

NORWOOD NEWS

The Keys to Caring
For Your Bones
page 5

Vol. 25, No. 11 ■ PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION ■ May 31–June 13, 2012

KICKIN' IT, BRONX STYLE



Photo by Adi Talwar

THESE MARTIAL ARTISTS were just a few of the participants in the annual Bronx Week Parade and Festival, held on Mosholu Parkway on Sunday, May 20. For more photos, go to pages 6 and 7.

Ignored, PS 51 Parents Take List Of Demands to Chancellor

By JALEESA BAULKMAN

At a recent meeting, parents of PS 51 students expressed their concerns with the way the Department of Education (DOE) administration has handled decades of toxic exposure at the school's former building in Bedford Park.

Members of PS 51 Parents United, a group consisting of parents of current and former PS 51 students and members of the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition (NWBCCC), say the DOE and Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott are not making an effort to reach out to parents of former students about the contamination. They are frustrated that he hasn't met with them despite their health concerns.

High levels of trichloroethylene (TCE), a cancer causing toxin, were detected in the school's former building.

"If [Walcott is] responsible why won't [he] step up to the plate and meet with us," said Adaline Walker-Santiago, a PS 51 Parents United member and first vice chair of Community Board 7.

A handful of parents and children from PS 51 Parents United attended the meeting to "remind [the

chancellor] of the promises he made at the beginning of the school year" and introduce Walcott to some of the children who were impacted by the toxic exposure.

During a public forum last October, Walcott said he would meet with the administration and parents
(continued on p. 8)



Photo by Jaleesa Balkman

PARENTS OF CURRENT and former PS 51 students demand overdue accountability for their children's toxic exposure at a recent DOE meeting.

In a House Race, The Bronx Factor

By ALEX KRATZ

State Senator Adriano Espaillat, who represents upper Manhattan and a slice of Riverdale, is spending a lot of time in the Bronx these days. He believes it may be the key to toppling one of the nation's most prominent congressmen, Charlie Rangel, in a primary that is now less than a month away.

Following a disputed and contentious redistricting process this past winter, the northwest Bronx now makes up 26 percent of the newly constituted 13th Congressional District (19 percent of the registered voters) and Rangel, a House legend, but frail and embattled at 81, is now running for his life.

With an ethics scandal in his wake and his health in doubt — Rangel missed several months of legislative sessions while recuperating from back surgery — candidates have lined up in hopes of taking down the incumbent.

Aside from Espaillat, two other prominent names have thrown their hats into the ring — Clyde Williams, a former

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Op-Ed

The Bronx Needs Better Banking Options

By GREGORY LOBO JOST

Gone are the days when banks turned their backs on the Bronx and refused to make loans here, a practice known as redlining that played a huge role in our borough's economic decline a generation ago.

Yet the legacies of these discriminatory practices continue. Not only does the Bronx have the highest level of residents who are "unbanked" or "underbanked" in the City (they often use high cost "fringe" financial services, like check cashing shops, instead), but we also have the lowest number of bank branches per household of any county in the state, and perhaps in the nation.

Manhattan, meanwhile, has four times as many bank branches per person than the Bronx. And most of our borough's branches are clustered around large commercial strips leaving midsize and small commercial areas virtually unbanked.

Among the 145 branches in the Bronx, half are from one of the giant four "megabanks" — Chase, Bank of America, Citibank and Wells Fargo — and a full 70 percent of branches are from banks with more than \$100 billion in total global assets. Chase alone accounts for nearly a third of all Bronx bank branches, made possible by the acquisition of its closest competitor, Washington Mutual.

It was these financial giants who received most of the federal
(continued on p. 4)

NORWOOD NEWS

Vol. 25, No. 11

Norwood News is published bi-weekly on Thursdays by Mosholu Preservation Corporation
3400 Reservoir Oval East
Bronx, New York 10467

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In The Public Interest

Water Plant Project Fails To Live Up to Job Promises

The much-maligned Croton Water Filtration Plant project is facing renewed criticism now that it has become increasingly clear that Bronxites have not received the construction jobs initially promised when the project was approved by the City Council back in 2004.

"They lied to us from the beginning," said Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz, a long-time critic of the Bloomberg administration's handling of the entire filtration plant project since its inception. "Promises were made, promises were broken."

According to early estimates, the borough was to receive 660 construction jobs. However, according to the job data the Department of Environmental Protection released for March of this year (the most recent numbers available online), only 131 workers on the project are from the Bronx, or just 18 percent of the 732 total employees. This figure actually represents an increase in the percentage of Bronx workers from previous reports, though the total number of workers on the project has been reduced since the beginning of the year.

This is not a cause of celebration among community leaders, however.

"Did most of the jobs go to people in the Bronx? No," said Paul Foster, chair of the Croton Facility Monitoring Committee (CFMC).

Despite the promises made by supporters of the Croton plant project before the City Council vote, the DEP made no legal commitment concerning local hiring practices. Instead, according to a DEP spokesperson, the department set a goal of averaging 20 percent of Bronx workers for the project.

The number of workers employed has fluctuated over the years, with the highest percentage of Bronx workers in March of 2009, when 225 workers made up 30 percent of the workforce of 738. At the peak of construction, in September 2009, only 232 out of the 1,056 construction workers on the project were Bronxites – just 22 percent. Even with months when the percent of Bronx workers dipped to 15, however, the DEP says, on average, it has met their overall job hiring goal.

Nonetheless, the job data has been met with disappointment.

"They're not hiring [Bronxites] to the extent we'd like them to hire," said Foster, adding that the CFMC has asked the DEP to continue to push contractors to hire local Bronx workers at the plant.

This is not the first time the plant, which is being built inside and underneath Van Cortlandt Park, has had discrepancies in terms of hiring promises and subsequent practices.

In late 2010, Schiavone Construction, a contractor on the project, admitted to fraud after falsely reporting the company contracted out to certified minority and women-owned business enterprises (MWBE), despite receiving federal funding requiring they do so. Skanska, the largest current contractor on the project, has also been investigated by the U.S. Attorney's Office for fraud.

The budget for the Croton plant has also ballooned since an original estimate of \$992 million in the DEP's final Environmental Impact Statement to today's \$3.2 billion, a figure provided by the DEP. According to the DEP website, plant startup and testing is expected to start later this year, though a department spokesperson said operation of the plant would begin no later than summer 2013.

—SARAH RAMIREZ

Survey: 90 Percent Against P.O. Closures

With the United States Postal Service experiencing deep budget problems, the Bronx could lose up to 17 post offices.

State Senator Gustavo Rivera conducted a survey of post office usage and how individuals would deal with the potential closures. The survey resulted in over 90 percent of people opposing the closing of the two locations in the 33rd Senate District, one in Norwood and another in Bedford Park.

There is a moratorium on post office closures, but both the Botanical Station Post Office at 2963 Webster Ave. and the Van Cott Post Office at 3102 Decatur Ave. are slated to be shut down.

Rivera's office mailed out more than 60,000 surveys and received 1,171 responses. About 34.8 percent of respondents (364 total), said they were customers of Botanical Station or Van Cott branches. Of those respondents, 90 percent said they strongly opposed the closing of those two branches.

"The results of the survey of residents of the Bedford Park and Norwood area were very clear: closing the Van Cott and Botanical [Station] post offices would be an extreme hardship, especially for the elderly and disabled who live in the area," Rivera said in a statement. "The majority of the individuals surveyed use the post office at least once a day and many individuals who claimed to go to the post office almost daily also spoke to the need to keep the post office open because it is the way they pay their bills through the

post office through money orders. The goal of this survey was to arm the U.S. Postal Service with the information they need to keep the Van Cott and Botanical Garden post offices open."

—DESTINY DEJESUS

CB7 Launches Quality of Life Initiatives

Community Board 7 wants you to start improving your neighborhood by building community associations and they will help you do it.

In April, the "Neighborhood Association Workshop" initiative was launched at the Mosholu Library, with Board 7's new community organizing consultant, Marques Payne, leading the way. Residents in attendance received information and encouragement on becoming more involved in their community.

"Did you know it only takes five people and a formal letter to the Community Board to start a tenant, block, or neighborhood association?" Payne asked residents to open the meeting.

Other presenters included Miguel Ramirez of the Community Relations Bureau, who informed residents about fair housing, and Enrique Colon of Community Action for Safe Apartments (C.A.S.A.), which is organized and based in the southwest Bronx to educate tenants about their rights in the Housing Court system.

"One of our primary objectives is to connect our residents to the resources they need, whether it's the Community Relations Bureau, help with housing, or quality of life issues," said Board 7 District Manager Fernando Tirado. "We want to find a way to get people vested in their neighborhood, and this is a good start."

"It's good to see events like this happening," said attendee Maribel Rivera. "I've wanted to get involved for a while and now I have an idea what to do."

Ed. Note: For more information about starting a community association, call Community Board 7 at (718) 933-5650.

—MARCOS SIERRA

Public and Community Meetings

- THE BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION will meet on Wednesday, June 6 at 8 p.m. at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. So., apt. B1 (lobby floor). All are welcome.
- COMMUNITY BOARD 7's general board meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 19 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the NY Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Blvd. at the Visitors Center Café.
- COMMUNITY BOARD 7's committee meetings will be held at the Community Board office, 229A E. 204th St., at 6:30 p.m. on the following dates: Health and Hospitals, Wednesday, June 6; Parks and Recreation, Thursday, June 7; Sanitation/Environment and Youth Services, Monday, June 11; Traffic and Transportation, Thursday, June 14. For more information about CB7 meetings and events, call (718) 933-5650 or go online to bronxcb7.info.

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In a House Race, the Bronx Factor

(continued from p. 1)

aide to Presidents Clinton and Obama, and Joyce Johnson, a Democratic district leader in Harlem.

But many believe it will come down to a two-horse race between Rangel and Espaillat.

“Honestly, it’s a two candidate race,” said Bronx Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz, who represents a chunk of the new congressional district, but has yet to pick sides.

Unlike Dinowitz, several Bronx politicians have decided to back either Espaillat or Rangel.

Backing Rangel is Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., who endorsed the incumbent during Bronx Week at a big showing in front of borough hall, and Bronx Congressman Jose Serrano. Both played up Rangel’s seniority in the House and status as a legislative icon.

In Espaillat’s corner are two up-and-coming Bronx lawmakers — State Senator Gustavo Rivera and Assemblyman Nelson Castro — along with two ex-borough presidents, Freddy Ferrer and Adolfo Carrion.

Espaillat, aiming to become the first Dominican born federal legislator, is also receiving support from Councilman Oliver Koppell, who represents Kingsbridge, Norwood and Bedford Park, which are all in the new congressional district. Meanwhile, Councilman Fernando Cabrera, who represents Kingsbirdge Heights, University Heights and Morris Heights — the southern portion of the Bronx part of the district — is still on the fence.

“The Bronx can play a very interesting role in this race,” said Lucia Gomez, who works for a nonprofit political organization called La Fuente, which advocates for voter turnout and fair redistricting.

Gomez said the Bronx areas are open territory. Espaillat’s base is in Dominican-dominated Washington Heights, while Rangel enjoys support among African-American voters in Harlem. (Williams and Johnson, both Africa-American, are based in Harlem as well. They might play a “spoiler” role, she said.)

Though Espaillat’s current senate district is partly in the Bronx, it’s in Riverdale, and doesn’t overlap with any of the new congressional district.

Patrick Jenkins, a political consultant and part-time spokesman for the Bronx Democratic County Committee, which is simply supporting all incumbents and petitioned for Rangel in the Bronx, says that portion of the borough has seen a few very

active political battles in the last few years.

When Rivera took on incumbent Pedro Espada two years ago, there was flurry of political activity, enough to get a traditionally stagnant voting block to the polls in record numbers.

But it still remains to be seen how many Bronx voters will come out to a primary that is on June 26, more than three months before residents are used to voting. The special date is the result of a court decision designed to give overseas voters, mostly military personnel, a chance to weigh in.

While the endorsements will some impact, Gomez said the race will come down to which supporters work hardest for their candidate.

“What helps Espaillat slightly,” she said, “is that Gustavo is helping him there.”

Rivera, who proved a tireless worker during his race against Espada when he went from no name to dragon slayer in the course of a few months, said he is spending as much of his time campaigning for Espaillat as his “schedule allows.”

In addition to the help from Rivera, Espaillat has also made himself a much bigger physical presence. Ibrahim Khan, Espaillat’s campaign manager, says his candidate is spending almost every day in the Bronx. You can often his “campaign mobile,” a heavy, old pick-up truck ringed by American flags, riding through Kingsbridge or Bedford Park blasting funk music. He’s often at subway stations, handing out fliers in the early morning.

Meanwhile, Rangel has only made it up to the northern borough on a few occasions: to kick off Bronx Week with Diaz, to receive Diaz’s endorsement and for trip down Mosholu Parkway in the Bronx Day parade.

“Espaillat’s run a fairly aggressive campaign in the Bronx,” Dinowitz said. “He’s been much more visible than Rangel.”

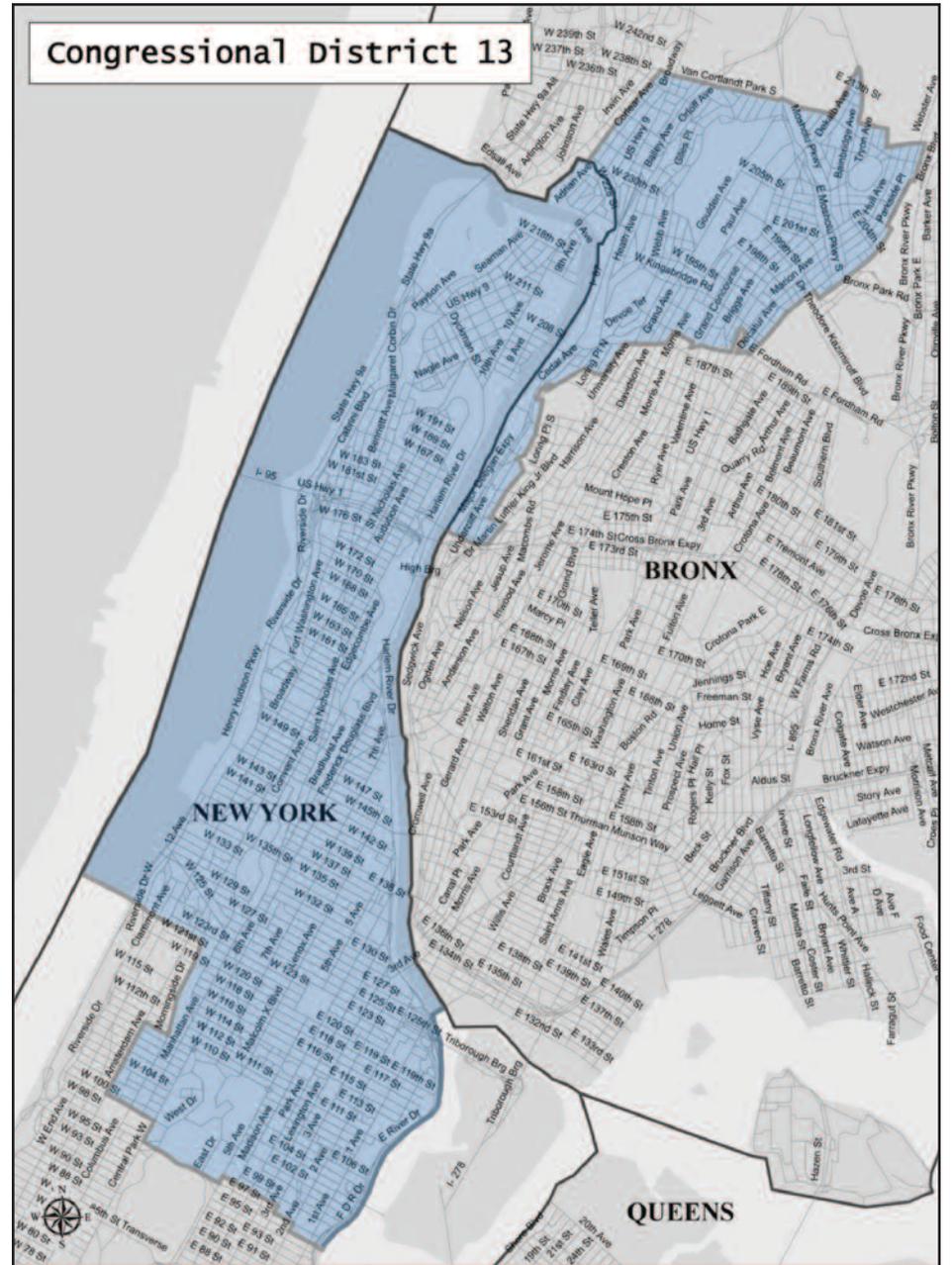
Still, even Rivera admits that Rangel is an icon and will be tough to defeat.

Jenkins said that many of Rangel’s supporters in Manhattan have migrated over to the Bronx in recent years.

“Charlie Rangel isn’t just one district,” he said. “He’s the dean of the New York State delegation and well respected throughout the city and the nation.”

Both candidates would make good representatives, Dinowitz says, “Either way it’s going to be fun.”

Editor’s note: The 13th Congressional District primary is Tuesday, June 26. For more coverage, visit norwoodnews.org.



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Police Report

Two Charged in Brutal Gun Hill Stabbing

By DAVID GREENE

Police arrested two individuals from the Knox-Gates neighborhood and charged them with the stabbing of a man on East Gun Hill Road at Jerome Avenue, that took place on a recent Friday night.

Officers were called to the C.R. Restaurant on the corner of Gun Hill Road and Jerome Avenue at around midnight on Friday, May 18. They discovered the unidentified 22-year-old victim with multiple stab wounds in his chest, arms and legs. He was transported to Jacobi Hospital in extremely critical condition.

Miraculously, the victim remains



Photo by David Greene

POLICE OUTSIDE of the C.R. Restaurant at East Gun Hill Road and Jerome Avenue, where a young man was stabbed multiple times.

alive, meaning the 52nd Precinct, which includes the entire *Norwood News* coverage area, including Norwood, Bedford Park, Fordham and University Heights, still has yet to experience a murder in 2012.

One police source, who did not want to be identified because he was not authorized to speak with the media, said the victim, only described as a Hispanic male, “was very likely (to die), but he survived.”

A passerby said he watched as police briefly questioned a woman who apparently came to the victim’s aid. “If you see a guy on the ground bleeding to death, and you stop and get blood all over you, you saw something,” the man said.

Another source said police followed a blood trail from the scene, broke down the door to a third-floor apartment and arrested at least one of the suspects at their Knox Avenue apartment.

“They took [the suspect] away in an ambulance,” he said.

The suspects were later identified by police as Ramon Sanchez, 24, and Luis Davis, 28, both of 3464 Knox Place. Both men have been charged with assault in the first degree.

Passages

Norwood Couple Celebrates 60 Years of Bliss

Longtime Norwood residents and high school sweethearts Grace and Edward Siemer celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary earlier this year. The couple was married at Christ the King Church on February 2, 1952.

State Senator Gustavo Rivera gave the couple a proclamation from the New York State legislature to mark the occasion.

Grace and Edward both lived in the same neighborhood, around East 168th Street and Morris Avenue, but attended different high schools while growing up in the Bronx. Grace went to Walton High School and Edward, a year ahead of Grace, went to Taft.

They came together through a shared love of street games. “We met playing stickball in the lot,” Grace says. “We were high school sweethearts.”

Soon after marrying, the couple moved to Norwood, where they have lived



NORWOOD RESIDENTS Grace and Edward Siemer celebrate 60 years of marriage with State Senator Gustavo Rivera.

ever since and remain active in several community organizations, including the 52nd Community Precinct Council.

—ALEX KRATZ

Op-Ed

The Bronx Needs Better Banking Options

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al bailout dollars four years ago, but now reap mind-blowing profits despite losing billions on risky derivatives trading. These larger institutions often charge higher account fees (if you don’t meet certain minimum balance requirements) than small community banks. Smaller, locally-based banks are also often more in touch with the needs and more responsive to the demands of our communities.

So, while moving your money to a smaller institution may sound appealing to some folks, it’s often not an option here in the Bronx if you need the convenience of a branch in your neighborhood. This is why it’s also critical to hold the larger banks accountable for their harmful practices and it’s good news that the City Council recently passed the Responsible Banking Act that will require banks to disclose local investment activities, including foreclosure and loan modification information, in order to be eligible to hold City deposits.

Community and responsible banking advocates have also been showing up at shareholder meetings for the largest financial institutions to highlight destructive practices and ask those in charge to put the needs of people and communities over the desire to maximize profits at any cost. Some of these destructive practices include investing in for-profit prisons and payday lenders, and not doing enough to modify mortgages, reduce principal and prevent foreclosures.

Additionally, federal legislation that was passed in the wake of the financial meltdown created a much needed consumer protection agency and has limited a number of exploitative practices that

were very profitable for banks, including overdraft fees.

However, a number of big banks have been looking to new, unregulated high-cost products to increase the profitability of branches in low, moderate and even middle income neighborhoods.

Prepaid cards are the new rage, but many of them come with excessive fees. Last year, Wells Fargo considered bringing a payday lending type product to New York known as direct deposit advance. As with any small-dollar, short-term loan, the interest rate would violate our state usury cap of 25 percent and go easily into triple digit Annual Percentage Rates (APRs). (The check cashing industry is also pushing a bill that would allow them a carveout of our usury cap to make a similar type of loan that preys on those in desperate situations.)

Really what we need is more responsible and affordable banking options in the Bronx. We also can’t expect the banking industry to take care of this for us. We need to push smaller community banks and credit unions to increase their convenience and accessibility. We also can be out there holding larger banks accountable to the needs of our communities. On top of that, we need to make sure we have legislation and regulations that will protect our neighborhoods and individual consumers from high cost products that prey on those who can least afford it.

Gregory Lobo Jost is a Norwood resident and the Deputy Director of University Neighborhood Housing Program, who recently published the report, *Banking in the Bronx and the accompanying consumer Guide to Banking in the Bronx*, both available at www.unhp.org.

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Percent of osteoporosis cases in the U.S. who are women, according to the National Institutes of Health.

Vital Stats

Exercise is Key to Curb Bone Loss, Experts Say

By JEANMARIE EVELLY

May is National Osteoporosis Awareness Month. The disease, characterized by a loss of bone density and deterioration of bone tissue, affects over 40 million Americans, according to the National Institutes of Health.

Left unchecked, osteoporosis can severely weaken bones — making them more susceptible to painful fractures — and can lead to conditions like spinal deformity or hunched back, loss of height, decreased lung capacity and other health problems.

One of the best ways to battle bone loss, experts say, is through regular exercise.

“My advice would be for everyone to exercise, to start walking, jogging if you can, weight lifting,” said Dr. Anna Lasak, who directs Montefiore Medical Center’s Department of Rehabilitation caring for patients with osteoporosis. Bones can be strengthened with the right type of workout, Lasak says.

“Bone is a living tissue that can be remodeled, and exercise is the stimulus for that remodeling,” she explained.

Women are at particular risk for osteoporosis, Lasak says, accounting for nearly 80 percent of those who suffer from the condition. Older adults are also more

likely to experience bone loss, making it important for people to adopt regular exercise habits at a young age.

Even so, it’s never too late to start working out, Lasak says.

“There is no age limits,” she said. “Even if people start to exercise late, there will still be a benefit in preventing the bone loss that occurs naturally — it can be delayed or even reverted.”

Here are some other tips from the experts at Montefiore for keeping your bones healthy:

- Focus on exercises that emphasize strength training, like lifting weights and aerobics. Strengthening our lower extremities, like the muscles in our legs, can help improve balance and coordination, reducing the risk of falls and fractures.

- Exercises can be site specific to respond to the area where bone loss is most evident. Those suffering from low bone density along the spine, for example, should look for workouts that strengthen the spine and back.

- Patients with other health risk factors — like obesity, diabetes or high blood pressure — should consult with their physicians before adopting a workout routine, developing an exercise regime that is tailored specifically for them. Patients who may already be suffering

from osteoporosis should be particularly careful, as workouts that are too strenuous could put them at risk for a fracture.

- Eat a healthy, well-balanced diet with lots of fresh fruits and vegetables in order to get enough vitamins that support bone strength, such as Vitamin D and calcium.
- Adults over 50 are advised to supple-

ment their dietary intake of calcium and Vitamin D. Often, a basic multivitamin is suitable. All individuals should consult with their doctor before beginning any type of nutritional supplementation.

- Avoid smoking and excessive alcohol consumption, as these habits can have an adverse effect on bone health.



Photo by Adi Talwar

MEMBERS OF The Children’s Hospital at Montefiore’s B’N Fit Program participated in a 2-mile benefit walk for the program May 19 at the New York Botanical Garden. B’N Fit encourages exercise and healthy eating among adolescents.

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Bronx Week Parade Blossoms on Mosholu Parkway



By **MARCOS SIERRA**

What started out as a partly cloudy day on Sunday, May 20, didn't stop thousands of participants from gathering on Mosholu Parkway for the 41st annual Bronx Week Parade.

Originally called Bronx Day when it started in 1971, the event has grown to a 10-day event, encompassing 120 mostly-free events throughout the borough, and culminating with a "grand finale" at the parade.

As students, dancers, community organizations, military personnel, and musical bands practiced (and then practiced some more) waiting for the procession to begin, an army of vendors on the adjacent road prepared their wares for sale.

When the skies cleared overhead, the signal was given for the procession to begin, and off they were. Inching along Mosholu Parkway South in what became scorching heat, marchers did their best to stay cool as Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. emceed. After the parade, the festival continued on and featured a performance by hip-hop legend Doug E. Fresh. For more photos, visit norwoodnews.org and search "Bronx Week Parade."



Inquiring Photographer

By **DAVID GREENE**

This week we asked readers about their plans for the summer.



Well, with today's economy, the plan is to just save our money [to] possibly take the kids over to Disney World. That's my biggest goal for the summer.

Ubaldo Acosta



This summer, I'm taking an unpaid internship down in the East Village with an off-off Broadway theater group. I'm also volunteering at some Broadway theaters. I'll be doing a lot of free stuff and getting experience and taking a summer course, so I can graduate faster. No leisure. That's life.

Kelvin Verus



Usually every summer I like to go out camping with the kids. We go to a place called Camp Jellystone, but this year, unfortunately, the economics aren't well enough for me to take my family on a vacation. We'll probably go to Jones Beach a couple of times, but as far as an all-out vacation, can't afford it this year.

Perry Ortiz



I'm just getting ready to take care of my newborn son, that's my summer vacation. Go out to Six Flags with my family, hit the pool, barbecues. Same old stuff. Nothing else but working all day, that's it.

Wilson Olivencia



I have no plans because of the economy. I'll just go to the beach or the pool and do things locally. I just hope that it doesn't rain too much.

Stacy Druckman



Photos by Adi Talwar



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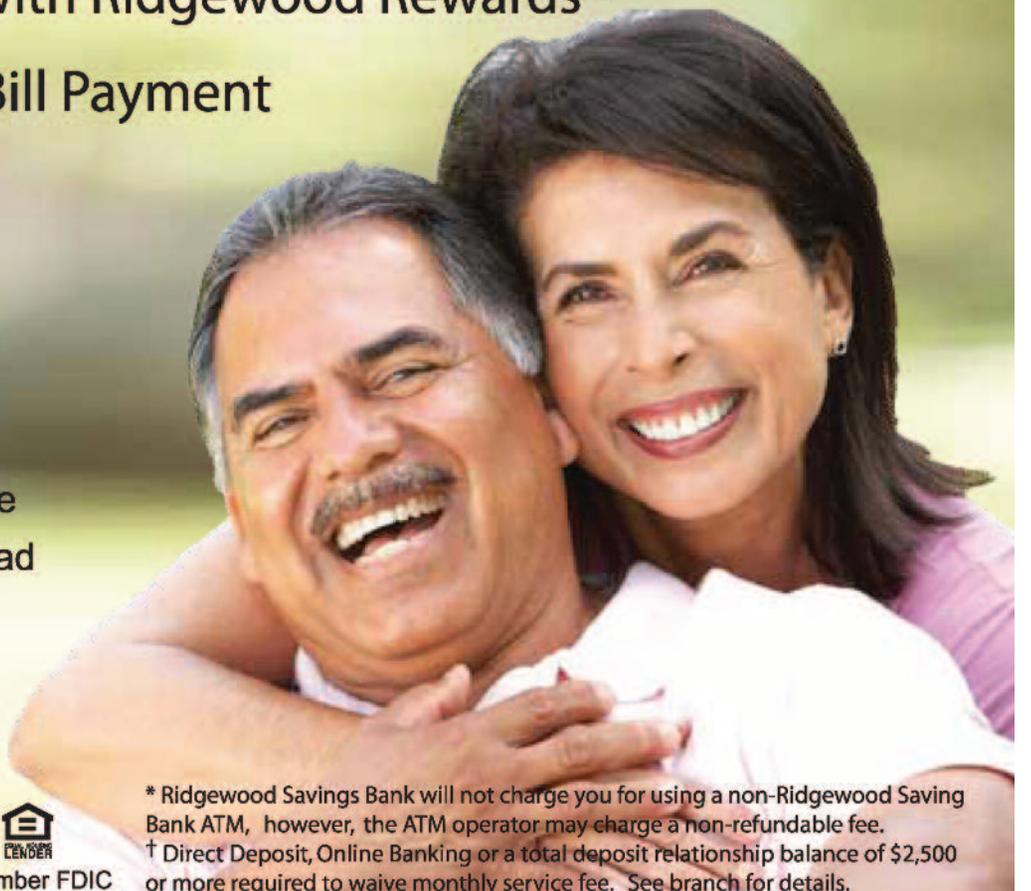
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Business Beat

Jerome Pharmacy Merges With Rite Aid

By DESTINY DEJESUS and ALEX KRATZ

After six years of doing business in Norwood, Jerome Pharmacy abruptly closed shop a few weeks ago.

Following its closure, a woman stood in front of the shuttered storefront on the corner of Jerome Avenue and Mosholu Parkway North, handing out fliers and telling customers that Jerome Pharmacy had merged with the Rite Aid pharmacy, halfway up the block, said local resident Henry Perry.

“It’s an inconvenience for me because I used the nickel copier there,” Perry said.

Huge signs welcoming Jerome Pharmacy customers are posted on the interior and exterior of Rite Aid. The managers there said Rite Aid, a national chain, bought out Jerome Pharmacy’s customers and supplies.

Attempts to contact Jerome Pharmacy’s owner, Prasad Venigalla, were unsuccessful.

Many Jerome Pharmacy customers have relocated to nearby Drug Rite Pharmacy, also on Jerome Avenue, said manager Juan Gonzalez. But, he added, the influx hadn’t meant a huge boost in busi-

ness because the majority of Jerome Pharmacy’s customers obtain their prescriptions at Rite Aid. Gonzalez, said customers complained that Jerome Pharmacy lacked drugs and, many times, overpriced them.

The empty space of the former Jerome Pharmacy is now being rented by the owner. When asked about the closing, a real estate agent did not disclose any information about the pharmacy or why it suddenly shut down.

Perry said a luncheonette serving the “greatest coffee you ever tasted” once resided in the vacant corner space during the 1960s, when he first moved into the neighborhood with his wife. The luncheonette was eventually replaced by a shady pizza shop and then had several other incarnations before becoming Jerome Pharmacy in 2006.

Though one small business has closed, two others have opened. Paradise Pawnbrokers, a family-owned business that has been serving the Bronx for over 65 years, opened its second location at 3478 Jerome Ave. Galaxy, a new electronic store located at 3412 Jerome Ave., also recently opened for business.

PS 51 Parent Demands

(continued from p. 1)

of students who attend the school to address their concerns. Walcott, however, only met with the current administration and parents association of the school, leaving alumni parents out in the cold.

“I have entrusted the safety and education of my children in the hands of the DOE all those years,” Walker-Santiago said at the meeting. “For some reason [DOE officials] don’t feel that [they] need to engage me about this.”

When confronted at the meeting, Walcott said he is taking this matter very seriously, but didn’t agree to meet with PS 51 Parents United or address their concerns.

Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky, a member of PS 51 Parents United and chair of Community Board 7’s sanitation and environment committee, said Walcott has ignored PS 51 Parents United’s demands for the establishment of a medical registry and a system to track students’ health issues. They still have concerns that many parents have not been notified about the contamination.

“Parents and students need to be informed of this potential health risk,” Hartman-Kutnowsky said at the meeting. “If they are not informed, how can we be proactive about our health?”

Hartman-Kutnowsky and Walker-Santiago’s daughters are former PS 51 students. They developed asthma after they left the school and think it has something to do with the toxins detected at the former school building last February. Parents were not notified until July, angering many.

“We need a system for communication with parents that will ensure parents can receive and understand this crucial infor-

mation in a timely manner,” said Marisol Carrero, a parent of a student who currently attend the school.

Deputy Chancellor Kathleen Grimm said the DOE made an effort to notify everyone they could contact and also notified the city and state health departments.

DOE Spokeswoman Marge Feinberg said the DOE notified parents of PS 51 students whose records they have on file, including former students.

Hartman-Kutnowsky said she believes that only 50 to 75 percent of parents were notified of the toxins based on the data received by PS 51 Parents United and the NWBCCC when they canvassed current and former parents.

PS 51 Parents United also want there to be a policy change that ensures equitable environmental review of both DOE-owned and leased facilities because DOE-leased buildings are able to bypass toxic assessment. They are also calling for an annual sampling at the school’s new location on Crotona Avenue.

Hartman-Kutnowsky said that PS 51 Parents United has been working with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the New York State Department of Health about remediation plans for the school building and health consultation. She said they are willing to inform former students of the contamination if DOE will release the contact information of all former parents to them.

Grimm said the DOE is working with Department of Health to release information to former students.

PS 51 Parents United and NWBCCC demands have the support of the Community District Education Council 10 and Council Member Oliver Koppell.



Photo by Adi Talwar

RESIDENTS ENJOY BEER at a preview for a new beer hall on Arthur Avenue.

Spring Training for Arthur Ave. Beer Hall

By CHLOE RICKERT

The group behind a new beer hall set to open this summer on Arthur Avenue whetted the palates of potential customers during a two-day preview event in Norwood two weeks ago.

The Bronx Beer Hall is a partnership of The Jonas Bronck’s Beer Company, clothing merchandisers from the Bronx and Mike’s Deli. The hall will be located in the Arthur Avenue Retail Market, with Mike’s Deli providing the food. The beer and food team came together to host a preview event on May 17 and 18 that coincided with Bronx Week (see pages 6 and 7). It was held at the Bronx County Historical

Society’s Valentine-Varian Home on the edge of Williamsbridge Oval Park on Bainbridge Avenue.

Mike’s Deli chef David Greco said the menu will differ from Mike’s Deli to fit the atmosphere of the beer hall. His vision includes less traditional items like mac-and-cheese on a stick and turkey sliders with a special sauce. Jonas Bronck’s Beer Company will serve brews inspired by the borough like Pelham Bay IPA and Woodlawn Weiss. Decoration is likely to include Bronx-based art and other items highlighting local history. Patrons will sit, eat, and drink at communal wooden tables in the center of the market that seat up to 49.

Neighborhood Notes

Prescription Drug Town Hall

Montefiore Medical Center, along with the Moses Community Advisory Board, is holding a Town Hall meeting on the dangers of misused prescription medicine on Thursday, June 14. The Town Hall, which will feature a panel of medical professionals, will be held in the Cherkasky Auditorium, at 111 E. 210th St., from 4 to 6 p.m. Registration begins at 3 p.m.

Financial Literacy Workshop

Amalgamated Bank, 2178 White Plains Rd., presents a free financial literacy workshop on Saturday, June 2, at 2 p.m. including information about how to create a family spending plan, setting up banking accounts, setting financial goals, and more. For more information or to register, call Branch Manager Lynn Diagostino at (718) 839-1014 or stop by the branch.

Free Fitness for Seniors

City Parks Foundation invites New Yorkers, 60 and over to participate in CityParks Senior Fitness, which offers free tennis lessons and yoga instruction.

The hourly 8-week spring session will take place twice a week at several Bronx locations through June 22, including Pelham Bay, Soundview, and Van Cortlandt Park. Equipment and instruction is provided free of charge. Van Cortlandt Park, at Jerome Avenue and 233rd Street, will hold yoga on Mondays and Wednesdays, and walking on Tuesdays and Thursdays, both at 9 a.m. For more information, call (718) 760-6999.

Free English Classes

The New York Public Library will host free daytime, evening, and weekend English classes. Speaking and listening classes for speakers of other languages and reading and writing for people who speak English will be held. Attend a mandatory information session on June 5 at 2 and 6 p.m. at Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd. (718) 579-4244, or on June 12 at 6 p.m. at Parkchester Library, 1985 Westchester Ave. (718) 829-7830. For more information on participating libraries, visit www.nypl.org/events/classes.

For more Neighborhood Notes online, go to www.norwoodnews.org and click on “Neighborhood Notes” in the right-hand column.

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RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Glad Tidings Assembly of God: 2 Van Cortlandt Ave. E. and Jerome Avenue. (718) 367-4040. Prayer Wednesdays at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. and Sunday Service at 11 a.m.

Novena: Prayer to St. Jude: O Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to you to whom God has given such great power, to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent petition. In return I promise to make your name known and cause to be invoked. (Say three Our Fathers, three Hail Mary's and three Glory Be's, for nine consecutive days. Publication must be promised.) St. Jude, pray for us, and all of who invoke your aid. Amen. (This novena has never been known to fail.) L.T.

MISCELLANEOUS

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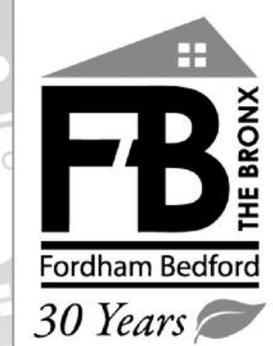
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Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

Onstage

■ The public is invited to enjoy the **Sonido Costeno Band**, performing a variety of Latin music, June 2 at 2:30 p.m., at the Mosholu Library, 285 E. 205th St. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

■ The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **Capone and Friends**, a stand-up comedy, June 2 at 8 p.m. (tickets are \$25 to \$45); and **Back to the '80s II** featuring several musical groups performing salsa, June 9 at 8 p.m. (tickets are \$45 to \$60). For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

■ The Friends of the Woodlawn Cemetery presents **Ellington Times Two** featuring the Duke

Ellington Center Big Band and the Bobby Sanabria Multiverse Big Band, June 8 at 7:30 p.m. at Lehman College's Lovinger Theatre, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W. (\$20). For more information or tickets, call (718) 920-1469 or visit www.thewoodlawncemetery.org.

Events

■ The public is invited to the free 22nd annual **Bronx Day at the New York Botanical Garden** with Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. on Saturday, June 2 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Clay Family Picnic Pavilions. Activities include face painting, musical entertainment, and finance and health resources. To receive free tickets in advance which are required for admission, call Elizabeth Figueroa at (718) 817-8990.

■ The Bronx Zoo hosts **Animal Tales Extravaganza**, weekends through June 30, featuring children's entertainment, live character appearances, original puppet theatre, and more. For more information and a detailed schedule of events, visit bronxzoo.com/animal-tales.

■ Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church presents **The Feast of St. Anthony**, in Little Italy, 187th Street and Arthur Avenue, June 6 to 10, featuring music daily, games, rides, raffles, amusements and food. Dance the giglio on June 9 from 3 to 6 p.m., and join the procession on June 10 at 5 p.m. For more information, call (718) 295-3770.

■ Pregones Theatre, 575 Walton Ave., hosts **"Rasgos Asiáticos/Asian Traces,"** the courageous portrayal of four generations of women, May 31 to June 2 at 8 p.m. For more information, call (718) 585-1202.

■ Riverdale-Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture's Meeting House, 4450 Fieldston Rd., presents **"The Scent of Bacon,"** a full cast reading of a political satire, June 2 at 6:30 p.m. (\$15/admission); **Music on Film**, the Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela, documentary in Spanish with English subtitles (\$5/suggestion donation), June 3 at 1 p.m.; and **"People Helping People Heal,"** discussion of the experience of returning from war and the struggle for veterans to face traumatic and life-altering consequences of war, June 3 at 11 a.m. For more information, call (718) 548-4445.

■ The Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Ave., presents its **First Friday** on June 1 from 6 to 10 p.m., featuring film, art performances, music and other special events. For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

■ The Friends of Woodlawn Cemetery presents the following upcoming events: **2nd Celebration of the Seven Wonders of Van Cortlandt Park**, for a free tour of the first floor of the museum as well as refreshments and finger foods, June 6 at 6:30 p.m., at the

Van Cortlandt House Museum (enter park at Broadway and West 242nd Street; RSVP to info@vancortlandt.org or (718) 601-1460 by June 1); and **The War of 1812, 200 Years Later**, to commemorate the anniversary, June 3 (\$10/adults; \$5/seniors/students/Friends members; meet at the Jerome Avenue entrance at 11 a.m.). For more information, call (718) 920-1470.

■ Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **tours through Aug. 18:** at the Glyndor Gallery, Tuesdays and Saturdays at 2 p.m.; and Tuesdays at 11 a.m. from the Perkins Visitor Center. Also offered are **Family Art Projects:** Lanterns for Summer Light, to make lanterns from colored tissue paper and paper maché, June 2 and 3, and Playful Petals, to make a sculptural flower from foam materials, June 9 and 10, both from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Ecology Building. Grounds admission is free Saturdays until noon and all day Tuesdays. For more information, call (718) 549-3200.

■ The Bronx County Historical Society, 3309 Bainbridge Ave., hosts **Bronx High School Valedictorians Awards Program**, June 10, 1 to 3 p.m.; and a **tour of the new Yankee Stadium**, June 2 at 4 p.m. (please arrive by 3:40 p.m.; meet at the Hard Rock Café at East 161st Street and River Avenue near the elevated #4 train and Gate 6; fee is \$30; participants will receive Yankee promotional items). For more information, to RSVP, and for tickets, required via phone purchase, call (718) 881-8900.

■ The Riverdale RiverFest will hold its free 3rd annual **Riverfront Festival**, June 24, noon to 6 p.m., at the College of Mount Saint Vincent's Marillac Lawn, in Riverdale at West 263rd Street, featuring boats, music, performers, crafts, family-oriented activities, exhibits, and a variety of international foods. Boat rides will be offered on June 23 and 24. For more information and guaranteed reservations for a small fee, visit www.riverdaleRiverFest.org, beginning June 4.

■ The public is invited to ride the June 6 free

EDITOR'S PICK

Puerto Rican Pride on Display

The public is invited to the **25th Anniversary Celebration of the Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade**, June 3 from 11 a.m. along the Grand Concourse from 192nd Street to Van Cortlandt Avenue East. For more information, visit www.bronxprparade.net.

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Bronx Culture Trolley, which transports visitors on the first Wednesday of every month (except January and September) to Bronx hot spots, all featuring a variety of entertainment options and ends at Sweetwater's Bar & Grill for music, food and drink. Trolley night starts with a 5 p.m. reception at the Longwood Art Gallery at Hostos Community College, 450 Grand Concourse (at 149th St.). From there, the trolley departs at 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. New attractions are added monthly; admission to most venues is free. Riders can get on and off at any scheduled stop and spend as much time as they wish at any or all of the featured venues. For more information and a detailed schedule, call (718) 931-9500 ext. 33 or log on to www.bronxarts.org.

Exhibits

■ The Bronx County Historical Society, 3309 Bainbridge Ave., presents **In Style, Bronx Architecture**, through Oct. 7, including Bronx landmarks. For more information and to reserve, call (718) 881-8900.

■ The Bronx Documentary Center, 614 Courtlandt Ave., presents **Bronx Gardens**, by photographer Nina Berman, through July 1, Wednesdays to Sundays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call (347) 332-6962.

■ No Longer Empty presents **This Side of Paradise**, Thursdays to Sundays, 1 to 7 p.m. through June 5, at The Andrew Freedman Home, 1125 Grand Concourse (167th Street). Related events will take place throughout the exhibition. The public is welcome to propose a **Shifting Communities Roundtable Event** to take place during the exhibition which would combine the history of the Freedman Home with present day realities. Ideas must be submitted to the Bronx River Art Center at (718) 589-5819 ext. 14. For more information and a detailed schedule, call (718) 293-8100.

Library Events

■ The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd. off Fordham Road, presents programs for kids including **Tales for the Teeny Tiny at 11 a.m.** (ages 2 to 5): June 2 and 9; and **Sing Along With Robin Bady** (ages 5 to 12): June 9 at 2 p.m. For teens and young adults, there is **Hip-Hop Dance**: May 31 at 3:30 p.m. Adults can enjoy **film**: special Father's Day feature, June 2 at 2:30 p.m.; **How to Save at Least 50% Every Time You Grocery Shop**, June 5 at 10 a.m.; **Highlights of Bronx History**, June 9 at 2:30 p.m.; **Introductory Computer Typing Class**: June 13 at 10 a.m.; and **Interview With Confidence**, June 13 at 2 p.m. Immigrants can attend **English Classes New Student Information Session**, June 5 at 2 and 6 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

■ The Mosholu Library, at 285 E. 205th St., offers for seniors and adults: **Knitting Circle**: Thursdays at 3 p.m.; **Wii Program**: Tuesdays at 3 p.m.; **Introduction to the Computer** (advance in-person registration required): June 6 at 10:30 a.m.; **Introduction to Chinese Dance**: June 9 at 2:30 p.m.; and **Internet Basics** (in-person advance registration required): June 13 at 10:30 a.m. Children can attend **Toddler Story Time at 10:30 a.m.**: June 7 and 14. Teens and young adults can enjoy **Get Fresh**, to learn to make gelatin air fresheners (all materials provided): June 14 at 4 p.m. For immigrants, there is **English Conversation**: intermediate level, for immigrants (ages 16+), free, Tuesdays 6:30 to 8 p.m., through June 5 (registration required). For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

■ The Jerome Park Library, at 118 Eames Place, offers for teens and young adults: **Cooking at 4 p.m.**: May 31, June 7 and 14; for adults: **Your Journey to Self Awareness at 11 a.m.**: June 1 - A Life Coach Experience; and June 8 - GPS Your Life; **film**: "It's Always Fair Weather," June 2 at 1 p.m.; for ages 5 to 12: **Arts & Crafts**: June 4 at 4 p.m.; and **film**, June 11 at 4 p.m.; and for toddlers 18 to 36 months: **Toddler Story Time**, June 13 at 11 a.m. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

NOTE: Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org, and should be received by June 4 for the next publication date of June 14.



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