

NORWOOD NEWS

Be Healthy

Learn How to
Avoid Skin Cancer
page 5

Vol. 26, No. 11 ■ PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION ■ May 30–June 12, 2013

THE BRONX DOESN'T STOP FOR RAIN



Photo by David Greene

MEMBERS OF Community Board 7, which includes the neighborhoods of Fordham, Norwood, Bedford Park, Fordham-Bedford, Kingsbridge Heights and University Heights, brave the weather and happily march in the rain-soaked Bronx Day Parade on Mosholu Parkway on Sunday, May 19. For more watery photos, see page 8. For Community Board 7 news, see page 2.

With Armory Ice Center, Problems Solved

By ALEX KRATZ

Kevin Parker did not set out to create the world's largest ice sports complex inside the Kingsbridge Armory. Like any parent, the former Wall Street executive says he just wanted to solve a problem for his kids.

"The whole impetus was my kids, playing hockey in New York City, and experiencing first hand, what it's like trying to play ice sports here," he says. "It's a nightmare."

There are only seven full-sized ice rinks in the five boroughs and they are so heavily used that it's almost impossible to find consistent ice time, Parker says. His two sons, now 12 and 10 years old, have traveled to Westchester, New Jersey and Connecticut to find ice time.

"There is a seriously acute lack of ice," he says.

But why?

Parker began asking around in search of an answer and stumbled onto an historic project that not only solved his kids' problem, but also solved the conundrum of what to do with the long-suffering, long-vacant Kingsbridge Armory.

Debunking a Myth

Back in 2010, when Parker first started talking to people, (continued on page 4)

NW Bronx Organizers Celebrate Victory in Long Armory Fight

By ALEX KRATZ

The Reverend Que English, a member of the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition who spent countless hours over several months hammering out what is believed to be the strongest community bene-



Photo by Alex Kratz

CLOSE TO 100 people rally in front of the Kingsbridge Armory to celebrate a benefits agreement signed between community groups and the Kingsbridge National Ice Center developers.

fits in the history of New York City, stood in front of the Kingsbridge Armory and claimed victory.

"We did it!" she yelled, drawing a big round of applause from about 100 people, many of them current and former members of the Coalition, a nonprofit group that has advocated for responsible development of the Armory for some 15 years.

Then, drawing even bigger cheers: "You did it!"

English, along with Alice McIntosh and Desiree Pilgrim-Hunter, all volunteer members of the Coalition, formed the trio of negotiators who worked on the community benefits agreement between the developers of the Kingsbridge National Ice Center (KNIC) and the Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Alliance (KARA), which includes more than 30 community groups.

Several leaders from those groups, which include several churches, an association of street vendors and a green worker cooperative, also spoke at the rally on the morning of May 20. They all said the agreement realized a huge victory for the community and the Bronx as well as marking a change in how development projects play out in New York neighborhoods.

"We are celebrating a new era of economic develop- (continued on page 12)

Debate Focused On Riverdale Issues

By ALEX KRATZ

During a calm, thoughtful forum on environmental issues for candidates in the race to replace term-limited Oliver Koppell in the 11th Council District, the focus was on Riverdale.

There were several reasons for this: The forum was held in at the Riverdale Y, nestled deep in the heart of northwestern Riverdale; all of the panelists and organizers were Riverdadians; only one of the three candidates doesn't live in Riverdale.

In fact, Cliff Stanton, who lives in Van Cortlandt Village, was the only candidate to mention areas not directly connected to Riverdale.

He made a big point out of it too, saying the person elected to the district, which also includes parts of Van Cortlandt Village, Kingsbridge Heights, Norwood, Bedford Park, Woodlawn and Wakefield, should be a council member to the whole district, not just the "land of milk (continued on page 6)

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BREAKING BRONX



News • Politics • Policy

Community Board 7 Chairman Foster Stepping Aside

After serving two terms, Paul Foster, the chairman of Community Board 7, which includes the neighborhoods of Norwood, Bedford Park, Fordham-Bedford, University Heights and Kingsbridge Heights, announced last week at the monthly general board meeting that he will not be running for re-election again.

A strong believer in term limits, Foster said his decision came from a leadership standpoint. He said long-term leadership doesn't develop everyone, explaining that he wanted to make sure he wasn't "blocking" anyone's opportunity to grow.

"The best way to develop leaders is to put people in positions where they will have to make decisions," the chairman said, adding that he has always believed in developing the community through strong leadership and that his stepping down as chair will give new breaks to new leaders.

Still, Foster isn't going anywhere.

"I will remain a member of the board," Foster said, jokingly, "making sure I give people a hard time."

Foster served as first vice chair before taking on the chairman position four years ago.

The board also nominated several board members for their upcoming elections at next month's meeting on Tuesday, June 18. First Vice Chair Adaline Walker and Parks and Recreation Chair William Francis were both nominated for Foster's position.

—SARA REGALADO

Board Hopes to Fill Vacant District Manager Position Soon

The search for a new district manager at Community Board 7 is still on, but board leaders said it will come to an official close at the end of May.

Board 7 has survived without a district manager since last October when Fernando Tirado, the previous district manager, left his position for a job at Sustainable Long Island, a non-profit organization promoting economic development and environmental health.

Board Chairman Paul Foster, who will not return for a third term, said that the search has been lengthy because the board wanted to review all of the applicants carefully.

"We had a couple of people apply, but we had to carefully look at each applicant's qualifications," Foster said. "We also wanted to make sure there were no conflicts of interest."

The vacant position will be filled before the board goes on its summer break and before the chairman finishes his term, he said.

The board says it will make a decision on which applicants will be selected to be called in for interviews by June. Foster said he does not want to leave his position without finding someone to properly fill

the position.

The summer break will permit the new district manager a transition period while also allowing him/her to become acquainted with his/her position, just in time for September, Foster said.

Former chairperson to Bronx Neighborhood Advisory Board 2, Charlie Samboy, spoke at the meeting, saying he was a candidate for the job. George Diaz, the Community Relations Liaison Designee for Councilman Oliver Koppell, also said he was a candidate for the position.

—SARA REGALADO

Campaign Finance Breakdown

The elections are coming up and there are a lot of candidates for the City Council positions, especially in the competitive 11th and 15th districts, both in the north-west Bronx.

In the 11th District, which covers Bedford Park and Norwood, there are four candidates running for City Council. Andrew Cohen is currently seeing the most financial contributions so far in the campaign. He has received a total of \$91,927 so far in his campaign from his 241 contributors. Most of his funding has come from New York residents who have contributed about \$64,252. He's also been able to hold on to most of his finances, spending only \$14,754 leaving most of his campaign finances intact. He has an estimated balance of \$77,173.

Cheryl Keeling and Clifford Stanton are the other two candidates running in the 11th District. Stanton has raised a total of \$57,361 for his campaign, while Keeling has only raised about \$13,715. Stanton has spent the most out of anyone in his campaign: \$38,380 total, leaving him with about \$18,981 as his current balance. Keeling has spent \$13,382 leaving her with only \$333.

The 15th District which covers the Fordham-Bedford area as well as Belmont, West Farms and Crotona, had a total of eight candidates running. However, candidates William Rivera and Yudelka

Tapia have both dropped from the race. The six other candidates who are currently running are Kenneth G. Agosto, Albert Alvarez, Joel M. Bauza, Joel R. Rivera, Cynthia Thompkins, and Ritchie Torres.

Torres, who recently opened a campaign office in Belmont, has raised the most funding for his campaign so far. He has been able to raise a total of \$78,946, with about \$57,261 coming from residents of the city. In total, he has spent \$12,883 on his campaign leaving him with \$66,063 left in the tank.

Bauza is the other candidate who has raised a significant amount of money. He has raised \$56,422 total for his campaign, with only about \$24,636 coming from residents of the city. Despite having the second most amount of funding in the 15th District race however, he has spent barely any of it on his campaign so far. Only \$82 has been spent, leaving him with a total balance of \$56,340.

Alvarez and Rivera have both raised \$21,427 and \$25,535 respectively. Thompkins has raised about \$6,956 of campaign funding.

Agosto has seen the smallest amount of financial contributions on his campaign, raising only \$520 and spending none of it on his campaign so far. At a recent meeting of the Liberty Democratic Club, which Agosto helped found, Torres was voted in as the club's candidate of choice.

—HUGH THORNHILL

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Public and Community Meetings

- The CROTON FACILITY MONITORING COMMITTEE will meet on Thursday, June 6, at 7 p.m. at the DEP office, 3660 Jerome Ave.
- The BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION will meet on Wednesday, June 5, at 8 p.m. at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. So. #B1 (lobby floor). All are welcome.
- COMMUNITY BOARD 7 is scheduled to hold its general board meeting on June 18 at its board office, 229A E. 204th St. For time and more information, call (718) 933-5650 or visit bronxcb7.info/calendar.
- COMMUNITY BOARD 7 committee meetings are held on the following dates at the board office, 229A E. 204th St. at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted: Traffic & Transportation, June 13; Youth Services/Public Safety & QOL at St. James Recreation Center located at 2530 Jerome Ave., June 14; Health and Hospitals, June 17 at 6 p.m.; Housing, June 17. For more information, call (718) 933-5650 or visit bronxcb7.info/calendar.
- COMMUNITY BOARD 7 is scheduled to hold its Youth Services/Public Safety & QOL Charter Parent Action Network (C-PAN) presentation on June 5 at 6:30 p.m. For location and more information, call (718) 933-5650 or visit bronxcb7.info/calendar.

Police Report

Infant Death Being Investigated

On Saturday morning, May 25, an unconscious and unresponsive 4-week-old boy was brought into North Central Bronx Hospital by his parents. The infant, identified as Maximus Mussenden of DeKalb Avenue, was pronounced dead on arrival by hospital personnel, who called police.

Police officials say they are investigating and waiting to hear from the Medical Examiner to determine a cause of death.

In 2006, 4-year-old Quachaun Brown, who also lived nearby, on Kossuth Avenue, was taken to North Central in a similar state of trauma. His mother and boyfriend were eventually convicted of manslaughter in that case after it was discovered that Quachaun had been severely beaten in the days leading up to his death.

—ALEX KRATZ



Photo courtesy NYPD

POLICE ARE STILL trying to identify a dead man with a distinctive tattoo who was found in the East River in early May. At this point, police believe he drowned.

tives are still waiting for the results of toxicology reports before officially declaring a cause of death. —ALEX KRATZ

Police: Looks Like Tattooed Dead Man Drowned

At this point, police are not treating the death of a man found in the East River behind West 225th Street as a homicide.

Inspector Joseph Dowling, the commander of the 52nd Precinct, said it appears that the man, who was found floating in the East River in early May and has a distinctive tattoo on his left shoulder, has yet to be identified.

Because there were no outward signs of struggle on his body, Dowling said it appears the man drowned. He said detec-

Bronx Pedestrians in Peril on the Concourse

In three separate incidents where pedestrians were struck by cars in a short seven-hour period, including two along the Grand Concourse, one person was killed and six others injured — some of them severely.

According to police, two children were crossing the Concourse at East 167th Street just after 9 a.m. on Friday, May 17, when they were struck by a silver BMW traveling northbound. The unidentified pair of youngsters were rushed to a local

hospital with severe head trauma.

Police say the driver remained at the scene and no criminality is suspected.

Later that afternoon, just after 3:30 p.m., officers from the NYPD's Accident Investigation Squad were called back to the Grand Concourse, after an out-of-control SUV struck three people in the Mt. Eden neighborhood.

Police say Zuleimi Torres, 16, was crossing the Concourse with a friend at East 172nd Street when she was struck by a Chevy SUV, also heading northbound.

Zuleimi was rushed to St. Barnabas Hospital where she was declared dead on arrival by hospital staff. The unidentified friend, a 16-year-old girl, was recovering at the same hospital and was listed in "satisfactory condition."

The vehicle struck a third person, a 51-year-old woman. Recovering at Bronx Lebanon Hospital, she was initially reported in serious condition, but has been upgraded to stable.

The driver was immediately brought to the 45th Precinct for a court-ordered blood test, but that test apparently came back negative for alcohol.

A third serious crash took place that same day, at 2:45 p.m., at the intersection of Westchester and Morrison avenues. Two children, ages 9 and 11, were struck. The pair was transported to Jacobi Hospital in critical condition.

Meanwhile, detectives continue to hunt for the driver who struck and killed a man in Fordham Heights. The victim, Nelson Martinez, 61, was crossing the Concourse



Photo by David Greene

INVESTIGATORS INSPECT the out-of-control SUV that ran down three people on the Grand Concourse.

at Field Place back on March 2, when the vehicle struck him and continued to travel southbound at a high rate of speed.

Martinez died at St. Barnabas Hospital on Sunday, March 17, as a result of the injuries he suffered in the crash.

—DAVID GREENE

Editor's Note: Anyone with information on the hit-and-run is asked to call CrimeStoppers at 1 (800) 577-TIPS.



Facebook Photo

ZULEIMI TORRES, 16, was struck and killed crossing the Grand Concourse on Friday, May 17.

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With Armory Ice Center, Problems Solved

(continued from page 1)

ple about why there aren't more ice rinks in the city, he says the response was usually, "you can't make any money in ice sports."

That didn't make any sense to Parker, who's spent his career brokering mega deals at some of the world's largest banks. "It wasn't like starting Google or something," he says. "I took it as a direct challenge."

Parker says he hired "a kid" to figure out the financial model and, after seeing the numbers, he quickly realized that it could work, especially in an ice-starved place like New York City.

The next question was location. Where could you build a couple of rinks and make them accessible?

Fortunately, Parker knew somebody with extensive knowledge of New York real estate who also happened to be a hockey fanatic.

Jonathan Richter, a burly, square-headed man who looks like he could hold his own on the ice or as a linebacker on the gridiron, grew up in Canada playing hockey and rooting for his hometown Toronto Maple Leafs.

Years ago, he worked for Parker, a huge New York Rangers fan who grew up far from an ice rink in New Jersey, at Deutsche Bank doing real estate deals. Parker says Richter's been involved in "\$10 billion" in New York City real estate deals.

In other words, he may be Canadian, but he knows the Big Apple. Or, as Parker puts it: "Real estate expertise joined the band."

Richter not only knew real estate, he knew how to work with the city, having done some pro bono work for the Economic Development Corporation, after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The EDC, a quasi-governmental organization that is controlled by the mayor's office, manages big public land projects, including the Kingsbridge Armory.

"Through Jonathan," Parker says. "I thought something could really happen."

Discovering the Armory

Richter set up a meeting with EDC president Seth Pinsky to discuss possible locations for a couple of ice rinks, maybe "two to four pads," in Parker and Richter's hockey lingo. In the midst of their conversation, Pinsky said, according to Parker: "You know we've got this property in the Bronx. Take a look at it, see what you think."

The next thing they knew, they were on the 4 train, heading up the west side of the Bronx. They stepped off at the Kingsbridge Road stop and saw, looming over everything, the largest Armory in the world. And it was empty.

"Oh my god," Parker remembers thinking. "This is it."

Parker and Richter, who knew a little about the Armory's history, were in awe. They saw something bigger than just a few pads of ice.

"We were blown away," Parker says.

"The outside is monstrous and incredibly impressive. We walked on the drill hall floor and saw there were no columns. The whole vision of what this place could be-

come began to take shape."

They immediately called some architects and engineers to find out what was possible inside such a monstrous structure. That's when the magnitude of the project — creating the world's largest ice facility in the world — became a real and distinct possibility.

In their minds, there was only one thing standing in their way: community opposition.

"They did their homework before coming into this," said Desiree Pilgrim-Hunter, who would eventually sit across the table from Parker and his team of Wall Street power brokers and help negotiate the city's toughest and most expansive community benefits agreement.

A Win-Win

Parker and Richter's team looked at why the last re-development project failed. It was a mega mall by The Related Companies, one of the city's major development firms. They wanted to put a cookie cutter mall, similar to the one they built at the Terminal Market, now Gateway Center, inside the iconic Armory.

The community, led by Pilgrim-Hunter and the Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Alliance (KARA), wasn't specifically against a mall, but wanted it to produce good-paying, living wage jobs (\$10 an hour plus benefits and \$11.50 an hour without benefits) and a strong community benefits agreement.

Local elected officials, led by Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., were on board with KARA and helped kill the plan in the City Council when Related refused to guarantee living wage jobs.

That's why, from the beginning, Parker's plan, which they called the Kingsbridge National Ice Center (often referred to as "Nick" or "K-Nick"), included guaranteed living wage jobs for all of its permanent employees, plus several thousand square-feet of community space as well as a free after-school program for kids.

The only thing missing, Parker says, was "a true community buy-in." That took some work.

They hired a lobbying firm, James F. Capalino & Associates, and paid them nearly \$200,000 to help them deal with

Diaz, other elected officials and KARA. They went to Philadelphia to learn the ins and outs of Philadelphia Flyers owner Ed Snider's successful and free after-school ice sports program for urban youth. And then they started talking to people.

Diaz, Parker says, was skeptical at first, but then, once he heard the pitch, was on board. In August of 2012, several months before the winning bid was announced this spring, Diaz threw his support behind the ice center.

KARA was a tougher cookie to crack, but they had at least one sympathetic ear in Pilgrim-Hunter who actually grew up in Canada and was exposed to the allure and positive impact of ice sports. Still, they wanted a substantial community benefits package to ensure that Parker's team would do what it said it would do and then some.

Parker talks about Pilgrim-Hunter and her other lead negotiators, Reverend Que English and Alice McIntosh, like a proud parent.

"They stood up for what they believed in was right," Parker says. "Fortunately, what they believed in, was what we believed. We disagreed about very little."

Still, the devil is in the details and they fought over those details fiercely.

"It was maddening and frustrating and many a beer was had trying to calm down every team member on this side," Parker says.

But in the end, the benefits agreement, which is being hailed as one of the strongest in the entire country, includes living wage jobs, 52,000-square-feet of community space, environmentally-friendly building design, money for local businesses, local hiring targets and other benefits.

In the end, things worked out for everybody, Parker says. He got his ice rinks, more than doubling the amount of rinks in New York City when they open in 2018. And the community will eventually get good-paying jobs and center of activity to lift up the surrounding area.

"I wouldn't have done it any other way," he says. "They had one chance to get the Armory right — one chance. The community should be proud of the people they put in place to protect these situations."

Problem solved.

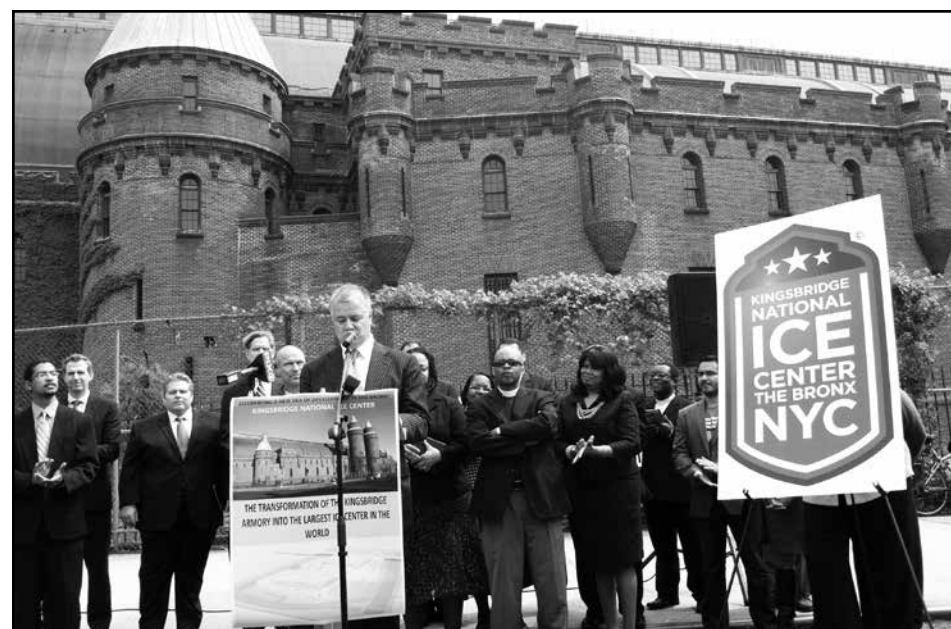


Photo by Alex Kratz

KEVIN PARKER, co-founder of the Kingsbridge National Ice Center, speaks in front of the Kingsbridge Armory at a rally to celebrate the community benefits agreement signed by his team and more than 30 community groups that make up the Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Alliance.



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Be Healthy

Skin Cancer Does Not Discriminate, Exposure Can Damage Anyone

Fair skinned people are known to be at higher risk for skin cancer and other problems associated with too much exposure to the sun, but they are not alone. People of color also are vulnerable to the harmful effects of ultraviolet (UV) rays emitted by the sun and indoor tanning beds. During National Melanoma/Skin Cancer Awareness Month and throughout the summer, people of all ethnic backgrounds are encouraged to learn about their skin cancer risk and the benefits of sun safety.

“Darker skin has more pigment-making cells, which provide some inherent protection against UV rays, but not enough,” said Dr. Adam Friedman, M.D., director of dermatologic research, Division of Dermatology, Montefiore Medical Center. “This unique biological difference means harmful effects of UV exposure occur more slowly in people of color, but UV rays are still damaging and can cause cosmetic problems and serious conditions like skin cancer.”

Friedman was among the nationally recognized skincare experts invited to

speak at the 5th annual Skin of Color Seminar, a medical symposium focusing on the top dermatologic issues for patients of color. His presentation focused on sun protection for skin of color and included the following important information for patients to keep in mind:

- While skin cancer is rarer in people of color, it does occur and can be extremely serious when diagnosis is delayed. For example, melanoma, the most deadly form of skin cancer, is 20 times more common in whites than in African Americans, but people with darker skin are at greater risk of late diagnosis with advanced, thicker melanomas and lower survival rates.

- Traditional sunscreens, especially those containing mineral-based agents like titanium dioxide and zinc oxide, do not blend well when used on darker skin and can leave a white, chalky appearance. Fortunately, new formulations are available. People should use SPF 30 broad-spectrum sunscreen products that contain either “micronized” or “nanosized”

THE MONTEFIORE EINSTEIN

Center for Heart and Vascular Care held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 6 for the opening of its newest heart center at the Wakefield Campus. The new facility, located just north of the Wakefield Campus at 4256 Bronx Blvd., will provide patients with a space for their heart healthcare needs. The Center offers advanced capabilities such as a nuclear camera for scans, an ultrasound room for echo (heart sonograms) and vascular studies, a stress test room, two exam rooms and physician offices “We are so pleased to be expanding the reach of the Montefiore Einstein Center for Heart and Vascular Care,” said Steven M. Safyer, MD, CEO and President of Montefiore Medical Center. “This new site brings needed comprehensive patient-centered cardiac care to the Wakefield Community – making it easier for people to get the best care close to home.” Pictured (l to r): Victor Schuster, M.D., chair, Department of Medicine; Steven M. Safyer, M.D., president and CEO; and Mario J. Garcia, M.D., chief, Division of Cardiology, co-director, Montefiore Einstein Center for Heart and Vascular Care.



Photo courtesy Montefiore Medical Center

(meaning small) particles of zinc oxide or titanium dioxide because they blend well into the skin and are highly effective at blocking UV radiation.

- People often say they avoid sunscreen because it prevents them from getting vitamin D from the sun, which they believe is the best source. While vitamin D is very important, getting it from harmful UV radiation is not the way to go. Remaining vigilant about sun exposure is a must, especially during peak hours between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

“You can enjoy the best of both worlds — use sunscreen when you spend time outdoors and take a vitamin D supplement, which is a very effective way to get adequate daily intake,” Friedman said.

“Sunscreen alone is not enough to protect you from skin cancer. I encourage all my patients to seek shade, and wear hats, sunglasses and protective clothing.”

- Sunscreen ingredients become ineffective over time, so make sure the products are current.

“Sunscreens have expiration dates, so throw away any products if you question when they were purchased,” he said.

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer and accounts for nearly half of all cancer diagnoses in the United States. Although risk levels vary among skin types, preventive measures can significantly minimize sun damage and the potential for skin cancer to develop.

—Source: Montefiore Medical Center

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Debate Focused on Riverdale Issues

(continued from page 1)

and honey” that is Riverdale.

He also mentioned Williamsbridge Oval Park as an area in need of improvements, only he called it “Williamsburg” Oval. Twice.

Still, Stanton has openly courted the outside of Riverdale vote, making appearances at rallies in Norwood and Bedford Park and winning an endorsement from the Northwest Bronx Democrats. (Although it should be not-

ed that Anthony Riveccio, the founder of the Northwest Bronx Democrats, has been paid for working on Stanton’s campaign.)

In talking about other environmentally-friendly ideas outside of Riverdale, Stanton also mentioned having regular car-free days on the Grand Concourse, which have happened only occasionally over the years.

When asked what he would do for areas outside of Riverdale, Andrew Cohen, who has the backing of almost ev-

ery Bronx elected official, several unions and most Democratic mayoral candidates, talked about improvements to Van Cortlandt Park, which, he says, connects to almost all areas of the district.

For her part, Cheryl “Shelly” Keeling, a 61-year-old track coach and business woman who is in impeccable shape (and mentioned that several times), talked about bringing the city’s new bike share program to the district.

Stanton also endorsed the bike share program, while Cohen was kind of luke warm on the idea, saying Riverdale was very “hilly” and that he often walked his bike up Riverdale Avenue. Keeling, on the other hand, said she always biked up Riverdale Avenue.



Photo by Alex Kratz

THE CANDIDATES for the 11th Council District field questions from panelists at a forum on environmental issues in Riverdale.

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Inquiring Photographer

By DAVID GREENE

This week we asked readers if they have ever been told they look like someone famous.



Yes, someone told me I look like that baseball player, I forgot his name now. Oh, the Yankees' Bernie Williams. But they never let me in to the game for free.

Luis Martinez



I don't know why, but people always tell me I look like Whoopi Goldberg, but I don't see it.

Diane Hammitt



A few people have said I look like Sophia Loren or Jacqueline Kennedy. They said that I had some of their features, other beautiful women too. I'd like to think that way. I'd like to have their money.

Diana Bento



Somebody once said I look like [actor] Art Carney. This was years ago, because I had hair on my head. I knew Carney because he use to bowl in the same bowling alley in Mt. Vernon. So I told this guy, yes, I said he was my brother.

Marvin Segal



Many people tell me I look like Dominic Chianese and I say yeah, I do. Guys came up to me in a bar and bought me drinks and everything.

Daniel DiStefano

BORICUA COLLEGE



Established in the early 1970s, Boricua College focuses on the needs of Puerto Rican and Latino students in New York City, while serving a diverse population of students from all over the metro area. Fields of study include childhood education, human services, business administration, liberal arts and sciences, and inter-American studies. ♦ The college employs one of the largest concentrations of Latino bilingual professionals in the city, including 130 full-time and 100 part-time faculty and staff members. Boricua is a broad-based source of expert knowledge about Latin America, the Caribbean and the experience of Puerto Rican and Latino immigrants in the Big Apple. ♦ The most exciting new development is the Bronx Campus, a 14-story tower that houses the college's academic and administrative offices as well as a 260-seat theater, a museum, a cultural center, a library, a high school, a college prep program, and an after-school program for children of Boricua students. ♦ The new vertical campus can serve 2,000 full-time students and will be a part of Boricua Village, which includes 700 units of affordable and moderate housing, underground parking, retail space and a plaza.

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Rain Can't Wash Out Bronx Week Finale

The extended and action-filled Bronx Week ended in rain on Mosholu Parkway with the annual parade and festival. Despite the nasty conditions, local residents still came out to cheer on the parade participants and enjoy the festivities. We weathered the storm to snap some photos for those who couldn't make it. For more photos, visit us online at norwoodnews.org and search "Bronx Day Parade."



DYLAN PHILIBERT, 4, and Jennifer Diaz enjoy a day of fun despite the rain.



MEMBERS OF the Coa family (above) of Norwood enjoy the annual Bronx Week parade in the rain. A sea of umbrellas (right) converge on an area of concession stands serving up food, entertainment and health information.

Photos by David Greene



ENJOYING THE ANNUAL Bronx Day Parade along Mosholu Parkway are (l-r) 2013 Bronx Walk of Fame inductees former borough president Robert Abrams, actress Ellen Barkin and salsa legend Miguel Angel Amadeo.



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Technology Teacher Talks Chess Program at PS 56

Arafath Kazi, the technology teacher and chess coach for PS 56's medal-winning chess team — the Norwood Knights — reflects on the team's success at the 2013 Chess-in-the-Schools Bronx High School of Science Masterminds Tournament and the school's growing chess program.

NN: When did the program start?

AK: This program started about five years ago as an after-school chess club. Students also had the option to join other extracurricular activities that were available to them, like arts and crafts, debate, cooking, etc. The clubs were available for about one third of the school year—one hour once a week. After learning about the Chess-in-the-Schools (CIS) nonprofit educational organization a few years ago, our first grade teacher, Maureen Longo attended a teacher workshop to represent our school for participation. For our participation, the school received chess supplies from the CIS program and was then aware that tournaments (hosted by the CIS program) were held around the city. This was our third year engaging our chess club students to participate in the tournaments. Thanks to our supportive principal, Priscilla Sheeran, our chess club has now become a chess program, and we are able to serve more students.

NN: What is your personal background in chess?

AK: I have known how to play chess since I was a student in middle school. It has been one of those games that I

never seemed to grow out of. The more I played the more passionate about it I became. When I was a student, I somehow missed the opportunity to join a chess team or participate in CIS tournaments. However, I loved the game so much, that whenever I had the chance, I continued playing pick-up games with my peers throughout high school and college. I also enjoyed teaching chess to family members and friends who were interested in learning. Throughout the years, I developed a great interest in the game and always practiced to improve my knowledge by reading about it, playing online on the computer, playing pick-up games in person, as well as watching other people play. I enjoyed playing chess so much that it became my favorite pastime and now is a passion to teach.

NN: What does it take to be on the chess team?

AK: Most of the students who join the program are between the ages of 8 and 10, and have very little or no knowledge of the game. An important requirement for students who want to join the club in our school is showing good effort in classwork and maintaining an excellent behavior record. So, the students that join are really enthusiastic about learning and that makes a big difference. My students have fun learning and playing the game, and I am glad to lead them to their potential. It has been a wonderful experience for me to pass on the love of learning through chess.



Photo courtesy PS 56

THE NORWOOD KNIGHTS, PS 56's new chess team, celebrate after winning a medal at the 2013 Chess-in-the-Schools Bronx High School of Science Masterminds Tournament.

NN: Is popularity of the game growing within the school?

AK: The popularity of the game within our school has been at its peak ever since we started participating in the CIS tournaments. More and more students are applying to this club every year, and recently, it has expanded within our school. It has increased from two rounds of 12 students in each session to four rounds. It started as a chess club that served about 24 students a year to a full-on chess program that selects about 50 students from 330 students who apply from the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades.

NN: How is chess relevant to student success?

AK: When I was given the opportunity to create a club for the students in PS 56, I proposed a chess club. My mission was to create an awareness of this great game for the students in our school, raise its popularity, as well as help students become critical thinkers, problem solvers, and independent thinkers. I take great pride in teaching kids how to play chess, because I strongly believe it will have a positive influence on their future.

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Opinion

Op-Ed

Participatory Budgeting to Cure Political Apathy

By ELISABETH VON UHL

Participatory Budgeting has been hailed as the remedy for disenfranchised and disillusioned voters. The progressive policy is used to distribute a council district's discretionary funding while engaging and educating those who feel their votes will yield no tangible, effective results in their community's political landscape.

Participatory Budgeting was first used in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in 1989, to counteract the deep inequalities in the living standards of its residents. Unsurprisingly, Participatory Budgeting engaged the one-third of residents who lived in the slums of Porto Alegre, who lacked access to their city's amenities and shunned political activism.

Since then, Participatory Budgeting, whose three core principles are transparency, equity, and inclusion, is practiced in many cities and towns in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America. In the United Kingdom and the Dominican Republic, all local governments must implement Participatory Budgeting.

Currently, in New York City, eight council members presiding over diverse districts -- including Melissa Mark-Viverito, whose district includes parts of Mott Haven (an area with a large Hispanic pop-

ulation) in the South Bronx; Brad Lander, whose district includes Park Slope and Kensington (a Bangladeshi enclave); and Stephan Levin, whose district includes Williamsburg (with its Hasidic population), Vinegar Hill, and DUMBO -- use Participatory Budgeting to engage their constituents.

Now, as the race for the City Council seat in District 11 heats up, all declared Democratic candidates (Andrew Cohen,

trict's bus stops.

Participatory Budgeting takes, at least, one million of a city member's discretionary funding and allows their constituents to develop plans for that money. Once these plans are vetted by city agencies and the Council member's staff, constituents then vote on which plans should be funded that year. Anyone over 16 years of age can vote and they only need to provide proof that they are residents of a certain

Now, as the race for the City Council seat in District 11 heats up, all declared Democratic candidates (Andrew Cohen, Shelly Keeling, and Cliff Stanton) have pledged to participate in this policy.

Shelly Keeling, and Cliff Stanton) have pledged to participate in this policy that assures that those constituents who want a say in where their district's discretionary funds go, will have one.

Discretionary funding is given to each council district by the Speaker of the City Council. Traditionally, this funding is then distributed by the City Council member within their council district to non-profits and larger capital projects like funding dog runs, renovating basketball courts, or countdown clocks at a dis-

council district.

This process includes town hall meetings or "neighborhood assemblies" and individuals to lead project research as "neighborhood delegates." This year, Mark-Viverito's constituents voted for a solar-powered greenhouse, security cameras for the Millbrook Houses, and new laptops for PS 369.

The side effects of Participatory Budgeting have all been positive. The process has engaged the disengaged: one out of the three neighborhood assembly participants and budget delegates and 44 percent of PB voters had never worked with others in their community to solve a problem before, according to the Center for Urban Justice.

Even more, the policy inspired others

to continue working to better their communities: budget delegates were more likely to be "very comfortable" contacting government agencies and officials after PB, the Center for Urban Justice notes.

Unsurprisingly, the Council members who participated in this process learned more about their districts and felt themselves more connected to constituents and their problems. "There were a lot of things we couldn't fund through the (PB) process because they weren't capital projects, but, for example, we heard over and over again about the trash situation... hearing it in the context of (PB)... I think it made us step up our game, because we had a meeting with the sanitation commissioner," said Joe Taranto, Mark-Viverito's deputy chief of staff.

Voter participation is dire in our area (Norwood, City Council District 11). In 2009, only 18,785 (about 12 percent) out of the 160,297 residents in our district voted in the last City Council member election. Even more, our City Council district is fractured by accusations of one area of the district getting more attention and resources than the other areas. Now, with an endless list of corrupt Bronx politicians promising discretionary funding to non-profits for favors, we need Participatory Budgeting. It is a policy that will change the way our city governs as well as entice voters back to the fundamentals of democracy.

Elisabeth von Uhl is a mom, writer and an activist in Norwood. She works part-time for Cliff Stanton's campaign for Council District 11.

Letters

Clinton Should Stay Unified

The certificate of occupancy of DeWitt Clinton High School is for one unified school. If it is changed to a multi-school occupancy, it has to be approved by the New York City Department of Buildings.

In a school on West 134th Street, they put tape down the corridor to mark the territory of one co-school from the other. This is a misuse of the exit corridor of the building. What would children do in an emergency exit? In a Bronx middle school, a child attends her school (one of four tenants now) on the third floor and must travel "10 flights of stairs" en route to her "rooms." The exit rules under which these schools are built, that is the stairs, the corridors, the doors, correspond to the inch with the building code. Nobody can legally circumvent these requirements.

Space planners, on laptops, lined up rooms to fit their boss's desired number of students and labeled some existing classrooms as new administrative offices. The halls are treated like city sidewalks, not the corridors connected to enclosed vertical exits. And voila! A school? Not so fast! Life was never so quick. There is no mention of getting along with the rest of the school population. No, these space planners are creating a multi-school oc-

cupancy. They are sidestepping the codes because they don't know them and they may not be able to grasp them. Instead, the literature at a March 5 meeting says they will have safety kits.

It is architects and engineers who transform owners' programs into architecture. DeWitt Clinton High School is a gleaming piece of architecture, built to be one unified school. It is set in the Bronx, a hilly place, and from miles around you can see 'this place' through whose halls children have walked to adulthood. That is why there was such a crying out at the public hearing on March 5 at DeWitt Clinton High School by so many generations of students. It is their children's place. They would purge the barnacles set to grow on the ship that will endanger the entire crew! Everyone in DeWitt Clinton High School is part of the crew.

People say, "Oh, but these 'kids' are different, so put them in a box." That is the same mental attitude as a super renting out rooms in his basement apartment and moving upstairs to another apartment.

Ask the fire stations if they have been given updates on exiting these multi-schools. The city knows from the World Trade Center that even a state or municipal building cannot be exempt from codes. **Martha E. Farrell, RA**

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Business Beat

Bronx Brewery Launches Canny Expansion Plan

By ALEX KRATZ

For two years, the Bronx Brewery has been tapping into the craft beer scene at brew pubs and hip restaurants throughout New York City.

Now, the brewers are taking their flagship beer, Bronx Pale Ale, putting it into cool-looking cans and selling them at su-



Photo courtesy Bronx Brewery

THE BRONX BREWERY's new cans are already in 500 stores throughout the northeast.

permarkets and beverage shops throughout the northeast.

This is just one step in a larger expansion plan that includes transforming a 9,000-square-foot old iron works warehouse in Hunts Point into the company's very own brewery, complete with office space and a tasting room.

Like many local breweries, including the widely popular Brooklyn brand, the Bronx Brewery will continue to make the majority of its beer outside of the city, in

their case, Connecticut.

But co-owner Chris Gallant says the Hunts Point location will be where they concoct their specialty brews and start growing the company's roots in its namesake borough.

Gallant sees the space as "a destination in the South Bronx to learn about and drink great craft beer. We'll have regular brewery tours and a tasting room to enjoy all of our beers."

They will also continue to sell their

specialty brews in 22-ounce bottles.

Gallant says you can find Bronx Pale Ale on draft in more than 250 bars and restaurants in the region and the list is expanding all the time.

The can product is speeding up that expansion. Gallant says 500 stores bought in during the first few weeks of sales.

Cans aren't just a trendy way to sell beer, Gallant says. They are also cheaper to make, cheaper to sell, easier to recycle and keep the beer fresher.

Monroe Graduate Opens Dry Cleaner

By SARA REGALADO

Amauris Jimenez put his studies to real-life use by opening his second dry cleaning store on Jerome Avenue, just across the street from his alma mater, Monroe College.

Using marketing analysis techniques acquired in his classes at Monroe, Jimenez determined his new store would best fit in the 2384 Jerome Ave. location.

Situated between two subway stations, a public school, and of course, the college — all places where parents, educators, students, and workers travel to and from every day — the 2012 graduate said his second store location "made sense."

Jimenez and his wife Esmeria Cruz agreed that if they were going to open a

business, they were going to go above and beyond to provide the best quality and the best service they could. The dry cleaning shop, Stop and Drop, does just that.

Not only do they provide dry cleaning, they wash and fold, and even repair shoes and do tailoring.

"In addition to providing a range of services, we believe in quality," he said. "We work to get out stains and dirt that other cleaners won't touch and our customers really appreciate it. And we do all that at prices that have been custom-designed for the people who live and work in this area."

Jimenez who received his BBA in Accounting just a year ago, isn't stopping with a second store, however. He hopes to continue on with his success by creating a

chain of Stop and Drops. His next "stop" just might be in New Rochelle, placing him in front of Monroe's other main campus.



Photo courtesy Monroe College

AMAUROS JIMENEZ opened up his second dry cleaning shop on Jerome Avenue, just across the street from Monroe College.

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Neighborhood Notes

Spring Senior Fitness

The City Parks Foundation invites seniors to participate in its Seniors Fitness program, one-hour sessions running twice a week through June 21. For more information, call (718) 760-6999.

BRIO Award Reception

The Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA) will award the Bronx Recognizes Its Own (BRIO) Award for artistic excellence to 25 Bronx-based artists at an award reception and networking event on June 5 at 6 p.m. at Hostos Community College's Longwood Art Gallery, 500 Grand Concourse. For more information, call (718) 931-9500 ext. 33 or email BRIO@bronx-arts.org.

Job Fair

The Bronx chapter of the National Action Network (NAN) will hold a job fair to meet potential employers and offers workshops on workers' rights, entrepreneurship, and interviewing skills, June 6 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at The Classic Center, 286 E. 156th St. between Morris and Park avenues. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call (212) 690-3070.

Free Pre-K

The Catherine Corry Early Childhood Academy, 4321 Barnes Ave., offers free

universal pre-kindergarten for 2013-2014. Seats are limited. For more information, call (718) 231-0858 or visit www.sfabx.com.

Bx41 Open House

The NYC Department of Transportation and MTA NYC Transit are holding an open house on June 5 from 5 to 7 p.m. at 2487 Webster Ave. (between East 189th Street and East Fordham Road), to learn more about the Bx41 Select Bus Service coming to Webster Avenue on June 30. For more information, call (212) 799-8803 or contact Patrick Jordan at WebsterSBS@zetlin.com.

Public Hearings on Federal Funding

NYC Department of Youth & Community Development (DYCD) announced public hearings on the allocation of federal funding to combat poverty and support community-based programs. Bronx hearings will be held at the Betances Community Center, 547 E. 146th St., on June 1, 15, and 29 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information, call (212) 442-5880.

Non-Profit Leaders Sought

We Are the Bronx is recruiting non-profit leaders for its 2013-2014 Fellowship class, a 9-month professional development and networking program to

receive leadership training with citywide experts. Application deadline is June 28. For more information, call (212) 983-4800 ext. 122 or visit wearethebronx.org/getinvolved.

Buy a Poe Paver

The Bronx County Historical Society is offering the public the chance to purchase a tax-deductible Poe paver, a fundraising project based on the sale of inscribed commemorative pavers that are to be laid near the Edgar Allan Poe Cottage in Poe Park. Each paver costs \$250, and will have your name and/or the date etched on it (two lines, 16 letters including spaces, per line). For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

Fordham BID Annual Meeting

The Fordham Road Business Improvement District (BID) is having its annual meeting at the Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., on June 6 at 9:30 a.m. For more information, visit fordhamroadbid.org.

Fordham Fever Event

The Fordham Road Business Improve-

ment District (BID) is holding the Fordham Fever Friday's Get Fit & Healthy event at Muller Park and Pedestrian Plaza at East Fordham Road and Creston Avenue on June 7 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Events include live entertainment, and health-related activities including free health screenings, mammography, a fitness class and a yoga session. For more information, call (718) 562-2104 or visit fordhamroadbid.org.

Boricua College Open House

The admissions department at Boricua College, 890 Washington Ave., is hosting an open house on June 22 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., to provide information and guidance on the admissions process, financial aid and admission prerequisites. Boricua offers bachelors and masters degrees in the areas of Business Administration, Childhood Education, Human Services and Liberal Arts. For more information or to RSVP, contact Abraham Cruz at (347) 964-8600 or email acruz@boricuacollege.edu.

For more Neighborhood Notes online, go to www.norwoodnews.org and click on "Neighborhood Notes."

Organizers Celebrate Victory in Armory Fight

(continued from page 1)

ment," English said. "Communities will ask: How did you pull this off?"

English's crew began negotiating with KNIC in January, enduring marathon negotiating sessions involving KNIC co-founder Kevin Parker and his team of lawyers and lobbyists. Some lasted more than 13 hours and stretched into the early morning hours.

The sides were often close and then miles apart. But neither side gave up. And eventually, it was done.

The result is historic: Guaranteed living wage jobs (\$10 an hour plus benefits or \$11.50 an hour without benefits); 52,000 square feet of community space that the developer will build out to the community's specifications; local hiring and procurement minimums that exceed even stated goals at other big projects such as Yankee Stadium or the Gateway Center Mall; environmentally-friendly building and design practices; free after-school programs for local youth; funding to boost local businesses in the surrounding area and stiff enforcement mechanisms.

Parker spoke about the importance of getting the community behind them. Mark Messier, the Rangers hockey legend, spoke about how the youth program will better the area and the game of hockey.

But it was the members of KARA who had fought for the Armory for so long who took the most satisfaction in the day's festivities.

For many in attendance, the Armory was their first campaign as an organizer for the Coalition.

Laura Vasquez, who just recently

stepped down as one of the co-executive directors of the Coalition, said she started out working to get schools at the Armory, which is in the middle of an area that suffers from rampant overcrowding in its schools.

She said it was great to leave her job on a high note and was pleased to see how the Armory turned into a "Bronxwide campaign," noting that the groups who signed on to the benefits agreement are located throughout the borough.

Luz Milanes, who is 28, started out as a student organizer working under Vasquez's tutelage through the youth arm Vasquez founded, Sistas and Brothas United, which works hand-in-hand with the Coalition. The Armory was also her first campaign.

"It's a huge deal," she said. "To actually see it happen after all these years. I always believed that it was going to happen."

Fernando Carlo also started as a youth organizer with Sistas and Brothas, working on the Armory campaign 15 years ago. He said the benefits agreement includes "things we always wanted" as well as other benefits that "connect our values."

"We always felt like something would happen," he said. "We just didn't know what."

Ronn Jordan, a former president with the Coalition, smiled off to the side of the event, basking in the sunshine. "I'm really happy, we got a fantastic CBA out of it," he said. "I'm disappointed we didn't get the schools. That was our original campaign."

But that just gives them something else to work toward, Jordan said. The lesson, as always, he said, "Never take no for an answer."

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back yard. New kitchen. New bathroom. Wheelchair ramp. Great investment, it will pay for itself. You will live for free! Location: Wakefield/Barnes, between 228th and 229th streets. Minutes away from Montefiore Hospital. Please call owner: (917) 622-5810. Price: \$465,000 (neg.) Lease with option to buy, \$1,800 per month.

Apt for Rent: 1 Bedroom - 3131 Hull Ave., Bronx, NY. Contact (718) 231-8028. Available immediately.

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

Trip to Hershey Park: Saturday, July 13, 2013. Leave at 8 a.m. from 163rd Street and Southern Boulevard. For more information, contact Eddie at (718) 757-5485.

2 AKC Registered Teacup Yorkie Puppies. Male and female. Free to a good home. They have current shots and play along with children and other animals. Contact michellekreiger@yahoo.com for more information.

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).

Classifieds: \$12 for the first 20 words and 25 cents for each additional word. **Professional Directory:** \$144 for six months; \$260 for one year. To place an ad, call (718) 324-4998 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

Affordable & Caring Early Childhood Centers



MMCC Main Building 718-654-0563

3450 Dekalb Ave. & Gun Hill Rd. by Montefiore Medical Center
8:00am - 6:00pm or 7:30am - 6:30pm avail.
1, 2, 3 and 4^{1/2} year olds

Northside Annex 718-405-0020

3512 Dekalb Ave. & Gun Hill Rd.
8:00am - 6:00pm or 7:30am - 6:30pm avail.
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Van Cortlandt Jewish Center 718-882-0941

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and 3- 4^{1/2} year olds: \$975/month
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Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation
 2751 Grand Concourse, The Bronx
718-367-3200

Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

Onstage

■ The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents **Jose Obando Trio**, salsa concert, June 1; and **Doo Wop**, June 8; each at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

■ The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., W., presents **An Enchanted Evening**, fund-raiser hosted by actress Kerry Washington, June 14 with a private reception at 6:30 p.m. in the Concert Hall lobby with hors d'oeuvres and desserts, followed by music and celebrity interviews at 8 p.m. (\$125/person). Advance tax-

deductible tickets required, online at www.lehmancenter.org, in person at the Concert Hall box office, or by phone). For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

■ The Bronx Academy of Art & Dance (BAAD), 841 Barretto St., presents dance performances: **The Boogie Down Dance Series**: Physual: 10th Anniversary Concert, featuring various performances, May 31 and June 1 (\$20). Also presented are: **Capoeira Dance Class**, June 1 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. (\$7). For more information, call (718) 842-5223.

■ Pregones Theatre, 571-575 Walton Ave., presents **Neon Baby**, musical about gays performed in English and

Spanish, recommended for mature audiences, through June 2. For more information and a detailed schedule, call (718) 585-1202.

■ Bronx Museum of the Arts presents **First Fridays**, featuring film, art performances, music and other special events. ADLIB Steel Band Orchestra, will perform Trinidad and Tobago music, in the Andrew Freedman Home, 1125 Grand Concourse (across the Concourse from the museum) on June 7 from 6 to 10 p.m. For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

Events

■ Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse, presents **Puerto Rican History Celebration Honoring the Young Lords**, May 31, in the 2nd floor North Wing, 6:30 to 9 p.m.; and **Readings & Conversations**, with author James Gillard, June 5 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the North Wing lobby. For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

■ Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W.

252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Arts Projects**: A Tree Lives Here, to create a tree with oil pastels, followed by a live theatre performance at 11 a.m. and parade at 12:30 p.m., June 1 and 2; and Touch a Rainbow, to make a spectrum from collected materials, June 8 and 9; both from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Ecology Building. Grounds admission is free Saturdays until noon and free Tuesdays until noon in June. 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 public is invited to ride the June 5 free **Bronx Culture Trolley**, which transports visitors on the first Wednesday of every month (except January and September) to Bronx hot spots, all featuring a variety of entertainment options and ends at Sweetwater's Bar & Grill for music, food and drink. Trolley night starts with a 5 p.m. reception at the Longwood Art

EDITOR'S PICK

Comedy and Music at Lehman

The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., W., presents comedian **Paul Rodriguez**, June 1 (tickets are \$55 to \$85); and musician **Willie Colon**, June 8 (tickets are \$30 to \$50); each at 8 p.m. For more information, call (718) 960-8833.



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Gallery at Hostos Community College, 450 Grand Concourse (at 149th St.). From there, the trolley departs at 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. New attractions are added monthly; admission to most venues is free. Riders can get on and off at any scheduled stop and spend as much time as they wish at any or all of the featured venues. For more information and a detailed schedule, call (718) 931-9500 ext. 33 or log on to www.bronxarts.org.

■ **Battle of the Boroughs Tennis Challenge**, which takes place in Crotona Park at East 173rd Street and Crotona Avenue on June 1, is a tournament that supports CitParks Tennis which provides free tennis lessons and activities for children at 40 parks citywide. For more information, call (917) 923-0026.

■ The Westchester Square Business Improvement District presents **Celebrating the Earth**, featuring music, organic mask making, arts and crafts, composting with worms, face painting, and more, June 1, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Owen Dolen Park in Westchester Square; and its **1st Annual Meeting**, June 13 from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at the Pine Bar and Grill, 1634 Eastchester Rd. BID property owners, commercial tenants, businesses, and residents must register to vote at this meeting. Register on their website ASAP. For more information, call (718) 597-4629.

■ The Bronx County Historical Society's Museum of Bronx History at the Valentine-Varian House, 3266 Bainbridge Ave., presents its **Annual Valedictorian Awards Ceremony**, to honor Bronx high school valedictorians, June 9 at 1 p.m. which includes entertainment, refreshments, hors d'oeuvres, and tours of the museum, followed by the awards ceremony at 2 p.m. with gifts to the students. Tax deductible contributions are welcome. For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

Exhibits

■ The Bronx County Historical Society's Museum of Bronx History at the Valentine-Varian House, 3266 Bainbridge Ave., presents **Pastimes & Pleasures: Having Fun in the Bronx**, through Oct. 23. For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

■ The New York Botanical Garden presents **Wild Medicine: Healing Plants Around the World, Featuring the Italian Renaissance Garden**, including interactive stations with activities and samples of products made from therapeutic plants, through Sept. 8. For more information, call (718) 817-8512/8637.

■ Pregones Theatre, 575 Walton Ave., presents **Sinfonía del Color del Trópico**,

paintings depicting life in the Dominican Republic, through May 31, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 585-1202.

■ The Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse, presents **Joan Semmel - A Lucid Eye**, self portraits of a female aging through her 80s, through June 9. Also featured are **Honey, I Rearranged the Collection** (artwork from the museum's permanent collection) and **Bronx Lab: Style Wars** (featuring graffiti and its relation to style), both through June 2. For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

Library Events

■ The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents programs for adults including **Computer Basics**: June 4 and 6; **Internet for Beginners**: June 7; and **MS Word for Beginners**: June 11 (all at 2 p.m.). Teens/young adults can attend **On the Plate at 4:30 p.m.**: cooking workshop (all materials provided), May 30. Children can enjoy **Global Partners Junior at 4 p.m.**: (ages 5 to 12: phone or in-person registration required), June 5; **Preschool Story Time at 11 a.m.**: May 30, June 6 and 13; **Films at 4 p.m.**: June 4 and 11; **Fish Book Making**: May 30 at 4 p.m.; **Family Time**: June 8 at 11 a.m.; and **Jewelry Box Making**: June 13 at 4 p.m. The

entire family can enjoy **Grand Summer Reading Kickoff**: featuring various fun activities, June 1 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

■ The Mosholu Library, at 285 E. 205th St., offers for seniors and adults: **Knitting Circle**: Thursdays at 3 p.m.; and **Wii Program**: Tuesdays at 3 p.m. Teens/young adults can attend **Arts and Crafts**: June 4 at 4 p.m. Children can enjoy **Toddler Story Time at 10:30 a.m.**: June 6 and 13; and **Presley and Melody**: (through ages 12 years), interactive concert. Speakers of other languages can attend free **English Conversation Program**: intermediate level, June 4 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

■ The Jerome Park Library, at 118 Eames Place, offers **Cooking at 4 p.m.**: May 30, June 6 and 13; and **Craftersnacks**: June 5 at 4 p.m. (all for teens/young adults). Children (ages 5 to 12) can enjoy **Arts and Crafts**: June 3 at 4 p.m.; and **Film**: June 10 at 4 p.m. Adults can attend **Computer Basics at noon**: May 30, June 4, 6, 11 and 13. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

NOTE: Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org, and should be received by June 3 for the next publication date of June 13.

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