

# NORWOOD NEWS

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**FREE**

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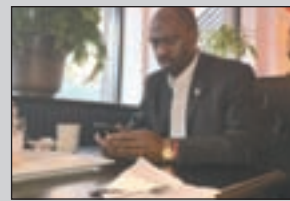


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# NORWOOD NEWS YEAR IN REVIEW



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### By HAYLEY CAMACHO

The northwest Bronx has seen quite a batch of news stories that have gripped, intrigued and caused quite a stir during 2014. The *Norwood News* tracked many of these stories this year, and in some cases, broken them. As part of a yearly tradition, we look back at some of the top stories of 2014.

### Kingsbridge Armory

It's the story that keeps on giving. Legal troubles among the partners of the Kingsbridge National Ice Center (KNIC) plagued the Bronx's major project since the beginning of 2014, likely resulting in a delayed opening of the facility, originally slated for 2017.

In early spring, KNIC development partners Jonathan Richter, Jeff Spiritos and Marcos Wignell, filed a lawsuit against main developer Kevin Parker, to assume control of the \$350 million project. Court papers stated that Richter and his colleagues volunteered their time presuming they'd be compensated with a partnership

stake. Parker countersued, claiming his former partners spoke out of turn when they expressed in a letter to the New York City Economic Development Corporation that Parker was too inexperienced to bring KNIC to fruition. The court eventually ruled the project was Parker's  
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## IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST



### Locals Renew Fight to Convert Barren Decatur Ave. Lot Into Park

By DAVID CRUZ

To some, a vacant lot in Bedford Park serves as a makeshift refuge for the homeless. Other times it's a stash site for drug dealers. But residents have mostly viewed it as a dumping ground and, good or bad, the only place to run around or play basketball.

Now locals are reigniting their push to convert the makeshift landfill on Decatur Avenue and Oliver Place into a playground, a move they hope will raise the quality of life in the community and end 30 years of blight at the lot.

The renewed fight has attracted Councilman Ritchie Torres, who scheduled a massive cleanup on Dec. 19, with crews hauling out trash strewn about the property. Tidying up the lot was the first order of business for "Friends of Oliver Place," which formed in response to the mess. "When I see a vacant lot, I see untapped potential for a more vibrant and active community," said Torres in a statement.

The week before, Shanequa Charles, a resident of Decatur Avenue and Community Board 7 member, gathered over 200 signatures calling on the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) to have Oliver Place, which cuts through the vacant land, demapped. "There's nowhere else to play," said Charles. "The closest thing is 188th Street and Webster Avenue, crossing major intersections. That's a very far walk for a person to take their children."

DOT has long owned the property, though Charles notes the issue has turned into a hot potato, with DOT passing the buck to the New York City Department of Parks.

It's the only open space where children can play, according to residents. But it does invite a host of problems,



Photo courtesy Office of Councilman Ritchie Torres

**WITH A RAKE** in hand, Councilman Ritchie Torres (at podium) backs a request by local residents to turn a vacant lot (in background) into a playground. He stands with community stakeholders pushing for the conversion.

mainly children spilling out of the lot and into oncoming traffic.

This is not the first attempt at pushing for repairs. Sally Young, a longtime resident of Decatur Avenue, initially grabbed headlines in getting the park repaired, including lobbying the New York Botanical Garden for help. "The kids need a place because the parents aren't taking them anywhere," said Young.

"There's no other alternative."

A few years ago, conditions were worse—at one time restaurant workers would often fling discarded food and trash onto the site, stacking piles of garbage as high as six feet, according to Young. "Anything's better than a garbage dump," she said.

Anyone interested in signing the petition can call (347) 318-5410.

## Public and Community Meetings

**COMMUNITY BOARD 7** will hold its general board meeting on Jan. 20 at Kittay House, 2550 Webb Ave. at 6:30 p.m. Committee meetings are held on the following dates at the board office, 229A E. 204th St., at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted: the Executive Committee meets Jan. 6; Public Safety & Quality of Life Committee meets Jan. 7; Traffic & Transportation meets Jan. 8; Environment & Sanitation Committee meets Jan. 13; Health & Hospitals Committee meets Jan. 13 at 7:30 p.m.; Economic Development Committee meets Jan. 14; Community Relations/LTP Committee meets Jan. 14 at 7:30 p.m.; Education/Libraries & Youth Services meet Jan. 15. For more information call (718) 933-5650.

**THE BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** meets Jan. 7 at 8 p.m. at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. So., apt. B1 (lobby floor).



# Mosholu Preservation Corporation

## A Norwood Staple Celebrates a Year of Accomplishments

By DAVID CRUZ

Behind the holiday lights strung throughout four commercial strips, a blueprint for bolstering economic fervor along a major thoroughfare, and a revamped *Norwood News*, the Mosholu Preservation Corporation (MPC) has overseen it all.

And that's just in 2014.

"We really made some significant inroads this year, and accomplished a lot of relationship and community building," said Roberto S. Garcia, the executive director of MPC.

It's been 33 years of that type of community building for MPC, showing no signs of stopping. Its mission is etched in its name--Mosholu (the neighborhood commonly known as Norwood), Preservation (safeguarding the community's integrity) Corporation (a not-for-profit entity). Their mission has largely served as a vanguard for Norwood, sustaining it to benefit neighbors and Montefiore Medical Center, deemed central to the economic and community vitality of the community.

Indeed, it was Montefiore that helped create MPC to keep Norwood from experiencing the downturn that consumed the South Bronx during the 1970s. In its genesis, MPC was given \$500,000 to purchase several rundown properties to prevent a slump. With three decades behind it, MPC's mission continues, providing a stable shot in the arm to communities.

Much of that has been accomplished by broadening MPC's mission, introducing itself to neighborhoods that hug Norwood. With \$130,000 worth of grants secured, MPC advanced economic activity along East 204th Street and Bainbridge Avenue in Norwood for the upcoming fiscal year, East 233rd Street near White Plains Road in Wakefield, a stretch of Kingsbridge Road that runs east to west, and a stretch of Webster Avenue, ripe with economic growth. MPC garnered support from local New York City Council members Andy King, Andrew Cohen and Fernando Cabrera, who allocated public funds to MPC.

Beautification projects were also a major priority, a reason why holiday lights are adorned throughout the respective corridors, a mix of mom and pop businesses, and regional stores. MPC capped its year with a Meet Santa event on Dec. 18 at East 233rd Street



Photo by Adi Talwar

**PORING OVER THE** *Norwood News* are staffers for the Mosholu Preservation Corporation (MPC) team (l-r)--David Cruz, editor-in-chief of the *Norwood News*; Roberto S. Garcia, executive director of MPC; and Marcia M. Cameron, deputy director of MPC. The nonprofit is the publisher of the *Norwood News*.

and White Plains Road, where 300 toys were given to local families.

"Having holiday lights is an indication that all of these merchant associations and the work that we do is working out and that these areas are vibrant, that we succeeded," said Garcia.

The New York City Small Business Services sees it that way too, awarding MPC an 'A' for neighborhood development this year.

Garcia, juggling his duties as the executive director of MPC with that of senior director for community relations at Montefiore, emphasized MPC's wider mission. It works in tandem with Montefiore, viewing MPC as a model of neighborhood preservation. Among them is 233rd and White Plains Road, where Montefiore purchased Our Lady of Mercy Hospital, an underperforming medical center.

"[Montefiore] has made an investment in the community," said Garcia of East 233rd Street. "But then MPC has also made an investment in working with a community board, the local elected officials. When I say community, I mean everyone."

MPC's Board of Directors includes Doris Quinones, the community relations director for Bronx House, who

praised the work of the nonprofit. "Many more small businesses and residents will benefit from upcoming projects in MPC's economic blueprint and its increasing role in helping the retailers near Montefiore Wakefield Campus reach their full potential too," said Quinones.

Though it's expanded greatly, MPC's main focus does remain Norwood. Over the summer, MPC released a report detailing the economic potential for 17 blocks on Webster Avenue between 195th Street and East Gun Hill Road. The thoroughfare, home to residential properties and mechanic shops, was rezoned in 2009 to make way for more stores and properties. The report, analyzing the community's needs and wants, was inspired by the Webster Avenue Vision Plan drafted by the city Economic Development Corporation.

"The goal was to identify businesses that would be complementary to Webster Avenue, the vision of Community Board 7, elected officials and residents," said Marcia M. Cameron, MPC's deputy director.

Cameron, doubling as the executive director of the Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District, pushed for surveillance cameras throughout the

BID, adding an extra layer of protection for shoppers and residents.

Contributing to the MPC's hallmarks of economic development has been disseminating information through the *Norwood News*, a newspaper that reached its 25-year milestone. In December 2014, David Cruz completed his first year as editor-in-chief of the nonprofit newspaper, having revamped the design of the newspaper that has reported on critical stories and more over the years. Garcia recognized this year's redesign of the newspaper as a signature accomplishment.

"The newspaper plays a crucial role in how things get addressed in the community, bringing things to light, asking the proper questions," said Garcia, extending credit to Cruz over highlighting stories that included removal of benches on Mosholu Parkway, updates on the Kingsbridge Armory lawsuits and business trends on Jerome Avenue.

"It's the voice of the community," added Cameron.

"Exactly," said Garcia. "It's a major point of MPC, because it allows us to showcase the community development, the economic development, the quality of life issues, and all those things that MPC's mandated to do."



# INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



This week we asked readers their thoughts on the recent protests for NYPD reforms and what they think demonstrators are trying to achieve.



I think it's horrible. These [police officers] are innocent people. If you want to do it, do non-violent protests. I'm from India and the father of our nation, Mahatma Gandhi, got independence from non-violent protests. Like Martin Luther King, he followed the steps of Gandhi. The Justice Department is investigating and they will analyze what happened to Eric Garner and Michael Brown and will take whatever steps need to be taken.

**Mohammad Ziauddin**



I support the protests as long as they're peaceful and as long as it's to further their goal, not to take the law into their own hands, but to express their feelings as long as they do it in a peaceful manner. The way things are going now, I believe this campaign has been hijacked by a couple of guys who don't want them [the protesters] to get to where they really want to go.

**Kahalid Khan**



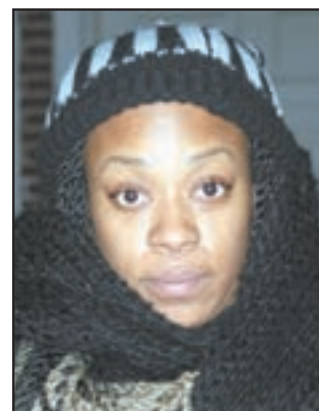
I believe that you have a right to do what you need to do when you see injustice, but that doesn't reflect the vastness of good men and women in law enforcement who get up every day and wear the uniform and shield and protect and serve our community.

**Kenny Agosto**



I hope the protesters can achieve what they want, what we all want--an end to violence against black men and all police brutality in general. They need to stop arguing with the cops and try and get the message across without the arguing. And stop calling these cops names. Understand this, every cop is not guilty for what happened to Eric Garner and Mike Brown.

**Jonathan Cain**



I'm hoping the protesters will bring awareness of what's happening across the nation and that will bring people, especially our elected officials, to start a conversation on how to fix this broken system because it's not working the way it is. The mayor has only sat down with one organization so far, and he needs to sit down with everyone.

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# Endless Construction at Bedford Pk. Building

By MICHAEL BROWN JR.

"Expected Occupancy Summer 2014," reads the sign at a Bedford Park building.

It's a five-story building at 174 E. 205th St. near the Grand Concourse, and is slated as the new offices for Woodlawn Medical Center Associations P.C., currently up the block at the Pickwick Arms at 3224 Grand Concourse.

And yet, despite signs indicating a summer grand opening, construction has largely stalled on the project. For now, tiny pockets of activity are seen. A black dust curtain hovers over the building, with renditions of the completed structure nailed to a green scaffolding. The completion has been dismissed by neighbors, shrugging it off as part of the neighborhood landscape, though resident Imani Walker has kept a keen eye over the standstill.

"It hasn't been much progress," said Walker, who's observed the building so often that she has gotten used to its appearance. "I haven't heard any thoughts on it, any complaints really. It's just like a norm, I see this every day." She recalled seeing the first waves of



Photo by Kasia Romanowska

**THIS BUILDING ON** East 205th Street in Bedford Park remains unfinished for the past several months.

construction, and the initial fervor--erecting the scaffolding and an 'under construction'--though activity barely lasted.

Sardy Realty LLC originally owned the property, with TD Bank later acquiring it. The bank sold it to Jaswinder Multani of Yash & B Construction Corporation who is currently

renting the lot to Woodlawn Medical Center. Neither representatives for the medical office responded to emails, phone calls and a visit to the office for an interview.

WMA runs out of an apartment building at Pickwick Arms fitted as a clinic, bringing to question why the company has allowed construction on

a much bigger space to stagnate for so long.

Lumbered construction has been seen in other parts of the neighborhood. At the corner of 206th Street and Rochambeau Avenue in Norwood, a few blocks from the 205th Street site, construction on a new Muslim community center has halted after funds dried.

Typically, if a building's progress has slowed considerably, then the city Buildings Department's Stalled Sites Unit investigates on whether the structure is deemed safe. Owners can opt to be placed in the Stalled Sites Program in exchange for renewal of their work permits.

A Buildings Department spokesman said there are no open complaints or violations for the site, but said, the parcel owner still has responsibility for what is going on at the property.

"They must maintain [a project], and ensure that it is secure," said the spokesman. "The failure to do so can result in violations being issued by DOB, and certain forms of violations can have substantial monetary penalties."

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# SPECIAL REPORT:

## State of Heroin in the Bronx (Part 3)

By DAVID CRUZ

Though the Bronx encompasses an older demographic of heroin users at its core, the borough still faces a new class of addicts—a wave of immigrants arriving from Central and South America with little to no exposure to English. This poses a problem as tips on how to properly use without overdosing are ultimately lost in translation, raising the potential for an overdose, according to Debra Vizzi, executive director of VIP Services, a drug rehab clinic.

“The directions of, ‘take more, take less, do this, do that’ can get confusing,” said Vizzi. “We’ve seen a lot of our patients here who say, ‘I didn’t understand.’”

It’s a contributing factor, Vizzi suspects, to why it’s mostly Hispanics who are prone to overdosing.

In other instances, a father, mother, sister or brother may be the first to introduce heroin to their family member. Experience on the drug is often enough to convince their family member to

dabble with heroin simply because it’s cheaper than most drugs and will produce a longer high.

Hispanics are especially susceptible. With strong family bonds, Hispanics turn to drugs simply because the family is turned on.

It happened to Janet Camacho, an employee at VIP. A Mott Haven resident, Camacho began using drugs at age 12 after hanging with her sister and older friends. By the time she was in her 20s, nothing mattered to her.

“Nothing became important to me,” said Camacho. “Not my children, not my home, not my parents. I robbed and stole. If you were the drug dealer in the neighborhood that had the money, I would hang out with you.”

Years of addiction resulted in Santeria rituals in attempts to rid the drugs, the murder of her son, her children placed into foster care, a tenure at a paramilitary school to scare her straight, and finally recovery through Narcotics Anonymous. Camacho ad-

mitted that recovery is for the rest of one’s life and a support system is critical. This is especially needed when the recovering addict returns to the environment that got them hooked in the first place.

“I still live in the community where I used at, and I still see people using drugs that I used drugs with 23 years ago,” said Camacho, who adds that family members respect her sobriety by not drinking alcohol in front of her.

### Preventive Measures Lost

In tackling heroin use, experts have found clinics, Bronx Treatment Court and law enforcement agencies working in a vacuum and running in circles.

“There’s no integration model,” said Vizzi, adding that a treatment component is not found in a court setting. Should there be, it would bring rehab to the addict and not the other way around as it currently stands.

“We’ll be conjoined with them in providing all of their drug treatment, instead of them going to the courts and getting mandated to a hundred other agencies,” said Vizzi. “But it doesn’t work that way in reality.”

The experience leaves the user discouraged in navigating a bureaucratic system, particularly those with poor education.

In some cases, prevention strategies have been downgraded to nearly nothing, though the Cuomo Administration has tried to reverse that by introducing anti-drug campaigns in CUNY and

SUNY schools. That’s not happening in the public school system, with the same message hovering past the older heroin user in the Bronx.

“There’s substantially fewer counselors and fewer prevention specialists in the New York City schools right now than there were 20 years ago,” said John Coppola, the executive director of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Providers Inc.

The preventive strategy can likely save the federal government nearly \$200 billion—the cost of fighting the war on drugs, according to a 2007 study from the Office of National Drug Control Policy. Monies typically go toward treatment and incarceration.

With the Affordable Care Act in effect, Medicaid expansion will open more doors for users seeking treatment, a boon to the Bronx, where at least 29 percent of the population can apply for Medicaid.

But even if treatment is possible, with Medicaid often covering the costs for low-income Bronxites, those with private insurance could be at a loss since many policies allow for 28-day inpatient treatment. Vizzi notes that if an inpatient’s 28 days expire, they still have to leave since insurance has expired.

“So we have to discharge you knowing full well that you may be sleeping on a bench and that could trigger a relapse,” said Vizzi. “So it’s like a never ending cycle.”

**Editor’s Note:** This is the final article of a three-part series.

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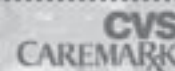
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- Find out if using a lubricant that contains a natural compound can protect against HPV infection
- Find out if the lubricant is well tolerated
- If you are pregnant, breastfeeding, or have significant medical disease, you may not participate

#### 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](mailto:StopHPV@montefiore.org).

**Montefiore Einstein**  
Center for Cancer Care  
[www.montefiore.org/hpv-clinical-trial](http://www.montefiore.org/hpv-clinical-trial)



## Assemblyman Michael Blake Reports for Duty



Photo by David Cruz

**HE'S BEEN WAITING** for this moment for some time. Assemblyman Michael Blake, poring over his phone at Symphony Diner in Melrose, took office on Dec. 15. His rise as Assemblyman for the 79th Assembly District came two weeks early following a heavily crowded race for the seat in early 2014. Blake succeeds disgraced Assemblyman Eric Stevenson, convicted of taking bribes. Read a full story on Blake's plans on [www.norwoodnews.org](http://www.norwoodnews.org)

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## WE TEACH OUR STUDENTS TO GO AFTER GOALS.

(when it came to a National Title in soccer, they took us literally)

Set a goal, work hard and achieve it. That's what we teach here at Monroe. This past November, within 24 hours of each other, both the men's and women's soccer teams did exactly that...both teams advanced to the NJCAA finals. And then the women's soccer team clinched its first ever NJCAA National Championship! President Stephen Jerome and the entire Monroe College community congratulate both teams! Go Mustangs!

**MONROE  
COLLEGE**



# Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

## EDITOR'S PICK

### Free Music at NYPL

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents **Doo Wop** featuring the New York Exceptions performing music from the '50s, '60s and '70s, Dec. 27; and **Madame Butterfly**, performed by the New York Opera Forum, Jan. 3; both at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org).

The Mosholu Library, 285 E. 205th St., offers **Music by Josué Pagán**, performing classical guitar, Jan. 3 at 2:30 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**: Create Your Year – Hello 2015!, to make a hanging calendar, Dec. 27 and 28; and Flip Through the Seasons, to make a nature flip book, Jan. 3 and 4; both in WH House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Grounds admission is free until noon Saturdays and Tuesdays all year. For more information and a schedule of events including tours and walks, call (718) 549-3200.

• NYC Parks Department hosts **Treecycle at MulchFest**, Jan. 10 and 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at citywide locations. Remove lights and decorations and bring your tree for recycling Jan. 3 to 11. Patrons may have free mulch available at each chipping site with free bags provided. For more information and a list of sites, visit [www.nycgovparks.org/highlights/festivals/mulchfest](http://www.nycgovparks.org/highlights/festivals/mulchfest).

## Holiday Events

• The Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse (165th Street), features its **Holiday Pop-Up Shop**, through Jan. 15, 2015, featuring accessories, home goods, handbags, and more for the season. For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

• New York Botanical Garden holds its **Holiday Train Show** through Jan. 19 which includes over 20 large-scale model railway trains and trolleys traversing nearly a quarter-mile of track, and hands-on activities

for children; **Holiday A Cappella**, Saturdays and Sundays at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. through Jan. 18; and **All Aboard With Thomas & Friends**, to join a sing-along mini performance adventure (bring camera for photo ops), Jan. 3 to 25. For more information and a schedule, 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.

## 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), Jan. 8; **Toddler Play Time at noon**: (ages 18 to 36 months), Jan. 8; and **Penguin Making**: (ages 7 to 12), hands-on projects, Jan. 8 at 4 p.m. For teens/young adults, there is **Music and Math Educational Concert**: includes hands-on activities, Jan. 8 at 4 p.m.; and **film**: Dec. 29 at 5 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org).

• The Mosholu Library, 285 E. 205th St., offers for children: **Story Time at 4 p.m.** (ages 4+), Dec. 29. Adults can enjoy **Computer Lab**: Jan. 7 at 10:30 a.m. (in-person or phone registration required); **Jewelry Club**: bring your own materials to create original jewelry, Jan. 8 at 11 a.m.; and **Knitting Circle**: Thursdays at 3 p.m.

The entire family can attend **film**: “If I Stay,” Dec. 27 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: **Film**: Dec. 26 at 3 p.m.; and **Kids Get Active**: Dance and zumba, Jan. 9 at 4 p.m.; (both for ages 5 to 12); and **Toddler Time at 11 a.m.**: (for ages 18 to 36 months), stories, songs, and finger plays, Dec. 31. Adults can attend: **Computer Basics**

**Open Lab at noon**: Dec. 30. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

**NOTE**: Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to [norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org](mailto:norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org), and should be received by Dec. 29 for the next publication date of Jan. 8.

**A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS!**

## NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

### Williamsbridge Oval Classes

The Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center holds a variety of exercise classes, game room time, and computer classes for children, teens and adults. For more information, call (718) 543-8672.

### BP Seeks CB Applicants

The Borough President's office is currently accepting applications for membership to local Community Boards. The submission deadline is Feb. 6, 2015. For more information, call (718) 590-3914 or visit [www.bronxboropres.nyc.gov](http://www.bronxboropres.nyc.gov).

### MMCC Programs for Children

The Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, 3450 DeKalb Ave., offers a variety of winter classes for children including the arts, fitness and education. In person registration will be held on Jan. 3 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 882-4000 or visit [www.mmcc.org](http://www.mmcc.org).

### Parking Calendars

Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz offers copies of the NYC 2015 Parking Calendar to residents at his district office, 3107 Kingsbridge Ave. For more information, call

(718) 796-5345.

### Services for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

The PSS/WSF Grandparent Family Apartments (GFA), which provides supportive housing for grandparents raising their grandchildren, offers various services for caregivers, including support groups and counseling, and for children, including after school programs, recreational activities, tutoring, and summer day camp, through its PSS Kinship Caregivers Program. For more information, call (718) 620-1262 or visit [www.pssusa.org](http://www.pssusa.org).

### No Holiday Recycling

The Department of Sanitation will not make garbage or recycling pickups or street cleaning on Christmas Day, Dec. 25 or New Year's Day on Jan. 1. Residents should place their materials at curbside on Jan. 1 after 4 p.m. for collection on Jan. 2. For more information, visit [www.nyc.gov/sanitation](http://www.nyc.gov/sanitation).

To submit news, email [dcruz@norwoodnews.org](mailto:dcruz@norwoodnews.org), subject line “Neighborhood Notes.”



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# Norwood News Year in Review

(continued from page 1)

alone.

Parker recently filed another lawsuit in Bronx Supreme Court on Dec. 15 charging that Richter and Wignell are holding privileged information they ultimately used to sabotage and assume control of the project. Parker is seeking at least \$30 million in compensatory and punitive damages.

The legal infighting caused the Kingsbridge Road Merchants Association to lose out on a \$5,000 contribution by KNIC for the merchant group's Unity in the Community street festival this past June to promote the area's businesses.

In late summer, shopkeepers near the massive Armory also faced a rent increase as a result of the ice project. The new owner eventually scaled back the rate, which amounted to nearly double of what merchants were paying. One business owner would later move.

## Supportive Housing

Fears over a swell of supportive housing projects along the re-zoned Webster Avenue corridor were finally quelled this year following the release

of rent listings for 2979, 2985, and 2999 Webster Ave. The lists indicate that developers, The Stag Group, a family-owned development firm, will indeed open a mixed-use apartment complex that caters to working and middle class tenants, squashing worries the group would build supportive housing.

The project is the first built following major rezoning in 2009, which requires new buildings along the corridor to include storefronts. The building is deemed a 421a site, requiring the developer reserve 20 percent of its apartments for affordable housing to qualify for city tax breaks.

A total of 122 apartment units are available—97 for market-rate units and 25 for affordable housing units. Over 22,000 people have applied for affordable housing through a lottery system.

The maximum market rate monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment will run \$1,700 for a family of four. Studios and one-bedroom apartments run \$1,250 and \$1,500 respectively, with the same amenities.

In University Heights, Praxis Housing Initiatives laid out their plans for a supportive/affordable housing devel-

opment at 2270 Loring Pl. for homeless HIV/AIDS residents with possible chemical dependency.

At their February meeting, Community Board 7 members expressed shock over the low number of units allotted for affordable apartments at 21 versus 59 for the supportive population. Praxis later changed the allotment to 32 affordable units and 48 for supportive.

On Marion Avenue in Bedford Park, a 100-unit supportive housing/affordable housing site for homeless residents was announced. At the tip of Fordham, the Bowery Residents Committee announced plans to build a rare affordable housing/homeless shelter.

## Political Races

The race to unseat an incumbent played a large role during the primaries, with several races that kept politicians on the edge of their seats.

In his battle against incumbent State Sen. Gustavo Rivera for the 33rd Senate race, challenger Fernando Cabrera, Councilman for the 14th District ultimately lost, garnering 36 percent of the vote against Rivera's 55 percent. Cabrera still holds the Councilman seat for the

14th District, covering Fordham, Kingsbridge Heights, University Heights and Mount Hope.

In the 34th Senate District race, State Senator Jeff Klein emerged victorious over challenger Oliver Koppell, who had retired from 40 years in politics before launching a bid against Klein. Money and power played a major role in the race for the 34th Senate District, which covers Morris Park, Throggs Neck, Hunts Point, Pelham Parkway a sliver of Bedford Park and Riverdale.

On the federal level, Congressman Charles Rangel, who represents a sliver of the northwest Bronx, won out against State Sen. Adriano Espaillat in a second bid against the storied legislator.

One of the more surprising races happened in the 86th Assembly District Democratic primary between incumbent Victor Pichardo and challenger Hector Ramirez. A count of all paper ballots resulted in a mere two-vote win of 1,888 votes for Pichardo to Ramirez's 1,886 votes.

As we close 2014, the *Norwood News* is looking forward to 2015 and the many twists and turns the year will likely bring.

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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  
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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

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