

NORWOOD NEWS

**Storm Relief Efforts
By The Numbers**
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ROOKIES OF THE YEAR



Photo by David Greene

At Maestro's Restaurant in Morris Park, newly elected officials (l-r) Linet Rosado (Bronx Civil Court Judge), Mark Gjonaj (80th Assembly District) and Luis Sepulveda (87th Assembly District) celebrate their victory. In every other state race in the Bronx, Democratic incumbents won easily. See results for northwest Bronx races on page 2.

Sector George: Most Dangerous Neighborhood in the Precinct

By ALEX KRATZ

On a recent Friday afternoon, off-duty firefighter Eddie De La Cruz leisurely walks past Bainbridge Avenue along East 196th Street and stops in front of Our Lady of Refuge Church to chat with Father John Jenik, the parish's longtime leader. They both greet people passing by, mostly parents with their kids, with pleasantries in English and Spanish.

The only sense that this interaction is happening in the most dangerous neighborhoods in the 52nd Precinct, and one of the toughest in the northwest Bronx, is a handful of young men wearing hoodies and expensive sneakers milling menacingly in front of a six-story apartment building down the block. They're on the lookout and waiting to take over these streets when darkness comes.

"These guys, they're grown men, in their 20s and they're playing football in the streets in the middle of the night, making all kinds of noise," Jenik says, incredulous.

They might be doing more than just playing football. The building is overrun with small-time gangs and drug dealers, Jenik says, much like many of the buildings in what police call Sector G (or George), an area of Fordham-Bedford (between Fordham

Road and Bedford Park Boulevard) where crime is rampant.

Crime By Numbers

Every New York City precinct is broken up into sectors, or neighborhoods. Of the 15 sectors within the 52nd Precinct — including neighborhoods within Fordham-Bedford, Norwood, University Heights, Bedford Park, Fordham, University Heights and

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Photo by Diana Perez

DESPITE THE high crime rate, many Sector G residents say they feel safe walking around the neighborhood.

Storm Relief Effort Blossoms at Armory

By ALEX KRATZ and DANILKA INFANTE

After more than 15 years of vacancy and several failed redevelopment efforts, it took a storm of unprecedented proportions to put the Kingsbridge Armory back to extended use. It's now the site of the largest storm relief effort in the Bronx, bringing much-needed food, supplies, cleaning materials and manpower to the region's most ravaged communities.

Councilman Fernando Cabrera, who represents the area surrounding the Armory, knows a disaster when he sees one. The northwest Bronx representative, who is also an evangelical Christian pastor, went to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina and Haiti after the crushing earthquake there a few years ago.

In the days following Hurricane Sandy's devastating assault on the northeast's coastal regions, Cabrera knew the government would need help assisting everyone whose homes had been battered, flooded and burned. At the Superdome in New Orleans, the Ground Zero for Katrina refugees, Cabrera saw, first-hand, that "resources were not getting to the people in need."

"I just knew the government couldn't do it by themselves," he said.

Other elected officials were opening up their offices to take in donations and organize volunteers, but Cabrera knew the effort would need to be taken to a higher level. As he began to outreach to coordinate a larger operation, he found help in other sym-

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The Zen Master of Bronx Politics

By ALEX KRATZ

Early on Election Day last week, northwest Bronx State Senator Gustavo Rivera calmly walked into PS 86, a Kingsbridge Heights school turned polling site buzzing with voters. After removing his head phones and trademark fedora, Rivera settled into line to cast his ballot.

As a Democratic incumbent in the most Democratic county in the state, Rivera didn't have to worry. He and every other Democrat in the Bronx would go on to easy victories. But Rivera still had much at stake.

National polls had President Barack Obama, who Rivera had worked hard to elect in 2008, in a dead heat with Republican challenger Mitt Romney going into Tuesday's vote. In New York state, Rivera pinned his hopes on regaining majority rule in the senate (Republicans hold a slim majority, 32-30) on Democrats winning a couple of tight upstate races that could have gone either way.

Nerves? Nada.

"I'm totally Zen," Rivera said. "I haven't been nervous on election night in 10 years."

Rivera is just 35 years old, but before taking office in 2010, the Kingsbridge resident was already a veteran of dozens of elections. Back when he managed campaigns for others, Rivera spent election days in the field, making sure his team got out the vote for his candidate. When polls closed, Rivera pulled his troops off

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In The Public Interest

Election Results All Over the Map

If you live in the Norwood News coverage area, which includes Norwood, Bedford Park, University Heights, Kingsbridge Heights, Fordham and Fordham-Bedford, you may very well be in store for new representation in state government come Jan. 1.

Only one Bronx official — 80th District Assemblywoman Naomi Rivera — was actually replaced (by challenger Mark Gjonaj). The other changes are due to dramatic redistricting shifts that will officially kick in when newly elected or re-elected representatives start work at the beginning of the new year.

Here in the northwest Bronx, some area residents will say good-bye to State Senator Gustavo Rivera, whose 33rd District used to make up the entire Norwood News coverage area. After redistricting earlier this year, the 33rd shifted south and east.

The entire neighborhood of Norwood will now be covered by State Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson whose 36th District used to snake along the Bronx River and into Mt. Vernon. It still does, but now it makes a detour into Norwood and most of Bedford Park.

Meanwhile, Jeff Klein's 34th Senate District now has a bridge from the east Bronx to Riverdale that runs narrowly along Bedford Park Boulevard. If you live in Bedford Park, you're probably in Klein territory. If you're north of Bedford Park,

you're in Hassell-Thompson land. South of Bedford Park — that's Rivera world.

The local assembly districts remained relatively unchanged in the northwest Bronx. Gjonaj takes over for Rivera in a sprawling 80th District that now runs from Morris Park into Norwood and includes all of Mosholu Parkway.

Jeff Dinowitz's 81st District retained about half of its Norwood territory, including Williamsbridge Oval Park and Montefiore Medical Center.

Fordham, Fordham-Bedford and most of Kingsbridge Heights remains in Jose Rivera's 78th District. Nelson Castro, who won re-election to the 86th District, now represents part of Fordham Road as well as University Heights.

In Congress, the northwest Bronx is now represented by Charlie Rangel in the 13th Congressional District and Jose Serano in the 16th Congressional District.

While celebrating at Maestro's Restaurant in Morris Park, Gjonaj thanked his supporters and said it was time to get down to work.

"I'm looking forward to rolling up my sleeves because they've certainly done their part," Gjonaj said. "Now it's up to me to do mine."

—ALEX KRATZ with DAVID GREENE

Ed. Note: For new district maps of all of the northwest Bronx districts, visit norwoodnews.org.

State Assembly Election Results

<i>District 78</i>			
Jose Rivera (I)	Dem	17,425	93.82%
Luana Malavolta	GOP	881	4.74%
Richard Retcho	Con	267	1.44%

<i>District 80</i>			
Mark Gjonaj	Dem	19,866	78.92%
Nicole Torres	GOP	2,295	9.12%
Naomi Rivera	WF	1,988	7.9%
Patrick McManus	Con	777	3.09%
William Edstrom	Grn	246	0.98%

<i>District 81</i>			
Jeffrey Dinowitz (I)	Dem	27,220	92.7%
Judith Kunz	Con	2,145	7.3%

<i>District 86</i>			
Nelson Castro (I)	Dem	20,387	96.35%
Ana Sanchez	GOP	640	3.02%
Vhidiwhatie Diamond	Con	133	0.63%

State Senate Election Results

<i>District 33</i>			
Gustavo Rivera (I)	Dem	48,916	96.05%
Michael Walters	GOP	2,010	3.95%

<i>District 34</i>			
Jeffrey Klein (I)	Dem	71,791	93.88%
Elizabeth Perri	Con	3,504	4.58%
Carl Lundgren	Grn	1,180	1.54%

274 of 275 precincts reporting (99.64%)

Ed. Note: Election results have yet to be certified by the Board of Elections.

The Zen Master of Bronx Politics

(continued from p. 1)

the battlefield and made sure each made it home safely. At that point in the night, he was always more interested in logistics than results.

In 2010, as a first-time candidate trying to unseat a well-funded opponent in Pedro Espada Jr. in the Democratic primary, Rivera finished campaigning and felt a calm wash over him. Again, he had done all he could do. So he decided to go to dinner.

This year, Rivera routed his primary opponent. With that out of the way, Rivera concentrated on helping fellow Democrats.

For two years, Rivera has said senate Republicans had blocked the Democratic agenda in Albany, especially on hot button issues like stiffening housing regulations, enacting broad ethics reform and raising wage standards for workers.

He spent his own time fund-raising and campaigning for at least two Westchester Democrats hoping to steal Republican senate seats — Justin Wagner and George Latimer. Rivera also "made sure my staff had plenty of vacation time" to help out other Democrats who might sway the balance of power.

As for the presidency, Rivera still believed Obama was moving the country "Forward." Rivera said his support for the president mostly involved doing "surrogate" campaigning in Florida, especially Orlando where there is a heavy Puerto Rican population. Rivera did numerous call-ins at Spanish-language radio sta-

tions to make the case for Obama. In a twist, he was basically working for his own chief of staff, Conchita Cruz, a Florida native who was running Spanish-language media efforts for the Obama campaign.

He and his staff had put in the work. Now, it was out of his hands.

As Rivera slowly moved down the line, he said he hadn't quite decided how to spend election night, but was hoping there might be a victory party to attend later on.

Before midnight, media was calling

the presidential race for Obama. Locally, things went according to plan. While Wagner lost to incumbent Greg Ball, Latimer beat out his Republican opponent and the Democrats appeared to take over a slim majority in the senate. (As of press time, votes were still being counted in a couple of close races. But Democrats, at least in name (see sidebar), were expected to have a majority.)

It's unclear where Rivera ended up on election night. But it's a good bet he was celebrating amongst friends.

Public and Community Meetings

- **The 52ND PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 29, at Fordham Methodist Church, 2543 Marion Ave, (at East 198th Street). Councilman Fernando Cabrera will be a guest speaker. For more information, call (718) 220-5824.
- **COMMUNITY BOARD 7** will hold its general meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 20, at 6:30 p.m. at Scott Towers, 3400 Paul Ave., in the community room. For more information, call (718) 933-5660
- **COMMUNITY BOARD 7** committee meetings will be held on the following dates at the board office, 229A E. 204th St. at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted: Health & Hospital, Mon, Nov. 19; Housing, Wed, Nov. 21; Land Use/Zoning, Thursday, Nov. 29; Public Safety, Fri, Nov. 30. For more information, call (718) 933-5660 or visit www.BronxCB7.info.



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Planning Lets Montefiore Stay Open Through Storm

By ALEX KRATZ

Montefiore Medical Center officials said their emergency plans, including those for power, were ensured that the hospital would deliver consistent care with no closings at its four hospitals and emergency rooms.

At the Moses Campus, which includes the Children's Hospital at Montefiore, patient care went uninterrupted due to the hospital's co-generation plant that produces 90 percent of its power. Montefiore has the longest running co-generation

facility in operation in a New York City hospital, and it not only produces power for Montefiore, but also regularly exports power back to the Con Ed grid for other customers' use. The co-generation plant offers Montefiore one of three backup power supplies in the event of an outage.

Montefiore offered to accept as many as 50 patients from Bellevue Hospital, which flooded during the storm. Since the start of the storm, Montefiore has facilitated the evacuation of 27 patients — adults, mothers and babies, including six NICU patients from NYU Langone. Efforts still are under

Storm Relief By The Numbers

From Thursday Nov. 1 through Thursday, Nov. 8, the city and other government agencies had delivered the following materials to victims of the storm:

More than 1.8 million meals • Nearly 454,000 bottles of water • 127,000 blankets • 1,248 cases of diapers • 183 cases of baby wipes • 670 cases of baby formula • 8,500 units of new underwear (kids and adults) • 3,840 thermal blankets • 1,552 winter hats • 389 scarves • 2,586 socks • 8,550 blankets • 4,000 hand-warmers • 6,252 D batteries • 9,972 C batteries • 335 cases of garbage bags • 3,399 flashlights/lanterns • 476 cases of toilet paper • 837 cases of bleach • 20,000 cases of Ziploc bags • 6,000 masks • 10,000 boxes of cleaning wipes • 1,500 work gloves • 878 bars of soap • 140 cases of toothbrushes • 750 tubes of toothpaste • 584 bath towels

Vital Stats

way with the Office of Emergency Management and the Greater New York Hospital Association to facilitate the evacuation of additional patients from Bellevue.

Officials say Montefiore remains "committed to the care of patients in need of evacuation and has developed plans to ensure appropriate coverage and ongoing excellent care for all patients," according to a statement.

As many as 150 staff members, worried they couldn't make it back to care for patients each day, slept in dorms set up at

the hospital Great Room. Montefiore provided cots, food and movies to help everyone relax and recharge.

"Now that we've made it through the storm, we are doing what we know best — helping patients and providing world-class care to our community and beyond," said Susan Green-Lorenzen, RN, senior vice president of operations at Montefiore Medical Center. "I am so proud of Montefiore's ability to quickly activate and support those in need. The dedication of Montefiore's staff is commendable."

Relief Effort Blossoms at Armory

(continued from p. 1)

thetic Christian groups.

They first attempted to launch an operation in a school in the Lower East Side, but were turned away by the Department of Education. They managed to find a nearby church to organize supplies and a few teams of volunteers, but it still wasn't enough.

After the Oct. 29 storm, Cabrera had also reached out to the Economic Devel-

opment Corporation, which manages the Armory, about possibly using the structure's enormous drill floor for relief efforts.

By Friday afternoon, Cabrera said 170 volunteers were setting up shop to take in supplies, organize volunteers and ship both out to the devastated areas like Staten Island, the Rockaways and Breezy Point. They've also been to parts of New Jersey and City Island.

Cabrera estimates the Armory has taken in and delivered more than 100 tons of food and supplies.

Taking over control of the ground operation at the Armory is a group called the National Latino Evangelical Coalition (NaLEC), which was created to make a policy impact on issues like poverty, immigration reform and education equity.

Cabrera says other nonprofit and church groups have joined in the effort. He calls it a "true inter-denominational effort."

Throughout the Armory, huge piles of supplies lay scattered and labeled.

Gabriel Salguero, a member of NaLEC, says each day about 175 to 180 volunteers go in and out of the Armory. Up and running 24 hours a day, they use everything from mini-vans to U-Haul trucks to take supplies in and out of the drill floor hall. When asked if the snowstorm last week interfered with their work, Salguero said "nothing stops us."

On Tuesday, there were 15 volunteers at the Armory. Agustin Quiles, the site manager, explained their process. The volunteers at the front desk, at the entrance, bring the donations to be recorded at the command center. They then sign in what was donated. The dona-

tions are then separated into categories like household supplies, bottled water and canned food. They then identify sites where those supplies are needed and send loaded vehicles out to serve them.

"People have requested everything, baby diapers, food, but mainly hygienic utilities [like bleach]" says Quiles.

Quiles says they've mostly gotten the word out "through social media and word of mouth from church to church."

Kehl Hudson lives on 176th Street and is a missionary there. He is a volunteer captain at the Armory. He says the majority of volunteers range from ages 20 to mid 30s. He says they have had volunteers and donors from Minnesota, Detroit, Florida, Texas, Phoenix, Ohio, and upstate.

"I consider whoever drives six hours to bring us donations is a volunteer," he said. "Driving for that long is volunteering to me."

Cabrera says the operation will stay at the Armory until it's no longer needed, which could be another three weeks or more.

Aside from bringing supplies, Cabrera says they're also bringing something else to those in need — a human element that he says creates "the genesis of hope."

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Photo by Diana Perez

SUPPLIES ORGANIZED by volunteers at the Kingsbridge Armory for victims of Hurricane Sandy.

The Most Dangerous Neighborhood in the Precinct

(continued from p. 1)

Kingsbridge Heights — Sector G is, by far, where the most crime occurs.

A man named Nathaniel, who declined to give his last name for fear of reprisal, works security for a group of buildings in Sector G. He says he's seen everything from fights to drive-by shootings in his years working in the neighborhood. Drugs are everywhere, he says.

Nathaniel also lives in the 52nd Precinct, near West 190th Street and University Avenue, also known as Sector C. "People say hi to each other, you don't see that much drug activity going around," he said. "There's not that much killings over there, shootings, drugs — everything is practically good over there."

From 2006 to 2011, 1,528 crimes were committed in Sector G. That's 11.5 percent of all the 13,303 crimes committed in the 52 Precinct during that time and nearly 200 more crimes than Sector D, the next worst neighborhood (and 331 more crimes than in Sector C).

In sum, that number, 1,528, means very little because a shoplifting incident is weighted the same as a murder. Each equals one when it comes to calculating crime statistics in a precinct, in a borough, in a city. It's one reason, Jenik says, why city officials continue to say crime is going down every year for the past two decades. But a look inside the numbers of Sector G paints a darker picture.

During those six years, more than one in every four of the precinct's murders — 25 out of 94 (26.6 percent) — and one of every five rapes — 29 out of 140 (20.7 percent) — occurred in Sector G. The area also led the precinct in felony assaults, which include shootings and stabbings, with 353 (13.7 percent of precinct's assaults). Its next closest competitor was Sector B in University Heights, which had 80 fewer assaults during the same time period.

Sector G was no slouch when it came to robberies (third), burglaries (second) and grand larcenies (tied for second; first was Sector D, which includes most of Fordham Road where credit card fraud, a grand larceny, is prevalent). The only category in which Sector G finished in the bottom half was auto thefts.

A History of Violence

While still only a six-year window into Sector G, the statistics, obtained by the *Norwood News* through a Freedom of Information Law request, tell the story of this neighborhood for the past 30-plus years.

That's roughly about the time, 1978, when Jenik arrived at Our Lady of Refuge. Since then, he's been railing — on the pulpit, in the streets, in the media — about the neighborhood's crime problems, which he attributes largely to the drug trade.

"The drugs have never left," he said.

To bring attention to the problem during the 1990s, Jenik began holding services on street corners dominated by drug dealers. It brought a lot of media attention and periodic bursts of intensive police activity. But when the attention faded, the drugs and the violence

returned.

After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, however, Jenik decided his street sermons weren't worth the police presence they required. It also didn't seem to make much of a long-term impact. But then again, nothing seems to.

Over the years, Valentine Avenue, between East 196th Street and East 194th, a curving one-way corridor that is not bisected by East 195th Street, has been a haven for a series of organized drug operations. Just two years ago, federal and local authorities culminated a year-long undercover operation with dozens of arrests that dismantled the latest organized drug depot. For several months, to the delight of the corridor's residents, it was quiet and their doorsteps weren't beehives of drug activity.

But the drug trade just shifted, down to 194th Street and up to 198th Street. Now, according to Jenik, it's back on Valentine as well.

Why This Neighborhood?

"It's partly demographics, partly economics," says Inspector Joseph Dowling, the commander of the 52nd Precinct.

Sector G is a microcosm of everything that ails the Bronx, where the unemployment rate (now 12.1 percent, down from 14.1 percent just three months ago) is higher than in any county in New York state and the poverty rate hovers around 30 percent.

Sector G is dense with affordable housing, which attracts residents priced out of more affluent neighborhoods, and new immigrants. That doesn't explain everything, but it's no secret that crime is higher in poorer communities and Sector G is one of the poorest, if not the poorest, in the precinct.

"Inherently, I believe, people are good," says Councilman Joel Rivera who represents Sector G. "But put into desperate situations and needing to provide for their families, people turn to desperate measures and crime."

Dowling says his cops know about the drug activity and are out there making busts daily. But no matter how many arrests are made, the underlying problems remain.

State Senator Gustavo Rivera, a member of the public safety committee, says the trick is to address "micro and the macro" conditions at the same time. That means addressing immediate problems — taking care of quality of life issues and intervening when small beefs escalate into deadly confrontations — with concentrated police efforts and intervention programs that don't currently cater to the 52nd Precinct.

At the same time, Rivera says, that means addressing underlying problems like poverty and unemployment through better education and job training programs.

The other problem is the local residents who do succeed, often leave. Jenik says he sees this all the time. Recently, two sisters who grew up in the neighborhood and went to OLR both became doctors. They both left the neighborhood in the past year.



Photo by Diana Perez

WHILE DRUG DEALING and violence are bigger issues, graffiti is everywhere in Sector G.

Jenik, however, has no plans to leave. He's concerned but no longer consumed by the crime problems. Besides, he says, "I like it here."

Other residents feel similarly. On a recent afternoon, many people either didn't want to talk or said they felt relatively safe walking around.

Eddie De La Cruz, the firefighter, moved to the neighborhood from Wash-

ington Heights nine years ago to be with his wife. They now have two young daughters. De La Cruz says it can be loud and fights break out frequently. "But that's New York," he says.

Still, when asked about what he will do when his daughters grow older and start wanting to walk around on their own, De La Cruz says, "We hope to move out of the neighborhood by then."



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(212) 949-4817



Opinion

We love, welcome and encourage letters to the editor and opinion articles from readers. Write to: Editor, Norwood News, 3400 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467. Fax: (718) 324-2917; or e-mail: norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org.

Editorial

Lessons From a Marathon

I overcame a barrage of obstacles — physical, mental, even geographical — on my quest to run the New York City Marathon this year. But it was an epic storm seven days before the payoff that finally did me in.

Was I disappointed? Yes. Was it the right decision? Absolutely.

We'll get to the dynamics of that decision in a minute. But first, take a little trip with me.

I ran in the mornings. I ran at night. I ran in sweltering heat and the freezing cold. I ran to music in Van Cortlandt Park and in the calm silence of northern Wisconsin. I ran in Seattle, Minneapolis, San Francisco, Lake Placid and Cape Cod.

I suffered shin splints, Achilles tendinitis, severe knee pain, ankle issues and chafing.

I once ran around the Jerome Park Reservoir (2.2 miles) seven times on a Friday night. About halfway through the eighth time my muscles literally started bubbling like water boiling on the stove. I barely walked the mile back to my house, chugged a glass of water and then puked it right back up. Good times.

I learned a lot. I learned the body often needs sodium more than water on long runs and took to bringing bags of salt along with me. I learned it's not a good idea to wear cotton while running any kind of distance. (That one was painful!) I learned you need a very understanding and encouraging

partner, in this case my wife, to allow you to spend three hours running on a Saturday when there are chores and parenting to do.

As you can see, it was all about me. Many runners raise money for charity while training. I just wanted to get through it to prove something to myself. (I can do it!)

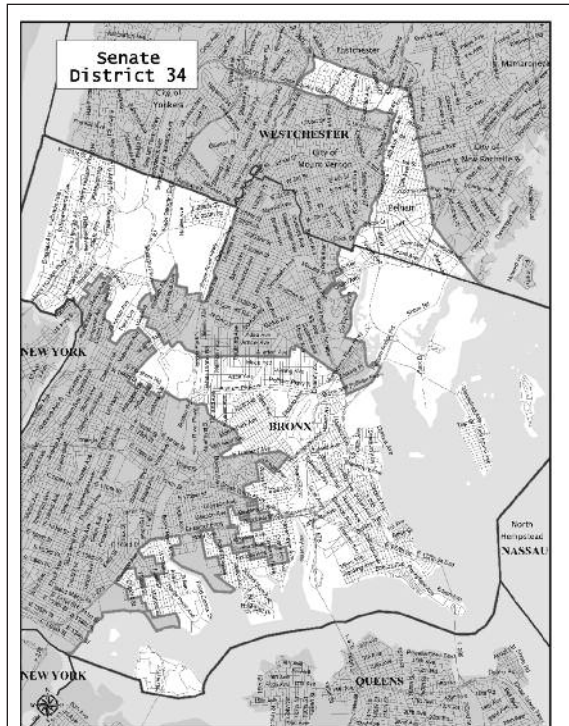
When the storm hit, I didn't think they would cancel the race. But the devastation kept mounting. Dead bodies began multiplying. There was still so much recovery work to be done. Bloomberg made the right call. About five days too late. But it was the right call.

Everyone told me they were sorry about the race being canceled. And yes, I was disappointed. Kind of like baking a beautiful cake and not being able to eat it. But this wasn't about me. It was about a city that needed more time to heal.

Next year, I've decided to go through all the pain again. This time, I want it be about something bigger than me. I want to raise money for a worthy cause. I need some time to think about it and some help. If you have suggestions, send them to me at akratz@norwoodnews.org. I'll let you know when I make my decision in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, here's a suggestion if you want to help storm victims: Simply show up at the Kingsbridge Armory (see front page story) with some canned goods, diapers, or your time.

—ALEX KRATZ, Editor



THIS IS the sprawling 34th Senate District represented by Jeff Klein. It now cuts right through Bedford Park. In upcoming issues, we'll be profiling our area's new legislators, including Klein, and asking them tough questions about issues facing communities. If you have questions for your elected officials, send them to us at norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org or post them on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/norwoodnews.bronx, or Tweet to us @norwoodnews.

Inquiring Photographer

By **DAVID GREENE**

This week we asked readers about their experiences on Election Day and what they thought about the results.



I voted for (Barack) Obama because he represents the poor man and I'm poor too. That's why I voted for him. I now hope he helps the poor people who lost their houses in the storm and I hope the gas prices and everything else goes back to the way it was before.

Bobby Aljfi



I thought the candidate who won represents America as a whole and I felt like the opposition didn't represent what America stands for, so I thought it went really well. I had no problems voting; it was easy. I went early in the morning. It was actually my second time voting, so I was really excited about it.

Terniqua Osborne



Considering the hurricane, the lines here in the district where I vote were very minimal. It's a very easy process the way you scan the paper in [electronically]. I was not happy with the election results in the Presidential race, just because of where I thought where were going [as a country]. I was disappointed. But I just hope that Obama does the best he can.

Reggie Stutzman



It was good but long lines. And Obama won. I'm glad he won. It was a very long race and I'm glad it's finally over.

Caroline Mellina



I thought the wrong guy won. To be honest, I didn't get a chance to vote with the hurricane and all that. I've been working seven days a week, so I didn't get a chance to go out and vote, so I really can't complain about who won. It was a close election but I really think another four years of this guy, we're going to have problems. He gives everything away for nothing.

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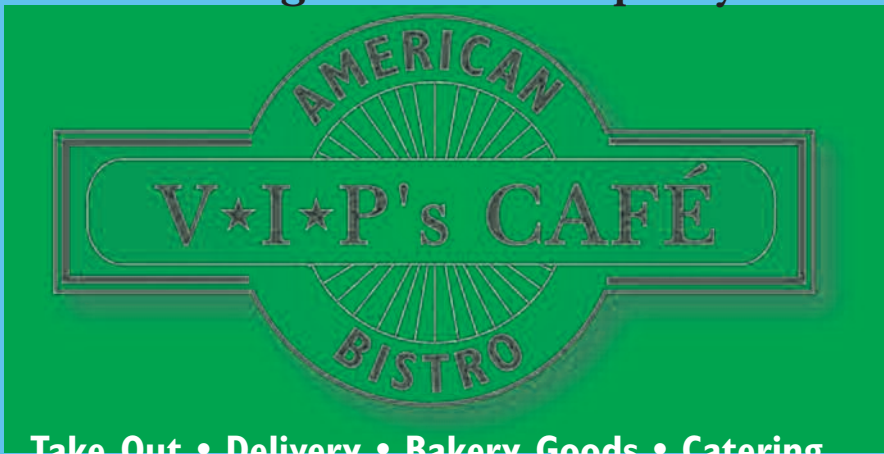
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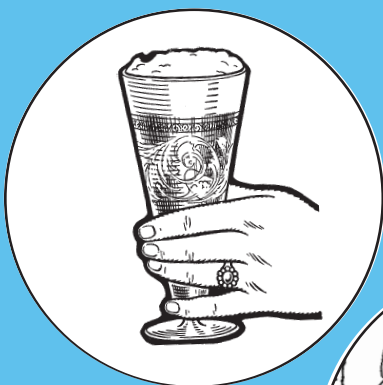
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Neighborhood Notes

Homeownership Workshop

Chase Bank, located at 3169 Bainbridge Ave., will hold a step-by-step workshop on Thursday, Nov. 15 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. for people who want to own a home. For more information, call (718) 881-6330.

Peace Walk

The King of Glory Tabernacle and The Groundswell Group are holding a “Call for Peace” walk on Wednesday, Nov. 28 departing from Olive Branch Hall, 2019 Grand Ave., at 6 p.m. The walk will proceed down Burnside Avenue to the Grand Concourse, then up Tremont Avenue, down Harrison Avenue, back to Burnside Avenue, and return to Olive Branch Hall. For more information, call (917) 660-4216, (718) 294-7280, or (718) 585-1190.

Job Fair

NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera and Assembly Member Nelson Castro will host a job fair, “Let’s Get Bronxites Back to Work,” Nov. 16 from noon to 4 p.m. at St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church Hall, 1948 Washington Ave. (178th Street). Dress professionally and bring your resume. For more information, call (718) 933-2034.

Business Networking

Health People Connect will hold a free Build Your Business Networking Event, Nov. 15 from 6 to 9 p.m. at 560 Southern

Blvd. (East 149th Street). Visitors may tell a crowd of commercial and non-profit people about their business for \$5 for five minutes. Fee for vendor tables is \$25 (must bring your own table). Free cupcakes will be available. For more information, call (718) 585-8585 ext. 228.

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Free Weekly Immigration Services

Councilmember Fernando Cabrera along with CUNY Citizenship Now! will provide free confidential legal services to qualified immigrants to help them in their pursuit of U.S. citizenship, Wednesdays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Cabrera’s district office, 107 E. Burnside Ave. Personal consultations will be held with attorneys and paralegals. For more information, call (347) 590-2874.

For more *Neighborhood Notes* online, go to www.norwoodnews.org and click on “Neighborhood Notes.”

LONG LINES, AFFIDAVITS DEFINE ELECTION DAY IN NW BRONX



Photo by Diana Perez

VOTERS IN THE northwest Bronx experienced long lines on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 6, due to staffing problems and issues with the new computer scanners (several broke down). Many were forced to fill out affidavit ballots due to being displaced by Hurricane Sandy or because their names didn’t appear on registration lists. Some grew frustrated, especially at MS 80 (pictured), where the heat caused some voters to emerge from the Mosholu Parkway school sweating. Others nearly gave up at St. Brendan’s, where confusion reigned. At the Amalgamated Houses, dozens of people actually did give up when lines persisted well past the 9 p.m. closure time for city polls. The problems caused 81st District Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz to call for the city to reinstate the old lever system, which was scrapped two years ago.




Happy Thanksgiving!

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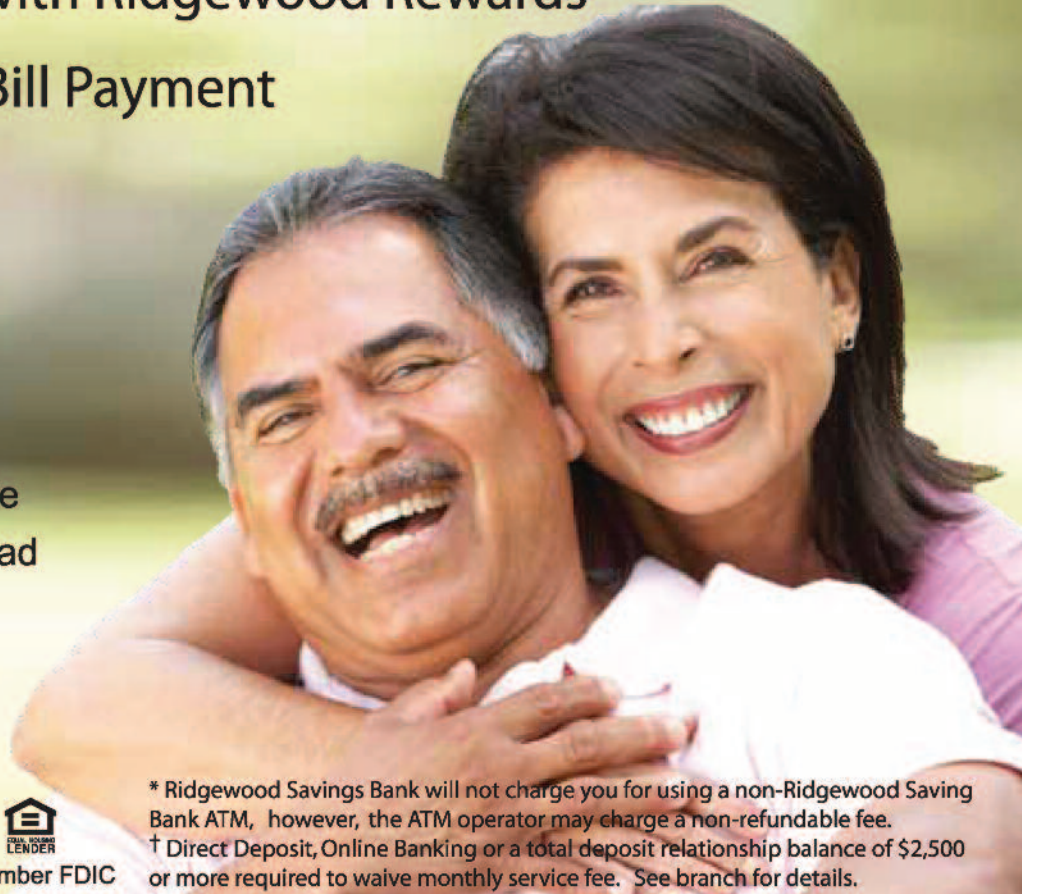
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Business Beat

On the Fordham Road to Recovery

By RONALD CHAVEZ

As Hurricane Sandy whipped through the tri-state area, it left 40,000 in the Bronx without power. Trees went down. They crushed cars. Storefronts were damaged, and branches were ubiquitous. Mostly, businesses were closed. For two days, the city shut down.

But despite widespread damage from

the storm, Fordham Road - one of the most bustling streets in the borough — began to come back to life swiftly.

“It looks like people can’t wait to get back out,” said Walter Bell, chair of the Public Safety Committee for Community Board 7, two days after the storm. “I hope that businesses are able to recoup.”

Jahaira Jurado, a manager at Kids World said the store lost revenue because

of the storm. They closed on the Monday of the storm and opened on a limited schedule on Tuesday. It meant they sold fewer kids’ costumes ahead of Halloween. The costumes went on sale.

Fordham Road Pharmacy saw a steady stream of customers. The store remained open during the hurricane. The store’s manager, Odanny Duran, said the flow of customers was returning to normal now that customers could walk the streets safely.

Fordham Road’s crowds, though sparser than usual, also began to make a return.

Children in costumes held their parents’ hands. They were dressed as vampires, Mario, ladybugs. They held open Halloween themed bags as they popped into stores up and down the hill.

Teenagers played basketball at Devoe Park. On Aqueduct Walk, grey-haired men assumed their usual positions playing dominoes. Onlookers waited to get into a game.

These spots were empty during the

storm.

“It was like a ghost town,” said Carlos Font, an employee at Urban Terrain. At his store, the wind blew off the storefront. It was knocked into a neighboring storefront and left a dent. It’ll cost at least \$7,000 to replace the storefront.

He said police blocked off intersections around the block to avoid injuries in case another storefront was blown off.

Font said that while people were out and about, business was still slow. “People are trying to get that Halloween spirit,” he said. “It’s not really Halloween, it’s Sandy spirit.”


But people tried.

Wearing a tiny witch hat, Vanessa Mejia pushed a stroller up Fordham Road. She was with a pumpkin (her son, in the stroller) and a young member of a S.W.A.T. team. She was taking her sons trick or treating. She said the storm left branches across her neighborhood. Her lights flickered during the storm. She shrugged slightly, and said, “There’s nothing different.”



Photo by Diana Perez

UNLIKE MANY commercial districts in the city, Fordham Road bounced back soon after Storm Sandy.



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Fire Forces Evacuation at Historic Theater

By DANILKA INFANTE

On Monday, Nov. 5, the day before the election, a fire erupted at the historic landmark Loew's Paradise Theater on the Grand Concourse. Although the true extent of the damage is still unclear, it appears to be limited to smoke and water damage.

The fire was reportedly caused by welding sparks that entered into the air ducts on the top floor of building, which was built in 1929.

Less than five minutes after getting the call at 3:45 p.m., an FDNY spokesman said firefighters were on the scene. In total, it took 150 firefighters a little more than an hour to extinguish the fire. Two firefighters suffered minor injuries and were taken to Jacobi Hospital.

The J.A.D.S. Children Center was evac-

uated from the theater after fire alarms went off at 2:05 p.m. The center is located on the second floor of the theater. The staff and 80 children were safely evacuated. But there was no time to grab coats even with temperatures close to freezing.

The owner of New Concourse Pharmacy, a couple of stores away from the theater, was kind enough to welcome the kids and staff into his pharmacy to stay warm. Firefighters also provided the center with blankets.

After the fire was extinguished, the firefighters continued to investigate for several hours to confirm that the fire was not still roaming within the walls.

The Paradise Theater is the second largest auditorium in New York behind Radio City Music Hall. For the past few years, it has hosted numerous concerts and events, including the Bronx Ball.



Photo by Diana Perez

MORE THAN 150 firefighters managed to bring a fire at the Paradise Theater under control in about an hour.

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Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

Onstage

■ The Bronx Arts Ensemble presents pianist Gregg Kallor and violinist/BAE 2012 Young Bronx Artist winner Madeleine Manasse performing **classical music** at the home of Bill and Paul Caplan, 761 W. 231st St., Nov. 18 at 3 p.m. \$25 ticket includes intermission refreshments. For more information, call (718) 601-7399 or visit www.bronxartsensemble.org.

■ Lehman College's Lovinger Theatre, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., W., presents free: **The Johnny Pacheco Latin Music and Jazz Festival**, featuring student and professional ensemble performances and workshops, Nov. 15 and 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; **Lehman Brass Quintet**, featuring a jazz influenced repertoire, Nov. 15 at 11 a.m.; and **The Lehman College Latin Jazz Ensemble**, and **The Lehman Jazz Band**, both with special guest ensembles, respectively, Nov. 15 and 16 at 7:30 p.m. For additional information, call (718) 960-8247.

■ The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents **Chamber Orchestra** and **Armonia String Quartet**, concert by Celia Cruz Bronx H.S. of Music, Nov. 17 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-424/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

■ Casita Maria Center for Arts & Education, 928 Simpson St., presents **Jogja Hip Hop Foundation, Java & RDACBS, the South Bronx**, Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. For more information, call (718) 589-2230.

■ Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance (BAAD), 841 Barretto St., 2nd floor, presents **Machataso: BAAD!er & Better, one-woman show**, Nov. 16 at 8 p.m. (\$25; \$50/includes pre-show open bar and reception from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.). For more information, call (718) 842-5223.

■ The Bronx Music Heritage Center Lab, 1303 Louis Niñé Blvd. (#2 or #5 train to Freeman Street), presents **Bronx Rising! Music, Film & Spoken Word of the Borough**, through Jan. 19, performed by Bronx artists: Music and jazz, Thursdays from 8 to 10 p.m.; film, Fridays 8 to 10 p.m.; comedy, poetry and literature, Saturdays 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. (visit bronxmusic.org for details). For more information, call (718) 793-2211.

■ The Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture's Repertory Theatre, 450 Grand Concourse, presents free, **jazz and classical pianist** Valerie Capers, Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. For more information or to reserve, call (718) 518-4455.

Events

■ Lehman College, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., W., presents free, Geraldo Mercado who will explore **computer graphics in film and television**, Nov. 29 at 12:30 p.m., in Carman Hall B-04. For more information, call (718) 960-8715.

■ The Bronx Music Heritage Center Lab, 1303 Louis Niñé Blvd. (#2 or #5 train to Freeman Street), presents **Community Arts Lab, 4 to 7 p.m.:** (through Dec. 19), visual art on Mondays, hip-hop and breakdance on Tuesdays, and percussion and poetry on Wednesdays. For more information, visit bronxmusic.org or call (718) 793-2211.

■ Manhattan College, located at West 242nd Street near Broadway, presents **poet/performance artist** Patricia Smith, Nov. 27 at 4 p.m. in Hayden 100, to conclude the 5th semester of the Major Author Reading Series (M.A.R.S.). For more information, call (718) 862-7546/7921.

■ Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Arts Projects:** Cornhusk Dolls, to listen to

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Native-American tales and make cornhusk dolls, Nov. 17 and 18 (two sessions: 10 and 11:30 a.m.); and Harvest Time Hangings, to gather leaves, cones, pods and seed heads and weave them together with other garden materials to create a wall hanging, Nov. 24 and 25 (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.); all in the Ecology Building. Grounds admission is free Saturdays until noon, and in November, free Tuesdays all day. Glyndor Gallery **tours** take place Tuesdays and Saturdays at 2 p.m.; garden **walks** are held Tuesdays and Saturdays at 11 a.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m., from the Perkins Visitor Center. For more information and a schedule of events, call (718) 549-3200.

■ 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.

■ Mosholu Montefiore Senior Center, 3450 DeKalb Ave., presents **Pre-Thanksgiving Luncheon and Entertainment**, Nov. 15 from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., for seniors ages 60 and over. For more information and fees, call (718) 798-6601.

■ The Bronx Council on the Arts and the Huntington Free Library offer **Gift Creations**, to make a gift to take home, a free family craft workshop, at the library, 9 Westchester Square, Nov. 17 from 12:30 to

3 p.m. For more information including time, call (718) 931-9500 ext. 33.

■ The Bronx County Historical Society presents **Bronx Immigrants**, a lecture on Bronx history, at the Valentine-Varian House/Museum of Bronx History, 3266 Bainbridge Ave., Nov. 17 at 11 a.m. For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

Exhibits

■ En Foco presents **Relations & Tales**, through Dec. 2 at the Pregones Theatre, 571-575 Walton Ave. (between 149th and 150th streets). For more information or to RSVP, visit enfoco.org.

■ Lehman College Art Gallery, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **Space Invaders**, featuring the work of 18 artists who make use of many spaces both inside and outside the galleries, Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., through Jan. 9. A **special lecture and guided tour by the artists** will be held Nov. 15 at 12:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 960-8731/8715.

■ Bronx Council on the Arts presents **Puerto Rico in Its Labyrinth, Chronicles of a Country and a World in Crisis**, through Dec. 8, at Longwood Art Gallery at Hostos' Center for the Arts' main gallery, 450 Grand Concourse (149th Street). Also on view, in the Project Room: **Public Art Under House Arrest**, through December 2012. For more information, call (718) 518-6728.

EDITOR'S PICK

Join the 21st Century

For those who haven't yet joined the computer age, the Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., offers free **Introductory Computer Classes**. Join the two-session class for MS Word on Nov. 19 and 26 at 2 p.m. and Introductory Computer at 10 a.m. on Nov. 21 (E-reader) and Nov. 28 (Internet). For more information, call (718) 579-424/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

Library Events

■ The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents programs for adults including **Single Stop/Government Benefits at 9 a.m.**: Nov. 15, 20, 27 and 29; and **Film at 2:30 p.m.**: "Romeo and Juliet," Nov. 24. Teens and young adults can join **Zombie Zine**: Nov. 29 at 4 p.m. Children can enjoy **Preschool Story Time at 11 a.m.**: Nov. 15 and 29; **Turkey Book Making**, Nov. 15 at 4 p.m.; **Sacagawea: Bird Woman**: (ages 5 to 12), Nov. 17 at 2 p.m.; **Films at 4 p.m.**: Nov. 20 and 27; **Gustafer Yellowgold**: (ages 18 months to 12 years), animation and live performances, Nov. 24 at 2 p.m.; and **Picture Frame Making**: (ages 5 to 12), Nov. 29 at 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

■ The Mosholu Library, at 285 E. 205th St., offers for seniors and adults: **Knitting Circle**: Thursdays at 3 p.m.; and **Wii Program**: Tuesdays at 3 p.m. Children can

enjoy **Sacagawea: Bird Woman**: (ages 5 to 12), Nov. 27 at 4 p.m. Immigrants can join free **English Conversation Program**, intermediate level, Nov. 20 and 27 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

■ The Jerome Park Library, at 118 Eames Place, offers the following children's programs: For ages 5 to 12: **Arts & Crafts**, Nov. 19 at 4 p.m.; **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe** (also includes ages 3 to 5), Nov. 20 at 4 p.m.; and **Pajama Party**, Nov. 26 at 6 p.m. Toddlers can attend **Toddler Story Time**, Nov. 21 at 11 a.m. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

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NOTE: Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to norwood-news@norwoodnews.org, and should be received by Nov. 19 for the next publication date of Nov. 29.

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