

NORWOOD NEWS

State Working on
Health Care
Exchange

page 4

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PAINTING FOR PRIDE (AND TRASH)



Photo by Adi Talwar

TRISTAN WALKER, 7, Cindy Joyette, 9, and Rodney Lopez, 8 (left to right), go to work painting garbage bins in Williamsbridge Oval Park last Saturday, part of a beautification project designed to get park goers to use the bins rather than tossing their trash on park grounds. (See page 6.)

Unemployed in the Bronx: The Hunt for Work

By JEANMARIE EVELLY

Editor's Note: This is the second story in a series exploring the issue of rampant unemployment in the Bronx.

The line of people waiting outside the Bronx Educational Opportunity Center last Wednesday ran the length of the entire building, snaked down a short flight of concrete steps and into the parking lot. Those queued up stood fidgeting in the mild April sun, many of them dressed in their best outfits, their shoes polished and their hair combed.

The center was hosting a job fair, and everyone on line was there with the same goal: to find work, to set themselves apart from the other hundreds of applicants who were waiting alongside them.

"I didn't think the line would be this long," said Osvaldo Martinez, sharply dressed in a navy blue suit and tie. He'd lost his security job three months ago, he said, and since then he's been making the rounds at job fairs, following leads on the advice of friends, sending out resumes.

"I haven't gotten called back yet," he said.

Osvaldo is one of approximately 75,000 Bronx residents who are unemployed, according to the

latest statistics from the State Department of Labor — what the government calls "actively looking" for work.

The borough's unemployment rate in March, at 13.6 percent, dropped slightly from 14.1 percent in February, when it hit its highest peak in nearly two decades. But the Bronx continues to carry the highest unemployment rate of all the counties in New York State, a fact that job seekers here are acutely aware of.

"The job market in the Bronx is horrible," said 40-year-old Chaunda Quinones. She's been out of work since the fall, when she quit her job at a messenger center in the hopes of finding something with better pay.

"It was \$7.25 an hour," she said. "After my MetroCard, I couldn't pay my bills,"

But the job hunt has been harder than Quinones expected. She took a home health aide certification program, but said the pay in that field is still too low to get by. She's scoured job postings on Craigslist and applied for retail positions at stores like Target and TJ Maxx. Employers say they'll be in touch, Quinones said, but she never hears back.

"When you do find work, it's minimum wage, or you need a master's degree just to wash the floors," she said.

(continued on p. 10)

It's Official: MS 80 To Close This Summer

By ALEX KRATZ

Just two days after MS 80 introduced its third principal in two months, the Department of Education approved a plan that will change the face of Norwood's oldest and largest middle school forever.

Under a new school improvement model called "turnaround," MS 80 will close at the end of the school year and open under a new name with new faculty in the fall. Teachers at the school can either re-apply for their current jobs or look for work elsewhere. Students are guaranteed a spot in the new replacement school, but have the option to enroll in another middle school.

The turnaround plan was approved at a meeting of the DOE's decision-making body, the Panel for Education Policy, last Thursday evening. MS 80 is among 10 Bronx schools and 24 citywide that will be closing under the turnaround model. Earlier this year, the panel approved proposals to close 18 other city schools.

The DOE says MS 80 was chosen for turnaround because of sagging state test scores, low attendance and a chance to maintain extra state

(continued on p. 10)

Walton Softball Steps Up Its Game

By DESTINY DEJESUS

The Walton High School Campus girls softball team dominated its B Division opponents last year. This year, after a jump up to the A Division, the Wildcats are working overtime to keep up with the higher level of competition.

"We asked to be moved up, no one offered it," said Coach Tom Hall "When you play in the A Division you get more opportunities to play better teams, and that's what the girls need."

Back in 2004-2005, Walton was under a different coach and was known as one of the best teams in city playing in the top division. When the coach left, the team struggled and was moved down to B Division.

(continued on p. 8)



Photo by Adi Talwar

WITH A MOVE up in divisions, the Walton softball team is sticking together against tougher competition.

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In The Public Interest

By JEANMARIE EVELLY

City Council Passes Living Wage Bill, With Revisions

After nearly two years of campaigning and many significant revisions, the City Council on Monday passed a version of the controversial Living Wage bill, which was introduced by two Bronx council members and born out of a 2009 fight over wages at a shopping mall proposed to fill the Kingsbridge Armory.

The bill, which Mayor Bloomberg has vowed to veto, would require some developers that receive significant taxpayer subsidies to pay workers \$10 an hour with benefits, or \$11.50 without.

“The ‘Fair Wages for New Yorkers’ Act will guarantee that, when major developers take city dollars they will do right by their employees and taxpayers,” said Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., who helped lead the campaign for the bill’s passage. “This legislation will fundamentally improve the way business is conducted here.”

Diaz and other city leaders hailed the bill as “historic,” though its scope was greatly narrowed from its original version. Council Speaker Christine Quinn — planning to run for mayor in 2013 — revised the bill to appease its critics, namely the business community, which argues it will stifle development and kill jobs.

In the amended version that passed, the higher wage mandate applies only to workers directly employed by developer receiving subsidies, but not to workers employed by tenants within those developments. So building maintenance workers at a publicly subsidized mall, for example, might be entitled to the higher wages, but retail employees at stores within that mall would not qualify.

The shopping mall plan for the Armory was rejected by the City Council in 2009 because the developer, Related Companies, would not agree to pay workers employed there a living wage, despite receiving millions in tax breaks and public subsidies.

Bronx Council Members Oliver Koppell and Annabel Palm, who sponsored the original bill, also made a number of changes to weaken the legislation in order to get it passed. The criteria for the projects that would have to comply was narrowed to developments receiving tax breaks of \$1 million or more (up from the originally proposed \$100,000), and excluded manufacturing companies, commercial tenants in affordable housing projects, and businesses earning less than \$5 million in revenue.

In spite of these concessions, Mayor Bloomberg says he’ll veto the bill.

“If you want to encourage a business to open in a particular location that no one has been willing to invest in for decades, you cannot tell them that they have to pay a higher minimum wage than the competitor across the street. They won’t do it. And those jobs will be lost, and so will the tax revenues they would have generated,” he said in a statement last week.

Quinn called Bloomberg’s opposition “disappointing,” but said the bill has enough council member votes to override his veto.

“This year alone, city benefits to businesses and developers will cost taxpayers nearly \$250 million,” Quinn said in a press release last week. “All we are trying to do is ensure that taxpayer investment is going to subsidize jobs that pay a reasonable wage.”

Bloomberg has threatened a lawsuit if his veto is overridden.

Morris Park Realtor to Challenge Naomi Rivera

Mark Gjonaj, who owns a real estate business in Morris Park, announced recently that he plans to run for the Bronx 80th Assembly District, the seat currently held by Assemblywoman Naomi Rivera, which includes Mosholou Parkway, Pelham Gardens, Pelham Parkway, Allerton and Morris Park.

“In life, we have choices,” Gjonaj said in a phone interview. “We either accept things for the way they are, or we get involved and make the changes that we feel are necessary.”

Gjonaj, who is Albanian, was born at the now-defunct Fordham Hospital and raised in the Belmont area, on Arthur Avenue, and in Pelham Parkway. The father of two sons, aged 10 and 12, he now lives on City Island (during redistricting years, state election law allows candidates to run for office in districts outside the one in which they reside, as long as it’s within the same county).

But Gjonaj’s real estate business is based in Morris Park, and he says he has strong ties to the communities that make up the 80th Assembly District.

“I know and I’ve heard and I’ve seen the needs of this community,” he said. “I had a career. I wasn’t looking for a job or salary, but I was compelled to do this. I feel this community has not been properly represented in Albany.”

T vying for state office have until July to collect signatures to get their names on the primary ballot in September/ Gjonaj would be up against Assemblywoman Naomi Rivera, who was elected in 2004.

She is the daughter of Assemblyman Jose Rivera, and sister to City Council Member Joel Rivera.

“I look forward to a vigorous re-election and to putting forward my record of accomplishments on behalf of the people of the 80th Assembly District,” Rivera said in a statement. “For now, there is a lot to do in Albany before the end of this legislative session and my focus is on the work at hand. On the heels of passing a difficult state budget on time, my concentration remains in doing the people’s work and passing important pieces of legislation.”

Rivera had a challenger in the last election in 2010, when former Obama operative Robert Giuffre, then 27, ran against her and lost.

Sen. Gustavo Rivera Has a Challenger

Bronx State Senator Gustavo Rivera, who represents the Bronx’s 33rd District, has what appears to be his first challenger in Manny Tavarez, whose potential candidacy was first reported by Liz Benjamin on her State of Politics blog.

Tavarez worked on District Leader and Bronx Democratic Party loyalist Hector Ramirez’s failed bid to unseat Assemblyman Nelson Castro two years ago. Bronx Democratic Party Chairman Carl Heastie backed Ramirez at the time, but told Benjamin he is firmly in Rivera’s corner this time around.

Rivera was elected in 2010, after defeating former State Sen. Pedro Espada in a heated primary contest. Espada is now facing federal corruption charges in court.

Last week, Rivera became the first Bronx elected official to officially announce his support for anyone in the newly-drawn Congressional district represented by longtime incumbent Charles Rangel. Rivera is backing fellow state senator Adriano Espaillat, who represents upper Manhattan and a chunk of Riverdale, and is one of three Democrats challenging Rangel.

Public and Community Meetings

- **COMMUNITY BOARD 7’s general board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 15 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at St. James Recreation Center, located at 2530 Jerome Avenue.**
- **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 (unless otherwise noted): Parks and Recreation — Thursday, May 3; Public Safety — Friday, May 4 at Mosholu-Montefiore Community Center, 3450 DeKalb Ave.; Health and Hospitals— Monday, May 7 at the Mosholu Branch Library, 285 E. 205 St.; Economic Development — Tuesday, May 8; Sanitation/Environment — Thursday, May 10; Youth Services — Monday, May 14 ; Senior Services —Wednesday, May 16 at 2 p.m. at the Tracey Towers Senior Room, 40 W. Mosholu Parkway North. For more information about CB7 meetings and events, call (718) 933-5650 or go online to bronxcb7.info.**
- **THE BRONX WEEK PARADE AND FOOD FESTIVAL will be held on Sunday, May 20 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Mosholu Parkway. For more Bronx Week events and highlights, see page 12.**



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Seven Killed in Bronx Crash



Photo by David Greene

A CAR CARRYING seven members of the same family plunged off the Bronx River Parkway, landing in the Bronx Zoo. There were no survivors.

By **DAVID GREENE**

In one of the more horrific crashes in recent memory, seven family members were killed on Sunday, April 29 when their minivan plunged 50 feet from the overpass of the Bronx River Parkway and landed in an unused portion of the Bronx Zoo.

"I've been in the fire department for 30 years. Sometimes you come upon events that are horrific," FDNY Deputy Chief Ronald Werner told reporters. "This was one of them."

The victims were identified as driver Maria Gonzalez, 45; her sister Maria Nunez, 39, their parents, Ana Julia Martinez, 81 and Jacob Nunez, 85, and three children, Jocelyn Gonzalez, 10, Niely

Rosario, and Marly Rosario, 3.

A shaken Juan Gonzalez walked past reporters and cameramen as he returned to his Soundview home after learning the heart-wrenching news.

"Why am I still here? I don't want to live anymore," the grief-stricken father and widower said.

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., said he plans to investigate road conditions on the Bronx River Parkway. A similar accident occurred on the same stretch of highway last year; both passengers in that incident survived.

Those wishing to donate funds to the surviving family members can send checks to: Juan D. Gonzalez, c/o Chase Bank, 1265 Castle Hill Avenue, Bronx, NY, 10462.

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Be Healthy!

200,555

The number of Bronx residents who have no health insurance, according to U.S. Census data.

Vital Stats

Cuomo: Health Exchange Will Lower Insurance Costs

By JEANMARIE EVELLY

In a move to implement President Obama's health care reform here in New York, Gov. Andrew Cuomo ordered the establishment of a State Health Care Exchange last month, an online marketplace where individuals and small businesses can buy health insurance plans at prices much lower than current costs.

The exchange is in compliance with Obama's Affordable Care Act, which, among other provisions, seeks to greatly reduce the number of uninsured Americans by requiring them to purchase health insurance, and providing subsidies and tax credits to help them pay for it. In New York, there are approximately \$2.7 million people who lack health care coverage. Over 200,000 live in the Bronx, according to Census data.

"The bottom line is that creating this health exchange will lower the cost of health insurance for small businesses, local governments, and individual New Yorkers across the state," Gov. Cuomo said in a statement.

Come 2014, residents will be able to access a website that allows them to review different state-approved insurance plans, compare prices and benefits, and see what tax credits they're eligible for to help offset the costs of their monthly premiums. While anyone would be able to use the exchange, it's geared toward small business owners looking to buy insurance for their employees, or individuals who don't get coverage through their jobs but who make too much to qualify for public plans like Medicaid.

"The sky-high cost of insurance in New York is driving

businesses out of the state and preventing lower income New Yorkers from being able to afford needed coverage," Cuomo said.

The average cost of an insurance plan on the individual market in New York is \$1,200 a month for one person, and \$3,450 a month for a family of four, according to Cuomo's office. Under the exchange, the governor estimates a single person would see their cost drop by 66 percent. Small businesses would see the cost of providing coverage to their employees drop by 22 percent.

Federal health care reform requires that all state have operating Insurance Exchanges by 2014. States have until the end of this year to create their own, or the federal government will take over and set one up for them.

"The federal government does not know the intricacies of New York State's diverse population and regional and economic layout," Bronx State Sen. Ruth Hassell-Thompson said in a statement in November, urging her colleagues to establish the exchange. "It is advantageous for New Yorkers to control the design."

Cuomo was trying to get the exchange set up through legislation, but resorted to signing an executive order in April after Republicans in the State Senate blocked its passage in the budget. The exchange will be financed entirely with federal funds, Cuomo said.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Supreme Court is reviewing the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act, including the provision that requires uninsured individuals buy their own insurance. A decision in that case is expected in June.

'Teddy Bear Hospital' Calms Youngest Patients

On May 5, the pediatric emergency department at Montefiore Medical Center will be crowded with teddy bears nursing broken arms, stuffed dogs getting treated for asthma, and probably a doll or two in need of stitches.

The hospital's 7th annual Teddy Bear Clinic lets young patients play the role of parent, where they can bring their favorite stuffed friends in for a check-up and treatment — an experience that staff says helps ease children's fears about visiting the emergency room.

The day offers a number of safety lessons for young patients as well.

"The idea is to keep you from getting sick, but if you do get sick, we don't want you to be afraid [of the hospital]," said Nicole Hollingsworth, director of patient health education at Montefiore.

The Teddy Bear clinic will be held on Saturday, May 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Montefiore's North Hospital, 600 East 233rd Street, between Bronx River Parkway and White Plains Road. The event is geared for children 12 and under, but visitors of all ages are welcomed.

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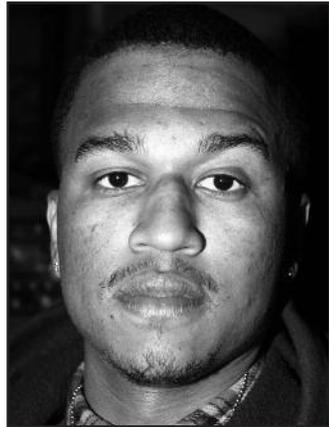
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By DAVID GREENE

We asked what readers think about health care reforms, and the requirement that all Americans have health insurance or pay a fine.



It's complicated. It's hard to buy insurance with no money. Where's the money coming from? They want to cut social security benefits and Medicaid could be broke in a couple of years and become obsolete, and you're going to be fined?
Maria Marquez



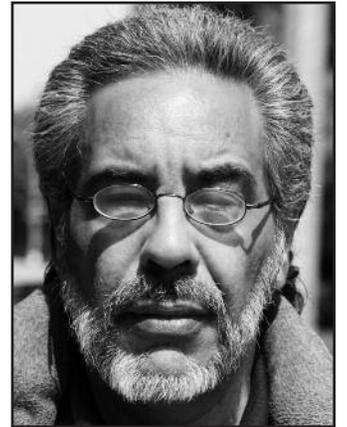
I know that some religious groups didn't want to provide health care that had anything to do with birth control, and the government was going to fine them. In that sense, I do agree. If an organization feels that they disagree with one part of the health care plan and they don't want to offer it to their employees, I think that the employees' health should be the most important factor.
Harold Witty



Part of the premise of Obamacare is if you have a health insurance program you can still have it. That's something that [Congressman] Eliot Engel's office told me. That's good. But I'm not in favor of forcing anyone to buy health insurance. I don't like the idea of forcing anyone to do anything.
Anne Leighton



I can understand people who say that this is an infringement on our freedom, that we should have the right to choose because this is a free country. I think I'm sensitized to both sides. But I do believe that whatever happens, everyone in this country should have access to good quality health care. How we do that, I don't know.
Merian Farrah



I think every living American should have health insurance, but I don't think it should be coupled with Obama-care, where it will cost too much for individual policies. As far as forcing someone to have a policy, I think that is morally wrong. The government cannot force someone to choose what is right for them or not.
Anthony Riveccio

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Painting for Pride (And Trash)



Photo by Adi Talwar

JOSHUA MELENDEZ, 11 (left) and **Jimmy Heald**, 9, paint garbage bins last Saturday.

Tristan Walker, a 7-year-old Norwood resident, doesn't know what he would do if Williamsbridge Oval Park didn't exist.

"It's like the only park I go to," he said.

Tristan, along with more than a dozen other kids and several parents and aunts, were in Oval Park last Saturday doing their best to keep their park clean and beautiful by painting garbage cans with colorful designs and constructing holders for dog waste bags.

Friends of Williamsbridge Oval Park, with support from a Citizens Committee of New York grant, organized the event in hopes of getting people to clean up after themselves and "engendering a sense of pride in the park and the

garbage cans," said Eileen Markey, who was there with her two sons, Hugh and Owen. "This isn't some faceless park, it's the park that people use and love."

The Friends solicited around 20 designs from kids for garbage can decorations. The winning submissions — 9-year-old Jimmy Heald's person throwing away trash and 11-year-old Alexis Davila's butterfly — were replicated onto about a dozen large metal garbage bins. Jimmy and Alexis received art supplies and gift cards.

Markey said they hope to use the other submissions as part of a public art project at the Oval Rec Center, which is scheduled to open by June 21 after several delays.

—ALEX KRATZ

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Revisiting DeKalb Fire Reignites Housing Discussion

By JEANMARIE EVELLY

A decade after an electrical fire at 3569 DeKalb Ave. claimed the life of an 8-year-old Bronx boy, journalists and housing activists are still trying to find answers to the questions posed in the wake of his death — namely, how the city should enforce housing code violations and hold landlords accountable for conditions that put tenants at risk.

That was the topic of a panel discussion held at Manhattan College April 23. The event arose from an investigation into landlord practices and regulations that was published in *City Limits* magazine last month, a series of stories written by former Norwood News editor Jordan Moss, journalist Tom Robbins and a team of students at the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism.

The series focused on wealthy real estate operative Frank Palazzolo, who has been tied to dozens of dilapidated Bronx buildings over the years — including 3569 DeKalb Ave., where young Jashawn Parker was killed in 2002. Moss covered the fire for the Norwood News at the time and was shocked that no one was ever held accountable for the blaze, despite the fact that the building had hundreds of housing code violations. In another of his buildings, a 7-year-old boy suffered brain damage from lead paint.

“Landlords like this somehow never see the inside of a criminal court,” Moss said. “Apartments shouldn’t make people sick, or scared.”

The issue of substandard housing has come up again and again the Bronx, making headlines in recent years with incidents like the Milbank or Ocelet buildings, where developers looking to turn a profit paid too much for properties they couldn’t afford, or didn’t know how, to properly manage.

“It’s pretty easy, if you don’t know what you’re doing, to run a crappy building,” said Gregory Lobo Jost, of the Uni-

versity Neighborhood Housing Program, who spoke at last week’s event.

Harold Shultz, a former official with the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) who now works for the Citizens Housing and Planning Council, said the problem is not with housing laws, but with how they are enforced. Housing Court is so overburdened with cases, he said, that most housing violations are never brought before a judge, and the majority of landlords don’t actually face penalties for breaking the rules.

“You have a system in which the vast bulk of landlords believe, correctly, that there is a very low chance of having to pay a fine, that there really is no one looking over their shoulder making sure they’re doing the right thing,” he said.

The city has tried other tactics in recent years, like HPD’s Alternative Enforcement Program, which cuts through some of the bureaucratic red tape by allowing the agency to go ahead and make emergency repairs on the most distressed buildings, then billing the landlord for the work. But the program only targets the worst property owners, and some housing advocates say there needs to be a more comprehensive way to monitor the rest.

“Is there a way that the city can have more control?” asked Kerri White, a tenant organizer with the Urban Home-steading Assistance Board (UHAB).

One idea is to require landlords be licensed before they’re able to purchase new properties, which White says could help the city track which owners are buying up distressed buildings, or who has a bad track record when it comes to repairing violations.

Bronx property owner Sandra Erickson was the one member of the panel representing the landlord’s perspective. While bad landlords do exist, she told the crowd, the majority of property owners maintain their buildings, and any reforms to the city’s housing laws should

keep them in mind.

“We do provide a very important service in the city of New York,” she said. “I

think it’s important that you don’t hurt the good landlords, overly burdening the ones that are doing the right thing.”

Bronx Stars Recognized By Mind-Builders



Photo by Mel Wright

AT THE AWARDS presentation, (L-R) Gilbert Glenn Brown, Alimi Ballard, Council Member Larry Seabrook, Madaha Kinsey-Lamb, Mind-Builders executive director; Egeria Bennett, Mind-Builders chair; Woodie King, chair, Coalition of Theatres of Color.

By DESTINY DEJESUS

Alimi Ballard, has co-starred in Hollywood’s hit television show “Numb3rs” and the hit movie “Fast Five,” but he got his inspiration to act as a teen in the Bronx at Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center. At age 16, with his childhood friend Gilbert Glenn Brown, he toured New York City high schools, elementary schools, libraries and local theaters performing in plays with positive themes.

On April 16, Mind-Builders and the Coalition of Theatres of Color (CTC) saluted Ballard and Gilbert Glenn Brown at the Pregones Theatre in the Bronx as “Outstanding Alumnus of Mind-Builders” for their work in creating positive images for African American youth.

“It was 1989 and crack was king. Mind-Builders was the safest environment that I knew outside of my home,” Ballard said. “Mind-Builder’s changed my life completely.”

In addition to his work on “Numb3rs” and in “Fast Five,” Ballard has a recurring role on television’s “NCIS” and in the Marvel animated series and video

game “Super Hero Squad.”

Actor/playwright Brown, is the director of Mind-Builders’ youth theater company Positive Youth Troupe. “I have a lifelong connection to Mind-Builders,” said Brown. “I tell the young people in PYT that there are a lot of avenues that we can walk down. It can’t be all about you. It has to be about service. Somebody is helping you.”

Brown’s work in theatre has earned him three NAACP Theatre Award nominations and a Drama Critic Award. He’s appeared as Martin Luther King Jr. in Negro Ensemble Company’s production of “Martin: An American Musical” and in several television shows.

The awards program included a performance by the Positive Youth Troupe and an official proclamation from Council Member Larry Seabrook and Council Member Oliver Koppell.

“Alimi Ballard and Gilbert Glenn Brown are role models to the youth in the Bronx, especially young people in Mind-Builders,” said Madaha Kinsey-Lamb, executive director and founder of Mind-Builders.

‘Vaseline’ Burglar Busted

By MARCOS SIERRA

Serial Bronx burglar Luis Gonzalez, also known as the “Vaseline Bandit,” has been indicted by a grand jury on a litany of charges, including burglary in the second degree.

Police say they were able to identify Gonzalez, of 231 Echo Place, through DNA left on a Gatorade and Malta bottle he left behind at separate burglaries. He was indicted on 35 felony and misdemeanor counts for offenses that occurred between May 2011 and February 2012.

Gonzalez, who struggled with a devastating \$300 dollar-a-day heroin addiction, broke the locks to gain entry into six apartments and unsuccessfully attempted to break into a seventh, according to court documents. Cops dubbed him the “Vaseline Bandit,” because they believe he used the substance to block up peep holes, according to the New York Daily News.

In each successful break-in the defendant allegedly ransacked the bedrooms before fleeing with cash, jewelry, and elec-

tronic equipment worth tens of thousands of dollars. Investigations are continuing into the suspect’s involvement in additional burglaries in the Bronx and Manhattan.

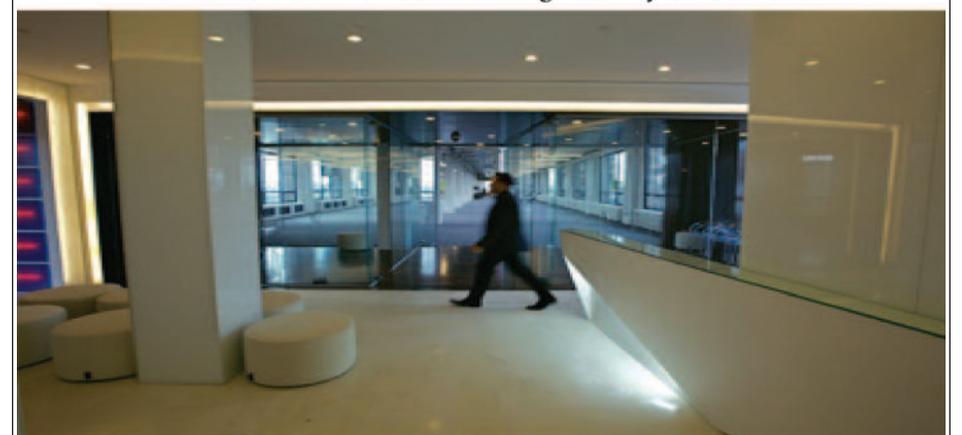
Gonzalez has more or less admitted to his involvement in the burglary spree by identifying himself in photos to police, according to the criminal complaint.

The most serious charge, Burglary in the 2nd degree, of which Gonzalez racked up six counts, is a Class C felony, punishable by a maximum sentence of up to 15 years imprisonment. He is currently on parole until 2014, for a 2000 break-in in Harlem.

The crime spree began in the Melrose section of the Bronx, on May 24, at an apartment building on Walton Avenue, followed by subsequent burglaries in Norwood between August and September. Two more apartments in the Mount Eden area were also burglarized in January.

Gonzalez is being held in lieu of bail in the amount of \$500,000 cash, or \$1 million dollar bond. His arraignment is scheduled for June 4, 2012.

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Walton Softball Steps Up Its Game

(continued from p. 1)

But, under Hall's guidance, the team made the playoffs the past two years in a row and this year the team is back in A Division, playing against extreme competition. In its first year back in A ball, Walton has had mixed results. After a tough 14-13 loss to High School for Information and Network Technology, the Wildcats sat in fourth place in the Bronx A Division going into a showdown with Clinton on Wednesday.

To prepare for the stretch run of the season, the Wildcats spent spring break honing their skills against the Maroons, from Auburn High School near Syracuse. Public School Athletic League softball supervisor, Sylvia Makresia, was contacted by the Auburn team who wanted to play a team in the city. Since the Wildcats have their own field, they gladly accepted the offer. Though the game was considered a scrimmage, the Wildcats used the game to measure itself against the state toughest competition. Auburn came into the game undefeated in its own league.

Makresia said it was to watch the girls play against such a disciplined team. "This is what softball in New York City should look like," said Makresia. "The girls have to be pushed."

At the game, parents from the Auburn team were energized, showing team spirit and expressed how

glad they were to be in the city on such a beautiful day.

In an ironic twist, Hall was born and raised in upstate Utica, while Auburn's coach Bob Lee was raised in Brooklyn.

Hall and fellow Coach Jimmy McCormack said that the girls were eager to play an unfamiliar team.

"We're trying to build a solid program," Hall said. "When you play the best, the girls really learn a lot".

Despite the fact that the Wildcats lost, 14-4, the girls showed their dedication by putting in maximum effort during each inning. The Wildcats stayed positive despite the deficit, shouting chants in Spanish throughout the game and supporting each other. They huddled up during breaks and hustled on offense and defense.

At the end of the game, both teams vigorously slapped hands with another and coaches Hall and McCormack ran to the girls to give them words of wisdom and told them they planned to take them out to eat after the game.

Claritza Caceres, the star senior for the Wildcats, was thankful for competition. "When you play with a tough team, all you can think is to do better."

During next year's spring break, Hall said the team hopes to travel to Florida as well as Auburn to play the Maroons in their home territory.



Photo by Adi Talwar

WALTON TOOK its swing against the High School for Information and Network Technology on Monday, but lost 14-13.

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Opinion.

We love, welcome and encourage letters to the editor and opinion articles from readers. Write to: Editor, Norwood News, 3400 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467. Fax: (718) 324-2917; or e-mail: norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org.

Letters

Many Involved in Merchants Association Building

In the April 19-May 2, 2012 issue of the Norwood News, your Business Beat section did a fair job highlighting some of the great things happening with merchant associations in the northwest Bronx, specifically along Kingsbridge Road (Grand Concourse west to Sedgwick Avenue), and along 204th Street and Bainbridge Avenue (Van Cortland Avenue south to Webster Avenue).

A great deal of momentum exists as these two merchant corridors position themselves to improve the economic standing of their respective neighborhoods. I want to take this opportunity to recognize all of the people, organizations and elected officials who are putting in the hard work and resources to make it happen.

The Kingsbridge Road Merchants

Association (KBMA), led by President Nancy Fernandez of Divino Pharmacy, Vice President Christian Ramos of Blu Chus Shoe Store, Treasurer Carlos Rodriguez of Flowers by Carlos, and Secretary Carmen Valdez of Twin Brothers Day Care, is becoming an organized voice around the various issues facing the community along Kingsbridge Road.

Further north, the 204th Street and Bainbridge Avenue Merchants Association (204th & BAMA), which has existed since 1956, is also again coming together for the economic benefit of the Norwood neighborhood it serves. The 204th&BAMA leadership includes President, Eli Garcia, of the Beso Lounge, long term past President and current Vice President, Alan Freilich, of Freilich Jewelers, former Vice President and current Treasurer Bill Curran, of McKeon and Son Funeral Home, and Secretary Hamlet Aquino, of Metro PCS.

Both merchant associations have been

the beneficiaries of support from several key partners who have provided resources in the form of funding, technical assistance, marketing, and promotional opportunities. The Mosholu Preservation Corporation (MPC), a community support affiliate of Montefiore Medical Center (and publisher of the Norwood News), with support from the Avenue NYC Program of the Department of Small Business Services, which is led by Commissioner Rob Walsh, has for the past two years provided significant resources to the organizing efforts in both areas. Similarly, MPC has for many years worked with City Council Member Oliver Koppell, who has provided resources to this small business community during difficult economic times.

Both merchant corridors have received guidance and assistance with forging relationships and creating neighborhood based programming from Community

Board 7 District Manager Fernando Tirado (Bronx CB7), as well as direct grant support for improvements to small businesses within each merchants association from the Hispanic Serving Institutions Assisting Communities (HSIAC) Program of Lehman College. Until the grant ended in 2011, the HSIAC Program, federally-funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and led by Dr. Ellie Lundeen, provided thousands of dollars in grant funding for business improvements to members of both associations.

I want to thank the Norwood News for its coverage, but I would be remiss not to recognize the leadership and other key partners who have helped to re-energize these two important northwest Bronx merchant corridors.

Thank you.

Michael Lambert,
Deputy Director
Mosholu Preservation Corporation

It's Official: MS 80 To Close This Summer

(continued from p. 1)

funding. Meanwhile parents, teachers and students are scrambling just to figure out what's going on.

Simply determining who is running the school on a weekly basis represents a challenge.

"We did not get to say thank you and farewell to the original principal, Ms. Rivera, then we get an interim principal, now a permanent one," said MS 80 parent Annette Melendez in an e-mail. "The kids are confused by all the changes, especially now when state testing is going on."

Last week, a meet-and-greet was held for new principal Emmanuel Polanco who became the third principal at the school in less than two months. At the beginning of March, before the turnaround plan was approved, the DOE replaced longtime principal, Lovey Mazique-Rivera, with Lauren Reiss, who was previously at the helm of another school that was closed due to poor performance.

Polanco, a Bronx resident who worked as an assistant principal at Urban Assembly Bronx Studio School for Writers and Artists before taking the job at MS 80, will stick around and become the leader of the new school that replaces MS 80, according to the DOE.

Unlike other schools slated for turnaround, the MS 80 community organized very little opposition to the proposal.

Though the Mosholu Parkway School, as it's officially known, has been around since 1924 and boasts famous alumni, including fashion mavens Ralph Lauren and Calvin Klein, as well as actor/director Penny Marshall, the drumbeat to save MS 80 was little more than soft rain drops on the sidewalk.

At a DOE hearing on April 16, less than 50 people showed up and only about

a dozen testified. Two weeks earlier, a planned protest fizzled.

It may not have mattered anyway. At a DOE hearing at the Bronx's Herbert H. Lehman High School, some 500 people showed and many of them testified against the school's inclusion in the turnaround program. More than 1,500 people signed a petition opposing the school's closure. And at the panel meeting last week, about 10 teachers and someone dressed up as the Lehman Lion mascot attended and voiced their opposition.

In the end, Lehman suffered the same fate as MS 80.

In the coming weeks, a hiring committee will be created that will include Polanco, two representatives appointed by the DOE and two representatives from the teachers union, the United Federation of Teachers (UFT). That committee will come up with a set of criteria for new faculty at the new school and then go about interviewing and hiring new teachers. According to turnaround guidelines, only 50 percent of the old faculty can be rehired.

It was the failure of the DOE and the UFT to come to an agreement that led MS 80 to the point of closure.

Going into the year, MS 80 was trying to improve its test scores, which were among the bottom five percent in the state, through an improvement model called re-start, which paired the school with an Educational Partnership Organization (EPO) called the Abyssinian Development Corporation and infused it with extra state money for additional programming.

But the extra funding was suspended when the UFT and DOE could not come to an agreement on teacher evaluations by

the end of 2011. The DOE says putting MS 80 into the turnaround program was the only way for the school to continue receiving the state funding, which amounted to about \$800,000 a year for three years.

Parents and teachers say the school wasn't given enough of a chance to improve before the DOE took the step of placing MS 80 into the turnaround program and closing down a school that first opened nearly nine decades ago.

Unemployed in the Bronx: The Hunt for Work

(continued from p. 1)

Monique Browne, who was laid off from her last job two years ago, says she's had a similar experience, filling out applications and contacting temp agencies, but to no avail. She lives with her mother in the Bronx, who she has come to rely on to help out with bills and expenses.

"Now I have nothing to contribute," she said. "Since my unemployment ran out, I'm just skimming off of her."

include long-term career goals.

"Yes, acquiring the skill is important, but what is equally and if not more important is that the skills acquisition is tied to a career path," he said.

But those searching for work say it's hard to think about the future when each passing day unemployed makes them feel increasingly desperate.

"I'm looking at anything, just about anything that's going to pay the rent,"

**"When you do find work, it's minimum wage, or you need a master's degree just to wash the floors."
—Chaunda Quinones**

Like Quinones, Browne's taken work development courses, gaining secretarial and medical assistance certificates in an effort to bolster her employment credentials.

Ken Small, director of development at BronxWorks, a nonprofit that focuses on workforce development, said that while these job training programs are useful, they don't necessarily offer a secure employment solution if they don't

Browne said.

Quinones said she's discouraged by the sheer number of other people who are also looking for work. At 40, she's competing for low-paying jobs that are typically given to workers half her age.

"They'd rather the 20-year-olds selling clothes," she said.

"They have a thousand like me," she added. "I'll take anything. I'll wash the toilets."

Business Beat

Muller Park Gets a Makeover

By DESTINY DEJESUS

The Fordham Road Business Improvement District has been working to turn the Muller Triangle, a pedestrian plaza at 190th Street, Creston Avenue and Fordham Road, into an increasingly popular hang-out spot for visitors.

The BID has cleaned up the space and equipped it with tables, chairs and greenery for residents to take a break while

shopping or just enjoy some time outdoors.

“We have held many different events, including children’s storytelling and health screenings,” said Daniel J. Bernstein, deputy director of the BID.

The Park was named in 1929 after Maurice Muller, a well-known member of the Bronx Lions Club, a local philanthropist and the first person to open a department store in the Bronx.

Fordham Goes Green

The 5th Annual Fordham Go Green Walk event will be held on Saturday, May 5 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Join the Fordham Road BID, Bronx elected officials and community sponsors for a day of environmentally-friendly and fun health-

related activities, including a multicultural fair in Poe Park, Kingsbridge Road and the Grand Concourse. The walk will start at 2500 Creston Avenue. For more information, call the Fordham Road BID at (718) 562-2104.

Correction

In the April 19 – May 2, 2012 edition of the Norwood News, we incorrectly reported the name of the President of the Kingsbridge Road Merchants Association. The Kingsbridge Road Merchants Association (KBMA) is led by President, Nancy Fernandez of Divino Pharmacy; Vice President, Christian Ramos of Blu Chus Shoe Store; Treasurer, Carlos Rodriguez of Flowers by Carlos; and Secretary, Carmen Valdez of Twin Brothers Day Care.



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Neighborhood Notes

Health Fair

The Timothy Dwight School, PS 33, will be holding its 20th Annual Community Health Fair on May 19, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. It will be held in the schoolyard located at 2424 Jerome Ave. There will be face painting, arts and crafts, information tables, library card registration, free giveaways and more. Tables and chairs will be provided for all agencies as well as a free lunch. For more information, call (718) 584-3926, (718) 584-7004 or email hsantia2@schools.nyc.gov.

Art Classes

Artist-in-residence, Michael Ferris, will instruct narrative portrait classes Monday afternoons from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m. through the SPARC initiative at the JASA Van Cortlandt Senior Center, 177 Dreiser Loop. For more information, call (718)549-4700.

Mexican Immigration and Health

The launch of CUNY Institute for Mexican Studies will serve as a site for discussion among locals as well as immigration and health experts on the advantages and disadvantages in the Mexican population. It will take place May 11 from 8:45 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Lehman College Faculty Dining Room, 250 Bedford Park Blvd. West. To register or for more information, visit www.saludconference.eventbrite.com/.

Lead Poisoning Program

The New York State Regional Lead Resource Center offers a chance to meet lead program staff, be part of free giveaways, and take lead safe house apartment tours on Monday, May 14, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on 91 East Mosholu Parkway North. For more information, call Fausto Ramos at (718) 547-2789.

LGBTQ Coming Out Group

The coming out group offers youth ages 13 to 18 years of age a safe place to talk about gender and sexuality. The meetings take place every Saturday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, 3450 Dekalb Ave. and Gun Hill Road.

Literacy Connection

Improve your reading, writing and math skills and work toward your GED with the Literacy Connection, a free education and employment program for young adults ages 16 to 24. The program is offered at the Mott Haven, West Farms, and Bronx Library Center branches of the NYPL. For more information or to RSVP, call (718) 401-7453.

Bronx Mentors Sought

The Abbot House, a multi-faceted agency that serves families and youth in the Bronx and NYC, is looking for mentors in the Bronx area. If you are looking to make a positive impact on a child's life,

call mentoring coordinator at (718) 329-4968 ext. 3454.

For more Neighborhood Notes online, go to www.norwoodnews.org.

Bronx Week (May 12–20)

Second Agricultural Tour of the Bronx

Saturday, May 12, at from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., starting and ending at the NYC Visitors Information Bureau, 810 Seventh Avenue, Manhattan. Come aboard the Bronx Trolley and meet community farmers and micro-entrepreneur. The day includes a healthy lunch, a lesson in agro-tourism and entertainment. Admission is \$20. All proceeds go toward the support and programming of Bronx community gardens.

Bronx Family and Youth Day

Saturday, May 12 from 12 to 5 p.m. at the Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse. Celebrate the Boogie Down Bronx at this free family-friendly event, featuring interactive activities to inspire creativity in youth through the power of music. There will be face-painting, dancing and kid-oriented entertainment.

Mother's Day Weekend Garden Party

Saturday, May 12 & Sunday, May 13 from 12 to 5 p.m. at the New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard. Treat Mom to a beautiful green retreat. Play lawn games like badminton and croquet, fly a kite, and have a picnic. Kids can enjoy hands-on nature activities. On May 13, take in a Bronx Arts Ensemble Family Concert, an interactive performance of the classic tale Beauty and the Beast. Included with the purchase of Garden admission. For more visit www.nybg.org.

Green Roof Trolley Tour

Monday, May 14. 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Bronx County Building, 851 Grand Concourse, room 123. The 10,000 sq. ft. roof atop the Bronx County Building, the first green roof on a city-owned building, is the first stop on this narrated tour of five roofs across the Bronx. Free lunch.

RSVP to Kate Shackford, kshackford@BOEDC.org.

Historic Trolley Tours

Wednesday, May 16, choose from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm tour or 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm. Meet in front of the Bronx County Building, 851 Grand Concourse at E. 161 Street. All aboard the Bronx trolley for a free tour of New York City's only mainland borough led by Bronx historian Professor Lloyd Ultan. RSVP to (718) 590-3047.

Health Day Fair

Friday, May 18, 1 to 4 p.m. at the Bronx County Building Rotunda, 851 Grand Concourse. Over 75 exhibitors will provide information on health resources and conduct blood pressure, eye sight screenings at this free health fair.

Bronx Walk of Fame

Sunday, May 20 at 11 a.m. at the Bronx County Building, 851 Grand Concourse. Be there as the 2012 Bronx Walk of Fame inductees take their rightful place on the Grand Concourse when Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. unveils street signs bearing their names.

Annual Bronx Week Parade

Sunday, May 20, at 12 noon, Mosholu Parkway East at Van Cortlandt Avenue. Bronx pride is on display as marching bands, community groups, schools, sports teams and civic groups march along Mosholu Parkway celebrating the best of the borough as this great community tradition celebrates its 41th anniversary.

Food, Arts & Music Fest

Sunday, May 20, at 12 noon, Mosholu Parkway at Bainbridge Avenue. After the parade, residents will enjoy the Bronx Week Food, Arts & Music Festival, which features popular restaurants, live music, arts & crafts and games and activities for kids. The Bronx Health Pavilion will offer free health screenings and information on services, health insurance.

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 Monday to Friday
 10 AM to 4 PM.

Completed applications must be sent by **REGULAR** mail (NOT registered or certified mail) to the address indicated with the applications must be received by **Friday, May 11th, 2012**. Applications received after the deadline will not be processed.

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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.

MISCELLANEOUS

Worship Space Available: At the Bedford Park Congregational Church, corner 201st Street and Bainbridge Avenue. Please call Reverend Dr. Christopher Ponnuraj at (718) 367-8996.

Spring Flea Market on Saturday, May 19, 2012 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with an Open House from noon to 2 p.m. at the Bedford Park Congregational Church, corner 201st Street and Bainbridge Avenue, information Reverend Dr. Christopher Ponnuraj 718-367-8996.

Cash paid for antiques, old items, collectibles, art work, jewelry, books, records, coins, stamps, sports cards, bric a brac, moving sales, estates, contents of homes. (home) 718-882-0598 or (cell) 347-734-9261

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Out & About

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Onstage

■ The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **Olga Tañon** and **Bronxite comedian Mike Robles**, May 12 at 8 p.m. (tickets are \$45 to \$60); and **Vox Lumiere Metropolis**, musical transporting viewers to the future of flying cars and evil robots, May 5 at 8 p.m. (tickets are \$25 to \$45; \$12/ages 12 and under). For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

■ Lehman Center, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents free: **Lehman College & Community Chorus, Lehman Symphony Orchestra**, May 6 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 960-8247.

■ Lehman College's Lovinger Theatre, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **Hansel & Gretel**, a musical based on the children's tale, performed by the Bronx Opera and featuring children from RiverArts Children's Chorus, May 11 and 12 at 7:30 p.m. (tickets are \$15 to \$30). For more information, contact www.brownpapertickets.com/event/184327.

■ The Bronx Concert Singers will perform **A Night at the Opera**, concert at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1891 McGraw Ave. in Parkchester, May 6 at 4:30 p.m., featuring soloists and chamber ensemble. Tickets are \$20; \$35/for two; \$15/seniors/students with valid ID; \$5/high school students/under. For more information, call (718) 960-8247.

tion, call (917) 743-4641.

■ The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd. off Fordham Road, presents **One Act Gems**, musical performances, May 12 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

■ The Jerome Park Library, at 118 Eames Place, offers **Spanish and Latin American Guitar**, May 5 at 2 p.m. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

■ The Bronx Academy of Art & Dance (BAAD), 841 Barretto St., presents **The Boogie Down Dance Series**, performed by a variety of groups, May 4 to 24. Most concerts cost \$20; some are free. For more information and a detailed schedule, call (718) 842-5223.

CDs and DVDs; and **Fair Trade 101**, ethical consumption choices can improve the lives of farmers and artisans in the developing world, a lecture by a Manhattan College professor, at the Meeting House, May 6 at 11 a.m. For more information, call (718) 548-4445.

■ The Association of the Merchants & Business Professions of Westchester Square, Inc. is holding its 4th annual **Fair at the Square**, May 12 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., along the streets of Westchester Square between St. Raymond and Westchester avenues. Featured will be an all-day concert series from oldies to the present with DJs and many musical performers. Kids can enjoy games, exhibits, and fun activities. For more information, call (917) 583-2075.

■ Lehman College, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **Carbon in Nano and Outer Space**, May 4 at 5:15 p.m., in the Music Building's Recital Hall, room 306. For more information, call (718) 960-8516/8212.

■ The Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Ave., presents its **First Friday** on

✓ EDITOR'S PICK

A Walk Down Memory Lane

The Mosholu Library, at 285 E. 205th St., invites the public to a **Doo Wop Concert** featuring the legendary Creations from the Bronx performing songs of the late '50s and '60s, free, May 5 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

Events

■ The Riverdale-Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture, 4450 Fieldston Rd., presents a **Book Sale for Peace**, fund-raiser, May 5 from noon to 6 p.m., including used books,

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■ The Friends of Woodlawn Cemetery presents **Kickoff Historic Preservation Month**, May 5-6, featuring several tours, a social media scavenger hunt, and more, free at Woodlawn Cemetery. For more information and schedule details, visit www.thewoodlawncemetery.org or call (718) 920-1470.

■ Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **tours**, Tuesdays at 11 a.m. from the Perkins Visitor Center (free all day) and Saturdays at 2 p.m. from the Glyndor Gallery (free grounds admission until noon), all through Aug. 18. Additional garden walks include May 10, for a "Walk on the Wild Side" at 2 p.m., from the Perkins Visitor Center. For more information, call (718) 549-3200.

Exhibits

■ The Bronx County Historical Society, 3309 Bainbridge Ave., presents **In Style, Bronx Architecture**, through Oct. 7, including Bronx landmarks. For more information, 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.

■ The Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse (165th Street), features **Baseball in the Bronx**, through May 13. The South Wing Galleries features **Juan Downey: The Invisible Architect**, on view through May 20. Admission is free on Fridays. For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

■ The Lehman College Art Gallery, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **Under the Influence: The Comics and Contemporary Art**, featuring works of both established and emerging artists; and **Michael Ferris, Jr.: The Bronx Series and Other Work**, (figurative sculpture), free, Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., through May 12. For more information, call (718) 960-8731.

■ 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). A number of 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 3 to 12), May 5 and 12; **Sword in the Stone** (ages 3 to 12), drama performance, May 12 at 2 p.m.; **Global Partners, Jr. at 4 p.m.** (ages 5 to 12), students connect worldwide via the Internet, May 9 and 16; and **Science Demonstrations** (ages 5 to 12; registration required), May 5 at 2 p.m.: **Sounds Like Science**, May 8 at 4 p.m.; **Energy Burst**, and May 15 at 4 p.m.; **Dinosaurs**. For teens and young adults, there is **Hip-Hop Dance at 3:30 p.m.**: May 3, 10 and 17; **Wild at the Library**, live animals, May 3 at 4 p.m.; **Comic Culture Extreme at 11:30 a.m.**: May 5 and 12; and **World**

Beat and Percussion (instruments are provided to 5 participants) May 17 at 4 p.m. Adults can attend **The Orchard Beach Pavilion: Past, Present and Future**, an illustrated talk, May 5 at 2:30 p.m.; **Free Introductory Computer Class at 10 a.m.**: May 9 and 16; **Marketing Yourself With Confidence**, May 9 at 2 p.m.; and **Network Your Way Into a Job**, May 16 at 2 p.m. The entire family can enjoy **The Itty Biddies!**, a musical event, May 6 at 2 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 **Knitting Circle**, Thursdays at 3 p.m.; **Wii Program**, Tuesdays at 3 p.m.; and **Introduction to the Computer** (advance registration required), May 2 at 10:30 a.m.; each for seniors and adults. Children can attend **Toddler Story Time at 10:30 a.m.**, May 3, 10 and 17; **Jaws, Paws and Claws: Animal Wisdom Tales** (ages 3 to 12), May 8 at 4 p.m.; **Arts & Crafts** (ages 5 to 12), May 11 at 3:30 p.m.; and **Ancient Greece: The Legend of Eros and Psyche** (ages 5 to 12), May 15 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 **Cooking at 4 p.m.** (for teens and young adults), May 3, 10 and 17; **Computer Basics at noon**, May 3, 8, 10, 15 and 17; and **Classic Film Series**, May 5 at noon (both for adults); **Arts & Crafts**, May 7 at 4 p.m.; **Ancient Greece: The Legend of Eros and Psyche**, May 8 at 4 p.m.; and **Film**, May 14 at 4 p.m. (all for ages 5 to 12); **Jaws, Paws and Claws: Animal Wisdom Tales** (ages 3 to 12), May 15 at 4 p.m.; and **Toddler Time** (ages 18 to 36 months), May 16 at 11 a.m. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL OUR MOM READERS!

NOTE: Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org, and should be received by May 7 for the next publication date of May 17.



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