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STATEN ISLAND EXPRESSWAY

Activist group displays ‘provocative’ Epstein files banner on highway



A sign that reads “Grab M By the Epstein File” hangs from the Woolley Avenue overpass of the Staten Island Expressway on July 25. Courtesy of Colin Shannahan

The “Grab M By The Epstein File” sign was seen during evening rush hour last month.

Lauren Lovallo llovallo@siadvance.com

Drivers on the Staten Island Expressway couldn’t miss the pointed message posted on the fencing of the Woolley Avenue overpass on July 25: “Grab M By The Epstein File.”

The sign — a play on an infamous phrase by President Donald Trump that was uncovered during his first presidential run in which Trump was caught on interview audio stating to grab women by their genitalia — referenced the Trump admin-

istration’s ongoing refusal to release the files of Jeffrey Epstein. Epstein was a financier and convicted child sex offender who died by suicide in 2019 while in prison. His network allegedly involved a long list of unnamed celebrities, politicians and other wealthy individuals, many of whom reportedly abused and raped women. Trump has denied being part of the network.

The bold banner was the work of the Staten Island Action Coalition, founding member Laura McCarthy told the Advance/SILive.com, and was part of the group’s visibility brigade.

McCarthy, a 40-year resident of the borough who lives on the North Shore, started the coalition in March alongside Diane Velletri. McCarthy, a retired child psychotherapist, was inspired to launch the group “because when we looked around, there

were no groups (like this).”

The group was also born out of her frustration with the political system.

“I think that Republican leaders have completely turned their backs on constituents,” said McCarthy. “But the Democrats have really paled in meeting anyone’s expectations. They’re not speaking out. The Democrats should be on a lecture tour all over ... they should be speaking out against atrocities. It’s terrifying because there is so much that is quietly happening, and I think if we don’t get our leaders to step up, then it’s up to the people to speak out, and we’re more than willing to challenge all sides of the fence.”

She continued: “At this point, people concerned about our country’s democracy being dismantled would feel a lot better

SEE SIGN, A2

HASBROUCK HEIGHTS, NEW JERSEY

Staten Island feels rattle from earthquake in Garden State

Dozens of reports have been filed in the USGS “did you feel it” page.

Advance Local and Associated Press

A 3.0 magnitude earthquake centered in Bergen County rattled New Jersey on Saturday night, and the effects were felt in parts of Staten Island.

The tremors could be felt as far away as Connecticut, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

The USGS reported the earthquake centered in Hasbrouck Heights at 10:18 p.m.

Dozens of reports on Saturday night’s earthquake have been filed in the USGS “did you feel it” page from neighboring counties in New Jersey including Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic and Sussex.

Multiple reports were filed from around New York City, including Staten Island.

One resident of Brooklyn described it as a very brief tremor, just a slight swaying for a moment.

Social media quickly lit up with people who felt it. The official account of the Empire State Building reported in on the social platform X to say: “I AM FINE.”

A 3.0 earthquake is typically not strong enough to cause any damage, but tremors that mild are somewhat rare in the Northeast.

New York City Emergency Management said there were no immediate reports of major impacts.

New Jersey has had multiple earthquakes this year, including another centered in Bergen County in January.

That 2.4 magnitude earthquake was centered about 1 mile east-southeast of Paramus in Bergen County. Six small earthquakes shook Morris County on July 22.

In early April 2024, New Jersey was rocked by a 4.8 magnitude earthquake that was felt by more than 42 million people, followed by hundreds of aftershocks.

RICHMOND

New traffic pattern ahead at congested intersection

Mike Matteo mmatteo@siadvance.com

As the city redesigns one of the borough’s most heavily trafficked intersections, the Department of Transportation has unveiled the date when the changes will go into effect, resulting in a new flow of traffic in the area of Rockland Avenue, Richmond Road and Morley Avenue.

Signs installed warning drivers that work would begin in the area and run through July have been updated to let motorists know that a new traffic pattern will be in

place starting Thursday, Aug. 7.

Since the work began, some major changes have been made near the intersection of the three streets.

Work is underway on a concrete island near the eastern intersection of Richmond Road and Morley Avenue, which will connect to a new crosswalk across Richmond Road.

City crews have upgraded curbs and sidewalks on side streets like Ebony Street and Enfield Place.

Signs have also appeared on nearby bus

stops, warning that they have moved as of July 31.

The S57/S74 stop, previously located at Richmond Road and Milburn Street, has been moved to Morley Avenue and Ebony Street, according to the posted warning. The S54 stop, once located at Richmond Road and Rockland Avenue, has been moved to Richmond Road and Enfield Place.

As of this week, the biggest changes for the project — which will lay out a new flow of traffic in the area — had not been

SEE TRAFFIC, A2



A digital sign warns drivers on Richmond Road, near Rockland Avenue, of a new traffic pattern in the area that will soon go into effect. Mike Matteo, Advance/SILive.com

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