

NORWOOD NEWS

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Documenting
Health Problems
At NYCHA

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Photo by Adi Talwar

MORE THAN 200 community activists rally outside of the Kingsbridge Armory on March 21 to demand that any development coming into the long vacant building benefit the community.

Activists Say Do Right or You Can't Have Our Armory

By ALEX KRATZ

With proposals for the Kingsbridge Armory on the verge of being vetted behind closed doors, more than 200 local activists made it clear that any developer chosen by the city will have to deal with and provide benefits to the community.

At a lively rally near the Armory's front entrance on Kingsbridge Road on Wednesday, March 21, the day before the deadline for developers' submissions, the Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Alliance (KARA), a group that includes the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition, staged a candlelight vigil preceded by songs, chants, fiery speeches and spoken word.

"Whose Armory?" they chanted at various times during the rally, "Our Armory!"

"This Armory must build the wealth of our local residents and not big businesses," said Reverend English Que from Bronx Christian Fellowship Church in one of the most animated speeches at the rally.

She added, "To the powers that be, we say, 'if you don't do right by our people, you can't have our Armory.'"

In addition to demanding their voice be heard in the development process, the rally served as a platform for KARA, which also includes dozens of clergy and church groups as well as the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU), to outline a list of community benefits that they believe should

be part of any winning Armory proposal.

The list includes "wall-to-wall" living wage jobs (\$10 an hour, plus benefits, or \$11.50 without benefits), a new school to relieve overcrowding, dedicated community space for arts programs and events, priority access for Bronxites, job training programs and "green" development practices.

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Photo by Ching Zedrick

TOURNEY MVP Kashay Barnes cuts down the net after the Lady Mustangs title win in Peoria, Ill. (See page 10.)

Local Teacher Killed In Mosholu Parkway Motorcycle Crash

By DAVID GREENE and JEANMARIE EVELLY

A 28-year-old Bronx middle school teacher was killed last Wednesday morning after his motorcycle struck a concrete overpass on Mosholu Parkway, just a short distance away from where a young pedestrian was struck and killed in a hit-and-run incident back in December.

Justin Bravo, of North Babylon, Long Island, taught seventh and eighth grade social studies at MS 244, the New School for Leadership in Journalism, located on 231st Street in Kingsbridge, a school employee said.

One of his students, who spoke to the *Norwood News* but whose mother asked that she not be named, said Bravo was supposed to join the class on a field trip the day of the crash to see the movie "Hunger Games," but never arrived. Students found out about the accident when they returned from their trip in the after-

noon.

"He was very determined to help us. Whenever you had a problem, you could just go straight to Mr. Bravo and he'd be right there to help you," the student said. "It's very sad to know that we lost one of our favorite teachers."

The accident occurred Wednesday morning around 8 a.m., police said, when Bravo's motorcycle crashed on Mosholu Parkway in a tunnel that runs underneath Jerome Avenue. He was transported to Montefiore Medical Center where he died on arrival.

The incident is the latest in a series of vehicle crashes in the immediate area that have claimed the life of a victim or has left a person in serious condition.

In late December, a hit-and-run driver on Mosholu Parkway, struck and killed Josbel Rivera, 23, less than 500 feet from where Bravo crashed. Police are still looking for the driver,

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State Tells PS 51 Parents Illness 'Not a Slam Dunk'

By JEANMARIE EVELLY and ALEX KRATZ

In late March, the parents of current and former PS 51 students met with state officials to ask questions and discuss their concerns about potential health effects caused by exposure to contamination at the school's former site on Jerome Avenue.

The building, which was home to the PS 51 (Bronx New School) for nearly two decades, tested positive last year for high levels of trichloroethylene (TCE), a toxin linked to cancer.

While state officials tried to calm

parental fears and help them organize, those in attendance said they're still looking for more help from the city's Department of Education and remain concerned about the health of their children.

"It's very scary when it's your child, and it's not something we really know much about," said Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky, who sits on CB 7's sanitation and environmental committee, and whose daughter, now 18, attended PS 51 for six years.

Parents, organizing with the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition under the name PS 51 Parents United, met with state

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In The Public Interest

Ex-Bronx BP Carrion Heads to Private Sector

Former Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion, who has spent the past three years working for the Obama administration, is taking a job in the private sector with CSA Group, which bills itself as the “largest architectural, engineering, environmental services, consulting, and construction and program management company in the United States.”

Carrion, who left the borough president’s office in 2009 to become the federal government’s urban affairs czar and then moved on to take over as the regional director of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), will be CSA’s senior advisor for corporate development, according to a press release sent out this morning.

“We at CSA Group are very excited and honored that Adolfo has agreed to join our firm”, stated JJ Suarez, Chairman and CEO, CSA Group. “Adolfo’s proven track record in empowering urban communities throughout the United States, coupled with his economic development experience, will be of vital importance as we continue to position CSA Group as a first-in-class, full service project delivery firm in the Infrastructure and Building markets.”

CSA specializes in large municipal projects in the United States and Latin America. The company received billions of dollars in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA, otherwise known as the economic stimulus package) to do several projects in Puerto Rico.

—ALEX KRATZ

Report: Stadium Parking Falls Short on Jobs Promise

A company that received millions in city bonds to finance the development of parking lots around Yankee Stadium did not deliver on the number of jobs it said it would create in exchange for the funding, an audit from the City Comptroller’s office detailed recently.

Bronx Parking Development Company LLC received \$225 million in public bonds to build 2,184 parking spaces near Yankee Stadium. The city’s Economic Development Corp. (EDC) approved the financing for the project despite the fact that the organization’s parent company had defaulted previously on tax-exempt economic development bonds, the report said.

“The EDC has enormous power to create and protect jobs, and yet it has handed out huge taxpayer subsidies with alarmingly spotty results,” Comptroller John Liu said in a statement. The audit examined \$497 million in tax breaks given to hundreds of companies by the Industrial Development Agency (IDA), which is overseen by the EDC.

Bronx Parking is now on the verge of defaulting on its bond payments, Liu’s report says, blaming the EDC for failing to notice “gaping holes” in the company’s financial plans. The company also promised to create 55 jobs as part of the deal but has fallen short on that agreement and has lost six full-time jobs, the

audit says.

—JEANMARIE EVELLY

Pols Sponsor Bill to Protect Facebook Passwords

Two Bronx legislators are looking to pass a bill that would ban employers from requesting social media site passwords from job applicants, a practice they say is growing in popularity and a threat to the privacy of job seekers.

“This legislation will address a terrible and growing abuse by certain employers,” said Assemblyman Jeffery Dinowitz, who is sponsoring the version of the bill in the Assembly. “Employers should not be snooping on social media communications that are private, and they certainly should not be given passwords that are supposed to be kept secret. It’s like an employer asking for a copy of your house keys so they can have a look around your home.”

Reports have indicated a growing trend of employers who want to browse the Facebook and Twitter accounts of potential job applicants as part of their hiring process, demanding log-in information. Federal lawmakers, including New York Senator Charles Schumer, are also speaking out on the issue, asking the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Department of Justice to launch a federal investigation into the practice.

“Even in this digital age, turning over your password to an employer is a bridge too far,” said Senator Jeff Klein, who is introducing the state law in the New York Senate.

—JEANMARIE EVELLY

New Offices for Nonprofit Legal Group

A group that offers free legal services to low-income Bronx residents will be getting a new and improved home at the busy HUB commercial corridor, at Brook Avenue and East 149th Street, a number of local elected officials announced last

week.

Legal Services NYC-Bronx will move into a commercial condominium that’s being built as part of a City-sanctioned development project on a stretch of undeveloped property at the HUB. When completed, the group’s new offices will feature a green space and be fully handicap accessible, according to a press release sent out by Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., who is one of several Bronx representatives working in support of the project.

“We at Legal Services NYC-Bronx are overwhelmed by the show of support we have received from Bronx elected officials in our quest for a new home. For years, we have been searching for an office that is large enough for our 70-person staff, for all of our clients to receive services in confidential and dignified surroundings,” said Jennifer Levy, the group’s director.

Legal Services NYC-Bronx serves 10,000 Bronx residents a year, offering legal help to domestic violence victims, disabled and disadvantaged children and assisting in medical access, elder abuse and eviction and foreclosure cases. The group was one of several organizations working last year on behalf of the Bronx Milbank tenants, who were seeking to get conditions in their dilapidated and foreclosed buildings repaired.

—JEANMARIE EVELLY

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- News Updates
- Crime Watch
- Be Healthy! Wednesday
- Bronx Sports Report Thursday
- Bronx Breakdown Friday

Public and Community Meetings

- A PUBLIC HEARING on the proposed closure of MS/JHS 80 will be held on Monday, April 16 at 6 p.m. in the school’s auditorium, 149 E. Mosholu Pkwy. N. For more information, call (718) 405-6300.
- COMMUNITY BOARD 7 will hold its general board meeting on Tuesday, April 17 at 6:30 p.m., at Our Lady of Refuge Church, 290 E. 196th St. (Parish Center). For more information, call (718) 933-5650.
- COMMUNITY BOARD 7 committee meetings are scheduled on the following dates for 6:30 p.m. at the board office, 229A E. 204th St., unless otherwise indicated: Thursday, April 5, Parks & Recreation (Lehman College Music Building, Faculty Dining Room), and Health & Hospitals (Mosholu Montefiore Community Center located at 3450 DeKalb Ave.); Monday, April 9, Youth Services; Tuesday, April 10, Economic Development; Wednesday, April 11, Public Safety; Thursday, April 12, Traffic & Transportation, Environment & Sanitation.
- The 52ND COMMUNITY PRECINCT COUNCIL meets on Thursday, April 26, at 7 p.m. at the Bedford Park Senior Center, 243 E. 204th St. For more information, call (718) 220-5824.



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Without Funding, Mentoring Program Forced to Close

By DESTINY DEJESUS

The Bronx One-on-One Mentoring, known as BOOM, a program for at-risk children operated by the American Latin Association of New York in Kingsbridge Heights, was forced to shut its doors recently due to budget cuts.

After a federal grant expired last year and was not renewed, Israel Rodriguez, the association's president and director of the BOOM program, said he spent the summer and fall scrambling for funding, but was ultimately forced to close operations in March.

"We did such good work," Rodriguez said. "No politicians in the area recognized it and I don't understand why."

Rodriguez, originally from Venezuela, started BOOM in 2006, inspired, he said, by his own experiences from his own childhood, when he felt like he had no one to look to for guidance and direction.

The program paired at-risk children — many of them foster children, children of immigrants, or children who have an incarcerated parent — with adult mentors, who worked with them for a minimum of one year. They discussed everything from academics to personal issues and tried to guide their charges to a better path.

"It was a program that was good for the area that we live in; it gave kids a place to talk," said Wade Irby, a former mentor who volunteered with BOOM for four years.

The program operated out of three dif-



Photo courtesy ALANY

MENTORS AND MENTEES took in a Yankees game as part of the BOOM program that was forced to close in March.

ferent schools, and children were referred to BOOM by social workers, members of the New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS), and teachers. Over 50 applications were recently received from ACS, but with the budget cut, those applicants were pushed to the side.

In the face of the program's financial struggles, Rodriguez was forced to lay off all of his paid staff last August, and then relied solely on volunteers. In search of

help, he personally sent letters to United States senators and members of Congress and was told that they were not able to provide funding, but would advise the BOOM program of others who could possibly help. Councilmember Fernando Cabrera gave Rodriguez \$25,000 to use for rent from July to January, but when that time was up, Rodriguez had no choice but to close the doors.

Carey Zimmerman, a former mentor, said she was unaware that the program

got shut down. "The program did a good job at matching kids with adults that have similar personal interests," she said.

Though she currently is not under BOOM contract, she has continued to visit her mentee and takes her out occasionally.

"I went to a Christmas party event with the program and saw that everyone has a close relationship," said Zimmerman. "It's a shame that they won't be able to have that anymore."

Several people outside of the BOOM program knew how beneficial it was and are extremely disappointed that it had to be shut down.

Alan Mechanic, director of facilities at Monroe College, helped provide supplies and necessities to the BOOM program. Though he was not a part of the actual program, he saw the work that was done and supported Rodriguez.

"Israel had his heart into the program," said Mechanic. "It was something he really wanted to do."

Rodriguez plans to open a mentoring program in the Dominican Republic. Though he says he is upset about the closing of the BOOM program in the Bronx, he feels that his knowledge will do well elsewhere.

"I've been to DR. They don't have anything, the delinquency and teen pregnancy over there is high," he said, adding that he hoped to work there while still keeping his ties to the Bronx.

"But I have no help here," he said.

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Amount of funding that the New York City Housing Authority has lost from its budget since 2001.

Vital Stats

Photo Exhibit Spotlights Public Housing Health Hazards

By JEANMARIE EVELLY

When the ventilation fan in Maribel Baez's bathroom stopped working, a black patch of mold began to grow on her ceiling. She called the New York City Housing Authority, which runs the Melrose Houses in the south Bronx, where she's lived for four years, and tried to get the problem fixed. NYCHA told her it would be two years before they could send a repairperson out. The mold kept growing.

Then Baez began experiencing breathing problems: tightness in her chest and persistent coughing. Her doctor diagnosed her with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), a serious condition that's been linked to, and is aggravated by, long-term exposure to lung irritants like mold.

"It's unfair that NYCHA is putting tenants in danger," Baez said.

The plight of tenants like Baez is the subject of a photo exhibit on display this week at the Bronx Documentary Center, featuring dozens of images by photo-journalist Ana Brigida that show NYCHA residents in apartments plagued by leaks, mold, mildew and crumbling ceilings.

Organized by the advocacy groups South Bronx Churches, Manhattan Together and Metro IAF, the exhibit, "How the Other Half (Still) Lives," seeks to highlight the health hazards posed by poor conditions in the city's public housing complexes — conditions that organizers say are the result of neglect by NYCHA and the Bloomberg administration.

"Conditions are beyond what words can describe, so we're having a photo exhibit, so you can see for yourself," said Father Francis Skelly, of Immaculate Conception Church in Melrose, who works with South Bronx Churches (SBC) to help organize tenants.

In one photo, a 16-year-old girl's hand is clutching her inhaler. She suffers from asthma, the photo's caption reads, and has lived in an apartment filled with

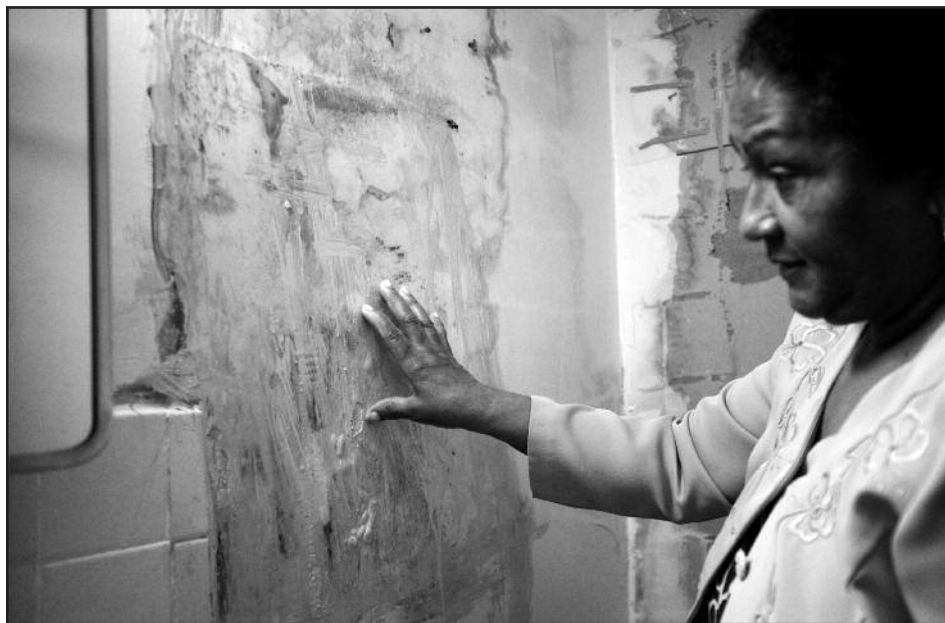


Photo courtesy Bronx Documentary Center

PHOTOGRAPHS ON DISPLAY this week at the Bronx Documentary Center, by photographer Ana Brigida capture hazardous housing conditions in NYCHA apartments.

mold in the Melrose Houses for the last 10 years. In another photo, a young boy sits with a mask over his nose, connected to a breathing machine. Other pictures show buckets poised in hallways and closets to catch leaking water; holes in walls and dark patches of mold and mildew spread over ceilings.

"The conditions are getting worse," said SBC's Marielys Divanne, who spent the last few years going door-to-door in NYCHA complexes, talking to tenants about their health problems. "We hear so many stories of families that have children and seniors with asthma and upper respiratory problems, and the mold and leaks just continue to get worse."

Jamayra Paramo, who lives in the Jackson Houses on Cortlandt Avenue and 156th Street, says her apartment is prone to constant leaks and mildew, and her young son suffers from asthma.

"He can't have a normal 8-year-old's life. He can't run, he can't play sports," she said. "Housing employees would come in, tell us they were going to fix the problems, and then never come

back."

In a statement, NYCHA officials said that the agency has made major strides in the last year to reduce their repair backlog and waitlist times, investing \$11 million of their budget and creating a special

repair task force last year. That task force, NYCHA says, was able to complete 45,000 repair work orders, in more than 12,000 apartments citywide last year, up six percent from the year before. The agency predicts it will be able to accomplish even more this year, after the City Council announced last month that it would allocate \$10 million to the agency to be used for repairs.

But NYCHA acknowledges that budget shortfalls persist, and have limited the agency in how they've been able to address tenants' needs.

"NYCHA works unceasingly to address all requests for repair and maintenance at our 2,604 buildings," officials said in a statement. "While the needs are great in most of NYCHA's developments, the reality is that buildings that are 40 to 70 years old are aging structures that require a great deal of repair, for which the Authority receives inadequate funding."

Skelly largely blamed Bloomberg for not adequately investing in NYCHA the way he has in other housing initiatives. "Public housing is not a priority of this administration," he said. "This blight that you see all around us will be part of his legacy."

Montefiore Medical Center Marks One-Year Anniversary as Smoke-Free Campus



Photo courtesy Montefiore Medical Center

MONTEFIORE MEDICAL CENTER celebrated its first year as a smoke-free campus on March 21, coinciding with national "Kick Butts Day," a day of activism led by the Campaign for Tobacco-free Kids. The hospital teamed up with Bronx Breathes, Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University and Bronx Community Health Network to hand out free nicotine patches and gum and quit-smoking literature.

In 2011, Montefiore, the largest health-care provider and employer in the Bronx, expanded its no-smoking zone policy to all of its locations in the Bronx and Westchester, including its main hospital campuses, public areas like parking garages, common areas in residential buildings, and community sites.



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State Tells PS 51 Parents Illness 'Not a Slam Dunk'

(continued from p. 1)

health representatives inside Community Board 7 headquarters in Bedford Park.

Lenny Siegel, of the California-based Center for Public Environmental Oversight (CPEO), was on hand to discuss some of the possible health effects linked to TCE exposure. After explaining how and why they believe the contamination was present ever since the school moved into the former lighting manufacturing plant 20 years ago, Siegel tried to allay parents' fears that their children are at a high risk for illness.

While acknowledging that the level of exposure (for students, staff and parents) was "unacceptable," he said the risk for exposure-related illness "isn't that enormous." Studies have found, he said, that for every 10,000 people with exposure levels similar to those found at the former PS 51 building, one person will get sick over a 30-year period.

"It's not a slam dunk that because you were [exposed at the PS 51 building], you will get sick," he said. He added that the more engaged community is, the better prepared they will be to deal with any exposure-related health issues that might come up.

The state agencies are investigating the contamination at the school's former site and will issue a report based on their findings, which will include recommendations to the city's DOE. Parents and community leaders are hoping the recommendations will include the establishment of a medical registry to track the health problems of current and former students who attended the school and employees who worked there.

"We know we have a finite set of people that were exposed to a chemical, and if we don't have a central area to try and keep track of all of this, it just doesn't make sense," Hartman-Kutnowsky said. "If some-

thing emerges that does become a pattern, we can learn from it and prevent other things from happening, or at least know what we should be looking for."

After the contamination was revealed to parents last year, many reported what seemed like an unusual number of health complaints from students, including headaches and vomiting.

PS 51 Parents United is looking to set up a Community Advisory Group, which would oversee how the city and state are handling the contamination issue and facilitate communication between the government and community residents. Many parents have complained of what they say is a lack of transparency and responsiveness from the DOE, and the group wants to ensure that all parents of students who attended school at 3200 Jerome Ave — and their physicians — know about the TCE levels.

"I would say maybe between a third and half of the people I know who actually got letters," from the DOE about the contamination, Hartman-Kutnowsky said.

In an e-mail, DOE spokeswoman Marge Feinberg said letters were sent to all parents who have records in the department's computer system, and that they have set up a page on the DOE website to keep parents informed of updates about the school.

Before the start of the new school year, PS 51 was relocated to a building in Crotona. Its former building, where the TCE contamination was discovered, was on the site of a former lamp factory leased by the DOE.

While all city-owned school buildings are required to undergo testing for environmental toxins before use, leased buildings are not subject to the same rules. Feinberg, however, said that each of the 31 sites that the DOE leased for school space were tested before the start of this school year, and came up clean.



Photo by Alex Kratz

MORE THAN two dozen former students and parents of former PS 51 students packed into the Community Board 7 office in Bedford Park for a meeting with state health officials.

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Op-Eds

Livable Neighborhoods, Without the Gentrification Label

By **GREGORY LOBO JOST**

It’s been almost seven years since the *New York Times* wrote about the south Bronx transforming into a hip and gentrifying “SoBro,” citing an influx of white residents, artists, croissants and mesclun salad greens. Just last month, the *Times* ran a similar article, by the same author, once again boldly declaring gentrification in the south Bronx – now on the lower Concourse.

Yes, according to the 2010 Census, there is some small statistical evidence of an increase in the number of white residents (up by about 500) in the lower Concourse area, though the sample white residents cited in the article work as a grant writer, guidance counselor and a school teacher.

The premise of both articles, though, is that these neighborhoods are now “livable” enough that white people would consider living there, even though many of the improvements and features of the neighborhood are made possible by long-

vacant land in the south Bronx.

What is most disturbing about these types of articles is the willingness to jump straight to the gentrification conclusion, with only the slimmest evidence of some factor that could possibly (but not necessarily) accompany actual gentrification. In doing so, the *Times* appears interested in propping up real estate values (or at least discovering the next hot neighborhood) without regard for the consequences their declarations could have.

Real gentrification brings waves — not drops — of higher income newcomers, increasing demand for housing, driving up rents and real estate values, thereby decreasing affordability for working class residents and often leading to displacement. Currently, the Bronx is overwhelmingly the recipient of residents who have been displaced from other parts of the city that are actually gentrifying, such as Harlem, Washington Heights, and parts of central Brooklyn. Meanwhile, private equity investors gambled heavily on gentrification in the Bronx this past decade

quences.

Additionally, just because a working class neighborhood now has “a yoga studio, arugula and organic spinach at the local Foodtown supermarket, a weekly farmers market in the warmer seasons and a new deli that sells croissants” — as the *Times* writes of the lower Concourse — we should not have to start worrying about speculative investing or longtime residents being displaced. Here in Norwood we also have organic produce at our Foodtown, a yoga studio, three farmers markets within walking distance, and croissants. Additionally, even though our white population is down about a third in the past decade, we still have about five times as many white residents in Community Board 7 than CBs 1 and 4 com-

bined (10,000 to 2,100). Yet who would declare gentrification in our humble northwest Bronx neighborhoods?

Racial and income diversity are good things, as are livable neighborhoods with access to basic services, and many organizations, community residents, small business and the City continue to work on bringing new resources and amenities to lower income neighborhoods, specifically for the current residents to enjoy. While these shops, farmers markets, parks, bank branches, etc., may make a neighborhood more attractive, they do not equal gentrification, and claiming it does is both a stretch and reckless.

Gregory Lobo Jost, a Norwood resident, is deputy director of University Neighborhood Housing Program.

Keep 80 Open

By **JUDY NOY**

Closing MS 80? How could this happen? It’s THE neighborhood junior high school in Norwood, a school that I and both my kids graduated from.

If there are any teachers or staff who are deemed to be so incompetent that they need to be replaced, qualified staff and administrators can be sought (if that’s the school’s decision), and funding be given to the school without having to actually close and reopen the building.

A school shouldn’t have to undergo a closure, only to reopen at some point with some possible staff replacements or other changes. Such an upheaval can be detrimental to the students attending the school and may cause an unnecessary disruption to the students’ education. Second-year students would be particularly hard hit since they’ve already gone through their first year at a new school having come from elementary school (a huge adjustment in itself), and while they may have adjusted by the end of their first year, with prospective changes at the school, the students would have to be subjected to a different sort of “newness” for the second year in a row.

In addition, closing schools and subsequently reopening them is no guarantee of success. Neither is a change of staff. Having a new staff will not guarantee a rise in test scores. If scores continue to remain low, will the replacement teachers be dismissed (the implication being that teachers may in part have been responsible for the low test scores)? This could turn out to be a game of musical schools whereby teachers may be sent elsewhere whenever test grades drop

(although it is my personal belief that test scores are not necessarily a direct reflection on the teacher, but rather on the ability of the individual student’s comprehension and grasp of the subject matter). Also, it can’t help matters that many classes are overcrowded, which doesn’t allow for extra individualized attention.

Struggling schools would do well to receive help BEFORE they’re arbitrarily slated for closure rather than wait until they’re closed and reopened, to eventually be scheduled to receive some assistance. This is an instance where an ounce of prevention might be worth a pound of cure.

Perhaps MS 80 can be “turned around” without an actual closure. There are some schools that have had success using peer mediation, which can be tried at 80 to help alleviate any student confrontations or gang activity. The student mediators can be overseen by a trained teacher or counselor. Also, students who are falling behind academically can receive tutoring during the school year to give them a fighting chance to raise their test scores.

As for undergoing a name change, this would in no way add to 80’s or any school’s improvement. It’s the last thing that should be considered, or better yet, not considered at all. Past graduates who have fond memories would prefer to remember 80 as “80,” not by a different name (or number).

It’s truly frustrating that parents and the surrounding community don’t have enough clout to make a difference or have a say in not allowing 80 to close.

Judy Noy is a Norwood resident.

“Real gentrification brings waves — not drops — of higher income newcomers, increasing demand for housing, driving up rents and real estate values, thereby decreasing affordability for working class residents and often leading to displacement.”

time black and Latino residents, including those with higher incomes. Keep in mind, however, that almost all of the population gains in the Bronx, including the south Bronx, are driven by huge gains in the Latino population, as new Latinos in the last decade outpaced new whites by a ratio of 35 to 1. This overall increase in the Bronx’s population would not have happened without new affordable housing projects popping up on remaining

and lost, while the housing stock, tenants and neighborhoods suffered the most. Outfits like Ocelot, Milbank, SG2 and many of the banks that financed them focused on the “upside potential” in local apartment buildings, hoping to displace low-rent-paying tenants and filling those units with newly arrived higher income earners. The *Times* does the Bronx a disservice by disregarding the possible link between their headlines and these conse-



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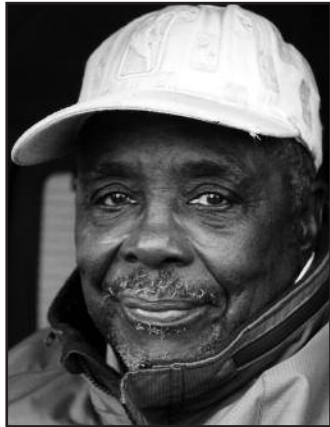
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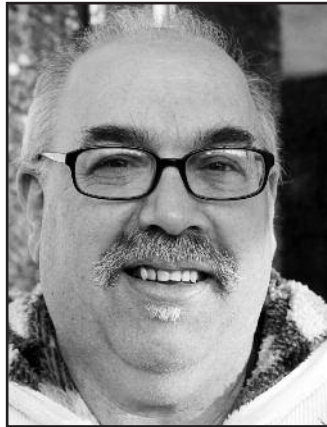
This week we asked readers for their predictions for the upcoming New York Yankees season, which starts Friday, April 6.



We're going to win our 28th World Series. Teixeira is going to hit 40 home runs, Granderson is going to hit 40 home runs, I'm not too sure about A-Rod. Jeter is going to retire, this will be his last season. Mariano will also retire. But it's going to be great. We're going to opening day.
Royston Rai



Mariano is going to retire. I'm concerned about that because we need him. Jeter's got a couple more years, if he stays healthy. I hope they do better this year and don't choke up at the end. We have a couple of good players, so I hope they make it to the pennant.
Urel Stewart



Hopefully everyone stays healthy, they'll have a great year and win the World Series again. Every year that Kentucky has won the NCAA and the incumbent president has been re-elected, the last three times, the Yankees have won the World Series. Kentucky is going to win the NCAA, Obama will get re-elected and probably, the Yankees will win the World Series.
Ron Katz



I think they're going to go all the way, but I don't have any clue who they're going to play. I've been a fan a long time, since I'm a kid, so of course I'd like to see them win.
Jimmy Lanzetta



I'm not a baseball fanatic, so I really don't know. I'm a New Yorker, so it would be pretty cool if they went to the World Series, but baseball is not my whole life. I'm more of a basketball fan, the New York Knicks. There's a lot more excitement going on at Madison Square Garden right now.
Ray Reyes

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State Budget Deal Met With Both Praise and Criticism

By JEANMARIE EVELLY

State lawmakers in Albany announced last week that they'd reached a \$132.6 billion budget deal with Gov. Andrew Cuomo, passing each of the 11 budget bills on Friday — a few days early, before the annual budget deadline of April 1.

The plan decreases overall state spending compared to last year, but increases funding for some agencies and projects that some local officials have hailed as a boost for New York City.

Council Speaker Christine Quinn praised the plan because it will increase money for city schools, fund improvement projects planned by the MTA, launch a program to keep the city's juvenile offenders in local custody and increase aid to CUNY community colleges, according to a statement.

"City taxpayers are winners today in Albany," Mayor Bloomberg echoed in a press release.

Bronx State Sen. Jose Serrano, who serves on the Senate Committee for Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation, said he was "thrilled" with the budget for funding the rehabilitation of state parks, and for an increase in funds to art organizations and museums compared to last year. "These proven economic engines will provide a worthwhile return on our state's investment," Serrano said.

Not everyone, however, was pleased with every aspect of the deal.

Bronx State Sen. Gustavo Rivera lauded certain provisions of the budget — like one bill that would restore funding to local organizations like the West Bronx Housing Resource Center and Fordham Bedford Housing — he voted "no" on three of the 11 bills, saying the overall plan "missed several opportunities to improve the lives of working families."

Though the budget restores \$770 million to the MTA for the capital plan projects, Rivera says it's not at a rate high enough to avoid yet another subway fare hike this year. And while Cuomo plans to invest millions in infrastructure projects to repair the state's bridges and roadways, it did not increase funding to the State's mass transit system.

Rivera also criticized Senate Republicans for failing to include the establishment of a state health care exchange, which Cuomo and the Assembly Democrats had been pushing for, and which is required by the federal health care overhaul. The exchange would allow uninsured New Yorkers to buy insurance at discounted rates.

"We have missed an opportunity to provide health care coverage to a million New Yorkers and bring the cost of health insurance down by 66 percent for those who have private health insurance," Rivera said.

State Sen. Ruben Diaz, Sr. slammed the budget process for failing to include the New York Dream Act, which would make undocumented students eligible for state

tuition assistance and other college scholarships.

"I do not understand why black and Hispanic legislators would vote in favor of and approve of something like that," Diaz said in a statement.



Photo by William Alatrisme, New York City Council
COUNCIL MEMBER Annabel Palma and others rally at City Hall against proposed budget cuts to the city's social services programs.

City Council Rallies for Budget Restorations

By JEANMARIE EVELLY

As the start of New York City's fiscal year approaches this summer, Mayor Bloomberg and the City Council have begun hammering out budget negotiations, and some elected officials say the plan proposed so far could mean devastating cuts for low-income New Yorkers.

Bloomberg released a \$68.7 billion preliminary budget proposal in February, which he boasted would close a \$2 billion budget gap without raising taxes. But Bronx City Council Member Annabel Palma, who represents Parkchester, Soundview, Castle Hill, and Classon Point, said his plan would slash the budgets for a number of agencies and programs that serve the city's neediest and most vulnerable.

Many cuts that were restored in last year's round of budget negotiations are again on the chopping block this year.

Palma, who heads the Council's General Welfare Committee, rallied last week on the steps of City Hall against the

reduction in funding for social services.

"Unfortunately, last year's budget included many one-year fixes and that's why we stand here today yet again to rally against those cuts that will directly and negatively impact the already-strained programs that many New Yorkers have come to rely on," Palma said.

The mayor's proposal would reduce funding for the city's Administration for Children's Services, cutting slots for child care and after-school programs, and laying off about 100 Child Protective staff positions. Funding for case managers and supportive housing for residents living with HIV/AIDS could be cut by several million dollars, as would the budget of the Department of Homeless Services, which runs the city's shelter system.

"We cannot continue to balance the budget by slashing social services and I hope that this is the year that the Administration will work with the Council to find long-term solutions that will allow our City to continue to provide a robust social safety net," Palma said.

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Lady Mustangs Repeat as National Champions

By ALEX KRATZ



Photo by Ching Zedrick

THE MONROE COLLEGE Lady Mustangs celebrate after repeating as NJCAA Division II champions with a victory over Lake Michigan on Saturday.

Monroe Men Finish 5th Nationally

The Monroe College men's team fell short in its quest to keep pace with their female counterparts and win a national championship. But the Mustangs finished with an impressive 79-50 win over Columbia State, good for fifth place.

"Our great sophomores have concluded their careers

with a 64-9 overall record and a 6-2 record in the national tournament," Coach Jeff Brustad said. "You can't do much better than that. Though we came here to win four games and we only won three, after a little bit of time passes and they move on to bigger and better things, I'm sure they will realize how special it was for them to be Monroe Mustangs."

Despite a major roster overhaul and the loss of their starting point guard on the eve of the season's biggest tournament, the Monroe College Lady Mustangs basketball team repeated as National Junior College Athletic Association Division II national champions with a 78-73 victory over Lake Michigan in Peoria, Ill.

In the title game two weeks ago, Alvah Parham, the only Lady Mustang returning from last year's championship team, hit two clutch free throws to put Monroe in the lead for good after Lake Michigan had stormed back from an 18-point second half deficit to take a 71-70 lead with 2:24 left in the game.

Parham finished with 22 points and six rebounds and Jasmine McRoy contributed 21 points and six rebounds. But it was Kashay Barnes who stole the show, and tournament MVP honors, after dropping 26 points and eight assists on Lake Michigan.

After losing in the Regional Final, Monroe came into the tournament seeded ninth and a long-shot to repeat last year's title run. With a completely new roster (aside from Parham) and significant injuries that led to an uneven season, the Lady Mustangs were forced to dig deep this post-season. But Coach James Robinson, Jr. credited the team's belief in itself.

"We had many things happen to us this year that might have made some people think we couldn't do this," said Robinson, Jr., who was awarded coach of the tournament, receiving his award from its namesake, Lorene Ramsey, a women's basketball coaching legend. "Maybe most significant was when our point guard tore her ACL [a knee ligament] right before the Nationals. But this championship is about the power of belief, belief in yourself and belief in your teammates. Our players worked as hard as they could to make this happen and they deserve this title and all the accolades they get."

Activists Say Do Right or You Can't Have Our Armory

(continued from p. 1)

They also talked about what they don't want: big box retail such as a Walmart or other businesses that would compete with existing local merchants.

Several development groups have expressed interest in taking over the Armory during the past year, including two that have openly lobbied for the site in front of local elected officials and Community Board 7, which includes the Armory.

The group considered the front-runner is billing itself as the Kingsbridge National Ice Center and is made up of a several private investors, including ex-New York Rangers star Mark Messier and figure skater Sarah Hughes.

The group, which met with Board 7 members last month, says it will not need public subsidies to complete their Armory project, which will include a 5,000-seat arena and seven or eight additional skating rinks.

Councilman Fernando Cabrera, whose district includes the Armory, has said the project could become "the Yankee Stadium of the ice world."

The other group being vocal about its interest in the Armory is a partnership between the National Cycling Association and the New York Gauchos youth basketball program calling itself The Armory Sports and Entertainment.

Their plan would be built around a velodrome for bike racing and includes a 5,000-seat sports arena, professional bas-



Photo by Adi Talwar

IN FRONT OF the Kingsbridge Armory, more than 200 activists rally for responsible redevelopment that benefits the community.

ketball courts, rock climbing walls, a skate park, a "hostel-style" hotel for visiting sports teams, a sports medicine clinic and a wellness center.

It's unclear exactly how the group would finance the project, but it would most likely include some type of public assistance.

The New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC), a quasi-govern-

ment agency, is vetting proposals for the city, which owns the Armory. A spokesperson for the EDC said they have no plans to release information about submissions.

Just as it did four years ago when a previous request for proposals was issued, the EDC is expected to narrow the list to two or three finalists and then publically review them with community input.

In late 2009, the City Council killed the

winning proposal by Related Companies that would have turned the Armory into a retail mall. Although local elected officials like Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. and community groups like KARA have expressed their opposition to another retail mall proposal, Vornado Realty Trust, which operates 134 shopping centers nationwide, is expected to submit a proposal that would be based around retail.



Photo by David Greene

JUSTIN BRAVO, a social studies teacher at MS 244 in Kingsbridge, was killed after crashing his motorcycle on Mosholu Parkway in a tunnel that runs under Jerome Avenue.

Teacher Killed In Crash

(continued from p. 1)
who eventually abandoned and torched the stolen vehicle in Kingsbridge.
In mid-February, two men were critically injured when their car plowed into a pillar under the elevated subway on Jerome Avenue. The last NYPD update said they were both fighting for their

lives.
Also in February, taxi driver Kwame Antwi, 64, was headed for a pickup when he apparently had a heart attack and slammed into a pole at Jerome Avenue and East Gun Hill Road. He died a short time later. It's unclear whether he died from the heart attack or the crash.

Comments

Readers Respond to Tragedy

After the Norwood News reported on the motorcycle crash that killed MS 244 teacher Justin Bravo on Mosholu Parkway (see front page story) on our website, we received an overwhelming response from readers in our comments section. Here are a few examples.
"My most sincere condolences to Mr. Bravo's family. My son was in his home-room and social studies class. This is really sad. He was so great with the students, they really loved him."
—Evelyn Bautista

"I am happy that the Norwood News was able to talk about how wonderful a teacher Justin was. I was a friend of his and I never met a person who so genuinely cared and loved other people. The world needs more people like that and it hurts to know that he is no longer here. His job and students meant so much to

him and he felt it was his duty to help and inspire them in any way he could."
—Keisha
"Mr. Bravo was my teacher. Even though I am in 6th grade he still taught my class. Everyone in my school, everyone, was crying yesterday. We hope his family is okay and we pray."
—Zanii Moore

"I've lived in this neighborhood for 32 years and this particular spot under the overpass has always been known as dead man's curve. Cars rush in from either direction, not realizing how hard the curve is, and then have to slam on the brakes. I've had my share of people behind me flashing their lights at night and/or honking because they think I'm going too slowly, but I KNOW that is how this curve has to be negotiated. How sad. Also how frightening. I went north through that same curve not 5-10 minutes before this happened."
—Lesli Cutler

Saving MS 80's Spirit

By ALEX KRATZ and DESTINY DEJESUS

Since the Department of Education announced plans to close Middle School 80 at the beginning of March, a group of concerned parents and local activists have been attempting to advocate for keeping the spirit of the school, as well as its most valuable programs, intact.
The Friends of MS 80 has made the rounds of community meetings and staged a short-lived rally in front of the school on Tuesday afternoon in the run up to a DOE hearing at the school scheduled for Monday, April 16 at 6 p.m. inside the school auditorium. They want to change the name to MS 80/Isabel Rooney, which is its unofficial name already (JHS 80 is its official title), as well as some of its key programs, including its bilingual program and a program designed to prepare students for taking entry exams for specialized high schools such as Bronx High School of Science.
The DOE has designated MS 80, a 650-seat school on Mosholu Parkway that opened in 1924, for the federal "turn-around" program. The designation would allow the school to again receive extra state funding that was being withheld because the city and the United Federation of Teachers, have not been able to come to an agreement over teacher evaluations.
The Panel for Education Policy still needs to approve the re-organization, but the panel rarely rejects a DOE-recom-

mended plan. The hearing on April 16 is an opportunity for the school community to have their input heard before the next PEP meeting.
If the overhaul plan is approved, MS 80, and 26 other city public schools, will undergo a dramatic re-organization that will include replacing at least 50 percent of its current staff and undergoing a name change.
The DOE has already moved to replace Lovey Mazique-Rivera, MS 80's principal since 2004. A new acting principal, Lauren Reiss, was introduced two weeks ago.
Last week, the DOE took seven schools off the turnaround list, citing visits to the schools by Chancellor Dennis Walcott's leadership team. MS 80 remains on the list.
Cecilia Donovan, the head of the MS 80 Parents Association, said she still has not received a response from Walcott's office after sending him a letter opposing the school's closure three weeks ago.
After much hype, the rally on Tuesday fizzled, leaving several parents, teachers and members of media puzzled. Long-time Norwood resident Anthony Rivieccio, one of the chief organizers from Friends of MS 80, said he and a group of students abandoned the planned rally before its scheduled start when school officials told them to leave.
"We left promptly because administration did not want us there," said Rivieccio.

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The **Postgraduate Center for Mental Health** has applications available to persons with limited income for studio apartments located at **2950 Grand Concourse in the Bronx**. Income qualifications will be based on Federal Low Income Guidelines.

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Applications may also be picked up at:

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Neighborhood Notes

Bronx Job Fair

Bronx Assemblyman Nelson L. Castro will host a free job fair on Friday, April 13 at PS 33, The Timothy Dwight School at 2424 Jerome Ave. Bring your resume and be prepared to interview with many companies and programs. For more information, call Krystal Nieves at (718) 933-6909 or e-mail palmersk@assembly.state.ny.us.

Free Tax Prep Help

• LIFT-The Bronx, a non-profit organization serving the Bronx for the past 12 years, offers numerous services for those in need, including job searches, housing, childcare and healthcare services, and legal services. The new office at 2381 Belmont Ave., will host several tax prep events to assist low-income individuals and families. For more information or to sign up, call (718) 733-3897 or email Bronx@liftcommunities.org.

• The University Neighborhood Housing Program, is sponsoring free Federal and State Income Tax Assistance to low-income residents of the Bronx provided by IRS certified tax preparers at Refuge House, 2715 Bainbridge Ave. (near East 196th Street), by appointment only. Services are provided on Wednesdays, April 4 and 11, from 3 to 8 p.m.; and Saturday, April 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information or to RSVP, call (718) 933-2539.

• Free tax services are offered at the BronxWorks Morris Innovative Senior Center (ISC) at 80 E. 181st St. by the Food Bank of New York or Ariva at the Check-

Spring Bank building at 69 E. 167th St. The qualifying income cap is \$18,000 for individuals and \$50,000 for families. For more information on tax issues or other services, call (718) 933-5300 for ISC, and (718) 292-2983 for Ariva.

Youth Football Program

Registration for the 2012 Bronx Giants football program is taking place for kids ages 8 to 12 who are given the opportunity to learn the basics of football and cheerleading, as well as self discipline and determination. For more information or to register, call Coach Thomas at (646) 400-8121.

MMCC Seeks Volunteers

The Mosholu Montefiore Community Center offers those ages 50+ a volunteer opportunity in a program called CATCH healthy habits. Volunteers will work with kids from grade K to 5 and will be coached to give kids the power to make healthy choices. For more information, contact Dara Matthews at dara@bronx-house.org or (718) 792-1800 ext. 239.

Tree Giveaways

Million Trees NYC offers several tree giveaways in the Bronx, including: April 7 from noon to 2 p.m. at River Garden, East 180th Street and Devoe Avenue; April 14, from 10 a.m. to noon, at Hunts Point Riverside Park, Lafayette Avenue (between Edgewater Road and Bronx River); April 28 from noon to 2 p.m. at 3075 Baisley Ave.;

May 5 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 1071 E. Tremont Ave.; and May 12 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Broadway and Mosholu Avenue. Trees are limited; reserve a tree online at www.nyrp.org/bronxtrees. For more information, visit milliontreesnyc.org, or contact Michael Mitchell at mmitchell@nyrp.org or (212) 333-2552.

Help for Troubled Adolescents

The Power Project, located at 3464 Webster Ave., deals with emotionally disturbed adolescents between the ages of 12 and 18 who are abusing substances. Sessions are ongoing, Mondays through Fridays, 4 to 6:15 p.m. For more information, call (718) 515-7970 ext. 3010.

New York Cares Day

New York Cares seeks 5,000 volunteers to improve 12 green spaces in the Bronx on April 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Teams can register until April 6 and individuals can register until April 20. For more information, contact Eileen Sullivan at (212) 843-8016 or esullivan@rubenstein.com, or visit www.newyorkcares.org.

Fun Day at Bronx Museum

The Bronx Museum will host an afternoon filled with art and food making activities inspired by the exhibition, Juan Downey: The Invisible Architect, Saturday, April 7 from 1 to 4 p.m. in the BxMA North and South wings located at

1040 Grand Concourse at 165th Street. Admission is free for children ages 12 and under with their parents or guardians. For more information or to register, call (718) 681-6000 ext 127.

Fresh Food From Norwood Food Co-op

Consumers interested in fresh, organic vegetables and community-supported agriculture, can join the Norwood Food Co-op and receive wholesome, delicious food every week from June through November. Choose shares of organic vegetables and fruits, plus options for milk, eggs, cheese, and yogurt for less than green market prices and in exchange for a few hours' work with other co-op members during the season. Share prices vary according to family size. Registration deadline is May 1. For more information or to register, go to www.norwoodfoodcoop.org.

Bronx Mentors Sought

The Abbot House, a multi-faceted agency that serves families and youth in the Bronx and NYC, is looking for mentors in the Bronx area. If you are looking to make a positive impact on a child's life, call mentoring coordinator at (718) 329-4968 ext. 3454.

For more Neighborhood Notes online, go to www.norwoodnews.org.



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Fee: \$85/8 Sessions

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Fee: \$85/8 Sessions

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Fee: \$30/5 Sessions

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Saturdays, 11:00am-12:00pm
Fee: \$90/8 Sessions

Kickboxing
Saturdays, 3:30pm-4:30pm
Fee: \$85/8 Sessions

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Classifieds

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Classifieds: \$9 for the first 20 words and 25 cents for each additional word.
Professional Directory: \$144 for six months; \$260 for one year. **Business Cards:** \$360 for six months (12 issues); \$625 for one year (25 issues). **Deadlines:** Deadlines for classified ads are one week prior to publication. To place an ad, call the *Norwood News* at (718) 324-4998 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

HELP WANTED

Personal Assistant Needed: We are looking for an office assistant. Duties include greeting clients, answering phones, and routing mail, data entry and retrieve, scheduling and calendar maintenance. Ideal candidates will have proven customer service skills in an administrative setting and experience with Microsoft Office applications. If interested, email resumes to smith.williams885@gmail.com.

Experienced, Part-time Financial Manager & Bookkeeper: Sought by NW Bronx, neighborhood-based media arts and school skills program for teens. 10-12 hours a month, BA and not-for-profit experience required, salary DOE. Fax resume (including phone number) to (718) 882-2454 or e-mail baylalyne@earthlink.net.

Part-Time Position: A great opportunity has come. I hereby introduce a part-time payment collection representative position to you. It will take little time; it pays any amount, such as \$2800.00 in a month, plus benefits. Please send email to gynde112@gmail.com.

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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.

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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) 367-4040. Prayer Wednesdays at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. and Sunday Service at 11 a.m.

The Bedford Park Congregational Church, located at 201st Street and

Bainbridge Avenue, invites you to join us for our Easter Services: April 5, 2012 Maundy Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; April 6, 2012 Good Friday, 12 noon; April 8, 2012 Easter Worship, 11 a.m. For further information, please call Reverend Dr. Christopher Ponnuraj (718) 367-8996. All are welcome.

MISCELLANEOUS

Worship Space Available: At the Bedford

Park Congregational Church, corner 201st Street and Bainbridge Avenue. Please call Reverend Dr. Christopher Ponnuraj at (718) 367-8996.

Cash Paid: For antiques, old items, collectibles, artwork, jewelry, books, records, coins, stamps, sports cards, bric-a-brac. Moving sales, estates, contents of homes. (718) 882-0598 (home), or (347) 734-9261 (cell).

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Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

Onstage

■ Casita Maria, 928 Simpson St., will host **Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana**, featuring performances, dance and music workshops, and post-performance discussions, free, April 14 at 2 p.m. For more information, call (718) 589-2230 ext. 6055.

■ The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **Gilberto Santa Rosa**, salsa artist, April 14 at 8 p.m. (tickets are \$45 to \$85). For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

■ The Bronx Arts Ensemble presents **Ferdinand the Bull**, popular children's story about a bull that prefers to smell flowers, April 15 at 1 and 3 p.m., at the New York Botanical Garden's Arthur and Janet Ross Lecture Hall (free with All Garden Pass). For more information, call (718) 601-7399.

Events

■ JASA Van Cortlandt Senior Center, 3880 Sedgwick

Ave., presents the following events: **A Taste of Passover**, model seder, April 11 at 11:15 a.m. with pianist and singers, followed by lunch at 12:30 p.m. (\$3/seniors, \$4/non-senior guests; RSVP by April 6); **Holocaust Commemoration**, featuring illustrated presentation, April 19 preceded by lunch at 12:15 p.m. (lunch: \$2/seniors; \$2.50/non-senior guests; RSVP by April 17); and **Trips**: April 17 to South Street Seaport and April 20 to South Ferry. For more information, call (718) 549-4700.

■ The Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Ave., presents its **First Friday** on April 6 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 (165th Street), features **Baseball in the Bronx**, April 13 to May 13. The public is invited to meet Yankee great, Roy White on Friday, April 13 from 5 to 8 p.m. Admission and refreshments are free. The South Wing Galleries features **Juan Downey: The Invisible Architect**, on view through May 20. Admission is free on Fridays. For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

■ The Lehman College Art Gallery, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **Under the Influence: The Comics and Contemporary Art**, featuring works of both established and emerging artists; and **Michael Ferris, Jr.: The Bronx Series and Other Work**, (figurative sculpture), free, Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., through May 12. 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 **Tales for the Teeny Tiny at 11 a.m.** (ages 3 to 12), April 7 and 14; **Global Partners, Jr. at 4 p.m.** (ages 5 to 12), students connect worldwide via the Internet, April 11 and 18; **Science Demonstrations at 4 p.m.** (ages 5 to 12; registration required), April 10: Under Pressure, and April 14: Mad Science Machines; and **Ancient Greece: The Legend of Eros and Psyche** (ages 5 to 12), stage play, April 14 at 2 p.m. For teens and young adults, there is **Presenting You!**, April 10 at 3:30 p.m.; **Math Gaming - Chess and Tangrams**, April 12 at 4 p.m.; and **Interview for Success**, April 17 at 3:30 p.m. Adults can attend **Single Stop/Government Benefits at 9 a.m.**, April 5, 10, 12, 17 and 19; **Drawing From Experience**, a graphic memoir workshop series, April 5 at 10 a.m.; **Edgar Allan Poe at Fordham**, lecture/discussion, April 7 at 2:30 p.m.; **Effective Resume Writing: Part 2**, April 11 at 2 p.m.; **MoMA Presents American Artist**, lecture/slide show, April 14 at 2:30 p.m.; **Teaching Children About Money: Raise a Financially Savvy**



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Child, April 17 at 10 a.m.; **Free Introductory Computer Class at 10 a.m.**, April 11 and 18; and **A Mini Film Festival in Celebration of Immigrant History Week**, dual language films, April 19 starting at 11 a.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

■ The Mosholu Library, at 285 E. 205th St., offers **Knitting Circle**, Thursdays at 3 p.m.; **Wii Program**, Tuesdays at 3 p.m.; and **Fitness Fair** (ages 50+), free and low-cost activities, April 14 at noon; each for seniors and adults. Children can attend **Toddler Story Time at 10:30 a.m.**, April 5 and 19; **Gadgets and Gizmos: Hot Air Balloons** (ages 5 to 12), April 11 at 3 p.m.; and **Baby Lap Time** (ages to 18 months; registration required), April 17 at 11 a.m. For teens and young adults, there is **Knitting**, April 5 and 19 at 4 p.m. For immigrants, there is **English Conversation**, intermediate level, for immigrants (ages 16+), free, Tuesdays, April 17 through June 5 (registration required, April 10 at 6:30 p.m.). For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

■ The Jerome Park Library, at 118 Eames Place, offers **Cooking at 4 p.m.** (for teens and young adults), April 5, 12 and 19; **Computer Basics at noon** (for adults), April 5, 10, 12, 17 and 19; **Film**, April 9 at 4 p.m.; and **Mighty Action Racket Theatre Workshop**, April 10 at 4 p.m. (both for ages 5 to 12); **Chinese Ribbon Dance** (ages 3 to 12), April 17 at 4 p.m.; and **Toddler Story Time**, April 18 at 11 a.m. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

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NOTE: Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org, and should be received by April 9 for the next publication date of April 19.



Photo by Joshua Bright

BIRD WATCHERS take in the action at Wave Hill.



EDITOR'S PICK

Tour Wave Hill

The public is invited to tours at Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, Tuesdays and Saturdays through Aug. 18. Tours and grounds admission are free on Tuesdays, and tours are free with admission to grounds on Saturdays. Meet at Glyndor Gallery at 2 p.m. for gallery tour and meet at Perkins Visitor Center at 11 a.m. for Garden and Conservatory walk (Sunday, April 15, will also feature a Garden walk at 2 p.m. from Perkins Visitor Center; free with grounds admission; as well as "Meet the Artist" at 1:30 p.m. at the Glyndor Gallery). Additional tours take place on Thursdays, April 12 and May 10, for a "Walk on the Wild Side" at 2 p.m. (meet at Perkins Visitor Center). For more information, call (718) 549-3200.

HULL AVENUE APARTMENTS

The **Postgraduate Center for Mental Health** has applications available to persons with limited income for **studio and 2-bedroom apartments** located at **3525 Hull Avenue in the Bronx**. Income qualifications will be based on Federal Low Income Guidelines.

Household Size	Income Limit	Maximum Rent
1 person	\$34,860	\$871.00
2 person	\$39,840	\$1,120.00

Interested persons may obtain an application by writing to:

Property Management Department
c/o PCMH
158 East 35th Street
New York, NY 10016

Applications may also be picked up at:

3525 Hull Avenue
Bronx, NY 10467
Monday to Friday
10 AM to 4 PM.

Completed applications must be sent by **REGULAR** mail (NOT registered or certified mail) to the address indicated with the applications must be received by **Friday, May 11th, 2012**. Applications received after the deadline will not be processed.

Call **212-889-5500 x204** with questions.



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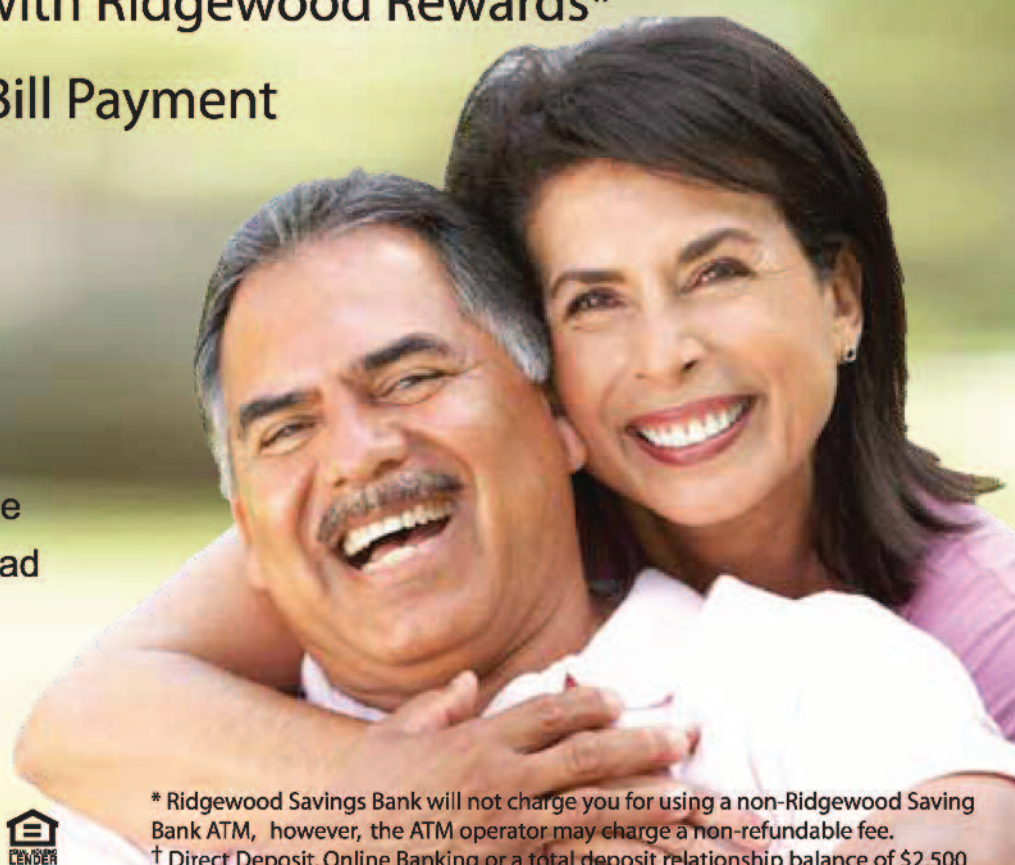
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