



# NORWOOD NEWS

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**INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER:  
FALL FOLIAGE | PG. 4**



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JGHBID FALL FESTIVAL | PG. 11**

# ARMORY RINK \$\$\$ IN FOCUS...AGAIN

*State comes back to Bronx to hear locals' take on \$138M loan*



Photo by Aaron Mayorga

**THE ICE CENTER** has long been the pet project of former New York Rangers captain Mark Messier (pictured) who serves as KNIC's president, shown here in attendance at the Oct. 12 hearing.

**By AARON MAYORGA**

The beleaguered project to convert the Kingsbridge Armory into the world's largest ice skating center overcame a major financing hurdle as residents and community leaders backed a multi-million-dollar

state loan for developers at a hearing.

The state-mandated hearing represents a return to square one for backers of the Kingsbridge National Ice Center (KNIC), an expected to be state-of-the-art ice rink that is

estimated to cost \$353 million. Since receiving the green light from the New York City Council in December 2013, the project has languished in delays, with construction at the Armory yet to begin.

At the Oct. 12 hearing, resi-

dents sounded off on the Empire State Development (ESD) Corporation's approval of a \$138 million loan to KNIC. The 30-year state loan would carry a seven percent annual interest rate and is earmarked to fi-

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## EDITORIAL

## Who Will You Hire?

Nov. 7 will be the day you exercise your right to vote. In the Bronx there are 11 contests (not counting citywide), most of which have already been won, thanks to the power the September primary has on the Bronx. The general election simply formalizes those victories.

The race for Mayor is largely along the same line. In the August 31-September 13 edition of the *Norwood News*, we wrote that the incumbent, Mayor Bill de Blasio, is likely going to win the general election namely since the two challengers, Republican Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis, and Independent Richard “Bo” Dietl, carry very little support. Plus, the current antagonism towards President Donald Trump doesn’t help much as both of de Blasio’s rivals were shown to have voted for Mr. Trump nearly a year ago.

With a week to go before the general election, here’s a quick breakdown of the candidates:

**De Blasio:** De Blasio has pounded the drum on progressive politics that have included major reforms within the NYPD, mental health system, and housing matters. His platform over the last four years have either caused him to gain or lose supporters. In the Bronx, we hear less positive things said about de Blasio and more antagonism lobbed at him, mainly for his propensity to dump homeless shelter after homeless shelter in a borough that’s already saturated with them. He is not your blue collar mayor, but one edging towards elitism ripe with an I-know-what’s-best-for-you mentality that has turned off working class Bronx residents. But as the *Norwood News* said before, de Blasio will win this one.

**Malliotakis:** Malliotakis presents a largely general Republican agenda that includes auditing the New York City De-



Photos courtesy individual campaigns

**THE CANDIDATES FOR Mayor** include (l-r) incumbent Democrat Bill de Blasio, Republican challenger Nicole Malliotakis and Independent Party candidate Bo Dietl.

partment of Education to determine mismanagement of its contracts, investing in senior housing, and assigning independent-minded officials to the MTA board. Her solution to fix the homeless crisis by building more supportive and affordable housing is merely putting a Band-Aid to the overall issue of homeless who are mentally ill. Her name recognition is extremely slim. Honestly, how many New Yorkers knew about Malliotakis before she ascended to grab the Republican nomination for mayor? She’s stuck to the eastern section of the Bronx, the most Republican sections when compared to the rest of the borough. But to win, sometimes candidates should get out of their comfort zone.

**Dietl:** It’s hard to tell whether Dietl has an actual agenda or if he’s shooting from the hip. The Independent candidate (who voted Republican but says he’s a registered Democrat) shared very little ideas at the first mayoral debate, opting to randomly shout toothless counter-arguments that turned the debate into a circus (it wasn’t helped by cheers and jeers from the faceless crowd). His official website for mayor is vague on ideas or outright ludicrous (his proposal to nix the two-year college requirement for NYPD officers could open the door for the

bad old days of police corruption, where knucklehead officers used the badge to run their own criminal enterprises). This quixotic run deserves more scrutiny. Does his raucous, flippant and troglodytic presentation remind voters of anyone?

Let’s put our take aside. What are your thoughts on the general election? Who will you vote for? It’s a question that should be on the minds of the borough’s 795,402 registered voters from across all party lines including the very fringe. Unfortunately, the prospect of voting was only on the minds of 71,084 voters, or 8.9 percent, this past primary in the Bronx.

There’s a quote from Ray Kroc, the founder of McDonald’s, who said, “You are only as good as the people you hire.”

In a way, voting is a type of hiring. It’s prevalent in the phrasing of candidates who feel they are “the right person for the job.” So the question goes: Who do you want to hire?

In a nation freer than most countries around the world, the power behind voting should be commonplace. You have the power to decide who wants to run you. So use it.

But if the numbers seem to indicate anything, voters will once again stay home. Incumbents seem to love that.

## 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: Economic Development Committee meets on Oct. 31; Community Relations and Long Term Planning Committee meets on Oct. 31 at 7:30 p.m.; Environment and Sanitation Committee meets on Nov. 1; Education, Youth and Libraries Committee meets on Nov. 1 at 7:30 p.m.; Traffic and Transportation Committee meets on Nov. 2; Veterans Committee meets on Nov. 2 at 7:30 p.m.; Public Safety and Quality of Life Committee meets on Nov. 7; Senior Services Committee meets on Nov. 7; and Parks & Recreation Committee meets on Nov. 8. For more information, call (718) 833-5650.

**BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** meets Nov. 1 at 8 p.m. at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy., Apt. B#1. For more information, email [bedfordmosholu@verizon.net](mailto:bedfordmosholu@verizon.net).



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# INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



This week we asked readers the best locations to enjoy the fall foliage in the Bronx and beyond.



I would say by the Bronx Zoo. I also know they have a spot in Yonkers, but I'm not sure of the exact location. Also going towards Throggs Neck in some spots; there are some really nice spots along Pelham Parkway; going towards City Island is really nice. This time last year there was ice on the ground, so we get to embrace the surroundings and get to smell the trees a little bit longer and enjoy Mother Nature.

**Ronald McDaniel**  
Throggs Neck



I come down through Allerton and I see the leaves changing by the Botanical Garden and coming up Mosholu Parkway North and that's all I see right now, but it's beautiful. It's very beautiful, the leaves changing color. The weather is gorgeous; it's crazy weather. We could wear shorts and it's the end of October.

**Randy Rivera**  
Bedford Park



It's not there yet, but it's getting there. Yesterday I went upstate to Highland, New York, and to see all of the mountains along the highway. The trees were just looking like bushes of all different colors--orange, red, green. They were all over the place, so colorful.

**Patricia Montanez**  
Highbridge



Mostly I see it when my wife and I go on the Saw Mill River Parkway and we see it's so beautiful, all the different colors and everything, and I really enjoy it this time of year. The weather is unbelievable; we're getting Indian summer and it's fantastic. We starting to see a little change here in Van Cortlandt Park.

**Michael Elliott**  
Norwood



I recommend going to any park in the Bronx because the trees are in bloom, the leaves are turning color and the air is very crisp this time of year. It's not only beautiful, but I think being in these surroundings is very healthy. It gives you a calmness and peace of mind.

**Dave Piatnik**  
Norwood

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## Three Hurt in Decatur Ave. Blaze

By DAVID GREENE

A private three-story home on Decatur Avenue remains empty following a fast-moving fire that injured one person, a firefighter and a paramedic.

According to fire officials, the fire broke out on Oct. 12 at 7:30 a.m., on the second floor of 3080 Decatur Ave. between East 204th Street and Mosholu Parkway North in Norwood. The street comprises three-story homes mixed with residences six stories or more.

One resident remembered emergency crews rushing to the scene. "The fire trucks woke me up and I came outside and the fire was coming out the roof," said the resident, who pulled out his cell phone to show video of the flames and billowing smoke coming from the home.

The three injured were rushed to the hospital with minor injuries.

One FDNY official suspected the fire to have started on the second floor of the home and entered into a shaft, which explained the rapid climb of the fire. Residents say fire shot through the roof within minutes of residents first seeing smoke.

The FDNY press office reports 106 firefighters and paramedics



Photo by Liana Perez

**BILLOWING SMOKE AND** flame shoot through the roof of a home on Decatur Avenue.

responded from 25 units from across the borough.

Firefighters were able to prevent the fire from spreading to a neighboring six-story apartment building on one side. A similar home on the other side did sustain some damage to its aluminum siding and the roof. The city Department of Buildings (DOB) immediately issued a full vacate order barring occupants from coming back to their home.

The one home appeared to have been completely gutted on the inside and members of the DOB were already on the scene.

An official from the American Red Cross said she had applications on eight adults who were left homeless from the blaze.

The FDNY's Fire Marshall continues to investigate the cause of the blaze.

## Push for Street Renaming After Late CB7 DM

By DAVID CRUZ

Community Board 7 is now among the groups supporting a move to rename a street after the late Andrew Sandler, who died in August after serving a year and a half as the board's district manager.

At its general board meeting, CB7 members unanimously approved a letter of support to be sent to Councilman Andrew Cohen backing a proposal to rename a street after Sandler. Supporters want the street renaming to happen in the vicinity of 238th Street and Waldo Avenue, the Riverdale streets where Sandler was raised.

Community Board 8, the local board which covers the neighborhood Sandler grew up in, had already sent its letter of support to Cohen. Usually, CB8 waits two years after someone has passed to make a request for a street renaming on the departed's behalf, though they've made an exception this time.

The request will go to the New York City Council, which pools its requests of street namings under one bill. They are usually voted on in December and take effect in the spring should the mayor approve it. A ceremony often takes place to unveil the street renaming.

City rules don't require letters of support for a street renaming. The



**ANDREW SANDLER**

letters help build traction for support of such requests. Cohen and Sandler shared a working relationship when Sandler was Cohen's director of constituent services before moving on as the CB7 district manager. The board covers Norwood, Bedford Park, Kingsbridge Heights, Fordham and University Heights.

Sandler was admired for his commitment to the helping the community. He died on Aug. 5 from cancer. He was 31. His funeral was attended by several hundred people.

## HEALTH CHECK

# Diabetes and Strength Training

By SHERIN JOSE, MPH, CHES

Most people accept that aerobic activity is an important part of diabetes management. Research now shows that combining a routine of aerobic and strength training exercises can lead to better outcomes.

The American Diabetes Association suggests doing some type of strength training at least two times a week. Some examples of strength training activities include:

- Using weight machines or free weights at a workout facility.
- Training with resistance bands.
- Doing exercises that use your own body weight such as pushups,

sit-ups, and squats.

- Creating a simple weightlifting workout using things around the house like water bottles or soup cans in place of traditional dumbbells.

There are benefits to regular activity. These include:

- 1.Weight loss.** Increasing your activity can lead to the better ability of your muscle to store glucose, making your body better able to control sugar levels and helping with weight loss.
- 2.Increase of lean muscle mass.** More lean muscle mass helps your body by boosting your metabolism and can help your body regu-

late blood sugar levels better.

- 3. Protection against diabetic complications.** Regular exercise can lower blood pressure, keep cholesterol levels on target, reduce risk of heart disease, and improve bone density.

Things to Consider:

1. Get clearance from your medical provider. This is important when starting any type of exercise routine.
2. Ask for help. This is especially true if you want to adopt a different or new exercise routine. Proper posture and form is important to avoid injury. Proper breathing techniques

are also very important when performing physical activity.

3. Receive regular foot care. Diabetics require careful and detailed foot care due to effects of blood flow and nerve damage. It is recommended that you check feet for sores or cuts after every workout. Also be sure to visit a podiatrist. All types of exercise can put pressure on your feet and can increase chance of injury. Speak to your medical provider on proper socks and footwear.

**Editor's Note:** Sherin Jose is a health educator with Montefiore Health System's Office of Community & Population Health.

# VIP's Café Closes In Its 20th Year

By YARA PALIN and DAVID CRUZ

For the last 20 years, VIP's Café in Norwood stood as one of the neighborhood's few diners, offering a convenient eating experience at cheap prices.

It struck everyone as sudden when they saw the doors to the family-owned diner closed for good, adding to the list of familiar locales in Norwood that have closed this year.

With its large panel windows covered in brown paper, a handwritten sign hung at the doorway reads "Closed for Renovation." The sign runs counter to what Google Maps warns to what Google Maps wrote on its website— "permanently closed." Meantime, no paperwork from the New York City Department of Buildings suggests any work is or will be performed. Storeowners in and around the eatery say they have not seen any work being done in the last two weeks since the café closed.

On Oct. 17 at around noon, usually lunchtime for many employees at the nearby Montefiore Medical Center, workers were caught off guard by the unexpected closing. Dr. Joseph Vazzana, a surgeon who often ate at the



Photo by Yara Palin

VIP'S CAFÉ AT 131 E. Gun Hill Road closed its doors in early October.

café, characterized the place as "super busy" during the lunch hour.

"We all went," Vazzana recalls. "We all loved it."

Mary Fitzgerald, a registered nurse for the hospital praised the diner's merits as "cooking a lot of fresh food, reasonably priced, and

close by." Why the restaurant suddenly closed is confusing for Fitzgerald.

Dr. Lee Isaacsohn of Montefiore says he was pretty "bummed out" over the diner's closure, adding he would frequent the place for team breakfasts because it was one of the

few eateries in Norwood where he could sit and grab a quick bite to eat.

The timing of the diner's closure was unfortunate for Brenda Caldwell, president of the 52nd Precinct Community Council, who was planning the council's yearly fellowship breakfast, which is normally catered by the diner. "I was just there a week ago, and I was surprised to see it all sealed up and everything," she says. "I can't believe they're gone. It's gonna be a real impact."

The restaurant, part of a six-story property at the corner of East Gun Hill Road and Rochambeau Avenue, is owned by Mosholu Preservation Corporation, publishers of the *Norwood News*. Steve Larous, who's owned the restaurant since it opened in 1997, declined to comment.

VIP's Café is the third neighborhood institution to close over the past year. Early this year, the Archdiocese of New York announced that the storied St. Ann's Catholic School would close in the summer of 2017 after 88 years. Meantime, the CVS Pharmacy at the corner of East Gun Hill Road and Reservoir Place closed in March.

## Report: DeWitt Clinton High School Staff to Reapply for Jobs

By YARA PALIN

Staffers at the troubled DeWitt Clinton High School in Norwood will have to reapply for their jobs, according to a published report. The *New York Post* says a total of 98 teachers, guidance counselors, social workers, and paraprofessionals will have to re-interview for their positions beginning next spring, along with 128 staff members at Flushing High School in Queens.

DeWitt Clinton High School has remained on the Renewal School list, where problem schools face state intervention because of low academic success. The list was created in 2014 and currently includes 77 other schools.

The school has been plagued with consistently poor student performance, such as a 43 percent graduation rate in 2016, and below state average test scores and college readiness, according to Great Schools, an education website. It has also faced several scandals. Just last year, former prin-

icipal Santiago Rivera was removed for fixing grades of failing students. The current principal, Pierre Orbe, is still employed although he has also been accused of grade-changing, according to the *New York Post*.

Janella Hinds, Vice President of the United Federation of Teachers, thinks that the Department of Education (DOE) has to establish a better relationship between labor and management. She says, "More than half of the total of 413 teachers who were in [DeWitt and Flushing] four years ago have moved on, but the UFT has had to file dozens of grievances and other objections after principals created oversized classes or other violations of the union contract."

New York City Department of Education Chancellor Carmen Fariña tells the *Post*, "This re-staffing process is the necessary next step in the work to turn around these schools." The DOE, as well as school staffing committees, will have the final say on who can keep their job.

## Cycling the Bronx



Photo by Miriam Quinones

**CYCLISTS BIKE PAST** the intersection of Goulden and Paul avenues during the annual Tour de Bronx, a 25- or 40-mile journey across the borough, depending on what route riders opted for. The daylong tour spanned some 60 neighborhoods, wrapping up at the New York Botanical Garden. Montefiore Health System was the major sponsor for the event, which drew several thousand cyclists from around the world.



# Monte's "Say It With Flowers" Exhibit Aims to Ease Anxiety

By DIEGO BARCACEL PEÑA

In the corridor along the radiation oncology department on the first floor of Montefiore Medical Center, a collection of photos line the walls of the hallway featuring everyday people holding flowers.

The images are intended to calm the nerves of those whose anxiety kicks up at the facility where results can be life altering.

The photos were taken by Linda Stillman as part of an exhibit dubbed "Say It With Flowers" presented by the hospital's Fine Art Program and Collection.

"You may be going to your physician for a procedure [and] you are nervous or fearful," said Jodi Moise, curator of the program. "Then you walk through the gallery, even if it's for a minute and you're transported somewhere else and hopefully your fear or distress level has been reduced."

Stillman is a conceptual artist based in Columbia County in New York, and inspired by the work of abstract painters. For her latest project, she utilized an iPhone camera to snap photos of people holding flow-

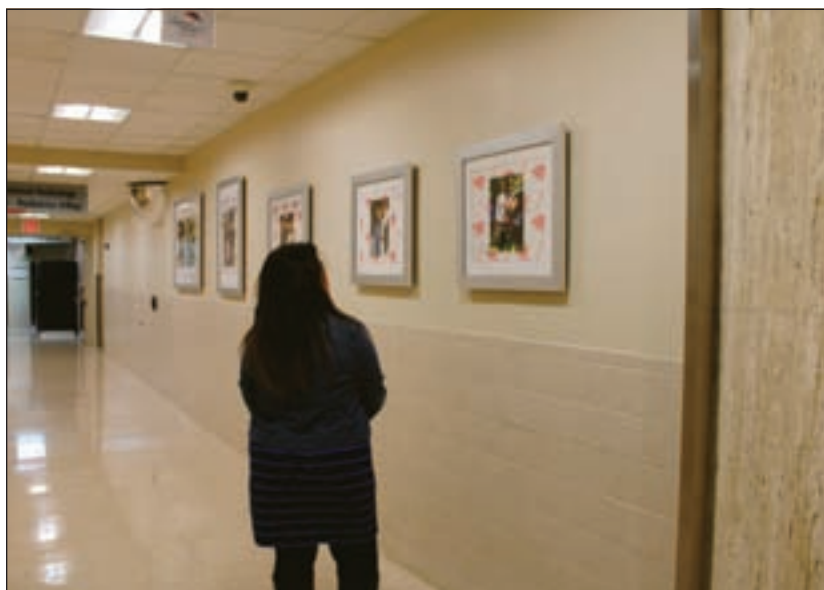


Photo by Diego Barcacer Peña

**A VISITOR OBSERVES** photos hung at the "Say It With Flowers" exhibit at Montefiore Medical Center in Norwood.

ers. "It's about capturing a moment," Stillman said of her project inside the Montefiore Moses Campus in Norwood. "It's just a chance where I am, [my works] are united by love of nature [and] my trying to keep track of fleeting moments."

Stillman photographed many of her subjects around the Bronx, including Lehman College and the Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District, in addition to other New York City neighborhoods. She captured moments like a husband

buying flowers for his wife, flowers given to a son during his graduation, and a woman buying flowers for God as a way of saying thank you for a beautiful life.

Many nurses have had to pass through the hall to send patients to the radiation therapy clinic, quickly noticing the change in their faces after passing through the hall. "The walls were just plain and bare. Now there's something new and fresh," said nurse Ruthlyn Merrick.

"It doesn't feel like you're at a hospital. It feels like you're at home, it's relaxing," said Paulette Edwards, another nurse.

Montefiore hopes that Stillman's exhibit can benefit everyone.

"We have physicians, staff, and a lot of medical students, as well as family members and caregivers," Moise noted. "So it's really the larger community that benefits from having the artwork in the hospital."

**Editor's Note:** "Say It With Flowers" can be viewed at Montefiore's Moses Campus, 111 E. 210th St., through Jan. 26, 2018.

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Photo courtesy Lehman Center for the Performing Arts

**THE HIGHLY ANTICIPATED** performance by the National Orchestra of Cuba (pictured) is slated for March 18, 2018.

# Lehman Center Opens 37th Season With New Acts

By **DIEGO BARCACEL PEÑA**

When Eva Bornstein, executive director of the Lehman Performing Arts Center, arrived to the Bronx in 2005, her exposure to the Latin community was limited. Back then, she didn't know the Spanish translation for "thank you" (it's "gracias"). Gradually, she took into consideration the borough's diversity, zeroing in on the Bronx's large Puerto Rican population, which stands at around 300,000.

Bornstein learned early on that for her to survive anywhere as a theater director, she would have to play to the interests of community demographics. Before coming to Lehman College, she was the first director to reopen the Bergen Performance Art Center in Englewood, NJ. "This was a very affluent community, so the programming focus was totally different. We had to bring headliners from all walks of life," said Bornstein. "There wasn't such a concentration on Latinos. We focused on wealthy Americans, period." So when she started working at Lehman College, she shifted her focus from wealthy Americans to the Latino population of the Bronx.

"The only person I knew was Jose Feliciano because he is a cross-over artist," said Bornstein, referring to the famed Puerto Rican-born salsaer. "So I had to learn from my Puerto Rican community who these artists really are."

It's understanding the audience where Bornstein molds the center's lineup of acts each season.

Bornstein has presented acts from all over the world, but in the beginning, she concentrated mainly on the Puerto Rican population, establishing the Center as "La Casa de la Salsa." "In other words, we became famous for our salsa concert[s]," said Bornstein.

Bornstein fled the gray-toned landscape of Communist-era Poland by working as a movie actress that allowed her to get a visa to France. In the Bronx, she sees almost all colors except gray. "Look at this place. I picked those red cupboards," said Bornstein pointing at the red cupboards that are around her office and the Lehman Center. "I see a lot of blue for hope, red for love. I am a very optimistic person, [and] this job allows me to be very optimistic."

The Center is celebrating its 37th season with 30 acts from around the globe. Many of these acts are popular Latin artists such as the Spanish Harlem Orchestra and Eliot Revé and his Charangón, who will be performing on Oct. 28, and the National Symphony Orchestra of Cuba, scheduled to perform at the center on March 18, 2018.

Each year the Center presents about 30 to 33 events, while renting out the concert hall to different organizations. "So we are not only home to famous artists, but we also make the venue available to community groups for various purposes," said Bornstein. "[L]et's say you want to do a benefit for a Puerto Rican organization, you can come to me and you can rent the venue and present your concert," she said.

These days, booking Latino acts has become tough work. "In 2005, not many directors considered Latino programming very important. But as they discovered that the Latin population grew, the communities—they will come," said Bornstein. "Suddenly, they said, 'We better book some Latino shows' [and] they started copying our ideas and we have much more competition now than we used to."

One of her more coveted gets this year is the National Orchestra of Cuba, an act she couldn't secure until after

then President Barack Obama lifted a half century of barred relations between Cuba and the U.S.

"It's such a great orchestra," said Bornstein. "The fact that it's a new frontier that Cuban country is becoming open now—for me, it's exciting that I am one of the very few people that starts this Cuban trend."

The center is a unique nonprofit since it's largely revenue-driven, with 90 percent of its earning originating from ticket sales, rentals, concessions. These days, the annual budget stands at \$3 million, unlike before Bornstein arrived, which saw its budget at \$700,000.

Bornstein has always based her programming on the interests of the Bronx. It's had its pluses and minuses, particularly when the question comes of whether to change things up. "I get a lot of calls from people [asking], 'Why don't you bring so and so?'" she recalled. "And my answer is, 'will they

draw 2,310 people in the Bronx?'"

She hopes to draw younger theatergoers to performances through a \$10,000 grant by Con Edision that allows the theater to charge \$10 for children age 12 and under. With teenagers spending more time on social media, luring them to the theater is a hard sell. But Bornstein remains optimistic.

"There's nothing like seeing a live show and being part of a group of people," said Bornstein. "I want the younger people to continue the tradition of the older generation and be human, not robots."

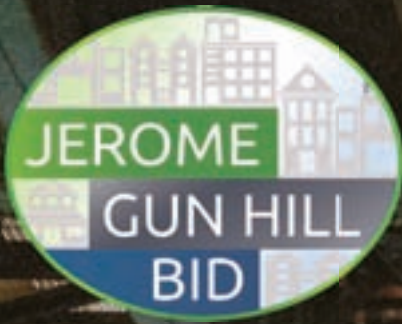
**Editor's Note:** *Lehman Center for the Performing Arts is located at 250 Bedford Park Blvd. W. It's accessible via the No. 10 bus and the B, D, and 4 subway lines, and is off the Saw Mill River Parkway and the Major Deegan Expressway. Parking is available for \$5.*



File Photo/Adi Talwar

**BEHIND THE SCENES AT** the Lehman Center for the Performing Arts is Executive Director Eva Bornstein (pictured), a Polish native balancing the cultural needs of the Bronx for more than 10 years





# Fall Festival

Photos by Sterling Diaz, for the Jerome-Gun Hill BID

FROM A LIVE concert to a pumpkin painting station, on Oct. 14, the 16th annual Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District's Fall Festival had something for everyone. Brick and mortar merchants stood alongside street vendors presenting their wares at the family-friendly event that also included a beer garden. Montefiore Health System, HealthFirst, Ridgewood Savings Bank, New York Daily News and United Healthcare were among the major sponsors.



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**1) MEMBERS OF THE** choral group Music with a Message sing their hearts out at the festival.

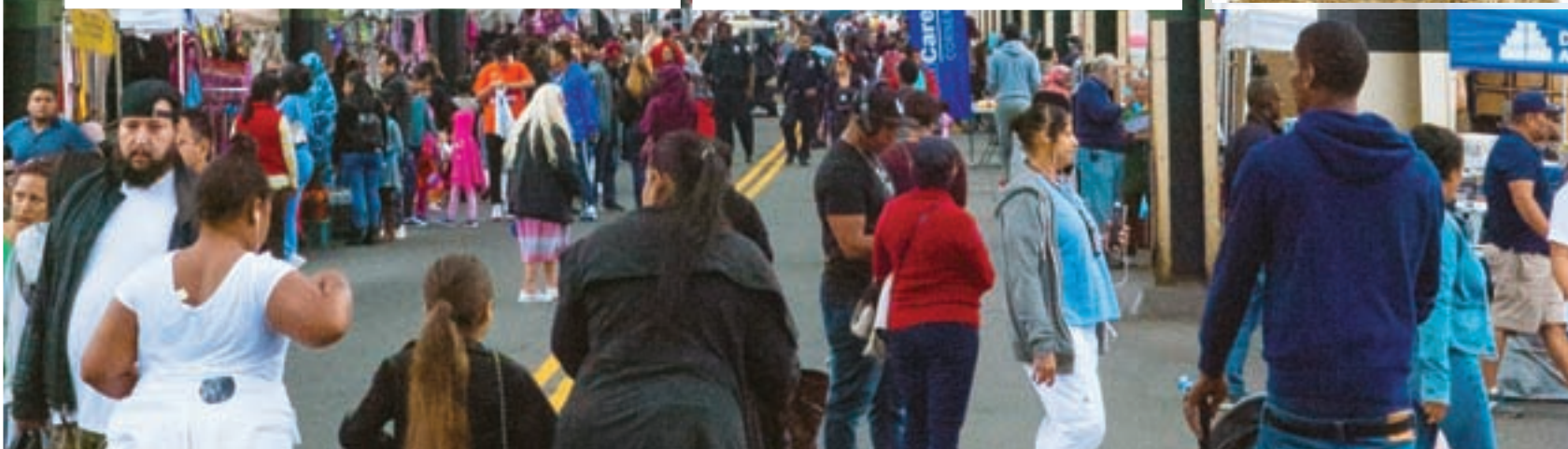
**2) THIS LITTLE GIRL** spends some time at the Pumpkins for Puerto Rico table, where proceeds for every pumpkin painted went to recovery efforts to the island ravaged by Hurricane Maria.

**3) ASSEMBLYMAN JEFF DINOWITZ** (at mic), who represents the Norwood area, speaks to guests at the festival after receiving a recognition award for his service to the community. To the right is Jennifer Tausig, BID executive director, and DJ Krazy Rob, who emceed the event.

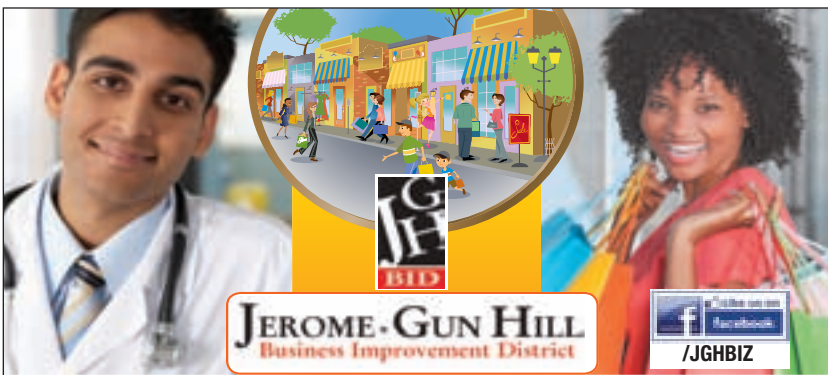
**4) (L-R) MELISSA CEBOLLERO**, senior director of Mosholu Preservation Corporation and senior director of Montefiore Health System's Office of Community & Government Relations; Jennifer Tausig, executive director of the BID; and Senator Jamaal Bailey, representing Norwood, share a moment. Bailey presented a proclamation to Tausig praising the BID.

**5) THUMBS UP!** Workers with El Principe Express, serving up sizzling fast food, pause for a picture.

**6) THIS ENORMOUS SLIDE** is no match for this little girl primed to shoot down it.







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### TRIPS

**Kancellia's Travel & Tours:** Trip to Nordic Lodge Restaurant, Rhode Island and Foxwoods Casino on Sunday, Oct. 29, 2017. Depart at 8:30 a.m. from 940 Southern Blvd. and 163rd Street, Bronx. 2-Hour All-You-Can-Eat buffet at Nordic Lodge, Foxwoods Casino bonus buffet and \$10 Keno play, and shopping at Tanger Outlet Mall on premises. \$179.00 per person - \$50 deposit required ASAP. For reservation and to purchase tickets, please contact Eddie at (718) 757-5485 or Kancellia's Tours at (347) 405-2017.

#### Eddie Rosa's Enterprises

Trip to Six Flags Great Adventure - "Halloween Fright Fest" in Jackson, NJ on Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017. Depart at 11 a.m. from 940 Southern Blvd. and 163rd Street, Bronx. Returning at 9 p.m. Price \$89.00 per person - \$40 deposit required ASAP. For reservation and to purchase tickets, please contact Eddie at (718) 757-5485.

### FOR SALE

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# NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

## Free WiFi for Students

The New York Public Library offers free WiFi for eligible students in kindergarten through 12th grade who don't have WiFi at home. A lending event, where hotspot devices can be checked out for free, takes place Nov. 2 at 6 p.m. at The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd. A valid library card and pre-registration are required. For more information, call (718) 579-4244 or visit <http://hotspot.nypl.org/>.

## Library Fines Waived

The New York Public Library has waived all library fines for children 17 and younger. High school students age 18 and over can stop by their local library to have their fines waived. The initiative takes place at every library on specific dates through Nov. 2. For more information, contact your local library.

## Love Your Block

Applications for a \$1,000 grant to support resident-led volunteer projects to improve public spaces are available through Nov. 6 by the New York City Service and Citizens Committee. For more information, go to [nyc.gov/loveyourblock](http://nyc.gov/loveyourblock).

## Gifted and Talented Exam

Requests to test children entering kindergarten, 1st, 2nd or 3rd grade, for the Gifted & Talented exam, can be made through Nov. 13 by going online at [schools.nyc.gov/ApplyOnline](http://schools.nyc.gov/ApplyOnline), in person at their public school, or at their school district's Family Welcome Center. For more information, call (718) 935-2009.

## CCRB Meeting

The Civilian Complaint Review Board, which hears allegations of abuse of residents by members of the NYPD, will hold a public meeting on Nov. 8 at 6:30 p.m. at Bronx Community College, 2155 University Ave. Organizers ask the public to hear and share ideas on what works and doesn't work regarding police-community relations in their neighborhood. For more information, visit [www.nyc.gov/ccrb](http://www.nyc.gov/ccrb).

## Lead Paint Reduction

Applications for a grant up to \$10,000 to remove lead paint from apartments are available through the Lead Hazard Reduction and Healthy Homes - Primary Prevention Program. In exchange for help, owners must agree to rent any new vacant apartments to low or very low-income tenants, giving priority to families with young children. For more information, call Sarah Hovde, director of the Primary Prevention Program, at (212) 863-8860.

## Hurricane Relief Drive

The Office of Senator Gustavo Rivera is holding a relief drive for victims of Hurricane Maria. Items urgently needed include baby food, diapers, batteries, first aid kits, and feminine hygiene products. To donate, stop by the office at 2432 Grand Concourse, 5th floor, and drop their donations off at room 506 or the FEDCAP office at rooms 516 and 517, weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call (718) 933-2034.

## Job Recruitment Events

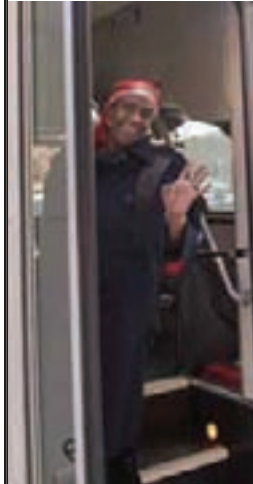
A free pop-up recruitment events where job seekers can meet with potential employees will take place on Nov. 6 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Jerome Park Library, 118 Eames Place (near Kingsbridge Road). Attendees are asked to bring plenty of resumes and dress professionally. For more information, call (718) 549-5200. In addition, job seekers can meet with a career coach, get free resume help, and participate in formal mock interviews. To schedule an appointment, call (718) 549-4260 or email [ceis@nypl.org](mailto:ceis@nypl.org).

## BID Survey

The Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District is conducting a survey through November to determine what stores are needed for the neighborhood business strip on Jerome Avenue between Mosholu Parkway and East Gun Hill Road and East Gun Hill Road between Jerome and Webster avenues. To take part in the survey, go to <http://bit.ly/2ffXnfg>.

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# Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

## EDITOR'S PICK

### Happy Halloween

The Jerome-Gun Hill BID invites the public to its Halloween Dance Party and Parade, Oct. 31 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Meet at Mosholu Parkway and Jerome Avenue. There will be free candy, music and pumpkins. For more information, call (718) 324-4646. (See "Halloween Events" below for more.)



Photo courtesy Wave Hill

**HAVE A MOMENT of Zen at Wave Hill through a variety of events (see under Events for more information).**

### Onstage

The Williamsbridge Oval presents Shakespeare's **The Winter's Tale**, Nov. 4 at 1 p.m. in the Rec Center. For more information and to RSVP, call (718) 543-8672.

RSVP, contact [Travis@northwestbronx.org](mailto:Travis@northwestbronx.org).

The public is invited to attend the Memorial Grove Restoration Group's **11th Annual Veterans Day Ceremony** on Nov. 5 at noon, at the Memorial on Broadway at West 246th Street, to honor veterans of all wars. Speakers have been invited to attend. The Van Cortlandt Park WWII Memorial Grove was initiated in 1949 and currently contains 40 monuments. For more information, call (718) 548-6832.

### Events

The Williamsbridge Oval offers a variety of **free classes for youth** ages 6 to 12, after school and Saturdays, including drama, sports, dance, art and more. For more information and a detailed schedule, call (718) 543-8672.

**Wave Hill**, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Art Projects**: Spider Web Fashion, to hear tales about special spiders and make little spiders, Oct. 28 and 29; and Autumn Color Papermaking, to make colorful paper into a leaf shape, Nov. 4 and 5; both in the WH House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also scheduled are **Art & Nature**, a video about bug behavior followed by a talk and display of live ants and termites, Oct. 28 at 1 p.m. in the WH House; and **Nature Presentation**, to learn that most spiders are harmless to humans and observe live and preserved spiders of all sizes, Oct. 29 from 1 to 3 p.m., on the grounds. 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.

The public is invited to the 52nd Precinct **Community Council's breakfast** at Monroe College, 2501 Jerome Ave., Oct. 27 at 9 a.m. For more information, call (718) 220-5824.

The Woodlawn Conservancy presents **Illuminated Mausoleums**, Oct. 27 to 29 at 6 and 7 p.m. at the Woodlawn Cemetery. For more information, call (718) 920-1469.

Sistas and Brothas United presents free documentary film, **"The Pipeline,"** Oct. 27 at 6:30 p.m., at the Concourse House, 2751 Grand Concourse (at 196th Street). Experience high school through the eyes of young people. For more information and to

The Bronx County Historical Society presents **special Archtober Tour of the Valentine-Varian House**, 3266 Bainbridge Ave. (208th Street), Oct. 27 from noon to 1:30 p.m. to see the current exhibitions. For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Come in costume; prize given for best dressed (\$5/cover; ages 21+). Featured are prizes and candy and performances by upcoming artists. For more information, call (347) 396-0555.

### Halloween Events

The Williamsbridge Oval presents the following free events: **Haunted House** (for ages 10+), to be spooked by ghosts, zombies and creatures, Oct. 27 from 7 to 9 p.m.; and **Pumpkin Party** (to age 12 years), to enjoy arts and crafts, carnival games, prizes, and candy, Oct. 31 from 4 to 6 p.m. For more information, call (718) 543-8672.

### Library Events

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents for children: **Hands on Projects** (ages 7 to 12; preregistration required): Halloween Bag Making, Oct. 26 at 4 p.m.; and Ghost Making, Oct. 29 at 3:30 p.m. Teens/young adults can enjoy **Halloween Party**: to watch spooky movie, decorate pumpkins, come in costume, receive free book, Oct. 31 at 6 p.m.; **Magic**: to learn fundamentals (cards will be supplied), Nov. 1 at 4 p.m.; **Books/Movies**: to read a book monthly, then watch movie. November: "Divergent," discussion on Nov. 4 at 10 a.m., and film on Nov. 25; and **Origami Workshop**: Nov. 8 at 4 p.m. Adults can attend film: "Edgar Allan Poe: Buried Alive," Oct. 28 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org).

The New York Botanical Garden presents **Scarecrows and Pumpkins**, through Oct. 31 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden. Events include guided activities featuring a puppet playhouse and weekends include interactive demonstrations featuring bats, reptiles, and other creepy creatures. For more information, call (9718) 817-8700.

The Mosholu Library, 285 E. 205th St., offers for teens/young adults: **Film**: "Beauty and the Beast," Oct. 28 at 1:30 p.m. Children can enjoy **Little Red Riding Hood**: (ages 3 to 12), puppets and music, Nov. 3 at 3:30 p.m. Adults can attend: **Knitting Circle**: Thursdays at 3 p.m. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

The Bronx Zoo offers **Boo at the Zoo**, Oct. 28 and 29 to celebrate Halloween with a haunted forest, hayride, pumpkin carving, Bootoberfest (live music and food), mind reading, magic and puppet shows, crafts, and meeting with vultures, owls, and ravens. For more information, fees, and a detailed schedule, call (718) 367-1010.

The Jerome Park Library, 118 Eames Place (near Kingsbridge Road), offers for children: **Halloween Extravaganza**: includes games, candy, and more, Oct. 31 at 4:30 p.m. Registration required. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

The Fordham Road BID presents **Halloween Giveaway Event in Bryan Park** (Fordham and Kingsbridge roads), Oct. 30 and 31 from 2 to 5 p.m.; and **Halloween Sidewalk Sale**, along Fordham Road from Jerome to Washington avenues, Oct. 26 to 28 from noon to 7 p.m. For more information, call (718) 562-2104.

### Public Service Announcement

Lehman College, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **Pumpkin Smash 2017**, Nov. 1 from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Bring, break, take, or taste Halloween pumpkins and squashes. For more information, call (718) 817-8543.

**Daylight Saving Time** ends on Nov. 5 at 2 a.m. Turn clocks back one hour.

**NOTE:** *Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to [norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org](mailto:norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org), and should be received by Oct. 30 for the next publication date of Nov. 9.*



File photo

**HALLOWEEN AT WILLIAMSBRIDGE Oval Park** will see the recreation center turned into a haunted house. Here, a look at last year's scary good times.

The Bronx Beer Hall, 2344 Arthur Ave., presents and LGBTQ Halloween event, **Redlight, Greenlight, Go-Go!**, Oct. 27 from



# Armory Rink \$\$\$ in Focus...Again

(continued from page 1)

nance the first phase of the ice center's construction. Support for the state loan was nearly unanimous as residents attending the hearing expressed relief that, despite delays, KNIC was now a crucial step closer to reality.

This most recent hearing also took on a less combative tone than in January 2016 when the ESD convened a similar hearing that focused instead on a \$30 million loan for which KNIC had applied. During the 2016 hearing, members of the People Power Movement, a progressive social justice group, slammed KNIC's developers for potentially hastening the displacement of residents in their communities.

This time, with KNIC now seeking the full amount for the first phase of construction, the process was forced to restart anew. At the hearing, several members of Community Board 7 (CB7) – which also had formally approved the project in 2013 – were on hand and in favor.

Edgar Ramos, a 40-year resident and chair of CB7's Traffic and Transportation Committee, testified that he hopes "that ESD is able to provide the money so that we can provide a positive venue... into this neighborhood." Reverend Ralph Beck, another CB7 member, hailed the ice center as "a long time coming" and a welcome attraction that would help keep young people out of trouble. CB7 chair Adeline Walker-Santiago joined in on the chorus of praise and referred to KNIC as "a spark" for the Bronx.

"[KNIC] represents... an opportunity to do good for our community, to do good for the future generations," said Pastor Tim English of the Bronx Christian Fellowship Church who testified before ESD officials. "So, we implore you, we ask you to do whatever is in your power to make this happen."

## Never About Ice

Should the project finally be completed, it would activate the community benefits agreement (CBA) that was hammered out between community stakeholders and developers. Consequently, for some in attendance, the ice center was not what they were optimistic about, but rather the CBA.

Among other provisions, the CBA stipulates that all KNIC-created jobs must pay a \$10 hourly living wage with benefits (an \$11.50 hourly wage without benefits), that a majority of those jobs go to Bronxites, and that 52,000 square feet be set aside for community space.



Photo by Aaron Mayorga

**SANDRA LOBO (AT MIC)**, Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition's Executive Director, testifies in favor of a state plan to lend \$138 million to the developers of the Kingsbridge National Ice Center (KNIC).

Sandra Lobo, the executive director of the Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition, spoke highly of the CBA and maintained that "there is no precedent for a CBA like this – a legally-binding CBA – that brings such powerful benefits to our community." According to a 2013 report by HR&A Advisors, the ice center is estimated to earmark \$1 billion into the community's economy.

"It isn't about the ice," testified Desiree Pilgrim-Hunter, cofounder of the Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Alliance—the consortium of organizations that successfully negotiated the CBA. "The Kingsbridge Armory project represents the economic reinvestment we need to begin the process of providing the... opportunity secured by the CBA."

State Senator Gustavo Rivera, whose district overlaps with the Armory and has been one of the project's biggest advocates, appeared to agree with that assessment. "As soon as the lease comes over, the community benefits agreement goes into effect, which is why I've always been supportive of it. This has never been about ice for me," Rivera told the *Norwood News* during a recess in testimony.

Yet, obtaining the lease has shown itself to be one of the biggest challenges the project has faced.

## Escrow Woes

The city-owned Kingsbridge Armory is managed by the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC), which operates as the city's realtor. Despite it being nearly four years after its initial approval, KNIC has still failed to obtain the lease from NYCEDC.

In part, KNIC struggled to demonstrate to the NYCEDC that it had raised the required construction funds by the mutually-agreed March 2016 deadline, at which point, KNIC managed to secure \$30 million in private funds – covering only a fraction of the project's phase one costs.

This led to a protracted legal dispute between the two sides, leaving the 99-year lease to the Armory in escrow. City officials defended their decision to withhold the lease, seeking to avoid a situation in which KNIC abandons the project prior to its completion.

In September 2016, KNIC attempted to resolve the dispute by offering to purchase the Armory outright from the city, but the NYCEDC refused. The deadlock between the two sides prompted Governor Andrew Cuomo to intervene and publicly announce the state's commitment to provide the full \$138 million to KNIC. Earlier this year, amid anticipation that the state would come through with the loan, Mayor Bill de Blasio reportedly indicated that the city was ready to turn over the lease to KNIC once they had received the state's loan.

In a statement, ESD spokesperson Amy Varghese said on the matter that "the state has always been committed to revitalizing the long-vacant Kingsbridge Armory... [and] the recent approval of \$138 million for this project further affirms that commitment."

Even so, a couple of residents, while not opposed to the ice center, remained skeptical of KNIC's ability to follow through with the project's development.

Samelys Lopez, a community activist and former CB7 member, told ESD

representatives that KNIC's financial difficulties did not give her "confidence that the first phase of the project will be completed even if the city moves forward with the lease transfer."

Meanwhile, community member Aldo Perez voiced similar concerns and said that the state needs to "make sure that they have the correct funding so they can manage it continuously to its complete fate." Perez also noted that "the same faces [he sees] at every other meeting are here, but the new faces in our community are not... We need to be transparent."

After assessing the public comments received at the hearing, the Public Authorities Control Board (PACB), a five-member board of gubernatorial appointees, will discuss the loan and, with Cuomo's support, likely give its final stamp of approval. It is unclear when exactly such a decision will be made.

According to the ESD's general project plan, the first phase of the ice center is slated to be completed in late 2020 (assuming that there are no further delays) – three years behind its originally-scheduled completion date.

"This has been a long road with KNIC," said Benjamin Arana, a business representative for Local Union 3 IBEW. "We're for the project and we'd like to see the project go forward because it's long needed and long overdue."

**Editor's Note:** As of press time, it has been 1,415 days since the New York City Council approved the development of the Kingsbridge National Ice Center.



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