

NORWOOD NEWS

Vol 27, No 24 • PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION • DECEMBER 11-24, 2014



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BUSINESS BEAT:
SEASON OF SHOPPING AT THE
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TENANTS DEMAND CLUSTER SITE GONE

Norwood Shelter Overrun With Violence and Little Security



Photo by Adi Talwar

THIS CLUSTER SITE at 15-19 W. Mosholu Pkwy. N. has been home to many homeless families. Rent-paying tenants have asked the city to close it down.

By **DAVID CRUZ**

Amid a streak of violence at a controversial cluster site shelter in Norwood, the New York City Department of Homeless Services intends to replace the building's shelter provider for a new one, according to officials. This comes despite assurances the

cluster site would shut down.

But the impending change at 15-19 W. Mosholu Pkwy. N., a five-story walk-up, offers little relief to the small band of remaining rent paying tenants previously told by DHS that the shelter would close indefinitely. Fed up tenants blamed the dip in quality of

life on homeless tenants, also equally frustrated. Many were shocked to learn DHS had scrapped plans to relocate the homeless.

"We feel that the people who were pretending to help us brokered a backroom deal behind our backs to keep the shelter open," said Henry

Perry, president of the tenants association.

The overarching issue involves the nature of cluster sites, a holdover concept of the Bloomberg administration that housed homeless families with regular rent paying tenants. DHS con-

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Norwood News is published
bi-weekly on Thursdays by
Mosholu Preservation Corporation
3400 Reservoir Oval East
Bronx, New York 10467

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

Publisher
Mosholu Preservation Corporation

**CEO, Mosholu Preservation
Corporation**
Roberto S. Garcia

Editor-in-Chief
David Cruz

Classified Advertising
Dawn McEvoy

Accounts Receivable
Dawn McEvoy

Proofreader
Judy Noy

Regular Contributors
David Greene, Adi Talwar

Interns
Janaki Chadha, Anton K. Nilsson, Kasia
Romanowska, Catharina Thuemling

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IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST



Stagg Apts. Edge Closer to Reality

By CATHARINA THUEMLING

At the recent Bedford Mosholu Community Association, a representative for a major housing developer showcased its trio of apartment buildings on the edge of opening on Webster Avenue. But the main subject was rents.

Cristanir Arroyo, a representative of Stagg Group, ran the numbers down at the Dec. 3 meeting, noting 97 studio and 1- and 2-bedroom apartments will occupy the buildings. The three buildings will have market rate apartments that start \$1300 for studios per month, while monthly rents for one and two bedrooms will go for \$1,500 to \$1,700 respectively.

Agreeing to set aside 20 percent of their units to qualify for the Housing Preservation and Development Department's 421-a tax incentive, the Stagg Group will offer 25 affordable housing apartments. Rents for affordable units range from \$1,275 for a one-bedroom to \$1,435 a month for a two-bedroom. They will be assigned through a lottery.

So far, 25,000 applicants are vying for the affordable units. It's unclear when Stagg Group will decide who will be offered a lease.

And though attendees expressed a sense of thrill learning the building will open, many were divided over whether the market rate rents were a true reflection of incomes around the Norwood area. The apartments have relatively high rents when compared to the average rent in the Bronx. But the Stagg representative affirmed the buildings won't convert into a homeless shelter or a supportive housing complex.

Also, the board members and neighbors wondered what will become of the mandated first floor commercial

space. Arroyo mentioned since this is Stagg's first attempt at leasing commercial space, it's hired an outside broker to find a reputable merchant. All re-emphasized that the community's not in the business of seeing another dollar store.

On top of rent, tenants will have to pay for the heat, though hot water will be paid by the Stagg Group. Because the newly constructed buildings are

classified as energy efficient, the additional costs of heating through the cold months will be only \$80 to \$90. The buildings also will be equipped with A/C's, picnic tables for the gardens and trees in the front.

The building is expected to open sometime in January, bringing a revitalized Webster Avenue a step closer to fruition.

Kicking All the Way to the Top



Photo courtesy Mike Brown

THE MONROE COLLEGE Mustangs women's soccer team relish in victory, winning the National Junior Championship Athletic Association championship over Iowa Western 2 to 1 on Nov. 22. The big win was even sweeter after learning their male counterparts won the district championship.

Public and Community Meetings

COMMUNITY BOARD 7 will hold its general board meeting on Monday, Dec. 15 at the Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, 3450 DeKalb Ave. 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: Housing/Land Use & Zoning Committee on Dec. 17; Educations/Libraries & Youth Services on Dec. 18. For more information, call the Board office at (718) 933-5650.

THE 52ND PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL Meeting/Holiday Party will be held at Beso Lounge at 320 E. 204th St. on Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. For more information, call (718) 220-5824.

Friends of the Williamsbridge Oval President Resigns

By KASIA ROMANOWSKA

The leader of a grassroots volunteer group that pressured local lawmakers to get the Williamsbridge Oval Park Recreation Center reopened has resigned.

Elisabeth von Uhl resigned as president of the Friends of the Williamsbridge Oval on Nov. 26. As her resignation letter to fellow members explained, she needed more time “to pursue other things in life.”

“FOTWO was taking up too much time and head space, when I really needed to use those resources to (...) engage in my own writing,” von Uhl wrote in her letter, though she later told the *Norwood News* she’ll continue to volunteer for cleanup events.

Future plans for a skateboard park in Williamsbridge Oval, which Councilman Andrew Cohen funded \$750,000 for this summer, will not be endangered. Cohen has earmarked the capital funds to the New York City Department of Parks, which will use

it to hire a contractor to build the park.

Among von Uhl’s successes for the group was leading a community effort to get the long awaited recreation center opened after four years of renovation delays. Von Uhl spent months haranguing elected officials wondering when the facility would re-open its doors. It finally did in a celebration roughly a year ago.

Other achievements included gaining safer access to the Oval via pedestrian walkways and placing a maintenance worker to clean up the park daily, and two Park Enforcement Patrol officers at the Recreation Center.

“I really do believe these staffing positions were made possible because Friends of the Williamsbridge Oval were vocal in our needs for our beloved park,” von Uhl said. She regrets not finishing the MillionTrees NYC program which would replace trees at the Oval. She also looked to secure a grant through the New

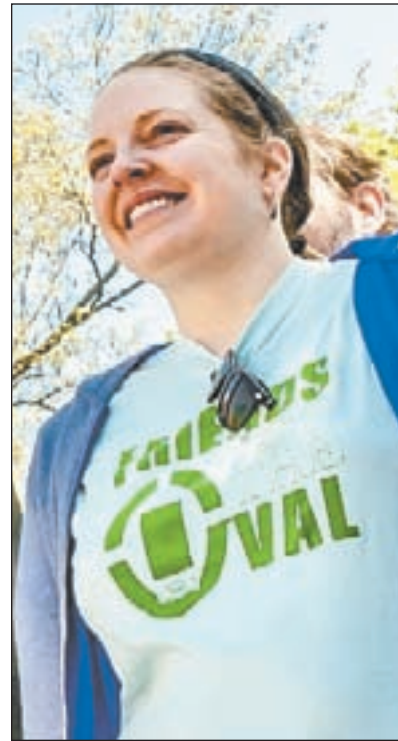
York Yankees Community Fund, which would have been set aside to hire two City Tree pruners and buy maintenance equipment.

“We have been promised new tree plantings this fall by Parks Forestry (via email requests this past year), but we have yet to see any new trees in our park since the finishing of the Recreation Center’s construction,” von Uhl said.

She also hopes that the Norwood Halloween Festival for the Children, which debuted two years back, will become a tradition. “I feel that many children and adults appreciated all the hard work done in making Whalen into a Haunted Forest where children could safely play and celebrate,” said von Uhl.

Her last project would include drafting a summary for the Yankee Community Grant and sending thank you notes to sponsors of the Halloween festival.

A successor has yet to be announced.



File photo

ELISABETH VON UHL stepped down as president of the Friends of the Williamsbridge Oval last month after a year of successes.

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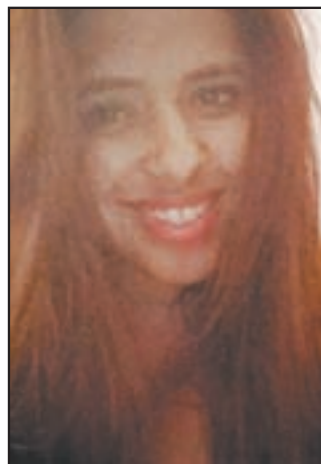
By DAVID GREENE

This week we asked readers if they currently have heat and hot water problems and how fast their landlords make needed repairs.



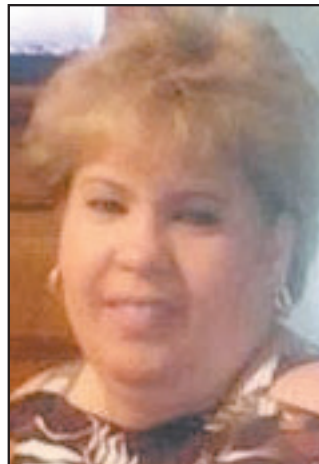
I'm a landlord and I have people that are Section 8 and I have to take them to court to get them to pay me my rent. I have to provide heat and hot water and a roof over their heads and they still don't make their co-payments. So I take them to court and they don't want to move out.

Edwin L. Santana
Tremont



It's very difficult because my landlord refuses to give me heat or work with me on any situation. She tells me she's not giving me heat because of damage to her apartment due to a water leak from upstairs. So she turns off the heat, she controls it from her home in upstate New York.

Marie Galarza
Morris Park



It's very difficult for me to reach my landlord even when I call the office. The super wants me to fill out a complaint form and put it in the little box, but they never return your call. Even the elevator is broken. It's management trying to save money and laziness.

Naida Candelaria
Soundview



First of all it would be difficult because the super doesn't reply. When I finally get in contact with him, he tells me I have to go through the landlord and fill out a report and once I contact the landlord with all the complaints, then I have to wait another week for them to come and check it out and it's another week before they can fix it.

Gino Brown
Tremont



My landlord keeps saying the heat is on when we have no heat. He doesn't even live there so he doesn't know what's going on. But if you call 311 he doesn't like it and he will try and throw you out of the building. I have to wear a hat, gloves and a scarf to keep warm and I turn the oven on for a little bit of warmth.

Myra Colon
Crotona

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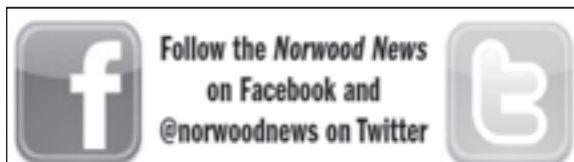
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Season of Jerome-Gun Hill

Holiday Spirit Shines at Several Local Stores

By **DAVID CRUZ**
and **JANAKI CHADHA**

If you walk along East Gun Hill Road, you'll see the white holiday lights sparking cheery feelings of Christmas, Hanukkah and New Years. Turn the corner onto Jerome Avenue and you'll notice the holiday rush at several stores throughout the Jerome Gun Hill Business Improvement District.

Many BID businesses have heeded the call to prepare for the holidays, gearing up for some last-minute shopping from bargain hunters, stocking up those must-have toys and preparing for seasonal holiday parties. For other stores, it's just business as usual.

Looking Sharp

The glass displays at Portabella at 3449 Jerome Ave., emblazoned in a background of polka dot wrapping paper with mannequins clad in flashy sports jackets and suits, serve as a key draw for the neighborhood clothier. Jose Feimin, the manager of the store, has always seen value in it.

"It's good for the window when you do decorations," said Feimin, who's managed the Norwood business for eight years. A long line of wears crowd the window display, along with price tags. Its signature sale looks like a steal this season—buy one suit, get two free during the month of December. Suits range upwards to \$200, and there's some room for haggling, said Feimin. Other holiday deals include three for \$30 sweaters and two for \$25 jeans.

Though Feimin has seen an uptick of out-of-towners from North

Carolina and Massachusetts trying on new suits, the opening days of the holiday rush were somewhat disappointing for Portabella, which saw a 50 percent drop in Black Friday sales when compared to last year. But extra manpower, decorations and colorful suits provide hope that sales for the suit shop will drive up.

At 3466 Jerome Ave., Mike Klein of the euro-inspired store Too Hot Fashion, is taking it easy this year. Christmas carols took five as techno music pumped throughout the store. One customer was seen browsing about. Klein's signature brand Evita, however, makes glittery red dresses that can fit well for the perennial Christmas party. Women's outfits generally run for \$29.99.

Toys and Holiday Wares

Drug Rite Pharmacy at 3432 Jerome Ave. is a holiday hotspot. Employee Mayra Avila was decked out in a red uniform akin to a Santa's helper outfit while stocking the seasonal aisle with ornaments and Santa hats. Disney toys and Barbie dolls lined the shelves, with store manager Juan Gonzalez noting the Elsa doll from Disney's animated flick *Frozen* as a top seller. "Elsa sells more," said Gonzalez. "We can't keep it in stock."

Pharmacist Sebastian Maciamei, said seasonal aisles can be "a big expense" since leftover items post-holidays cannot be returned. Still, Drug Rite keeps the tradition, with upcoming plans for Valentine's Day and Easter.

A block up at 3525 Jerome Ave. is Bob's Discount, another neigh-



Photo by Kasia Romanowska

MAYRA AVILA MERRILY stacks Christmas ornaments at Drug Rite Pharmacy.



Photo by Kasia Romanowska

JOSE FEIMIN MANAGES the Portabella suit store.

Shopping at the Business Improvement District

borhood general store (not to be confused with the regional chain), complete with a seasonal Christmas aisle stuffed with affordable merchandise. There, rows of colorful ornaments and other types of decorations fill the shelves. Operations Manager Manny Eleutice noted that ornaments are usually a popular sell.

"We're the last-minute store," said Eleutice proudly. "We're still full while K-Mart and Target are probably running very low on other things." He continued, "By next week, they're empty, and then we start picking up business over here."

At the corner of Jerome Avenue and East Gun Hill Road is Oak Furniture, another store managed by Eleutice, who noted that each store's approach to the holidays varies. For Oak Furniture, the most notable sales occur during other parts of the year. "Our holiday is tax season," said Eleutice. "People get their money back, and then they want to give it up."

Holiday Parties

At Escape Lounge, Harold Richardson showed off the restaurant's slick Christmas decorations--shiny red bulbs and mistletoes tacked on wrapping-style wallpaper. "You walk

in here and you want to feel the spirit of Christmas," said Richardson. Much like Portabella, the holiday aura is intended to draw customers.

December is keeping him and his business partner, Elvis Herrera, busy as companies plan to host holiday parties at the Latin eatery. His \$5.99 lunch deal still remains in effect.

Richardson, a familiar face in the neighborhood, noted the holiday spirit has retreated some, with many ignoring the season's potential profitability. "Years ago, every store had a tree, every store had some decorations. Today nobody [does]," he said. He offered a hint of advice to merchants: "No matter what business you're in, the community and their clients need to be appreciated at any particular time."



Photo by Kasia Romanowska

HAROLD RICHARDSON CO-OWNS Escape Lounge, a primary holiday party destination for groups.



Photo courtesy Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District

HUNDREDS CAME OUT for the third annual Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony, drawing visits from local lawmakers and Santa Claus. Rhina Valentin played mistress of ceremonies for the seasonal event, where kids received presents and a picture with Santa.

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**

SPECIAL REPORT:

State of Heroin in the Bronx (Part 2)

By DAVID CRUZ

The heroin epidemic runs parallel to attempts made by the Bronx to shed its image of despair. It's made even more complex by the effects borne of usage—poverty, crime (the Bronx District Attorney's Office prosecutes 35 percent of drug cases) and a virtual lifetime of addiction.

"We see drugs that come and go. For a long time we were seeing ecstasy. It kind of fades away," said Debra Vizzi, the executive director of VIP, an inpatient/outpatient drug rehab clinic. "Heroin has stayed."

The drug worked its way into the Bronx during the 1970s, when New York City was gripped by an explosion of heroin. At VIP Services, one of 60 community-based clinics in the Bronx, the numbers indicate that the heroin problem just won't quit.

Nearly 50,000 clients walk into the doors of the Arthur Avenue

treatment center annually, seeking to get clean for reasons that range from the threat of jail, children removed, or social entitlements suspended. An older demographic makes up the majority of VIP's clientele, different when compared to the younger demographic of clients across the city.

Vizzi, who has a background in social work, is an enemy of heroin dealers. On any given day, a dealer often loiters just outside the Tremont clinic, tempting any user to disrupt their progress for a quick hit.

"We're a magnet for drug dealers. So I'm always fighting that battle, and I have the scars to prove it," said Vizzi. "Ice picks in my tires, death threats, gang members talking to me because I'm stopping the supply."

Dealers these days have gotten desperate given the large quantity arriving to the borough and a copious stream of dealers can-

vassing Bronx streets.

"There's so many dealers and there's so much supply and so much demand that their income has whittled down substantially," said Vizzi. "Basically, you walk down the street and everybody's a dealer. This one's a dealer, that one's a dealer. And there's constantly a demand of addicts."

But for the dealer, sometimes dealing is all they know.

"The biggest impediment is that there's no high school diploma," said Vizzi. "So when you have someone who is not educated, it impedes everything."

And with an influx of dealers comes a drop in revenue, fueling a cycle of desperation that's in line with an addict.

Trifecta of Stigma

The Bronx is still grappling with

remnants of the first heroin epidemic of the 1970s. An older population is the more common profile of an addict in the borough. Some have been on the narcotic for so many years it has often transformed into a basic survival mechanism.

"You have to get high just to function," said Vizzi. Fueling usage is a "trifecta of stigma," a phrase Vizzi used to link culture, poverty and language barriers to addiction. As far as Vizzi sees it, the trifecta has engulfed the Bronx.

"We're not seeing that kind of trifecta like you would in some of the other boroughs," said Vizzi. "You see it in pockets, community pockets, but not the whole borough."

Next Edition: Learning who's pushing heroin.

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Be Healthy

Having a Healthy Holiday

By **ANTON K. NILSSON**

The holiday season is upon us, with its many obligations and implications: family time, frenzied shopping, and cold weather, which can all drain your energy. This can lead to dreaded nights of combating a fever.

"We're approaching our busiest time of year because the cold/flu season is upon us," said Dr. Jae Ahn, of Union Community Health Center (UCHC), a Bronx health network with its latest location in Mt. Hope. Learning the symptoms and different ways of treating the two conditions is helpful. Cold symptoms include "nasal congestion, cough, and a low-grade fever," according to the UCHC.

"Cold symptoms usually resolve in a few days with rest, fluids, and over-the-counter medications. Influenza or flu, however, generally has more severe symptoms, where people feel body aches, high fever, as well as cough, and nasal congestion," said Ahn.

The best way to avoid the flu is to get vaccinated each year. But winter brings with it other perils: "We see too many people who end up with serious injuries as a result of falls. We're approaching a time of year when we strongly recommend that older people and those with compromised health stay inside as much as they can," said Ahn.

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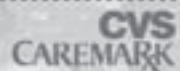
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Produced by ACE Promotions and Event Management

Norwood tenants want homeless out

(continued from page 1)

a nonprofit shelter provider to house the homeless, which cover market rate rent and any of the contractor's overhead. The de Blasio administration is now attempting to undo cluster sites.

This spells bad news for Aguila Inc., the notorious shelter provider managing the cluster site, which scaled back social services after DHS cut funding for all cluster sites. Tax records from 2013 show the nonprofit's revenue totaled \$49 million. These days, a first floor office for social workers now sits vacant, along with a security desk to monitor the homeless. A decision on what to do with the homeless remained in limbo for months until DHS delivered the news at the end of November. Representatives for Aguila Inc. did not return calls.

Scouting an appropriate home for the Norwood homeless families appeared to be the key challenge for DHS given the shelter crunch engulfing the city. At the Norwood site, one apartment held a homeless family of 15. "And frankly, they're not going to find housing," said Dustin Engelken,

Community Board 7's district manager, speaking to the Board's Land Use/Housing Committee. The office has now partnered with Councilman Andrew Cohen's office to seek solutions.

Uptick in Violence

When the homeless quietly moved to the apartment building in 2008, conditions began to unravel, according to tenants both homeless and rent-paying. Basic quality of life troubles slowly emerged, mainly late night loitering despite a 10 p.m. curfew, and drug use. The problems continue today, according to Catherine Barbosa, a rent-paying tenant who moved in a few months before Aguila Inc. leased the units.

"If they were rent paying tenants they would respect the building," said Barbosa of her homeless neighbors. "You're not going to loiter. You're not going to treat it like trash and garbage."

Problems peaked on Nov. 8 after a dispute between two men escalated into a wild shooting on the first floor. The tenants involved were later

evicted. The same day a domestic violence disturbance sent officers back to the building. The next day a rent-paying family was attacked by a group of homeless individuals accused of blocking the family from entering. The 52nd Precinct has now routinely patrolled the hallways, filling the work of Aguila's security guards. But Barbosa argued that security was extremely negligent over Aguila's clients. "There really was no one to speak to," said Barbosa. "And even if they were there in the building and you addressed your concerns about their clients, they didn't handle it."

Cohen sent a letter to DHS Commissioner Gilbert Taylor requesting the agency hire an interim security staff to restore safety at the building. No security has kept homeless tenants from logging their check in and out time, which could jeopardize their standing.

Homeless Speak Out

Within the building, a division between homeless families and rent-paying tenants has long existed.

Dana Hollis, a homeless tenant living with 11 of her children, has since noticed a shift since the November incidents.

"Ever since that happened, we've been discriminated against," said Hollis, who's conducting some tenant organizing of her own. "It's not fair that other families that are minding their business are suffering."

Her neighbor, Robert Smith, a homeless father of two, agreed, saying, "One apple doesn't make all the apples bad." The two noted that rent-paying tenants contribute to the building's deterioration, chucking dead rodents from their apartment windows.

Perry insisted the rent paying tenants are not demonizing the homeless, though he criticized cluster sites from happening to begin with. "Shelters should not be reducing the supply of affordable housing, which adds to the homeless problem," he said.

A spokesman for DHS could only say the agency is in "ongoing discussions" over the future of the cluster site.

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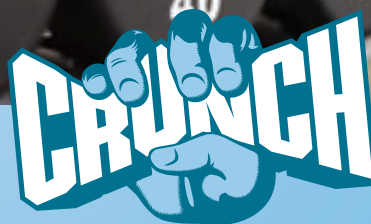


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Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

EDITOR'S PICK

Carolers in Concert

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., invites the public to join the **Definitely Dickens Carolers in Concert**, Dec. 20 at 2:30 p.m. The singers, dressed in Victorian-style costumes, will perform traditional and contemporary holiday classics. The performance will be followed by a screening of "A Christmas Carol." For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

Onstage

• The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents **The Barber of Seville**, Dec. 13 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

Events

• Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Arts Projects**: Colorful Candles and Winter Berries, to mix and mold an image of nature onto a candlestick using colorful clay-like wax, and add berries and boughs to decorate its holder, Dec. 13 and 14; and Snow Globe Gift Boxes, to make a snow globe box including decorations, Dec. 20 and 21; both in WH House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also scheduled is **Concert: Soyeon Kate Lee & Ran Dank**, performing piano duet of the Nutcracker Suite (\$28; \$15/ages 8 to 18; \$22/member; \$12/member child; registration is required, online at www.wavehill.org or at the Perkins Visitor Center), Dec. 14 at 2 p.m. in the WH House. 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.

Holiday Events

• The public is invited to a **Christmas tree lighting** sponsored by Community Board 7 on Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. on Mosholu Parkway and Bainbridge Avenue. For more information, call (718) 933-5650.

• The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford

Pk. Blvd. W., presents **Parranda Navideña**, featuring a variety of performers celebrating the holiday season, Jibaro style, Dec. 13 at 8 p.m. (tickets are \$25 to \$50; \$10/12 and under). For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

• The Bronx Arts Ensemble presents **Holiday Concert: Music for St. Nicholas**, Dec. 13 and 14 at Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, 895 Shore Road, Pelham Bay Pk; at 1 and 3 p.m. Free tickets are available online at bronxartsensemble.org or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to St. Nicholas Day Festival, c/o Bronx Arts Ensemble, 80 Van Cortlandt Park South, #7D-1, Bronx, NY 10463 (specify number of tickets; limit 5 per order). For more information, call (718) 601-7399.

• Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, 895 Shore Rd., Pelham Bay Pk., presents **Holiday Candlelight Tours and Victorian Carolers**, Dec. 13, 6 to 8 p.m., which includes snacks (\$12/adults; \$10/seniors/students/members). Reservations are required. For more information, call (718) 885-1461.

• New York Botanical Garden holds its **Holiday Train Show** through Jan. 19. Included are over 20 large-scale model railway trains and trolleys traversing nearly a quarter-mile of track, hands-on activities for children; **Concert**, Dec. 21 at 4 p.m. in the Ross Hall; and **Holiday A Cappella**, Saturdays and Sundays at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. through Jan. 18. For more information, call (718) 817-8700.

Exhibits

• The Bronx Museum of the Arts,

1040 Grand Concourse, presents **Beyond the Supersquare**, featuring a variety of artwork, through Jan. 11. For more detailed information, call (718) 681-6000.

• 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), Dec. 11 and 18; **Toddler Play Time at noon**: (ages 18 to 36 months), Dec. 11 and 18; **Family Time**: (ages 3 to 5; preregistration required), reading aloud and crafts; and **Winter Magnet Making**: (ages 7 to 12), hands-on projects, Dec. 18 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 children: **Toddler Story Time at 10:30 a.m.**: (ages 18 to 36 months), stories, songs, and rhymes, Dec. 11 and 18; and for ages 3 to 12, there is **Reading Aloud Story Time**: Dec. 15 at 4 p.m. and **Sherlock Holmes**: Presented by the Traveling Lantern Theatre Co.,

Dec. 23 at 4 p.m. (a child volunteer will help Holmes solve a mystery). Teens/young adults can attend **World Beat and Percussion**: To create a beat on drums, rattles, and more, Dec. 18 at 4 p.m. Adults can enjoy **Knitting Circle**: Thursdays at 3 p.m. The entire family can view **film**: "Maleficent," Dec. 13 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 at 4 p.m.**: Yoga and zumba, Dec. 12 and 19; **Pajama Party**: come in pj's for arts and crafts, read aloud, and snacks, Dec. 22 at 6 p.m.; **Chess Program**: Learn to play, Dec. 23 at 4 p.m.; and **film**: Dec. 26 at 3 p.m. (all for ages 5 to 12); **Toddler Time at 11 a.m.**: (for ages 18 to 36 months), stories, songs, and finger plays, Dec. 17 and 24; and **Fun With the Old Woman & the Pumpkin**: (ages 3 to 12), jumping and shaking musical story making, for kids to sing, shake rhythm instruments, and jump to piano music, followed by audience participation storytelling, Dec. 19 at 3:30 p.m. Teens/young adults can enjoy **film**: Dec. 11 at 3:30 p.m. Adults can attend: **Computer Basics Open Lab at noon**: Dec. 11, 16, 18 and 23. 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 Dec. 15 for the next publication date of Dec. 25.

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