

# NORWOOD NEWS

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p. 7

Vol. 26, No. 4 ■ PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION ■ February 21–March 6, 2013

## POLAR BEAR LOVE PLUNGE



Photo by David Greene

**FOR THE THIRD** consecutive year, swimmers converged on the “Bronx Riviera,” Orchard Beach, for an icy Valentine’s-themed swim, dubbed, “Take the Plunge With Someone You Love,” held on Saturday, Feb. 16. With air temperature hovering around 20 degrees, about 40 swimmers jumped in for a very brief dip.

## MS 80 Parents Frustrated With New Principal

By SARA REGALADO

The controversial leadership change at JHS 80, commonly known as MS 80 and the area’s largest middle school, is causing serious concerns for parents.

In the fall of last year, YouTube videos surfaced at the school revealing that the school’s new principal, 30-year-old Emmanuel Polanco, belonged to a Reggaeton band, El Siki. The videos show Polanco dancing around with scantily-clad women and drinking champagne.

“What the video depicts seems unsuitable for a professional in Mr. Polanco’s capacity,” said Cecilia Donovan, the former Parent’s Association president, in an email.

The provocative and sexually-explicit videos have since been taken down, and although the videos are believed to be from several years ago, parents say that students can be heard rapping lyrics from some of the songs in the hallway.

These videos, however, may be the least of Polanco’s worries, as parents say they are growing frustrated with his inaccessibility and a lack of support for their children in terms of academics and safety.

Michelle Pagan, a parent of an MS 80 student, said that when it comes to Polanco, she doesn’t deal with him because

(continued on p. 8)

## 11th District Council Race Pits Insurgent vs. Favorite

By ALEX KRATZ

With sleet pelting the slushy sidewalk outside of Mosholu Montefiore Community Center on Gun Hill Road, Public Advocate and mayoral hopeful Bill de Blasio took first-time City Council candidate Andrew Cohen to school on how to turn a static conversation into drama for the camera.

As Cohen and his handlers looked on, de Blasio showed him various hand gestures: slapping the back of one hand into the other, vigorously pointing at things, counting off numbers with your fingers.

“You’ve got to give them some drama,” de Blasio said, half-joking. “See, I’m showing you all the tricks here, dude.”

De Blasio was just one of several elected officials to endorse the relatively unknown and mild-mannered Cohen for the soon-to-be-vacant 11th District City Council seat over the past two months, including its current resident, Oliver Koppell.

Cohen’s primary rival for the seat, Cliff Stanton, who declared his intention to run for office early last year, derides the endorsements as nothing more than calculated political moves to play nice with the Benjamin Franklin Reform Democratic Club, which Stanton says owns a “monopoly” on Riverdale’s political scene.

Stanton says “Cohen is a manufactured candidate with thin leadership credentials and a scant record of achievement; a product of the political machine of the Northwest Bronx.”

Without any political support, Stanton’s trying to position himself as the anti-establishment candidate. “If you want an independent voice from someone who has fought for our community and has a record of getting things done, I’m your guy.”

The district also includes Norwood, Bedford Park, Woodlawn, Wakefield and Kingsbridge, where Ben Franklin’s reach isn’t extensive. And both candidates admit that, policy-wise, very little

(continued on p. 2)



Photo courtesy the Stanton campaign

**DISTRICT 11** Candidate Cliff Stanton gathers petition signatures at PS 8 for a school safety measure he wants to introduce in the City Council.



Photo courtesy the Cohen campaign

**PUBLIC ADVOCATE** and mayoral hopeful Bill de Blasio endorses council candidate Andy Cohen (left) earlier this month in front of Mosholu Montefiore Community Center.



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## BREAKING BRONX

News • Politics • Policy

By ALEX KRATZ

### Mayor, Borough President Want ‘Responsible’ Armory Development

Before Mayor Michael Bloomberg gave his final State of the City speech at the shiny new Barclay’s Center in Brooklyn, some hypothesized that he would take the opportunity to make an announcement about the Kingsbridge Armory. Specifically, that the city had chosen a developer to re-invigorate the long-vacant space.

The theory made sense given that he had made the Armory’s redevelopment was one of the key goals he outlined in the previous year’s speech.

It didn’t quite work out that way, although he did mention it, saying he wanted to “work with Borough President Diaz to bring new life — and good jobs — back to the Kingsbridge Armory.”

This past Tuesday, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz delivered his own “state of” speech in Soundview.

Diaz spent a lot of time talking about all of the “new” developments coming to the “New Bronx,” including a major commercial in “Kingsbridge.” Alas, he was

talking about the new BJ’s going up on Broadway near East 238th Street.

Towards the end of his speech, Diaz said, “With Councilman Fernando Cabrera and Mayor Bloomberg, we will bring responsible development to the Kingsbridge Armory.”

“Jobs” and “responsible development.” At least it appears we’re still on the right track.

**Editor’s Note:** For more State of the Borough coverage, visit [norwoodnews.oeg](http://norwoodnews.oeg).

### 11th District Council Race Pits Insurgent vs. Favorite Son

(continued from p. 1)

separates the two.

So the race may come down to resume, style and personality.

At first glance, the two couldn’t be more different. Stanton wears stylish, form-fitting clothes that show off an athletic physique. He looks like a quarterback. Bookish and unassuming, Cohen wears glasses and loose fitting suits. He looks like a lawyer or a college professor — which he is.

After growing up in the Rockaways and getting his undergraduate degree at SUNY-New Paltz, Cohen got his first taste of politics while studying at Cardozo School of Law in Greenwich Village when he joined the local Village Independent Democrats Club.

“I found that you can get good things done by electing good people, good Democrats,” Cohen said in an interview.

For about a year, in 1998, Cohen worked as counsel for Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz, who also represents much of the 11th Council District and is one of Cohen’s most adamant supporters and Stanton’s biggest critics.

From there Cohen spent eight years as a law secretary for a judge in Bronx Supreme Court, which Cohen called a “great job.” Basically, Cohen said, he worked behind the scenes, doing legal research and acting as a mediator between the two parties in any given case.

Cohen now practices law out of his home in Spuyten Duyvil and has a host of extracurricular activities filling out his resume, including aging committee chair on Community Board 8, board member on the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park and member of the Bronx Bar Association. He’s also an adjunct professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Stanton’s a local boy who grew up in Kingsbridge Heights attending PS 95, JHS 143 and graduating from Bronx High School of Science. He then graduated from the University of Michigan, where he studied political science and finance.

After college, Stanton spent a year working for a Detroit-area bank before returning to New York and creating one of the city’s largest street vending companies. Stanton eventually became a leader and spokesman for the Big Apple Food Vendors Association, a group that advocates for street vendors.

That experience led him to seek a more involved civic life, he says. In 1997, he worked on Freddy Ferrer’s mayoral

campaign and he served as chief of staff for Brooklyn City Councilman Noach Dear from 1997 to 1999.

Since leaving Dear’s office, Stanton’s spent the past several years engaging in more local efforts — getting deeply involved in the Parents Associations at his kids’ schools, PS 24 and Bronx Science, as a treasurer and board member of the Kingsbridge-Riverdale-Van Cortlandt Development Corporation, and helping to launch the now-annual Riverdale Riverfest. A couple of years ago, he helped recruit a charter middle school to Kingsbridge and now sits on its board.

It’s through these local efforts that Stanton has bumped heads with the political establishment, specifically Dinowitz, who Stanton has labeled an “obstructionist” for what he considers the assemblyman’s repeated attempts to derail his initiatives.

“Any time there’s a challenger [against the Ben Franklin Club], they circle the wagons and when any attempt at innovation or creativity comes around, it gets snuffed out,” Stanton says. “This is a biggie for them, because it threatens the monopoly.”

Stanton says Dinowitz put up roadblocks against a plan he supported to put an ice skating rink in Van Cortlandt Park, then happily showed up to a ribbon-cutting when the plan was approved. When Stanton proposed putting a pedestrian plaza on Riverdale Avenue, Dinowitz vehemently opposed it.

Any mention of Stanton or his community efforts obviously gets Dinowitz riled up. But he says any opposition Stanton’s experienced is based on the merits

of the ideas he’s proposed. “Is it possible that I think it’s a bad idea?” Dinowitz asks, rhetorically. “Some new ideas are dumb ideas.”

Stanton realizes he’s fighting an uphill battle, but he says he’s never been afraid of a fight. He’s not so sure about his opponent.

“I think he’s in way over his head,” Stanton says about Cohen. “There are 51 council members and City Hall is a tough place to do business and he’s not going to have Uncle Jeff [Dinowitz] by his side. You need somebody who is not only going to build consensus and coalitions, but who’s going to fight.”

Cohen says he got into the race because of all the support he felt in the first place. The endorsements, which also include Speaker Christine Quinn, State Senator Jeff Klein, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer and Congressman Eliot Engel, show that there’s a “coalescing of support around my candidacy,” Cohen says.

“The Council is a legislature, you need support in order to get things done,” Cohen says.

Sergio Villaverde, a member of Community Board 8 and the Ben Franklin Club, says he’s seen another side of Cohen, combative side, during club meetings, where he hasn’t been afraid to criticize even the most decorated elected officials.

“That’s a side of Andy you don’t really see,” Villaverde said, adding that Cohen once wrote him a check during his campaign against Assemblyman Jose Rivera, who once controlled the Bronx Democratic machine. “He didn’t have to take that risk.”

### Public and Community Meetings

- **The BRONX PARKS SPEAK UP**, will be held at Lehman College’s faculty dining room, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W. on Saturday, Feb. 23 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Registration, refreshments, and networking begin at 11 a.m. There will be presentations, hands-on workshops, and panel discussions. Free lunch is provided. For more information, call (718) 601-1460.

- **The 52ND PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 28 at The Grand Hall–Tishman Learning Center inside Montefiore Medical Center (enter on the East Gun Hill Road entrance ). After 7 p.m., enter Children’s Hospital on Bainbridge Avenue. 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: Search Committee, Thursday, Feb. 21 (6 p.m.); Budget, Personnel & Ethics, Thursday, Feb. 21; Economic Development, Wednesday, Feb. 27. For more information, call (718) 933-5660 or visit [www.BronxCB7.info](http://www.BronxCB7.info).

- **The BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** will meet on Wednesday, March 6 at 8 p.m. at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. So., Apt. B1 (lobby floor). All are welcome.



# Fire Kills Bedford Park Cancer Patient

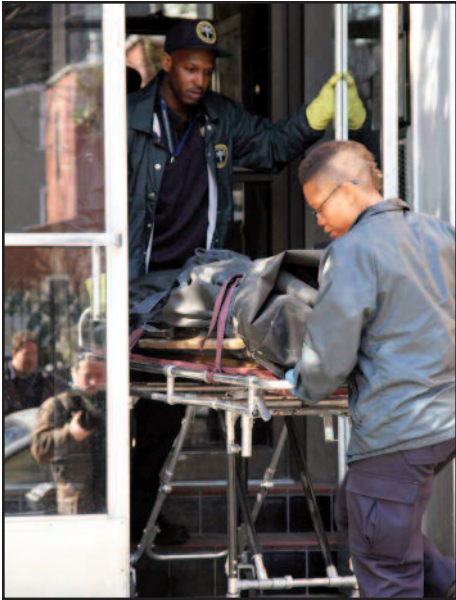


Photo by David Greene

**MEDICAL EXAMINER** workers remove the body of Miriam Morales, 56, who died in the fifth-floor blaze.

By **CLARKE ILLMATICAL**

Miriam Morales, a 56-year-old cancer patient, lost her life when a fire broke out in her Bedford Park-area apartment on the morning of Feb. 15.

The building superintendent Wilfredo Estrada and others said the fire started when an oxygen tank ignited while Morales was smoking.

"Look, she had cancer," said a next-

door neighbor who did not want to be named. "She was smoking near oxygen. She blew up!"

The mother of two was battling throat cancer and, according to the *New York Post*, Morales's son had put out a fire in the apartment a day before.

A spokesman for the Fire Department said they arrived on the scene at 7:26 a.m. and Morales was pronounced dead on the scene after firefighters got the blaze under control at around 8 a.m. It wasn't until several hours later, in the early afternoon, that Morales's body was wheeled out on a stretcher in a body bag.

Members of the NYPD Arson and Explosion Squad and a Fire Department spokesperson said the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

The rest of the six-story building was relatively undamaged by the isolated fire in Morales's corner apartment. Still, some residents were frightened by all the smoke the fire generated.

"We had no idea where the fire was coming from, but within 10 minutes our apartment was filled with smoke," resident Carlos Pizarro, 31, who lived above Morales, told the *Post*. "It was horrible. We couldn't breathe. We had to escape through the fire escape and go to the roof for air."

Another resident, Lisa Bolognese, said she heard Morales's fire detector going off, but didn't leave her apartment until well after the blaze was under control.

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# Evander Hoops Team Has Talent, Personality to Match

By WILL SPEROS

On the eve of their first playoff game, the boys on Evander Childs' varsity basketball team hustled up and down the practice court as head coach David Fonfa pleaded for composure. They appeared focused and confident, with leaders like Michael Bernard and Ezekiel Sierra handling the ball effortlessly, never once breaking stride.

Evander Childs, of the Bronx A East League, came within two games of playing for the city championship last year and, after another stellar season that included an impressive 18-3 record and a thrilling buzzer-beater against Taft, the Tigers want to show, once again, they're one of the top teams in New York City.

Junior Elijah Bunche said it's the Tigers' chemistry that makes them such a tough matchup.

"There's definitely a bond and synergy, but they fight like brothers," Fonfa said.

This is Fonfa's fifth year coaching the team at Evander, which is made up of students from the handful of separate small schools on the East Gun Hill Road campus. He previously spent 15 years coaching track and cross country at the school.

Fonfa simply said he was "happy to have the opportunity to compete against good teams" in the playoffs.

It's clear he's proud of his team's performance and the attention they've received on campus. Fonfa said the team received the sweat suits from Bronx Lab

and reversible jerseys from Contemporary Arts, two schools on campus.

Drawn from the various schools within Evander, each player brings his own talents and unique personality into the mix.

Seniors Michael Bernard and twins Kadeem and Shakeem Douglas are the team's main stars. Bernard is the self-anointed leader, putting himself out there as a representative of the team. He's the team's primary ball handler and a generous passer.

The twins have put up great numbers this season, scoring roughly 35 points combined each game.

Ezekiel Sierra, a junior, is easy to spot, thanks to his pink high tops and tremendous hustle. He's also displayed consistent free throw shooting, something Fonfa has put a major emphasis on this season.

The boys did not hesitate to label Jonathon Cummings, who is always lightening the mood at practices, as the team's biggest goofball. Despite his tendency to mess around from time to time, his free throw shooting and dunking skills are no joke.

Despite such impressive individual achievements throughout the season, the boys insist they are more of a family unit, thanks largely to Fonfa's guidance. Aside from his emphasis on defense and free throws, he also emphasizes the importance of hard work and "showing up," two things the boys agree have stuck with them.

Fonfa has a knack for whipping the

boys into shape, constantly prodding them to hustle through drills. At one point during a recent practice, he made an example of Cummings for being a little too showy with his moves. "Be clever, not fancy," Fonfa reminded his players.

The Tigers lost their Bronx Boro play-

off game against Gompers by eight points last week, but they'll have a shot at redemption in the citywide tournament that starts next week. The seeds for the Public School Athletic League playoffs will be announced Thursday, Feb. 21, and the Tigers will be included.

## Police Report

### Torahs Stolen From Norwood Synagogue

Three Torah scrolls, each worth \$45,000, were stolen recently from the Young Israel Synagogue of Mosholu Parkway, a temple with dwindling membership on East 208th Street in Norwood, according to police.

Synagogue leaders said the Torah scrolls, which contain the first five books of the Bible and are considered the holiest of Jewish scripture, were discovered missing on Feb. 11. But they could have been taken anytime between then and Feb. 1, the last time they were seen.

The *New York Post* reported that other valuables, including "12 similar scrolls, several pieces of silver with religious significance and donations boxes full of cash," were left untouched in another "ark," or glass cabinet, much like the one from which the Torahs were stolen.

Rabbi Zevulun Charlop was devastated by the discovery. "There's nothing holier," Charlop told CBS News. "I feel as though someone was kidnapped from us."

The synagogue may recoup some of the financial loss from insurance, Charlop told the *Jewish Forward*, and he is still holding out hope that they might be recovered. Using tiny serial numbers embedded into the paper, the scrolls were registered with the Universal Torah Registry, making them traceable if the thieves attempt to sell them.

Young Israel has less than a dozen members and is the last remaining temple in Community Board 7, which includes Norwood, Bedford Park, Fordham and parts of University Heights and Kingsbridge Heights. —ALEX KRATZ

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# Inquiring Photographer

By DAVID GREENE

This week, following his final State of the City speech, we asked readers how they will remember the Michael Bloomberg era.



I think that he seemed to start out sounding like a populist, but more and more, especially when he went for his third term, he showed his true colors as an absolute plutocrat.

**Fred Widenhammer**



I liked him a lot in the beginning but he isn't representing the poor folks.

**Anne Baldwin**



All I hear about the mayor is the police department is [better]. But the stop and frisk stuff is too much, it's ridiculous. You get stopped on one corner and get to the next corner, you're getting stopped again. You catch an attitude with the cop, they're going to lock you up and you didn't do anything wrong.

**Nelson Campos**



He will be remembered as a hypocrite. He changed the law to be elected three times, then he changed it back again. Then he made these crazy laws and raised the cost of tickets. He won't let us drink soda, no plastic cups. It's really none of his business how people take care of themselves. He's not responsible for our health.

**Johnny Nita**



Mayor Bloomberg was for Mayor Bloomberg, nothing for the poor people in this city, only made sure the rich like himself got richer and they did, through contracts, through metered parking, where the little man was hurt and the big men turned over big profits.

**Anthony Martucci**

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# Film Headlines Clinton Rally

On Thursday, Feb. 21, DeWitt Clinton High School students and alumni are organizing a rally to protest the Department of Education’s proposal to place two new smaller schools inside Clinton’s building.

The rally will start at 4 p.m. in the Clinton auditorium with the showing of a film about the school’s plight by filmmaker Danny Schechter. It will be followed by a public hearing at 5:30 p.m.

Organizer Sydney Valerio says, “The school is facing growing pressures of being taken over by other small schools and has faced inequitable and deplorable support from the [Department of Education].”



Photo courtesy Danny Schechter  
**IN DECEMBER,** Clinton students rally in support of the school.



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# Be Healthy!

## 3.1 million

Young adults who have gained coverage through a provision in the Affordable Care Act since 2010 that keeps kids under 26 on their parents' health insurance.

Vital Stats

## Keeping Your Skin Hydrated and Healthy This Winter

To keep skin hydrated and healthy during the winter months, Karthik Krishnamurthy, D.O., dermatologist at Montefiore Medical Center, offers the following tips:

- **Simple daily care is the key to healthy skin.** Shower only once daily for less than 10 minutes. The longer the shower, the more natural oils and nutrients are lost. Opt for lukewarm water and avoid very hot water. Use gentle, fragrance-free soaps and choose sponges over harsher scrubs. The same applies for children.

- **Make moisturizing a daily habit.** Moisturize immediately after showering or bathing. While your skin is still wet, apply petroleum jelly, which spreads very easily, then towel dry.

- **Protect skin from the inside out.** Poor nutrition can be a major source of skin disease. Deficiencies in B-vitamins (niacin, riboflavin) can lead to dry, itchy skin. Eating turkey, tuna, whole grains, lentils and bananas will help maintain healthy levels of B-vitamins in the body. On the other hand, ingesting beer or alcohol depletes B-vitamins and can make winter skin worse. A deficiency in vitamin C results in fragile skin, so it's also beneficial to eat citrus fruits, green or red peppers, and drink tomato juice. Supplementing with a multi-vitamin also is recommended.

- **Be aware if skin needs extra care.**

People with pre-existing skin conditions such as eczema and psoriasis as well as those with thyroid disease are at greater risk for skin problems and discomfort during the winter. In addition, people who take multiple medications, especially the elderly, are susceptible to winter skin. Environmental conditions can also have an impact. Too much heat or not enough heat can contribute to low humidity in the home, so maintaining normal room temperature (between 67 and 74 degrees) is advised.

- **It may be cold, but don't forget the sunscreen.** Although it is cold outside, the sun shines ultraviolet light year-round. In fact, it's possible to get even more sun exposure on a snowy day than a summer day. Snow reflects ultraviolet light, so there is double exposure from above and below. Use sunscreen all year round, and choose one that is SPF 30 and also boasts UVA protection with ingredients such as zinc oxide or avobenzone.

—Information courtesy of Montefiore Medical Center

### Blood Drive

Bronx residents are invited to participate in the annual blood drive at Montefiore, 111 E. 210th St., on Wednesday, Feb. 27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursday, Feb. 28,

8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome and children over the age of 16 may donate with parental consent. A photo identification or signature identification card will be required. For donor eligibility, please call the New York Blood Center eligibility line at 1 (800) 688-0900 or visit [www.nybloodcenter.org](http://www.nybloodcenter.org).

### 'ObamaCare' Forum

Attorney General Eric T. Schneider-

man, Congressman Jose E. Serrano and Hostos Community College are hosting a forum on the Affordable Care Act a.k.a. ObamaCare. Attendees will participate in a discussion with health care experts. The forum will take place on Saturday, Feb. 23 at 10 a.m., at Hostos Community College, 450 Grand Concourse, at 149th Street, MJB Cafeteria - C building, 3rd floor. To RSVP and for more information, call Liliam Perez, (212) 416-8754.

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# Neighborhood Notes

## New After-School Program

Tender Tots, a child-care center located at 3322 Perry Ave., has launched a new after-school program for school-age children (ages 5 to12). The center offers a quiet environment where kids can work on homework or other projects and have supervised access to computers and tutoring help. Nutritional snacks as well as crafts, games and other physical activities will be provided. For more information, email [info@tendertotsny.com](mailto:info@tendertotsny.com) or call (646) 481-3067.

## Free Tax Help

Senator Gustavo Rivera’s district office is offering free Federal and State income tax preparation assistance on Feb. 28, from 2 to 6 p.m. and March 26, from 4 to 8 p.m. at 2432 Grand Concourse, Suite 506. To schedule an appointment and receive assistance filing your income tax, call (718) 933-2034.

The Refuge House, 2715 Bainbridge Ave., will host free tax filing which is available to April 10 on select Wednesdays 3 to 8 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (no walk-ins) for individuals and families whose gross income in 2012 was less than \$56,000 with dependents, or \$25,000 without dependents. E-file and Direct Deposit options are available for fast and accurate preparation. For more information and an appointment, call (718) 933-2539.

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd. (718) 579-4244, and the Grand Concourse Library, 155 E. 173rd St. (718) 583-6611, are assisting with filing taxes, free, for those who qualify, through

April 15. For qualification information and a detailed schedule, visit [www.nypl.org/taxhelp](http://www.nypl.org/taxhelp), or call 311 for free tax preparation assistance.

## Flea Market Donations

Donations are needed for the Bedford Mosholu Community Association flea market on March 9. Bring new or used items (except clothing) to the BMCA office at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. So., Apt. B1 (lobby floor) on the following days: Wednesdays, Feb. 27 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 2 from 1:30 to 4 p.m., and Wednesday, March 6 from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

## Stop Smoking Program

North Central Bronx Hospital, 3424 Kosuth Ave., offers free group counseling and nicotine replacement therapy for smokers looking to quit. No appointments are needed or required, 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.

## 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).

*For more Neighborhood Notes online, go to [www.norwoodnews.org](http://www.norwoodnews.org) and click on “Neighborhood Notes.”*

# MS 80 Parents Frustrated With New Principal

*(continued from p. 1 )*

she can’t reach him. “When I call the school, it seems like nobody gives anybody messages there,” Pagan said.

Another parent (who asked to remain anonymous because she didn’t want her father to know her son went to a “bad” school) has problems with her son cutting class, but has little to complain about Polanco himself. She’s more worried about students’ preparedness.

“His past can’t help us,” she said. “I’m focused on what he can do for our kids now. Half aren’t prepared for the state exams.”

She added, “Last year, Saturday Academy [which supplements students’ regular academic schedule] began in October. This year, in January. How much can you really do in a few weeks?”

Another MS 80 parent, Carolina Crespo, also wants more guards and has even been considering switching her daughter out of MS 80, saying that, academically, her daughter hasn’t been the same this year under Polanco.

Donovan has also disapproved of Polanco’s leadership, specifically critiquing his absence in the Parents Association. Donovan said that parent association elections were held hastily late this past fall, months after they were originally planned to take place. The emergency election prevented some parents from voting, Donovan said.

The school referred all questions about Polanco to the Department of Education.

Marge Feinberg, a representative of the DOE, said the DOE “takes parents’ concerns seriously,” and that they are looking into them.

The DOE says Polanco’s record is clean. “He has no prior substantiated investigations,” Feinberg said in an email.

Polanco began his teaching career in 2003 as a substitute teacher and served as an assistant principal for less than a year before becoming principal of MS 80.

Last year, under Principal Lovey Rivera, the school had installed a plan to improve its performance with the aid of

federally-funded programs. Those plans fell apart when the teachers union and the DOE failed to reach a compromise on a teacher evaluation system. It was then that the DOE required the school to enter a “turnaround” program, which mandated that the school change its name, replace its administration and replace half of its teachers.

The DOE began implementing the turnaround program in the spring by replacing Rivera with an interim principal and then eventually hiring Polanco toward the end of the school year. The rest of turnaround was halted by a successful lawsuit brought by the teachers union over the summer, which led to the school retaining its name and its staff.

In the fall, the DOE announced that MS 80 had earned a “B” on its report card, a marked improvement from the past few years. Donovan credits that success to Rivera. Last year, many parents and teachers said they felt the school was on the right path under Rivera.

Despite losing her title as PA president earlier this year, Donovan says she continues to strive for a better relationship between school faculty and parents. Donovan is working on a petition that will demand three things: a better security system, including more security cameras to prevent students from cutting class; more security guards; and an open communication policy that will work to connect the parents to the DOE and the school.

Parents say cutting class is commonplace and that they’ve heard students are having sex in the school. It’s disconcerting to parents, which is why many have chosen to speak up, even if they can’t reveal their names publicly.

The parent who wished to remain anonymous said, “My child is supposed to be in a place where he’s supposed to be learning, where he is guaranteed safety. But I can tell you, before I can say I’ve lost my son in there, I’m trying my best as a parent.”

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# Classifieds

## Professional Directory

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### Non-Denominational Services

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Visit us at  
[www.goodnewscc.wordpress.com](http://www.goodnewscc.wordpress.com).

### HELP WANTED

**District Manager Position:** Available at Community Board #7. Description and requirements are available at [www.BronxCB7.info](http://www.BronxCB7.info).

### 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,

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**Deadlines:** Deadlines for classified ads are one week prior to publication. To place an ad, call the *Norwood News* at (718) 324-4998 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

### HULL AVENUE APARTMENTS

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

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Interested persons may obtain an application by writing to:

#### Property Management Department c/o PCMH

158 East 35th Street  
New York, NY 10016

Applications may also be picked up at:

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

Completed applications must be sent by **REGULAR** mail (NOT registered or certified mail) to the address indicated with the application.

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



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# Out & About

## Onstage

■ The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd, presents **Legends of Jazz**, a musical performance, Feb. 23 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org).

■ The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., W., presents shows at 8 p.m.: **Charlie Zaa**, featuring bolero music, Feb. 23 (tickets are \$99.50/includes meet/greet; and \$45 to \$65); **Forever Freestyle7**, featuring a variety of performers, March 2 (tickets are \$45

to \$60); and **Richie Ray & Bobby Cruz** and others, featuring salsa, March 9 (tickets are \$30 to \$50). For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

■ Lehman College's Lovinger Theatre, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., W., presents **Prelude New York Dance Competition**, featuring creative abilities of various dance teams from different boroughs in NYC, Feb. 23 at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$15/advance adults; or 2 for \$25; \$5/children; \$20/at door. For more information and to RSVP, visit [HipHopTheoryTheCompany@gmail.com](mailto:HipHopTheoryTheCompany@gmail.com), or [PreludeDanceCompetition.com](http://PreludeDanceCompetition.com) or call (917)

609-9696.

■ The Albert Einstein Symphony Orchestra presents **Dvorak in America**, classical music in the Robbins Auditorium of the Forchheimer Building, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, 1300 Morris Pk. Ave., March 10 at 3 p.m. Contributions are suggested. For more information, visit [einsteinorch.tripod.com](http://einsteinorch.tripod.com).

■ Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse, presents **The Camille Thurman Quartet** and live painting performance to celebrate Women's History Month, March 1 from 6 to 10 p.m. in the lower gallery. For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

## Events

■ The Bronx Council on the Arts presents **In Progress: A Writer's Journey**, a free Bronx Writers Center Workshop at 2700 E Tremont Ave., Feb. 25 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The workshop will be followed by a Q & A and book signing by author Andrew Goldstein. For more information, call (718) 931-9500 ext. 33 or visit [www.bronxarts.org](http://www.bronxarts.org).

■ Bronx River Sankofa (free programs on the Bronx River's African-American heritage) offers a **power point talk**, Feb 22 from noon to 2 p.m. at Poe Park Visitors

Compiled by JUDY NOY

Center, 2640 Grand Concourse. For more information, email [concourse\\_vision@gmail.com](mailto:concourse_vision@gmail.com).

■ Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Arts Projects**: Seedy Bedy Paper, to make sheets of handmade paper and dress it up with seeds and seed beads, Feb. 23 and 24; and Family Roots and Branches, to make a family album with sketches of trees (bring family photos), March 2 and 3, both from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Ecology Building. Grounds admission is free Saturdays until noon and free Tuesdays all day. Special programs are geared to families with children ages 5 to 10 during Presidents Week and grounds admission is free for Bronx residents during this 10-day period, through Feb. 24. For more information and a schedule of events, call (718) 549-3200.

■ Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse, presents **Readings & Conversations**, with author Silas Burgess III, March 6 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., in the north wing lobby; and **1040 Lounge**, to celebrate and promote the arts in the Bronx, featuring artist talks and performances, March 8 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. in its north wing lobby (drinks will be served). For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

■ The public is invited to ride the March 6

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free **Bronx Culture Trolley**, which transports visitors on the first Wednesday of every month (except January and September) to Bronx hot spots. Trolley night starts with a 5 p.m. reception at the Longwood Art Gallery at Hostos Community College, 450 Grand Concourse (at 149th St.). From there, the trolley departs at 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. For more information and a detailed schedule, call (718) 931-9500 ext. 33 or log on to [www.bronxarts.org](http://www.bronxarts.org).

## Exhibits

■ The Bronx Documentary Center, 614 Courtlandt Ave., presents **Seis Del Sur**, free exhibition of photographs through March 8. For more information, call (347) 332-6962 or visit [www.bronxdoc.org](http://www.bronxdoc.org).

## Library Events

■ The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents programs for adults including **Computer**: MS Word for Beginners (2-session class; register online), Feb. 21 at 2 p.m.; **Mango Language Program**, to learn one of more than 40 languages (online registration required), Feb. 27 at 10 a.m.; **Film**: "South Africa," March 2 at 2:30 p.m.; and **Disabilities Film Festival**: featuring Doc Pomus, March 7 at 11 a.m. Teens and young adults can join **ARTistic Teens at 3:30 p.m.**: Feb. 22 and March 1. Children can enjoy **Baby Story Time**, Feb. 23 at 11 a.m.; **Story Songs**: (ages 5 to 12), Feb. 23 at 2 p.m.; **Global Partners Junior**

**at 4 p.m.**: (ages 5 to 12: phone or in-person registration required), Feb. 27 and March 6; **Preschool Story Time at 11 a.m.**: Feb. 21, 28 and March 6; **Whitehouse Book Making**, Feb. 28 at 4 p.m.; **Film**: March 5 at 4 p.m.; and **Pencil & Pen Holder Making**, March 7 at 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org).

■ The Moshulu 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. Children can enjoy **Read Aloud at 4 p.m.**: (ages 3 to 12), Feb. 25 and March 4; **Make Your Own Jewelry**: Feb. 26 at 3 p.m.; **Toddler Story Time at 10:30 a.m.**: (ages 18 to 36 months), Feb. 21 and March 7; and **Baby Story Time**: (ages to 18 months), March 5 at 11 a.m. Speakers of other languages can attend free **English Conversation Program**: intermediate level, Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m., Feb. 26, March 5, 12 and 19. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

■ The Jerome Park Library, at 118 Eames Place, offers **Pajama Party**: Feb. 25 at 6 p.m.; and **Arts & Crafts**: March 4 at 4 p.m. (both for ages 5 to 12), and **Crafternoons**: March 6 at 4 p.m.; and **Cooking**: March 7 at 4 p.m., both for teens/young adults. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

**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 Feb. 25 for the next publication date of March 7.

# Bedford Café Restaurant

1 East Bedford Park Blvd.

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## BREAKFAST

Eggs & Omelettes  
Gourmet Combination Omelettes

WAFFLES  
PANCAKES  
FRENCH TOAST  
IRISH BREAKFAST  
BAGEL CREAM  
CHEESE N' LOX



PASTA FIESTA  
\$7<sup>95</sup>

EARLY BIRD DINNER  
FROM 4 PM-7 PM  
\$12<sup>75</sup>

## LUNCH SPECIALS

11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

## FRESH FISH DAILY

STEAKS  
PASTA  
VEAL  
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BBQ SPARE RIBS  
PENNE ALA VODKA  
SPICY CHICKEN  
OR SHRIMP  
LINGUINI PRIMAVERA

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**10% off for senior citizens  
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- Do you feel hopeless and frustrated about your broken, missing and decayed teeth?
- Does the thought of your needed treatment cause you to hyperventilate?
- Are you looking for a dental home that restores your trust?

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- **Beautiful Smiles Created Using State-of-the-Art Dentistry Backed by 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE.**
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I like knowing Dr. Jay Fensterstock has offices near both my home and office. Not only can I choose the most convenient location for me, but I can also choose the appointment time that is easiest for me. It's a treat to know Dr. Jay Fensterstock helps me get quality dental care on my schedule and at a great price."—Elizabeth M.

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**New Patients Only** Offer Expires 3/31/13

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YES, YOU CAN HAVE A BEAUTIFUL SMILE!



**YOU CAN NOW TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR DENTAL HEALTH**



**Council Member Fernando Cabrera, Food Bank  
For New York City, and The City University of New York**  
invite you to

# FREE\* Tax Preparation

Saturday, March 2, 2013

**9 am-5 pm**

**Bronx Works Morris Senior Center  
80 East 181 St.  
Bronx, NY 10453**

**Food Bank For New York City 212-894-8060   Council Member Cabrera's office 347-590-2874**

**DIRECTIONS:** No. 4 train to Burnside, walk to 181st Street. BX1 or BX2 to 180th Street

**We do not prepare the following returns:** Itemized returns; Schedule C (Profit or Loss from Business - except limited Schedule C for child care providers and taxi drivers); Complicated & Advanced Schedule D (Capital Gains and Losses); Schedule E (Rents & Losses); Form SS-5 (request for Social Security Number); Form 2106 (Employee Business Expenses); Form 3903 (Moving Expenses); Form 8606 (Nondeductible IRAs); Form 8615 (Minor's investment income)



\* Qualified people will get their taxes completed for FREE.

**Income limits**

- \$50,000 with dependents
- \$18,000 without dependents

**To qualify you must have the following:**

- If filing jointly with a spouse, both of you must be present with photo IDs.
- Social Security cards or ITIN (or copies) for you and your spouse if filing jointly and anyone you are claiming on your tax return, or a letter from the Social Security Administration.
- W-2s for all jobs you held in 2012.
- Form 1099-G if you received unemployment insurance in 2012.
- Form 1099-INT if you received interest from a bank account in 2012.
- Form 1098-T if you paid tuition.
- Form 1098-E if you paid student loan interest.
- If you are claiming child care expenses, amount you paid and child care agency's ID or name and Social Security number of the babysitter.

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QUOTES**

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