

NORWOOD NEWS

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*Because the News
Can't Be Contained*
p. 2

MONDAY NIGHT FRIGHT-BALL



Photo by Adi Talwar

FOLLOWING A SCARY Saturday storm that brought several inches of snow and dozens of downed trees to the northwest Bronx, the weather cleared up enough for trick-or-treaters, like these characters on East 206th Street and Bainbridge Avenue, to enjoy Halloween.

MS 80 Program Aims at Opening Elite School Doors

By JASMEET SIDHU

On a recent rainy Saturday morning, seventh-grader Mehrina Tabassum sat quietly at the front of a classroom inside MS 80 on Mosholu Parkway, listening as a tutor instructed the small group of students to tackle a math problem.

"What is the greatest common factor of 105 and 126?" he asked, as students quickly grabbed their pencils.

Mehrina was there for extra weekend tutoring sessions in math and reading that she hopes will help her gain admission to Stuyvesant High School, a prestigious school in lower Manhattan.

"I think Stuyvesant will be kind of challenging, but I think it's going to be fun," said Mehrina, who wants to be a pediatrician.

History, however, is not on Mehrina's side. School administrators said not a single student from MS 80 last year was accepted to Stuyvesant or any of the city's seven other elite public high schools that selectively admit eighth-grade applicants based on their scores on the Specialized High School Admissions Test (SHSAT).

According to the Bronx borough president's office, barely six percent of Bronx students

last year were among the nearly 6,000 students across the city accepted into any of these specialized high schools, including the Bronx High School of Science in nearby Bedford Park.

That's why Mehrina was among the few dozen students gathered inside MS 80 on Oct. 29 for the start of the Science Schools Initiative, a Washington Heights-based tutoring service that provides free preparation for the SHSAT to

(continued on p. 7)



Photo by Jasmeet Sidhu

IN AN ATTEMPT to gain entry into the city's elite public high schools, MS 80 students are putting in extra work on Saturdays.

16 Cops Indicted in Ticket Fix Probe

By DAVID GREENE

Following a three-year probe into alleged ticket fixing practices by the Bronx District Attorney's office, 16 Bronx police officers and five civilians were indicted by a grand jury last week.

More than a thousand members of the city's police department jammed the sidewalk outside of the Bronx Hall of Justice last Friday morning in defense of most of the officers implicated, saying ticket fixing has been a "professional courtesy" accepted by all levels of the police force since "the days of the Egyptians."

The 100-page indictment, unsealed on Friday, Oct. 28, lists 1,600 criminal charges against those implicated. It's the final result of a well-publicized, three-year criminal investigation that began with a probe into an alleged business relationship between one officer and a reputed south Bronx drug dealer, but which soon expanded to reveal much more widespread corruption, according to the Bronx District Attorney's office.

One of the indicted officers, Michael Hernandez, hails from the 52nd Precinct, which covers the entire *Norwood News* coverage area.

Officials say the investigation included court-ordered wiretaps on more than 10,000 calls and dozens of telephone lines that revealed "an organized

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Coalition, Occupiers Combine Forces

By DAVID GREENE

The old school grassroots organizers with the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition have found an energetic new ally in the growing number of demonstrators with the nascent Occupy the Bronx movement.

The two groups, who share a "power to the people" message, joined forces on a recent Saturday afternoon to collectively call out big banks for what they say is the banks' role in creating the country's economic crisis.

But first, each group held their own separate assemblies on opposite ends of Fordham Road.

Occupy the Bronx, born out of the now several-week-old Occupy Wall Street movement, had returned to Fordham Plaza for the second week in a row. While their demands remain unclear, the movement is focused on a fostering a new economic system that would more equitably distribute wealth and resources.

The crowd, which included Assemblyman Jose Rivera with his video camera, gave a warm welcome to New York-based attorney William F. Pepper, who was friends with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the height of the Civil Rights movement and, at the request of Dr. King's family, would later represent James Earl Ray, King's alleged assassin.

Because the Occupy movement has no official leader, Pepper said "neither the government or the media can focus on an individual leader." For this reason, Pepper predicted that the movement would not be silenced.

As "Occupy Fordham" broke up into smaller working groups, more than 300 Bronxites gathered at St. Nicholas of Tolentine Church on University Avenue and Fordham Road, where the Coalition held its annual public meeting. It was attended by several elected officials, including

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In The Public Interest

Cycling Group Presents at Kingsbridge Armory

A group of bicycling enthusiasts vying to build a professional track inside the long-vacant Kingsbridge Armory are hosting a presentation and tour at the building this Thursday, Nov. 3 at 2 p.m.

The National Cycling Association, one of several groups that want to take over the Armory, wants to turn the 575,000-square-foot Kingsbridge Road building into a velodrome (an indoor cycling arena) that offers youth biking programs and have space for a BMX skate park.

On Thursday, German architect Ralph Schuermann, who specializes in cycling tracks, will present his design plans.

"It's going to be part presentation, part tour of the building," said Michael Green, one of the men behind the effort.

Green and business partner Jack Simes' proposal for the Armory includes a track for professional racing events, complete with spectator seating and concession stands. Their dream is to stage a "Six Day Bicycle Race" — a six-day sporting event that hasn't been held in New York for some 50 years, the group says.

The velodrome plan was one of several submitted to Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. last year after his office requested proposals for the space. Other submissions included a YMCA, a film studio and an evangelical mega-church.

—JEANMARIE EVELLY

DOT Looks to Put Gun Hill Road on Fast Track

Despite its name, traffic on Gun Hill Road is known to be anything but bullet speed. That's why the Department of Transportation has presented a new study that includes a slew of fixes it hopes will speed up the molasses-slow road.

The East Gun Hill Corridor Study proposes a series of street direction changes, extended sidewalks and curbs, and repairs to make intersections safer and speed up traffic.

Five different buses stop at East Gun Hill Road and Bainbridge Avenue, and the intersection is home to several busy Montefiore Medical Center buildings. One proposal would extend a curb and eliminate left turns at two crossings, a move the DOT says would stop the snail-like pace of vehicles trying to turn as pedestrians are trying to cross.

Raymond Vanderburg, a street vendor who sets up by the corner, says he thinks eliminating the left turns would help the clogged intersection. Behind him, caravans of SUVs and city buses made their turns one by one onto Bainbridge Avenue.

"A couple times, I almost got hit," said Debra Lomax, a school crossing guard. She said drivers just don't pay attention on the road.

Other proposed changes in the study include: extending one corner of Jerome Avenue and Gun Hill Road by 20 feet to shorten the cross time for pedestrians; making Perry, Hull and Decatur avenues one-way streets to simplify the flow of

traffic; adding a double-yellow line on Webster Avenue to encourage drivers to yield before turning; eliminating a right turn at Olinville Avenue and turning one ramp into a sidewalk; extending the curb at the corner of Reservoir Place and Gun Hill Road to make the left turn sharper, forcing drivers to slow down; installing countdown traffic signals, repairing curbs, repainting crosswalks, and changing traffic light timing.

The DOT plans to confer with Community Board 7 before moving forward with the proposal. —RONALD CHAVEZ

Fordham Library Shelter Plan Off

Community leaders say a long-held city plan to turn the old Fordham Library into an animal shelter was officially nixed this month, reigniting the hopes of some who'd been trying for years to convert the 27,400-square-foot Bainbridge Avenue building into a community center.

"The animal shelter plan is off the table," said Community Board 7 District Manager Fernando Tirado.

The Fordham Library Branch, which was shuttered in 2005 and replaced by the high-tech Bronx Library Center on East Kingsbridge Road, was handed over to the city's Department of Health in 2008 with plans to make it into a full-service animal shelter — a move that outraged many local groups and elected officials who, at the time, were lobbying to have the building set aside for much-needed community space.

The animal shelter plan was in response to an old city mandate requiring the DOH to operate at least one full-service shelter in each of the five boroughs; neither the Bronx nor Queens has ever had one.

This month, however, the City Council passed a resolution overturning that shelter requirement; the city will instead allocate more funding to already existing animal drop-off sites in the Bronx and Queens, in lieu of opening new ones.

Since acquiring the old library, the

More coverage on norwoodnews.org

- Video from the Tour de Bronx
- Problems at Poe and Oval Parks
- Precinct Council's Annual Breakfast
- Update on Old Fordham Library
- Video of Comptroller in the Bronx
- High School Football Playoff Push
- Halloween Slide Show from Adi Talwar

DOH has been using the space as an administrative and storage office for scanning and shredding documents.

Tirado said the board was told the city would continue to use the building that way for at least another year, though a DOH spokeswoman said the department planned to continue using the site "indefinitely."

Adaline Walker-Santiago-Higgins, who was just elected Vice Chair to CB7, said that she and the board will continue to work with the DOH to secure the building for some kind of community use, and are hoping to find a nonprofit interested in pursuing the space. Her biggest worry, she said, is that the city will decide to auction the building off — a move that would risk the community losing the old library to the highest bidder.

"I'm hoping that's not what's going to happen," she said.

—JEANMARIE EVELLY

Public and Community Meetings

- The 52nd Precinct Community Council will meet on Thursday, Nov. 17 from 7 to 9 p.m. at 2455 Sedgwick Ave. For more information, call (917) 650-0620 or email bcserina@msn.com.
- The Community District 10 Education Council will meet on Thursday, Nov. 10 at 6:30 p.m. at PS 9, 230 W. 183rd St. Refreshments will be provided. For more information, call the CDEC10 office at (718) 741-5836 or email CEC10@schools.nyc.gov.
- Community Board 7 will hold its general board meeting on Tuesday, Nov 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the Monroe College gymnasium, 2501 Jerome Ave. For more information, call (718) 933-5650.
- All CB7 committee meetings will be held at the office at 229A E. 204th St. at 6:30 p.m.: Parks & Recreation, Nov. 3; Economic Development, Nov. 8; Website, Nov. 9; Sanitation & Environment, Nov. 10; Traffic & Transportation, Nov. 10; Youth Services, Nov. 14; Senior Services, Nov 16; Health & Hospitals, Nov 16.



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Photo by Francesca Andre

Clinton Takes Control of Football Rivalry

With DeWitt Clinton's thrilling 14-13 high school football victory over John F. Kennedy, the Governors cemented its recent dominance over its northwest Bronx rivals and established momentum as the team pushes toward the PSAL playoffs.

As big as the win was for the team, it was a personal victory for Clinton Defensive Coordinator Alex Vega, who used to coach at Kennedy. Vega told the *New York Post*, "Other than the day my son was born, this is the happiest day of my life."

It was the first time Vega coached on Kennedy grounds in two seasons. He was

booted by former JFK Principal Anthony Rotunno for alleged employee misconduct, which he denied.

Head Coach Howard Langley said the win was a big emotional lift. "It's almost like an in-season playoff game when you play Kennedy."

Clinton, which has now won three in a row against JFK after dropping 11 straight to the Knights, beat Truman last week to improve to 5-3 going into its season finale against Lehman on Nov. 16. JFK rebounded to beat Lehman, 27-12, and finishes against Truman on Nov. 16.

—RONALD CHAVEZ

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Editorial

Empty Lot, Empty Promises

Two years ago, in the wake of an early Halloween morning fire on Bainbridge Avenue that destroyed 10 Norwood businesses and deflated an entire neighborhood, there was much talk of renewal — from city agencies, elected officials and the landlord who owned the lot where those businesses once thrived.

“The plan is to get the building back up as quickly as possible,” said Evelyn Jacobson, whose company, West Bronx Stores, owns the Bainbridge Avenue lot.

Obviously, that plan isn’t working out for Jacobson or the rest of the neighborhood. The lot remains empty, walled off by planks of particle board.

For a while, rumors swirled that Jacobson had struck a deal to lease space in what would be a newly-constructed building for some type of retail use. Now, the *Norwood News* has learned, Jacobson scrapped that idea and is looking to sell the property for a huge chunk of change, perhaps as much as \$5 million. Not surprisingly, in a struggling economy, no one is biting.

Meanwhile, the lot sits sadly empty. It’s a shocking void for residents. Like an amputated limb, it inspires phantom pains of loss.

Of course, we don’t know all the circumstances surrounding Jacobson’s apparent inaction. (Not that we haven’t tried to find out. Repeated calls to her office by the *Norwood News* are usually picked up by a woman who answers politely, takes a message, and then says Jacobson will call back. She never does.)

But we do know that promises were made and

then broken, just like the heart of a neighborhood.

Sector Stats Revealed

On page 6 of this issue, you’ll find the first installment of our extensive look at crime statistics and trends in all of the neighborhoods of our primary coverage area, which is contiguous with the 52nd Precinct. This issue focuses on the neighborhoods we cover in University Heights and Fordham, the southernmost area of the precinct. In subsequent issues, we’ll examine the areas north of Fordham Road, Bedford Park and, finally, Norwood.

In this issue, we will let the numbers speak for themselves, but online, at norwoodnews.org, and in following print editions, we will supplement the numbers with stories and analysis.

We’re especially proud of this project because it took a substantial amount of time, effort and frustration to make it happen. The graphs we created cover five years’ worth of crime stats. The first two years were provided to us by James Alles, the former commanding officer of the 52nd Precinct. The final three years were obtained through Freedom of Information Law requests submitted to the NYPD. We filed for the 2009 and 2010 numbers in June of 2010 and only just received them this past August.

There is hope that this type of analysis won’t be as hard to come by in the future. Councilman Fernando Cabrera, who represents University Heights, recently introduced legislation that would make these numbers public on a monthly basis. We urge the Council to pass this legislation and put the power of information back into the hands of the people. It will only make the police department’s (and our) job easier.

Letters

To the Editor,

As an artist with a Master’s Degree in Fine Arts and Art Therapy I am impressed with the fidelity to cultural practices and design of the fine cigars created by Francisco Rosario (*Norwood News*, Oct. 20, 2011-Nov. 2, 2011). Mr. Rosario’s dedication to maintaining the skills he adopted in childhood is admirable and no doubt his cigars bring enjoyment and relaxation to his customers. As a child advocate, I am concerned that he was working with toxic materials as a child and most likely subjected to the second hand smoke of the adults around him. As a health professional with a Master’s in Public Health, I have grave concerns about the impact of cigars on the health and well being of Mr. Rosario, his customers, their families, especially children and anyone in the wake of their smoke.

While cigar smoking seems charming and sophisticated, this is the information on the National Cancer Institute website:

—Cigar smoke, like cigarette smoke, contains toxic and cancer-causing chemicals that are harmful to both smokers and nonsmokers.

—There is no safe tobacco

product, and there is no safe level of exposure to tobacco smoke. The more you smoke, the greater your risk of disease.

—Cigar smoking causes oral cavity cancers (cancers of the lip, tongue, mouth, and throat) and cancers of the larynx (voice box), esophagus, and lung.

—All cigar and cigarette smokers, whether or not they inhale, directly expose their lips, mouth, tongue, throat, and larynx to tobacco smoke and its toxic and cancer-causing chemicals.

An article in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* (Shapiro, Jacobs, Thun, 1999) states: “Results from this large prospective study support a strong association between cigar smoking and mortality from several types of cancer.”

I applaud Mr. Rosario’s commitment as an artisan. I think the article about his cigar shop in our Bronx neighborhood is interesting. But I shudder to think of the number of people who have purchased cigars from him over the past 10 years who have been harmed and have harmed others with the toxic ingredients in the beautifully rolled and artfully designed cancer-causing tobacco.

Karel R. Amaranth, MPH, MA

Inquiring Photographer

By **DAVID GREENE**

This week, we asked readers what they think of a new proposed crackdown on dog owners who don’t pick up after their pets.



I think it really is a problem, usually people stepping in the poop. It gets annoying. A crackdown would definitely help. The owners should get a fine.”

Raven Rossy



You walk around in your new clothes and shoes and step in some stuff. I get mad. I want to kick a guy’s dog somewhere outside the planet. But this is New York, no one’s going to crack down on this because it isn’t serious, it’s not murder.

Gabriel Tores



I think people should clean up after their dogs because I really don’t want to step in it, even if it’s good luck. They should be fined a million dollars because this is serious.”

Natasha Peguero



I think it was worse before, but it is disgusting. I think they should also crack down on people spitting, that’s even more disgusting. It’s unsanitary... I think \$50 would be fair, or at the discretion of the cop giving the ticket.

Victor DeRosa



Everybody today has these Android phones with all these applications. They should have an application where you can actually take a picture of someone in the act, having their dog defecating on the street, and somehow submit it anonymously so the police would be more alert to a particular area. That would be excellent.

David Martinez

Be Healthy!

50

pounds of sugar consumed each year by a person who drinks one 20-ounce soda every day. (Source: NYC Dept. of Health)

Vital Stats

Bronx Celebrates 'Food Day'

New York City hosted its first-ever "Food Day" on Oct. 24. A government-sponsored effort to celebrate "real food and healthy eating," the day was marked by events across the five boroughs that focused on nutrition.

In the Bronx, Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., and State Sen. Gustavo Rivera were at Mount St. Ursula Academy in Bedford Park to kick off a new health initiative for local schools. The Family Health Challenge, developed by the Mary Mitchell Family and Youth Center and the Committee of Interns and Residents, asks students and their families to set small health goals for themselves, based on the idea that changing one simple habit at a time will, in the long run, lead to a healthier lifestyle.

"If you try to do too much overnight, it can become discouraging," Diaz told the crowd of teenagers. "It's about baby steps — it's about doing things differently."

The Bronx is the unhealthiest county in the state, suffering from disproportionate rates of obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Health statistics predict that half of the children born this year in the Bronx will develop diabetes in their lifetime; more than half of our borough's adults are currently overweight.

"We have to change what we're doing," said Mary Mitchell Center Director Heidi Hynes. "We're sick, and we have to do something about it."

The Family Health Challenge is being introduced at Mount St. Ursula and 50 other Bronx schools that participate in Montefiore Children's

Hospital's School Health program. Students are given different health guidelines to follow each week for eight weeks: only drink water or low-fat milk during week one; eat a serving of whole grains every day during weeks four and five; eat only home-cooked meals during week seven.

"There are things that we can do every day to be a little healthier," Rivera said.

The event was the last leg of Rivera's "Bronx Can Health Initiative," which he launched last June, challenging Bronxites to set health goals for themselves. The senator's own goal was to lose 20 pounds by the end of the challenge, an effort he's been chronicling for the last five months through a series of health events and public weigh-ins.

At Mount St. Ursula's last week, Rivera removed his shoes in front of an auditorium full of giggling high school girls and stepped on a scale. The verdict? Down 16 pounds from his original weight.

"There's no better way to do it than to set an example myself," Rivera said.

Diaz touted his own health accomplishments to the crowd: he's lost 14 pounds since last December, the result of cutting out soda and going to the gym several times a week.

Mount St. Ursula senior Nicole Smith, 17, said she plans to start accompanying her mother to the grocery store to stock up on fresh fruits and vegetables for the fridge.

"It's so difficult here in the Bronx," Nicole said. "It's much easier to just go to McDonald's and get a \$1 cheeseburger."



Photo by Jeanmarie Evelly

Domestic Violence Art Project Returns to Fordham Plaza

On Oct. 18, Bronx AIDS Services sponsored its annual "Clothesline Project," in Fordham Plaza. Domestic violence survivors and their supporters decorated white T-shirts with messages of encouragement, and strung the shirts along clotheslines across the square. The event is meant to be an outlet of expression for survivors of abuse, and an opportunity for them to symbolically air their dirty laundry, said organizer SoJourneyer McCauley.

"It originally started in Missouri, at a woman's shelter in the 1980s," she explained. "The women needed to talk, they needed to get their message out."

October was National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Last week, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., and Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson announced the recent procurement of a \$999,092 grant to expand services and programs for victims of domestic abuse in the borough.



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Crime Trends in University Heights (2006-2010)

In order to portray a broader picture of crime statistics and trends in specific neighborhoods over the past five years, we compiled crime statistics from each of the 52nd Precinct's 15 individual sectors

(obtained through a Freedom of Information Law request to the NYPD).

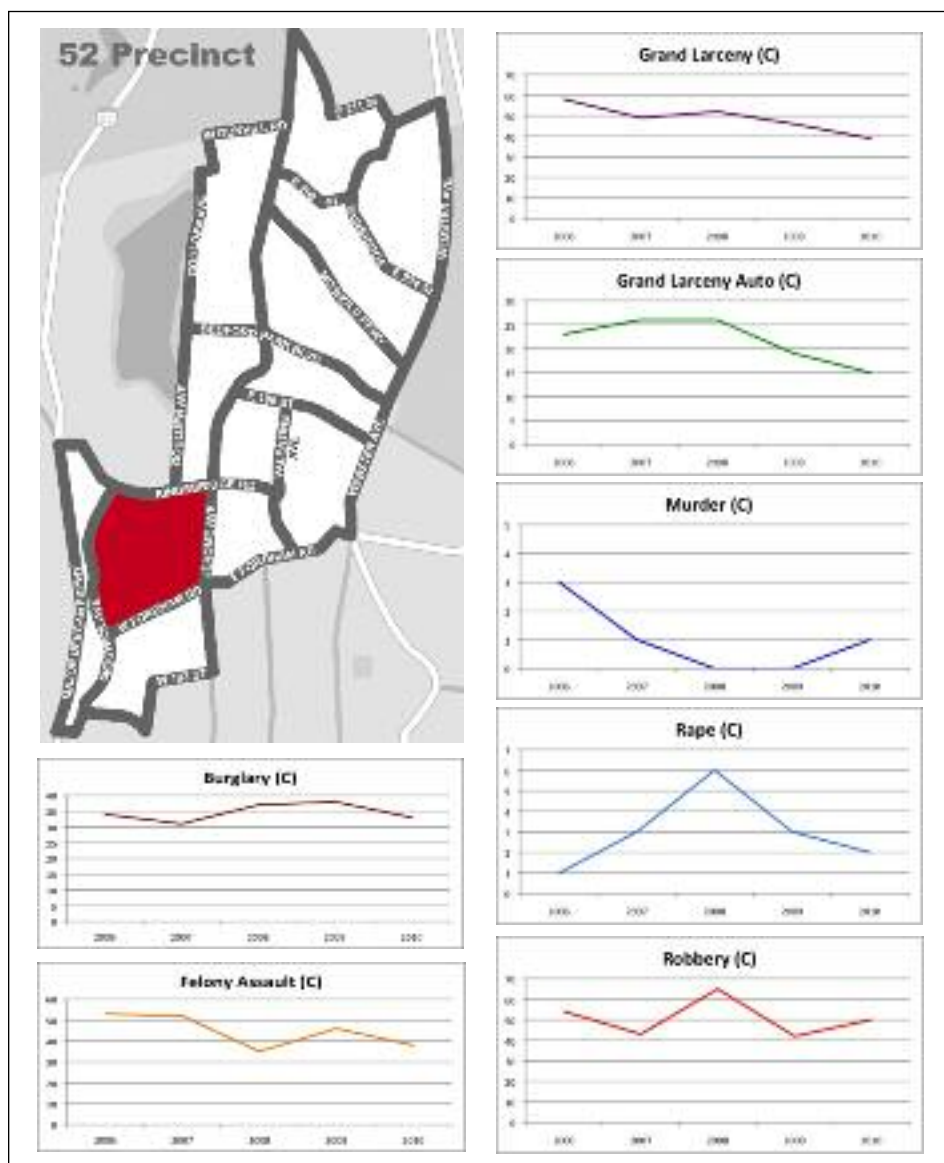
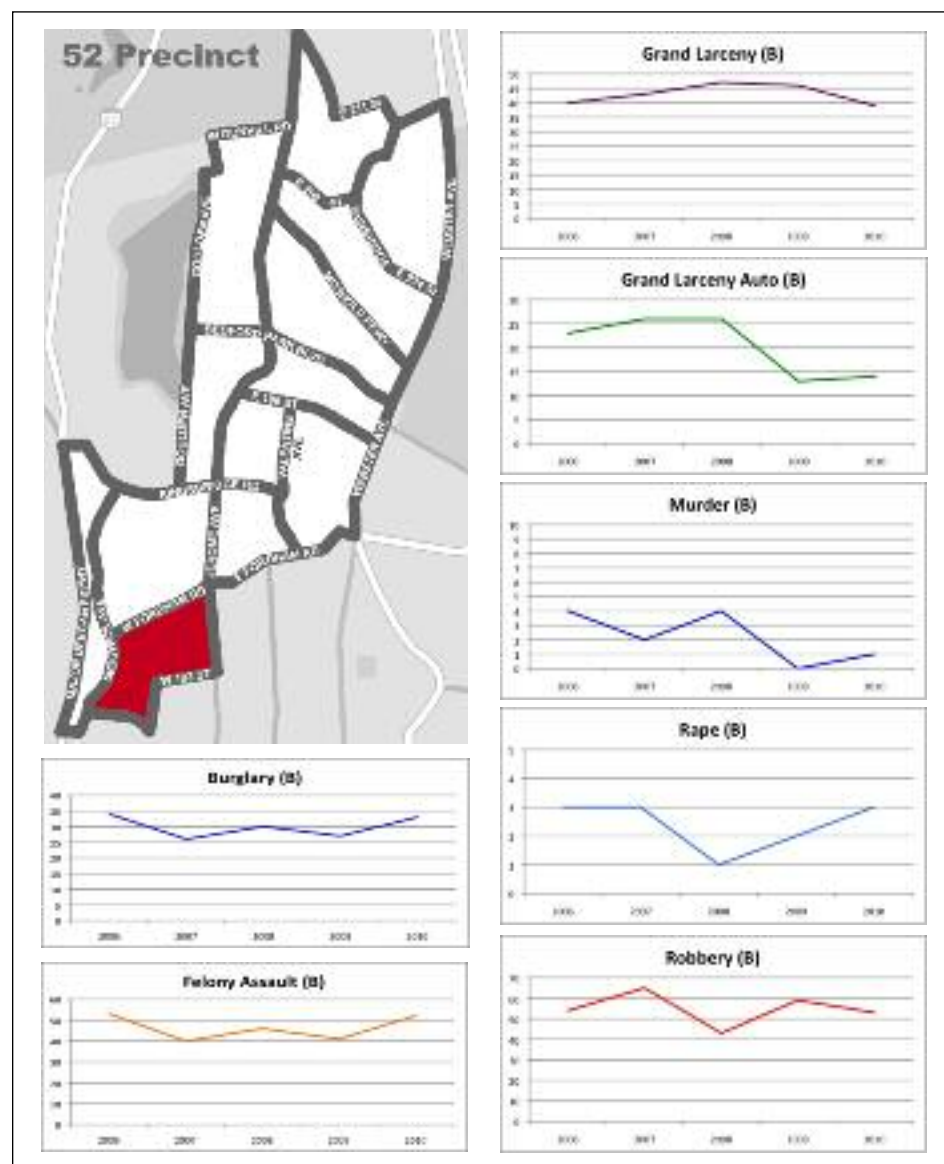
We will present these statistics in the form of graphs in this and the next two issues. We will supplement the graphs

with stories and analysis, both in the print edition and online at norwoodnews.org, where we will house the entire project.

In this issue, we focused on the neighborhoods in the southernmost section of

the precinct, referred to by police as sectors A, B, C and D and otherwise known as University Heights. For now, we will let the numbers speak for themselves.

—ALEX KRATZ, Editor-in-Chief



MS 80 Program Aims at Opening Elite School Doors

(continued from p. 1)

low-income students. The founders said the program at MS 80, which is the first of its kind in a Bronx school, will help level the playing field for families who can't afford pricey test preparation programs.

"The Bronx has the least number of students getting into specialized high schools," said Mike Mascetti, 27, co-founder of the Science Schools Initiative and a graduate of Stuyvesant High School. "That's why we're here. We want kids from this community to go to those schools."

Although the Department of Education does not make student address data available, local educators said that less than a fifth of the students from the Bronx High School of Science are from the borough.

Mascetti, a Queens native, along with fellow Stuyvesant graduate Darren Guez, started the program in 2007 after realizing that many low-income students could

not afford enrolling in private test preparation programs, which can cost hundreds of dollars.

"We were thinking maybe we should tutor people who are a little more like us, from low-income or middle-income backgrounds, who can't afford test preparation," said Mascetti, adding that the tutors in the programs are mainly young college students who are graduates of the specialized high schools. "Going to Stuyvesant was a transformative experience for me. There isn't any question you are going to graduate, unlike at the other schools."

Mascetti said that they were looking to expand the program to other parts of the city earlier this year when a frustrated Bronx resident, Adaline Walker-Santiago, came knocking on their doors, angered by the fact that Bronx students had a poor showing among the city's most elite schools.

"The schools are rated the worst in the Bronx," said Walker-Santiago, the newly-elected vice-chair of Community Board 7. "These kids are just as smart as any kid in the city, but they are just not given the same opportunity for a good preparatory class."

After finding out about the initiative online, Walker-Santiago arranged a meeting with Mascetti and several middle school principals in the Bronx. They decided to make MS 80, a school that recently received a federal grant to turn around its poor performance, the pilot site for the program. MS 80 was rated a "D" on performance in its last overall report card, with a little more than a

quarter of the students achieving a passing grade on its math scores.

"We're very excited," said MS 80 Principal Lovey Mazique-Rivera. "The parents love it. They are really appreciative the school is offering this service to them."

About 60 sixth and seventh grade students at MS 80 were selected for the program based on their eligibility for free school lunch, and their performance on a mock selective exam that Mascetti and his team administered at the end of June. Both Mascetti and school administrators hope that 50 percent of them will eventually gain entrance to one of the city's specialized high schools.

NW Bronx Coalition, Occupiers Combine Forces



Photo by David Greene

A CROWD OF about 200 demonstrate outside of Chase Bank on East Fordham Road.

(continued from p. 1)

Comptroller John Liu, Assemblywoman Carmen Arroyo, Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz, Councilman Oliver Koppell and State Senator Gustavo Rivera.

Talk at the meeting focused on a lack of institutional support for under-performing public schools, the contamination problems at PS 51's former Bedford Park building (and the DOE's lack of response to parents' concerns), the need to redevelop and get good jobs out of the

vacant Kingsbridge Armory and their support for the so-called "Living Wage bill" in the City Council.

"It's more than just saving our schools," Dinowitz said about dealing with under-performing schools. "Saving our schools suggests that we want to keep what we have and make sure they don't go completely down. [But] we want to make sure we have schools of excellence in our communities."

Rivera talked about the Occupy movement in general. "I agree with their basic point, that there has been nobody found responsible — the people that helped destroy our economic system — and that the rest of us are paying for it," he said.

Following the Coalition's meeting, a diverse crowd of about 100 demonstrators marched east across Fordham Road and met up with a crowd of about 100 occupiers, protesting outside of three banks on Fordham Road.

Many in the crowd would later board two charter buses and head to a larger rally at Union Square. Others took the train.

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Neighborhood Notes

VC Park Vols Needed

Friends of Van Cortlandt Park will hold its last trail restoration day on Nov. 5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and seeks 12 to 20 community volunteers. No prior trail experience is necessary, as on-the-job training will be offered. Prior registration is required. Call (718) 601-1460 or visit info@vancortlandt.org for more information or to register.

Muni-Meters Coming

Muni-Meters, which will replace parking meters, and will accept coins, bills and credit/debit cards, will be installed in the Fordham and Kingsbridge Heights neighborhoods. On Monday, Nov. 14 (date subject to change), they will be placed on Goulden Avenue, West Kingsbridge Road, Jerome Avenue and Bedford Park Boulevard. For more details on locations, visit www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/motorist/meterchanges.shtml.

CB7 Accepting Applicants

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. is inviting Bronxites to become a community board member. Community boards work to bring government and citizens closer together, ensuring that neighborhoods receive the services they need. The community board application includes a written application and an interview with a representative from Diaz's office. Interested applicants are urged to read the city's Code of Ethics for Community Board Members, which can be found online, along with the application, at BronxBoroPres.nyc.gov.

For more information, call Community Board 7 at (718) 933-5650.

Job Fair at Library Center

On Friday Nov. 4, Assemblyman Nelson Castro and State Senator Gustavo Rivera will host a free job fair for Bronxites from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd. Interested parties are urged to bring their resume and be prepared for an interview with many companies and programs. For more information, call (718) 933-6909.

Business Tax Planning

The Small Business Development Center is hosting a free Year-End Tax Planning workshop on Wednesday, Nov. 9 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at CUNY on the Concourse, 2501 Grand Concourse. For more information or to register, call (718) 960-8806 or email sbdc.bronx@lehman.cuny.edu.

Free English Classes

The New York Public Library offers free English classes at selected libraries across the Bronx, in association with the Riverside Language Program, Inc., for adults 16 and older. Space is limited and registration must be done in person. To find a participating location and for more information, call (212) 340-0918.

For more Neighborhood Notes online, go to www.norwoodnews.org and click on "Neighborhood Notes" in the right-hand column.

HAUNTED PUMPKIN GARDEN



Photo by Adi Talwar

MASTER PUMPKIN CARVER Ray Villafane used the world's largest pumpkins to create this creepy work of art for the New York Botanical Garden's "Haunted Pumpkin Garden" exhibit.

After 3-Year Ticket Fix Probe, 16 Cops Indicted

(continued from p. 1)

and wide-scale practice of 'fixing' parking and traffic tickets and criminal and other summonses," a statement said.

Other crimes described in the indictment include the sale and distribution of drugs, weapons, and counterfeit DVDs, as well as officers who allegedly allowed criminal suspects to go free, and the supposed cover-up of an assault incident. Another officer stands accused of "outing" a confidential source.

Hernandez, a 35-year-old trustee with the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, the department's largest union, faces 133 criminal counts, including criminal solicitation, tampering with public records and grand larceny.

"Those actions - crimes under the law - can't be glossed over as 'courtesies' or as part of an acceptable culture. They are not," Police Commissioner Ray Kelly said during a press conference Friday. "Those who try to rationalize them as such are kid-

ding themselves, especially if they think the public finds it acceptable. Members of the public don't accept favoritism. They resent it, as well they should. The public entrusts to police officers special authority, and that trust must not be violated."

Bail for Jose Ramos, the officer who was the target of the original investigation, was set at \$500,000. The majority of the other officers were released on their own recognizance, and are due back in court in January.

Patrick Lynch, president of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (PBA) spoke to the media on behalf of the cops who had gathered at the courthouse.

"We are by no means here to defend a drug dealer," he said, referring to Ramos. "What we are here for today is the fact that a courtesy has now turned into a crime," he continued, adding that the practice of squashing tickets was "accepted at all ranks for decades."

"This all comes about because of the constant pressure, the constant push for numbers, numbers, numbers," Lynch said, prompting a roar of applause from the crowd of cops gathered around him.

The scene was tense outside the courthouse, on East 161st Street, as the police officers who came to lend their support faced off against a small group of chanting civilians.

"It's a double standard. They should be indicted!" yelled Soundview resident Terril Stroud. A group of cops, in response, started chanting, "Get a job!"

"I wouldn't get bail, and they won't go to jail for an hour," Stroud said. "I think it's an ongoing tradition with officers giving courtesies to other officers, but if I get a ticket, no one's going to give me a courtesy. Do you think that's fair?"



Photo by David Greene

MORE THAN 1,000 off-duty NYPD officers turn out for a rally in support of those indicted in an allegedly widespread ticket fixing scandal.

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Classifieds

FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF SULLIVAN

File #: 13781
Docket #: P-01638-11

SUMMONS
(Publication)

In the Matter of Paternity Proceeding
Shirley Ann Simmons, Petitioner,
-against-
Ronald Hicks, Jantider Lakhanpal, Respondents.

IN THE NAME OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE
OF NEW YORK:

To: Jantider Lakhanpal
(Address Unknown)

A petition under Article 5 of the Family Court Act
having been filed with this Court requesting the
following relief: Paternity;

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to appear
before this Court on
Date/Time: December 6, 2011 at 9:00 AM
Purpose: Arraign
Part: 3
Floor/Room: Floor 1/Room 3
Presiding: Karen L. Linen, Support
Magistrate
Location: Government Center
100 North St.
Monticello, NY 12701

to answer the petition and to be dealt with in
accordance with Article 5 of the Family Court Act.

On your failure to appear as herein directed, a
warrant may be issued for your arrest.

Dated: October 12, 2011
Christina Benson, Clerk of Court

TO THE ABOVE- NAMED RESPONDENT:

The foregoing summons is served upon you by
publication pursuant to an order of Karen L. Linen,
Support Magistrate of the Family Court, Sullivan
County, dated and filed with the petition and other
papers in the Office of the Clerk of the Family
Court, Sullivan County.

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Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

Onstage

■ The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **Compañía Flamenca José Porcel**, featuring gypsy music with performances by singers, dancers and musicians, Nov. 6 at 4 p.m.; and **Yamato**, the drummers of Japan, Nov. 13 at 6 p.m. (tickets are \$25 to \$40; \$10/12 and under for each); and **Salsa Palooza**, Nov. 19 at 8 p.m. (tickets are \$45 to \$60). For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

■ The Lehman College Theatre, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **A Midsummer Night's Dream**, Nov. 3 to 5 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 6 at 3 p.m., in the Speech and Theatre Building's Studio Theatre, performed by Lehman students and alumni. A special

matinee for high school students will be performed on Nov. 4 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10; \$8 with CUNY I.D. and free for Lehman students with valid I.D. and can be purchased at box office on the day of the performance. For more information, call (718) 960-7963.

■ Lehman College, located at 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **Wind Classics**, featuring classical music performed by the Lehman Woodwind Quintet, Nov. 6 at 2 p.m.; **Faculty Recital**, performing classical music, Nov. 15 at 12:30 p.m.; and the **Lehman Brass Quintet**, featuring music from the 16th century to the present, Nov. 17 at noon (call (718) 960-8247 for these three); and **It's So Easy Being Green**, music and science in education, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. (call (718) 960-7796); all free and in the Recital Hall, Music Building, 3rd floor.

■ Lehman College, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents free: **poet Sonia Sanchez**, who will give a special reading and discuss poetry, Nov. 3 at 12:30 p.m. (call (718) 960-8025/8211/7963/8675); and **Jazz Festival**, featuring music and workshops, Nov. 17 and 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (call (718) 960-8247); all in the Lovinger Theatre; and **Poetry Reading**, featuring two poets, Nov. 17 at 3 p.m., in the Art Gallery (call (718) 960-8731).

Events

■ **"Savor the Bronx,"** the first annual Bronx Restaurant Week runs from Nov. 1 to Nov. 13. It includes several special events, including a Bronx Food Tour on Friday, Nov. 11. For more information, visit www.savorthebronx.com or call the Bronx Tourism Council at (718) 590-2502.

■ The public is invited to join **Yes the Bronx** and **Project Obesity** for the 5th annual **Energize the Bronx** to cheer all marathon runners at Willis Wall Island, triangle at Willis Avenue and East 135th Street, Nov. 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call (718) 590-3557.

■ Bronxmedia will provide **live entertainment** for the NYC marathon, Nov. 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 139th Street and Morris Avenue. For more information, visit www.sotbradio.com.

■ The Mosholu Montefiore Senior Center, 3450 DeKalb Ave., presents **Shopping Trip to Fairway**, located on the upper west side, and return to the Center for a late lunch (\$1.50 registration), Nov. 10 at 9:30 a.m.; **Legal Clinic**, offering free legal advice (appointment required), Nov. 14 at 12:30 p.m.; and **Pre-Thanksgiving Luncheon**, with turkey and all the trimmings and a magician, Nov. 17 at 11 a.m. For more information, call (718) 798-6601.

■ Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse (165th Street), presents **First Fridays**, Nov. 4 from 6 to 10 p.m., featuring film, art performances, music and other special events. For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

Exhibits

■ The Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse at 165th St., presents **Muntadas: Information, Space, Control**, through Jan. 16; and **Urban Archives:**



EDITOR'S PICK

Rock Down Memory Lane

The public is invited to enjoy golden oldies at the Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd. off Fordham Road. The legendary Creations will present a **Rock-N-Roll Classic Concert** on Nov. 5 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46 or visit www.nypl.org.

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Emilio Sanchez in the Bronx, through Jan. 2. Admission is free on Fridays. For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

■ Lehman College's Art Gallery, located at 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **Sticks and Stones** (curator will discuss artists and works on Nov. 8 at noon); and **El Museo's Biala: The (S) Files 2011**; both through Jan. 6, free, Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 960-8731.

Library Events

■ The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd. off Fordham Road, presents programs for kids including **Preschool Story Time**, Nov. 10 and 17 at 11 a.m.; **Turkey Book Making** (ages 3 to 5), Nov. 10 at 4 p.m.; **Lead Poisoning Prevention Program**, Nov. 4 at 3 p.m. (for kids; registration required); **Sonic Sounds** (for ages 3 to 12; registration required), Nov. 8 at 4 p.m.; **Film Day**, Nov. 9 and 16 at 4 p.m.; **Global Partners, Jr.** (registration required; ages 5 to 12), students connect worldwide via the Internet, Nov. 9 and 16 at 4 p.m.; **Leaf Book Making**, (ages 5 to 12), Nov. 3 at 4 p.m.; **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe** (ages 3 to 12; registration required), Nov. 12 at 2 p.m.; and **The Science of Toys** (ages 3 to 12; registration required), Nov. 15 at 4 p.m. Teens and young adults may attend **Interview for Success**, Nov. 8 and 15 at 3:30 p.m.; **Presenting: You**, Nov. 8 and 9 at 3:30 p.m.; and **F-2-F, Say It Smart**, Nov. 15 at 3:30 p.m. Adults can attend **Real Fake**, the mysteri-

ous and ever-changing world of counterfeiting, Nov. 15 at 11 a.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

■ The Moshulu Library, at 285 E. 205th St., offers a free Intermediate Level **English Conversation Program** for speakers of other languages (ages from 16 years), Tuesdays through Nov. 22, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.; **Knitting Circle at 3 p.m.**, Nov. 3, 10 and 17, for adults; **Toddler Story Time**, Nov. 10 at 10:30 a.m.; and **Harvest Moon**, featuring Native-American folktales (ages 5 to 12; registration required), Nov. 15 at 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

■ The Jerome Park Library, at 118 Eames Place, offers **Arts & Crafts**, Nov. 7; **Films**, Nov. 14; **Sacagawea: Bird Woman**, the guide on Lewis & Clarke expedition, Nov. 15; all for school aged children; all at 4 p.m.; and **Toddler Story Time**, Nov. 16 at 11 a.m. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

Public Service Announcement

Daylight Savings Time: Turn all clocks back one hour at 2 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 6.

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

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