Long-awaited new home for the Staten Island Museum: 2 years away

Elizabeth Egbert, executive director of the Staten Island Museum, surveys the progress at Building A on the grounds of Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden.

EXTREME MAKEOVER

By MICHAEL J. PRESSOLA / STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

The Staten Island Museum's future new home, Building A in the "front five" at the Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden, looks better than it has in decades.

The marble façade glistens and the bright, red-brick walls of the sides and back of the 1879 building look almost new, having been "pointed and raked." Inside, it's another story. Little will be kept, repaired or preserved.

"Pretty much everything you see will go," explained Michael Batovec, project supervisor, while taking a small party of staff and visitors, hard-hatted for the occasion, through the building.

"Inside," Batovec said, "we'll build a five-story steel structure within the existing walls."

This strategy will preserve the exterior in all its Greek Revival purity, while allowing for a largely support-free, contemporary interior of nearly 20,000 square feet. The conversion of the former dormitory, built to house retirees during the city's long history (1813-1975) as a retirement complex for mariners, got under way in August.

The building has been empty for nearly 40 years, except for a short-lived construction project in the mid-1980s that represented a first attempt to adapt the building for the Staten Island Museum, which currently resides at 75 Stuyvesant Pl. in St. George.

It ran out of money and the momentum evaporated. Structural elements installed at that time will be removed.

Building A's exterior is pristine, the interior, not so much.

A few original features, like the hardwood floors, wrought-iron staircases and poplar woodwork will be retained. The project is on schedule; it will take a few weeks. All the involved parties expect that the new museum, will be finished by midsummer 2015, with the official opening early in 2016.

SEE MAKEOVER, PAGE C 2
Think it's hard to sell a home now?

Wave of foreclosures takes aim at the Island,

Pointing to a still-skeptical economy, they predict foreclosure filings will jump dramatically this year and

G��賭者玩老虎机。赌博者在娱乐世界，皇后区。赌场本应是城镇的，但并非岛上，说许多岛上的。

Electrified are reluctant to support gambling, and fear the traffic and infrastructure problems it would create

By ROY L. RANDALL / STATION ADVANCE

Don't bet on it.
If you were counting on a casino gambling mecca opening on Staten Island, after the recent push for one in Queens and in Brooklyn, you'd probably have a better chance of winning Mega Millions at your corner candy store.

That’s because only three of the borough’s elected officials outright favor the state — but not necessarily the borough — getting a piece of the casino pie being floated by the Cuomo administration.

And the lukewarm reception on the part of other Island elects could have any casino developer fleeing faster than you can say NASCAR — the last big-dollar development proposal that went nowhere fast in the face of pitchfork opposition largely over transportation

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1,747 Since the war began
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IN HEALTH: SHE'S A NATURAL
Former Miss Staten Island runner-up will be featured on TV's "The Incarnation."

WEATHER WATCHER
ELLEN GAYN, SUNNYSIDE
Sunny, cool. High 75.
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