

## FLUSHING MEADOWS

The Hall of Science will launch a new initiative with educational games and interactive exhibits about the environment thanks to a \$2 million Google grant, the museum announced yesterday.

The program will start this year. It will include a new display at the museum's famed Great Hall to open in 2014, the 50th anniversary of the 1964 World's Fair, for which the Hall of Science was built.

Nicholas Hirshon

## FLUSHING

Selfhelp Community Services broke ground yesterday on its latest independent senior living facility in Queens.

The 14-story, 92-unit building will be home to more than 100 seniors. The construction plans include several "green" features, such as recycled materials, timers on exterior lighting and roofing material that meets Energy Star standards.

Seniors earning less than 60% of the area's median income are eligible for 80% of the units. The additional 20% will be set aside for seniors who earn less than 40% of the area's median income.

Lisa L. Colangelo

## JACKSON HEIGHTS

The Queens Smoke-Free Partnership is sponsoring a forum tonight on how to create smoke-free co-ops.

City Councilman Danny Dromm (D-Jackson Heights) and Democratic state Sen. Jose Peralta (photo) of Jackson Heights will be part of the 7 p.m.



event at the Jackson Heights Jewish Center, 37-06 77th St.

Call Dromm's office at (718) 803-6373 for details. To RSVP, email jgiraldod@council.nyc.gov.

Nicholas Hirshon

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## QUEENS NEWS

## 'Black' for more!

## Sequel to sci-fi blockbuster will film in borough

BY NICHOLAS HIRSHON  
DAILY NEWS WRITER

HERE COME the Men in Black — to film in Queens.

The popular franchise starring Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones as galaxy-defending secret agents is shooting its third installment at Kaufman Astoria Studios.

Sony, which is making "Men in Black III," chose the 36th St. complex because of its "tremendously talented New York-based crews and the first-rate facility," said movie publicist Frances Fiore.

Studio spokeswoman Vanessa Morin hailed the "terrific project" for creating production jobs.

It's a homecoming of sorts for the sci-fi action comedy brand, which has embraced the borough.

The original 1997 flick famously re-created two local landmarks, the New York State Pavilion and Unisphere, for the setting of its climactic scene.

The main characters, Agent J (Smith) and Agent K (Jones), also drove upside down on the ceiling of the Midtown Tunnel.

That blockbuster grossed \$587 million worldwide and won rave reviews. But public interest since seems to have waned.

A 2002 sequel on the alien-reg-



The famed Unisphere will once again serve as a backdrop when "Men in Black III" — featuring Tommy Lee Jones (l.) and Will Smith — returns to film in Queens. Photo by Everett Collection

ulating group earned far less than the original at about \$442 million worldwide, and most critics panned the plot.

"Men in Black III" isn't off to a great start, either.

Haggling over the movie script delayed filming for a month in the fall, according to the Hollywood Reporter. Then Sony began shooting in November with only one act completed.

Rumors are swirling that Smith doesn't like the writing, and director Barry Sonnenfeld keeps clashing with producer

Walter Parkes.

Despite those reports, Fiore insisted that work on the threequel is "proceeding smoothly."

"The director and the actors are friends who have made many movies together," she said. "The production has been going great."

It's unknown whether "Men in Black III" will include as many cameos by prominent New York sites as the original.

But the new story line appears to bode well for another Queens appearance.

In the 1997 flick, a spaceship flies over a Mets game at Shea Stadium. The new film calls for Agent J to go back in time to 1969 — the year the Mets won their first World Series.

Preservationists who slam the city for neglecting the New York State Pavilion hope the film will revisit the site and increase appreciation of the 1964 World's Fair.

"I would love it," said John Piro, 62, of Westbury, L.I. "The more exposure we get, the better it is."

## City raises stink over 'disgusting' bldg.

BY CLARE TRAPASSO  
DAILY NEWS WRITER

TENANTS OF a rent-stabilized Jamaica building plagued by everything from vermin and mold to little or no running water may have thought they'd seen it all.

They were wrong.

Raw sewage has been piling up in the building's basement since mid-February and spewing into an alleyway, tenants said.

City Department of Housing Preservation and Development officials were refused entry by the superintendent into the building at 88-22 Parsons Blvd. on Tuesday to make emergency repairs. And a Department of Buildings inspector was barred yesterday.

Now, HPD plans to go to court to get a warrant enforcing the agency on the property, officials said.

"I'm furious because there are 37 families in this building," said tenant leader and longtime building resident Amy Anderson, 66. "Do you think this would happen in Forest Hills?"

The property has about two dozen open DOB violations and 147 open HPD violations, officials said.

"We're seeing a pattern of violations accruing and not being fixed," said HPD spokesman Eric Bederman.

Daniel McCormick, a spokesman for New York Affordable Housing Associates III, the landlord, said city officials were denied entry because they were not accompanied by agency supervisors. He said only two disgruntled tenants have complained about building conditions.

But the Daily News has spoken with multiple upset residents in the past few months.

"These tenants are out to harass the land-

lord regarding anything they can come up with," McCormick said. "We are a responsible landlord."

He added that his company has been working on the sewage problem since it occurred.

But building super Jay Alba said work began Tuesday.

"No New Yorker should have to live with the appalling conditions we see at this building," Public Advocate Bill de Blasio said in a statement. "The landlord's neglect and attempts to intimidate tenants are shameful."

Tenants said they believe the landlord is neglecting timely repairs to push out those in rent-stabilized units.

Rent-stabilized tenant Sergio Gonzalez, 69, whose windows overlook the human excrement-crusted alley, called the situation "disgusting."

"I keep all my windows closed . . . and I still smell it," he said.