



NORWOOD NEWS

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TACKLING G&T INEQUITIES

Task force hears strengths and weaknesses of gifted and talented programs



Photo by Adi Talwar

YAJAIRA ADORNO OF Norwood testifies before a panel focusing on the problems of the city Department of Education's gifted and talented program.

By **DAVID CRUZ**

A task force is learning the city Department of Education's gifted and talented program (G&T) is in high demand, short supply, poorly publicized, and poses logistical nightmares for the hundreds of parents whose children enroll in the program. They've also found persisting racial inequities in a city where minorities dominate.

The task force, jointly led

by Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. and his Brooklyn counterpart, Eric Adams, held its first session on March 20 at the Bronx High School of Science, a specialized high school where entry becomes a years-long goal for parents. The eight-member panel heard from parents frustrated by a system where G&T seats are few in the Bronx.

The panel heard from Masura Tidjani, a mother of two African-American boys in School District 9 who qualified for a G&T program for the past two years. On the first day of one of her son's G&T class, Tidjani was told that PS 199x The Shakespeare School had canceled it for the school year.

"When I spoke to the principal she told me that they were

supposed to have the program for the past two years but did not have any programs because they don't have enough students to open a class," Tidjani told panelists, who sat jotting notes. "According to the DOE, you have to have at least 25 children in order to open a gifted and talented class."

Her son re-took the test, scoring above 97 percent, which
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EDITORIAL

A Smarter Way to Have Your Voice Heard

Participatory Budgeting is once again under way in Councilman Andrew Cohen's 11th Council District, which includes Norwood and Bedford Park, partially shifting a process that's usually tasked by elected officials in a representative government and placing it into the hands of the electorate. The question posed to the public is simple: If you had \$1 million to put towards physical improvements in your neighborhood, what would they be?

For the past six months, a handful of residents have bounced that question around, coming up with a list of projects that can benefit their communities. During the last week of March, residents will be asked to head to a local library to put down on paper what proposal they favor the most.

One of the positions this paper has taken over the last few years is that while the process is noble, it can be cumbersome to a constituency that can be too busy to physically show up to vote on a project. That sentiment is reflected in voter turnout for the September primaries within the Norwood area: only 20 percent of the population turned out to vote in the last mayoral election, according to figures by the New York City Campaign Finance Board. Participation requires residents to personally attend PB workshops to brainstorm capital projects that are doable and fall within PB's constraints (a project must be valued at \$35,000, have a more than five-year longevity, and be vetted by the appropriate city agency). These projects require capital money, taxpayer funds that can take upwards of five years to secure, thanks to the arcane New York City budget.

Councilman Cohen, whose office has embedded Participatory Budgeting in its civic fold ever since his being elected in 2013, has made it a less exclusive event this time out by allowing residents to cast their votes for a project or projects online. The online voting initiative is a move coming from Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viver-



Image courtesy New York City Council

THE NEW YORK CITY Council website offers Bronx residents the chance to vote on projects proposed during Participatory Budgeting sessions.

ito, who deserves credit for understanding the time constraints working class families have when it comes to civic engagement.

From the comfort of your home, you can decide the fate of several proposals chosen during the initial phase of Participatory Budgeting. Proposals include:

1. Accessible Bathrooms for Disabled Patrons
2. \$35,000 Tech Grants for Eight Schools in the District
3. Gym Locker Renovations
4. Installation of HVAC System and Wiring
5. HVAC System and Wiring for PS 81
6. Clay Tennis Court: Indian Field-Van Cortlandt Park
7. Adult Fitness Equipment at Classic Playground
8. Seton Park Mini Skate Park
9. Decorative Street Lights Along Webster Avenue
10. Cameras for the Police Precincts

From there, it's a matter of log in to

www.pbnyc.org/vote, typing in general information on who you are (anyone age 14 or over can vote), and simply choosing five projects you wholeheartedly believe are the most worthwhile. Results are released in July, ending a nine-month process aimed at demonstrating how projects are conceived from start to finish. Here's hoping Council members consider the percentage of voters who voted on PB projects, rather than the number of voters. The number of voters living in one community can drastically outnumber the numbers in an adjacent neighborhood.

There is pure power in voting when it comes to shaping your neighborhood. You are, after all, making an investment in the people around you. Complaints run rampant that participating within the confines of a bureaucratic system can be a long, drawn out process. The traditional way can work for some. The alternate way can work for a lot more people.

A listing of voting sites can be found at <http://bit.ly/2nMOZWM>.

Public and Community Meetings

COMMUNITY BOARD 7 committee meetings are held on the following dates at the board office, 229 E. 204th St., at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted: Executive Committee meets on April 4; Public Safety & Quality of Life Committee meets on April 6; Environment & Sanitation Committee meets on April 11; Health & Hospitals Committee meets on April 11 at 7:30 p.m.; Senior Services Committee meets on April 12; and Parks & Recreation meets on April 12 at 7:15 p.m. For more information, call (718) 933-5650.

COMPTROLLER SCOTT STRINGER hosts a meet and greet at Tracey Towers, 40 W. Mosholu Parkway So., in the 1st floor Community Room B, on April 3 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. To RSVP, contact Waheera Mardah at (212) 669-3683 or email Wmardah@comptroller.nyc.gov.

THE BEFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION will meet on Wednesday, April 5 at 8 p.m. at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. So., Apt. B1. For more information, email bedfordmosholu@verizon.net.

OPINION

Eliminating Barriers

By **JUAN LAZALA**

Like every dad, I want to provide my daughter with everything she needs to succeed in school and in life. But as a parent raising a child in an increasingly connected world, I've struggled to provide my daughter the technology she needs to stay ahead of the curve. For a long time, I couldn't afford to buy my daughter a computer or provide her with internet access, which was incredibly frustrating. My daughter would often have to complete assignments and projects at a friend's house or the library. Then the JHS 80 community – where my daughter is a seventh grader – came to the rescue.

The school realized that many students, like my daughter, did not have access to technology at home. As a result, this school year more than 100 students had received an iPad and Wi-Fi was installed in our homes. The school not only provided the technology, but also gave us – the parents – training on how to use it to support our kids in their learning. I was astounded by the resources available on her tablet. My daughter has access to virtual coaches, online libraries, advanced courses, research guides, and

24-hour feedback. I am also able to see her coursework, deadlines, test dates, and track her progress.

I am proud to be part of a school community that addresses the needs of every family and strives to provide equity and excellence for every student.

JHS 80 is a Renewal School. That means that our community receives additional services, not just to support students in the classroom, but to help them succeed at home. For example, our free WiFi was made possible through a partnership with the New York Public Library to help close the digital divide and address the needs of over two million New Yorkers who do not have internet at home.

With daily access to an iPad, my daughter always come to school prepared to learn with no more obstacles. I am proud of what she has accomplished so far – she is more independent and takes ownership of her work. And she is teaching me at home how to use the technology.

At JHS 80 everyone gets a chance to advance and succeed, together.

Juan Lazala is a parent of a student at JHS 80.

School Safety

By **PETRA MILTEER**

When parents like me drop our kids off at school, we trust that they're entering a safe environment where they can grow into the best version of themselves. But in reality, this isn't always the case. Many New York City schools are getting less safe, according to a new report from Manhattan Institute, and this change puts children in danger.

From 2012-2013, the last two years of Mayor Bloomberg's time in office, a little more than 27% of students reported that fighting was happening frequently at their school. But over the past two years of the de Blasio administration, this has gone up to over 37% - meaning that thousands of students face a constant threat of violence at school. And it's not just students who think city schools have become less safe. According to the Manhattan Institute report, almost a third of teachers asked said there is no order and discipline in their school.

These statistics should worry any parent whose child attends a New York City district school. They make it clear that Mayor de Blasio's school safety policies, which were supposed to protect kids, have only made things worse.

Seeing how unsafe city schools had become, I knew I had to find another option for my sons. I wanted them to go to a school that would teach them respect and kindness, and a school where they would feel safe. The district schools in the South Bronx, where we live, didn't pass this test, so I decided to look into public charter schools. Beniah and Micaiah ended up winning the lottery

to attend South Bronx Classical 1, a great public charter school right in our neighborhood, and I was able to breathe a sigh of relief.

At SBC 1, my sons are part of a community where they're protected. Because teachers aren't worried about losing control of the classroom, they can make sure students use every minute of the day to learn. When my sons come home from school, they tell me about what they've learned that day, not about what fights they saw breaking out.

I know I'm lucky to have found a safe option for my family, but it breaks my heart that so many others don't have this opportunity. Mayor de Blasio, whose policies created this school violence crisis, has also prevented thousands of children from escaping it. His administration has denied space to public charters like SBC 1 over and over again, keeping them from serving more kids stuck at violent district schools. Because of the Mayor's actions, more than 44,000 families are still on charter school waiting lists, hoping that they'll soon be able to send their children to safe schools. If Mayor de Blasio cares about the children whose education he oversees, he needs to start making real changes. He needs to pursue policies that make public schools safer, and needs to support the schools that already protect our children, like public charter schools.

Petra Milteer is a public charter school parent from the South Bronx. She has two sons who attend second grade and kindergarten at South Bronx Classical I.



Letters To The Editor

Correcting 'Rent Rolls' Article

I'm afraid some of the things in the article entitled "Rent Rolls Questioned" [Norwood News issue dated March 16-29] are incorrect.

Landlords are not required to show tenants their apartment's rent history.

Landlords are required to complete and file a Rent Registration form with the NYS DHCR Rent Administration Office stating what the Legal Rent is on April 1 of each year and give a copy to the tenant. Tenants are supposed to be sent this form, so that they can verify that what the landlord is charging and what he has listed as the legal rent are correct.

Tenants do not always receive these Rent Registrations.

When a tenant moves into a Rent Stabilized Apartment, the landlord is supposed to provide the tenant with a Lease Rider stating what the last tenant was paying and showing how the landlord figured the rent on the lease.

This is also not always happening.

The actual Rent History is a document on file at the NYS DHCR's Office of Rent Administration, and can be accessed only by the tenant and the owner.

But because tenants don't receive the rent registrations, they may never know what the landlord has said he is

charging.

What that means is that the following can easily happen:

Tenant A has been paying \$990 rent for the last two years. He never received a Rent Registration and so has no way of knowing that landlord has told DHCR that he is paying \$1,400 in rent. Tenant A moves out. Tenant B moves in. The new legal rent on the apartment is based on what the last tenant paid. Tenant B should be paying \$990 + the legal rent increase + the vacancy rent increase (usually 20 percent). (In this case, the legal rent should be approximately \$1,188.) Instead, the landlord says he needs to pay \$1,400 + the legal rent increase + the vacancy rent increase (approximately \$1,680).

Then to further complicate things, the owner tells Tenant B, "I'm going to do you a favor. I'm going to charge you a Preferential Rent of \$1,200, which

is less than the 'legal rent.' Tenant B is happy and signs the lease. But that Preferential Rent is only good for that current lease. The landlord can go back to the \$1,680 when it's time to renew the lease. So Tenant B may not only be paying more rent than necessary, he is also less likely to complain about lack of repairs or lack of heat.

At West Bronx Housing and Neighborhood Resource Center, we have seen an increase in this scenario and so we are highly recommending that tenants request their rent histories. To get your rent history, call (718) 430-0880 or send an email requesting your rent history to rentinfo@nyshcr.org. The rent history will be mailed to your house. If you're not sure what you're looking at, you can call us at (718) 798-0929.

Sally Dunford
Executive Director, West Bronx Housing

INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By **DAVID GREENE**



With the recent closing of the CVS Pharmacy in Norwood, this week we asked readers their thoughts on the future of brick and mortar business and the impact the Internet is having on local businesses.



I'm a cook professionally; businesses are always going to take losses regardless. Even in the cooking industry when you order food, you have to automatically look at that. Yes, businesses are in danger because people rely on technology too much. So what's going to happen is people won't be able to take care of their families, because there's not going to be any work. We're relying on computers to be cashiers, drive cars, taxis, the trains, and I don't trust it.

Phillip Ware
Morissania (formerly of Norwood)



Of course stores are in danger of closing. If technology can do the job that man does, then they don't need people to work anymore, and that's why businesses are going to close down. Everybody will become homeless, we'll all be in the street. The city will make more money and the poor people will get poorer. I think there is always a solution, I just don't know what it is.

Suhail Alkaify
Norwood



Yes, there're a lot of businesses closing because the rents are too high and the economy is slow. The box stores don't help because everything is cheaper. In 10 years I think all the big stores will take over the little stores, they're not going to make it. It's happening little by little. They're closing and only the big stores are opening now.

Ernesto Cartagena
Bedford Park



I don't really think that small retail stores will disappear because we will always need something for people to do to earn a living and keep the economy moving, to pay rent and buy stuff. I don't think it's a good idea, I don't think it will work. I don't shop online; actually, I like to see what I'm buying. They never send you what you ask for.

Tania Luque
Bedford Park



We have some smaller shops closing up along Lydig Avenue and White Plains Road. I don't only see closures, but I see some shops close for weeks or months on end. I think some of the chain stores like Domino's and the local Chinese restaurant will stay successful, but the mom and pop kind of stores really can't compete with the box stores or the online companies that advertise on TV or your smart phone and they send you stuff by FedEx or drone and deliver it right to your door.

Kay Cardona
Pelham Parkway

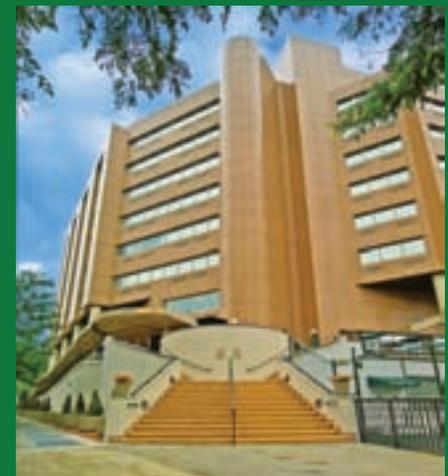
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As Norwood Project Begins, Developers Met With Concerns

By DEBORAH CRUZ

Mixed emotions engulfed a recent Community Board 7 Housing/Land Use and Zoning Committee meeting when the Stagg Group, a housing development firm, sat down to present plans for a 13-story building to be built at the crossroads of Norwood and Bedford Park.

Mark Stagg, CEO of the Stagg Group, and the firm's executive vice president, Adolfo Carrion, laid out the plans for the Mosholu Grand, a 153-unit residence to be built at 150 Van Cortlandt Ave. The building gets its name from its proximity to Mosholu Parkway and the Grand Concourse.

"We think this is a tremendous opportunity at the north end of the Grand Concourse in a great neighborhood near Montefiore Medical Center, near shopping, near mass transit," Carrion, who once served as Bronx Borough President, said.

Attendees believed that the building, staying within zoning limits, would add to an already congested neighborhood where school overcrowding, traffic, and parking remains problematic.

"This community, which always has a small-town feel, is beginning to feel not like that anymore. It is becoming overwhelming at times," Betty Arce, a long-time resident of Norwood, said at the meet-



Photo by Deborah Cruz

COMMUNITY BOARD 7'S Housing/Land Use and Zoning reviews plans for the Mosholu Grand at 150 Van Cortlandt Ave. at the corner of the Grand Concourse.

ing.

The project's building size certainly conflicts with an overall vision pushed by Anthony Riviuccio, a Bedford Park resident who led a grassroots campaign to downzone Mosholu Parkway and its surrounding blocks. "For the last six months we have fought and have been very successful in trying to get Mosholu Parkway downzoned to an R5 status," Riviuccio, referring to the lower zoning designation he seeks for the neighborhood, said. CB7 officially backed the plan in February.

"The community is very much in favor

of having smaller building-downzoning," Jean Hill, committee chair, said.

Carrion and Stagg justified the building's size, given the current affordable housing crunch across the city.

"[T]here is a housing emergency in New York," Carrion said. "We have a two percent vacancy rate. It's always a buyer's market."

"It's the right thing to do," Stagg said of the project. "It's city planning."

The proposed site, once home to a gas station, has been decontaminated and approved by the New York City Department

of Housing Preservation and Development, according to Carrion and Stagg. The report is still pending.

"The reports are coming out, they become part of public record because it is a New York City HPD job, and [Housing Development Corporation funded]," said Carrion, referring to the latter agency whose task is to fund housing projects with conditions.

Stagg is also building a second, 10-story, 62-unit residence on St. George's Crescent, directly behind the Mosholu Grand. While the project remains in the early stages, the space is home to a colony of feral cats, which cannot be domesticated.

"We want to work with this. Let's talk about how we can do it and how we can go about it," said Stagg.

Roxanne Delgado, an animal activist in Bedford Park, said, "The problem with relocating cats is that their survival rate is very low because you're introducing new cats to other cats. Sometimes they chase them out and they can get hit by cars." For now, the Guardian Angels, a neighborhood watch group, has been looking after the cats.

Expected date of completion for the Mosholu Grand is spring of 2019.

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WiFi Service Comes to Bronx Buses

By DYLAN CROLL

Buses in New York will now have WiFi and USB charging ports. On March 21, the first of 83 new buses with these features arrived in the Bronx.

Three to five MTA buses will be delivered per week after the initial delivery of four buses for a total of 83 buses by the end of the year. They will be based at the MTA's West Farms depot station and on Bx10, Bx30, and Bx38.

Select Bus Service, a bus service that resembles train service with off-board technology that allows passengers to pre-pay their fare with less time per stop, SBS buses will arrive at a rate of three to four buses per week with 22 total buses delivered by April.

This is all part of Governor Andrew Cuomo's initiative to revamp the MTA's bus operations which will include 2,042 total new buses joining its transportation fleet. Future endeavors to modernize buses include digital information screens, pedestrian warning systems and collision avoidance technology that includes a pedestrian turn warning system.



Photo by Dylan Croll

BAINBRIDGE AVENUE BY East Gun Hill Road is primed for a major overhaul of its sewer system.

Ongoing Sewer Project in Norwood to Operate Day and Night

By DAVID CRUZ

A major sewer project in Norwood is slated to have round the clock work taking place to speed up the process, which could be disruptive to residents' sleep and their drinking water.

Community Board 7 members approved the idea by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, where crews from the New York City Department of Design and Construction (DDC) have spent seven months excavating roads to replace century-old sewer pipes along Bainbridge Avenue. The approval clears DDC to obtain a nighttime work permit from the New York City Department of Transportation, which holds oversight on any work happening on city streets and roads.

Crews have started on Bainbridge Avenue near the Woodlawn station of the #4 subway line and have slowly crept to a "critical intersection" of Bainbridge Avenue and East Gun Hill Road. The intersection is a major nexus for buses, drivers, and ambulances that drop off patients at Montefiore Medical Center. Since the project began, traffic has been somewhat congested, particularly during the morning and early afternoons when schools let out. Parking spots have also been knocked out so crews can dig up the relic drains.

"It'll be easier and faster to allow them to work at night," Lowell Green, Community Board 7's Transportation Committee chair, told members.

A consultant for the project, Teresa Toro, told members at the March 21

general board meeting it'll work as fast as possible to work at night. On top of Montefiore, notices of the work along Bainbridge Avenue were given to St. Ann's School and the Bainbridge Nursing Home. The nursing home was told to prepare for disruptions in water service.

"The longest that we turn off water, we say up to eight hours. It's frequently less. And we're usually not there longer than a day or two," Toro said.

Toro didn't offer much in the way of a time on when the night work in Norwood would finish or what times they will begin. The overall project, spanning the Bronx, is expected to finish sometime in November 2018.

In Van Cortlandt Village, residents are coping with a similar project involving an overhaul of old gas lines by Con Edison, which has knocked out parking spots for the last few weeks. A second project happening between Van Cortlandt Avenue West and Fort Independence



Photo courtesy Gary Axelbank

CON EDISON HAS begun work upgrading gas lines along Sedgwick Avenue near Stevenson Place, to the inconvenience of residents.

Avenue will have crews replace antiquated electric feeder cables. That project is expected to start in April and last until Fall 2018.

Editor's Note: Teresa Toro can be reached at (718) 644-2065 or email, bainbridgeprojectccl@gmail.com.

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Photo by David Greene

PALL BEARERS CARRY out the casket of Yadira Arroyo, the EMT killed in the line of duty on March 16. Funeral services were held at St. Nicholas of Tolentine Roman Catholic Church on March 25.

Funeral for EMT Killed in Line of Duty

By **DAVID GREENE**

A sea of blue intertwined with thousands of New Yorkers paying their final respects to fallen EMT, Yadira Arroyo, in a funeral procession on March 25. Arroyo died after being run over by a crazed man who hijacked her ambulance in the Soundview section of the Bronx on March 16.

Thousands of firefighters and paramedics from several states lined University Avenue outside of the St. Nicholas of Tolentine Roman Catholic Church, at the corner of University Avenue and West Fordham Road in the Fordham section of the Bronx, to say goodbye to the 14-year veteran of the FDNY.

Maria Perez, a mourner, had developed a unique relationship with Arroyo over the past year. Perez was suffering from a heart ailment and had collapsed at various locations on 10 separate occasions. Arroyo was there to bring her back to life.

“She even went to Brooklyn to pick me up, you hear me? She went to Brooklyn to pick me up and bring me to the hospital in the Bronx,” Perez recalled as tears welled in her eyes.

Having worked at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine since 2003, Efrain Gonzalez III remembered Arroyo as she brought patients to the hospital. “She was the one who really paid attention to detail and she had a tremendous respect for her patients,” Gonzalez said.

Dignitaries from New York City, including Mayor Bill de Blasio, FDNY

Commissioner Daniel Nigro, and other local lawmakers were on hand to pay their respects. Arroyo’s distraught EMT partner Monique Williams, and Arroyo’s son Kenneth Robles, 19, were also on hand.

“I know death came for my mother several times, but she ignored it,” Robles said. “This time God said, ‘No, I’m serious.’”

Arroyo leaves behind a boyfriend and five sons.

Police have charged Jose Gonzalez, 25, with first- and second-degree murder, manslaughter and robbery in connection with Arroyo’s death.

Gonzalez has a string of 31 arrests, and according to his family, a history of mental illness.

But police reportedly see it a different way.

“We don’t think Gonzalez is so crazy,” said a police source involved in the investigation. “He jumps off the back of the ambulance that’s stopped at a light to rob a kid of his backpack.

And that’s when they pull over when the people tell them about him robbing the kid. The victim goes around to look and he’s not there because he’s up the block robbing this kid. Then he’s back saying he hurt his hand and to take him to the hospital. She yells at him to give the kid his backpack back. Instead, he runs around and jumps in and backs up over her. “He’s not as crazy as his lawyer is making him out to be.”

Additional reporting by Bob Kappstatter

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S N A P S H O T S



Photo courtesy Bronx Borough President's Office
(L-R) BERTHA LEWIS, FOUNDER and President of The Black Institute; Bronx Councilwoman Annabel Palma; and Milagros Baez O'Toole, Board Chair of the Acacia Network; hold up proclamations they received from Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. (center) at a Women's History Celebration event on March 23 hosted by 1010 WINS reporter Juliet Papas (second from right).



Photo courtesy Montefiore Health System
LAURA WOYASZ, WHO made her Broadway debut in the musical *Wicked*, shares a moment with 5-year-old Rosanna Garcia. The performance by several Broadway stars at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore on March 21 was sponsored by W New York-Times Square, a Manhattan hotel.



Photo courtesy Caleb Bark
THE COVE AND DREAM! teens gather for a photo during their Spring showcase on March 17 at Montefiore Medical Center in Norwood. Featuring video, visual arts, and web design and even a live performance by a teen participant, Youth Produced Projects put on an exciting show aiming to increase their followers on their YouTube page.



Photo by Miriam Quinones
(L-R) HONOREES CHANTEL BROWN, Antonio Landron, Brittany Martinez, Robert Aboaqye, and George Nunoo are this year's recipients of the New York Yankee Scholarship Award. The group was honored by Community Board 7 on March 21 for devoting several hours to community service, a requirement of the prize. The honor comes with a \$750 scholarship and participation in an award presentation at Yankee Stadium on April 17. Congratulations to the group for hitting it out of the ballpark.



Photo by David Cruz
CREWS WITH THE city Department of Sanitation scoop large heaps of snow at the corner of Botanical Square and Webster Avenue left over from the March 14 blizzard that punished the Bronx. Eight inches of snow fell on the borough, which knocked out above ground subway service and canceled schools for the day.



Photo courtesy MPC
(L-R) CHRISTIAN RAMOS, VICE president of the Kingsbridge Road Merchants Association; Melissa Cebollero, senior director of Mosholu Preservation Corporation (MPC, publishers of the *Norwood News*) and senior director of community and government relations for Montefiore Health System; Ilario Martinez, owner of MAS Tailor and Cleaner near the Kingsbridge Road business strip; Jennifer Tausig, director of Mosholu Preservation Corporation and executive director of the Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District; and Councilman Fernando Cabrera help cut the ribbon to new trash bins placed along the Kingsbridge Road business corridor. MPC received a grant for the bins through Councilman Cabrera.



BRONX BARRIERS:

Understanding Your Health



Part 4

The Norwood News and WFUV continue their five-part series profiling ongoing challenges impacting the Bronx.

By SHANNON MEEHAN of WFUV



When Dr. Eric Gayle, a family physician, began treating patients in the Bronx 20 years ago, assessing a patient's ability to comprehend health information, known as health literacy, wasn't part of his initial health assessment.

That changed after a surprising revelation made by one of his long-standing patients. Despite his patient telling him she understood how to read directions he wrote on the back of a prescription, Dr. Gayle soon learned he was misled. His patient didn't know how to read.

"I was stunned," says Dr. Gayle. "I had not paid attention to it, I hadn't given thought to it being the reason she wasn't getting any better." Dr. Gayle would later refine his approach to ensure patients understand their health status beyond literary comprehension, but also understanding their prognosis and diagnosis. To do this, Dr. Gayle says he "uses validated tools such as asking patients to read questions or words in order to determine their level of education." Dr. Gayle says his observations have altered how "we as physicians discuss medication with our patients, whether that be the language we use or by including props to show when medication should be taken." He arranges for patients unable to read to meet with a social worker to locate available community-based services to improve their literacy skills. Dr. Gayle is not alone. Doctors and patients surveyed in a comprehensive 2014 report by Advocate Community Providers, New York Community Preferred Providers found health literacy as an important factor to positive health outcomes.

Health and Poverty

But barriers to basic health liter-



Photo by Shannon Meehan

DAMARIS PEREZ AGU (l), grants and program developer, and Tashi Chodon (r), director of programs, work at Bronx Community Health Network, aiming to offer greater access to primary healthcare for low-income residents.

acy intertwine with educational attainment, which can present challenges to portions of the Bronx. Without the latter, understanding one's health outcomes can be very difficult.

"People with low health literacy are prone to more emergency visits, which could be improved with community health literacy education and providing them with primary care services" says Damaris Perez Agu, grants and program developer at Bronx Community Health Network (BCHN), a nonprofit group affiliated with Montefiore Health System, providing health services to Bronx residents. "Studies have shown that people who have low health literacy often skip preventative health visits, such as mammograms and checkups and they are more likely to visit the ER as their main source of primary care."

A 2013 report by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) that evaluated the state of emergency rooms found 72 percent of ER visits were considered "potentially preventable" had patients gained "access to high qual-



Photo by Shannon Meehan

DR. ERIC GAYLE has refined his approach to ensuring his patients understand their health.

ity of care settings." Alternatives to emergency room visits include urgent care clinics, which address health conditions that don't rise to the level of an emergency room visit. A 2014 report by the NYSDOH found the Bronx with the highest emergency room visits among residents who use Medicaid. A high con-

centration of repeat visitors lives within the Fordham-Bronx Park neighborhoods, the southern end of the Grand Concourse towards the South Bronx. Those areas are typically deemed low-income, with lower levels of educational attainment.

The Bronx continues to rank as the unhealthiest county out of New York State's 62 counties, according to a report published by the University of Wisconsin and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. According to the study, Bronx residents have a shorter life expectancy than in any other county in New York City or on Long Island, contributing to the highest rates of asthma, heart disease and diabetes. The Twitter campaign, #Not62, was started by the Office of the Bronx Borough President in response to the report, aiming to improve health outcomes for Bronx residents by 2020 through positive health behaviors, access to clinical care, social/economic factors, and the physical environment.

Tashi Chodon, director of programs at BCHN, says social determinants of health go beyond the clinical aspect of health care and in order to create a healthier society it is critical to address risk factors that affect health conditions such as housing, immigration issues, eating habits and transportation issues. Unhealthy behaviors contribute to these conditions. Residents should consider reading food labels and understand the benefit of choosing water over sugar-sweetened beverages, says Chodon.

"We know the Bronx has been the least healthy county in New York State and it has been for years, this in terms of both health outcomes and health risk factors," says Chodon. "There is a huge disparity in the Bronx in terms of the prevalence of chronic diseases. Unhealthy behaviors contribute to these conditions so it makes health literacy in our community so important."

“No More. Finito.” CVS Store in Norwood Closes

By DAVID CRUZ

The doors to the CVS Pharmacy at 310 E. Gun Hill Road and Perry Avenue did not slide open anymore as this location closed on March 18.

“No more. Finito,” a garbage man can be heard saying as

would-be customers unaware of the news tried entering the store. A manager quickly peered out a day after the store closed, telling a handful of customers the store has indeed closed its doors.

The store, located

in a large one-story building had served the community for nearly two decades, serving as an anchor establishment for the largely commercial strip. Employees emphasized the store, which sits on a main Bronx road-

way, was not generating enough revenue.

An unidentified manager of the store said that no jobs would be lost during the transitional period, where pharmacy prescriptions will have to be filled elsewhere. A spokes-



Photo by David Cruz

THIS CVS STORE, at the corner of Gun Hill Road and Perry Avenue, now closed, has served residents in Norwood and beyond for some two decades.

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person said customers can get their prescriptions at 732 Allerton Ave. or have their prescriptions transferred to any other CVS. The clos-

est CVS Pharmacy is a half-mile away on Bainbridge Avenue near East 206th Street.

Additional reporting by David Greene

**TO REPORT A
STORY TO THE
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Man Shoots Self at Oval Pk., Later Arrested

By DAVID CRUZ

Cops from the 52nd Precinct have arrested a man who accidentally shot himself, then reportedly blamed it on a black man.

Police say the incident happened just before 11 p.m. on Friday, March 17. Identified as 20-year-old Arthur Palombo, police say the victim/suspect was walking inside Williamsbridge Oval Park when a gun that was in his backpack had gone off, hitting him in the stomach.

When police arrived, a wounded Palombo allegedly made up a story saying he was shot by a black man with a bald head who was interested in buying the gun. *The Daily News* reported when the two couldn't agree on the price, Palombo was shot. The “suspect” fled while Palombo was rushed to Jacobi Medical Center.

Palombo faces charges including weapons possession and filing a false report.

Be Healthy

90K

Number of children served by the Healthy Steps Program
(Source: Montefiore Health System)

Vital Stats

Monte Grant to Help Streamline Access to Children’s Behavioral Therapies

By DAVID CRUZ

For parents of developmentally delayed children, time is critical for improving their child’s outcome. But accessing behavioral therapies can be a slow and complicated process, posing a problem for children aged 3 to 5 whose developmental stalls can go overlooked.

But a pilot program by Montefiore Health System, set to launch in a few weeks, looks to streamline the process, thanks to a \$70,000 grant it received from the United Hospital Fund.

Partnerships for Early Childhood Development, as the pilot program is called, intends to connect children aged 3 to 5 in need of the Preschool Special Education Process through a referral system created by Montefiore’s Healthy Steps Program (HSP) and the Bronx Early Childhood Direction Center

(BECDC) in Belmont. The center, part of Bronx Independent Living Services (BILS), utilizes a team of behavioral therapists to help parents and children gain development skills and other resources.

HSP tests a child’s behavioral and emotional maturity to determine whether they need extra services. The new program can be found at two of 20 of Montefiore’s HSP sites—the Family Care Center in Norwood and the Comprehensive Family Care Center in Morris Park. Children already patients at the two HSP sites can enroll in the pilot program. Should they participate in the program, they’ll be walked through the referral process by members of BECDC, instead of doing so on their own.

Should they choose to go to BECDC, patients can enroll



Photo by Dylan Croll

MONTEFIORE’S FAMILY CARE CENTER in Norwood (pictured) will offer a more streamlined approach to finding care for developmentally delayed children.

with them, offering Preschool Special Education Services, specially designed lessons to address developmental delays. By addressing these issues, medical experts argue it can stem the cycle of poverty, stress and trauma.

For Dr. Rahil D. Briggs, Montefiore’s director of the Healthy Steps Program who also conceived the pilot program, behavioral specialists play “a crucial role in early identification and referral for interventional therapies” for children under 5.

“The process for children aged 3 to 5 is difficult as families are not typically given much assistance,” Dr. Briggs said. “Our goal is to listen to families through professionally led focus groups and create a system that streamlines the referral and engagement process for children in need of preschool special education services.” It also can create productive futures for patients, Dr. Briggs argues.

The strength of the program will be determined by comparing two other pediatric centers that don’t offer the program. The program is set to last through mid-2018.

Editor’s Note: For more information, call the Norwood HSP site at (718) 920-2273 or the Morris Park site at (718) 405-8040.

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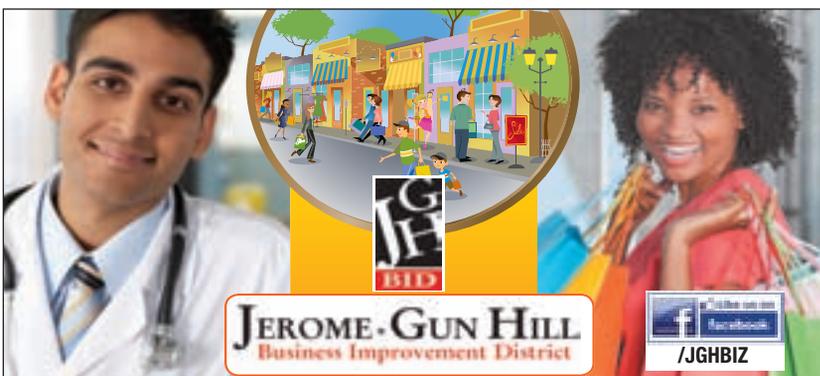


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TRIPS

Kancellia's Travel & Tours presents "Tour 2017"

Jonah The Spectacular Show at the Sight & Sound Theatre in Pennsylvania on Saturday, May 20. \$169 per person includes buffet dinner.
Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic, Aug. 25: 8 days and 7 nights. All inclusive \$1,789 per person. Use our easy lay away plan.
Noah's Ark in Kentucky. 3-day weekend. \$389 per person includes admission to Noah's Ark and Creation Museum on Friday, Aug. 18.
Las Vegas, Nevada. 5 days and 4 nights. \$889 per person at Tropicana Casino, Friday, Aug. 25.
For more information and reservations, please contact Kancellia's Travel & Tours at (347) 405-2017 or Eddie at (718)757-5485.

To Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on Sunday, April 16 at 9 a.m. from East 163rd Street and Southern Boulevard. For more information, please contact Eddie at (718) 757-5485.

HELP WANTED

Bronx Community Board 7 is seeking to hire a Community Assistant. For job description visit <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/bronxcb7/index.page>. Email your resume to Bxcb7searchcommittee@gmail.com. Deadline date to apply: Friday, April 7. The City of New York and Bronx Community Board 7 are Equal Opportunity Employers.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

Participatory Budgeting

Residents age 14 and over, and living within the 11th Council District, which includes Norwood and Bedford Park, can vote for up to five construction projects proposed for the district under Participatory Budgeting. To vote, log on to <http://council.nyc.gov/pb/>.

Immigration Forum

The Legal Aid Society will host a Know Your Rights immigration forum on April 3 at 9 a.m. at Montefiore Health System's Moses Campus, Cherkasky Auditorium, 111 E. 210th St. (East Gun Hill Road entrance).

Free Gardening Classes

The New York Botanical Garden will host a free home gardening program on April 2 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in the Ross Lecture Hall (enter through Mosholu gate). Participants must live within Senate District 34. For more information and to RSVP, call (718) 817-8747.

Meet Local Lawmakers

Two meet and greets with local representatives will be held as follows: With state Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz, Congressman Adriano Espaillat, Councilman Andrew Cohen, and state Senator Jamaal Bailey: April 19 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, 3450 DeKalb Ave. (info: call Dinowitz's office at (718) 796-5345 or email dinowitzj@nyassembly.gov); and with NYC Comptroller Scott M. Stringer at Tracey Towers, 40 W. Mosholu Pkwy., So., 1st floor Community Room B, April 3 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. (info and RSVP: Waheera Mar-dah at (212) 669-3683).

NYS Gov't Internships

Hundreds of new summer internships, paid and unpaid, for NYS college and university undergraduate and graduate students interested in the work of governing and policy-making, are available throughout New York State government. Appli-

cation deadline is April 20. To apply, go to nysinternships.cs.ny.gov.

Free NYS Tax Filing Assistance

The NYS Tax Department is hosting free online tax return filing for individuals or families in the Bronx with Federal adjusted incomes of \$64,000 or less. Online assistance is offered from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Eastchester Library (1385 E. Gun Hill Rd.) on select Wednesdays and at the Melrose Library (910 Morris Ave.) on select Fridays. For more information and a detailed schedule, visit www.tax.ny.gov.

Free Tax Filing Service

Free income tax preparation for qualifying residents is available at University Neighborhood Housing Program (UNHP) on select Wednesdays and Saturdays through April 18 by appointment only. Tax preparers can also review your credit report, provide financial advice, and freeze your rent. Applicants must have all tax documents available before meeting with tax preparer. To learn the qualifications and to schedule an appointment, call (718) 933-2539 or www.unhp.org.

Free Tax Service at MMCC

Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, 3450 DeKalb Ave., offers free tax preparation services for families with an income of \$34,000 and under and individuals with income \$30,000 and under, Tuesdays through Fridays (call for times). For more information and details regarding required forms, and to make an appointment, call (718) 882-4000 ext. 209.

Free Tax Service

Free tax services for individuals earning less than \$54,000 are available at Councilman Ritchie Torres' office, 573 E. Fordham Rd., on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from noon to 7 p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Appointments are required. To schedule an appointment, call (718) 842-8100.

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Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

EDITOR'S PICK

Free Physical Activities Open House

The public is invited to a free Inaugural Adaptive Sports Open House at Williamsbridge Oval Park, April 1 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (meet outside the Recreation Center). Events include hands-on equipment demonstrations, participation in sample adaptive sports sessions, educational health materials, and a 1-mile walk around Oval Park with the docs at Montefiore. Adaptive sports offers physical activity for people with disabilities. For more information, call (718) 547-4940.

Onstage

The Williamsbridge Oval's Recreation Center hosts William Shakespeare's "**The Twelfth Night**," April 8 at 1 p.m. RSVP to sarah.bishow@parks.nyc.gov. For more information, call (718) 543-8672.

Lehman College's Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents the following performances: **Shaolin Warriors**, musical extravaganza with numerous costumes, March 30 at 8 p.m. (tickets: \$25 to \$45; \$10/age 12 and under); **Victor Manuelle**, April 1 at 8 p.m. (tickets: \$45 to \$100); **Moscow Festival Ballet**, featuring a Tchaikovsky Gala, April 2 at 4 p.m. (tickets: \$25 to \$45; \$75/VIP; \$10/age 12 and under); Latin singer **Diego El Cigala** performing salsa and flamenco, and **special guests**, April 8 at 8 p.m. (tickets: \$50 to \$65; \$100/VIP); and **Jose Alberto "El Canario"** and **Septeto Santiaguero**, featuring Latin music (tickets: \$50 to \$65; \$125/VIP). VIP tickets include pre-concert wine and hors d'oeuvres reception and the best seats in

the house. For more information and to RSVP, call (718) 960-8833.

The NY Botanical Garden presents **Magical Thailand - A Journey With the Somapa Thai Dance Company**, performing classical and folk dances, April 1 and 2 at 1 and 3 p.m. in Ross Hall. For more information, call (718) 817-8700.

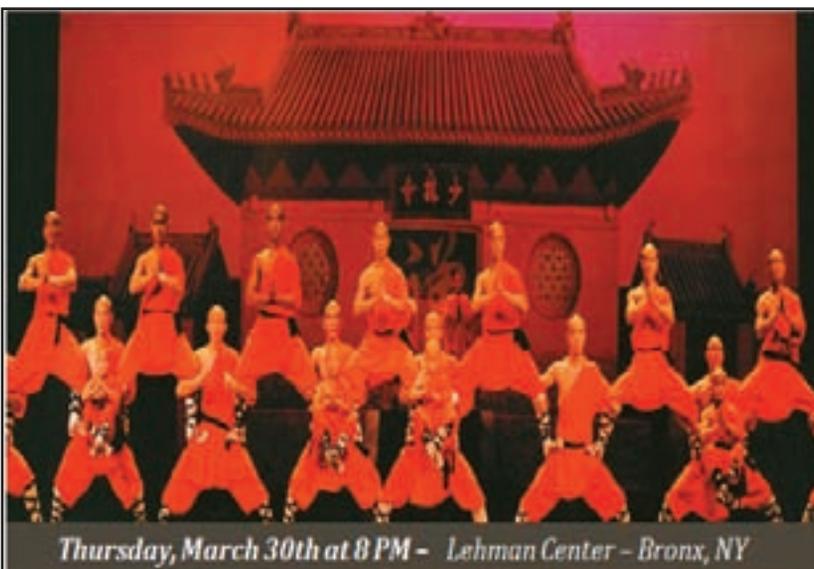
The Bronx Arts Ensemble presents the **Fordham Choir and the BAE Orchestra** performing its annual spring concert, April 2 at 3 p.m. at the Fordham University Church. For more information, fees, and to RSVP, call Susan at (718) 601-7399.

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents **Classics You Can Count On**, featuring classical music performed by the Bronx Symphony Strings Quartet & Friends, April 1 at 2:30; and **Jazz**, featuring the Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music, April 5 at 6 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.



Image courtesy Montefiore Health System

MONTEFIORE HEALTH SYSTEM is sponsoring an Open House on adaptive sports programs on April 1. The event features a walk around Oval Park with Montefiore's medical staffers (see Editor's Pick for more information).



Thursday, March 30th at 8 PM - Lehman Center - Bronx, NY

Photo courtesy Lehman Center for the Performing Arts

SHAOLIN WARRIORS ARE just some of the performances gracing the stage at Lehman Center for the Performing Arts (see Onstage for more information).

Events

Lehman College hosts **Powerful Women Sharing Their Most Valuable Secrets of Success**, April 8 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Lovinger Theatre's faculty dining room, featuring music. For more information, call (718) 933-5650.

The Bronx United Federation of Teachers, 2500 Halsey St., will host a **college fair**, March 31 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for high school students and counselors, featuring college prep workshops, information on admissions, financial aid, exams, and more. For more information, call (866) 509-5921 or (914) 943-9345 (cell).

The NY Botanical Garden will host **Senior Appreciation Day**, April 7 to celebrate Women's History Month. Breakfast and Award Presentation will take place from 9 to 10:30 a.m. in the Garden Terrace Room. Admission is free but seats are limited. For more information and to RSVP, call (718) 842-8100.

Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Art Projects**: Organic Collagraph Collections, to create printing plate made with cardboard and synthetic and natural materials, April 1 and 2; and Eels and Hudson River Theatres, to learn about eels, then create a river theatre diorama with movable parts, April 8 and 9; both in the WH House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also scheduled is **Concert: Amy Burton**, soprano, and **John Musto**, composer/pianist, husband and wife duo, perform popular songs, in the WH House, April 2 at 2 p.m. (\$28; \$22/member; \$15/ages 8 to 18; \$12/child member; info: ext. 251); and **Nature Program: The Incredible Journey of the American Eel**, to learn about and see live eels, April 9 at 2 p.m. in the WH House. 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

The Bronx County Historical Society presents free opening reception of exhibit **Over There, America & The Great War**, April 5 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the Museum of Bronx History at the Valentine-Varian House, 3266 Bainbridge Ave. For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

Library Events

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents for children: **Hands-On Project**: (ages 7 to 12; preregistration required), Paper Plate Bird Craft, March 30 at 4 p.m. Adults can attend: **Microsoft Word 2010 for Beginners**: April 11 at 2 p.m.; and **NY Citizenship Information Session**: free legal help and financial counseling, April 14 at 3:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

The Moshulu Library, 285 E. 205th St., offers for teens/young adults: **film**: "Moana," April 8 at 1:30 p.m. Adults can attend: **Knitting Circle**: Thursdays at 3 p.m. For all: **Free 8-Week Poetry Workshop**: to read and write original poetry for all levels of experience, Saturdays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., March 25 through May 13. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

The Jerome Park Library, 118 Eames Place (near Kingsbridge Road), offers for children: **Kids Get Active Fridays at 2:45 p.m.**: (ages 5 to 12), dance moves on the Wii game console, March 31, April 7 and 14; and **Preschool Story Time and Craft at 11:15 a.m.**: (ages 3 to 5), featuring books, puppetry, dramatics, crafts and flannel boards, March 30, April 6, 13 and 20. Teens/young adults can attend: **Endangered Species**: to see live animals and multimedia presentations, April 11 at 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

NOTE: Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org, and should be received by April 3 for the next publication date of April 13.

Tackling G&T Inequities

(continued from page 1)

granted him access to the top-tier G&T schools across the city. He was denied entry.

"I'm not giving up until I get a solution for my issue and until I get an education that my kid deserves," Tidjani said. "This is a zip code issue. Living in a zip code shouldn't determine what education your children should get, but that's what I'm experiencing right now."

Tidjani's story represents a common criticism of the program—underrepresentation of black and Hispanic students within G&T classes, which offer more rigorous instruction than regular classes. The program is historically viewed as a pipeline to specialized high schools, where academic standards are tougher but a pathway to college is paved. It was her story where Diaz and Adams look to include in a report listing deficiencies in a program where of the 8,220 applicants eligible for a seat during the 2016-17 school year, only 53 percent, or 4,392 were offered placement.

With so much demand, parents asked the task force to recommend the DOE to consider building a K-8 school solely for G&T students.

"[G]eographically, it's difficult to traverse one side—we're in District 10 which goes all the way over to Fordham

and all the way over to the northwest corner at the Hudson [River]. You're never going to be able to place enough district programs in this district to satisfy the needs of every parent. That's a challenge where I don't know what the answer to that is," Damian McShane, a parent of a G&T student, said. McShane proposed a G&T citywide school in the Bronx, arguing "you will see parents organically develop and grow."

The panel also heard from Yajaira Adorno of Norwood, who notes that while the G&T classes offer a well-rounded education, critical issues remain unresolved.

There's the issue of busing her third grade son a mile and a half to PS 7 Milton Fein School, the closest school that offers a G&T class, but an inconvenience that's nonetheless anxiety-inducing. Bus drivers, after all, are driving 30 to 40 kids to school with no adult supervision, she noted. Compounding the daily challenge is her son classified as a student on an Individual Education Plan (IEP), which offers extra services for his disabilities. The services, she claims, are unavailable at a middle school where she hopes her son will attend in three years.

"[T]here is no school that caters to a student like mine, a son like mine, a learner like mine who needs all of these

services that pull him out of class two to three hours a week, pulling him out of instruction," Adorno told the task force.

G&T Classes

G&T classes are divided into two types: District G&T Classes and Citywide G&T Classes. The latter are considered highly sought after by parents wanting a more rigorous education for their kids. There are only five Citywide G&T Classes offered only in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens. Placement in a G&T class depends largely on zip codes, with more G&T schools available in other parts of the city when compared to the Bronx.

Overall, there are only 10 District G&T classes offered in the Bronx, compared to 16 in Manhattan, 27 in Brooklyn, 29 in Queens, and eight in Staten Island. Students from kindergarten through third grade take the test in January and get their results in April. Should a student score a 90 or above, they are eligible for a G&T class and must register by June to begin classes in September.

It remains unclear how many students choose a particular school. Citywide schools are the most highly sought after. For Jennifer Fox, a parent, they're the only good ones. "Why

does that opportunity exist only in the Upper East Side?" Fox testified at the hearing.

Students can enroll in a G&T class after signing up to take a nonverbal and verbal test every January. Results are sent in April, and the deadline to sign up for a class is in June. Handbooks outlining the process are available, but many parents at the hearing complained they're not well promoted.

"I've seen G&T books, thousands of books just lying waist deep," Theodore James, a parent, said at the hearing. "They're not getting to the parents."

Adorno proposed pre-K teachers inform parents of the exam. "Why can't we do one or two parent nights where we talk about the G&T exams and register the kids right there on the spot so they can go and take the test?" she asked.

Will Mantell, a spokesperson for the DOE, said the agency is "committed to providing high-quality instruction at all schools, and gifted and specialized programs are one option for students and families. There is much more work to do to ensure equity and excellence at every public school in New York City."

The DOE has tried to make everyone aware of the program this year by sending out mailers, according to Mantell.



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Affordable Housing for Rent

THE BEDFORD

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This building is being constructed through the **Inclusionary Housing Program** of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development and the **SLIHTC and LIHTC** programs of the New York State Department of Homes & Community Renewal.



Who Should Apply?

Individuals or households who meet the income and household size requirements listed in the table below may apply. Qualified applicants will be required to meet additional selection criteria. Applicants who live in New York City receive a general preference for apartments.

A percentage of units is set aside for:

- Mobility-disabled applicants (5%)
- Vision- or hearing-disabled applicants (2%)

Preference for a percentage of units goes to:

- Residents of **Bronx Community Board 7** (50%)
- Municipal employees (5%)

AVAILABLE UNITS AND INCOME REQUIREMENTS

50% AREA MEDIAN INCOME (AMI) UNITS	Unit Size	Monthly Rent ¹	Units Available		Household Size ²	Annual Household Income ³ (Minimum – Maximum) ⁴
	Studio	\$734	1	→	1 person	\$26,503 - \$31,750
1 bedroom	\$786	2	→	1 person	\$28,320 - \$31,750	
				2 people	\$28,320 - \$36,250	
2 bedroom	\$943	4	→	2 people	\$33,737 - \$36,250	
				3 people	\$33,737 - \$40,800	
				4 people	\$33,737 - \$45,300	
3 bedroom	\$1,090	2	→	3 people	\$39,223 - \$40,800	
				4 people	\$39,223 - \$45,300	
				5 people	\$39,223 - \$48,950	
				6 people	\$39,223 - \$52,550	
60% AREA MEDIAN INCOME (AMI) UNITS	Unit Size	Monthly Rent ¹	Units Available		Household Size ²	Annual Household Income ³ (Minimum – Maximum) ⁴
	Studio	\$880	5	→	1 person	\$31,508 - \$38,100
1 bedroom	\$943	10	→	1 person	\$33,703 - \$38,100	
				2 people	\$33,703 - \$43,500	
2 bedroom	\$1,132	12	→	2 people	\$40,217 - \$43,500	
				3 people	\$40,217 - \$48,960	
				4 people	\$40,217 - \$54,360	
3 bedroom	\$1,308	2	→	3 people	\$46,697 - \$48,960	
				4 people	\$46,697 - \$54,360	
				5 people	\$46,697 - \$58,740	
				6 people	\$46,697 - \$63,060	
80% AREA MEDIAN INCOME (AMI) UNITS	Unit Size	Monthly Rent ¹	Units Available		Household Size ²	Annual Household Income ³ (Minimum – Maximum) ⁴
	Studio	\$1,174	2	→	1 person	\$41,589 - \$50,800
1 bedroom	\$1,258	4	→	1 person	\$44,503 - \$50,800	
				2 people	\$44,503 - \$58,000	
2 bedroom	\$1,510	4	→	2 people	\$53,177 - \$58,000	
				3 people	\$53,177 - \$65,280	
				4 people	\$53,177 - \$72,480	
3 bedroom	\$1,745	2	→	3 people	\$61,680 - \$65,280	
				4 people	\$61,680 - \$72,480	
				5 people	\$61,680 - \$78,320	
				6 people	\$61,680 - \$84,080	

¹ Rent includes gas for cooking.

² Household size includes everyone who will live with you, including parents and children. Subject to occupancy criteria.

³ Household earnings includes salary, hourly wages, tips, Social Security, child support, and other income. Income guidelines subject to change.

⁴ Minimum income listed may not apply to applicants with Section 8 or other qualifying rental subsidies. Asset limits also apply.

How Do You Apply?

Apply online or through mail. To apply online, please go to nyc.gov/housingconnect. To request an application **by mail, send a self-addressed envelope to: The Bedford, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418**. Only send one application per development. Do not submit duplicate applications. Do not apply online and also send in a paper application. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

When is the Deadline?

Applications must be postmarked or submitted online no later than **May 5, 2017**. Late applications will not be considered.

What Happens After You Submit an Application?

After the deadline, applications are selected for review through a lottery process. If yours is selected and you appear to qualify, you will be invited to an interview to continue the process of determining your eligibility. Interviews are usually scheduled from 2 to 10 months after the application deadline. You will be asked to bring documents that verify your household size, identity of members of your household, and your household income.

Español

Presente una solicitud en línea en nyc.gov/housingconnect. Para recibir una traducción de español de este anuncio y la solicitud impresa, envíe un sobre con la dirección a **The Bedford, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418**. En el reverso del sobre, escriba en inglés la palabra "SPANISH." Las solicitudes se deben enviar en línea o con sello postal antes de 5 de mayo 2017.

简体中文

访问 nyc.gov/housingconnect 在线申请。如要获取本广告及书面申请表的简体中文版，请将您的回邮信封寄送至：**The Bedford, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418**。信封背面请用英语注明“CHINESE”。必须在以下日期之前在线提交申请或邮寄书面申请 2017 年 5 月 5 日。

Русский

Чтобы подать заявление через интернет, зайдите на сайт: nyc.gov/housingconnect. Для получения данного объявления и заявления на русском языке отправьте конверт с обратным адресом по адресу **The Bedford, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418**. На задней стороне конверта напишите слово "RUSSIAN" на английском языке. Заявки должны быть поданы онлайн или отправлены по почте (согласно дате на почтовом штемпеле) не позднее 5 мая 2017.

한국어

nyc.gov/housingconnect 에서 온라인으로 신청하십시오. 이 광고문과 신청서에 대한 한국어 번역본을 받아보시려면 반송용 봉투를 **The Bedford, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418** 으로 보내주세요. 봉투 뒷면에 "KOREAN" 이라고 영어로 적어주세요. 2017년 5월 5일까지 온라인 신청서를 제출하거나 소인이 찍힌 신청서를 보내야 합니다.

Kreyòl Ayisyen

Aplike sou entènèt sou sitwèb nyc.gov/housingconnect. Pou resevwa yon tradiksyon anons sa a nan lang Kreyòl Ayisyen ak aplikasyon an sou papye, voye anvòl ki gen adrès pou retounen li nan: **The Bedford, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418**. Nan dèyè anvòl la, ekri mo "HATIAN CREOLE" an Anglè. Ou dwe remèt aplikasyon yo sou entènèt oswa ou dwe tenbre yo anvan dat me 5, 2017.

العربية

تقدم بطلب عن طريق الإنترنت على الموقع الإلكتروني nyc.gov/housingconnect للحصول على ترجمة باللغة العربية لهذا الإعلان ولنموذج الطلب الورقي، أرسل مطروف يحمل اسمك وعنوانك إلى: **The Bedford, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418**. على الجهة الخلفية للمطروف، اكتب باللغة الإنجليزية كلمة "ARABIC". يجب إرسال نماذج الطلبات عن طريق الإنترنت أو ختمتها بختم البريد قبل 5 مايو، 2017.

