

NORWOOD NEWS

**St. Patrick's
Day Guide**
pages 7-10

Vol. 26, No. 5 ■ PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION ■ March 7-20, 2013

EYE OF THE TIGERS



Photo by Adi Talwar

SHAKEEM DOUGLAS of Evander Childs Campus sees a path to the hoop during the Tigers' convincing 80-58 victory over Norman Thomas last week. The win put Evander into the Sweet 16 of the Public School Athletic League Boys A Division tournament. For more tournament updates, visit our Breaking Bronx blog at norwoodnews.org.

Unions, MS 80 Parents Rally to Remove Principal

By **WILL SPEROS**

Disgruntled parents and local union members rallied last week outside of MS 80, the Norwood area's largest middle school, to protest the school's principal, Emmanuel Polanco. The protesters said Polanco is leading the school down a troubling path and violated the rights of at least one faculty member. They plan to continue rallying every week until Polanco is removed.

In his first full year at MS 80, Polanco, 30, was thrust into the spotlight after a music video on YouTube featuring his Reggaeton band, El Siki, began circulating around the school. The racy video raised eyebrows, but Cecilia Donovan, the former president of the Parents Association, said the video is masking the real problems at the school.

In addition to overcrowding problems, there have been reports of gang recruitment, students frequently cutting class and rumors of sex on school grounds. While Polanco is not solely responsible for these problems, Donovan and others say he isn't doing enough to remedy them and is ignoring parents' attempts to help or have any input.

Since Polanco took the helm at the end of last year, some parents have expressed major concern about the school's future. Receiving active and consistent support from other parents, however, has proved tricky. Donovan said some parents have been left "disenfranchised," fearing that any involvement in the effort to remove Polanco will negatively impact how their child is treated at the school.

(continued on p. 12)



Photo by Adi Talwar

UNION MEMBERS RALLY last Thursday in front of MS 80 to protest the school's new principal.

Fearing the Worst, Clinton Fights to Save School

By **ALEX KRATZ**

Alan Ettman, an English teacher at DeWitt Clinton High School, has been down this path before. He taught at Walton High School, a large school just a mile south of Clinton, before a couple of small schools were "co-located" into the same building around the turn of the century. Renovations were soon done at the building for the new schools, while Walton's facilities deteriorated and its spirit sank. At one point, Ettman literally found himself locked out of the faculty bathroom.

"I had every intention of finishing my career there," Ettman says.

A few years later, the Department of Education decided to close Walton completely.

"It was extremely demoralizing and depressing to everyone," Ettman says.

Ettman moved on to Clinton, where he is now the
(continued on p. 12)

Sex Offender Charged With Webster Ave. Rape

By **DAVID GREENE**

Police arrested a registered sex offender with a lengthy criminal history and charged him with raping, assaulting and robbing a female worker at a laundromat on Webster Avenue in Bedford Park.

On Sunday, Feb. 17, police say Danny Gonzalez, 44, a career criminal with arrests dating back to 1990, followed a 27-year-old employee inside the Broad Laundry at 3181 Webster Ave. where she was opening the business just before 8 a.m. A week and a half later, police would arrest Gonzalez on the east side of Manhattan near midtown.

A neighborhood source said the victim was also caring for her 8-month-old baby at the time of the attack, and was distracted when Gonzalez locked the door and forced the woman into a back office. The baby was not hurt during the attack.

The source said that after the incident, "He locked her in the bathroom and then went to the deli and ordered a sandwich." The source had several choice words for the assailant that could not be printed in a family newspaper.

Police have credited the unidentified victim for providing such a good description and the Green Mermaid Deli whose elaborate surveillance system captured an image of the suspect that would eventually be spotted by the tipster, who called police.

(continued on p. 3)

NORWOOD NEWS

Vol. 26, No. 5

Norwood News is published bi-weekly on Thursdays by Mosholu Preservation Corporation
3400 Reservoir Oval East
Bronx, New York 10467

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BREAKING BRONX

News • Politics • Policy

By ALEX KRATZ

Diaz: Registry Would Keep Gun Offenders Out of 'Shadows'

In an effort to reduce gun violence, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. wants to publicize the names and addresses of those convicted of gun-related felonies and will introduce legislation on the city and state levels calling for the creation of an online gun offender registry.

"If such a gun-crime registry were online, as the state's sex offender registry is, anyone would be able to view the names and addresses of people convicted of gun-related felonies," said Diaz in a statement after announcing the plans during his fourth State of the Borough speech two weeks ago. "I strongly believe that law-abiding citizens ought to know who among us is responsible for gun violence. Most importantly, this easily-accessible gun crime registry would serve as a deterrent from such acts."

Repeatedly, Diaz has compared his proposed online gun registry to the sex offender registry, hoping it will have the same impact on criminals. Although the concept is the same, gun-related crimes do not have the same stigma as those committed by sex offenders, said John Small, a professor in Monroe College's criminal

justice department and a retired NYPD sergeant, and the impact of registry could be completely different.

"I applaud the Bronx borough president for bringing light to the issue. The issue of gun crimes is huge in our community," Small said. "There are some serious differences between [publicizing] sex crimes and gun crimes, depending upon the scope of what [the registry] would include. In certain subcultures and gang cultures, prison is a badge of honor. It could be the same with a gun registry."

Tom King, president of the New York State Rifle and Pistol Association, said guns aren't the issue.

"If there is going to be a gun crimes registry, there is already a sex offender registry, there should be an assault registry, a theft registry, a political corruption registry and let's register everybody that's a criminal," King said. "It's not the guns. It's the criminals."

Small said that defining the registry would be important.

"When you're talking about [felony] gun crimes, you're talking about everything from criminal possession of a

weapon, all the way up to murder, so there is a large gamut," Small said. "The details are very important."

Last week on the show BronxTalk, Diaz said he's hoping state and city officials pursue the legislation.

"We need to make sure gun offenders don't hide in the shadows and continue to plague our neighborhoods with crime," Diaz said.

—CLARKE ILLMATICAL



Photo courtesy Bronx Borough President's office
BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT Ruben Diaz Jr. proposed a gun offender registry during his fourth State of the Borough speech last month.

Rivera Backs Chief of Staff

In the wild, congested race shaping up in the City Council's 15th District, which stretches from the Fordham-Bedford area into West Farms, current seat holder Joel Rivera is backing his right-hand man, Albert Alvarez.

Rivera and his longtime chief of staff were making the rounds at a fundraising event hosted by the Bronx Chamber of Commerce last week, trying to drum up support.

"He's my guy," said Rivera, who is term-limited and looking forward to his next career as a real estate broker.

The list of people who have expressed interest in replacing the Council majority leader continues to grow, but Rivera said he is confident in Alvarez's ability to emerge from the pack.

Alvarez said he is going to formally announce his candidacy in the next week or so.

Silence on the Armory

Last week after a hearing downtown, Councilman Fernando Cabrera, whose district includes the Kingsbridge Armory, said he believes a developer will be chosen to re-invigorate the hulking empty castle. He just doesn't know when.

"Ask the EDC," Cabrera said, referring to the city's Economic Development Corporation, the quasi-governmental agency controlled by the mayor that is in charge of the Armory project.

It's been more than 14 months since the EDC first released a request for proposals to redevelop the Armory.

Early on, two finalists emerged: the Kingsbridge National Ice Center partners, which envisioned the Armory as the world's largest ice sports complex, and Young Woo and Associates, which

wants to turn the Armory into a flexible town square-style market, with entertainment, recreation and business incubator space.

In early January, EDC officials said a decision was coming "soon." But two months later, it's unclear what's going on and Cabrera isn't talking. He is on the record saying he will not vote for a proposal that doesn't include a community benefits agreement, which would most likely include thousands of feet of programmable community space, job train-

ing programs, local hiring requirements and funding for youth programs.

For the past months, representatives of the Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Alliance (KARA) have been trying to hammer out a CBA with the ice center group. But there hasn't been any word about progress on those talks.

"It's going to happen," Cabrera said, allowing that it may take some time and patience. "If not with this mayor, then the next. We only have one shot at this. We want to make sure it's done right."

www.norwoodnews.org

Public and Community Meetings

- **THE PANEL FOR EDUCATION** will meet on Monday, March 11 at 6 p.m. at Brooklyn Technical High School, 29 Fort Greene Pl. to discuss and vote on the plan to co-locate two new schools within DeWitt Clinton High School. For more information, call (212) 374-5159.
- The **COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 10** is hosting a Town Hall-style forum with Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott on Tuesday, March 19, from 6 to 7 p.m. at Walton H.S. Educational Campus Auditorium, 2780 Reservoir Ave. Walcott will discuss student achievement, school finances and the city's educational goals and priorities, and will take questions from the public.
- **COMMUNITY BOARD 7** will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 19, at Serviam Tower, 321 E. 198th St. For more information, call (718) 933-5660 or visit www.BronxCB7.info.
- **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: Parks & Rec., Thursday, March 7; Senior Services, Thursday, March 14 (10 a.m., at Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, 3450 DeKalb Ave.); Traffic/Transportation, Thursday, March 14 (DOT will present on Webster Ave. Select Bus Service); Environment/Sanitation, Thursday, March 14; Housing, Wednesday, March 20; Community Relations/Long-term Planning, Thursday, March 21. All Community Board meetings are open to the public. For more information, call (718) 933-5660 or visit www.BronxCB7.info.
- The **52ND PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 21 at the Bedford Park Senior Center, 243 E. 204th St. For more information, call (718) 220-5824.

Webster Ave. Rape Charge



Photo courtesy NYPD

POLICE SAY career criminal Danny Gonzalez, 44, raped a worker inside a Webster Avenue laundromat.

(continued from p. 1)

A man working at the laundromat says the victim is recovering, but has not yet returned to work.

Police sources say Gonzalez is a level 3 sex offender, which means he's still considered a threat to attack again, who has served 13 years in prison for rape and other offenses.

Police had no last known address for Gonzalez.

Police would only say that Gonzalez was arrested on the morning of Wednesday, February 27, at the corner of East 41st Street and Lexington Avenue, after a call to the CrimeStoppers tip line.

Gonzalez has been charged with rape, robbery and assault in the case.

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School Briefs

World Change Starts With Kiss



Photo courtesy PS/MS 95

MEMBERS OF PS/MS 95's One Word Club, which seeks to effect positive change in the world one project at a time, raised \$200 selling Hershey's Kisses on Valentine's Day. The group gave the money to the Make-a-Wish Foundation, which grants wishes to terminally ill youngsters. The club's goals are "to improve our community and the future of our community as vastly as possible," said eighth grade member Diamond Staten. Pictured (top row, left to right): Suheilie Rivera, teacher Chelsea O'Toole, Jada Chevaliers, Brittany Cobblah; (bottom row, left to right): Diamond Staten, Christian Lopez-Rivera.

Neighborhood Notes

Flea Market

The Bedford Mosholu Community Association will hold a free flea market on March 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Mary's Orthodox Church, Bedford Park Boulevard and Decatur Avenue.

Capital Lenders Forum

Small business owners can visit a Capital Lenders Forum to learn about business opportunities from banks, micro lenders, and community development organizations, March 20 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Lehman College, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., W., Carman Hall room B76. For more information and to register: call (718) 960-8806.

Latino College Expo

High school students, guidance counselors and community agencies are invited to a free Latino College Expo, to meet college reps and learn about financial aid and college guidance, March 16 from noon to 3 p.m., at New York University's Kimmel Center, 60 Washington Square So., 4th floor. There will be free raffles and giveaways. For more information, call (917) 217-5812 or email aaponte8@yahoo.com.

Free Tax Help

- Senator Gustavo Rivera's district office is offering free Federal and State income tax preparation assistance on March 26, from 4 to 8 p.m. at 2432 Grand Concourse, Suite 506. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (718) 933-2034.

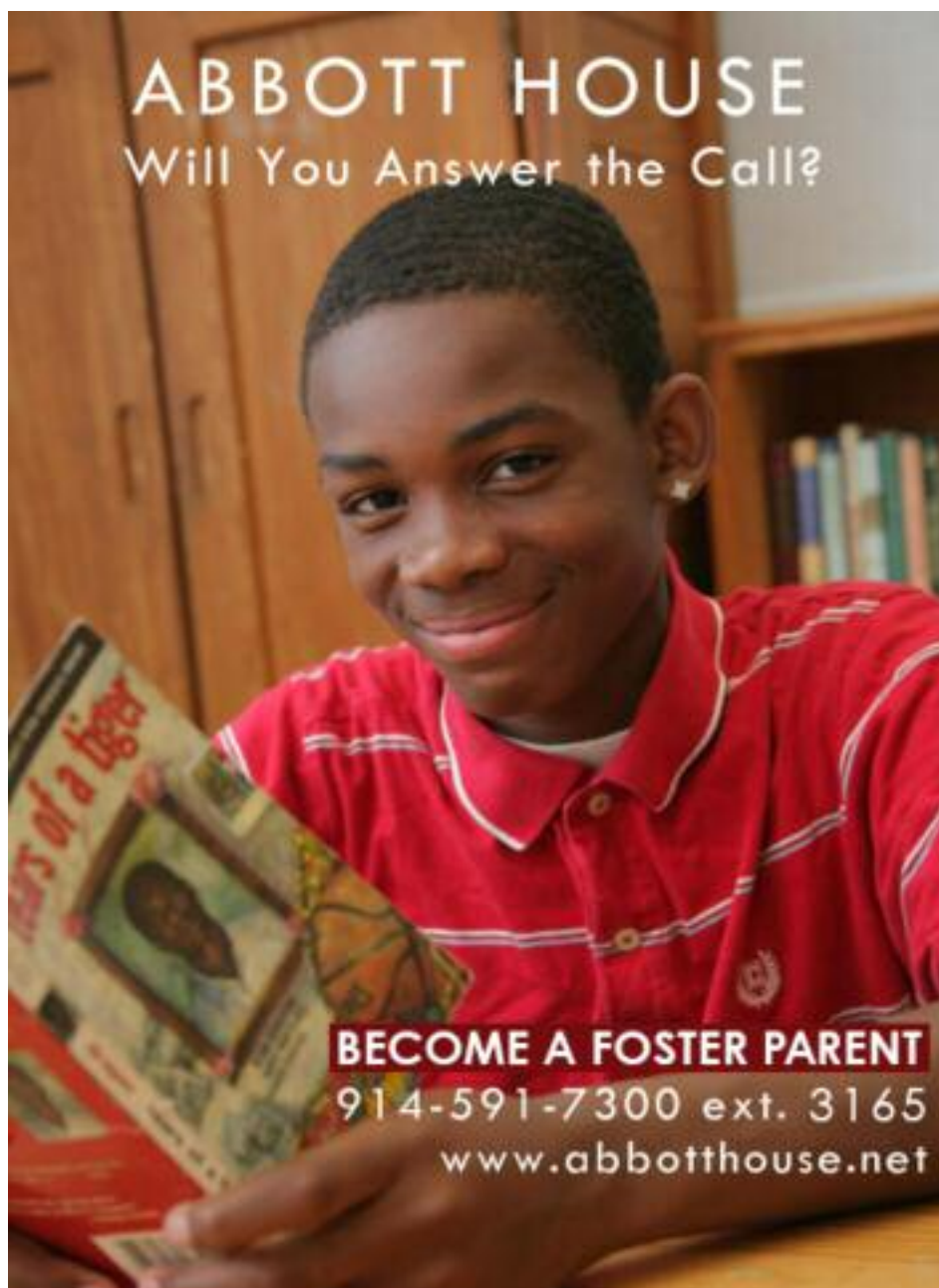
- The Refuge House, 2715 Bainbridge Ave., offers free tax filing through April 10 on select Wednesdays 3 to 8 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (no walk-ins) for individuals and families whose gross income in 2012 was less than \$56,000 with dependents, or \$25,000 without dependents. E-file and Direct 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, or call 311 for free tax preparation assistance.

- Community Tax Aid, Inc. provides free tax preparation through April 15 for individuals earning less than \$25,000 or families with incomes of less than \$50,000. For more information, including locations, hours, and required documents, visit www.communitytaxaidnyc.org.

• BronxWorks is offering free tax preparation to low income taxpayers at the Food Bank of New York's Morris Innovative Senior Center, 80 E. 181st St. and at Community Aid at 2070 Grand Concourse. For more information, including additional locations, or a detailed schedule, call (646) 393-4009 or visit www.bronxworks.org.

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



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Police Report

Parents on Edge After Attempted Luring at PS 33

By DAVID GREENE

It's every parent's worst nightmare. Fortunately, this time, it didn't come true.

As an 8-year-old girl was walking to her school building at PS 33 in University Heights on Thursday, Feb. 21, police say a man attempted to lure her into coming away with him.

Police say the unidentified third-grader reported that the man approached her on two separate occasions while on her way to school and even attempted to grab her at one

point.

School officials would send students home with a letter, telling parents to instruct their children not to speak to strangers.

Parents say school officials held an emergency meeting that morning and a second official meeting was held with parents the following Monday.

The incident has parents angry and on edge.

"My three children are students here," said parent Joe Baez. "If I see that guy I'd break his legs."

Police have released a photo of the suspect and described him as a black man between 20 and 30 years of age, 5-feet-10-inches tall and wearing a black jacket and black shoes. The suspect was also reported to be wearing a brown hat and a hooded sweatshirt.

Editor's Note: Police ask anyone who has any information on the suspect to call CrimeStoppers at 1 (800) 577-TIPS.

POLICE RELEASED this surveillance photo of the suspect of an attempted abduction.

Photo courtesy NYPD



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Paint The Town Green

St. Patrick's Day is a time of celebration; a religious and cultural holiday commemorating Saint Patrick, the most common patron saint of Ireland, and honoring the arrival of Christianity in their land. Yet, gone are the days when only Irish Catholics participate in this centuries-old holiday. In many ways St. Patty's has transformed into something like Mardi Gras, which also stemming from Christianity, is now widely celebrated across diverse religions and cultures internationally. Break out your green beads!

Borough wide there are a number of options for Patty's enthusiasts seeking their very own taste of Dublin, either in the form of religious or social fulfillment. Whether you want to attend mass, fatten up with some corn beef, or indulge yourself with a pint of Guinness, the Bronx is the place to be. Annually, droves of people hail from nearby counties to take part in our festivities despite their ethnicity or religion. Bronx Go Bragh!

With Throggs Neck, Norwood, Woodlawn and Riverdale, known for their traditional Irish pubs, and an array of multi-cultural eateries, sports bars, and lounges scattered around town featuring Irish fare, bar specials, or entertainment for the green March madness, no matter where you are there is a party nearby that won't disappoint.

This year like many years, the Bronx is celebrating two weekends in a row. Throggs Neck will hold its 15th Annual St. Patrick's Day parade this Sunday, March 10th, which is expected to draw in even larger than usual crowds due to its milestone anniversary. Traditional St. Patrick's Day falls next Sunday and keeps the party going. Wherever you choose to strike up the festivities, it's easy to party the night away at multiple spots safely with most establishments sitting just steps away from a subway line or bus route.

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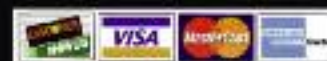
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For more than 30 years, Metro Optics has provided top-notch vision care and eyewear to the Bronx with three accessible locations in Hunts Point (1038 Southern Boulevard), Westchester Square (25 Westchester Square), and Parkchester (1332 Metropolitan Avenue). In addition to their wide selection of frames and lenses, Metro Optics' medical optometrists provide full service eye examinations for their patients and customers. Fully licensed and certified vision experts specialize in customizing even the most hard-to-fit prescriptions for your visual health and comfort. And for your convenience, an in-house lens fabrication facility provides same day service on most products.

Advancing with the times, Metro Optics has raised the bar on local eyecare yet again by investing in state-of-the-art technology which enables them to provide optimized digital eyewear for patients seeking the best visual experience possible. For decades, progressive lenses had been considered the high-tech alternative to the older bifocal lens, which only offered two corrective prescriptions, most commonly distance and near. Today however, thanks to the development of new technology that surpasses the old manufacturing methods, digital surfacers now allow for the fabrication of lenses that are unique to each patient. These innovative digital surfaces take posture, depth and frame angles into account, providing a more accurate and individualized eyecare experience. Who doesn't want the sharpest vision possible? Known as centration devices, these high-tech video measuring machines give your eyecare practitioner customized information for each unique pair of eyeglasses. Able to survey your eye from five parameters, lenses can now be optimized to produce the best lens possible for a given prescription and frame combination which differs for each patient. And digital and freeform generators can now manipulate the back surface of the lens which creates a significant improvement in the peripheral clarity of the lens, providing a high-definition experience.

In fact, if your vision is blurry long after the green has faded this week, don't blame your partying and head to a Metro Optics near you for a full eye exam stat! This ultramodern centration equipment is available at all three of Metro Optics locations.

For more information call any one of their offices: Hunts Point (718-328-7137), Westchester Square (718-597-6162), or Parkchester (718-829-5605); or check out Metro Optics online at www.metrooptics.com.

Jerome-Gun Hill BID Festive Gear, Beer, and Cheer

The Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District, which comprises more than 200 businesses in total, calls the Norwood section of the borough home, which has strong ties to Irish-American culture. Norwood was once a popular relocation site for Irish immigrants newly acquainted with the States. Nowadays many other cultures share the area but despite your heritage, everyone is Irish on St. Patty's Day!

Spanning along Jerome Avenue from Moshulu Parkway to East Gun Hill Road and the stretch of East Gun Hill Road from Jerome to Webster Avenue, the BID is home to dozens of restaurants and bars, as well as clothing, discount, and variety stores.

Enjoy a cold beer at Oasis Café & Sports Bar (3441 Jerome Avenue) or Lynch's Inn (3402 Jerome Avenue), or switch it up and try some Latin American cuisine at El Presidente II (4-10 East 208th Street). You can also stock up your liquor cabinet at C&N Liquors (6 East Gun Hill Road), their sister store K&S Liquors (3394 Jerome Avenue), or nearby DO Wines & Liquors (344 East Gun Hill Road). But don't forget party supplies, which you can pick up at any one of the nearly dozen discount and variety stores and markets. And with nearly 15 apparel shops, including Too Hot Fashions (3466 Jerome Avenue) and BX Sports (3476 Jerome Avenue), you're sure to find something green.

For more information visit www.jeromegunhillbid.org or call (718) 324-4461.

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Pelham Bay Park Parties for Patty's at Area 98

Celebrate St. Patty's in Pelham Bay at Area 98, located at 2997 Westchester Avenue. A chic yet down-to-earth corner bar that opens its doors to local regulars and new visitors alike, conveniently located at the foot of the No. 6 train Buhre Avenue stop.

These professional partiers don't just bring the party on a holiday, at Area 98 there is a party every night of the week! Here customers enjoy pool tournaments every Monday, game night Tuesdays including beer pong, VIP treatment for the ladies on Wednesdays, jukebox jam sessions reserved for Thursdays, Friday night karaoke, resident DJ Kode Blue spinning every Saturday, and sports galore Sundays where you can catch the most popular games on multiple flat screens.

Regulars feel they are a part of the "A98 family" thanks to owner Jermaine Wiggins who keeps his customers coming back. At Area 98 people aren't just customers; they are "98ers" as he affectionately calls them. With a loyal following from jump, the bar has grown even more over the last few years making new friends every night. Just browse their Facebook page and it is clear that Area 98 serves up more than just brew and a good time.

Visit area98bar.com, find them on Facebook, or call (347) 691-3661. Better yet, just pop in any night of the week and see what all the hype is about. Area 98 is. Prepare to be impressed!

Prepare For Your St. Patty's Party at C&N / K&S Liquors

Having your own St. Patty's Day bash? Pre-gaming before hitting your local pub or parade? Stock up on all your favorite adult beverages at C&N Liquors (6 East Gun Hill Road) or their sister store, K&S Liquors (3394 Jerome Avenue), both conveniently located in Norwood and members of the Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District.

Featuring a wide variety of top-shelf liquors, wines and spirits, C&N and K&S Liquors have all you need to keep your party flowing with all the best in alcoholic drinks. Not sure what you want to buy? These businesses offer free wine tasting every Friday and Saturday from 3pm to 8pm. And if you really want to get into the green spirit browse their shelves for a few of the best known Irish traditional drinks including Jameson Irish Whiskey and Bailey's Irish Cream.

Want to really impress your guests? Line up some "Irish Car Bombs," a favorite shot in any pub on St. Patrick's Day, a fun race to get the best taste. Happy chugging!

For business hours call C&N at (718) 654-1831 or K&S at (718) 405-5775.

Beso Lounge: A Posh St. Patty's Party

Kiss me I'm Irish! Well, on St. Patrick's Day we all are, especially at Beso Lounge which lip-smacks all year round.

Set in the Norwood section of the Bronx, Beso Lounge is known for its upscale yet down home atmosphere, city chic drinks, and crowd pleasing DJs who play the latest tracks in reggae, reggaeton, Bachata, salsa, hip hop, dembow and more. And while you won't hear any Irish bagpipes, you can kick back and enjoy \$10 Hookah pipes while dancing your night away. You'll also be treated to free entrance, valet parking and top-shelf bottles ranging \$100 to \$125 all night. Visit Beso this season and let your St. Patty's take an urban spin proving to be a night to remember!

Located at 320 East 204th Street, Beso is just a short walk from the D train, making this lush lounge easily accessible to fellow Bronxites and partiers from other boroughs. Beso also features flat screens streaming all your favorite sports on game days.

Since opening in 2010, owners Gino Pacheco and Eli Garcia have made it their business to create a welcoming environment for their customers and care about their community. Garcia is the current President of the East 204th Street & Bainbridge Avenue Merchants Association.

For more information, find Beso Lounge on Facebook or follow them @BESONYC on Twitter.

Be Healthy!

Chef Demos Healthy Cooking

By WILL SPEROS

In an effort to curb the Bronx's staggering obesity problems, Tom Valenti, the renowned chef, restaurant owner and best-selling cookbook author, showed off his skills at Montefiore Medical Center Monday evening to highlight healthy cooking and nutrition.

In association with Dr. Peter Selwyn, who also stood in as sous chef, Valenti discussed the growing diabetes and obesity problems in our country, with the Bronx in particular being an area of concern. Valenti, a big-time food lover, has suffered from type-2 diabetes for the past 17 years.

It was clear he was eager to prove that one can still continue a love affair with food, but in a healthier way. The chef has even published a best-selling cookbook titled, "You Don't Have to Be Diabetic to Love This Cookbook," which includes diabetic-friendly options.

The first thing Valenti and Selwyn prepared for the large audience was a root vegetable stew, with ingredients like turnips and parsnips that are available throughout the year.

They followed the stew up with a chicken, prepared with olive oil and vermouth, and enhanced with onions, potatoes, and herbs. Valenti also demonstrated how to properly butcher a chicken and how to utilize the whole bird.

The whole chicken offers buyers more options, and is ultimately a better financial decision as a whole chicken tends to be the same price as the skinless/boneless cuts avail-

able at the store. Selwyn even got the chance to provide the recipe for a healthy homemade vinaigrette salad dressing with oil, lemon juice, Dijon mustard and shallots.

Both Valenti and Selwyn emphasized their hope to instill the importance of healthy eating habits in children, as studies are showing that the nation's new generation of children may be the first ever to have a shorter life span than their parents.

Valenti is currently the executive chef and co-owner of Ovest Restaurant on the Upper West Side.



Photo courtesy Montefiore Medical Center
CHEF TOM VALENTI of Ovest restaurant (left) is assisted by Peter Selwyn, MD, chairman of the Department of Family & Social Medicine, Montefiore, in cooking healthy recipes.

CHEF'S TOUCH

Recipe
Root Vegetable Stew with Cumin, Coriander and Millet (serves 6)

Adapted from Tom Valenti's Soups, Stews, and One-Pot Meals



Ingredients

- 1 pound turnips, cut lengthwise into 6 pieces each
- 6 cups milk
- 1/2 cup ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1 large onion, peeled and cut on the bias into 2-inch pieces
- 1 small turnip, peeled and quartered
- 2 medium parsnips, peeled and cut on the bias into thirds
- 1 small Spanish onion, peeled and cut into 8 wedges
- 4 cloves of garlic, peeled and sliced
- 1/2 cup tomato paste
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh thyme
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 2 tablespoons distilled white vinegar
- 2 teaspoons cherry vinegar
- 1 bay leaf, preferably fresh
- 4 teaspoons ground cumin

- 2 teaspoons ground coriander
- 1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper
- 1 1/2 quarts store-bought, reduced-sodium vegetable broth or homemade Vegetable Stock
- 1 cup millet

Directions

1. Thirty minutes before you want to cook, put the turnips in a bowl and season with salt and pepper. Set aside.
2. Heat the olive oil in a wide, deep, heavy-bottomed pot over medium-high heat until hot but not smoking. Add the onions, turnips, parsnips, onion, and garlic, and season with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring to prevent scorching, until nicely caramelized, for about 15 minutes.
3. Add the tomato paste and stir for 2 minutes to coat the vegetables. Add the thyme and thyme and cook for 3 or 4 minutes longer.
4. Add the wine, white vinegar and cherry vinegar, bring to a boil, and cook until nearly all of the liquid has evaporated. Add the bay leaf, cumin, coriander and crushed red pepper. Stir in the vegetable broth and 1 cup water. Bring the liquid to a boil over high heat, then lower the heat and simmer, uncovered, for 15 minutes.
5. Add the millet, bring to a boil over high heat, then lower the heat and simmer for about 10 minutes, or until the vegetables are soft and the millet is tender but still a bit al dente. If not serving immediately, let cool, cover and refrigerate for a few days or freeze for up to 4 months. Reheat before proceeding.
6. To serve, ladle some stew into 6 ounce bowls.

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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.

Op-Ed

Stop School Closures and Co-Locations for Third Term

By PUBLIC ADVOCATE BILL DE BLASIO

If something is broken — fix it. Sadly, Mayor Bloomberg adheres to a different philosophy when our city's education system is concerned. The Administration's default response to struggling schools has been to close them, without first investing enough time and resources into turning them around. And instead of laying out a thoughtful plan for some schools to share facilities in the same building — co-location — the Administration turns a cold shoulder to community input. We need a new approach for our city's one million students.

There is a time and place to close a troubled school. But that should not be treated as an end goal in itself, nor an accomplishment to boast about. It should be the last resort, when all other options are exhausted. Take the story of DeWitt Clinton High School, which the Department of Education planned to ax after the school received its second consecutive "F" grade for student progress, student performance and school environment in the 2011-2012 progress report. Clinton's overall score amounted to just 37.2 out of 100, the *Norwood News* reported in a January 10–23 article. Yet 13 years ago, Clinton was ranked one of the top 100 high schools in the country, according to the same article. After intense public pressure mounted by the students, staff, alumni and

community members, the DOE decided that developing a tailored action plan — including but not limited to possible leadership changes, professional development and reduced enrollment — would yield the most favorable outcome for students.

Through efforts like forums and petitions, the Clinton community showed that closing a school isn't always

The DOE has alienated school communities by neglecting their input and depriving them of a venue for meaningful engagement on educational policy.

the best course of action. DOE's hastiness highlights exactly how flawed the current approach is. Collaborating with community members — and really listening — should serve as a prerequisite for potential school closings. Too many of the schools doomed for closure have not been given the tools to improve, or the time to apply them.

We see the same heavy-handedness in the way the City often shoehorns charter schools into existing public schools, without a well-considered strategy for both institutions to thrive. Co-location can be — and has been — successful in this city. Students at four high schools in the Brandeis Educational Complex, on the Upper West Side, learned beautifully side-by-side — until the DOE squeezed a charter elementary school into the building, despite staunch resistance from the school community. Successful sharing of space and resources can only be carried out through meticulous planning and input from all key stakeholders — students, parents, teachers, administrators, community activists and education advocates. Instead, the DOE has alienated school communities by neglecting their input and depriving them of a venue for meaningful engagement on educational policy.

That's why, following Mayor Bloomberg's latest announcement on school closures, I called on the Administration to freeze school closures and co-locations for the rest of the mayor's term. Until we can offer a comprehensive, community-driven plan for co-locations and school turnaround, I urge you to join me in pressuring the mayor to put a one-year moratorium on these divisive tactics. After years of disruption instead of progress, inequity instead of opportunity, haste instead of prudence — enough is enough.

Fearing the Worst, Clinton Fights to Save School

(continued from p. 1)

school's chapter leader for the United Federation of Teachers, and hoping against hope that he won't be locked out of another faculty bathroom in a few years.

Ettman and hundreds of other Clinton supporters came out to a public hearing on Feb. 21 to adamantly oppose the DOE's plan to co-locate two new small schools at Clinton starting next fall. The co-locations are just the beginning of the end for Clinton, say Ettman and others.

"First they're going to shrink it," said Marvin Shelton, the president of the local community education council for District 10, a volunteer body that oversees school issues in the area. "Then they're going to kill it."

Despite rampant and loud opposition to the plan from Shelton, the entire school community and every local elected official in the area, Ettman says, "I'm not terribly optimistic" about the school's chances of defeating the proposal, which will be voted on by the city's Panel for Education Policy in Brooklyn on March 11. He said the whole school community is experiencing a little bit of a "malaise" about the situation.

The panel is controlled by the mayor, who has control of the city's public school system, and is generally seen as a rubber stamp on DOE's proposals.

Still, there is cause for some hope. A

group of four panel members, all of them appointed by borough presidents, including the Bronx representative, have introduced a resolution to place a moratorium on co-locations and school closures. That resolution will be voted on during the March 11 meeting as well.

Many of the Democratic front-runners for mayor have also said they support a moratorium.

The DOE says Clinton would be able to better serve its students if its enrollment is lower. By phasing out admission to three of the school's six programs — animal professions, future teachers and public and community service tracks — starting next fall, the DOE says it will reduce enrollment from about 3,750 students to around 2,250.

At the hearing, DOE officials said it made the decision to lower enrollment based on Clinton's recent struggles, including a four-year graduation of 50 percent in 2012 (well below the citywide average of 65 percent), its recent "F" grade for student progress on its latest DOE report card and its ranking among the state's 5 percent of lowest performing schools.

Ettman and other skeptics of the DOE's plan say shrinking the school will only further erode the school's ability to serve its diverse population of students, which range from top-flight honors students to struggling special education students and English Language Learners.

The school is already at a disadvantage in terms of dollars per student, said Ettman and others at the hearing. Ettman said the per-student spending rate is \$15,684, much lower than the citywide average of \$18,419.

"It is considerably more expensive to have multiple schools with multiple prin-

cipals operate a building that serves the same number of kids as the large school, but does not offer a full range of classes and options for all of the students in that building," Ettman said at the hearing. "It defies logic to even suggest it."

Principal Geraldine Ambrosio, who is retiring this summer, urged the DOE to reconsider the co-locations, saying initiatives were in place to help improve the school and dealing with two new schools in the building would only make the new

principal's job harder.

Despite his waning optimism, Ettman says he'll be at the March 11 meeting, fighting until the end.

Ed. Note: *The public can continue to submit comments about the proposal to co-locate two small schools at Clinton until March 11, by D10Proposals@schools.nyc.gov or by phone, (212)-374-5159. The Panel for Education will meet on Monday, March 11, at 6 p.m. at Brooklyn Technical High School 29 Fort Greene Pl. to vote on the proposal.*

Unions, MS 80 Parents Rally to Remove Principal

(continued from p. 1)

The school has referred all questions to the DOE, which says that Polanco's record is otherwise clean. The DOE did not respond to questions about specific criticisms of Polanco's leadership.

The growing concerns, including a botched Parents Association vote, motivated Donovan to work with Local 372 president Santos Crespo to organize the weekly rallies. Crespo became involved in the effort to eject Polanco after learning that he violated one teacher's Weingarten Rights, which grant employees the ability to request the presence of a union representative during investigatory interviews. Crespo claims Polanco blatantly violated this right and suspended the woman for two weeks without pay after she refused to attend a meeting without a union rep.

"How can our children learn under such a hostile environment, how can the staff function," Crespo said in a state-

ment. "Principals are supposed to set a positive example to the school population and the community at large. Our children deserve better."

A dozen or so union members were in attendance for the first rally. In addition to those from Local 372, members from Local 100 as well as DC 37 came out in support. Also participating was 11th District City Council candidate Cliff Stanton, who was involved in the removal of a principal at PS 24, where he was the Parents Association president, four years ago.

"It's a horrible feeling sending your kids to a school where the principal is clearly in over his head," Stanton said.

The protesters marched in circles, shouting "Remove the principal!" and "Hey hey, ho ho, El Siki must go!"

Attendance is expected to grow in the coming weeks, as organizers said the rallies will continue to be held every Thursday afternoon outside of MS 80.

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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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Applications may also be picked up at:

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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 Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., W., presents **Richie Ray, Bobby Cruz, and others**, featuring salsa bestial, March 9 at 8 p.m. (tickets are \$30 to \$50); **Russian National Ballet's Giselle**, March 10 at 4 p.m. (tickets are \$25 to \$40; \$10/ages 12 and under); and **The Celtic Tenors**, performing Irish music, March 16 at 8 p.m. (tickets are \$15 to \$35). Also scheduled is **Lehman College Community Band**, in the Lovinger Theatre, March 16 at 7 p.m.; and **Lehman Chamber Players**, in the Music Building Recital Hall, March 17 at 2 p.m.; both free. For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

■ 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.

■ Pregones Theatre, 571-575 Walton Ave., presents **Bodoma**, Garifuna Traditional Culture Band, performing South-American and African music, March 9; and **Quinteto Latino**, featuring a wind quintet honoring immigrants who cross U.S./Mexico border, March 16, both at 8 p.m. For more information, call (718) 585-1202.

Events

■ The Bronx County Historical Society, 3313 Bainbridge Ave., presents **The Grand Concourse Through Its History**, free lecture, March 16 at 11 a.m. For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

■ The Bronx Council on the Arts presents **Doll Making**, part of its free series of Third Saturday Family Craft Workshops, March 16 from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at the Huntington Free Library, 9 Westchester Square. For more information, call (718) 931-9500 ext. 33 or (718) 829-7770 or visit www.bronxarts.org.

■ The Woodlawn Conservancy (formerly Friends of the Woodlawn Cemetery) offers **Celestial Wonders at Woodlawn**, free stargazing through high-powered telescopes at the Woodlawn Cemetery, March 8 at 7 p.m.; and **Exploring the Glamorous Afterlife**, to visit famous tombs (\$18). For more information, call (718) 920-1463 ext. 225.

■ Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Arts Projects**: Stylish Seed Pots, to plant a seed in a pot and embellish it with stones, beads and ceramic tiles, March 9 and 10; and Primitive Prints, to make prints using paint, March 16 and 17, both from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Ecology Building. Also offered are **Winter Workspace in the Glyndor Gallery**: (art

materials are provided; register at ext. 305), March 9, 12 and 17, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and March 9, 17 and 19, from 1 to 4 p.m. Grounds admission is free Saturdays until noon and free Tuesdays all day. Glyndor Gallery **tours** take place Tuesdays and Saturdays at 2 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 and a schedule of events, call (718) 549-3200.

■ CMO, Montefiore Care Management offers **free health education workshops**: for asthma on March 13 from 10 to 11 a.m.; and for diabetes on March 21 from 4 to 6 p.m.; both at Montefiore Medical Group, 2532 Grand Concourse. For more information and to register, call (800) 636-6683.

■ Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse, presents **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.

Exhibits

■ The Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse, presents **Joan Semmel - A Lucid Eye**, self portraits of a female aging through

Compiled by JUDY NOY

her 80s, through June 9. Also featured are **Honey, I Rearranged the Collection** (artwork from the museum's permanent collection) and **Bronx Lab: Style Wars** (featuring graffiti and its relation to style), both through June 2. For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

■ The Bronx County Historical Society's Museum of Bronx History at the Valentine-Varian House, 3266 Bainbridge Ave., presents **Hail to the Chief** and **Hooray for Our Side**, through April 14. For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

■ 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.

■ The Bronx Council on the Arts presents free, **In the Realm of Dreams & Fears** at Hostos Community College's Longwood Art Gallery, main gallery, through May 1. For more information and a detailed schedule, call (718) 518-6728.

■ Lehman College Art Gallery, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., W., presents **Contemporary Cartographies**, expressing an array of ideas in various styles, through May 11, Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Reception is March 18 from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information, call (718) 960-8731.

BORICUA COLLEGE

Established in the early 1970s, Boricua College focuses on the needs of Puerto Rican and Latino students in New York City, while serving a diverse population of students from all over the metro area. Fields of study include childhood education, human services, business administration, liberal arts and sciences, and inter-American studies. ♦ The college employs one of the largest concentrations of Latino bilingual professionals in the city, including 130 full-time and 100 part-time faculty and staff members. Boricua is a broad-based source of expert knowledge about Latin America, the Caribbean and the experience of Puerto Rican and Latino immigrants in the Big Apple. ♦ The most exciting new development is the Bronx Campus, a 14-story tower that houses the college's academic and administrative offices as well as a 260-seat theater, a museum, a cultural center, a library, a high school, a college prep program, and an after-school program for children of Boricua students. ♦ The new vertical campus can serve 2,000 full-time students and will be a part of Boricua Village, which includes 700 units of affordable and moderate housing, underground parking, retail space and a plaza.

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Library Events

■ The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents programs for adults including **Computer Classes at 2 p.m.** (in-person registration required): **Mouse and Keyboard**, March 7; **Intro to the Internet**, March 12; and **Intro to Computers**, March 14 and 21; **Single Stop/Government Benefits at 9 a.m.**: March 12, 14 and 19; **College Planning and Financial Aid**: March 12 at 10 a.m.; **Gifts From Our Ancestors: Native-American Treasures**: lecture/workshop (online registration required), March 13 at 10 a.m.; **Family Resource Day**: information on child care, summer programs, educational resources, and more, March 16 at 10 a.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.**: March 8 and 15. Children can enjoy **Family Time**, March 9 at 11 a.m.; **Baby Story Time**, March 16 at 11 a.m.; **Global Partners Junior at 4 p.m.**: (ages 5 to 12: phone or in-person registration required), March 13 and 20; **Preschool Story Time at 11 a.m.**: March 14 and 21; **Films**: March 12 and 19 at 4 p.m.; **Pencil & Pen Holder Making**: March 7 at 4 p.m.; and **Bunny Basket Making**: March 21 at 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

■ The Mosholu Library, at 285 E. 205th St., offers 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), March 11 and 18; **Bilingual Birdies: Spanish Language**:

(phone or in-person registration required; for newborns to age 5), foreign language, hands-on program with live music, puppetry and games, concluding with a bubble dance party, March 12 at 11 a.m.; **Toddler Story Time at 10:30 a.m.**: (ages 18 to 36 months), March 7, 14 and 21; **Arts and Crafts**: (ages 8+), March 12 and 26 at 3 p.m.; **Pi Day**: (ages 7+), a 134th birthday party for Albert Einstein, March 14 at 4 p.m., to learn about the number 3.14; and **The Hobbit**: (theatre presentation; ages 3 to 12), March 15 at 3:30 p.m. Teens/young adults can join **NakhaChitra: Create Art With Your Fingernails**: (all materials provided), March 21 at 4 p.m. Speakers of other languages can attend free **English Conversation Program**: intermediate level, March 12 and 19, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

■ The Jerome Park Library, at 118 Eames Place, offers **Crafternoons**: (all materials provided), March 20 at 4 p.m.; **Cooking at 4 p.m.**: March 7, 14 and 21; and **Teen Movie Night**: March 11 at 6 p.m., all for teens/young adults. Also offered is **Film**: (ages 5 to 12), March 11 at 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT: *Daylight Savings Time begins on March 10 at 2 a.m. Remember to turn all clocks ahead one hour before bedtime Saturday night.*

NOTE: Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to norwood-news@norwoodnews.org, and should be received by March 11 for the next publication date of March 21.

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Personal

Age _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female
How many adults (over 21) live in your home including yourself?

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6
☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9+

Children: ☐ Yes ☐ No

How many? _____

Ages _____

What language(s) are spoken at home?:

Combined Household Income?

☐ Less than \$ 39,000
☐ \$40,000 - \$99,000 ☐ \$100,000+

Financial

Do you use a commercial bank?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Health

Check the services that you expect to use in the next year: ☐ Doctor ☐ Dentist
☐ Eye doctor ☐ Chiropractor ☐ Specialist

Are you in need of a new health insurance plan? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have a primary care doctor?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you used a hospital in the area recently? If so, Which one, and why?:

Entertainment

How many times in the next month will you:
Dine out? ☐ Not at all ☐ 1-5 times ☐ 6 + times
Go to a movie? ☐ Not at all ☐ 1-5 times ☐ 6+ times
Go to a club, or sport event?
☐ Not at all ☐ 1-5 times ☐ 6 + times

Which of the following items are you or someone in your family likely to buy in the next 12 months?

(Check all that apply)

- ☐ Automobile ☐ Airline ticket ☐ Vacation travel
- ☐ Mobile phone - upgrade or service
- ☐ Jewelry ☐ Clothing for children
- ☐ Clothing for men ☐ Clothing for women
- ☐ Wedding related or big family celebrations
- ☐ Groceries ☐ Computer or home electronics

What kinds of news and stories do you want to see more of?

- ☐ US national news
- ☐ National politics of home country
- ☐ Local immigrant success and business stories
- ☐ History of our people in the U.S.
- ☐ Local school news ☐ Religion and faith
- ☐ Features about cooking recipes
- ☐ More news for and about women
- ☐ Local crime and safety ☐ Immigration
- ☐ Horoscope, brain teasers, word or number puzzles

How often do you read the newspaper in print or online?

☐ Very often ☐ Often ☐ Sometimes ☐ Not often

How often do you use the ads in the newspaper to help make shopping decisions or plan regular shopping?

☐ Very often ☐ Often ☐ Sometimes ☐ Not at all

Things you like about the newspaper:

Things you don't like about the newspaper:

Your phone number (for contacting winners)

Your email (for contacting winners)
