Making Music at the Park

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.

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 national study by 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 national study by the Transportation Economics Institute, which finds that a new Metro North station increases property values by 1.5%, compared to 1% for a new LIRR station.

Inside Albany: The Search for Jeff Klein

Inside the Capitol building in Albany, heavy iron gates 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 “lobby-ist” 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 frantically tap away at their smart phones.

Hundreds of pieces of legislation, including blockbuster 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 Jeff Klein.

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 Moshulu Parkway three months ago has brought the conversation to the local level.

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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Advertisements appearing in this paper cannot and expansion," Walker-Santiago said of the project.

“Eighty percent of the sales are tax-exempt, and showcase our part of the Bronx,” Walker-Santiago said of the project.

“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 ongoing re-development 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

Community Board 7 Braces for Big Changes at the Top

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 Visitors Center Café, members narrowly voted in former vice chair Adaline Walk-er-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 Walk-er-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.”

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Additional Board Meeting Notes

• Board member Mohammed Ali received an award for ensuring public safety and pursuing anti-bullying initia- 
tives in the Bronx’s Bengal 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 Ener-
gy Star refrigerator; and the honorary renaming of Villa Avenue in Bedford Park as St. Philip Neri Way.

• 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 out-reach 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 dan-
gers 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, investi-
gators 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

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

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 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 250-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 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 pier.
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 Forde, 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)
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 medical 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 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.
What Does It Take to Be a Man in the Bronx?

Born 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 fighting peers, 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, 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 means being tough,” 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,” Davalle says, “no matter what. Even if it costs your life.” In middle school, Davalle 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 manning 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 Citron, 25, of Mott Haven.

Greg Faulkner, 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 define 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 something 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.

Under the Influence: Music, Drugs and Teens

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 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’ 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)
L

ight year, out of the 533,042 people stopped as part of the NYPD’s Stop, Question and Frisk policing strategy, 89 per

cent were innocent, according to the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU). A vast majority of those tar-
geted were Black and Latino teens. Many people think this is an abuse of power.

“Cops are robbing teens of their inno-
cence,” said a spokesperson for the Bronx Defenders, an organization that provides free legal representation to indigent

Bronx residents.

Even though a United States District

Court recently declared certain aspects of the so-called “Stop and Frisk” poli-

cy 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.”

“Whenver 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 5th 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 edu-
cator 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 pri-

vate apartment buildings — violates the fourth amendment protection against un-

reasonable search and seizure. The case was brought to court by the NYCLU, Lati-

no 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

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 influ-

enced,” 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’re doing anything.”

But some people feel it isn’t just music that advertises drugs, but media, in gen-

eral.

Television “promotes a culture of in-

stinct,” said Greg Faulkner, chief of staff for Bronx City Councilman Fernan-
deo Cabrera. “Some of the biggest movies do more to promote drug use,” than mu-

sic. “It’s not just the record industry, it is cultural,” he added.

Jonathan Collie, also a senior at Spell-

man, 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.”

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 Olisa Williams to the floor. Everyone shouts: “Hit her!” Olisia, however, manages to get up and punch Erisha with rage. The fight be-

gins.

The first push is how a majority of high school fights start. The announcement of a “10-33” is echoed throughout the halls as school safety agents race to respond to the “emergency situation” and to disperse the crowd and prevent the situation from escal-

ating 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 princi-

pal. A call to parents is made. In this case, Olisa and Erisa were given two days of in-school suspension.

That seems light compared to in-

dependent and private schools, which often enforce zero tolerance policies that lead to detention, probation, removal of priv-

ileges, or expulsion — which is how Erisa came to Roosevelt in the first place.

Why do independent and private schools foster, create and nurture such an en-

vironment? School officials take the necessary

measures by distributing handbooks, hold-

ing off-site orientations, installing camer-

as to monitor and discourage inappropriate and unsafe behavior and even offering peer mediation and peer leadership pro-

grams 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 nu-

merous 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.”
‘ANNIE’ COMES TO LIFE AT PS 56

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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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 revitalized 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 income levels. What motivated 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 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 realizing the vision for Webster Avenue. Since it is among the most attractive locations for middle-class housing, probably the most challenging portion of the vision to achieve. From businesses and affordability to residential housing, that excludes the middle class. They are room for a strong middle-class, they are powerful to form a viable customer base.

The unseasonably warm spring has brought the early return of a disturbing pas- time 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 depriva- tion 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 jely. Also liked the fact that they open at 5 a.m. However, this morning when I went to Mi Casa, I met the Turkish woman who I thought owned the place of business about the poor service I received yesterday from one of the staffs, 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 duplicat- ed and air mailed to (1) the owner, (2) the district leader, (3) Community Board #7, (4) Norwood News (which I read some times 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 Hochday
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 bopped 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 “just don’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 mischievousness, that he doesn’t support any of the Democratic 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 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 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 patbes,” 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 45th 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.
The festivities were held in the bright-ly lit St. Joseph’s Hall with patriotic deco-
rations hanging from the ceiling and plen-
y of jazz music. Most of the residents from the home were in attendance, look-
ing 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 extraordinary family and friends on your extraordinary birthday. 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 Wosra, who had just turned 105. The assistant administrator; Sister Kevin Patri-
cia, 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.

The celebration to honor 10 of their residents who lived with peace, happiness, and dignity. It 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.
Community rowing program offers visitors the opportunity to row on the Bronx River for youngsters ages five to 16, starting July 1. Local area parks include Williamsbridge Oval, St. James Park, and Van Cortlandt Park. We are still doing carefree cuts and press and curl. We also offer flat-ironing, 20% off for seniors Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

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.

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).

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.

Free Head Start at MMCC
The Mashuda 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) 882-400 ext. 0 or visit the main center.

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For more Neighborhood Notes online, go to www.norwoodnews.wordpress.com and click on “Neighborhood Notes.”
Out & About

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.

■ 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, dinner for before the concert on the pavilion tent (bring blanket and picnic). June 28 at 8 p.m. ($20). For more information, call (718) 842-5223.

■ Poe Park’s Visitor Center, 2640 Grand Concourse, presents Bardeka 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.

■ 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 Moshulu 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 iroldan@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.

■ Sunkofa Café & Boutique, 1789 Southern Blvd., at Broadway 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. 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 outdoor film celebration gratefully is sponsored by the Bronx Historical Society to celebrate the life 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, 1404 Grand Concourse, 2nd floor North Wing. Also scheduled is a free Bronx Cycling 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 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, 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
until noon all year, and free Tuesdays until noon in June and all day in July. Glynndor 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 at 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.

Activities on July 6 and 7 include collaborative art in Armor Hall, WH House, 1 to 4 p.m.; 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 (718) 671-5169.

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.; and Leaf Book Making: July 11 at 2 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

The Mosholu Library, at 285 E. 205th St., offers for seniors and adults: Knitting Circle: Thursdays at 3 p.m.; 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 p.m. Attends can 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, and should be received by July 1 for the next publication date of July 11.
Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. & New York State Senator Jeff Klein invite you to
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