

NORWOOD NEWS

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STAGG BUYS MORE WEBSTER AVE. SITES

Property owner makes its second major purchase along desirable corridor



Photo by David Cruz

THIS VACANT PROPERTY on Webster Avenue was recently purchased by The Stagg Group, making it the second purchase along the corridor by the large-scale development firm.

By DAVID CRUZ

The large-scale developer building up Webster Avenue has purchased another chunk of property along the burgeoning corridor.

This time, The Stagg Group, a family-owned housing developer, purchased three sites at 3084 Webster Ave. and 410-414 E. 203rd St.

for \$4.1 million. The two adjoining properties are found at a dead end street off Webster Avenue. It's unclear what the property will be converted into.

According to Ariel Property Advisors, which sold the site to The Stagg Group, the combined sites allows for 93,000 buildable square

feet for as of right housing and roughly 124,000 buildable square feet with inclusionary housing. The Stagg Group purchased the property in mid-December, according to Ariel Property's website. Titan Capital ID, a private lender, loaned The Stagg Group \$2.9 million to buy the property. A vacant

lot and abandoned auto mechanic shop currently occupy the sites.

"I'm glad to see somebody's investing in the area as long as they're not investing in supportive housing," said Jean Hill, committee chair for Community Board 7's Housing/Land Use com-

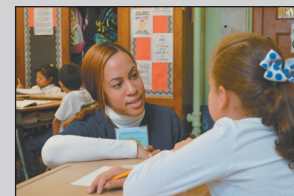
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The Loophole Behind the Right to Know Bill

Back in November, when public sentiments for the NYPD further eroded following a summer of high-profile police-involved incidents around the country, the New York City Council proposed a bill that would add another layer of double-sided red tape for rank and file officers. Intro No. 541, or the Right to Know Law, proposes that officers ask a suspect's permission whether they can be searched during a routine police stop, as per the Fourth Amendment. The consent must be documented via recording or written statement.

Twenty-four of the Council's 51 members have backed the bill, including Bronx Council Members Andy King, Annabel Palma and Ritchie Torres. They're the only Bronx legislators to publicly support the bill intended to curb the number of arrests where police officers demand suspects empty out their pockets. Torres has particularly advocated for the bill, arguing it secures a person's constitutional right to privacy.

The law, if enacted, is triggered only if there is no reasonable suspicion, or probable cause, to be searched. It does not trump an officer's right to a search during a stop, question and frisk encounter so long as that reasonable suspicion, which could range from just a hunch to their life being threatened, is established.

But in evaluating the premise of Right to Know, it seems a

legal loophole is established, despite there being heavy legal justification under the Fourteenth Amendment. And it all comes down to reasonable suspicion, a broad legal standard subject to major interpretation and ambiguity. Police officers can work around the measure by swearing they had reasonable suspicion their life was in danger, which effectively trumps any law.

One simple example could be the routine stop. If a person is walking along the street and is asked by a police officer whether they will allow themselves to be searched, they can say no. But by denying an officer the right to be searched, it rises to a level where an officer can declare there was reasonable suspicion (i.e. unclear whether the alleged suspect is concealing a knife or small pistol) to frisk and search him. After all, anything can be a weapon. That exchange will likely hold in court, especially since it's oftentimes an officer's word against a suspect's.

Still, one clear result from this measure could be the bureaucratization of any street stop, producing a chilling effect on police work. Should police be forced to record or get in writing a person's consent to a search, it could force officers to second guess whether that stop will impose the headache of extra paperwork and scrutiny.

The bill was proposed before public opinion of the NYPD shifted to neutral after the fatal

shootings of Brooklyn police officers Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos. Since then, the divisive rhetoric for extreme police reforms has leveled off, with many on the City Council wearing blue ribbons in support of police, a departure from when the Council seethed at the chance of changing the culture of policing last year.

Support for the law seems to be waning. In the first week of January, supporters of the bill told local media that more conversations are required on the bill. Reading between the lines, it seems even they may have been emotional when supporting this law in November.

Torres' stance on the proposed bill runs counter to his former boss, and now colleague, Councilman James Vacca, representing the east Bronx. His coverage area, mainly Throggs Neck, Morris Park, and Pelham Parkway, is very favorable to police officers. In an interview, Vacca said the Council should not be "policing the police."

Our prediction is the law will not pass, though just by a hair. Mayor Bill de Blasio, now trying to mend relationships with the NYPD, could likely veto the measure. But one conclusion could be a new wedge driven between City Council members wishing to progressively change NYPD tactics to preserve Constitutional rights and those looking to change it at a snail's pace.

Public and Community Meetings

THE 52ND PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL meets Jan. 22 at Montefiore Medical Center Cherkasky Auditorium, 111 E. 210th St. For more information, call (718) 220-5824.

COMMUNITY BOARD 7's Parks & Recreation committee meets Jan. 28 at 6:30 p.m. at the board office, 229A E. 204th St. For more information, call (718) 933-5650.

THE BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION meets at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. So., Apt. B1 (lobby floor) on Feb. 4 at 8 p.m. For more information, call (718) 367-2230.

Authorities Probe Death of New Jersey Man Found in Norwood

By **DAVID GREENE** and **DAVID CRUZ**

Police are on the hunt for a person of interest related to the death of a New Jersey man found within the borders of the 52nd Precinct on Jan. 15. The victim was later identified as Jordan Johnson.

Surveillance video shows a man leaving a black 2013 BMW in the early hours of Jan. 14. The man, wearing a light blue winter coat, rushed quickly within the frame, then clinched his hood enough to conceal his identity. Johnson was found in the trunk of that same BMW hours later. The Medical Examiner's Office ruled he was strangled.

The vehicle was parked next to the Woodlawn Cemetery gates along East 211th Street, between Tryon Avenue and Kings College Place in Norwood. Residents of the quiet and secluded block that overlooks the southern end of the cemetery and P.S. 94 were in disbelief. One resident who declined to give his name, recalled, "Nothing like this ever happens over here. It's fairly quiet. I'm surprised."

Johnson was reported missing by his girlfriend on Jan. 13. Johnson lived in Fort Lee, New Jersey,



Video still courtesy NYPD

SURVEILLANCE VIDEO CAPTURES a person of interest related to the death of a Fort Lee, New Jersey man found in the trunk of a 2013 black BMW.

a half hour drive from Norwood. Police sources say Johnson's girlfriend received a text message from Johnson's cell phone to meet him in

Harlem the night before and claimed when she returned, the apartment was ransacked and a large amount of cash and jewels were missing. Police

sources also say Johnson was known to have family in the north Bronx.

Johnson's vehicle was tracked by the recently deployed automated license plate scanner, when police opened the trunk and discovered his body.

The investigation is being handled by detectives from Fort Lee and the Bergen County Prosecutor's office, who are being assisted by the NYPD.

As police shut down the streets for more than five hours, sources said authorities in Fort Lee returned to the man's home at the Carriage House at 1275 15th St.

Several published reports, citing an unnamed police source, said officials were looking into the possibility that Johnson was involved in an identity theft ring.

The Fort Lee Police Department would not say if Johnson had a criminal background.

At this time it appears that Johnson was likely killed at another location and dumped in Norwood. If determined he was killed on East 211th Street, this would be the 52nd Precinct's first homicide of 2015.



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INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE

This week we asked readers how important free speech is to a society in light of the terror attack of a satirical magazine in Paris.



I feel that they tried to assassinate the character of (the Prophet) Muhammad and the people that did it, I don't think they were Muslims, so they're judging Muslims according to other religious groups. I think the press handled it well, because they only went on what they heard. As far as the brutality, I think we all have to come together as one. I think a lot of writers are in fear of their publishers and what's really happening out here today because of politics.

William Troupe
Norwood



The importance of the media? That's where people get their information. We don't have firsthand knowledge of anything. We rely on sources and unfortunately the media tends to play up the extremes and they don't necessarily give two sides to everything, which is really important to think things through and not just jump to immediate conclusions. So it's really important, and I would ask the people to not just depend on one source for information.

Myra Goggins
Pelham Parkway



It's really very tragic. We are very upset what happened and it has to be stopped, this kind of terrorism. The media is very important to everybody. It's just really a very tragic moment that happened. I saw the rally in France where people came from everywhere, leaders. The media has to tell every person what's going on. Whoever has the opportunity or who has the responsibility, they have to go on and stop these things killing innocent people.

George Dedzukaj
Belmont



The media is very, very important in explaining the truth, but it seems like the media today is one-sided and leaning towards the right too much. But as far as what happened in France, that was an act of terrorism over there, but it affected the entire world. The media needs to get out there and speak the truth for peace, not make things worse to make money. I have a lot of respect for the media, but when the reporting is lopsided, I feel there's something wrong there.

Doug Murphy
Pelham Parkway



We need a media that's honest and just and who's giving everyone the proper information regarding different issues. Because of what happened they feel they are threatened to say whatever they think should be happening and it's like you have to learn how to hide the truth the way they want it to be. But in fact the media is very important because everybody is busy and we want to know the truth, so we're relying on the media...for the proper information, so we can make proper decisions when it comes to decision making in our lives.

Analiza Benjamin
Westchester Square

Editor's Note: Have an idea for an Inquiring Photographer question? Send suggestions to dcruz@norwoodnews.org.

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Taking Up Space, Illegal Vendors Narrow JGH-BID Sidewalks

By KIMBERLY C. JACOBS

As one of the busiest shopping corridors in the Bronx, the Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District in Norwood is an attractive area for vendors, both licensed and unlicensed, to set up pop-up businesses on the sidewalk.

But with tables and kiosks spread about already narrow sidewalks on Jerome Avenue, strolling along portions of the BID has become somewhat of a crawl. It's a reason why the BID's executive director Marcia Cameron, with the help of the police, intends to root out illegal vendors who are taking up space. "[You] have the merchants on one side putting out their wares and on the opposite side the vendors have their tables out and the space that you have to walk through becomes even narrower," she said.

The tight streets leave shoppers with little wiggle room, forced to squeeze between vendors hawking their wares and brick and mortar stores just making a living. Their displays push against merchan-



Photo by Adi Talwar

MARCIA CAMERON (RIGHT), BID executive director, chats with a licensed vendor along the Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District. Cameron faces the constant threat of illegal vendors settling along the Norwood business strip, which she says steers business away from brick and mortar stores.

dise put out by brick and mortar establishments.

Although it doesn't always af-

fect merchants' clientele, the cluttering of the sidewalk is annoying, said Michael Hafter, store manager at Drug Rite. "I wouldn't say it's a hazard, but it makes walking on the sidewalk uncomfortable," he said. "Sometimes they [the vendors] are very, very close to the entrance of the store."

The BID has indeed accepted legal vendors to set up shop, so long as it has obtained the proper permits from the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs. But spotting illegal vendors is a tough balance since it requires approaching each and every vendor to check their license.

Residents can "stop shopping from [illegal vendors]," said Cameron, but it may be difficult to spot one unless you ask to see their license.

The BID has begun to seek ways to address this issue since November. There was a meeting held at Community Board 7 hosted by the BID to look into the problem further. The meeting was attended by the New York City Department of Health, 52nd Precinct, and Consumer Affairs, which gathered to examine the situation.

The agencies will also look into conducting a walkthrough to educate legal vendors on how to properly clear the sidewalks for pedes-

trians.

The NYPD and FDNY are aware of this issue, but no conversations have been held with the FDNY about the issue separately. 52nd Precinct Inspector Nilda Hofmann is helping Cameron in the efforts by assigning officers to routinely patrol the BID.

Enforcing the rules will help with safety while Cameron and Dustin Engelken, Community Board 7's district manager, work towards finding a lasting solution. "At the end of the day, these rules were put in place to keep people safe and we need to hold people accountable for that," said Engelken.

"God forbid we ever had an event along the BID area like say a fire where we had a lot of people trying to get out of the way of danger. They're obviously not going to be able to do that if the sidewalk is all cluttered and unpassable," said Engelken. "Hopefully, we never have to deal with a situation like that, but if it ever happens it's important that we're prepared."

When asked if a sidewalk extension was possible Engelken said, "It's something we've talked about, but I think it's going be hard to do because of the elevated train tracks and it lessens parking spaces."

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BUSINESS BEAT



Bolstering the Once Sleepy BID in Kingsbridge

By DAVID CRUZ

At an upstairs office just below a mechanic shop on Broadway, Katherine Broihier looks ahead. The yearly calendar out of the way, Broihier's focus turns to a light fixture project for Broadway. The project, one of many for 2015, will likely be accomplished by her and her alone.

So has been the case for Broihier, serving as the executive director, and surprisingly its lone employee, of the Kingsbridge BID. The commercial district abuts the Major Deegan Expressway, spread underneath the number 1 elevated subway train, earning the phrase, "It's All Under the Bridge."

Until recently, the once sleepy BID is now experiencing a jolt of energy, creating a type of renaissance not seen since the BID was first signed into law in mid-2001.

In the space of 13 years, the Kingsbridge BID has shifted from a dormant business corridor to

one where retail space has maxed out. The L-shaped BID runs from Broadway between West 230th and West 236th streets and West 231st Street between Corlear Avenue and the Bailey Avenue entrance to the Major Deegan Expressway, occupying nearly 200 services. There, shoppers can find longtime mainstays peppered with newly opened establishments.

Some of those familiar businesses include Williams Funeral Home (its owner helms as BID chairman), Robert E. Hill Real Estate (Gary Moore was its first chairman) and Aaron Plum Insurance, which have all done business in the BID for at least 50 years.

Those establishments line up alongside the new Broadway Plaza strip mall, the BID's newest amenity. Location appears entrenched in its marketing. Many use the word Broadway as a default phrase when naming their stores.

These days, demand for space



Photo by David Cruz

KATHERINE BROIHIER, the long serving executive director of the Kingsbridge Business Improvement District, is arguably the strip's biggest booster.

within the BID is high, according to Broihier. The property that once occupied Loehmann's clothing store, a neighborhood staple since 1920 until its closure last year, will now house a self-storage facility. Meantime, a seven-story building will replace the recently closed Stack's Tavern, a veteran Irish bar.

In many instances, inquiring property owners are often disappointed to learn an empty storefront is indeed taken. "There're no vacancies," said Broihier. "I know other BIDs that they create on their website, 'we have vacancies, call this number. Call us.' I don't bother."

A portion of the BID's success is due to economic activity happening in its outskirts. At 225th Street and Broadway, just grazing the BID, thousands of shoppers frequent the Target mall, which opened 10 years ago.

"When the Target development started, other developers started looking at us because that's one of the most successful Targets around," said Broihier. "Don't even think about going there on the weekends. It's insane."

And as buzz for Target grew, business in the BID still laid dor-

mant. Still, it proved advantageous for Broihier. In her first years, she focused on beautifying the area, as most BID missions go.

"When I first came here, the first thing from the board was clean up the streets," said Broihier, remembering when her list of graffiti hotspots was a page and a half long. Graffiti removal crews routinely, and stubbornly, erased tags from the neighborhood, realizing taggers often move on if their work is gone. The tactic has proven useful for Broihier, whose page and a half list has shrunk. "Now I'm lucky if I have 10 spots or less."

The free time has also allowed Broihier to compile data on the business corridor. Obsessed with tracking property values, Broihier regularly does the math on the price of property, where a portion of it goes towards the BID's yearly budget. She's estimated that rates have risen to 43 percent in the last decade. The figure could be seen as a testament to the attractiveness of the BID.

"There's enough commercial area here, it's a safe area, it looks presentable and developers have just inundated the area," said Broihier. "There's a lot of changes going on."

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Detective Begins and Ends Career at the 5-2

By DAVID CRUZ

Detective Kathleen O'Sullivan punched in at the 52nd Precinct on Jan. 13. The same day, she punched out as a detective for the last time.

After 22 years, O'Sullivan entered retirement, bidding adieu to the NYPD. This was not before pulling an afternoon shift complete with a send-off full of well-wishers from fellow officers, family, and a special visit from her former commanding officer, Deputy Inspector Joseph Dowling. Oh yes, and she still performed basic duties.

"It was sad leaving, but I left on a good note," said O'Sullivan in a phone interview from her Yonkers home. "Everybody tells you that you'll know when it's time. And I knew it was my time."

More uniquely, O'Sullivan invested her entire 22-year career in law enforcement at the Norwood stationhouse, a rare feat unlike the often peripatetic careers of her blue brothers and sisters. Such exclusivity made her an institutional savant, cataloging crime trends that gave the Five-Two the upper hand in collaring suspects.

"To the last day she was telling me



Photo by Adi Talwar

RETIRING DETECTIVE KATHLEEN O'SULLIVAN shares a moment with her supervisor Sergeant Michael Burke on her last day on the job at the 52nd Precinct.

about patterns in the 52nd Precinct. That's dedication," recalled the precinct's commanding officer Inspector Nilda Hofmann.

O'Sullivan's relationship with the precinct began in 1991 as an NYPD cadet, while attending Iona College. A rookie in 1993, she was assigned to

the Five-Two, patrolling the streets and serving the Community Policing Unit. After training fellow officers and working in Special Ops, O'Sullivan moved on to detective specialist, later bumped to the Detective Squad. She kept one foot in the Five-Two and another in the Squad, serv-

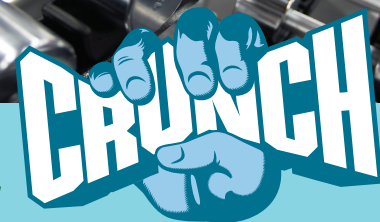
ing as a go-between and assisting in a variety of cases.

O'Sullivan was the stationhouse Sherlock Holmes, whose dogged detective skills and sharp eyes enabled her to spot the slightest trademark of any wanted felon with whom she came across before. It also helped that she was deftly computer savvy, a benefit in an age where social media is frequently adopted by lawbreakers.

Her skills were so refined that she would know what an alleged criminal "had for breakfast this morning," after running a background check, according to Sergeant Michael Burke, O'Sullivan's supervisor. Burke, who walked O'Sullivan out of the precinct on her last day, admired her friendship best. "[She's] a pleasure to have supervised and worked with and even more of a pleasure to have become her friend," he said.

O'Sullivan leaves the job blemish-free and with several commendations. She admits the adjustment to regular civilian life will take time, though she's looking forward to spending the latter part of her life coaching track and field, and spending time with her family.

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SCHOOL BRIEFS

P.S. 94 Top of the Class With Family Involvement Program

PS 94 Kings College School in Norwood is rising to the challenge set by New York City Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña by engaging students' families in creative new ways.

Over the last couple of months, school Principal Diane Daprocida incorporated a Newcomers Academy to acclimate its new immigrant families, and a Parent Think Tank to bolster school-family relationships.

"Effective family involvement is a vital component of success," said Daprocida. "It is my job to work out what will get the parents through the doors, which means being willing to listen to ideas and advice and to take risks."

PS 94 emphasizes family involvement to support student success, working for seven years with Learning Leaders, an experienced family engagement Manhattan-based non-profit, implementing successful family volunteer and parent information workshop programs.

The school is comprised mostly of

working families, 30 percent of whom are non-English-speaking and includes a large proportion of newly arrived immigrant families from Spanish-speaking countries, and countries in Asia and Africa.

The new initiatives are expected to ease assimilation for new families, improve communications between home and school, and increase opportunities for parents to participate.

The Newcomers Academy consists of a core group of teachers, parents and students, who meet with new immigrant families weekly to offer a consistent support network. The children are paired with a buddy from the same grade to help them navigate the system and spend time reading together. Parents and teachers help to translate and provide support and information based on the new families' needs.

The Parent Think Tank teachers and Learning Leaders parents meet monthly to identify the barriers to family engagement and discuss how to



Photo courtesy Learning Leaders

A PARENT VOLUNTEER with Learning Leaders offers writing tips to this student from P.S. 94 in Norwood.

build relationships, trust and encourage new families to be more involved with the school.

To fit these activities into the school day, PS 94 uses the 40 minutes each Tuesday that were allotted for family engagement within the new teachers union contract of 2014.

Currently, nearly 20 Learning Leaders parent volunteers help in the classrooms and in the school library and act as translators for new families, in Spanish, Arabic and Bengali. Learning Leaders also runs parent in-

formation workshops on topics including Common Core, homework help and transition to middle school. Fifteen sessions are planned this coming year, based on parent feedback about what they would find most helpful to learn.

"[Ms. Daprocida] has a great rapport with the parents and is constantly coming up with creative ideas to improve the school community and support the children's learning," said Jane Heaphy, executive director of Learning Leaders.

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Number of people living with HIV/
AIDS in the Bronx in 2012
(Source: New York City
Department of Health)

Vital
Stats

New DOH Campaign Spotlights HIV/AIDS Treatment

By DAVID CRUZ

Although a newly-evolved method used in preventing the spread of HIV and AIDS is available to the public, its success and effectiveness has largely gone unnoticed throughout the city.

Awareness and usage of pre-exposure prophylaxis and post exposure prophylaxis (PrEP and PEP), retroviral drug treatments where one prevents the spread of HIV while the other contains it, remains low among men who have sex with men, according to a survey by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The survey found that of the 500 men who have sex with men surveyed, 59 percent did not know about PrEP while half the men questioned did not know about PEP.

It's this reason why the health agency launched PrEP & PEP: New Ways to Prevent HIV, a campaign blitz intended to introduce the treatment option to 600 primary care doctors.

A major part of the campaign involves changing the tone in discussing HIV and AIDS, a conversation often marred with stigma, according to Dr. Demetre Daskalakis, assistant commissioner for DOH. This happens mainly among men who have sex with men and the LGBT community, according to the doctor.

"They're not comfortable talking about their lives," said Daskalakis, who offered details on the campaign at a news conference at Montefiore Medical Center's AIDS Center. "What we need to do is teach people to talk about risk 'cause when it's identified you can teach people how to modify their behavior, how to use condoms and other barrier protections. And if that's not enough we can teach them to use PrEP and PEP without judging their behavior."

Montefiore's AIDS center, found at Reservoir Oval, treats roughly 2000 HIV/AIDS patients yearly and conducts 10,000 screenings yearly. Dr. Barry S. Zingman, the center's medical director and author of more patient-friendly guidelines, said the hospital is backing the practice.

Borough President Ruben Diaz

Jr., in attendance at the news conference, also threw his support behind DOH's campaign. His office routinely encourages community based organizations to screen for HIV. He's also introduced Bronx Realness After Dark, an initiative where health workers stationed outside active nightclubs in areas with high HIV/AIDS rates, screen for the virus. The Bronx, number one borough to many deadly diseases, places third in the number of HIV/AIDS patients throughout the city, behind Brooklyn and Manhattan, which rank first and second respectively.

The strategy involves turning a doctor's office into a more HIV-sensitive environment. The goal is to open up a dialogue on the benefits of PrEP and PEP.

Helping to spread the message are so-called detailers, who will fan across 600 primary care and student health services to encourage them to consider adding PrEP and PEP treatments to their arsenal of medications that also include the use of condoms. A kit is provided, teaching doctors how they can implement the intervention medication. Medications are covered through Medicaid, private insurance and patient assistance programs for those living in poverty. Health officials recommend they consult with their doctor about payment options.

A health alert on updated guidelines to the PrEP and PEP approach was also transmitted to primary care doctors not expecting a visit from a detailer.

PrEP works as a pill against HIV. Non-infected patients are prescribed the pill, functioning as a temporary vaccine against HIV. PEP is intended for HIV-infected patients, who wish to contain the disease so it doesn't spread to their partner. The target audience for both is men having sex with men, according to Daskalakis.

Preventing HIV usually begins with a conversation, and treatment options, a goal Daskalakis hopes the campaign achieves. "Educated clinicians lead to educated patients," he said.



Photo by David Cruz

DR. DEMETRE DASKALAKIS, assistant commissioner for the New York City Health Department (l), joins Dr. Barry S. Zingman, medical director for Montefiore Medical Center's AIDS Center (c), and Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. (r) in announcing an awareness campaign on available treatments for HIV/AIDS.

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Riverdale Neighborhood House (RNH), a settlement house in the northwest Bronx, provides human services, pioneering programs and a broad spectrum of educational and community resources to children, teens, seniors and families. The RNH Teen Program is accepting applications for a part-time Recreation Program Coordinator who will function as a key staff member of the Teen Program. Responsibilities will include but not be limited to: Coordinating, developing and implementing all recreational programs and activities for youth age 13 to 18, assist Executive Director and Deputy Director of Youth Services with program development and evaluation, assist Deputy Director of Youth Services with monitoring and documenting public and private contract requirements, and provide youth with guidance and support, and when necessary, appropriate referral and follow-up. Resumes and/or request for further information can be emailed to nnunez@riverdaleonline.org.

TRIP

Mount Airy Casino: Poconos, Pennsylvania. Sunday, Jan. 25. Depart from East 163rd Street and Southern Boulevard, Bronx, at 9 a.m. For more information, please contact Eddie at (718) 757-5485.

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NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

Donate Blood

St. Brendan's Church will host its annual Day After the Super Bowl Blood Drive on Feb. 8 at the St. Brendan's School cafeteria, 268 E. 207th St. from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 881-5313.

Clothing Drive

Winter clothes are needed for victims of a fire at 3971 Gouverneur Ave. Jackets, sweaters, hats, scarves, gloves, and other basic necessities are needed. Items can be dropped off through Jan. 28 at three locations: Community Board 8, 5676 Riverdale Ave., Suite 100; 50th Precinct, 3450 Kingsbridge Ave.; and Engine 81, 3025 Bailey Ave. For more information, call the office of Councilman Andrew Cohen at (718) 549-7300.

Homeowners Forum

City Council Member Andy King will host a Homeowners Fo-

rum on Jan. 28 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Community Board 12, 4101 White Plains Rd. Information will be given on foreclosures, taxes, home repair, loans, and more. For more information and to RSVP, call (718) 684-5509.

Financial Workshop

University Neighborhood Housing Program will host free Getting Ahead Financial Education Workshops for five consecutive Thursdays, Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19 and 26 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Concourse House, 2751 Grand Concourse. Topics include handling wage garnishments, debt collectors, credit cards, and student loans. For more information and to RSVP, call (718) 933-2539.

NYC ID Card

New York City residents can apply for a free NYC government issued identification card, which entitles the recipient to city ser-

vices and free access for one year to cultural institutions such as The Bronx Zoo, the Bronx County Historical Society, Bronx Museum of the Arts, The New York Botanical Garden and Wave Hill. For more information on how to apply and to find the nearest enrollment center, call 311 or go to www1.nyc.gov/site/idnyc/card/how-to-apply.page.

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. For more information, call (718) 590-3914 or visit www.bronxboropres.nyc.gov.

Community Grants

Citizens Committee for NYC awards micro-grants of up to \$3,000 to resident-led groups to work on community and school improvement projects. Groups in low-income neighborhoods and Title I

public schools are priority. Application deadline is Jan. 26. For more information, contact Tehmina Brohi at tbrohi@citizensnyc.org or (212) 822-9563.

Gjonaj Mobile Office

Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj's mobile office van is open each Wednesday from noon to 4 p.m. at the corner of East 204th Street and Bainbridge Avenue for constituents to voice community concerns. For more information, call (718) 409-0109.

Dog Therapy

Montefiore Hospital is recruiting and training therapy dog teams to comfort patients. Free 20-minute aptitude evaluations will take place on Feb. 10 at 6:30 p.m. Human and dog teams that qualify can enroll in the hospital's comprehensive training and preparation classes. For more information, call (718) 920-4943.

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Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

EDITOR'S PICK

Extend the Holidays at NYBG

The New York Botanical Garden invites the public to get in its last licks for this holiday season. Enjoy **All Aboard With Thomas & Friends** and join a sing-along mini performance adventure (bring camera for photo ops), through Jan. 25. For more information and a schedule, call (718) 817-8700.

Onstage

• Lehman Center, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **Rock & Roll Is Here to Stay: The Best of Doo Wop**, featuring classic oldies, Jan. 24 at 8 p.m. (tickets are \$45 to \$55). For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

• The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents **Sonido Costeño Trio In Concert**, performing Latin music, Jan. 31 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

Events

• Bronx Recreation's **4th Annual Winterfest** will be held at the Williamsbridge Oval, Jan. 31 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free activities include hockey, football, adventure games, arts and crafts, performers, giveaways and hot cocoa. Families can enter the **Recycled Snowman Contest** to create a snowman out of recycled materials. Prizes will be awarded. Entries should be dropped off at the Oval Jan. 28 to 30. Additional free Oval activities include fitness classes, children's activities, and family fun night to use game room. For more information, call (718) 543-8672.

• Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Arts Projects**: Our Family Story - A WH at 50 Anniversary Program, to make an album using fabric (bring family photos), Jan. 24 and 25; and Kaleidoscope Blues, to build a musical kaleidoscope, Jan. 31 and Feb. 1; both in WH House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also presented is **Concert: The Bohemian Trio** performing classical, Afro-Cuban, tango and jazz, Jan. 25 at 2 p.m. in • the WH House (online registration required at www.wavehill.org or at the Perkins

Visitor Center; \$28; \$15/ages 8 to 18; \$22/member; \$12/member child). 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.

• The public is invited to ride the free **Bronx Culture Trolley**, which transports visitors on the first Wednesday of every month (except January and September), to free Bronx hot spots. Trolley night starts with a 5 p.m. reception at the Longwood Art Gallery at Hostos Community College, 450 Grand Concourse (at 149th St.). From there, the trolley departs at 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. Next ride is on Feb. 4. Riders can get on and off at any scheduled stop and spend as much time as they wish at any or all of the featured venues. For more information and a detailed schedule, call (718) 931-9500 ext. 33 or log on to www.bronxarts.org.

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); and **Toddler Play Time at noon**: (ages 18 to 36 months); both on Jan. 22, 29 and Feb. 5; **Hands-On Projects**: (ages 7 to 12); **Snowflake Making**: Jan. 22; and **Heart Butterfly Making**: Feb. 5; both at 4 p.m.; and **Winter Door Hanger Making**: (ages 5 to 12), Jan. 25 at 3 p.m.; **Baby and Me**: (9 to 18 months), singing, rhymes, and reading aloud, Jan. 24 at 11 a.m.; and **Goldfish Investigation**: Learn how to take care of goldfish, Jan. 27 at 4 p.m. For teens/young adults, there is **SAT at 3:30 p.m.**: Learn new strategies and tips to improve your score: **Math**: Jan. 22; and **Verbal/Writing**: Jan. 26; and **film**: Jan. 23 at 5 p.m. For adults, there is **Film**: "Jane Eyre," Jan. 24 at 2:30 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, Jan. 22 and 29; and **Perfectly Penguin**: (ages 3 to 12), learn about penguins through drama, puppetry, games and songs, Jan. 23 at 3:30 p.m. Teens/young adults can attend **Film**: "Need for Speed," Jan. 24 at 1:30 p.m. Adults can enjoy **Jewelry Club at 11 a.m.**: bring your own materials to create original jewelry, Jan. 22 and Feb. 5; **Computer Lab at 10:30 a.m.**: Jan. 27 and Feb. 4 (phone or in-person registration required); and **Knitting Circle**: Thursdays at 3 p.m. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

• The Jerome Park Library, 118 Eames Place (near Kingsbridge Road), offers for kids: **Animal Habitats Workshop**: (ages 3 to 12), make an animal habitat from recycled materials, Jan. 23 at 3 p.m. (phone or in-person registration required); **Kids Get Active at 4 p.m.**: (ages 5 to 12), dance and zumba, Jan. 23; **Kids' Pajama Party**: (ages 18 months to 12 years), Jan. 26 at 6 p.m.; and **Toddler Time at 11 a.m.**: (for ages 18 to 36 months), stories, songs, and nursery rhymes, Jan. 28. 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 Jan. 26 for the next publication date Feb. 5

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Stagg Buys More Webster Ave. Sites

(continued from page 1)

mittee. The Committee is tasked to review all housing projects, offering non-binding approvals.

News of the purchase comes as the property owner's latest development called the Bedford Park Manor, a trio of mixed-income buildings on Webster Avenue by East 201st Street and Bedford Park Boulevard, is slated to open this year. It also comes amid the firm announcing that former Bronx Borough President Adolf Carrion will serve as its executive vice president.

It's the first such complex to be built several years after the strip went through heavy rezoning by the New York City Department of City Planning. Among the provisions is a retail component mandated on the first floor for any new building looking to benefit from the 421-a tax break.

Last year, the committee suspected The Stagg Group would renege on its promise in building mixed-use housing in favor of supportive housing, which it was accused of doing in other parts of the borough.

But developers, led by owner Mark Stagg, soon dispelled rumors after releasing information showing it was

targeting middle-income earners to occupy the buildings. A combined 97 studio and 1- and 2-bedroom apartments will fill the buildings. The three buildings will have market rate apartments that start at \$1300 for studios per month, while monthly rents for 1- and 2-bedrooms will go for \$1,500 and \$1,700 respectively.

Agreeing to set aside 20 percent of their units to qualify for the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development's (HPD) 421-a tax incentive program, 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. Tens of thousands of applicants have vied for a unit via a lottery system from HPD's website.

The new buildings are part of a cluster of major construction projects currently happening on Webster Avenue, part of the Webster Avenue Vision Plan, a long-term redevelopment initiative pushed by the Four Bronx Institutions Alliance comprised of Montefiore Medical Center, Fordham University, The Bronx Zoo and The New York Botanical Garden.



Photo by David Cruz

THIS VACANT PROPERTY on Webster Avenue was recently purchased by The Stagg Group, making it the second purchase along the corridor by the large-scale development firm.

The announcement was part of a list of five properties currently sold in the Bronx, totaling \$10.5 million. They include two multifamily apartment buildings in Belmont, a medical building in Mount Hope, and a four-story walkup in Longwood. The Stagg Group has also looked for property in

the East Bronx, purchasing a horse stable at 1680 Pelham Pkwy. to make way for a six-story, 130-unit building.

Hill plans on inviting developers to the Board's Land Use/Housing Committee. Representatives from The Stagg Group were unavailable for comment as of deadline.

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Steamed Vegetables

Choice of Dessert

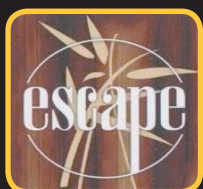
Ice Cream or Flan

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 decirle a uno de los empleados



restaurant & lounge

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