

NORWOOD NEWS

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

CLINTON UP-ENDED BY LINCOLN



Photo by Francesca Andre

THE DEWITT CLINTON Governors, in the PSAL football semifinals for the first time since 1989, lost to top-ranked and undefeated Lincoln High School, 30-14, on Saturday afternoon. See story, p. 7.

A Neighborhood Loses Its Pizza Man, But Not His Pizza

By ALEX KRATZ

It's a typical Monday night inside Sal's Pizza and Restaurant, Norwood's oldest and most popular Italian joint. Hurried locals drop in for a quick slice. Friends pick up take-out. A family stops for a sit-down meal. And there's Sal Calces, the gregarious, omnipresent owner of his namesake eatery since 1980.

Always affectionate, Sal's laying it on thick tonight. He wants to give you a big smile and a hug and maybe a kiss on the cheek. After 31 years of tomato sauce, sweat and tears, he's leaving, he tells you. But it's going to be okay, he reassures. That's just how life works. He shrugs and says with a thick southern Italian accent hardly dented after 43 years in the Bronx: "Everything come to an end."

By the time you read this, Sal will be gone; retired at age 62, spending time in the east Bronx with his ailing wife, two kids and four grandchildren. But his life's work — the restaurant, his pizza, his spirit — will still be on Bainbridge Avenue, between East 205th and 206th streets. Aside from adding a delivery option, the new owner, Musa Nesheiwat, a Jordanian man who grew up eating Sal's pizza,

says he won't change a thing.

Still, Sal's without Sal will take some getting used to.

A woman lured Sal to the Bronx in 1968. The oldest of seven siblings, Alfonso "Sal" Calces was working on his family's small farm in Sarno, Italy, a mid-sized town of about 65,000 people close to Naples. His wife,

(continued on p. 5)



Photo by Alex Kratz

SAL CALCES, former owner of Sal's Pizza and Restaurant on Bainbridge Avenue, is retiring after 31 years, but the restaurant and its employees will remain.

Armory at Center of Living Wage Debate

By JEANMARIE EVELLY

Born out of an argument fought two years ago over a proposed shopping mall at the Kingsbridge Armory, a fierce battle over legislation setting wage requirements at some publicly subsidized developments has come to a head this month.

In an exhaustive hearing last week, the council spent nearly five hours debating the details of the Fair Wages for New Yorkers Act, proposed last year by two Bronx Council members at the behest of Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. Both opponents and supporters of the bill testified their cases to Council Speaker Christine Quinn — who largely controls the fate of the legislation — though the two sides, ultimately, found little grounds for an agreement.

"Some of the concerns expressed by some of the so-called opponents were greatly exaggerated," said Councilman Oliver Koppell, who sponsored the bill with colleague Annabel Palma. "We have to review what we have, and perhaps make some small adjustments, but the overall bill is sound."

The bill's sponsors have already amended the legislation from its original version in response to criticism received during its first public hearing last spring. The revised bill narrows the criteria for the projects that would have to comply with the wage mandate (\$10 an hour with health benefits or \$11.50 without) to developments receiving city tax breaks of \$1 million or more, up from the \$100,000 proposed in the original version. The amended bill also exempts manufacturing companies, commercial tenants in affordable housing projects, and small businesses earning less than \$5 million in revenue.

It became clear during last week's hearing, however, that the bill's recent adjustments have done little to sway its opponents.

(continued on p. 8)

Small Turnout at Vigil Sign That Fear Reigns

By LINDSAY ARMSTRONG

A handful of community members gathered in front of Monroe College two weeks ago for a candlelit vigil in honor of Bimal Chanda. Eight flames honored the 59-year-old Fordham resident who died almost a month ago, the result of a brutal beating at the hands of two unidentified thugs.

The turnout for the vigil was much smaller than expected, but organizers said that was not because there wasn't support for the victim.

Mohammed Solaiman Ali, a friend of Chanda's who organized the event said it was not a lack of respect for Mr. Chanda that kept many members of the local Bangladeshi and Indian communities away from the vigil, but rather fear.

"They are afraid. They don't want people to see their faces," Ali said. "Even my wife said she wouldn't come tonight. She said, 'Don't make yourself a target.'"

Ali understands this fear all too well. In the summer of 2007, he was the victim of a series of crimes. A woman allegedly burglarized Ali's Fordham-area home twice within a matter of weeks. When he confronted the suspect about the burglary, Ali says she threatened him and later physically assaulted him with a male partner.

(continued on p. 3)

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In The Public Interest

Tales From the Bronx Occupy Protests

Occupy Fordham Road

At the intersection of the Grand Concourse and Fordham Road two weeks ago, about two dozen people showing their support and affiliation with the Occupy Wall Street movement were joined by Bronx State Senator Gustavo Rivera.

"Six months ago, we were not having the conversations that we are having today about economic inequality," said Rivera before protesters heading downtown to join thousands of others at Foley Square, the final gathering for the Occupy movement's National Day of Action.

In a movement that began on the opposite end of the city, protesters are sprouting up in the Bronx, where residents represent a highly concentrated slice of the marginalized so-called "99 percent."

"The 99 percent live in the Bronx," said Rivera. "They are the people that I represent."

The group was an even mix of men and women of different ages and ethnicities.

Handing out copies of the Occupied Wall Street Journal in Spanish, a publication produced by the movement, James Duarte is a student from the Bronx who stressed the importance of bringing the movement north.

"I realized it was about outreach, and bringing the message out to the Bronx," Duarte said. "This is nothing new for us; the African-American and Latino communities have always had the glass ceiling [over our heads]."

Duarte also sees the obstacles many Bronxites have in participating in the movement, like subway fare and time.

"It's time that many families don't have," he said. "If you're employed you probably have three jobs."

The complications of joining a movement, however, should not impede your right to protest, Rivera said.

At a press conference on Wednesday, Nov. 16 — the day before Thursday's National Day of Action and one day after police evicted protesters from their two-month residence at Zuccotti Park — Rivera urged the Bronx community to come out to their local gatherings at several subway stops.

"The median income of the people I represent is \$25,000 a year," he said. "Unemployment hovers around 13 percent. They understand the most the impact that this has on their lives."

Protester Carlos Rivera, a man in his mid 50s who spoke out on the people's mike, shared a personal story that led to him joining the movement. After he had lost his job, he said his bank refused to modify his loan payments.

"I now join the 41,000 homeless people living in this city," he said.

The group corralled itself into one subway car heading downtown to Foley Square, and participants and passengers on the train exchanged the personal stories that led to them joining the movement.

One story that had heads nodding in agreement regarded the price of Yankees tickets in comparison to the minimum wage jobs that the stadium created.

—EMILY PICCONE

Occupy Yankee Stadium

For Bronx Occupy Wall Street activists, perhaps no meet-up location was more apt than in the shadow of the new Yankee Stadium. The dozen or so protesters that had assembled beside the McDonalds on 161st Street and River Avenue said that despite city involvement in the project, the community has yet to see the benefits of the new billion-dollar ballpark.

This was the Bronx leg of a 16-location, citywide "Occupy the Subways" protest, which would culminate downtown at Foley Square.

The activists were among thousands taking up the battle against economic inequality on Occupy Wall Street's National Day of Action, a day to celebrate the two-month anniversary of activists first taking up residence in Zuccotti Park. (Protesters were evicted two days before the mass protests.)

The stadium protest stood in a sharp contrast from the rest of the movement, and even from events earlier that morning. There were barely any cops and none in riot gear. And there were no bushy-haired youths clashing with charcoal suits.

Instead, there was longtime activist and Highbridge resident Agnes Johnson, a Hispanic mom and her young boy, members of the New York Civil Participation Project and Living Wage NYC Campaign workers (see front page story).

Just a few blocks south stood the \$500 million Gateway Center mall some had hoped would deliver retail jobs to revitalize the neighborhood. To protesters, that made two major projects (along with the stadium), opened within months of each other, that were not benefiting local residents. So they took their message to the subway.

Johnson was one of the five-person group on the 4 train intent on convincing riders that changes had to be made. She delivered improvised speeches that blamed Mayor Michael Bloomberg for closing schools, and expressed disappointment

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that her neighborhood had yet to reap the benefits of the new Yankee Stadium.

"I didn't have to join the movement, the movement joined me," she said.

In one train car, she was heckled by a bald man who wore a green sweatshirt and headphones. The train had come to a stop, and the rest of the group, including a Lens Blog photographer for the *New York Times*, had rushed to the next car. The group waited for her to appear from the shouting match with the man. When she emerged, she said, "I turned that whole car against him."

The 4 train group dissolved into the mass of bodies at Foley Square, where thousands of students, union workers and frustrated citizens gathered. By then it was bitterly cold. The sun had set and the events of the morning protests felt like they happened a different day.

Someone kicked down a barricade that protected the fountain that held Foley's 50-foot high obelisk-like sculpture, "Triumph of the Human Spirit." Protesters moved in on the fountain, and many climbed beside the sculpture itself. The crowd would spend the following hours log-jammed into police barricades, inching toward the Brooklyn Bridge.

—RONALD CHAVEZ

Public and Community Meetings

- **THE BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** meets on Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 8 p.m. at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy., Apt. B1 (lobby floor). All are welcome.
- There will be a **HEARING ON THE POSSIBLE CLOSING** of the Botanical Garden Postal Station on Webster Avenue on Monday, Dec. 12 at 6 p.m. at the Bedford Park Senior Center, 243 E. 204th St.
- **COMMUNITY BOARD 7** committee meetings will be held at the office on 229A E. 204th St., beginning at 6:30 p.m.: Education /Libraries, Dec 1; Traffic & Transportation and Environment & Sanitation, Dec. 8; Youth Services, Dec. 12; Housing and Economic Development, Dec. 13; Public Safety, Dec. 14.
- **COMMUNITY BOARD 7's Tree Lighting Ceremony** will be held on Thursday, Dec. 15 at 6 p.m. at Bainbridge Avenue and Mosholu Parkway.
- **COMMUNITY BOARD 7's general board meeting** will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd. For more information about CB7 meetings and events, call (718) 933-5650.



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Small Turnout at Vigil Is Sign That Fear Reigns

(continued from p. 1)

"I couldn't live properly, do my job properly, or even be on my block because I didn't feel secure," Ali says.

When Ali heard about the attack against Chanda he decided it was time to send a message to the community: violence against innocent people must stop.

"If you want to take the money, then fine, take the money," Ali said, "But don't kill innocent people."

Another Fordham-area resident, who identified himself as Mr. Tapin, attended the ceremony but did not wish to give his full name. He came to the vigil to honor Chanda and to support Ali's message.

"We are a peaceful people living in this country. We want to live in peace," Tapin said. "This kind of thing has to go away."

Tapin said he hoped to see increased police patrols and neighborhood watch associations develop as a result of Chanda's tragic death.

For their part, police and community officials say they are committed to increasing safety in the 52nd Precinct, where three murders and a high-profile shooting occurred during the first two weeks of November.

At the Community Board 7 meeting immediately following the vigil, Police Inspector Dowling provided an update on the Chanda case.

He said that the evidence points to robbery as the sole motive. Some community members had speculated that Chanda was targeted due to his ethnicity.

Dowling also asked for the community's help in finding the perpetrators as officers from the 52nd Precinct passed out fliers with pictures and details about the two young, male suspects wanted in the case.

"I guarantee you, we will solve this crime," Dowling said. "But I need your assistance. If you see something, say something."

Oval Shooting Victim Charged in Gun Hill Road Stickup

A teen who was shot last week on Tryon Avenue near Williamsbridge Oval Park was arrested for armed robbery of an East Gun Hill Road nail salon that same day, according to a police source.

Police were called to 3400 Tryon Ave. on Saturday, Nov. 19 around 6 p.m., where a 16-year-old male claimed he had been shot on the street, and had bullet wounds to his arm and leg. He was transported to St. Barnabas Hospital for treatment.

A ranking NYPD source, however, says the boy's story was bogus from the start.

"The victim lied from the very beginning," said the source, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. The boy told officers he was shot on the street by an unknown assailant, and even provided them with a fake name.

According to the source, the shooting victim and two others allegedly robbed Jin Nails, at 65 E. Gun Hill Rd., at gunpoint earlier that day before returning to the Tryon Avenue apartment.

"They go back to this address on Tryon Avenue and they're hanging out," the source said. "I don't know what they're doing — smoking weed, laughing up the robbery they just did — and one of them is playing with a gun," when the victim was accidentally shot.

Police would eventually arrest the shooting victim, identified as Shakeem Brown, 16, and cohorts Marlon Low and Bianca Brown, all of Brooklyn, and charge them in the armed robbery. Bianca Brown was also charged in Shakeem's shooting. It is not known if the two Browns are related.

Residents of the Tryon Avenue building claim that the apartment in question often hosts parties with as many as 100 guests crammed into the one bedroom apartment, and that police often visit the apartment several times in a single night.

"The police took out bags and bags of pot," said one neighbor, recalling a raid at the apartment earlier this year. "They had a plantation in there."

Repeated calls to the building's landlord, E.N.M. Associates, were not returned by press time.

—DAVID GREENE

Father of Slain HS Athlete Indicted

Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson announced last week that Andre Muller has been indicted on charges of assault and illegal possession of a weapon in connection to a deadly altercation that occurred this June in Bedford Park that resulted in the death of the defendant's son, Isayah Muller, a high school football star.

Muller was indicted on two felony counts of assault in the 2nd degree, punishable by a maximum sentence of up to seven years in prison if convicted, and one misdemeanor count of criminal possession of a weapon.

The incident occurred after Muller and his son were returning from a dinner at City Island in celebration of the son's graduation from Lehman College that day. Muller discovered that a bottle of expensive cologne was missing from his car, and drove back to the parking garage on East 198th and Jerome Avenue to confront the attendants that were on duty. The confrontation quickly escalated into a brawl between the attendants and Muller.

According to video surveillance, Muller struck the attendant, identified as Ramon Hernandez, in his right arm with a shovel. At some point, Isayah charged into the fray to help his father and was stabbed in the heart by one of the attendants. He was pronounced dead a short time later at St. Barnabas Hospital.

Muller remains free on \$10,000 bail and is scheduled to be arraigned on Jan. 12.

The defendant's attorney was not able to be reached before press time.

—EMILY PICCONE

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Inquiring Photographer

By DAVID GREENE

This week, we asked readers what they were grateful for this Thanksgiving holiday.



I'm thankful to spend it with my family. We have a lot to be grateful for. We're lucky that we can be here and eat. I have a lot of friends and family that are there for me, and I'm always grateful.

James Mejia



I'm thankful that I have a beautiful daughter who is healthy. I'm thankful that I have a job and a roof over my head. I'm thankful that my parents are living and are nice and healthy. I wish that everybody out there would realize that they are blessed to be breathing and living, because some people aren't.

Jacqueline Sarpong



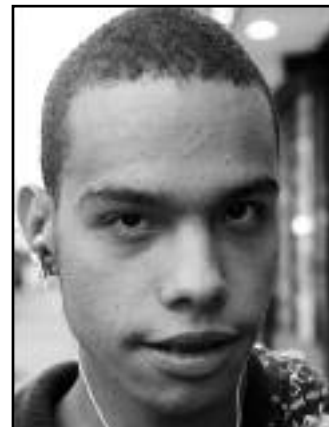
I'm thankful for my family and thankful for knowing that God gave us food, because poor people don't have food, so I'm thankful for that.

Elliott Arzuaga



I'm thankful for my mom and my grandma and grandpa. I'm thankful for all the food they gave me and for everything that happened this year.

Hector Calderon



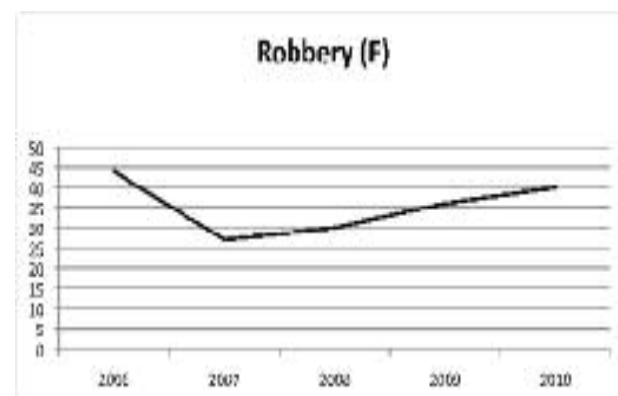
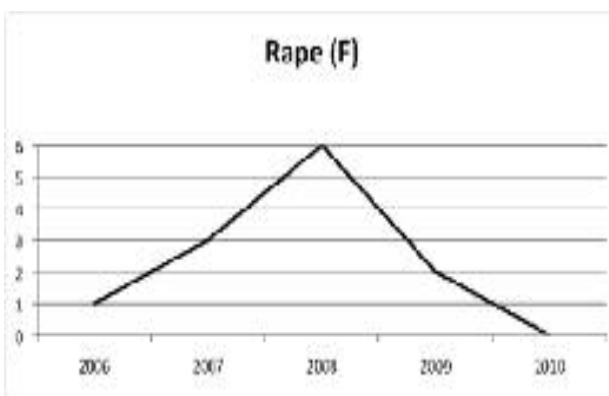
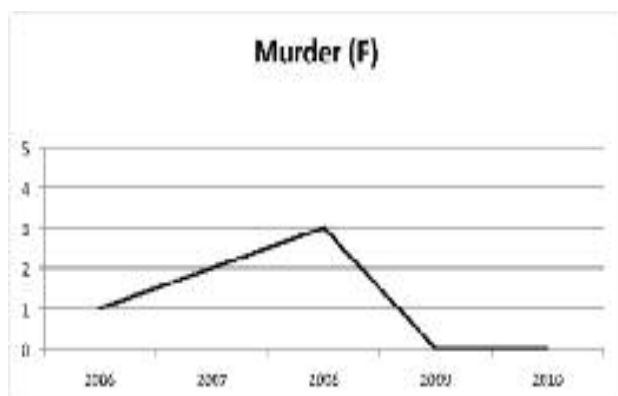
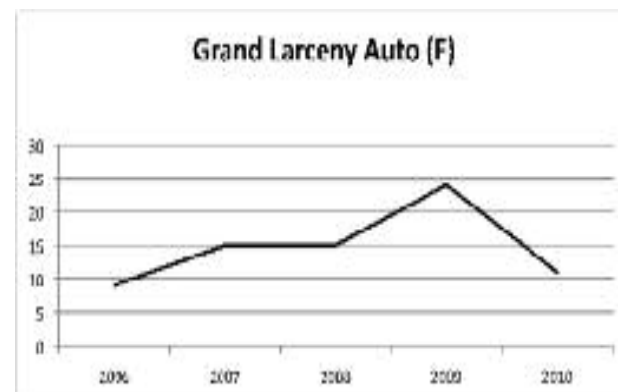
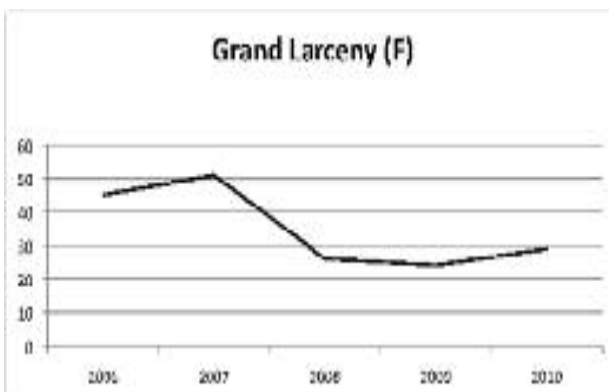
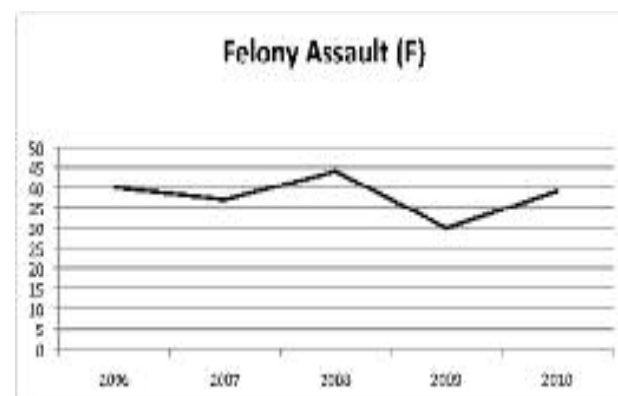
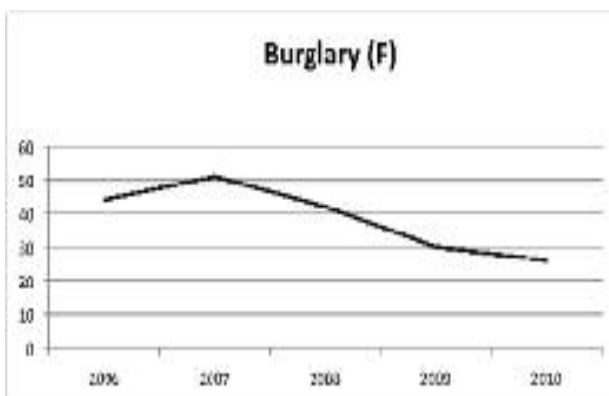
I'm thankful to be home with family, and that I'm working.

Anthony Pappilon

Crime Trends in Sector F (2006-2010)

In the attempt to give a broader picture of local crime trends in specific neighborhoods over the past five years, we have compiled crime statistics from each of the 52nd Precinct's 15 individual sectors (obtained through a Freedom of Information Law request to the NYPD). Sectors A, B, C and D were featured in the Nov 3-16 edition. We'll provide all of the graphs online at norwoodnews.org.

This issue shows Sector F, a small area bordered by Valentine and Jerome avenues (west to east), and Kingsbridge Road and 198th Street (south to north). As the graphs depict, the numbers show a slight decline in crime within the area, with spikes in 2008 and 2009 across many of the fields. Burglary, rape, murder and auto larceny have declined by 2010, while grand larceny, robbery and felony assault have increased.



A Neighborhood Loses Its Pizza Man, But Not His Pizza

(continued from p. 1)

Lina, had moved to the Bronx earlier that year to live with her sister and her sister's husband, an American citizen. On Christmas Eve, Sal arrived in the United States. The plan wasn't necessarily to stay forever, but that's how it worked out.

"It's New York, you find what you can find," he says.

He first settled in the south Bronx and worked construction until the pizza bug bit him. About 10 years into his time in the States, his brother-in-law bought a pizza place in Dobbs Ferry and Sal started working with him, making pies.

Soon, Sal decided to open his own pizza shop on Central Avenue in Scarsdale. In 1980, he re-located the shop to Norwood in a small location on East 206th Street, just around the corner from the current Sal's, right next to a "numbers joint and a bar," he says.

The neighborhood was about 75 percent Irish at the time, Sal estimates: "5 percent Italian, 5 percent Jewish, 5 percent Albanian, hardly any Spanish people." Over the years, the demographics have changed dramatically. Most of the Irish, Italians and Jews have moved out and Hispanics, Bengalis, West Indians and African-Americans have moved in.

"The neighborhood has changed from day to night," he says. "But for me, it's all good."

He sees that residents have less money these days, many of the working class people replaced by those living on

public assistance. "Money is not around like what it used to be," he says.

But through it all, Sal's has stayed popular and profitable. "We did well," he says. Well enough to allow Sal to retire at 62.

In 1997, Sal's relocated to Bainbridge Avenue and tripled in size. He took on more employees and offered one of the only sit-down restaurants in the area.

In addition to providing the best Italian food in the neighborhood, his restaurant has served as a rock of stability. Sal made a point of fostering continuity. He rarely missed work and only took Sundays off. Isaias Sandoval started working at Sal's 20 years ago at the age of 19. Mike Mulaj, another constant presence at Sal's front counter, has been with Sal for 12 years.

And, of course, there's the food. From the beginning, Sal says he has only used "top ingredients, the best tomatoes, the best cheese, everything." Another secret to his success, Sal says, is that he never adds sugar to his sauce as many New York pizza makers do. That also means, he says, "that nobody goes home at night with a bellyache."

Sal says his other secret is that "I treat everyone with respect." That's why he believes people keep coming back.

Ask anyone about Sal and they will smile and tell you how great he is.

"He's the best man," says Sandoval, with a big smile. "He's like my father. This man is incredible."

Mulaj points to his dozen years under

Sal's employment as evidence of the man's goodness. "If he's bad, I wouldn't stay here 12 days," he says.

Lisette Checo has been a Sal's regular since she moved to the neighborhood 10 years ago. She's tried everything on the menu and says you can't go wrong with any selection. And then, there's Sal.

"He's friendly, very, very nice," she says. "He caters to your every need. He treats you like family."

That's exactly how Sal sees his customers, like family. Ask him what he will miss most. Sal says: "My customers, my people. That's my family. This neighborhood, this is my home."



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Vital Stats

Amid Hunger and Budget Cuts, Food Pantries Struggle

By JEANMARIE EVELLY

The food pantry at Tolentine Zeiser Community Life Center, on University Avenue and Fordham Road, doesn’t open until 9 a.m. But the line of people who queue up at the building for the bags of groceries the center hands out starts to form some three hours earlier, around 6 a.m.

“The line has gotten longer,” said Sister Margaret McDermott, who runs the center. “A lot more working families need food now. It’s either your rent, or your food.”

At Christ Eternal Refuge Church, in Bedford Park, the weekly food pantry opens at 1 p.m. on Fridays. Sometimes, the line is so long that groceries will run out within 20 minutes, said Jose Rodriguez, the senior pastor there.

“It’s increasing, all the time increasing,” he said.

As the recession trudges on, food service programs in the Bronx and across the city continue to struggle with increasing demand, while contending with fewer government dollars and resources.

The New York City Coalition Against Hunger, which annually surveys the city’s food pantries and soup kitchens, found that 91 percent of the Bronx organizations that responded said they faced an increased

demand for food this year; 70 percent said they were forced to ration food by limiting portion size, reducing hours of operation, or turning people away.

The survey also pointed to federal data indicating that one out of every six New York City residents is “food insecure,” or not always certain of where they will find their next meal. According to U.S. Department of Agriculture figures, one of every four New York City children lives in a food insecure home, the survey said.

“Child and adult hunger levels are soaring, while our front line nonprofit feeding agencies are being starved out of business by government cuts,” said Joel Berg, executive director of the hunger coalition, in a statement. “How is it that our leaders in Washington find Wall Street firms ‘too big to fail,’ but lose little sleep allowing American children to go without food and allowing soup kitchens and food pantries to close?”

According to the coalition’s report, 47 feeding programs across the city closed their doors over the last few years, 12 of which were in the Bronx.

Despite these troubles, the city’s pantries and food kitchens are actually in slightly better shape than they were a few years ago. A boost in funding for them,

and for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or food stamp program, came through stimulus funds approved in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Food stamp enrollment has soared in New York City over the last few years — nearly 1.8 million residents were receiving the benefits last year — and experts credit the program as vital to staving off hunger.

“We try to identify people — anyone who comes to our door who is not enrolled, we get them enrolled,” said Jack Marth, of the Webster Avenue nonprofit Part of the Solution. Marth said the number of people served by the organization’s food pantry program nearly doubled this year compared to last.

Last winter, Congress voted to cut some of the stimulus money intended for SNAP, and as part of the federal budget deal this year, the FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program, which funds kitchens and food pantries, saw its budget cut by 40 percent. According to the Coalition Against Hunger, that’s translated into a loss of \$1.6 million for the city’s emergency feeding programs.

“It affects us. We can’t give the people as much food as we’d like to,” said Sister McDermott, of Tolentine Zeiser.

“But to be honest,” she said. “We’re grateful for anything.”


Transplant Symposium

Montefiore Medical Center will host its third annual Transplant Symposium on Friday, Dec. 2, at the New York Academy of Medicine, 1216 Fifth Ave., from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Discussions will be led by experts in health-care, government, and economics. The event is targeted for transplant practitioners, surgeons, physicians, coordinators, registered nurses, social workers and administrative leaders. To register, visit www.mecme.org.

Bronx World AIDS Day

On Friday, Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Fordham University’s Keating Hall, Bronx AIDS Services is hosting a conference called, “HIV Prevention 30 Years into the Epidemic: National Strategies and Local Realities.” There will be discussion of different HIV prevention modalities being proposed against the backdrop of local realities facing the Bronx (e.g. highly impoverished neighborhoods, high incidence of HIV, multicultural communities, and harsh stigmas). For more information, call Sojourner McCauley at (718) 295-5605; or email: smccauley@basnyc.org.


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Photo by David Greene

PART OF THE SOLUTION (POTS) volunteers hustle to meet the demands of 800 hungry Bronxites at a Thanksgiving celebration last week at Our Lady of Refuge Church.

Thanksgiving Volunteers Give Back

Some 800 people turned up last week at Our Lady Of Refuge Church, on East 196th Street, where volunteers were kicking off the start of the holiday season by serving Thanksgiving meals to the underprivileged.

For over two decades, the Webster Avenue nonprofit Part of the Solution (POTS) and volunteers from the Church of the Resurrection in Rye, N.Y., have teamed up to provide free hot meals on Thanksgiving and Christmas. Our Lady of Refuge Church offers space to the groups so they can accommodate the

large number of people who come to eat.

Fordham Heights resident Steven Clarke was there for the third year in a row. “Times are hard,” he said. “I’ve had to cut back on certain things. I would have had a Thanksgiving, but not a meal like this.”

At last week’s holiday meal, Robert Stringfield, a struggling father of three from Bronx Park South, had finished his turkey and was working on his two pieces of pumpkin and pecan pie.

“You get to eat well, and socialize with your neighbors,” he said.

—DAVID GREENE



Photo by Francesca Andre

CLINTON FELL to Lincoln in the playoffs for the second straight year.

Clinton Falls Short in Playoffs

By RONALD CHAVEZ

So close and yet so far away.

For the second year in a row, the DeWitt Clinton varsity football team's season ended with a resounding loss to Brooklyn's Lincoln High School.

Last year, the Governors lost to the Railsplitters in the second round of the playoffs. This year Clinton came into their semifinal playoff matchup — the school's first trip to the semis in more than two decades — riding a five-game winning streak. But the result, a resounding 30-14 loss, was similarly disappointing.

The loss was marked by an early injury

to star player Ashton McKenzie in the first quarter after a player fell on his left ankle. Ashton is the team's kicker, linebacker and fullback. He tried to return to the game at the start of the second half, but couldn't play through the injury.

"Losing him that early really put us in a whole. It made it tough for us to come back. We tried though," Coach Howard Langley told the *Daily News*. He called the injury a high ankle sprain.

Lincoln played Quarterback Ryan Camilo tough, sacking him seven times, according to the *New York Post*.

Lincoln's Railsplitters will move on to face Erasmus at Yankee Stadium on Dec. 6.

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Neighborhood Notes

Young Adult Internships

The Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation, 76 Wadsworth Ave. (between 176th and 177th streets), 2nd floor, classroom C, is offering informational sessions for its internship program for young adults between the ages of 16 and 24, weekdays at 2 p.m. The program includes job readiness training, counseling, and assistance in finding employment after completion. For more information, call (212) 453-5394 or visit nmic.org.

City Hiring Snow Laborers

The NYC Department of Sanitation is registering emergency snow laborers to remove snow at bus stops and crosswalks in the event of a heavy snowfall. Applicants must be 18 years of age, eligible to work in the US and capable of performing heavy physical labor. Interested candidates can register Monday to Friday at the following garages: District 12 (310 W. 215th St.); District 10 (110 E. 131st St.); or District 9 (125 E. 149th St.); between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. The hourly rate begins at \$12 and increases to \$18 after completing the first 40 hours. For more information, call 311.

Fine Art & Digital Media Classes

The Bronx River Art Center, 2064 Boston Rd., begins its winter quarter of classes in Fine Art & Digital Media for all ages in January. Registration runs from Dec. 12 through Jan. 14, weekdays from 3

to 6 p.m. and Saturday from noon to 3 p.m. For more information, fees, and a complete schedule of classes, call (718) 589-5819 or visit www.bronxrivierart.org.

Women Speaker Series

The Bronx Women's Business Center will host its annual Speaker Series, on Friday, Dec. 9 at the Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event showcases Bronx women as role models in business sectors. For more information or to RSVP, call Marcia Cameron at (718) 933-7469 or email mcameron@bronxwbc.org.

Business Plan Competition

The Science, Industry and Business Library (SIBL) with the support of the Citi Foundation have announced their third annual business plan competition, for entrepreneurs who live in Manhattan, the Bronx or Staten Island and have a plan to start a business in one of these boroughs. Prizes range from \$1,500 to \$15,000, along with having access to business support services made available to all participants. Interested parties are required to attend an orientation session at the Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., on Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 6 p.m. For more information, visit nypl.org/bizplan.

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



Photo by Jeanmarie Evelly

LIVING WAGE SUPPORTERS packed Harlem's Riverside Church for a rally last week, the night before the City Council's hearing on the bill.

Armory at Center of Living Wage Debate

(continued from p. 1)

"Even with its modifications, this is bad legislation," said Nancy Ploeger, president of the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce.

A coalition of the city's business interests and trade unions launched a counter-campaign against the bill this month, called Putting New Yorkers to Work, complete with a website and paid advertisements. Their main argument, illuminated in the testimony of several speakers during the Council hearing, is that a living wage mandate would kill new businesses and jobs and devastate the city's economy — an argument held by Mayor Bloomberg.

The bill's supporters, a coalition of faith leaders, nonprofits and elected officials who have been campaigning for over a year now under the name Living Wage NYC, spent much of the hearing refuting those assertions. Experts from other cities that have wage mandates, like Los Angeles and San Francisco, phoned in to testify to the success of the laws in their respective cities.

Both sides have repeatedly referenced the Kingsbridge Armory to bolster their arguments. In 2009, the City Council—pressed by a coalition of Bronx community leaders and Borough President Diaz—killed plans for a shopping mall at the long-vacant building because the developer of the project, Related Companies, refused to agree to a living wage mandate, despite being poised to receive tens of millions of dollars from the city in the form of tax breaks.

Living wage opponents point to the some 2,000 jobs lost when the Armory project was quelled as evidence that the bill would, indeed, stifle economic development.

"The Kingsbridge Armory remains vacant because of the living wage mandate. Those jobs were killed because of this wage mandate," Jack Kittle, political director of District Council No. 9 of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, testified at last week's hearing.

The bill's supporters, however, paint the Armory as the birthplace of the city-

wide movement for fair wages, and proof of the Bloomberg administration's strict pro-business agenda.

"We rescued our community from what would have become a poverty wage center," Desiree Pilgrim-Hunter, who heads the Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Alliance, said at a rally in Harlem the night before the Council hearing. "Let's be very clear: it was Bloomberg who killed those jobs."

As the argument between the two sides continues to intensify, Quinn has remained neutral. As Speaker, she has the ability to kill a bill by refusing to bring it to the floor for a vote. Throughout the hearing, she peppered both camps with questions but did little to indicate where she stands on the issue. A likely mayoral candidate in 2013, she has been cautious not to ostracize either side of the debate.

At the start of the hearing, she said she hoped the Council could find a way to raise wages for New Yorkers "without doing anything that would make New York City a less desirable place to start or to relocate a business, or hurt our job-creation efforts in any way."

"I'm hopeful," Koppell said. "But as with everything else in the Council, it comes down to the Speaker."

Should Quinn decide to bring the bill up for a vote, its backers would still need to win the support of a few more Council members: the legislation currently has 29 votes, but needs 34 to override the almost-certain veto it would get from Mayor Bloomberg.

At the living wage rally last week, hundreds of people packed into the pews of Harlem Riverside Church for a spirited, nearly two-hour service. Dozens of speakers took to the microphone in support of the legislation; several likened the campaign to other movements raging across the country and elsewhere, reiterating a sentiment of disillusionment with those in charge and frustration over the widening wealth gap.

"What is \$10 an hour?" Koppell asked the cheering crowd. "It's barely enough to survive, and it's all we're asking."

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Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

Holiday Events

■ **Holiday Lighting Event**, Sparkling the Heart of Fordham, will take place at Bryan Park (East Fordham and East Kingsbridge roads), Dec. 2 from 6 to 8 p.m. Featured will be Santa Claus, free gifts for children, holiday music, raffles, prizes, giveaways, and a performance by the Fordham University Gospel Choir. Show your MetroCard and get 10 percent off at select stores. For more information, visit FordhamRoadBid.org.

■ The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **A Bronx Messiah** featuring the Bronx Opera Chorus and the Orchestra of the Bronx, Dec. 11

at 3 p.m. (tickets are \$10 to \$25; \$10 for ages 12 and under). For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

■ Fordham United Methodist Church, 2543 Marion Ave., presents **Messiah, Part I**, Dec. 11 at 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 367-9347.

■ St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1891 McGraw Ave., hosts a **Holiday Concert**, featuring the Bronx Concert Singers performing a variety of holiday music, Dec. 11 at 4:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20/two for \$35; \$15 for seniors and students with valid ID; and \$5 for children through high school. For more information, call (800) 838-3006.

■ Woodlawn Cemetery will host a **Christmas and Holiday Concert** in its Woolworth Chapel, just inside the Jerome Avenue entrance, Dec. 11 at 1 p.m. For more information including fees, call (718) 920-1470.

■ The Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance (BAAD), 841 Barretto St., presents **Los Nutcrackers: A Christmas Carajo**, a combination of The Nutcracker and A Christmas Carol, performed as a Latino queer comedic play, Dec. 2, 3, 8-10, and 15-17 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 on Thursdays and \$25 on Fridays and Saturdays, with discounts for seniors, groups and Bronx residents. For more information and to reserve, call (718) 842-5223 or visit www.BronxAcademyOfArtsAndDance.org.

■ The New York Botanical Garden presents **Holiday Train Show**, featuring replicas of NYC landmarks made of natural materials such as bark, twigs, fruits and seeds, and large-scale model trains running along nearly a quarter mile of track featuring bridges, tunnels and waterfalls, through Jan. 16. For more information, call (718) 817-8700.

■ A special **Holly Jolly Trolley** will run on Saturday, Dec. 10 with events that include festive music, giveaways, and a holiday craft sale. For more information, call (718) 931-9500 ext. 23 or visit www.bronxarts.org.

Onstage

■ The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd. off Fordham Road, presents **Slavic Soul Party**, featuring Balkan music, Dec. 10 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

■ Lehman College, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **Winter Concert**, featuring classical music performed by the Lehman College and Community Chorus, Dec. 4 at 2:30 p.m. in the Concert Hall (complimentary tickets will be available at the Box Office beginning at 1 p.m. on performance day), and **Here's That Rainy Day**, celebrating music of the Big Band era, performed by the college's Jazz Band, Dec. 7 at noon in the Hearth Room on the third floor of the Music Building (call (718) 960-8247 for both events); and a **Concert**, featuring two performers from the Metropolitan Opera, followed by a Q&A with the artists, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. in the Music Building (call (718) 960-2416). All events are free.

■ The Bronx Arts Ensemble presents **Peter and the Wolf**, Dec. 4 at 1 and 3 p.m. at the Whitehall Club Ballroom, 3333 Henry Hudson Pkwy. Tickets are \$6. For more information, call (718) 601-7399 or visit bronxartsensemble.org.

■ The Casita Maria Center for Arts and Education, 928 Simpson St., will host **South Bronx Folk Festival** (free, although suggested donation is \$5), Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 10 at 3 p.m. For more information, call (718) 589-2230 or visit info@southbronxfolkfestival.org.

■ Pregones Theatre, 571-575 Walton Ave., presents **Baile Cangrejero**, featuring music, dance, poetry and theatre, Dec. 1 through 11. For more information, call (718) 585-1202.

■ The Bronx County Historical Society presents an **Edgar Allan Poe Fund-raiser**, featuring Latin performer Bobby Sanabria and his quartet, Dec. 9 from 6 to 9 p.m., at the National Arts Club, 15 Gramercy Pk. So. (tickets are \$70); and a **Walking Tour**, Old village of Unionport, Dec. 17 at 11 a.m. (meet at the Chase bank at Hugh Grant Circle in Parkchester; \$10/members; \$15/non-members). For more



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Events

■ JASA Van Cortlandt Senior Center, 3880 Sedgwick Ave., presents **Day Trip to Chinatown**, Dec. 7; **Fire Safety**, educational presentation by FDNY, Dec. 8 at 11:15 a.m.; **Dancing Crane Georgian Performing Arts Ensemble** performing ethnic dance, Dec. 11 at 1:15 p.m. (\$2) preceded by lunch at 12:15 p.m. (\$2) (RSVP by Dec. 7); and **Entertainer Ari Leshans**, performing at the November/ December birthday party, Dec. 15 at 1 p.m. (\$1) preceded by lunch (\$2). For more information and to RSVP, call (718) 549-4700.

■ The Bronx Museum, 1040 Grand Concourse (165th Street), presents free, **First Fridays**, featuring a music workshop followed by a music video screening, and concluding with a performance by Maya Azucena and her band, Dec. 2 from 7 to 10 p.m. For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

■ The Mosholu Montefiore Senior Center, 3450 DeKalb Ave., presents **Travels With Bob**, featuring the Center's Assistant Executive Director Bob Altman showing photos and discussing his trip to Cuba, Dec. 7 at 12:30 p.m.; **Free Legal Clinic**, offering answers to legal questions by pre-arranged appointment with attorney, Dec. 12 at 12:30 p.m. (call for appointment); and **Winter Holiday Party**, including special luncheon at 11:30 a.m. (reservations required: \$4; \$5 at the door space permitting), Dec. 14. For more information, call (718) 798-6601.

■ The public is invited to ride the Dec. 7 free **Bronx Culture Trolley**, which transports visitors to Bronx hot spots. Trolley night starts with a 5 p.m. reception at the Longwood Art Gallery at Hostos Community College, 450 Grand Concourse (at 149th St.). From there, the trolley departs at 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. For more information and a detailed schedule, call (718) 931-9500 ext. 33 or log on to www.bronxarts.org.

Exhibits

■ Bronx River Art Center, 305 E. 140th St., #1A, presents free: **Shifting Communities**, an exhibition highlighting dynamic initiatives in

culture and the arts. Opening reception is Dec. 2 from 6 to 9 p.m.; and roundtable presentations, workshops and discussions will be held Dec. 11 from 3 to 6 p.m. Program ends Jan. 6. For more information, call (718) 589-5819.

Library Events

■ The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd. off Fordham Road, presents programs for kids including **Preschool Story Time**, Dec. 1, 8 and 15 at 11 a.m.; **Tales of Snow** (ages 5 to 12), Dec. 3 at 2 p.m.; **Mad Science Workshops at 4 p.m.** (ages 3 to 12; registration required): on gravity, Dec. 6, and on bugs, Dec. 13; **Holiday Card Making** (ages 5 to 12), Dec. 8 at 4 p.m.; **Family Time**, Dec. 10 at 11 a.m.; **The Mad Science Holiday Spectacular** (ages 3 to 12), Dec. 10 at 2 p.m.; **Film Day** (ages 3 to 12), Dec. 7 and 14 at 4 p.m.; and **Global Partners, Jr.** (ages 5 to 12), students connect worldwide via the Internet, Dec. 7 and 14 at 4 p.m. Teens and young adults can join **On the Plate**, about NYC food, Dec. 6 at 4 p.m. Adults can attend **MOMA**, artist De Kooning: A Retrospective, Dec. 3 at 2:30 p.m.; **Charge It Right**, facts about credit, Dec. 13 at 10 a.m.; **Tax Tips for the Self Employed** (registration required), Dec. 14 at 6 p.m.; and **Released With Conviction** (through Dec. 17), exhibition on prison release; film screening, Dec. 7 at 2 p.m. and Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

■ The Mosholu Library, at 285 E. 205th St., offers **Toddler Story Time** (registration required), Dec. 1 and 8 at 10:30 a.m.; **Knitting Circle at 3 p.m.** (for adults), Dec. 1, 8 and 15; **Tacky the Penguin and Other Frosty Winter Tales** (ages 3 to 12), Dec. 6 at 4 p.m.; and **Wii Program** (for seniors and adults), Tuesdays at 3 p.m. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

■ The Jerome Park Library, at 118 Eames Place, offers **Film**, Dec. 12 at 4 p.m.; and **Toddler Story Time**, Dec. 14 at 11 a.m. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

NOTE: Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to norwood-news@norwoodnews.org, and should be received by Dec. 5 for the next publication date of Dec. 15. Find more events at www.bronxnewsnetwork.org.



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