

# NORWOOD NEWS

Vol. 26, No. 13 ■ PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION ■ June 27-July 10, 2013

## MAKING MUSIC AT THE PARK



Photo by Adi Talwar

**TO KICK OFF** the start of summer on June 21, the nonprofit group Make Music NY hosted more than 1,000 concerts throughout the five boroughs, including a show by local band Fort Indy at Williamsbridge Oval Park in Norwood. Fort Indy includes (l-r) Jarrett Murphy, Brian Aucoin and Darren Merritt. Solo singer/guitarist THEO opened up.

## Inside Albany: The Search for Jeff Klein

By ALEX KRATZ

Inside the Capitol building in Albany, heavy iron gates and a security guard separate the Senate chambers from the long, extended lobby area, which is bifurcated by large, arching columns and lit with ornate chandeliers. This is the place where the terms “lobbying” and “lobbyist” originated.

Today, the day before the New York Legislative session is scheduled to end on Thursday, the lobby is a beehive of activity. Senators and lobbyists mingle. Groups of senators and staffers huddle. Lots of men and women in suits furiously tap away at their smart phones.

Hundreds of pieces of legislation, including block-buster packages on women’s equality rights and campaign finance reform, are still up in the air and waiting for a vote because that’s just how things work in Albany. Everything is last minute.

With the Assembly dominated by Democrats and Speaker Sheldon Silver, all eyes are on the Senate, which is controlled by an unprecedented coalition of Republicans and four independent Democrats, led by Bronxite  
*(continued on page 11)*

## Report: Metro North Expansion Would Boost Bronx Economy

By NATASHA RODRIGUEZ

An expansion of Metro North train stops in the Bronx would be a game changer for a borough that still suffers from high unemployment and rampant poverty, say some of the Bronx’s most prominent elected officials and business leaders. And they have the numbers to back it up.

Just last month, State Senator co-leader Jeff Klein and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. joined union leaders, Bronx business owners, homeowners and community leaders to talk up the economic benefit of the MTA Metro North transportation’s proposed expansion into the Bronx.

This new expansion includes the construction of four new Metro North stations in the east Bronx on current Amtrak lines in Co-op City, Hunts Point, Morris Park and Parkchester and is projected to dramatically boost the Bronx’s economy. This proposed expansion is part of a larger plan for the MTA called Penn Station Access, which would allow Metro North trains to enter Penn Station.

At this point, the proposal is on the table, but not part of the MTA’s capital budget, meaning it’s still far from a done deal.

The numbers speak for themselves, the officials say.

According to their projections, the expansion will create 5,400 new jobs, increase home values by more than \$142,400, and create more than \$1 billion in additional business sales in the Bronx.

Anna Durrett, a spokesperson for Klein, said the numbers were calculated by a policy team commissioned by Klein and Diaz. They based their findings on a 1984 na  
*(continued on page 4)*



Photo courtesy Bronx Borough President’s office

**BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT** Ruben Diaz Jr. (at podium) and Senate co-leader Jeff Klein talk about the benefits of a proposed Metro North expansion into the Bronx.

## After Violence, Community Talks Bullying

By HUGH THORNHILL

In recent years, a string of high-profile bullying incidents, some ending in violence or early suicide, has forced the topic into the national conversation. Following a particularly disturbing instance of bullying at Middle School 80 on Mosholu Parkway three months ago has brought the conversation to the local level.

Back in March, a 14-year-old girl who attended MS 80 was attacked by one of her fellow classmates. The attack was so severe that she had to be hospitalized and the attacker was arrested and charged with assault as a juvenile.

As a result of the incident, parents criticized the school principal Emmanuel Polanco for his supposed lack of control over the children at the school. Parents, local residents and union members even protested outside the school calling for Polanco to step down.

In response, on May 17 and on June 14, Bronx Community Board 7 hosted two public forums addressing bullying problems in the Bronx. The first forum was held inside  
*(continued on page 12)*



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## BREAKING BRONX



News • Politics • Policy

## Community Board 7 Braces for Big Changes at the Top



Photo by Hugh Thornhill

**COMMUNITY BOARD 7** member Nora Feury thanks departing Chairman Paul Foster, who is stepping down after four years as head of the board.

By **ANDREA CETRA** and  
**NATASHA RODRIGUEZ**

Last week, on a dark stormy Tuesday evening, change was afoot at Community Board 7. By the end of the board's final meeting before the summer hiatus, members elected a new chairman for the first time in four years and approved the hiring of new district manager, a paid position that had been vacant for nine months.

Behind the floor-to-ceiling glass windows of the New York Botanical Garden's Visitor Center Café, members narrowly voted in former vice chair Adaline Walker-Santiago as the new chairperson over William Francis.

At the same meeting, the board approved the hiring of Socrates Caba as the new district manager, by a vote of 13-3, with eight members abstaining. Caba will fill the position vacated by the departure of Fernando Tirado, who resigned as district manager last fall after a group of members unsuccessfully tried to have him removed.

Two members of the board spoke up to endorse Walker-Santiago during the meeting, calling her "dedicated," "a tireless worker," and "a blessing."

Other board members thanked Walker-Santiago for her support of education and the arts. One enthusiastic board member, Cecilia Donovan, thanked the new chairperson on behalf of her daughter for supporting a science initiative at her daughter's school, MS 80, which Walker-Santiago tried to save from closure last year. (The DOE's attempt to close the school was overturned by a court ruling following a lawsuit by the teachers' union.)

Although Francis' supporters were not nearly as vocal during the meeting, the board's close vote suggests the group was split. (The board couldn't confirm the exact vote by press time on Tuesday.)

"I am an advocate for more engagement and expansion," Walker-Santiago said. "The Bronx is moving up, we're going to be unstoppable," she added, flashing a smile.

Yet some were less enthusiastic about the election results.

"An election is an election," said board

member Sandra Erickson. "Like all elections, people win fair and square. I look forward to working with all the members of the board."

Barbara Stronczer, recently elected to first vice chair, declined to comment about the election results, but has in the past, expressed concern about the safe development of Webster Avenue.

Paul Foster, who stepped down this spring after serving as chairman for the past four years, was coy about his feelings about the election. "Well, if 300 million Americans can elect George W. Bush, then I guess this can happen," he said.

During the election, board members were asked to pass their ballots to the middle of the room. Papers shuffled and throats were cleared as the votes were tallied and the new executive committee was announced. Jean Hill was selected as treasurer, Andrew Laiosa was third chair, Nora Feury was elected to second chair, and Barbara Stronczer became the new first chair.

"I think that the elections went really well and we have a great group [of leaders]," said community board member Helen Hartman. "I am very excited and optimistic about this year," she said.

Some of the most pressing issues the board now faces include the coming redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory, which is slated to be turned into the world's largest ice sports complex, but still faces the scrutiny of the community board, borough president and City Council; the decontamination of PS 51, where Walker-Santiago's children attended school; and the redevelopment of Webster Avenue, which was recently rezoned to expand residential and retail spaces.

"The Armory will celebrate the area and showcase our part of the Bronx, which is truly a gem and has always been unappreciated," Hartman said.

"My kids asked me why we didn't have something like that when we were little," Walker-Santiago said of the project. "We want people to join us and make the Bronx the best," she added.

Walker-Santiago expressed interest in pursuing projects to promote job creation, including the Kingsbridge Armory, the expansion of Webster Avenue, and

### Additional Board Meeting Notes

- Board member Mohammed Ali received an award for ensuring public safety and pursuing anti-bullying initiatives in the Bronx's Bengali community.

- A representative from Councilman Oliver Koppell's office stood up to announce the pending clean-up of the contaminated building on Van Cortlandt Avenue that formerly housed PS 51, Con Edison's \$25 rebate for customers who purchase an Energy Star refrigerator, and the honorary renaming of Villa Avenue in Bedford Park as St. Philip Neri Way.

- The New York State Department of Health will host a panel discussion about the PS 51 contamination at St. Philip Neri Event Hall, July 1 at 6 p.m.

- A spokesperson from Councilman Fernando Cabrera's District 14 office announced the introduction of a new food voucher program that would present \$5,000 new "health bucks" to those in need, and the arrival of street hail taxi service in the Bronx.

- The Bronx borough president's office continued by announcing the creation of hundreds of new jobs with the construction of a retail mall on the outskirts of District 7 in Kingsbridge, the continuation of local LGBTQ outreach programs, and asked community members to take note of Caribbean Heritage Month scheduled for June 27 (see Out & About under "Events").

- After a long debate about the dangers of promoting a "military presence" in the community and in spite of strong opposition from Foster, board members voted yes on plans to hold "National Guard Army Day" on Aug. 17.

said she is passionate about education and has participated in several anti-bullying initiatives.

"I was PTA president, so I know what it is like to empower parents," she said. "You have to love people to get things to move."

### Suspected Drug Dealer Dies in Police Custody

A man who reportedly struggled with police has died after officials say he ingested a substance believed to be cocaine.

According to police officials, investigators from an undercover narcotics unit observed a suspected drug deal outside of Jerome Avenue Convenience Store, located at 3598 Jerome Ave., at 10 p.m., on Wednesday, June 19.

Police say the man swallowed a walnut size amount of a white substance, believed to be cocaine, when the man stopped breathing. The man was rushed to North Central Bronx Hospital where he died a short time later.

Police identified the man as Jose Muniz, 52, who police say had been arrested more than 30 times.

Members of the NYPD Internal Affairs Bureau continue to investigate Muniz's death.

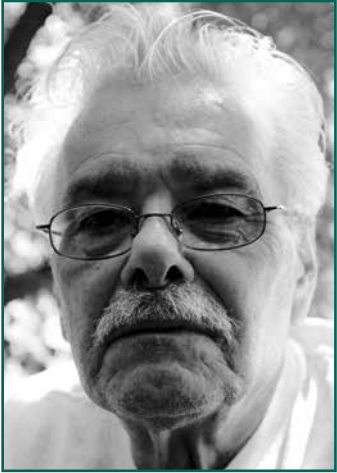
—DAVID GREENE



# Inquiring Photographer

By DAVID GREENE

This week, as summer officially begins, we asked readers what they were looking forward to doing in the Bronx.



I will be going to all of the historical places. I will go to Wave Hill and the Botanical Garden and the Bronx Zoo because these are the best places to visit.

**Rafael Martinez Alequin**



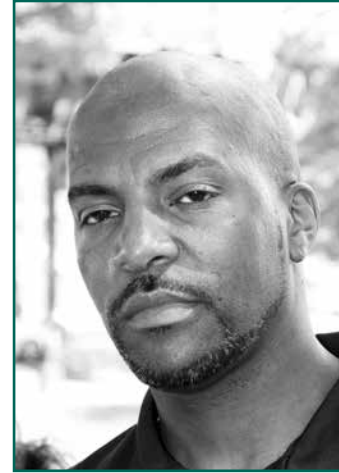
Van Cortlandt Park is near where I live and it's exquisite with offerings in terms of urban wilderness, but also cross country trails. I also look forward to getting to Orchard Beach and seeing some shows and concerts.

**Michael Knobbe**



This summer I'm going to hang out with the children at the basketball courts. We'll have music and good food and lots of basketball playing in Van Cortlandt Park and more than likely we'll visit Poe Park.

**Charmaine Lloyd**



I'm a coach of a basketball team and on the 4th of July we'll be in Tennessee competing for a national championship. My team is 21-1 right now and we are 6-time champions, so we're leaving the Bronx, but we're representing the Bronx.

**Vosco Hicks**



Barbecuing in the park. No Yankees, we're not big baseball fans. Yes, we'll be going to the beach a lot.

**Fred Singleton**

## 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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# Child Wounded, Teen Arrested in Shooting

By DAVID GREENE

A lovely spring evening in Kingsbridge turned into a scene of chaotic violence on a recent Friday, when, according to police, a young man riding a bike rolled down Bailey Avenue, pulled out a gun and fired off a half dozen shots into a crowd of people, mostly children, hanging out in an apartment building parking lot.

One of bullets hit a 9-year-old girl in the stomach. The bleeding girl was taken by car to the emergency room at North Central Bronx Hospital where she was treated for her wounds. She was eventually transferred to Jacobi Hospital and released the following Sunday, much to the relief of her family. She is expected to

make a full recovery.

The shooting set off a massive investigation that would eventually result in the surrender of 17-year-old Billie James, who was charged with attempted murder, among other charges.

After firing into the crowd at around 9 p.m. on Friday, June 14, the shooter apparently turned down a side street before abandoning the bike he was riding.

Once on the scene, police quickly shut down the block.

The 9-year-old victim's grandmother was amazed that the girl's little brother escaped injury. The siblings were playing near each in a closed off parking lot of the Fort Independence Houses. "He was right there next to her, I don't know how he didn't

get hit too," said Wanda Forte, outside of the building, the day after the shooting.

On Father's Day, June 16, police released a second surveillance photo as well as posting a \$22,000 reward for information leading to the shooter. Later that day, James, of 2831 Exterior St., surrendered to police at a South Bronx police station. He was taken to the 50th Precinct where he was questioned overnight.

At 10:25 a.m. on Monday, June 17, James was led away in handcuffs, slumped over

and hiding his face in his hooded jacket. He was charged with attempted murder, assault, reckless endangerment and criminal possession of a weapon. Police Commissioner Ray Kelly said it was an act of revenge.

"We believe the motive was a dispute that took place at that location some time earlier," Kelly told reporters. "He went back, apparently seeking revenge and fired." He added, "Whether he was aiming at somebody or firing indiscriminately, I am not sure."

## Report: Metro North Would Boost Economy

*(continued from page 1)*

tional analysis of the employment and business revenue impacts of investment in public transit conducted by the American Public Transit Association.

Although Bronx residents are eager to make this a reality, a spokesperson for the MTA said that the plans have not yet been cemented. "It is something that is currently under discussion by many parties and it still has not been approved by the legislature as a part of our capital program," the spokesperson said.

The cost of the Metro North expansion in the Bronx would be approximately \$350 million. The total projected cost for the entire Penn Station Access project has

been cited at anywhere from \$800 million dollars to \$1 billion.

Although the plans are not definite, John Desio, a spokesperson for the borough president's office said, "This is currently the biggest priority for every elected official in the Bronx and we are going to work together to see it through."

"Senator Klein will do his best to push forward and make sure the expansion includes the Bronx," said Durrett. "It will be a great opportunity for more people to come and see what the Bronx has to offer."

At the announcement in late May, Klein said, "The benefits are clear and will be critical to launching the Bronx into the 21st century and beyond."

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# Be Healthy **1,000** Bronx residents afflicted with sickle cell disease

Vital Stats

## Montefiore Hosts First Sickle Cell Awareness Day

By NATASHA RODRIGUEZ

Last week, Montefiore Medical Center hosted its first annual Sickle Cell Awareness Day to educate the Bronx community about this inherited disease that affects close to 1,000 Bronxites.

Taking place in a sunny courtyard outside the med-



Photo courtesy Montefiore

**BRONX-BORN** Eddie Gomez, Golden Gloves winner and rising star in the boxing world, appeared at Montefiore Medical Center's Sickle Cell Awareness Day June 19 to help create more awareness about sickle cell disease, an inherited disorder that affects an estimated 1,000 borough residents. Pictured at the lectern is Gomez with Dr. Henry Billett (at his right), chief of hematology at Montefiore, whose team treats adults with sickle cell disease.

ical center, sickle cell specialists from Montefiore and Albert Einstein College of Medicine were on hand to discuss managing sickle cell disease (SCD) and provide free oxygen saturation tests.

Also present was Bronx native Eddie Gomez, a 20-year-old Honduran-American boxer who is undefeated as a professional fighter. He said he had come to spread awareness.

"I am here to support a close friend of mine, Anthony, who has SCD," Gomez said. "I have been working on this cause for the past two years and my goal is for everyone to know what SCD is."

For many present, it marked the first time they had heard of the disease. "SCD is not as popularized as other diseases, so it is often not identified properly or even treated," explained Monica Spencer, a nurse practitioner at Montefiore.

"As the government focuses more and more on cancer

awareness, SCD is losing attention, but it is still a very significant problem, especially in the Bronx," said Mural Janakiram, a doctor at Montefiore.

One of the reasons why SCD awareness should be important to Bronx residents is because the disease affects one out of every 500 Black or African Americans and one out of every 36,000 Hispanic Americans. According to the latest census data, 43 percent of Bronxites identify as being Black.

Although it may not garner much attention, SCD is no laughing matter. Sickle cells can get stuck in small blood vessels and block the flow of blood and oxygen to organs in the body. These blockages cause repeated episodes of severe pain, organ damage, serious infections, or even strokes.

To date, the only cure for SCD is a bone marrow or stem cell transplant, which is extremely risky and can have serious side effects, including death.

### Timetable Accelerated for Removal of Toxic Light Fixtures

Schools Chancellor Dennis M. Walcott, Corporation Counsel Michael A. Cardozo, and City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn announced in May that a settlement had been made between the Department of Education and New York Communities for Change to accelerate the removal of contaminant-filled light fixtures in 645 schools across the city.

Many school light fixtures still used by these schools contain PCBs (Polychlorinated Biphenyls), a set of toxic chemicals that were used in building materials and electrical products. The use of PCBs was banned by Congress in 1979. However, the EPA has permitted the

use of some PCB equipment, including light fixtures.

The new replacement plan will take a total of three and a half years as opposed to the original 10-year plan originally set to be completed in 2021.

"Since the beginning of this proposed plan, I have always said that we would reassess the timeline once we had a better understanding of the work," said Walcott in a statement.

Congressmen Jose E. Serrano, Joseph Crowley and Jerrold Nadler, who have led efforts to address the issue since the first reports of PCBs in New York City school came out in 2007, applauded the recent settlement.

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# Bronx Youth Heard

## What Does It Take to Be a Man in the Bronx?

**B**orn is still reeling from an episode four years ago when he was raped by a neighbor. The 18-year-old Bronx resident didn't tell anyone, even the police, because he was ashamed. Born was raped by a woman.

"I didn't tell anyone 'cause it's not cool," says Born, who agreed to talk on the condition of his last name being withheld. "They'd think I was gay."

Born is like many young men in the Bronx who feel compelled to project masculinity. Whether it's through getting girls or getting into fights, many boys act out to keep up with the Bronx's perception of masculinity.

"Somebody thinks that you [are] weak, then you gotta show them that you tough, then you fight them," says Rudy Abreu, 16, a resident of Castle Hill and a student at the Collegiate Institute for Math and Science.

Brandon Patterson of Gun Hill Road, also 16, called acting manly in the Bronx a matter of "life and death." "Being a man is showing toughness," he says.

Another 16-year-old, Devalle Chapman, who lives in West Farms Square, says he acts tough because he doesn't want to be viewed as a "bitch." "Being a man means being tough and having great fortitude," says Davalle, also a student at the Collegiate Institute for Math and Science.

"You do not run away," Devalle says, "no matter what. Even if it costs your

life." In middle school, Devalle had to fight a peer so that he wouldn't be seen as weak by the other students.

Enrique Gutierrez, a worker with the Children's Aid Society, says there is some truth to the idea that, "to be considered a masculine male you have to have a tough skin."

For some boys, dating plays a big part of manliness in the Bronx.

"If you're too shy to talk to a girl, you're not mannin' up," Rudy says. "You gotta be tough to impress girls."

Others say showing traditional masculine characteristics like toughness isn't the only way being a man should be defined.

"A man is someone whose actions speak louder than his words," said Malachi Cintron, 25, of Mott Haven.

Greg Faulker, the chief of staff for City Councilmen Fernando Cabrera, says being a man is "living up to responsibilities; having strength of character."

To some women, being manly in the Bronx means nothing more than "having an XY chromosome," said Katiana Rufino, 18, of Burnside. "Masculinity does not determine if you're a man."

In the Bronx, where the vast majority of families are either Black or Latino, there is a lack of male role models.

According to a report put together by the mayor's Young Men's Initiative, which was launched in 2010, roughly half of all



Black and Latino families in New York City are fatherless and only 7 percent of the city's teachers are men of color.

Those statistics may explain another startling number: 84 percent of admissions to the city's detention facilities are Black and Latino males.

Gutierrez says many Bronx teens, lacking traditional male role models and looking to define who they are as men, sometimes get swept up in gang life, which often also means criminal behavior. "That's what's important for them," he says, "because that's part of some-

thing larger. If it's not a gang, then it's religion."

Vernon Johnson, a staffer at the Collegiate Institute for Math and Science, felt that if he could be a role model for his students, then he could save them from joining gangs to prove their masculinity. He founded a group called the Young Men's Leadership organization, geared toward Black and Latino males. "To be successful, we must do more to associate masculinity with positive outcomes in the public and cultural sphere," Johnson said.

**"Somebody thinks that you [are] weak, then you gotta show them that you tough, then you fight them."**

— Rudy Abreu, 16, Castle Hill Resident, Collegiate Institute for Math and Science Student

## Under the Influence: Music, Drugs and Teens

**D**enesha Johnson wonders if the music she listens to will encourage her little sister to abuse drugs some day. The Bronx teen gets emotional at the thought of her sister ever trying drugs

song "All Gold Everything." The lyrics, "Popped a molly/I'm sweating," which refers to the drug Ecstasy, made her think twice about song choices.

"That was the first time I've ever heard of Molly," said Luana, a 15-year-old Bronx resident. "It wasn't portrayed as something good, but not bad neither."

There are other, even more blatant references. Atlanta rapper 2 Chainz has a song "Crack," which, not surprisingly, is about crack cocaine. "Love Me," by Lil Wayne, contains the oft-repeated lyrics, "I'm on that good Kush and alcohol." Kush is a potent strand of marijuana.

But it isn't just rap songs. Pop music, like "A-Team" by British singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran, contains the lyrics, "White lips, pale face / (continued on page 7)

**TORI GRAVES-PARKER**



because of her personal taste in music.

For decades, musicians have often promoted or glorified drug use, but to some, it seems more obvious in modern music.

Luana Bowers was shocked by something she heard in Trinidad James'

### Bronx Youth Heard

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Bronx Youth Heard is a free journalism program for Bronx high school students, run by the *Norwood News* with support from Moshulu Preservation Corporation, City Councilman Fernando Cabrera, City Councilman Joel Rivera, and in collaboration with CUNY's College Now program at Hostos Community College.

# Teens Blast NYPD's Stop and Frisk Tactics

Last year, out of the 533,042 people stopped as part of the NYPD's Stop, Question and Frisk policing strategy, 89 percent were innocent, according to the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU). A vast majority of those targeted were Black and Latino teens. Many people think this is an abuse of power.

"Cops are robbing teens of their innocence," said a spokesperson for the Bronx Defenders, an organization that provides free legal representation to indigent Bronx residents.

Even though a United States District

TRACY  
ROBINSON



Court recently declared certain aspects of the so-called "Stop and Frisk" policy unconstitutional, Mayor Bloomberg staunchly defends the practice by saying it's one of the main factors in the city's crime drop over the past two decades.

Still, teens in the Bronx say the tactics are discriminatory and racist.

"It's still a sense of racism," said Bronx resident Jeffrey Thompson, 17. "The system is corrupt."

"Whenever there's a stop and frisk, there's no sense in reporting it because the police are going to do it anyway," said Manhattan resident Jecaryous Jackson.

"The police want to take advantage of teens that don't know their rights," said Kevin Soler, 15. "We get hassled for being

ourselves."

"The public sees it as harassment, but the police see it as doing their job," said Bronx resident, Selah Williams, 14. "But it violates the public's trust."

Many adults are on the teens' side.

"I don't agree with the policy," said Wanda Rosado, an English teacher at the Evander Childs High School Campus. "It's bias and it only happens in certain neighborhoods."

A map of recent stop and frisk data found on WNYC.org shows Rosado is right. The map, which was posted in April, indicates that stops were down citywide by 22 percent last year. But some places, like the neighborhood around 58th Street in Manhattan, had no stops. Meanwhile, there were 1,656 stops in 2012 around the Sheridan Avenue neighborhood in the Bronx.

"The youth are so used to being stopped and frisked, they don't even look at it as a problem," said Cynthia Turquest, an educator at a middle school in the Bronx.

Earlier this year, a district judge said that the police's Clean Halls Policy — which allows police officers to patrol private apartment buildings — violates the fourth amendment protection against unreasonable search and seizure. The case was brought to court by the NYCLU, Latino Justice and the Bronx Defenders.

According to the American CLU, crime data does not support Bloomberg's claim that New York City is safer because of the practice.

Opponents and advocates are now waiting on another court ruling that will determine whether the NYPD's recent use of stop and frisk is unconstitutional.

# Under the Influence: Music, Drugs and Teens

(continued from page 6)

Breathing in snowflakes," which refer to cocaine use. And then there is the R&B song "Wicked Games" by Weeknd, which include the lyrics "Bring your love baby, I can bring my shame / Bring the drugs baby, I can bring my pain."

Still, compared to pop, rock, country, and R&B, rap has the highest number of drugs or alcohol references, according to a 2008 study by the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

With 77 percent of rap songs studied referring explicitly to drug abuse, rap had nearly double the references of country, nearly four times that of R&B and hip-hop, and more than five and eight times that of rock and pop, respectively.

Hip-hop, from where rap originated, was born in the Boogie Down Bronx and its influence is everywhere.

"The youth today are easily influenced," said Jamel Lewis, a senior at Cardinal Spellman High School. "So if your favorite artist is talking about using drugs, then we are going to be curious about it and follow them."

Many teens believe the glorification

of drug use in music is more obvious now than it has ever been. But in the heat of the 1970s, drugs were a big thing. Rock star Jimi Hendrix, for example, blatantly used drugs most of his career. So why does it seem like a bigger impact now?

"Back then, the artists hardly ever talked about ever using in their songs," said Luana. "Today no one cares and they say just anything."

But some people feel it isn't just music that advertises drugs, but media, in general.

Television "promotes a culture of instant relief," said Greg Faulkner, chief of staff for Bronx City Councilman Fernando Cabrera. "Some of the biggest movies do more to promote drug use," than music. "It's not just the record industry, it is cultural," he added.

Jonathan Collie, also a senior at Spellman, said that lack of outrage over drug lyrics might say something more sinister about the listeners than the music itself. "No one cares if a song is titled 'Crack,'" Jonathan said, "because there are hardly any morals."

# BYH Looking for Young Reporters



Bronx Youth Heard, a free after-school journalism program for Bronx high school students, is now recruiting for our fall session, which starts in late September. We'll teach you how to report on issues that matter in your community, improve your writing skills, build your confidence and expose you to the world of journalism. In the photo above, Bronx Youth Heard students talk to *New York Times* photographer Michael Kamber at the Bronx Documentary Center. To request an application or for more information, call (718) 324-4998 or email us at [bronxyouthheard@gmail.com](mailto:bronxyouthheard@gmail.com).

# Public Schools Lacking in Discipline

It is noon and students at the Theodore Roosevelt High School Campus are huddled around the cafeteria waiting for a fight. Erisa Moore pushes Olisia Williams to the floor. Everyone shouts: "Hit her!" Olisia, however, manages to get back up and punch Erisa with rage. The fight begins.

The first push is how a majority of high school fights start. The announcement of a "10-33" is echoed throughout the walls as school safety agents race to respond to the "emergency situation" and to disperse the crowd and prevent the situation from escalating into further mayhem.

The agents pull the students apart and escort them to the principal's office. There they will meet with the dean and principal. A call to parents is made. In this case, Olisia and Erisa were given two days of in-school suspension.

That seems light compared to independent and private schools, which often enforce zero tolerance policies that lead to detention, probation, removal of privileges, or expulsion — which is how Erisa came to Roosevelt in the first place.

Why do independent and private schools foster, create and nurture such a safe educational environment in their schools while public schools do not nurture the same type of community?

"It's harder to discipline a child who feels they don't have much to lose," said Adell Brooks, a grandmother of a private school student. "Their mentality is that if they get suspended, it's only for two days, my parents aren't wasting money anyways, so who cares? I think that's why in private school the punishment is harsher, because you're actually paying money for your child's education and it'll be a waste if your child gets expelled over an altercation in the hallway."

Although some teachers may blame the parents for their outside behavior, students blame the schools.

"Private schools tend to have more caring students than public schools be-

cause we don't want to waste our parents' hard earned money," Luis Rubio, a student from Roosevelt, said. "Freshman year I attended public school. It was the worst experience because some students are disrespectful and are careless and it doesn't help if the school and faculty have a high tolerance level."

Private and independent schools strive to create an awareness of unwanted and aggressive behavior by taking the necessary steps to foster a community of kind-

TODOSSA  
COLEMAN



ness. School officials take the necessary measure by distributing handbooks, holding off-site orientations, installing cameras to monitor and discourage inappropriate and unsafe behavior and even offering peer mediation and peer leadership programs to encourage and solicit students for leadership roles.

This doesn't seem to happen in public schools. Instead, it's on to the next fight.

Fordham Road, a major street in the the Bronx is famous for its retail stores. It is also another location where students fight instead of in school. Fights happen constantly, whether it's on the "plaza" (Fordham Plaza) or by the phone trucks.

Randall Bozeman has witnessed numerous fights while leaving from school to go home.

"It has become a normal thing now," he says. "Usually you hear people spreading rumors throughout the campus saying there's going to be a fight after school. We just don't know what time but we all know when there's a fight because you see crowds of kids standing on one corner anxiously waiting, with their phones out, for something to happen. It's chaotic and annoying."



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## 'ANNIE' COMES TO LIFE AT PS 56



Photo by David Greene

**A FULL HOUSE** turned out for the latest production of "Annie," presented by members of the Norwood Heights Players from PS 56, under the direction of Elizabeth Corrao and Tashima Nole. The show was held at the school on East 207th Street on Thursday, June 13.

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# Opinion

## Op-Eds

# Proposed Housing Project Undermines Webster Revitalization

By JAY SHUFFIELD

The corner of Webster Avenue and 204th Street is a prime location that is vital for setting the direction of future development along the rezoned Webster Avenue. Unfortunately, a development planned by the Doe Fund would undermine the vision of a revitalized Webster Avenue that was developed through years of community effort.

The vision of a revitalized Webster Avenue was the result of much hard, collective work. It is something we need to protect. The Department of City Planning worked with Community Board 7 and other concerned citizens for years to craft a plan to preserve the character of our narrow residential streets while channeling balanced growth to Webster Avenue. There was a clear vision of ground-floor retail and a mixture of housing for residents of different incomes. What made the vision for Webster Avenue so compelling was that it provided room for more professional residents in our community without forcing out people who already live here. The rezoning also included an incentive to permanently dedicate 20 percent of the units in participating buildings for lower-income residents to provide opportunities for all sections of our community. New

stores and restaurants would attract visitors from the Botanical Garden and students from Fordham University, creating amenities that could be enjoyed by us all.

The problem is that non-profit housing organizations, using public assistance, have been rapidly buying property along Webster Avenue to build something very different from the community’s vision. Rather than mixed incomes with room for a strong middle-class, they are proceeding to fill Webster with housing that excludes the middle class. They are eliminating the potential for vibrant new

this corner, everything is only a short stroll away: schools, shopping, the new Select Bus station, and the subway. It sits right at the entrance to Bronx Park and French Charlie’s Playground.

Make no mistake, I support the programs operated by the Doe Fund. I recognize the importance of the services they provide to people in need, and as a former member of the Community Board I previously voted in support of another proposal they presented for a different location on Webster. This simply is not the right site for more supportive housing, and we

and our community leaders have done the right thing by endorsing them, while other communities have excluded them from their neighborhoods. However, as this housing continues crowding into our area, doing the right thing requires a different approach now.

We can no longer accept every proposed project. We must speak up and require the City to integrate these services into healthy communities by distributing them equitably among neighborhoods throughout the five boroughs. We need to oppose the plans for the corner of Webster and 204th, but we must also advocate for a fair process to locate these services. We need the Department of City Planning to review the zoning to ensure it delivers on the vision we developed. City Planning cannot just rezone neighborhoods and then walk away when the development goes wrong. We need the help of the housing agencies; they cannot continue to simply fund the most units wherever they can build them. They must plan housing as part of healthy communities. Most importantly, we need the help of our elected officials. I urge everyone to write their elected officials to oppose this project and to adopt “fair share” requirements.

*Jay Shuffield is a Norwood resident and member of Community Board 7.*

**The problem is that non-profit housing organizations, using public assistance, have been rapidly buying property along Webster Avenue to build something very different from the community’s vision.**

businesses, both by constructing buildings without retail space and by creating a population without enough purchasing power to form a viable customer base.

Losing the site at the corner of Webster and 204th would be a major setback for redeveloping Webster, since it is among the most attractive locations for middle-class housing, probably the most challenging portion of the vision to achieve. From

must avoid concentrating poverty in Norwood and Bedford Park.

For many years, supportive housing and other programs for homeless and at-risk populations have been added throughout Norwood and Bedford Park. Meanwhile, cluster-site homeless housing has quietly carved away affordable apartments, reducing the housing available for working families. These are necessary programs,

## Letters to the Editor

### Don’t Stifle Expression at MS 80, Koppell

As a parent of a child in MS 80 and as a member of the community for over a decade, I am grateful that the concerns of the community and events that affect our lives are reported in the *Norwood News*.

I read a letter in the *Norwood News* written by our Councilman Oliver Koppell who stated, “I think it would be advantageous to the entire community if the *Norwood News* would focus on the positive happenings at the school rather than highlight the negative occurrences, which, in my opinion, provide a distorted picture.”

What is truly distorted is the councilman making a long waited visit to see a snapshot of what goes on at MS 80. Just as he talked about the two members of the staff that praised Mr. Polanco for his leadership and his caring attitude, Mr. Koppell doesn’t truly know what is going on at MS 80.

Our children do!

I am thankful that as members of the community, we have a voice, and, like Mr. Koppell, can express our opinions. If we are truly concerned about the future of the young people in this community, politicians need to assist with the needs of its constituents. Rightfully so, Mr. Koppell has made it possible for MS 80 to have air conditioners to keep the school community cool. But to discuss demonstrations that highlighted the concerns of parents and staff alike seems to imply that we didn’t have the right to express the mis-

handling by the DOE in the daily affairs of the school community.

**Cecilia Donovan**  
**MS 80 Parent**

### Knox Place: The Noisiest Street in America?

The unseasonably warm spring has brought the early return of a disturbing pastime on Knox Place in the Norwood section of the Bronx. For the second consecutive year, the north end of Knox Place has been the site of almost nightly street parties that blaze on past midnight through the early hours of the morning. The partying includes pulsating music at stadium volumes, skateboarding, ball playing, barking dogs and bellowing conversation, all fueled by alcohol passed not-so-discreetly through first-floor windows. School nights are not exempt from the reveling, which can be heard and felt in apartments and private homes up and down the once-peaceful street.

Throughout history, sleep deprivation and the imposition of unwanted noise have served as highly reliable torture techniques. Don’t the residents of the Bronx, especially our children, face enough challenges without having to live in an environment made toxic by the selfishness of idle neighbors?

In addition to learning disabilities and hearing loss, high blood pressure and cardio-vascular ailments can be found in children who are chronically exposed to loud noise. Elevated noise levels have been proven to create stress,

increase workplace accident rates, and stimulate aggression and other anti-social behaviors. Who among us would want to place our lives in the hands of a nurse, pharmacist or bus driver who sleepwalks through the day because their neighbors don’t know when to call it a night?

Your home is a sanctuary from the stresses of the outside world -- but not if you live on Knox Place. The time has come for the leadership of the 52nd Precinct, Community Board 7, Knox Place building owners and the street’s residents to step up and put a stop to this assault on the health and well-being of their neighbors.

**Cynthia Tuohy**  
**Norwood Resident**

### Rude Awakening at Mi Casa

Mi Casa Bakery on Bedford Park Boulevard....I used to like patronizing this bakery. I liked their cinnamon toasted bagels with cream cheese and extra jelly. Also liked the fact that they open at 5 a.m. However, this morning when I went to speak with the Turkish woman who I thought owned the place of business about the poor service I received yesterday from one of the staffers, she said she didn’t want to hear it.

I started out politely. I asked her if she was the owner, didn’t get a straight answer. Instead, her response was I’ll talk about that (pointing to where the coffee/self service was), this (pointing to the baked products), but nothing

else. When I finally said I’m an educated woman and don’t deserve to be treated like that, and won’t be coming back in there, she threw up her hands as if to say (whatever she mumbled to herself) that she didn’t care. Even if I wasn’t educated, I’m always polite when I ask for service. I have frequented the place for the past two years that I have lived in this neighborhood, and have never been treated with such disrespect. There is a very nice Mexican neighbor of mine who works there and is ALWAYS nice to me. She was there and asked if she could help me. I told her it’s OK, I think they are racist and prejudiced.

I found out by speaking with another business owner two doors down, that the establishment is now owned by a woman from Ecuador. I went back and asked one of the Mexican males that works in the kitchen when the Ecuadorian owner would be there. He smiled and said one hour.

This communication will be duplicated and air mailed to (1) the owner; (2) the district leader; (3) Community Board #7; (4) Norwood News (which I read sometimes when there), News12 the Bronx, etc., and whoever else will listen. By the way, the bodega worker a couple of doors down agreed with me that the Albanian woman who works there is rude. I never thought that the Islamic Turkish sister would treat me like that as well. But she showed her true colors today, 6/24/13. I would like an apology.

**Thais Hockaday**  
**Bedford Park resident**



# Inside Albany: The Search for Jeff Klein

(continued from page 1)

Jeff Klein, who is nowhere to be found.

## Klein in the Spotlight

Klein, whose district stretches from the far east Bronx to Riverdale, is a legislative X factor. He and Republican co-leader Dean Skelos each have veto power over what bills come to the floor, which has made Klein a target for advocates who believe he is standing in the way of the two biggest progressive agenda items — campaign finance reform and the women's equality package.

The day before, on Tuesday, which also happened to be the first-ever Bronx Day event in Albany, activists dropped hundreds of banners throughout Klein's district, urging him to push campaign finance reform.

By mid-afternoon on Wednesday, when the *Norwood News* visited the state Capitol, Klein's position had not changed. He didn't support the campaign finance package passed in the Assembly because he said it didn't go far enough and it didn't have the votes to pass. And, while he supported the 10 items on the women's equality agenda, he didn't think the most controversial bill, which would strengthen abortion rights language in state law, could pass.

Klein had elected to break up the women's equality package into 10 separate bills, so they could be voted on individually, although it wouldn't matter unless the Assembly also voted on bills individually, which wasn't likely.

At this point, Bronx legislators were, at least publicly, holding out hope on both pieces of legislation.

The Capitol building is enormous and beautiful after renovations were completed last year. It also lacks signage telling you where to go. A lovely middle-aged woman stopped us and asked where we wanted to go. She happily showed us the way to the Senate chambers. We asked if she worked here. "Do I have to admit it?" she replied, only half joking.

## Hassling Hassell-Thompson

On the ground floor, before heading up to the chambers on the third floor, we bumped into Ruth Hassell-Thompson, an Albany veteran who represents the Bronx and Mt. Vernon. After redistricting last year, she now also represents Norwood and Bedford Park.

Hassell-Thompson was pleased. She had just emerged from a committee meeting where the new nominees for the state Board of Parole were introduced. For the last several years, there have been vacancies on the board. Last year, according to her chief of staff, Charlie Savage, Hassell-Thompson "balked" at the governor's nominees because they lacked diversity. She approved of this year's more diverse crop of nominees.

But what about campaign finance reform and women's equality? She was holding out hope that the 10 women's equality items and the campaign finance package would be on the agenda, but she wasn't against compromise.

"We're never willing to throw out the baby with the bath water," she said.

Hassell-Thompson, whose signature bill on no-fault divorce passed a couple of years ago, also wasn't willing to throw Klein under the bus if things didn't work out, saying she "didn't have time for that."

But, she added, "If he didn't do it, then he didn't do it. If you say you're going to do something" — like put progressive, Democratic bills on the floor for a vote — "then do it. Don't pretend like that's what you're going to do."

## The Reverend Weighs In

Up in the Senate chambers, we instantly recognize Democrat Ruben Diaz Sr., a Pentecostal minister who represents the middle Bronx and who's known as "The Reverend." He quickly tells us, with a hint of mischievous glee, that he doesn't support any of the Democrats most progressive agenda items, including campaign finance reform and the abortion part of the women's equality package.

The heart of the campaign finance reform package is a new public financing system, much like the system



Photo by Alex Kratz

**THE GORGEOUS LOBBY** next to the Senate chamber is the center of legislative activity in Albany and said to be where the terms "lobbying" and "lobbyist" come from. Bronx Senator Ruben Diaz Sr. stands in the middle of it all.

in place in New York City, which would match campaign contributions, 6 to 1, with state money.

"Why should we use money to finance politicians?" Diaz says in his gruff, Cookie Monster-esque voice. Advocates of public financing say it will help rid the state of corruption by allowing grassroots candidates to run for office, but Diaz isn't convinced.

He says the way to fix the system is to make their jobs full-time and eliminate outside income. (Legislators are technically part-time employees who are paid about \$80,000 a year.) He also said terms should be extended from two years to four years.

"That would give you more time to attend to the people's business, less time getting money," he says.

Earlier in the week, Diaz's good friend and former ally in the Senate, Pedro Espada, was sentenced to five years in prison for embezzling money from his network of non-profit health clinics in the Bronx.

"To me that's finished," he says, wiping his hands and shaking his head. "Now, all we can do is pray for him and his family."

So, what about Klein?

"He's eating all the candies," Diaz says.

Recently, Diaz had written that the Democrats blew it by not doing more to bring Klein into the fold and now he was reaping the benefits, distributing hundreds of thousands of dollars to pet projects in his district, while Democrats were left banging their heads against the wall.

"We have been patsies," he says.

Diaz predicted that the vast majority of bills would be passed at around midnight on Thursday, the last scheduled day of the session.

"They want to vote when everybody is sleeping," he says.

## Frustration Among Liberals

A short man in a sharp suit and bow tie walks past us. It's Jose M. Serrano, the son of Bronx Congressman Jose Serrano who represents parts of the west Bronx and upper Manhattan. He's now part of the Democratic Conference leadership team.

Turns out, it's his 41st birthday. He looks much younger. Serrano laments the lack of movement on progressive issues this year under Klein's leadership. One of Klein's signature bills, the passing of a minimum wage hike, wasn't as strong as it could have been, he says. "It happened, but it didn't happen," he says.

Why didn't it happen? "You'd have to ask [Klein] that." Soon, Serrano is encircled by a group of women from Planned Parenthood, who want the abortion piece to move.

"We're as frustrated as you are," he tells them.

Adriano Espaillat, the upper Manhattan senator who nearly beat Charlie Rangel in the 13th Congressional District primary last June, says he's settling in for a long couple of days. "I might have to go to Macy's to buy some shirts," he says.

The lobby is jumping now. But where's Klein?

"I don't keep tabs on him," says Gustavo Rivera, who's been critical of Klein's coalition since it was formed this past winter. With the four independents in the fold, Democrats would have a slim majority in the Senate.

Rivera is fully behind the Assembly's campaign finance bill. Even if the votes aren't there, Rivera says it's good to have a debate on the legislation and find out where everybody stands.

But maybe that's just him. "I'm actually far more liberal than most of my colleagues," he says.

At one point, Rivera, who teaches civics courses on the side, starts breaking it down for us -- the \$140 billion budget, the 20 million New York state residents, the 63 senators, the 150 assembly members, the huge beautiful building, the people who are telling you how great you are. It can be overwhelming, he says.

"It's incredibly important, not to forget what you're doing up here," he says.

## A Klein Sighting

Klein's office on the ninth floor of the Legislative Office Building is a good walk and an elevator ride from the Senate chamber. It's like a ghost town up there. Quiet.

As we turn and enter the office reception area, Klein is standing in an adjacent conference room, talking with his press aide, Eric Soufer. He looks us in the eye and then looks away. Suddenly, as we make a move toward the conference room, Soufer stands up and walks toward the door and Klein vanishes.

Soufer says Klein had a meeting to go to. Meanwhile, a secretary is relaying calls into Klein's office. Though he was caught off-guard, Soufer recovers and starts talking about wonky legislation. He details why the Democrats' campaign finance bill is weak ("It's disingenuous to tell taxpayers that this will change anything.") and laments the fact that they don't come to Klein's office and press for their local legislative priorities.

So, what about Klein? How's he going to make things move in these last days? What's his strategy? "Constant meetings," Soufer says.

Well, who's he meeting with now? Soufer says he doesn't know. It remains a mystery.

## Epilogue:

As predicted, the session lasted well past midnight on Thursday and was extended to Friday. Democrats attached their public financing legislation onto a bill that would allow New Yorkers to temporarily use the old pull-levers on voting machines. Klein and the three other Democrats in the Independent Democratic Conference voted for it, but Diaz Jr. and former IDC member Malcolm Smith, who's facing bribery charges, voted against it. Meanwhile, the Assembly passed the entire women's equality package, but the Senate passed only nine of the 10 bills in the women's equality package, meaning none of it became law.



Photo by Alex Kratz

**A LOOK AT** the Capitol building, which was recently renovated.



# St. Patrick's Honors Centenarians

By NATASHA RODRIGUEZ

In 1913, the average life expectancy in America was 50 years. However, just this week, St. Patrick's Home for the Aged and Infirm hosted their annual centennial celebration to honor 10 of their residents who were more than 100 years old. These 10 remarkable individuals have lived to see 18 presidents in office and were alive when the American flag had just 45 stars on it.

The festivities were held in the brightly lit St. Joseph's Hall with patriotic decorations hanging from the ceiling and plenty of jazz music. Most of the residents from the home were in attendance, looking eager to celebrate. The event included the reading of a message from President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, which read: "We are blessed to join your family and friends on your extraordinary

birthdays. We are very grateful for your contribution to the American story." In a statement, Mayor Michael Bloomberg wished the centenarians a "joyous day as you join your friends and family to celebrate this milestone."

The 10 centenarians sat behind a long table with reserved quietness, beaming proudly as the children from the Hendy School of Dancing performed for them. One of the running jokes seemed to be that out of the 10 centenarians, only two were men. The oldest of the group, was Anna Wowra, who had just turned 105. The assistant administrator, Sister Kevin Patricia, said that her wish for the centenarians was that "The days ahead of them will be lived with peace, happiness, and dignity."

Afterwards, everyone in the room wished those 10 special people 100 more years of life.



Photo courtesy St. Patrick's Home

**THE CENTENARIANS:** (l-r) Anna Wowra, Julia Bizzarri, Margaret Igoe (in the back), Elizabeth Howell, Joseph Frankel, Charles McLaughlin, Bridget McCahill, Matilda Belovic (in the back), Catherine Murphy and Elizabeth Howell.



## 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<sup>1/2</sup> year olds

### Northside Annex 718-405-0020

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2, 3 and 4<sup>1/2</sup> year olds

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### Van Cortlandt Jewish Center 718-882-0941

3880 Sedgwick Avenue, 8:00am-6:00pm or 7:30am-6:30pm avail.

2, 3 and 4<sup>1/2</sup> year olds

**Fees:** 1 year olds: \$1127/month, 2 year olds: \$1018/month  
and 3- 4<sup>1/2</sup> year olds: \$975/month  
plus membership, insurance and activity fees

**Programs are all year long • Meals included**

**We also have income eligible Early Learn and Head Start available.**

**Call 718-654-0563 for complete information.**

## Honor Your Recent Graduate!

Next issue, the *Norwood News* will be covering some of the recent graduation ceremonies happening here in the Bronx neighborhoods we cover. If you want to recognize someone in your family or a friend who is making the next step in their life, send high resolution digital images (jpeg or tiff files, preferably) of them to us with information about their lives and graduation details, at [norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org](mailto:norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org) or send hard copy photos and information to us at 3400 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx NY, 10467. Include contact information in case we have any questions.

# After Violence, Forums Discuss Bullying

(continued from page 1)

the recreation center at St. James Park. The second forum, on June 14, was hosted at MS 80, where Polanco opened his doors for the community to voice their concerns about the issue. Guest speakers included police from the 52nd Precinct, ministers from local churches, and various other members of the community who offered solutions to the bullying problem.

Walter Bell, the chairperson of the Youth Services/Public Safety & Quality of Life committee at Community Board 7, said the guest speakers talked about how they were taking steps to prevent this violence from happening. The 52nd Precinct, for example, said they would try to interact with the local schools more. A representative of the Women's Empowerment Self-Defense Academy said they wanted to start empowerment programs in schools as well as set up an anti-bullying hotline.

Cecelia Donovan, a parent leader at MS 80, attended the forum as well. She said the general message was one of vigilance and looking out for one another.

"Most of the speakers talked about really paying attention to what the children are doing," said Donovan when describing the forum. "A lot of people look the other way when these type of things happen, and I don't want to sound like the solution is a one-liner but 'look out for each other' was part of the theme they were trying to get across."

However Donovan also expressed her disappointment over the turnout at the

event. She said that there weren't enough people who were affected by this problem in the audience and that there wasn't an opportunity for everyone to ask questions at the end.

"I think there would have been a much better turnout at MS 80 if children who had been bullied at the school, as well as the community at large were made aware of the event. Not even staff inside the school knew it was happening there," said Donovan.

Though many parents continue to see bullying as a problem, the Department of Education (DOE) said the rate of bullying incidents has actually gone down this past year. According to the DOE, students actually feel safer than they did six years ago.

"Since 2007, the percentage of students stating that 'students threaten or bully other students at school,' 'most of the time' or 'all of the time' has decreased by 10 percentage points, and last year, 90 percent of students agreed or strongly agreed with the statement 'I am safe in my classes,'" said Marge Feinberg, a spokesperson for the DOE, in an email.

"Our partnership with the NYPD School Safety Division, the prevention and intervention work we are doing in our schools, and the changes to our Discipline Code have all contributed to a continued reduction in crime, a decrease in the number of behavioral incidents in our schools, and a decrease in both principal and superintendent suspensions this year as compared to the same period last year," she added.

# Neighborhood Notes

## Public Hearings on Federal Funding

NYC Department of Youth & Community Development (DYCD) announced a public hearing on the allocation of federal funding to combat poverty and support community-based programs. A Bronx hearing will be held at the Betances Community Center, 547 E. 146th St., on June 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](http://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.

## Performance Arts Grants for Bronxites

Casita Maria Center for Arts & Education is accepting proposals for its Performing Arts Residency program to fund new works of theater, music, and spoken word featuring Bronx-based artists. The center will award five \$1,000 grants for production costs and artist fees, and will provide

(continued on page 13)



# Classifieds

## Professional Directory

### Beautician Services

**Come to Madame P's Beauty World**  
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We specialize in haircutting, hair care, and provide consultations on hair care and weaving to stimulate hair growth. We do tinting and use all manners of relaxers, including Mizani, Affirm, Fiberguard, and Vitale. We use Wave Nouveau Coiffure. We are still doing carefree curls and press and curl. We also offer flat-ironing. 20% off for seniors Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

617 E. Fordham Road (between Arthur and Hughes), Bronx, NY 10458. (Fordham University Section). Call today for your appointment: (347) 284-3834

### Pediatric Services

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### Religious Services

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Home fellowship bible studies on Wednesdays at 7 p.m.  
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### Law Offices

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**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.

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**Computer Repair:** Upgrade, troubleshooting: Laptop cracked screen, no power, overheating, virus removal, data recovery. Call James (646) 281-4475, (718) 324-4332

### REAL ESTATE

**2-Family House for Sale:** Low down payment! Low interest rate! Fully renovated. Includes 3 BR over 3 BR and master bedroom. Wood floors and tile. Full 1-bedroom basement. This property has

7 bedrooms and 4 full baths. Parking and 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.

### 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.

**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

(continued from page 12)

rehearsal and performing arts space. The deadline for applications is July 8. For more information or to request an application, call (718) 589-2230 ext. 6193 or send an email to [ajordan@castitamaria.org](mailto:ajordan@castitamaria.org).

### Free Sports Programs

City Parks Foundation kicks off its 2013 Summer Sports Program in Bronx Parks for youngsters ages five to 16, starting July 1. Local area parks include Williamsbridge Oval, St. James Park, and Van Cortlandt Park. Activities offered are tennis, golf, and track and field instruction. For more information and a full schedule of programs, call (212) 360-8205 or visit [www.CityParksFoundation.org](http://www.CityParksFoundation.org).

### Free Boat Rowing

The Bronx-based Rocking the Boat community rowing program offers visitors the opportunity to row on the Bronx River or enjoy a guided tour of the plants and wildlife of the park every Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. through Aug. 31, until Labor Day, at Hunts Point Riverside Park (Edgewater Road at Lafayette Avenue).

For more information, call (914) 669-9067 or visit [rockingtheboat.org](http://rockingtheboat.org).

### 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](http://www.sfabx.com).

### Free Head Start at MMCC

The Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, 3450 DeKalb Ave., offers free Head Start classes for income eligible 3- and 4-year-olds in its newly expanded Childhood Development Center all year from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at its main building as well as at its Northside Annex at 3512 Dekalb Ave., and its new site at 3880 Sedgwick Ave. at the Van Cortlandt Jewish Community Center. Breakfast, lunch, and snack are included. For more information and to register, call (718) 882-4000 ext. 0 or visit the main center.

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



### Child Development Center 3450 & 3512 Dekalb Avenue

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8:30am - 2:50pm (5:00pm for 4 yr. olds if UPK funds avail.) • 12 month program

**Universal Pre-K • 4 years old • FREE**  
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# Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

## Onstage

■ The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents **A Musical Tribute to Sam Cooke**, June 29; and **Noche en la Argentina: Hard Tango Trio**, July 6; both at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org).

■ The New York Botanical Garden presents **A Brief History of Italian Music in Jazz**, featuring Simona Premazzi and her ensemble, June 27 from 6 to 9 p.m. (rain or shine), in an open air pavilion tent (bring blanket and picnic dinner for before the concert on the Conservatory Lawn). Tickets are \$20/ members; \$30/non members (advance tickets recommended; includes one complimentary cocktail for over age 21, or non-alcoholic beverage). For more information, call (718) 817-8700.

■ Poe Park's Visitor Center, 2640 Grand Concourse, presents **Bardekova**

**Ensemble Concert**, featuring a variety of music, June 28 at 2 p.m.; as well as a variety of activities for the entire family. For more information and a detailed schedule, call (718) 365-5516/5545.

■ City Parks Foundation presents **Summerstage**, a series of free summer events, including Sammy Garcia y Sabor de Puerto Rico on June 27 at 7 p.m.; and Bronx Family Day, on June 29, featuring a variety of activities and entertainment from 4 to 7 p.m.; followed by Rock Steady Crew, featuring a master dance class at 7 p.m. and dance performances at 8 p.m.; all at St. Mary's Park, on St. Ann's Avenue and 146th Street and St. Ann's Avenue. Also scheduled is The Carpetbag Brigade, part of the International Contemporary Circus Festival, July 10 at 10:30 a.m. at Mt. Hope Playground, East 177th Street and Walton Avenue; and Mr. Chris' Musical Experience, July 11 at 10:30 a.m. at Van Cortlandt Park's Classic Playground, Van Cortlandt Park South and Orloff

Avenue. For more information or a detailed schedule including all Bronx locations, call (917) 626-0525 or visit [cityparksfoundation.org](http://cityparksfoundation.org).

■ The Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance (BAAD), 841 Barretto St., presents **Out Like That! Festival**, featuring Living With Pride: Ruth Ellis at 100, June 27 at 8 p.m. (free), film documentary of a 100-year-old African-American lesbian recounting her life; and Queerlesque, closing night featuring queer burlesque performers, June 28 at 8 p.m. (\$20). For more information, call (718) 842-5223.

## Events

■ St. Ann's Church, 3519 Bainbridge Ave., holds **summer flea market**, Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from July 12 through Aug. 17. Vendors welcome. For more information, call (718) 547-9350.

■ The Botanical Garden presents its **Greenmarket**, farmers market at the base of the Library Allee inside the Mosholu Gate entrance, Wednesdays through Nov. 27, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call (718) 817-8658.

■ The Fordham Road BID presents free outdoor movie, **"Despicable Me,"** June 28 at 8:30 p.m. at Fordham Plaza (189th Street and Third and Park avenues). Bring a chair or blanket. For more information, call (718) 562-2104.

■ Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. invites the public to celebrate **Caribbean Heritage Month 2013**, featuring music, live entertainment and refreshments, on June 27 from 6 to 8 p.m., in the Bronx County Building's Veterans Memorial Hall, 851 Grand Concourse. For more information or to RSVP, call (718) 590-3522 or email [lrldan@bronxbp.nyc.gov](mailto:lrldan@bronxbp.nyc.gov).

■ Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. and NYS Senator Jeff Klein present New York Salutes America **Fireworks Extravaganza** on June 28 from 6 to 10 p.m. at Orchard Beach, featuring live music and children's entertainment, rain or shine. Parking is \$7. Shuttle bus service will be available between Pelham Bay Park and Orchard Beach.

■ The Westchester Square BID presents **Blast From the Past**, featuring the Just Nuts Party Dance Band playing music of all eras, June 29 from noon to 3 p.m. For more information, call (718) 597-4629 or visit [wsbid.org](http://wsbid.org).

■ Sunkofa Café & Boutique, 1789 Southern Blvd. at Boston Road and 174th Street, presents **Wonder-Filled Women's Healing & Wellness Day**, June 29 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. (admission by donation). Learn about holistic healing, yoga, self care, meditation, workshop, and more. First 15 ladies to register receive premium gift bags. Register at [Bronxholistichealing@gmail.com](mailto:Bronxholistichealing@gmail.com). For more information, call (347) 590-2394 or (646) 259-5990.

■ The Woodlawn Conservancy presents **Countee Collected: Honoring Countee Cullen**, June 29 at 3 p.m., at the Woodlawn Cemetery. This free event celebrates the works of poet Countee Cullen, and features poets and singer performing original works. Suggested \$10 donation for adults. For more information, call (718) 920-1469.

■ Bronx Museum of the Arts presents **free outdoor film screening**, "Suite Habana," July 5 from 6 to 10 p.m., at Joyce Kilmer Park, Grand Concourse between 161st and 164th streets (bring blanket). Rain location is at the museum, 1040 Grand Concourse, 2nd floor North Wing. Also scheduled is a free **Bronx Calling Bike Tour**, to explore the Bronx along the Grand Concourse between the Bronx Museum and Wave Hill. Begin at the museum on June 29 and at Wave Hill on July 13. Registration is required online at [www.wavehill.org](http://www.wavehill.org) or call Wave Hill at (718) 549-3200 ext. 305, or at WH's Perkins Visitor Center. Meet at the Bronx Museum of the Arts from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

■ **The Great Bronx Bar Tour** will take place on July 13 from noon to 8 p.m. to benefit the Bronx Historical Society. Participants will enjoy beer, drink and food specials at 25 bars, and receive matching bar tour T-shirts, a map of all participating bars, and drop-off and pickup locations, visiting at your own pace, using a free trolley bus service. Tickets are \$50 on the website [www.TheGreatBronxBarTour.com](http://www.TheGreatBronxBarTour.com), as of June 21, and \$40 on July 13 at the Jolly Tinker Bar, 2875 Webster Ave. and the Bronx Beer Hall, 2344 Arthur Ave. For more information, visit the website.

■ Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Arts Projects**: Lanterns for Summer Light, to make paper mâché lanterns, June 29 and 30, in the Ecology Building, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and **Garifuna International Band**, July 10 at 7 p.m. on the grounds. Grounds admission is free Saturdays

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until noon all year, and free Tuesdays until noon in June and all day in July. 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 free **Bronx Culture Trolley**, which transports visitors on the first Wednesday of every month (except January and September), to free Bronx hot spots. Trolley night starts with a 5 p.m. reception at the Longwood Art 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. On July 3, riders can visit exhibitions at the gallery, a book signing and reading at the Bronx Museum, a tour of Andrew Freedman Mansion, a dance performance at Pregones Theatre; and conclude with fine food and drink at Clock Cafe and Martini Bar. 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](http://www.bronxarts.org).

## 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. 20. 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.

■ The Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse, presents **State of Mind: New California Art Circa 1970**, story of the California artists of the '60s and '70s who impacted artists across the country; and **Bronx Calling: The Second AIM Biennial**, a variety of work by Artists in the Marketplace participants (free). Both exhibits run through Sept. 8. For more information, call (212) 671-5169.

## Library Events

■ The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents programs for adults including **Computer Basics**: July 1; and **MS Powerpoint 2010 for Beginners**: July 3, both at 6 p.m. Teens/young adults can attend **Teen Theatre, "Jack the Giant Slayer"**: June 27 at 3 p.m. Children can enjoy **Preschool Story Time at 11 a.m.**: June 27; **Film**: July 9 at 2 p.m.; **Fan Making**: June 27 at 4 p.m.;

## EDITOR'S PICK

### Welcome Home Weekend at Wave Hill

The Wave Hill House, located at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, reopens July 6/7 weekend after a two-year renovation, and all activities and grounds admission are free all weekend. Activities on July 6 include martial arts at the Perkins Visitor Center at 10 a.m. Activities on July 7 include Hatha Yoga (all levels); and Family Yoga (ages 3 to 5), both at 10 a.m. at the Perkins Visitor Center; and Meditation at WH House at 11:30 a.m.

Activities on July 6 and 7 include collaborative art in Armor Hall, WH House, 1 to 4 p.m.; live Irish music, on the grounds, 1:30 to 4 p.m.; free cool herbal drinks, at the Mark Twain Room, WH House at 2 p.m.; and Family Arts Project "Pineapple Welcome Wishes," to make a pineapple hat, in the WH House Kerlin Learning Center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

See additional WH listings under "Events." Call in advance to confirm, and for more information and a detailed schedule of events, call (718) 549-3200.

and **Leaf Book Making**: July 11 at 2 p.m. 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 **Adults Beaded Jewelry**: June 28 at 2 p.m. Teens/young adults can attend **Arts and Crafts**: July 2 at 3 p.m. Children can enjoy **NXT Robotics**: (ages 5 to 12; phone or in-person registration required), to make robots out of legos, July 8 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

■ The Jerome Park Library, at 118 Eames Place, offers **Cooking at 4 p.m.**: (for teens/young adults), June 27. Children can enjoy **Presley and Melody**: (ages infants to 12 years), June 28 at 2 p.m.; and **Film**: (ages 5 to 12), July 8 at 2 p.m. Adults can attend **Computer Basics at noon**: June 27, July 2, 9 and 11. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

**NOTE:** *Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to [norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org](mailto:norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org), and should be received by July 1 for the next publication date of July 11.*

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