

NORWOOD NEWS

**Bloomberg Touts
Big Sugary Drink
Ban**

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House Challengers Agree: Rangel Should Go

By ALEX KRATZ

During a televised debate among candidates running in the 13th Congressional District race on Monday night, it was the absence of the embattled 82-year-old incumbent that spoke loudest.

The debate, shown on BronxNet's BronxTalk show and hosted by the *Norwood News* and *Riverdale Press*, featured four of the five candidates running for the 13th Congressional District: Craig Schley, Clyde Williams, Joyce Johnson and Adriano Espaillat.

Following a contentious redistricting process, the district now stretches from Harlem to upper Manhattan and is now home to a significant section of the Bronx, including the neighborhoods of Norwood, Bedford Park, Kingsbridge Heights and University Heights.

While his challengers made their case to Bronxites, Charlie Rangel, who turned 82 on Monday and has represented the district through several incarnations over the past 41 years (though he has never had Bronx constituents), declined the invitation to participate. A campaign spokesperson sent out a statement saying he could not attend because of a previous engagement.

Rangel's opponents took the opportunity to call for a changing of the guard, highlighting persistent problems in the district that the incumbent has failed to address and pointing out all of the reasons why they should be the choice to replace him.

(continued on p. 8)



Photo by Alex Kratz

THE CANDIDATES for the 13th Congressional District (l-r), Clyde Williams, Joyce Johnson, Craig Schley and Adriano Espaillat, participated in a debate on BronxNet on Monday night.

Tenants in U-Heights Forced to Vacate After Fire Escape Fiasco

By JALEESA BAULKMAN and CHLOE RICKERT

Days after being assured by her landlord that the broken window in her apartment was just damage from renovations, Cynthia Curry returned home from work on June 4 to find a notice saying she needed to vacate her University Heights building within 48 hours. An hour later, the notice was cut in half by the Fire Department, giving Curry, her two sons, her two grandchildren and her son's girlfriend less than 24 hours to pack up their belongings and find someplace else to live.

Curry and her family were among the 200 residents of 2400 Webb Ave. who were scrambling for answers and a place to live last week after contractors inexplicably removed all of the building's fire escapes two weeks ago.

On Saturday, June 2, when visiting the building on an unrelated case, an inspector from the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) noticed the seven-story building did not have fire escapes. Fernando Tirado, district manager of Community Board 7, said that soon after the inspector's discovery, the FDNY, Department of Buildings (DOB) and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) were notified.

On Monday, tenants were ultimately told they must move out by 6 p.m. the next day, Tuesday, June 5. The building's landlord, Goldfarb Properties, would need to have the fire escapes re-installed, a job that could take up to six months, before they

(continued on p. 10)



Photo by Chloe Rickert

TENANTS OF 2400 Webb Ave. in University Heights haul out their belongings after contractors inexplicably removed all of the building's fire escapes, forcing them to evacuate.

Arts Program Flourishes Despite Roadblocks

By CHLOE RICKERT

Judging by the enthusiastic audience that erupted into cheers following each remarkable act during performances at the annual PS/MS 95 Arts Festival on a recent Friday, it is clear the Sheila Mencher School in Van Cortlandt Village is doing its best to keep the arts incorporated into education.

With the city's budget limitations and stress on test scores, it is hard to make arts a priority in public school. But Principal Serge Marshall Davis is determined to see the arts continue to thrive at 95. Thanks to the collaborative efforts of a non-profit organization of teaching artists called DreamYard and Melayne Vestal and Nick Merchant, who make up the Arts Leadership Team, the public school has been able to create, improve, and sustain arts curriculum for the past several years.

Merchant, a seventh grade English teacher, speaks of "the intrinsic benefit of just having an outlet for these kids," pointing out that the arts programs give students a chance to show talents that aren't necessarily tested by state examinations.

DreamYard, which brings in professional artists who work with classroom teachers in a partnership through the Bronx

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In The Public Interest

Primary Election FAQs

When do I vote?

Primary Day is Tuesday, June 26. The most competitive race is the 13th Congressional District, which includes almost the entire *Norwood News* coverage area, including Norwood, Bedford Park, Fordham, Kingsbridge Heights and University Heights.

Where do I vote?

The Board of Elections is still determining polling sites, but should have everything set by the end of this week.

Find out your polling site is by visiting vote.nyc.ny.us

Click on “poll site locator and sample ballot”

Type in your house number, street address and borough

Click “Search”

Contact the Bronx County Board of Elections at (718) 299-9017

Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. on June 26

Can I Still Register to Vote?

No. To be eligible to vote in the June 26 primary, you need to register by June 1. But don't let that stop you. There are several local and state elections coming up this fall and there is plenty of time to register for those primary and general elections.

How do I Register?

You can register in person at Bronx County Board of Elections located at 1780 Grand Concourse 5th floor.

Register to vote at any New York State Agency-based voter registration center such as:

Any City University of New York (CUNY) college

Any State University of New York (SUNY) college

Office for Aging

Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons With Disabilities

Department of Motor Vehicles

Department of Social Services

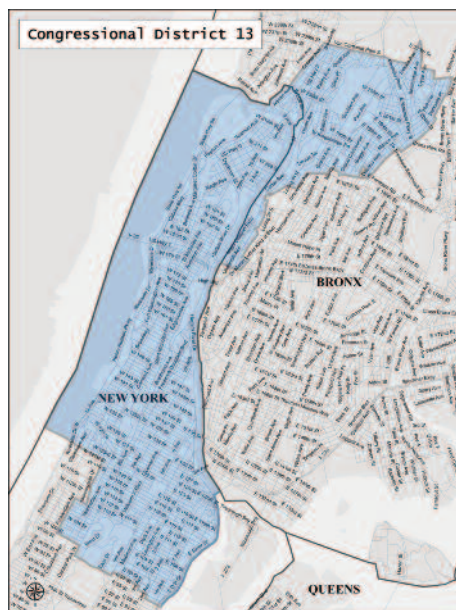
Division of Veterans Affairs

Department of Health-WIC Program

Office for Mental Health

Vocational and Education Services for Individuals With Disabilities

Call Board of Election's hotline to request a voter application at 1-800-FOR-



VOTE

OR download a PDF version of the New York State Voter Registration Form, or complete a PDF form online at elections.ny.gov/VotingRegister.html

Information courtesy of Board of Elections.

Williams Says He Doesn't Need to 'Feed Political Machine'

Clyde Williams knew he wasn't going to be showered by endorsements from the usual suspects — prominent elected officials, local political clubs and labor unions — in his bid to unseat Charlie Rangel and represent upper Manhattan and the northwest Bronx in Congress.

“I never, ever thought I'd get support from the political machine,” said Williams in a recent interview.

Unfortunately for Williams, leading up to the June 26 Democratic primary, the narrative of the campaign has centered around the endorsements being handed out to the race's two most connected candidates: Rangel, who has held the seat for 41 years, and State Senator Adriano Espaillat, who has spent the last 16 years as a legislator in Albany (14 as an assemblyman).

While Williams, a Harlem resident who has worked for President Clinton and under President Obama, expressed some frustration with the media's focus on endorsements, he also believes his separation from the “political machine” serves as an advantage on the campaign trail and would free him from taking any “baggage” with him to Capital Hill if he gets elected.

The machine and all the support that comes with belonging to it, he argues, is all about territory, loyalty and protection. It has little to do with being a good legislator.

“I don't have the historical legacy of focusing on just one base,” he said. “I don't have to feed the political machine, which is set up to protect incumbency. I have a chance to represent the district, the entire district, from Day One.”

Williams may not have the connections to the local machine, but he is quite connected in Washington, where he grew up, went college and enjoyed a swift rise as a political operative, eventually landing a job in the Clinton administration — in the White House as deputy director of scheduling and in the Department of Agriculture as deputy chief of staff.

In 2001, Williams moved to Harlem to help kick-start Clinton's new foundation,

serving as his domestic policy advisor and working on small business initiatives. Later, Williams worked for the Center for American Progress, a lefty think-tank and joined a business partnership that acquired a technology firm. His last job was as the national political director for the Democratic National Committee.

His capital connections have helped Williams raise more than \$350,000, which, according to the *Daily News*, has allowed him to canvass 25,000 doors and send out 88,000 mailers.

And he says those connections will help him be a productive legislator in Washington if the voters give him an opportunity to represent them.

“I'm the only [candidate besides Rangel] to have worked in DC and I have a lot of friends in government agencies,” Williams said. “I will make certain to use those connections to bring resources into Manhattan and the rest of the district.”

For all his capital cred, Williams is still learning his way around the Bronx. But he has shown up to several recent community meetings, including those of the 52nd Precinct Community Council and Bedford Mosholu Community Association.

Williams says whether you're in the Bronx or Manhattan, your problems are probably similar: you need a job, you have health problems, your local school isn't performing.

“There are historic problems in our communities that have not been solved,” he said.

Williams says he would address unemployment by focusing on training people to “do the jobs that are available,” including working in upper Manhattan's burgeoning tourism industry.

—ALEX KRATZ

More on norwoodnews.org

- **News Updates**
- **Crime Watch**
- **Be Healthy! Wednesday**
- **Bronx Sports Report Thursday**
- **Bronx Breakdown Friday**

Public and Community Meetings

- **COMMUNITY BOARD 7's general board meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 19 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the NY Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard at the Visitor's Center Café. For more information or for dates and times for committee meetings, visit bronxcb7.info or call (718) 933-5650.**
- **PRIMARY DAY, Tuesday, June 26. See above for details on how to find your polling site.**



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Firefighters Save Three From Fordham Blaze

By DAVID GREENE

A trio of hero firemen saved three members of one family after an early morning fire broke out in the Fordham Manor neighborhood.

Officials say the fire began just after 3 a.m., on Saturday, June 9, inside a 6th-floor apartment at 50 E. 191st St., across the street from St. James Park.

"We started our search knowing that there were two children trapped in the apartment," said Lt. William Kearns of Ladder 56,

Firefighter Chris O'Brien, also of Ladder 56, ducked under the fire coming from the kitchen and discovered the 28-year-old father, identified as Jose Figueroa, lying unconscious in the hall of the apartment.

The intense heat melted the eye-shield on the helmet of firefighter Ronnie Littlejohn, who sprayed the blaze with a fire extinguisher as O'Brien made the rescue.

Meanwhile, Kearns and an unidentified member of Rescue Company Three removed Figueroa's two children, a 3-year-old and a 2-year-old, who were "unconscious in their beds."

"It was a great effort by all parties involved," Kearns said.

A firefighter with more than three decades of experience, Kearns said, "What was really impressive was the noise of the bricks popping. It was very unusual. I haven't heard that happening before, but that was the intensity of the fire coming out the window, causing the moisture inside the bricks to expand, steam and pop."

Kearns, who grew up playing in St. James Park and lived around the corner from the Webster Avenue firehouse that is now his second home, said the crew's saves were satisfying, but warned that those rescued aren't completely out of danger.

"It's a terrific feeling and we just hope that they continue to prevail," Kearns said. "We also pray for the recovery of the father."

Figueroa, who ran back into the home for his children when he was overcome by smoke, remains in critical condition. He is also being treated for severe burns.

A 3-year-old girl and a 2-year-old girl are also critical, but stable at Jacobi Hospital, as they, too, are being treated for smoke inhalation.

Figueroa's wife, Amanda Khan, and three-month-old baby boy, David Figueroa, were also treated for minor smoke inhalation.

Three firefighters also suffered minor injuries.

The cause of the blaze is under investigation.



Photo by David Greene

LT. WILLIAM KEARNS (at microphones), with fellow hero Chris O'Brien (left), speaks to members of the media several hours after the fire was brought under control.

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Inquiring Photographer

By DAVID GREENE

This week we asked readers about Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s plan to combat obesity by banning the sale of large-sized soft drinks.



I think he should give people the choice of what they want to drink. Sometimes I buy them. People will just buy two of the smaller drinks.
Cindy Fuentes



I think it’s ridiculous. Basically, it should be freedom of choice. If you choose to drink a two-liter, you should have the freedom to drink a two-liter. As far as health-wise, everyone knows their health to a degree, so they know if they should be drinking it or not.
Sam Macklin



I think it’s a good idea because a lot of people today are obese and it’s from drinking a lot of soda and stuff like that.
Kassandra Fernandez



I definitely don’t agree with this. I feel they’re taking away so much from us, now they want to limit our soft drink consumption? They should really be looking at other issues that really matter.
Elaine Laecca



I don’t think that’s fair. Everyone should have a choice, that’s what America is all about, freedom of choice. It seems to me, every time we turn around there’s a new law. It seems like we’re turning into a communist country.
Carolyn Graham

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Stabbing Victim Dies, 1st Precinct Murder in 2012

By DAVID GREENE

It took nearly five months, and almost two weeks following a brutal stabbing in Norwood late last month, but the 52nd Precinct has its first murder of 2012.

The stabbing victim, Jorge Arango, 20, was on life support after being sliced and stabbed multiple times during an altercation on May 17 that was caught on video surveillance. After doctors declared Arango brain dead, his family took him off life support on May 31.

Police arrested two individuals, Ramon Sanchez, 24, and Luis Davis, 28, and charged them with the stabbing of Arango on East Gun Hill Road at Jerome Avenue. The suspects were originally charged with assault in the first degree, but those charges are expected to be upgraded to murder.

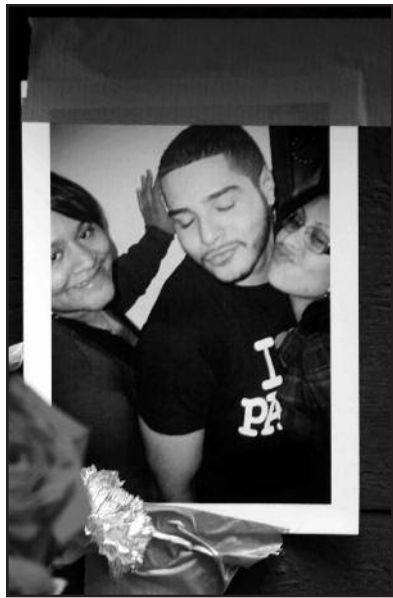


Photo by David Greene

A FAMILY PHOTO of stabbing victim Jorge Arango.

Video from a security camera installed by the Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement that sits above Caribe Restaurant recorded much of the incident. The video was eventually given to detectives and provided as evidence to a grand jury.

Just before midnight, Arango, 20, a Norwood resident who lived on East Gun Hill Road, appears on camera standing in the

Jerome Avenue crosswalk. After taking off his over shirt, Arango raises his hands and appears to yell at another man on the other side of the crosswalk. The man runs toward Arango, launches himself into the 20-year-old and the two begin fighting. That's when another man, wearing shorts and a T-shirt, joins the fray and becomes entangled with Arango. While those two are tussling, the other man produces a knife and starts stabbing Arango all over his body.

Later, the victim gets up, soaking with blood, and unsuccessfully tries to hail a cab. The camera drifts away. The next time it rolls past, Arango is gone.

Officers discovered Arango with multiple stab wounds, as many as 15, on his chest, arms and legs. He was transported to Jacobi Hospital in extremely critical condition.

Arango remained alive for two weeks before being removed from life support. The murder is the first of 2012 in the 52nd Precinct, which includes the *Norwood News'* primary coverage area: the neighborhoods of Norwood, Bedford Park, Fordham and University Heights.

How the altercation began is in dispute. Police, Arango's mother and one of the suspect's sister all say Arango and the two suspects had met at least a month earlier, but the rest of the story is murky.

Arango's mother, Jeanette Febles, 55, recalled the fateful night during an interview at Carib Restaurant, where she and her son would often have dinner after attending mass at St. Ann's Church on Bainbridge Avenue and where he would suffer fatal wounds.

"He was with a friend of his [that night], they came to my house and he said, 'Mom, give me some money and I'll be right back,' and he had met with these people a month ago." She gave him the money.

She says her son was antagonized and then attacked later that night.

Febles says that Arango attended PS 94, but didn't make it to high school due to a severe case of asthma.



Photo by David Greene

FAMILY AND FRIENDS set up a makeshift memorial for Jorge Arango outside the man's East Gun Hill Road apartment.

Later, he would get a high school equivalency diploma and became a home health aide.

Febles said Arango went to care for an elderly retired doctor in upper Manhattan. "Unfortunately the patient died and he was very affected by this," she said. "This was last year. The man left him some money, so he went to France, he visited Europe."

She continued, "When he came back, he says, 'Mom, I can't be a home health attendant anymore.' He can't deal with the fact that the patients die. He got used to seeing the man every day and enjoyed helping him."

On the day Arango died, Febles said her son had a job interview in Yonkers.

Febles says her son was the "center" of the family. "He liked to party and get into every person's situation. He wanted to know what a person was doing or what they could do together."

Family members will miss the young man's casual singing in the apartment and his sketches. Arango loved to draw.

Febles is now attempting to raise money to give her son a proper funeral and burial.

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In The Bronx, Mayor Touts Big Sugary Drink Ban

By SARAH RAMIREZ

In a press conference Tuesday, June 5, at Montefiore Medical Center Mayor Michael Bloomberg defended his proposal to ban the sale of large-sized sugary drinks. Along with several public health officials, Bloomberg took the opportunity to highlight the damaging effects of obesity on New Yorkers, especially in the Bronx.

While 58 percent of New Yorkers are overweight or obese, the numbers are even higher in the Bronx, where 70 percent of adults are overweight or obese. That comes out to 630,000 Bronxites who are dealing with weight-related health problems. The public health cost is staggering, as \$4 billion is spent each year in New York City on obesity-related health care costs.

The Bloomberg administration has called the empty calories in sugary beverages as one of the leading culprits in the obesity crisis. Last week, the City unveiled its plan to limit the size of sugary drinks sold in “food service establishments” such as restaurants, mobile food carts, delis and concession stands. (The ban does not apply to convenience, grocery or drugstores.)

Under the proposal, the sale of sweetened drinks over 16 oz., including soft



Photo by Sarah Ramirez

MAYOR BLOOMBERG defended his sugary drinks proposal at a press conference at Montefiore Medical Center.

drinks, bottled sodas, fruit drinks with sugar and sweetened coffee and tea, would be prohibited. Fruit juices containing at least 70 percent juice, as well as dairy-based beverages, alcoholic drinks, unsweetened coffee and tea and diet sodas would remain unaffected.

“Obesity is the only major public health issue we have that is getting worse and New York City has the courage to

stand up and do something about it,” said Bloomberg.

Officials at Montefiore echoed this sentiment.

“The moment to act has arrived,” Montefiore Chief Operating Officer and Pediatrics Chair Dr. Philip Ozuah said, citing personal experiences treating overweight and obese children.

Some 250,000 students, from kindergarten to eighth grade are overweight or obese, according to Health Commissioner Dr. Thomas Farley. New York City banned the sale of sugared beverages from schools in 2003. Since then, Farley says the city has seen a 5 percent decrease in obesity among public school students the last four years.

The proposal is the latest measure by the Bloomberg administration to address public health concerns through strict legislation. The City has also banned smoking in bars, restaurants and public spaces, as well as the use of artificial trans fat by restaurants. Chain restaurants and fast food places have also been required to label calorie counts on menus since July 2008.

It should come as no surprise that the beverage and fast food industries disagree with City Hall’s latest tactics.

“The New York City Health Department’s unhealthy obsession with attacking soft drinks is again pushing them over the top,” said Stefan Friedman, a spokesperson for the New York City Bev-

erage Association. “The city is not going to address the obesity issue by attacking soda because soda is not driving the obesity rates.”

Previously, Bloomberg supported a state tax on sodas, and also tried to restrict the use of food stamps to buy sodas. Both of these measures, however, proved unsuccessful.

Local legislators appear split. While State Senator Gustavo Rivera supports the ban, Councilman Fernando Cabrera does not.

“The councilman believes this is intrusion on the rights of New Yorkers and it’s government regulation gone too far,” said Sham Ninah, Cabrera’s director of legislation and press. “We live in a free country; folks should be able to make decisions based on their own values.”

Regardless, Bloomberg only needs the approval of the Department of Health.

Bronxites are also weighing in on the proposed sugary drinks ban.

“I agree with [Bloomberg], definitely, because soda makes kids more hyper and at-risk for diabetes and obesity,” Jessi Riveria said. “It’s bad for adults too. I don’t let my kids drink any juices either, it’s too much sugar.”

“I hate it, it’s the right to choose,” said Jose Segarra, holding onto a large soda at a McDonald’s on East Gun Hill Road. “Even if it is the wrong thing to do, we have the right to choose.”



Photo by Sarah Ramirez

JOSE SEGARRA, who opposes the mayor’s proposal, proudly drinks a large soda — a size that may soon be banned from food establishments.

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School Garden Raises Hopes at Clinton High School

By MARCOS SIERRA

On a recent sunny, late spring Friday, students, staff, and faculty at DeWitt Clinton High School shared in their success and jubilee during the official opening of the school's garden.

Nestled between the rear of the main school building and the recently renovated track and soccer field, the garden represents hope for project leader Ray Pultinas, who is known as "one of the best teachers in Clinton," said senior Diamond Anderson.

The small patch of green is dotted with large wooden planters containing a colorful array of fruits and vegetables. The fresh cut grass fills the air with a soothing aroma, while the cool shade from the baby trees provides its visitors with a respite from the sun and fast-paced, everyday classroom experience.

In the face of myriad challenges, including gangs, severe overcrowding, constant budget cuts and an influx of high needs students, Clinton Principal Geraldine Ambrosio was elated to revel in the garden's success.

"I'm very happy that we have been able to finally open our garden, and show that we can make positive things happen at Clinton," said Ambrosio. "What makes it even better is that we use the fruits and vegetables from the garden right in our own café."

Pultinas said the garden was inspired by a local legend in the school health



Photo by Marcos Sierra

DEWITT CLINTON High School teacher Ray Pultinas (center) and students dig into the school's new garden.

world.

"I got the inspiration for the garden from a good friend of mine – Meg Charlop," Pultinas said, emotionally. "She felt gardening was a good way to focus on health disorders related to diet and poor eating habits."

Charlop, a long-time Norwood resident who worked at Montefiore for more than 25 years in the Lead Poisoning Preven-

tion Program and most recently as director for community health in the School Health Program, was killed in a bicycle accident in 2010.

Pultinas' vision for the garden is "for it to become an inter-disciplinary teaching experience for other departments," Pultinas said. "The garden helps to enhance the learning experience," he added. "There are very few opportunities

outside the needle-hole of standardized tests, and there are certain things that can't be measured by a standardized test score. This is one of them."

While there isn't any hard data available yet correlating students who participate in the garden with improved academic behavior, Pultinas says that "students are definitely making a change in their eating habits."

Pultinas does not agree with the F grade given to the school by the DOE on its annual School Assessment Report Card.

"It's a political act that creates competition among schools for scarce resources," Pultinas said of the grading system. "We have kids going on to great colleges from here, but we are also experiencing an influx of high needs students who aren't able to get into surrounding schools, thereby making it tougher to get our ranking back up."

The garden, which includes an impressive array of fruits and vegetables — cabbage, carrots, red- and green-leafed lettuce, squash, sweet potatoes, zucchini, garlic, cilantro, eggplant, pears, tomatoes, and strawberries, plus a compost bin — was the result of work by students from the WITT Seminar and the Environmental Affairs Club, the support of staff and faculty, and the generosity of more than a dozen community organizations that have provided the garden with over \$10,000 in funding, materials, and expertise over the last three years.



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House Challengers Agree: Rangel Should Go

(continued from p. 1)

Espailat, a state senator who represents upper Manhattan and a slice of Riverdale and is the only Hispanic candidate in a district that is now 55 percent Latino, began his comments by calling attention to the empty chair to his left, saying Rangel's absence was "egregious." (Rangel did show up to a debate earlier in the day in Manhattan.)

Johnson, a former executive at the liquor company Seagram's and a Democratic district leader in Harlem, finished third in the race against Rangel in 2010. "I'm glad to see there's a contest [in 2012]," she said. "I'm sorry the Congressman isn't here and let the debate continue."

Williams, a Harlem resident who has worked under Presidents Clinton and Obama, said the Bronx has traditionally been "overlooked" and, as a consequence, residents "don't feel like they get resources they need to be competitive" in an economic or educational sense. He

added that he doesn't have the "historical legacy of other people" of failing to deliver those resources to the Bronx or any other part of the district.

As a result of those failures, Williams said, the Bronx suffers from the same ills as the rest of the district. He cited high unemployment rates ("twice the national average"), especially among black and Latino men (which is at "20 some odd percent").

After the debate, Schley said Rangel's absence was telling and underscored why he needs to be replaced. "He's been absent," he said.

Throughout the rest of the hour-long debate, the candidates refrained from attacking each other. Instead, each tried to separate themselves by highlighting their distinguishing qualities.

Schley, a former model and a firefighter from Philadelphia who has been working in Harlem for the past two decades, repeatedly talked about the need to curb

the displacement of residents, emphasizing his work fighting the expansion of Columbia University in Harlem.

Espailat hyped his contributions to immigrant rights (his work in the assembly led to in-state tuition for immigrants) and affordable housing (his work in the senate extended rent regulations, but failed to strengthen them).

Johnson highlighted her leadership skills and business acumen as Seagram's executive.

And Williams drove home his experience working for two sitting presidents and his stint at the Department of Agriculture.

The candidates did disagree with how to be a productive legislator in a Congress divided by partisanship.

Espailat wouldn't address how he would contribute in a Republican-controlled House, saying he would work hard to make sure Democrats, "strong Democrats," took back control. (Espailat said he would have taken health care reform a step further than Obama and that the president was forced to compromise

because of pressure.)

"Democrats failed the president in his first term," Espailat said. "We need representatives that will be strong Democrats, to give Obama the support he deserves."

Johnson also said she would work to take back the majority and keep Obama in office, starting the day after she wins the June 26 primary.

Williams and Schley, on the other hand, both said regardless of the composition of Congress, they would find ways to work across the aisle.

"We have to be realistic," Schley said, "we have a Republican-controlled House."

In the end, the candidates all agreed on the presence of deep-rooted problems — with unemployment, health disparities and education — in the Bronx and the rest of the district and that there needed to be a change in representation.

Schley made a fruit analogy to drive home his point after the debate. "When fruit stays on the vine too long, it rots on the vine," he said. "We need fresh fruit and nourishment for the district."

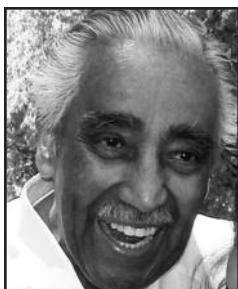
Charlie Rangel

charlierangel.org

Age: 82

Background: Rangel, the incumbent, is running on his experience. He has represented upper Manhattan in Congress for the past 41 years. He is the dean of the New York Delegation to Congress. After rising to a powerful role as Chairman of the influential Ways and Means Committee, Rangel has suffered a series of setbacks in recent years, including being censured for ethics violations by Congress for failing to disclose taxable assets. He was forced to step down from his position on Ways and Means. This year, he missed two months of votes in Washington after suffering a back injury.

In his own words: "Some people say send me to Washington so I can do. Well, I've been to Washington and I've done."



Adriano Espailat

espailatforcongress.com

Age: 57

Background: Espailat moved up the traditional New York City political ranks, going from community organizer to community board member to becoming an Assemblyman representing Washington Heights. He spent 14 years in the Assembly before being elected to the senate, where he currently represents upper Manhattan and Riverdale. His biggest accomplishment as a legislator was helping to pass a law allowing immigrants to pay in-state tuition at SUNY and CUNY colleges and universities.

In his own words: "Democrats failed the president in his first term. We need representatives that will be strong Democrats, to give Obama the support he deserves."



Craig Schley

craigschley.com

Age: 48

Background: Definitely one of the most interesting resumes of all the candidates. Born in Philadelphia, Schley moved to Atlanta after high school and became a firefighter. After five years of fighting fires, Schley moved to New York City where he attended NYU, paying part of his way through school working as a model. Since then, Schley has become an eclectic political activist, founding a human rights organization and taking a vocal role in opposing the expansion of Columbia University in Harlem. Believes there needs to be a new paradigm for affordable housing in New York City.

In his own words: (Talking about need to replace Rangel) "When fruit stays on the vine too long, it rots on the vine. We need fresh fruit and nourishment for the district."



Joyce Johnson

electjoycejohnson.com

Age: 64

Background: Johnson ran against Rangel in 2010 and finished third after picking up the endorsement of the *New York Times*. She touts her business background working for the liquor company, Seagram's, where she rose to become the National Director of Equal Opportunity for the corporation. After leaving Seagram's, Johnson worked at several different positions in New York City government. She's been very active in local politics, serving on her local community board for 15 years, running for office herself (unsuccessfully), and becoming a Democratic district leader. Most recently, she was CEO of the nonprofit Black Equity Alliance.

In her own words: "I'm back in this race because I continue to believe as I did [in 2010]: that New Yorkers deserve leadership that works for them; leadership that is capable of effecting change and promoting progress; leadership that is fair, inclusive, and never fails to put people first."



Clyde Williams

clyde2012.com

Age: 49

Background: See page 2

In his own words: "I don't have the historical legacy of focusing on just one base. I don't have to feed the political machine, which is set up to protect incumbency. I have the chance to represent the district, the entire district, from Day One."



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School's Arts Program Flourishes Despite Roadblocks



Courtesy PS/MS 95

BROTHERS EBENEZER (left) and **Richard** (right) Johnson both performed in the show, Ebenezer reciting poetry and Richard taking part in the hip-hop dancing.

(continued from p. 1)

Arts Learning Community, has been at PS/MS 95 for eight years now. Vestal and Merchant have run the arts festival for the past three.

Student actors, dancers, and other performers prepare all year for the arts festival in the spring. This year, poetry was added to the show. As it is created, students' visual artwork is framed and added to the walls inside the building. The result is a large-scale art exhibition throughout the school's halls. More recent pieces, ranging from rain sticks to family portraits, are displayed on tables in the lobby.

Merchant gives credit to Davis for inspiring the change from the empty and barren walls of five years ago. Vestal, a first grade teacher who also formed an after-school hip-hop group, also sees Davis as instrumental in supporting the growth of the arts programs.

Davis, however, only talks about himself as part of a team.

"Even with all the budget cuts that city schools have endured, we find ways to be fiscally conservative and maintain the integrity of arts education within the school. We're fortunate, with collective efforts, to be able to do that," he says.

Creativity is evident at the school, from the big arts festival to everyday activities like door-decorating competitions where students have gone above and beyond. One class constructed a big three-dimensional tree to convey a rain-forest theme.

At the festival, several groups showed off their skills with choreographed dance routines to modern songs by artists like LMFAO and Rihanna, eighth-graders recited their own original poetry, and the after-school drama club acted out a short comedic play. This all occurs in front of a colorful backdrop with another large tree that reads "Creativity blooms at 95."

Out of all the young performers, the fifth grade ballroom dancers stood out. They danced a traditional tango and then a lively swing number, inspiring thunderous applause from the crowd. Also incredibly impressive is Assistant Principal Eileen Rivera's chorus, only in its second



Courtesy PS/MS 95

PRINCIPAL SERGE MARSHALL DAVIS (left) and first grade teacher Melaynne Vestal (right) pose onstage before the festival, the result of several years of their collaboration with DreamYard to inspire creativity among students.

Grant Helps Community Center Help Youth Stay Fit

By **JALEESA BAULKMAN**

Participants of the Bronx Nutrition and Fitness Initiative program (B' N' Fit) at PS 8 were awarded a grant from the Coca-Cola Foundation that will help the program continue to support nutritional education and physical fitness in light of Mayor Bloomberg's proposed budget cuts to afterschool programs.

The Mosholu Montefiore Community Center (MMCC) received an Active Healthy Living grant for \$25,000 from the Coca-Cola Foundation for their B' N' Fit Initiative, an afterschool program for overweight youth that's in danger of losing city funding in the next fiscal year.

MMCC received this grant as a part of the foundation's \$1 million pot of funds that they are awarding to nonprofit organizations across the country to support healthy living.

"The purpose of this program is to offer healthy lifestyle programs for overweight teens who want to become healthy," said Jessica Rieder, founder and director of B' N' Fit. "It's an afterschool program so it's convenient for kids and it's a place where parents can have their kids in a place that's safe."

Last month, Bloomberg proposed a \$22.1 million cut to childcare and afterschool programs which would slice into 172 programs citywide and reduce the number of subsidized slots available for afterschool and childcare centers. The proposed cuts would completely cut city funding to afterschool programs in PS 8.

"These budget cuts would put a significant strain on the fitness program," said Rieder. "The program will have to work harder to survive without the city funding."

In 2010, B' N' Fit received a grant from the Coca-Cola Foundation for \$20,000 that helped to expand their B' N' Fit program to include families of the participants in the program. It helped fund nutrition classes once a week for family members of

the participants. B' N' Fit also hosts a family event every month for the program's staff, participants and family members.

"An important aspect ... [of this program] is the parental involvement," Harriet Tolve, manager of public affairs and communications at Coca-Cola Foundation said. "It's all encompassing because it doesn't start with just the students, it starts at home."

In the past, B' N' Fit programs have also received funding from Astrazeneca, Phillips Electronics and the Health Resources and Services Administration.

B' N' Fit, established in 2005, is a comprehensive weight management program created in a collaborative effort with Montefiore Medical Center to combat adolescent obesity. The purpose of the program is to motivate overweight teens with a Body Mass Index higher than the 95th percentile to live a healthier lifestyle.

The program offers free nutrition classes at MMCC and physical activity and exercises at PS 8 to adolescents between the ages of 12 and 21 four times a week to teach them how to incorporate healthier foods and activities into their lifestyle. It provides a doctor at the Montefiore Children's Hospital for participants to see on a "regular basis," Program Coordinator Elicia Johnson-Knox said. B' N' Fit also offers a summer day camp for the participants.

"This program introduced me to being fit," Elijah Linton, 13, participant of B' N' Fit said. "I experienced different ways to work out. It benefits me because it helps me to get healthy, look better and stay fit."

Elijah said that before joining the B' N' Fit program last year, his doctor said he was at risk for diabetes. Participating in the program not only lowered his risk of diabetes but gave him a new outlook on life and equipped him with ways to incorporate healthier foods into his diet.

B' N' Fit offers incentives to active participants based on their leadership such as tickets to museum parks.

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Opinion

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Editorial

Vote: June 26

Please go out and vote on Tuesday, June 26.

The Norwood News does not endorse candidates for political office and will not do so as long as we remain a nonprofit publication. However, we are happy to endorse the very democratic act of voting.

There is a reason why the Bronx is often overlooked and under-represented by our elected officials — very few of us actually go out to the polls to vote them in or out of office. Often less than 10 percent of eligible voters cast votes in our borough's city and state elections.

When that means is that elected officials only have to

please the select few folks who vote. Granted, those exceptional people are often well-informed voters. But it still means 90 percent of those who should have a say, do not.

It's time to let our voices be heard on Tuesday, June 26.

If you haven't been paying close attention there is a huge race going on in the 13th Congressional District, which (ONE LAST TIME!) now includes a significant section of the Bronx, including almost the entire Norwood News coverage area places like Norwood, Bedford Park, University Heights and Kingsbridge Heights. (YOUR NEIGHBORHOODS!)

It's a highly competitive race with lots of implications. We implore you to read our coverage, which starts

on the front page with our wrap up of the debate we held on Monday night. You can watch the entire debate on our website, norwoodnews.org, where we will be providing coverage up until primary day, Tuesday, June 26. On page 8, there are profiles of all the candidates, including a listing of their campaign websites where you can find more information on each candidate and where they stand on the issues you care about.

We are not going to tell you who to vote for. That part is up to you. But let the powers that be know that you're paying attention and that they have to pay attention to you. Let your voice be heard. Oh, and in case we forgot to mention it, the primary is Tuesday, June 26. Get out and vote.

Tenants Forced to Vacate After Fire Escape Fiasco

(continued from p. 1)

could return.

"We felt a sense of violation," said first floor resident and tenant organizer Michael Staton. "I had less than 24 hours, basically, from the time I reached home from work [June 4] until [June 5] to just basically vacate whatever I had and leave here without any prospect of how long it was going to be before I could return."

Given such short notice, tenants had to leave some belongings and furniture behind. Curry and Staton said they only took clothing and toiletries.

Staton said the renovation of the apartment building had been going on for at least three weeks. He knew the work included replacing air conditioning sleeves and brickwork, but tenants did not know the work would include the removal of fire escapes.

Curry said she didn't know the contractors were removing the fire escape until they broke her window during the process of removal. She called the landlord several times about her broken window, which hasn't been repaired yet. She also asked questions regarding the removal of the fire escapes but didn't receive an answer.

When they began to notice this happening, many were concerned for their safety.

"There was no water sprinklers, there was no fire escape...it was a death trap," said Kevin Scott, Curry's boyfriend.

DOB spokesperson Ryan FitzGibbon said the department issued Environmental Control Board (ECB) violations to the building owner, Webb Avenue Company, LLC (a subsidiary of Goldfarb Properties), which did not have a permit to remove the fire escapes.

An employee from Goldfarb Properties

said that the renovation project was approved by the company's engineer for work on the outside of the building, but declined to say why they specifically removed the fire escapes.

Sally Dunford, executive director of West Bronx Housing and Neighborhood Resource Center, said she has never seen or heard of anything like this before. But she doesn't think the landlord is a slumlord, necessarily. She said this may be a result of miscommunication.

"Clearly there is a problem, clearly the landlord is part of a problem," Dunford said. "The question is, is it deliberate? Or did he just make a very, very stupid mistake?"

Some tenants told reporters they were offered buyouts of their leases and some speculated that the landlord wanted them out. Dunford said if he was offering buyouts, it would not be illegal.

Dunford said she saw the landlord helping tenants move out and working with the elderly to make sure that they were placed somewhere safe.

Staton said he thinks management had some indication there was a problem and was disappointed in their response, calling it "piss-poor" and "woefully inadequate."

"They had a duty and responsibility to notify these residents here," Staton said. "If this had been a situation where we were in upper or mid-Manhattan, it would have been a totally different response."

Most tenants were able to move in with friends and relatives, relocating to other boroughs or even New Jersey. However, some are unsure of where they're going to stay. Tenant Donna Newyear said

the management offered to provide temporary housing in local hotels, but when she called, every hotel was booked.

Curry said she missed three days of work while she was relocating. She spent three days at a Ramada Inn in East Orange, New Jersey before realizing that the hotel had bed bugs. She is now staying with friends in New Jersey. The rest of her family is staying at a shelter in the Bronx because one of her granddaughters attends school in the area.

A school bus used to pick up her granddaughter at the University Heights building and take her to her school on Kingsbridge Road, but now it takes a half-hour for Curry's son to travel to the school from the shelter.

"I feel homeless and really depressed about it," Curry said. "I feel like I'm in a limbo."

No one has indicated how long this will take and Staton said he could see it being up to six months before he and other residents can come back. As compensation, Goldfarb Properties is giving tenants \$840, \$120 a day, for seven days.

"We are being displaced," Staton said. "[they're] basically saying 'we're going to upset your world here, take this \$840 and do the best you can do.'"

Tirado said tenants may be eligible for a rent reduction, as low as \$1 per month, during their time of displacement.

Penalties against the building owner will be imposed at a hearing held by ECB where they will review the violations. NYCDOB is currently investigating the building owner, engineer and contractor and will take appropriate enforcement action based on their findings.



Photo by Chloe Rickert

MANY TENANTS of 2400 Webb Ave. found lodging with relatives for the time being, but many believe they could be homeless for up to six months.

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Business Beat

Bronx Rapper Headlines Kingsbridge Rd. Unity Fest

By CHLOE RICKERT

Writing since he was 13, growing up in the Bronx, Italian-American hip-hop artist Robert Stephen Salese goes by SaleSe when he busts rhymes. Recently, he has released two meal-centric mixtapes: "Family Dinner" and "Still Hungry." His next project, "The Main

Course," is just around the corner.

Starting out just casually recording music for his friends and local fans, by age 19, SaleSe was breaking into the industry. However, after two major record deals didn't work out, he founded his own label and promotional company, Single Life Entertainment.

"I always knew how to make it happen,

one way or another," SaleSe said of his success in making a name for himself without the help of a major label. Working on a line of sunglasses, running a nightclub in the Bronx, and co-founding the Italian Hip-Hop Movement, he certainly knows how to keep busy.

In the past several years, SaleSe has moved beyond his local community with shows in clubs from New York to Florida, appearances on over 100 mixtapes, and creating an internet presence with a pop-

ular DVD that features himself in a rap battle with Kanye West.

You can see SaleSe perform at the upcoming Unity in the Community Festival, Saturday, June 23 which runs from noon to 6 p.m. on Aqueduct Avenue between West Kingsbridge Rd. and West 192nd Street. Also performing is Latin singing sensation, Anayka.

Ed. Note: See details on the Kingsbridge Unity in the Community Festival in our Out & About section and the back page.



ROB SALESE (left), aka SaleSe, is performing along with Anayka (right) on Saturday, June 23.



Meeting Highlights Fordham BID's Success

On Thursday, May 31, the Fordham Road BID hosted its 7th Annual Meeting of the Membership at the Bronx Library Center. Over 80 people were in attendance to learn about the BID's most recent accomplishments and its plans for the future. The featured guest speaker was Robert W. Walsh, Commissioner of the NYC Department of Small Business Services. There were also a few special guests including Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.

who presented the BID staff with a Proclamation marking the day as "Fordham Road BID Day in the Bronx," Albert Alvarez from NYC Councilman Joel Rivera's office who presented the BID staff with individual citations as well as a NYC Council Proclamation for the "Sparkling the Heart of Fordham Holiday Event," and NYC Comptroller John Liu who came out to show his support for the BID.



Photo Courtesy Fordham Road BID

Business Expo and Mixer

Bronx businesses can show off at the 2012 Business Expo, Tuesday, June 19, 2 to 5 p.m., at the New York Botanical Garden. Keynote speakers include Lieutenant Governor Robert J. Duffy and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. Local business enthusiasts can see what the Bronx has to offer at this free event or come after work for the Mega Mixer, a networking event from 5 to 7 p.m. For more information or sponsorship opportunities, call (718) 828-3900 or email Gabrielle@bronxchamber.org.

1200 Waters Pl., to learn about investment opportunities, benefits of homeownership, short sales, refinancing, neighborhoods and more, all specific to the Bronx. Sponsorship and limited space is available. For more information, call (718) 828-3900.

Free Business Workshop

Industrial small business owners are invited to a free "Listening to Your Business" workshop June 20, 8:30 a.m. to noon, at 2381 Lafayette Ave. The New Industrial Growth Initiative from the New York City Economic Development Corporation is offering 20 companies, first-come, first-serve, the opportunity to learn development strategies from industry experts. Applicants will then be selected to compete for a distribution of \$50,000 among the top three companies. For more information or to RSVP, visit nycedc.com/growth.

Residential Ownership Open House

The public is invited to an open house Saturday, June 16, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Hutch Metro Center Conference Center;

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Neighborhood Notes

PS/MS 20 Day

PS/MS 20 invites the public to celebrate its children's accomplishments at Barnes and Noble of Bay Plaza in Co-op City, 290 Baychester Ave., June 16, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cheerleaders and choruses will perform and activities will include chess and Lego building competitions, story time, and a talent show. We will also bid farewell to Principal Carol Carlsen, who will retire after 13 years at the school. Please let the cashiers know you're with the school as a small percentage of each purchase will benefit PS/MS 20. For more information, call event coordinator Lisa Kogel at (718) 515-9370 ext. 3155.

Meeting on Heart Disease

Montefiore Medical Center Heart Club will meet, free, on Wednesday, June 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the 7th floor conference room, in the Green Medical Arts Building, 3400 Bainbridge Ave. Attendees can ask questions about managing heart disease. For more information, call (718) 920-5213.

Summer Growth Groups

New Day Church is offers 6-week classes this summer. Group meetings are on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Friday evenings in July and August. The writing group will stimulate your creativity, God and Empire will satisfy your intellect, Raising Faith is for families with children, and Faith and Finances is a practical look at this pressing need. For more information and a detailed schedule, call

New Day Church at (917) 669-5803 or e-mail newdaybronx@gmail.com.

Home Energy Conservation Seminar

Community Board 12 and Sustainable South Bronx will host a free home energy conservation seminar at Town Hall, 4101 White Plains Rd. at 229th Street, Thursday, June 21, at 7 p.m. Tired of paying high utility bills or living in a drafty house? Learn how Sustainable South Bronx can help you gain access to free energy audits, reduce high utility bills, and save money. For more information or to RSVP, call Cynthia Ngombe, Community Greening Organizer, at (646) 400-5437 or e-mail cngombe@ssbx.org.

Traffic Changes on Goulden Ave.

Goulden Avenue will be closed from Sedgwick Avenue to 205th Street in both directions for underground water main repairs, June 28 through Aug. 31, Mondays through Fridays, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Motorists will detour to Paul Avenue. For more information, call the NYC Department of Environmental Protection at (718) 231-8470 or 311.

LGBT Award Ceremony

The second annual Bronx LGBTQ & Allies Award Ceremony will be held Thursday, June 14 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Bronx County Building, 851 Grand Con-

course. Attendees can celebrate LGBT Pride Month with Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. while awards are presented to honorees for their service within the LGBT community. The evening will also include special performances and light refreshments.

Army Birthday Celebration

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. and the Borough President's Veterans Advisory Council host a celebration of the United States Army's 237th birthday on Flag Day, Thursday, June 14 at 11 a.m. at the Bronx County Building, Veterans Memorial Hall, 1st floor, 851 Grand Concourse. A salute to our soldiers and cutting of the cake will take place in commemoration of the anniversary.

Prescription Drug Town Hall

Montefiore Medical Center, along with the Moses Community Advisory Board, is holding a Town Hall meeting on the dangers of misused prescription medicine on Thursday, June 14. The Town Hall, which will feature a panel of medical professionals, will be held in the Cherkasky Auditorium, at 111 E. 210th St., from 4 to 6 p.m. Registration begins at 3 p.m.

Free Fitness for Seniors

City Parks Foundation invites New Yorkers, 60 and over to participate in City Parks Senior Fitness, which offers free ten-

nis lessons and yoga instruction. The hourly 8-week spring session will take place twice a week at several Bronx locations through June 22, including Pelham Bay, Soundview, and Van Cortlandt Park. Equipment and instruction is provided free of charge. Van Cortlandt Park, at Jerome Avenue and 233rd Street, will hold yoga on Mondays and Wednesdays, and walking on Tuesdays and Thursdays, both at 9 a.m. For more information, call (718) 760-6999.

Tuition Free Services

SUNY North Bronx Career Counseling and Outreach Center offers daily tuition free services including career counseling, college, financial aid and resume and cover letter assistance, as well as job readiness training at 2901 White Plains Rd. Computer literacy and GED programs are available during the day and evening. Seats are limited. For more information, call (718) 547-1001.

LGBTQ Coming Out Group

This group offers youth ages 13 to 18 years of age a safe place to talk about gender and sexuality. The meetings take place every Saturday from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, 3450 DeKalb Ave. For more information, call (718) 882-4000 ext. 204.

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



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RELIGIOUS SERVICES

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

Novena: Prayer to St. Jude: O Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to you to whom God has given such great power, to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent petition. In return I promise to make your name known and cause to be invoked. (Say three Our Fathers, three Hail Mary's and three Glory Be's, for nine consecutive days. Publication must be promised.) St. Jude, pray for us, and all of who invoke your aid. Amen. (This novena has never been known to fail.) L.T.

MISCELLANEOUS

Worship Space Available: At the Bedford Park Congregational Church, corner 201st Street and Bainbridge Avenue. Please call Reverend Dr. Christopher Ponnuraj at (718) 367-8996.

Cash Paid: For antiques, old items, collectibles, artwork, jewelry, books, records, coins, stamps, sports cards, bric-a-brac.

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Free to Good Home: Two M / F Tea-cups Yorkshires. Contact me if interested: randyb836@gmail.com.

Trip to Dorney Park in Pennsylvania: Saturday, July 14, 2012, 8 a.m. from East 163rd Street and Hunts Point Avenue, Bronx, NY. For more information, please contact Eddie at (718) 757-5485.

Classifieds: \$9 for the first 20 words and 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).

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



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Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

Onstage

■ The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **A Night of Remembrance**, featuring boogaloo and Latin soul with King of Latin Soul Joe Bataan and the Philly Soul of Blue Magic, June 23 at 8 p.m. (tickets are \$35 to \$50); and **Natalie Cole** and comedian **Terry Hodges**, June 24 at 7 p.m. (tickets are \$55 to \$85; additional \$50 for post-concert Meet & Greet with Cole and take photos with her).

For more information and for tickets, call (718) 960-8833.

Events

■ The Bronx Zoo hosts **Animal Tales Extravaganza**, weekends through June 30, featuring children's entertainment, live character appearances, original puppet theatre, and more. For more information and a detailed schedule of events, visit bronxzoo.com/animal-tales.

■ The JASA Van Cortlandt Senior Center, 3880 Sedgwick Ave., hosts the following on June 27: **SPARC (Seniors Partnering With Artists Citywide) Art Show**, at 1:45 p.m., featuring self portraits (refreshments will be served); and **classical and Broadway music** presented by the Bronx Opera Ensemble, at 6:45 p.m., preceded by dinner at 5:30 p.m. Suggested senior contribution is \$2 for dinner and \$2 for event. For more information and to RSVP, call (718) 549-4700 by June 25. Non-seniors are welcome.

■ The Kingsbridge Road Merchants Association presents **Unity in the Community Neighborhood Festival**, to raise awareness of the diverse array of merchants in the district, June 23, noon to 6 p.m., along Aqueduct Avenue between West Kingsbridge Road and 192nd Street. Events include various kids' activities, music and food. For more information, call (917) 640-1003, (347) 341-8530 or (718) 676-1626.

■ Bronx Summer Walks on 167th Street, part of the NYCDOT weekend walks, invites the public to the following family-friendly activities, noon to 4 p.m.: **Go "Green" Day**, featuring eco-friendly activities, healthy food demos, and music performances, on June 16; and **Get Fit Day**, featuring community

workouts, kiddie Olympics, and music, on June 23. Organizations, civic groups and clergy are invited to participate to promote their services and showcase people's talents. For more information or to sign up, call (718) 839-1197.

■ SummerStage Kids presents **free performing arts events** through Aug. 22, featuring a variety of music, theatre, puppetry, entertainment, and more. **Bronx Family Day**, on June 30 at 4 p.m., at St. Mary's Park, East 146th Street and St. Ann's Avenue, presents circus tricks and acrobatics, a dance party, face painting, craft workshops, free sports lessons, and unicycle stunts. For more information and a detailed schedule, visit www.summerstage.org.

■ Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **tours through Aug. 18**: at the Glyndor Gallery, Tuesdays and Saturdays at 2 p.m.; and Tuesdays at 11 a.m. from the Perkins Visitor Center. Also offered are **Family Art Projects**: T's for Dad and Me, to draw your favorite summer image onto a T-shirt with fabric markers and special crayons for you and Dad, June 16 and 17; and Touch a Rainbow, to learn to create a rainbow with a little spray of water outdoors, June 23 and 24; both from 10



EDITOR'S PICK

An Offer You Can't Refuse

The public is invited to view free films at the following libraries, all at 2:30 p.m.:

■ The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd. off Fordham Road, (718) 579-4244/46/57, presents:

For teens and young adults: **"The Outsiders,"** June 14; **"Abduction,"** June 21; and **"Ella Enchanted,"** June 28.

For adults, there is **"The Long Night,"** June 23.

■ The Mosholu Library, at 285 E. 205th St., (718) 882-8239, presents:

For the entire family: **"John Carter,"** June 22.



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a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Ecology Building. Grounds admission is free Saturdays until noon and all day Tuesdays. For more information, call (718) 549-3200.

■ The Riverdale RiverFest will hold its free 3rd annual **Riverfront Festival**, June 24, noon to 6 p.m., at the College of Mount Saint Vincent's Marillac Lawn, in Riverdale at West 263rd Street, featuring boats, music, performers, crafts, family-oriented activities, exhibits, and a variety of international foods. Boat rides will be offered on June 23 and 24. For more information and guaranteed reservations for a small fee, visit www.riverdaleRiverFest.org.

■ The New York Botanical Garden presents **Greenmarket**, the popular farmers market of GrowNYC, at the base of Library Allee inside the Garden's Mosholu Gate entrance, Wednesdays, June 13 through Nov. 21, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visitors may purchase affordable, locally grown produce and fresh, nutritious baked goods. For more information, call (718) 817-8658.

Exhibits

■ The Bronx Documentary Center, 614 Courtlandt Ave., presents **Bronx Gardens**, by photographer Nina Berman, through July 1, Wednesdays to Sundays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call (347) 332-6962.

Library Events

■ The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd. off Fordham Road, presents programs for kids including **Bilingual Birdies: Spanish Language at 11 a.m.** (ages through 5 years), live music program including puppetry and games, ending with a bubble dance party, June 14, 21 and 28; **Tales for the Teeny Tiny at 11 a.m.** (ages 2 to 5), June 16 and 23; **Big Jeff Music** (ages 3 to 12), June 16 at 2 p.m.; **films at 4 p.m.**: June 20 and 27; and **Fish Book Making** (ages 5 to 12), June 21 at 4 p.m. For teens and young adults, there is **Art at 3:30 p.m.**: June 15, 22 and 29, in the 1st floor conference room; and **Make African Head Wraps**: June 20 at 4 p.m. Adults can enjoy **MoMA at the Library**: lecture/slide show "African-American Works, June 16 at 2:30 p.m.; **MS Word 2**: (2-session class; online registration required), June 19 at 2 p.m.; **Free Introductory Computer Classes at 10 a.m.**: June 20 and 27; **Youth & Cyberbullying**: workshop "What Families Don't Know Can Hurt Them," June 27 at 6 p.m.; and **Arts & Crafts Workshop**: mini-mural, June 29 at 2 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

■ The Mosholu Library, at 285 E. 205th St., offers for seniors and adults: **Knitting Circle**: Thursdays at 3 p.m.; **Wii Program**: Tuesdays at 3 p.m.; **Open Lab**: (advance in-person registration required), for computer help, June 20 at 10:30 a.m.; and **Importango**: featuring tango from Argentina, live, free yearly music at the branch libraries, presented by Make Music New York, June 21 at 3:30 p.m. Children can attend **Butterfly Boogie**: (ages 5 to 12), demonstrates interdependence among plants and animals, June 15 at 3:30 p.m.; and **Up, Up and Away**: (ages 3 to 12), science demonstration, June 19 at 4 p.m. Teens and young adults can enjoy **Get Fresh**: to learn to make gelatin air fresheners (all materials provided), June 14 at 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 882-8239. NOTE: The library will open at noon until June 29 to facilitate life safety improvement.

■ The Jerome Park Library, at 118 Eames Place, offers for teens and young adults: **Cooking at 4 p.m.**: June 14 and 21. Adults can attend **Your Journey to Self Awareness at 11 a.m.**: June 15 - Communication and How We Learn, and June 22 - Perception, Mind Set and Self Belief. Children can enjoy **Presley and Melody**: (ages 3 to 12), interactive musical concert, June 19 at 4 p.m.; **Pajama Party**: (ages 5 to 12), June 25 at 6 p.m.; and **Peter Pan**: (ages 3 to 12), June 29 at 2 p.m. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL OUR DAD READERS!

NOTE: Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org, and should be received by June 18 for the next publication date of June 28.

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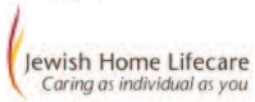
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