Woman Electrocuted At Pool

A 33-year-old Woodhaven woman was electrocuted Monday afternoon when she plugged in a filter for her backyard swimming pool.

The victim, Susan Simmons of Woodhaven Blvd., had been swimming in a 4-foot deep, above-ground pool in the yard of her father's home on 86th Ave. Woodhaven, shortly before the accident occurred about 1:10 p.m., police said.

Simmons, the mother of 5-year-old twins, Eric and Lauren, apparently stepped out of the pool, plunged into the filter and suffered the fatal shock. She collapsed on the lawn, where she was found unconscious by Eric, who ran screaming into the house.

A neighbor, Gerald Rusinko, ran to Simmons and tried to revive her. Paramedics from Jamaica Hospital also attempted to revive her, without success. She was pronounced dead at Jamaica Hospital at 1:56 p.m.

Simmons's husband, Robert, is a sales representative for a Long Island electronics firm, police said. The victim taught aerobic dancing at a studio on Metropolitan Avenue.

Councillman Walter Ward and Queens Parks Commissioner Ulana Chapin are shown on their inspection tour of Forest Park.

Ward, Lisa, Chapin Tour Park Improvements

On August 10, Councilman Walter Ward, Chairman of the City Council's Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Committee toured three Queens parks and the Rockaway boardwalk and came away with the feeling that things in the parks are gradually improving.

Ward, along with Queens Parks Commissioner Diana Chapin, visited Forest Park, Juniata Valley Park, and Kissena Park before going to the Rockaways. He found that several million dollars appropriated by the Council to make improvements were being spent to his satisfaction. Ward said, "Things are looking up in the Queens Parks." They must have so it can prosper.

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Houdini Bust 'Vanishes'

The life-sized bust of famed escape artist Harry Houdini was stolen by thieves who broke into Machpelah Cemetery last weekend. The large granite bust that marked the Houdini family plot was snatched sometime between 4 p.m. Friday and 11 a.m. Sunday, when a caretaker discovered the theft, a police spokesman said.

The bust, which had been located near the 70-by-10-foot grave of the magician, was valued at $500, police said. The previous sculpture was destroyed by vandalism, the New York Post reported.

"If we don't solve something like this," the spokesman said, "we can mean a long down-time for the vehicles the Department must have so it can prosper.

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