

NORWOOD NEWS

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COUNCIL APPROVES ARMORY ICE PLAN 48-1

Vote Makes Way For World's Largest Ice Center

By DAVID CRUZ

By a vote of 48 to 1 on Tuesday, Dec. 10, the New York City Council overwhelmingly passed a plan for a project allowing developers to convert the Kingsbridge Armory into a colossal ice skating center, with elected officials and community groups rejoicing at the end of a near 20-year saga.

The entire Bronx Council Delegation, including hold-out Councilman Fernando Cabrera, voted for the \$320 million project that clears the Kingsbridge National Ice Center (KNIC), bringing nine ice skating rinks, and a 5,000-seat arena to the facility, drawing droves of hockey fans while also grooming any potential hockey stars, as developers see it.

News of the vote will likely be seen as a game changer for the borough and an end to a near 20-year saga of false starts, last-minute deals, and the big question—what to do with a 794,900-square-foot facility that stood virtually unused, bedeviling Bronxites.

For years, proposals ranging from a neighborhood school to an entertainment/recreation complex featuring a 4-D movie house were presented and failed. A persistent push by city officials, however, sought to turn the hollow complex into a moneymaker, funneling new revenue to the borough. In the case of KNIC, the complex is estimated to generate over a billion dollars in 30 years, according to a report by HR&A Advisers.

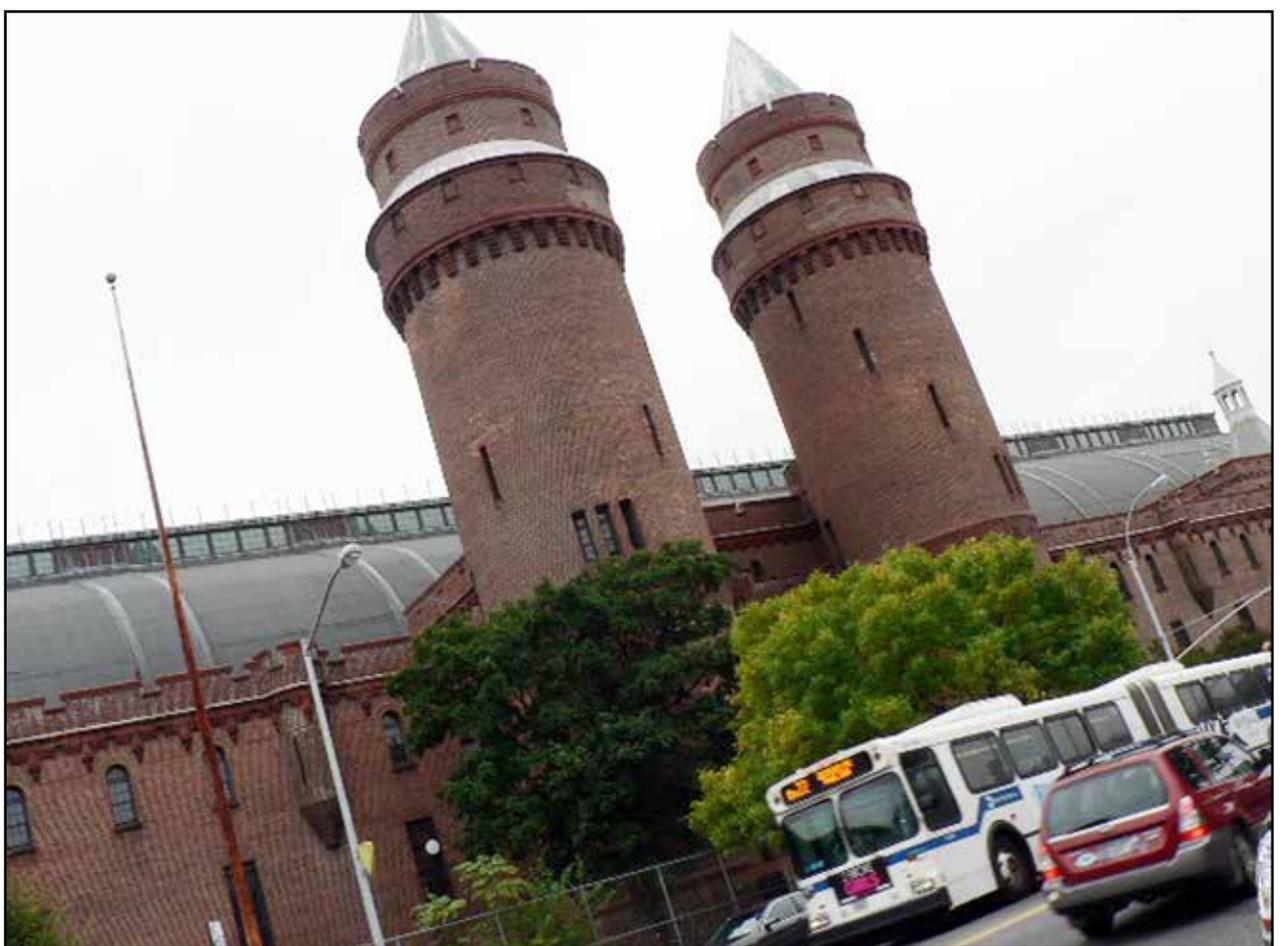
Bronx Delegation Caucus in the Affirmative

The Bronx Council Delegation, comprised of all nine legislators, followed Cabrera's lead in voting unanimously in favor of the project. "We'll have the opportunity for young people, especially people of color who didn't have accessibility, to ice skate," said Cabrera, speaking before the official vote.

In a statement, Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. called it a "victory" for the Bronx, adding he looks forward to the project's completion, "and the day when the Bronx can officially declare itself to be the premier ice sports destination in the United States, if not the nation."

"This is really a dream come true," said Councilman Oliver Koppell, a longtime supporter of the project.

The lone dissenter was Brooklyn Councilman Charles



File Photo

THE KINGSBRIDGE ARMORY is slated to become an ice skating mecca after 20 years of fits and starts.

Barron, explaining that "nine ice skating rinks was a bit much."

Clearing Hurdles

The vote now caps the lengthy Uniform Land Use Review Procedure, where several agencies from the Borough President's Office, Community Board 7 and the City Planning Commission, offered their advisory approval early this year.

The Council's Sub-Committee on Zoning and Franchises voted 6-0 in favor of the project several hours prior to the full Council's vote with the Zoning Committee following suit.

Even before the public review process was under way, KNIC developers had come to the table to hammer out a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) in February with 27 community groups seeking entitlements that would help prop up the neighborhood whilst avoiding the displacement of existing neighbors. In all, \$1.3 billion in benefits is expected to be re-invested to the community. KNIC agreed to sign the legal document, which promises 50,000 square feet of community space, a 1 percent rev-

enue share with the community and a \$10 living wage with benefits, a perk that wasn't honored by The Related Co. in 2009, which sought an interest in converting the Armory into a mall. It was a main reason why the Council killed the project four years ago.

The Swing Voter

But throughout the deal, the burning question unresolved until the day before the vote was Cabrera's decision. For months, Cabrera remained tight-lipped on his take on the project, though he often spoke highly of it, calling it the new Yankee Stadium when the city publicly announced KNIC as the chosen applicant in the Request for Proposal. He then backpedaled, stating more review was needed before he gave his final stamp of approval.

But late in the public review process, word of alleged soliciting by Cabrera spread, with accusations the ordained pastor had requested \$100,000 to be pumped into his defunct religious nonprofit, Community Action Unlimited, during CBA talks. He has denied any involvement with the nonprofit, though a lawyer for KNIC

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Armory Cleared To Become Ice Center

(continued from page 1)

confirmed Cabrera did make an “inappropriate” request for funding, violating the City Charter.

But accusations aside, Cabrera, considered the key swing voter since the Armory falls within his district managed to address late concerns of impending traffic jams, parking and displacement of small businesses already in the neighborhood. In a last-minute deal drafted less than 24 hours prior to the vote, Cabrera gave his final stamp of approval after KNIC agreed to address overlooked issues. The City Economic Development Corporation, the economic arm of the Bloomberg Administration, will monitor the new add-ons. It’s unclear whether those perks will be retroactively attached to CBA.

Loose Ends Abound

With the plan fully approved, green developer and former Wall Streeter Kevin Parker will now begin construction of the center, keeping the exterior of the Armory intact given its landmark status. The \$320 million price tag will be covered solely by private monies, with Goldman Sachs among the investors.

“The Kingsbridge National Ice Center is destined to awe and inspire,” said Parker in a statement.

KNIC CEO Mark Messier, former New York Rangers star and hockey legend, has already used his connections to secure commitments from professional hockey clubs and local colleges to utilize the ice center. A free after school program modeled after the Philadelphia-based Ed Snider program will also be incorporated.

And while traffic and small business concerns were ad-



Artist rendering courtesy KNIC Partners LLC

THE KINGSBRIDGE National Ice Center as it would look once built.

dressed, there are still some loose ends relating to the project, namely their original intent to create a sports-themed school, a plan that received plenty of cheers during the project’s earlier drafts but was inexplicably phased out.

Mayor Bloomberg, a major supporter of the project, is expected to sign the resolution, sealing his legacy at the tail end of his political life. “The transformation of the Kingsbridge Armory is evidence of what we can achieve when we put aside our differences and come together in pursuit of a common goal,” Bloomberg wrote in a statement.

CB7 District Manager Resigns

By DAVID CRUZ

In one of the shortest tenures in recent times at Community Board 7, the board’s district manager has suddenly resigned with just only half a year on the job.

Socrates Caba turned in his letter of resignation on Wednesday, Dec. 4 to CB7 Chairwoman Adaline Walker, who was voted into office in June, the same month Caba had been hired following a lengthy recruiting process. Walker, a seasoned CB7 member with an education background, had replaced outgoing Chairman Paul Foster. Caba, meanwhile, had replaced Fernando Tirado, who resigned following hostile tensions between him and the executive board who often accused Tirado of being derelict in his position.

“It’s a surprise to me as it is to everyone,” said Walker of Caba’s departure. “We wish him the best and hope he can come to our board to attend meetings.”

Caba’s resignation will be effective Friday, Dec. 13. In his letter of resignation, Caba alluded to new procedures adopted by the board’s executive committee. “I find them unsatisfactory,” wrote Caba in his letter addressed to Walker and the full board.

It’s unclear what those new procedures were, though one person whose name is withheld since they are closely tied to the board, said one recommendation involved Caba being asked to attend more meetings regularly and provide a more in-depth district manager’s report. Those recommendations were made by the Personnel Committee, overseeing internal board procedures.

“They don’t have any personal animosity towards one another,” said the source referring to Caba and Walker’s relationship. “It was just different perspectives on how the job should be done.”

Caba, whose background includes



File Photo

HERE TODAY, gone tomorrow. CB7 District Manager Socrates Caba seen here with Chairwoman Adaline Walker.

working with those suffering from HIV or AIDS for years, insists he’s simply wishing to return to the health industry, working with the afflicted. “I’m just going back to what I really like,” said Caba. “I really miss that kind of work.”

But there were also preliminary talks to let Caba go, with the Personnel Committee poised to “get him out,” said the source. “I kind of feel Caba saw the writing on the wall.”

Walker refuted those claims, saying she “doesn’t know what this source is talking about.” Anybody, even in my family, will have a difference of opinion,” she said.

The board has been on a roll in recent months, with members voting in favor of the Kingsbridge Armory project. Walker worked with members to increase their

attendance numbers at committee meetings and the entire general board monthly meetings, which gather the third Tuesday of each month except during the summer. The board covers Bedford Park, Fordham, Kingsbridge Heights, Mosholu, Norwood and University Heights, maintaining an active roster with boots-on-the-ground members reporting their concerns to the district manager, serving as a liaison between the community and New York City government.

The DM position had been open for seven months after Tirado, serving as district manager for four years, stepped down in disgust, later accepting a job at Sustainable Long Island, an economic development nonprofit based in Farmingdale.

As the seat remains vacant for now, Tom Lucania, the borough president’s Director of Community Boards Unit and Legislative Affairs, will now serve as interim District Manager. Lucania served as interim DM for several months while the Search Committee sought a replacement for Tirado.

The DM spot will be open next month. Interested applicants can send their hard copy resume to the board office at 229-A E. 204th St., Bronx, NY 10458.

“Whoever applies, we’re going to screen them and make sure we’re on the same page,” said Walker. “I think there’s going to be a lot of people applying.”

Public and Community Meetings

- **COMMUNITY BOARD 7 committee meetings are held on the following dates at the board office, 229A E. 204th St., at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted: Senior Services Committee meets Thursday, Dec. 12 at 10 a.m.; Traffic & Transportation on Wednesday, Dec. 12. For more information, call (718) 933-5650 or visit bronxcb7.info/calendar.**
- **COMMUNITY BOARD 7 is scheduled to hold its general board meeting, on Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 6:30 p.m. at a location to be determined. For more information, call (718) 933-5650 or visit bronxcb7.info/calendar.**



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A woman with long brown hair, wearing a yellow top and a patterned scarf, is smiling and holding several shopping bags. She is standing in a snowy winter village scene with a large, decorated Christmas tree in the background. The scene is lit with warm lights from the buildings and the tree, set against a dark blue twilight sky.

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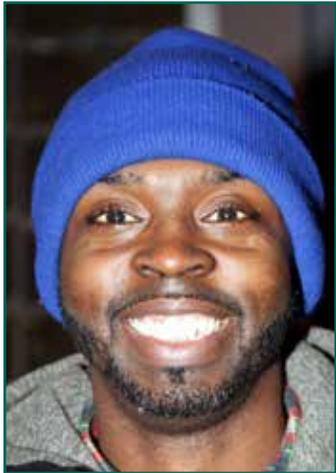
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Inquiring Photographer

By DAVID GREENE

We gauged readers' thoughts on outgoing NYPD Commissioner Ray Kelly and returning top cop William Bratton, who oversaw the department in the mid-'90s.



I believe that our city is a little safer than it was when he came in, so I believe he did a good job. The only problem I have now is with the stop and frisk thing. I'm still having problems with that; I'm still being stopped and frisked. You could just be walking across the street and the police will stop you. I will have to see how [Bill Bratton] does, I believe in giving a guy a fair shot.
Marquis White



I think Ray Kelly was good and he did a good job. We hope that Mr. Bratton can do even better at lowering crime. Kelly knew a lot of the business owners in this area and he's helped a lot to make this area comfortable for everybody and we would like that to continue.
Abdul Naser



Kelly was not a bad guy. He changed a lot of things in this area for the better and I hope Mr. Bratton does not forget about the businesses in Norwood.
Etik Alzokari



We should thank Ray Kelly for everything he's done for the neighborhood, the whole area. I just hope Bratton can continue Kelly's good work.
Scott Alkabili



They have got to stop the stop and frisk, there should be something better. They should not be able to stop you for no reason at all. In my circumstance I'm a delivery boy and I go into buildings and they stop me. Hey, I'm doing my job.
Fermin Torres

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Pair Saved After Westchester Sq. Blast

By DAVID GREENE

It's still unclear what caused a one-story building to pancake to the ground on Westchester Avenue last month, but the two victims in the collapse are said to be recovering.

The victims, Benedetto Mondello, 63, and his son Benny, 36, were settling in for the work day at B&L Auto Repair at 2601 Westchester Ave. before 8 a.m. on Nov. 27 when the building's annex exploded, causing mountains of concrete and steel beams to come crashing down with the two men still inside.

Firefighters rushed to the scene to help rescue the pair, later finding several Good Samaritans already attempting to sift through the rubble. The victims were rushed to Jacobi Medical Center with critical injuries.

Doroteo Sanchez, a day laborer, was one of those Good Samaritans, standing across the street when he and others "heard a loud boom," noticing smoke billowing to the sky. "We all ran over there to see what was going on and somebody said that someone was in there, so we started looking around and moving beams

and wood and brick out of the way," said Sanchez, describing the scene as "a war zone." "I thought a bomb hit it or something," he said.

Bill Sanfardino, a fellow businessman working at the nearby electrical shop, was sitting in his own auto shop when he heard "a loud boom," hurrying outside to find B&L Auto in rubbles. "They're good people," said Sanfardino of the victims. "Fortunately they got out alive."

B & L Auto has been in business for the last 30 years. The city Department of Buildings later issued a full vacate order for the rest of the building while inspectors also examined area buildings to determine their structural integrity. DOB inspectors also added insult to injury, slapping owners with a violation for failing to maintain the building. One source close to the investigation said the victims were using an air compressor as they welded a gas line when the explosion took place.

Chief William Seelig with the FDNY's Special Operations Division, said, "It was some pretty manually intensive work we needed to do to get the victims out." He added that the exact cause of the explosion remains under investigation.

Opinion

Editorial

The New(s) Guy at the *Norwood News*

If anyone had foretold I'd be the next editor at the *Norwood News* a year ago, I probably would've told them they got the wrong guy. But that make believe scenario has turned into reality, and I'm still pinching myself these days even as I keep revisiting this cute phrase our previous editor repeated—"May God have mercy on your soul."

But jokes aside, no amount of hyperbole will tell you how thrilled and humbled I am in embracing this new role, one that my predecessor Alex Kratz declared to be his most challenging and rewarding. Indeed, taking the helm is 10 years in the making for this journalist, one who's dabbled in television and radio news before jumping to print, the purest form of newscraft. Being an editor for a Bronx periodical is also a testament to my love for this borough, one that's remained in my peripheral vision even as my focus drifted elsewhere.

Indeed, the Boogie Down has been in my heart since I was 10 years old, living with my family on Aqueduct Avenue, in the shadow of the Kingsbridge Armory. A piece of the borough stayed in me even after I moved to nearby Larchmont, the Westchester County hamlet that became home for 17 years.

My career began at News 12 The Bronx in May of 2004 working the news trenches as an assignment desk editor. To say I was the best assignment editor the Emmy-nominated cable news channel ever saw would be a distortion. I definitely got my feet wet there, though some would say I nearly drowned. By the time I left, multi-tasking was a breeze, I knew what a borough president does and I understood the nagging issues plaguing the Bronx.

I refined my journalism skills even more at WCBS 880AM, spending five years at the flagship station for the CBS Radio Network. I moved to the big leagues working



Photo by Rebecca Daniele

DAVID CRUZ (pictured) takes the post of *Norwood News* editor, replacing former editor-in-chief extraordinaire Alex Kratz.

as an entry-level news desk assistant, before sharpening my news judgment as a tape operator, conducting off-air interviews. My big break came after I was promoted to fill-in writer and midday producer, guiding coverage on what's considered the busiest part of the day.

The breaking news station was pure adrenaline. The "first to air it" mentality became an addiction that helped me crack some great local, national and international stories. All of the coverage came with a steady hand, a lesson that's served me well to this day.

But the print journalism bug began to burrow inside me. I finally understood that without newspapers, some media outlets would be reciting poetry.

So I took a chance on this calling. I applied and was hired at *The Bronx Times Reporter*, the hyperlocal weekly covering the entire borough. Whether it was the installation of a traffic light or the colossal saga that's the Kingsbridge Armory, the stories I've covered helped me completely immerse myself in this borough. I worked under Bob Kappstatter, a grizzled, yet cheery editor with 45 years of experience and a knack for snappy leads. The job was fantastic, though some days it felt like boot camp. Still, journeying about the borough gave me exposure, enough for the *Norwood News* to notice.

What sold me about jumping onboard was the re-

Feel free to call the office or approach me during the many public meetings I'll attend. After all, the Bronx has a great story to tell.

cent *Norwood News* article entitled "Giving Voice to the Voiceless." It's such a profound title, and one of the hallmarks to the fourth estate, better known as journalism. To be the one advocating for the public is something I take very seriously, a creed supported in "The Elements of Journalism," my journalism bible that states "journalists must serve as an independent monitor of power."

Being a watchdog doesn't happen in a vacuum. So feel free to call the office or approach me during the many public meetings I'll attend. After all, the Bronx has a great story to tell.

—**DAVID CRUZ**

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Photo by Adi Talwar

THE FORDHAM BID Christmas tree lights up the busy commercial strip during the Sparkling the Heart Fordham Holiday Event.

Celebrating the Holidays At Local BIDs

By **DAVID CRUZ**

The holiday spirit flows through your friendly, neighborhood business improvement districts with two commercial strips ringing in the Yuletide season in high style.

The Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District and the Fordham Business Improvement District held separate holiday lighting ceremonies these past two weeks, treating kids to gift-wrapped presents while encouraging bargain hunters to shop locally.

“This brings you together,” said Marcia Cameron, executive director of the Jerome Gun-Hill BID. “There’s something in the air.”

Cameron was on hand for the BID’s second annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony, fighting frigid temperatures with some Dunkin’ Donuts brew and a Santa Claus hat. She was joined by neighborhood families who brought the kids to the colorful venue loaded with caroling, a visit from Santa Claus, and a glittering Christmas tree, of course.

On Saturday, Nov. 30, also considered Small Business Saturday, volunteers adorned the pine tree at the edge of Risse Street Park with several Christmas ornaments and lights, hitting the switch just after 5 p.m. before dozens of neighbors. While children posed for photos with Santa, a cheery mistress of ceremonies, La Reina del Barrio, encouraged children to jump on stage for some caroling. She also encouraged neighbors to support the BID, and to “shop locally.”

The tree, just tipping the entrance of the BID, complements the holiday light strands that run several blocks along Jerome Avenue and Gun Hill Road, part of the BID’s borders, which are comprised of 250 stores ranging from mom-and-pops

to big banks. “The fact you have the lights on and have a holiday feel, it brings the community together,” said Cameron.

Several days later, the Fordham BID, the largest commercial strip in the borough, kicked off the holiday season with its ninth annual Sparkling the Heart Fordham Holiday Event. La Reina del Barrio hosted the event that featured a performance from Gloria Del Choir, free gifts for several hundred children, and an appearance from Santa Claus, putting off some last-minute preparations for a gathering in Muller Park.

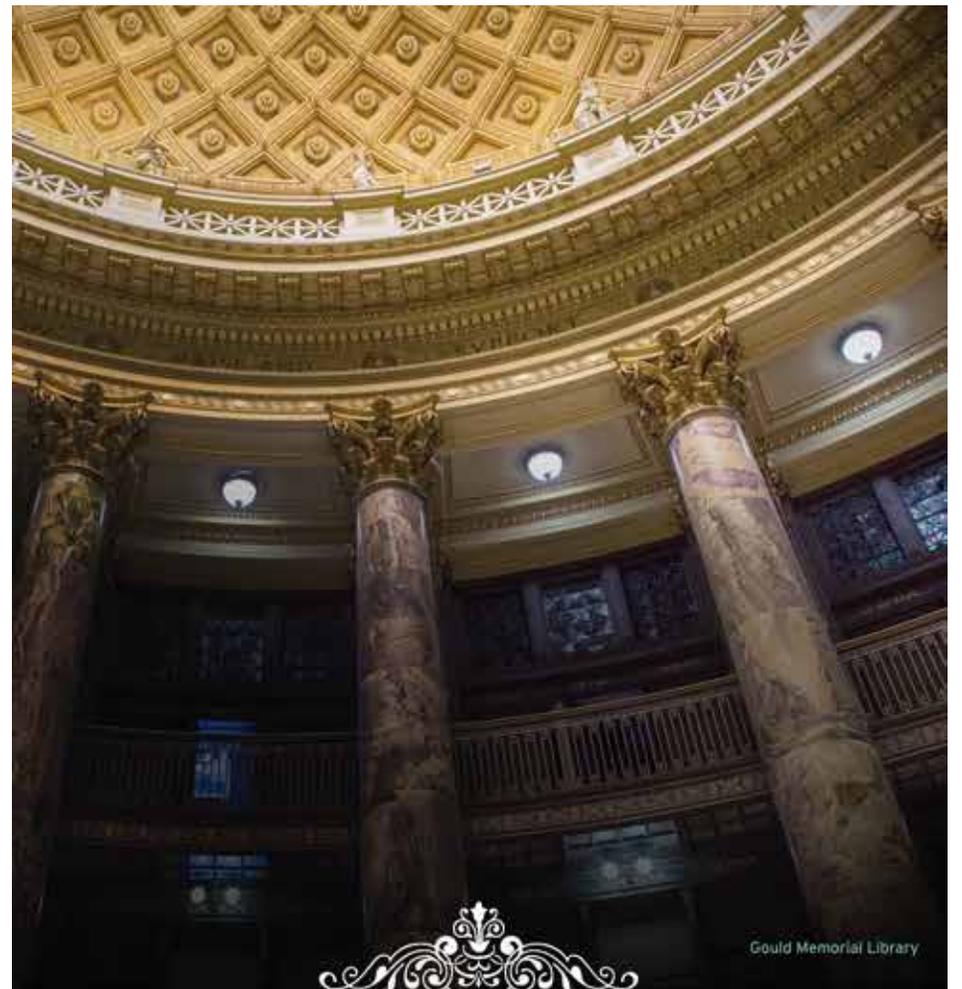
Co-executive Director Daniel Bernstein ushered in the holiday season with a promotional deal, offering shoppers a 10 percent discount to 68 stores along the hilly shopping district. He also announced extra, private personnel on hand to help keep an eye out from any would-be purse snatchers and thieves.

The pedigree perks are all part of a BID, overseen by the city Small Business Services. The formation of a BID often takes a year, with property owners willing to agree to pay BID assessments that go towards private sanitation and promotional services.



Photo by Miriam Quinones

KIDS TAKE HOME gift-wrapped presents courtesy of Santa Claus during the Jerome-Gun Hill BID’s second annual Holiday Tree Lighting.



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Feds Order Changes Following Metro-North Crash



Photo by David Greene

FIRE CREWS surround one of the toppled cabs from the Metro-North train derailment near the Spuyten Duyvil station.

By **DAVID GREENE** and **DAVID CRUZ**

Following the aftermath of the Metro-North's fatal train derailment in Spuyten Duyvil, federal officials are demanding the MTA include an extra operator along routes that are deemed hazardous.

That is one of the recommendations imposed by the Federal Railroad Administration which administers pol-

icies for the railroad industry. The agency ordered Metro-North officials to forward a list of main track locations with speed restrictions of less than 20 mph. The railroad is also required to upgrade its advanced warning system so that it now includes a feature warning operators of a compromising route.

MTA Chairman Thomas Prendergast said the agency will comply with the changes for the sake of preventing a

crash like that. The FRA's decision comes amid the horrific train derailment near the Spuyten Duyvil station, which killed four people and injured nearly 70 passengers on Sunday, Dec. 1.

Train operator William Rockefeller Jr., 46, a 14-year Metro-North employee, was at the controls going about the 70mph straightaway track when he apparently became dazed, allowing the train to curve a piece of track at 82mph in a 30mph zone, according to his lawyers and union reps. The 5:24 a.m. train from Poughkeepsie to Grand Central Terminal soon skipped the track at 7:20 a.m., skidding towards the Harlem River.

Rescue crews rushed to the crash site, finding three of the four victims ejected from the train. Authorities estimate that nearly 150 travelers were on board, with some returning from Thanksgiving celebrations. The four dead were rushed to Columbia-Presbyterian, while dozens of victims were rushed to St. Barnabas Hospital, Jacobi Medical Center and Montefiore Medical Center.

Police later identified the dead as James Ferrari, 59, of Montrose, NY; Kisook Ahn, 35, of Woodside, Queens; James Lovell, 58, of Cold Spring, NY., and Donna Smith, 54, of Newburgh, NY.

Mayor Bloomberg, who was initially unavailable following the crash, said the derailment could've been much worse. "It could have happened later in the day, and on a business day when a train like that is full," he said.

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is already investigating the crash, relying on the locomotive's black box to determine what happened moments before the crash. A final conclusion is expected a year from now. Earl Weener of the NTSB said the investigation is intended to prevent a crash from happening again.

A train hauling garbage derailed back in July, a short distance from the most recent crash, tearing up the tracks while littering the line with tons of debris.

The crash was Metro-North's first fatal crash in its 30-year history.



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Be Healthy

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Hours that Bronxites each spend on holiday shopping and partying

Vital Stats

How to Have a Happy Holiday

By the Norwood News

'Tis the season of giving, holiday parties and above all, spending time with the family. And if the holidays often test your patience, Montefiore Medical Center shares the following tips to ensure the joy of the season isn't marred by common feelings of stress, guilt and frustration.

It's the Most Stressful Time of the Year

Burning the candle at both ends: Between work and home commitments, buying gifts for the family and party planning, sometimes it appears there aren't enough hours in the day. Doing everything can lead to fatigue, moodiness and loss of productivity. Try breaking the to-

do list into manageable bites to help create a sense of relief and accomplishment when items get checked off the list. Also, delegating is important when time is of the essence — don't be afraid to ask for help.

Saying "no" is the way to go: Constantly adding more to the to-do list can easily lead you to feel overwhelmed. "It's simply not feasible to say 'yes' to every request," said Simon Rego, Psy.D., director of psychology training at Montefiore Medical Center. "You have to learn how to say, and mean, 'no.'" Sometimes saying 'yes' to everything seems like the easier option, but it's important that people don't stretch themselves too thin. "Saying 'yes' all the time can make you feel resentful," Rego said. "Don't let people take ad-

vantage of your generous nature, make a to-do list and stick to it. No extras."

Eater's Remorse

Holidays don't have to be about overindulgence: At family gatherings, friends' parties and work outings, we often disregard the rulebook and treat ourselves more than usual. But calories still matter during the holidays! Making smart choices can help you avoid that period of regret after you've overindulged on holiday cookies. Some tips for controlling consumption during the festivities include:

Hydrating and eating a healthy snack before leaving home helps limit how many high-calorie holiday foods you'll eat.

Scope out food options before diving in. Scan the buffet table first and then choose wisely.

Use a smaller plate for portion control.

Rock Solid Resolutions

Every year people make unrealistic New Year's resolutions that are difficult to maintain. The trick is to keep it simple, achievable and meaningful. "Some people turn away from making resolutions out of frustration, but if you make goals that are realistic and make you feel good about yourself, you're more likely to maintain

them," Dr. Rego said. Here are a few examples of practical, feel-good resolutions:

Try a new activity: Rather than committing to working out every day this year, why not take up a new sport, sign up for dance classes or go rock climbing? Exploring new activities can introduce you to something fun that will keep you physically fit and also be enjoyable.

Take simple steps when it comes to your health: Instead of "committing" to losing 20 pounds this year, take baby steps to improving your overall well-being. The first of the year is a good time to check in with your doctor for an annual physical. Take ownership over your cholesterol levels, blood pressure, and other key measures so you can maintain optimum health.

Avoid fad diets: Forget the latest dieting craze to last a lifetime. Instead, start tracking your food consumption and think about what you eat and how you feel before doing so. Being more mindful of what you're eating and the role your emotions and environment play in food choices can make a big difference. Other simple but effective ways to boost weight loss include increasing your water intake, wearing a pedometer, and taking the stairs instead of the elevator. Little changes add up over time.

Neighborhood Notes

Computers at the Oval

Computer access is now available at the newly-opened Williamsbridge Oval Computer Resource Center. Current schedule (subject to change) runs through Dec. 24. Adults can attend weekdays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. On weekdays, youth ages 6 to 13 can attend from 3 to 6 p.m., and teens ages 14 to 17, from 6 to 7 p.m., and Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m. Call to confirm. For more information, call (718) 543-8672.

Breast Cancer Support Group

Jacobi Medical Center; 1400 Pelham Pkwy. So. and SHARE (self-help for women with breast or ovarian cancer) are hosting a support group for women recently diagnosed with breast cancer, are undergoing treatment, and those who have completed treatment, Dec. 20 from 1 to 2 p.m. For more information, call (718) 918-4318 or (866) 891-2392.

BRIO Awards Application Workshop

An application workshop for The Bronx Council on the Arts' BRIO (Bronx Recognizes Its Own) awards will be held Dec. 12 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Bronx Council on the Arts at Westchester Square, 2700 E. Tremont Ave. Application deadline is Jan. 31, 2014. For more information, call (718) 931-9500 ext. 35.

Apply to Your Community Board

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. invites Bronx residents to join their local community board. Applications are available at your local board office or at Diaz's Community Board office and

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The New York Botanical/Zoological Photographic Society holds bi-weekly photo workshops for avid photographers two times a month on Saturdays at 9:45 a.m. at the Fordham Preparatory School (room 243) on the Fordham University Campus through June. For more information, call (718) 543-3115.

Lehman Art & Design Workshops

Lehman College's Art Gallery, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., offers an after-school art & design program for middle and high school students. For more information, call (718) 960-8732.

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Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

EDITOR'S PICK

Hot Chocolate and Goodies

Bronx Parks invites the public to the following free holiday events with tree lighting ceremonies, caroling, cookies, and raffles. Details are subject to change in case of inclement weather.

Dec. 14, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. - **Shoelace Park**, 211th Street and the Bronx River Greenway. Hot chocolate will be served.

Dec. 18, 3 p.m. - **Peace Plaza in Pelham Parkway**, Esplanade and Williamsbridge Road. Candy and goodie bags for the kids.

Dec. 19, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. - **Poe Park**, Grand Concourse and East 192nd Street. Hot chocolate and a raffle.

Onstage

■ The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents **Hansel and Gretel**, performed by the NY Opera Forum, Dec. 14 at 2:30 p.m.; and **Holiday Strings Concert**, performed by the Bronx Symphony Orchestra, Dec. 21 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

■ Lehman College's Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **Parranda Navideña**, featuring a variety of

entertainers performing jibaro, Dec. 14 at 8 p.m. (tickets are \$25 to \$45; \$10/age 12 and under). For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

■ The Bronx Museum of Art, 1040 Grand Concourse (165th Street), hosts a free **Holiday Party** with food and drink, and featuring Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana: Navidad Flamenca, Dec. 13 from 6 to 8 p.m., in the lower lobby. For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

■ Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture, 450 Grand Concourse, presents **La Muela del Rey Farfán (The Toothache of King Farfán)**,

a Spanish operetta for children, in the main theatre, Dec. 14 at 3 p.m., which tells the story of the lessons learned by a stubborn king, using over 40 puppets, singers and musicians. For more information, call (718) 518-6700.

■ The Woodlawn Conservancy presents **The Bronx Opera Company**, featuring music from arias to Broadway favorites, free, (at the Woolworth Chapel), Dec. 22 at 2 p.m. Enter at the Jerome Avenue entrance. For more information, call (718) 920-1469.

Events

■ Council member Olive Koppell invites the public to a **ribbon cutting ceremony** for the installation of lighting at the World War I memorial (officially known as the Bronx Victory Memorial) on Mosholu Parkway between Marion and Hull avenues, Dec. 16 at noon. The monument honors local servicemen who fought and died during WWI. The light is to generate notice and respect for the sculpture and to prevent it from being tagged with graffiti. A fence was erected around the monument for increased protection.

■ Visitation School, 160 Van Cortlandt Pk. So., presents its **Annual Holiday Bazaar**, Dec. 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the auditorium.

Proceeds benefit grades K-8 at the school. Vendor spaces are available. For more information, call (718) 543-2250.

■ The Woodlawn Conservancy presents **Full Moon Tour**, Dec. 17 at 7 p.m., tour of grounds (bring flashlight; \$15; discount for members/seniors/students). Meet at the Jerome Avenue entrance. For more information, call (718) 920-1469.

■ Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Arts Project: Boughs and Branches for Winter**, to make a scented sachet decoration, Dec. 14 and 15; and **Glittery Gift Candles**, to decorate a candlestick to make a spectacular candle, Dec. 21 and 22; both at the WH House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Grounds admission is free Saturdays until noon all year, and free until noon Tuesdays in December. Glyndor Gallery **tours** take place Tuesdays and Saturdays at 2 p.m.; garden **walks** are held Tuesdays and Saturdays at 11 a.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m., from the Perkins Visitor Center. For more information and a schedule of events, call (718) 549-3200.

Holiday Events

■ Marine Corps Toys for Tots, together with several local politicians, invite the public to

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Parranda Navideña

CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAY SEASON, JÍBARO STYLE!

Featuring Lily y su Gran Trio, Odilio Gonzalez "El Jibarito de Lares," José Miguel Class "El Gallito de Manatí," 5 en Plena, and Conjunto Ritmo Tropical & MORE

Saturday, December 14th, 2013 - 8PM

Tickets- \$45, \$40, \$25 | Children 12 and under, \$10 any seat



The Moscow Classical Ballet
IN A TIMELESS FAMILY HOLIDAY CLASSIC
The Nutcracker
Sunday, December 15th, 2013 - 6PM
Tickets- \$45, \$40, \$25 | Children 12 and under, \$10 any seat



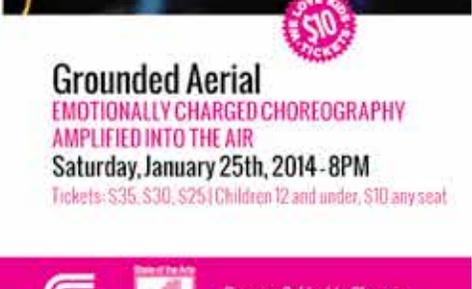
The O'Jays (featuring original group members Eddie Levert and Walter Williams)
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Saturday, January 11th, 2014 - 8PM
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Sal Abbatiello presents ROCK & ROLL IS HERE TO STAY
Featuring Fred Parris & The 5 Satins, The Belmonts, former lead singer of the Shirelles, Shirley Alston Reeves, Larry Chance & The Earls, Chiffons, and Danny & The Juniors.
Saturday, January 18th, 2014 - 8PM Tickets- \$50, \$45, \$35



Grounded Aerial
EMOTIONALLY CHARGED CHOREOGRAPHY AMPLIFIED INTO THE AIR
Saturday, January 25th, 2014 - 8PM
Tickets- \$35, \$30, \$25 | Children 12 and under, \$10 any seat



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Program Subject to Change. Box Office Service Fees Apply

a free **Christmas in the Bronx**, Dec. 16 at 4 p.m., at IS 216 Rafael Hernandez School in the auditorium, 977 Fox St. (between 163rd Street and Westchester Avenue). Free toys and giveaways will be given to the first 1,000 kids between 1 and 9 years (child must be present). For more information, call (718) 991-3161.

■ The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents **A Christmas Carol**, theatre show for ages 3 to 12, Dec. 21 at 2 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

■ Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, 895 Shore Road, Pelham Bay Park, presents the following holiday events: Dec. 14 and 15 - **Free Bronx Arts Ensemble Holiday Concert**, 1 and 3 p.m. (tickets are required; (718) 601-7399). Dec. 14 - **Holiday Candlelight Tours and Victorian Carolers**, 6 to 8 p.m., offering light holiday fare (reservations required; (718) 885-1461; \$12/adults; \$10/seniors/students/members). Dec. 21 - **Birding at Bartow**, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., a bird walk (registration requested; (718) 885-1461; \$10; \$8/seniors/students/members).

■ Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, 3450 DeKalb Ave., presents **Winter Holiday Party**, Dec. 18. For more information, call the senior department at (718) 882-4000.

■ The NY Botanical Garden presents its **Holiday Train Show**, model trains traversing replicas of NY landmarks created from plant materials, through Jan. 12, in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory. **Bar Car Nights** for adults are offered Dec. 14, 20 and 21 from 7 to 10 p.m., featuring a complimentary cocktail, beverages sold at the cash bar, and dinner available for purchase at the limited-run Holiday Dining Pavilion: Streets of NY. Ice carvers will transform giant blocks of ice into works of art outside in the Conservatory Courtyard, and a professional photographer will take pictures to sell or to download. Advance tickets are recommended and include one complimentary cocktail (\$30/non members; \$20/members (ages 21+), available at www.nybg.org. For more information, call (718) 817-8658.

■ Bronx Council on the Arts presents **Last Minute Holiday Gifts**, a free gift-making workshop, at the Huntington Free Library, 9 Westchester Square, Dec. 21 from 12:30 to 3 p.m. For more information, call (718) 931-9500 ext 33 or (718) 829-7770.

Exhibits

■ Poe Park Visitor Center, 2640 Grand Concourse, offers free, **Whimsical Winter Wonder Exhibit**, through Jan. 31, showcasing the works of 16 artists from around the world, including paintings, photos, and sculptures, Tuesdays to Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Also offered are artist workshops: Dec. 14 - How to create a diorama; Dec. 21 - An artist's inspiration; and Dec. 28 - How curators chose the exhibit's theme. For more information, call (718) 365-5516.

■ The NY Botanical Garden presents **Close: A Journey in Scotland**, through March 16, featuring creations of 21 notable contemporary designers and artists working in the Scottish landscape. For more information,

call (718) 817-8700 or visit nybg.org.

■ Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse, 2nd floor North Wing, between 161st and 164th streets, presents free: **Paulo Bruscky: Art is Our Last Hope**, through Feb. 9; and **Tony Feher**; and **Orchard Beach: The Bronx Riviera**, both through Feb. 16. For more information, call (718) 681-6000 ext. 131.

■ The Bronx County Historical Society's Museum of Bronx History at the Valentine-Varian House, 3266 Bainbridge Ave., presents **History Woven Into Cloth**, selections from the Society's textile collection, through April 6. For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

■ The Bronx Council on the Arts presents **Esther Pagan: My Colors of Cancer and In the Headlines: Latino New Yorkers 1980-2001**, at Hostos College's Longwood Art Gallery, 450 Grand Concourse (at 149th Street), through Dec. 20. For more information, call (718) 931-9500 ext. 33 or (718) 518-6728.

■ Lehman College Art Gallery, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., W., presents **Morphology of the Print**, through Jan. 8, which includes works that push the boundaries of printmaking. Student workshops will be available including art and architecture. For more information and a detailed schedule, call (718) 960-8731/2.

Library Events

■ The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents programs for adults including **MS Powerpoint 2010 for Beginners**: Dec. 13 at 2 p.m.; **MS Word 2010 for Beginners**: Dec. 19 at 2 p.m.; and **Heritage Arts & Crafts Workshop**: Dec. 20 at 4 p.m. (registration required by phone or in person). Children can enjoy **Preschool Story Time at 11 a.m.**: Dec. 12, 19 and 26; **Toddler Playtime at noon**: Dec. 12 and 19; **Family Time**: Dec. 14 at 11 a.m.; and **Ornament Making**: Dec. 19 at 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

■ The Mosholu Library, 285 E. 205th St., offers for seniors and adults: **Knitting Circle**: Thursdays at 3 p.m.; **Wii Program**: Tuesdays at 3 p.m.; and **MS Word 2010 Lab**: Dec. 18 at 10:30 a.m. (advance in-person registration required). Children can enjoy **Toddler Story Time at 10:30 a.m.**: (ages 18 to 36 months), Dec. 12 and 19; and **Reading Aloud at 4 p.m.**: (ages 3 to 12), Dec. 16 and 23. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

■ The Jerome Park Library, 118 Eames Place, offers for children ages 5 to 12, at 4 p.m.: **Kids' Active Health**: Dec. 13; **Basic Cooking**: Dec. 16; and **Chess Program**: Dec. 17. For adults: **Computer Basics at noon**: Dec. 12, 17 and 19; and **Health Care Information and Enrollment Session**: Dec. 19 at noon. For teens/young adults: **Cooking**: (ages 13 to 18), Dec. 12 and 19 at 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS!

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