

NORWOOD NEWS

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Green Activists to Neighbors: Pick It Up!



Photo by Justin McCallum

Mosholu Parkway is often treated as a virtual wasteland. Pictured is a family having to settle with strolling about a littered park.

By JUSTIN MCCALLUM

With warmer weather approaching, the many snowbanks along Mosholu Parkway have melted to reveal heaps of trash discarded over the winter months.

Near the Mosholu Parkway #4 subway station, locals can find used cigarette boxes, a tomato sauce can, motor oil and a moldy box of coffee along with paper cups. A felled “No Litter” sign lays discarded alongside debris, adding irony to a prairie that’s often treated like a wasteland. More trash lines the street, sidewalk, in the roadway and between cars.

Elizabeth Quaranta, a founding member of the Friends of Mosholu Parkland, is appalled at how her neighbors are treating their “backyard.” “I would say this is one of the worst years I’ve ever seen in terms of trash,” Quaranta told the *Norwood News*. “Between the amount of snow, ice and cars constantly going in and out, folks see Mosholu as a sparse parkway; it looks like no one cares about the place.”

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Rivera Faces Challenger in 78th Assembly District

By DAVID CRUZ

At the Sea Shore Restaurant in City Island, a medium-size crowd turned up for Assemblyman Jose Rivera’s fundraiser on March 7. Rivera took to the dance floor, ushered in his daughter, former Assemblywoman Naomi Rivera, and even schmoozed with her opponent, current Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj. He was in his comfort zone, engaging with supporters bearing donations.

For nearly 50 years, Rivera has stood virtually untouchable. He shattered racial barriers in a Bronx legislative caucus that was largely white, serving as a power groomer for rising Puerto Rican legislators like him, reflecting the changing demographics of the Bronx. He later became Assemblyman for the 78th Assembly District in 2002, a district that covers Fordham, Kingsbridge Heights, Bedford Park, and Belmont neighborhoods.

But Rivera’s influence as a power broker has waned some. Adding to his declining influence is a YouTube video that surfaced showing Rivera, 77, making lewd comments to a young woman during a 2005 visit to the Dominican Republic.

The cloud of impropriety compelled former Community Board 7 District Manager Fernando Tirado to run against Rivera in this



FORMER CB7 district manager Fernando Tirado (left) is vying for the seat of Assemblyman Jose Rivera of the 78th Assembly District (right). Tirado has labeled Rivera an “empty seat.”

election cycle. Tirado, who is of Puerto Rican descent, left the Board following a contentious behind-the-scenes fight with the execu-



File photos

tive committee, who believed his brashness against protocol was a problem. He is currently

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Be Healthy

Prepping for Springtime Allergies, p. 8

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In The Public Interest

DREAM Act Fails in Senate

By DAVID CRUZ

The dream is dead. Democrats from the federal, state and city level have weighed in on a bill to provide financial aid to college students of illegal immigrants. The so-called DREAM Act, strongly pushed by immigration activists, was killed on the state Senate floor in a 30 to 29 vote, rejecting the bill. This now puts the New York State DREAM Act legislation on the backburner for now, until the next legislative session, should lawmakers decide to take it up again. Governor Andrew Cuomo, a major supporter of the bill, blasted the Senate for shooting down the measure and vowed to work “with supporters, stakeholders and members of the legislature to achieve this dream and build the support to pass this legislation and preserve New

York’s legacy as a progressive leader.” The bill, designed to ease the financial burden on immigrant families, would have allowed families to apply for the state’s Tuition Assistance Program. “I am disappointed that the New York State Senate, once again, failed to pass the DREAM Act,” said Congressman Charles Rangel in a statement. “The fate of many of my constituents in Manhattan and the Bronx depends on the enactment of this bill.” A similar bill on the federal level was introduced 14 years ago, though continually rejected. The Independent Democratic Conference put the bill to the floor, with all members voting in favor of it. Two Senate Democrats, Simcha Felder and Ted O’Brien, were the only two Democrats to vote against the measure. Supporters of

the bill needed 32 votes for the measure to pass. But while many were casting blame on the two Democrats, Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz blasted the Republicans for not jumping ship and leaning towards a ye vote. The Assembly, controlled by the Democrats, passed the measure in February. “It is disgraceful that every member of the Senate Republican conference chose to put petty politics ahead of the good of thousands of young New Yorkers who have lived here for much of their lives,” said Dinowitz in a statement. “I am so sick of many Republicans using innocent people as political pawns to the detriment of all New Yorkers.” Those voting against the bill argued that taxpayer money should not be used to benefit immigrants who’ve settled into the country illegally.

Espailat Notches More Support in Congressional Run

By DAVID CRUZ

In his run against Congressman Charles Rangel, state Sen. Adriano Espailat has garnered a familiar ally and a new friend. The TWU Local 100 labor union, a major union with significant political pull, has once again thrown support for Espailat. “Adriano has pledged to work with us to ensure our members are treated fairly on the job,” said John Samuelson, head of the TWU Local 100.

Standing alongside Samuelson and union members on March 14, Espailat promised he will use his position in Congress to “fight tirelessly to secure the funding necessary to keep our transit system moving rain, snow or shine – united we can strengthen our infrastructure.” The agency is still processing possible implications in Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s proposed budget, which calls for the MTA to pay more in bond costs. Funneling the bond money would ultimately slow down repairs. Espailat’s latest endorsement came on the heels of another endorsement from a new endorsee—Brooklyn Assemblyman Karim Camara, chair of the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus. Camara, an ordained minister, officially endorsed Espailat at a ceremony in City Hall. Camara’s endorsement is largely symbolic, a way to attract more black voters to Espailat, who failed to siphon black votes away from Rangel during his first contest against Rangel. At a ceremony, Camara labeled Espailat a unifier, citing Espailat’s success in forging stronger bonds within the minority caucus when internal divides surfaced.

“Adriano is seeking to ensure the seat originally created to give the African and Caribbean diaspora representation in Washington remains at the forefront of fighting poverty, speaking truth to power, and serving as a national model of cooperation between communities of color nationwide,” said Camara. “I am proud to endorse his campaign to serve as this historic district’s next member of Congress.” But Camara held off on endorsing Es-

paillat when the Dominican-born legislator ran two years ago against Rangel in an extremely tight race that eventually symbolized the changing demographics of the 13th Congressional District. The district was redrawn to include the Bronx, which Espailat won during the September 2012 Primary. He ultimately lost. Camara holds no real influence in the Bronx, though his endorsement is indicative of Espailat’s attempts at luring the black vote away from Rangel. It’s unclear whether Rangel will receive support from the National Action Network, where its leader, Rev. Al Sharpton, has remained

quiet over who he will support. But NAN’s national field director, Lam-on Bland, is now a key member of Espailat’s campaign, leaving political analysts to wonder whether NAN will lean towards Espailat. The 13th Congressional District covers a tiny portion of the northwest Bronx, and is largely overlooked when compared to the rest of the district. Bronx political groups have been vetting Espailat, Rangel, and political newcomer Rev. Michael Walrond to determine who will represent them best. So far, no Bronx political group has officially thrown support.

SIGN FOR KLEIN ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE



THE GRASSROOTS GROUP Money Out of Politics (M.O.P.) was behind this burlap sign seen in Fordham Plaza on March 12. The group is urging State Senate Co-Leader Jeff Klein to use his political muscle to ensure a campaign public finance is included in the state budget. The measure is all but signed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo. *Check out the full story at www.norwoodnews.org.*

Public and Community Meetings

- **The 52nd PRECINCT meets Thursday, March 27 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Cosmopolitan Church of the Lord Jesus at 39 W. 190th St. (off Jerome Avenue).**
- **COMMUNITY BOARD 7 committees 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 committees meet Thursday, March 20; Parks & Recreation and Senior Services committees meet Wednesday, March 26. For more information, call (718) 933-5650 or visit bronxcb7.info/calendar.**

All meetings are subject to change. Call to confirm.

NCBH will Deliver Late on Maternity Ward

By JUSTIN MCCALLUM

Amid growing unrest over the closure of their maternity ward, North Central Bronx Hospital officials assured the community of their ongoing commitment to reopening the ward. But that won't happen until sometime this summer, as hospital officials revealed. Still, even with the delay, officials say the beds will not be decertified by the state.

"Last week we received approval from the State Department of Health to allow us the necessary time to complete all the steps required for safely restoring maternity and newborn services," said William Walsh, NCBH president, during a news conference on March 17.

Staff shortages drove NCBH brass to shut its service in August, diverting medical staff to Jacobi Medical Center, another hospital managed by Health and Hospitals Corporation. Following a grassroots outcry, however, NCBH announced in December that they planned to re-open the ward by the end of April. The latest from NCBH, however, pushes back the deadline a number of months.

"We don't have a date as yet, but the target is the end of the summer," said Walsh. When pressured, he said the opening will be closer to September, stating they "don't want to cut corners" when it comes to patient health, re-emphasizing that the end of summer date is a "target."

Many lauded HHC for their plan to reopen the labor and delivery services, which includes a \$4.5 million investment



Photo by Justin McCallum

WILLIAM WALSH, senior VP with Health and Hospital's Corporation/North Bronx Health Network, assures the community North Central Bronx Hospital's maternity ward will be open albeit later.

toward staff restructuring. Congressman Charles Rangel, whose district falls within the hospital, was thrilled to see some movement towards the issue. "The least we can do is say thank you," he said.

Part of the staff restructuring will still involve using licensed midwives, though the new model includes extra physician assistants, registered nurses and senior obstetricians.

The chief obstetrician, Dr. Michael Zinaman, told reporters that HHC looks to "improve access and productivity of

our extensive array of ambulatory OB/GYN services including prenatal care, family planning, and gynecological surgical services."

But some parties were still concerned that the reopening has been postponed even more, with north Bronx expectant mothers facing over a year without delivery facilities in the area.

Dr. Matthew Hurley of Doctors Council urged the labor and delivery services to re-open as soon as possible, stating that the community "needs[s] a firm date for re-

opening." Doctors Council SEIU recognized the importance of the "HHC's steps in the right direction" but to "remain vigilant" without a fully outlined plan. Registered nurse and HHC Executive Council Member Anne Bové echoed Hurley, demanding that mothers "need a guaranteed date" for planning for their families' health.

Councilman Andy King, who last month helped lead a demonstration to urge a speedy reopening by NCBH with 1199 SEIU and New York State Nurses Association, seemed pleased by the news proclaiming that "labor does deliver!" But King, whose district does not fall within the hospital, is closely tied to 1199 as a community organizer, a reason he could have been closely involved. Councilman Andy Cohen, whose district does reside within NCBH, hopes to collaborate with "HHC and my colleagues in government to ensure that the resources are in place to safely and effectively provide these important services to patients."

Councilman Ritchie Torres first broached the question of how expeditious the ward can re-open during a Health Committee meeting. Torres, whose district overlaps with NCBH, also asked what assurances could be made to ensure the ward will remain open.

"We expect to build this plan carefully and deliberately," said Dr. Ross Wilson, with HHC's Medical and Professional Affairs Division, testifying before the panel. "And we don't want to re-open the service until we are really confident that we've got everything in place for it to be safe."

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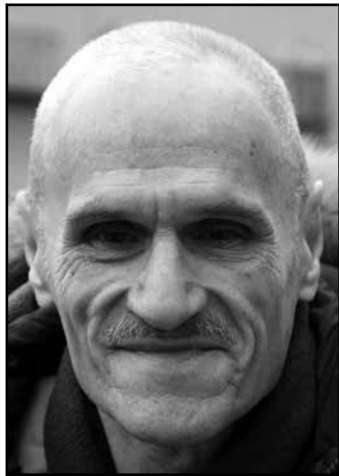
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By DAVID GREENE

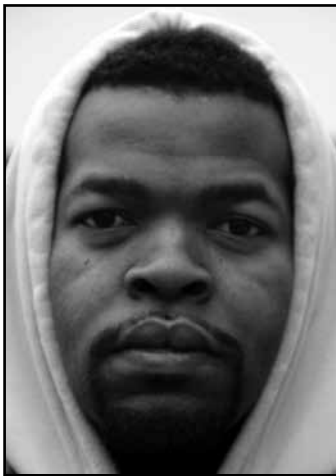
With the recent explosion and collapse of two buildings in East Harlem, we asked readers their thoughts on the tragedy and if they think it can happen here.



Yes, it definitely will happen in the Bronx and the reason for that is we have a lot of landlords that don't care and are not meeting their job standards for safety. I feel that if people smell anything or see something fishy, they should report it and if no one comes to check it out they should keep reporting it until someone does something about the situation.
Francisco Cortes



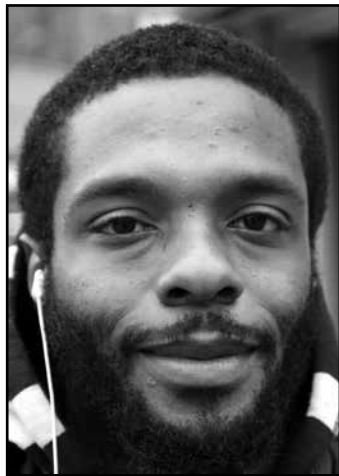
Con Ed does a pretty good job, but once in a blue moon it happens. It doesn't happen very often, they're most often on top of things. They know it's a big problem; it's an old city and that's the problem. We push the problem until later on, the bridges are falling down. Everything's falling down because it costs so much money.
Victor DeRosa



It happened there, it can happen anywhere. My heart goes out to the victims' loved ones and their families. I feel very bad, it could have been me in the building, sleeping or whatever.
Jamel Burney



It was terrible to see that in New York City especially with all the terror alerts. It's kind of hard to take. But can it happen up here? It can happen anywhere, you never know. Especially with all the old buildings we have. I think that's a problem with most of the city, we don't maintain the old buildings and keep up with the standards the city has and the landlords don't want to pay for it.
Stephanie Batista



I do feel safe, sometimes. I do think that Con Ed could do a better job. Our streets are structured the same way, so anything can happen. It's not easy; you never know when it could happen when you have a gas leak. I've smelled gas, but it was the burner left on or something.
Darryl James

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Rivera Faces Challenger in 78th Assembly District

(continued from page 1)

ly working for a nonprofit in Long Island, though he's been seen making the rounds within the district.

Awkward First Impression

When he was Board chair, Tirado claimed he was snubbed by staffers when attempting to organize a meet-and-greet with Rivera. But former Councilwoman Maria Baez, at the time one of Rivera's top staffers, balked at his district manager post, pointedly telling Tirado he hasn't aided Rivera in any political campaign.

"I never forgot that," said Tirado. "And I think there's too much of people being beholden to the political will of others and not being encouraged to think on their own."

Tirado's ambitious, somewhat quixotic, run against Rivera presents a David vs. Goliath scenario—a newcomer taking on a cog in the so-called Bronx machine. At one point, Rivera was the face of the Bronx political establishment, serving as Bronx Democratic County Leader. His persuasive, often garrulous charm so grabbed a variety of supporters that they've ignored his eccentric propensity for videotaping events. At one point, Rivera stood as the patriarch of a political dynasty, with his daughter Naomi at the 80th Assembly District and his son Joel rising to New York City Council as Majority Leader. The siblings have since left office.

Rivera's legacy as a working class political street fighter and champion for would-be Puerto Rican legislators is overshadowed by his recent history as a no-show public servant with few accomplishments within the last decade. His frail stance could very well have been sealed in 2008, when he was ousted as Bronx Democratic County Chair after a blistering

Board meetings that fall within his district, nor does he send representatives to meetings, standard for most representatives.

"I did see him at one event, but that was that one time in the whole five years that I've been there and that was at a senior center," said Tirado. "And that was really to announce that he was trying to

legislators have ascended today, Rivera has weaponized his influence in his later life. Legislators have been guided by a code of silence towards Rivera. Councilman Fernando Cabrera and state Sen. Gustavo Rivera, whose districts overlap with Rivera, declined to comment to the *Norwood News* over whether Rivera is still a capable elected official. Community groups also refused to go on the record fearing any reprisal from Rivera.

Lack of voter turnout has also added a protective layer for Rivera. Indeed, records from the city Board of Elections show Rivera's district holds the second worst voter turnout record in the past decade when compared to the rest of the borough. The worst falls in the 86th Assembly District.

"All local elections tend to produce low voter turnout," said Rivera in an email statement, though he emphasized that 77 percent of Bronxites voted for him in the last election cycle. Typically, incumbents tend to favor low voter turnout since it keeps their chances of any ousting to be virtually remote.

"I think there's too much of people being beholden to the political will of others and not being encouraged to think on their own," said Fernando Tirado.

coup by the so-called "Rainbow Rebels."

"So what if you served 32 years, but for the majority of that time you were in and out of your responsibilities?" asked Tirado.

When asked about Rivera's list of victories over the last 10 years, his chief of staff, Jasmin Clavasquin, referred to Rivera's official New York State Assembly webpage. But the page wasn't updated to reflect his final sponsorship—advocating for same-sex marriage five years ago. His biography page lists no further accomplishments past 2006 and an archaic phrase at the bottom—"VOTE IN 2000 ELECTION."

Some folks within the political circles say he does not appear at Community

get a bus trip to Atlantic City."

In a statement through Clavasquin, Rivera defended his lack of appearances since community boards "fall more in the purview of council members and borough presidents."

Institutional Protection

Working as a trailblazer in the early part of his life, where many Puerto Rican



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Business Beat

Eva Bornstein Raising Cultural Bar at Lehman Center

By DAVID CRUZ

When Eva Bornstein was asked to describe the atmosphere at Lehman Center for the Performing Arts prior to becoming its executive director, she turned to her secretary who knew the history beforehand. “Very dead, very sparse,” the secretary said bluntly. “We had no movement.”

That was nearly 10 years ago. These days, Bornstein has inspired the borough’s cultural jewel to get its second wind, showcasing some big names in its theater while also shattering borough stereotypes. Not bad, considering performers often prefer to showcase their talents at Madison Square Garden or Radio City Music Hall rather than a venue 11 miles away.

“But the competition is very stiff at times,” said Bornstein.

Still, her headliners have included some big names from all spheres of the entertainment world, including the New York Philharmonic, Patti LaBelle, and Jerry Seinfeld, who performed at Lehman over a year ago. Seinfeld, who refused to take pictures with fans, was happy enough to take one with Bornstein.

It’s her charm, utilizing her soft-spoken Polish accent to attract established artists to the Lehman stage. This year, her crown jewel of a headliner is Michael Bolton, the R&B jazz performer expected to lend his musical voice on June 7. Aside from Bolton’s performance in Yankee Stadium in 2001, it’s his first show in the Bronx.

“That’s going to be our spring gala event,” said Bornstein. “I’m working on details as we speak. I’m working on getting sponsors so we can have a fabulous dinner after the show and have several sponsors.”

Other names in the spring lineup include famed guitarist Sharon Isbin (March 23), the King of Blues BB King (April 19), and Latin sensation Jose Feliciano (May 10), who has become a staple at any venue Bornstein leads. “He knows whenever I get a job he’s on the roster. Somehow he ends up to be,” she said.

Perhaps it’s her musical intuition that’s led to nearly 40 years of success as a power broker for world performers, using that charm to convince artists of the exposure they’ll receive at Lehman Center. The 2300-seat theater has bolstered its prominence, thanks to the recent addition of big screen TVs aimed at capturing onstage performances.



Photo by Adi Talwar

EVA BORNSTEIN (pictured), executive director of the Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, brings a breadth of experience to the Bronx’s world stage.

Bolton certainly sees it. Through a spokeswoman, Bolton labeled Bornstein a “real visionary” and “risk taker in her mission to bring an array of artistic and cultural experiences to her venue and make them accessible to everyone.”

She’s done quite well over the span of her career, traveling around the world for each theater job she’s held. She’s made stops in Canada, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Connecticut before settling in the Bronx.

Bornstein’s personal story begins with theater in Krakow, Poland during the era of Communism. When she was 17, she went to drama school, studying Constantin Stanislavski’s Method Acting. But her dreams of stardom mixed with feelings of escape from the oppressive region. “You couldn’t just easily leave,” recalled Bornstein. “You either had to escape or you had to find a way

to do it. So my way was a movie that I did in Paris because then I got a visa out of Poland to go to France.” Her option was easier than “being shot on a border.”

“...[L]eaving your country you have to be brave because you know you can’t return, so it’s a big decision you’re making,” she said.

From France, Bornstein bounced off to London. After hearing the Canadian government’s attempts at luring more Europeans to its country through incentives, Bornstein hopped on a ship and sailed to Toronto. Her first job was quite daunting—leading a network of theaters as cultural director for York University.

She soon married an American, and was off to Chicago following a 12-year tenure at the liberal arts school. Several other stops included stints in Connecticut and back to Toronto where she became an international scout, globetrotting to find undiscovered talents. She returned to the states, settling in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, working for a re-booted theater company. Dabbling in startups certainly gave Bornstein a sense of pride. “I love startup situations because you’re not walking into someone’s mess. You can create your own mess from zero,” she laughed.

Bornstein arrived to the Lehman Center as its executive director following five interviews with the City University of New York’s Board of Directors. By then she had already established herself as a leading lady of theater management. From there, she went to work recapturing the potential the theater experience presented.

But the list of names serves as a catalyst to draw out-of-towners who may not know much about a borough still burdened by the nagging “Bronx is burning” mold. Bornstein, seizing upon the wealthy demographic who visit Lehman, sees the need to shatter stereotypes as a way to ensure Lehman stays packed.

During a performance by Johnny Mathis, Bornstein struck up a conversation with one diehard Mathis fan from Manhattan. It was the fan’s first time in the Bronx, taken aback by “how calm it is.”

Bornstein, who commutes from Manhattan via the 4 train line to the Bedford Park Station, found the comment “very odd.” “In a way I feel safer in the Bronx than in Manhattan, to be honest with you,” she said.

Lehman Center hosts performances year round. For the latest lineup, go to www.lehmancenter.org.



Photo courtesy Lehman Center for the Performing Arts

FAMED VOCALIST Michael Bolton will perform for the first time at Lehman Center for the Performing Arts on June 7.

Green Activists to Neighbors: Pick It Up!

(continued from page 1)

Trash Influx

Quaranta attributes the huge growth in debris to the harsh winter and population influx in the neighborhood. “We’re starting to get more populated with new buildings in the area that bring in more people who come from all over,” she said. “When people take their trash out they expect city workers to take care of it. People don’t think they’re doing anything wrong putting it on the park side.”

Fellow resident Maribelle Olivieri noticed the bigger trash trend, but found this year particularly troubling with frozen obstacles preventing sanitation workers from collecting waste. “I felt bad for one guy I saw who couldn’t get over mountains of snow,” Olivieri said.

This has left many of the garbage cans in the park and on sidewalks overflowing with pungent debris. “The trash cans themselves are horrible. I would be afraid of going near them because I’m afraid of picking up a disease,” Quaranta said. “They don’t encourage anybody to want to throw away their trash, so then people put their trash next to the can, not inside it.”

The bins along the park, which have scheduled pickups three times every week, are inundated with more trash than the neighborhood may even be producing, as found by Norwood resident Norma Jean Scully. Scully caught on video a man dumping oversized garbage bags on the sidewalk along the greenway. In one instance, refuse from an address in Pelham

Bay just a few miles away was found, indicated by the discarded mail.

Taking Action

To further mobilize residents, Quaranta has taken to handing out trash gloves, which she buys in bulk, to encourage residents to help keep their neighborhood clean. “The first thing that people tell me is ‘I’m not touching that with my hands,’ but now I’m giving you the gloves so nobody can have an excuse,” she said.

Encouraging people to pick up trash on their own time, the Friends of Mosholu Parkland also held a community cleanup day on March 8. After two hours of extensive work, Quaranta said the group filled two bags with garbage using their own brooms, rakes and gloves she handed out.

“I would say this is one of the worst years I’ve ever seen in terms of trash,” Quaranta told the *Norwood News*.

Recognizing that the city agencies responsible for cleanup in the area - Sanitation and Parks & Recreation - are often considered reactionary, Quaranta began another social media campaign to help angry citizens voice concerns via 311.

After multiple 311 calls processed in February by Sanitation and a personal discussion between Quaranta and a Parks manager, three residents reported Parks and Recreation employees cleaning up the park along 204th Street and East Mosholu Parkway South on the morning of March

11.

In an email to the *Norwood News*, Parks spokesman Nathan Arnosti said that Parks staff cleans the greenway 5 to 7 times each week, with Parks Enforcement Patrol (PEP) officers maintaining an “active presence” along the greenbelt that links to the Bronx Zoo and The New York Botanical Garden.

Those caught littering or misusing a waste receptacle by any of the 30 PEP officers covering the borough - 18 of whom were hired this year - face a fine of at least \$100 to \$300, with dumpers slapped with a minimum \$1000 fee.

“The act of littering or unlawful dumping on park property violates NYC Parks rules and regulations,” Arnosti said in an email. “Trash does not grow on trees, and

vision of responsibilities between different city departments that don’t seem to communicate. “The big issue that I have is how we break up different areas of the city to different responsibilities,” she told those at a Community Board 7 Sanitation meeting. “I mean you can go through two blocks and pass through four different agencies.”

Kathy Dawkins, a spokeswoman for Sanitation, outlined that “debris inside or immediately outside the park comes under the Parks Department.” Arnosti later agreed, admitting the area fell under Parks’ jurisdiction, including the stretch between Jerome and Bainbridge avenues where the majority of the trash has accumulated. However, the issue became further muddled when Sanitation Supervisor Michael Darden told the committee and residents that “when it’s on the sidewalk in front of buildings, then it’s Sanitation’s duty.”

Regardless of which department is responsible, some residents feel the issue is best serviced by the community itself, rather than relying on city agencies or elected officials.

Scully, who spotted an illegal dumper, said she doesn’t blame Sanitation, but neighbors, for the issue. Arce found that feral cats rooting through bags of trash may be exacerbating the issue while Quaranta blames Mosholu Parkway neighbors. “We can do this cleanup ourselves - we shouldn’t need somebody telling us to go and clean up Mosholu Parkway,” Quaranta said.

we encourage all New Yorkers to properly dispose of their trash and help keep our city clean and green.”

Pointing Fingers

When asked whose job it was to clean up along the green space and surrounding streets, Arnosti said that responsibility is “not quite as simple as you’d expect, with some falling under Sanitation, the Department of Transportation or Parks.”

Betty Arce, who lives just off the parkway, was frustrated that there is such di-

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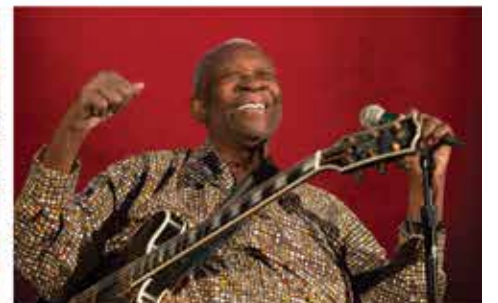


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Be Healthy

Achoo! Springtime Sneezing Arriving

By the Norwood News

As winter ends and spring begins, folks may want to get out of the house to take a stroll about leafy East Mosholu Parkway or Van Cortlandt Park. But spring equals allergy season, resulting in symptoms ranging from itchy eyes, nose and throat, to sneezing or runny nose.

“The symptoms people experience often resemble a common cold, but if it happens every year at this time, it’s most likely allergies,” said David Rosenstreich, M.D., director of the Division of Allergy and Immunology at Montefiore Medical Center.

An allergy expert for MMC, Rosenstreich has noticed an uptick in the number of allergy cases throughout his 34-year history with the hospital. His prognosis: allergies are inevitable. “Everyone inherits the tendencies to allergies, that you can’t do anything about,” he said.

Symptoms result from an overactive immune system, which mistakes pollen for a foreign invader. Asthmatics are affected by allergies and may have dangerous or even life-threatening asthma attacks.

Over-the-counter medications often make allergy sufferers feel better, but if they experience difficulty breathing or the symptoms become severe, they should call a doctor. Antihistamine drugs work by blocking the histamine from affecting these cells. A physician can prescribe stronger medications if needed.

“By taking medicine early, you can prevent the symptoms before they begin,” Rosenstreich said. “If you start after the symptoms are in full swing, it’s much harder to stop the allergic reaction than to prevent it from the beginning.”

Lifestyle changes also can help relieve symptoms. That includes:

- Limiting outdoor activities during days with high pollen counts.
- Keeping windows closed (at home or in the car) to keep pollen out.
- Installing air conditioners early to help filter outside air that comes into your home.
- Washing your hair after coming indoors.

Tree pollination has begun, lasting through early June. Grass, weeds and ragweed can produce pollen, resulting in allergies.

“There’s no reason for people with allergies to suffer,” Rosenstreich said. “As long as you take the proper precautions, you should be able to enjoy the outdoors and make the most of the warm weather.”

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Neighborhood Notes

Homebuyer Counseling & Free Tax Prep
The University Neighborhood Housing Program holds homebuyer counseling sessions at the Northwest Bronx Resource Center, 2715 Bainbridge Ave., offering free one-on-one professional assistance (appointments are available on the first and third Friday of every month) and free tax preparation sessions most Wednesdays (1 to 5 p.m.) and Saturdays (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) until April 9. For more information or an appointment, call (78) 933-2539.

Poster Contest
The Bronx Borough President’s Office invites Bronx students in all grades to enter its “Respect Our Block” poster contest. This event is geared towards quality of life issues and borough pride. Entries are due by April 11 at the BP’s office. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/respectourblock>.

SYEP
NYC’s Summer Youth Employment Program is accepting applications for residents ages 14 to 24 through April 25. Those chosen will be selected via lottery drawing. Participants are paid minimum wage and work at diverse types of businesses. For more information, call (800) 246-4646 or visit www.nyc.gov/dycd.

Summer Camp Applications
The Fresh Air Fund is accepting ap-

plications for its free 2014 summer camp program for eligible children ages 6 to 12 for the Volunteer Host Family Program, and ages 8 to 15 for the camping program in Fishkill, NY. For more information, call (800) 367-0003 or go online to www.freshair.org.
Registration is open for summer day camp at the Kingsbridge Heights Community Center, 3101 Kingsbridge Terrace. For more information, call Marlene Delgado at (718) 884-0700 ext. 168 or visit www.khcc.org.
MetroCard Vans
MetroCard vans will be making stops in the Bronx on the second and fourth Friday of each month at Fordham Road and the Grand Concourse from noon to 2 p.m.; and Fordham Plaza from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Seniors with photo ID may apply for reduced fare cards and others may add value or purchase cards. For more information, call (212) METRO-CARD or visit www.mta.info.

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

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Crime File

Police Seek to ID D-Train Robbers

By DAVID GREENE

Police hope the public can help identify two groups of suspects wanted in connection with two cell phone robberies at a Norwood train station.

According to police, an unidentified 20-year-old man was on the mezzanine level of the East 205th Street D-train station when he was approached from behind by two suspects during the evening hours of Feb. 16. The victim reported that one of the two suspects produced a firearm and demanded valuables. The suspects removed the victim’s wallet and cell phone before fleeing the station.

A surveillance camera captured the two suspects as they exited the station. They are both described as male Hispanics. The armed suspect reportedly had braids in his hair and wore a black hat.

Police reported a second incident that took place at the same train station

at 8:15 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 17. Cops in that case say the 34-year-old victim had boarded a southbound D-train when an individual grabbed the victim’s cell phone and fled. The victim reportedly gave chase and was surrounded on the platform by a group of suspects, who punched him in the face several times and ran off.

Investigators have also released surveillance photos of the six suspects in this case, all believed to be in their teens or early 20s. Their photos were taken as they, too, fled the station.

Repeated attempts to reach Gilbert Santos, the MTA Station Manager for the 205th Street station were unsuccessful. An employee answering phones at the MTA Transit Police Department referred calls for information to the NYPD.

Police suggest subway riders keep all electronic devices secured and out of sight at all times.

Opinion

Letter to the Editor

When Is Graffiti Not Graffiti?

With reference to “The Creation of Clark: A Street Artist” article in your March 6-19 issue, it was written that Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj does not care for street murals and wants to keep the streets clean. How could a beautiful mural be considered as dirtying a street?

The “Blessed” mural done by Clark FLY I.D. should in no way be described as a ‘graffiti scrawl’ which is what Gjonaj claims he has zero tolerance for. As for graffiti being ‘a gateway to crime,’ a quote by Gjonaj, if someone is crime oriented, they wouldn’t need art as an excuse. If an individual is truly an artist, he would not want to deface another artist’s work. Gjonaj is also quoted as saying that if he were to get his way, he would “paint over every mural that exists

out there,” a generalized comment which doesn’t take into consideration some of the great murals that are actually out there.

I personally have seen gorgeous murals in different parts of the city; some in neighborhoods that are actually enhanced by them, appearing on the walls of some abandoned buildings. They’re to be admired and not removed; some rivaling the best of professional artists and well worth viewing.

Some of today’s artists don’t have access to ceilings for their artwork. Would Gjonaj consider Michelangelo’s art painted on a ceiling, as graffiti?

Art is not graffiti. There’s a world of difference.

Judy Noy
Norwood resident

The Norwood News loves letters to the editor. Letters should be a maximum of 250 words. They should include the writer’s name, affiliation if relevant, and daytime telephone number so that we can confirm authorship. We reserve the right to edit or not print letters that include personal attacks on individuals or potentially libelous material. We do not print anonymous letters, although you may request that your name be withheld if you provide a reason.

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Established in the early 1970s, Boricua College focuses on the needs of Puerto Rican and Latino students in New York City, while serving a diverse population of students from all over the metro area. Fields of study include childhood education, human services, business administration, liberal arts and sciences, and Inter-American studies. ♦ The college employs one of the largest concentrations of Latino bilingual professionals in the city, including 130 full-time and 100 part-time faculty and staff members. Boricua is a broad-based source of expert knowledge about Latin America, the Caribbean and the experience of Puerto Rican and Latino immigrants in the Big Apple. ♦ The most exciting new development is the Bronx Campus, a 14-story tower that houses the college’s academic and administrative offices as well as a 260-seat theater, a museum, a cultural center, a library, a high school, a college prep program, and an after-school program for children of Boricua students. ♦ The new vertical campus can serve 2,000 full-time students and will be a part of Boricua Village, which includes 700 units of affordable and moderate housing, underground parking, retail space and a plaza.

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Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

EDITOR'S PICK

Zumba at the Oval

The public is invited to join ongoing zumba sessions at the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, 3225 Reservoir Oval E., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Sundays at noon. No registration is required. For more information, call (718) 543-8672.

Onstage

■ Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W. presents **guitarist Sharon Isbin, Jazz legend Stanley Jordan, and Brazilian virtuoso Romero Lubambo**, March 23 at 3 p.m. Tickets start at \$25; \$10/age 12 and under. Program is subject to change; call to confirm. For more information or for special discounts, call (718) 960-8833.

■ The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents a performance reading of Ray Bradbury's "**Fahrenheit 451**," March 22; and **Die Walkure**, by Richard Wagner performed by the NY Opera Forum, March 29; both at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

■ Bronx Arts Ensemble presents **Three Billy Goats Gruff**, March 30 at 1 and 2:30 p.m., at Whitehall Auditorium, 3333 Henry Hudson Pkwy. (\$6). For more information, call (718) 601-7399.

■ Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Concert: Enso String Quartet**, featuring classical music, March 23 at the WH House at 2 p.m. (\$32; \$28/seniors; \$18/ages 7 to 18; \$22/WH members; \$12/kids). For more information or to order tickets, call (718) 549-3200 ext. 251.

Events

■ The New York Botanical Garden presents its **Orchid Show**, March 26 from 4:30 to 6 p.m., in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory. Visitors can pick up free seed packets, one set per community garden. For more information or to reserve a place, call (718) 817-8026.

■ The public is invited to ride the April 2 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.

■ Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Arts Projects**: Primitive Prints, to make large-scale mono-prints from tempera paint, March 22 and 23; and Garden Designs, to make a garden design from textured paper and flower images, March 29 and 30; both at the WH House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Grounds admission is free Saturdays until noon all year, and free all day Tuesdays in March and April. 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.

Exhibits

■ The Bronx County Historical Society's

Museum of Bronx History at the Valentine-Varian House, 3266 Bainbridge Ave., presents **History Woven Into Cloth**, selections from the Society's textile collection, through April 6. For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

■ Andrew Freedman Home, 1125 Grand Concourse, presents **Expanding Views: The Art of Daniel Hauben**, through April 5, with a public reception on March 21 from 6 to 10 p.m. For more information, call (718) 293-8100.

Library Events

■ The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents programs for adults including: **Heritage Arts & Crafts: Women in Ink & Letters**: March 28 at 4 p.m. (phone or in-person registration required); and **Marvelous Materials**: to learn how things are made and to make a collage. Children can enjoy **Preschool Story Time at 11 a.m.**: March 20, 27 and April 3; **Toddler Play Time at noon**: March 20, 27 and April 3; **Caterpillar Book Making**: March 20 at 4 p.m.; and **Funny Bunny Basket Making**: April 3 at 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

■ The Mosholu Library, 285 E. 205th St.,

offers for seniors and adults: **Knitting Circle**: Thursdays at 3 p.m.; **Wii Program**: Tuesdays at 3 p.m.; and **Jewelry Classes at 11 a.m.**: March 20 and 27. Children can enjoy **Toddler Story Time at 10:30 a.m.**: (ages 18 to 36 months), March 20 and April 3; and **Reading Aloud Story Time at 4 p.m.**: (ages 3 to 5), March 24. Adult speakers of other languages can join **Free English Conversation Program**: intermediate level, Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m., through April 8. The entire family can attend **film**: "Frozen," March 24 at 4:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

■ The Jerome Park Library, 118 Eames Place (near Kingsbridge Road), offers: **Kids' Active Health**: March 21 at 4 p.m.; and **Pajama Party**: March 24 at 6 p.m. (both for ages 5 to 12); **Toddler Story Time**: (ages 18 to 36 months), March 26 at 11 a.m.; and **Pinocchio**: (for ages 3 to 12), performed by Traveling Lantern Theatre Co., March 28 at 3 p.m. For adults: **Computer Basics at noon**: March 20. For teens/young adults: **Teen Science**: March 20 at 4 p.m.; and **teen movie**: March 27 at 4 p.m. 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 March 31 for the next publication date of April 3.*

GUITAR PASSIONS



Photo courtesy Lehman Center for the Performing Arts

LEHMAN CENTER for the Performing Arts presents **Guitar Passions of Sharon Isbin**, featuring the musical stylings of guitarist Sharon Isbin (center), along with jazz artists Stanley Jordan (l) and Romero Lubambo.



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Stk#6214U, 6cyl,
auto, p/w/l/str/b,
a/c, AM/FM/CD/XM,
Onstar, alloys, lthr,
remote start, 36k mi



\$11,900

2008 CADILLAC CTS AWD
Stk#6115U, 6cyl, auto,
p/w/l/str/b, a/c, AM/FM/
CD, keyless entry, cruise,
lthr, alloys, sunrf,
Onstar, ABS, 35k mi



\$17,900

**2009 MERCEDES BENZ
ML-CLASS 350 WAGON**
Stk#5884U, 6cyl, auto,
ABS, AWD, p/w/l/
str/b/m, sunrf, a/c,
AM/FM/CD, 28k mi



\$25,000

LASORSA Autos
The Bronx dealer that Cares



SEE INVENTORY & OFFERS: [LASORSAautos.com](#)

3510 Webster Ave, Bronx
GUNHILL ROAD EXIT 9 OFF BRONX RIVER PKWY
M-TH 9-8, F-SA 9-6, SU CLOSED

800.616.3431

DMV#7043396, NYC DCA Lic#0903951



Se Habla Español

Prices incl all costs to consumer except tax, title & dmv fees. †Low APR financing for 36 mos for qualified buyers on all Certified GM pre-owned vehicles, subject to primary lenders approval. Subject to primary lenders approval. Leases closed end for 10k mi/yr at 25¢/mi, 12k mi/yr at 15¢/mi ('14 Outlander) thereafter. Leases on approved credit for qual buyers thru US Bank. Lessee resp for excess wear/tear/maint/insur/excess mileage. Ttl Pymts/Resid: '14 Malibu= \$5031/\$11,182, '14 Outlander Sport=\$5421/\$14,194. Due at sign=\$0 1st mo pymt + \$0 sec dep + \$1999 down + \$595 bank fee (\$495 bank fee for Outlander) ^CCR rebate must have Tier S approval thru Ally Bank. ▲Valid only for customers w/ a current 1999 or newer non-gm lease (i.e., non-Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, GMC, Hummer, Oldsmobile, Pontiac, or Saturn) passenger car or light duty truck lease contract are eligible for this offer, not required to terminate current non-GM contract. *Loyalty Rebate only good on '13 or '14 Outlander Sport, must be reg owner or spouse living at the same address, must be current Mitsubishi owner. Used cars sold cosmetically as is. Pics for illust purp only. Not resp for typos/equip errors. Offers cannot be combined w/any other adv specials. ★Based on EPA hwy mileage. See dealer for details. Offer expires 3 days after pub.