Violent Crimes Rock Northwest Bronx

By ALEX KRATZ and DAVID GREENE

A murder, two shootings and a stabbing in recent days have shaken the northwest Bronx, which is already reeling from a string of brutal robberies that caused the commander of the 52nd Precinct to call in for reinforcements.

Although the murder occurred just outside of the 52nd Precinct — which includes all of the neighborhoods in the Norwood News coverage area including Norwood, Bedford Park, Fordham and parts of University and Kingsbridge Heights — these recent incidents appear to belie precinct statistics that, up until the last week of September, showed a drop in violent crime for 2012.

Through Sept. 23, the 52nd Precinct had recorded two murders in 2012, compared to three during the same period of time in 2011. In that same time period, felony assaults, which includes stabblings, had dropped 3.3 percent (from 302 in 2011 to 292 in 2012), shooting incidents were down 16.7 percent (from 12 last year to 10 this year) and the number of shooting victims had fallen 15.8 percent (19 last year to 16 this year).

But, during this same time period, robberies were up 5 percent, from 357 in 2011 to 375 this year; including a wave of iPhone robberies and purse snatchings that caused 52nd Precinct Commander Joseph Dowling to call in cops from other units to help out. On a recent weekend, there was a significant spike in police presence in Bedford Park and Norwood. Dowling said they were receiving help from other precincts and the NYPD’s counter-terrorism unit.

The 52nd Precinct isn’t the most violent in the Bronx, but it is one of the borough’s biggest street festivals on page 8.

A Dinnertime Police Raid Turns Up Little

By ALEX KRATZ

Fresh off an overnight stay in jail, the relatively new owner of Sal’s Pizza and Restaurant in Norwood said his very public arrest during dinnertime last week was based on erroneous information given to police and that he was the victim of a robbery setup.

But police say they executed a valid search warrant and came away with enough to charge the owner with a couple of misdemeanors and a violation.

Musa Neshewat, who purchased the popular Norwood eatery last winter, said police entered his packed restaurant on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., saying they were told that drugs and guns were being sold from his establishment.

Neshewat said he told the officers they could look at video recordings from his security camera system, which stores six months’ worth of back footage, and see that nothing of the sort was happening.

But police continued their search of the premises and, inside a gun case in Neshewat’s office, discovered a loaded handgun, an unloaded shotgun, dozens of rounds of ammunition and a small amount of marijuana. Police then escorted Neshewat out of his restaurant, put him in a police van and placed him under arrest. He was released the next day without having to post bail.

(continued on p. 12)

SWEET STREET MUSIC

By DANILKA INFANTE

The Bronx Library Center brought in a pair of native stars and handful of borough mainstays to talk about many of the positive developments and aspects of the Boogie Down.

The event, called “Salute to the Bronx,” held on Sept. 26 in the library’s basement auditorium, was led by two Bronx natives — MSNBC host Chris Hayes alongside Darlene Rodriguez from NBC-4 New York.

They sat at a panel with various guests who shared different aspects of the Bronx. The guest speakers touched on subjects such as present issues and upcoming resolutions, the abundant amount of historical landmarks and cultural offerings.

One of the guests, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., sounded a defiant and ambitious tone, saying “We’re (the Bronx) tired of being number one in poverty; we’re tired of being number one in unemployment.”

Diaz touched on some of the Bronx’s coming attractions, including the redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory. The city’s Economic Development Corporation is deciding between two development proposals for the Armory — Mercado Mirabo, a mixed-use creative market that would also include recreational and community uses and Kingsbridge National Ice Center, which is being billed as the world’s largest ice sports center.

He used the platform to plug the Kingsbridge National Ice Center, which he and some other Bronx officials are supporting.

Diaz said he believes the ice center will develop local ice sports stars and become a popular destination that will rival Yankee Stadium, the Bronx Zoo and the New York Botanical Garden, the borough’s biggest attractions.

Diaz said people “look down upon the borough and that should no longer be the case.”

Rodriguez introduced the next guest, Borough Historian Lloyd Ulan, as “the go to guy for walk... (continued on p. 4)
In The Public Interest

Community Board Votes Against Firing District Manager

During a general meeting last month filled with confusion and tension, Community Board 7 voted to keep its embattled district manager, Fernando Tirado, who stood accused of impeding board business and neglecting board member requests.

Voting on Tirado’s fate was the only item on the meeting’s agenda. In the basement of the Bronx Library Center, a motion for Tirado’s termination as district manager was brought to the floor. After some procedural hiccups, 15 members voted against his termination, 10 voted for it and three abstained.

Board members and general public attendees clapped as secretary Nora Feury read the results.

After the meeting was adjourned, Tirado took a break from shaking hands to thank his supporters and also acknowledged that there are still problems the board needs to work out.

“I want to thank the people who saw what was going on and were brave enough to speak up,” he said. “But I think the fight is far from over.”

Tirado, whose salaried position as the full-time employee of the volunteer community board was in jeopardy all summer, received an outpouring of vocal support during September’s meeting after several members of the board, including chairman Paul Foster, voted to oust him during the board’s June meeting.

Foster and other board members said Tirado was not being responsive to board member requests and needs. In late June, Foster outlined the problems in a letter to Tirado and the Bronx Borough President’s office, which oversees board affairs. Tirado responded in early September, saying Foster’s accusations were either false or had no relevance to his performance as district manager.

That vote was not upheld because it was held behind closed doors. After realizing its mistake, the board decided to address the issue again with another vote during the September meeting’s public session. Taking steps to remove a board’s sitting district manager is highly unusual, Borough President spokesman John DeSio, a former Bronx reporter, said no one in the office could recall it ever happening before.

During the public session, many spoke up on Tirado’s behalf. Patricia A. Burlace, executive director of the Sister Annunciata Bethel Senior Center commented on Tirado’s work both at the senior center and throughout the community.

“We’re incredibly satisfied, and humbled by his service,” Burlace said, addressing the board.

Voter Turnout Based on the voter turnout patterns in the 33rd senate district, as well as the 78th and 80th assembly districts — all of the local districts with competitive primary races in the Norwood News coverage area — there appears to be a correlation between the amount of money and energy spent on certain campaigns and a spike in turnout.

In 2010, turnout increased by 50 percent compared to 2008 in the 33rd senate district during an incredibly fierce and competitive three-way race between Gustavo Rivera (who won), Pedro Espada (who was convicted of corruption this year) and Dan Padernacht (who threw his support behind Rivera at the end of the race).

This year, the 80th AD saw a spike in turnout due to three candidates challenging incumbent Naomi Rivera. Mark Gjonaj, who defeated Rivera, spent more than $290,000 on his campaign.

There were no primaries in the 78th or 80th ADs in 2008.

Unemployment At 13.1%, the Bronx has the highest unemployment rate of all 62 counties in New York State as of this August (the most recent available data). Yet, the county has seen a decrease since hitting 14% (its highest point in almost two decades) last February. Though 13.1% remains high, the Bronx has seen a slight drop since the 13.3% and 13.8% recorded in June and July; respectively. Unemployment rates were lowest in 2006, when the Bronx had just 6% unemployment in October and December.

Public and Community Meetings

• COMMUNITY BOARD 7 will hold its general board meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 16 at the Bedford Park Senior Center, 243 E. 204th St. For more information, call (718) 933-5660.

• COMMUNITY BOARD 7 committee meetings will be held on the following dates at the board office, 225A E. 204th St. at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted: Parks & Rec, Thursday, Oct. 4; Economic Development, Tuesday, Oct. 9; Budget/Personnel/Ethics, Wednesday, Oct. 10; Health & Hospitals, Monday, Oct. 15; Housing, Wednesday, Oct. 17. For more information, call (718) 933-5660.

• A Public Hearing for the KINGSBRIDGE ARMORY REDEVELOPMENT, hosted by Community Board 7, will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 11 at Monroe College’s King Hall Gymnasium, 2501 Jerome Ave. For more information, call (718) 933-5660.

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nyc.gov/workforce1
Violent Crimes Rock Northwest Bronx

(continued from p. 1)

of the busiest. And it has recently become even busier.

Teen Killed in Kingsbridge Heights

On Monday night, just outside of the Five-Two, 19-year-old Victor Maldonado, who had recently enlisted in the Navy, was shot in the chest, apparently after trying to break up a fight outside of 2865 Heath Ave., which is just north of Kingsbridge Road.

Maldonado was rushed to St. Barnabas Hospital, where he died several hours later.

Police say they apprehended a suspect in the case, but had yet to make an official arrest as of press time on Tuesday.

The block was the scene of another fatal shooting back on April 19, 2011, when Bryan Nunez, 40, of Washington Heights was shot multiple times.

On Tuesday afternoon, Bronx Borough President sent out a press release condemning the shooting.

“I offer my most heartfelt condolences to Victor Maldonado’s family,” he said in statement. “Victor a young man who just enlisted in the United States Navy, was killed while trying to break up a fight.

“Ending gun violence has been a top priority of mine since I took office. Unfortunately, too many firearms end up in the wrong hands both through legal and illegal means, despite our good work. I once again urge that we come together as one and unite to put an end to these senseless acts of violence, so we can better prevent these crimes and protect innocent people across our city and nation.”

Fordham Bodega Shooting

On Sunday afternoon, a worker at a Fordham-area bodega was shot after a dispute between the store owner and a customer.

According to multiple sources, the victim was shot just after 4 p.m., on Sunday, Sept. 30, inside of Taiz Deli, located at 2634 Valentine Ave., at East 194th Street.

The male victim was shot one time in the left hip and taken to St. Barnabas Hospital, where he is expected to make a full recovery.

“The owner of the store had gotten into a fight earlier and I guess he (the gunman) came back and shot up the store,” said a witness who asked not to be identified. “But he shot the wrong guy.”

The unidentified owner of the store was questioned by police and was observed as he rushed to the hospital to see the victim.

Police continue to search for the suspect, described as a male Black, 5-feet-9 inches tall, 160 to 180 pounds, wearing green cargo pants, a gray hooded jacket and a white hat with a white brim.

Shooting on Rochambeau

Meanwhile, a man returning to his former home in Norwood was shot and remains in critical condition after an early Sunday morning dispute ended with gunfire.

Police say the 35-year-old victim was shot outside of 3515 Rochambeau Avenue, between East Gun Hill Road and East 212th Street, at 5 a.m., on Sunday, Sept. 30.

Police said the two men got into an argument hours earlier and that they had not known each other. The assailant walked up to the still-unidentified victim and fired several times.

Emergency Medical Services reported that the victim was shot once in the chest. The NYPD has stated that the victim remains in critical condition.

One resident of 3515 Rochambeau Ave. said the victim grew up on the block, but had moved away.

“Oh yes, I heard the gunshots, an automatic gun that fired four or five shots at 5 a.m. I didn’t get up from my bed because I usually hear so many gunshots in this neighborhood,” said a resident who asked not to be identified.

“I didn’t know it was somebody I know, I feel so sorry for him,” the resident added. “I’m praying for him that he survives. He was always so nice to me.

A day after the shooting, the NYPD released a grainy video of the perpetrator, apparently showing the suspect firing into the victim. (See footage on norwood-news.org, search “crime.”)

Stabbing on East 204th Street

Finally, detectives from the 52nd Precinct continue to search for four assailants who stabbed two men along East 204th Street near Webster Avenue, during an early morning dispute last weekend.

Police were called to the front of Fantasy of Italy Hair Salon at just after 4 a.m., on Saturday, Sept. 28, when the owners discovered the two wounded men lying on the ground.

According to EMS records, a 22-year-old was stabbed in the neck and rushed to St. Barnabas Hospital in serious condition.

Police say the second victim, a 23-year-old Hispanic man, was stabbed in the left arm and transported to Jacobi Hospital.

Both men are expected to recover.

An employee of the hair salon stated that their opening on that day was delayed due to the police investigation. “There was blood all over, it was disgusting,” the employee said.

Police were reportedly looking for four male Hispanics, two with long hair and wearing white shirts, were seen running from the scene.

Ed. Note: Anyone with any information about any of these crimes is asked to call CrimeStoppers at 1 (800) 577-TIPS. The public can also submit tips by logging on to the Crime Stoppers website at WWW. NYPDCRIMESTOPPERS.COM or by texting their tips to 274637 (CRIMES), then enter TIP 577. All calls are strictly confidential.

Media Stars Offer a ‘Salute to the Bronx’

(continued from p. 1)

ing tours.” He aced some trivia questions about Bronx history and gave some information on different historical landmarks that people might not know about the borough. For instance, did you know the Van Cortlandt Park Golf Course was the first public golf course in America?

Two representatives from DreamYard, Co-executive Director Jason Duchin and poetry teacher Renee Watson talked about how their program supplements arts education in the Bronx. DreamYard reps go to schools once a week for an hour and a half to teach students different kinds of arts, such as dance, drama, music or creative writing. DreamYard has worked with 40 public schools and has opened one of its own.

The last two speakers were Sergio Bessa and David Greco.

Bessa works with The Bronx Museum of the Arts. He talked about a new exhibition called “Bronx Lab.” The exhibition maps out the graffiti revolution from when it first started in the 1970s in the South Bronx to today’s street art.

Greco, from Mike’s Deli, talked about how Arthur Avenue, where his shop is located, is New York City’s true Little Italy. He mentioned the long history of Italian bakeries and restaurants on Arthur Avenue and their authenticity. He says Little Italy on “Mulberry is a tourist trap; Arthur Ave. is a tourist attraction.”

Mike’s Deli catered the event once the guest speakers were done. The audience, which was filled with Bronxites both young and old, enjoyed the food while listening to a live Latin Jazz group performance.

Now that’s saluting the Bronx.

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A new child care center has been spoken about in theory for nearly 19 years at Lehman College in Bedford Park. Well, it’s finally coming to fruition. Lehman is in the process of constructing its new two-story child care center on the north-west area of the Lehman College campus piece by piece, literally — it’s being constructed by cobbling together ready-made modules and is expected to be complete by January 2013.

The vice president of student affairs, Jose Magdaleno, said, “We have long needed a larger facility to meet the child care needs of our students.”

Lehman’s current child care center has only three classrooms within a building that is shared with a nursing facility. The new center is in a building of its own and double in size compared to the present center. The new center is 12,000 square feet, contains six classrooms, a playroom, and a natural playground containing garden space. This center can accommodate 140 children and costs an estimated $6.3 million.

Garrison Architects has designed the building with an abstract modern feel. It starts off with an atrium lobby giving it an outdoors look but covered with glass. This allows the sunlight shining in to warm up the air inside and ventilate throughout the lobby. There will be vertical gardens on each side of the building that will be visible from inside the classrooms. The materials for the center have been chosen from recycled contents.

—DANILKA INFANTE
BCC Opens New Building

The Bronx Community College opened its new building, the North Hall and Library, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Sept. 21.

This new building is lavishly equipped with technology, including 42 Macs, 158 Dell PCs, and a research classroom containing 48 more desktop computers.

There are also 25 “Group Study Rooms” where study groups can gather, and this is only the second floor: The first floor has 15 classrooms all containing LCD control panels which can be connected to desktops, Blu-Rays, and external devices for an instructor’s use. The first floor also has 96 laptops available to students. There is also the much-needed wi-fi access throughout the whole North Hall and Library.

Bronx artist Daniel Hauben brought his unique style to the North Hall and Library. His collection of 22 oil paintings depicting Bronx life, called “A Sense of Place,” will permanently be displayed at the North Hall and the Library. The collection captures everyday views like a Burnside Avenue train station and iconic images like BCC’s own Hall of Fame of Great Americans. Two, 10-foot paintings are mounted on the main stairwell. The rest are mounted along the balcony surrounding the “information commons.”

—DANILKA INFANTE
SOME 30,000 PEOPLE ventured into the Jerome Avenue Streets for performances, food, health screenings, face painting, shopping, street games and tournaments. The festival was hosted by the Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District and was designed to celebrate and showcase all the local area has to offer.

Photos by Adi Talwar
Be Healthy!

BP and Hospitals Tout Tour de Bronx Benefits

By DANILKA INFANTE

On Monday afternoon, Bronx Borough president Ruben Diaz joined forces with Transportation Alternatives, Montefiore Medical Center, St. Barnabas Hospital and the Bronx Lebanon Medical Center to officially let the world know that the 18th annual Tour de Bronx — the region’s largest free cycling event — will be happening and it will be a good thing for a borough that was recently named the most unhealthy county in the state.

This year’s Tour will be taking place on Sunday, Oct.14.

Diaz expresses his excitement about the event and said he would be participating.

“It is a wonderful event, where I get to join my fellow Bronxites and thousands of out-of-town visitors for a bike ride to tour our wonderful borough,” said during a press conference at Montefiore. “Riding a bike around the Bronx is the healthiest way to redis-cover our beautiful borough and all it has to offer in a new way.”

Dr. Peter Selwyn, MD, chairman of family and social medicine at Montefiore, said preventing diseases is a serious matter and the best way to do so is to live a healthy lifestyle and doing things like cycling around the Bronx.

Selwyn’s boss echoed that sentiment.

“The Tour de Bronx is a perfect way to promote health and wellness and to discover all that the Bronx has to offer,” said Dr. Steven M. Safyer, MD, president and CEO of Montefiore Medical Center. “This annual event demonstrates Montefiore’s commitment to part-ner with organizations in the Bronx to strengthen our communities and enhance well-being.”

It’s also a win for bicycling enthusiasts.

The Tour demonstrates that bicycling is “truly a five-borough phenomenon,” said Paul Steely White, executive director of Transportation Alternatives. “This family-friendly event will showcase the recreational side of an increasingly common transportation choice for New Yorkers and offer an unparalleled experience of the diverse and historic neighborhood of the Bronx.”

The Metro North Railroad will be waiving their bicycle permit requirements and limits on the day of the event in order to allow group riders to join.

Coca Cola will be distributing Dasani water, Powerade sports drinks and Fuze throughout the event to keep riders hydrated. Domino’s will provide pizza once the tour is done. A 25-mile and 40-mile course is offered throughout the Bronx from which participants are free to choose.

To participate, register online at www.tourdebronx.org.
Opinion

Editorial

Sector Stats are Back, But Legislation Stalls

Just before the Norwood News went to press for this issue, we received a letter with a packet of valuable information from the New York City Police Department. Almost exactly five months after we filed a Freedom of Information Law request, the NYPD had delivered crime statistics for each of the sectors within the 52nd Precinct, which includes all of the neighborhoods in our primary coverage area—Norwood, Bedford Park, Fordham, as well as University and Kingsbridge Heights.

That means we now have crime statistics on your specific neighborhood, not just the monolithic precinct as a whole. We will be analyzing this data and offering it to you in coming editions of the paper.

We would like to thank the NYPD for providing this information in a relatively timely manner. (Last time we FOILed for sector stats it took 13 months and a story about our struggle to get the stats on NBC’s local news show to get them to send us the information.)

For years, the Norwood News has sought to get this more detailed crime information out into the open for public safety purposes. The idea is simple: provide data that local groups and residents can use to improve public safety. Groups can use the information to target better resources. Residents can use the information to be more aware of crime trends in their neighborhoods.

Former Norwood News editor Jordan Moss recently wrote an in-depth story on the sector stats saga for City Limits. In the piece, Moss tracks the bill, sponsored by Council member Fernando Cabrera (who represents Kingsbridge and University Heights) and inspired by the Norwood News coverage, that would require the NYPD to release these statistics on a regular basis.

After introducing it in early 2011, the bill has gone nowhere and Cabrera says Speaker Christine Quinn, who’s counting on the support of Police Commissioner Ray Kelly for her mayoral run in 2013, is responsible for holding it up. (The NYPD doesn’t want to release the stats because they will bring increased scrutiny and cause cracks in its narrative that crime is down all over the city.)

“This is a problem whenever you have a speaker that runs for mayor,” Cabrera told Moss. “You have too much politics involved.”

Moss also spoke with Monsignor John Jenik, whose parish, Our Lady of Refuge, sits smack in the middle of Sector G, a notoriously high crime area within the 52nd Precinct. Our front page story contains an image of a shooting on 194th Street and Valentine Avenue, which is two blocks from OLR. He breaks down the argument for sector stats simply:

“I don’t live in the precinct,” he says. “People don’t live in precincts. We live in neighborhoods.”

Letter to the Editor

Bloomberg Strikes Again

According to the article in your Sept. 20 - Oct. 3 issue, “Board Votes to Say Good-bye to the Super Size,” a NYC law banning the sale of sugary drinks larger than 16 ounces takes effect March 2013.

Data gathered by Mayor Bloomberg for once again making a decision on behalf of the public whether they like it or not. It was bad enough that he arranged to have numerous NYC public schools closed in spite of objections of parents, teachers and students, now his latest idea that sugary drinks over 16 ounces should not be sold in New York City has passed into law.

While New Yorkers will not be able to purchase sugary drinks over 16 ounces, what will stop them from purchasing their sugar ‘fix’ in the form of cakes, candies, pastries, cookies, etc.? How will the ‘obesity epidemic tide be turned’ as mentioned in the same article?

Does the average customer think that cutting back on sugary drinks will reduce obesity over time? I would venture to guess that anyone who would want to order an oversize drink after the law kicks in could simply order two smaller size drinks, making the whole concept useless.

And what about oversized (super-sized) meals? Will there soon be a ruling to outlaw that too?

There are those who believe that reinstituting gym periods in public schools where they’ve been eliminated will help overweight participating students lose weight. While an exercise program is a healthy outlet, especially during the school day, an overweight or obese student would not become slim simply by participating in their school’s physical education class. For a youngster who is heavy and does not have a glandular condition, some might say that the best exercise would be pushing oneself away from the table. Weight can come from overeating and insufficient physical activities outside of school.

While the mayor may mean well, he should not be telling the general public what we do ingest. Overweight people know they are, and continue to overeat in spite of it. Wanting to lose weight is a personal decision, and can’t be made by someone else telling them how much to eat or drink.

I wonder how many New Yorkers are counting the days to the next mayoral election.

Judy Ney
Norwood Resident

Neighborhood Notes

Volunteer at Local Schools

New York Cares, the city’s largest volunteer organization, will conduct its New York Cares Day this fall to make sure that local public schools become and remain safe, clean and enjoyable to enhance the students’ learning experience. Join over 6,000 volunteers from all over New York City on Oct. 13. An orientation is not required to learn more about the event and sign up. Information and details, visit www.newyorkcaresday.org or call (212) 228-5000.

Free Weekly Immigration Services

Councilmember Fernando Cabrera along with CUNY Citizenship Now! will provide free confidential legal services to qualified immigrants to help them in their pursuit of U.S. citizenship. Wednesdays, starting Oct. 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Cabrera’s district office, 107 E. Burnside Ave. Personal consultations will be held with attorneys and paralegals. For more information, call (347) 590-2874.

Women’s Support Group

The First Step Women’s Support Group will gather at the Jewish Home & Hospital for the Aged, 100 W. Kingsbridge Rd. (small gallery), every third Thursday of the month, to discuss women’s issues and concerns, including housing, childcare, education, domestic violence, health and more. RSVP required. For more information, call (718) 877-5790.

CareGivers Project Fundraiser

The CareGivers Project hosts a fundraiser, “My Mother’s Recipe Fall 2012,” at the Schervier Nursing Care Center’s Community Hall, 2975 Independence Ave., Oct. 13. Participants are invited to cook their mother’s recipes for this pot luck celebration, and bring in the dishes which should feed at least six people. Have the recipe written down, including its origin and country (if applicable), and the reason you chose to share it. If visitors don’t cook, contact the CareGivers Project to bring in cookies or baked goods. If interested in becoming a member of the CareGivers Project, visit www.indiegogo.com. RSVP is required. For more information, email medeviceto@caregiversproject.org.

Stop Smoking Program

North Central Bronx Hospital, 3424 Kossuth Ave., offers free group counseling and nicotine replacement therapy for smokers looking to quit. No appointment required or needed, walk-ins are welcome. The smoking cessation program runs weekdays at 10 a.m. or 2 p.m. in room 13A12. For more information, call (718) 519-2425/2490.

MMCC Senior Center Activities

Moshulu Montefiore Senior Center, 3450 DeKalb Ave., hosts activities for adults ages 60 and older, including flea markets on Oct. 5 and 12 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Senior Saturday, Oct. 6 from 1:15 to 4:30 p.m. featuring salsa dance lessons (also on Oct. 13 and 27); trip to the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum on Oct. 19 (call for details); legal clinic on Oct. 23 at 1 p.m.; and movies: “The Italian Job,” on Oct. 10, and “The Magnificent Seven,” on Oct. 17 (free popcorn), both at 12:30 p.m. For more information call (718) 798-6681.

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) 953-2789 or visit www.mercycenter.org.

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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@khec-nyc.org or call (718) 884-0700 ext. 116.

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.

Lehman Art Gallery Programs

The Lehman College Art Gallery, 250 Bedford Pl. 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) 960-7613 or visit www.lehman.edu/gallery.

For more Neighborhood Notes online, go to www.norwoodnews.org and click on “Neighborhood Notes.”

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.
October 4–17, 2012
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Bronx Borough President
Ruben Diaz Jr.

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Produced by the Bronx Tourism Council in partnership with the city’s bicycling and pedestrian advocacy group, Transportation Alternatives, Tour De Bronx promotes bicycling and pedestrian environmentally-friendly method of travel while encouraging healthier lifestyle through diet and exercise.
We asked readers their thoughts on District Attorney Robert Johnson’s decision not to prosecute many of the NYPD’s stop and frisk arrests.

Personally, I’m not really a fan of stop and frisk. I feel like it allows police officers to abuse their power. I also feel it’s degrading to just pick people who live in certain areas and criminalize them. I guess [what Johnson’s doing] is a good thing, a step in the right direction. It will prevent frivolous cases from just burdening the system.

Candace Amos

People sometimes do the wrong things. If they (the police) catch someone and he’s doing something, fine. But if he’s not doing anything, they have no reason to arrest him. The police are doing a good job because right now it’s bad around the Bronx. But the police have to do a good investigation to make sure a person did something.

James Godwin

I think that stop and frisk is pointless and worth nothing. It’s just a way to incarcerate people. Most of the time these people did nothing wrong, like trespassing, maybe they had a friend in the building. It’s about time someone stands up and helps minorities. They should stop, stop and frisk, it’s no good.

Dubz Prada

Not just going on the officer’s word is a good thing because it’s suppose to be an impartial process, right? But in all fairness to impartiality, all points of view have to be considered. It doesn’t seem as if he (Robert Johnson) needs to take anything into consideration ... he’s not getting into what the points really are.

Tiana Orta

He’s (Robert Johnson) being bold for speaking up with his opinion on this and I would agree with it.

Pablo Olivo

A Dinnertime Police Raid Turns Up Little

(continued from p. 1)

In an interview, Neshewat said his brother was on his way from California to clear up the license issue for the shotgun, but did not mention the handgun or the marijuana. He repeatedly denied selling drug or guns from the location and said his brief jail stint and the fact that his shop re-opened the next day should serve as evidence that criminal activity is not going on at Sal’s.

None of the charges against Neshewat amount to more than a misdemeanor.

Sgt. Brendan Ryan, a spokesman for the NYPD, said police officers “executed a valid search warrant” at Sal’s and that Neshewat is being charged with criminal possession of a weapon in the fourth degree, which is a misdemeanor; possession of ammunition (another misdemeanor) and possession of marijuana, which is a violation (like a parking ticket).

Neshewat said he believes he was set up by somebody who called police and supplied them with false information. While he was sitting in jail overnight, he said his store was broken into and some $200 was taken from his office. He’s not sure how they broke in and said police are still investigating.

Ryan said the robbery of Sal’s happened the morning after his arrest, between 10 and 11:15 a.m., and is still under investigation. He said thieves made off with “approximately $2,000.”

Inspector Joseph Dowling, the commanding officer of the 52nd Precinct, confirmed only that someone had been arrested at Sal’s address and said he needed more time to provide further details. Dowling confirmed that he had a report on his desk about the robbery, but said he didn’t want to go into specifics until speaking with detectives.

On Wednesday afternoon, everything looked normal at Sal’s. Customers sat at the tables, gobbling up pasta and drinking wine. Staff, including former owner Sal Calces, who said he came back to work Wednesday a few weeks ago because he “missed his friends,” were busy filling orders and handing out slices. Calces chatted up a group of diners and, in classic Sal fashion, chased away a homeless man after offering him food and telling him not to beg customers for change.

Following his release from jail, Neshewat was eager to clear his name, but also wanted to let people know that he would not be intimidated or deterred or distracted from running his restaurant. Neshewat said he believes somebody jealous of his success — though he’s quick to point out that he doesn’t flaunt it or talk about it — wanted to ruin his name and make off with his earnings.

“It’s very upsetting,” he said, defiantly. “I bust my [butt] for 15 hours a day. Let the haters hate.”
HELP WANTED

Experienced Part Time Development Director: Sought by small, NW Bronx media arts program for teens to research and cultivate funding sources; write proposals and reports; liaison with staff. Strong organizational and writing skills, and not-for-profit experience required. (6 hours a week - salary DOE). Fax resume (including phone #) to (718) 882-2454 or email baylalyn@earthlink.net.

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SITUATION WANTED

Nurse’s Aide: With 25 years’ experience in hospitals, nursing homes and private residences, seeks employment. Will live in or out. Please call (718) 364-7771.

REAL ESTATE


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.

MISCELLANEOUS

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) 882-0585 (home), or (347) 734-9261 (cell).

Trip to Atlantic City: Taj Mahal Casino, Saturday, Oct 6. Bus from East 163rd Street and Southern Boulevard, Bronx. 11 a.m. departure. For more information, call Eddie at (718) 757-5485.

Fun Fair and Flea Market: Saturday, Oct. 27, 2012 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Bedford Park Congregational Church Hall, Bainbridge Avenue at 201st Street. Join us for bargains, raffles, delicious food, fun and fellowship.
Onstage

- Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pl. Blvd., W., presents free classical music concert performed by the Orchestra of the Bronx, in the Lövinger Theater, Oct. 14 at 3 p.m. For more information, call (718) 365-4209.

- Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pl., 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 $20 to $50); and Jerry Rivera and Tito Nieves, two salsa acts, Oct. 13 at 8 p.m. (tickets are $45 to $60). For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

- Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance (BAAD), 841 Barretto St., 2nd floor, presents Latin Dance Theater Project, featuring five performers exploring the cultures of Mexico, the U.S., and Brazil, Oct. 5 and 6 at 8 p.m. (Direct From Brazil, featuring multi-racial female performers exploring change of jobs, locations, or dreams, Oct. 7 at 7 p.m.; Christal Brown and Inspirit: The Evolution, Oct. 12 at 8 p.m.; and I Feel Love: A Dance Tribute to Donna Summer, Oct. 13 at 8 p.m.; each for $20. For more information, call (718) 842-5223.

- The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd. off Fordham Road, presents The Many Moods of Mendelssohn, a concert featuring the Bronx Symphony String Quartet, Oct. 13 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

Events

- The Bronx Tourism Council offers tours: Nautical Tour, guided trolley tour throughout City Island, followed by Nautical Museum, lunch at a local seafood restaurant (cost not included in registration fee), art gallery, concluding with fishing aboard a 65-foot boat (gear and bait included in fee), Oct. 6 ($30/adults, $15/children under 12); round trip trolley depot at 9 a.m. from the Visitors Center, 810 Seventh Ave., and returns at 5 p.m.; Bronxites can box at the last stop of the #6 subway train (Pelham Bay station) at 9:45 am. (BE ON TIME!); and Tour de Bronx, FREE 25- or 40-mile bicycle course (check-in for both routes is 9:30 a.m. Oct. 14 at the Bronx Court House, 161st Street on the Grand Concourse), ending at the New York Botanical Garden for a music festival (registration required at www.tourdebronx.org). To purchase tickets, log on to www.fallforthebronx.com. For more information, call (718) 590-2502.

- Friends of the Woodlawn Cemetery presents: Open House New York, to celebrate the 10th anniversary with free tours, all leaving from the Jerome Avenue entrance, Oct. 6 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. (bringflashlight); and Oct. 7 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., all to visit various mausoleums; and Oct. 6 at 2 p.m. to tour gardens. An additional tour, Woodlawn’s Latino Legends, presented by the Bronx County Historical Society, takes place Oct. 14 at 2 p.m. to hear stories of Latino community leaders and celebrities ($15/adults; $10/seniors/students). For more information, visit www.thewoodlawnccemetry.org.

- 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 or call (212) 575-0263.

- The Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse at 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.

- Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers Family Arts Projects: Sailing the Sky, to view flying hawks, then create a windsock or raptor and take flight, Oct. 6 and 7; and Buildings on the Land, to visit greenhouses and the Ecology Building, then create a structure of clay, cardboard and natural and recycled materials, Oct. 13 and 14; both from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Ecology Building. Grounds admission free Saturdays until noon, and in October, free until noon on Tuesdays. Glyndor Gallery tours take place Tuesdays and Saturdays at 2 p.m. (additional special tour Oct. 13 at 1 p.m. for children and their parents); garden walks are held Tuesdays and Saturdays at 11 a.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m., from the Perkins Visitor Center. Call to confirm. For more information and a schedule of events, call (718) 549-3200.

- 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 Music Heritage Center Lab, 1303 Louis Níné Blvd. (#2 or #5 train to Freeman Street), presents Impresión Transitoria, free, through Oct. 30, showcasing work of Latino artists in a variety of genres and media, Wednesdays and Fridays 6 to 8 p.m. and Saturdays 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 793-2211.

- The Riverdale Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture, 4450 Fieldson Rd., presents painting exhibit featuring four Riverdale artists, weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from 12:30 to 1 p.m. through Oct. 31. Opening reception is Oct. 7 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Call ahead when planning visit. For more information, call (718) 548-4445.

- The Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse at 165th Street, presents an exhibition featuring modern and contemporary art from Latin America: Revolution Not Televised (through Oct. 7) featuring contemporary Cuban art and takes the pulse of contemporary artistic practice in Cuba. 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. 31. Additional events include concerts, poetry, tours, film screenings, and family activities. Oct. 7 and 21 will feature Monet’s Friends: A Chamber Music Concert Series, 4 p.m. in Ross Hall performed by the Hartford Symphony Orchestra (tickets are $25/non members; $15/members). For more information, call (718) 817-8658/8512.

- The Bronx County Historical Society’s Museum of Bronx History at the Valentine–Varian House, 3266 Bainbridge Ave., presents In Style, Bronx Architecture, through Oct. 7, including Bronx landmarks; and to the Chief and Hooray for Our Side, Oct. 13 through April 7, 2013 (opening reception is Oct. 7 from 4:30 to 7 p.m).

- Open House New York and Historic House Trust weekend is Oct. 6 and 7 when the Valentine–Varian House and Poe Cottage will offer free admission. For more information and to reserve, call (718) 881-8900.

Library Events

- The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd. off Fordham Road, presents programs for adults including Hispanic Genealogy Fair, Oct. 6 at 10 a.m.; Arts & Crafts Workshop: Doll Making (all materials supplied), Oct. 12 at 2 p.m.; Film: Oct. 6 at 2:30 p.m. (“Amistad”); Soda Fountain Favorites: History and tastings, Oct. 9 at 10 a.m.; Free Introductory Computer Class at 10 a.m.; Oct. 10; and Your Own Business: Oct. 13 at noon. Teens and young adults can attend Teen Art Club at 3:30 p.m.: Oct. 5 and 12. Children can enjoy Preschool Story Time at 11 a.m.; Oct. 4, 11 and 18; Films at 4 p.m.; Oct. 9 and 16; Door Hanger Making: (ages 5 to 12), Oct. 11 at 4 p.m.; and Harvest Moon: (ages 5 to 12), Native-American folk tales featuring music and dance, Oct. 13 at 2 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

- The Moshulu Library, at 285 E. 205th St., offers for seniors and adults: Knitting Circle: Thursdays at 3 p.m.; Wii Program: Wednesdays at 3 p.m.; and Keyboard Basics: (advance in-person registration required), Oct. 17 at 10:30 a.m. Teens and young adults can attend: Film: Oct. 15 at 3:30 p.m. (“The Avengers”). Children can enjoy Toddler Story Time at 10:30 a.m.: Oct. 4, 11 and 18; Bilingual Birdies: Spanish Language: (ages to 5 years), live music program including puppetry and games, Oct. 9 at 11 a.m.; and “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe”: a play (ages 3 to 12), Oct. 16 at 4 p.m. Immigrants can join free English Conversation Program, intermediate level, Oct. 9, 16, 23 and 30. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

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