

NORWOOD NEWS

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Be Healthy

Navigating New
Insurance
Marketplace a
Headache, p. 5

Charter School Building Unique Bronx Community

By ALEX KRATZ



Photo by Adi Talwar

STUDENTS AT Bronx Community Charter School celebrate the opening of their new facility on Webster Avenue and East 205th Street with a parade. Last week, on Oct. 11, the school held a grand opening, which doubled as an interactive building museum. For more photos visit norwoodnews.org.

St. James Rec Center Picking Up Williamsbridge Oval Park's Slack

By MICHAEL BROWN

The kitchen inside St. James Recreation Center on a recent Friday night is awash with the smells and sounds of food being prepared. There is a calm aura about the place as Walter Bell, William Francis and Gardenia Slade prepare for the weekly gatherings known as “Fish Fry Fridays.” Banter is traded as everyone waits for Bell to finish cooking. He can’t wait for people to try his banana bread.

The bustling family atmosphere at St. James stands in sharp contrast to the emptiness inside of the shuttered rec center at Williamsbridge Oval Park, a couple of miles north.

St. James, at 2530 Jerome Ave., is one of many full-service rec centers in the Bronx, but it is the only one currently operating in Community Board 7, which includes much of the northwest Bronx. The other major rec center in the area, inside Williamsbridge Oval Park, hasn’t been open since April of 2010.

Renovations on the Oval center were supposed to have been completed before the summer of 2011. But that was not the case. Unexplained delays have plagued the project since its inception. After the Oval center closed, people who used it were confused, but many flocked to the St. James rec center for programming.

“Nobody knew who to go to,” said Joseph Steed, who ran

a martial arts program at the Oval center. “We were like in limbo.” Steed, whose program moved to St. James, estimated that 100 or so parents and kids moved along with him, at least initially.

Aside from Steed’s martial arts program, St. James is offering many programs and activities for kids, adults and

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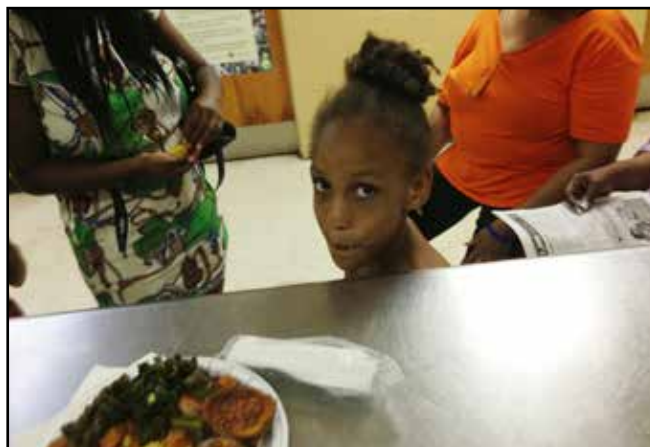


Photo by Walter Bell

A YOUNG DINER waits for food during one of the Friday Fish Frys at St. James Recreation Center, which is thriving.

“We wanted to do something dynamic and visual,” said Co-Principal Sasha Wilson. “We wanted [the students] really taking ownership of their knowledge and presenting it to other people.”

“There were things I wanted to do, but couldn’t at the old place because we didn’t have the space.”

For the five-year-old school’s two co-founders and co-leaders, Sasha Wilson and Martha Andrews, two longtime northwest Bronx educators (both were teachers at the Bronx New School, PS 51), the idea behind the facility was to give the school enough room to groove and grow, while also fitting its particular style.

Wilson said they wanted a space that expressed their beliefs as “progressive educators.” When they first began the process of designing the new space three years ago, they sent out a request for proposals to architecture firms. “We didn’t want to be standard,” he said. Instead, he said, they were looking for a firm that understood the school’s beliefs in “creativity, vibrancy, color, interest,” with a focus on “creating communal spaces and lots of opportunities for collaboration.”

The building is rectangular, Wilson said, so the simple thing would have been to do a hallway down the middle with classrooms on either side. But that’s not Bronx Community’s style.

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BREAKING BRONX

News • Politics • Policy

Rangel Arrested During Immigration Reform Rally

Last week, Rep. Charles Rangel and seven other lawmakers were arrested along with 200 activists during a rally on Capitol Hill in support of immigration reform. Rangel, who now represents much of the northwest Bronx, was charged with blocking a main street.

In an effort to push the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act, which was introduced recently by Democrats in the House, lawmakers and protesters took to the Hill to get the attention of Republican House members who maintain a strong majority and have stalled the bill from moving forward, Rangel and other Democrats say.

The arrest wasn't planned by the representative. "I was just going to speak, to give hope to the people," said Rangel. "So many people recognized me and I wanted to encourage them."

His arrest, he said, was hopefully able to bring attention to the immigration efforts.

This reform bill includes a process for illegal immigrants already in the country to become citizens on a 13-year path and billions of dollars to beef up border security. As a representative of the Bronx and Upper Manhattan, areas heavily populated



Photo courtesy Charles Rangel's office

BRONX REP. Charles Rangel was happily arrested last week during a rally in support of immigration reform on Capitol Hill.

ed by immigrants, Rangel says this legislation is badly needed.

Despite Republican roadblocks, Rangel says, "We're looking to get this billed passed this year."

The rally took place after the six-time Grammy winning Mexican band Los Tigres del Norte performed on the

National Mall. The group dedicated its performance to the estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants in the United States.

Along with Rangel, Rep. Joe Crowley, whose district also includes areas in the Bronx, was also arrested.

—KIMBERLY JACOBS

Unfiltered Reaction to Water Filtration Plant Progress

As the city touts the completion of one stage of the ongoing and troubled construction of the Croton Water Filtration Plant in Van Cortlandt Park, residents and local leaders remain frustrated with the project's sky-rocketing budget, shaky management and unfulfilled promises of park improvements.

In August, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Carter Strickland announced the completion of a \$50 million distribution facility for the massive filtration plant, which will account for roughly 10 percent of the city's drinking water.

"The completion of the distribution facility, and the activation of the filtration plant later this year, will help ensure a reliable supply of high quality drinking

water for New York City for decades to come," Strickland said.

But it's the decades already passed that are still bothering some Bronx area residents.

"They claim there was progress, but it's the largest scam of the Bloomberg administration," says Gary Axelbank, a Van Cortlandt Village resident and host of the television program BronxTalk. Axelbank is just one of a large group of local area residents who have followed and opposed the project since its inception in the 1990s. For Axelbank, the problem mostly centers on unfulfilled promises. "The Bronx did not get jobs, [the government] did not improve parks," he said.

As part of the deal to put the filtration plant on public parkland, \$200 million

was allocated for capital projects in Bronx parks. The deal was approved late in 2003 and initial funding procured in 2004. The project, including funding for the parks, was then estimated to cost \$1.2 billion and slated for completion in 2011.

But 10 years later, the project is still underway and the original price has nearly tripled to \$3.2 billion. The thousands of jobs promised for Bronxites on the project have mostly gone unrealized. Only 46 of the 67 parks capital projects, accounting for approximately \$107 million of the original \$200 million, have been completed. Most of the completed projects, 37 of 46, were finished late.

To add insult to injury, the project has been affected by no less than two fraud convictions.

—RACHEL FORSHEE

St. James Center Picking Up Oval Park's Slack

(continued from page 1)

seniors, including afterschool programs, camps, sports, and arts activities.

The center on average caters to about 1,000 to 1,500 people weekly and boasts about 2,500 to 3,000 members total, said Ray Combest, the deputy manager at St. James.

Bell, a volunteer at St. James who says he organizes his weekly "Fish Fry Fridays" in an effort to promote healthy eating and combat obesity in the Bronx. "It's a blessing, truly a blessing," Bell says about the community space. Bell says he's served about 2,000 people at the center and has dubbed St. James "The Park That Gives Back."

Bell, Francis and Slade have been doing this since Hurricane Sandy hit New York City a year ago, devastating the lives of many New Yorkers. People who use the center and participated in the Fish Fry

echoed Bell.

Melissa Wiggins compared St. James to the Marble Hill rec center, which is closer to her, "[St. James has] more of anything positive," she said. "It has more programs for the youth."

Ini Etuk of Co-Op City said, "I actually came here [the first time] for a meeting and got called about the Fish Fry and came to check it out." When asked how it was, he said, "Food was good."

Samuel Serrano, who sent his daughter to the center's summer camp program

and also to the Derek Jeter afterschool program, said, "It's been great, real family oriented."

"It's like a town square," said Greg Faulkner, chief of staff for City Councilman Fernando Cabrera. "I just came here to eat and learned about community issues."

Meanwhile, the Oval rec center remains closed and Steed says many of those who originally followed him to St. James have stopped coming because the commute is too far.

Public and Community Meetings

• **COMMUNITY BOARD 7 committee meetings are held on the following dates at the board office, 229A E. 204th St., at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted: Education/Libraries and Youth Services on Thursday, Oct. 17 (Youth Services will begin at 7:30 p.m.); Budget/Personnel & Ethics on Monday, Oct. 21 at 6 p.m.; Senior Services on Wednesday, Oct. 30. For more information, call (718) 933-5650 or visit bronxcb7.info/calendar.**

Police Report

3 Charged in Double Murder

Police have arrested and charged three people in the brutal robbery and murder of a mother and daughter in Bedford Park.

Officials say police received an emergency 911 call to perform a "wellness check" at 5:44 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 3, in a fifth-floor apartment at 2794 Valentine Ave.

Once inside apartment 5-A, officers discovered the beaten bodies of residents Ida Randolph, 55, and Jena Randolph, 21. Investigators say both women were found dead in separate bedrooms and they had been bound with duct tape.

The younger woman was reportedly discovered bound and nude on a bedroom floor with signs of sexual assault.

On Saturday, Oct. 5, detectives would question and charge Andrew Scott, 23, of Manhattan, who, according to published reports, was Jena Randolph's boyfriend.

A short time later, cops also charged Joshua Lopez, 26, and Brittney Austin, 23.

All three suspects were charged with second-degree murder, robbery and criminal possession of a weapon.

Charge in Sex Abuse Case

After releasing a photo of a suspect wanted in connection with two recent sexual attacks in Fordham Heights and Tremont, police say they have arrested and charged a man with one of the attacks.

Police say Rafael Aviles, 31, was ar-

rested on Oct. 3 and charged with sexual abuse. On Sept. 27, police say Aviles allegedly came up from behind a 26-year-old woman near the corner of Fairmount Place and Marmion Avenue during the middle of the day and forcibly touched her.

Aviles has not been charged in a similar groping incident that happened on Sept. 26 around Lorillard Place and East 188th Street at around 6 a.m.

Woman Escapes Attacker

Just after midnight on Tuesday, Oct. 8, police say a man approached a 19-year-old woman who was getting into an elevator at a building near Aqueduct Avenue and West 190th Street. The suspect demanded sex for money and when the victim refused, police say the suspect threatened to kill the victim if she called 911.

But the victim fought back and when she tried to exit the building, police say he grabbed her hair, while choking and struggling with her. The suspect fled on foot south on West 190th Street. The victim sustained minor injuries, but was not hospitalized.

The suspect is described as a 30- to 35-year-old male Hispanic, somewhere between 5-feet-7 and 5-feet-8, 175 to 200 pounds, with long hair in a ponytail and light-colored eyes. He was last seen wearing a black short-sleeved shirt, jeans, and sneakers.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 800-577-TIPS.

—DAVID GREENE and ALEX KRATZ

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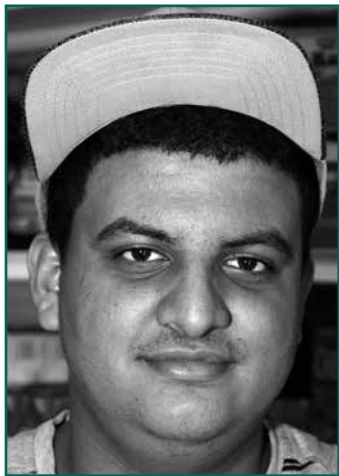
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Inquiring Photographer

By DAVID GREENE

This week we asked readers about mayoral candidate Bill de Blasio’s proposal to charge rent to the more well-off charter schools.



I don't think it's right to start demanding rent after they've started a program. No rent was ever discussed before.
Rami Mohammed



I think it's a great idea. If they're successful and making money, it's a great way for the city to make back some money.
Richard DiNardo



I never liked the idea of charter schools. Schools have always been housed this way, why change it after 100 years? Why fix what's not broken?
Anthony Tartag



I don't think it's right. Education should be free and, unfortunately, it's not. But to charge rent to make a few bucks for the city? The richest city in the world? I don't agree with charging rent for a charter school. That's ridiculous.
Ray Rodriguez



I don't think they should be charged rent, it's not fair. I mean, no other public schools are being charged rent for use of whatever building, whether it's an old building or a new building. They shouldn't charge the more successful ones rent. They are a part of the [DOE], so everybody should play by the same rules.
Zakiyyah Woods

Opinion

MESS OF THE MOMENT



On Oct. 29, residents of the Fordham-Bedford area solemnly marked the first anniversary of Super Storm Sandy, which knocked down and destroyed hundreds of trees. While the Parks Department has continued to plant new trees as part of the Million Trees Initiative, the *Norwood News* has discovered that Parks or their subcontractors have left dozens, if not hundreds, of dead stumps across the borough. One such tree came down across East 198th Street in Bedford Park, blocking traffic for days, before it was cut and partially removed. Today, the broken sidewalk and stump remain on the dimly lit and narrow pedestrian corridor. According to the Parks Department website, “Stump removals are dependent on the availability of funding.”
—DAVID GREENE



Letters

Should E-Cigs Be Banned?

There is much buzz about e-cigarettes and a hot topic in the media with news outlets about this new trend in nicotine consumption. Recently, I have read an article, “Should e-cigarettes be banned from restaurants?” Where do you stand on this issue? Ten years after New York City’s Clean Indoor Air Act banned smoking in restaurants and bars, diners at some NY restaurants are puffing away once again. Some may say they don’t stink, and believe they are not as harmful as regular cigarettes.

Further research is needed to evaluate the potential benefit or harm of these products. *National Geographic News* says, “Whereas e-cigarettes are less dangerous than regular cigarettes, in an absolute sense, they are negative.”

The *National Geographic* article went on to say this is because “they contain a number of toxic chemicals and ultra fine particles in addition to nicotine, and secondhand e-cig vapor could be harmful.”

Without an understanding of the long-term effects of e-cigarettes use, I personally would not dine at any restaurants that allow e-cigarette use. Would you?

Cynthia Blount
Bronx BREATHEs

When Is a Youth Not a Youth?

In your Sept. 19 - Oct. 2 op-ed, “Don’t Try Our Youths as Adults,” Reverend Que English writes that youngsters shouldn’t be tried as adults, and relates the case of 15-year-old Peter as an example of a teen who was sentenced to life without parole for his part in a botched robbery attempt where two victims were murdered.

In addition, the reverend explains that in New York State, youths are treated as adults when they turn 16. But...while some may agree that 16 is too young to be tried as an adult, I’m hard pressed to understand, if Peter was 15 when he took part in the crime he was accused of, or if he’s currently 15, why was he given the adult sentence? And, even if Peter is currently 16, doesn’t the court system try an individual based on the accused’s age when the crime was actually committed?

The reverend also made several good points of why youths might benefit more from being in a juvenile facility than one for adults, and writes in part that, “children who go through the adult system are stripped of their dreams and aspirations.” What kind of aspirations did Peter have when he made the decision to take part in the robbery he was accused of?

Judy Noy
Norwood resident

Be Healthy

40,000

New Yorkers who applied for health insurance during the first week of the state's new marketplace.

Vital Stats

Seeking Health Insurance Answers, Finding Questions

By KIMBERLY JACOBS

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, President Obama's healthcare reform package, I was able to stay on my parents' insurance until I turned 26. But now, I'm 26 and don't have health insurance.

Now, thanks to the next program instituted by Obamacare, I can sign up for insurance through a new online marketplace, which, in New York, is called the New York State of Health (NYSOH).

This new health insurance marketplace, or exchange, was launched on Oct. 1. During the New York's marketplace's first week of operation, some 40,000 New Yorkers applied for insurance through it.

But many still aren't sure what it's really all about (including me). So I decided to check it out for myself.

On the general information homepage (healthcare.gov), I moved past the "Apply Now" button and proceeded to the "Want To Learn More First? Start Here" button. It asked some basic questions about my family, age, residence, and current healthcare coverage. This led to selecting options of what I might want/need coverage information on, including pregnancy, self employed, and low-income coverage options, etc. It also asked if I had pre-exist-

ing conditions, which I didn't think they were supposed to ask about.

Based on my answers, the information was split into two sections. The first, "Applying for Coverage," gave me information about applying for Medicaid and the Children's Healthcare Insurance Plan, both of which are covered by the federal government, and also included general information about cost and what I may be eligible for.

The second section, "Top Information for You," included a Questions and Answers option based on my earlier answers dealing with lowering the cost and what plans I may qualify for, including things like the catastrophic plan, self employed options, etc.

Playing around on the site I found myself overwhelmed with all the information that's available, but still not exactly specific to me. After a while it all became a blur.

While reporting, I was told "the most important thing [people] should know is that they need to get more information," said Renee Whiskey, community health educator for the Bronx Community Health Network. "Finding information out from friends and family is great, but getting accurate information from credi-

ble sources [is better]." So, I took her advice and called the toll free helpline.

Over the phone, I was asked the same questions as online and given the same basic information of what I possibly qualify for. Apparently, none of the information is exact until you formally start the application process. Besides choosing between a bronze, gold, silver, platinum, or catastrophic insurance package, I wouldn't be officially enrolled in my plan until I paid the deductible, which could be between \$3,000 and \$6,350 per year. That seemed like a lot of money for a fledgling journalist.

The different levels of insurance premiums determine whether you will pay more or less for your monthly bill, deductible, or co-pay. Basically, the cost is shared by you and the insurance plan company. You will have to pay a bill every month, a co-pay when you go to the doctor, and a deductible (or fee) before the insurance starts to kick in.

According to the website, the bronze and silver packages are ideal for people who don't go to the doctor often, but if you have an accident or something, you will have to pay a high out-of-pocket fee for that visit. The gold and platinum packages are the opposite — you pay more

upfront so that when you go to the doctor (often) it will be a cheaper co-pay.

All of this is specific to you, your family size, and income. The catastrophic plan is only for people under 30 years old or with very low incomes. It's not looking good for a healthy, single, and childless young woman like me ... or is it?

The phone assistant also gave me a few numbers to "Navigators" who are trained and certified to "provide enrollment assistance," but no one answered any of the phones. When one of the numbers did work, I kept being transferred from one person to another until I eventually got a voicemail. I left a message, but still no callback.

Being persistent, I referred back to the website and clicked "click here to find an IPA/Navigator in your community." There weren't any matches found among the dozens of agencies and issuer affiliations listed in my zip code and county served. That continuous search took me over an hour and was futile.

This is all before I even started the application process. I've given up, for now.

Editor's Note: Apply for health insurance at www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov. For more information, visit www.healthcare.gov or call the toll free number (800) 318-2596.

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Charter School Building Unique Community

(continued from page 1)

Instead, the bright hallways zig and zag around non-uniform classrooms with small community areas connecting each space. The center of everything is the almost-circular lobby area. Its ceiling stretches two floors to the roof, where sunlight comes in through skylights. The section serves as the greeting area, gathering space and, occasionally, a dance floor.

When the facility opened with the first day of school this fall, Wilson and Andrews saw it as a perfect opportunity for collaborative, interactive learning.

“We wanted to do something dynamic and visual,” said Wilson about the decision to have the kids learn about the new facility and present projects about it. “We wanted [the students] really taking ownership of their knowledge and presenting it to other people.”

In one of the rooms, fourth grader Marcel Minaya, 10, presented a video he helped make about how the school receives and distributes its electricity to a room of patient kindergartners. Marcel followed the video by leading a question and answer session.

Other classes made similar presentations. The fifth graders constructed a model of the new building, complete with a working, battery-powered elevator.

Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj, who represents this part of the Bronx, said the animated atmosphere at the opening re-

minded him of the show, “Fame,” which depicted life at a New York City music school.

With questions about how charter schools will be treated after Mayor Bloomberg, who is leaving office at the end of the year and has been a huge supporter of charters, Wilson said the new facility is an example of what a school can do with a little creativity and independence.

Bronx Community partnered with Jackson Development Group as the firm was in the process of constructing the building. After raising some funds privately, a few years ago, the school began stashing away funding from the \$13,727 it receives per student from the government toward a new home. Ultimately, that allowed them to pay for the build-out of the top two floors of Jackson Development’s building and enter into a long-term lease with the developer. (It’s still unclear what is going in the bottom two floors.)

That’s the beauty of charter schools, Wilson says. A principal at a public school wouldn’t have that type of discretion with its budget. “It’s a model for how charter schools can really take advantage of their independence.”

After the dance/yoga performance, Stan Walker, a local contractor with two kids at Bronx Community, summed up his feelings about the new school, saying simply: “It’s just, wow.”

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Interested volunteers should call Monty Joyce, CATCH Healthy Habits Coordinator, Bronx House at: 347-275-9042 or monty@bronxhouse.org

New location! Moshulu/Montefiore Community Center, 3450 Dekalb Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467

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Classifieds

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RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Glad Tidings Assembly of God: 2 Van Cortlandt Ave. E. and Jerome Avenue. (718) 367-4040. Prayer Wednesdays at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. and Sunday Service at 11 a.m.

MISCELLANEOUS

Cash Paid: For antiques, old items,

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

Fun Fair and Flea Market: Saturday, Oct. 26 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Location: Bedford Park Congregational Church, corner 201st Street and Bainbridge Avenue. Bargains, raffles, food to eat in and to take out, plants, sales, fun. Join us!!

Trip to Atlantic City: Tropicana Casino,

Saturday, Oct. 19. from East 163rd Street and Southern Boulevard at 4 p.m. For more information, please contact Eddie at (718) 757-5485.

FOR SALE

Back to Life Exercise Machine: Brand new \$125.00; Commercial Appliances: Boxer bread maker - 20 qts., all parts included (makes cake too) \$900.00; Kenmore deep freezer - 34"Hx27"W. \$275.00; Frigidaire convectional oven \$500.00. Contact Grace at (917) 769-9063 or (718) 796-6032.

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.

Neighborhood Notes

It's My Park Day

Volunteers are sought to work at Williamsbridge Oval's It's My Park Day beautification event on Saturday, Oct. 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participants are encouraged to wear work clothes, and meet in front of the recreation center. For more information, visit www.itsmypark.org.

Volunteer at Van Cortlandt Park

Volunteers are needed to help remove invasive plants and plant native trees and shrubs on Oct. 19 at 10 a.m., on the John Kieran Trail. Meet at 242nd Street and Broadway just inside the park. For more information, call (718) 601-1553.

Teen Writing Workshops

The Bronx Council on the Arts holds free Saturday writing workshops for Bronx teenagers, Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2 and 9, from 2 to 4 p.m., in the lobby of 240 E. 175th St., between Monroe and Topping avenues. Snacks will be served and rewards will be given for participation. For more information, call (718) 931-9500 or RSVP to storytelling10122013.eventbrite.com.

Free Breast Cancer Screening

The American-Italian Cancer Founda-

tion offers a free breast cancer screening to NYC women 40+, Oct. 23 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., on its Mobile Clinic at the Roosevelt Education Campus, on Washington Avenue between East Fordham Road and East 189th Street. For more information and locations, or to make an appointment, call (877) 628-9090.

Bronx Real Estate Summit

Hostos Community College, 450 Grand Concourse, hosts "How Schools Impact Real Estate in the Bronx" with guest speakers Dr. Felix Matos Rodriguez, president of Hostos; Faye Premer, and Michael Haberman, on Oct. 23 with breakfast at 8:15 a.m. followed by Industry Expert Discussion at 9 a.m. (\$25/suggested donation; proceeds to benefit the college). For more information and to RSVP, visit www.bronxsummit.org.

Fordham Sidewalk Sale

The Fordham Road Business Improvement District (BID) hosts its Fall Sidewalk Sale from Oct. 17 to 19, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. For more information, visit www.fordhamroadbid.org.

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



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Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

EDITOR'S PICK

Halloween Happenings

- The Jerome-Gun Hill BID presents **Halloween Fright Fest**, on Oct. 31. Kids are encouraged to come in costume and take photos with Spiderman from 3 to 6 p.m. For more information, call (718) 324-4461.
- The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents **Pumpkin Bag Making**: (ages 7 to 12), Oct. 24 at 4 p.m.; and **Flying Skeletons, Snake Sisters and Maybe a Ghost or Two Time**: (ages 5 to 12), Halloween tales from around the world, Oct. 26 at 2 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.
- The public is invited to **Howl-O-Ween**, Oct. 27 from noon to 2 p.m. at Van Cortlandt Park's Canine Court (enter at Broadway and 252nd Street). Come with your pet dog, both in costume and enter contest for most original, scariest pet/owner lookalike. First prize is \$25 certificate from Fieldston Pets. Registration is \$10 donation per dog and \$5 each additional dog; proceeds go towards upkeep of the Canine Court playground. For more information or to register, visit www.pawsacrossamerica.com.
- Friends of the Oval presents **Haunted Forest Halloween Festival**, Oct. 26 from 3 to 5 p.m., for children up to 10 years, at Whalen Park, East 205th Street near the Mosholu Library, rain or shine (rain location: at the library). Events include story time at 3:30 p.m., crafts, carnival games, and photos. Parents must accompany children; no pets allowed. For more information, call the library at (718) 882-8239.
- The Woodlawn Conservancy presents Woodlawn Cemetery guided **Twilight Halloween Tours**, Oct. 19, 20 and 25, featuring final resting places of the famous (\$15); and **"The Sacred Departed" Halloween Tour**, Oct. 26, 30 and 31, featuring a tour-meets-theatre experience (\$25); all from 7 to 9 p.m., with discounts for members/seniors/students. Meet at the Jerome Avenue entrance. For more information, call (718) 920-1469.
- Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse, presents, free, **The Witch's Coven Halloween Celebration**, a tribute and live concert, Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.), to celebrate Bronx living legend, La Bruja, and featuring food and art vendors, fortune tellers, live music and D.J. For more information, call (718) 839-1196.

Onstage

- Lehman College's Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **Tango Fire's Flames of Desire**, Oct. 19 at 8 p.m., featuring dancers, singers and musicians from Buenos Aires (tickets are \$25 to \$45); and **Peter Nero**, performing The Gershwin Project, Oct. 26 at 8 p.m. (tickets are \$25 to \$35; \$10/under age 12). For more information and tickets, call (718) 960-8833.
- The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents **The Bronx Symphony String Quartet**, Oct. 19; and **"Carmen,"** performed by the NY Opera Forum, Oct. 26; both at 2:30 p.m.; and **The Rafael Hernandez Music Festival**, with Julito Cuevas and Trio Los Platinos, Oct. 27 at 2 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.
- Enrico Fermi Cultural Committee presents **Italian American Comedy: From the Immigrant to the Present**, Oct. 24 at 7:30 p.m., free, at the Belmont library, 610 E. 186th St. and Hughes Avenue. The event features skits, jokes, songs and parodies from Italian-American comedians of stage, radio, television and film. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call (718) 933-6410.
- Bronx Music Heritage Center, 1303 Louis Niñé Blvd., presents free: **Valerie Capers**, jazz pianist, Oct. 17 at 8 p.m.; **If These Knishes Could Talk: The Story of the NY Accent**, Oct. 18 at 8 p.m.; and **Puerto Rican Revolutionary Poetry**, featuring poets and music, Oct. 19 at 7:30 p.m. (\$5/suggested donation). For more information, email info@bronxmusic.org.

Events

- The Bedford Park Congregational Church, 309 E. 201st St., offers its annual **Fun Fair/Flea Market**, Oct. 26 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (raffle drawing at 4 p.m.). For more information, call (718) 733-3199.
- The Bronx Tourism Council presents yearly **Tour de Bronx**, free bicycling event, 25- and 40-mile course, winding through Bronx neighborhoods, ending at the New York Botanical Garden for refreshments, pizza and a music festival, Oct. 27, for riders from around the world. The Department of Transportation will fit and distribute free bicycle helmets beginning at 8 a.m. while supplies last. Rider must be present and sign a waiver (children

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under 18 must be accompanied by parent). For more information or to register, call (718) 590-3527 or visit www.ilovethebronx.com.

■ Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Arts Projects**: Embossed and Bedazzled Emblems, to turn the first letter of your first name into a glittering emblem, Oct. 19 and 20; and Fairy Wands and Tiny Houses, to listen to fairy stories, visit the woodlands, and make a teeny dwelling, Oct. 26 and 27; both at the Wave Hill House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Grounds admission is free Oct. 26 and 27 for Enchanted Weekend, and features **Fairy Harp Circle**, featuring a band of harpists, on the grounds from noon to 1:30 p.m.; free Saturdays until noon all year, and free until noon Tuesdays in October. For more information and a schedule of events, call (718) 549-3200.

■ Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse, 2nd floor North Wing, between 161st and 164th streets, presents **Fall/Winter Season Open House**, Oct. 20 from 2 to 5 p.m. For more information, call (718) 681-6000 ext. 131.

■ Friends of Van Cortlandt Park presents **Run for the Trails**, Oct. 27 at 11:30 a.m., to celebrate VC Park's 100th anniversary cross-country course, and to raise maintenance funds. Number pickup begins at 9 a.m. at Tortoise and Hare statue. Registration fee is \$25 online and \$30 mail-in; proceeds go to the Summer Teen Trails Crew. The first 200 runners receive T-shirts. For more information or to register, visit www.vctc.org/page/rivedale-b-ramble-10k.

■ The Bronx County Historical Society's Archives Building, 3313 Bainbridge Ave. offers free public lecture, **Lost Amusement Parks of NYC**, Oct. 29 at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

Exhibits

■ Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse, 2nd floor North Wing, between 161st and 164th streets, presents free: **Paulo Bruscky**, through Feb. 9; and **Tony Feher**; and **Orchard Beach: The Bronx Riviera**, both through Feb. 16. For more information, call (718) 681-6000 ext. 131.

■ 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; and **History Woven Into Cloth**, selections from the Society's textile collection, Oct. 23 to April 6 (opening reception is on Oct. 23 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

■ The Bronx Council on the Arts presents **Esther Pagan: My Colors of Cancer and In the Headlines: Latino New Yorkers 1980-2001**, as part of BCA's First Wednesdays Bronx Culture Trolley, at Hostos College's Longwood Art Gallery, 450 Grand Concourse (at 149th Street), through Dec. 20. For more information, call (718) 931-9500 ext. 33 or (718) 518-6728.

■ The Bronx Documentary Center, 614 Courtlandt Ave., presents **Refugee Hotel**, through Dec. 1, Thursdays to Sundays, 2 to 7 p.m. Exhibition chronicles refugees during their first night in the United States and their lives in resettlement. For more information, call (718) 993-3512.

Library Events

■ The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents programs for adults including **Heritage Arts & Crafts**: (advance in-

person registration required), Oct. 18 at 2 p.m.; **MS Excel for Beginners**: Oct. 24 at 2 p.m.; and **Finding a Job Online/LinkedIn**: Oct. 27 at 1 p.m. Children can enjoy **film**: Oct. 22 at 4 p.m.; **Preschool Story Time at 11 a.m.**: Oct. 17 and 24; **Toddler Playtime at noon**: Oct. 17 and 24; and **Reading Aloud**: Oct. 29 at 4. Teens/young adults can attend **Films at 4 p.m.**: Oct. 17, 24 and 31; and **Chess Workshop**: Oct. 21 and 28 at 3 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

■ The Moshulu 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 **Microsoft Word for Beginners**: Oct. 31 at 12:30 p.m. Teens/young adults can join **Arts & Crafts**: Oct. 22 at 3:30 p.m. Children can enjoy **Toddler Story Time at 10:30 a.m.**: (ages 18 to 36 months), Oct. 17; **Reading Aloud at 4 p.m.**: (ages 3 to 12), Oct. 21 and 28; and

Story Time: (ages 4 to 7), Oct. 21 at 4 p.m. Foreigners can join **Free Intermediate Level English Conversation Classes**: (ages 18+), Tuesdays 6:30 to 8 p.m., Oct. 22 and 29. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

■ The Jerome Park Library, at 118 Eames Place, offers for children: **Kids' Active Health**: (yoga and zumba), Oct. 25; **Cooking**: Oct. 28; **film**: Oct. 29 (all at 4 p.m.; for ages 5 to 12); and **Robin Hood**: (ages 3 to 12), performed by Traveling Lantern Theatre Co., Oct. 18 at 3:30 p.m. For teens/young adults, there is: **Cooking at 4 p.m.**: Oct. 24; and for adults: **Computer Basics at noon**: Oct. 17, 22, 24, 29 and 31. 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 Oct. 21 for the next publication date of Oct. 31.

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