



NORWOOD NEWS

Vol 28, No 17 • PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION • SEPTEMBER 3-16, 2015



**RESULTS ARE IN:
NORWOOD NEWS SURVEY TALLIES | PG. 3**



**THE BRONX GOES BACK TO SCHOOL
SPECIAL COVERAGE ON PGS. 11-17**

SHELTER PLAN NIXED FOR NOW....

Shelter-style setup in Bedford Pk. roiled building's existing rent-paying residents



Photo by David Cruz

MOVERS HAUL OUT appliances and furniture intended for several apartments at 319 E. 197th St. purported to have been set aside for homeless residents.

By DAVID CRUZ

In a rare reversal, a Bedford Park landlord has halted a process to convert a significant portion of their seven-story building into a shelter, a win for tenants who are celebrating with cautious optimism.

The signs of a new shelter at 319 E. 197th St. were there, though circumstantial. The residents' biggest hint came

from the delivery of a large supply of new furniture for 20 apartments recently vacated by several tenants who were evicted. Residents prevailed after the landlord, A1 Equities, inexplicably failed to provide funds to furniture suppliers. Meantime, many of the vacant units were upgraded, with new tiling and appliances installed. Another indicator came af-

ter tenants were bombarded by phone calls from a receiver of rents who attempted to persuade them to move out, promising them a new apartment miles from their home.

"We're taking this as a good sign. A very, very good sign," said Grisett "Gigi" Diaz, the building's super.

The new landlords have since explained to tenants

their plans to rent the vacant apartments and make necessary repairs, according to Maria Canela, a tenant advocate with Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition (NWBCCC).

The type of housing, and some events leading up to it, bore the hallmarks of an impending cluster-site program, *(continued on page 19)*



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IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST



Change at KNIC's Community Advisory Council

By DAVID CRUZ

Community Board 7's handpicked appointees for the Kingsbridge National Ice Center's Community Advisory Council have been removed by the presiding CB7 chair, which included a previous CB7 chair and another who ran against her in June. The timing came days before the full CAC was to hold its first meeting.

The unilateral decision came last Friday. Adaline Walker-Santiago, chair of CB7, informed members of the decision, citing stipulations in the Community Benefits Agreement (CBA), which allow the sitting CB7 chair to decide who will be on the panel. The original CAC members—Paul Foster, Lowell Green, and William Francis—were replaced by Walker-Santiago, and fellow CB7 members Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky and Gloria Bent, as per rules set forth in the CBA. Pastor Joe Hernandez was named the so-called “member at large,” replacing Bishop Fernando Rodriguez.

Foster, when chairing the Board, had originally chosen himself, Green, Francis, and Hernandez to join the panel in 2013. Stipulations in the CBA, however, allow the presiding chair to nullify those decisions with little input, impaneling any member a Chair deems worthy.

The move comes two months after CB7's elections, where Walker-Santiago won over Francis in a contentious race for Chair. Francis had taken indirect jabs at Walker-Santiago during the race, pointing out his dissatisfaction with the current climate of the Board. Walker-Santiago did not return repeated calls for comment. While Bent was unavailable to comment, Hartman-Kutnowsky declined to speak about her new role.

In an email sent out to Walker-Santiago, Francis criticized the decision as “purely vindictive,” saying the de-



File Photo/David Cruz

ADALINE WALKER-SANTIAGO (standing), Chair of CB7, replaced all her predecessor's appointments to the KNIC Community Advisory Council just days before the 11-member panel was to meet for the first time.

cision ultimately removes the appointees “who have the knowledge and experience of budgetary and financial matters relating to the Armory with people who have less or no knowledge or experience of the same.” Hartman-Kutnowsky does have a business background, serving as a business analyst for the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. The original members had met periodically to flesh out community needs.

In a response letter addressed to Francis, Walker-Santiago explained the new members are “highly qualified,” and “have experience in the financial administration of CB7 as well as in their respective areas of employment.”

The panel was formed as part of the Community Benefits Agreement, a legal document worked out between KNIC developers and community stakeholders, offering direct benefits

to the Kingsbridge community. This includes the use of 50,000 square feet of community space inside the Armory. In 2013, the New York City Economic Development Corporation cleared KNIC to repurpose the city landmark into an ice center, complete with nine skating rinks and a 5,000-seat arena.

Eleven members are on the panel. They formally met on Aug. 25 at Kittay House. This came after stakeholders, including the Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Alliance (KARA), a group that helped flesh out the CBA with project developers, appointed its three members as per the CBA's bylaws. Fr. Richard Gorman, who chairs Community Board 12, was picked as a non-voting member. Councilman Fernando Cabrera, who as the 14th Council District legislator, chose his members in July, according to agreements set forth in the CBA. It is unclear whether meetings are open to the public.

Public and Community Meetings

COMMUNITY BOARD 7 will hold its general board meeting on Sept. 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bedford Park Senior Center, 243 E. 204th St. CB7 committee meetings are held on the following dates at the board office, 229A E. 204th St. at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted: Public Safety & Quality of Life, Sept. 3; Environment & Sanitation, Sept. 8; Health & Hospitals, Sept. 8 at 7:30 p.m.; Senior Services, Sept. 9; Parks & Recreation, Sept. 9 at 7:15 p.m.; Traffic & Transportation, Sept. 10; and Veterans, Sept. 10 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 933-5650.

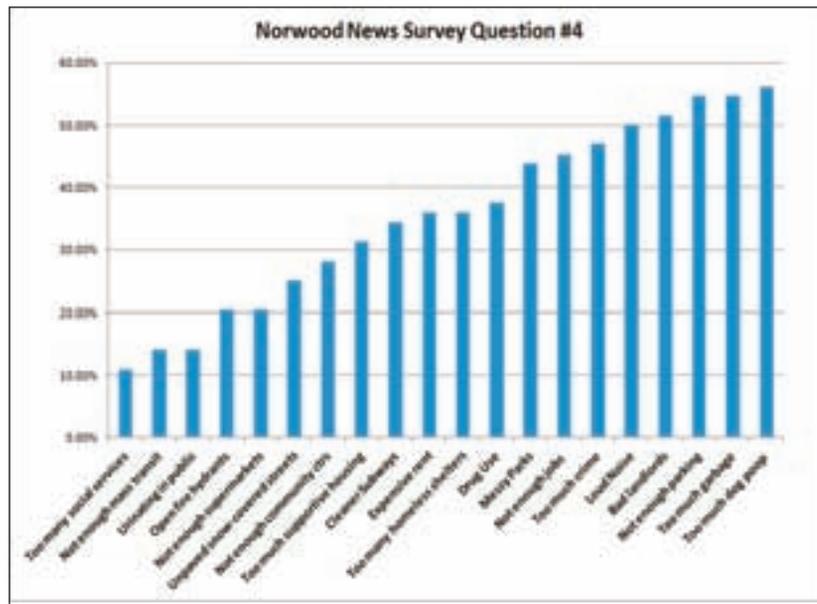
Picking Your Brain - Norwood News Survey Results Are In

By VIVIAN CARTER

The *Norwood News* conducted a survey in the past month, producing a snapshot of local concerns. Overwhelmingly, area residents want a cleaner neighborhood.

The survey was begun with visits to local venues by newspaper staffers, who asked passers-by to answer a list of questions. The survey was then posted on the paper's website until a roughly equal number of individuals had responded.

Results proved that the *Norwood News* has succeeded with its own marketing mission, as 86 percent of those surveyed said they know about the award-winning publication. In contrast, only 65 percent of respondents know their New York City Council representative. Community Board 7 also fared well, with 81 percent of survey respondents confirming they know what the board is. However, the borough itself has a major public relations problem, as a hefty 65 percent of residents filling out the forms believe that outsiders perceive the Bronx in a negative fashion. Residents were about evenly divided on specific improve-



A TALLY OF one of the questions in the *Norwood News* survey. What is the biggest neighborhood nuisance? The answer: Too much dog poop.

ments they would like to see in the area, with about a third wanting more police officers and/or lower rents, and a quarter desiring to see more schools and/or more parks.

When it comes to getting problems resolved, the survey proved that 311

has been a resounding success in the neighborhood. Seventy-five percent said they use the service, whereas only 25 percent contact their New York City Council member to resolve problems, and less than 15 percent reach out to elected representatives at the state or

federal level.

The survey asked residents to identify "the biggest problem in the Bronx," and provided a list of 20 concerns to choose from. That query produced clear support for better sanitation in the neighborhood, with dog waste and "too much garbage" cited as the number one and number two issues of concern. "Not enough parking" landed in the number three spot, followed by crime, high rents, noise, bad landlords, the need to create jobs, messy parks, and drug use, in that order.

Following a winter of heavy snows and a hot, steamy summer, it was perhaps, surprising that survey respondents did not express much concern about unplowed streets or open hydrants. They also seem relatively satisfied with the amount of mass transit offered, although about a third of respondents want the subways to be cleaner.

The *Norwood News* plans to build on this snapshot and come up with a broader and more scientific poll of resident concerns. Check back to find out when this occurs, and make your voice heard.

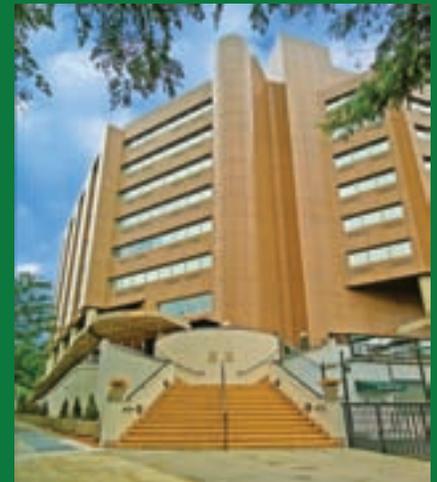
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Atop St. Patrick's Home, Edible Veggies Abound

By **JASMINE GOMEZ**

When a chef and an engineer join forces, it can be a recipe for a rooftop garden. At least, this has been the case in one Bronx nursing home.

For about four years, several employees at St. Patrick's Rehabilitation and Health Center, a skilled nursing facility in Van Cortlandt Village, have grown vegetables and herbs out of buckets placed on the roof at 66 Van Cortlandt Park So.

The home was founded in 1931 by seven women who would eventually become sisters affiliated with the Carmelite Order. The facility provides 24-hour nursing care and religious support services regardless of a resident's denomination.

The green roof at St. Patrick's, a rare sight in the Bronx, was initially started for recreational use, but has now grown to accommodate

the growth of scallions, mint, and lemongrass—just some of the ingredients the kitchen crew adds to some of their daily dishes. It's also saved the home money.

In a borough where fresh options are scant, Frank LaFranco, director of engineering at St. Patrick's, maintenance employee James Brady, and HVAC Supervisor Martin Feeney, have made it possible to access eggplants, peppers, tomatoes, and more via a quick elevator ride, as opposed to a trip to a produce market.

"The first year I got here I saw a couple of planters on the roof that weren't being used and me and another maintenance guy, James Brady, put a couple of tomato plants in the planter," said Feeney. "Then I got potato buckets and filled them with dirt from the woods near my house because I wanted to make a hot pepper

sauce."

Coincidentally, Cecilia Moy, dining services director at St. Patrick's, had previously been enthralled with the idea of urban farming and self-sustainability after reading a *New York Times* article on the topic. The article had inspired her to grow her own garden out of her own balcony in her Westchester County home.

Moy spoke with LaFranco about the already existing garden and suggested purchasing more buckets, soil, and seeds to increase the yield of the garden to include herbs and vegetables that could be used in the kitchen's dishes.

Feeney was keen on the idea. "She was like, she would like to grow her own herbs for the kitchen and I said that's fine, you get the materials and we'll take care of it. We'll make sure it's watered and everything."



Photo by Jasmine Gomez

MARTIN FEENEY, HVAC SUPERVISOR, one of the employees who tends to the rooftop garden, takes a peek at the growing crops.

The rooftop garden at St. Patrick's has become a communal effort. When Feeney, LaFranco, or Brady are not around to water the produce, mainly on weekends, security and cleaners have no problem taking on the job.

Moy hopes to see the gar-

den grow, with more space and crops, and determine ways to include the residents in the gardening process.

"We want to do something to save the earth, to be more [environmentally]-friendly and this is something that we can do," she said.



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Letters To The Editor

Keep the Bronx Beltway

While I may not live in the Norwood area, I have found myself picking up each new edition [of the *Norwood News*] recently, eagerly looking for your “Bronx Beltway” column. Since veteran reporter Bob Kappstatter departed the *Bronx Times* and the *Daily News* shuttered its Bronx Bureau, there’s been a large void in political reporting in the Bronx. It’s refreshing to see David Cruz doing his best to cover Bronx political happenings from the ever-important local perspective. In a borough many see to be on the upswing, one must wonder why Bronx-centric political reporters are so hard to find. For all we know, today’s blurbs might become major headlines in the weeks and months ahead.

The Beltway column has held local politicians accountable to

their constituents by profiling Participatory Budgeting efforts of CMs Torres and Cohen (leaving many to wonder why more representatives aren’t following their lead), and pushing for Assemblyman Rivera to attend meetings of local community groups in his district which, in other areas, would be a necessity (and not a nicety) for those holding local office.

Furthermore, he has been the only reporter to profile the upcoming open seat race in the Council District 13 in 2017. Each of these stories are newsworthy in their own right, but are often left on the cutting room floor by other news organizations.

Mr. Cruz, by reporting these relevant developments, is doing a great public service to our borough.

Eddie P.

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NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

Back-to-School Giveaway

By Your Side Tutoring hosts a Kids Launch Free Event on Sept. 5 from noon to 3 p.m. at Van Cortlandt Park. Enter at the entrance of Broadway and 242nd Street. One hundred free backpacks filled with a shirt and school supplies will be given away to students who register for fall tutoring. Attendants will receive a free raffle ticket for a bike, a gift, and wrist band to participate in each activity. Events include face painting, magic show, games, concert, and more. Students receive free drinks and snacks. For more information, call (347) 280-7919.

MetroCard Buses/Vans

The MetroCard Bus for senior citizens is available at Scott Towers, 3400 Paul Ave., every fourth Monday of each month (excluding holidays) from 1 to 3 p.m.

Citizenship and English Classes

The Fordham Bedford Community Center offers free citizenship

classes, Mondays and Wednesdays, designed to prepare students for questions asked on the U.S. Citizenship interview, and free English classes (October to May), Tuesdays and Thursdays, both from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Interested individuals must complete an online registration form and bring it to Refuge House, 2715 Bainbridge Ave., on respective class days before class begins. For more information, call (718) 733-2557.

Daycare Provider Workshop

NYC Small Business Services is offering a free 30-hour business growth training class in the Bronx for licensed home-based daycare providers on Saturday mornings starting in September, both in English and Spanish. Register at the Concourse House, 2751 Grand Concourse. For more information, call (718) 933-2539.

Choral Tryouts

The Riverdale Choral Society seeks singers, particularly tenors and basses, to join the music troupe

for its fall season. No need to prepare for an audition piece. For more information, call (718) 543-2219 or send an email to riverdalechoral@gmail.com.

Free Curb Your Dog Signs

Free "Curb Your Dog" signs are available to homeowners and building superintendents at Community Board 7's office, 229A E. 204th St., from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information or to schedule a pickup, call (718) 933-5650.

Bird Watching at VC Park

Van Cortlandt Park features free bird walks Saturdays from 8 to 9:30 a.m. until November. Meet at the Nature Center, 246th Street and Broadway. For more information, contact Joseph McManus at McManus638@aol.com.

Food Assistance Programs

The New York Coalition Against Hunger offers information on several food assistance programs in-

cluding the federal SNAP/food stamp program, WIC, school and summer meals, senior meals, and more. Call (212) 825-0028. Information on Bronx food programs is also available in English at <http://bit.ly/1FksQB3> and Spanish at <http://bit.ly/1aYBIGG>.

Business Development for Veterans

The Washington Heights-Inwood Development Corporation, 57 Wadsworth Ave. (corner 176th Street), offers free business development counseling to veterans starting a new business or expanding an existing one. Vets get help with business formation and other legal issues, developing a business plan, cash flow projections, marketing strategies, licenses, certifications, and more. For more information, call (212) 795-1600 or email whidc@aol.com.

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CRIME FILE

Teen Attacked at Oval Park



Photo by David Cruz

PARAMEDICS BANDAGE THIS TEEN after an apparent attack inside busy Williamsbridge Oval Park on Aug. 28, triggering a massive response by police officers at the 52nd Precinct. Streets were temporarily closed as a horde of emergency crews fanned throughout the Oval looking for the perp. They found the victim sitting at the entrance to the park as he nursed his bloodied wounds. He was bandaged and bused to a local hospital, as a crowd of neighbors looked on.

Two Shot at All-Night House Party

By **DAVID GREENE**

A late night house party at an illegal after hours club in Bedford Park ended with gunfire that killed one man, and left another seriously wounded.

Officers from the 52nd Precinct were called to the three-family home at 2836 Valentine Ave. at the corner of East 198th Street just after at 6 a.m. on Aug. 22. According to social media postings, the home was known as Mad Love Lounge, an unlicensed after-hours establishment. An Instagram posting shows a promotional card entitled "Early Sundays." Organizers routinely hire a deejay to play throughout the night. "Yes, we knew they had a nightclub in there for about the last two years," said one neighbor. "The person that stays there is a very

nice man...but he's not allowed to open the club again."

Officials say the incident began after two men, ages 23 and 36, began arguing with their assailant. The two were later shot, and the suspect fled.

Police sources say the two unidentified victims were uncooperative with investigators and police have made no arrests, but continue to investigate. Investigators are currently combing through surveillance video from surrounding buildings and businesses along East 198th Street.

Officials could not say if those wounded lived at the home or were partygoers. Officers were initially looking for one male black armed with a handgun, who fled from the scene on foot.

Additional reporting by David Cruz

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After Fix, Smoother Strides on Bainbridge Ave.

By HAYDEE CAMACHO

After reports of numerous falls on the broken sidewalk in front of 2845 Bainbridge Ave., including one of an elderly woman who died there last year, Steven Bussell, vice president of the 52nd Precinct Community Council, was hitting brick walls in his attempts to get the sidewalk repaired. But a call to a local lawmaker kicked the project into gear.

The sidewalk had been uprooted by two large trees in front of the property. "Half the people would walk in the street to walk around the trees," said Bussell.

A 42-year resident of the neighborhood, Bussell has been on the Five-Two Council for 18 years, having worked with various agencies to resolve the problem. "It would never get done because they said they didn't have the money. It was put on the back burner," he said. "Then I thought, 'let's try [Councilman] Ritchie Torres.'"

Juan Antigua, Torres' Deputy Chief of Staff, knew first-hand about the hazardous situation, living near the uprooted sidewalk. "Our local constituent was fed up and contacted our office," said Antigua. "The councilman took it into his own hands."

Torres reached out to DOT as well as the Department of Parks to determine the status of the repair request and was told it was on a list. After further inquiries, the request was moved up. Five weeks after contacting Torres' office, Bussell received word from a neighbor in the last week of August

that the sidewalk was being repaired.

Repairing sidewalks damaged by uprooted trees is a complex procedure. According to city law, home and property owners are responsible for repair and maintenance of sidewalks abutting their property. However, it is illegal to remove a city-owned tree. Property owners must first obtain a Tree Work Permit via 311. The Department of Parks' Borough Forestry Office then reviews all proposed site work and designs a plan that meets the Tree Protection Protocol for all affected city trees. Repairs are made based on the severity of damage and the availability of funding. If a homeowner wants to repair the sidewalk themselves, they must schedule a Sidewalk Design Consultation with the Parks Department, who will guide the contractor on how to proceed. A DOT permit costing \$15 is also required to perform the sidewalk repair.

Miguel Rodriguez has lived at 2845 Bainbridge Ave. for a decade and saw someone trip at least once a week in the past few years. "Most of the newly planted trees are going to experience this," he said of the trees planted throughout the city this past winter through the Million Trees NYC initiative of the Parks Department and the New York Restoration Project. "The city is going to have to invest if they don't want to have this issue."

But Bussell was relieved to finally see action taken. "I'm so excited to finally see something go right after working on it for so long," he said.



Photos courtesy Office of Councilman Ritchie Torres/Haydee Camacho

A BEFORE AND AFTER view of the sidewalk in front of 2845 Bainbridge Ave., made whole again after city crews finally fixed it

jazz



JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA with Wynton Marsalis Carlos Henriquez: *Back in the Bronx*

September 12 • 8pm

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts

Featuring selections from Henriquez' forthcoming album, *The Bronx Pyramid*, in stores 9/18



Jazz at
Lincoln Center
jazz.org

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts
250 Bedford Park Boulevard West, Bronx, NY
Subway: 4 6 to Bedford Park Boulevard station
CenterCharge: 212-721-6500

NN Revamps Website

The *Norwood News* has upgraded its website, following several weeks of brainstorming, trial and error, and tinkering.

Some of the bigger revisions to the site include a slider window prominently featuring the latest news stories impacting *Norwood News*' coverage area, which primarily includes Bedford Park, Kingsbridge, Fordham, and University Heights.

The truest change can be found on your phone. Just go to the website on your mobile phone and take a look at the new change. Take a look at it, www.norwoodnews.org, and share some thoughts.

Readers are encouraged to share their thoughts on the site by contacting David Cruz at dacruz@norwoodnews.org.

A Mad Dash Around Oval Park



Photo by Adi Talwar

YOUNGSTERS BOLT AROUND Williamsbridge Oval Park's track as part of Summer Sports Jamboree, sponsored by the New York City Parks Department. The Aug. 26 event was a kind of sendoff to the seasonal Summers Sports Experience, an instructional youth program teaching sports skills. Young people ages 6 to 17 dove into several organized games, including track and field, baseball, and lacrosse. Live music set the soundtrack for the day's event, while kids also took advantage at a face painting station.

Jazz at Lincoln Ctr. Takes Trip to Lehman Ctr.

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts will play host to Jazz at Lincoln Center, taking the unusual step in ushering in their season with a one-night performance at the Bedford Park music house. Fittingly, the season will open with a performance by Carlos Henriquez, a Bronx-bred bassist and member of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, whose musical flair has taken him to perform in Cuba. Appropriately titled "Carlos Henriquez: Back in the Bronx," Henriquez is expected to delight an audience with some familiar, velvety tunes alongside the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, and percussionists Bobby Allende and Marc Quinones. This year's seasonal theme dubbed 'Jazz and American Song,' pays tribute to jazz overtures in cinema and stage, with some 80 concerts and programs scheduled.

Henriquez grew up in the South Bronx, absorbing some contemporary jazz beats that served as inspiration to pursue music. His storied career began at age 14, first performing at the People's Park in Mott Haven, alongside Latin jazz greats Tito Puente, Eddie Palmieri and Celia Cruz.

Tickets are now on sale to the general public for "Carlos Henriquez: Back in the Bronx" at Lehman Center for the Performing Arts (250 Bedford Park Blvd. W) on Sept. 12 at 8 p.m., and all single tickets for the 2015-16 season. Tickets for Jazz at Lincoln Center's 28th season concerts can be purchased through jazz.org, 24 hours a day or via Center Charge at (212) 721-6500, open daily from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. (See Out & About under "On-stage.")

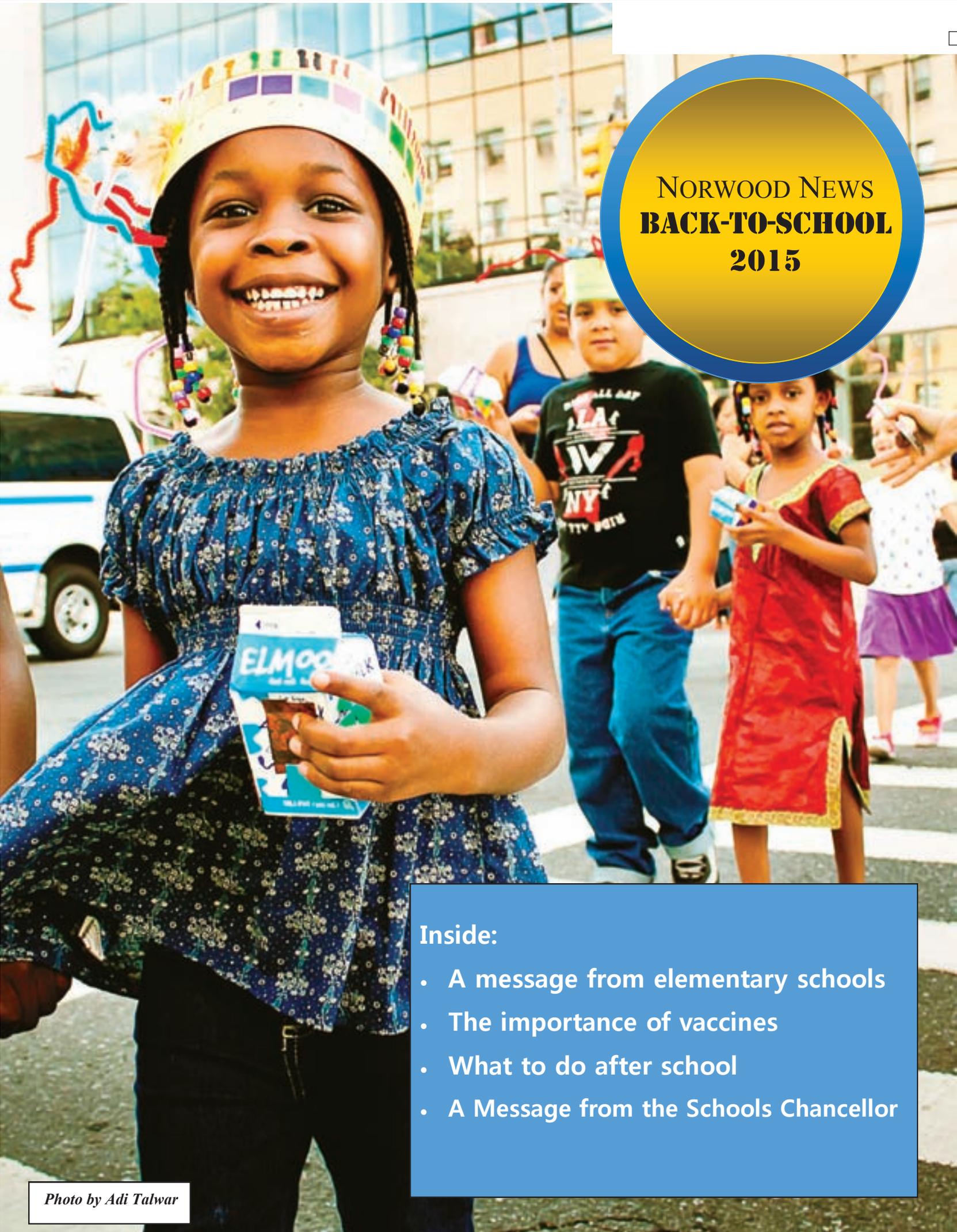
--David Cruz



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**NORWOOD NEWS
BACK-TO-SCHOOL
2015**

Inside:

- A message from elementary schools
- The importance of vaccines
- What to do after school
- A Message from the Schools Chancellor

Photo by Adi Talwar

WELCOME TO THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

PS 94x: Better Preparing Students Through Key Initiatives

By PS 94x STAFF

Diane DaProcida-Sesin is beginning her 11th year as principal of PS 94x, the Kings College School in Norwood. Our campus includes two full-service buildings providing educational services to more than 1200 students and their families.

We believe in the transformative power of education; our community works together as a collaborative team to uphold this mission throughout the year. Since 2013, our school has exceeded the New York City average for Middle School Readiness.

Students are involved in meaningful New York State Common Core aligned curricula in English Language Arts and Math. The New York State Standards are used to develop curricula in social studies, science, physical education and the arts. Educational teams work together to develop interdisciplinary connections, closely monitor student performance and revise instructional plans based on formal and informal student work and assessments.

Student “voice” is emphasized in peer and teacher-led actionable feedback conferences where students use the feedback to revise their goals and plan next steps. Students in second through fifth grades are active participants in parent-teacher conferences.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) have been fully implemented in our school. Staff recognizes students for positive social and academic behaviors based on our STARS Matrix. Our acronym, “STARS,” represents Safety, Teamwork, Always responsible, Respectful, Self-control. Classes earn STARbucks for whole class positive social behavior redeemable for whole class recognition activities. Students earn STAR tickets for individual social and academic successes redeemable for items in our STARS School Store. Throughout the year, we highlight student achievement in STARS booster assemblies as well as showcasing student dancing and singing talents. PBIS supports the positive, social, emotional and academic development of



File Photo/Anton K. Nilsson

SOME INITIATIVES PS 94X promotes include a spelling bee contest to bolster literacy. Here are last year’s winners from an October 2014 contest.

our students. We also have teacher led student clubs for enrichment.

We have multiple partnerships funded through grants. To highlight a few, we have the Robin Hood Library Grant. This grant staffs a full-time librarian and educational assistant,

and provides resources for after-school activities and replenishing our library. The Astor Literacy Grant partnership with Teaching Matters provides on-site professional development and web-based resources for our kindergarten to third-grade teachers to advance their expertise in teaching literacy. Thanks to Councilman Andrew Cohen and his predecessor, Oliver Koppell, all of our classrooms have access to the latest technology: Smart boards, desktop computers, laptops and iPads. Our partnership with Learning Leaders trains parent volunteers to provide school-based support.

We are looking forward to another productive school year. If you would like to learn more about our school, please visit our website at www.ps94x.org. We conduct several community learning walks through our classrooms each year. If you are interested in attending one, please reach out to our Parent Coordinator, Miriam Seminario at (718) 405-6345.

PS/MS 95: Staying the Course for Brighter School Days

PS/MS 95, the Sheila Mencher School, is nestled in the shade of the huge welcoming trees on Hillman Avenue just south of Van Cortlandt Park. Principal Serge Marshall Davis, who is beginning his ninth year as head of the school, has been recognized on both the State and Federal level for his work. During his tenure he has implemented award winning programs and opportunities for student growth and expression at the school.

Despite the many changes with the

New York State standardized exams, the school has maintained its Good Standing status on the New York State Accountability report. PS/MS 95 cultivates a professional learning community where all adults are fully committed to developing student proficiency in all subject areas. The curriculum is rigorous, cohesive and engaging and staffers care about the students. Students benefit from the well-constructed curriculum to challenge them to make significant academic progress.

The school takes a holistic approach and every adult plays an active role in fulfilling each student’s unique potential.

Teachers work hard to ensure that there are “entry points” into each subject for all students. Thus, each child can participate in a way that is effective for them to learn. Teachers strive to make concepts and skills “accessible” to students, so that each will have the interest and confidence to try challenging tasks and move toward engaging in higher order thinking. Administrators guide in these efforts.

Educators actively observe, engage, and assess students by using formal and informal methods. Teachers get to know the students. By analyzing the data obtained from tests and by adapting the teaching methods, teachers differentiate instruction to meet the individual academic and social needs of the various kinds of learners. Comprehensive information on student learning outcomes is used to identify trends, strengths, and school needs.

Colleagues confer regularly, communicating with different grade levels

to discuss and demonstrate best practices, designed to reach different levels of learners.

Families are regularly invited to school decision-making bodies and activities of interest, as well as conferences with teachers regarding students’ progress.

The school has developed partnerships with outside organizations as well as student support services to accelerate the academic and personal growth of students. Parents also enjoy many exciting events such as student shows, concerts, art exhibits, wellness activities, or parent classes in subjects ranging from management of household finances to zumba or to cooking delicious food.

Students have the opportunity to be on teams and clubs, to play a musical instrument, to sing in a chorus or to be on the Student Government Council.

The school is currently the Bronx Writes Poetry Slam Champions as well as the Dancing Classrooms Citywide Ballroom Dancing Classrooms Champions.

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NYC SCHOOL CALENDAR

The New York City Department of Education has released its 2015-16 public school calendar:

September 7, Monday, Labor Day (schools closed).

September 8, Tuesday, Teachers report. Students will not be in attendance.

September 9, Wednesday, School Session Begins For All Students. Early dismissal for non-District 75 kindergarten students only. Partial school time for prekindergarten public school students.

September 10, Thursday, First full day for non-District 75 kindergarten students. Partial school time for pre-kindergarten public school students.

September 14-15, Monday & Tuesday, Rosh Hashanah (schools closed)

September 23, Wednesday, Yom Kippur (schools closed).

September 24, Thursday, Eid al-Adha (schools closed).

October 12, Monday, Columbus Day Observed (schools closed).

October 22, Thursday, Pre-kindergarten Non-Attendance Day.

November 3, Tuesday, Election Day. Chancellor's Conference Day for staff development. Students will not be in attendance.

November 11, Wednesday, Veterans Day observed (schools closed).

November 26-27, Thursday & Friday, Thanksgiving Recess (schools closed).

December 3, Thursday, Pre-kindergarten Non-Attendance Day December.

December 24-January 1, Thursday – Friday, Winter Recess (including Christmas and New Year's Day) (schools closed).

2016

January 18, Monday, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (schools closed).

January 28, Thursday, Pre-kindergarten Non-Attendance Day.

February 1, Monday, Chancellor's Conference Day for staff development in all non-D75 high schools. Non-D75 high school students

will not be in attendance. All other students will be in attendance.

February 2, Tuesday, Spring Term begins for high school students.

February 8, Monday, Lunar New Year (schools closed).

February 15-19, Monday – Friday, Midwinter Recess (including Washington's Birthday and Lincoln's Birthday, observed) (schools closed).

March 25, Friday, Good Friday (schools closed).

April 21, Thursday, Pre-kindergarten Non-Attendance Day.

April 25-29, Monday – Friday, Spring Recess (including Passover) (schools closed).

May 30, Monday, Memorial Day Observed (schools closed).

June 9, Thursday, Anniversary Day. Chancellor's Conference Day for staff development. In all five boroughs students will not be in attendance.

June 14, Tuesday, June Clerical Day for students in elementary school, middle school and D75 school programs. These students will not be in attendance.

June 23, Thursday, Regents Rating Day. In non-District 75 high schools, students will not be in attendance. All other students will be in attendance.

June 28, Tuesday, Last Day For All Students. Early dismissal of all students. Last day for all Classroom Teachers, Bilingual Teachers in School and Community Relations, Attendance Teachers, Nurses, Therapists, Laboratory Specialists and Technicians, and Paraprofessionals.

June 29-30, Wednesday & Thursday, All other staff report except Classroom Teachers, Bilingual Teachers in School and Community Relations, Attendance Teachers, Nurses, Therapists, Laboratory Specialists and Technicians, and Paraprofessionals.

Editor's Note: A more detailed school calendar can be found on the New York City Department of Education's website at schools.nyc.gov.

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Number of students enrolled at
Bronx public schools.

(Source: New York City
Department of Education)

Vital
Stats

School Vaccinations: Another Item on the Back-to-School Checklist

By DAVID CRUZ

On the eve of the first day of school for Bronx students, city education officials have already begun to remind parents about some requirements that go beyond school supplies: vaccinations.

A listing of required vaccinations for students from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade outline vaccinations needed to ensure students ward off illness and academics carry on. Of all students in need of shots, young ones at or below the age of four years old receive the bulk of the shots, which now include the flu shot. The latest mandate by the state Health Department includes two doses of measles, mumps and rubella shots, needed before children attend school. A breakdown of vaccinations follows:

Pre-Kindergarten: Mandatory shots include four shots for diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTaP); three doses of the polio; one for measles,

mumps and rubella (MMR); three doses for Hepatitis B; one for the chickenpox; one to four doses of haemophilus influenza type B conjugate (Hib); one to four doses for pneumococcal conjugate (PCV); and one shot for influenza.

Kindergarten-Grade 1: Five DTaP shots are required. Should a child receive their first DTaP at age four, then only four shots are required; four doses of the polio vaccine; two MMR doses; three doses for Hepatitis B; and two doses for chickenpox. Children are required to get two doses of MMR or they cannot attend school. *(Note: If a child has received these vaccines before the age of four then there's no need to re-immunize.)*

Grades 2-5: Five DTaP shots are required. Should a child begin their series of shots before age 7, they only need three doses; three shots for polio; two doses for MMR; three doses for Hepatitis B; and one dose for chicken-



Photo courtesy Montefiore Medical Center

NEVER TOO EARLY. A nurse administers a vaccine to this infant, just one of many doses required to enter school. Doctors recommend children receive their shots early.

pox. *(Note: If a child has received these vaccines before the age of four, then there's no need to re-immunize.)*

Grades 6-7: Three DTaP doses are needed; one dose for tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis booster (Tdap) **is mandatory**; four doses of polio (or three doses ONLY if the third dose was received at four years of age or older); two doses for MMR; three doses for Hepatitis B; two doses for chickenpox. *(Note: If a child has received these vaccines before the age of four then there's no need to re-immunize.)*

Grades 8-12: Three DTaP doses are needed; one Tdap shot **is mandatory**; three doses for polio; two doses for MMR; three doses for Hepatitis B; one dose for chickenpox. *(Note: If a child has received these vaccines before the age of four then there's no need to re-immunize.)*

Shots are available throughout Montefiore Medical Centers, with vaccination clinics scattered throughout the Bronx. Appointments and walk-ins are accepted, with nurses often administering doses. Getting a shot well

before school begins is critical, given the usual two week waiting period for some vaccines, particularly the flu shot, to kick in. Various immunization methods are available to children, according to Dr. Iona Mujal, Director of the pediatric antimicrobial stewardship program at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore (CHAM).

"Many children, particularly those without underlying medical conditions, have the option of getting an intranasal vaccine, a nasal spray, instead of the injection which spares them the discomfort of a shot," said Mujal.

Also, uninsured and undocumented families can get free or low cost care that includes vaccines and flu shots at Federally Qualified Health Centers. They include the Comprehensive Family Care Center, 1621 Eastchester Rd. (718) 405-8040; West Farms Family Practice, 1055 E. Tremont Ave. (718) 842-8040; Williamsbridge Family Practice Center, 3448 Boston Rd. (718) 547-6111; and South Bronx Campus, 701 St. Ann's Ave. (718) 402-7618.

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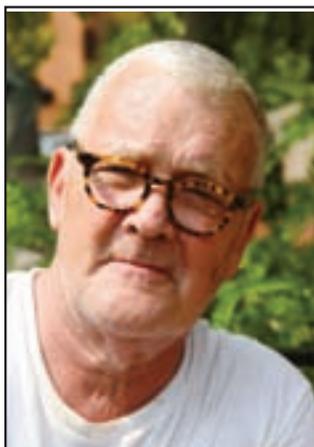
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INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE

This week we asked readers how they spent their summer and what they look forward to most this fall.



Well, our son is off to college. During the summer we spent most of our time in New York because it's the most marvelous place to be in the summer, because it's not that crowded. I've been a native New Yorker for 70 years and I love this city.

Eric Courtney
West Farms



We're waiting for our son to go back to school. The summers are too short and the fall comes too quickly. I'm definitely not looking forward to the cold weather.

Julia Courtney
West Farms



Actually, we did Orchard Beach and visited a pool in Yonkers. So I kept cool and we had some cookouts, especially for the Fourth of July. I can wait for the cold weather, I like the warmth. I really didn't get to do too much, to be honest, but I'm supposed to go on a cruise in November, so I'm going to get on that boat and go away.

Juan Santiago
Bedford Park



We went out to Coney Island and spent the summer with my son and watched him grow. I'm looking forward to getting my own place so my son and I can finally have our own thing established. Saving money so I can continue to provide a better life for us.

Cheyenna Vennis
Eastchester



I spent the summer at my house and played with my friends. We used to go to the park and visit the Summer Play Streets Program. We also had a barbecue at Orchard Beach. I am looking forward to going back to school at MS 45. I am looking forward to the colder weather.

Amadou Kone
Bedford Park

Editor's Note: Have an idea for an Inquiring Photographer question? Send suggestions to dcruz@norwoodnews.org.



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Giveaways Galore in Back-to-School Fair

Photos by Jasmine Gomez

HUNDREDS OF KIDS came out to grab several back-to-school freebies including backpacks, courtesy of a trifecta of elected officials, including Senator Gustavo Rivera, Assemblyman Victor Pichardo and Councilman Ritchie Torres on Aug. 21 at Tremont Park.



THE EVENT FEATURED an appearance by Hot Dog, the safety mascot for the FDNY, posing with (l-r) state Senator Gustavo Rivera, two FDNY officials and a young, face painted student.



LONG LINES STRETCH ever so long as parents and their children wait at the backpack giveaway line.



THIS YOUNG MAN makes a pit stop at the face painting station, one of many features at the back-to-school fair.

CARMEN FARIÑA Schools Chancellor



Op-Ed: Building Stronger School Communities

As Chancellor, I love talking to our students and parents at community meetings, forums, town halls and even in the grocery store—and I hear the same message time and again: every parent wants to see their child graduate and ready to conquer the world—and every child wants to follow their dreams and achieve. I took this job specifically to make success a reality for every child and every family across New York City.

This summer, superintendents, principals, teachers and central staff have been working tirelessly to ensure that students and families begin the school year with necessary supports and services so parents can help their student both inside and outside the classroom. I'm excited to bring on new leadership to bring my vision to fruition—a veteran Bronx educator, Yolanda Torres, who will serve as executive superintendent of the Division of Family and Community Engagement (FACE).

As superintendent, Yolanda hosted parent meetings, expanded training opportunities for parent leaders, and got parents who hadn't typically been involved – involved. As a former public school parent, teacher, principal, I know she gets it. We both agree: an engaged and informed parent community is necessary to improve student outcomes.

Yolanda will build on the family engagement work done so far to build even stronger family-community ties through an emphasis on training and professional development, outreach and engagement, and parent leadership.

Regardless of the language a parent speaks at home, he or she can play a critical role in our school system and to their child's education. In fact, celebrating your family heritage and language at home is a great family activity. We must create more welcoming environments for all families and develop stronger relationships between schools and their communities, and we will do this together.

I want to hear from you. What can we do to better serve you and your family? In response to parent feedback, some schools have started offering more English classes and providing GED classes. Other schools have cooking classes and zumba to ensure our bodies and minds stay healthy.

Pencil in your September parent conference now: Sept. 17 (elementary schools), Sept. 16 (middle schools) and Sept. 30 (high schools). I urge every New York City school parent to participate and meet with teachers, learn about the curriculum, upcoming events and get involved in their child's learning.

Together, we will achieve greatness. We will build stronger family-community ties and this will lead to improved student outcomes. When families feel welcomed and encouraged to play an active role in their child's academic work, our students do better. We all do better. Together we will make New York City the best urban school district in the nation.

Carmen Fariña was appointed Schools Chancellor in 2013 by Mayor Bill de Blasio.

Things to Do After School at MMCC

MMCC's Discovery Club/After-school is the place to be during the school year, with a host of activities for children of all ages. Located at 3450 DeKalb Ave., MMCC's Discovery Club/Afterschool is a great place for children to enjoy an enriched curriculum of classes and clubs in Norwood.

Activities include ice skating, bowling, computer courses, soccer, art workshop, nature crafts, drama, music, basketball, activity groups and homework help. All of these classes and clubs are included in the affordable fee. Children receive a nutritious snack each day.

Special needs services may be available for your child based on certain criteria. A current Individualized Education Program (IEP) and intake interview must be scheduled prior to the student starting the program.

The program serves children from Kindergarten through 5th grade and starts Wednesday, Sept. 16. Parents can choose after-school services from two to five days a week. Afterschool is available until 6 p.m. (late coverage is available until 6:30 p.m.).

Trips and activities are avail-

able on most school holidays for an additional fee.

Escort service is available for PS 94, PS 280 and St. Ann's. Van services are available from PS 56, Bronx Community Charter and St. Brendan's, PS 8, PS 95 and Am Park School. School buses and vans from CPE, River East, Bronx New School, Kinneret and Fieldstons schools stop at our corner.

MMCC has been entrenched in the neighborhood since the 1940s when a group of neighborhood women noticed a need for teen and senior services. By 1958, a 30,000-square-foot space was carved out for MMCC at the corner of East Gun Hill Road and DeKalb Avenue. Recreation has served as a hallmark to MMCC, whose ultimate goal is community building. Services are also available for senior citizens.

For more information about our MMCC Discover Club/Afterschool, visit our website at mmcc.org or call the After School Director, Tanika Francis at (718) 882-4000 ext. 388.

Additional locations include PS 7, PS 8, PS 169 and PS 175. For information about these locations, visit our websites or call Ruth Moore at (718) 882-4000.



Photo courtesy MMCC

THESE CHILDREN ARE busy at work...homework that is. After school homework help is available at MMCC.

FALL PROGRAMS

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Starting Oct. 10

AFTER SCHOOL CARE, K-5TH GRADE

At our main building Mon to Fri, end of school day to 6pm or 6:30pm. Snack followed by homework help as well as all types of sports, arts, nature, science, creative and performing classes. Pickups from P.S. 94, 95, 280, 56, St Anne's, St Brendan's, P.S 8- Plus private schools drop off at our building.

SCHOOL BASED SITES

P.S. 7 Kingsbridge, P.S 8 Bedford Park, P.S. 169, New P.S. 175 City Island
Escorts from P.S. 37 and 207 to P.S. 7

Starting Sept. 16

MOSES PROJECT, K-3RD GRADE

Sunday school alternate weeks. Jewish children from multi-cultural families

Starting Sept. 27

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Sites

MMCC: 3450 DeKalb Avenue
Marble Hill: 5365 Broadway at W228th St.
FT Independence: 3350 Bailey Avenue

OUT OF SCHOOL

YOUTH PROGRAMS

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Counseling, Job Placements,
internships

BEACON YOUTH CENTER

After School and Teen centers

Evander campus: 800 E. Gun hill Rd

P.S.86: 2756 Reservoir Ave

M.S. 142: Baychester Ave

P.S. 8: Briggs and Mosholu Parkway

Actor's Studio Program at P.S. 8

4th-12th grade. Starting October 2nd

ESL

Classes begin Sept. 29th

Mon-Thu, 8:30am-10am
and 10:30am-12:30pm

Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

EDITOR'S PICK

Clothing and Food Drives

Riverdale-Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture, 4450 Fieldston Rd., is having a **clothing drive** to benefit Part of the Solution (POTS), where clothing is distributed to the homeless, people going back to work in need of business attire, and anyone else in need of new clothing. Please only donate suitable clothing, including shoes, belts, ties, and bedding until the end of October. RYSEC is also having an **ongoing food drive** to benefit the Kingsbridge-Riverdale-Marble Hill Food and Hunger Project, Inc. (KRMH). Donate canned food (nothing perishable or expired) for low-income families, homeless, underemployed and unemployed families. For more information, visit POTS at www.potsbronx.org; and for KRMH, call (718) 548-4445.

Onstage

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra**, featuring Wynton Marsalis and Carlos Henriquez: Back in the Bronx, Sept. 12 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$30 to \$65. For more information, call (212) 721-6500.

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents **Elektra by Richard Strauss**, performed by the New York Opera Forum, Sept. 12 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

Events

The Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, 895 Shore Rd., Pelham Bay Pk., presents **First Friday! Music & Bronx Trolley**, Sept. 4 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Singer/guitarist Mary Courtney performs Irish music. Tickets are \$10/adults; \$8/seniors/students; members/free. For more information and to register, call (718) 885-1461 or email info@bpmm.org.

Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Art Projects**: Mattiasdottir's Outdoor Painting, to use watercolors and find



Carlos Henriquez with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. Photo courtesy Lehman Center for the Performing Arts.

inspiration in Icelandic-American painter Louisa Mattiasdottir, Sept. 5 and 6; and Palisades in Plaster, to create your own sculptural rock formation, then color, Sept. 12 and 13; both in WH House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Grounds admission is free until noon Saturdays and Tuesdays all year. For more information and a schedule of events including tours and walks, call (718) 549-3200.

Exhibits

Lehman College, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents an **Art Department Faculty Exhibit**, Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., through Sept. 26. On Sept. 9, there will be an opening



Bronx Library Center. File Photo

reception from 4 to 6 p.m. and artist talks from 3 to 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 960-8731.

Library Events

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents the following events for adults (all require in-person advance registration): **Computer Basics**: Sept. 3 and 15 at 2 p.m.; **E-mail for Beginners**: Sept. 10 at 1 p.m.; **Advanced Microsoft Word 2010**: Sept. 10 at 6 p.m.; **Saving and Recovering Data**: (save data to flash drives and recover data that might be lost), Sept. 16 at 2 p.m.; and **Annual Job Expo**: (includes workshops; 40 companies are expected), Sept. 16 at 11 a.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

The Mosholu Library, 285 E. 205th St., offers for adults: **Knitting Circle**

at 3 p.m.: Sept. 3, 10 and 17; and **Free Computer Classes**: to learn email and basic computer information, Wednesdays, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

The Jerome Park Library, 118 Eames Place (near Kingsbridge Road), offers for kids: **Afternoon Arts at 4 p.m.**: (ages 5 to 12), to learn about art, then create a piece, Sept. 9 and 16; and **Kids Get Active Fridays at 3 p.m.**: (ages 5 to 12), dance and zumba, Sept. 4 and 11. Teens/young adults can enjoy **Art Club at 4:30 p.m.**: to draw and paint with materials provided, Sept. 8 and 15. Adults can attend **Computer Basics at noon**: for beginners, Sept. 3, 10 and 17. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

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



Family Art Project at Wave Hill. Photo courtesy Joshua Bright.

Shelter Plan Nixed For Now...

(continued from page 1)

a deal through the New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS) that houses shelter residents in a building with rent-paying tenants. A key tangible change often comes in the installation of a building security guard, where shelter residents must sign in and out. The method was implemented during the Giuliani administration, then morphed considerably under the Bloomberg administration, and continues in the de Blasio administration despite assurances to undo the practice.

The arrangement hasn't always worked as lifestyles clash, skepticism over new shelter residents mounts and the feeling of living in a homeless shelter is too much to bear for residents, many of whom are single mothers.

"They're not going to be here for long, so they think they can get away with things," said Rosanna Pena, a mother who was once homeless. Her fears stem from living in a shelter where theft was rampant, loud music remained endless and there was a reported rape.

Rosa Martinez, a mother of three and formerly homeless, feared the shelter's arrival after living in a Brooklyn shelter before. She recounted the experience as mayhem.

The policy, powered by a legal order that mandates the city provide housing to all homeless, does have its unintended consequences. Among them is the siphoning of the city's already squeezed affordable housing stock, as landlords take units out of the supply chain and reserve them for shelter residents. Usually, not-for-profit shelter providers are contracted by DHS to secure residences. Landlords then charge the not-for-profits upwards of \$3,000 a month per unit, above regulated rents.

"It's just mind boggling how the city would be a participant in this," said John Garcia, executive director of Fordham Bedford Community Services, of the shelter system. "Displacing tenants out of apartment buildings is not the solution."

News of shelter worries prompted tenants to hold an emergency, town hall-style meeting with Garcia and Canela of NWBCCC. The group, sitting on chairs reserved for shelter apartments, still partially wrapped in plastic, addressed concerns over alleged tenant harassment by Commercial Realty Resolution LLC. Within the last few weeks, the company's receiver of rents called ten-



Photo by David Cruz

TENANTS AT 319 E. 197TH ST. hold an emergency meeting over speculation a cluster-site shelter would operate inside their building. They sit on brand new chairs reserved for empty apartments.

ants, talking them into leaving their apartments with the promise of relocating them. Tenants also alleged their requests for repairs in their apartments have been largely ignored, interpreted as a sign of tenant harassment.

But truly confirming the landlord's intentions has remained a mystery, as the current building owner has operated in secret. Financial records show the building had changed hands. In April of this year, A1 Equities LLC, with a registered address in Brooklyn and no phone number listed, took over the deed. Documents show Joel Wertberger to be the sole signatory of the

property, though no number was listed. His name and occupation bears similarity to a Joel Wertberger of Brooklyn. The *Norwood News* obtained a phone number belonging to the seller, Josh Neustein, who refused to comment for this article.

For now, residents have claimed victory, and are now looking to receive the same upgrades as the would-be shelter units.

"They went all out fixing these apartments," said Diaz.

"And what they do for us?" asked Alyna Smith.

"Stick-on tiles," said Diaz, cheekily.

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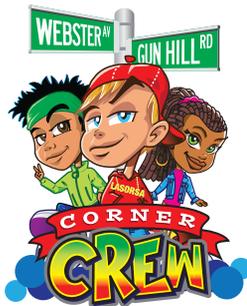
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