

NORWOOD NEWS

*Why More HIV
Testing Is Working*
page 3

Vol. 24, No. 19 ■ PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION ■ October 6–19, 2011

WAVE YOUR HANDS AND SAY YEAH!



Photo by Adi Talwar

LOCAL RESIDENTS crowded underneath the 4-train on Jerome Avenue on Saturday, Sept. 24, for the 10th annual Jerome-Gun Hill BID Street Festival. See story and photos, page 7.

Williamsbridge Oval Park

Muggings Inspire Solidarity March

By LINDSAY ARMSTRONG and DAVID GREENE

A group of concerned Norwood residents marched through Williamsbridge Reservoir Oval last week in a show of solidarity amid a recent spate of muggings in the park.

Friends of the Williamsbridge Oval, a local advocacy group, organized the event following news of the fifth mugging in the past month.

"I heard people saying things like 'Don't go into the park.' To me that seems like the wrong reaction," said Eileen Markey, one of the organizers. "We want to say: 'We don't accept that behavior here.'"

About 25 other residents joined Markey in sending that message. They marched around the track and along the park's pathways, holding up hand-lettered signs and chanting, "What do we want? A safe park. When do we want it? Now."

James McGeown, executive officer of the 52nd Precinct said police regularly patrol this area, but have stepped up their presence in response to the muggings, which all follow a similar pattern. The muggers approach the victim from behind, knock the person down, and grab his or her belongings before fleeing.

A day earlier, the NYPD announced the arrest of Jose Velazquez, 21. Police said Velazquez stole a cell phone from a victim on Reservoir Oval East on Sept. 19. He is being charged with grand larceny, criminal possession of stolen property and unlawful possession of marijuana. Police believe Velazquez had an accomplice who is still at large.

The NYPD has noticeably beefed up its uniformed and plain-clothes detail in the park, something many of the Friends of Williamsbridge Oval have been calling for since last summer when a young man was shot to death in the park, apparently over an iPhone.

(continued on p. 6)

The Making of a Liberal Politician: Part III

Senator Makes Health a Priority

By ALEX KRATZ

Ed. Note: This is the third and final in a series of articles about 33rd District State Senator Gustavo Rivera, who was thrust into the spotlight after defeating the controversial Pedro Espada, Jr. last fall. Rivera represents the entire Norwood News coverage area.

Gustavo Rivera, a state senator for all of nine months, is comfortably in his element. Sitting at the head of a table in a cramped, windowless room deep inside the belly of The Family Health Center on East 193rd Street and Decatur Avenue, Rivera is asking questions and cracking jokes.

"Five different flavors of pork rinds," Rivera offers as the conversation turns to nutritional options at local bodegas.

Later, he asks about the Center's Friday food demonstrations and asks if they can help him be a better cook. "I burn water," he says, and everyone in the room — a conglomeration of public relations specialists, reporters, photographers and Center staffers — laughs. He's a hit. If politics doesn't work out for the 33rd district representa-

tive, he could make a run at "Last Comic Standing." (Plus, the multi-talented, 34-year-old Puerto Rican native can sing. Check him out on youtube.)

The Bronx CAN

But for now, Rivera's more interested in becoming "The Biggest Loser." The health initiative he (continued on p. 6)



Photo by Adi Talwar

STATE SENATOR Gustavo Rivera is using himself as an example for healthy living.

Police Investigating A Burned Quran as a Hate Crime

By JASMEET SIDHU

On the morning before the 10th anniversary of 9/11, Imam Ifa Yahya made a jarring discovery outside the Masjid Hefaz mosque.

An unmarked package stuffed with roast meat, a photo of Osama bin Laden, mysterious white powder, and the burned remains of a Quran was placed in front of the door on East 198th Street off the Grand Concourse, said a mosque member.

"As far as I know, nothing of this magnitude has happened before," said Fahaam Razack, 27, a nursing student at Lehman College who has attended the mosque since he was 14.

Razack said some neighborhood residents had been known to yell at mosque members as they entered the building to pray, but that's where it ended.

"I am upset that this happened," said Razack, who sits on the board of the mosque. "But I can understand. Most people don't (continued on p. 8)

NORWOOD NEWS

Vol. 24, No. 19

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

Phone: 718 324 4998

Fax: 718 324 2917

E-mail: norwoodnews@norwoodnews.orgWeb: www.norwoodnews.org

Publisher
Mosholu Preservation
Corporation
Editor-in-Chief
Alex Kratz

**CEO, Mosholu
Preservation
Corporation**
Roberto S. Garcia

Classified Advertising
Dawn McEvoy

Accounts Receivable
Dawn McEvoy

Proofreader
Judy Noy

Production
Neil deMause

Regular Contributors
David Greene, Adi Talwar,
Jeanmarie Evely, Jasmeet Sidhu,
Nathaniel Herz

Interns
Ronald Chavez, Emily Piccone

For display advertising, call
(718) 324-4998.

Support Your Community Newspaper!

The *Norwood News* is a not-for-profit publication and relies upon the support of its advertisers and readers to produce a quality community newspaper. To support your paper, become a member and receive a subscription for one year (25 issues) and benefits like the Bronx Cultural Card.

Simply mail check or money order for \$40 to: Norwood News, 3400 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467.

Norwood News is not responsible for typographical errors. Opinions expressed in signed letters and bylined columns represent the sole opinion of the author and are not necessarily those of Mosholu Preservation Corporations or Montefiore Medical Center. Editorials represent the views of the editor and/or publisher only. The newspaper reserves the right to limit or refuse advertising it deems objectionable. Advertisements appearing in this paper cannot be used without the written permission of *Norwood News*. Letters to the editor are subject to condensation and editing. Writers should include their affiliation or special interest if any. Anonymous letters are not published but your name can be withheld if requested.

Mosholu Preservation Corporation is a not-profit support corporation of Montefiore Medical Center.

Montefiore
THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL FOR
ALBERT EINSTEIN COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

In The Public Interest

By JEANMARIE EVELLY

Comptroller Report Finds Millions for Bronx Project Sat Idle

The Economic Development Corporation left millions of dollars intended for public projects — including \$8.9 million for the restoration of a waterfront site in the South Bronx — sitting unused for decades, an audit from the Comptroller's office found last week.

The so-called "Public Purpose Funds," were obtained by the city from private corporations in exchange for tax breaks. The money, \$9.3 million, has been managed by the EDC in accounts that have seen no activity for years, according to a report released by Comptroller John C. Liu.

"It makes little sense that millions intended for economic development remain unused for so long, especially in the Bronx where jobs are greatly needed," Liu said in a statement.

"If the EDC can't figure out how to put the capital to work, then at least return the money to the city treasury."

Money for the Bronx project was acquired by the EDC in 1992. The funds were designated to develop rail freight traffic at the Harlem River Yards, an unutilized 96-acre site in Mott Haven. Though the land was leased to the private company Harlem River Yard Ventures, Inc., the money has yet to be disbursed.

The project has "no foreseeable future," according to the report. Liu's office recommends that the money either be repurposed for something else or given back to the city.

Bronx Students, Parents Protest Education Dept. Layoffs

Students, parents and school workers rallied outside of the Bronx's PS 66 in West Farms last week to protest the planned layoff of some 700 city school workers, among them aides, parent coordinators and other school support staff.

The layoffs are the result of state and city budget cuts, and if a compromise isn't reached, the employees on the chopping block could be out of work within the next few weeks.

"Most of those job losses would be felt in East New York, Brownsville, Williamsburg, Washington Heights, and the south Bronx. These communities are already in need of enhanced social services and are suffering with higher unemployment rates," said Santos Crespo, president of local Union 372, which represents the workers. "The economic sense in laying off city workers does not add up."

According to the *New York Times*, the Dept. of Education this week rejected a negotiation offer by the union to cut back on employees' hours and holiday time to cut costs and avert layoffs.

"We need these workers in our schools," said Minerva Morales, of the Coalition for Educational Justice-New York Civic Participation Project. "We know what our children have to deal with every day, and they need support people to be there for them to keep them safe and

Applying for Middle School: Important Dates

Date	Event
October 2011*	Directories distributed to families
October 2011	OLSAT and District 21 & Mark Twain Talent Test Programs Request for Testing Forms distributed to families by elementary schools
October 11, 2011	Districts 9 & 10 Middle School Fair at Theodore Roosevelt Educational Campus (500 E. Fordham Rd.)
November 2011*	Middle school applications distributed to families
December 3-11, 2011	Middle school OLSAT testing for Academically Enriched Programs
December 16, 2011	Deadline for families to return Middle School Choice Applications in all districts
January-February 2012	Student interviews and testing at selected middle schools
May 2012	Decision letters distributed to families
June 2012*	Appeal decision letters distributed to families

* Dates are subject to change. For more information specific to District 10, which contains all of the schools in the Norwood News coverage area, call (718) 935-2178.

Source: NYC Department of Education

ready for the classroom."

BP Appoints New Education Director

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., has hired Monica Major, formerly the Bronx representative on the Dept. of Education's Panel for Educational Policy, as his new education director.

Major, a lifelong Bronx resident who lives in Morris Park, served on the DOE panel—charged with voting on important educational issues like school closures and interventions—since October 2010. Before that, she was a member of the Community Education Council for Bronx School District 11, and a member of the Parent Commission on Mayoral Control, a grassroots, parent-led organization that advocated on the issue of school control.

"Monica is well respected by parents and educators alike, knows the issues that face our school communities, and has over the years exhibited a passion for education that few others can match," Diaz said in a press release.

Major replaces Jesse Mojica, who left the borough president's office this summer for a job with the DOE.

Council Pushes 9/11 Health Bill to Cover Cancer

The New York City Council passed a resolution last week urging a closer examination of cancer cases in Ground Zero first responders and asking that those who suffer from the disease be considered for health care coverage under the Zadroga Act — the bill that provides medical funds for people suffering from 9/11-related health problems.

Cancer is not currently on the list of conditions covered by the act, despite several recent studies suggesting a link between cancer cases and exposure to Ground Zero toxins, the Council resolution said.

"It is now clear from numerous studies and reports that those individuals who worked and volunteered at Ground Zero in rescue, recovery and rebuilding efforts were exposed to a higher risk of cancer," said Bronx City Councilman Oliver Koppell, who called on Dr. John Howard, administrator of the World Trade Center Health Program, to investigate the connection.

Public and Community Meetings

- **COMMUNITY BOARD 7** will hold its general board meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 18 at 6:30 p.m. at Fordham Methodist Church, 2543 Marion Avenue.
- **COMMUNITY BOARD 7 Committee meetings:** Long Term Planning, Wednesday, Oct. 5; Parks and Recreation, Thursday, Oct. 6; Traffic & Transportation, Thursday, Oct. 13; Sanitation & Environment: Thursday, Oct. 13; Youth Services, Monday Oct. 17; Senior Services, Wednesday, Oct. 19. All committee meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. and are held at the board office (229-A E. 204th St.). For more information, call (718) 933-5650 or visit bronxCB7.info.
- **CROTON FACILITY MONITORING COMMITTEE** will meet on Wednesday, Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. at the DEP outreach office, 3660 Jerome Ave.



Follow the *Norwood News*
on Facebook and
@norwoodnews on Twitter



Be Healthy!

600,000

Number of HIV tests given to Bronx residents since 2008 through a NYC Dept. of Health initiative.

Vital Stats

Expanded HIV Testing Helps Curb Spread of Virus

By JEANMARIE EVELLY

Recent changes in New York State law combined with new developments in the technology of HIV testing are expanding the number of New Yorkers who are getting tested for AIDS and HIV, experts say.

Last summer, then-Gov. David Paterson signed a law mandating that health care providers offer HIV testing to patients between the ages of 13 and 64 who seek hospital or primary care services — an attempt to make testing a rou-

tine component of medical care.

"If you have a hangnail and you go to the emergency room, you need to be asked if you want to have an AIDS test," said Dr. Daniel Amsterdam, clinical director of laboratory medicine at the Erie County Medical Center in Buffalo, New York.

The change in law, he said, has led to a boost in the number of people getting tested and, in some instances, detecting the virus in patients who did not suspect they had it and otherwise wouldn't have known they were infected.

"We've increased testing tremendously — almost five-fold the number of tests that we do," Amsterdam said.

New methods have also advanced the accuracy of HIV/AIDS testing and decreased the interval of time after exposure that the virus can be detected.

This month, the New York State Department of Health updated its recommendations for health care providers treating pregnant women, encourage the use of newer "fourth generation" HIV tests because they can detect the virus sooner than traditional methods.

The new tests, approved by the FDA last year, can detect HIV antigens — a substance found on the virus that triggers the production of antibodies. Other

tests look only for the antibodies themselves, which take time after infection for the body to produce, meaning a test for antibodies could come back negative even if a person has been infected. This is the reason most health care providers recommend waiting at least three months after your last sexual encounter before getting tested.

"[The new test] shortens that window period," Amsterdam said. "It diminishes the period where you might be infected but where it's not readily detected by tests."

In the Bronx, there are 23,248 people living with HIV or AIDS, according to 2009 statistics from the Dept. of Health.

For the last several years, the Dept. of Health has campaigned to get more Bronxites tested, launching "The Bronx Knows Initiative" in 2008 in response to the large number of residents here who did not know their status.

Amsterdam says everyone who is sexually active should be tested often.

"It's something you should continually monitor, and you need to know your partner's status as well."

WHERE TO GET TESTED

To find a clinic or location near you that offers HIV testing, you can text message your zip code to KnowIT, or 566948, or visit www.hivtest.org.

Be Healthy! Wants to Know What You Want To Know

Got a pressing health, fitness or nutrition question on your mind? Send them our way! We're ready to tackle your queries about food, illnesses, health insurance, prescription medications, or any other health-related topics that puzzle or interest you. If we don't know the answer, we'll ask the experts.

Send your questions or suggestions to Norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org. We'll do our best to address them here in this column.

Advertise

in the
Norwood News
Call (718) 324-4998

ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR A DENTAL MIRACLE?

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

HOPE IS JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY!

YES, YOU CAN HAVE A BEAUTIFUL SMILE!



YOU CAN NOW TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR DENTAL HEALTH

- **Our Fear Reduction Program Includes:** Big time TLC, relaxing nitrous oxide gas, emphasis on painless injections, comforting staff.
- **Patient Friendly TOOTHACHE Relief:** Comfortable, calming treatments that get you out of pain fast.
- **Daily Appointments Available for People in Pain.**
- **Beautiful Smiles Created Using State-of-the-Art Dentistry Backed by 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE.**
- **We Have Extensive Certification and Our Expertise Includes:** Orthodontics, Oral Surgery, Periodontics, Root Canals, Cosmetic Veneers, implants, Invisalign® Invisalign Braces, Partials & Dentures, so you can have virtually all phases of your dentistry done under one roof without seeing an outside specialist.



**CONCERNED
DENTAL CARE**



I like knowing Dr. Jay Fensterstock has offices near both my home and office. Not only can I choose the most convenient location for me, but I can also choose the appointment time that is easiest for me. It's a treat to know Dr. Jay Fensterstock helps me get quality dental care on my schedule and at a great price. — Elizabeth M.

Most Insurance Accepted

Including MetLife, Cigna, Delta Dental, Fortis, Aetna, Guardian & United Healthcare, Mutual of Omaha, NYC Carriers Oxford PBA, Principal Financial Group, UFT CSEA Dentemax, CHA/Assurant, Rayant, SIDS, DDS, Protective, Allac, Discount Dental, Healplex, Connection Dental, Dentall, L1199

100% Financing Available

For Those Who Qualify
Interest — Free For 24 Months
Extended Payment Plans Up To 5 Years

"Gently eliminating years of failing, frustrating and unattractive dentistry, leaving our patients with smiles and confidence they never imagined possible, guaranteed!"

Coupon Special

Teeth Whitening

\$99.00 per Arch (A \$275.00 Value)

New Patients Only Offer Expires 10/31/11

Dr. Jay Fensterstock DDS PC

55 East Moshulu Pkwy. North, Bronx, New York 10467

718-652-7370

www.ConcernedDentalCare.com

Six Convenient locations throughout the New York Area

Coupon Special

Exam, X-ray, Smile Consultation and Simple Cleaning for

\$57.00 (A \$150.00 Value)

New Patients Only Offer Expires 10/31/11

Inquiring Photographer

By DAVID GREENE

This week we asked readers about the Yankees’ chances to win the World Series and whether they’d be disappointed with anything less.



With the kind of payroll they’re paying and they always get top of the line players, they have a good chance, but anything is possible. Just because you pay a high salary, you don’t always get what you pay for. Sometimes it just doesn’t happen. Of course I would be disappointed [if they don’t win], I’m a New Yorker.

Robert LaPicta



I like the Yankees and they’re going to go all the way to the World Series. I think I would be disappointed if they didn’t.

Ahmad Albryt



I think they’re going to do it. I’m a Yankee fan all the way, no matter what. [But] I would be disappointed [if they didn’t win the World Series], I would.

Joe Soto



I think [they will win]. They usually do. If they don’t, then I guess they just had a bad season. I’d be disappointed a little bit because they usually win. I like New York, I like the Bronx and I like the Yankees, so it would be disappointing because they represent the Bronx.

Victor Chu



I think they will definitely go to the World Series. The Yankees have been my favorite team since I was five. Yeah, I’d be disappointed.

Noel Betancourt

(Ed. Note: Yankees trailed the Detroit Tigers two games to one when Norwood News went to press Tuesday.)

Father of Twins Found Shot on Decatur Ave.

By JASMEET SIDHU

A 25-year-old college student and father of twins was fatally shot on a recent early Saturday morning in the area just south of Bedford Park.

Police said Bronx resident Kennedy Brown was found with a gunshot wound to the head in front of an apartment building on Decatur Avenue, off East 197th Street, just before 2 a.m. on Sept 24. Brown was taken to St. Barnabas Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Detectives on the scene of the shooting said that no arrests have been made, and that the investigation is ongoing.

Shocked friends and family said they could find no explanation for Brown’s shooting. Neighborhood residents said Brown was at a party Friday night that got “out of control.”

Later on Saturday, mourners gathered around a makeshift memorial a few feet from where Brown was killed. They said Brown was studying liberal arts at the College of New Rochelle, which has campuses in the Bronx, and was a father to twins, a boy and a girl.

One woman, who described herself as a close friend, said Brown was a book-smart jokester who was loved by everyone in the neighborhood.

“He was a good boy,” said Justine Valazquez, 25, who grew up with Brown in Bedford Park. “He was funny. He was always making people laugh.”

Many on the street looked visibly shaken. One young man broke down crying in front of the memorial of lit candles, beer bottles, and written messages to Brown. Most refused to speak about the circumstances surrounding Brown’s killing. One resident said everyone in

the neighborhood was on “pins and needles.”

Two miles away, on 176th Street, several family members and friends grieved inside Brown’s second-floor apartment, where he lived with his mother.

Brown’s mother declined to speak about her son, saying only, “My son is dead.” Other family members called the killing “senseless,” and asked to be left alone.

Shop Fordham Road

"THE OUTDOOR MALL EXPERIENCE"

OVER 300 SPECIALTY SHOPS AND CHAINS!

FURNITURE/CLOTHING/JEWELRY/SHOES/ELECTRONICS
DISCOUNT OUTLETS/CELL PHONES/GAMES, ACCESSORIES
OFFICE SUPPLIES & MANY FAST FOOD RESTAURANTS

FORDHAM ROAD
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

ACCESSIBLE BY ALL NYC
MASS TRANSPORTATION.
PARKING FACILITIES AVAILABLE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CALL (718) 562-1267 OR VISIT
WWW.FORDHAMROADBID.ORG



Photo by Jasmeet Sidhu

A MOURNER writes on the makeshift memorial for Kennedy Brown who was shot and killed on Sept. 24 in front of a Decatur Avenue apartment building near East 197th Street.

Lehman Center Opens Doors on Season 31

Executive Director Eva Bornstein talks to the *Norwood News* about the Bedford Park performing arts center's 31st season.

Q: Approaching the 31st season at the Lehman Center, how does the schedule of artists compare to past seasons, particularly to last year's anniversary season?

A: I always feel every season is the greatest. The 31st is as important as the 30th because we want to continue indefinitely, and I tried to put as much variety as possible into this year's schedule. Smokey Robinson has been here before — he's a legend and we are proud to have him back. Mary Mary is opening the season on Oct. 9, and I'm definitely looking forward to it. They cross over from gospel to R&B and they're very hot and coming up.

Q: The schedule pulls from all different genres and parts of the globe. What would you say is the most unusual act of this season?

A: The theater of Vox Lumiere is going to be presenting a multimedia show based on the film *Metropolis*. It was a 1920's silent film piece, and they will have musicians, dancers and singers performing (based on the movie), with it playing in the background. It'll be an unusual presentation.

Q: What acts are you personally looking forward to?

A: Putting together a season is never easy because you want to offer variety, you want to make it financially feasible, and so it takes a lot of juggling. The problem with programming is that I have to believe in every single show that I book because if I don't believe in it, why should the audience believe in it? So I would say I'm looking forward to every single performance.

The Chinese Acrobats (National Acrobats of the People's Republic of China) have been here before, and they're so much fun to watch for the whole family. The



File Photo
LEHMAN CENTER Executive Director Eva Bornstein

Kings of Salsa show from Cuba is also amazing; to see Cuban culture come here is something new and refreshing.

Q: Is the 'Create Your Own Series' deal popular among your patrons?

A: Definitely. We don't want to force people into selecting what they like. So you can pick any three

events, and receive a discount, and the more events you pick, the more discount you receive. Our tickets are fairly reasonable already, and because we're located in the Bronx, we try to keep the ticket sales reasonable for our audiences. We have received a small grant from Con-Ed, so we are offering ten dollar tickets for children under twelve. We also give \$5 discounts for all CUNY staff and professors, and if we have tickets left over, Lehman College students can get rush tickets on the day of certain performances for \$5. That's less than a movie!

Q: Is there a theme to the 31st season?

A: Diversity, diversity, diversity. That has been our theme from the beginning. We are trying to really feature international companies, so people get exposed to different cultures, and to also showcase the diversity of New York City. Our audiences come from all over the place. A majority comes from the Bronx, but we obviously get people from Manhattan, Westchester, Connecticut, and New Jersey. Last year for Johnny Mathis, we had ladies that travelled from São Paulo, Brazil, all the way to the Bronx. That was an amazing concert.

Q: How does the Lehman Center environment affect performers?

A: Our audiences have been very warm to our performers, and the performers really sense that. They are enthusiastic and supportive, and artists live for that. If the audience likes somebody, they get up, they dance in the aisles, they give standing ovations. When José Feliciano came, he didn't want to get off the stage. Our Latino audience feels really at home here, and I love coming to the concerts here because of the audience. They're not shy, and everybody feels at home.

Ed. Note: For scheduling and ticket information, visit www.lehmancenter.org or call (718) 960-8833.

—Interview by EMILY PICCONE



**We're Proud to Provide
Safe and Affordable
Housing Throughout
The Northwest Bronx.**

**Studios and 1 Bedroom
Apartments Available**

Pick up application at:
Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation
2751 Grand Concourse, The Bronx
718-367-3200

ABBOTT HOUSE
Become a Foster Parent
or Mentor

**ASK A TEEN TO JOIN
YOUR FAMILY**

Call (914) 591-7300
ext. 3165

Become a mentor to a special child.
Call ext. 3090 to inquire today about
our mentoring program!

Visit our website www.abbotthouse.net

Park Solidarity March

(continued from p. 1)

In spite of the recent crimes, the park remains in high use. More than 100 people were out on Tuesday evening, playing pick-up games of soccer, participating in an exercise group, jogging around the track or just enjoying the warm weather.

Marcher Miriam Rodriguez said she brings her granddaughter to the park every day and noted her daughter sometimes cuts through the park on her way home from the train station at night.

“It’s never been like this before,” said Rodriguez, who has lived in Norwood for 32 years. “I want a safe park, a safe neighborhood. I don’t want it to get ruined.”

Karen Herrera, 33, did not take part in the march, but was at the park with her 13-year-old daughter and 6-year-old son.

Herrera, who exercises in the Williamsbridge Oval every morning, said one of her workout partners warned her about the muggings.

“He told me to be careful, not to have my headphones on. Once I get to there,” Herrera said, pointing to an area of the park that is under construction, “I really start to pay attention to my surroundings.”

Herrera plans to take more safety precautions, but will continue to use the park. For Lorita Watson, another organizer of the march, Herrera’s attitude ties in perfectly with the message the protesters hoped to send.

“We just want to let whoever is doing this know, this is our park,” she said. “We’re not leaving it.”



Photo by David Greene

RESIDENTS TALK to police about the recent string of muggings in and around Williamsbridge Oval Park.

‘Have a Nice Day’: My Mugging Story

By NATHANIEL HERZ

A few days before I got mugged in Williamsbridge Oval, I was thinking to myself about the surprising warmth and courtesy that I’d felt from Bronx residents in my first few weeks in the borough.

In August, I’d moved from rural Maine to New York City to study at Columbia Journalism School, and I’d picked Norwood as the neighborhood beat that I’d be covering through December.

When I arrived, pretty much the only thing I knew about the Bronx was that my friends from Manhattan and Brooklyn didn’t like to go there. When I told them that I’d actually *chosen* to cover a neighborhood in the borough, they looked at me like I was out of my mind.

So I was surprised when, after just a few visits, residents and business owners began greeting me with smiles, and story ideas. A bartender even nicknamed me Peter Parker.

In one of my class’s introductory lectures at Columbia, a wizened old professor had urged us to conduct ourselves with an attitude of “joyful entitlement”—as in, be persistent and purposeful, but don’t forget to be cheerful.

I tried my best to follow his advice, and, encouraged by the kindness that met me in my initial interactions in Norwood, I let more of my unguarded New England exuberance shine through. I smiled at people I passed on the sidewalk, and interviewed others on street corners.

Around 3 p.m. on Sept. 12, I had just left a meeting on East Gun Hill Road, and was walking through the Oval on my way to, of all places, the 52nd Precinct.

It was broad daylight. One man was jogging around the track, and another sawing away at some downed tree limbs, behind a fence.

As I walked through the southeast corner of the park and tried to exit, I ran into a young man who told me that the way was blocked by construction. I thanked him, and began retracing my steps.

As I turned, another young man was coming towards me, and I gave him a half-smile and nod as he walked past. Instead of returning it, he lunged, punched me in the neck, and knocked me flat on my back.

“Have a nice day,” he said, as he and his accomplice made off with \$10 in cash and my iPhone. I was left to bend my glasses back into shape and finish my trip to the precinct — albeit with a different purpose.

The worst part of the mugging was probably the fact that I didn’t even end up with a good bruise to show my friends.

But in other ways, it has stuck with me. Three weeks later, I get uneasy when people brush close past me on the sidewalk. The expressions that I used to read as guarded or blank now seem a little more menacing.

But usually, I still smile. And most people still smile back.

The Making of a Liberal Politician: Part III

(continued from p. 1)

launched with the help of the borough president’s office, Montefiore Medical Center and St. Barnabas Hospital — called the Bronx CAN (Changing Attitudes Now) Health Initiative — is based partly on the model of the popular reality television series where obese people compete to see who can lose the most weight. Rivera wants Bronxites to live healthier lives and set healthy goals, like losing weight.

He dedicated his summer to the initiative and, at the same time, his own health. In June, Rivera publically weighed himself in at an NFL-lineman-like 299 pounds and vowed to lose 20 pounds by the end of October. He also vowed not to employ any gimmicky diets or hire a personal trainer.

“I wanted to do it in a way that’s sustainable,” says Rivera.

That means doing everything in moderation and making healthier choices, he says. Smaller portions, less fat, less sugar, more exercise. That’s why he’s doing weekly community walks (look, you don’t need a gym to be fit!) and making appearances at local farmer’s markets (look, right here in your neighborhood, there are alternatives to pork rinds!).

With a month to go, he’s six pounds from his goal. Soon he’ll be more line-backer than lineman.

Rivera didn’t come into office this past January expecting to be the most active

and outspoken health advocating elected official in the Bronx. It just made sense, much like his decision to run for office last year after spending a decade running campaigns for other politicians.

For one, he’s the only Bronx representative on the senate health committee. Secondly, according to a recent report, the Bronx is the unhealthiest of all New York’s 62 counties. Something needed to be done, he said. And now, Rivera calmly answers questions about his morning workout routine (mostly cardio, some circuit training, four or five days a week) and what he eats for breakfast (egg and veggie wrap).

A Quick Study

In his first year in office, Rivera is obviously still learning. But his previous experience in Albany (as chief of staff for Andrea Stewart-Cousins and the Democratic Conference, among other jobs) and academia (by all accounts, he possess strong study habits and an earnest curiosity) have helped.

Liz Krueger, a senate colleague from Manhattan who helped recruit Rivera into running last year against Pedro Espada, speaks glowingly about the rookie’s precociousness on the senate floor.

“I have colleagues in the senate who have been there for years who are not as comfortable speaking about bills on the floor [as Rivera is],” Krueger said in a phone interview. “The etiquette and the

language isn’t easy. Gustavo has shifted gears so quickly and gracefully.”

As a lawmaker, Rivera started his career off with a symbolic nod to his predecessor, controversial lightning rod Pedro Espada — introducing a bill that would require legislators to disclose all outside income. (Espada, who founded a network of nonprofit healthcare centers, was cagey about disclosing his compensation outside of politics. He is now under indictment for embezzling funds from his network and is scheduled to stand trial early next year.) Much of the language from that bill was folded into a larger ethics reform package put together by Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo that became law last spring.

Rivera sponsored six other pieces of legislation relating to everything from labor (allowing substitute teachers to receive unemployment benefits during the summer) to public safety (calling for the creation of a database of private security cameras to aid police investigations) to healthcare (granting equal access to specialty care for low-income patients at university hospitals).

One of those six, a law that would allow charitable organizations to post bail for indigent defendants who can’t afford it, passed both chambers late in the session and is now awaiting Cuomo’s signature, the final step in the lawmaking process.

Rivera concedes that Democrats, who

control the assembly but not the senate, fell short on some of its goals, including the strengthening of rent regulations (current regulations were extended, not strengthened) and revenue generation (Rivera wanted the millionaire’s tax extended, but instead, it ended).

District ‘In Good Hands’

Colleagues are consistently positive about Rivera, but fellow Bronx state senator, Ruben Diaz, Sr., said he blamed all Democrats, Rivera included, for voting in a budget that cut into education, healthcare and senior services. (Rivera says he voted no on two of the nine budget bills, including the revenue generation bill and the education funding bill.)

Back in the Bronx, Rivera was criticized for failing to promptly set up a district office. Someone even started a Gustavo Watch blog, counting the days he was without a Bronx home base. Rivera blamed the senate bureaucracy for the delay and set up mobile hours at locations throughout the district. He finally secured an office on the Grand Concourse, just south of Fordham Road, in May.

Haile Rivera, a University Heights resident who worked on Espada’s campaign last fall and, like Gustavo Rivera (no relation), worked on Barack Obama’s 2008 presidential campaign in Florida, said his representative fell short on housing

(continued on next page)

Crowds Turn Out for Jerome-Gun Hill BID Festival



Photos by Adi Talwar

Bronx residents descended upon Jerome Avenue on drives between Mosholu Parkway and Gun Hill Road for the annual Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District Festival on the last Saturday afternoon in September.

Now in its 10th year, the event drew large crowds as people of all ages enjoyed musical entertainment, games, shopping and food.

Organizers said the annual festival is a chance for people of the Bronx to come out and connect with local businesses in

the area, while having a little fun.

"The purpose of it is to have merchants of the BID showcase goods and services, and to celebrate the community," says Roberto Garcia, executive director of Mosholu Preservation Corporation, which manages the Jerome-Gun Hill BID. (Ed. Note: MPC publishes the Norwood News.)

Several musical artists were set to perform during the day, to the delight of 57-year-old Gary Love, who danced in front of the stage for several songs.

"This is the first time I've been [to the

festival] in 10 years," said Love over the pounding of the live music. "It's great. You feel happy."

Several business owners set up stalls along the roadway under the #4 elevated train tracks, selling clothes, shoes, and house items in efforts to capitalize on the crowds.

"It's good. There are a lot of people here. I want to sell what I have," said

Felipe Garcia, 25, who was hawking bed-sheets to festival attendees.

While weather forecasters had called for rain for much of the weekend in New York City, it held off throughout the day to the relief of festival-goers and organizers.

"It never rains on Jerome Avenue," said Roberto Garcia, laughing.

—JASMEET SIDHU

Liberal Politician: Part III

(continued from previous page)

reform and isn't sure what he accomplished during his first year.

"Aside from the CAN Initiative, the exercise, meet-me-at-the-park thing, not sure what he's done," Haile Rivera said. He admitted it was "sad" and the he "liked the guy," but said he thought his state senator should be focused on helping people find jobs before helping them live healthier lives.

Still, many see a bright future for Rivera.

"This district is in good hands," said Assemblyman Jose Rivera (again, no

relation), whose district is contained in Gustavo Rivera's district.

The two Riveras, who share a common first name (Gustavo goes by his middle name), also shared a town hall meeting during the summer in Kingsbridge Heights, part of a series of town hall meetings Gustavo Rivera initiated in various parts of his district.

The best thing about Gustavo, Jose Rivera says, is that "he's a listener. He listens to people."

And, of course, there's his singing voice. "The people love it," Jose Rivera says.



End of Summer Sale
WALL - TO - WALL

**0% Interest
0% Finance
In-house Credit**

FREE Set-up, FREE Delivery

RIDGEWOOD FURNITURE
332 East 204th Street
(Corner of Hull Ave.), Bronx, NY
347-346-9180





www.freshdirect.com

Now Hiring Delivery Representatives
Route Drivers · Foot Couriers

Who is FreshDirect?

We're your friendly neighborhood web-based grocery company. You might know us from our citywide ad campaigns, our delivery trucks, our TV commercials, or maybe just that great big animated sign in Long Island City. But when it comes down to it, we're really all about the food. Fresh Direct is a direct-to-consumer fresh food and grocery company located in the New York area. We offer the highest quality food at the best prices and delivered to your home.

General Requirements:

- Must be at least 18yrs of age (21 for Drivers)
- Ability to continuously lift 50lbs
- Must be able to work both weekend days (no exceptions)

Driver Requirements:

- Minimum of 1 year recent truck driving experience or recent CDL grad
- Valid Driver License (New York / New Jersey)
- 3 points or less, No suspension in the past 3 years

What do we offer?

- Competitive wages
- Full-time
- Benefits Package : 401k, Health/Dental, 20% Discount / Transit Check / & more...
- Union enrollment on 31st Day
- Opportunities for career advancement
- Job Training

apply online @
www.freshdirect.jobs



FreshDirect is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Neighborhood Notes

Volunteer Homework Help Supervisor Sought

The COVE, at 3418 Gates Place, seeks a volunteer for its after-school program who will participate in and be directly supervised by the New York Cares homework help and tutoring program. Individual must have skills to supervise five other volunteers who will directly assist The COVE's 11- to 18-year-old participants with their schoolwork needs. For more information, call Aisha, Mahagony, or Jorge at (718) 405-1312, or e-mail ctmdreams@gmail.com.

Free Teen and Pre-Teen After-School Programs

A Pre-Teen Program for 11- to 13-year-olds begins on Wednesday, Oct. 12 at 3:30 p.m. and a Teen Program for 14- to 18-year-olds begins on Tuesday, Oct. 18 at 4 p.m., offering homework help, video production, poetry workshops,

drama, photography, and more. School pickups are available by request. Program location is at 3418 Gates Place. For more information, call Aisha, Mahagony, or Jorge at (718) 405-1312, or e-mail ctmdreams@gmail.com.

Social Media, Marketing Workshops

The Bronx Small Business Development Center is offering two free courses: Email Marketing on Oct. 19 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Social Media Marketing on Nov. 2 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Both courses are at CUNY on the Concourse, 2501 Grand Concourse, 3rd floor. For more information or to register, call (718) 960-8806 or email Clarence.stanley@lehman.cuny.edu.

Lehman College Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

Lehman College, at 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., invites

the public to its annual event to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, on Thursday, Oct. 6, from 2:30 to 6 p.m. in its East Dining Room. Professor Alfonso Gonzales, from the Political Science Department will deliver the keynote speech, followed by a panel discussion and a reception at 4:50 p.m. Following the reception, guests are invited to a Spanish performance of "Vida de Perro." For more information or to attend, RSVP to (718) 960-2569 or Hispanic.heritage@lehman.cuny.edu.

Bronx Education Summit

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., invites the public to the Bronx Education Summit: From Cradle to Career on Oct. 15, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Lehman College, 250 Bedford Pk., Blvd., W. The summit will feature a panel of education policy experts, keynote speaker Dr. Diane Ravitch, and guest speaker Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott. Space is limited; registration is required. For more information, call (718) 590-6116 or visit www.bronxeducationsummit.org.

Disabilities Mass

Our Lady of Angels, located at 2860 Sedgwick Ave., is holding a mass for friends and family of people with disabilities on Oct. 8 at 11 a.m. Refreshments will be served following the mass. For more information or to RSVP, call (718) 548-3005.

Sweepstakes Attached to School Meals Application

NYC Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott and NY Jets Tight End Dustin Keller announced a sweepstakes for an all-expense paid trip for two to the NFL Pro Bowl in Hawaii in January, to encourage parents to apply for free or reduced lunches for their children. To apply, parents can call their principals, or access the application at www.nyc.applyforlunch.com or www.nyc.gov/access-nyc. Applications processed by Oct. 21 are eligible for a variety of prizes. The Grand Prize winner, selected in a random drawing, will be announced on Oct. 24.

For more Neighborhood Notes online, go to www.norwoodnews.org and click on "Neighborhood Notes" in the right-hand column.

Burned Quran Hate Crime

(continued from p. 1)

understand Islam."

Deputy Inspector Joseph Dowling of the 52nd Precinct said the police are investigating the incident as a hate crime, and that no arrests have been made. The fact that police have not identified a suspect leaves many in the community on edge.

One resident said he is not surprised by this most recent ugly incident.

"It's a mad world," said Edward Froustet, a 62-year-old Roman Catholic who lives a few doors down from the mosque. "The neighborhood in the past 20 years or more has been about gangs, groups and drugs. It will never stop."

Members of the mosque are taking measures to add more security to the property, such as surveillance cameras. At least a hundred worshippers, mainly immigrants from Ghana and Somalia, attend services and classes at Masjid Hefaz every week, including about 30 children.

Razack hopes that with more community outreach about Islam, mosque members will be left in peace.

"It's a major misunderstanding," said Razack. "We need to do more in the community to fight against wrong information about Islam."



Mosholu Montefiore Community Center
3450 Dekalb Avenue • Bronx, NY 10467
(718) 882-4000 • www.mmcc.org

Fall Programs 2011

Pre-schoolers • School Age • Teens • Adults • Senior Citizens

Child Care

Ages 1-5 years old • 7:30am-6:30pm

Saturday Specialty Classes

Children & Teenagers 5-13 years old
Ballet • Jazz/Hip-Hop Dance • Basketball
Jewelry Making • Ceramics • Karate
Weight Lifting & MUCH MORE!

Saturday Flag Football @ Oval Park

2nd-4th grade & 5th-8th grade

Karate & Self Defense School

Saturdays • Mondays • Wednesdays • Fridays
Children • Teens • Adults

MMCC Teen Center -FREE

Saturday • Tuesday • Wednesday • Thursday
Weekdays 6:30pm-9:00pm • Saturday 7:00pm-10:00pm
Interviews starting October 3rd

College Bound Program

FREE Help getting into college!
Resumes • Applications • Financial Aid
S.A.T. courses limited to 25 students \$75
Contact Roybn Spiegel (718) 652-0470

Family Choice Program

Help with selecting a high school and the application process. Contact Tish Wescott
(718) 882-4000 ext. 338

Senior Citizen Center

Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm
Hot lunch • Classes • Clubs • Parties • Trips
Se Habla Espanol • (718) 798-6601

After School Discovery Club

After school care for K-6th grade
Pick up from: P.S. 280, P.S. 94, P.S. 56, P.S. 56
Annex, St. Annes, St. Brendan's, St. Philip Neri,
P.S. 95, AmPark, P.S. 51
Parents pick their children up at The Center
at 6:00pm or 6:30pm

Soccer

Saturdays @ Oval Park
K & 1st grade • 2nd-4th grade
Sundays
3rd & 4th grade • 5th & 6th grade
7th & 8th grade

NEW Climbing Wall Program

School age • Teens • Adults

Co-op City Teen Center

Registration starts October 1

Out of School Youth Program

FREE
GED Test Prep • Job Help • Culinary Training
Internships
Edith Bolanos (718) 652-0282

Adult Education Classes

Computer • GED • Zumba

FREE OPEN HOUSE!

Saturday, October 1

10:00am-2:00pm

Classes • Workshops • Finger Printing

Energy Fitness Center

ALL NEW EQUIPMENT • 50% MORE SPACE • NEW BATHROOMS & SHOWERS
GREAT NEW GYM • SAME OLD PRICES

Adults (19-60) \$195 annually • Teenagers (15-18 years) \$160 annually
Senior Citizens (61 years & older) \$160 annually • Montefiore Employees \$95 annually

NEW MONTHLY PAYMENT PLAN!

Hours: Monday-Friday 7:00am-9:30am • 11:00am-7:00pm • Saturday 10:00am-4:00pm

Call for a FREE brochure (718) 882-4000

Classifieds

REAL ESTATE

Space Available to Worship: Worship space available at the Bedford Park Congregational Church. Please contact Reverend Dr. Christopher Ponnuraj (718) 367-8996.

Apt. for Rent: One-bedroom apartment, 2400 Davidson Ave. \$850 a month rent, near transportation, stores and schools. Call Nancy or Jim (212) 799-2365.

FOR SALE

Auto: 1997 Town & Country LX: Winter green, interior mint condition, CD and cassette player, 220K highway miles, could go to 350K with good maintenance. For sale \$675. Call (845) 476-4018.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

Tutor: K-9 teacher NYS certified, ESL certified, former *NY Times* cartographer/staff editor. (718) 644-1083.

Yoga: Stretching, meditation, drumming or dancing on Fridays and Sundays. \$10 per session. RSVP (718) 644-1083 or email jnorQ@aol.com.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Glad Tidings Assembly of God: 2 Van Cortlandt Ave. E. and Jerome Avenue. (718) 367-4040. Pastor: Efrin Figueroa, Sunday Service at 11 a.m.

MERCHANDISE WANTED

Wanted to Buy: OLDE RHINESTONE/COSTUME JEWELRY - Gold/silver jewelry. Antiques-Furniture, porcelains/crystal, olde hats/linens/lace,

olde postcards/fountain pens, stamps/coins, sterling/silver plate, oriental rugs, olde paintings/prints, entire contents of apartments, cleanouts. Call Debbie in the Bronx (718) 796-3489.

"We can Help"

- Are you a small business having trouble finding technical support for your computer equipment?

We will Handle business systems of any size. References Available

Check with BXCComputers



Rick Morenberg
Phone: 646-620-4567
Fax: 347-431-3415
Service & Support Specialists
www.bxccomputers.com
info@bxccomputers.com

Classified ads: \$9 for the first 20 words, 25 cents for each additional word. Professional directory: \$144 for six months; \$260 for one year. Business cards: \$360 for six months (12 issues); \$625 for one year (25 issues). To place an ad, call (718) 324-4998.

Paddy's Certified Transmissions



3100 Webster Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467
Tel: 718-547-6971

REBUILT TRANSMISSIONS

12 months or 12,000 miles
GUARANTEED!

Call for Price!

FREE TOWING
(Within a 10 mile radius)

Professional Directory

Pediatric Services

Tiga Pediatrics
3510 Bainbridge Ave., Suite 5,
Bronx, NY 10467
Ages 0 to 21 years
General Practice, Obesity, Asthma,
ADHD
Same-Day Appointment Every Day!
(718) 319-8999

Beautician Services

Come to Madame P's Beauty World

The last old-fashioned hairdresser in the Bronx.

We specialize in haircutting, hair care, and provide consultations on hair care and weaving to stimulate hair growth. We do tinting and use all manners of relaxers, including Mizani, Affirm, Fiberguard, and Vitale. We use Wave Nouveau Coiffure. We are still doing carefree curls and press and curl. 20% off for seniors Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

617 E. Fordham Road (between Arthur and Hughes), Bronx, NY 10458. (Fordham University Section). Call today for your appointment: (347) 284-3834.

Religious Services

VISIT US
The Bedford Park Congregational Church
Corner 201st Street and Bainbridge Avenue
Sunday Service and Sunday School 11 a.m.
Friday Bible Study at the parsonage, 7:30 p.m.
(Call pastor to confirm)
Reverend Dr. Christopher Ponnuraj (718) 367-8996
ALL ARE WELCOME

Lawyers

James M. Visser, Esq.
General Practice; Accidents, Commercial; Wills & Estates; Offices Bronx and Manhattan
(646) 260-6326

Non-Denominational Services

Good News Christian Church
3061 Bainbridge Ave. (basement of the Church of the Holy Nativity), Bronx, NY 10467. (347) 329-0023. Pastors James and Andrea Miller. Sunday service at 2 p.m. Home fellowship bible studies on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Friday night prayer service at 7 pm. Visit us at www.goodnewsc.org.

"We can Help"

- Personal computer running slow?
- Thinking about throwing it out and getting a new one?
- But strapped for cash?

Check with BXCComputers



Rick Morenberg
Phone: 646-620-4567
Fax: 347-431-3415
Service & Support Specialists
www.bxccomputers.com
info@bxccomputers.com

CO-OPS FOR SALE

**BRONX LOCATIONS: KINGSBRIDGE/NORWOOD
GRAND CONCOURSE/WOODLAWN**

3520 TRYON AVENUE

Perfectly located co-op. Walk to Montefiore and Subway.

"Handyman Special"

1 BR \$97,000

Maint: \$548.45

4380 VIREO AVENUE

2 BR-JR \$169,000.00

Maint: \$543.69

Studios for rent @ \$900, No Fee

TO VIEW AND FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:

Sherry and Sons, Inc.

(914) 793-1793 ext.16

www.sherryandsons.com

Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

Onstage

■ Trombonist **Chris Washburne and The Syotos Latin Jazz Band**, presented in collaboration with Carnegie Hall's Neighborhood Concert Series, will perform at the following locations: Jacobi Medical Center's Rotunda, 1400 Pelham Pkway., So., on Oct. 6 at 10:30 a.m. (call (718) 918-3827 for more information and to reserve a seat; flu shots, hypertension screening, refreshments and giveaways will all be available free before the concert from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the lobby of Building 4 adjacent to the Rotunda); and Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse at 165th St., free, Oct. 7 at 7 and

8 p.m. (includes free viewing of current exhibitions at 6 p.m.; for more information, call (718) 681-6000).

■ The Bronx Library Center, located at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd. off Fordham Road, presents **Flamenco Music and Dance**, Oct. 8 at 2:30 p.m.; and **Ivo Tirado, Jr. & The Latin Jazz Element Sextet in Concert**, Oct. 15 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46 or visit www.nypl.org.

■ The Jerome Park Library, at 118 Eames Place, presents **Music**, featuring the Ana Cifuentes Trio performing Latin tunes, Oct. 8 at 2 p.m. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

■ The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **merengue and bachata concert**, Oct. 8 at 8 p.m. (tickets are \$45 to \$60); gospel duo **Mary Mary**, a sister act, Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. (tickets are \$25 to \$45); and **Kings of Salsa**, with Cuban dancers and band, Oct. 16 at 4 p.m. (tickets are \$25 to \$40; \$10/ages 12 and under). For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

■ The Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance (BAAD), 841 Barretto St., presents **BlakTina Performance Series**, Oct. 14 to 28 at 8 p.m. For more information and a detailed schedule, call (718) 842-5223.

Events

■ The public is invited to participate in the **Tour de Bronx**, NYS's largest free bicycling event, on Sunday, Oct. 23. Meet at the Bronx County Building, Grand Concourse at 161st Street at 9:30 a.m. The 25-mile route leaves at 10:40 a.m. and the 40-mile route leaves at 10:30 a.m. Register at www.tourdebronx.org. For more information, call (718) 590-3518.

■ **Boo at the Zoo** will be featured at the Bronx Zoo, weekends in October, featuring a haunted safari, lost hayride, magic shows, and more. Kids in costume get in free (one child ages 3 to 12 with the purchase of one adult ticket), free under age 3. For more information, call (718) 220-5100.

■ The Montefiore Medical Center AIDS Center, 111 E. 210th St. (entrance on Gun Hill Road), presents **National Latino AIDS Awareness Day**, in the Cherkasky Auditorium lobby, Oct. 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., featuring nutritional counseling, HIV testing, blood pressure screening, music videos, raffles, and more. For more information, call (718) 231-3296 ext. 23.

■ JASA Van Cortlandt Senior Center, 3880 Sedgewick Ave., presents a **Sukkot Musical Program** with cantor Harvey Bien, Oct. 17 at 1 p.m. Refreshments will be served in the sukkah. For more information, call (718) 549-4700.

■ The New York Botanical Garden presents **Cooking for Your Health**, Wednesdays through October at 12:30 p.m., near the Visitors Center reflecting pool. Grounds-only admission is free all day Wednesdays and from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. For more information, call (718) 817-8700.

Exhibits

■ The Riverdale-Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture's Meeting House, 4450 Fieldston Rd., presents **For Love of Line: A Visual Vocabulary**, through October with an artists' reception on Oct. 9 from 1:15 to 3:15 p.m. For more information, call (718) 548-4445.

■ The Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse at 165th St., presents **Muntadas: Information, Space, Control**, through Jan. 16; and **Urban Archives: Emilio Sanchez in the Bronx**, through Jan. 2. Admission is free on Fridays. For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

■ Lehman College's Art Gallery, located at 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **Sticks and Stones**, through Jan. 6, Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 960-8731.



At Montefiore, inspiration starts with our patients.
And stops at nothing.

Montefiore is more than a proud Bronx hospital. Our nationally renowned Centers of Excellence and our partnership with Albert Einstein College of Medicine are bringing the world to our door. Our outcomes are outperforming national averages, and our patient satisfaction scores are among the highest in the New York City area.

But although we are recognized for delivering world-class treatment, we will never compromise our heritage of providing strong, compassionate care to the people of our communities first.



Montefiore is ranked sixth overall out of 184 New York metro area hospitals in pediatrics, diabetes and 10 other specialties.

Montefiore
Inspired Medicine

Find inspiration at inspiredmedicine.org

EDITOR'S PICK

Free Music at Woodlawn

The Friends of Woodlawn offers free events at Woodlawn Cemetery including **Presenting Celia Cruz: Music and Panel Discussion**, followed by a selection of Cruz's music performed by Celia Cruz H.S. students, Oct. 9 at 1 p.m.; and **Bardakova Ensemble in Concert**, Oct. 16 at 3 p.m. in the Woolworth Chapel, to celebrate Woodlawn Cemetery's National Historic Landmark designation, featuring family activities, viewing mausoleums, and more, from 1 to 4 p.m. Enter at Jerome Avenue entrance, near Bainbridge Avenue for both events. For more information, call (718) 920-1470/1469 or (718) 920-1463 ext. 500.

Library Events

■ The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd. off Fordham Road, presents programs for kids including **Preschool Story Time**, Oct. 6, 13 and 20 at 11 a.m.; **Family Time**, Oct. 8 at 11 a.m.; **Movie Effects**, Oct. 11 at 4 p.m. (preregistration required); **Film Day**, Oct. 12 and 19 at 4 p.m.; **Spooky Tales to Tingle your Spine**, Oct. 14 at 4 p.m. (preregistration required); **The Science of Toys**, Oct. 15 at 4 p.m. (preregistration required); and **The Science of Magic**, Oct. 18 at 4 p.m. (preregistration required). Teens and young adults may attend **Wild at the Library**, Oct. 6 at 2 p.m. English Language Learners can apply for **English Classes for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)**. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46 or visit www.nypl.org.

■ The Moshulu Library, at 285 E. 205th St., offers **Toddler Story Time**, Oct. 6 at 10:30 a.m.; **Perfectly Penguin**, Oct. 20 at 4 p.m. (for all ages; preregistration required); a free

Intermediate Level **English Conversation Program** for speakers of other languages (ages from 16 years), Tuesdays through Nov. 22, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.; **Knitting Circle** at 3 p.m., Oct. 6, 13 and 20, for adults; and **Wii Program**, Tuesdays at 3 p.m. for seniors and adults. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

■ The Jerome Park Library, at 118 Eames Place, offers programs for children including **The Biggest Pumpkin in the World**, Oct. 11 at 4 p.m.; **Films**, Oct. 17 at 4 p.m.; and **Toddler Story Time**, Oct. 19 at 11 a.m. (all require preregistration); and **Cooking at 4 p.m.**, for teens and young adults, Oct. 6 and 13. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

NOTE: Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to norwood-news@norwoodnews.org, and should be received by Oct. 10 for the next publication date of Oct. 20. Find more events at www.bronxnewsnetwork.org.

Bedford Café Restaurant

1 East Bedford Park Blvd.

For Delivery Call (718) 365-3416 or (718) 365-3446

BREAKFAST

Eggs & Omelettes
Gourmet Combination Omelettes

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

PASTA FIESTA
\$7⁹⁵

LUNCH SPECIALS
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

FRESH FISH DAILY

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

EARLY BIRD DINNER
FROM 4 PM-7 PM

\$12⁷⁵

OPEN 24 HOURS
10% off for senior citizens
and students with I.D.

LEHMAN CENTER
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Sunday
October 9, 2011 at 7pm
MARY MARY
THE MULTI
AWARD-WINNING
GOSPEL DUO
Tickets: \$45, \$40, \$25

CHASE
International Performance Series

Sunday, October 16, 2011 at 4pm
KINGS OF SALSA
CUBAN DANCERS
THAT WILL PUT
EVERYONE ON
THEIR FEET

Tickets: \$40, \$35, \$25
Children 12 and under, \$10 any seat

WE LOVE KIDS
\$10
TICKETS

CHASE
International Performance Series

Saturday, October 29, 2011 at 8pm
PAQUITO D'RIVERA
Also featuring
the **MAMBO LEGENDS ORCHESTRA**
LATIN JAZZ MASTERS
Tickets: \$50, \$45, \$35

CHASE
International Performance Series

Sunday, October 30, 2011 at 4pm
NATIONAL ACROBATS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
DIRECT FROM BEIJING
Tickets: \$45, \$40, \$25
Children 12 and under, \$10 any seat

250 BEDFORD PARK BOULEVARD WEST, BRONX, NEW YORK 10468
ONLINE TICKETS: WWW.LEHMANCENTER.ORG
BOX OFFICE: 718.966.8635

NYCULTURE
NYSCA
LEHMAN COLLEGE
www.lehman.cuny.edu

NEW BIGGER LOCATION!

Walk Pain Free with

BRONX FOOT REHABILITATION ASSOCIATES

FOR THE CORRECTION OF:

Bunions • Hammertoes
Ingrown Toenails

FOR THE TREATMENT OF:

Heel pain • Arch pain
Callouses • Flat Feet
Ankle Sprains/Sports Injuries
Diabetic Foot Infections
Chronic Non-Healing Wounds
Effective Foot Reconstruction
Foot Trauma Management



For your convenience we offer:

IN OFFICE & HOSPITAL SURGERY

Please call for an appointment, walk-ins welcomed

JIAN ZHANG D.P.M., F.A.C.F.A.S. • DENNIS NACHMANN, D.P.M.

Dr. Zhang is certified in both American Board of
Foot Surgery and Hyperbaric Oxygen Wound Care!

TWO LOCATIONS

3112 WEBSTER AVE.
BRONX, NY 10467

1619 PELHAM PARKWAY N.
BRONX, NY 10469

Both Locations Call

718-655-3410

BRONXITES VOTED US #1
FOR PAYING THE HIGHEST PRICE
FOR YOUR GOLD JEWELRY AND DIAMONDS!

10K • 14K • 18K PLATINUM • SILVER • DIAMOND JEWELRY • ANY CONDITION

Gold Prices UP 3X
Since 2001!



WANTED:

Any and all of your precious metal
regardless of condition

Chains
Class Rings
Charms
Watches
Bracelets
Cuffs
Medals
Earrings
Dental

Freilich Jewelers
Established in 1939

312 East 204th Street

Bronx, NY 10467 • 718-798-1063

Shop Online: www.freilichjewelers.com

New at Freilich's
Reflection Beads



DCA #1087738

MEET YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD MORTGAGE CONSULTANT!



Barbara Mongiello



No one knows mortgages better than Barbara Mongiello. It's Barbara's passion to help you find the right financing to make your dream of owning a home come true.

- Fixed-Rate Mortgages
- Bi-Weekly Mortgages
- Adjustable Rate Mortgages
- Co-op & Condo Loans
- SONYMA & Other Affordable Housing Programs
- Loan Amounts up to \$3.5 million Available

To make an appointment or meet Barbara at
one of our Bronx branches, call 347-527-3696

BRONX:

711 Allerton Avenue • 1745 Crosby Avenue • 1770 Gun Hill Road
3445 Jerome Avenue • 1134 Morris Park Avenue • 3899 Sedgwick Avenue
1626 Bruckner Boulevard • 3824 White Plains Road

RIDGEWOOD
SAVINGS BANK

www.ridgewoodbank.com

Member FDIC

