Tenants demand cluster site gone

Norwood Shelter Overrun With Violence and Little Security

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 (continued on page 14)
IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

Stagg Apts. Edge Closer to Reality

By CATHERINA 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.

Cristianir 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

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.
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.

THE CHECKING ACCOUNT YOU DESERVE IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER.

We’re committed to helping you on your way to a brighter future with:

Convenient Neighborhood Locations  |  Low Minimum Balance  |  Free Mobile Banking

VISIT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH TODAY.
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

INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER
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.

Come Celebrate Hanukkah With Us!

Sunday, December 21, 2014, 1-5 pm
3rd Annual Sholem Aleichem Yiddish Klezfest
Sholem Aleichem Cultural Center
3301 Bainbridge Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467
at the corner of 208th Street
Info: 917-930-0295
$10 admission includes kosher noshery!

An afternoon of live klezmer music, dance and song!
With support from the Center for Traditional Music and Dance & the National Endowment for the Arts

ARE YOU A HEALTHY WOMAN 19–35 YEARS OLD?
Our physicians at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Montefiore Medical Center want your help in testing whether a lubricant can help prevent the spread of human papillomavirus (HPV).

Details of This Study:
• Find out if using a lubricant that contains a natural compound can protect against HPV infection
• Find out if the lubricant is well tolerated
• If you are pregnant, breastfeeding, or have significant medical disease, you may not participate

Your Part in the Study:
• During the course of the study, you will be asked to use a lubricant each time you have sex
• You will get regular testing for HPV and other sexually transmitted diseases

For your participation, you can receive up to $750 in reimbursement, or more.
*Reimbursement depends on the length of your participation.

For more information, call 646-574-2369 or email StopHPV@montefiore.org.

Montefiore
Inspired Medicine

www.montefiore.org/hpv-clinical-trial
10th Annual Sparkling the Heart of Fordham
GET 10% OFF
SHOP FORDHAM
December 5 - December 21, 2014

4 EVER SHOES
10 E Fordham Rd
ALMONTE NAIL SALON
314 E Kingsbridge Rd
APPLEBEE’S NEIGHBORHOOD GRILL & BAR
4750-4758 Third Ave www.applebees.com
B&B JEWELRY
2496 Grand Conc
BEST BUY
402 E Fordham Rd www.bestbuy.com
SEE MANAGER FOR RESTRICTIONS
BEST ITALIAN PIZZA
200-202 E Fordham Rd
BEST PERFUME PLUS
129 E Fordham Rd
BEVERLY HILLS FURNITURE
305 E Kingsbridge Rd www.beverlyhillsfurniture2.com
BIG JAKE’S JEWELRY
386 E Fordham Rd
BOOST MOBILE
261A E Fordham Rd 40% OFF AND FREE ACCESSORIES
384 East Fordham Rd
BUBU’Z INK
315 E Kingsbridge Rd
CHECKERS
385 E Fordham Rd www.checkers.com
CITIDENT
466 E Fordham Rd
CLAIREE’S
260 E Fordham Rd www.claires.com
COHEN’S FASHION OPTICAL
138 E Fordham Rd www.coheنسبfsashionoptical.com
COHEN’S GENTLE DENTAL
1 E Fordham Rd, 2FI www.coheنسبgentledental.com
COLOMBIA JEANS/LEVANTAPOMPIS (BUTT BOOSTING JEANS)
387 E Fordham Rd www.levantapompis.com
CRICKET WIRELESS
327 E Fordham Rd www.wireless.cricketwireless.com
10% OFF ACCESSORIES ONLY
CUNY ON THE CONCOURSE
2501 Grand Conc, 3FI
EASY PICKINS
360 E Fordham Rd www.easypickins.com
E-STYLE
114 E Fordham Rd
EXCLUSIVE CELLULAR/FORDHAM ROAD WIRELESS
389 E Fordham Rd
FAMOUS FOOTWEAR
4770 Third Ave www.famous.com
FORDHAM GOLD MINE
50 E Fordham Rd
GEM PAWN BROKERS
367 E Fordham Rd www.pawnbrokers.com
GENERAL VISION
330 E Fordham Rd FREE EYE EXAM 10% OFF ANY FRAME AND GLASSES
GEORGE JEWELRY CREATIONS/VIKEN FACIALS
332 E Fordham Rd 30% OFF
GOLD PALACE JEWELRY
214 E Fordham Rd 30% OFF
GOLDEN TOUCH BRONX
5 W Fordham Rd
HOT POINT
340 E Fordham Rd www.shoproxx.com
JIMMY BOY JEWELRY
335 E Fordham Rd
KIDS WORLD
39 E Fordham Rd
LEGACY HOME FASHION
2510-2512 Grand Conc
LEN’S LAB EXPRESS
125 E Fordham Rd www.len’slabexpress.com
MAGIC SNEAKERS
382 E Fordham Rd
MAJESTIC FURNITURE
327 E Fordham Rd
MARION TATTOOS
387 E Fordham Rd, 2FI 20% OFF TATTOOS $100 OR MORE
NINE WEST OUTLET
305 E Kingsbridge Rd www.ninewest.com LIMIT 1 CUSTOMER
NISSAN KIDS CHILDREN’S WEAR
2483 Grand Conc
NORTH END WINE & LIQUOR
2509 Webster Ave www.northendliquors.com 10% OFF CASES OF WINE
NYC BRONX CLOTHING
2490 Grand Conc
ORIGINAL PRODUCTS (BOTANICA)
2486 Webster Ave www.originalbotanica.com
P.C. RICHARD & SON
2501 Grand Conc www.pcrichard.com
PAY GO WIRELESS
300 E Fordham Rd
PERFECT SMILE BRACES
468 E Fordham Rd
PHONES & GAMES CENTER
2519 Webster Ave 10% OFF ACCESSORIES ONLY
PIZZA STUDIO
444 E Fordham Rd
PLAZA PHARMACY
2515 Webster Ave www.mylazar.com
RED DRAGON TATTOOS
390 E Fordham Rd, 2FI www.reddragontat.com
SAVE-A-THON
9 E Fordham Rd
SHAFFISON’S JEWELRY
377 E Fordham Rd
SPRINT
124 E Fordham Rd www.sprint.com FREE TABLET WITH 2 YEAR CONTRACT
SWEETIE ANGELS
1 W Fordham Rd
TOP CONCOURSE ELECTRONICS AND COMPUTERS
2486 Grand Conc www.topconcourse.com
URBAN EYES OPTICAL
390 E Fordham Rd
VENEZIA ACCESSORIES
305 E Kingsbridge Rd
YOUNGWORLD
350 E Fordham Rd
ZALES JEWLERS
254 East Fordham Rd www.zales.com SPECIAL COLLECTION NOT INCLUDED

PRESENT THIS AD OR YOUR METROCARD TO GET 10% OFF
Visit www.fordhamroadbid.org for more information.

SUBWAY: TO FORDHAM RD
RAIL: METRO-NORTH RAILROAD- FORDHAM STATION-HARLEM LINE
PARKING FACILITIES: JEROME, VALENTINE & TIEBOUT AVENUES

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
FORDHAM ROAD BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

SPONSORS
NYC COUNCILMAN RICHIE TORRES • NYC COUNCILMAN FERNANDO CABRERA

Affinity Health Plan

SPECIAL COLLECTION NOT INCLUDED

Certain restrictions may apply.

Santa Claus on Fordham Rd!
Friday, December 5, 2014
6pm-8pm @ Muller Park & Plaza (E Fordham Rd & Creston Ave)
Free Presents for the first 600 kids!
Raffles, Prizes & Giveaways
Hosted by Rhina Valentin

DESIGN: COFFEECUPDESIGN.COM   METROCARD ® METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY. USED WITH PERMISSION.
Epiphany Lutheran Church - A PLACE OF GRACE IN NORWOOD - 3061 Bainbridge Ave., Bronx, NY
Phone: (718) 652-6839  Website: www.epiphanybx.org
WORSHIP Sundays at noon; BIBLE STUDY Wednesday nights at 7 p.m.; THRIFT SHOP Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - God's work - our hands

LAW OFFICES
James M. Visser, Esq.
General Practice
Accidents, Commercial
Wills & Estates
Offices Bronx and Manhattan
(646) 260-6326

Judith A. Simms, Esq.
Immigration Law Practice
Green Cards, Citizenship, etc.
3612 White Plains Road
Bronx, NY 10467
(347) 460-0765

Professional Directory

CLASSIFIEDS

Classifieds cost $12 for the first 20 words and 25 cents each additional word. To advertise please call (718) 324-4998.

REAL ESTATE

Fully renovated 3-family house for sale in Wakefield: 2/2/1 bedrooms. All amenities, 2/5 train, supermarkets, great shopping areas. Big lots, 50x116, market for as many as 15 cars. Great investment that pays for itself. Price: $485,000. (917) 622-5810. Owner help with closing cost.

HELP WANTED

The Norwood News seeks a freelance advertising sales rep to help grow the Bronx's best community newspaper. Applicants must be self-starters with some sales experience.

Email resumes to dcruz@norwoodnews.org
BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY NOW!

Every Saturday Come Wine And Dine With Friends

Live Band At Escape
From 6pm to 10pm

Saturdays

WINE & DINE
Live Band
From 6pm to 10pm

RSVP A MUST

347-899-8300

Choice of Salad
Watercress, Caesar or Mixed Greens

Choice of Entrée w/ Side
Pork Chops, Grilled Chicken
Breast or Tilapia.
Side Choices:
Rice & Beans, Fried
Green Plantains,
Fried Sweet Plantains,
French Fries,
Mashed Potatoes or
Steamed Vegetables

Choice of Dessert
Ice Cream or Flan

Choice of Beverage
Optional for an Additional $1
Soda (Cola or Ginger Ale), Water,
Iced Tea or Lemonade
If you have food allergies, please inform a staff member. Si tiene alergias de comestibles, por favor decirlo a uno de los empleados

Tacos
3 Tacos
(Beef or Chicken)
French Fries
and a Soda or Water

Hamburger
2 Mini Burgers, French Fries
and a Soda or Water

Fried Rice
(Chicken or Beef) and a Soda or Water

Choice of Salad
Optional for an Additional $2
Caesar, Mixed Greens or Watercress

After School Lunch Special
ONLY $5.00!
3-6pm. Pick-up or Delivery Only.

restaurant & lounge
3489 Jerome Avenue
Bronx, NY 10467
escapeinbronx.com

347.899.8300
Fax - 347.697.7918
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-
Shopping at the Business Improvement District

neighborhood 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.”

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.
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 canvassing 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.
NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS

Have a great idea for a community improvement project? Apply for a grant!

Citizens Committee for New York City awards grants of up to $3,000 to resident-led groups to work on community and school improvement projects.

For more information:
www.citizensnyc.org
212-822-9563
grants@citizensnyc.org

Applications due January 26, 2015
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.
NYC Councilman Andy King
Presents
The East 233rd Street and White Plains Road Merchant Association

Meet Santa Event!

Thursday, December 18th from 5-7 PM

Bronx Community 12 Town Hall
4101 White Plains Road
Bronx, NY 10466

Free Gifts
*While Supplies Last

For more information, call Michael Felter, Jr.
President
at 718.325.5150

Like Us on:
Facebook: /233rdWhitePlainsRd.
Twitter: /E233StandWprma

Produced by ACE Promotions and Event Management
GET ALL HOT AND JOLLY
JOIN FOR $9.95/MONTH.
PLUS, GET A FREE CRUNCH T-SHIRT!
Hurry, ends 12/31! Bring this in to redeem.

3170 WEBSTER AVE • BRONX, NY • 718.515.0110 • CRUNCH.COM

Pricing is in reference to the Base membership at the Crunch Norwood location. Expiring offer is in reference to the t-shirt and enrollment fee, which expire 12/31/2014. Offer is valid in-club only and is not available on Crunch.com. Must bring in printed ad to receive t-shirt. Guest pass is valid for first-time guest only. Must be 18 years or older and present valid photo ID. T-shirt is available while supplies last. Enrollment fee and $39 annual fee applies. See club for details. ©2014 Crunch IP Holdings, LLC

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.
EDITOR’S PICK

Carols 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 6 p.m. on Mosholu Parkway by Community Board 7 on Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. on W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers for children: Preschool Story Time at 11 a.m.; Toddler Play Time at 11 a.m.; Preschool Story Time at 3 p.m. (all for ages 5 to 12); and Story Time: 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.

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; $12/member; $12/parent/member; 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) 549-5200.

Holiday Events

• The public is invited to a Christmas tree lighting sponsored by Community Board 7 on Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. on Moshulu Parkway and Bainbridge Avenue. For more information, call (718) 933-5560.

• 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 BayPk.; at 1 and 3 p.m. Free tickets are available online at bronxartensemble.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.

• 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 bronxartensemble.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.

• The Mosholu Library, 285 E. 205th St., offers children: Toddler Time at 11 a.m.; and 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.

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 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 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.

• 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.
Call the BID Hotline at 718.324.4946 for more information.

Like us on Facebook /JGHBIZ

Over 200 Stores on Jerome Avenue from Mosholu Parkway to East Gun Hill Road and on Gun Hill Road to Webster Avenue

Discover the Stores, Quality Service and Savings at the Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District.

Where Good Neighbors Deserve Great Shopping!
All in a Safe, Clean & Friendly Environment

Visit us at www.jeromegunhillbid.org

Call the BID Hotline at 718.324.4946 for more information.

Like us on Facebook /JGHBIZ