

# NORWOOD NEWS

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**KNIC INKS LEASE DEAL**  
PG. 3



**INQUIRING  
PHOTOGRAPHER:**  
DEBUNKING EBOLA | PG. 4

## SHOTSPOTTER AIMS FOR 52ND PRECINCT

*Hi-tech acoustic system to help detect gunfire faster*



Photo by Adi Talwar

**THIS MOBILE NYPD** light tower rests at the corner of 204th Street and Valentine Avenue, where shots were fired just steps from Community Board 7 on Oct. 15. The 52nd Precinct is now slated to acquire a ShotSpotter system to determine the exact location of gunfire.

By **DAVID CRUZ**

A high-tech radar system that could pinpoint the exact origin of gunfire is slated for the 52nd Precinct amid a spate of shootings in recent weeks.

Inspector Nilda Hofmann, commanding officer of the 52nd, announced that

ShotSpotter will be implemented within its busy precinct that covers Norwood, Fordham, Kingsbridge and Bedford Park.

Hofmann announced the arrival of the sophisticated crimefighting tool at various community meetings in October as she heard wor-

ries over gun violence in the community. The system, once operational, could aide police in collaring suspects sooner.

"I'm happy that it's coming here," Hofmann told an audience at the Five-Two's Community Council meeting Oct. 16. "I look forward

to seeing that."

In many cases, when officers get reports of shots fired, residents often give misinformation on the precise location of the incident. This causes confusion, with cops scrambling to find the exact location of a shooting

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## IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

### Councilman King Slapped With Heavy Penalties

By JANAKI CHADHA

Councilman Andy King is currently facing penalties for six campaign finance violations that run in the thousands. These penalties, which were decided upon in a recent city Campaign Finance Board meeting, stem from his November 2012 bid for the Council District 12 seat, for which he now occupies.

The penalties total \$12,048. The violations include failing to report five transactions, failing to accurately report receipts, accepting over-the-limit contributions, accepting contributions and not reporting in-kind contributions from a corporation, limited-liability company, or partnership, failing to demonstrate that spending was in furtherance of the campaign, and making impermissible post-election expenditures. Almost \$22,000 in campaign spending was not accounted for.

The campaign contested all of the alleged violations. Stanley Schlein, a lawyer for the King Campaign Committee, and William Rivera, treasurer for King's 2013 campaign, represented the campaign at the meeting. The treasurer for the original campaign, Winslow Luna, was not present. Schlein emphasized to the Board that he was "not participating with the campaign committee or the councilmember for reasons known only to the treasurer."

The representatives attributed most of these violations to reporting errors and carelessness on the part of the 2012 campaign treasurer. They also added that the delay since King's 2012 run has made locating many of the relevant documents needed to clear the campaign of these violations largely

difficult.

The Board is giving the King campaign until Nov. 6 to provide the proper documents, which, if submitted, would decrease the penalty amount. Additionally, a recommended public funds repayment of \$44,116 is also on the table.

Failure to fulfill these obligations by the deadline, particularly if a public funds repayment was included, could affect King in future bids for office. Matthew Sollars, a spokesman for the CFB said that for candidates "to be eligible for public funds payments in future elections, [they] are required to pay all penalties and public funds repayments imposed by the Board in full."

Schlein said that, "What is most concerning to the campaign is the determination made by the staff recommendations to return \$44,116 [in public

### Bus Stop Island Installed at Jerome Ave.



Photo by David Cruz

**THE MTA HAS** added an extra layer of safety at this bus stop by having recently constructed this pedestrian island at the southeast corner of Jerome Avenue and East Gun Hill Road. Community Board 7's Transportation Committee sounded the alarm for a need.

funds repayment]. That, we believe, would be draconian." He added "These payments were utilized legitimately for purposes of this campaign and for no other purpose whatsoever."

Before the final vote, Board Member Richard J. Davis stressed the importance of providing adequate documentation and doing so on a timely basis, but also noted, "We do believe that the staff has really done an excellent job in this matter. We're trying to balance out a variety of interests and come to a fair result."

King declined to comment after repeated phone calls. This is not the first time he has been involved in campaign finance violations. After his unsuccessful 2009 campaign, he owed roughly \$31,000 in public funds repayments and penalties to the city.

### Help Point Intercoms Pull Into Bronx Subway Stations

Major safety upgrades were installed at four Bronx subway stations, thanks to a near \$1 million earmarked by Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz.

The Help Point Intercoms were installed at the Van Cortlandt Park/West 242nd Street, W. 238th St., and W. 231st St. stations on the 1 line and the Wakefield/East 241st St. station on the 2 line. The special call system is comprised of a red button for emergencies and a green one that connects riders to a live a transit employee to answer any non-emergency questions.

The upgrades come just as Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced a wifi system will be installed in the Bronx soon. -- KASIA ROMANOWSKA

### Public and Community Meetings

**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: the Executive Committee meets on Monday, Nov. 3; Public Safety & Quality of Life on Thursday, Nov. 6; Economic Development and Community Relations/Long Term Planning committees meet Wednesday, Nov. 12 (note: Community Relations/Long Term Planning meet at 7:30 p.m.). For more information, call (718) 933-5650.

**THE BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** meets Wednesday, Nov. 5 at 8 p.m. at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. So., apt. B1 (lobby floor).



# KNIC Officially Inks Lease for Armory Ice Center

By DAVID CRUZ

The i's have been dotted. The t's crossed. The lawsuits cleared.

Now the Kingsbridge National Ice Center is officially set to bring the world's largest skating center to the long vacant Kingsbridge Armory after a bumpy start. Kevin Parker, the lead developer of the complex, officially signed a 99-year lease with the city Economic Development Corporation this week, two weeks after a judge ruled he is the sole developer of the \$350 million project.

"Reaching this juncture caps a monumental effort from community partners, elected officials and local residents who joined us in dreaming big – in supporting our vision," said Parker in a statement. "We look forward to advancing what promises to be one of the most exciting development projects in New York City history."

Kyle Kimball, running the city EDC, called the news an "important step towards the realization of this project, and the significant economic benefits it will generate for the Bronx." That includes living wage judges, community



Photo rendition courtesy KNIC

**THE DREAM OF** an ice center coming to the Kingsbridge Armory (pictured) is now closer to reality.

space and local hiring, as per terms laid out in a Community Benefits Agreement. An after school ice hockey component will also be included, with Olympic gold medalist Sarah Hughes and KNIC CEO Mark Messier lobbying foundations for support grants.

But the lease did come with some terms, namely that Parker assure the EDC he has the capital to get the project off the ground. At a recent Community Board 7 committee meeting, members revealed that Parker has one year to reveal he has funding.

The latest development comes after a Bronx judge ruled that Kevin Parker is the sole developer of the Armory project and not Jonathan Richter, Jeff Spiritos, and Marcos Wignell, the trio that led community town hall meetings as the project was being vetted.

But the summer-long lawsuits have likely pushed back construction of the massive ice center, originally slated to wrap up construction by 2017. The project is now a year delayed. Once the site is built it will activate the Community Benefits Agreement, a legally binding document hammered out by the community stakeholders and KNIC. The agreement tacks on stipulations that include local hiring, a one percent revenue sharing plan, and an allocation of 50,000 square feet of community space at the Armory's lower levels.

And even as KNIC plowed through the judicial channels, it was able to secure financing from various groups, namely The Kresge Foundation. Driven by its need for "social investment," the philanthropic organization agreed to serve as the lead investor in a \$30 million equity raise for KNIC.

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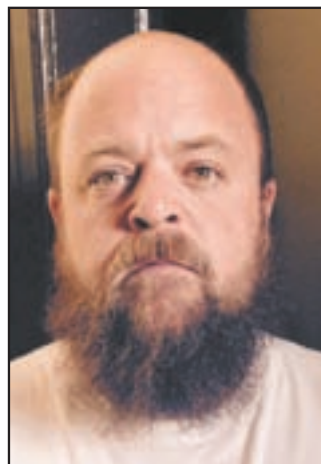
By DAVID GREENE

## With New York City gripped by Ebola worries, we asked readers if the danger of the virus is justified or simply hype?



Before, they used to seal off the town or village and nobody gets out and people go in to help, but now it's like an open market. How can you control it? It's impossible. The doctor comes back, goes everywhere and then gets sick. You go there to help people and you come back and threaten the entire nation.

**Antonio Frasca**  
Morris Park



People are so worried about Ebola but they are still having sex without condoms when AIDS is still around. They're making Ebola worse than it really is.

**Ed Hand**  
Norwood

*Editor's Note: The Norwood News has published a story debunking the Ebola myth. You can find it on [www.norwoodnews.org](http://www.norwoodnews.org).*



The Ebola outbreak is very serious because a lot of people are being infected by it. They say it's not airborne and there's no cure, but they brought two Americans from Liberia and gave them what they called top secret drugs, so why can't they use this drug on the other victims?

**Marisol Agosto**  
Wakefield



It's definitely justified. They should pay more attention to the kids because you never know. We need to protect our people. It's up to them to do what they think is right and do something about it. It's not hype; it's horrible to hear that people are dying over there by something that could be stopped.

**Lucero Guzman**  
Soundview



It's not like it's an STD. There is a little too much hype, but let's find out a little more about it before we put more of an emphasis on it and panic the public. Until we learn more about it, relax... it's not that bad.

**Lee Olmeva**  
Norwood

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## Beautifying Mosholu Parkway



Photo courtesy Bedford Mosholu Community Association

**THESE YOUNG NEIGHBORS** learn a lesson on community pride by helping to scrub this portion of Mosholu Parkway. They assisted members of the Bedford Mosholu Community Association, which organized a team of volunteers for "It's My Park Day" on Oct. 18.

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\* Based on 2007 fall cohort data



# NORWOOD NEWS ONLINE

Here are news items you'll only find at [www.norwoodnews.org](http://www.norwoodnews.org)



**Xtreme Lounge Briefly Shuts Down** - The 52nd Precinct helped temporarily shut down the Xtreme Lounge, which sparked a grisly, all-out brawl that raged for several blocks. Reporter Catharina Thuemling gives a breakdown of what happened.



**Be Healthy: Campaign to Curb Teen Pregnancies** - The New York City Health Department has launched a campaign to decrease teen pregnancies in the Bronx. It's a continued fight by Bronx Teens Connections, which launched the latest campaign.



**Spelling Bee C-R-A-Z-E at P.S. 94** - It's all the buzz at P.S. 94--the annual spelling bee! Fifth graders at the Norwood school put their spelling skills to the test at this yearly contest. Reporter Anton K. Nilsson spoke to the top winners of the competitive contest that drew several dozen young competitors.



**City Agencies Block Cars Near Fordham Statue** - The statue of Tomorrow is being treated like, well...yesterday's news! Now the Fordham BID is outraged over city vehicles blocking the prominent statue located on Webster Avenue and Fordham Road.



**Debates for Police Accountability Rage at Council Mtg.** - A lively talk on transparency by the NYPD was at the heart of the latest 52nd Precinct Community Council gathering. Find out how an exchange between the Five-Two and a pair of police skeptics went.



**Broadway Plaza Opens for Business** - With the holiday frenzy on the horizon, a new strip mall opened in Riverdale/Kingsbridge Heights. Read Kasia Romanowska's piece on the new Broadway Plaza, and find out which stores will occupy the 80,000-square-foot property.





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# Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

## EDITOR'S PICK

### Halloween on Jerome Avenue

The Jerome-Gun Hill BID presents **Halloween Fright Fest**, Oct. 31 from 3 to 5 p.m. on Jerome Avenue from Mosholu Parkway to Gun Hill Road. Kids should come in costume. There will be a raffle, free candy, and a free picture with Spiderman. For more information, call (718) 324-4946.

## Onstage

• The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents **Papo Pepin Quartet in Concert**, featuring Latin jazz, Nov. 1; and **Chicago Soul**, featuring the music of Curtis Mayfield and Sam Cooke performed by Cody Childs and the Ladies of Soul, Nov. 8; both at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org).

• The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **National Acrobats of the People's Republic of China**, Nov. 9 at 4 p.m. (tickets are \$25 to \$45; \$10/ages 12 and under). For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

• The Picture House and Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum present **"The Little Flower,"** live, one-man show about the life of Fiorello H. La Guardia, three-term mayor of NYC, Nov. 11 at 7 p.m. The show will be at the Picture House, 175 Wolfs Lane, Pelham, NY. Tickets are \$30. For more information, call (914) 738-3161.

## Events

• Montefiore Einstein Center for Cancer Cure presents a **bilingual cancer education forum** in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. Learn about cancers and health resources at the Justice Sonia Sotomayor Community Center, 1000 Rosedale Ave., Nov. 3 from 2 to 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 405-1700.

• Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Arts Projects**: Plant Jewelry, to make plant jewelry out of items from the WH grounds, and make a

treasure chest, Nov. 1 and 2; and Buildings and Land, to make a dwelling out of clay, cardboard and recycled materials, Nov. 8 and 9; both in WH House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Grounds admission is free until noon Saturdays and Tuesdays all year. For more information and a schedule of events including tours and walks, call (718) 549-3200.

## Exhibits

• Manhattan College, 4513 Manhattan College Pkwy., hosts a **sculpture exhibit** by WWII vet Jay Moss who has sculpted since childhood, and is the father of a former *Norwood News* editor, Jordan Moss. The exhibit will be held in the O'Malley Library (first floor, room 100) in the Alumni Room from Oct. 22 (reception from 4 to 7 p.m.) to Dec. 16. For more information, call (718) 710-3382.

## Library Events

• The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents for children: **Preschool Story Time at 11 a.m.:** (ages 3 to 5 years), Oct. 30 and Nov. 6; **Toddler Play Time at noon:** (ages 18 to 36 months), Oct. 30 and Nov. 6; **Sherlock Holmes:** (ages 3 to 12), presented by the Traveling Lantern Theatre Company with audience participation, Nov. 1 at 2 p.m.; **Turkey Book Making:** (ages 7 to 12), Nov. 6 at 4 p.m.; and **Family Time:** (ages 3 to 6; preregistration required), reading aloud and crafts, Nov. 8 at 11 a.m. Adults can enjoy: **MS Word for Beginners:** Nov. 5; and **Computer Basics:** Nov. 6 (both at 2 p.m.; both require in-person registration). For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org).

• The Mosholu Library, 285 E. 205th

St., offers for children: **Toddler Story Time:** (18 to 36 months), Oct. 30 at 10:30 a.m.; and **Cool Rain Forest Connections:** (ages 4 to 12), performance by the Wildlife Theatre from the Central Park Zoo, Nov. 4 at 4 p.m. The entire family can enjoy **Film: "Million Dollar Arm,"** Nov. 8 at 1:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

• The Jerome Park Library, 118 Eames Place (near Kingsbridge Road), offers for kids: **Active Health:** Yoga and zumba, Nov. 7 at 4 p.m.; and **Chess Program:** Learn to play, Nov. 11 at 4 p.m. (both for ages 5 to 12); and **Toddler Time at 11 a.m.:** Nov. 5 and 12 (for ages 18 to 36 months). Adults can attend: **Computer Basics Open**

**Lab at noon:** Oct. 30, Nov. 6 and 13. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

## Public Service Announcement

**Daylight Savings Time** ends on Sunday, Nov. 2 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](mailto:norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org), and should be received by Nov. 3 for the next publication date of Nov. 13.

## NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

### Community Grants

Citizens Committee awards micro-grants of up to \$3,000 to resident-led groups to work on community and school improvement projects. Groups in low-income neighborhoods and Title I public schools are priority. For more information, contact Tehmina Brohi at [tbrohi@citizensnyc.org](mailto:tbrohi@citizensnyc.org) or (212) 822-9563.

### NYC Voter Guide

The Voter Guide for the 2014 elections is available online and in multiple languages. The web address is <http://www.nycctfb.info/public/voter-guide/general-2014/index.aspx>. (Note: Election Day is on Tuesday, Nov. 4).

### Participatory Budgeting

Flesh out your \$1 million idea for the community with Participatory Budgeting. Have your voice heard at the next meeting, Thursday, Oct. 30 at Vladeck Hall, 74 Van Cortlandt Pk. So. at 7 p.m. For more information, call (718) 549-7300.

### Financial Ed Workshops

University Neighborhood Housing Program at 2751 Grand Concourse, offers a series of five free financial education workshops on Tuesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. beginning Nov. 4. Topics include credit building and debt management. For more information or to RSVP, call (718) 933-2539.

### MMCC Services

The Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, 3450 DeKalb Ave., offers a number of services including food stamps (ext. 304), classes and programs for all ages. For more information and a detailed schedule, call (718) 882-4000. In addition, there is Head Start and Universal Pre-K at the Van Cortlandt Jewish Center, 3880 Sedgwick Ave. For more information, call (718) 654-0563.

**Editor's Note:** Send your Neighborhood Notes to: David Cruz, Norwood News editor-in-chief, at [dcruz@norwoodnews.org](mailto:dcruz@norwoodnews.org).



# ShotSpotter Comes To Five-two

(continued from page 1)  
incident.

ShotSpotter, a Silicon Valley software firm, is known as a tool that "detects attacks from any direction and weapons fired in 360 degrees" from an acoustic sensor installed on the outside of residential buildings, according to the company's website. The system is capable of distinguishing between the sound of fireworks and that of actual gunfire. Sensors activate once it picks up gunshots, quickly transmitting a signal directly to the 911 call center. A symbol confirming where gunfire was heard can then be seen on a digital map, telling a 911 operator where to dispatch officers.

## Touring the Precinct

Representatives from ShotSpotter toured the 52nd Precinct with help from the station's Community Affairs Unit, scouting various buildings to determine where the special acoustics can be installed. Approval of the acoustic installation rests on building owners, with some taking a tour with officers

and ShotSpotter representatives in early October.

So far, only two buildings have agreed to install the sound system. For security reasons, the 52nd Precinct did not disclose which buildings agreed to participate.

## Reacting to ShotSpotter

News of the crimefighting measure was commended by Councilman Andy Cohen, who sent a letter to NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton this past summer urging him to allocate monies for the tool. Council members Andy King and Ritchie Torres co-wrote Cohen's letter pushing for ShotSpotter.

"The recent uptick in violence in our community is alarming and this new technology will help the Police Department use their existing resources more strategically by helping police officers pinpoint precise locations and allowing them to immediately begin searching for evidence and interviewing witnesses," said Cohen in a statement. "I am confident that ShotSpotter will assist the 52nd Precinct investigate

these recent shootings and other crimes."

## Wave of Gun Violence

Gun violence has rocked several portions of the Bedford Park and Norwood communities this past October. On Oct. 14, shots were fired just outside Community Board 7's headquarters by 204th Street and Valentine Avenue, shocking members of the board. No one was injured, though bullets shattered a parked car. Hofmann told the audience at the 52nd Precinct Council meeting that a vicious gang war continues to brew on the outskirts of the board office.

"I have people living in the community for 30 years," said Adaline Walker-Santiago, chair of Community Board 7. "They've never seen anything like this."

"If you live in that area, we put up the light tower at the location," Hofmann later told an audience at the Community Board 7 General Board meeting Oct. 21.

A day later, two people were shot at 204th Street and Decatur

Avenue. The shootings prompted Patrol Borough Bronx to deploy extra Operation Impact officers to quell violence.

But despite recent shootings, there's been some headway in decreasing shootings within the precinct. Some successes have helped the shooting incident rate decrease by 20 percent when compared to the same time a year ago, according to police data. Coupled with a decline in shootings was the victim count, with 24 victims reported shot this year when compared to 29 shot the same time last year.

The program has already been adopted in the 40th, 44th and 47th precincts in the Bronx, part of a citywide \$12.3 million project.

The software is currently adopted in major U.S. cities that include Minneapolis, Chicago, and Camden, NJ.

Gun violence will be the key topic of discussion at a special Community Board 7 Public Safety Committee meeting on Nov. 6 at 6:30 p.m. at 229-A E. 204th St.

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