

# NORWOOD NEWS

Senator Launches  
Health Initiative's  
2nd Season

page 8

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## AERIAL UNITY



Photo by Adi Talwar

Skateboarders show off their skills during the Kingsbridge Unity in the Community Festival on Saturday, June 23. More photos and details inside on page 7.

## Rangel Wins Bronx/Manhattan House Primary

By ALEX KRATZ

Charlie Rangel, the 82-year-old dean of the New York delegation to Congress, overcame a recent ethics scandal, questions about his health and four Democratic challengers to win the 13th Congressional District primary and a ticket to his 22nd term in Washington, DC.

After a contentious redistricting process, Rangel's old upper Manhattan-based district was redrawn into the 13th Congressional District and now includes the northwest Bronx neighborhoods of Kingsbridge, Norwood, University Heights, and Bedford Park, all of which are covered by the *Norwood News*.

Rangel, who sailed to re-election numerous times before an ethics scandal stripped him of his powerful chairmanship of the Ways and Means committee a couple of years ago, faced stiff competition from four eager Democratic challengers, Adriano Espaillat, Clyde Williams, Joyce Johnson and Craig Schley.

All of the challengers agreed Rangel's 42-year run in office should come to an end, saying his influence was waning and his health declining.

Espaillat was the only candidate to harp on the ethics scandal, which came after Rangel failed to pay taxes on a vacation home, used a rent-stabilized apartment as a campaign office and helped raise money for City College using congressional stationery. It resulted in his being stripped of his chairmanship

(continued on p. 3)

## City Celebrates H.S. Graduation Rates Staying About the Same *Bronx Rates Dropped Almost Two Points*

By CHLOE RICKERT

This June, the Department of Education and the mayor proudly announced that New York City's high school graduation rates have broken records and increased for the tenth year in a row to 65.5 percent. The Bronx separately trails behind each of the other four boroughs with a rate of 57.5 percent.

However, these numbers refer to the percentage of students who graduated by August 2011, after three months of summer school. If only June graduations are counted, as with the state's rates, the citywide rate actually went down slightly from 61 percent to 60.9 percent, the first time in years that it has not significantly increased.

Bloomberg, who took over control of the school system in 2002, put a positive spin on it, suggesting that the number of students graduating is impressive considering the higher standards of the Department of Education under his administration.

"Overall, the trend continues to be positive," he said in a statement. "More and more students are graduating, even as the standards we're asking them to meet get tougher and tougher."

With only June graduations counted, the Bronx's numbers have dropped as well, but more substantially, from 54.7 percent to 52.7 percent.

In the northwest Bronx, the average rate of graduation (continued on p. 4)

## ROCKIN' THE OVAL



Photo by Adi Talwar

**NORWOOD RESIDENT** Jarrett Murphy plays Oval Park with his new band, Fort Indy. See p. 6.

## Armory Bidders Selling Separate Visions

By ALEX KRATZ

The future of the Kingsbridge Armory has turned into a duel between two bidders, each offering a separate vision to reshape and re-invigorate the famously long-vacant building. Both groups recently sweetened their deals in hopes of swaying the community and the city into their corner.

The city solicited several bids to redevelop the Armory at the beginning of the year, but only two groups made the final cut: a team of investors looking to build the world's largest ice center and Young Woo & Associates, a Manhattan-based firm that wants to turn the Armory into a mixed-use creative market.

Recently both groups have been reaching out to local officials and community groups in order to sell their vision for a new Armory.

(continued on p. 5)



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# In The Public Interest

## Community Board 7 Members Move to Oust District Manager

By ALEX KRATZ

Fernando Tirado, the district manager of Community Board 7 in the Bronx, is fighting for his job after nearly half of the board's members voted to dismiss him from his position last week. Because of procedural issues, however, Tirado remains in his job for the time being.

At the end of their final meeting before a summer break at the New York Botanical Garden, the members of Community Board 7, which includes the primary coverage area of the *Norwood News* in the northwest Bronx, held a closed-door executive session. Tirado was asked to exit the room. Executive sessions are rare at community boards, but can be called to discuss personnel matters. The topic of the session would be about whether or not Tirado should be dismissed from his position. The action, members said, had been brewing for months.

During the session, attended by 28 of the board's 32 members, a motion calling for Tirado's dismissal was brought to the floor. The vote came out split, with 13 members voting in favor of Tirado's dismissal, seven voting against it and eight abstaining. While telling, the vote was not binding, according to the Bronx Borough President's office, which oversees the borough's community boards.

"Upon review of the vote, procedural requirements were not followed and the vote did not carry," said Bronx Borough President spokesman John DeSio in a statement.

Because the vote wasn't held in public, it wasn't valid. In addition, the yeas would have to outnumber all other votes, including no votes and abstentions, for the motion to carry. That means, even if the procedures would have been followed, the motion to dismiss Tirado would not have passed because there were 13 yeas and 15 combined no votes and abstentions.

DeSio said the board would need to hold a special public meeting and conduct the vote again if it wants to take action to remove Tirado.

That's exactly what Board Chairman Paul Foster said the board is planning to do, once it works out scheduling.

In any case, Foster said, it's clear that many people on the board are unhappy with how Tirado is running things. (For those unfamiliar with community boards, the district manager, who is paid a salary by the city, acts as an employee of the volunteer board and serves at their discretion.)

Tirado declined to comment on the situation.

According to Foster and other board members, this vote did not come out of the blue. For months, the board has held internal discussions about whether Tirado was the right fit for their board. Foster said it wasn't as much about his performance, but about how he dealt with the board and its members.

"The question [for Tirado] is, can you work with people?" Foster said in an interview yesterday, a day after the vote. "These are your bosses, whether you like



File photo

**FERNANDO TIRADO** in Williamsbridge Oval Park after becoming district manager in 2008.

it or not. I think there was some frustration on behalf of board members."

Foster said board members had been expressing their desire for a change in behavior from their district manager for some time, with little response from Tirado. Foster pointed to a particular instance earlier this year, when board members found out after the fact that a Mexican group was holding huge concerts and parties inside the Kingsbridge Armory. He said Tirado knew of the Armory events, but was late getting the information to board members.

Longtime board member Lowell Green said she voted for Tirado's dismissal because she didn't feel like he was on top of scheduling meeting locations in a timely manner. Others, she said, may have had other reasons for his departure.

Tirado, a former board member who was hired in 2008 after the longtime district manager Rita Kessler retired under pressure from the board, ran for state senate in 2010. At the time, many board members were taken by surprise when he announced his intention to run for office. He eventually took a leave of absence from the board to focus on campaigning. Foster and Green both said Tirado's handling of the situation left a bad taste in the mouths of board members.

"At some point in time, Fernando might be a wonderful candidate," Green said. But, she added, choosing her words carefully, "The people advising him didn't do a good job."

Foster and Green both said the action taken on Tuesday, while not binding, was

the sign of an active board that cares about its role in the community. Ultimately, they said, the board felt compelled to take action.

"We, as a body, felt that the reputation and efforts of the community board would become in danger [with Tirado as district manager]," Green said.

Foster agreed. "The thing that can't be compromised is the work of the board," Foster said. He later added, "We didn't want this [dissatisfaction with their district manager] to turn into a big ugly monster."

Until the board holds another public meeting and a majority of board members votes him out, however, Tirado remains at his position, working for an organization that is actively seeking his removal.

## Local Pols Pass Smoking Ban

Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz and State Senator Gustavo Rivera, both local legislators, passed legislation banning smoking within 100 feet of school entrances and exits, the latest government effort to combat secondhand smoke.

New York State has already banned smoking in the majority of indoor spaces, while a New York City ban on smoking in public parks and beaches went into effect last May. This spring, Mayor Michael Bloomberg introduced legislation to the City Council that would require residential buildings to develop written rules addressing whether smoking is allowed in both indoor and outdoor locations.

The bills sponsored by Dinowitz and Rivera, however, aim to protect children and adolescents from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke.

"Smoking is particularly dangerous to children," said Dinowitz. "This bill will help to protect them from the scourge of secondhand smoke."

"The Bronx has the lowest youth smoking rate of New York City. However, in order to keep our youth safe from smoking-related disease, we have to also work toward limiting children's exposure to secondhand smoke," said Rivera.

The legislation developed from discussions with healthcare providers and community members during the 2011 Bronx CAN Health Initiative (see page 8).

—SARAH RAMIREZ

## Public and Community Meetings

- The 52ND PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL will meet on Thursday, June 28 at St. Ann's Parish, 3519 Bainbridge Ave. The meeting will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. For more information, call (718) 220-5811.
- The COMMUNITY BOARD 7 Land Use/Zoning committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 28 at the board office, 229A E. 204th St. For more information, call (718) 933-5650.



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# Rangel Wins Bronx/Manhattan House Primary



File photo

**REP. CHARLES RANGEL** and Bronx Assemblywoman Naomi Rivera.

(continued from p. 1)

and a formal censure from Congress, a ruling Rangel said he is fighting to have overturned.

On Tuesday night, however, Rangel, who received overwhelming support from labor unions and elected officials, including Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Governor Andrew Cuomo, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. and Bronx Congressman Jose Serrano, was able to tough out a victory over Espaillat and the others.

The win, called only about an hour after polls closed at 9 p.m. by several news organizations, including the *New York Times*,

was not overwhelming. While numbers weren't official by press time, it appeared Rangel would win with around 45 percent of the total vote, only a few points more than Espaillat. (Rangel is all but assured victory in fall's general election.)

Espaillat, the state senator who represents Washington Heights and a slice of Riverdale, was endorsed by Bronx State Senator Gustavo Rivera, local Councilman Oliver Koppell, and Bronx Assemblyman Nelson Castro. He worked tirelessly to court Bronx voters and was aiming to become the first Dominican-born candidate to be elected to Congress.

While Espaillat represented the changing demographics of the district, which is now 55 percent Hispanic, Rangel relied on his experience and touted it at every opportunity.

On Sunday, two days before the election, Rangel appeared at a rally in Fordham Plaza hosted by Bronx Assemblyman Jose Rivera and attended by Diaz, Serrano and other Bronx officials.

"We need a voice, we need a pioneer, we need someone with experience," Diaz told the crowd, according to the *Times*.

That message, as the results show, resonated with voters.

## Dispatches From Primary Day in Northwest Bronx

On Tuesday, the Norwood News sent a team of reporters out to polling sites through the new 13th Congressional District, which now includes the northwest Bronx neighborhoods of Kingsbridge, University Heights, Bedford Park, Van Cortlandt Village and Norwood. These are the dispatches they filed from the field.

### University Heights

The coordinators at PS 15 and PS 33 said they weren't sure what the voter turnout will be because of the new congressional redistricting lines and an unusually early primary date.

"There has been a breakdown in communications," the coordinator of PS 33 said. "The redistricting caused a lot of confusion."

The poll site coordinator of PS 15 said that many people don't know where they have been redistricted to and this can affect voter turnout.

The majority of the few voters we spoke with earlier said that they were hoping that State Senator Adriano Espaillat, the only Latino candidate in the race, wins.

"I'm voting for Adriano Espaillat," Marilyn Hernandez said right before casting her vote at PS 33. "He's a Dominican and he'll bring change to the Congress." —**JALEESA BAULKMAN**

### Norwood

Reactions to the voter turnout in Norwood range from "just all right" to "pretty good" to "amazing" for Tuesday's primary elections.

The scene at MS 80 on Mosholu Parkway, where about 90 Bronxites had voted as of 5:45 p.m., was quiet. While not remarkable numbers, one poll worker commented that the turnout was "amazing" compared to previous elections she had worked. According to a poll watcher, the only problem during the day was the paper in a voting machine had gotten stuck for about 45 minutes.

It was more of the same at St. Brendan's School on East 207th Street. "We've had all right turnout," said one poll coordinator. At 6 p.m., 176 votes had been cast, with no reported issues.

"These are very important elections to get people back into their seats so we can get work done," said voter Eileen Hopson. While Hopson voted for Rangel "because of his wisdom," she was almost swayed by one of his challengers, saying, "If it wasn't for him, it would've been for Clyde Williams, the new blood. We need new blood and wisdom." —**SARAH RAMIREZ**

### Van Cortlandt Village

In the early afternoon, volunteers for State Senator Adriano Espaillat's congressional campaign were out on the streets, handing out campaign literature and encouraging pedestrians to head to the polls.

"They're all good candidates," said Jorge Gautreau, a volunteer for Espaillat handing out fliers on the corner of Hillman Avenue and Van Cortlandt Park South. "But Rangel's people have given up around here. The other guys don't even know the Bronx exists," he added,

implying other candidates have been concentrating their efforts on northern Manhattan, which makes up the majority of the 13th Congressional district. (The Bronx makes up about a quarter of the district's residents and is home to about 20 percent of its registered voters.)

"People complain about who's in charge, and it's up to me to have my voice heard," said voter Victoria Alfasso. "Voting is one of the ways I can do something. [The voting process] is all really easy."

—**SARAH RAMIREZ**

### Kingsbridge Heights

Things were a bit slow at PS 86 in the Kingsbridge Heights neighborhood as Primary Day in the 13th Congressional

District got started. Polls are open 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., but four hours in, at 10 a.m., only 34 people had shown up to vote for their representative in Congress.

Despite it being three months earlier than voters are used to going to the polls, apparently turnout at PS 86 is already better showing than the previous primary.

"The last one was a disaster. Maybe seven to 10 people showed up the whole day," said one poll worker, who added that he thinks the public is mostly unaware of the election and focusing on September and November. Although it was slow, the poll worker was optimistic, saying he could see around 100 people coming in to vote throughout the day.

—**CHLOE RICKERT**

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# City Celebrates Graduation Rates Staying the Same

(continued from p. 1 )  
uation by August 2011 for local public high schools was 70.4 percent. Without the highest rates from the Bronx High School of Science and High School of American Studies at Lehman College, both of which require an entrance exam

for students from a citywide pool, bringing it up, it falls to about 66.5 percent, still higher than the city rate.  
The next highest rates after the two top schools are almost 20 percent lower and most of the other local schools' rates consistently fluctuate or drop. This is roughly

the same as the previous year, although only eight out of 17 schools included had numbers below the city's rate (see chart).  
The state, on the other hand, is not impressed with the June 2011 graduation rates and points out that the rate of city high school graduates deemed prepared

for college-level work is 20.7 percent, down from last year's 21.4. City officials use different criteria and put the college-readiness rate at 24.7 percent. The state's graduation rate went up slightly from 73.4 the previous year to 74 percent in June 2011.

## Graduation Rates 2005-2011

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Aug '11
City	46.5	49.1	52.8	56.4	59.0	61.0	60.9	65.5
Bronx	42.9	44.3	46.9	51.9	54.2	54.7	52.7	57.5
DeWitt Clinton	57.4	58.0	54.1	51.5	60.3	56.5	50.4	57.3
HS for Teaching and Professions	88.6	53.5	59.8	57.7	52.0	65.7	70.0	70.8
Kingsbridge International HS					57.5	56.8	56.3	59.3
International School for Liberal Arts					72.2	59.0	57.6	64.6
Bronx HS of Science	95.8	97.6	98.2	98.3	98.8	98.4	99.5	100
HS of American Studies		93.2	94.3	94.3	96.0	97.4	97.6	100
Celia Cruz			78.9	58.3	67.6	74.4	70.6	78.8
Bronx Theatre HS			75.3	58.0	66.0	51.9	53.3	59.0
Discovery HS			50.7	61.5	54.5	64.6	60.8	62.5
Leadership Institute					67.7	53.7	58.1	58.1
Bronx Aerospace Academy		91.7	88.9	97.3	91.6	88.6	77.8	81.5
John F. Kennedy HS	31.3	32.9	35.0	45.4	39.1	35.7	35.1	41.4
Marble Hill HS		88.8	92.4	87.0	87.4	88.8	79.8	81.9
Bronx School for Law and Finance			69.9	75.9	66.7	58.6	61.2	69.4
Bronx HS for Writing and Communication Arts				67.7	62.5	66.9	56.0	62.1
HS for Contemporary Arts			80.7	85.2	71.6	60.2	59.8	73.8
HS for Computers and Technology				87.1	78.9	82.2	75.2	76.7

# Mayor Addresses HS of American Studies Graduates

By CHLOE RICKERT

The High School of American Studies at Lehman College's Class of 2012 graduated on Tuesday, June 26, with Mayor Michael Bloomberg giving the keynote speech.  
The students sat quietly and politely during the ceremony in Lovinger Theatre, periodically laughing at private jokes made by speakers and cheering for their friends.  
Once the 87 graduates made their way onto the floor, and the Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem were out of the way, the speeches began. Salutatorian Melissa Dhanraj, Valedictorian Corey Sherman, Principal Alessandro Weiss, and, finally, Bloomberg, each blew the audience away with their comedic and touching words.  
Dhanraj and Sherman spoke directly to their classmates, reminiscing and congratulating them. Weiss gave a moving speech about the acceptance within the



Photo by Chloe Rickert

**HIGH SCHOOL** of American Studies students toss their caps into the air following the school's graduation ceremony at Lehman College on Tuesday.  
school and his hope that after leaving high school, each student would continue to celebrate differences and reject prejudice. Bloomberg was cheery and optimistic, noting that each of the graduates was headed to college.

Sherman, who is planning to study film in college, also put together a special film presentation for the occasion. His cute interviews with students and faculty and collection of funny photos set to A Tribe Called Quest's "Can I Kick It?" captured the enthusiasm of the close-knit family that is the small Bedford Park school.  
"The ceremony was absolutely phenomenal," said Charles Leake whose godson Thomas Bautista graduated. "I'm so impressed with the faculty and the respect of the faculty from the students." Leake is also incredibly proud of his godson who is off to Pittsburgh for college, after choosing among eight different acceptances.  
The HSAS band performed "Pomp and Circumstance" for the processional and "March No. 4" for the recessional with impressive skill. As the graduates were announced, a group of teachers described each student, emphasizing their best qualities.

# Inquiring Photographer

By DAVID GREENE

This week we asked readers about Governor Andrew Cuomo's floundering proposal to decriminalize small amounts of marijuana.



I'm in favor of this because there are a lot of people being prosecuted for minor crimes that are doing hard time. They shouldn't be doing hard time. I never heard of a guy smoking that stuff say, "Let's go rob a bank and kill somebody."

**Larry Bailey**



I think it's a good thing that he's doing that because all it does is overcrowd the system and make things worse. When you lock somebody up, it's traumatizing. You take a young kid and put him in a steel cage and you tell him he's a criminal. It does something to them.

**Albert Guzman**



They are investing a lot of money in apprehending and putting people into jails and they could be doing something else with that money. The war on drugs, you know, it's never ending.

**Emilio Benavides**



I think it's just a waste of the taxpayer's money, because there are more important things, like concentrating on catching the murderers and rapists.

**Francisco Aponte**



It's a little late but I'll take it. I was arrested on these streets just a couple of weeks ago. They arrested me because I had a \$10 bag. I spent three days in jail. I don't think that made any sense.

**Migdalia Ruiz**

## Armory Bidders Selling Separate Visions

(continued from p. 1)

Last week, Young Woo announced that it would be partnering with the New York Gauchos and Brooklyn Boulders rock-climbing gym to add recreational programming to their plan.

The Gauchos, a Bronx-based youth basketball program was originally part of a separate bid, along with the National Cycling Association. But after the NCA dropped out of the process, Young Woo entered into an agreement with the Gauchos to bring hoops programming to the Armory.

"We are very excited to be part of YWA's vision for the Kingsbridge Armory and look forward to bringing the Gauchos' brand of affordable youth bas-

ketball programming to the Mercado Mirabo," said the Gauchos' Rocky Bucano.

Brooklyn Boulders co-founder Lance Pinn said the Armory's cavernous drill floor would allow them to build "the tallest indoor climbing wall in the world."

"Our passion is to teach the average person that rock climbing is a sport everyone can participate in," Pinn said in a press release. "Our greatest pleasure is to witness a first time climber enjoying their inaugural ascent to the top of a wall."

Young Woo's vision, which it calls Mercado Mirabo, would also include a "creative" market for local artisans, cultural space that could accommodate concerts and art shows, a six-screen movie

theater, a Crunch gym and a couple of mid-sized retail anchors.

Meanwhile, the Kingsbridge National Ice Center group is re-emphasizing its desire to create the world's largest ice center. It would house up to nine skating rinks, including a center rink that could accommodate 5,000 spectators. The group says the facility would attract some three million visitors a year, according to the *Daily News*.

They've also enlisted Urban Assembly, an education organization, to run a new school that would sit in the Armory's annex building. That plan, however, would require a separate transaction as

the annex is currently occupied by the National Guard and efforts to relocate them have so far proven unsuccessful.

Their plan would also include an after-school youth hockey program and space for academic tutoring.

Both groups say they will pay a living wage and finance the project with public subsidies.

Community Board 7 leaders met with Young Woo earlier this month and are expected to meet with the ice center group soon. A decision on the Armory project, which is being handled by the city's Economic Development Corporation, is expected sometime this summer.



Photo courtesy Young Woo

**A RENDERING OF** Young Woo's vision for a "creative" market at the Armory that would feature goods from local artisans.



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# Oval Rec Center Remains Closed as Summer Starts

By SARAH RAMIREZ

Yet another deadline for completion of the Williamsbridge Oval Park Recreation Center has come and gone and it's now unclear when it will be open to park goers. The Norwood park has been closed

for renovations since April 2010.

The first delays came in the fall of 2010 from snags in the permit approval process. While the park's revamped playground officially opened last summer (though the basketball courts only recently became usable), the plumber working on the Rec

Center defaulted. As a result, park officials said the opening would be pushed back to this spring. That deadline passed with the official beginning of summer last week.

The rec center, the third phase of the Williamsbridge Oval Park renovations made possible through mitigation funds associated with the building of the Croton Water Filtration Plant in Van Cortlandt Park, is set to be fully American Disabilities Act compliant and include upgraded bathrooms. Although the building reportedly reached 70 percent completion back in June 2011, the construction site now appears dormant.

The delays in construction have been a constant source of frustration for park activists.

"We can't go another summer without bathrooms, a rec center, and, most importantly, on-site staff," said Eileen Markey, a member of the volunteer organization

Friends of Williamsbridge Oval.

The popular park is often host to many community events, including last week's concert (see sidebar), a part of the Make Music New York project celebrating the first day of summer. Unfortunately, the event did not coincide with the opening of the rec center, as many residents had hoped.

The Parks Department, however, insists that work is still being done.

"Construction on the interior bathrooms is complete, and the exterior bathrooms will be complete after the bathroom fixtures are installed," a Parks spokesperson said. "We are currently cleaning the interior spaces of the recreation center, and intend to have the building open later this summer."

The Parks Department website, however, currently lists the anticipated date for completion as fall of this year.

## ROCKING IN THE HEAT AT OVAL PARK



Photo by Adi Talwar

Sweat-soaked from intense 90-plus-degree heat, Fort Indy, a new local band featuring Jarrett Murphy on bass and vocals, Brian Aucoin on drums and Darren Merritt on guitar, made its debut near the north entrance to Williamsbridge Oval Park on Thursday night, June 21. The show, hosted and organized by Eileen Markey (pictured, center) of the Friends of Williamsbridge Oval volunteer and advocacy group, was part of the Make Music New York project, now in its sixth year. The project aims to flood the streets of New York City on the first day of summer with musical concerts anywhere artists can secure space. The event is run simultaneously in hundreds of cities around the world. Last year, there were 1,035 concerts on the first day of summer. This year, according to the *Daily News*, there are more than 35 concerts scheduled in the Bronx, including Fort Indy's set at Oval Park. —ALEX KRATZ

## Centenarians Celebrate at St. Patrick's Home

By SARAH RAMIREZ

Family, friends and residents packed St. Joseph Hall at the St. Patrick's Home for the Aged and Infirm for its 9th annual centenarian celebration. The event honored 10 centenarians, including Rose Paladino, who at 105 years young is St. Patrick's oldest resident.

"We honor all of our residents who are a hundred and older, and it gets bigger and bigger every year," said Janet

Kibassa, director of recreation therapy at the home. "We do this for the residents."

The celebration, which had a 4th of July theme, featured live music, poetry and other readings. Birthday greetings from the President and city mayor were also read aloud. The centenarians received personalized government citations honoring them for their achievements, along with gift bags. Refreshments were also served to all the guests.



Photo by Sarah Ramirez

**ALL THE CENTENARIANS** receive gift bags and government citations honoring their achievements.

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# Kingsbridge Road Merchants Promote Unity in Community



**THE FIRST** annual Kingsbridge Unity in the Community Festival, presented by the Kingsbridge Road Merchants Association went off without a hitch. On Saturday, June 23, hundreds of community residents were treated to an afternoon of shopping, music, arts and food on Aqueduct Avenue, just south of Kingsbridge Road. Hosted by Bharati Kemraj, the event featured performances by DJ Krazy Rob, Bharati Dance Academy, Rob Salese, Anayka and ICC & J-Alva. The event was designed to build community unity and highlight all of the shopping and services offered on Kingsbridge Road.

Photos by Adi Talwar



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# Be Healthy!

# 100

Feet away from an entrance to a school that people will be allowed to smoke.

Vital Stats

## In 2nd Year of Health Push, Senator Says Yes, We CAN

By JALEESA BAULKMAN

In a loose white T-shirt and sweat pants, flanked by 10 elementary school-aged children and middle-aged, State Senator Gustavo Rivera danced across St. James Park. Rivera's personal fitness quest will once again play a major role as his attitude-adjusting health initiative heads into year two.

During a health fair that was put together with the help of Montefiore Medical Center and other community health partners, Rivera and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. announced that they want to expand the Bronx Change Attitude Now (CAN) initiative they started in the northwest Bronx last summer. The Bronx CAN initiative tackles issues of obesity and malnutrition.

The initiative attempts to bring together doctors, health providers and members of the community to promote the types of behaviors that lead to healthy lifestyles. The purpose of the initiative and health fair was to let people know there are things they can do to be healthier, Rivera said.

"The most important part is awareness," Rivera said. "If we're healthier as individuals, we can be healthier as a community. That's the ultimate goal."

Diaz said they plan on expanding the initiative to other areas of the borough, raising awareness about healthier habits such as eating smaller portions, eating more fruits and vegetables, and incorporating more exercise into their daily routine. He said they also plan on educating Bronx retailers and store owners about the minor adjustments they can make to provide healthier options to their consumers.



Photo courtesy Gustavo Rivera's office

**AT ST. JAMES PARK,** State Senator Gustavo Rivera weighed in almost 30 pounds less than last year.

"[Last year,] we concentrated just on the 33rd senatorial district. Now what we're doing is taking it to other zip codes," Diaz said. "Everyone wants to live a long and healthy life and sometimes people don't know how to go about it."

At the fair, Rivera talked about three legislative bills he hopes to pass that were developed from the dialogue he had with health partners and community members during the 2011 Bronx CAN campaign.

The first bill, which addresses the issue of second-hand smoking, will ban smoking near school exits and entrances. Rivera said that since smoking is already prohibited within schools, this bill will extend that to 100 feet outside of the school building. On June 18, Rivera and

Assembly member Jeffrey Dinowitz passed this legislation in both the state senate and state assembly (see page 2).

The second bill will require schools to have a certified physical education teacher in every school. According to a 2009 report prepared by former Borough President Adolfo Carrion, Jr., 21 percent of Bronx public schools lack a certified physical education instructor.

The third bill, which is called the "Happy Meal" bill, states that any meal that is incentivized with a toy to appeal to younger children must meet nutritional requirements. He said kids develop habits early and that these toys shouldn't be accompanied with a "big greasy burger with French fries....and a sugary drink."

The Bronx CAN Health Initiative was created last year in response to a Robert Wood Foundation study that marked the Bronx as the unhealthiest county in New York state. It showed that 26 percent of the adults living in the borough are in poor or fair health compared to 16 percent statewide and 10 percent nationwide.

"We're just tired of being first place in everything that's bad," Diaz said.

This year the launch focused on physical fitness and exercise. The health fair offered interactive dance lessons, a free zumba class and blood pressure and diabetes screening.

Rivera helped launched the initiative last year by participating in a public weigh-in that showed he weighed 299 lbs. At the health fair this year, he weighed in at 270 lbs.

Betty Diaz (no relation) attended the fair and was inspired by Rivera's weight loss to change her lifestyle.

"The next step is to eat less and think of life more," she said.

## Neighborhood Notes

### Adopt a Shop Workshops

The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is hosting Adopt a Shop workshops at the Bronx Library Center, room C-21, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., June 29, July 13, 27, and Aug. 3, from 10 a.m. to noon., that would give New Yorkers the tools to successfully demand healthier food options at their food store. For more information or to RSVP (required), call (347) 396-4245 or e-mail [shophealthy@health.nyc.gov](mailto:shophealthy@health.nyc.gov).

### Sarcoma Walk

The Children's Hospital at Montefiore and the Liddy Shriver Foundation will host their annual Sarcoma Walk, July 14, at Van Corlandt Park, at the 240th Street entrance at Broadway near the fox statue. Registration starts at 10 a.m., the walk begins at 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch at 11:30 a.m. Please bring a folding chair or blanket. Sarcoma is a type of cancer, and proceeds will fund Sarcoma research. In the event of rain, the walk will be held at the hospital at 3415 Bainbridge Ave. (near Gun Hill Road). For more information or to RSVP or donate, call May Thompson at (718) 741-2342.

### Youth Fitness Day Camp

The B'N' Fit Urban Fitters Day Camp for teens shows them how to maintain a healthy lifestyle, and offers activities that include swimming, basketball, football,

dancing, and daily trips. Campers can choose from a full summer session or one of two, three-week sessions. The first session runs from July 9 to 27, and the second session runs from July 30 to Aug. 17. Application material is due June 29. For more information, call Camp Director Michelle at (718) 920-5818.

### Water-on-the-Go App

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Health launched the 2012 Water-on-the-Go season, an initiative that will make NYC water at portable drinking fountains, which would be an alternative to bottled water and sugar-sweetened beverages, easily available at more than 20 alternating outdoor locations throughout the five boroughs this summer. The DEP has also developed a free iPhone/iPad mobile app available for download at the iTunes store, to help New Yorkers access the daily Water-on-the-Go schedule. For more information, call 3-1-1 or Chris Gilbride at (718) 595-6600.

### Training for Nonprofit Pros

The Bronx Fellowship is recruiting Bronx mid- to senior-level non-profit professionals for a free nine-month training and networking program to strengthen their professional skills and help them build partnerships and expand their networks. The deadline to apply is Tuesday, July 31. For more information, contact

Ariel Ennis at [ennisa@jcrny.org](mailto:ennisa@jcrny.org) or call (212) 983-4800 ext. 157.

### Free Health Training for Teens

The Youth Advisory Board of the Bronx District Public Health Office, 1826 Arthur Ave., is offering free public health training for teens on Fridays in July and August from noon to 4 p.m., including sexual health, physical activity, and nutrition. For more information, contact Candida A. Bido at [cbido@health.nyc.gov](mailto:cbido@health.nyc.gov) or call (718) 299-7376.

### Opportunities for Young Adults

F.E.G.S. Health and Human Services System is hosting a Project Rise program at the Bronx Youth Center, 412-424 E. 147th St., 4th floor, that will offer free GED classes, paid internships and career advisement to young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 who are out of school and work. For more information, call Jordana Kerschner at (718) 742-3576.

### Women/People of Color Businesses

The New York Women's Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with the New York City Housing Authority and Bronx Small Business Development Center, will

host "New York is Open for Business," a networking event for business enterprises owned by women and people of color, at Lehman College's Music Building in the East Dining Room, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., W., June 28 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, contact Lawrence Miles at [nywomenschamber@aol.com](mailto:nywomenschamber@aol.com) or call (212) 491-9640 ext. 105.

### A Green Education

The New York Botanical Garden is offering summer intensive classes to adults to earn certificates in gardening, floral and landscape design, and Botanical Art, starting on July 9. Applicants can register at [nybg.org/AdultEd](http://nybg.org/AdultEd) or call (800) 322-6924.

### 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.

*For more Neighborhood Notes online, go to [www.norwoodnews.org](http://www.norwoodnews.org) and click on "Neighborhood Notes" in the right-hand column.*



# Classifieds

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**Dynamic Customer Service Oriented Individuals Sought:** With great communications and typing skills, needed to work on behalf of our company. Any job experience needed. This service representative will earn up to \$2,950 monthly. If interested, e-mail [dannywebber862@gmail.com](mailto:dannywebber862@gmail.com).

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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

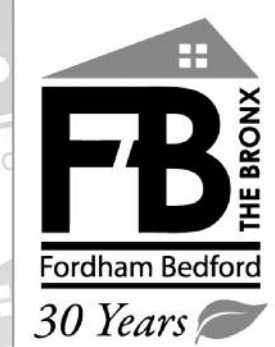
Be's, for nine consecutive days. Publication must be promised.) St. Jude, pray for us, and all of who invoke your aid. Amen. (This novena has never been known to fail.) L.T.

### 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. Moving sales, estates, contents of homes. (718) 882-0598 (home), or (347) 734-9261 (cell).

**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.



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# Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

## Onstage

■ Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance (BAAD), 841 Barretto St., presents **A Night of Prose and Poetry**, by Latina lesbian and queer women with a creative writing workshop, free, June 28 from 7 to 9 p.m. Refreshments will be served. For more information or to RSVP, call (718) 842-5223.

■ Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., W., presents **A Tribute to Adalberto Santiago**, a living legend of tropical music, on Saturday, July 7 at 8 p.m. (tickets are \$45 to \$60). The concert will feature the music of Nino Segarra, NG2, Ray Sepulveda, Frankie Vazquez, Ray Bayona, Cheo Medina, Javier Marrero, and Yolanda Rivera. Special invited guests are Bobby Cruz and Renzo Padilla (from La Nueva Generación), and featuring renowned musicians Eddie Montalvo and Johnny Rodriguez. For more information, visit lehmancenter.org or call (718) 960-8833.

## Events

■ The Bronx Zoo hosts **Animal Tales Extravaganza**, weekends through June 30, featuring children's entertainment, live character appearances, original pup-

pet 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 events: **Converse in Yiddish**, July 3 and 17 at 11 a.m.; **Art History Talk on Renoir**, July 13 at 1 p.m.; **Dancercise Class**, July 11 and 25 at 3:30 p.m. (\$2/seniors; \$3/guests); **Patriotic Sing-along**, July 12 at 1 p.m.; and **Multi-Woodwind Concert**, including klezmer, Brazilian, pop, and classical music, July 18 at 1 p.m. (\$2/seniors; RSVP by July 16). For more information, call (718) 549-4700.

■ 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 from 4 to 7 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.

■ The Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse (165th Street), presents its **First Friday** on July 6 from 6 to 10 p.m., featuring film, art perfor-

mances, music and other special events. Also offered is **1040 Lounge: Artist Spotlight**, featuring installations, drawings and abstracts, June 29 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., 3rd floor, north wing. For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

■ 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**: Glow a Wild Garden, to create a personal, glowing garden vista to contribute it to a group project and see it glow under a cool black light, June 30 and July 1; and Waves and Washes in Ink, using calligraphy on rice paper to make a scenic painting of waterscapes, July 7 and 8, both from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Ecology Building. Also presented is **BxIndie Music at Sunset**, featuring jazz guitarist, July 11 at 7 p.m. (bring folding chair). Grounds admission is free Saturdays until noon and all day Tuesdays. For more information, call (718) 549-3200.

■ 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, 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 New York Botanical Garden presents **Claude Monet's Garden**, featuring his paintings, palette, and photographs, in the Rondina Gallery, through Oct. 21. Additional events include concerts, poetry, tours, film screenings, and family activities. For more information, call (718) 817-8658/8512.

■ The Bronx County Historical Society, 3309 Bainbridge Ave., presents **In Style, Bronx Architecture**, through Oct. 7, including Bronx landmarks. For more information and to reserve, call (718) 881-8900.

■ 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 28, July 5 and 12; **Tales for the Teeny Tiny at 11 a.m.**: (ages 2 to 5), June 30 and July 7; **Global Partners Junior Summer Program at noon**: (ages 5 to 12), July 9 and 11. For teens and young adults, there is **Movie Time**: June 28 at 2:30 p.m.; **Art at 3:30 p.m.**: June 29, in the 1st floor conference room; and **Biophilia Project**: to experience science, technology and music (all materials provided), July 11 at 3:30 p.m. Adults can enjoy **Single Stop/Government Benefits at 9 a.m.**: June 28, July 3, 5, 10 and 12; 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.; and **Wii Program**: Tuesdays at 3 p.m. Children can attend **Global Partners Junior Summer Program**: (ages 5 to 12), July 9 and 10 at 2:30 p.m.; **Baby Lap Time**: (ages infants up to 17 months), to enjoy nursery rhymes, stories, songs, and movement, July 10 and Aug 7 at 11 a.m.; and **Toddler Story Time**: (ages 18 to 36 months), July 12 and 19 at 10:30 a.m. Teens and young adults can enjoy **Get Fresh**: to learn to make gelatin air fresheners (all materials provided), June 30 at 2 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 **Manga Drawing Workshop**, July 11 at 2 p.m. for teens and young adults; and **Arts & Crafts**, July 2 at 2 p.m.; and **film**, July 9 at 2 p.m., both for children ages 5 to 12. 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 July 2 for the next publication date of July 12.



### EDITOR'S PICK

## Patriotism Pride

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. and NYS Senator Jeff Klein invite the public to **New York Salutes America**, June 29 from 6 to 10 p.m., rain or shine, at Orchard Beach, featuring a boardwalk festival, fireworks extravaganza, live music, and children's entertainment. Shuttle bus service is available between Pelham Bay Park and the beach; parking is \$7.

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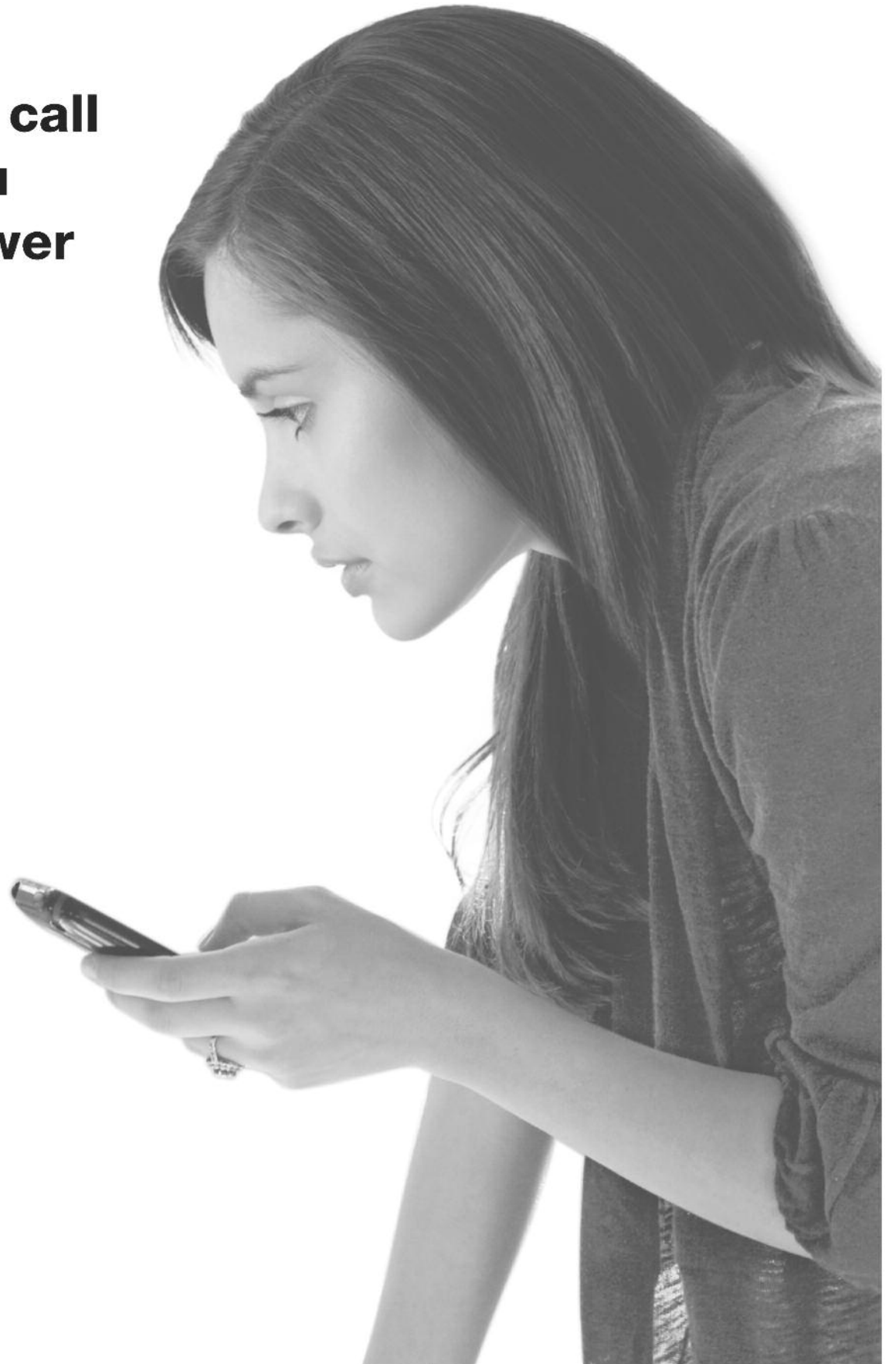
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