

NORWOOD NEWS

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**GUN VIOLENCE FEARS
PLAGUE BEDFORD PK. | PG. 3**



**INQUIRING
PHOTOGRAPHER:
WHAT YOU WANT FROM POLS | PG. 4**

ST. ANN'S CHURCH FACES CLOSURE

Parishioners told to join St. Brendan's Church



Photo by adi talwar

FATHER PAUL LEADS MASS at the Shrine Church of Saint Ann's at 3519 Bainbridge Ave. in Norwood, one of six Bronx churches slated to close by August 2015.

By **MICHAELA ROSS**

Tears and questions echoed from the pews of Norwood's Shrine Church of Saint Ann, commonly known as St. Ann's, located at 3519 Bainbridge Ave., as Rev. Francis Scanlon announced last weekend that the Catholic church will close for regular worship by next

year.

St. Ann's parishioners will now have to celebrate Masses and sacraments alongside the congregation at St. Brendan Church on East 206th Street, according to a letter from the Archdiocese of New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan. "I read this letter to you with great

sadness and many, many questions," a tearful Scanlon told his parish at weekend Masses. The merger is slated for August 2015.

The wording of the archdiocese's letter is slippery--consolidation or merger is simply euphemisms for closure, intended to soften the blow. The lack of

services forces congregants to worship elsewhere.

The announcement came after a five-year archdiocese initiative called *Making All Things New*, which evaluated parishes with dwindling attendance and financial woes. Last May, archdiocese officials

(continued on page 11)



**Solving The
Cramped Schools
Problem | pg 2**



**Be Healthy:
Montefiore Opens
Bed-Free Hospital
| pg 6**



**Business Beat:
CPR Training
Breathes in
Wakefield | pg 9**



**Out & About
pg 10**

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De Blasio Outlines Ways to Fix Cramped Schools

By JANAKI CHADHA

The de Blasio administration recently tackled the nagging problem of overcrowded schools, outlining steps that could reverse a trend in District 10, a northwest Bronx district that's home to mobile classroom trailers.

The 13-page report submitted by School Space Working Group, comprised of education experts around the city, made four recommendations that could result in better student performance. These included maximizing the use of space to help students with special needs thrive, creating a more inclusive and transparent process that raises community input on policy decisions, establishing stronger campuses that function to promote student achievement, and easing challenges around co-located schools.

Marvin Shelton, president of Community Education Council District 10, praised the report, saying, "I like the framework they're working with," adding he's more pleased with similar initiatives than in the past. "This is like a 180," he said. "[In the past], they would just go by numbers." He also hailed the shift towards trying to take more community voices into account, saying, "I really like that they're requesting that comments be posted almost contemporaneously so that the Panel for Education Policy has time to actually read them."

Shelton, a critic of co-location, agreed with the report's sentiment that co-located schools are a necessary evil until better resolutions can be implemented. "As a concept," he said, "[I'm] not 100 percent behind it," but added that, "It's working for us most of the time." As in the report, Shelton cited John F. Kennedy High School campus in Kingsbridge Heights as an instance where the concept has been working effectively. Shelton's one criticism of the report was that he noticed some of District 10's main issues—the need for more classrooms and new construction—were not elaborated further.

The group has laid out several points showing how their goals will be real-

ized. They have called to reduce disruption to District 75 students during any co-locations and for allocating space specifically for in-school mental health services. In order to maximize community input, they have recommended beginning the engagement process with the community earlier before finalizing decisions and making information about changes in schools easier to access and understand by providing materials in more languages and formats. In terms of co-location, they called for holding structured meetings between schools during a new school's transition into a building as well as creating a *Guidebook to Effective Co-Location*.

Election Day in the Bronx



Photo by Kasia Romanowska

REGISTERED VOTERS FLOW in and out of P.S. 280 on Election Day, one of many voting sites scattered in the northwest Bronx. All the winners from the September Primary secured a victory.

Norwood News Quick Hits

- The de Blasio Administration announced the NYPD will no longer arrest people caught with less than 25 grams of pot as a way to stop low-level arrests. In a statement, Mayor de Blasio said the policy puts "an end to an era where many of young New Yorkers were being arrested and saddled with criminal records for minor violations."
- Congratulations to Shant Sharigiaj who

is bumped to editor-in-chief of the Riverdale Press.

- Just in time for Veterans Day, the Cuomo Administration has a jobs website exclusive to military veterans. Temporary posts such as a disaster assistance representative, transportation construction inspector and highway maintenance worker, and seasonal positions are available. The online portal can be accessed through the

Department of Civil Service's website: <http://www.cs.ny.gov/vetportal/>.

- A warning for heavy-footed drivers: The citywide speed limit is now 25 miles per hour, unless otherwise noted. Signs, pamphlets and word of mouth by the Police Department helped spread the word on this new change, a product of the de Blasio Administration's Vision Zero initiative.

Public and Community Meetings

COMMUNITY BOARD 7 will meet Nov. 18 at the Bedford Park Senior Center, 243 E. 204th St at 6:30 p.m. CB7 committees are held on the following dates at the board office, 229A E. 204th St., at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted: Traffic & Transportation meets on Nov. 13; Environment & Sanitation on Nov. 17; Health & Hospitals on Nov. 17 at 7:30 p.m.; Housing/Land Use & Zoning on Nov. 19; Education/Libraries & Youth Services on Nov. 20; Parks & Recreation on Nov. 24; and Senior Services on Nov. 24 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 933-5650.

THE 52ND PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL meets Nov. 20 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Scott Towers, 3400 Paul Ave. For more information, call (718) 220-5824.

Amid Shootings, 52nd Precinct Addresses Bedford Pk. Safety

By CATHARINA THUEMLING

At the latest Community Board 7 Public Safety Committee meeting on Nov. 6, the newly appointed executive officer of the 52nd Precinct, Captain Jonathan Korabel updated worrisome board members and neighbors about the recent shootings in Norwood and Bedford Park. The shootings prompted a large response by officers, who've now stepped up patrols near the board offices by 204th Street and Valentine Avenue.

Three weeks ago, shots rang out outside the office, startling Board members. The incident within the neighborhood was certainly rare, spurring talk of safety in the community. An NYPD light tower has been set up there.

Still, Korabel noted that the 52nd Precinct saw crime drop 11 percent in the past month. Further arrests in violent crimes and gun arrests increased compared to the same time a year ago, according to figures. "We hit it in the right direction," said Korabel, "and the police officers are working hard to get those guns off the street."

But despite an overall crime rate that often rises and falls on given weeks, plenty voiced worries the neighborhood,

for the time being, is unsafe. "Everybody here is very concerned about how the crime rate is going up," said Adaline Walker-Santiago, Chairperson of Community Board 7.

Korabel, speaking on behalf of Inspector Nilda Hoffman, the precinct's commanding officer, who was unavailable for the meeting, announced the latest developments in terms of recent shootings. Police have made headway in a recent shooting outside a Fordham nightclub on Valentine Avenue and Fordham Road, apprehending two suspects involved in that crime. A shooting near the Board office and the other in front of 3083 Decatur Ave. are still under investigation. One neighbor living on Decatur Avenue said the neighborhood was calmer until squatters began living at 3083 Decatur Ave. some years ago. The bank still owns the home, city records show.

"Since they've moved [in], it's just been hell," said the longtime neighbor. "Nobody walks on [their] side."

Near 204th Street and Valentine Ave., safety protocols have been welcomed by the community, though many fear crime will further rise should the



Photo by Kasia Romanowska/Steve Smith (inset)

THIS HOME AT 3083 Decatur Ave. in Bedford Park was the scene of a shooting in October, resulting in this victim (inset) being rushed to the hospital, according to police.

extra police and light tower be removed from the neighborhood. Korabel said the police have no plans to remove the tower or the patrols if there is no improvement in the neighborhood. "So

hopefully that will help move the elements that are causing problems out of the area," he said.

Additional reporting by Kasia Romanowska.

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INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE

This week we asked readers their thoughts on the recent election, its outcome and issues they hope Albany elected officials will tackle in the 2015 Legislative Session.



The only thing I have to say is they're really not doing much. I just know I'm lucky to have a job, I work for the city. But I feel sorry for people who don't have a job or work for private companies, the way rents are going up. And why do they keep raising the rates of public transportation?

Jose Feliciano
Mount Hope



What I hope for politicians to do is actually do what they said they are going to do. If they said they're going to bring more jobs or healthcare to the community, that's what we want and that's what they should achieve. We need more positive results in low income communities.

Jerry Rodriguez
Yankee Stadium



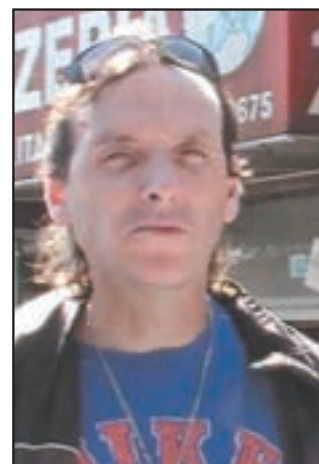
I think we need just what [Governor Andrew] Cuomo said, computers in the schools. I know what they can do and they should go to the schools. And let's see who our president is going to be in 2016.

Leonard Richardson
Norwood



You know, I think both sides are corrupt, to tell you the truth. We currently pay a lot of taxes right now. Personally, I would like the repeal of Obamacare because I'm paying more for my health insurance now and it's been more difficult in the past five years with [President] Obama than the previous eight years of Bush.

Thomas Aguila
Wakefield



I think they should work on the conduct of police officers. There should be stiffer penalties for police officers who break the law. I feel police are no longer viewed as protecting and serving the people. People are afraid of them.

Tommy Walsh
Norwood

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No Public Access, but New Greenery at Jerome Park Reservoir

By **ANTON K. NILSSON**

Another long meeting, and access still denied.

Bronx residents engaged in the fight over the Jerome Park Reservoir failed once again to convince the Department of Environmental Protection to allow public access in the closed-off park. And in an ironic twist, the agency is mulling a plan to shorten the height of the reservoir's internal fence to protect it from bio-terrorism.

But the DEP did throw the community a bone by announcing the planting of over 500 new trees near the reservoir next year.

Eric Landau from the DEP commissioner's office told an audience at the latest Croton Water Treatment Plant Facilities Monitoring Committee meeting that the 553 new saplings, which will be spread in "open spaces," are to make up for some 152 trees chopped down around the building site at the Jerome Park Reservoir last year.

A Parks Department representative said that each tree will cost \$1415 and have a caliber of at least 3.5 years, "to ensure survivability." "The trees should be planted by the spring," said Bronx Parks Commissioner Hector Aponte, "if we can find the right landscape people."

Predictably, the promise of new trees did little to appease those community members who have been waiting for decades for public access to the Jerome Park Reservoir. The reservoir falling within Bedford Park, Van Cortlandt Village, and Kingsbridge Heights is now a desolate construction site with two chain-link fences cordoning it off from public view.

Access Denied

As for access, longstanding security concerns keep the DEP from allowing the general public to the reservoir, Landau said. The reservoir will contain "immediate drinking water," he said, which only travels for 30 minutes before reaching taps in private homes. If anyone were to contaminate the water, the DEP argues, there would not be enough time to warn



Photo by Anton K. Nilsson

ACCESS STILL DENIED. An audience gathers at the latest community meeting over the Croton Water Filtration Plant, which heard some good news and some bad news.

the public, and therefore full public access is deemed unsafe.

The internal, 10-foot fence sectioning off the reservoir could likely be replaced with a four-foot fence, according to Landau, who offered insight to the plan at Community Board 8's Land Use/Sanitation Committee a day after the meeting. The DEP sees the potential project as a way of protecting the drinking water.

But Gary Axelbank, a major critic of the gargantuan plant, sees that as a bogus excuse. "If they would like to take the 10-foot fence and make it into a four-foot fence, how's that going to protect us from terrorism?" asked Axelbank, referring to the DEP's longstanding argument the fencing was installed to deter bio-terrorists. Axelbank called their claims on safeguarding the public from terrorists "baloney" since anyone with "drones, helicopters and anyone with a decent arm and a desire to pollute the reservoir can do so." Since 2008, when the reservoir was drained and the city began building the new Croton Water Filtration Plant beneath Van Cortlandt Park, residents have been unable to get close to the site.

Even the DEP's claim that the Jerome Park Reservoir water is only half an hour away from

taps in private homes has been challenged by local activists. According to a DEP report, which

was quoted by community member Karen Argenti in an email to the *Norwood News*, "All water released [from the Jerome Park Reservoir] for in-city distribution will go through the Croton Water Filtration Plant." This means, community members argue, that the reservoir-to-tap timeframe should be greater than 30 minutes.

After being questioned by the community, Landau admitted that there are no measures in place to detect toxins in the water—justifying the isolation of the reservoir from public access. Viruses and bacteria, however, are detectable at various points, a DEP representative said.

The DEP also announced there will be a pilot program where public schools will be able to go on supervised tours of the Jerome Park Reservoir. The program will begin after the water filtration plant is operational, which currently has no end in sight.

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The New Montefiore Medical Center - a Hospital Without Beds

By TOPPER NORRIS

Montefiore Medical Center opened its new Hutchinson Campus today—a 12-story, state-of-the-art medical facility with 12 operating rooms, four procedure rooms, and an advanced medical imaging center. But you won't find any overnight beds.

"Our new 'hospital without beds' has a larger capacity than many traditional hospitals," said Dr. Steven M. Safyer, president and CEO of Montefiore Health System, at a ribbon-cutting ceremony Nov. 10. The Hutchinson Campus, found at the enormous Hutchinson Metro Center in Pelham Bay, will offer medical procedures on an ambulatory basis—meaning treatment without the need for hospitalization. It'll also provide space for multi-specialty care, with multidisciplinary medical teams collaborating closely together.

For example, one floor of the new

medical center will house a heart and vascular care program with facilities for cardiology, imaging, vascular surgery, and cardiac surgery. Another location within the Hutchinson Campus will accommodate a department for ear, nose and throat specialists, which will offer audiology exam rooms, vestibular labs, and a voice lab.

"Our goal is wellness," Safyer said. "Sometimes [hospitals] are not good places to be. Quite frankly, they're the best place to be if you need to be there, but you don't want to be there a minute more than you have to."

The bed-less strategy works to further the course of recovery, according to Safyer. He mentioned the risk of contracting infections as one downside to traditional, in-patient care. To improve patient safety, Safyer continued, "We have to transform the [medical] facilities, transform the model, and transform the care. We are doing that



Photo courtesy Victor Chu Photography

DR. STEVEN SAFYER (c), president and CEO of Montefiore Health System, cuts the ceremonial ribbon of the newly built ambulatory surgery center at the Hutchinson Metro Center. He stands alongside (l-r) Assemblyman Michael Benedetto; Susan Solometo, VP of clinical services, Montefiore Health System; Joseph Simone, president of Simone Development Companies; Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson and Melissa Cebollero, director of Health and Human Services for the Bronx Borough President's Office.

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BUSINESS BEAT

CPR Training School Breathes to Life in Wakefield

By DAVID CRUZ

Janet Hawkins looks to seize the five boroughs, at least within the realm of CPR training. And she knows a key rule of business: give them what they want.

What's been lacking is a CPR training school in the Bronx. Few exist in the borough, where the medical sector thrives as the number one job creator. CPR training is a must for nurse practitioners, though Hawkins encourages anyone to take up the same-day certification course.

Hawkins, ever ambitious, knows she must start small, beginning at a storefront at 4068 White Plains Rd. in Wakefield. It's there where JIC CPR PLUS LLC opened for business five months ago, with curious passersby visiting the store "no matter how late you stay here." As far as Hawkins is concerned, everyone is in need of CPR training.

CPR training is essentially Hawkins' life. The Jamaican-born entrepreneur spent 20 years as a registered nurse at various hospitals, applying CPR whenever necessary. She also teaches CPR at Lehman College and is known to spout various statistics about the con-



Photo by David Cruz

JANET HAWKINS STANDS outside JIC CPR PLUS LLC, her family-owned CPR training school she opened in Wakefield.

sequences of asphyxiation on a whim ("Every 90 seconds someone dies from a heart attack in the United States").

For now, it's just Hawkins, her husband Gregory and some on-call teachers offering daily two-hour CPR lessons utilizing CPR instructional

videos and two adult- and infant-size CPR mannequins for demonstrations. Those enrolled will also learn how to use the automated external defibrillator to zap victims to life. "We don't cut corners," said Hawkins, adding the business follows strict CPR training

guidelines drafted by the American Heart Association.

Over the years, she's learned how critical CPR training can be. She's witnessed it in the streets, saving a man's life through CPR as onlookers could only seek help. "Whoever starts the CPR is the most significant because you have at least 10 seconds to respond, not wasting any time," said Hawkins.

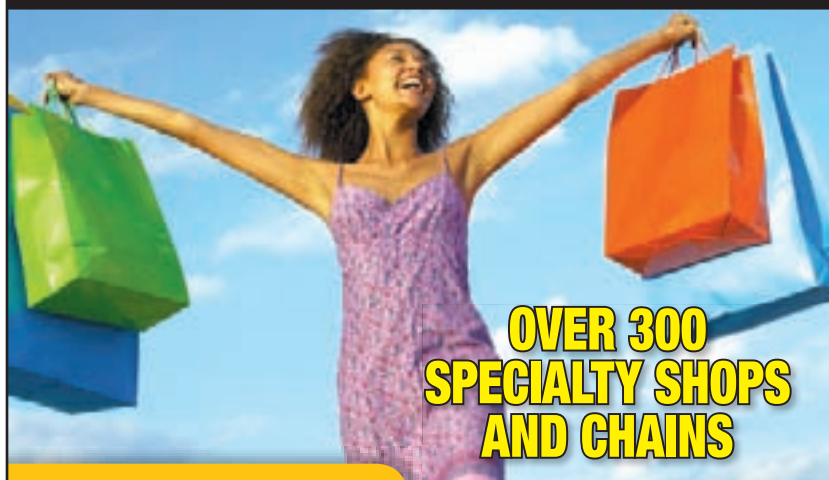
She's also seen how vital it is personally. Her asthmatic sister nearly died after suffering an attack. Gregory's brother died from a fatal heart attack many believed could've been prevented using CPR. A sense of obligation soon set in over the need to pass along her knowledge--some of her family members as young as 13 years old know CPR.

Hawkins is keeping the faith on the success of her company. After all, the first three letters of her business speak to that. "JIC means Jesus is in charge, I'm not," she revealed. "So it's impossible for me to fail."

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EDITOR'S PICK

Hoopla at Hostos

Hostos Community College, 450 Grand Concourse at 149th Street, hosts the 5th annual South Bronx Folk Festival Finale Danza Fiesta & Ilu Aye, at 4 p.m. in its main theatre, to celebrate Puerto Rican culture, featuring bomba, plena, and seis (tickets are \$10; \$5/students/seniors). Also offered is Comité noviembre's Puerto Rican Authors Book Expo and Artisans Fair and Exhibit, featuring handmade crafts and cultural workshops for the entire family, from noon to 7 p.m. (free); all on Nov. 22. For more information, call (718) 518-4455.

Onstage

• The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents **Rinaldo by Handel**, performed by the NY Opera Forum, Nov. 15; and **Miguel Anggelo in Concert**, singer/storyteller, Nov. 22; both at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

• The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **Papo Lucca and La Sonora Ponceña**, Nov. 22 at 8 p.m. (tickets are \$75 to \$100). For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

Events

• Van Cortlandt Jewish Center, 3880 Sedgwick Ave., holds its free annual **Bazaar and Carnival**, Nov. 16 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be a variety of activities including games, door prizes, free balloons, gifts, vendors, a clown, and John the Magician performing two free magic shows at noon and 1:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 884-6105.

• A **job fair** will be held at the Bronx Christian Fellowship Church, 1015 E. Gun Hill Rd., Nov. 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (doors open at 9 a.m.). Featured will be on-the-spot interviews, resume writing assistance, and empowerment workshops. For more information or to RSVP, call (718) 231-1033.

• Mosholu Montefiore Senior Center, 3450 DeKalb Ave., presents **Pre-Thanksgiving Luncheon**, Nov. 20 at 11:30 a.m. For more information, call (718) 798-6601.

• Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Arts Projects**: Dances With Leaves, to make a leaf print and a crown from leaves, walk through leaf piles, and make artful arrangements of leaves on the lawn, Nov. 15 and 16; and Cornhusk Dolls, to listen to tales and hear about the power of a talking stick, then make a cornhusk doll family (storytelling at noon), Nov. 22 and 23; both in WH House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also offered is **Perfect Pie Workshop**, to make a pumpkin filling with spices to be baked at WH, then take home (\$25/\$15 WH member), Nov. 22 at 1 p.m. (for more information, call ext. 251); **Concert: Canal Street String Band**, (\$28; \$15/ages 8 to 18; \$22/WH member; \$12/WH child member), Nov. 23 at 2 p.m.; both in the WH House; both require registration; and **free yoga class**, to relieve stress, Nov. 28 from 11 a.m. to noon in the WH House (grounds admission free until noon; registration online only). 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, 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), Nov. 13 and 20; **Toddler Play Time at noon**: (ages 18 to 36 months), Nov. 13 and 20; and **Picture Frame Making**: (ages 7 to 12), Nov. 20 at 4 p.m. Teens/young adults can enjoy **film**: Nov. 28 at 3 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 children: **Toddler Story Time at 10:30 a.m.**: (18 to 36 months), Nov. 13 and 20. Teens/young adults can enjoy **Urban Art Workshop**: Learn about the history of hip-hop and practice graffiti art, Nov. 13 at 4 p.m.; and **film**: "*Pacific Rim*," Nov. 22 at 1:30 p.m. Adults can attend **Knitting Circle at 3 p.m.**: Nov. 13 and 29. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

• The Jerome Park Library, 118 Eames Place (near Kingsbridge Road), offers for kids: **Active Health at 4 p.m.**: Yoga and zumba, Nov. 14 and 21; **Pajama Party**: Arts and crafts, read aloud, and snacks, Nov. 17 at 6 p.m.; **Loud and Rowdy Tales**: Hear world stories that dance, stomp and shake, Nov. 20 at 4 p.m.; and **Chess Program**: Learn to play, Nov. 25 at 4 p.m. (all for ages 5 to 12); and **Toddler Time at 11 a.m.**: Nov. 19 and 26 (for ages 18 to 36 months). Teens/young adults can enjoy **film**: Nov. 20 at 3:30 p.m. Adults can attend: **Computer Basics Open Lab at noon**: Nov. 13, 18, 20 and 25. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL OUR READERS!

NOTE: Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org, and should be received by Nov. 17 for the next publication date of Nov. 27.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

Best Libraries Nominations

Nominations by the public for the second annual NYC Neighborhood Library Awards run until Dec. 12. The five best libraries win \$20,000 each. Nominations can be submitted at www.nyclibraryawards.org.

Domestic Violence Legal Help

Legal services for domestic violence victims is available on Monday, Nov. 17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the office of Councilman Andy King, 940 E. Gun Hill Rd. Attorneys with the Urban Justice Center will advise victims about family law, child support, custody, visitation rights and orders of protection. Reservations are required. For more information, call (718) 684-5509.

Veterans Food Drive

Non-perishable foods to benefit food pantries for military veterans are being accepted until Nov. 20 at the office of Councilman Andrew Cohen. Items can be dropped off at 277 W. 231st St. For more information, call (718) 549-7300.

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@citizensync.org or (212) 822-9563.

St. Ann's Church Faces Closure

(continued from page 1)

slated St. Ann's for possible closure or consolidation, but priests and parishioners at St. Ann's and neighboring priests formally opposed the proposal.

Scanlon noted that Dolan's letter offered no explanation for the consolidation. "We'd like him to state his reasons," Scanlon said. "This parish is alive; this is not a dwindling parish."

Waning Months of St. Ann's

In May, the archdiocese offered three reasons for possible consolidation: St. Ann's declining attendance, low funding and proximity to St. Brendan's. The closure is a symptom of further financial troubles for the archdiocese, which has funded financially dependent churches such as St. Ann's over the years. Dolan said in a recent blog post that the monies for struggling parishes can be spent elsewhere.

St. Ann's will be one of six Bronx Catholic churches to close its regular worship, according to the archdiocese. In total, 31 churches will close in eight counties. The archdiocese has stated more consolidations will be considered in the coming months.

But Scanlon said 100 percent of St. Ann's neighboring priests, including the priest at St. Brendan's, Rev. George Stewart, disagreed with the consolidation and called on the archdiocese to keep the church open.

St. Ann's congregants and staff said they were shocked and saddened after the announcement.

"The archdiocese has left us in the dark. There are many questions and no answers," said Clara Villanueva, secretary of St. Ann's. She said the church will continue its regular Mass schedule until the archdiocese says otherwise.

Other members of St. Ann's asked about the pre-K through 8 school that's affiliated with the church. "The school will open in September of 2015, even if the parish isn't here any longer," said Scanlon. But, he added, it has been financially dependent on St. Ann's church. "The school is vulnerable, but at this time, nothing has been said," he said.

Scanlon said basic questions such as a new name for the merged parishes and a Mass schedule, remain unknown. "These are all things that will only be determined when a new pastor

is announced," he said, adding that it's unclear whether he, Stewart or another priest will be appointed to lead the flock.

A Worried Parish

Churchgoers said they are also worried about Catholic patients and staff at the three medical centers and two nursing homes located within blocks of the church. Those Catholics regularly use St. Ann's facilities and services.

"How do you close a church that is in the middle of all these hospitals and nursing homes and expect everyone to get to another location?" said Felipa Reyes, who has attended St. Ann's for eight years and used to work at nearby North Central Bronx Hospital, speaking in Spanish. "When the sick need church services, they are going to be out in the streets."

Many parishioners said they wor-

ried the roughly half-mile walk between St. Ann's and St. Brendan's will be too difficult for elderly members. "It will be a very long walk for people who attend regularly, who aren't athletic," said Kay Collins, who has worshipped at St. Ann's for 55 years. "And on Sunday, buses are not as frequent as other days of the week."

Archdiocese officials did not immediately respond to inquiries on parishioners' concerns.

Scanlon said St. Ann's lay officials plan to send a letter to Dolan asking for a fuller explanation of the reasons behind the consolidation. But Dolan said in a Nov. 3 interview with radio station WNYC that he didn't anticipate changing the decisions to close or merge parishes. "I wouldn't see any appeals from the decisions that were made yesterday," he said.



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