

NORWOOD NEWS

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City Council Debate
Aug. 1, 7 p.m.
Bedford Park
Details: p. 8

SUMMER STRESS RELIEVER



Photo by Adi Talwar

LOCAL RESIDENT and instructor Primwatee Groover, center, leads a Tai Chi class at the Poe Park Visitor's Center on the Grand Concourse at Kingsbridge Road. To find other recreational activities happening in the Bronx this summer, check out our Out & About section starting on p. 10.

Filling Void, New Bronx LGBTQ Center Is Up and Running

By HUGH THORNHILL

When the Bronx Community Pride Center in Longwood closed its doors earlier this year, the Bronx had no safe haven for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning community. Fortunately, a new LGBTQ center in the Bronx has risen from the ashes of the old center's demise.

While the new organization is gaining momentum, the center is still looking for a permanent home.

"We're trying to find one centralized place that's convenient for everyone to get to," said Fabio Cotza, a member of In the Life Ministries and the new LGBTQ center. "But hopefully if that's successful, there will be several satellite programs spread all over the Bronx."

The old Community Pride Center closed in June of 2012 in the wake of the Lisa Winters scandal. Winters, the former executive director of the Pride Center was indicted last year and convicted on April Fools Day of embezzling nearly \$143,000 from the organization.

Though the new center does not affiliate itself with the old center in any way, it will be providing the same type of services for the LGBTQ community in the Bronx and upper Manhattan. These services include an area for members of the LGBTQ community to meet and socialize, receive support and services from other organizations, and to educate and advocate for issues important to the LGBTQ community.

Tym Moss co-founded the center last year and is its cur-

rent president. Before becoming president of the center, he owned and operated a real estate company, Moss Realty, for more than 20 years. He left the company in 2004, and in 2008, went back to doing what he really loved: entertainment. Moss has been an actor, singer, an Internet radio show host, and a producer for a number of years. And even though he volunteers as the president of the LGBTQ center, he still has time to perform even at the center's events.

Moss' deep involvement isn't something he envisioned even a year ago.

"Believe it or not, last year I had no idea I was going to
(continued on page 6)



Photo by Hugh Thornhill

MEMBERS OF THE new Bronx LGBTQ Center pose during a community outreach event with Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. (center).

Old Fordham Library Up for Grabs

By ALEX KRATZ

Councilman Joel Rivera, who moonlights as a Bronx real estate agent, looks at the vacant old Fordham Library on Bainbridge Avenue and sees a valuable commodity that could be used in two vastly different ways.

"It's very attractive," he said, when asked about the commercial or residential potential of the historic building, for which the city is now openly soliciting redevelopment proposals. "Given its proximity to the third largest shopping district in the city on Fordham Road and major transit stations. There are colleges and the New York Botanical Garden nearby. On the private side, that would be huge."

But Rivera, who is leaving office at the end of the year, says the city would be shortsighted if it turned it over to a commercial developer. Instead, like many other community advocates, Rivera wants to see some type of community center set up shop in the 90-year-old building.

"I'd like to see another Mary Mitchell Center," Rivera said, referring to the multi-service community in Crotona that provides programming for a wide range of residents, from youth to seniors. "I think that would have the best long-term impact, especially here [in Fordham-Bedford] where there aren't a lot of other options."

On July 9, the city released a request for proposals for the old library, which has sat mostly vacant since it was
(continued on page 8)

Bronx Pols Disclose Outside Gigs

By NATASHA RODRIGUEZ

After years of criticisms about corruption and the lack of transparency in Albany, state legislators' outside income, investments and debts were made available online for the first time ever in accordance with the Public Integrity Reform Act of 2011. These disclosures exposed many interesting details about Bronx lawmakers, including the fact that some have earned money through gambling and movie roles.

State lawmakers receive a base pay of \$79,000 a year, according to a report by the 2012 National Conference of State Legislatures, making them some of the best paid lawmakers in the nation. However, most of them work outside jobs.

The most intriguing revelation, by far, was South Bronx Assemblywoman Carmen Arroyo claiming she earned close to \$30,000 in gambling this year. Arroyo did
(continued on page 2)

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BREAKING BRONX



News • Politics • Policy

In Wide Open Council Race, Getting to Know the Candidates

By ALEX KRATZ

Ritchie Torres couldn't hold it in any longer. All night long, the lean, composed 25-year-old 15th District City Council candidate had listened to Joel R. Rivera — the other Joel Rivera — bash him and his fellow candidates throughout a forum at the Bronx Library Center for not showing up to rallies.

Rivera had just delivered his closing statement, ending with extended quotes he read from Martin Luther King Jr. and then John F. Kennedy Jr. Torres found it a little much.

"JFK for 15th Council District," he deadpanned.

Rivera, a stocky man with exquisitely slicked-back hair, pencil-thin goatee and pin-striped blue suit, did his best not to react.

The two sparred earlier in the night and the combative Rivera had obviously touched a nerve.

Afterward, the wonky, policy-heavy Torres lamented the lack of substantive dialogue at the debate, saying his fellow candidates often stuck to rhetoric, rather than ideas. While not naming names, Torres, the youngest candidate in the race, said some candidates resorted to juvenile tactics.

"There were a few adults in the room and I was one of them," he said.

Later, Rivera wouldn't apologize.

"If I seemed a little aggressive and agitated, it's because I am," Rivera said. "I get frustrated hearing the same old lines from these guys."

The forum on Monday night, July 22, which was co-sponsored by the Mary Mitchell Center, Bronx Health Reach and the League of Conservation Voters, was centered around the theme of sustainabil-

ity. Many questions concerned health and the environment, but they veered off into topics ranging from jobs to public safety to development.

For the most part, the candidates agreed, although each tried to add on their own take. For the most part, aside from the digs thrown out by Rivera, the mood was friendly.

Really, in this wild and wide-open race, it was a chance to get to know and see some of the candidates in action.

Looking only slightly uncomfortable at almost nine months pregnant, Raquel Batista, the former housing and immigration rights activist, somehow managed to hang in there for the full two hours. She talked strongly about the need and power of mentorship programs for Bronx youth.

The other woman in the race, Cynthia Thompkins, the president of the 46th Precinct Community Council, fit in her unique biography: raised in Pittsburgh, Atlanta roots, became a cop, retired, business owner in Hawaii, New York law degree, Bronxite since 2009, Legal Aid So-

ciety lawyer. She spoke eloquently about empowerment, dinging on her tagline — "Poverty to Prosperity" — on several occasions.

Albert Alvarez, the chief of staff for Joel Rivera (the Councilman, not the candidate), drilled home his 45 years of living and working in the district and his record as Rivera's right-hand man.

And Kenny Agosto, a kind-hearted district leader and aide to State Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson, had so much to say, he went over his time limit during almost every answer. At the end of the debate, Agosto, who has openly struggled with his weight and says he's lost 32 pounds on the campaign trail, stood up and let it all hang out during his impassioned closing statement. He was still sweating 15 minutes after the forum ended.

"I just wanted to show everyone how passionate I am," he said.

Editor's Note: For more on the debate, including video footage, and profiles of every candidate, visit norwoodnews.org over the next few weeks.



Photo by Alex Kratz

CANDIDATES FOR the 15th Council District include (l-r) Kenny Agosto, Albert Alvarez, Raquel Batista, Joel R. Rivera, Cynthia Thompkins, and Ritchie Torres.

Bronx Pols Disclose Outside Gigs

(continued from page 1)

not report any outside income when initial documents were due, but added the information in an amendment a month later.

While she has yet to return our calls, Arroyo released an undated photo to the *Daily News* of herself and three friends standing next to a winning slot machine at the Saratoga Casino and Raceway in an attempt to counter the many questions about her disclosure.

Arroyo would not say when in 2012 the jackpot was won, nor would she say what her plans are for the unexpected income. Arroyo, whose nephew was convicted of stealing money from a nonprofit she was connected to, was long suspected of — but never indicted or charged with — any wrongdoing.

Unlike Arroyo, several Bronx lawmakers earned their money through other jobs. The financial disclosures revealed that many are adjunct professors at community colleges, including Senator Gustavo Rivera, Assemblyman Carl Heastie, Assemblyman Luis Sepulveda, and Senator Jeff Klein. Each earned anywhere from \$1,000 to \$20,000 for their teaching gigs.

Many Bronx pols also practice law, in-

cluding Klein, Sepulveda and Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz. Klein said he made up to \$85,000 on legal work, Sepulveda up to \$75,000 and Dinowitz up to \$50,000.

The newly elected Mark Gjonaj, who fought against being labeled an unscrupulous landlord during his successful campaign against Assemblyman Naomi Rivera last year, is the wealthiest Bronx legislator, according to the disclosure reports.

Gjonaj claimed he made between \$10,000 and \$40,000 last year from his property management businesses. But the freshman assembly member's primary source of wealth lies in his real estate holdings. Gjonaj listed three pieces of property on his disclosure form, one in the Bronx and two in Yonkers. The property in the Bronx is valued between \$500,000 and \$750,000, while the two Yonkers properties are each valued at more than \$1 million.

Gjonaj said those pieces of land remain vacant, but he's hoping to develop them in the near future when the market picks up. He said his family owns several Bronx rental properties, but that he is not a landlord himself.

"Being newly elected, it wasn't surprising that I had to disclose my finances," Gjonaj said, in a phone interview.

"But I think to many of my colleagues who have been in office for a while, it was a little surprising."

Senator Ruben Diaz Sr., who is a pastor at the Christian Community Neighborhood Church, disclosed that he receives birthday gifts from the church, but filed their value at \$0. Diaz Sr. also receives a stipend from the CCBA church, worth up to \$20,000.

Several lawmakers committed errors on their financial disclosures. Assemblyman Michael Benedetto directs readers to "see attached document" for information on his interests in trust and estate. However, there is no attached document.

Assemblyman Marcos Crespo seems to have confused the name of his wife's beauty salon. In his statements, he listed himself as the sole proprietor of Virna Lisy Salon, which is his wife's name. While this salon does not seem to exist, his wife runs a salon named Virginia's Beauty Salon.

The only elected official in the entertainment business, at least nominally, is Dinowitz, who says he is still getting paid somewhere between \$1 and \$1,000 a year for his minor acting role in the 2002 Jennifer Lopez film, "Maid in Manhattan." He played a politician.

Inquiring Photographer

By DAVID GREENE

This week we asked readers for their thoughts on the Trayvon Martin murder trial and the acquittal of George Zimmerman.



It's a travesty of justice that after so much progress that we've made, it seems to be that the Republican party, the Conservative party wants to take us backwards in time and take away women's rights and human rights.

Edwin Diaz



I think young people need to get out and vote in order to change some of the laws we have on the books in cities all over the world. Trayvon Martin's death was a travesty and it could have been avoided.

Rita Jones



I don't know if it was the right verdict because I didn't watch the trial or see what happened, but I hope they got both sides of the story of what really happened. I hope things don't get violent and everyone stays cool.

Annette Rodriguez



I have a son around Trayvon's age. He's a year younger than Trayvon. My son is a little quiet kid. My son goes down to Florida to visit his sisters and I can see him coming back from the store and not bothering anybody and the same thing happening to him. It seems to me that had [Zimmerman] listened to the officers to "stand down," none of that would have happened.

Eric Fickling



A 17-year-old boy was walking home, he should be allowed to walk home in peace and this man attacked him. I don't believe anything he said.

Diane Brown

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Be Healthy

286

Deaths reported in U.S. last year from West Nile Virus, which is spread by infected mosquitoes.

Vital Stats

Tips: This Summer, Combat Perils of Mother Nature

Summer is a time for enjoying warm weather, but spending time outside also increases the risk of contracting serious conditions like Lyme disease, poison ivy rashes, West Nile virus and allergic reactions to bee stings.

That's why it's important to take precautions to protect your health, said David Rosenstreich, M.D., director of the Allergy and Immunology Division at Montefiore Medical Center. "During summer, we see an influx of patients with all sorts of medical conditions that could have been avoided with simple steps," he said.

Lyme disease

Lyme disease is caused by bites from very small blacklegged ticks that are infected with the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*. More than 90 percent of cases are confined to just 10 states, with the highest incidences reported in New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Rhode Island, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota and Delaware.

The risk of Lyme disease increases with exposure to wooded, brushy, or overgrown grassy areas where ticks thrive. Children between the ages of 5 and 9 and adults 45 to 54 years of age are most affected. The best way to deter ticks is to wear long pants and long sleeves, use insect re-

pellent and remove ticks promptly.

Typical symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue and a telltale bulls-eye skin rash. Most cases of Lyme disease can be treated successfully with a few weeks of antibiotics, but without treatment the infection can spread to joints, the heart and the nervous system, leading to severe joint pain and swelling. Up to 5 percent of untreated patients develop chronic neurological complaints — shooting pains, numbness in hands or feet and short-term memory problems — months to years after infection.

West Nile Virus

West Nile virus is spread by infected mosquitoes and can be deadly for both humans and animals. Last year, more than 5,600 cases — including 286 deaths — were reported across the nation.

Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Most mosquitoes are active at dusk and dawn so use insect repellent and wear long sleeves and pants during peak hours. When indoors, make sure windows and doors have screens, and get rid of mosquito breeding sites by emptying standing water from flower pots, buckets, pet dishes and children's wading pools.

Approximately 80 percent of people infected with WNV do not have symptoms,



SARCOMA SURVIVOR Steven Hart of the Bronx (left) participated in the "Stomp Out Sarcoma" event sponsored by Children's Hospital at Montefiore (CHAM) July 13 at Van Cortlandt Park to help raise awareness about this type of cancer, which affects the bones and connective tissues. Steven was treated at CHAM, is now cancer-free and works in the hospital's food service department. He is pictured with Bruce and Beverly Shriver of Ossining, founders of the Liddy Shriver Sarcoma Initiative, an organization that supports medical research to find effective treatments for sarcomas. The event raised \$4,000.

and they improve without treatment. The remaining 20 percent may experience fever, headache and body aches, nausea, vomiting and sometimes swollen lymph glands or a skin rash on the chest, stomach and back. Symptoms can last for a few days to several weeks. About one in 150 people infected with WNV will develop severe illness and usually require hospitalization.

Insect stings

Anyone stung by a bee, wasp or hornet should wash the site with soap and water and try to remove the stinger. People who have had severe allergic reactions to insect bites or stings should consider carrying an epinephrine auto injector (EpiPen). Some people who are allergic can receive a series of allergy desensitization injections to prevent severe reactions in advance of any sting.

"People should avoid looking or smelling like a flower," said Dr. Rosenstreich. "Do not wear brightly colored clothing or flowery prints and avoid wearing perfumes or other scents that may attract stinging insects." It is also important, if possible, to wear pants, long-sleeved

shirts, closed-toed shoes and socks when working outdoors. In addition, check food and drinks, particularly open cans of soda, since yellow-jackets and other stinging insects are attracted to sugar.

Poisonous plants

Poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac are poisonous plants common in most states. They are found in forests, fields, wetlands and along streams, roadsides and even in urban environments such as parks and backyards. The leaves of these plants release an oil that triggers an allergic skin reaction — usually an itchy red rash with bumps or blisters. Over-the-counter topical medications relieve symptoms for most people, but immediate medical attention may be required for severe reactions. These individuals most often require treatment with oral corticosteroids.

"Nothing can take the fun out of a summer day faster than a nasty bug bite or sting," said Dr. Rosenstreich. "With a little planning and caution, everyone can have a fun and safe summer."

Source: Montefiore Medical Center

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Debate

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Bedford Park Senior Center, 243 E. 204th St.

Candidates for 11th Council District, which includes Norwood, Bedford Park, Van Cortlandt Village, Wakefield and Woodlawn, will face off in a debate moderated by the *Norwood News*. Ask questions. Be involved. Details at norwoodnews.org.

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Police Report

DNA Law Leads to Cold Case Murder Conviction

Bronx native Miguel Torres was sentenced to 25 years to life this Friday for murdering a Bronx businessman in Norwood back in 2003. Last month, Torres, 50, was found guilty on one count of murder in the second degree. It took the jury one day to deliberate before finding Torres guilty.

The victim was 59-year-old Mohammad Zafar, who died from being shot in the heart by Torres as he sat in his car. Zafar's wife asked the court for justice as she recalled the pain and suffering from her husband's death, which is still present in her life today, she said during testimony.

The murder took place in the vicinity of Bainbridge and Rochambeau avenues in Norwood on Jan. 24, 2003. After Zafar was shot, he stepped out of the vehicle and collapsed on the ground. Torres then escaped from the crime scene in Zafar's vehicle, later abandoning it. Traces of blood on the driver side seat belt and steering wheel were discovered when the vehicle was located two days later by the police.

Torres was only tied to the murder three years later, thanks to a law amendment.

While a DNA profile was developed from the evidence recovered at the crime scene and uploaded to the New York State DNA Databank, investigators didn't have Torres' DNA samples to link him to the crime. However, in June 2006, the New York State Executive Law was amended, requiring defendants convicted of specific DNA qualifying misdemeanors to submit DNA samples to the Databank.

Coincidentally, Torres was convicted of menacing in the second degree in June 2006, which resulted in the submission of his DNA samples. These samples proved to be a forensic match for the evidence from the 2003 homicide, leading to Torres' arrest and murder conviction.

—NATASHA RODRIGUEZ

String of Violence in Fordham-Bedford

Detectives are looking for a gunman who fired shots last week into a Grand Concourse building, killing a 22-year-old husband and father who lived just a few

buildings away. It marked the fourth violent incident in the immediate area in the previous 10 days.

Officers from the 52nd Precinct were called to 2860 Grand Concourse at East 198th Street at 9:53 p.m. on Monday, July 15, and discovered the victim, identified as Raymond Hernandez, 22, in the building's lobby, bleeding from a bullet wound in his chest. Police say Hernandez lived at 2874 Grand Concourse, just a couple of doors down from where he was shot.

Hernandez, a married father of a 3-year-old girl, according to the *Daily News*, was rushed to St. Barnabas Hospital where he was declared dead on arrival.

One police source said, "We have no arrest, no motive, no story at this point." Investigators described the gunman as a male in his late teens or early 20s, wearing blue shorts and a white T-shirt.

On July 11, just a block away from the July 15 shooting, a 20-year-old man was shot in the leg at around 5 a.m. at 2885 Valentine Ave. Another man was reported stabbed on the Grand Concourse in the

same vicinity that same day.

On the night of July 5, just two blocks away, on the corner of Bainbridge Avenue and East 198th Street, a 26-year-old man was shot in the hand.

No arrests have been made and all investigations are ongoing. —DAVID GREENE

Murder in Mount Hope

Lavon Latimer was gunned down outside of 220 Mount Hope Place on July 12 late at night. The 27-year-old resident of Queens was found at 11:26 p.m. with multiple gunshot wounds to the torso by police responding to a call of a male shot outside 1840 Grand Concourse.

Latimer was rushed by EMS to St. Barnabas Hospital where he was pronounced DOA. No arrests have been made and the investigation is still ongoing.

—MICHAEL BROWN

Editor's Note: *Anyone with information about any of these crimes can call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 800-577-TIPS.*

New Bronx LGBTQ Center Is Up and Running

(continued from page 1)

be doing this," Moss said.

After he learned about the Lisa Winters scandal, he and a group of friends, including Peter Frank, an LGBTQ activist, and Reverend Carmen Hernandez-De Armas, president and founder of the NYC LGBTQS (S stands for straight allies) Chamber of Commerce in Bedford Park, formed an ad hoc committee. From there they incorporated and filed for non-profit status. Moss was asked if he would be president of the new organization.

The ultimate goal is for the new center to provide a safe place for the Bronx LGBTQ community.

"The center [the Bronx Community Pride Center] was a physical site where LGBT people could go for support and when it closed, they had other places, but none which were explicitly LGBT," said Dirk McCall, a former executive director of the Community Pride Center. "Supportive programs exist [elsewhere in the Bronx], but LGBT is not their main focus."

The new center was formed not only because of the lack of a center in the Bronx

but also because of the rise of reports of violence against the LGBTQ community within the borough. According to NYPD Detective Timothy Duffy, there have been a total of six hate crimes against members of the LGBTQ community in 2012 within the Bronx. Four of them were felonies, while two resulted in misdemeanors. In the past six months, there have been a total of six reported incidents, all of them have resulting in misdemeanors.

According to Sharon Stapel, the executive director of the Anti-Violence Project, the amount of violence hasn't gone up. The reasons more people have been reporting more is because they are aware of organizations like AVP and the new center.

"Since we've been in the Bronx we've seen an increase of reports of violence in the borough," said Stapel. "That doesn't mean that the violence is increasing, it just means people are more aware of AVP services and the fact that they can make a report."

The Bronx is no stranger to high-profile hate crimes. In October 2010, several members of the Latin Kings Goonies

street gang kidnapped and tortured two teenagers in Morris Heights who both confessed to having sex with a 30-year-old man. The members then kidnapped, tortured, sodomized, and robbed the 30-year-old and forced the two teenagers to take part in the act. The story made national headlines for its brutality. On June 20, the Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced the conviction of three men who were involved with the incident, all of whom pleaded guilty.

To promote the LGTBQ center, its members held a community outreach walk on June 21, to kick off the center's opening. Politicians, members of the center, and other community activists gathered at the community center at Mullaly Park, off Jerome Avenue just north of Yankee Stadium.

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. was also present at the outreach walk to voice his support for the LGBTQ center. He

plans to make the center available to the community and to help the center grow.

"We will continue to give them space in Borough Hall free of charge, and we're going to continue working with them and try to get them financiers," said Diaz Jr.

Just recently, the center held the 2013 Bronx LGBTQ Pride & Health Fair last Saturday, July 20 at Crotona Park. The fair included performances from LGBTQ entertainers and political guest speakers including Speaker of the New York City Council Christine Quinn, who is lesbian, and former Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion Jr.

Moss has a bright outlook on the center's future and is feeling the group's momentum building.

"I'm learning as I'm going along, but I'm amazed at how positively we've been received in the community," said Moss. "I think people have realized how much this borough needs an LGBTQ center."

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Photo by Hugh Thornhill

AT CROTONA PARK on July 20, attendees gather around the amphitheater to watch the performers at the Bronx Pride & Health Fair, which was organized by the new Bronx LGBTQ center.

Court Allows “Apple Green” Hail Cabs in the Bronx

By **ANDREA CETRA**

Tired of walking around the Bronx? Hail a cab! Bronxites looking for a lift will now be able to legally hail taxis on the street, just like their Manhattan neighbors.

The New York State Court of Appeals unanimously overturned an earlier lower court's decision, allowing 18,000 new hail licenses to be distributed to cabs in the four outer boroughs and above 96th Street in Manhattan, over a three-year period.

Currently, residents and visitors in the outer boroughs must call a dispatcher ahead of time to reserve a livery car. Yet these cars, or “gypsy cabs,” frequently pick up hail passengers on the street despite the current restrictions.

Luis A. Ramos, a partner at Gun Hill Road Car Service, was positive about the new system. “Now they can work legally,” he said. “A lot of the drivers are skeptical right now, but later they will understand the benefit,” Ramos added.

The new “apple green” cabs, which will be fully equipped with roof light, meters, EZ pass tags, and credit card readers, are expected to hit street corners within a month.

Some unions including the New York Taxi Workers Alliance feel similarly positive about the new street hail livery service. “All passengers,” a recent press release stated, “regardless of which part of the city they are in, will now get a safer, regulated service and enjoy a metered ride.”

Council member Fernando Cabre-

ra was equally as excited about the new system, saying the court decision “represents a victory for all New Yorkers, particularly for those of us living in the outer boroughs.”

New licenses, valid for three years after purchase, will start at \$1,500, but will reach \$3,000 by the second year of sales, and will peak at \$4,500 in the final year of distribution.

“It [the cost increase] incentivizes the existing livery providers, who have invested so much of their time and effort in the communities they serve to take advantage of the opportunity sooner,” said Taxi and Limousine Commission Deputy Commissioner of Public Affairs, Alan Fromberg.

There is no guarantee that Bronxites will benefit from the new licenses, but Fromberg said, the TLC is confident the distribution of the new cabs will “organically configure itself in an equitable way” throughout the four outer boroughs.

New street hail livery vehicles will be restricted from picking up passengers within the central business district in Manhattan or anywhere below 96th Street and West 110th Street by a new Global Positioning System (GPS) that monitors cabs when they enter the yellow taxi zone, Fromberg said.

However, they will be able to drop off passengers in these normally restricted areas. Although hail services at LaGuardia and Kennedy airports are reserved for existing yellow cabs, new street hail livery vehicles will be permitted to pre-arrange pickups with passengers at those

locations.

Those interested in obtaining a new street hail livery license must operate from a “Street Hail License (SHL) Endorsed Base” designated by the TLC. These bases must have at least a three-year record of “good standing” with the Commission. New licenses cost \$3,000 and expire within three years. Fromberg estimated that several existing car dispatch services will apply to become certified SHL bases.

Many current drivers may also opt to convert their existing vehicles into SHL compliant taxi cabs for an estimated cost of \$2,000 to \$3,000. Fromberg said the vast

majority of new licenses will be issued to current drivers willing to spruce up their vehicle.

The Court of Appeals ruling will also permit the city to auction an additional 2,000 medallions for wheelchair accessible taxis, which will comprise one-fifth of all new taxi licenses distributed. According to the TLC, the cost of converting an existing vehicle to be wheelchair accessible will be between \$10,000 and \$15,000, and only certified “Paratransit” bases will operate the new wheelchair accessible vehicles. The medallion sales are expected to generate nearly \$1 billion in revenue.

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Opinion

Editorial

Summer (Non) Break for Norwood News

It's that time of year again when the *Norwood News* takes a brief hiatus from publishing to recharge our batteries and prepare for another year of quality hyper-local coverage. We will return with our first of two Back-to-School issues on Aug. 22.

In the meantime, we won't be taking it easy. Next week, on Thursday, Aug. 1, at 7 p.m., we will be hosting a debate among candidates for the 11th Council District, a district that includes much of our coverage area, including Norwood, Bedford Park, Kingsbridge Heights, Wakefield and Woodlawn. It will be at the Sister Annunciata Bethel (Bedford Park) Senior Center, 243 E. 204th St.

Our goal is to really showcase these candidates

and give you an idea of who they are, what they stand for and what differentiates them so you can make an informed decision this primary season. You can submit questions by email to norwood@norwoodnews.org

On Thursday, Aug. 1, at 7 p.m., we will be hosting a debate among candidates for the 11th Council District at the Sister Annunciata Bethel (Bedford Park) Senior Center, 243 E. 204th St. Be there!

news@norwoodnews.org, on our Facebook page, or via Twitter, just Tweet to @norwoodnews.

And if nothing else, we want the debate to re-

mind you to vote, period! The primary is Tuesday, Sept. 10. To find out where your polling site is located call 1-866-VOTE-NYC.

We'll also be preparing something special for our 25th anniversary, which is coming up this fall. Look out for updates on that in the coming weeks and months.

On most weekdays, even through the hiatus, you will find news updates and new stories on our Breaking Bronx blog on norwoodnews.org. We'll have updates on all the compelling political races, which are only getting hotter along with the weather.

Finally, if there's something you would like us to write about in the future, e-mail us at norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org. Thanks for your readership.

—NORWOOD NEWS EDITORIAL STAFF

Old Fordham Library Up for Grabs

(continued from page 1)

shut down in 2005.

Since its closure, which coincided with the opening of the Bronx Library Center two blocks away, local advocates have called for the 25,000-square-foot building to be turned into some kind of community center that caters to youth and seniors, something the immediate area lacks.

The request for proposals, or RFP, released by the city's Economic Development Corporation, is generally very broad in scope, but does call for developers to "reactivate the Site through potential neighborhood-serving purposes." Among the "Development Goals" in the RFP, it says the project should be "an asset to the community" and "ensure the uses are designed to serve the community."

Those goals, however, don't rule out some kind of commercial development, although zoning regulations currently wouldn't allow for heavy commercial use, such as a home maintenance or repair shop. The RFP also calls for the new project to be "financially feasible" and have a "reliable revenue stream."

Because the building, which was built in 1923 at 2556 Bainbridge Ave., was designated as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, any changes to the

building would have to be approved by the state's historical preservation office.

In 2008, the city turned the old library over to the Department of Mental Health and Hygiene, which was then mandated to turn the building into a full-service animal shelter. That mandate was dropped in 2011 by the City Council. The agency has been using the facility for administrative and storage purposes, according to the RFP.

Before the Health Department took over, two different groups — Sistas and Brothas United (the youth arm of the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition) and New Life International Church (led by pastor and current 14th District Councilman Fernando Cabrera — the building is in the 15th District) — staged multiple rallies urging the city to turn the building over for community purposes.

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. echoed Rivera after the RFP was released, telling the *Daily News* he wanted to see some kind of science and technology center or a recreational hub at the former library.

Diaz played a heavy role in securing the redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory, which is near the old library and

is slated to become the world's largest ice sports complex. That project will be run by as a for-profit business, but it will also include more 50,000 square feet of community space.

Rivera said a private-public partnership might be an option, but said the city would best be served in the long-term by using the old library for developing young people and providing programming to

keep them off the streets.

"In a private development, you might get 50 jobs out of it in the short term," Rivera said. "But in the long term, with a community center, you can develop a whole generation of young people."

Editor's Note: The deadline to submit proposals for the old Fordham Library is Sept. 12. For more information, visit nycedc.com.

Neighborhood Notes

U.S. Census Bureau Hiring

The U.S. Census Bureau seeks field representatives from four to six months to conduct a housing and vacancy survey for \$16.92 per hour. Applicants must be over 18 and reside in New York City. For more information, call (800) 991-2520 (select option 2 for recruiting) or send email with your address and phone number to new.york.recruit@census.gov.

Free Pre-K Classes

Mosholu Montefiore Community Center is offering three free all day Pre-K classes (8:30 a.m. to 2:50 p.m.) for 4-year-olds, at 3800 Sedgwick Ave. in Van Courtlandt Village. Additional coverage is offered for working parents from 2:50 to 6 or 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 882-4000 ext. 0.

Financial Ed Course

University Neighborhood Housing Program (UNHP) offers a financial education course Thursdays, Aug. 1 to 29 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Concourse House, 2751 Grand Concourse (entrance on East 196th Street). Individual sessions are currently available Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information or to RSVP, call (718) 933-2539 or visit www.unhp.org.

Breast Cancer Support Group

Jacobi Medical Center, 1400 Pelham Pkwy., So., and SHARE (self-help group

for women with breast or ovarian cancer) are hosting a support group for women recently diagnosed with breast cancer, are undergoing treatment, and those who have completed treatment. Meetings are from 1 to 2 p.m., on Fridays, July 26, Aug. 23, Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 29, and Dec. 20. For more information, call (718) 918-4318 or (866) 891-2392.

Gardening Workshops

City Parks Foundation is offering gardening public workshops at 1 p.m. on July 27, Aug. 3 and 10, at Grove Hill Garden on Eagle Avenue between East 156th and 158th streets, at \$10 each class. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.evenbrite.com/org/4086946759> or CityParksFoundation.org.

Youth Track Program

City Parks Foundation offers a free cross country track program in Soundview Park for boys and girls ages 8 to 16 through Aug. 6, from 9 to 10:30 a.m., on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Participants should bring light clothing, sneakers and water. Meet coaches at The Steps at the corner of Morrison and Lafayette avenues (across from 825 Morrison Ave.). For more information, call (718) 760-6999.

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



File photo

IN 2007, there were several rallies by community groups asking the city to turn the old Fordham Library into a community center.

Classifieds

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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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Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

Onstage

■ Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy presents free events, all on the VC House Museum's lawn from 6:30 to 8 p.m. (enter the park at 246th Street and Broadway): **Keito Academy (Chinese)** on July 25; **Greek American Folklore Society** on Aug. 1; and **Salsafest** on Aug. 8. For more information, call (718) 430-1890.

■ The Bronx Arts Ensemble (BAE) presents **Broadway Jazz**, July 28; **Irresistible Latin Rhythms**, Aug. 4; and **Summer Treats**, Aug. 11; all at Van Cortlandt Park's Rockwood Drive Circle at 2 p.m. (enter the park at Mosholu Avenue and Broadway); and at 4 p.m. at Fordham University. BAE also presents **Latin Rhythms** on July 26 and **Jazz Classics** on Aug. 9 at Pelham Bay Park at 6 p.m. Rain location for VC Park is Vladeck Hall, Amalgamated Houses, Hillman Avenue and VC Park South; and for Pelham Bay, it's International Caterers, 3243 Ampere Ave. For more information, call (718) 430-1890 or (718) 601-7399.

■ The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents **Great Ladies of Song: Tribute to Singers From the Swing Era**, July 27; **Latin Jazz Concert**, Aug. 3; and **New York Opera Forum performs Mozart**, Aug. 10; all at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

■ The NY Botanical Garden presents a **Cocktail Evening and Summer Concert**, Aug. 15 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 or visit www.nybg.org.

Events

■ The East 204th Street and Bainbridge Avenue Merchants Association, in conjunction with the Mosholu Preservation Corporation (publisher of the *Norwood News*), invites the public to its 3rd **Summer Streets**, a walk program, on Aug. 4 and 11 from noon to 5 p.m. along East 204th Street between Bainbridge and Decatur avenues. The intent is to promote local businesses and organizations, to help stimulate the local neighborhood economy, and to bring community residents together. Events include activities and games, face painting, entertainment, food, free salsa lessons, and more. For more information, call (917) 583-2075.

■ Pregones Theatre presents its free **summer block party**, Aug. 4 from 2 to 8 p.m. at 575 Walton Ave. Events include music, theatre, dance and poetry. For more information, call (718) 585-1202.

■ The Fordham Road BID presents free outdoor movie, **"Megamind,"** July 27 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.

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

■ The NY 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.

■ Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. invites the public and the Bronx Muslim community to celebrate **Ramadan**, July 25 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Bronx County

Building's Veterans Memorial Hall, 851 Grand Concourse. Call to confirm at (718) 590-3522 or email lrldan@bronxbp.nyc.gov.

■ Poe Park Visitor Center, 2640 Grand Concourse, offers a **variety of activities** for the entire family during July. For more information and a detailed schedule, call (718) 365-5516

■ Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Arts Projects**: Put Wave Hill in the Palm of Your Hand, to sketch how different cultures and religions use hands to express peace and friendship, July 27 and 28; Handmade River Rafts, to make a natural raft or boat from a variety of material, Aug. 3 and 4; Spray a Garden, to combine watercolors and blossoms into a blooming vision, Aug. 10 and 11; and Flutter With the Butterflies, to observe, then make a butterfly hat, Aug. 17 and 18; all at the Wave Hill House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also scheduled on the grounds from 7 to 8 p.m. is **Sunset Music**: **Ray Martinez**, July 31; **Kumbacarey**, Aug. 7; and **Milteri Tucker/Bomabaza Dance**, Aug. 14. Grounds admission is free Saturdays until noon all year, and free Tuesdays all day in July and August. 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.

■ Bronx Museum of the Arts presents **free outdoor film screening**, "Soul Boy" and "Lezare," Aug. 2 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. For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

■ The Bronx County Historical Society's Museum of Bronx History at the Valentine-Varian House, 3266 Bainbridge Ave., presents free lecture, **Lungs for the City - The Origin of Bronx Parks**, Aug. 3 at 1 p.m. For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

■ Bronx Council on the Arts, 2700 E. Tremont Ave., presents free **Community Arts Tuesdays in Westchester Square**, July 30 from 6 to 8 p.m., to discuss civil rights. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call (718) 931-9500 ext. 22 or 33.

■ Kingsbridge Heights Community Center (KHCC) will hold its **summer play streets program**, July 26 to Aug. 30, Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Kingsbridge Terrace between Summit Place and Perot Street. Events include health and arts activities, a rock climbing wall, hip-hop and modern dance classes, cooking classes, and sports.

The Teen Green Market, run by the Teen Center, will run from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, call (718) 884-0700 ext. 196.

■ Westchester Square BID presents **Carnival in the Square**, July 27 from noon to 3 p.m., at Owen Dolen Park, 2551 Westchester Ave. (near Tremont Avenue), featuring games, cotton candy, magician, and more. Also at the park will be **Salsa Fest**, Aug. 10 from noon to 3 p.m. For more information, call (718) 597-4629.

■ The public is invited to ride the Aug. 7 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. 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.

Exhibits

■ *Norwood News* photographer **Adi Talwar** presents "Abstract," a collection of his photographs in an exhibition at Illuminated Metropolis Gallery, 547 W. 27th St., Suite 529 (between 10th and 11th avenues), Fridays from 1 to 5 and Saturdays from noon to 6 p.m. through Aug. 3. For more information, call (212) 946-1685.

■ 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



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■ Bronx Arts Space, 305 E. 140th St., 1B, presents **art sale/silent auction** at its exhibit, to make a tax deductible purchase. Closing reception is on Aug. 4, and offers final bidding from 4 to 9 p.m. For more information and gallery hours, call (718) 401-8144.

Library Events

■ The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents programs for adults including **Single Stop/Government Benefits at 9 a.m.:** July 25, 30, Aug. 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 20 and 22; **Heritage Arts & Crafts:** (in-person advance registration required), July 26 at 2 p.m.; **Heritage Sewing Circle at 4 p.m.:** July 27 and Aug. 10; **Heritage Tour, Latino and Puerto Rican Cultural Collection:** (phone or in-person registration required), July 30 at 2 p.m.; **Single Stop/Workshop:** July 30 at 3 p.m.; **Computer Basics:** Aug. 2 at 2 p.m.; **MS Word for Beginners:** Aug. 8 at 2 p.m.; **Learn a Language With Mango:** July 31 at 2 p.m.; and **Summer Sewing Circle:** (advance in-person registration required), Aug. 10 at 2 p.m. Teens/young adults can attend **Teen Theatre:** (movie), July 25 at 3 p.m.; **On the Plate:** to learn to cook, July 29 at 4:30 p.m. (all materials provided); and **Teen Minecraft Club:** July 30 at 4 p.m. Children can enjoy **Summer Magnet Making:** July 25 at 2 p.m.; **Three Billy Goats Not-So-Gruff:** (ages 3 to 12), July 27

at 2 p.m.; **film at 2 p.m.:** July 30; **T-Shirt Making:** (ages 5 to 12; preregistration required), Aug. 1 at 2 p.m.; **Jewelry Box Making:** Aug. 8 at 2 p.m.; **My City Park:** (ages 3 to 12), a play with puppets and music, Aug. 10 at 3 p.m.; **Seashell Fan Making:** Aug. 15 at 2 p.m.; **Going On a Mystery Hunt:** (ages 3 to 12), features stories and song, Aug. 17 at 2 p.m.; **Open House Summer Reading Celebration:** Aug. 22 at 10 a.m.; and **Abracadabra:** (ages 5 to 12), magic and comedy, Aug. 22 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.; **Open Lab at 10:30 a.m.:** (advance in-person registration required), for basic computer questions, July 31, Aug. 7, 14 and 21; and **MS Excel for Beginners:** July 25 at 12:30 p.m. Teens/young adults can attend **Break:** to learn break dancing, Aug. 15 at 3:30 p.m. Children can enjoy **Reading Aloud at 2 p.m.:** (ages 3 to 12), July 29, 31, Aug. 5, 12, and 19; and **Toddler Story Time at 10:30 a.m.:** (ages 18 to 36 months), July 25. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

■ The Jerome Park Library, at 118 Eames Place, offers for children: **Pajama Party:** July 29 at 6 p.m.; **Arts & Crafts:** Aug. 5 at 2 p.m.; **film:** Aug. 12 at 2 p.m. (all for ages 5 to 12); and **Toddler Story Time** (ages 18 to 36 months), Aug. 21 at 11 a.m.; and for adults: **Computer Basics at noon,** July

EDITOR'S PICK

Free Shows for the Kiddies

City Parks Foundation presents a series of free **Summerstage** children's programs, all starting at 10:30 a.m.:

Van Cortlandt Park's Red Steps Playground, 246th Street and Broadway: **Ken Waldman and the Secret Visitors**, July 25; **Radio Jarocho**, Aug. 1

Van Cortlandt Park's Sachkerah Woods Playground, Jerome Avenue and Gun Hill Road: **Javaka Steptoe**, Aug. 8; **The Uptown Dance Company**, Aug. 15

Van Cortlandt Park's Southwest Playground, 240th Street and Broadway: **The Dirty Sock Funtime Band**, Aug. 13; **The Ohmies**, Aug. 20

Poe Park, Grand Concourse at Kingsbridge Road: **Mr. Chris' Musical Experience**, Aug. 2; **Wildlife Theatre presents "Butterfly Boogie,"** Aug. 9; **Griots in Concert**, Aug. 16

Slattery Playground, Ryer Avenue at Valentine and East 183rd Street: **Parallel Exit Physical Theatre (part of Circus Festival)**, Aug. 5; **CityParks PuppetMobile - Little Red's Hood**, Aug. 12; **The Ebony Hillbillies**, Aug. 19

Ciccarone Park Plaza, Arthur Avenue and East 188th Street: **Zany Umbrella Circus (part of Circus Festival)**, Aug. 9; **The Uptown Dance Company**, Aug. 14; **CityParks PuppetMobile - Little Red's Hood**, Aug. 16

City Parks Foundation also presents free theatre performances including **King Kong**, Aug. 6, 7 and 10; and **Diablo Love**, Aug. 8 and 9; all at 8 p.m. in St. Mary's Park, 450 St. Ann's Ave. at 145th Street. For more information or a detailed schedule including all Bronx locations, call (917) 626-0525 or visit cityparksfoundation.org.

25, 30, Aug. 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 20 and 22. For more information, call (718) 549-5200

NOTE: THE NORWOOD NEWS WILL BE ON HIATUS THROUGH AUG. 21, 2013.

Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org, and should be received by Aug. 12 for the next publication date of Aug. 22



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