



# BURNING BRIGHT

Transport Workers Union  
Utility Division

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Local 101 Pres. Mike Conigliaro

## Unions Need A Pro-Labor President and Supreme Court

ing families and wants to ensure unions not only survive but thrive.

I hope you agree but more importantly, I hope you vote. Democracy is what makes America great. We all have to participate.

To make it easy to register to vote for the general election in November, Local 101 will be setting up tables at the work facilities with the required forms. We will help fill out the forms and mail them to the Board of Elections. We are working on having a union staffer at each location for a full week. We want to register as many workers as we possibly can for this very important election.

### Contracts Reached

Speaking of contracts, I'm pleased to say that all of our members are working under four or five-year contracts. Local 101 staff successfully negotiated in March a contract for our members working at HomeServe. We negotiated contracts for our National Grid members in October 2014 and for Keyspan Energy Management Co. employees in January 2015.

These contracts lock in for several years employee contribution levels for healthcare. The company can't charge you more during the life of the your contract. The agree-

ments also bring job stability, and Local 101 officers can shift focus away from negotiations and spend more time on day-to-day membership issues.

### Summertime Events

Now that Spring is here we are winding down our monthly Section meetings in May and taking a break for the summer. The meetings will resume in September. I want to thank the members for their support and participation. We've done some great things together.

Finally, baseball is back and Local 101 will be at every Mets game. We took out an ad in the Mets 2016 Yearbook, splitting a full page with TWU Local 100. The Mets sold more than 1 million tickets prior to Opening Day. This is a good opportunity to get our brand out there and remind everyone of the important work we do for the city of New York.

Have a great summer, and I hope to see you all at our annual Family Day Picnic at Floyd Bennett Field on Aug. 27. You should have received the registration form in the mail. Don't forget to fill it out and mail it back to the Union Hall.

**- Mike Conigliaro**  
**President, TWU Local 101**

Presidential elections are always important but the stakes have never been higher for unions.

The next president will appoint a Supreme Court judge to replace the late Antonin Scalia, who died earlier this year. With the appointment, the Supreme Court will either have a pro-union or anti-union majority. There are now four anti-union judges on the Supreme Court, and four pro-union judges. The next appointment will tilt the balance one way or the other.

For me, the question is this: Which political party is more likely to appoint a Supreme Court judge that understands the importance of organized labor and protects it? We need a majority on the Supreme Court that believes unions are necessary to help the working man and working woman obtain decent raises, solid pensions and affordable healthcare in union-negotiated contracts.

There's no doubt that the Democratic Party cares more about work-



# THE RACE TO THE WHITE HOUSE

**By Constance Bradley**

I was honored on April 13th to meet U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders as he campaigned in Brooklyn during the New York Democratic presidential primary.

The Vermont senator has been drawing crowds like a rock star. On that day, Sanders stopped by the Union Hall in downtown Brooklyn that we share with TWU Local 100. Local 100 gave Sanders its endorsement.

Bernie has many supporters. But so does former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Some say she is the most qualified candidate in the field by far because of all of her experience inside and outside of government. She has been a strong advocate for women on important issues like fairness and equal treatment in the workplace.

I won't say which candidate I supported in the primary. I'll keep that private. I will say, however, that it was an exciting time in NYC and I was glad to see some of the campaign up close.

TWU Local 101 is one big family and like a family we want to share our good news. It's my pleasure to announce the union's website will soon have an Announcement's section for members to share news like births, anniversaries and birthdays. Tidbits can be emailed to the union ([twulocal101@aol.com](mailto:twulocal101@aol.com)) and we will periodically post the information on the website. Check the website and we'll let you know when this new service will be launched.

One service that Local 101 already provides that I think is extremely valuable is free tutoring for members and their children. Those eligible can obtain up to five hours tutoring per month from Tutor.com – at no cost. Students can work one-to-one in an online classroom with an expert to finish homework, learn concepts in all subjects and prepare for exams.

Since August 2015, Local 101 members and their kids have taken 45 online sessions with tutors. Tutor.com normally charges \$2,160 a year for 5 hours of tutoring monthly so the benefit so far has saved our member families thousands of dollars.



# LOCAL 101 TURNS UP THE HEAT AND SECURES RAISES FOR HOMESERVE WORKERS



Local 101 President Mike Conigliaro and Financial Secretary-Treasurer Constance Bradley celebrate new HomeServe contract with members after the ratification vote.

**TWU Local 101** secured a new contract with solid raises for the emergency repair technicians at HomeServe, Local 101 President Michael Conigliaro said.

A majority of workers will get annual raises of about 3% during the four-year pact while other will get increased step progressions.

The membership voted overwhelmingly - 78 to 7 - to ratify the contract on April 14.

**“HomeServe wanted to freeze workers’ wages but there was no way I was going to let that happen,” Conigliaro said. “We told them we would strike, and we meant it. I’m proud of the members for standing together. This is a good deal for our members and their families.”**

As negotiations in Brooklyn heated up, Conigliaro and Financial Secretary-Treasurer Constance Bradley convened a membership meeting and asked for the

authorization to call a strike if necessary. Members unanimously voted in support of the motion.

The next day, Local 101 directed workers to return their trucks and keys to the HomeServe office on Rockaway Blvd. at the end of their shifts. Local 101 staff began alerting newspaper, radio and television reporters that a strike was about to start.

“We turned up the heat and it worked,” Bradley said.

Delegate John DeMorato also put in long hours and was invaluable during negotiations, Conigliaro said.

HomeServe executives agreed to the deal with the raises hours later. The contract went into effect April 1, 2016, and extends through March 31, 2020.

In addition to the raises, the contract features other improvements, including:

- Greater employer contributions to workers’ 401k retirement plans, \$15 more per week.



(The company match goes from \$22.50 per week to \$37.50 a week).

- Increased uniform allowance, up 100 points, from 350 to 450.
- Restored “7th day pay” with technicians getting double the regular hourly rate on the 7th consecutive day of work.
- Established Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a paid holiday in exchange for one personal day.

The contract includes modest increases in worker contributions for healthcare: 1% a year.

# TWU LOCAL 101'S WOMEN'S COMMITTEE CLOTHING DRIVE

The Working Women's Committee collected clothes for residents of a men's homeless shelter in November and December. The committee placed bins at work locations for Local 101 members to donate winter coats, shirts, pants, shoes, socks and other needed items.

*Well done, ladies!*



*Pictured from left to right with Local 101 President Mike Conigliaro are: Tashea Thomas, Fereda Ali, Ryerson Louies Barnes, Keveena Hollins and Rea Plummer*

## Snow Day Grievance Victory

### **Local 101 won a grievance**

against National Grid - and obtained an extra vacation day for members to take this year.

The dispute dates back to Jan. 27, 2015, when NYC Transit shut down the subway and bus system in advance of a major snowstorm, which experts warned was powerful enough to dump several feet of snow on the region.

### **National Grid told workers they could stay home but had to use one of their allotted vacation or sick days.**

Local 101 President Mike Conigliaro filed a contract grievance. "Our members didn't decide to stay home and take a day off," he said. "They didn't have a choice. They couldn't get to work because the subway and buses weren't running. There's a big difference."



# ONE TRAGEDY AVERTED, ONE TRAGEDY HANDLED ON THE OVERNIGHT SHIFT

The firefighters were already exiting the commercial building on Rockway Blvd. when Customer Service Representative Dave Reyes arrived at the scene of a reported gas leak.

“They said they took care of it,” Reyes said of the firefighters. “They said everything was safe.”

But Reyes, a utility worker for more than 40 years, stuck to protocol. He conducted his own investigation with Meter Service Representative Andre Williams. In doing so, Reyes and his assistant may have prevented an explosion that could have been devastating with extensive property damage, injuries or even death.

The building housed a large Roti bakery, and a manager on the overnight shift reported at approximately 3 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 28, a strong odor of gas near one of the large industrial ovens. The firefighters who responded closed a valve at the rear of the oven, apparently thinking that would solve the problem. The breach, however, was in a gas line leading to the oven, the Local 101 members discovered. Closing that valve didn’t stop the flow of gas, which was much greater than a trickle, Reyes said.

**“It was blowing gas,” he said. “It wasn’t leaking it was blowing.”**

Reyes and Williams, 29, a rookie on the job about 10 months, shut off the flow of gas before the section of damaged line where it was escaping into the air. The line may have been damaged earlier in the day when workers moved



the oven to clean underneath it, Reyes said.

“You could smell the gas,” Williams said. “It was strong.”

The manager, who was in charge of about 12 Roti workers, was understandably grateful that Reyes and Williams made the dangerous discovery and took corrective action.

“He was very appreciative,” Reyes said. “I think we left him with a very good impression.”

The team also made a good impression that Sunday morning at the scene of a tragedy that wasn’t averted. Reyes and Williams were on their way back from the gas-leak call when they saw a man, whom they later learned was the victim of a hit-and-run accident, lying face down in the street at 111th St. and 109th Ave. in South Ozone Park.

“We saw a man on the ground and a few people were distraught and confused standing around,” Reyes said. “Drivers

were whizzing by like it was a race track.”

Fearing the deceased man could be hit again, Reyes directed Williams to help him set up traffic cones. They also positioned their National Grid truck to block traffic from going into the crime scene.

Area resident Sonia Ramirez, who was trying to slow and redirect traffic, was grateful for the help.

“It’s a shame that people were driving by and nobody stopped,” Ramirez told WABC television. “National Grid saw me stopping traffic and they came and helped us.”

Investigators determined that Uber driver Besik Shengelia, 48, was taking items out of his parked car when the unidentified vehicle struck him.

The Local 101 team averted one tragedy. It coolly managed a second tragedy. Just another day at the office on the overnight shift, Reyes said.



## Julian Sosa vs Bryan Timmons Jan. 16

Local 101 Fight Night at Barclays  
Photos, top to bottom: Team Sosa fans in the crowd, and Sosa, above, flanked by Local 101 President Mike Conigliaro and Treasurer Constance Bradley, Aurieliano Sosa (far left) and Jimmy Sosa (far right).



TRANSPORT WORKERS  
AFLO  
UNION LOCAL 101

CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING 30 YEARS  
JULIAN SOSA (3-0)  
sponsored by TWU Local 101

BARCLAYS CENTER

Corona Extra

dbe  
DIBELLA  
ENTERTAINMENT

SHO CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING 30 YEARS

Barclays Center, Brooklyn N.Y.  
2016

Welterweight Julian Sosa, son of Local 101's very own Aureliano Sosa, was the hometown favorite at Barclays Center in Brooklyn on Jan. 16, 2016 - and Sosa didn't disappoint, defeating Bryan Timmons with a second-round technical knockout.



# SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS



## FOOD AND FUNDRAISING DRIVE BENEFITED HOMELESS VETERANS

**TWU LOCAL 101's VETERANS COMMITTEE** collected non-perishable food items and monetary contributions for Fitzgerald House, Inc., a charitable organization that provides transitional housing to homeless military veterans.

Donations of canned goods, coffee and small packages of food like Ramen Noodles and Mac & Cheese were collected in bins at the Metro-Tech, Canarsie, Greenpoint and Springfield facilities.

To learn about the Fitzgerald House,  
go to [www.fitzgeraldhouse.org](http://www.fitzgeraldhouse.org)

*A special thanks to Minerva Rivera and  
Yvonne Bailey for all their hard work!*



# TWU LOCAL 101 GIVES BACK ON MLK DAY



*TWU Local 101's Lionel Kelly and other TWU members cafrom across the country in Washington, D.C.*

Hundreds of TWU members from around the country celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day by volunteering at a food bank in the nation's capital. "I like to give back to the community," Local 101 member Lionel Kelly, who made the trip, said. "I'm a big volunteer person."

Kelly and the TWU contingent packed more than 400 meals for senior citizens at the food bank. Many also marched in the Southeast D.C. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade.

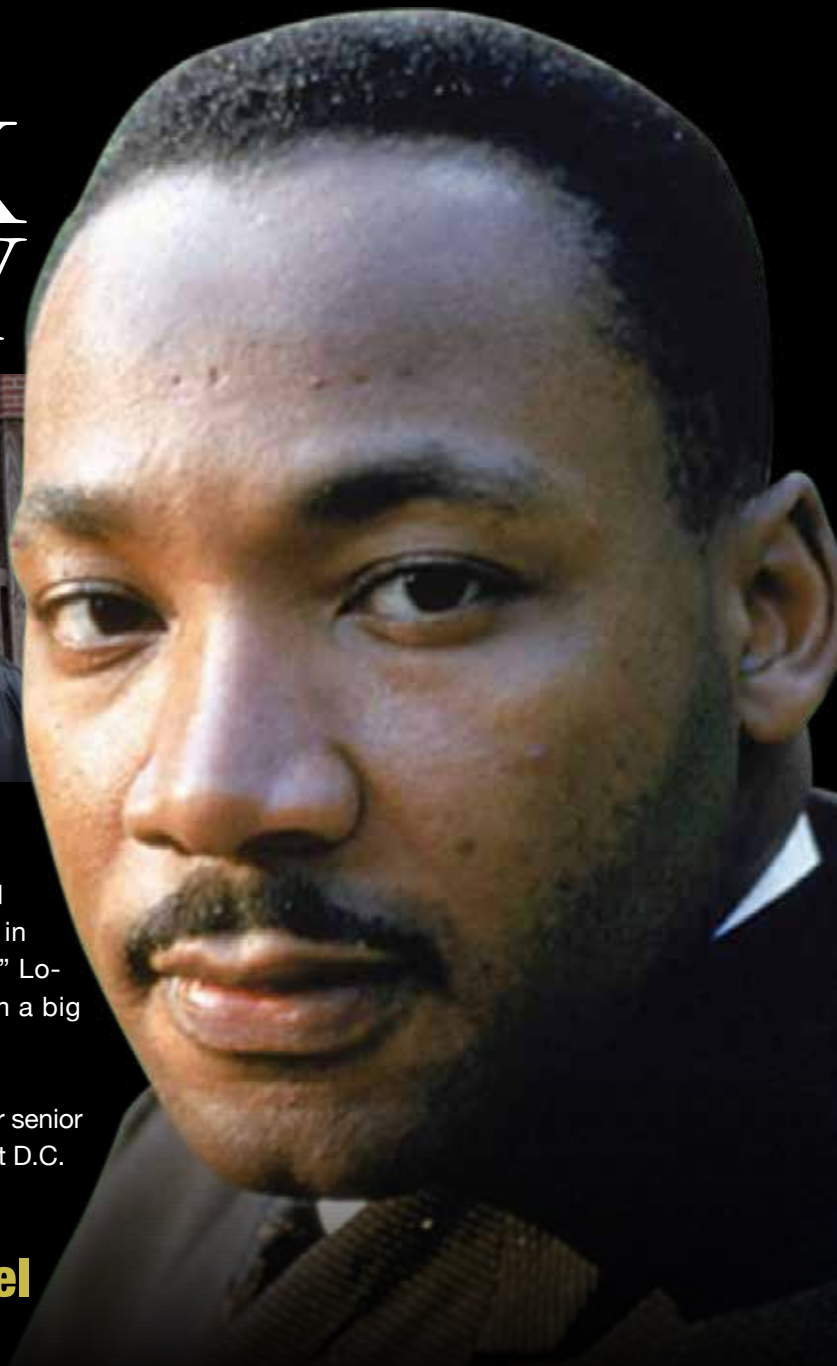
**“Local 101 members like Lionel don't just say they care about others. They take action and we are proud of them.”**

Last year, TWU volunteers helped fix up a shelter for battered women. The year before, TWU helped rebuild and landscape a park and playground, Kelly said. "Local 101 participates in Martin Luther King Jr. Day events every year," Local 101 President Mike Conigliaro said. "Local 101 members like Lionel don't just say they care about others. They take action and we are proud of them."

Kelly, who works in National Grid's accounts payable department in downtown Brooklyn, lives in New Jersey. He volunteers every Tuesday at the Willing Heart Community Care Center's soup kitchen in Newark.

TWU's roots with the Civil Rights Movement are deep. TWU International's first president, Mike Quill, marched with Dr. King. The reverend was the keynote speaker at TWU's national convention in 1961.

"When your union was born in strife during the turbulent times, it grew and developed in the pioneering democratic tradition of a CIO union, with respect to racial equality," King said. "Your crusading spirit – which broke through the open shop stronghold also broke through the double walled citadels of race prejudice."



# TWU MAKES *Christmas Special* FOR HOMELESS MOMS AND KIDS *in Brooklyn*



Christmas came early to a group of homeless women and children in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, thanks to a group of Transport Workers Union locals, including Local 101 and Local 100.

The TWU New York/New Jersey State Conference of TWU locals purchased gifts of toys and clothing for the families staying at Providence House, a non-profit that provides everything from housing to job counseling to health services.

On Saturday, Dec. 19th, representatives from each local wrapped the presents, decorated the Providence House daycare center and then served a hot lunch for the women and nearly 24 children. The TWU team also helped Santa – who looked a little like a union officer from Jersey – distribute the gifts.

“It was a great day, really moving,” Local 101 President Mike Conigliaro said. “Everyone did a great job.”

Providence House was founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1979 to assist homeless, abused and formerly incarcerated women and their kids.

“Some of the families are in very bad shape,” Angelo Cucuzza, executive vice president of the NY/NJ state conference, said. “You could sense it in the room. A lot of the situations are still fragile. We tried to offer them a buffer, a little peace, a little break.”

Providence House, which started with just one house in the city, has grown to include a network of transitional and permanent housing options with support services in Brooklyn, Queens and Westchester.

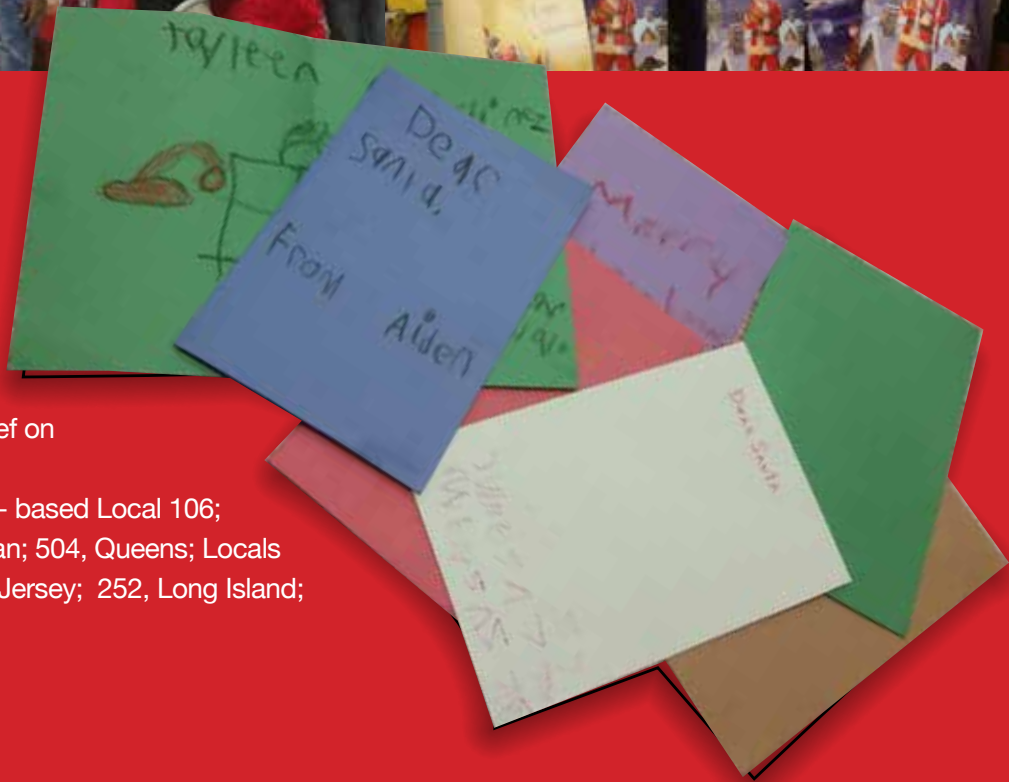


*Local 101 President Mike Conigliaro, Santa, and a family at Providence House.*

More than 12,000 women and children have benefited from its services, according to the group’s website.

Each local contributed \$500 for the gifts, food and other expenses. Bernadette Murray, special events coordinator for Local 100, picked Providence House for the annual charitable endeavor, which started in 2014.

Murray was a social worker for more than 20 years prior to joining Local 100. She also purchases the gifts, working off a list provided by Providence House, which includes each kid’s name, clothing size and wish for a toy.



“During the Christmas holiday many parents are stressed out about not being able to provide housing or put food on the table, let alone give toys and new clothes,” Murray said. “For me, if the little ones can say they had a good Christmas and there’s relief on their mothers’ face it’s a job well done.”

The other locals in the conference are: Bronx- based Local 106; Locals 100, 241, 264, 501, and 1460, Manhattan; 504, Queens; Locals 229, 225, 225 Branch 4, 226 and 1400 in New Jersey; 252, Long Island; 570, Florida and 591 in Texas.



*In Loving Memory of*  
**Wilson F. Rivera**

Wilson F. Rivera, a beloved member of the TWU Local 101 family, passed away on May 11, 2016, after a long illness.

Rivera, 40, of Staten Island, worked at the National Grid Call Center in downtown Brooklyn as a customer service associate representative. He joined the company and Local 101 in August 1999.

He is survived by his wife, Anna M. Guerrero, and two daughters, Jaelynn and Anaya Rivera, and his siblings, Rosa, Vidal, Iris, Yolanda, Sandra and Anna.

Rivera was waked at the Leone Funeral Home on 4th Ave. in Brooklyn and laid to rest at Cypress Hills Cemetery, also in Brooklyn. His obituary included this touching final message from his family.

“Even though it pains us not to physically see you, we find peace in the wonderful memories we had together, never taking any day with you for granted. We also find peace knowing you are with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in Heaven along side with your Mother Rosa and Father Francisco Rivera, no longer suffering. Until we meet again. Love you to the Moon and back!”



*TWM Local IO's*  *Holiday Party*



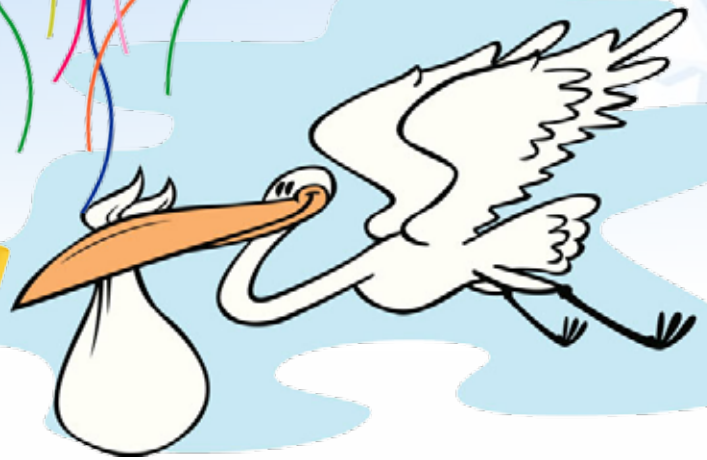


**HEAR YE!**

**HEAR YE!**



**Happy  
Birthday**



TWU Local 101 is launching an announcements section on it's website for members to post items like births, birthdays, graduations, and anniversaries. Items can be sent to the Union Hall by email: [twulocal101@aol.com](mailto:twulocal101@aol.com)

**PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR  
FULL NAME, TITLE AND  
TELEPHONE NUMBER.**



JOIN TWU LOCAL 101 for the Union's 4th Annual  
**FAMILY DAY PICNIC**  
**AUGUST 27<sup>TH</sup> 2016**

at Floyd Bennett Field!



**FREE POPCORN &  
COTTON CANDY!**  
**FREE BBQ, FACE PAINTING  
AND WATERSLIDE!**  
**FREE CARNIVAL  
GAMES & PARKING!**



Don't forget to mail your RSVP to the Union Hall



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### INTRODUCING LOCAL 101 REWARDS ENJOY! SAVE! WIN!

Exclusively for TWU Local 101 members and families.  
TWU Local 101 is excited to announce the launch of Local 101 Rewards, a brilliant new service for Local 101 members and their families. Enjoy awesome benefits, savings, and prizes from trusted partners who will go the extra mile for our members. Whether it's tickets to a game or special deal on a new car, look to Local 101 Rewards for something special every day.

Register FREE at [www.local101rewards.com](http://www.local101rewards.com) and get rewarded!  
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