

NORWOOD NEWS



Vol. 26, No. 25 ■ PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION ■ December 26, 2013–January 8, 2014

CUOMO SPREADS HOLIDAY CHEER AT KHCC



Photo by David Cruz

GOVERNOR ANDREW CUOMO, surrounded by volunteers, checks out some donated gifts at the Kingsbridge Heights Community Center, where he himself came bearing presents. The governor spread some Christmas cheer by donating several toys, clothes and other items to the social services center on Sunday, Dec. 22, as part of a massive toy drive. It was the center's first visit from a sitting New York State governor since it opened in 1974.

Year in Review: The Naughty And Nice List

By ALEX KRATZ

When I started at the *Norwood News* in 2006, I liked the idea of a Year in Review tradition that started well before my arrival. The issue gave us the chance to step back from the bi-weekly format and look at the bigger picture. What happened? What stories really impacted us as a community?

It's a tradition I hope will continue as the paper continues to chronicle the history of the north-west Bronx. Looking back on a year's worth of stories is a great exercise for any news outlet and serves as a placeholder in the lives of the communities they cover.

In my final Year in Review, I want to touch on a few stories that resonated this year and the com-
(continued on page 5)

Another Year, Another Setback For Croton Water Filtration Plant

By HAYLEY CAMACHO

Although start-up and testing recently began in one part of the Croton Water Filtration Plant, it will not be until next April when the rest of the plant begins testing as well, with a solid operational date nowhere in sight.

The news has outraged Bronxites who looked forward to the re-opening of the fenced-off jogging path hugging Jerome Park Reservoir, where part of the plant exists. This also comes amid concerns the plant buried underneath the Mosholu Golf Course is marred with shoddy work relating to the plant's fire alarm system, according to information received by the Croton Filtration Monitoring Committee (CFMC).

Members met on Thursday, Dec. 12, pressing officials with the city Department of Environmental Protection over the lack of a working fire alarm system for the massive project. The DEP has long overseen the project, with construction manager Bernard Daly at the helm for years. He told

an audience that work on the "fire alarm system is ongoing" but has not been completed because the plant is still under construction.

Testing of water from the recently filled Jerome Park Reservoir's north basin began on Dec. 9, Daly reported. The reservoir had been empty since construction on the filtration plant began in 2008. Once the plant is operational, about 30 percent of the city's water supply will be filtered by the plant.

Delays and Fire Safety Questions

The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is in talks with city DEP to determine a new completion date for the project, but would not confirm if a supplement to the court-issued consent decree is being negotiated. The current consent decree has a completion date of October 2011.

"The format of that has not been finalized as of yet," said Doug McKenna, chief of the water compliance branch for EPA Region 2. "It's not limited to the fire suppression. There

were other delays. We know they're working through it."

There is no temporary fire alarm for workers at the plant. Fire safety is managed through an emergency evacuation plan that involves several measures such as fire watching patrols. In most cases, a worker holds a fire extinguisher next to any hot work being performed, said Daly at the meeting. A spokesman for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) said the agency monitors private contractor projects, not public ones such as the Croton Water Filtration Plant.

Crews have spent nearly 10 years building the plant deep underneath the Mosholu Golf Course in Van Cortlandt Park. The project is nearly \$2 billion over budget and nearly two years behind schedule. The EPA has fined the city \$5 million for delays on the project for the past several years.

Sketchy Safety History

But this is not the first time the
(continued on page 3)

Critics Blast New NYPD Crime Map

By DAVID CRUZ

Hearings are in the works over the NYPD Crime Map, the newly released digital map pinpointing where crime has occurred. The map was born out of a years-long investigation from the *Norwood News*, which inspired recently enacted legislation.

The map has received initial criticism from Councilman Fernando Cabrera, the lead sponsor of the bill, along with a police watchdog group for withholding critical information that was promised within the law, officially named Intro. 984-A. "It's a good beginning, but there are some missing components," said Cabrera, chair of the Technology Committee.

One of the more glaring snubs was the lack of each precinct's sector map—specific boundaries carved out that determines where to install more officers. Disclosing sector maps became the seminal hallmark to the bill, passed by the City Council in April.

The committee plans to summon the city's Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DoITT), the agency tasked to create and maintain the map from the time Mayor Bloomberg signed the bill into law. Hearings are expected in February instead of January to give
(continued on page 2)

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In The Public Interest

Rangel Seeks 23rd Term

You can't stop Charlie! At 83 years of age, veteran **Congressman Charlie Rangel** will run for a 23rd congressional term in a position that's offered him political bliss and headaches for the past four decades.

While his loyal base is in Harlem, Rangel's jurisdiction now canvasses portions of the Bronx, thanks to the reconfigured and heavily Democratic 13th Congressional District, where an emerging Hispanic voting bloc threatens the established black voting caucus, and ultimately its black legislators.

But with Rangel now officially in the race, there are now rumblings of an encore election race between the raspy-voiced pol and Manhattan state **Senator Adriano Espaillat**, a Dominican-American legislator who lost to Rangel by just 2 percent of the vote during the 2012 Demo-

cratic primary race.

Espaillat has remained quiet over his intentions to run, though he did release a cryptic statement following news of Rangel's quest to run. "We need new energy, new leadership and a renewed sense of urgency," wrote Espaillat, avoiding any mention of Rangel's name.

The senator could very well be salivating for this moment, especially after a bitter primary aftermath that resulted in a court challenge. He contested the results amid reports that Spanish-speaking voters had problems at the polls. Espaillat ultimately lost the race, calling it a "phantom election."

The election race was closely watched due to Rangel's familiar name in the political sphere, but also as a litmus test for Hispanics to determine whether they're

edging out black voters.

Rangel's stature as an influential congressman dwindled some following an ethics scandal in 2010 that eventually got him censured by the House of Representatives. As part of his contrition, Rangel gave up his chairmanship on the influential House Ways and Means Committee, the oldest and arguably most powerful panel that holds sway over a broad range of tax policies from Social Security, Medicare and social services. It's also tasked to raise revenues for the country.

Rangel could very well secure his seat with ease, but other names have been circling in the political ring as possible contenders, including Harlem **Pastor Michael Walrond Jr.** and **Assemblyman Rev. Calvin Butts**, possibly siphoning votes away from Rangel and Espaillat. —**DAVID CRUZ**

Critics Blast New NYPD Crime Map

(continued from page 1)

freshly-elected councilmembers time to settle in while giving the newest council speaker (elections are the first week of January) time to choose who will chair certain committees. Should a new Technology Committee chair be chosen, that member will honor Cabrera's request for a hearing, said Cabrera.

Cabrera ensured he will press DoITT over why a "substandard" map with plenty of design flaws was released with virtually no input from councilmembers. The maps were quietly released on Sunday, Dec. 8, though no formal news conference was arranged.

"...[T]his map helps enhance New Yorkers' and researchers' understanding of where felony and violent crime persists," said NYPD Commissioner Ray Kelly in a statement.

The latest tool is a departure from the NYPD's CrimeStat sheets, which aggregates the seven major crimes that took place in a given week, month or year.

The Norwood News inspired the Crime Mapping Bill after a series of articles detailed the difficulty in obtaining sector map data from the NYPD. In one instance, information on sector maps from the 52nd Precinct—overlapping with the News' catchment area—was only possible through a request under the Freedom of Information Act. It took a year for the request to be honored.

Apparent Flaws

The crime map certainly deviates somewhat from the language of the law. The map, searchable by address, area code and precinct, offers the user an entire look of Bronx crime. Once an address is typed in, a series of blue dots, that range in number depending on the frequency of crimes committed in an area, are sprinkled about, indicating where crime has occurred.

And once a dot is clicked on, a drop-down window opens showing the number of crimes that took place. A second link dubbed "Show Details" offers the type of crime committed, yet no date, time or other particulars of a crime are referenced, offering little in the way of transparency and presenting more questions than an-



swers, as Cabrera sees it.

"We don't know if these crimes are committed one day after each other. Was it at the beginning of the month? We don't have that vital information," said Cabrera.

And while grand larcenies, rape and murder are visible on the map, serious misdemeanor and shooting incidents are absent, presenting an incomplete crime assessment.

Users will also find major gaps from the time a crime was committed to when it's posted on the map. As of press time, the map has only logged crime that occurred on Oct. 31 or earlier, violating a portion of the law that states crimes must be posted one month after the infraction was filed.

The issue is even more problematic for Colin Drane, the founder of SpotCrime, the largest crime data collection map on the Internet, which rolls already-established crime maps from major cities into one. After reviewing the map, Drane noticed each crime was scrubbed of its incident report number, a unique reference number paired with each report. Without an incident report number, police officers would have little to go by when tracking down information on a specific incident.

"Crime map should be an afterthought to data transparency," said Drane.

Lack of Transparency

With a skeletal crime map, its lack of transparency can only fuel critics' perception of an NYPD that acts more as a shadow organization.

Addressing the problem poses a test for returning NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton, who instituted a less hostile relationship with the press and community when he was top cop in the early 2000s. Bratton, due to start Jan. 1, is considered a major foil to Kelly, known for his distant relationship to the press. Whether Bratton honors the law is still unclear.

While the NYPD offered no official comment, one police source who wished to remain anonymous praised the map for offering users a better glimpse at crime, though cautioned over revealing too much to the public since initial information isn't always correct. "There's a fine line," said the source. "You don't want to put too much information because it will impede the investigation."

It could perhaps be an explanation Cabrera will receive once hearings begin.

Public and Community Meetings

- **THE BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** will meet on **Wednesday, Jan. 8 at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. So., apt. B1 (lobby floor). All are welcome.**
- **COMMUNITY BOARD 7** will hold its general meeting on **Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call the board office at (718) 933-5650.**

All meetings are subject to change. Call to confirm.

Shortfalls Once Again for Filtration Plant

(continued from page 1)

plant's been accused of safety hazards.

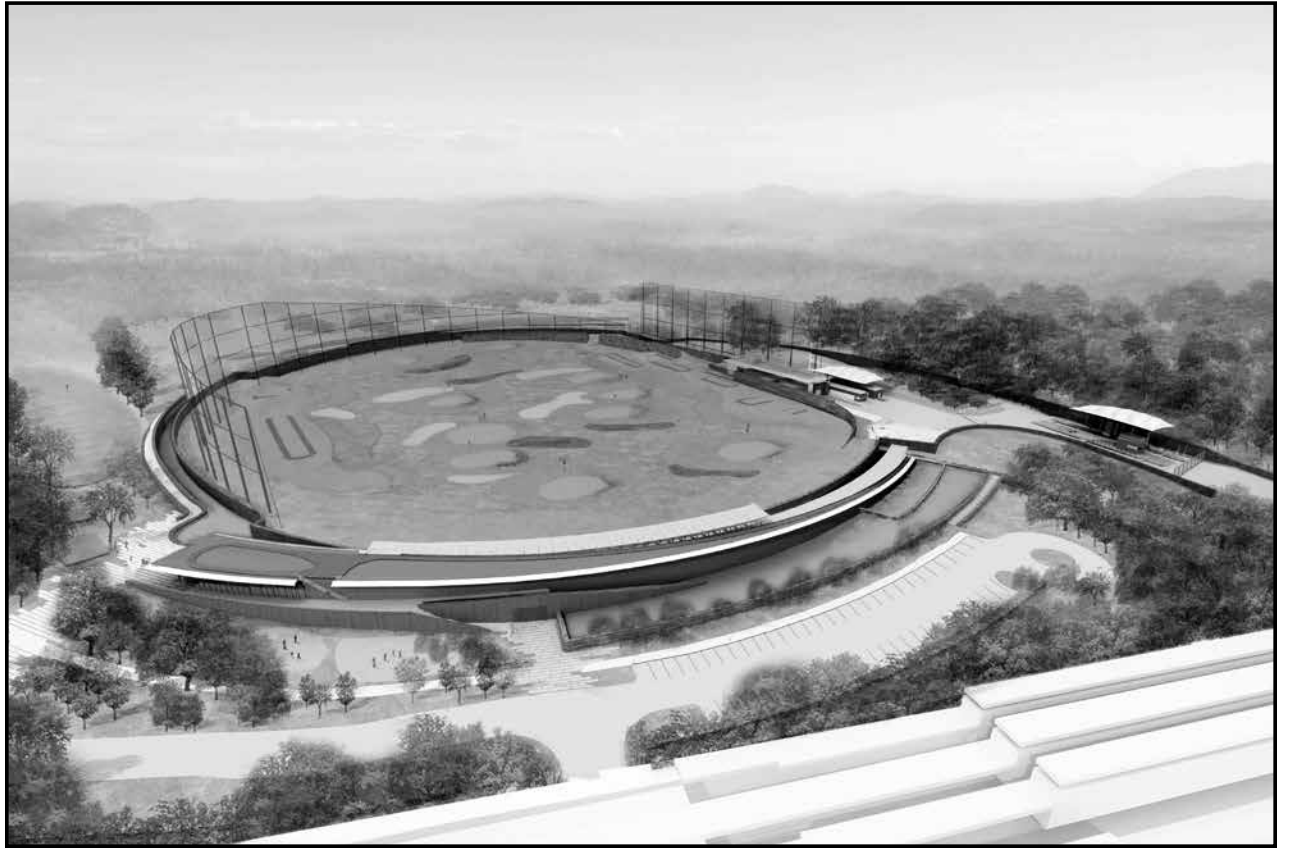
Nearly a year ago, the Manhattan District Attorney's office reached a \$10 million settlement with Siemens Electrical for violating city contracts that required the company to hire minority or women-owned construction firms. Siemens was also found guilty of submitting false documents that it employed a licensed master electrician at the site.

After the DA's office announced the settlement, CFMC chair Robert Fanuzzi wrote to DEP Commissioner Carter Strickland seeking assurances that safety conditions at the plant had not been compromised by the defective workmanship uncovered by DEP's on-site integrity monitor. In May, Strickland wrote to the CFMC saying that "at no time was the health and safety of the workers or public at risk at the plant."

Strickland noted that despite Siemens' false representation of a master electrician, the quality of the electrical work was not impacted. He wrote that the construction manager's oversight of electrical work uncovered that a type of connector in use wasn't approved for use on the project. Siemens was directed to remove and replace the faulty connectors with approved materials at no cost to the city. To date, Strickland said this replacement was the only work performed by the company that the DEP found to be deficient.

However, additional allegations of code violations have surfaced since Strickland's response and brought before the latest meeting, including a letter drafted by Robert Solomon, a former Siemens construction manager alleging dangerous conditions at the plant.

Daly assured members that the safety issues were remedied after Siemens report thousands of feet of non-conduit and wire. "We find problems every day but they're fixed," Daly said. "That's why we're there."



File Photo

A FAMILIAR SONG for the Croton Water Filtration Plant—delays! Now it will be until April when testing on the site will begin.

Daly told the committee that Solomon left the project in 2007 and had visited once since then. He added that he and his staff had "reviewed technical parts of the letter and they are all wrong."

Bronx Talk TV host Gary Axelbank and long-time Croton watchdog wants an independent review. "There is no way to verify anything that Daly claims and what the letter claims," he said. "We should have an indepen-

dent body. That should be who inspects it rather than just say ok."

Fanuzzi is again looking for clarification. "Within the last two years there have been shifting deadlines," he said. "A letter explaining about the progress of these consent decrees for these extensions, reasons for the delays and expectations for completion would really satisfy the committee."

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Inquiring Photographer

By DAVID GREENE

This week we asked readers what they thought was the biggest news story of 2013 that impacts Bronxites the most.



Well, I thought they were putting an end to stop-and-frisk, but they're still stopping people around here. I thought the judge said it was unconstitutional, but I think another judge on the Appellate Court ruled otherwise. I think that's crazy.

Lucas Santana



Well, I've been stopped and frisked over here like four times now and I think it's bull---t. What's going on here is ridiculous. I've lived on this block for years now and I don't do anything that would make them want to stop me. But they seem to always pick me and throw me up against a wall for no reason and when I ask them what did I do, they tell me, 'Don't worry about it, shut up.' In 2014 I hope they get rid of stop-and-frisk. It's no good.

Michael Collazo



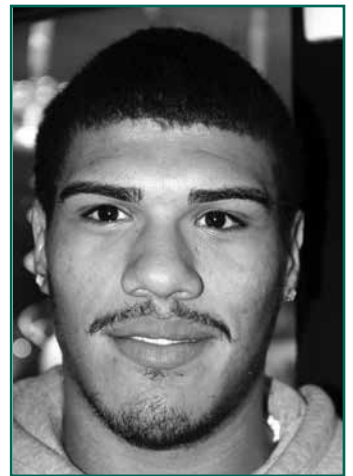
I think the top story of 2013 was the Metro-North train derailment. The train runs through a large portion of the Bronx and many were probably thinking, "Wow, how could that have happened? It could have been me."

Devon Morgan



The derailment of the Metro-North train. That was the biggest tragedy and the biggest news story in the Bronx this year. I usually take the train to see my daughter and granddaughter in Poughkeepsie, but I've started to drive after that.

Cora Ross



Stop-and-frisk because the cops around here are disrespectful and don't go by the law. They have a badge but they don't know how to act.

Jan Falu

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File Photo

LONG TIME COMING. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. takes to the podium as he hails the plan to transform the Kingsbridge Armory into an ice arena.

Year in Review: The Naughty and Nice List

(continued from page 1)

munities I pledged myself to these past seven and a half years. Like almost every hard news story, these came with their positives and negatives. In the spirit of the season, we are going to break down what is naughty and nice about each of them.

Concluding the Armory Saga

Background: A Year in Review at the *Norwood News* is never complete without tracing the fate of the Kingsbridge Armory. The story of its emptiness and the incessant, but often fruitless, attempt to fill it with something beneficial to the northwest Bronx is nearly as old as the paper itself. This year, a solution was reached. The city chose the Kingsbridge National Ice Center to transform the Armory into the world's largest ice sports facility.

Naughty: As the project's review process drew closer to completion, things turned ugly. While Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. and other elected officials in the borough were all-in on the ice center, the most local official, Councilman Fernando Cabrera, who lives and leads

a church just blocks from the Armory, balked.

In November, Cabrera was under fire after the paper broke news he allegedly tried to solicit \$100,000 a year from developers to divert into a defunct nonprofit. Cabrera insisted his doubt over the project stemmed from traffic and parking issues, which were addressed in a last-minute deal brokered by the city.

Nice: The City Council (and Cabrera) approved the Kingsbridge National Ice Center 48-1, which will turn Kingsbridge Heights into a local, regional, national and global draw for ice sports athletes, enthusiasts and spectators.

Along with the \$300 million spent on transforming the Armory into a productive space, the ice center will provide 50,000 square feet of community space and \$1 million a year in direct and in-kind benefits for the community. Best of all, hockey legend Mark Messier will head the youth program, which will provide local youth with free ice time and tutoring. It's nothing less than a game changer for this neighborhood.

Crime Map Goes Live

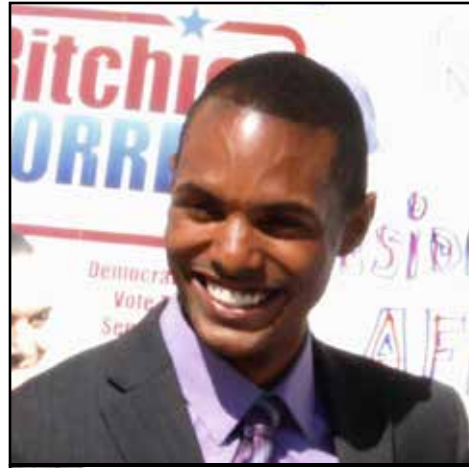
Background: For the past several years, the *Norwood News* has railed against the NYPD's glaring and unreasonable lack of transparency in divulging local crime statistics. Each precinct generates neighborhood-specific crime statistics, but refused to produce them unless journalists or citizens went through an interminable request process that involved stalling until the statistics became close to irrelevant.

Naughty: Check out the full story on page 1!

Nice: Councilman Fernando Cabrera took our complaints, recognized an opportunity to make government work more efficiently, and crafted legislation to make local crime statistics available to everyone through an interactive, online crime map. The legislation passed in the spring with little opposition.

New Blood in the Council

Background: This year capped the political careers of Council members Oliver Koppell (11th District), and Joel Rivera (15th District), and the electoral rise of their replacements.



OUT WITH THE OLD, in with the new. New Council members Ritchie Torres and Andy Cohen (top l-r) assume their respective Council seats once occupied by outgoing legislators Joel Rivera and Oliver Koppell (bottom l-r).

Rumors persist that Koppell may challenge State Senate co-leader Jeff Klein in an attempt to wrest control from his small cadre of Independent Democrats. But it's more likely Koppell will hang up his political hat indefinitely, capping his long career of public service that included stints as an assemblyman, New York State attorney general and member of the city's now-defunct Board of Education.

Meanwhile, Rivera, elected as a 22-year-old college dropout, enjoyed a steady if unremarkable three-term run in the City Council, rising to Democratic majority leader. He valiantly stepped into the leadership void when Mayor Bloomberg tried to push an unpopular mall proposal into the Armory in 2009.

This fall, their replacements, Andrew Cohen (11th) and Ritchie Torres (15th) were elected by convincing margins over their opponents.

Naughty: Cohen and Torres received hundreds of thousands of dollars in financial support from a political action committee backed by the city's most powerful landlords and unions. Though they did not seek out this support and couldn't prevent the money from playing a role in their respective races, it is troubling to see special interest groups play just

an out-sized role in our most local campaigns. While we can't say for certain the money swayed either race, it was definitely a factor in favor of both candidates. Unfortunately, this problem is only reparable through a major U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

Nice: New blood in elected office is a good thing and the reason we have term limits in city government. Cohen and Torres have pledged to be progressive, hands-on leaders who will address the concerns of their diverse constituencies. Both appear to be smart, nuanced politicians who promise to take their roles lawmaker and advocate seriously.

In January, when both take the oath of office, Torres will become the Bronx's first openly gay elected official. Even more impressive: in a borough sometimes castigated for its lack of tolerance (Bronx State Senator Ruben Diaz Sr. was the face of New York's limp anti-gay marriage crusade, and hate crimes remain a problem), sexuality did not play a prominent role in the campaign.

So as the *Norwood News* keeps covering the naughty and nice stories that shape our communities under new leadership, we'll keep making our lists and checking them twice.



Photo courtesy NYPD

THE NORWOOD NEWS inspired legislation that created a digital crime map. If only they included sector maps such as this one.

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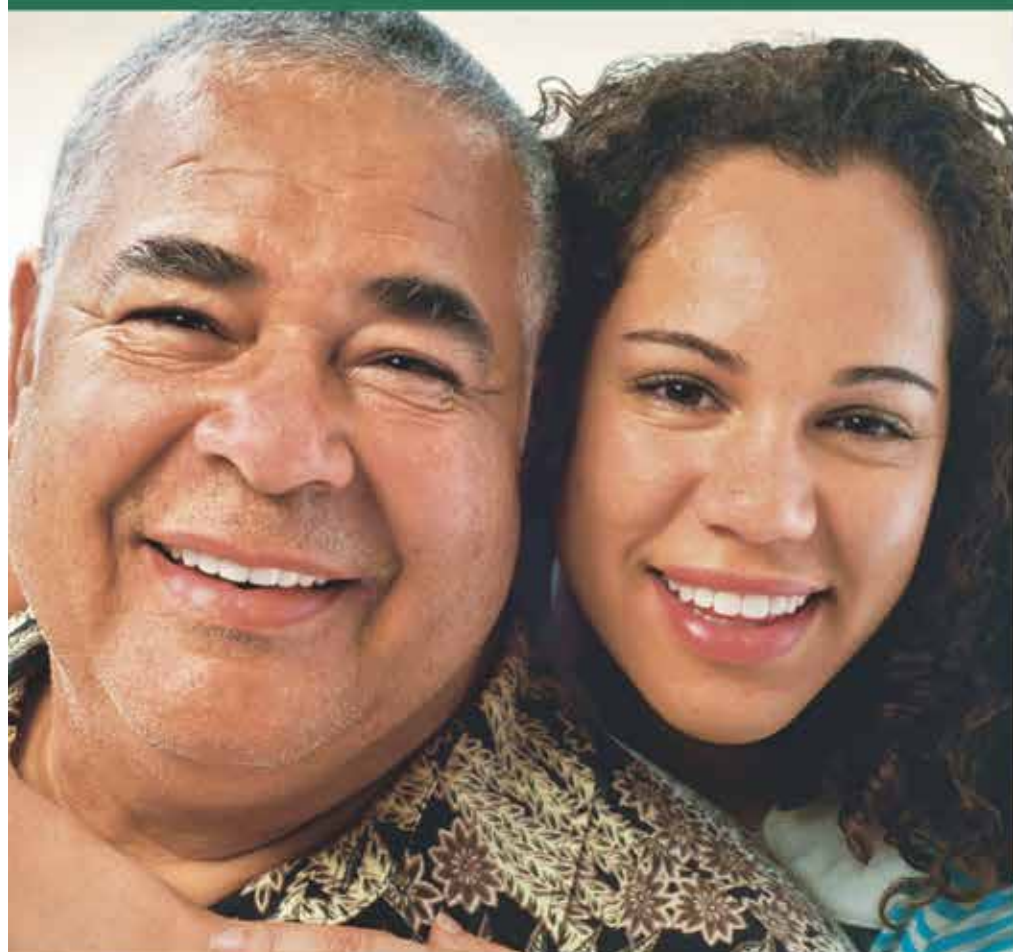
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Not Your Average Proofreader: An Ode to Judy Noy

By ALEX KRATZ

New editors, reporters, interns, delivery drivers and designers come and go from the *Norwood News*. But Judy Noy just keeps on proofreading.

This December, David Cruz became the fifth editor-in-chief of the *Norwood News*. At the same time, Judy celebrates her 25th year making sure the paper's mistakes are at a bare minimum, which, in turn, helps maximize its credibility. Judy is the only person to hold the title of Proofreader at this Bronx treasure.

She's the *Norwood News*' quality control and also its heart and soul.

To her credit and consistency, you can count the number of editions Judy hasn't scrutinized with a fine-tooth comb on half of one hand. She missed the inaugural issue of the *Norwood News* only because she didn't know about its existence until she picked up a copy in the Norwood neighborhood she's called home for most of her life.

The paper, which debuted in October of 1988, included an advertisement looking to recruit community volunteers for the fledgling paper. As an instinctively civic-minded mother of two kids, Judy jumped at the opportunity and contributed her meticulous proofreading skills to the next edition, which came out that December. And just like that, she stuck. Through thick and thin, holidays and hurricanes, Judy's been here.

In addition to her vital work as the paper's sole proofreader (and chief huge mistake catcher), Judy also compiles our popular Out & About column, which lets



Photo by David Cruz

PROOFREADING MAVEN Judy Noy carefully scrutinizes copy for the *Norwood News*, a familiar gig of hers for the past 25 years.

everyone know about all the fun things going on in their neighborhood. Over the years, dozens of readers have told me it's their favorite part of the *Norwood News*.

Judy is also a reader and contributor. She's never been afraid to voice her opin-

ion and often came storming into my office outraged after proofing a story about a brutal crime against a child or the deterioration of a local public school (like her alma mater, MS 80) or a new overreaching health policy initiative from Mayor

Bloomberg. But she didn't just complain. A day or two later, Judy would march in with a sharply-written letter or op-ed she wanted published in the next edition.

As an editor, I appreciated Judy on several levels. Her attention to detail was often maddeningly crucial. During production of the paper, every other Tuesday, she provided calm professionalism in the face of intense, late-night deadline pressure. Sometimes, exhausted and brain-dead, I wanted to simply move an article onto the page, but Judy, who takes great pride in her work, would refuse to let things go without proper perusal. Her determination saved us embarrassment so many times, it's impossible to quantify.

On a personal level, I'll miss Judy as a friend. Producing a newspaper can often be a lonely endeavor, but Judy always provided me with a companion and co-pilot on the journey.

Judy has a few "Judyisms" and loves finding funny proofreading mistakes in other less fortunate papers. She treats each edition as though it were a challenge. "I'm still waiting for a reader to call me to point out a mistake I missed," says Judy during each tour of service.

One of her favorite routines I never tired of would happen whenever Judy found me or anyone else, working in dim conditions—a huge no-no for those in the reading business. "You know what God said, right?" She would ask as she turned on the light in your office. "Let there be light!"

Thank you, Judy, for keeping the lights on at the *Norwood News* for 25 years (and counting...!)

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Be Healthy

Battling Glaucoma

By the **NORWOOD NEWS**

As January rolls in, so will National Glaucoma Awareness Month, an initiative that focuses on the eye disease that affects 2.2 million Americans, with some unaware they may have it. The Bronx has one of the highest glaucoma rates in the country, indicating the need for extensive awareness.

“Glaucoma gives few warning signs until permanent, lasting damage has occurred,” says Anurag Shrivastava, M.D., glaucoma specialist in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at Montefiore Medical Center. He’s also an assistant professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University. “We urge everyone to regularly visit their doctor and check their eye health.”

Dr. Shrivastava, a published expert in adult glaucoma and cataract surgery, offers his insight on who’s most vulnerable for glaucoma, how it’s detected and available treatment options:

Who is at highest risk for glaucoma?

African-Americans and Hispanics, who make up the majority of the Bronx population, have much higher rates of glaucoma than the general population. Regular eye exams for these two groups, especially for those over age 60 or with a family history of glaucoma, are extremely important. People of East Asian descent also are at higher risk, as are those who

take steroids for inflammatory conditions such as asthma or rheumatoid disease.

What are the symptoms?

Glaucoma is a symptom-free disease until it’s advanced. People tend to lose peripheral vision very slowly and are able to compensate by eye and head movements. When their central vision is affected and the vision loss is more obvious, it is often extremely late in the disease.

How is glaucoma diagnosed?

Glaucoma can only be detected through a routine eye exam, where a visual field test is performed and the optic nerve is examined. Optical stores staffed by an optometrist can provide a basic eye exam; however, complete ophthalmic examination, including dilation and field testing, by an ophthalmologist is recommended for glaucoma.

Is there a cure for glaucoma?

There is no “cure” for glaucoma, only treatments.

How can I protect my vision?

Maintain a healthy lifestyle, first and foremost. This includes being tobacco-free and wearing UV protection when in direct sunlight. Regular screenings with a qualified eye care professional will help detect many cases of glaucoma and other eye diseases. Early detection and treatment can preserve vision for a lifetime; delayed diagnosis is the one of the top indicators for a poor prognosis.

**Send us your health concerns,
we’ll get answers.**

Email norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org

CB7 HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING



Photo by Adi Talwar

NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS bask in the glow of the Christmas tree courtesy of Community Board 7, which held a ceremonial lighting of the Yuletide tree on Dec. 11. at Mosholu Parkway and Bainbridge Avenue. Custom-made decorations were hung alongside flashy lights, making for one radiant tree.

E. 233RD ST. MERCHANTS CHRISTMAS SPIRIT



Photo by Alessia Daniele

SEVERAL YOUNG FACES lit up this Christmas season, thanks to the East 233rd Street and White Plains Road Merchants Association on Dec. 19. Under blissful holiday music, the small business group held its first-ever Meet Santa Holiday Event, where neighborhood children picked up a gift from Kris Kringle himself.



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2 Van Cortlandt Ave. E. and Jerome Avenue. (718) 367-4040. Prayer Wednesdays at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. and Sunday Service at 11 a.m.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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Parking Space for Rent: Inside Valentine Avenue between East 198th and 199th streets. For more information, please contact Eddie at (718) 757-5485.

Neighborhood Notes

Arbor Day Poster Contest

The NYS Arbor Day Committee invites the public to submit photography and/or artwork to be considered for the State Arbor Day Poster. The winning artist is honored at the annual state Arbor Day celebration at the NYS Capitol. Entries are accepted through Dec. 31. For more information and guidelines, call (877) 210-4518 or visit www.nysnla.com/index.php/for-customers/arbor-day.

Free Testing for HS Equivalency Prep Program

Grace Outreach, at 378 E. 151st St. (5th floor), will conduct free placement tests for its HS Equivalency Test Preparation program on Jan. 16 and 17 for the 2014 semester for women 18 years and older. For more information, please call (718) 328-0580.

Coat Drive

New York Cares is collecting coats for the needy this winter through Feb. 7. Bronx donation sites include the Office of the Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. at 851 Grand Concourse (room 209) from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Other drop-off sites include the 52nd Police Precinct, 3016 Webster Ave. For more information, visit www.newyorkcares.org.

Computers at the Oval

Computer access is now available at the newly-opened Williamsbridge Oval Computer Resource Center, Mondays through Saturdays (subject to change). Call to confirm. For more information or a detailed schedule, call (718) 543-8672.

Apply to Your Community Board

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. invites Bronx residents to join their local community board. Applications are available at your local board office or at Diaz's Community Board office and will be accepted for all 12 Community Boards for Bronxites who reside, work or have professional or other significant interests in the Bronx. Deadline is Feb. 7, 2014. For more information, call (718) 590-3543/8977, or apply online at bronxboropres.nyc.gov.

Free GED Prep & Transition

Pathways to Graduation offers free GED educational services to diploma seeking students 18 to 21, in advance of NY's new Common Core-aligned Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) which offers educational services from the DOE's Adult Transition Centers at age 22. Centers are located at 1010 James A Polite Ave. For more information, call (212) 374-5141.

Photo Workshops at Fordham U

The New York Botanical/Zoological Photographic Society holds bi-weekly photo workshops for avid photographers two times a month on Saturdays at 9:45 a.m. at the Fordham Preparatory School (room 243) on the Fordham University Campus through June. For more information, call (718) 543-3115.

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

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norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org.

Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

EDITOR'S PICK

Extend the Holiday

The Mosholu Library, 285 E. 205th St., offers a theatre performance of **"A Christmas Carol"** for ages 3 to 12, on Dec. 27 at 3:30 p.m. The entire family is invited to attend. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

Onstage

■ The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents **Doo Wop Concert**, Dec. 28 at 2:30 p.m.; and **Mariachi Real de Mexico in Concert**, Jan. 4 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

■ Lehman College's Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **Teatro**, a four-man British vocalist group, on Jan 4 at 8 p.m. (tickets are \$25 to \$45; \$10/ages under 12), followed by a special New Year's celebration in the lobby in front of the box office after the show, to meet show members. For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

Events

■ Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Arts Project**:

Create Your Year: Hello 2014!, to use upcoming seasons in designing and creating a calendar, Dec. 28 and 29; and Owl Take Flight, to listen to stories about owls, then make feathers to wear and join an owl pow-wow, Jan 4 and 5; both at the WH House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also coming is **Owl Presentation: Raptors of the Night**, to meet a live owl, Jan. 5 in the WH House at 1:30 p.m. (registration recommended at ext. 251 or onsite at the Perkins Visitor Center). Grounds admission is free Saturdays until noon all year, and free all day Tuesdays in December and January. 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.

■ Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse (165th Street), presents free **First Friday**, Jan. 3, 6 to 10 p.m., featuring film, art performances, music and other special events.

For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

■ The NY Botanical Garden presents its **Holiday Train Show**, model trains traversing replicas of NY landmarks created from plant materials, through Jan. 12, in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory. For more information, call (718) 817-8658.

Exhibits

■ Poe Park Visitor Center, 2640 Grand Concourse, offers free, **Whimsical Winter Wonder Exhibit**, through Jan. 31, showcasing the works of 16 artists from around the world, including paintings, photos, and sculptures, Tuesdays to Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Also offered is an artist workshop on Dec. 28 - How curators chose the exhibit's theme. For more information, call (718) 365-5516.

■ The NY Botanical Garden presents **Close: A Journey in Scotland**, through March 16, featuring creations of 21 notable contemporary designers and artists working in the Scottish landscape. For more information, call (718) 817-8700 or visit nybg.org.

■ Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse, 2nd floor North Wing, between 161st and 164th streets, presents free: **Paulo**

Bruscky: Art is Our Last Hope, through Feb. 9; and **Tony Feher**; and **Orchard Beach: The Bronx Riviera**, both through Feb. 16. For more information, call (718) 681-6000 ext. 131.

■ The Bronx County Historical Society's Museum of Bronx History at the Valentine-Varian House, 3266 Bainbridge Ave., presents **History Woven Into Cloth**, selections from the Society's textile collection, through April 6. For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

■ Lehman College Art Gallery, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., W., presents **Morphology of the Print**, through Jan. 8, which includes works that push the boundaries of printmaking. Student workshops will be available including art and architecture. For more information and a detailed schedule, call (718) 960-8731/2.

Library Events

■ The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents programs for adults including **Advanced Microsoft Powerpoint 2010**: Dec. 26 at 2 p.m.; **Advanced Microsoft Word**: Dec. 27 at 6 p.m.; **Learn to Type & Use a Mouse**: Jan. 2 at 2 p.m.; **Computer Basics**: Jan. 3 at 2 p.m.; **SBA Business Basics Seminar: How to Start Your Own Business**: Jan. 6 at 2 p.m.; and **Internet for Beginners**: Jan. 7 at 2 p.m. Children can enjoy **Preschool**

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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.



NEW LIGHTS FOR WWI MONUMENT



Photo by Adi Talwar

THE WWI MONUMENT on Mosholu Parkway at Hull Avenue just got a lot brighter with the help of a newly installed lighting system from the city Parks Department. A formal ceremony took place on a snowy Dec. 16, with Councilman Oliver Koppell joining Community Board 7 Chairwoman Adaline Walker-Santiago and Bronx Parks Commissioner Hector Aponte to cut the ceremonial green ribbon. The system cost \$100,000, all earmarked by Koppell.

Story Time at 11 a.m.: Dec. 26; and **The Paper Bag Players Hiccup Help!:** (ages 3 to 12), Dec. 26 at noon. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

■ The Mosholu Library, 285 E. 205th St., offers for seniors and adults: **Knitting Circle:** Thursdays at 3 p.m.; **Wii Program:** Tuesdays at 3 p.m.; and **Basic Internet:** Jan. 8 at 10:30 a.m. (advance in-person registration required). Children can enjoy **Toddler Story Time at 11 a.m.:** (ages 18 to 36 months), Jan. 9. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

■ The Jerome Park Library, 118 Eames Place, offers: **Rhythm & Sound:** (ages 5 to 12), Dec. 27 at 3:30 p.m. For adults: **Computer Basics at noon:** Dec. 26 and 31. For teens/young adults: **Film:** (ages 13 to 18), Dec. 26 at 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS!

NOTE: Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org, and should be received by Dec. 30 for the next publication date of Jan. 9.



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