



FUN AT THE FAIR

THE SIGHTS, SOUNDS AND FLAVORS OF SUMMER'S FINAL HOLIDAY WEEKEND FILLED HISTORIC RICHMOND TOWN AS THE VENUE HOSTED ITS ANNUAL THREE-DAY RICHMOND COUNTY FAIR. B5

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ANNADALE

Family says years of landlord neglect have left their home barely livable



An Annadale family says years of disputes with its landlords left them without essential utilities, dealing with a stagnant pool, overgrown lawn and ongoing city violations. Courtesy photos

There have been shut-off utilities, a neglected pool and mounting city violations over three years, they say.

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A Staten Island family says it is searching for a new home after years of disputes with their landlords have left them living in near uninhabitable conditions.

The family alleges that the property owners repeatedly failed to provide essential utilities, neglected to maintain the home's yard and swimming pool, and accumulated numerous violations from various city agencies.

The family has lived in the Annadale home for four years and has experienced problems for about three of them, according to a daughter who spoke on behalf of her parents and brother. She asked that each family member remain anonymous.

"They made us live in a home that was basically not livable," she said. "They cut off electricity, water and everything."

The daughter alleged that the property owners, listed as Sheng Yu A Inc. in city records, shut off the home's heat for an entire winter, forcing the four family members to sleep in coats, jackets and layers of



clothing.

She said the household also went without water and electricity, relying on flashlights to move through the home and traveling to a gym to bathe.

A next-door neighbor, who asked not to be identified, said he supplied the family with water and ran electricity from his property to help them.

"Imagine this," he said. "These people live there, and they had to go to the gym to bathe every morning because this lady shut the water off on them."

According to the daughter, a judge directed the property owner to restore electricity, but the order was not followed. She said the city's Department of Housing Pres-

ervation and Development (HPD) took over the account because electricity was supposed to be included in the rent.

HPD assumed responsibility for the account from July 2025 through May 2026, paying more than \$13,000 through its Emergency Repair Program, according to the department.

"We are concerned about the situation ... and we have been working to ensure that the property is safe and that tenants have access to vital utility services," a department spokesperson said. "We will continue to use every enforcement tool to make sure landlords meet their obligation to keep their buildings safe and livable."

In March 2026, the court awarded HPD \$57,600 in civil penalties related to violations that were issued. According to the daughter, the property owners have not paid.

STAGNANT POOL AND OVERGROWN YARD

The family alleges that the property owners failed to maintain the home's lawn and swimming pool despite repeated requests.

"They completely ignored us," the daughter said.

Water sitting above the pool cover has turned green and remained there for about two and a half years. The stagnant water and overgrowth have

SEE ANNADALE, A6

WESTERLEIGH

SI grad awarded scholarship in memory of Sept. 11 victims

Sophia Cucuzza, whose mother died of 9/11-related lung cancer, will study nursing at Hofstra University.

Dr. Gracelyn Santos gsantos@siadvance.com

For Sophia Cucuzza, the legacy of 9/11, is not a distant chapter in American history.

The Westerleigh resident remembers her mother, Jaime, who died of lung cancer in 2014 after working at Thomson Reuters in Lower Manhattan.

Now, as the nation approaches the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks, Cucuzza is carrying her mother's memory with her into a new chapter of her own life.

The 2026 Tottenville High School graduate has been selected as a recipient of the September 11 Memorial & Museum's 25th Remembrance Scholarship.

The \$25,000 award was created to honor the lives and legacies of people who became ill and died following their service, sacrifice, or exposure related to 9/11.

Cucuzza is one of six students receiving the scholarship this year. She will attend

SEE WESTERLEIGH, A2

CANCER ON STATEN ISLAND THE SEARCH FOR WHY

Don't skip mammograms, survivor warns

Dr. Gracelyn Santos gsantos@siadvance.com

Editor's note: Staten Island has some of the highest cancer rates in New York — and for many families, the question isn't just about diagnosis, but why. In this series, "Cancer on Staten Island: The Search for Why," the Advance/SILive.com will examine what data, public health studies and environmental research reveal about cancer in the borough, while also elevating the voices of the people living it.

The appointment lasted only a short time. But the results from Jennifer Belford's routine mammogram in September 2025 would forever change the course of her life.

At 55 years old, Belford received a diagnosis she never expected: breast cancer.

Her story is one shared by many women across Staten Island. Female breast

SEE CANCER ON STATEN ISLAND, A2

Advice, C8, D7 Classified, B5 Comics, C3 Historic page, A5 Opinion, A4 Puzzles, C7, D6 Sports, B1 Weather, B8 World news, B6



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