Group Wants Kingsbridge Armory To Be Bicycling Center

By EMILY PICCONE

The six-day bicycle race, made popular in Madison Square Garden in the late 1800s but not held in the city for decades, could be coming to the long-vacant Kingsbridge Armory come springtime. If that works out, event organizers say they will push for the Armory to become the permanent home of a regional bicycling center.

“Cycling is a substantial part of our culture. It crosses all racial and cultural boundaries.”

—Jack Simes, NCA CEO

In a presentation on the expansive 575,000-square-foot drill floor of the Armory two weeks ago, National Cycling Association CEO Jack Simes presented the two-part proposal and renderings of the velodrome, an angled, oval racetrack, created by Ralph Schuermann, designer of four Olympic velodromes.

The NCA estimates the cost of a one-time event, which would include free bike clinics for youth, the installation of the track, bleacher seating for 2,500 spectators, concession stands and bathrooms, would run about $700,000. Simes said the costs would be covered by private sponsors.

In addition to funding the event, Simes would need approval from the Economic Development Corporation (EDC), which manages the property for the city. The NCA has yet to submit a proposal.

“Before we would sign off on the Armory, someone needs to submit a plan, at which time we will review it,” said EDC spokesperson Kyle Sklerov.

Simes said the NCA would build off the success of the event and work to turn the Armory into a regional bicycling center that would include a permanent velodrome, BMX park and create cycling programs for youth. He said public and private funding would be needed for the long-term transformation of the Armory.

Rich Comroy of Bike NY said the velodrome would be a “tremendous help” in promoting cycling.

Mentors Helping Keep Kids in School

By RONALD CHAVEZ

Speaking at Walton Campus last week, Mayor Michael Bloomberg pointed to truancy as an accurate indicator of future academic struggle. “The more school a child misses during the early grades, the more likely he is to succeed in the higher grades,” he said.

Bloomberg went on to announce the expansion of a limited city mentorship program that he credits with improving absenteeism at participating schools, including the High School for Teaching and the Professions, one of several small schools at Walton in Kingsbridge Heights.

After the first year of the program, absenteeism dropped at Teaching and the Professions (also known as TAP) more than any of the six other participating high schools. According to figures from the mayor’s office, the school cut chronic absenteeism from 52 percent to 41 percent.

The city calls students who missed more than 20 days “chronically absent,” while those who missed more than 38 days were “severely chronically absent.”

In total, Bloomberg said students participating in the mentorship program attended 7,000 more days of class compared to the previous year. He said the city’s “Success Mentors” program, part of the its more comprehensive (continued on p. 8)
In The Public Interest

DOZENS OF PROTESTERS and union members at an “Occupy Woodlawn Cemetery” rally on Saturday.

Wall Street Protesters ‘Occupy Woodlawn’

A group of protesters from downtown Manhattan’s Occupy Wall Street encampment came to the Bronx last week, in a show of support for Woodlawn Cemetery workers campaigning against what they say are unfair labor practices at the landmark cemetery.

About 75 Wall Street demonstrators and members from several labor unions showed up on Saturday to rally with the cemetery workers, who for the last couple of years have tried unsuccessfully to address what they said were acts of overt racism by Woodlawn supervisors.

“We’re going to be there to support them, because their struggle is our struggle,” said Occupy Wall Street organizer Alan Janczak.

The group marched outside the gates of the 150-year-old cemetery, holding signs and chanting slogans like, “Hey hey, ho ho, racist bosses got to go.”

For the past few years, unionized Woodlawn employees have been at odds with management, claiming supervisors there discriminated against minority workers.

Last spring, the cemetery laid off 15 of its 37 workers, a move officials say was necessary to cut budgets costs but which workers claim was retaliation for their speaking out.

Occupy Wall Street demonstrators had been camping out in downtown Manhattan since mid-September to protest a range of issues, from corporate greed to wealth inequity. The movement spread to the outer boroughs last month, and several “Occupy the Bronx” demonstrations were held at Fordham Plaza and other locations.

On Tuesday, Mayor Bloomberg ordered police to clear the encampment at Zuccotti Park, the downtown Manhattan plaza where the movement began.

—DAVID GREENE and JEANMARIE EVELLY

House Dems Protest New Voter Laws

Democrats in Congress are worried that new voter laws, passed this year in a number of Republican-controlled states, are going to make it harder for Americans—particularly those in communities of color—to cast their ballots in the 2012 election.

More than a dozen states passed some form of election law or policy change this year making it harder for residents to vote, according to an analysis by the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law. Some states cut back on so-called early voting periods, which allowed residents who can’t make it to the polls during set Election Day hours to cast their ballots early. Other states are now requiring that people show state-issued photo IDs at the polls, a form of identification that as many as one in 10 voters don’t have, the study said.

The new laws are supposedly intended to help prevent voter fraud, but Democratic lawmakers say the changes are politically motivated, passed by Republican state legislatures to keep certain groups from voting, particularly young people or people of color, who tend to vote for Democrats.

“These laws cannot be explained as anything other than an attempt to disenfranchise Americans who disagree with the political views of those who passed these bills,” said Bronx Congressman Jose E. Serrano, along with 196 of his Democratic colleagues, wrote to the chief elections officials of each state urging them to overturn the new rules.

“If there is one thing that we should all agree on, it is that we must ensure that every eligible American is able to register, vote, and have their vote counted,” Serrano said.

—JEANMARIE EVELLY

Cabrera Bill Gives City Computers to Poor

Bronx City Councilman Fernando Cabrera passed his own “9-9-9 Bill” last week—a play on embattled Republican presidential candidate Herman Cain’s much talked about tax plan—though the two are unrelated.

Resolution 0999-2011, the bill’s technical name, was adopted by the City Council last week and allows the city to donate its extra unused computers to nonprofit groups that work with populations that otherwise might not have ready access to that kind of technology.

“In this day and age, technology is no longer a luxury, it is a necessity,” Cabrera, who heads the council’s technology committee, said in a press release. “And when it comes to serving some of the most vulnerable members of our society; our seniors, the disabled, and low income individuals; we cannot afford to leave them behind.”

Under the new resolution, the Department of Citywide Administrative Services, which oversees the administrative needs of the city’s many agencies, can donate surplus city computers, software and equipment to eligible nonprofit groups.

At a time where funding for the service community is at all-time lows, any resources that the city can provide will go a long way,” Cabrera said.

—JEANMARIE EVELLY

Tour to Explore Rezoning Of Kingsbridge and U-Heights

Community Board 7’s Land Use Committee is hosting a walking tour of several neighborhoods in Kingsbridge Heights and University Heights to assess possible rezoning options. The walk is set to begin 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19, in front of the Kingsbridge Armory (West Kingsbridge Road and Davidson Avenue). It will last about two hours. The walk will explore Davidson Avenue, Devoe Park Terrace, and Grand Avenue.

In March, with direction from Community Board 7, the City Council approved the rezoning of a stretch of Webster Avenue and select neighborhoods in Norwood and Bedford Park. The idea was to encourage residential and retail development on Webster and preserve the character of certain blocks in Norwood and Bedford Park.

—RONALD CHAVEZ

More coverage on norwoodnews.org

• More Details from Grand Avenue and Bainbridge Murders
• Video from Violence Brainstorming Meeting
• Bronx Breakdown (Fridays)
• A Prayer Vigil for Bimal Chanda
• The Buried Afro-American History of the Bronx River

Public and Community Meetings

• THE 52ND PREINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL will meet on Thursday, Nov. 17 from 7 to 9 p.m. at 2455 Sedgwick Ave. For more information, call (917) 650-5620 or email bcserrina@msn.com.

• COMMUNITY BOARD 7 committee meetings will be held at the office at 229 A e. 204th St. at 6:30 p.m.; Housing, Nov. 22; Land Use, Nov. 30.
For a Healthier Thanksgiving, Don’t Neglect the Veggies

BY JEANMARIE EVELLY

There’s no doubt the turkey is the inevitable star of the Thanksgiving spread. But if you want to boost the health quotient of your holiday meal, let your vegetable side dishes share some of that spotlight.

This year, cut out at least one traditional high-calorie standby—buttery rolls, or those marshmallow-coated yams—and opt for a few of these simpler sides instead.

Sweet Boiled Beets

Use a pound or two of fresh beets. Wash and trim off stalks—the green, leafy bits at the top—but put them aside for later. Cut the beets themselves into quarters and peel off the rough outer skin. You can wear latex gloves if you want to avoid staining your hands. Place beets in a medium to large saucepan, and pour in a cup or two of orange juice, enough to cover the beets by at least an inch. If you can find large saucepan, and pour in a cup or two of orange juice, enough to cover the beets by at least an inch. If you can find large saucepan, pour in a cup of water to the pan for some moisture, then cover with foil, leaving a few gaps here and there so steam can escape. Bake at 400 degrees for about an hour, or until squash is soft.

Honey-Roasted Squash

Use as many acorn squash as you’re looking to serve. Each squash will be halved, and one squash will make two servings. With a sharp knife, slice each squash in half, lengthwise, from stem to stem. Use a spoon to scoop out the seedy, stringy gunk in the center, so that each half looks like a little bowl. Place pieces in a baking pan with the centers facing up (in other words, skin side down). With a knife, score the squash, making shallow slices along the surface of each piece. Sprinkle with salt, then add a small pat of butter to the center each half. Drizzle squash pieces with honey. Before baking, add a cup of water to the pan for some moisture, then cover with foil, leaving a few gaps here and there so steam can escape. Bake at 450 degrees until brown and tender; about 25 to 30 minutes.

Spicy Green Beans with Garlic

Use one pound of fresh green beans, washed and with their edges trimmed. Briefly cook the beans in a pot of boiling water, for no longer than three minutes—they’ll turn bright green, and should be slightly tender, but still crisp. Remove from boiling water and plunge beans into a bowl of ice water to stop them from cooking. Meanwhile, in a frying pan, heat two teaspoons of olive oil. Add the green beans, and stir for a minute or two. Add green onions, ginger, garlic, and half a teaspoon of red pepper flakes (more if you like things spicy!) and cook for another few minutes, until beans are tender. Season with salt and pepper before serving.

Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Vigil

Sunday, Nov. 20 is Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Day. Local resident Damaris Vazquez is organizing a purple light vigil (the color identified with pancreatic cancer awareness) at East Mosholu Parkway North, between Bainbridge and Hull Avenues, at 5 p.m. The event will honor her mother, Ileana Vazquez, who died from the disease last spring. To make a donation towards pancreatic cancer research in Vazquez’s name, please visit: http://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/InMemoryOfIleanaVazquez/Keepthe-MemoryAlive

Zumbathon to Stomp Out Diabetes

Montefiore Medical Center is hosting a zumba marathon on Friday, Nov. 18 at the Mosholu Montefiore Community Center gym, 3450 DeKalb Ave., from 6 to 8 p.m. Zumba is a dance-inspired fitness workout. Tickets are $15 in advance (you can register at www.giving.montefiore.org/zumba) or $20 at the door. The first 50 1199 SEIU members enter for free. You must show your 1199 benefit card. For more information, contact rhanker@montefiore.org or call (718) 920-5675.

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The estimated number of calories in a typical Thanksgiving meal, according to the NYC Dept. of Health.
More Than Weatherization on the Chopping Block

By EMILY PICCONE

In her 10th floor apartment in Keith Tower on Southern Boulevard, Marge Marcone wipes her hand across the long window sill in her living room, and is still amazed by the lack of dust. It has been more than a year since a local community organization installed all new windows in her apartment for free — a major improvement from her old, faulty windows. Those huge windows were monsters for me, they were very difficult to open, but air still got in,” Marcone said. “My window sills would be filthy, even on the 10th floor.”

Created to help low income residents of all ages living in the early 1980s, the Northwest Bronx Community Clergy Coalition’s Weatherization Assistance Program was one of city’s first “green” building programs. It received a burst in funding from the economic stimulus package in 2009, allowing it to install new energy-saving boilers, lights, appliances and windows for tenants like Marcone and countless others.

But with funding set to expire in December, the program could be forced to downsize on all sides. By the late 1970s, decrepit, unlivable buildings were becoming the norm in pockets of the Bronx.

John Reilly, executive director of Fordham-Bedford Housing Corporation, remembers back when they bought their first dilapidated Bronx building for $100.

“The systems [of the building] were in terrible shape,” Reilly said. “There were a lot of old boilers, a few coal burners were still around in some buildings, and the roofs needed insulation. Fuel costs had gone up and the whole weatherization issue was a big one.”

Building owners were faced with both disrepair and the inability to apply for a loan due to the small income base of their tenants, says Fran Fuseri, who runs the Coalition’s Weatherization program.

“In the 1970s, owners made more money burning their buildings down than maintaining them,” said Fuseri. The Weatherization Program attempted to fill the void left by neglectful owners and banks.

The program only takes on a building project where at least 50 percent of tenants have less than an income of 150 percent of the national poverty line, which is a total income of $35,325 for a family of four.

Installing new boilers, Energy Star appliances, low flow showerheads and faucets, and switching out incandescent bulbs for compact fluorescents are among the repairs WAP makes to its buildings.

On a building that the Coalition retrofitted prior to the stimulus funding, the building’s owner had a 25 percent savings on his heating bill within the first year, according to Fuseri.

With the stimulus money, they hired and trained 12 new staff members from within the Bronx community, and took on bigger buildings such as the Keith and Kelly Towers on Southern Boulevard.

Gone were the days of entering an apartment and choosing what to repair and what to leave as is.

“Prior to the per unit cost increase, we would have to look at a building and sort of triage what we could do there,” Fuseri remarked. “We might have been able to do a pipe wrap, but we couldn’t put in a new boiler.”

Despite the burst of funding, the Coalition has hardly made a dent to the five-year wait list that they have maintained throughout the life of the program. Jumping from completing 300 units per year to 1,000 in a two-and-a-half-year period, the program is now faced with looming budget cuts when the stimulus funding reaches its end in December.

Fuseri and her staff say it has already had to lay off trained employees who were recently hired. She likes to think of WAP as one of the few federally funded programs well liked by both political parties, with job creation, housing rehabilitation and energy saving at the forefront of its campaign.

The national WAP receives funding from the Home Energy Assistance Program, the Department of Energy and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), all of which still have undetermined budget’s for 2012, according to Fuseri. “We need to keep weatherization in the forefront and let our elected officials know that this is a program at the direct benefit of the neediest in our community,” she said.

“The improvements should not be stopped,” Marcone said. “We could have become slums too, but the fact that they’re doing so many improvements gives us a lift. It makes us want to take care of the place.”

Group Wants Armory To Be Bicycling Center

A RENDERING, by renowned architect Ralph Schuermann, of what a velodrome would look like inside the Kingsbridge Armory.

By EMILY PICCONЕ

bicycling in the Bronx and New York City

Simes said the biking programs would have a significant impact on the Bronx’s acute obesity and asthma problems. Citing the 188th Street Armory, now used by more than 100,000 kids a year for track and field purposes, they hope the Kingsbridge Armory could do the same with biking.

“Cycling is a substantial part of our culture,” said Simes. “It crosses all racial and cultural boundaries.”

Now a foreign concept in the United States, the six-day bike race is popular in Europe. The bike races are combined with an ongoing festival that includes beer gardens, bike expos, and live music lining the track.

While the original format of the bike race involved continuous biking shared between a team for six straight days, the modern race features a series of individual and team relays happening each of the six nights.

Desiree Pilgrim-Hunter, a member of the Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Alliance (KARA), a coalition of residents, clergy and community groups advocating for responsible development of the Armory, criticized the NCA for failing to approach them and other key community groups. She also said the plan would not benefit the community.

“This is a temporary idea for next spring that does nothing for the surrounding community.” Pilgrim-Hunter said in a phone interview. “They will make money, the community will not.”

KARA is advocating for a multi-use facility with living-wage jobs ($10 an hour, plus benefits), job training, and new schools at the forefront of their plans. “We cannot take any more part-time, minimum-wage jobs in this community,” said Pilgrim-Hunter.

The NCA did present the proposal to the Kingsbridge Armory Task Force, which included Pilgrim-Hunter and was headed by Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. and Council Member Fernando Cabrera.

At the event, Diaz called on the mayor to release a request for proposals for the Armory. In late 2009, the City Council, backed by Diaz and KARA, killed a Bloomberg-supported plan to transform the Armory into a shopping mall.

Mentors Helping Keep Kids in School

“Need to keep weatherization in the forefront and let our elected officials know that this is a program at the direct benefit of the neediest in our community.”

—Fran Fuseri

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), all of which still have undetermined budget’s for 2012, according to Fuseri. “We need to keep weatherization in the forefront and let our elected officials know that this is a program at the direct benefit of the neediest in our community,” she said.

“The improvements should not be stopped,” Marcone said. “We could have become slums too, but the fact that they’re doing so many improvements gives us a lift. It makes us want to take care of the place.”

Mentors help students every day, call them at home if they miss school, help them get extra tutoring or resources and generally help them stay on task and in class.

“Being a part of this program gave me a sense of stability and I feel like I am part of a family here at the High School for Teaching and the Professions,” said senior Jean Robinson.

Elisia Young, a guidance counselor at Walton who is also a mentor, said it takes compassion to reach students. “When they come in through the front door, you don’t know what their day has consisted of,” she said. “If the compassion is not there, they feel far removed from you.”

(continued from p. 1)

(continued from p. 1)
Opinion.

Editorial

Neighborhood Crime Stats Will Return Next Issue

Last issue, we published five years worth of crime statistics for four of the neighborhoods in the 52nd Precinct. Unfortunately, when they came out in print, they were barely readable without the use of a magnifying glass or Superman’s eyes.

With all of the recent violence in our primary coverage area, we decided to put our statistics project on hold and publish more original reporting from the last two weeks. However, we will begin publishing the statistics again in our next issue and in subsequent issues. This time, we’ll make them readable. We apologize for all the headaches we may have caused.

Congratulation to Buzunesh Deba!

One of our very own, Buzunesh Deba, finished a close second — just three seconds from victory — in the New York City Marathon on Nov. 6. Deba, an Ethiopian native, moved to Kingsbridge Heights six years ago. You may have seen her training around the Jerome Park Reservoir or Van Cortlandt Park with her husband and trainer Worku Beyi.

Now, not only is Deba a Bronxite excelling on a world-class level at her chosen sport, she’s also one of the borough’s greatest advocates. In an interview with The Press, she said of the Bronx: “I wouldn’t want to live anywhere else, this is such a safe place.” It’s refreshing reminder in a time of increased violence — affecting 59-year-old dads and 4-year-old boys — that the Bronx remains a great place to live.

Letters

Lots of Good Folks in the Bronx

It Ain’t Safe


On Andrews Avenue, Sedgwick Avenue between Fordham and 183rd Street, I used to hear gunshots now and then. For the past month I’d say it’s nightly and I rarely hear sirens ever following shots. People who still happen to have jobs are still on their way home during the sounds of snap, crackle, pop. This is the most crime-riddled spot in plain view, for Christ’s sake! The Bronx is allowed to crime. The mayor, the Cuomo’s, where the hell are these people? NYPD seems as corrupt as it was during Serpico. Look at that cop in Inwood, just next door, who got caught in daylight raping a woman on his way home, on her way to work.

It ain’t safe out there.

Diane Virga

Inquiring Photographer

For this issue we asked readers for their thoughts on the recent spike in violent crime in the northwest Bronx.

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

By DAVID GREENE

There’s a lot of violence going on these days and it’s definitely increasing because of the cold weather and the holidays coming up. The police aren’t doing enough. They used to be posted on every corner and now you don’t see them.

Michael Diaz

Yes, I’ve noticed an increase in crime. Cop presence was good, but now you don’t see them as much anymore. From what I heard, there was a cop on the corner during a shooting, but he couldn’t do anything because he was alone.

Alex Rodriguez

Right now we need more police. We need these weapons off the streets and out of kids’ hands. Do I feel safe? Sort of, because I don’t bother anybody. I do what I have to do and get home.

Chickie Rodriguez

I’ve been living in this neighborhood for 25 years and it’s changed; it’s not as safe as before. They can put a stop to it if they do what they have to do, but I don’t see myself secure anymore. I’m a delivery boy, so you know how it is out there.

Fermin Torres

I notice an increase in crime. I don’t know how the police department is handling things these days, but crime is going up due to the fact that people are losing themselves. I think the police department needs to be a little bit more involved and be out here on the streets. It’s not safe, anything can happen at any given time, and it’s just getting worse. I don’t think there’s a solution.

John DeLuise
Parks Department officials held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Tuesday for the reconstructed playgrounds at Williambridge Oval Park, though long-awaited renovations on the park’s recreational center are still a year behind schedule. Though the new-and-improved park playgrounds have been open and in use since July, the ribbon-cutting ceremony was held this month because construction on the basketball courts was only recently finished, delayed by a shoddy concrete job earlier in the summer.

The park’s rec center, also undergoing a complete overhaul, was originally slated for completion last spring. Its opening date was pushed back to October (last month) but a Parks spokesman now says the work won’t be done until this coming spring because the company doing the project’s plumbing work defaulted.

The park received $6.1 million for its reconstruction (not counting the new synthetic turf field), and over half of that money was funneled into revamping the rec center. Other improvements that have already been completed are the park’s two new playgrounds, water playing sprinklers, benches, pathways, basketball courts and new landscaping.
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**Free BCA Writing Workshop**

The Bronx Council on the Arts will be discussing “10 Things to Avoid When Starting a Novel,” in a free writing workshop on Nov. 18 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, Bay Plaza, 290 Baychester Ave., in Co-op City. Bring a notebook and a pen. For more information, call (718) 931-9500 ext. 21 or email bronxwriters@bronxarts.org.

**Year-End Tax Planning Strategies**

The Small Business Development Center offers a free Year-End Tax Planning workshop for small businesses on Nov. 30 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.

**Resource Fair**

WellCare of NY will host a health resource fair on Nov. 20 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the St. James Recreational Center, 2503 Jerome Ave. Events include free promotional items, healthy snacks, free fitness program for seniors, and free glucose and blood pressure screenings. For more information, call (718) 903-5690/1.

**Free ESL Classes**

PS 84 at 3350 Kings College Place offers free ESL classes Tuesdays to Thursdays from 5:10 to 8:30 p.m. Register at the school in room 256 or for more information and dates, call Miriam Seminario at (347) 563-4772.

**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.

**Community Board 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) 931-5650.

**Children’s Speech Program**

The Mount Saint Ursula Speech Center, at 2885 Marion Ave., is accepting applications for its fall program. There are morning and afternoon openings for children ages 2 to 15 who are in need of speech and language services. Medicaid, private pay (with sliding scale), and some types of insurance are accepted. For more information, call (718) 584-7678.

**Brainstorming Solutions to Violence Conundrum**

By ALEX KRATZ

In reaction to a recent spike in violent crime, including the shooting of a 4-year-old in University Heights last week, Bronx Councilman Fernando Cabrera and Council Speaker Christine Quinn held a public brainstorming session among community leaders. The goal was to solicit solutions, both immediate and long-term, for curbing the recent rise in violence.

At the beginning of the meeting, Quinn announced the formation of a gun violence task force in the Council headed by Cabrera and Brooklyn’s Jumaane Williams. Quinn admitted the task force would need time to come up with a long-term plan. In the meantime, she asked for solutions that could be implemented immediately.

Following Quinn’s lead, Cabrera, Deputy Bronx Borough President Aurelia Greene and community board leaders from several community districts offered up a wide range of ideas, some concrete, others more philosophical.

Cabrera advocated for the installation of more security cameras and the creation of a new comprehensive gang violence prevention program. The city’s old program, which, Cabrera lamented, did not include the Bronx, was abandoned two years ago.

Greene hyped her boss, Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., it’s ongoing Peace in our Streets initiative, which he launched last year and aims to get illegal guns off the street. Someone suggested a city-funded public advertisement campaign — violence as a health hazard — that would show the gruesome effects of violence in the same way stop smoking advertisements show badly damaged lungs.

Several people talked about the need to engage youth early, get them busy and doing positive things — sports, arts, getting job experience — before they drift into the hands of local gangs.

“No one wants to get to know [young people],” said Jim Fairbanks, who works for Bronx Council Member Helen Foster. “All they get is Stop and Frisk.”

Walter Bell, the new chair of Community Board 7’s public safety committee, suggested bringing those already involved in gangs to the table and working with them directly.

And, of course, there was much talk about the need for more cops. “People want to see more blue uniforms on the street,” said Xavier Rodriguez, the district manager of Community Board 5.

Quinn tried to get beyond the call for more police, saying the Council would do their best to stop staffing cuts at the NYPD.

Several people attributed the increased violence to the borough’s economic woes. “A lot of it is pure economics,” said Wendell Jackson, the chair of Community Board 4, which includes Bronx Lebanon Hospital, where two staffers were shot last week.

The Bronx boasts the highest unemployment rate among the five boroughs.

(continued from p.1)

to seven during the first week of November alone, at a time when violent crimes had otherwise appeared to be decreasing. “General crime stats are going down, supposedly, but the on-the-ground reality is that people are concerned,” said Father Joseph Girone, pastor at nearby St. Nicholas of Tolentine Church. “You read about these stray bullets going through innocent people every week, practically.”

Last Tuesday, 4-year-old Cincé Baltazar was shot during a botched robbery attempt on Grand Avenue near Evelyn Place. Cincé’s father, Bobby Baltazar was walking the boy back to a homeless shelter where Cincé’s mother lives, when a trio of young would-be muggers tried to steal the father’s designer jacket. In the commotion, shots were fired and a bullet struck Cincé. Baltazar was able to wrestle the gun away from his attacker and chased after them. He ended up shooting Jose Marte, 17, in the neck.

Chandra still had more than $70 in cash, all of his credit cards and his cell phone. On the day of Chandra’s wake, Ali organized a press conference outside of the Parkchester funeral home where the service was being held. He wanted to publicly demand answers to his friend’s senseless death, he said, and also draw attention to the vulnerability of the immigrant community to crime.

“My community is a very working community, a very peaceful community,” he said. “In our country these things happen because it’s a poor country. This is the best country in the world, but we come here and it’s still happening. Where can we go?”

Chandra was born in Calcutta, India, though he’d lived in the Bronx for the last several decades. Ali, a native of Bangladesh, says many immigrants in the community are reluctant to call the police to report crimes, either for fear of retribution or because they don’t think it will do any good.

On a recent weekday afternoon, the streetlamps along West 190th Street, where Chandra lived, were covered in police posters asking residents to call if they knew anything about the crime.

“Help us help you,” one poster read. Nearby, a woman was walking her dog. She declined to give her name, but said she lived on Grand Avenue, next door to the building where the man was stabbed to death in the lobby two weeks ago.

“There’s always crime in this area, and there’s never police around here,” she said, nodding at an NYPD squad car that was parked on the corner, its engine idling. “They’re only here now because this happened.”

Ed. Note: For more details on these crimes and continuing coverage, visit our website, www.norwoodnews.org.
HELP WANTED
Bronx Children’s Museum Jobs:

The emerging Bronx Children’s Museum seeks to inspire children and families to learn about themselves within the diversity and richness of their surroundings, the environment and the world beyond, and to promote literacy, the arts, health, science, green living, and sustainability in the Bronx!

POSITION WANTED
Nurse’s Aide with 25 years’ experience in hospitals, nursing homes and private residences seeks employment. Will live in or out. Call (718) 364-7771.

VENDOR BIDS WANTED
Sealed bids will be received at Concourse House, HDPC located at 2751 Grand Concourse until noon on Nov. 23 for meal service for the Children’s Museum. Sealed bids are due at Concourse House by 4 p.m. on Nov. 23 and will be opened in the presence of bidders. Personal delivery deadline must be prior to Nov. 23 at 4 p.m. Bids will be conducted in strict accordance with bid specifications. Bids will be opened and read on Nov. 28, 2011.

REAL ESTATE
Apt. for Rent: One-bedroom apartment, 2400 Davidson Ave. $850 a month rent, near transportation, stores and schools. Call Nancy or Jim (212) 789-2365.

Sponsor Units for Sale: 3400 Wayne Avenue. No Board approval!! Totally renovated large pre-war one-bedroom. Wood floors throughout, new kitchen w/new appliances, counters and cabinets. Newly tiled bthrm w/new fixtures. Walking dist to Mont Hospital, shopping, transportation. 20% down req. Call Goodman Management Co., Inc., Edward Melzer, Associate Broker (917) 577-8694.

SERVICES AVAILABLE
- Tutor: K-9 teacher NYS certified, ESL certified, former NY Times cartographer/staff editor. (718) 644-1083.
- Yoga: Stretching, meditation, drumming or dancing on Fridays and Sundays. $10 per session. RSVP (718) 644-1083 or email jnorQ@aol.com.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES
Glad Tidings Assembly of God: 2 Van Cortlandt Ave. E. and Jerome Avenue. (718) 307-4040. Prayer Wednesdays at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., Sunday Service at 11 a.m.

MISCELLANEOUS
- Siberian Husky Puppies (AKC reg. male and female). Free to good home. E-mail: lnbest1@gmail.com for more info.
Onstage

- The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd. off Fordham Road, presents Celia Cruz High School Choir, concert on Nov. 19 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

- The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Blvd. W., presents Salsa Palooza, Nov. 19 at 8 p.m. (tickets are $45 to $60). For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

- Lehman College, located at 250 Bedford Blvd. W., presents free: the Lehman Brass Quintet, featuring music from the 16th century to the present, Nov. 17 at noon (Recital Hall); and the Lehman Jazz Band, featuring popular music, Nov. 20 at 2 p.m. (Heath Hall); both in the Music Building, 3rd floor; and Jazz Festival, featuring music and workshops, Nov. 17 and 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; in the Lovinger Theatre (call (718) 960-8247 for all); and Poetry Reading, featuring two poets, Nov. 17 at 3 p.m., in the Art Gallery (call (718) 960-8731/8675).

- Casita Maria Center for Arts and Education, 928 Simpson St., 6th floor Open Arts Space (at East 163rd Street) presents free: Remembering Celia Cruz, through Nov. 22. For more information and to RSVP, call (718) 589-2230 ext. 6055.

- The Bronx Arts Ensemble presents a Concert Dedicated to Johannes Somary, featuring chamber music, Nov. 20 at 3 p.m., at the home of Geoffrey and Sarah Gund, 690 W. 247th St. Tickets are $25 and include refreshments. For more information, call (718) 801-7399.

Events

- Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. invites the public to celebrate Puerto Rican Heritage Month, Nov. 17 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Kismet Caterers, 1995 Westchester Ave. Featured will be music, dancing, and tapas of Puerto Rico while honoring community leaders and their accomplishments. For more information and to RSVP, call (718) 590-3522.

- The Bronx Council on the Arts and the Huntington Free Library present Holiday Ornaments, a free craft workshop, Nov. 19 from 12:30 to 3 p.m., at the library, 9 Westchester Square. For more information, call (718) 931-9500 ext. 33 or (718) 829-7770.

- The Moshulu Montefiore Senior Center, 3450 DeKalb Ave., presents a trip to the Whitney Museum, Nov. 22 at 9 a.m., and return to the Center by 1:30 p.m. for a late lunch (cost is $5; register in advance); and Winter Holiday Decoration, workshop, Nov. 30 at 12:30 p.m. (pre-register in senior center office). For more information, call (718) 798-6601.

- The Friends of Van Cortlandt Park presents an End of Season Celebration, to enjoy a taste of the garden, help with final harvest, prepare the site for the winter, and crafts and games for kids, Nov. 20 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meet at the FVCP compost site; enter the park at Broadway and Moshulu Avenue. For more information, call (718) 601-1553.

Exhibits

- The Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse at 165th St., presents Muntadas: Information, Space, Control, through Jan. 16; and Urban Archives: Emilio Sanchez in the Bronx, through Jan. 2. Admission is free on Fridays. For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

- Bronx Community College, 2155 University Ave., presents Ezequiel Jimenez: His Art, Activism & Autobiography, Nov. 30 from 2 to 3 p.m. For more information, call (646) 330-6913.

Library Events

- The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd. off Fordham Road, presents programs for kids including Preschool Story Time, Nov. 17 and Dec. 1 at 11 a.m.; Baby Story Time, Nov. 19 at 11 a.m.; Sounds Like Science (ages 3 to 12), Nov. 19 at 2 p.m.; Wacky Waves (ages 3 to 12), Nov. 22 at 2 p.m.; Film Day, Nov. 23 and 30 at 4 p.m.; Global Partners, Jr. (ages 5 to 12), students connect worldwide via the Internet, Nov. 23 at 4 p.m.; Thank You (ages 3 to 12), Nov. 26 at 2 p.m.; and The Science of Art (ages 3 to 12), Nov. 29 at 4 p.m. Adults can attend Single Stop/Government Benefits, Nov. 17, 22 and 29 at 9 a.m.; Bronx Tales of the Armed Forces, Nov. 17 at 4:30 p.m.; Released With Conviction (through Dec. 17), exhibition on prison release; film screening, Nov.
20 at 2 p.m.; and Film, featuring African cinema, Nov. 26 at 2:30 p.m. English language learners can join ESOL (classes for speakers of other languages; in-person registration required), Nov. 29 at 1 p.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), Nov. 22, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.; Knitting Circle at 3 p.m. (for adults), Nov. 17 and Dec. 1; Beautiful Bandanas (for teens and young adults; all materials provided), Nov. 22 and 28 at 4 p.m.; Holiday Arts & Crafts (for ages 5 to 12), Nov. 22 and 26 at 4 p.m.; Toddler Story Time, (registration required), Dec. 1 at 10:30 a.m.; and Wii Program (for seniors and adults), Tuesdays at 3 p.m. For more information, call (718) 892-8239.

A HAPPY AND HEALTHY THANKSGIVING TO ALL OUR READERS!

■ Doctors Medical Group presents Thanksgiving in the Community, a free health fair, Nov. 23 from 1 to 5 p.m., at 392 Bedford Pk. Blvd., featuring health screenings, turkey raffles, refreshments, face painting, giveaways and more. For more information, visit www.dmngn.org.

EDITOR’S PICK

Thanksgiving Events

The public is invited to the following holiday events:

■ St. James Recreation Center, 2530 Jerome Ave. (192nd Street), offers a free Thanksgiving Day Community Dinner, Nov. 24 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., in its auditorium. For more information, call (718) 367-3657/8.

■ The Moshulu Montefiore Senior Center, 3450 DeKalb Ave., presents a 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.

ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR A DENTAL MIRACLE?

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### Holiday Special

**Chicken Wings**
5 lbs for **$9.99**

### Customized Meat Plans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>Ingredients</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 lbs. Beef Stew, 2 lbs. Thin Sirloin Steak, 1 1/2 lbs. Ground Beef, 1 Dozen Eggs, 1 Whole Chicken</td>
<td><strong>$24.99</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2 lbs. Beef Stew, 2 lbs. Ground Beef, 2 lbs. Shoulder Steak, 1 Whole Chicken, 3 lbs. Chicken Legs + 1 Dozen Eggs</td>
<td><strong>$27.99</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2 lbs. Ground Beef, 1 1/2 lbs. Chicken Cutlets, 4 lbs. Shoulder Pork Chops, 1 Whole Chicken</td>
<td><strong>$22.99</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2 lbs. Chuck Steak + 2 lbs. Beef Stew, 2 lbs. Chopped Pepper Steak, 2 lbs. Ground Beef, 2 lbs. Italian Sausage, 8 hamburger patties + 1 Whole Chicken</td>
<td><strong>$39.99</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2 lbs. Shoulder Steak, 5 lbs. Chicken Legs, 2 lbs. Ground Beef + 3 lbs. Chicken Wings, 2 lbs. Beef Stew, 1 kg. All Beef Franks + 1 Dozen Eggs, 1 package of bacon + 2 lbs. Shoulder Pork Chops</td>
<td><strong>$45.99</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>5 lbs. Chicken Legs + 3 lbs. Chicken Wings, 5 lbs. Chicken Breast + 1 Whole Chicken, 2 lbs. Chicken Cutlets + 1 lbs. Chicken Breasts, 1 Whole Hicken + 1 kg. Ground Turkey, 2 lbs. Turkey Wings + Drumsticks</td>
<td><strong>$39.99</strong></td>
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### Additional Offers

- **Free Delivery**
- **Free 1 Liter Soda**
- **Free Dozen Eggs**
- **Free 5 lbs. Potatoes**

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