

# NORWOOD NEWS

Vol. 25, No. 18 ■ PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION ■ September 20–October 3, 2012

**Board of Health  
Votes to Limit  
Soda Sizes**  
page 12

## Naomi Rivera Defeated Soundly in Assembly Primary

By ALEX KRATZ



Photo by Alex Kratz

**IN FRONT OF** Borough Hall, Mark Gjonaj exhorts a crowd of Tracey Towers residents who he helped fight a rent increase during the weeks leading up to his primary victory.

In a stunning and convincing primary day upset last Thursday, Bronx Assemblywoman Naomi Rivera was ousted by a rookie, Mark Gjonaj, who outspent, outmaneuvered and outhustled his politically-insulated but scandal-stricken opponent.

Though Rivera held the advantage of incumbency in a largely Hispanic 80th Assembly District, that includes parts of Norwood, Bedford Park, Allerton, Morris Park and Pelham Gardens, Gjonaj (pronounced Joen-eye) spared no expense and took advantage of every opportunity to defeat Rivera soundly in a four-way race.

According to unofficial results released by the Board of Elections, Gjonaj won with 51.69 percent of the vote (2,407 total) compared to Rivera's 40.69 percent (1,894). The other two candidates — Adam Bermudez (222) and Irene Estrada-Rukaj (134) — split the remaining votes.

Despite strong support for Rivera from the Bronx Democratic County Committee, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. and several labor unions, everything seemed to be going Gjonaj's way in the weeks leading up to the Sept. 13 primary, which was held on Thursday so it wouldn't coincide with Sept. 11.

The two candidates appeared together outside of the 869-unit Tracey Towers on Mosholu Parkway in early August for a rally against an enormous rent hike. Rivera, who showed up 45 minutes late, vowed to fight the rent hike and made sure to point at Gjonaj when she talked about unscrupulous and greedy landlords. (Gjonaj has strong ties to the real estate industry, but he is not a landlord. He owns a real estate brokerage firm in Morris Park and his family owns property and buildings in the Bronx.)

But after setting up a conference call with other city officials, which didn't amount to anything, Tracey residents said they heard nothing from Rivera.

Meanwhile, "Mark came through for us at the eleventh hour," said Jean Hill, Tracey's tenants association president.

Gjonaj hired a lawyer who filed an injunction against the rent hike at the end of August, just days before a 16 percent rent increase was to go into effect. Though tenants are still waiting on a ruling or a compromise, the injunction held through the primary.

The act helped depict Gjonaj as a champion of tenants and swayed a large voting bloc into his corner. It also fed into his narrative of Rivera as a lazy incumbent.

(continued on p. 7)

## Groups Rally Around Armory Principles, Not Content

By LAUREN DUCA

For an area and a borough so notoriously plagued by unemployment and poverty, it seems obvious the Bronx's long-vacant Kingsbridge Armory ought to be filled with jobs, opportunities and the promise of economic growth. The



Photo by Paul Duca

**DURING ONE** of many religious speeches on behalf of the NWBCCC, residents are encouraged to raise up their hands and pray for the redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory.

question, however, is not whether the Armory ought to be filled, but what should fill it.

The Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition, a grassroots group that is the beating heart of the Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Alliance (KARA), recently hosted a candlelit vigil and press conference, hoping to ensure a positive outcome for the major changes about to take place in their neighborhood.

As NWBCCC President Alice McIntosh reiterated several times during the rally, their goal was to make sure that "their voice is at the table."

Yet, even toward the end of the rally, it was unclear exactly what this meant.

The figurative table made many appearances throughout the evening. Attendees echoed goals voiced by leaders, asserting they want "living wage jobs" (\$10 an hour plus benefits or \$11.50 an hour without benefits) and "community space," but no one provided a clear view for how to incorporate these goals into the plan.

(continued on p. 14)

## THE SCIENCE OF SOCCER



Photo by Adi Talwar

**LAST FRIDAY** afternoon, Sept. 14, the Bronx High School of Science girls soccer team cruised to a 3-0 victory behind the play of Lydia Weiner (pictured left) and Miami Rahaman (not pictured) who scored two goals. For more fall sports action, check out our Bronx Sports Report on [norwoodnews.org](http://norwoodnews.org).



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# In The Public Interest

## Details on Rift Emerge Before Board Votes to Save District Manager

There was one item on the agenda for Tuesday night's Community Board 7's monthly general board meeting at the Bronx Library Center: a public vote on whether the board's district manager, Fernando Tirado, should remain in his post.

During the last general meeting in June before the summer break, a motion was brought to the floor for Tirado's removal. At the end of the meeting, board members held a closed-door session and voted 13 to seven (with eight abstentions) in favor of removing Tirado. But because of City Charter regulations that say personnel decisions must be voted on in public, the vote didn't count.

On Tuesday, the board got a do-over and voted to keep Tirado. Of the 28 members in attendance, 15 voted against the motion to dismiss him, 10 voted for it and three abstained.

At the time of the first vote, Board Chairman Paul Foster was vague about the reasons behind the motion calling for Tirado's ouster, basically saying things weren't working out and that several board members felt Tirado wasn't being responsive to their needs. District managers are employees of the boards they serve and can be removed from their position for almost any reason.

But two letters obtained by the Norwood News, one from Foster outlining some of the problems and another sent by Tirado in response, begin to shed light on the rift between Community Board 7 and its district manager.

In a letter dated July 2, a couple of weeks after the first closed-door vote, Foster sent Tirado a letter enumerating seven ways that Tirado had "failed" the board, including:

- going to the borough president's office (which oversees community board affairs) without first consulting Foster and accusing a board member of a racial slur;

- talking to the media without consent from board leadership (Tirado spoke to *Crain's* about the killing of the Kingsbridge Armory mall project in a way that Foster says damaged the board's relationship with the borough president's office);

- not following up on a \$15,000 grant that was never used by the board;

- not responding or following up on requests by committee chairs, including sending out letters, calling city agencies and setting up meetings;

- not following up on a request by Foster to have a police escort during the funeral of former board member Ozzie Brown;

- not engaging with the head football coach at DeWitt Clinton High School in a "friendly supporting manner" after the board allocated money to Clinton's football and female track teams;

- and failing to inform board members in a "timely fashion" of meetings with outside groups about the Kingsbridge Armory.

The letter ends with some harsh words, saying Tirado needed to take immediate action to "correct these issues as soon as possible" and that he would be

subject to "suspension or dismissal" from his job if he didn't respond adequately. It also said this letter wouldn't "supersede or negate" any action taken by the board.

In August, board leaders were supposed to meet with Tirado to discuss these issues. Whatever happened at that meeting, the vote is still on the table.

Two weeks ago, Tirado sent an extensive and itemized response detailing why Foster's complaints are unwarranted and to show that the move to dismiss him is "not based on my work performance."

In the letter, Tirado says that more than a year ago, in August 2011, he was alerted by "board members, residents and a Bronx district manager regarding my imminent dismissal from my position." When he talked to the borough president's office and Foster was alerted, Tirado said he was labeled insubordinate. Then, in April of this year, Tirado says he felt it would be "irresponsible" not to report to the borough president's office on the alleged racial slur from a board member during a budget meeting, which he considered "highly offensive."

Tirado said he was allowed to speak to the media on a case-by-case basis until the *Crain's* article was published and that he hasn't spoken to the media since.

Tirado blamed the loss of the \$15,000 grant from Councilman Fernando Cabrera on Foster, saying he came up with a contract proposal with "specific deliverables," which was approved last May. But Foster, Parks Committee Chair William Francis, and "several board members insisted that I find a way to 'roll over' the funding." Tirado says he warned them that it couldn't be done and attempted to make it happen, but ultimately, the funding was lost.

He says the complaints from the committee chairs aren't valid and that he has never posted a committee meeting announcement less than 30 days before a meeting.

As for his failure to engage the Clinton coach in "friendly, supporting" manner, Tirado said he did his best trying to work around city regulations with regards to transferring funds for athletic equipment and that, in the end, it got done. He called the accusation "false."

The accusation that Tirado failed to inform the board in a timely manner about events at the Armory also rings hollow, he said in the letter. He admits a week went by between when he first heard about an event possibly being held at the Armory on Feb. 11 and when he told the board about it, which he claimed was still four days before the event was scheduled to take place.

Tirado explained that he was at a loss as to how he could rectify the situation or change his behavior since these were all specific incidents at which he felt he acted appropriately during and after. He said he wanted to "let it also be known" that he had not violated any board rules, by-laws, the City Charter or "any other agency governing the Board."

In a brief interview before the vote, Foster said he was eager to move on, whatever the board decides. "We don't want anyone to lose their job, but we need to figure out how to make this work," he said. "It would be the same for anybody whose name continues to pop up."

In the end, it sounds like Foster is ready to move on, regardless of the outcome tonight. "I have bigger fish to fry," he said. "We have the [redevelopment of the Kingsbridge] Armory coming up."

—ALEX KRATZ

## Public and Community Meetings

- **The CROTON FACILITIES MONITORING COMMITTEE meets at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 20 at 3660 Jerome Ave. For more information, call (718) 231-8470.**
- **NYC Votes! is holding a VOTER REGISTRATION JAM at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 25 at Lehman College's Quad Field, 250 Bedford Park Blvd., w. The event, aimed at getting young people registered to vote, will be hosted by DJs from Hot 97. For more information, visit [www.nyccfb.info/nycvotes](http://www.nyccfb.info/nycvotes).**
- **The 52ND PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL will meet on Thursday, Sept. 27, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Cosmopolitan AME Church, 39 W. 190th St. For more information, call (718) 220-5824.**
- **COMMUNITY BOARD 7 committee meetings will be held on the following dates at the board office, 229A E. 204th St. at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted: Education/Libraries, Monday, Sept. 24; and Public Safety, Friday, Sept. 28 (St. James Park Rec Center, on Jerome Avenue between Kingsbridge and Fordham roads).**
- **COMMUNITY BOARD 7 is holding a community input meeting regarding the potential redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory on Thursday, Oct. 11, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Monroe College's King Hall Auditorium, 2501 Jerome Ave. For more information, call (718) 933-5650, email [info@bronxcb7.info](mailto:info@bronxcb7.info) or visit [www.bronxcb7.info](http://www.bronxcb7.info).**



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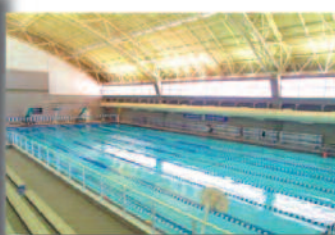


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# Police Report

## Thieves Striking Throughout 52nd Precinct

By ALEX KRATZ

In the span of two days, the Police Department sent out three notices asking for the public's help in identifying and locating suspects in three separate cases of thievery, each with its own special circumstances.

### Bedford Park Cell Phone Bandit

Since Aug. 27, police say one young man has robbed seven women, between the ages of 16 and 52, of their cell phones in Bedford Park.

The suspect is being described by police as black, between 20 and 25 years old, between 5 feet 10 inches and 6 feet 2 inches tall and weighs between 130 and 160 pounds.

In each case, the robber followed the victims into their apartment building, grabbed them from behind and forcibly removed their property, usually their cell phone. The victims were described as being Hispanic or black.

The robber last struck on Thursday, Sept. 13. Police did not provide specific locations where the robberies occurred.

**Editor's Note:** Video of the suspect is available online at [norwoodnews.org](http://norwoodnews.org), search "crime."

### Burglary in Bedford Park

At about 8 a.m. on Aug. 20, 2012, in a

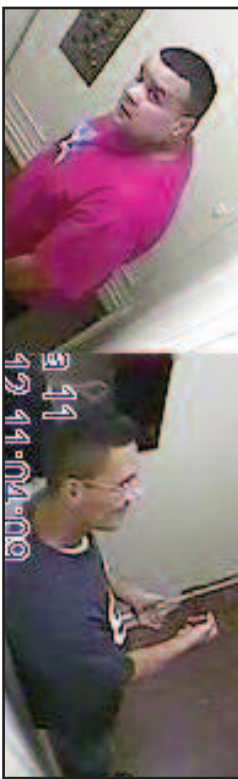
building near the corner of Valentine Avenue and East 201st Street, police say two Hispanic men entered an apartment and removed a computer and jewelry before fleeing.

Police say the men are wanted for burglary. One is described as being 5 feet 8 inches tall, 220 to 260 pounds with a Caesar haircut, and a tattoo on the left side of his neck and left forearm.

The other suspect is described as being 5 feet 6 inches tall and between 120 and 140 pounds with short hair. (See photo)

### Kingsbridge Jewelry Thief

A young woman walked into Kings Jewelry store, 55 E. Kingsbridge Rd. on the afternoon of Aug. 16 and asked to look at a gold chain. When the clerk allowed another customer to enter, the young



woman fled westbound East Kingsbridge Road toward Jerome Avenue with the chain.

Police, who caught the suspect on video, say no one was hurt in the incident.

The thief is being described as being 5 feet 3 inches tall, between 20 and 30 years of age and wearing blue jean shorts, a brown T-shirt and a baseball cap.

**Editor's Note:** Video of this suspect is available online at [www.norwoodnews.org](http://www.norwoodnews.org), search "crime."

### 2nd Murder in the Five-Two in 2012

Police say 39-year-old Raphael Quashie was shot in the torso on the corner of East 197th Street and Bainbridge Avenue just before midnight on Aug. 21. Emergency workers pronounced him dead at the scene.

It was the second murder of 2012 within the 52nd Precinct, which includes the entire *Norwood News* coverage area.

Police say no arrests have been made and that the investigation is ongoing.

### Young Woman Killed Crossing Concourse

A young deaf woman was tragically struck and killed as she crossed the busy Grand Concourse as she was sending a

text message.

Witnesses and acquaintances said the 29-year-old mother, only known by her first name, Melanie, was crossing the Grand Concourse at East 198th Street at about 10:30 p.m., on Friday, Aug. 31, when she was struck and killed by a livery taxi.

"The light was green but the girl was deaf so she couldn't talk or hear and she was texting on her phone," said one witness who declined to be identified. "The cab driver was honking his horn but she was deaf and didn't realize it and he hit her head on. The car was totaled."

Neighbors say Melanie was from Long Island and had moved into 2860 Grand Concourse about a year ago. They also say that the young woman suffered severe head trauma and she died the following morning.

Grieving friends setting up a memorial for her outside her building said she left behind a 6-year-old daughter.

"She was well known and well liked by everyone in the neighborhood," said a friend who declined to be identified. "Everyone was in a state of shock."

NYPD officials said they had no record of the incident so an official request would have to be made before the information could be obtained by Highway One, which investigates all fatal crashes.

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# Cancer Couldn't Keep Underdog From Campaign Trail

By ALEX KRATZ

Out of all of the Bronx primary races, Ricardo Martinez may have been the biggest underdog — for a number of reasons.

The longtime Bedford Park resident was running for office in the 78th Assembly District (Bedford Park, Fordham, Crotona) against a living legend in Jose Rivera, the well-known paterfamilias of a Bronx political dynasty. He had no campaign money to speak of. And he's battling bone cancer.

None of that was sapping the enthusiasm from the man everyone knows as "Ricky."

Last Thursday, Martinez lost to Rivera, but still managed to reel in almost a quarter of the votes — 22.12 percent (434 total votes) versus Rivera's 77.88 percent (1,528) — and fought hard, despite his disease, up until the final bell on primary night.

Despite the cancer treatments, which have dropped his weight from 385 to 194 pounds over the past two years, Martinez said he spent the weeks leading up to the primary gamely knocking on doors, shaking hands at subway stops and building support among constituencies, like the growing Muslim population in the district, that he believes have been underserved by the incumbent.

"It's time for the old man to go," Martinez liked to say.

In July, Martinez thought he might have knocked Rivera, 75, off the ballot. He filed a complaint with the Board of Elec-



**WHILE BATTLING CANCER**, Ricardo "Ricky" Martinez also took on an entrenched incumbent.

tions, saying Rivera had committed fraud by putting Martinez's name on his own petitions after he explicitly told him not to.

While the motion failed to knock Rivera out of the race, it did allow Martinez to stay on the ballot — no small feat considering how many challengers' petitions are thrown out for technicalities. Martinez says he filed nearly 4,000 signatures, all of which he gathered on his own.

In addition to wanting to see Rivera toppled, Martinez says he wants to show that having a disease like cancer doesn't preclude someone from chasing their dreams and living a productive life. (Martinez has taken a leave of absence from his job working for the United Nations as liaison to diplomats, although he said he did recently do some work when the ambassador for Malaysia came into

town.)

And if the pain were to become too much or his abilities impaired too drastically? "When I can't do the job, I'll step down," Martinez said.

Martinez's platform was all about helping his neighbors. He wants to put speed bumps on Mosholu Parkway. He wants schools to stay open until 6 p.m. to keep kids from running the streets. He wants to give out laptops to Bronx students. Like the borough president, he says a hotel should be built in the borough and all the jobs should go to Bronxites.

Martinez has worked for global organization, the UN, for 17 years, but his home life has centered around the communities of Norwood and Bedford Park after growing up in the South Bronx. For a while, he lived on Rochambeau Avenue in Norwood, but has spent most of his adult life on the south side of Mosholu Parkway. He's a regular at Bedford Mosholu Community Association meetings and often shows up at Community Board 7 and 52nd Precinct Community Council meetings.

In late August, Martinez hosted a block party and barbecue on 204th Street and Mosholu Parkway. It's an annual affair that is tinged with politics. He says some 3,000 people showed up. Rivera, whose daughter recently died of ALS (otherwise known as Lou Gehrig's Disease), did not attend.

Although Martinez was calling for his head, Rivera said he felt bad when he recently went to hug his opponent and

felt his diminished physique.

"I like the guy," Rivera said. "But he's very sick."

## Local Primary Election Results

### 78th Assembly District (Fordham, Bedford Park, Crotona)

Jose Rivera, 1,528 total votes (77.88%)

Ricky Martinez, 434 (22.12%)

### 80th Assembly District (Norwood, Bedford Park, Morris Park)

Mark Gjonaj, 2,407 (51.69%)

Naomi Rivera, 1,894 (40.67%)

Adam R. Bermudez, 222 (4.77%)

Irene Estrada-Rukaj, 134 (2.88%)

### 86th Assembly District (University Heights, Morris Heights)

Nelson L. Castro 2,193 (84.28%)

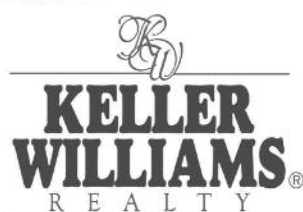
Richard Sotom 409 (15.72%)

### 33rd Senate District (Fordham, Kingsbridge University Heights)

Manuel R. Tavarez, 1,872 (30.02%)

J. Gustavo Rivera, 4,364 (69.98%)

**Editor's Note:** *These results are unofficial and have not been certified by the Board of Elections. The general election is Tuesday, Nov. 6.*



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#### Grand Concourse

**Quaint one BDRM** in a well maintained building offers plenty of closet space, a roomy layout, freshly painted walls, an updated kitchen and hardwood flooring. Easy access to the Bronx Zoo and Botanical Gardens as well as the 4 & D trains and Express Bus into Manhattan. Priced for a quick sale, see it today. **\$120,000**

#### Fordham

This great value is a must see in the heart of the Fordham Road shopping district. A spacious 2 bedroom unit ideal for first time buyers with a master bedroom and its own private 1/2 bath. Freshly painted walls, hardwood floors, and is conveniently located next to mass transit. Parking and laundry



facilities. Don't miss out, see it today! **119,000**

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#### Yonkers

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##### Charming 1 BDRM

is magnificent with bright sunny exposure and breath taking views of the Hudson River. Building offers a resident super, laundry facilities and parking. Recent updates include hardwood flooring, ceramic tiling in the bathroom and modern sink and fixtures; kitchen provides spacious cabinetry and stainless steel sink. 5 minute walk to the Metro North Ludlow station and 25 minute ride to Grand Central. Don't wait too long this one will be gone soon! **115,000**



#### Rental

**Large 1 BDRM**, apt with eat-in kitchen and hardwood floors, river views, conveniently located near New York City with parking! **\$1,150/month**



# Naomi Rivera Defeated Soundly in Assembly Primary

(continued from p. 1)

bent who doesn't show up for work. (Her attendance record is consistently in the bottom quarter of assembly members.)

That alone might have made the race close. But Gjonaj also benefited from a constant stream of negative and scandalous articles attacking Rivera in the *New York Post*.

Soon after their run-in at Tracey, the *Post* linked Rivera to a Facebook page where the assemblywoman posted photos of herself being intimate with a Brooklyn gym teacher who she had hired in 2010 to be an extremely well-paid (\$54 an hour) part-time community liaison for her office.

The next week, the *Post* ran a front page story reporting that she had hired an earlier boyfriend, Vincent Pinela, to work at the Bronx Council for Economic Development, a nonprofit organization that she funneled hundreds of thousands of dollars to over the past several years. Pinela, a former personal trainer, said she hired him even though he wasn't qualified and then gave him a big salary increase and directed him to pay for personal dinners and campaign expenses on the nonprofit's dime.

Rivera denied the accusations at first and then stubbornly refused to offer a more in-depth explanation to ward off the allegations. She avoided the media altogether. Soon, several authorities confirmed they were investigating the four-term assemblywoman and fliers highlighting the *Post's* headlines began showing up in the mailboxes of district voters.



Photo by Alex Kratz

**MARK GJONAJ** at work at his campaign headquarters in Morris Park.

In the days leading up to the primary, district voters were bombarded by mailings from both sides, some semi-positive fliers that were stamped as approved by the candidates. The others — like the one with the *Post* headlines and another depicting Gjonaj as a sort of Eastern European gangster/landlord — came from anonymous sources.

In the past, Rivera had held off token opponents with little funding. Gjonaj raised \$226,893 and spent \$193,826.49 to defeat her. It paid for the mailers, his two campaign offices (one in Morris Park and one in Norwood on Bainbridge Avenue), advertisements, an expensive public relations firm, the Advance Group, and an army of his yellow T-

shirt wearing Gjonaj CARES cleanup crew.

But he also outworked her on the campaign trail. Gjonaj said he was banging out 14- to 16-hour days, hitting the streets and talking to voters.

"I literally walked a hole in one of my shoes," he said at one point.

While Rivera was off hiding from the media, Gjonaj was knocking on doors, showing up at community meetings and engaging in a debate on BronxNet with the other candidates that Rivera refused to attend.

On the morning before his victory, in front of Bronx Borough Hall, Gjonaj helped several old ladies from Tracey get off a chartered bus he paid for. They were there for another hearing at Bronx Supreme Court. After inciting the crowd of more than 140 Tracey residents, he sucked down a quick cigarette and then joined the line to get through security at the courthouse.

Gjonaj, 47, a tall, thin man with dark hair slicked back to reveal a receding hairline, smiled as he flipped through his smart phone to show a reporter his endorsement by the *Daily News*. He was giddy talking about his humble beginnings — the son of immigrant Albanians who sold flowers on Pelham Parkway as a teenager, delivered pizza to get through college and started his own successful business.

He oozed confidence, knowing his opponent was on the ropes.

"I'm excited, I feel like we did everything we possibly could," he said.

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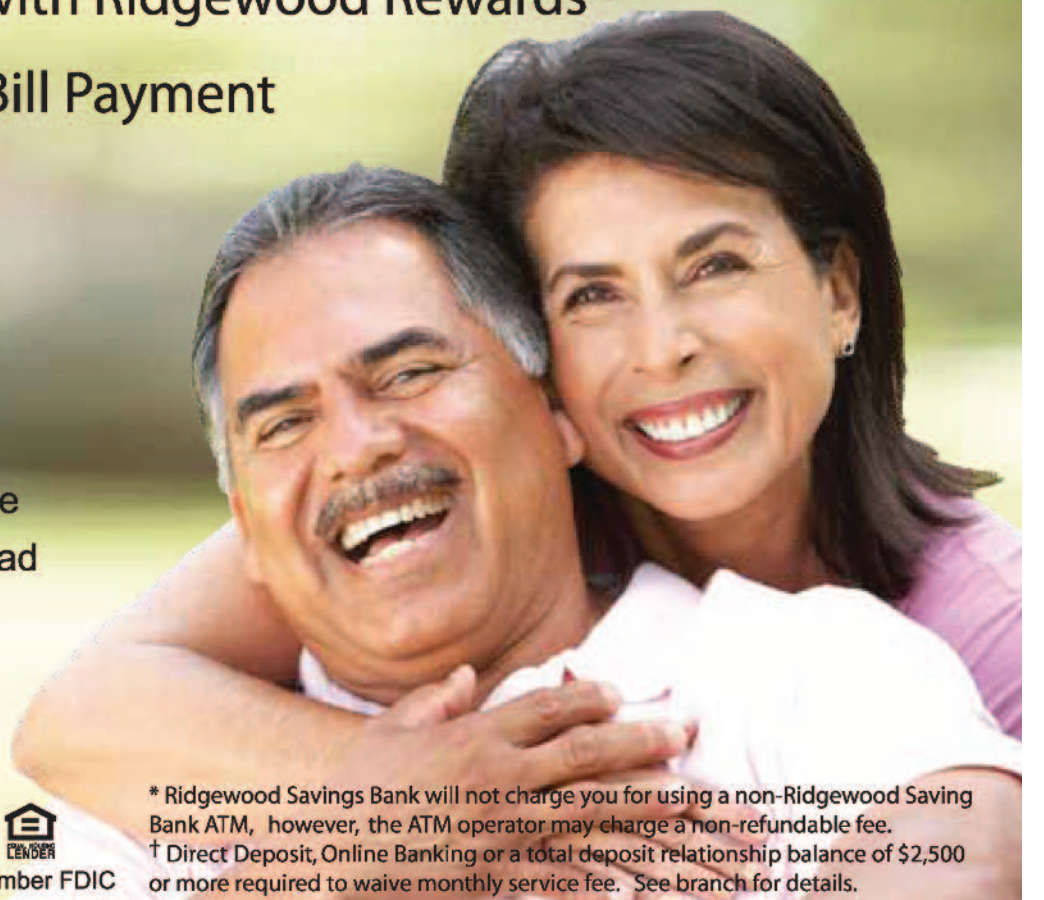
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# Neighborhood Notes

## Proposal Writing Basics Workshop

The Bronx Library Center and the Foundation Center present Proposal Writing Basics, a free workshop with an introduction to Finding Funders, Tuesday, Sept. 25, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd. Learn key components of writing a proposal to a foundation or corporation and get an introduction to the Foundation Center's research tools. Register on the 4th floor (required). For more information, call (718) 579-4257.

## Business/English Classes at Lehman

Lehman College's School of Continuing and Professional Studies, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., W., offers classes related to starting and improving your own small busi-

ness, starting Oct. 1, as well as English classes for immigrant business owners, starting Sept. 22. For more information or to register, call (718) 960-8512 or visit, [www.lehman.edu/ce](http://www.lehman.edu/ce).

## Job and Computer Training

Mercy Center, 377 E. 145th St., offers computer and job training classes, many of them specifically aimed at women. For more information, call (718) 993-2789 or visit [www.mercycenter.org](http://www.mercycenter.org).

## Friends of VC Park 20th Anniversary

The Friends of Van Cortlandt Park, an advocacy group dedicated to the conservation and improvement of Van Cortlandt Park, is celebrating its 20th anniversary

with a fund-raiser on Thursday, Oct. 4, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Riverdale Yacht Club, 800 W. 254th St. Tickets start at \$100. RSVP by Sept. 28. For more information, call (718) 601-1460 or email [christina@vancortlandt.org](mailto:christina@vancortlandt.org).

## Lehman Art Gallery Programs

The Lehman College Art Gallery, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., W., offers a variety of new programs for children, teachers and families. Students will analyze, interpret and share their reactions to the gallery's works and participate in in-class art projects. For more information, call (718) 960-8731 or visit [www.lehman.edu/gallery](http://www.lehman.edu/gallery).

## Literacy Connection

Improve your reading, writing and math skills and work toward your GED with the Literacy Connection, a free education and employment program for young adults ages 16 to 24. The program is offered at the Mott Haven, West Farms, and Bronx Library Center branches of the NYPL. For more information or to RSVP, call (718) 401-7453.

## Training for Displaced Homemakers

Bronx Community College offers men and women who meet eligibility requirements under the Displaced Homemakers Act, a free four-week Excel training course as a part of the Displaced Homemakers Program. Classes start the second week of August at BCC's Gould Residence Hall, room 309, 2155 University Ave. Upon successful completion of the course, students will receive further assistance in their job search. For more information call (718) 289-5828/5824.

## CreativeMoney Workshops

The Bronx Council on the Arts and ArtHome offer a workshop for artists and independent workers on Wednesday, Sept. 26 (CreativeMoney Balance Basics; \$20), from 6:15 to 8:15 p.m. at Poe Park Visitors Center, 2640 Grand Concourse. Doors open at 6 p.m. Workshop will cover financial literacy, personal financial stability, credit access, small business success and more. Advance payment and registration are required. For more information or to RSVP, visit [bronxarts.org](http://bronxarts.org) or call (718) 931-9500.

## Mentoring Program for Students

The Young Scholars Immersion Program, a program coordinated by Kingsbridge Heights Community Center and Manhattan College, provides year-round mentoring and enrichment opportunities for disadvantaged students in the Bronx. The program is currently seeking more high school applicants. Students get the chance to visit college campuses, participate in writing and study workshops and get constant support from tutors at the College's Center for Academic Success. For more information, contact Neil Bogan at [nbogan@khcc-nyc.org](mailto:nbogan@khcc-nyc.org) or call (718) 884-0700 ext. 116.

## Free Personal Finance Course

The Concourse House, 2751 Grand Concourse (entrance on East 196th Street), presents The Getting Ahead Program, a free 5-week personal finance course offering workshops in money management, credit building, debt reduction, budget creation and long term saving and planning (such as retirement, homeownership). In addition to new financial tools, graduates receive free credit report and analysis and completion certificate, which can be used at local credit unions for innovative products. For more information or to register, call Jumelia at (718) 933-2539.

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# Opinion

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

## Op-Eds

# To the Men of the Bronx: Mentors Wanted

By **HECTOR BATISTA**

For many of us, summer brings to mind childhood memories of baseball games, barbeques and trips to the beach. But for thousands of young people in the Bronx who grow up below the poverty line in single-parent households, summer is just another reminder of what they don't have.

As the nation's oldest and New York City's largest youth mentoring organization, Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC serves more than 3,500 young people each year through one-to-one mentoring relationships. Most of these children live below the poverty line in single-parent households. But there are more than 150,000 children in the five boroughs who

fall under this category – and that is our target population. Childhood and adolescence are trying enough even under ideal circumstances – but these added challenges create a barrier to success that is difficult to overcome.

Our goal is to provide a mentor to every young person who wants or needs one. The need for volunteer mentors is tremendous – and our greatest focus is attracting men of color from the Bronx. That's why we've launched a year-long citywide recruiting campaign aimed at encouraging adults throughout New York City to volunteer as mentors.

We know firsthand that mentoring changes lives. Young people in our programs do better in school, experience higher self-esteem and enjoy stronger

relationships with their peers and families. These are real results.

Mentors come from all walks of life. Many people think you need to be a doctor, lawyer, or investment banker to be an effective mentor. But we're simply looking for caring individuals who want to be a positive influence to a young person. Our mentors, or "Bigs," come from a wide range of backgrounds and work in a variety of industries, including construction, public service, and education.

By the end of 2012, BBBS of NYC hopes to have not only found mentors for the hundreds of children waiting for Bigs, but also to have significantly increased the number of male mentors living in the Bronx. Please consider volunteering to become a Big and start mak-

ing a positive impact on a child in need of a friend. Go to the park, play some sports or check out a museum – our mentors change the lives of children. You'll be helping a child, and in turn helping the family and the greater community at large.

As you reflect on your own childhood summer memories, please consider helping a young person in need make some positive memories of their own – please consider becoming a Big.

To become a volunteer mentor or to learn more about Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC, log onto [www.bigsny.org](http://www.bigsny.org) or call (212) 686-2042.

*Hector Batista is the executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City.*

# Medicare Part D Works

By **CHARLOTTE SAPP**

As the founder of Women in Progress, a nonprofit in the Bronx that helps women who are rebuilding their lives, I am greatly concerned about proposed changes to Medicare Part D.

This is a program that is not only helping women I serve, but is a crucial benefit that provides for the people that serve as their support system — mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles, and grandparents. Medicare

Part D has radically improved the healthcare of over 43 million seniors in America.

Access to healthcare and particularly prescription medications, is a major concern to Women in Progress because it is a vital component to maintaining and improving health, ensuring that the women I serve are able to reintegrate into society, rebuild their lives, and begin productive, safe, successful futures.

In Washington, there have been suggestions to cut or change Medicare Part

D and reduce the benefits provided by the program as a part of deficit reduction discussions. To many of these women and their families, Medicare Part D is a critical component to their ability to be independent. Women in need in our community oftentimes live with chronic disease and other significant health issues. Medicare Part D provides people with the prescriptions they need to manage their diseases, reduce the need for further medical care and costs, and be active in

society in an affordable way.

Studies have shown Medicare Part D works. Cutting Part D or making changes, such as reducing coverage or introducing Medicaid style rebate policies, will drive up costs for patients. The cuts and changes will only create additional roadblocks to accessing quality health care that our community so desperately needs. Medicare Part D must be protected.

*Charlotte Sapp is the executive director and chairperson of Women in Progress.*

## Letter to the Editor

### Oval Advocates Press DOT Commish on Safety Issues

**Ed. Note:** *This letter was sent from the Friends of Williamsbridge Oval, a volunteer group that advocates for Williamsbridge Oval Park, to Janette Sadik-Khan, the commissioner of the Department of Transportation on Aug. 24.*

Dear Commissioner Sadik-Khan:

We are writing to ask for your attention and assistance to expedite planning and implementation of pedestrian improvements at the entrances to our park, the Williamsbridge Oval. While we have been impressed with the spectacular pedestrian improvements your agency has made in many other parts of the city, the street surrounding Norwood's main park still lacks the most basic features for pedestrian safety and convenience. Despite years of requests to the

Department of Transportation, there are no crosswalks for our community to reach any of the five entrances into our 20-acre park, and some sections of the street surrounding the park are missing sidewalks on city-owned property.

We have been very patient since we first discussed a study with Commissioner [Constance] Moran in 2009.

Most recently, Commissioner Moran advised us on June 27th that we could expect an update on the long-awaited

study in early August. We have yet to hear from her, despite our August 17th request to her for an update. This is cause for concern, we believe, given the very long continuing delays in addressing this location.

After our initial discussions with Commissioner Moran in 2009, we went to Bronx Community

Board 7 at her direction to obtain a request for a study of Reservoir Oval at Holt Place. At its

December 2009 meeting, the Community Board unanimously passed a "Motion to recommend to

DOT to prepare a study in coordination with the Dept. of Parks to identify short and long term improvements to make the Holt Place entrance to the Williamsbridge Oval Park more safe and convenient, and to generally improve the quality of the streetscape along Reservoir Oval East."

Moreover, the Community Board included a request to "Install Sidewalks and Crosswalks Along

Reservoir Oval East Between Holt Place and the Eastern Opening of Williamsbridge Oval Park" in its Capital Budget Priorities and Requests for FY12. The City responded: "OMB supports the agency's position as follows: Further study by the agency of this new request is needed. Contact the agency," even though

there was nothing new about the request.

The Friends of the Oval has routinely inquired about the study, yet a field visit was not set up until March 22, 2012. The field visit was attended by our Assemblymember's staff, the Inspector from the 52nd Precinct, the Community Board's District Manager, and members of our group, including some who took time off from work to provide input. Nevertheless, we still have not seen any evidence that a study is actually under way. We note, in particular, that automated traffic recorders (ATRs) have never been installed on Reservoir Oval or Holt Place.

We are eager to form a stronger working partnership with your department. This key street in our community desperately needs pedestrian improvements, and we recognize that the DOT has the creative professional staff and resources to design and implement the solutions. We were hopeful when DOT published its Street Design Manual, but we have been disappointed that your agency has not applied any of those principles in our community.

Although we originally requested a study of only the Holt Place entrance, we made the request with the explicit understanding that the study would be completed in a matter of months. We expected to focus on the highest priority location,

and then subsequently address issues at the other entrances incrementally. We envisioned an ongoing partnership with DOT where we could build on success. At this point, given the lack of progress for some many years, we request that you direct a complete, comprehensive assessment of all the pedestrian issues on the entire loop of Reservoir Oval without further delay.

We also request to meet directly with the planning and engineering staff working on this study as soon as possible. We have found that other DOT efforts in our community, like the Gun Hill

Road Congested Corridor Study, have been productive when community members have been able to talk directly with the planners and engineers working on the project. When all communication is conveyed indirectly between the professional staff and the community, important details may be lost in translation.

Your agency has kept us waiting for a very long time, but we are hopeful that you will provide the leadership for a comprehensive effort focused on the goal of improving the pedestrian conditions around our wonderful park. We thank you in advance for your attention and your assistance.

**Sincerely,  
Friends of Williamsbridge Oval**

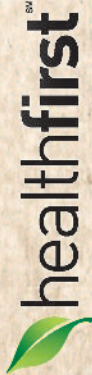
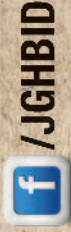


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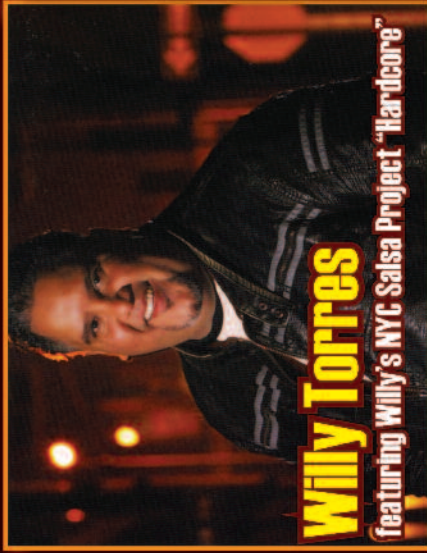
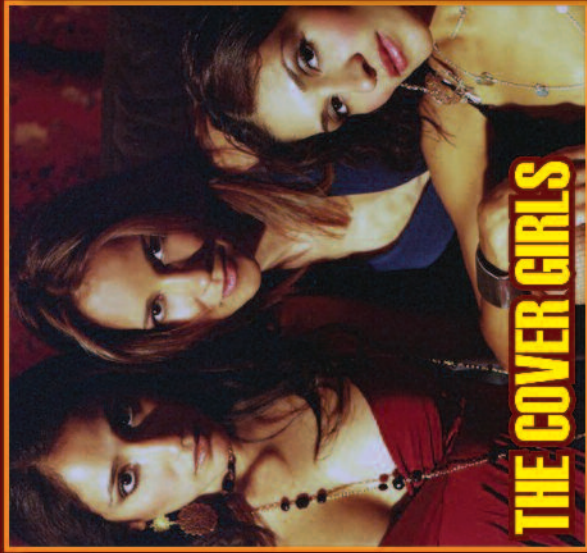




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# Be Healthy!

## Board Votes to Say Good-bye to the Super Size

By ALEX KRATZ

Mayor Michael Bloomberg's battle against obesity received a boost last week when the Board of Health, as expected, approved a proposal that limits the size of sugary drinks sold at any food service establishments regulated by the board.

While the size limits were hailed by city officials and health experts as a step toward curbing obesity, which is a huge problem in the Bronx, beverage industry advocates say the new regulations will negatively impact businesses in a sluggish economy.

Bloomberg said the ban has national implications.

"This is the biggest step a city has taken to curb obesity," said Mayor Bloomberg. "Simply by proposing limits on sugary drinks, New York City pushed the issue of obesity – and the impact of sugary beverages – onto the national stage. The Board of Health's passing this proposal means that New Yorkers will soon consume fewer junk calories and eventually begin turning the tide of the obesity epidemic that is destroying the health of far too many of our citizens."

The new rules means sugary drinks — beverages that contain more than 25 calories per eight ounces — can not be sold in sizes of more than 16 ounces at restaurants, mobile food carts, delis and concessions at movie theaters, stadiums and arenas.

The policy will not be in place until March of next year, but Barclay's Center, the new Brooklyn home of the Nets professional basketball team, agreed to adopt the new limits immediately.

Beverage advocates who launched an all-out campaign to defeat the policy, however, said the ban was discriminatory and would hurt small businesses.

"The fix was in from the beginning, and the mayor's handpicked board followed their orders by passing this discriminatory ban; but it has not passed with the support of New Yorkers," said Liz Berman, a business owner and chairwoman of New Yorkers for Beverage Choices. "It's sad that the board wants to limit our choices. We



Photo by Adi Talwar

**SARAH STUMBAR**, MD, a first-year resident with the Department of Family and Social Medicine at Montefiore Medical Center, reads to (from left) Zoe, 8, Kaylie, 2, and Latalia, 9, at the "Health is Wealth" health fair co-sponsored by Montefiore and New Testament Temple – Church of God. Stumbar read to kids at the health fair as part of the hospital's Reach Out and Read (ROAR) program.

are smart enough to make our own decisions about what to eat and drink."

In June, Bloomberg held a press conference in the Bronx at Montefiore Medical Center to announce the policy. Last week, Dr. Steven Safyer, president and CEO of Montefiore, praised the board's decision to implement the size limits.

"For the past several years, I've seen the number of children and adults struggling with obesity skyrocket, putting them at early risk of diabetes, heart disease, and cancer," he said in a statement. "Sugary beverages play a major role in this cycle, and are so heavily marketed to children, they jeopardize the next generation of New Yorkers. This policy is a

great step in the battle to turn this health crisis around."

### Sickle Cell Awareness Fair

The Children's Hospital at Montefiore is hosting a Sickle Cell Awareness Month event and fair for families with children living with sickle cell disease on Saturday,

Sept. 29, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Cherkasky Auditorium inside Montefiore's Moses Campus (at the Gun Hill Road entrance near Rochambeau Avenue). Learn about managing your pain, new treatments for sickle cell pain, what is safe and what is not, alternative therapies, and staying healthy. Lunch will be served. Arts and crafts will be available for younger children. RSVP by Sept. 21 to (718) 741-2342.

## TRACEY RENT HIKE FIGHT CONTINUES



Photo by Alex Kratz

**ON SEPT. 12**, more than 140 Tracey Towers residents rallied in front of the Bronx County Courthouse before a hearing about a 65 percent rent increase that would be implemented over the next four years. A judge upheld a temporary injunction on the rent hike in late August. After a lengthy meeting between management, city officials and a lawyer representing Tracey, the parties are due back in court next week.



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# Passages

## Reflection: A Father in the Bronx



Photo courtesy Popowich family

**NORWOOD RESIDENT** Mike Popowich Sr. (back row, middle) was a dedicated father who coached his kids' little league teams.

**By MIKE POPOWICH JR.**

Michael Popowich Sr. was born on March 14, 1944, and lived until June 15, 2012. It is my sad opportunity to share this with his friends and neighbors in the Bronx. Dad grew up in Manhattan, and was raised by my Uncle Walter Kunick, who also lived in the Norwood section of the Bronx by the Reservoir Oval — the same neighborhood where I lived with my father for over 40 years.

Michael Sr. unfortunately did not know his father, as he died in World War II. This would be a major part of my father's life: trying to find memories of his own father any way he could. Fortunately, my Uncle Walter raised him, and the rest of his family, including my father's mother, Mary, who also lived

with my uncle at the Norwood address with another uncle. My father always said how much he looked up to our uncle for being so strong to take care of their family on his own, despite growing up with his own difficulties, such as being raised in an orphanage, and living in a time when the economy was very bad. This type of dedication, and hard working ethic was something that carried over to my father as he took care of our family for all of his life.

We grew up first on East Gun Hill Road, but after a few years, moved to Putnam Place, across the street, where my father lived for much of my life, as well as my mother, his wife Barbara, and my brother David. Growing in the Bronx had many challenges for our family, but my father always did his best to keep us

together: whether it was my mother's long battle with her health issues, my problems with school, or my brother being a first responder during 9/11.

My father also had much to do with my brother's goal of being a professional baseball player. When we were kids, my father coached us, and many other kids in Mosholu Little League which was around for many years in our neighborhood. I still speak with players from then who remember my father, and how he was so nice to everyone, calling him "the coach." He was also a photographer for the league, which was one of his other hobbies, besides bowling, and fishing.

Fishing is what my father was known for most. He grew up working on City Island, shucking clams, which I have been told is how he met my mother. My father took his experience in the food business and became a supervisor for many years for a catering business. I remember him taking me to work to show me how it was to work hard for a living.

Mike Sr. was always a hard working person, as most people in the Bronx are, and as I mentioned, our Uncle Walter was the same way, doing whatever he could to support our family. That same work ethic was passed down to the rest of our family.

When my father injured his back while I was a teenager, he worked as a cab driver for many years with Dee-lite cab service which was located on East 204th Street. Dad was appreciated while working there by both other drivers and customers. He did his best to take care of our family, with or without a disability, including my mother, who suffered for many years with health issues until she passed in 2004.

As difficult as it was for my father to provide for us, he still had the honor of

watching one of his sons serve in the Navy, then become a detective, as well as enjoy my brother's two beautiful children. His other son, me, eventually graduated from Cornell, and received my Masters at Lehman College for Social Work just before he passed on. I am thankful that my Dad lived long enough to see our achievements this far in life, although of course, I still wish that he was here.

Even before my father's last days, he continued to work as much as possible with his fishing and collectible trade to provide for his family, while also doing what he enjoyed.

It is very difficult to write about my father in this light, but it helps knowing how many lives he touched as every day I run into friends and neighbors, at places like the Oval Pharmacy, who say how much they miss him.

I am writing this as a memorial for my father for others who may or may not have known him, but also to show that although it can be very challenging growing up in the Bronx, with strength, determination, and a lot of love, there can still be much to be thankful for.

**Ed. Note:** *Mike Popowich Jr. is a lifelong Norwood resident.*



Photo courtesy Popowich family

**TOWARD THE END** of his life, Mike Popowich Sr. enjoyed spending time with his grandkids.

## Groups Rally Around Armory Principles, Not Content

(continued from p. 1)

porate these goals in the redevelopment of the Armory.

The leading bids, the Kingsbridge National Ice Center and Mercado Mirabo from Young Woo & Associates, are being considered by KARA, insofar as they are willing to



Photo by Paul Duca

**RALLY ATTENDEES** help light candles, passed out by NWBCCC volunteers, as they prepared for the vigil walk around the Kingsbridge Armory.

uphold their responsibility to the community. Both say they will provide about 170 permanent living wage jobs. (Young Woo says Mercado Mirabo will provide more than 800 jobs total.)

"Both of these developers are viable options," said McIntosh.

Doug Cunningham, pastor at the New Day Church and a NWBCCC leader, echoed a similar sentiment. "They both have potential and are worth talking about," he said.

For Cunningham, a living wage standard, stamped in writing, is quite clearly the number one priority. "The issue is getting a deal we can count on," he said. "We want something that stakeholders can sign, that can be enforced in the future."

Implementing a contract, or so-called community benefits agreement, which contains an enforceable living wage standard, is a practical initiative that will require the compliance of the contracted bidder and ensure the Bronx benefits from redevelopment.

However, the KARA's deal also includes many aspects beyond required hourly rates. Volunteers handed out a

list of "Community Benefits Principles," which included living wage jobs, community space, priority access for Bronx residents, the exclusion of big box retail, the creation of non-competitive small businesses, and a public school (which was not once mentioned at the rally).

"The Bronx has a certain flavor," McIntosh said of the ultimate goal. "The culture of the Armory needs to reflect that."

While the Bronx Borough President and several other local elected officials (but not Councilman Fernando Cabrera who represents the Armory) have pledged their support for the ice center, those at the rally did not express an explicit preference for one bid over the other.

The rally ended as the final speaker urged people to hold their hands up to the Armory and pray.

Asking for divine intervention and guidance may be the most focused effort produced by the rally last Wednesday night.

Otherwise, they also succeeded in affirming what one young man said, as he lit his candle in preparation for the approaching vigil: "There's just a ton of empty space in that Armory."



# Inquiring Photographer

By DAVID GREENE

We asked readers their thoughts on Middle East violence sparked by a video made by an American that mocks the Prophet Mohammed.



The answer to this situation that is happening all over the Middle East with the Muslim religion that we have offended over there: We now have to change our constitution by taking something that is ordinarily a freedom of speech and expression and it may be wrong, but people shouldn't die for it.

**Ron James Sorenson**



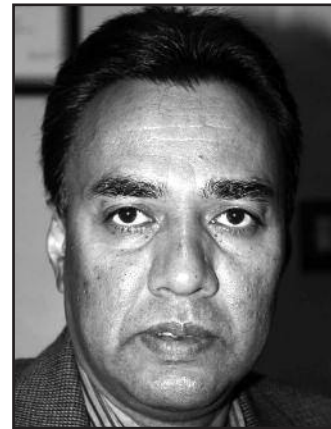
We as Americans know that freedoms and rights come with responsibility, especially with an internationally available and permanent record, such as a YouTube film. To know the Muslim world will react violently puts our own people in danger and poses a dilemma — freedom of speech vs. national security by knowingly inciting violence.

**Ethan Greenberg**



Well, I condemn violence anywhere in the world and violence is not the solution. Whatever happened regarding this YouTube video dealing with sensitive Muslim issues can be resolved without violence and should be condemned in a peaceful way.

**Mohammed Mujunder**



We believe in freedom of religion. So if anyone criticizes any religion, as Americans, we should condemn it. The video was not made by the American embassy, the White House or even Hollywood, so no one should accuse America for it. As an American Muslim I believe no one should attack our embassy over this.

**Naz Haque**



We need to stop being so sensitive about everything. We understand their sensitivity, but it's taking away a lot of our freedoms.. There is no solution with the Muslim world because when someone does not want to be rational, they're going to react this way. There is no negotiating with irrational thought. No one should die over a movie video.

**Ricco Diaz**



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**The Bedford Park Congregational Church,** located at the corner of 201st Street and Bainbridge Avenue, is celebrating its 123rd anniversary with a concert and dinner on Sunday, Sept. 30, 2012. This classical music concert will begin at 3:30

p.m. in the church, followed by a delicious catered dinner in our hall at 5 p.m. Tickets, which benefit the Roof Repair Fund, are \$30 per person and can be obtained by calling James Moloney Jr. at (718) 882-0407. For further information, please contact Reverend Dr. Christopher Ponnuraj at (718) 367-8996. Please join us in celebrating our 123rd anniversary and help our community church.

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# Business Beat

## Nicky's Coffee Shop Shut Down by Fire



Photo by Alex Kratz

**THE OWNER** of Nicky's Coffee Shop vowed to rebuild after a fire shut the place down last week.

By **ALEX KRATZ**

Nikolais Manias left his home away from home, Nicky's Coffee Shop, a beloved neighborhood diner on Bainbridge Avenue in Norwood, last Tuesday afternoon at 3 p.m. Some two hours later, he gets a call at his actual home from someone telling him the place he has

owned and operated for 27 years was on fire.

By the time he arrived, the fire trucks had mostly cleared out and he was left to oversee the wreckage — busted out windows and doors, a ripped up floor and significant smoke and fire damage.

While workers cut out boards to plug the wide open windows and doors,

Manias looked on in horror, but vowed to return.

"Of course it's coming back," Manias said, defiantly. "I go where?"

A spokesman for the Fire Department said firefighters were able to get the blaze under control in about 30 minutes, but couldn't speak to the extent of the damage. They said the fire started in the kitchen area, but Manias seemed to think it began in the basement.

Nearly three years ago, the neighborhood around Nicky's was devastated when two fires destroyed more than a dozen businesses in the span of two months. One of the lots, on East 204th Street, is now home to a new Foodtown supermarket. Ground was recently broken at the other site, on the corner of Bainbridge Avenue and East 204th Street, where a new building is being constructed to house retail stores.

## Fordham BID Expands Sanitation Services

The eastern portion of Fordham Road received a boost of cleanliness last week.

In plans unveiled at a press conference, the Fordham Road Business Improvement District announced plans to expand its sanitation services east on Fordham Road to Washington Avenue to include One Fordham Plaza (the proper-

ty) as well as the outdoor vendors' market. The services are also being offered north on Webster Avenue to include Cookies Department Store.

The BID's sanitation services are offered through its A Taste of the BID program and are supported by Fordham University.

The boundaries of the BID, which now includes approximately 80 buildings and almost 300 businesses, extend west to Jerome Avenue.



Photo courtesy Fordham BID

**LEFT TO RIGHT:** David Goldberg, BID Contractor; Daniel Bernstein, BID Deputy Director; Wilma Alonso, BID Executive Director; Joseph Muriana, Fordham University; David Rose, BID Chairperson; Todd McGaughey, Acadia Realty Trust; Aminoul Niass, BID Sanitation Supervisor; Yacouba Soumahoro, BID Sanitation Worker.

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# Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

## Onstage

■ Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., W., presents **Juan Formell y Los Van Van**, performing Afro-Cuban, disco and funk, as part of **Latino Concert Series**, Oct. 6 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$30 to \$50. For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

■ The New York Botanical Garden presents **concert** featuring City Chamber Music Collective, Sept. 22 from 6 to 9 p.m. Bring chair and blanket. For more information, including tickets, call (718) 817-8700.

■ Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance (BAAD), 841 Barretto St., 2nd floor, presents **Butoh Blossoms: Rise and Fall of a White Flower**, featuring a dance group, Sept. 21 at 8 p.m. (\$15); **Latina Dance Theater Project**, featuring five performers exploring the cultures of Mexico, the U.S., and Brazil, Oct. 5 and 6 at 8 p.m. (\$20); and **Direct From Brazil**, featuring multi-racial female performers exploring change of jobs, locations, or dreams, Oct. 7 at 7 p.m. (\$20). For more information, call (718) 842-5223.

## Events

■ NYC Haunt Holdings presents **Bronx Haunted Warehouse**, 1157 Commerce Ave., from Oct. 5 to 31, which features rooms with scares and zombies chasing you from every angle, promising visitors plenty of screams. Tickets are \$13 to \$30. For more information, visit [www.hauntedhouse-bronx.com](http://www.hauntedhouse-bronx.com) or call (212) 575-0263.

■ NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, Bronx Council on the Arts, and Friends of Pelham Bay Park present, free, **Bronx Native American Festival**, Sept. 23 from noon to 4 p.m., in Pelham Bay Park's south picnic area (enter park at Bruckner Boulevard and Wilkinson Avenue; last stop on IRT #6 train). The event features music, dance, storytelling and food. For more information, call (718) 430-1891 or visit [www.nyc.gov/parks](http://www.nyc.gov/parks).

■ The Fordham Road B.I.D. presents **Fordham Fever Friday**, the first Friday of the month, Oct. 5, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Muller Park's Pedestrian Plaza on East Fordham Road and Creston Avenue, featuring free Native-American storytelling, sports and fitness boot camp demos, artists displaying their artwork, live musical performances, and more. For more information, call (718) 562-2104 or visit [www.fordham-roadbid.org](http://www.fordham-roadbid.org).

■ The Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse (165th Street), presents its free **First Friday** on Oct. 5 from 6 to 10 p.m., featuring film, art performances, music and other special events. For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

■ The public is invited to attend **Mix It Up**, to join 'celebrity' bartenders as they display their mixology talents, at Pine Bar & Grill Rooftop Bar, 1634 Eastchester Rd., Sept. 27 from 6 to 9 p.m. Bring your business cards and enjoy hors d'oeuvres and networking opportunities for \$20. Proceeds will support VISIONS free programs and services in the Bronx. For more information and to reserve, call (212) 625-1616 ext. 151.

■ Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Art Projects**: September Treasures, to gather beech nuts, acorns and other fallen items, and glue them to a wooden or cardboard box, Sept. 22 and 23; and Cliffs on Stilts, to use a mixture of clay, wood, sticks and photos to invent a 3-D interpretation of the natural rock formations of the Palisades; both from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Ecology Building. In addition, there is an **Exhibition Reception**, featuring artists displaying their works of rock formations of the Hudson Palisades through sculptural installations, Sept. 23 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Glyndor Gallery. Grounds admission is free Saturdays until noon, and in September, all day Tuesdays. Glyndor Gallery tours take place Tuesdays and Saturdays at 2 p.m. (additional tour will be held Saturday, Sept. 22 at 1 p.m.); garden walks are held Tuesdays and Saturdays at 11 a.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m., from the Perkins Visitor Center. For more information, call (718) 549-3200.

■ The Bronx River Alliance presents **Plant Rescue With the Conservation Crew**, to plant and clean within Shoelace Park, free, Sept. 29 (tools and supplies will be provided); and **An Upstream Soiree at the Bronx Zoo**, to celebrate the rebirth of the river, Oct. 2 from 6 to 9 p.m.. Events are subject to change. For more information, call (718) 430-4665 or visit [www.bronxriver.org](http://www.bronxriver.org).

■ Casita Maria Center for Arts & Education, 928 Simpson St., presents **Unveiling of the First Leg of the South Bronx Culture Trail**, Oct. 6. Self-guided tours of the trail are from noon to 6 p.m. and opening of the Casita/Home photography exhibit is from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. A traveling work, **Paseo**, tracing the artistic life of Hunts Point in the '50s and '60s will be from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 589-2230.

■ The Bronx County Historical Society presents **Bronx Walking Tours**: Westchester Square tour meets on the downtown side of the #6 train at Westchester Square, Sept. 29 at 11 a.m. \$10/members; \$15/non members. For more information or to reserve, call (718) 881-8900.

■ Bronx Council on the Arts presents **Ask an Editor: Some Answers for Bronx Writers**, a free Bronx Writers Center workshop, at Barnes & Noble Bay Plaza, 290 Baychester Ave. in Co-op City, Sept. 21 from 6 to 8 p.m. Guest author/editor Wendy Lee will answer questions and tell her own story. For more information, call (718) 931-9500 ext. 21.

■ The public is invited to ride the Oct. 3 free **Bronx Culture Trolley**, which transports visitors on the first Wednesday of every month (except January and September) to Bronx hot spots, all featuring a variety of entertainment options and ends at Sweetwater's Bar & Grill for music, food and drink. 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.

New attractions are added monthly; admission to most venues is free. Riders can get on and off at any scheduled stop and spend as much time as they wish at any or all of the featured venues. For more information and a detailed schedule, call (718) 931-9500 ext. 33 or log on to [www.bronxarts.org](http://www.bronxarts.org).

## Exhibits

■ Bronx Council on the Arts presents **Puerto Rico in Its Labyrinth, Chronicles of a Country and a World in Crisis**, Sept. 24 to Dec. 8, at Longwood Art Gallery at Hostos' Center for the Arts' main gallery, 450 Grand Concourse (149th Street). Also on view, in the Project Room: **Public Art Under House Arrest**, Sept. 17 through December 2012. Opening reception is Oct. 3 from 5 to 9 p.m. For more information, call (718) 518-6728.

■ The Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse at 165th Street, presents two exhibitions featuring modern and contemporary art from Latin America: **Revolution Not Televised** (through Oct. 7) features contemporary Cuban art and takes the pulse of contemporary artistic practice in Cuba; and **Rituals of Chaos** (through Jan. 6, 2013) highlights the work of Mexican photo-journalist Enrique Metinides and 11 contemporary artists who similarly take the human experience in the city as their subject matter. For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

■ The New York Botanical Garden presents **Claude Monet's Garden**, featuring his paintings, palette, and photographs, in the Rondina Gallery, through Oct. 21. Additional events include concerts, poetry, tours, film screenings, and family activities. For more information, call (718) 817-8658/8512.

■ The Bronx County Historical Society, 3309 Bainbridge Ave., presents **In Style, Bronx Architecture**, through Oct. 7, including Bronx landmarks. For more information and to reserve, call (718) 881-8900.

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## Library Events

■ The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd. off Fordham Road, presents programs for adults including **Single Stop/Government Benefits** at 9 a.m.: Sept. 20, 25 and 27; **Heritage Arts & Crafts Workshop/Puppet Making Part II/Story Telling**: Sept. 21 at 2 p.m.; **Films**: Sept. 22 at 2:30 p.m. ("Chulas Fronteras"), Sept. 28 at 2 p.m. ("Spanish Film Club: Like Water for Chocolate"), and Sept. 29 at 2:30 p.m. ("Black Beauty"); **Salute to the Bronx With MSNBC's Chris Hayes**: Sept. 26 at 6 p.m., featuring all things Bronx; **Free Introductory Computer Classes** at 10 a.m.: Oct. 3; and **Readings From the Mind of Edgar Allan Poe: A Remembrance on His Death on Oct. 7, 1849**: Oct. 3 at 6 p.m. Teens and young adults can attend **Teen Art Club** at 3:30 p.m.: Sept. 21 and 28; and **Build Your Own Video Game**, Oct. 2 at 4 p.m. Children can enjoy **Abracadabra**: (ages 3 to 12), Sept. 22 at 2 p.m. Immigrants can join **How to Become a**

**U.S. Citizen**: Sept. 27 at 3 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org).

The Mosholu Library, at 285 E. 205th St., offers for seniors and adults: **Knitting Circle**: Thursdays at 3 p.m.; and **Wii Program**: Tuesdays at 3 p.m. Teens and young adults can attend: **Create a Cookbook**, Sept. 20 at 3 p.m.; and **Craftafternoons**, Sept. 27 at 4 p.m. (all materials are provided). For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

■ The Jerome Park Library, at 118 Eames Place, offers **Pajama Party**, Sept. 24 from 6 to 7:30 p.m., for ages 5 to 12. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

*A HAPPY AND HEALTHY ROSH HASHANA TO ALL OUR JEWISH READERS!*

**NOTE:** Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to [norwood-news@norwoodnews.org](mailto:norwood-news@norwoodnews.org), and should be received by Sept. 24 for the next publication date of Oct. 4.

### EDITOR'S PICK

## Jerome Ave. Street Festival

The Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District presents its 11th annual **Fall Festival**, Sept. 22 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., rain or shine, on Jerome Avenue between Gun Hill Road and Mosholu Parkway. There will be live performances by numerous groups as well as kiddie rides, food, health screenings, and more. For more information, call (718) 324-4946.

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