



# Staten Island Advance

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## NEWS

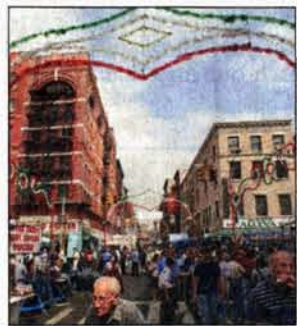
### DICK CLARK DEAD AT 82



Dick Clark, the television host who helped bring rock 'n' roll into the mainstream on "American Bandstand," died yesterday following a massive heart attack. **PAGE A 14**

## AWE THE HUNGER GAMES

Pitmasters vie for \$10Gs in this weekend's NYC Chili & BBQ Cookoffs (but we get to eat the spoils of their success). **ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE INSIDE**



## NEWS

### SAN GENNARO FLEECE

Authorities allege a reputed mob capo from Tottenville tried to turn the city's largest street fair into his personal piggy bank. **PAGE A 3**



## SERIES STARTING SUNDAY

### 'IMMIGRANTS OF PORT RICHMOND'

Some are landscapers, kitchen workers and maids. Others run businesses and volunteer in food pantries. They all came to the U.S. — to Staten Island — to work hard and establish a better life for themselves and their families. In profiles written by Wagner College students, six Latino immigrants living in Port Richmond defy the negative stereotypes too often assigned to them. Don't miss "Immigrants of Port Richmond," a three-day series beginning in the Sunday Advance. To learn how the series originated go to [silive.com/video](http://silive.com/video).

## FOOD

### THE CLEAR INGREDIENT



Does water make the bagel? A seventh-grader takes on the question as a science project and finds out. **PAGE C 1**

## P.A. to invest \$4M in Pouch Camp

Agency says 'no toll or fare revenue' is going toward this acquisition

By STEPHANIE SLEPIAN  
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

The Port Authority is expected to invest approximately \$4 million into the preservation of Pouch Camp, a beloved Scouting



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

The P.A. board of commissioners is scheduled to vote on the deal April 26.

campground once threatened by residential development, the Advance has learned.

A source close to the project said the money comes from the bi-state agency's \$60 million Harbor Estuary Program, which allows the funding of ecologically valuable projects using revenue generated from seaport activity —

and not from tolls.

"No toll or fare revenue will be used in this acquisition," said the source who declined to be named because the Port Authority's board of commissioners won't vote on the deal until April 26. "One thing has nothing to do with the other." The Port Authority has

SEE POUCH, PAGE A 6



## STRIVING TO BE THE PROM SENSATION

The dress is the thing as borough's teens turn attention to event of the year

By ELISE McINTOSH / STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

They still may be scrambling to line up a date to the prom, but by now most teenage girls planning on attending the social event of high school have the most crucial element settled: The dress.

With a growing number of teens calling dibs on evening gowns via Facebook in an effort to prevent a prom catastrophe — i.e. another prom-goer arriving to the big dance in the same outfit — there's increasing pressure to purchase a dress earlier and earlier.

Some girls start the hunt for the one as soon as summer vacation ends. Others begin in earnest in January. And yet a few buy a full year in advance, according to Christine Ashwal, a sales representative at Ultimate Fashions, a Great Kills shop that maintains a dress registry to avoid selling the same gown to students from the same school.

Many girls set off on their prom dress crusade by scouring the Web sites of the most popular designers — such as Jovani, Sherri Hill, Morilee, MacDuggal, Terani — so that by the time they hit the



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE PHOTOS/JAN SOMMA HAMMEL

At In Phase on New Dorp Lane, Courtney Dunn tries on a prom dress designed by Faviana.

SEE PROM, PAGE A 6

## FACEBOOK PAGE IS SET UP TO AVOID FASHION COLLISION

### Don't dare wear what's already posted there

By JILLIAN JORGENSEN  
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

For a 17-year-old girl, showing up to prom in the perfect dress — only to find a rival wearing it just as well, or maybe even better — is the stuff of nightmares.

Enter: Facebook. Prom-goers have taken to the social network to stake claim on their dresses, hoping to avoid the question so often splashed on the back page of tabloid celebrity magazines: Who wore it better?

"This is a special day, so you want every girl to feel special," said Marissa Iacona, 18, a senior at Tottenville High School. "You don't want to be wearing the same dress as

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## COMING SUNDAY



### IS YOUR STUFF WEIGHING YOU DOWN?

It starts innocently enough. The next thing you know, you're buried under an avalanche of things you no longer want. In this week's Parade, find out what to do if you feel possessed by your possessions.

## WEATHER WATCHER



### ELENA GOMEZ, TODT HILL

Clouds breaking and pleasant; high of 72  
**PAGE A 18**



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Courtney Dunn ties on a royal blue dress by Jovani at Ivory & Co. on New Dorp Lane.

## DRESS FROM PAGE A 1

# Don't dare wear what's already posted there

someone — especially when you spend a lot of money.”

So Miss Iacona picked up on an idea she'd seen elsewhere and started a Facebook page for the girls attending Tottenville's senior prom to post pictures of their dresses. That way, people could look through the page to make sure nobody had already purchased their dream dress before they buy it.

“So far it's been working out really well,” she said. “A lot of the girls have spoken and if someone likes the dress, everyone kinds of works around each other.”

Similar pages abound for other schools, including Susan Wagner High School and St. Joseph by-the-Sea. And some retailers have taken it upon themselves to try to address the problem of duplicate dresses. At Ultimate Fashions II, in Eltingville, they have a dress registry and say they refuse to sell two girls going to the same prom the same dress.

Not even in different colors.

“You have to let them know, we can't control if somebody goes to a different dress shop,” store manager Christine Ashwal said. “So that's why they post their dress on Facebook.”

Ms. Ashwal said with girls spending \$250 and up on dresses, they don't want to see anyone else looking like them. But even Facebook isn't fool-proof.

“Not all of them post it,” Ms. Ashwal added. “Some of them say, ‘It's none of your business.’”

And while Facebook has helped girls avoid that socially awkward moment on the dance floor, it has led to plenty of pre-prom online drama between girls who, despite all the precautions, end up with the same dress anyway.

On the St. Joseph by-the-Sea page, tensions flare over dresses in the same style and color, leading another girl to complain that people can't “call” a style of dress. On the Tottenville page, more than 30 comments, some employing profanity, are devoted to one dress after a girl replies to say she already has it — in a different color. Both girls got the dress at the same store, due to a computer error.

Other girls join in to say if they each love the dress, and they are in different colors, and there will be hundreds of girls at prom and the two girls are in different social circles, they ought to both wear the dress anyway.

But the girl who had it first insisted she simply would not have the same dress as someone else. She was able to return it, due to the computer glitch, and pick out a new one.

Two other girls go back and forth over a dress, even though one insists they are actually different — since



Also at Ivory & Co., Miss Dunn tries on a floral print by Terani.

one design is off-the-rack and the other had to be custom-made. The girl who says she had it first tells the second girl she can have it — she's getting a better dress anyway.

“Sometimes it does get out of hand,” Miss Iacona, the creator of the Facebook page, said. “It's a lot of money people charge for these dresses, so of course people get emotional, especially in the economic times we have today.”

Plenty of the girls seem fed up with all the squabbling, including the girl who bought the dress off-the-rack dress second — she didn't buy it to spite anyone, she wrote, but because she wanted it. Besides, she was already getting the dress before she joined the Facebook page.

Another girl weighs in to say the back-and-forth is getting ridiculous. It's unfair that a girl might fall in love with a prom dress, and then realize they can't wear it because someone else grabbed it first, she wrote.

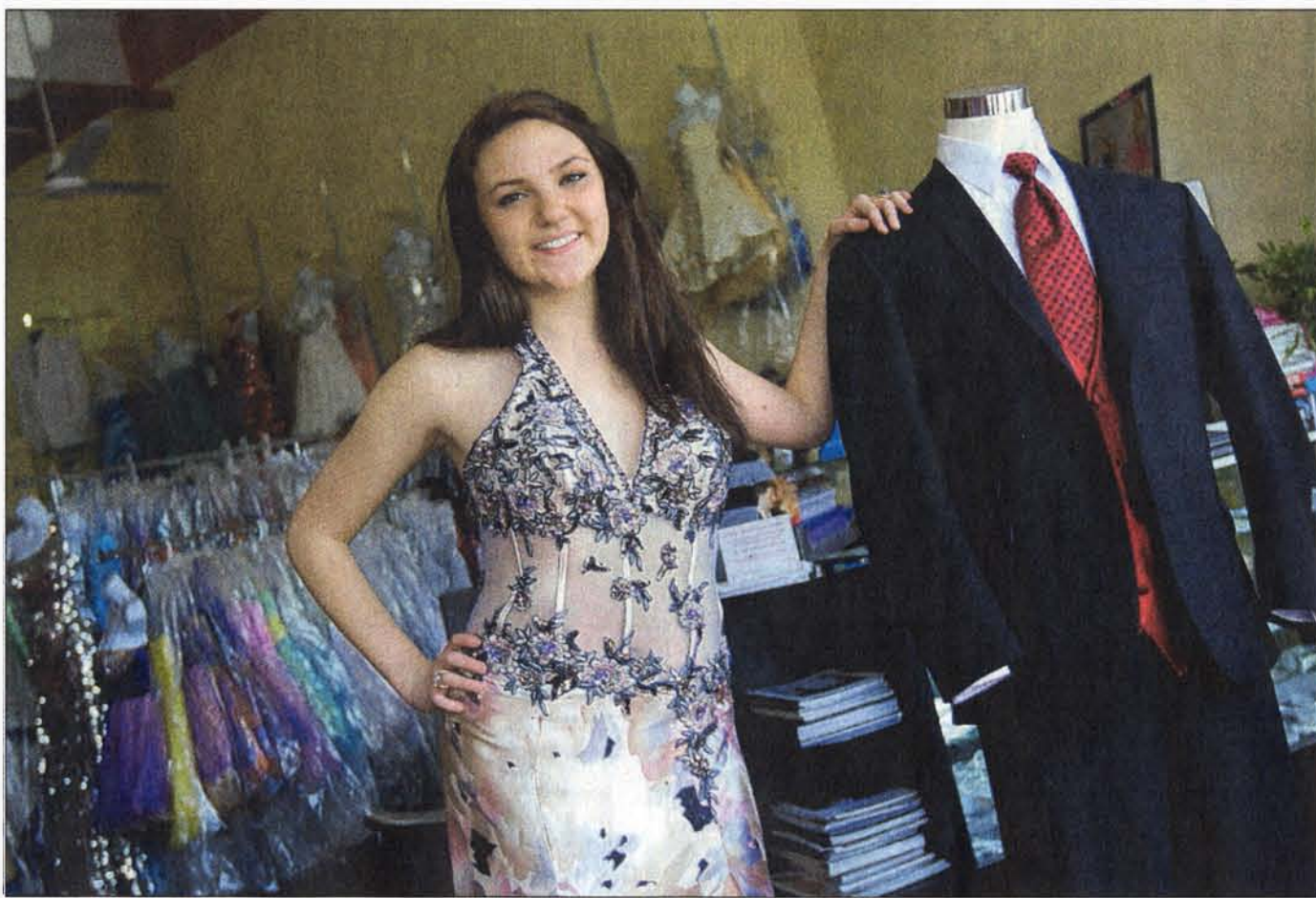
But in the end, despite girls getting “a little dramatic,” things work out, Miss Iacona said.

Asked why it was so important to girls to stand out, Miss Iacona said some girls are competitive with one another. But still, she suspected it had more to do with the cost of the couture.

“They'll get a little competitive, but I really think it boils down to the money situation, and how much these dresses actually cost,” Ms. Iacona said. “These dresses can run into the thousands.”

And that's without even factoring in the cost of having your hair and makeup done, Miss Iacona added.

— Courtney Dunn contributed to this report.



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/JAN SOMMA-HAMMEL

At Ultimate Fashion on Amboy Road, Courtney Dunn tries on a Tony Bowls prom dress.

## PROM FROM PAGE A 1

# Girls are striving to be the prom sensation

the shops, they know exactly what they want.

“I call them professional prom-goers,” commented Janet Zenna, owner of Ivory & Co. on New Dorp Lane.

Ms. Zenna said the majority of teens spends between \$350 to \$500 — though, some much higher — for a gown they may or may not wear again.

Ms. Ashwal agreed that's the average price range, but added some dresses sell for more than \$1,000.

As for the hot hues this season, Ms. Zenna said royal blue, beige and different shades of pinks and whites are popular choices.

Margaret Barranco, owner of In Phase Fashions, also on New Dorp Lane, noted that pastels, or “the sherbet shades,” and vivid colors like aqua and deep pink are trendy right now — as is beading.

Because prom is such a special occasion, Ms. Barranco explained, most young ladies opt for an ankle-length gown rather than a cocktail dress.

As for risqué factor, Ms. Zenna said she sees that “the

## More on the web



For a look at prom fashions, go to [silive.com/photos](http://silive.com/photos).

dresses are tamer this year.” Ms Barranco agreed.

Perhaps that's true, but there still are a few gowns that will turn heads and raise a few eyebrows.

Take the Tony Bowls satin dress with a midriff-revealing sheer illusion bodice that our model, Advance reporter Courtney Dunn, tried on at Ultimate Fashions. Its slit, which rises at least six inches above the knee, seems like it's a wardrobe malfunction waiting to happen on the dance floor.

And, the popular “high-low” dresses, with a short hemline in the front and a longer one in the back, seem to blend two fantasies — siren and princess — into one.

While the cut-out dresses that expose the midriff area might get teenage boys thinking about sex on prom night, this season's crop of cut-outs isn't any more provocative

than what we've seen in previous years.

According to parent coordinator Debbie Rabinowitz, Susan Wagner High School started “encouraging” a dress code when it started having its prom at the Hilton Garden Inn, Bloomfield, about six years ago.

“We encourage girls not to wear any dresses with a lot of cleavage showing, high slits, preferably no lacing in the back,” she said, adding that the last condition was added after a boy “got creative” one year and untied a lace-up corset back.

“The girls are very good about complying,” she observed. Though, she added, if a young lady were to show up in something too over-the-top, she may be asked to change.

“Thankfully, we haven't really had to do that,” Ms. Rabinowitz said.

Joe Sicilian, who has been helping with Curtis High School's prom for the last 30 years, said the school does not have a formal dress code for prom.

“We have a great deal of trust in our students because

of the way they deport themselves throughout the year,” he said.

“Give or take a few eye-openers,” inappropriate dresses never have been an issue, he noted.

There is no written dress code at St. Joseph by-the-Sea High School either.

“It is a Catholic school, so they know better,” said the school's prom coordinator, who requested not to be identified by name.

If a girl were to show up in too risqué a dress, she said, “I'd just tell them to pin up.”

Neal Noto, coordinator of student activities at Port Richmond High School, said Port Richmond also doesn't have a dress code.

“Only because we've never experienced a problem,” he explained.

“Everyone seems to dress appropriately,” he continued, though he admits with the girls' dresses, there is “a certain amount of skin showing.”

Which part of the body is bare, he said, depends on the season's fashion trends.

— Advance staff writer Courtney Dunn contributed to this report.

## POUCH FROM PAGE A 1

# Port Authority to invest \$4M in Pouch Camp

received backing from Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo, who appoints half of the agency's 11 commissioners, reviews minutes from meetings and carries veto power, according to the source.

“I don't expect any controversy,” the source said. “I think the governor's support will help ensure it passes.”

Pouch Camp, a unique piece of Greenbelt wilderness which sits in the middle of High Rock Park, Farm Colony and Camp Kaufmann, has nurtured thousands of Boy and Girl Scouts over the last 60 years.

The Scouting community was left reeling when the cash-strapped Greater New York Councils Boy Scouts of America said in 2009 that it would sell Pouch to private developers if the city or state couldn't come up with \$30 million for a conservation easement to preserve the campgrounds.

It took until July, following two years of rallies and “Save Pouch Camp” signs all over borough lawns, for the GNYC to find a willing partner.

The GNYC entered into an agreement with the non-profit Trust for Public Land — a conservationist group that brokers land sales to government entities and played a key role in the \$25 million sale of Mount Loretto to the state — to protect a majority of the 120-acre Sea View site in three phases at a total cost of \$15 million.

Phase 1 will place a perpetual conservation easement over 43 acres, which includes Berlin Lodge, the trading post, the main parking lot, campgrounds and cabins and most of Lake Ohrbach — the centerpiece of Pouch Camp.



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE PHOTO

Generations of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts have enjoyed boating, hiking, camping and other activities at Pouch Camp over the last 60 years.

## More on the web



For a look at Pouch Camp through the years, go to [silive.com/photos](http://silive.com/photos).

An easement will allow the Scouts to continue operating Pouch as they do today while forgoing their rights to develop the property, which is zoned for housing.

So far, only \$1 million of the \$5 million needed to complete the first phase has been publicly committed, which includes allocations of \$500,000 from Borough President James P. Molinaro and \$250,000 each from Councilmen James Oddo (R-Mid-Island/Brooklyn) and Vincent Ignizio (R-South Shore).

If approved, the \$4 million from the Port Authority will be directed to the Trust for

Public Land after the transaction goes to closing, the source told the Advance. After that, the agency's only involvement will be to ensure the conservation easement is “put in place and respected.”

“This is an important piece of pristine land in a place that doesn't have a lot of pristine land left,” the source said. “If it's developed it will be gone forever.”

Other borough investments from the Port Authority's Harbor Estuary Program have included the \$285,000 acquisition of Crescent Beach, Great Kills, in 2005; the \$7 million acquisition of 20 acres known as Butler Manor Woods, Richmond Valley, in 2006; the \$175,000 acquisition of 4 acres in the South Beach Bluebelt in 2006, and the \$3.5 million acquisition of the former Bliss-enbach Marina, West Brigh-

ton, in 2010.

Funds announced yesterday for a \$250 million water main transmission, or siphon, between Staten Island and Brooklyn also come from the Harbor Estuary Program.

Kent Whitehead, project manager for the Trust for Public Land, said Phase 1 is expected by summer or fall, though he said there have only been conversations with the Port Authority.

“We have discussed the project with the Port Authority which, in the past, has funded other open space projects on Staten Island,” he said. “However, at this time, no decision has been made. We will work with the local supporters to pursue any and all funding, public or private, that may become available to help with the project.”

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