

# FOREST HILLS Ledger

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## Francis Lewis street race crash claims boy's life

BY ANNA GUSTAFSON

Two teens from Kew Gardens and Flushing were charged with second-degree manslaughter after they were involved in an accident following an illegal street race on Francis Lewis Boulevard last week that fatally injured their 12-year-old cousin, District Attorney Richard Brown said Monday.

Kew Gardens resident David Lakhchakov, 16, and his cousin, Flushing resident David Badalov,

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## LIRR annoys Forest Hills residents

Dozens of upset homeowners at forum tell Weiner train noise disrupts their lives

BY ANNA GUSTAFSON

Forest Hills residents slammed the Long Island Rail Road at a meeting sponsored by U.S. Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-Forest Hills) last week, saying their quality of life has severely deteriorated because of noise from passing trains.

"My life now revolves around the railroad's schedule," said Forest Hills resident Russ Gundlach. "I can't go to sleep before 11:30 at night because of the trains. You can't live like this."

Gundlach was one of more than 75 people who packed into a room at the West Side Tennis Club in Forest Hills Aug. 12 for a meeting Weiner said he hoped would spark a constructive dialogue between residents and LIRR officials about noise and other complaints regarding the LIRR.

Weiner and residents criticized the LIRR during the meeting for removing about 100 trees and a wall along the railroad tracks in Forest Hills that had acted as sound barriers. The LIRR removed the trees and wall about one year ago, and Forest Hills resident Anita Perrino said the move has caused consternation among many Forest Hills residents in that area.

"The view used to be so pretty because of the trees, and now

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## GIVING FROM THE HEART



Chase Hayden, 4, of Forest Hills shows off materials Saturday to be packed into nearly 50 gift bags for homeless children. Each bag contained a book, blanket and stuffed animal, and Haydens' family planned to drop off the presents at the Safe Horizons shelter on Queens Boulevard Monday.

Photo by Christina Santucci

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