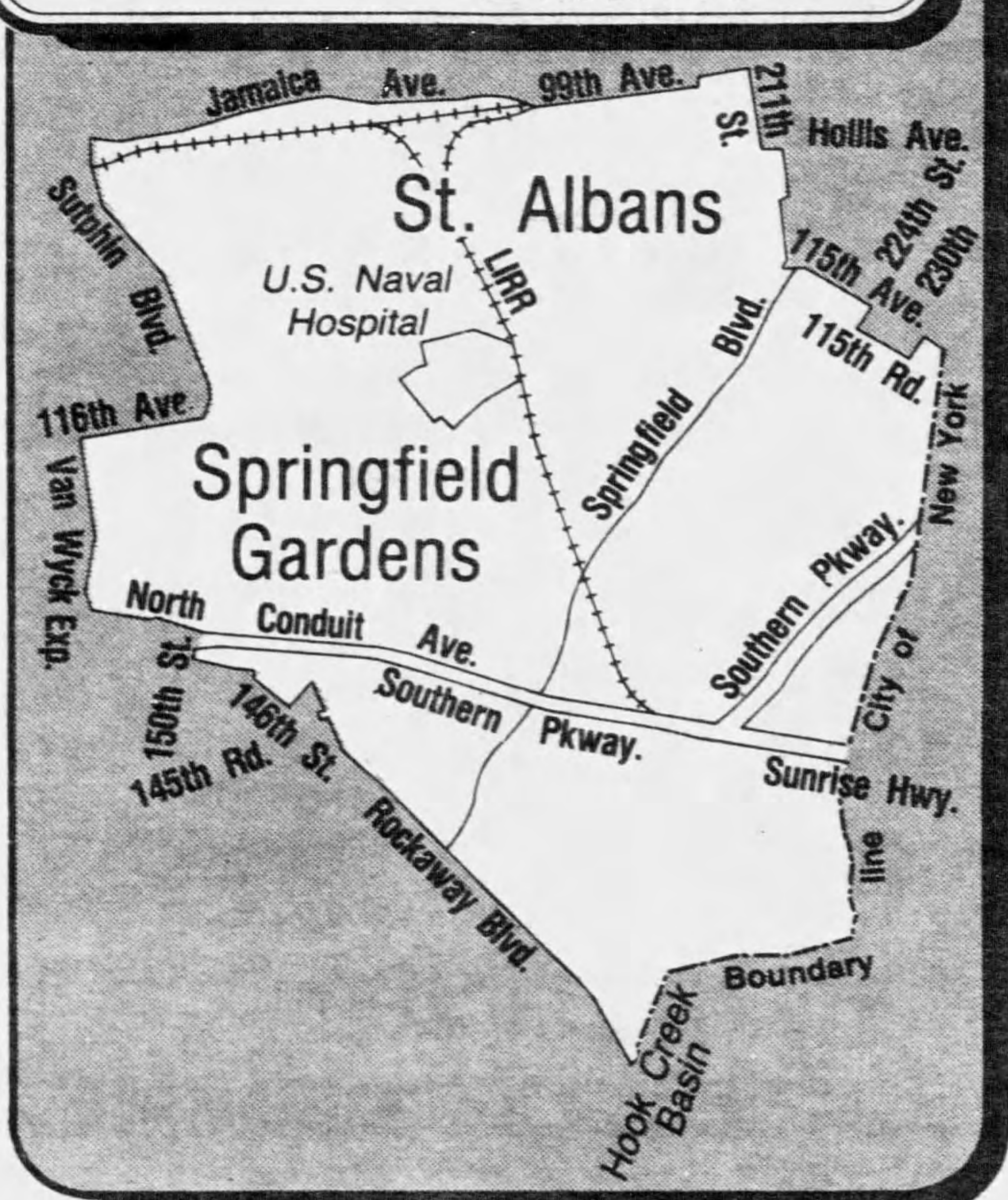


Archie Spigner



Joan M. Bryan

17th City Council District



Newsday Map/Tom Redmond



Mobster's Parole Revoked

By Tom Renner

John (Sonny) **Franzese**, a ranking Cosa Nostra figure, was found guilty yesterday of violating his federal parole by meeting with fellow mobsters. **Franzese** was ordered remanded to a federal prison and could serve up to 10 years on the two violations.

Franzese, described by both federal and local law enforcement agents as the heir apparent to the throne of the Joseph Colombo crime family, has been held at the U.S. Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan since June 18 on charges he violated the terms of his parole by meeting with two crime figures in 1981 and 1982. They were identified as Gambino family captain Carmine Lombardozzi, a convicted loan shark and gambler, and convicted narcotics dealer Robert Cordice, a Colombo family associate. Authorities said the meetings took place in Brooklyn restaurants.

Ralph Kistner, deputy chief of the Eastern District's U.S.



John Franzese

Probation and Parole Office, said information on the crime meetings were developed by FBI agents of the Long Island Organized Crime Squad working with the federal probation intensive supervision unit.

The 63-year-old **Franzese**, who lives at 47 Shrub Hollow Rd., Roslyn, was found guilty of the illegal meetings during a two-day hearing by two examiners of the U.S. Parole Commission at the correctional center. He had been paroled in October, 1978, after serving nine years of a 50-year sentence for bank robbery. His parole was scheduled to end in 2020.

Franzese is the second major Colombo family crime leader to be jailed for violating federal parole in the last two years. Carmine Persico, acting boss of the Colombo family, was jailed on similar charges last year for attending a gangland meeting in May, 1981, between Simone DeCavalcante and Colombo family leaders. With both **Franzese** and Persico in jail and Persico's brother, Alphonse, still a fugitive after more than two years, the Colombo family lacks leadership.

Police and federal sources said that as a result, the family's operations generally are being directed by high-echelon members of the Gambino family including underboss Aniello Dellacroce.

8 Years to Get in Front Door

New York (AP) — Anger plus action equals very slow progress in the opinion of Curtis Brewer, a quadriplegic who won an eight-year battle to get a small ramp placed in front of a big building.

"It's a small victory," Brewer, a 56-year-old attorney, said yesterday as he was ceremoniously pushed in a wheelchair up the metal ramp to the office tower at 475 Park Ave. S.

It all started on Oct. 2, 1974 — the day Brewer was admitted to the bar. The same day, he had gone to the Park Avenue building to pay a fine in the city's Parking Violations Bureau.

But Brewer, who was paralyzed from the neck down by a spinal virus years earlier, could not get up the five steps leading to the front doors in his wheelchair.

Someone in the building suggested that he gain access through "the garbage entrance" and a freight elevator.

"I felt like a black man in a wheelchair being told to go around to the back door," said Brewer, who is black. "It really hit home."

Brewer, director of Untapped Resources, a nonprofit organization providing free legal services for the handicapped, negotiated with the building's management. On Sept. 4, 1975, he filed a complaint with the state Division of Human Rights.

Commissioner Werner Kramarsky found that a ramp should be built, but did not hold the city accountable.

In a "hotly contested battle" by the firm that manages the building, the case moved through seven years of appeals. The ramp was finally installed last week.

"I can believe it took so long," said Brewer, "because I've been disabled for 27 years and I've seen the unconscionable things done by human beings against other human beings."

Phones Hung Up By Foul-Up

Telephone users in Queens were unable to make operator-assisted calls yesterday because of a computer power failure that knocked out such service in the borough and also disrupted service in lower Manhattan and Staten Island.

By late yesterday afternoon phone company trouble shooters had diagnosed the problem and New York Telephone Co. spokesman John Quinn said, "By tomorrow morning we'll be handling normal traffic. We're back in business."

The problem, which affected person-to-person, collect and credit card calls, developed at about 3:30 AM when a power pack in a phone company office in Brooklyn failed while undergoing maintenance and knocked out the computer that handles operator-assisted calls. About 500,000 operator-assisted calls are made in the city each day and about 30 per cent of those were not going through yesterday. There are about 43 million telephone calls made in the city each day.

—T.J. Collins