

# NORWOOD NEWS

*New Year's  
Resolutions You Can  
Actually Keep*

page 6

Vol. 26, No. 1 ■ PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION ■ January 10–23, 2013



Photo by Adi Talwar

**DEWITT CLINTON JUNIORS** Laura Hairston and Jasely Molina stand in front of their storied high school on Mosholu Parkway. Clinton, once considered a jewel of the New York City public school system, is in danger of closing after more than a decade of struggles.

## As Armory Pick Nears, Local Groups Forge Partnership

By ALEX KRATZ

As the city draws close to a decision on which developer will take over the Kingsbridge Armory, two community groups with a history of animosity and sharply divergent tactics have formed a partnership to become the united voice of the community and negotiate a benefits agreement with the winning bidder.

One of the two finalists for the Armory project — either the Kingsbridge National Ice Center or Young Woo & Associate's Mercado Mirabo — could be chosen as soon as the end of the week, although the Economic Development Corporation, which is managing the selection process, is remaining tight lipped.

Many observers expected a decision by the end of last year, but Hurricane Sandy may have pushed the decision

(continued on p. 2)

## DeWitt Clinton High School: History in the Taking? *Struggling School's Rich Past Cited as Reason to Keep It Intact*

By BRITTNEY JACKSON

More than 2,000 people crowded through the marbled halls into the auditorium of DeWitt Clinton High School on Oct. 29, 1929 to hear Mayor James J. Walker inaugurate the all-boys institution's ambitious new 21-acre campus on Mosholu Parkway, which cost the city a cool \$3.5 million.

"This temple of education will well repay us even after we are gone, by training future generations to be good citizens," Walker said, according to a *New York Times* article.

Walker's prediction couldn't have been more accurate as the school, which first opened in 1897 in Manhattan's Greenwich Village, has molded some of the most famous people in the country, including designer Ralph Lauren, author James Baldwin, comedian Tracy Morgan and comic book icon Stan Lee (creator of "Spider-Man," "The Fantastic Four" and the "X-Men"), along with a slew of Oscar, Emmy, and Tony winners, 11 Pulitzer Prize winners and five Olympic medalists.

"Kids come up to me when I'm in the

school and say 'Did Stan Lee really go here?' And what's great about Stan Lee is that he is a guy who crosses the ages and really unites everybody," said Gerard Pelisson, co-author of "The Castle on the Parkway: The Story of New York City's DeWitt Clinton High School and its Extraordinary Influence on American Life" and former DeWitt Clinton teacher. "And there's that kind of spirit in Clinton and it really has had its spirit challenged in the last 10 years."

Clinton has seen its share of turbulence since its ranking among the top 100 high schools in the country just 13 years ago. It now joins the chopping block with a reported 60 other public high schools after the Department of Education handed it its second consecutive "F" on the 2011-2012 progress report.

Hundreds of students and faculty, past and present, showed up at a forum in December to voice their support for their school and their desire to see it remain intact.

Most of the Bronx's other big high schools have been chopped up into several smaller schools, but speakers at the

(continued on p. 8)



Photo by Adi Talwar

**CLINTON'S BOYS BASKETBALL** team and high-flying Clinton Akalonu (34) defeated Riverdale/Kingsbridge Academy, 61-60 in overtime on Monday, Jan. 7. More local sports at [www.norwoodnews.org](http://www.norwoodnews.org).



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# The Year in Politics

## Oval Traffic Safety Workshop, Jan. 23

For the past three and a half years, the advocacy group Friends of Williamsbridge Oval have urged the Department of Transportation to do something to improve pedestrian safety at the eastern entrance to Williamsbridge Oval Park near Holt Place.

The Friends want the DOT to implement an all-way stop at the corner of Holt Place and Reservoir Oval East, but the DOT has balked at the idea and says its data doesn't warrant it. Still, the Friends say they have not been satisfied with the agency's reasoning or data and have pushed for more information.

At a meeting in December organized by the Friends and Community Board 7 at the board's offices in Bedford Park, the DOT agreed to hold a workshop in the area to address all of the traffic issues at the Oval, including the Holt Place

entrance. It will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. at Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, 3450 DeKalb Ave. The public is invited.

—ALEX KRATZ

## Free Books on Fordham Road

With funding from Councilman Joel Rivera, the Fordham Road Literacy Program will distribute 4,000 books to young people throughout the year at several activities and special events hosted by the Fordham Road Business Improvement District. In conjunction with the program, the Fordham Road BID will be partnering with local youth organizations and learning centers for additional special events and activities.

"It begins with a book," Rivera said. "Children engaged in fun, age appropriate books encourage them to increase not only their reading levels but also their vocabu-

lary and grammar. With the help of the Literacy Project more children in our communities will be able to submerge themselves in the new adventures, fantasies, and expand their imagination by simply opening a book." —DANILKA INFANTE

## Gjonaj to be Sworn In

Mark Gjonaj, the new representative in the 80th Assembly District, which includes parts of Norwood, Bedford Park and Morris Park, will be sworn in on Sunday, Jan. 13 during a ceremony at the Christopher Columbus High School auditorium, 925 Astor Ave. To attend, RSVP to [markgjonaj2012@gmail.com](mailto:markgjonaj2012@gmail.com) or call (347) 810-0910.

Gjonaj, who soundly defeated incumbent Naomi Rivera in the September primary, said at a recent community meeting that he was thinking about purchasing a recreational vehicle and using it as a mobile office for constituent services.

—ALEX KRATZ

# Local Armory Groups Forge Partnership

(continued from p. 1)

onto the back burner.

"We continue to make progress towards a selection that will achieve the vision for this important site by creating jobs and generating economic investment in the Bronx," said EDC spokesperson Kyle Sklerov.

Sklerov said the EDC is in the final stages of negotiating with the developers and hoped to make a decision soon.

Meanwhile, on Saturday morning, representatives from the Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Alliance, a grassroots organization centered around the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition, and Community Board 7, a government-sanctioned group of volunteer members, sat down to talk strategy at the board's office in Bedford Park.

"The best thing we can do is have a united front," said Board 7 Chairman Paul Foster. "So regardless of what developer comes or is selected, we need to say, 'these are the things we want, these are the things we need for our community.'"

Alice McIntosh, a KARA leader, passed out index cards at the meeting and asked everyone to write down what they wanted to see at the Armory in terms of community benefits.

What they found out from that exercise was that members of both groups appeared to be on the same page.

"We had three people say something about jobs, skilled jobs, local hiring, living wage jobs; five people that said something that works for the community, community space, community space funding, two people say something about schools, two people that talked about small business incubators or nonprofit office space," McIntosh said.

The evolving partnership represents a remarkable turnaround from three years ago when both groups were involved in the city's push to turn the Armory into a mega shopping mall.

From the beginning of that process, KARA pushed hard to have the developer, The Related Companies, sign a community

benefits agreement that would guarantee living wage jobs (\$10.50 an hour plus benefits or \$11.50 an hour without benefits) to every employee who worked at the Armory.

Related Companies balked at this stipulation and a serious community benefits agreement never became part of the discussion. At the same time, the Board voted to approve the shopping mall project (though only in an advisory role) under the condition that Related enter into a benefits agreement. For the Board, however, living wage wasn't a deal breaker.

Ultimately, backed by Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. and the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, KARA worked to kill the project and succeeded when the City Council voted the shopping mall proposal down at the end of 2009. It was the first time a Bloomberg-backed development proposal was not approved by the City Council.

This time around, living wage is still part of the discussion, but not a deal breaker. Both Diaz, who has endorsed the ice center proposal, and local Councilman Fernando Cabrera, who has stayed neutral, say

they are supportive of the partnership between KARA and the community board.

"The borough president has been saying all along that KARA needs to work with the community board and the City Council member, and we think this is a step in the right direction," said John DeSio, communications director for Diaz.

Although Cabrera was out of town at the end of last week, his chief of staff, Greg Faulkner, who was involved in the Armory negotiations as head of Board 7 three years ago, said, "The Councilman believes a binding community benefits agreement must be a part of this process."

Still, it's unclear if the developers will be willing to negotiate with the new community partnership. A spokesperson for the ice center group said he wouldn't rule out working with any community group, but said the project, as it stands (including nine ice skating rinks and a free recreational program for area youth), "will provide every benefit the community has sought and more."

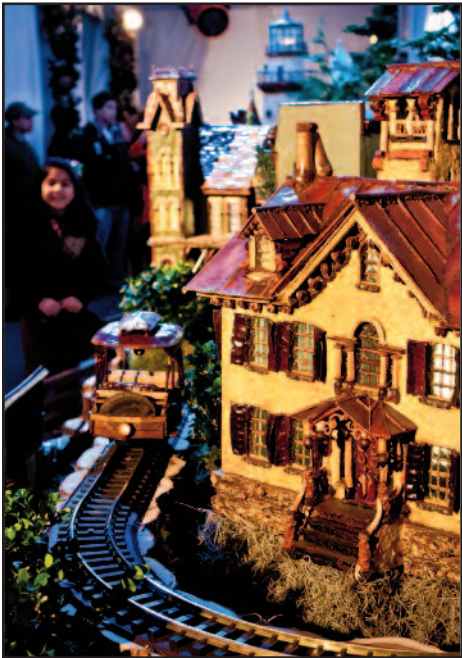
The new united voice of the community, however, might not agree.

## Public and Community Meetings

- **COMMUNITY BOARD 7 will hold its general meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 15, at the Bronx Library Center auditorium, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd. For more information, call (718) 933-5650 or visit [www.BronxCB7.info](http://www.BronxCB7.info).**
- **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: Environment & Sanitation and Traffic & Transportation, Thursday, Jan. 10; Health & Hospitals, Monday, Jan. 14; Housing and Economic Development, Wednesday, Jan. 16; Community Relations, Thursday, Jan. 17; Education & Libraries, Thursday, Jan. 24; Youth, Public Safety and Quality of Life, Friday, Jan. 25 at St. James Recreation Center, located at 2530 Jerome Ave. For more information, call (718) 933-5660 or visit [www.BronxCB7.info](http://www.BronxCB7.info).**
- **The CROTON FACILITY MONITORING COMMITTEE will meet on Thursday, Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. at the DEP office, 3660 Jerome Ave. The public is welcome.**
- **The DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION is holding a workshop to discuss traffic and pedestrian safety around Williamsbridge Oval Park on Wednesday, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. at the Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, 3450 DeKalb Ave. For more information, call (718) 933-5650.**
- **The 52ND PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL will meet on Thursday, Jan. 24 at 7 p.m. at Serviam Gardens, 323 E. 198th St. All are welcome. For more information, call (718) 220-5824.**



# End of the Line for Garden's Holiday Train Show



**THE NEW YORK** Botanical Garden's highly popular Holiday Train Show makes its final run of the season this weekend and ends on Jan. 13. We sent local photographer Adi Talwar to take some shots from this year's exhibit in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, which showcases more than 140 scaled iconic buildings and structures under thousands of twinkling lights. Crafted by Paul Busse's team at Applied Imagination, the landmarks are made of natural materials such as bark, twigs, stems, fruits, seeds, and pine cones and include the original Penn Station and Yankee Stadium, Radio City Music Hall, St. Patrick's Cathedral, The New York Public Library on 42nd Street, and the Brooklyn Bridge. See more photos online at [www.norwoodnews.org](http://www.norwoodnews.org).

All photos by Adi Talwar

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# Police Report

## Judge Deals Blow to NYPD Stop-and-Frisk Strategy

On Tuesday morning, Jan. 8, a U.S. District Court judge dealt a significant blow to the NYPD’s controversial stop-and-frisk strategy, ruling that for years police officers have violated the rights of residents at private buildings in the Bronx under auspices of the Operation Clean Halls program.

For more than 20 years, the Operation Clean Halls program has allowed officers to patrol in and around private buildings that choose to participate in the program. In total, 3,261 buildings in the Bronx are enrolled in the program and 8,032 buildings are enrolled citywide.

Starting immediately with a preliminary injunction, the judge, Shira Scheindlin, ordered an end to stopping people without adequate grounds for suspicion of illegal activity at these buildings.

The ruling marks a victory for the New York Civil Liberties Union, The Bronx Defenders, Latino Justice PRLDEF and the law firm of Shearman & Sterling LLP, which jointly filed a class-action lawsuit against the city’s Operation Clean Halls program.

The groups have been increasingly critical of the NYPD’s stop-and-frisk strategy, which they say is discriminatory and overwhelmingly affects blacks and Latinos.

“Today’s decision is a major step

toward dismantling the NYPD’s stop-and-frisk regime,” said NYCLU Director Donna Lieberman. “Operation Clean Halls has placed New Yorkers, mostly black and Latino, under siege in their own homes in thousands of apartment buildings. This aggressive assault on people’s constitutional rights must be stopped.”

In her decision, Scheindlin wrote, “The evidence of unlawful stops at the hearing strengthens the conclusion that the NYPD’s inaccurate training has taught officers the following lesson: stop and question first, develop suspicions later.”

—ALEX KRATZ

### Police Seek Bedford Park Robbery Suspect

Police are asking for help in locating and identifying a suspect who is wanted in connection with a November robbery in Bedford Park.

On Sunday, Nov. 25, 2012 at around 6:40 p.m., on 203rd Street, between Valentine and Briggs avenues, the suspect followed the victim, a 64-year-old woman, into the elevator. When she exited, he assaulted the victim and forcefully removed the woman’s purse from her shoulder, pushed her to the ground and fled. The victim sustained bruises and scrapes on her knees dur-

ing the attack.

The suspect (pictured) is described as a black male in his mid-20s, between 5-foot-10-inches and six feet tall and weighing between 200 and 250 pounds. He was last seen wearing a black jacket, grey sweatpants and black sneakers.

**Editor’s Note:** *Anyone with information in regard to any of these crimes can call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-577-TIPS (8477). You can also submit tips at [WWW.NYPDCRIMESTOPPERS.COM](http://WWW.NYPDCRIMESTOPPERS.COM) or by texting tips to 274637 (CRIMES), then enter TIP577.*

### Webb Ave. Armed Robbery

Officers from the 52nd Precinct were called to 2500 Webb Ave. after an armed robbery was reported on Dec. 27. The victim said the suspect produced a silver firearm at just before 2:45 p.m. and took the victim’s cell phone. Police were looking for the armed bandit, described as a male Black, 6 feet tall and dressed in all black.

—DAVID GREENE



Courtesy NYPD

**POLICE ARE** trying to identify this suspect in connection with a robbery in Bedford Park.

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## NARROW ESCAPE!



Photo by David Greene

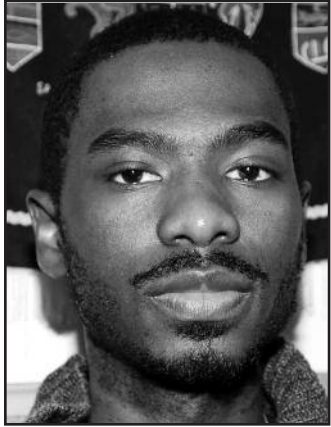
**THE UNIDENTIFIED DRIVER** of an SUV narrowly escaped serious injury when he jumped out of his vehicle as it caught fire on Webster Avenue near East 194th Street just before 4 p.m. on Dec. 27. The fire apparently began in the vehicle’s engine when the driver pulled over in front of 2627 Webster Ave. The fire quickly spread to the under-carriage and interior of the vehicle. Police officers from the 52nd Precinct blocked off both sides of Webster Avenue and members of Engine 48 quickly brought the blaze under control. No injuries were reported.



# Inquiring Photographer

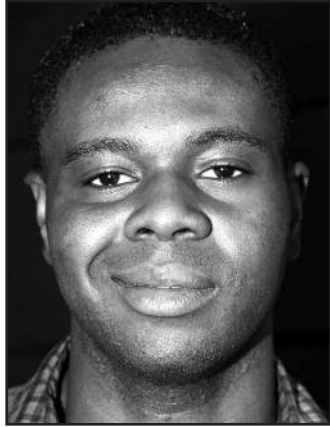
By DAVID GREENE

In the wake of several high-profile shootings, including the massacre in Newtown, Conn., we asked readers for their thoughts on gun control.



I don't think it's so much about gun control, it's more or less people control. People need to be screened properly. Guns and stuff like that, the process isn't as extensive as it should be.

**Dwayne Gittens**



I think there are good laws. In New York it's pretty strict, but in other states it's not. You also have the Second Amendment issue and it's split down the middle of the different parties. With gun control it's like a religion for people in other states.

**Ike Thompson**



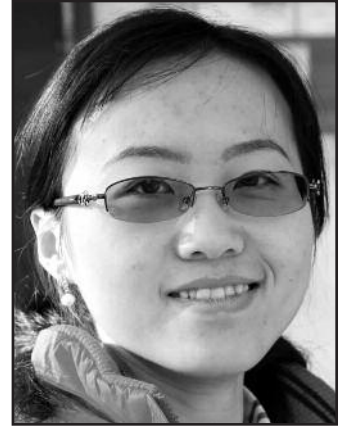
You have got to get them off the streets and out of people's hands. New York has tough enough gun control, but who are you going to get to enforce it, the mafia?

**Barbara Davies**



I think they [should] encourage more people to give up the guns that they have already, to the local precincts. The contribution helps the individual and it will get all of the illegal arms off the street. They also need stiffer penalties for people who own guns and sell them to people just to get money.

**Michael Gordillo**



I don't think that having gun control or not will really make an impact because for people who really want to kill, even if there is no gun, they can still find another way. It might be harder for them, so maybe having gun control will help.

**Jen Wang**

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# Be Healthy!

## \$155b

Amount of cuts hospitals already agreed to as part of the Affordable Care Act. Congress is looking for even deeper cuts in a budget deal.

Vital Stats

## Healthy, Realistic and Attainable New Year's Resolutions

By ALEX KRATZ

It's that time of year when people everywhere make unrealistic New Year's resolutions that are often too difficult to maintain. This year, instead of aiming for extreme weight loss or finding the partner of your dreams, psychologist Simon Rego, Psy.D., of Montefiore Medical Center, recommends focusing on value-based resolutions.

"Resolutions that address cherished areas of your life, such as helping other people, fostering deeper relationships and exploring new paths for personal growth and development, can allow you to reach your goal and feel good about yourself in 2013," Dr. Rego says. "Some people turn away from making resolutions out of frustration, but you can be successful if you refocus your goals."

Here are several New Year's resolutions Rego says are realistic enough to actually be maintained:

- **Broaden your relationships.** Spend more time focusing on your friends and making those relationships even stronger, including your relationship with your partner.

- **Try a new activity.** Take a painting class, learn to play an instrument or go rock climbing. Exploring new activities can introduce you to something that can change your life forever or simply broaden your knowledge. And you may even make new friends.

- **Focus on the role of food and exercise in everyday life.** Instead of trying a fad diet, start tracking your food consumption and think about what you

eat and how you feel before doing so. Just being more mindful of what you're eating and the role your emotions and environment play in food choices can make a big difference. Also, think about increasing your water intake, wearing a pedometer and taking the stairs instead of the elevator — little changes add up over time.

- **Take action when it comes to your health.** The first of the year is a good time to check in with your doctor for an annual physical. Take ownership over your cholesterol levels, blood pressure and other key measures so you can maintain optimum health.

### Fiscal Cliff Deal Helps Area Hospitals, for Now

Dr. Steven Safyer, president and CEO of Montefiore Medical Center, said the fiscal cliff deal hammered out in Washington, D.C., last week will not hurt local hospitals in the short-term, but cuts to healthcare programs down the line could still have a detrimental impact long-term.

In an interview on WNYC, Safyer said that Montefiore and other hospitals that serve poor and low-income populations would have been severely hurt by an automatic 27 percent cut in Medicare that would have kicked it in if lawmakers didn't sign a last-minute compromise last Tuesday.

A so-called "Doc Fix" was included that keeps those automatic cuts at bay for the entire year.

"We were thrilled by that," Safyer said. "Montefiore

employs 2,000 doctors. So that was fixed, for the year."

Still, Montefiore and other urban hospitals that rely heavily on Medicare payments are not out of the woods.

Safyer said that as part of the Affordable Care Act (also known as "Obamacare"), Montefiore has already agreed to part with \$60-70 million in Medicare cuts. As part of a larger, long-term budget deal, Safyer says legislators are talking about taking away another \$100-120 million in Medicare money.

The cuts would go to programs that fund graduate education for doctors and to a reduction in reimbursement rates that Montefiore and other urban hospitals receive for treating needy patients.

"There's going to be a deal [down the line] on taxes and entitlement programs," Safyer told WNYC. "What we're hoping is that they work out a percentage of all of Medicare, as opposed to targeting payment within Medicare that are disproportionately New York City hospitals and put at risk the healthcare of the inner city."

### Not Too Late for Flu Vaccine

It is not too late to get your flu vaccine, doctors say, as the virus is hitting people hard this winter. Those who are most vulnerable like children, people over the age of 65, and pregnant women, need the vaccine the most. In addition to getting vaccinated, doctors urge everyone to take common sense precautions like covering your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, washing hands often, avoid touching your eyes, and when you're sick, stay home.



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# Opinion

## Editorial

### Our Wish List for 2013

The *Norwood News* will be tracking countless stories over the coming days, weeks and months in 2013. Here are some of the outcomes and headlines we'll be rooting for.

**“City Chooses Developer for Kingsbridge Armory.”** Seriously, people, let's get this done. We're told the city is in the final stages of negotiations with developers on the Armory project, but we're concerned that it's taking so long. At one point, a September announcement seemed like a good bet with the end of 2012 being a distant deadline. Now we're more than a week into 2013 and counting. Makes it seem like there are underlying problems that are holding things up. At this point, we believe both the Kingsbridge National Ice Center and the Mercado Mirabo, mixed-use market and recreation center, are viable uses for this empty Bronx jewel. Pick one and let's move on.

**“Armory Developer Signs Community Benefits Agreement.”** Of course, once a developer is chosen, we strongly believe the developer must sign an enforceable and binding community benefits agreement that will include local hiring benchmarks, job training programs, affordable community space, the de-mapping of West 195th Street (to pave the way for a new school), access to recreational programs for area youth and environmental and traffic mitigation programs. The developer is getting the Armory

for a song. They need to give back.

**“Sector Stats Bill Signed Into Law.”** The *Norwood News* has been banging the drum on this legislation for years. Bronx Councilman Fernando Cabrera introduced a simple, reasonable bill two years ago and Councilman Peter Vallone, the head of the public safety committee, continues to let it rot. Quite simply, the NYPD needs to publish the crime stats for every sector in every precinct in New York City. Sectors are actual neighborhoods. Precincts are vast collections of several neighborhoods. Having more localized data will give elected officials and community groups information they need to better target resources. And it will help residents better understand and take precautions against crime trends in their neighborhoods.

**“DEP Completes Work on Filtration Plant.”** The community didn't want the Croton Water Filtration Plant built inside Van Cortlandt Park in the first place. The least the Department of Environmental Protection can do is finish it when they said it would be finished — by the end of 2013. Its completion, along with connected work at the Jerome Park Reservoir, would also allow the city to once again fill the reservoir with water, which is much prettier than having a big empty concrete bathtub.

**“Oval Rec Center Re-Opens.”** This was supposed to open in the summer ... of 2011! Then they said summer 2012, then fall 2012. It's now winter 2013. The Oval needs its Rec Center.

## History in the Taking?

(continued from p. 1)

forum said that would be a disservice to current students and deal a blow to the school's rich history.

“It was very impressive to see how many students stood up and said how much the history of the school mattered to them,” said Pelisson. “Where the mayor is saying it doesn't matter, well, why don't you ask the students and see whether they think it matters.”

The DOE gave the school a “B” on the College and Career Readiness, but an “F” in student progress, student performance, and school environment, making Clinton's overall score 37.2 out of 100. However, students felt the DOE's grade was an inaccurate portrayal of their school and in response, conducted their own study on student life and academics and graded their school a “B-”.

Many Clinton students have taken great pride in sharing a campus that boasted such famous alumni as well as hosting more than 57 programs and activities, including 30 athletic teams, a

Junior ROTC training program, a literary magazine, student newspaper and the esteemed M.A.C.Y. Honors program.

“My dad went to Clinton back when it was an all-boys school,” said former Clinton student Tani Aponte. “He played for the boys basketball team and always talked about how great it was when he went there and when the school became co-ed, he was so happy because he really wanted me to go there.”

Clinton's size, athletics, academics, programs and alumni were all factors that went into making the school one of the most notable in the United States. According to the 1963 Guinness Book of World Records, a peak enrollment of 12,000 students made Clinton the largest high school in the world.

“All the great Broadway plays are all written by Clinton people,” said Pelisson. “‘The Sound of Music,’ ‘Guys and Dolls,’ and the books, ‘The King and I,’ ‘Annie,’ ‘Bye Bye Birdie,’— these are all Clinton guys who wrote these and the list goes on and on.”

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](mailto:norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org).

**“Lower Class Sizes Lead to Better Grades at Local Schools.”** Overcrowding problems continue to plague our schools. Case in point: At PS 340, located just across the street from the Kingsbridge Armory, administrators wanted to transfer out 20 kindergarten students mid-year just because of crowding problems. It never happened because of opposition by parents, but the crowding problems remain.

**“Political Candidates Sit Down with *Norwood News*.”** 2013 means city races — for the office of mayor and local City Council seats. In the northwest Bronx, we're already looking at a very competitive race to replace term-limited Councilman Oliver Koppell's 11th District seat. In the 15th District, Council Majority Leader Joel Rivera is also on his way out, opening the door to potential

candidates. Our hope is that those candidates, from the mayor's race on down, take the time to talk to the *Norwood News* so we can ask them about issues that matter to you, our readers. (You can always send those questions to us at [norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org](mailto:norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org).)

**“*Norwood News* Celebrates 25th Birthday!”** Born in the fall of 1988, New York's only and finest nonprofit community newspaper will be celebrating our 25th year of publishing in 2013. We'll be doing a variety of events and activities to commemorate this milestone, which we'll let you know about along the way. In the meantime, we'll continue to provide the in-depth hyper-local coverage you've come to expect from us over the past quarter century.

Here's to all of our readers fulfilling their individual goals in 2013!

## Letters to the Editor

### Not Just Skating Rinks at Armory

First off, Happy New Year fellow Bronxites!

Here we are in the year 2013 and we have [not] yet had a decision made by Economic Development Corporation (EDC) on what is going to eventually happen with our beloved Kingsbridge Armory.

Meanwhile, it seems like there seems to be more development outside of the Armory: a MillionTreesNYC has planted 14 trees on the sidewalk near the Armory and new fences were also put up on 195th Street side of the Armory between Jerome and Reservoir avenues.

Well, those who know me already know how I feel about what should be done with the Kingsbridge Armory.

If not, this is my opinion.

I feel that after years of numerous rallies, proposals, protests and hearings over how to best redevelop the historic Kingsbridge Armory the New York City's Economic Development Corporation should not only make a selection that will create jobs and generate economic opportunities in the Bronx but also listen to the Kingsbridge community needs.

The Kingsbridge Ice Center proposal of nine Olympic-sized ice rinks (or maybe less), includes one 4,000-5,000-seat arena to be used for ice sports like hockey, figure skating, and speed skating [which] is seriously not something that the community needs or wants.

Frankly, I feel ice hockey is an expensive sport and would be out of reach and interest especially for the kids in this community.

Whereas, the other proposal submitted by Young Woo & Associates, which is a mixed-use project called, Mercado Mirabo, will have a concert venue, sports stadium, a rock climbing wall, a six-screen movie theater and a creative mar-

ket that would allow local vendors and entrepreneurs an opportunity to develop their businesses. It will also have community space for various non-profit groups/organizations.

It will be similar to their DeKalb Market in Brooklyn (which I had the pleasure and opportunity to visit), where they took a vacant lot and turned it into a prosperous local market using recycled shipping containers.

Not just ice skating rinks.

In conclusion, in the next couple of weeks, months, hopefully not years, after all is said, done and decided, I am hopeful that we are going to have a redeveloped Kingsbridge Armory, where there's a living wage, more options than just ice skating rinks for the community and most importantly for it to become a destination point for us all.

Thank you.

**Richard Liriano**

(posted online Jan. 4, 2013)

### Release Shackled Schools

The major stranglehold, in my view, blocking any serious improvement in public education arises out of the fact it operates as a monopoly. And like any monopoly, public or private, there are no consequences for poor performance and the kids (the customers) are prisoners of a failed system.

Our kids will struggle after leaving school if they can't write a simple declarative sentence, read, write and think critically.

To those who might say there is no problem at schools like [DeWitt] Clinton [H.S.], I say: “There is a problem. Your kid can't read or write.”

The schools need to serve the kids. We have to release our teachers, principals, parents and kids from the prison of this public monopoly.

**Gene Roman, Bronx Resident**



# Classifieds

## Professional Directory

### Pediatric Services

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and Thursdays.

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### Lawyers

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### Non-Denominational Services

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

### LEGAL NOTICE

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. A&E COUTURE COLLECTION, LLC.** Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on October 9, 2012. NY Office location at 4350 Furman Avenue, Suite 1K, Bronx County. Secretary of State NY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State of New York shall mail a

copy of process to the LLC, A&E COUTURE COLLECTION, 4350 Furman Avenue, Suite 1K, Bronx, NY 10466. Purpose: For any lawful activity.

### HELP WANTED

**District Manager Position:** Available at Community Board #7. Description and requirements are available at [www.Bronx-CB7.info](http://www.Bronx-CB7.info).

**Part Time Payment Collection Representative:** Great opportunity which takes little of your time, and can pay \$2800 a month plus benefits. Please email [gynde112@gmail.com](mailto:gynde112@gmail.com) or [mathkroel@gmail.com](mailto:mathkroel@gmail.com).

### REAL ESTATE

**One-Bedroom Co-op for Sale:** 1st floor apt., low maintenance, 1 block from Montefiore Hospital. Quick access to all buses: i.e. #34 and trains. \$110k. Call (917) 517-0172 (Ray) or (347) 427-4774.

**One Bedroom Condo for Rent:** In Parkchester by owner. \$1,100.00 rent, Section 8 OK. Near transportation. For more information, please contact Eddie at (718) 757-5485.

### 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.

### MISCELLANEOUS

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

## Neighborhood Notes

### Join Your Community Board

Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. invites Bronx residents to make a difference in their community by joining their local community board. Diaz's office will be accepting applications for all 12 community boards from city residents who reside, work or have professional or other significant interest in the Bronx. Applications are available at Diaz's Community Board office (CB7, 229A E. 204th St.). Applications are also available online at [bronxboropres.nyc.gov](http://bronxboropres.nyc.gov). The deadline for submission is Feb. 8. For more information, call the BP's office, (718) 590-3914 or Community Board 7, (718) 933-5650.

### BRIO Deadline Coming

The submission deadline for the Bronx Council on the Arts' BRIO (Bronx Recognizes Its Own) awards is Friday, Jan. 25 at 11:59 p.m. This year marks 24 years of BRIO Fellowships demonstrating the Bronx Council on the Arts' ongoing outreach and support to artists creating work in the literary, media, performing, and visual arts. The application and guidelines for the 2013 BRIO awards is available online at [www.bronxarts.org](http://www.bronxarts.org). Application assistance and tips on presenting your work professionally is available at two remaining free BRIO workshops: Saturday, Jan. 12, from 3 to 5 p.m., at Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd.; and Friday, Jan. 18, from 6 to 8 p.m., at Hostos Community College's Longwood Art Gallery, 450 Grand Concourse. RSVP at [www.bronxarts.org](http://www.bronxarts.org). Available are individual consultations by appointment only with BRIO administrator; and for literary

applicants: one-on-one, half-hour consultations with Bronx Writers Center director to help prepare your manuscript for BRIO. For more information, call (718) 931-9500 ext. 35 or e-mail [BRIO@bronxarts.org](mailto:BRIO@bronxarts.org).

### SNAP Benefits

You may be eligible for SNAP benefits. SNAP, the new name for the Food Stamps program, helps to put food on the table for over 2.4 million New Yorkers each month. SNAP is a federally funded entitlement program, similar to social security. There is no state or local contribution towards the costs of benefits. Every dollar spent in SNAP at your local grocery store generates a \$1.84 in economics revenue for your community. Recent changes in the program make it even easier for working families to apply, including the possibility of applying online. For more information or for a free confidential pre-screening to find out if you are eligible, please contact Mosholu Montefiore Community Center's Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP) at [vsantos@mmcc.org](mailto:vsantos@mmcc.org) or call (718) 882-4000 ext. 304.

### Stop Smoking Program

North Central Bronx Hospital, 3424 Kossuth Ave., offers free group counseling and nicotine replacement therapy for smokers looking to quit. No appointments are needed or required, walk-ins are welcome. The smoking cessation program runs weekdays at 10 a.m. or 2 p.m. in room 13A12. For more information, call (718) 519-2425/2490.

For more Neighborhood Notes online, go to [www.norwoodnews.org](http://www.norwoodnews.org) and click on "Neighborhood Notes."



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**2008 AUDI A4 QUATTRO**  
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**2011 BMW 328i**  
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**2010 AUDI A6 QUATTRO**  
Stk#5786U, 6cyl, auto, ABS, AWD, p/w/l/s/b/sts/m, sunrtr, lthr, alloys, a/c, AM/FM/6CD/XM, 46k mi. BUY FOR \$31,900.....OWN FOR **\$429** PER MO\*\*

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# Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

## Onstage

■ The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., W., presents **Paul Rodriguez and Terry Hodges**, Jan. 12 (tickets are \$25 to \$45); and **Ultimate Doo Wop**, Jan. 19, featuring a variety of performers (tickets are \$35 to \$50); each at 8 p.m. For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

■ The Uptown Coffeehouse, c/o City Island Community Center (lower level), 190 Fordham St., City Island, presents **singer/guitarist Cliff Eberhardt**, Jan. 13 at 6 p.m. Admission is \$15; \$5/children under 12; Bronx Cultural Cards are accepted. For more information, call (718) 885-2955.

■ 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 [www.bronxmusic.org](http://www.bronxmusic.org) for details). For more information, call (718) 793-2211.

## Events

■ Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center, 260 E. 207th St. (between Bainbridge and Perry avenues), offers a series of **free dance workshops** including an introductory session of Zumba, Jan. 12 from 2 to 2:30 and on Jan. 19 at 4:30 p.m.; and hip-hop on Jan. 19 at 3:30 p.m. Also featured on Jan. 19 will be a special performance at 6:45 p.m. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call (718) 652-6256 or visit [www.mind-builders.org](http://www.mind-builders.org).

■ The Bronx Council on the Arts and the Huntington Free Library present **Journal Making**, a free workshop at the library, 9 Westchester Square, Jan. 19 from 12:30 to 3 p.m. Recycled items will be used, so bring images, fabric or other items to make your journal special. For more information, call (718) 931-9500 ext. 33 or (718) 829-7770.

■ The Academy of Mount St. Ursula presents **Community Night** at the Blue Moon Mexican Café, Bronxville, Englewood, Woodcliff Lake, and Wyckoff, Jan. 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., offering lunch, dinner, takeout and deliv-

ery. There will be 20 percent of your bill (excluding tax and gratuity) donated to AMSU. Please confirm donation information in advance. Check website for locations and hours: [www.blumoonmexicancafe.com](http://www.blumoonmexicancafe.com).

■ Historian/publisher Dr. G. Hermalyn, will speak at the Riverdale Library, 5540 Mosholu Ave. at West 256th Street, **"Celebrating Edgar Allan Poe's Birthday,"** Jan. 17 at 5 p.m. For more information, call (718) 549-1212.

■ Trinity Baptist Church and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. invite the public to **Remembering the Legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, Jan. 21 at 10 a.m. at the church, 808 E. 224th St. (between Barnes and Bronxwood avenues). For more information and to RSVP, call (718) 590-3989.

■ The New York Botanical Garden presents **Tropical Paradise**, a collection of tropical trees, flowers, and foliage in its Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Jan. 19 through Feb. 24. Docent-led tours are held daily at 12:30 p.m. Children can participate in a scavenger hunt that begins in the Conservatory and continues in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden. For more information, call (718) 817-8700.

■ Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Arts Projects**: Hibernator's Den, to listen to seasonal tales and music, followed by making an animal mask or an animal home, Jan. 12 and 13 (free all weekend, thanks to a Target grant); and Freedom Pillows, to make a pillowcase from cloth, yarn and felt, in the spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr., Jan. 19 and 20; both in the Ecology Building, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Additional events on free weekend: **Winter Workspace**: to create drawings and paintings (art materials provided; registration is recommended at ext. 305), in the Glyndor Gallery, Jan. 12 from 1 to 4 p.m. and Jan. 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and **Winter Birding**: Guided tour on Jan. 13 (meet at Perkins Visitor Center at 9:30 a.m.), to observe birds for ages 10 and older (severe weather cancels; check ext. 245 by 8 a.m. day of the walk). **Workshops in the Glyndor Gallery** (materials are provided; preregister at ext. 305 or at the Perkins Visitor Center): Vistas in Motion, to learn animation techniques, Jan. 20, from 1 to 4 p.m.; and Nature Through Glass, to create a



Photo courtesy Lehman Center

**KENNY VANCE** and the Planetones play Lehman Center on Saturday, Jan. 19 as part of a night of "Ultimate Doo Wop." See details in Onstage.

snow globe, Jan. 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Grounds admission is free Saturdays until noon, and free Tuesdays in January 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.

## Exhibits

■ The Bronx County Historical Society's Museum of Bronx History at the Valentine-Varian House, 3266 Bainbridge Ave., presents **Hail to the Chief** and **Hooray for Our Side**, through April 7. For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

■ The Bronx Documentary Center, 614 Courtlandt Ave., presents **Seis Del Sur**, free exhibition of photographs from Jan. 19 at 4 p.m. through March 8. For more information, call (347) 332-6962 or visit [www.bronx-doc.org](http://www.bronx-doc.org).

## Library Events

■ The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents programs for adults including **Free Computer Classes at 2 p.m.**: Online registration required: MS Power Point 2010 (two sessions), Jan. 11 at 2 p.m. and Jan. 17 at 5 p.m.; MS Excel 2010 (two sessions), Jan. 14; and Internet for Beginners, Jan. 22; **Free BRIO Information Session**: By the Bronx Council on the Arts, Jan. 12 at 3 p.m.; **Featured Database: Lawhelp.org**: Online registration required, Jan. 14 at 2 p.m.; **Success Over Survival**: Workshop for business owners, Jan. 15 at 10 a.m.; **Cell Phone Buying Guide**: Online registration required, Jan. 17 at 2 p.m.; **Film at 2:30**

**p.m.**: "To Kill a Mockingbird," Jan. 19; **Single Stop/Government Benefits at 9 a.m.**: Jan. 10, 15, 17, 22 and 24; and **Tax Help**: Jan. 22 at 5 p.m. and Jan. 24 at 10 a.m. Teens and young adults can join **ARTistic Teens at 3:30 p.m.**: Jan. 11 and 18; and **Comets**: Jan. 10 at 3 p.m. Children can enjoy **Buttons, Buttons Everywhere**: (ages 5 to 12), Jan. 12 at 2 p.m.; **Films**: Jan. 15 and 22 at 4 p.m.; **Global Partners Junior at 4 p.m.**: (ages 5 to 12: phone or in-person registration required), Jan. 16 and 23; **Snowman Book Making**: Jan. 17 at 4 p.m.; **African Dance and Folk Tales**: (ages 5 to 12), Jan. 19 at 2 p.m.; and **Preschool Story Time at 11 a.m.**: Jan. 10, 17 and 24. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org).

■ The Mosholu Library, at 285 E. 205th St., offers for seniors and adults: **Knitting Circle**: Thursdays at 3 p.m.; **Wii Program**: Tuesdays at 3 p.m.; and **Computer Mouse Basics** (advance in-person registration required), Jan. 23 at 10:30 a.m. Teens and young adults can attend **Arts & Crafts**: Jan. 22 at 4 p.m. Children can enjoy **Toddler Story Time at 10:30 a.m.**: (ages 18 to 36 months), Jan. 10 and 17; **Read Aloud**: (ages 3 to 12), Jan. 14 at 4 p.m.; and **The Paper Bag Players Workshop at 4 p.m.**: (ages 5 to 12), Jan. 15 and 22. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

■ The Jerome Park Library, at 118 Eames Place, offers **Arts & Crafts**: (ages 5 to 12), Jan. 14 at 4 p.m.; **Toddler Story Time**: (ages 18 to 36 months), Jan. 16 at 11 a.m.; and **Film**: (ages 5 to 12), Jan. 22 at 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

**NOTE:** Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to [norwood-news@norwoodnews.org](mailto:norwood-news@norwoodnews.org), and should be received by Jan. 14 for the next publication date of Jan. 24.

## EDITOR'S PICK

### Celebrate Winter at the Oval

Bronx Recreation will hold its free 3rd annual **Winterfest at Williamsbridge Oval**, Jan. 19 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., featuring football clinics, basketball drills, fitness demonstrations, activities, games, live entertainment, and more. For more information, call (718) 430-1824/5.





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\*ALLIED HEALTH ONLY snow date: 2/1 at CUNY on Conc., 3rd fl.,  
2501 Grand Concourse., Bronx, NY 10468

**Thursday, January 31, 6:30 pm**

snow date: 2/5 at Lehman campus, Music Bdg., 1st fl.,  
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