Teenager Murdered on Jerome Avenue

By DAVID GREENE and MICHAEL BROWN JR.

Michael Beltre, a popular 17-year-old student who attended school on the Walton High School campus, was shot and killed last week near St. James Park.

Last Wednesday evening, Oct. 23, just after 7 p.m., police say Michael was speaking to two individuals just steps away from a McDonald’s on Jerome Avenue, just a half block away from St. James Park, when one of the two men pulled out a gun and shot him.

Michael, who lived on Washington Avenue, was shot one time in the face and was pronounced dead on arrival at St. Barnabas Hospital.

Friends say Michael, a junior in high school, had arrived in the Bronx just two short years ago from the Dominican Republic.

The following day, a large crowd of Michael’s friends were busy setting up a memorial for the young man, when police asked the teens to move it so a store owner could open her nail salon. The store had recently been closed after part of it.

New Principal Re-Making Clinton One High Five at a Time

By ALEX KRATZ

Every morning and every afternoon, Santiago Taveras stands outside DeWitt Clinton High School, the famous and struggling institution on Mosholu Parkway where he is now the principal, and mingles with his charges.

“What’s up, Mister T?” kids say as they pass by. He might offer a cool handshake, high five or a reminder to sign up for a program. As he walks around, looking like a former NFL offensive lineman turned politician, Taveras might politely invade a huddle of teenagers and make a point or a quick joke. They’ll laugh and nod.

Though school only started two months ago, Taveras is quickly making his presence felt in tangible, visible ways. It’s that very presence that forms the basis of his strategy for turning around a school headed for closure as recently as 10 months ago.

“Things are going well,” Taveras said on a recent Monday afternoon. “I think kids are starting to understand my goals and what I expect.”

Taveras knows Clinton, a once-proud school with a rich history that now graduates only half of its students on time, has a long way to go. He’s looking at everything with a fresh perspective. But his rehabilitation plan is rooted in something less tangible than a handshake, but maybe just as simple — boosting morale.

Clinton’s recent struggles were well documented last winter and spring. The Department of Education, citing low graduation rates and poor performance on state exams, initially proposed phasing out the 115-year-old school and eventually replace it entirely with smaller schools.

But vocal opposition from students, staff, alumni and local politicians, led to a scaled back plan of shrinking Clinton.

Giving Voice to The Voiceless

Celebrating 25 Years of the Norwood News

By ALEX KRATZ

This October marks the 25th anniversary of the birth of the Norwood News. Today, the Norwood News distributes 15,000 copies throughout the Bronx every two weeks, operates a website, Facebook page and Twitter feed and runs a youth journalism program. But it comes from humble stock and a simple question: How can we make the Bronx better?

That is the question Dart Westphal began asking after taking over as vice president of the nonprofit Mosholu Preservation Corporation in November of 1987.

“MPC” was created by Montefiore Medical Center in 1981 to save the housing stock in the area surrounding the hospital’s main campus, an area now known as Norwood. Throughout the 1970s, the borough suffered through the “Bronx is Burning” years.
Local City Council Races

The Bronx is known for being a strong Democratic borough. In the 2012 presidential election, Barack Obama received 91 percent of the borough’s votes. It seems like the other parties don’t stand a chance against the Democratic nominee in the borough, but with the general election coming on Tuesday, Nov. 5, we thought it would only be democratic to introduce you to all of the options in local races.

Ironically, many of the candidates running under other parties (ex. Republican, Green, Independent) for this election are also Democrats. —KIMBERLY JACOBS

District 11
Andrew Cohen (D, WF)

Cohen, the Democratic nominee, is an attorney standing on a platform of working families. He has several issues that he wants to be proactive about, such as education. He wants to give parents more of a voice in the arena and expand the city’s pre-k program. Along with education, he plans to improve senior citizens involve-

ment, and city council reform (including the elimination of “huluses” or stipends).

Patricia Brink (R)

Brink, the Republican nominee, was unchallenged in the primary race, and there isn’t any information on the platform she’s running on.

Rev. William Kalaldjian (C)

Kalaldjian was nominated as a write-in Candidate, but has no desire to be in public office. He has been an ordained minister for over 60 years.

John H. Reynolds (G)

Reynolds, the Green Party nominee, is a freelance IT consultant who’s been in the Green Party for over 12 years and wants to bring to light social, economic, and environmental justice for the district he will potentially serve.

Cheryl “Shelley” Keeling (SC)

Keeling’s platform is “Running 4 Change.” She’s promoting herself as a woman athlete who teaches high school track and tennis, a business owner for 34 years, and a Riverdale resident for the past 30 years. She feels the need for education and quality of life issues. She wants to push for more after-school programs in the arts, music, and competitive athletics so students can be well-rounded and competitive. She also wants to fight for small business owners, senior protection, affordable housing, and higher minimum wages.

District 14
Fernando Cabrera (D)

Cabrera is the current councilman for the district looking to be reelected. If re-elected, he wants to continue to work on crime, youth and senior citizen issues, tenant rights, and schools. During his current term, he endorsed a plan to turn the Kingsbridge Armory into a massive ice skating center and says it will help youth and provide job opportunities. He passed a bill this year to make detailed crime statistics available to the public via an interactive map, an idea he took from the Norwood News and improved on.

A Quick Look at Ballot Proposals

On the ballot this year are six initiatives that voters can approve of or reject. Here’s a quick look at each.

Proposal 1: Authorizing Casino Gambling:

This proposal seeks to allow the creation of up to seven casinos in New York State, three of which will be in New York City after seven years.

Proposal 2: Additional Civil Service Credit For Veterans With Disabilities:

This proposal states that any veteran who has taken the civil service exam and afterwards becomes disabled should be awarded additional credit on top of the credit they already received for the exam because they are veterans.

Proposal 3: Exclusion of Indebtedness Contracted for Sewage Facilities

This proposal suggests that the ability of counties, towns, villages, and cities to exclude from their constitutional debt limit any debt acquired from mostly on construction or reconstruction of sewage facilities should be extended by 10 years to Jan. 1, 2024.

Proposal 4: Settlement Disputed Title in the Forest Preserve

This amendment is an effort to cease disputes of the ownership of land parcels in the forest preserve at Long Lake, Hamilton County between the state and private parties, that the state give up claims to the land parcels and in return, the state will receive other land for the forest preserve.

Proposal 5: A Land Exchange in the State Forest Preserve with NYCO Minerals, Inc.

This proposed amendment to section 1 of article 4 would allow the state to give NYCO Minerals 200 acres of land from the state forest preserve, which they would use for mining. In exchange for this, NYCO would give the state at least the same amount of land of at least the same value for the state to add to the forest preserve. When NYCO Minerals is done mining, they would return the land they used restored to its original condition to the state for the forest preserve.

Proposal 6: Increasing Age Limits for Limiting Fisheries

This proposal would allow certain state judges to serve until the age of 80.

—MICHAEL BROWN JR.

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Phone: 718 324 4998
Fax: 718 324 2917
E-mail: norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org
Web: www.norwoodnews.org

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Alex Kratz
Editor-in-Chief
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NORWOOD NEWS

• 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: Executive Committee on Monday, Nov. 4; Parks & Recreation and Public Safety & Quality of Life on Thursday, Nov. 7 (Public Safety & QOL will begin at 7:30 p.m.); Environment & Sanitation and Health & Hospitals on Tuesday, Nov. 12 (Health & Hospitals will begin at 7:30 p.m.); Economic Development and Community Relations/LTP on Wednesday, Nov. 13 (Community Relations/LTP will begin at 7:30 p.m.); Traffic & Transportation on Thursday, Nov. 14; Land Use & Zoning and Housing on Wednesday, Nov. 20 (Housing will begin at 7:30 p.m.); Education & Libraries and Youth Services on Thursday, Nov. 21 (Youth Services will begin at 7:30 p.m.). For more information, call (718) 939-5650 or visit bronxbiz7.info/calendar.

• COMMUNITY BOARD 7 is scheduled to hold its general board meeting at the Kit-tay House, 2550 Webb Ave., on Tuesday, Nov. 19 at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 939-5650 or visit bronxbiz7.info/calendar.

General Election Voter’s Guide

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Proposal 6: Increasing Age Limits for Limiting Fisheries

This proposal would allow certain state judges to serve until the age of 80.

—MICHAEL BROWN JR.

Public and Community Meetings

• BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION will meet at 8 p.m. on Wednes-
day, Nov. 6 at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. So., Apt. #B1 (lobby floor). All are welcome.

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—KIMBERLY JACOBS

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Growing Up at the Norwood News
(How it All Started)

On a Monday in the middle of May, I made my first trip to the Bronx and the Norwood News. It was pouring down rain. The kind of New York City rain an umbrella fails to protect you from no matter how hard it tries. No problem, I remember thinking. I’m from the Pacific Northwest where rain is a way of life. I got this.

The bigger problem, of course, was finding my way to the Norwood News’ office. And this was back in 2006. Before Hop Stop. Before iPhones (yes, it’s true, there was such a time). The News had a hub and it wasn’t an easy find to begin with. Located on a one-way, oval-shaped street, even local pizza delivery guys and old school cabbies routinely call us, befuddled with their destination.

But wait, I’m already getting ahead of myself. I needed a job. At the time, I was a broke student living in Washington, DC, working on a masters degree in journalism. While chasing down senators on Capitol Hill, I kept one eye on jobs opening up in New York, where my then girlfriend, now wife, was finishing her own masters at Columbia University. Because she planned on staying in the city to work after graduation, Tessa highly encouraged me to join her (or else, I thought).

While in town for her graduation ceremony, which fell on that fateful Monday, I found an online advertisement for a job opening as deputy editor of the Norwood News. It looked perfect for a hungry, young reporter looking to gain experience in the Big Apple. Only problem: Tessa graduated the day of Tessa’s graduation. I needed to act fast.

Fortunately, I’d packed my resume, all my best clips and my best (and only) suit. Based solely on a rough look at a subway map and its train’s proximity to Gun Hill Road, I decided (wrongly) to take the 2 train up to the Boogie Down. (I had yet to discover my grungy, beloved D train or its more scenic sister, the 4 train.)

From the 2.I tucked my precious application papers under my suit, propped up my overmatched umbrella, trudged across the Bronx River and up to the Oval.

Like many people visiting the NN for the first time, I was struck by the pleasant, homey beauty of the gray stone Keeper’s House, which the paper’s publisher, Mosholu Preservation Corporation, restored in the early 2000s.

Inside, I made my way upstairs to the now familiar offices of the Norwood News. It was early, maybe 9 a.m., and Jordan Moss, the paper’s longtime editor, looked harried and almost dumbstruck when he saw me there standing in my nice black suit and tie, shoes soaking, holding onto a manila folder, hoping I wasn’t too late.

“Thanks,” Jordan said dismissively, taking the folder, “I’ll be in touch.” That was it. Hope faded slightly on my rainy trip back to Manhattan. But at least I tried.

Later that day, Jordan called and asked if I could come in for an interview. A week later, as a sort of test run, I reported and wrote my first story for the Norwood News. Not surprisingly, it was about the Kingsbridge Armory; I took the job and a couple of weeks later moved into a house in Bedford Park with a lovely woman named Colleen Kelly and her three precocious kids. That was almost seven and a half years ago.

This Halloween will be my last day as a full-time employee of the Norwood News. It’s a bittersweet ending to the most thrilling, challenging, impactful and rewarding experiences in my life, professional or otherwise.

I love telling the story of how I, a preacher’s mischievous kid from Seattle, ended up running a newspaper in the Bronx. It illustrates the random luck and twists of fate that define people’s lives and make them who they are.

It would be impossible for me to thank everyone who helped, supported and guided me through this long, strange, maddening and fulfilling journey. But there are two people who I need to mention. Jordan Moss and Dart Westphal. They’ve been my dual mentor/uncle/friend throughout this experience. I can’t ever thank them enough for taking a chance on me and filling me with the confidence I needed to produce the very best Norwood News possible every two weeks.

You could say I grew up in Norwood. I came here a single, confused 27-year-old graduate school dropout and emerged a 34-year-old professional journalist, husband and father. I’m extremely proud of the fact that I was able to shepherd this vital community resource through its 25th birthday, which coincides with this edition of the paper.

Here’s to the next 25 years of the Norwood News. Here’s to the voiceless and a grand purpose to another editor looking for a job.

Peace,
Alex Kratz

Letters

Happy Anniversary

Congratulations to the Norwood News for having completed 25 years of publica-
tion, having started in October of 1988. An announcement in their first issue advertised for a variety of volunteers, to which I responded, and was accepted as a proofreader starting with the second issue in December of 1988 (a bi-monthly back then). As such, I, too, will be celebrating my own 25th anniversary in December of this year.

In addition to proofreading, I also periodically contributed articles, op-ed, and letters to the editor.

The Weary Shepherds of the Norwood News, editor Alex Kratz and proofreader extraordinaire Judy Noy after a long night producing the paper. Not pictured: Ace designer Neil deMause.

Twenty five years, a quarter of a century. All in all, quite an achievement and a source of pride for having reached this milestone.

Here’s to more years of success and that I continue to be part of your future celebrations.

Judy Noy

Editor’s note: Judy is the backbone of the Norwood News. She is thankfully and maddeningly meticulous and the reason we don’t make many mistakes. I love her and will miss her dearly, but she will be a great asset to the next editor.

Voice to the Voiceless: 25 Years of the Norwood News

(continued from page 1)

and become synonymous with landlord neglect and arson. The housing stock, espe-

cifically in the South Bronx, was in shambles. The northwest Bronx managed to stave off much of these problems, thanks to staunch organizing efforts by grassroots groups like the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition. Still, there were some problem buildings and MPC aimed to shore them up.

But by 1987, Mayor Ed Koch’s multi-bil-

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In honor of the *Norwood News*’ 25th anniversary, we decided to paraphrase the late Ed Koch and ask, “How’re we doin’?”

Congratulations, I think it’s a good newspaper for the neighborhood. There’s a lot of advertisements and current events around the neighborhood and I think it’s an asset.

*Agnes Fitzpatrick*

I’ve read the paper for many, many years and I think it’s great and I look forward to seeing every issue. What I like most is the ‘Out & About’ column and the upcoming events section.

*Mary Barron*

The *Norwood News* is a wonderful neighborhood newspaper that keeps us informed on all of the current events that’s going on like the crime, parades, and everything. It’s a wonderful, free, local paper and I look forward to reading every edition.

*Mary Leon*

Congratulations on your anniversary. The *Norwood News* gives a lot of information and helps keep us informed about all of the crimes that’s going on and makes us aware of what’s going on in the neighborhood.

*Juanita Pacheco*

The *Norwood News* does fantastic and fabulous work. They have been able to keep us informed in a concentrated area of our district, where a lot of time we don’t get news coverage. They’re able to keep us updated on what’s really happening in our community. They’re fair in their assessments.

*Councilman Fernando Cabrera*
Blaze Destroys Homes in Fordham-Bedford

By DAVID GREENE

More than a dozen people were injured when a wind-whipped fire ripped through three homes along Valentine Avenue in the Fordham-Bedford neighborhood. According to officials, 13 firefighters and three civilians were injured after a four-alarm blaze erupted inside an abandoned wood-frame home at 2860 Valentine Ave., at just after 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 27.

After flames spread to adjacent three-story homes at 2862 and 2866 Valentine Ave., nearly 200 firefighters were needed during the two hours it took to bring the blaze under control.

FDNY Assistant Chief Ronald Spadafora said they pulled firefighters away from the homes for safety reasons. “We pulled them out because of the magnitude of the fire and the structural soundness of the building,” he said.

Longtime Bedford Park resident Hector Miolan watched the scene unfold. “The flames were coming out the window and this guy broke the window and just jumped,” he said. “He went out the window and then ran into the street.”

Officials could not immediately say how many people were displaced, but those residents were put up in temporary housing by the Red Cross.

Fire officials could also not immediately say if the fire spread to the back of several stores on East 198th Street.

The telephone to Rite Aid had a steady busy-signal on Monday morning.

According to officials, 15 of the injuries were said to be minor in nature, but one victim was reported to be in critical condition.

Fire marshals have deemed the fire suspicious and are continuing to investigate its origin.

A firefighter is removed from the scene of a fire that engulfed three homes on Valentine Avenue.

Teen Murdered on Jerome Avenue

(continued from page 1)

building’s facade collapsed. On this day, the owner would first have to scrub down the dried blood left on the sidewalk.

At the new memorial across the street from St. James Park, where Michael could often be found playing basketball, young mourners milled about. “He was a sweetheart,” one of them said. “He had no enemies, no problems and he loved McDonald’s.”

No one could explain what happened or who did it.

Coincidentally, the morning after Michael’s brutal death, the annual breakfast of the 52nd Precinct Community Council was held just two short blocks from where the teen was shot. Outgoing Deputy Inspector Joseph Dowling said the case was “under investigation,” but couldn’t give any details. “It’s an ongoing investigation,” he said.

Residents around the neighborhood were both shocked and unsurprised by the turn of events the night Michael was killed.

“I was scared; I didn’t know this neighborhood was like this,” said Makuta Kamara, who lives near Fordham Road and Sedgwick Avenue. Kamara said she regularly visits her sister who lives across the street from St. James Park and sends her daughter to the recreation center’s programs.

Iginio Valentine Jr., who regularly uses the St. James recreation center, said, “There’s a lot of gang activity in the area.”

Liam Riviera, a longtime resident, says the neighborhood safety has improved “compared to when I was a kid growing up. Back then you couldn’t walk around unless you were part of a clique or crew.”

Though he was saddened by the shooting death of Michael, he said it’s not surprising. “Every day someone’s dying,” he said. “Someone’s trying to prove themselves.”
New York’s Obamacare Plans Avoid Website Glitches

By KIMBERLY JACOBS

The implementation of the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, has received a lot of criticism since its launch on Oct. 1 for the glitches and problems with its official website, www.healthcare.gov. Recently, President Obama was forced to admit the problems were unacceptable and vowed to fix them by Nov. 1.

But New York state’s issues have been minimal because it has its own website. There were issues in the beginning because of the overwhelming number of people who used it, but users shouldn’t have a problem anymore, officials say. Through the New York State of Health website, 37,000 have enrolled in insurance and 174,000 have applied.

“Our marketplace is operating very smoothly, and we are pleased to see that tens of thousands of individuals and small-business owners across the state are turning to nystateofhealth.ny.gov to access low-cost health insurance,” Donna Frescatore, executive director of New York State of Health, said in a statement.

Healthcare reform was put in place to provide more Americans with options for private insurance, but it’s been reported that two-thirds of those who have applied in New York were found eligible for the free- or low-cost federal and state-funded medical insurance, known as Medicaid. Along with the reform came the expansion of Medicaid for low-income adults between the ages of 19 and 65.

The other third of applicants were able to pick private insurance. And many of those who enroll with insurance companies based on their income qualify for a tax credit. New York has 16 healthcare providers for enrollees to choose from in its marketplace, which is one of the most diverse of any state in the country.

Using the website to sign up and register is the first step. If you need assistance, there are navigators designated to help you.

“If you are computer savvy, then I would recommend doing it yourself. If you are not, then contact a navigator or call the State Health exchange directly to ask for assistance,” said Bronx State Sen. Gustavo Rivera. “My office can also help put residents in touch with the right people. But Bronxites should know that the health exchange in New York is one of the most efficient and well thought out ones in the country.”

After registering on the website and verifying your identity, the process leading up to choosing a plan is fairly easy. All you’re required to provide is general information about your household.

Then, it gets more complicated as you wade through the various insurance plans. Be sure you’re prepared to sit and read through the marketplace options. The things to consider, as broken down on the site, are the company, monthly payments, the metals (the levels of plans that determine whether you will pay more upfront or as a co-pay: bronze, gold, silver, platinum, catastrophic), and deductible. The ability to view and compare plans is available also.

Plans are rated with stars as it pertains to quality, but none garner four out of four stars. I was pleased to find that the quality had no effect on the prices. The lowest deductible rates were $0 and $600, but were higher in monthly payments, but with that said, monthly payments weren’t less than $300 even with a $3,000 per person/$6,000 per family deductible.

Editor’s Note: You can apply for healthcare at www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov or call 1-855-355-5777 for assistance with a Navigator.

SCHOOLS CHANCELLOR Dennis Walcott gets his blood pressure taken at the city’s newest school-based health clinic on the Morris High School campus, which opened last week. One of 21 clinics operated by Montefiore Medical Center inside Bronx schools, the new clinic offers comprehensive medical, mental, dental and community health services.
RESIDENTS TOOK TO their local parks over the past two weekends to take advantage of and enhance the community spaces that act as veritable backyards for many families. On Oct. 19, at one of dozens of It’s My Park Day events throughout the city, members of the Bedford Mosholu Community Association worked with young people from Christodora, the 52nd Precinct Explorers, and the Auxiliary Police to beautify Mosholu Parkway. Last Saturday, Oct. 26, families gathered at Whalen Park on Perry Avenue in Norwood next to the Mosholu Library, for a Halloween festival featuring a children’s DJ, Halloween story time, and goodie bags. The event was organized by Friends of Williamsbridge Oval, Friends of Kossuth Park and Friends of Mosholu Parkland, and sponsored by several local organizations and businesses.

Whalen Park photos by Adi Talwar
Mosholu Parkway photo courtesy BMCA
Help, to keep you home.

Senior Whole Health of New York (SWH of NY) helps coordinate the care you need to stay at home.

Senior Whole Health of New York’s Managed Long Term Care Program provides care at home, including an in home attendant to help with meals and mobility. We provide transportation to and from doctor’s appointments, and help you manage your medications.*

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711 (TTY)
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* All benefits provided are based on medical necessity.

Caring for seniors in your neighborhood.
SPECIAL EVENT
The Bedford Park Congregational Church, located at 201st Street and Bainbridge Avenue, is celebrating its 124th anniversary of service to our community. We will host a concert and dinner (catered by Silvio's) on Sunday, November 17, 2013, beginning at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are $35. For tickets and further information, please contact Reverend Dr. Christopher Ponnuraj at (718) 367-8996.

REAL ESTATE

Price: $465,000 (neg.) Lease with option to buy, $1,800 per month.

2-Family Property, Decatur Avenue, $519k: 2340 sq ft. Private parking. Private outdoor space. Charming and unique old style property complete with beautiful wrap-around porch. Priced to sell. Please call Aileen at Jane Mosello Real Estate (914) 320-9690.

SERVICES


Child Care Services: Patty Cakes Family Daycare: Quality, affordable childcare, 2700 Grand Concourse (between Kingsbridge Road and 196th Street). Specials are available, vouchers accepted (HRA/ACS). Contact Claudette at (917) 331-8974 or via e-mail at Pattycakesfamilydaycare@gmail.com.

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.

Pastors James and Andrea Miller Sunday service at 2 p.m. Home fellowship bible studies on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Friday night prayer service at 7 p.m. Visit us at www.goodnewswcc.wordpress.com.

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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).
Jerome-Gun Hill BID’s HALLOWEEN FRIGHT FEST

Discover Great Ways to Shop and Save at the Jerome-Gun Hill BID!

Thursday, October 31st, 2013
Take Photos with Spiderman! 3-6PM

Kids Come Dressed with your Costume!

Where Good Neighbors Deserve Great Shopping!

Over 200 spooky reasons to shop at theJerome-Gun Hill BID in the Bronx!

VISIT THESE PARTICIPATING STORES:

$5 Shoe Warehouse
3420 Jerome Avenue
(718) 882-3770

ASM Drugs Inc./ Farmacia Central
55-A East Gun Hill Road
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Amazing Linen
3481 Jerome Avenue
(718) 654-2409

BX Sports
3476 Jerome Avenue
(718) 653-5060

Color Beauty Supply
10 East Gun Hill Road
(718) 881-5931

Drug Rite Pharmacy
3432 Jerome Avenue
(718) 231-1600

Eden Flower Shop
147 East Gun Hill Road
(718) 798-5300

Frank’s Electronics
3496 Jerome Avenue
(347) 945-0698

Galaxy H&Y Electronics
3412 Jerome Avenue
(347) 980-2222

Gun Hill Pharmacy
83 East Gun Hill Road
(718) 654-4305

LeMed Pharmacy
159 East Gun Hill Road
(718) 231-4040

Sharon’s Flowers & Gifts
20 East Gun Hill Road
(718) 798-8381

Sola Salon Systems
14 East 208th Street
(718) 881-3350

Too Hot Fashion
3466 Jerome Avenue
(718) 231-4766

Ultra Urban
3485 Jerome Avenue
(347) 275-8220

Zitally’s Beauty Trend
19 East Gun Hill Road
(718) 231-2777

For more information, call the BID Hotline at 718.324.4946 or visit www.jeromegunhillbid.org
Principal Re-Making Clinton One High Five at a Time

(continued from page 1)

ton’s population and installing two new small schools to share Clinton’s building. This plan was also adamantly opposed by the entire Clinton community; but it was ap-
proved anyway.

Later that spring, with Principal Geraldine Ambrosio retiring, Taveras was tapped to take over what many con-

sidered a sinking ship. (Many thought the plan to scale back Clinton would eventually lead to its demise, but

with a new mayor coming in January, the school’s future, in either direction, is unclear.)

Taveras comes with an impressive resume. A product of

large, single-parent Bronx household and a graduate of

John F. Kennedy High School in Marble Hill (another

school being phased out), Taveras started out as a public

school teacher:

He eventually became principal of a South Bronx

high school that was being phased out and rose to the

title of deputy chancellor under Joel Klein and then un-
der Klein’s widely unpopular successor, Cathie Black.

Before Black left the position under heavy criticism

in 2011, Taveras left the DOE to work for Cambridge

Education, a private consulting firm that handled the

DOE’s first quality reviews. While in the private sec-
tor, Taveras says he realized his passion was working

with kids. Taveras spent the summer hammering out a plan

with his leadership team, which remained largely in-
tact from the previous year. While he couldn’t imme-
diately change the school’s poor performance results,
he could go about changing the school’s environment,

which received an “F” grade on the latest quality re-

view and is based on feedback from students, parents

and staff.

Students complained about the poor technology at

the school, so Taveras used a grant to buy new comput-
ers and smart boards. They lamented the long lines just
to get into school because of scanning, so he’s working
to streamline the process by making sure all the ma-

chines work properly and better prepping kids before

they get to the metal detectors. And he’s hoping to have
the air conditioning fixed by the time summer rolls
around in 2014.

Forced to make cuts this year because of the drop in
enrollment (there are about 2,800 students at Clinton
now), Taveras said he cut the number of teachers

and smart boards. They lamented the long lines just
to get into school because of scanning, so he’s working
to streamline the process by making sure all the ma-

chines work properly and better prepping kids before

they get to the metal detectors. And he’s hoping to have
the air conditioning fixed by the time summer rolls
around in 2014.

“We kept all the extras,” he said.

When students walk into Clinton now, they are greet-
ed by four new TV screens, which tell kids about upcom-
ing events and programs and show photos of students

having fun—playing sports and participating in other
extracurricular activities.

“The other day, we had 500 kids outside doing extra-
curricular activities at the same time,” Taveras said. “It
was beautiful.”

This fall, Taveras asked every student in the school to
participate in re-imagining a vision for the school.
Many have responded with lengthy, detailed ideas. He’s
still wading through them all and hoping to put together
a more comprehensive document this winter.

In any case, Taveras is convinced Clinton is on its way to
once again becoming “the school of choice in the Bronx.”

His optimism and seemingly ubiquitous presence is
already having an effect, Taveras says. When they see
him hanging out after school, Taveras says “kids just
light up and give me that high five.”

Free Writing Workshop
The Bronx Council on the Arts, 2700 E. Tremont Ave.,
offers a free writing workshop on Nov. 4 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. For more in-
formation, call (718) 931-9500 ext. 21 or visit www.bronxarts.org.

Children’s Speech & Language Program
The Mount St. Ursula Speech Center, 2865 Marion Ave., offers winter and spring
programs for children between 16 months to 16 years who have difficulty with speech,
language, or reading. For more informa-
tion, call (718) 584-7679.

Martial Arts Class at MMCC
Moshulu Montefiore Community Center, 3450 DeKalb Ave., offers one-
hour martial arts classes for children on Saturdays between 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.,
and for teens and adults, from 11 a.m. to
12:30 p.m. Classes also take place Mon-
days, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 5:30 p.m.
For more information, call (718) 882-4960 ext. 9.

Engineering Awareness Day
Manhattan College, located at West
242nd Street near Broadway in Riverdale,
invites high school juniors and seniors to
attend its free annual Engineering Aware-
ness Day on Nov. 11 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
in Smith Auditorium and Leo Hall, and in-
cludes a panel presentation, lab tours, and
a luncheon. Registration is required. Stu-
dents are encouraged to bring a parent.
For more information, call Sheila Halpin
at (718) 982-7281.

BCA Seeks Bronx Artists
Bronx Council on the Arts seeks Bronx artists to apply for the BRIO (Bronx Rec-
ognizes Its Own) awards. Applications
and guidelines will be available online
starting Nov. 1 and ending Jan. 31 at
11:59 p.m. Application assistance and
help with presenting work is offered at a
free BRIO “How to Apply” workshop on
Nov. 22 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Hostos Com-
munity College’s Longwood Art Gallery,
450 Grand Concourse (149th Street). For
more information or to RSVP, call (718) 931-9500 ext. 35 or email BRIO@bronx-
arts.org.

Free Mammograms and Breast Exams
Free mammograms and breast exams will be given out of a mobile van outside
Bronx House Community Center at 590
Pelham Pkwy. on Nov. 3 from 9 a.m. to
4:30 p.m. for women 40+, who have a NYC
mailing address, and also don’t need a mam-

mogram in the past 12 months. For more
information or to schedule a required ap-
pointment, call (212) 628-9090.

Access to Capital
W., will host an “Access to Capital” work-

shop, Nov. 14 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., geared
to small businesses and non-profits that
are in need of financing, to teach partic-
ipants how to access the financing that
they need. For more information and to
register, call (718) 960-8806.

Teen Writing Workshops
The Bronx Council on the Arts holds
free Saturday writing workshops for
Bronx teenagers, Nov. 2 and 9, from 2 to
4 p.m., in the lobby of 240 E. 175th St.,
931-9500 ext. 35 or email BRIO@bronx-
arts.org.

Free Job & Career Services
SUNY North Bronx Career Counseling
and Outreach Center offers daily tuition
free services including career counseling,
college, financial aid and resume and cov-
er letter assistance, as well as job readi-
ness training at 2901 White Plains Rd.
Computer literacy and GED programs are
available during the day and evening.
Seats are limited. For more information,
call (718) 547-1001.

Help for Troubled Adolescents
Berkshire Farm Center’s “Power Project,” 3464 Webster Ave. (off Gun Hill
Road), is a free MICA support program
that helps emotionally disturbed Bronx
adolescents between the ages of 12 to 18
who use and abuse substances. The pro-
gram runs group and individual sessions
Mondays through Thursdays from 4 to
5:15 p.m. For more information, call (718) 551-7970 ext. 3010.

Free Health Workshop
Montefiore Care Management is offer-
ing a free asthma workshop for patients
and their family members and caregivers
on Nov. 12, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the MMG
Bronx East, 2300 Westchester Ave. For
more information, call (800) 636-6683.

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

LGBTQ Coming Out Group
This group offers youth ages 13 to 18
years of age a safe place to talk about gen-
der and sexuality. The meetings take place
every Saturday from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Mos-
holu Montefiore Community Center, 3450
DeKalb Ave. For more information, call (718) 882-4960 ext. 204.
For more Neighborhood Notes online, go to www.norwoodnews.org and click on “Neighborhood Notes.”

Buy a Poe Paver
By RACHEL FORSHEE

A new neighborhood Slow Zone will decrease speed limits in the Williamsbridge Oval area.

Two weeks ago, local assemblymen Jeffrey Dinowitz and Mark Gjonaj announced a new “Slow Zone” coming to the area surrounding Williamsbridge Oval Park.

A “Slow Zone” is an area inside of which speed limits are reduced and more safety measures are put in place — usually due to the presence of schools and other areas that might be affected by high pedestrian traffic. In this case, the area around Oval Park includes two schools, St. Brendan’s and PS 56, as well as a handful of churches, medical offices, and a library.

The zone would place signs along its borders decreasing the speed limit from 30 miles per hour to 20 miles per hour and could potentially bring in speed bumps. The announcement marks the beginning of a DOT study that could bring about these changes as early as this winter.

Community activists and Community Board 7 have been part of the fight to improve pedestrian standards in this area for the past several years, bringing in a series of pedestrian upgrades such as more crosswalks and traffic lights and putting up signs notifying motorists of the presence of children and other at-needs residents. In this most recent effort, however, it was the assemblymen who brought it to the board.

“We started this about a year ago,” said Dinowitz. “There had always been a lot of complaints about motorists driving too fast, or not paying attention. This was a necessary step for the safety of the community.”

Dinowitz said he found out about a pilot program offered by the DOT when he worked on getting a similar slow zone into his own neighborhood of Riverdale last year. To start the process in Norwood, he still needed community support, and that’s where the community board really stepped in.

Local residents Dilleta Pina and Lisa von Uhl were part of the public outreach necessary — collecting signatures, writing letters and holding community meetings as part of the formal application process.

“This is really a vital piece of the puzzle,” said von Uhl, who was also part of the five-year struggle for the pedestrian upgrades.

Dinowitz added of the effort: “A lot of us felt that it was getting really bad. I’ve watched cars driving right in front of PS 56 and they weren’t even slowing down for seniors.”

Dinowitz sees it as the upside to re-districting last year. “A year ago, as they were re-drawing the districts, our effort was to bring Norwood together as one unit,” said Dinowitz. “This is a case where two is definitely better than one.”

Reach Over 37,500 Readers & Tens of Thousands of Healthcare Workers Throughout the Bronx!
Onstage

- The Bronx Arts Ensemble presents Jack and the Beanstalk, Nov. 10 at 1 and 2:30 p.m., just for kids, at International Caterers, 3243 Ampere Ave. at Research Ave. ($8); program subject to change. For more information, call (718) 601-7399.
- Lehman College’s Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents Impressionist Jeff Tracta, featuring a journey through pop culture, Nov. 9 at 8 p.m. (tickets are $25 to $45). For more information, call (718) 960-9833.
- The Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture, 450 Grand Concourse, presents Bobby Sanabria and Multiverse Big Band, featuring Latin jazz, as well as the Bronx Arts Ensemble and the 319th U.S. Army Band, Nov. 1 at 7:30 p.m. (tickets are $25 to $35). For more information, call (718) 518-6700/4455.
- Bronx Music Heritage Center, 1303 Louis Niné Blvd., presents Boogie Mics, Nov. 1 at 7 p.m. Come early to sign up for this open mic night (free; $5/suggested donation). For more information, email info@bronxmusic.org.
- Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, 3450 DeKalb Ave., presents “Lies My Father Told Me,” an off-Broadway musical, Nov. 13. For more information, call the senior department at (718) 882-4000.
- Pregones Theatre, 571-575 Walton Ave., presents Aloha Boricua, Nov. 2 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 3 at 3 p.m., featuring traditional Puerto Rican music and urban reggaeton. For more information, call (718) 585-1202.
- Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance (BAAD), 2474 Westchester Ave. (new address), presents Love Will Save the Day: A Dance Tribute to Whitney Houston, Nov. 2 at 8 p.m. ($20). This concert kicks off the BlackTina Performance Series. Also coming is We Are Caligula, Nov. 14 at 8 p.m. ($15). For more information or to purchase tickets, call (718) 918-2110 (new phone number).

Events

- Manhattan College, West 242nd Street near Broadway in Riverdale, presents poet/critic, Alicia Ostriker, Nov. 14 at 5 p.m., in Hayden Hall, room 100. For more information, call (718) 862-7546/7921.
- The Woodlawn Conservancy presents Woodlawn Cemetery guided tour, Second Sunday, Nov. 10 at 2 p.m., to explore history, design, and more ($15/adults; discounts for members/students). Also coming is NY Restoration Project Free Tree Giveaway.

Simply show your ID badge and SAVE!
Freebies at NYPL

The Moshulu Library, 285 E. 205th St., presents Jazz Guitar, free, performed by Don Witter, Jr., Nov. 2 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents A Musical Tribute to Soul Legends: Sam Cooke & Marvin Gaye, Nov. 2 at 2:30 p.m.; and La Treviata, performed by the NY Opera Forum, Nov. 9 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit nypl.org.

The Jerome Library Center, 118 E. 167th St., presents: The Jerome-Gun Hill BID presents Knitting Circle: Thursdays at 3 p.m., Will 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: Nov. 12 at 3:30 p.m. Children can enjoy Toddler Story Time at 10:30 a.m.: (ages 18 to 36 months), Oct. 31, Nov. 7 and 14; Reading Aloud at 4 p.m.: (ages 3 to 12), Nov. 4; and Bilingual Birdies: (to age 5), featuring live music, puppetry, and games, concluding with a bubble dance party, Nov. 12 at 11 a.m. Foreigners can join Free Intermediate Level English Conversation Classes: (ages 18+), Tuesdays 6:30 to 8 p.m., Nov. 5, 12 and 19. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

The Jerome Library Center, 118 E. 167th St., presents: Kids’ Active Health: (yoga and zumba), Nov. 1 and 8; Cooking: Nov. 4; (all at 4 p.m.); and Toddler Story Time: (ages 18 to 36 months), Nov. 12 at 11 a.m. For teens/young adults, there is: Mad Science: Nov. 7; and Cooking: Nov. 14 (both at 4 p.m.); and for adults: Computer Basics at noon: Oct. 31, Nov. 5, 7, 12 and 14. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

Public Service Announcement

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, Nov. 3 at 2 a.m. Turn clocks back one hour. NOTE: Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org, and should be received by Nov. 4 for the next publication date of Nov. 14.

Halloween Events

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 Woodlawn Conservancy presents Woodlawn Cemetery guided tour, "The Sacred Departed" Halloween Tour, featuring a tour-meets-theatre experience, Oct. 31 from 7 to 9 p.m. ($25; discounts for members/students). Meet at the Jerome Avenue entrance. For more information, call (718) 920-1469.

The Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance (BAAD), 2474 Westchester Ave. (new address), presents Trick or Treat? Halloween Party and Open Stage, Oct. 31 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Come in costume to this fundraiser to help support the move to the new location. $10/ includes food, music and an open mic/open stage at 10 p.m. For more information, call (718) 918-2110 (new phone number).

Library Events

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents programs for adults including Learn a Language With Mango: Nov. 6 at 2 p.m. and Nov. 10 at 1 p.m.; Computer Basics: Nov. 7 at 2 p.m.; Internet for Beginners: Nov. 9 at 2 p.m.; and Veterans Week Film Screening: "Lioness," about females in combat, followed by Q&A (refreshments served before screening), Nov. 12 at 6:30 p.m. Children can enjoy films: Nov. 5 at 4 p.m.; Preschool Story Time at 11 a.m.: Nov. 7 and 14; Toddler Playtime at noon: Nov. 7 and 14; Leaf Book Making: Nov. 7 at 4 p.m.; Family Time: Nov. 8 at 11 a.m.; Story Hour: (to age 12), Nov. 8 at 2 p.m.; and Reading Aloud: Nov. 12 at 4 p.m. Teens/young adults can attend Films at 4 p.m.: Oct. 31. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

The Jerome Library Center, 118 E. 167th St., offers for seniors and adults: Knitting Circle: Thursdays at 3 p.m., Will 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: Nov. 12 at 3:30 p.m. Children can enjoy Toddler Story Time at 10:30 a.m.: (ages 18 to 36 months), Oct. 31, Nov. 7 and 14; Reading Aloud at 4 p.m.: (ages 3 to 12), Nov. 4; and Bilingual Birdies: (to age 5), featuring live music, puppetry, and games, concluding with a bubble dance party, Nov. 12 at 11 a.m. Foreigners can join Free Intermediate Level English Conversation Classes: (ages 18+), Tuesdays 6:30 to 8 p.m., Nov. 5, 12, 19 and 26. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

The Jerome-Gun Hill BID presents a tour, “Belmont,” Nov. 10 at 11 a.m., leaving from East Fordham Road and Arthur Avenue ($10/members; $15/non members). For more information and to RSVP, call (718) 881-8900.

The Bronx County Historical Society offers for children: Kids’ Active Health: (yoga and zumba), Nov. 1 and 8; Cooking: Nov. 4; (all at 4 p.m.); and Toddler Story Time: (ages 18 to 36 months), Nov. 12 at 11 a.m. For teens/young adults, there is: Mad Science: Nov. 7; and Cooking: Nov. 14 (both at 4 p.m.); and for adults: Computer Basics at noon: Oct. 31, Nov. 5, 7, 12 and 14. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.
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- NYC Certified Public School Teacher.
- World Champion Athlete
- Feildston Head Coach 15 Years Tennis & Track
- P.S. 368 And InTech Academy - Spanish - English - History