

NORWOOD NEWS

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**INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER:
SUMMER PLANS | PG. 4**



**NORWOOD NEWS WINS BIG
IN JOURNALISM CONTEST | PG. 6**

AFFORDABLE HOUSING PARKING SCRAPPED?

Housing plan would nix off-street parking rule, angering community leaders



Photo by Adi Talwar

DRIVERS RESORT TO double parking their cars around Williamsbridge Oval Park during alternate side, a weekday occurrence given the scarcity of available spots.

By DAVID CRUZ

Across Norwood and beyond, the search for parking remains an everyday scourge for thousands of drivers. Neighbors and employees around the various stores and two local hospitals rely on parking daily, though searching for a legal spot can cut into the workday. Residents have long complained it can take

upwards of a half hour to locate a spot.

The quest for parking may be further complicated by a proposal under Mayor Bill de Blasio's *Housing New York* initiative, which seeks to build or preserve 200,000 units of affordable housing. To fulfill de Blasio's vision, the plan aims to permanently waive a 65-year-old requirement for

landlords to create off-street parking. This would also apply to affordable senior housing, specialized residences which city officials estimate is in dire short supply.

The topic was addressed at a joint Community Board 7 Land Use/Housing and Senior Services committees meeting on June 17, part of a lengthy public review that could last

through the year. Should this provision be approved, members argued, it would decrease supply for public parking, aggravating the hassle to secure street parking in Norwood and now more burgeoning Bedford Park.

"People are desperately always looking for parking spaces," said Jean Hill, CB7's

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IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

CB 7 Leadership Stays the Same Except for Two

By DAVID CRUZ

Leadership virtually stood the same at Community Board 7, with one of the more contentious and heavily watched election races going to the incumbent.

Adaline Walker-Santiago remained as chair of Community Board 7, clinching a win over challenger and fellow CB7 member William Francis by a slim margin--16 to 15, with four absentees. The numbers indicate a split divide over confidence in Walker-Santiago's ability to lead a Board.

Before the vote, Francis read off a prepared speech, pointing out that the Board has "lost sight of the well being of our community." CB7 covers Norwood, Bedford Park, Kingsbridge, Fordham and University Heights, neighborhoods that are now seeing a swath of development projects large and small.

Shortly after the vote, Walker-Santiago took umbrage to Francis' public remarks on the Board, saying his words "put down everybody for the work they did." "Right now the borough president is very pleased with us," said Walker-Santiago. "When I have other chairs saying, 'We're praying for you,' I know that we've done a great job."

Winning the seat of second vice chair was Samelys Lopez, the youngest member of the 36-member Board, appointed in 2014 by Councilman Andrew Cohen. She won over longtime



Photo by Tatyana Turner

COMMUNITY BOARD 7 chair Adaline Walker-Santiago (holding mic) vows to raise the Board's profile in her election speech on June 16.

Board member and former chair Nora Feury. Sensing elections can create new wounds, Barbara Stronczer, who secured her seat as first vice chair, hoped the Board can all "work as a team" to combat the current wave of conditions in the neighborhoods.

Winners in other races included Jean Hill, who continues her role as treasurer and Nilsa Cintron, who won in her bid for third vice chair. Kevin Miner won unopposed in the race for secretary, where current secretary Laurel Greene, did not seek re-election. Leadership posts last two years.

Community boards are often considered the first line in government, a community stronghold that logs complaints and passes them to the ap-

propriate city agencies. The New York City Charter empowers boards to hold hearings on critical issues while serving as a voice for the constituents the body serves.

Community Board 7's membership reflects the overall demographics of the neighborhoods--Hispanic, black, white, with representation from the burgeoning Bangladeshi communities. In the last year, Community Board 7 has weighed in on biting issues that included overdevelopment, influx of synthetic marijuana use and a holding pattern at the Kingsbridge Armory.

With elections handled, the Board now enters into a summer hiatus that ends on Sept. 15 when it reconvenes for its general meeting.

DOT to Install Speed Hump on Hull Avenue Following Crash

By DAVID CRUZ

The city has finally installed a much-anticipated speed hump at a Neighborhood Slow Zone in Norwood weeks after a car overturned there. This also comes amid wrangling from a local City Councilmember and a report by the *Norwood News*.

Well before the crash, neighbors were pressing Councilman Andrew Cohen in convincing the DOT to fast track the installation fearing heavy-footed drivers could

cause a major accident.

The DOT held off on the one-day project since the location of the hump rested by PS 56, where an extended wing is currently under construction. DOT spent months determining whether their equipment would conflict with the School Construction Authority.

"The installation of this speed bump is essential for this local street as it is a part of the Norwood Slow Zone and we must ensure the



safety of our local residents, as well as the safety of the students who attend the adjacent school," said Cohen.

Hull Avenue was part of several streets that were turned into a Neighborhood Slow Zone, requiring drivers go 20mph. Because of its proximity to the school, the

section of Hull Avenue where the crash happened requires drivers to go at 15mph.

The news was a relief for Elisabeth von Uhl, a neighbor living where the accident took place. "My neighbors and I are looking forward to slower drivers and safer streets," she said.

Trial Access to Jerome Park Reservoir Coming, Though With Caution

By **WILLIAM MATHIS**

Emily Lloyd, commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), brought good news, mixed with reserved optimism, on creating a pilot program that provides community access to the Jerome Park Reservoir in a meeting June 22 of the Croton Facility Monitoring Committee (CFMC).

The committee invited Lloyd to discuss long-standing issues about the inaccessibility of the reservoir due to the years-long construction of the Croton Water Filtration Plant beneath Van Cortlandt Park's Moshulu golf course. The reservoir has been fenced off due to claims by the DEP about the potential for security threats to the water supply.

Lloyd announced that steps would begin this summer to open the reservoir up to local residents. "I think it is time that we can undertake the pilot program that is recommended here," said Lloyd, holding up a copy of the 2011 Report and Recommendations by the Jerome Park Reservoir Access Working Group that called for a pilot program granting access. "And we've been talking about it and there's a lot of language in here about safety and all kinds of things like that."

Sometime this fall, the DEP will host a guided walking tour of the reservoir, allowing guests to walk around the reservoir and learn about its history and importance from tour guides. Possibly on the same weekend, people will be invited for a two-hour period to walk or jog around the reservoir's perimeter.

"I was frankly surprised and shocked, but pleasantly surprised and I just think this is a tremendous thing for the 350,000 people living near the reservoir," said Gary Axelbank, a neighbor and longtime fighter for access to the reservoir, adding the battle for access has gone on for 20 years.

Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz, a longtime critic of the plant, called the pilot program "welcome news." "I hope it is the beginning of a long-

term access plan so that Bronx residents can enjoy one of the city's most beautiful resources now and in the future," he said.

Lloyd told the committee that the DEP is working on building partnerships with nine to 10 schools in the area to make the reservoir an educational resource. They are developing a curriculum to teach students about the water supply and then bring the students in for a tour of the facility. Teachers will also receive education on how to teach their students about this issue.

"This will increase the amount of recreational space that is available for residents of the Bronx in an open-air landscape without having to leave the city," said Councilman Andrew Cohen, in a statement. Cohen's entire district overlaps with the reservoir.

In addition, as soon as next month, committee members will be invited to take a tour of the plant, which went online in May.

Committee members and attendees of the meeting viewed the proposals with great enthusiasm. The committee chair, Adaline Walker-Santiago, stood and thanked Lloyd for her efforts.

But despite the promises for controlled access in the near future, Lloyd stressed her continued dedication to ensuring the security of the reservoir. "I don't want to raise expectations too high," she said. "I am very concerned about security."

Lloyd said that the DEP requested the NYPD's Counterterrorism Bureau "take a real look" at the site to better understand potential security threats and sensible ways to mitigate them. For years, the DEP cited terrorism concerns for the closure of the reservoir, drawing skepticism from the community.

The committee also resolved to form a task force that would include committee representatives, elected officials and community members to work with Lloyd on implementing the pilot days and also to work towards future access to the reservoir.



Photo by William Mathis

DEP COMMISSIONER EMILY LLOYD (right) makes a rare visit to the Croton Filtration Monitoring Committee to announce a task force that will look at how to allow secured access to the Jerome Park Reservoir come fall. To the left is Fr. Richard Gorman, a member of the committee.

"I want to make sure we work together to get this resolved," Walker-Santiago said. She cited the recent success of creating a pedestrian bridge in Van Cor-

tlandt Park as evidence of the potential gains that cooperation between government and citizens can bring to the neighborhood.



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INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



This week we asked readers their thoughts and plans for the much-anticipated summer season.



I'm actually looking forward to getting together with some old friends, visit with family and enjoy some much needed time off. I hope the weather cooperates.

Lisa Jenkins



This summer I'm actually working as an independent marketing coordinator, so I will be doing a couple of community events. I work for the Board of Ed so I'm actually on vacation from them. I will be going to the beach, the pool, and visit a water park or something.

Regina Padilla



I've been planting a garden, my first in a very long time. I'm planting fruits, tomatoes and squash right here in the Bronx and saving a lot of money by doing so. I go to the free concerts when they have them. I will go sit and watch them. I love music.

Star Bluecoat



Well, I'll be going to the beach, a couple of picnics, and to the zoo with the kids. Hopefully, they will be giving some free concerts in Central Park this year, so I will be there.

Jamie McClure



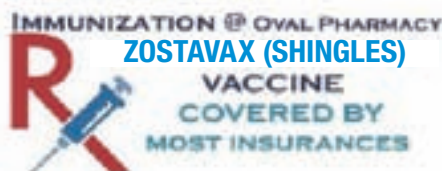
I just want to survive the summer. You know New York. Just chill. It will be good on 14th Street or Grand Central, if you can catch me. I'll catch some concerts as long as they are free.

Davey Court

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



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Norwood News Wins Big in Journalism Awards Contest

By **NORWOOD NEWS**

The *Norwood News* walked away a big winner at the 2015 Ippies Awards, sponsored by the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism.

The community newspaper won for “Best Small Circulation Publication,” a new category organizers of the journalism contest launched this year. The *Norwood News* prints 15,000 copies each edition, and is published by the Mosholu Preservation Corporation, a support organization of Montefiore Medical Center.

“*Norwood News*, our judges said, consistently serves its Bronx neighborhood with a broad range of enterprise stories, notices of community and public meetings, editorials focused on its news area, timely coverage of news events or trends in the Bronx that no one else is paying attention to,” said Tom Robbins, investigative journalist in residence at the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, reading off prepared remarks by the judges. “The judges were impressed with the amount of original reporting at the [bi]-weekly paper manages to do with the fact that it doesn’t shy away from controversial topics that might upset local leaders or advertisers.”

“We are immensely proud of the work our paper has produced during the 2014 news cycle,” said David Cruz, *Norwood News* editor-in-chief, who recently picked up a prize from the New York Press Association for best business reporting. “I’m especially proud of the staff working with me consistently, notably Judy Noy, our proofreader; Vivian Carter, our salesperson; Adi Talwar and David



Photo courtesy Skyler Reid

DAVID CRUZ, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF of the *Norwood News*, holds up the prize for Best Small Circulation Publication.

Greene, our regular photographers; Roberto Garcia, executive director of MPC; and Marcia Cameron, the deputy director of MPC.”

Cruz especially thanked his rotation of interns who helped produce

the paper while garnering skills they’ll carry for the rest of their journalism careers. “Without them, my head would be in a constant tailspin,” he said.

Talwar garnered a prize of his

own, winning third place for “Best Photograph.” His prize-winning photo featured the Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District’s first-ever Spring Egg Hunt celebration at the Williamsbridge Oval. Talwar captured three kids taking part in the classic potato sack race and giving all of their energy as they hopped down to the finish line.

“The judges said this high-energy image showcases joy within the life of community coverage,” said Randall Pinkston, host of the Ippies. “The boys’ faces express both the fun of the moment, and hard work. It can be technically challenging to capture a good moment, with the subjects moving quickly. This image does that to near perfection.”

The *Norwood News* was established in 1988, serving as the only community newspaper that serves the Norwood community. Since then the newspaper has expanded its coverage to include the northwest Bronx, including the neighborhoods of Bedford Park, Kingsbridge, Fordham, University Heights, Woodlawn and portions of the northeast Bronx.

The *Norwood News* produced such stories in 2014 that included development projects in Bedford Park, a three-part series on heroin addiction, and reports on small businesses within the community. It underwent a major revamp in August 2014, becoming a tabloid-size color newspaper, but still maintaining the spirit the *Norwood News* is known for.

“I’m really thrilled the Norwood community has a newspaper it can call their own,” said Cruz.

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HOPPING YOUNG SPUDS AT THE OVAL

New CB7 District Manager On the Job

File Photo/Adi Talwar-Photo by David Cruz

ADI TALWAR, REGULAR contributing photographer for the *Norwood News* shows off his third place prize for Best Photograph awarded to him at the Ippies. He won for snapping this photo (left) of these kids taking part in a potato sack race last year.

52nd Pct. Gets Extra Troops Under NYPD's "Summer All Out"

By **DAVID CRUZ & BOB KAPPSTATTER**

With shootings up dramatically this year, the 52nd Precinct has received a new batch of officers to try to tamp down the violence. The rash of shootings has been tied to a rising gang problem west of Bedford Park, police said.

The Five-Two is one of four precincts in the Bronx and 10 across the city to get new reinforcements as part of an NYPD initiative to quell the rise in violent crime. The initiative, dubbed "Summer All Out," was implemented a month before its regularly scheduled launch to "get ahead of" a common rise in crime over the summer. The news also comes amid an announcement by Mayor Bill de Blasio to increase the police force by 1,300.

Police have labeled several of the shootings within the Five-Two as gang-related, which has escalated over the last few months despite a ShotSpotter system installed within the precinct to detect incidents of gunfire. The shootings, however, seem to have abated for now, with none recorded in the latest available NYPD numbers for



Photo by David Cruz

MAYOR BILL DE BLASIO (at podium) stands with NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton and Chief of Department James O'Neill briefing officers inside the 44th Precinct ahead of announcing the "Summer All Out" program.

the 28-day period ending June 14.

De Blasio and NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton announced at a Bronx news conference on June 10 that the precincts will be receiving somewhere between 15 to 25 officers to help patrol local hot spots. The group is a mix of

officers new to the NYPD or regularly assigned to administrative duties.

The deployment of extra troops comes amid an increase in shootings over the last six months when compared to last year. Still, de Blasio reemphasized the city's strides in combat-

ing crime, pointing to the six percent overall drop in citywide crime when compared to the same time last year. Officers had spent two days taking a refresher course in community relations and receive daily briefings on crime conditions within their assigned posts, according to police officials.

"We did it last summer, and it worked to reduce crime," one desk-bound Bronx sergeant told the *Norwood News*. "We may not like it, but if it helps the community, we're for it."

This marks the first time the 52nd Precinct, under the command of Inspector Nilda Hofmann, will be part of the program. The 47th Precinct, which saw a major spike in shootings and homicides, will continue to be part of the program, said police officials.

The 52nd Precinct has seen 16 victims shot as of June 14, compared to eight over the same period last year - a 100 percent increase.

There have been three murders so far this year, compared to two for the same period last year, a 50 percent jump.

Overall major crime in the precinct so far this year is up 1.77 percent.



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School Murals Shed Light on Gun Violence and Bullying

By JASMINE GOMEZ

Two Bronx parks will be the temporary homes of a pair of murals painted by middle schoolers at two schools in the borough. The images painted on school lunch tables depict critical social issues students believe are currently affecting their communities.

The students at New Venture Academy 219X in Crotona Park addressed gun violence, while students at the New School for Leadership and the Arts 244X in Kingsbridge tackled bullying. The artwork on gun violence will be on display at Crotona Park by Crotona Avenue, while the mural on bullying will be displayed at Old Fort Four Park by West 231st Street in Kingsbridge.

"What we wanted people to take out of our table was how people can stop and prevent gun violence, not only in America but throughout the whole world. We want everyone to know it's hurting people and we want it to stop throughout our communities and make it a better place," said Mouhamed Toure, 12, a middle schooler at New Venture Academy 219X.



Photo courtesy LeAp

STUDENTS OF THE New School for Leadership and the Arts 244X in Kingsbridge, show off their new anti-bullying mural at Old Fort Four Park in Fort Four Playground.

The students' topics reflect what's on their mind. Gun violence has indeed been rampant in the last few weeks, with Mayor de Blasio himself noting a significant increase of shootings in the 44th and 52nd precincts.

The murals were crafted as part of the Learning Through an Expanded Art Program's (LeAp) Public Arts initiative. The program works with 10 schools across the city, with teaching

artists assisting students in creating artwork that explores a social issue students ultimately convey in their work. Eight other murals sponsored by LeAp are on display at eight parks across the city. They focus on different topics that include gay rights and child neglect. The collection of artwork represents the largest student exhibition at New York City parks.

"Kids are part of our community.

They experience everything that adults do. They just don't have that voice," said Alexandra Leff, creator and director of LeAp's Public Arts Program. "Adults can vote, and adults are the ones making decisions, but kids are affected too. So the idea of the program is to respect the young people, who are our future. To see what they have to say and to give them a public forum with the parks is amazing."

Wynta Carter, 14, a student at the New School for Leadership and the Arts 244X, hopes to see the program implemented in her school "because then people can be aware and they can be inspired to help others."

After the artwork finishes its run at the park, it will be returned to the schools, where it will likely end up on display.

Schools interested in more information about LeAp's Public Art program can contact LeAp at (212) 769-4160.

Editor's Note: An expanded version of this article can be found on www.norwoodnews.org.

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MPC, Reaching Mid-Year Mark, Logs Long List of 2015 Projects

By NORWOOD NEWS

The Mosholu Preservation Corporation (MPC), a nonprofit support corporation of Montefiore Medical Center, continues to hit its mark as an active not-for-profit serving the Norwood community and other neighboring communities with its brand of economic development and community initiatives, including the award-winning *Norwood News*.

“Since 1981, MPC has been a force of economic and community development in the north Bronx. Through strong partnerships and dedicated staff, we have been able to accomplish major programming that positively impacts the communities we serve,” said Roberto S. Garcia, executive director of MPC.

Among its bevy of accomplishments:

- Grants totaling \$132,000 were awarded to MPC from local city agencies, elected officials and foundations for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. This is an increase of \$57,000 or 76 percent from the previous program year. This funding allowed MPC to continue



Photo courtesy MPC

THE MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION (MPC) recruits these students from University Heights High School to clean up Williamsbridge Oval Park on May 29, thanks to a grant by Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz. It was one of a litany of accomplishments by the nonprofit so far this year.

conducting Economic & Community Development programming and to publish the *Norwood News*. MPC continues to provide Economic Development initiatives in five commercial corridors and build on the Sanitation Initiative in four commercial dis-

tricts.

- MPC continues to grow its relationship with the New York City Parks Department. During the spring and early summer seasons, MPC supported local cleanup initiatives in the Williamsbridge Oval Park and on Mosholu Parkway.

- The *Norwood News*, published by MPC, won several awards this year including Best Small Circulation Publication and Best Photograph, given by the CUNY School of Journalism, and third place prize for Coverage in Business, Economic and Financial News by the New York Press Association. Due to this funding, MPC also hosted two *Bronx Youth Heard* sessions through the *Norwood News*.

- MPC received \$60,000 in funding from Small Business Services for both East 233rd Street and White Plains Road and Webster Avenue merchant associations. In addition, MPC also received \$25,000 for business attraction and retention for the Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District to assist in the BID expansion.

- MPC, in conjunction with JGH-BID, hosted the second annual Easter Egg Hunt at Williamsbridge Oval Park with over 1500 attendees. This event was hugely successful with families participating together in the activi-

ties.

- Through grant funding, MPC planned and hosted three separate merchant sidewalk sales in collaboration with the East 233rd Street and White Plains Road Merchant Association. These were hugely successful, with many merchants participating. This event was held in collaboration with Councilman Andy King, a major booster of MPC's efforts.

- MPC planned and coordinated five capacity building workshops for the merchants along the East 233rd Street and White Plains Road commercial corridor.

- MPC hosted a strategic visioning session for the East 233rd Street and White Plains Road commercial corridor in collaboration with Councilmember Andrew Cohen and Councilmember Andy King. The goal is to create a five-year strategic plan for the corridor, leading to the formation of a business improvement district.

- MPC developed and created merchant directories for Kingsbridge Road, Webster Avenue and East 233rd Street and White Plains Road merchant associations. In addition, tote bags and decals were also created for Webster Avenue and East 233rd Street and White Plains Road merchant associations.

- MPC recently hosted the first ever sidewalk sale for the Webster Avenue Merchant Association. This event brought together merchants, residents and local community leaders.

“Other projects included a top-down redesign of MPC's website, with the *Norwood News* website not too far behind. Both websites will have mobile compatibility,” said Marcia Cameron, deputy director for MPC. “We have certainly hit the ground running for quite some time, and are extremely thankful to our supporters, and elected officials.”

With the year half over, MPC still has several events in the works. They include a series of movie screenings at Williamsbridge Oval Park, with help from JGH-BID and the Parks Department this July. The event is made possible by Partnership for Parks, who awarded MPC \$2,000.



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A Cleaner Northwest Bronx on the Way

By VIVIAN R. CARTER

Mosholu Preservation Corporation (MPC), a not-for-profit support corporation of Montefiore Medical Center since 1981, wants the northwest Bronx to be healthy, safe and clean. It has garnered strong support from the Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District and the merchants associations in three other local business corridors—Webster Avenue, East 204th Street and Bainbridge Avenue, and East 233rd Street and White Plains Road.

But perhaps their most influential supporter is Councilman Andrew Cohen, who, in collaboration with MPC, is now announcing the launch of an initiative to harness the passion and energy of local businesses and residents to the cause of cleaner streets and sidewalks in the 11th Council District. The Department of Sanitation of New York (DSNY) has an arsenal of special programs devoted to keeping New York neighborhoods tidy, so Cohen and MPC intend to deploy them, and Bronx businesses and individual residents can join in the partnership.

The easiest way to help is by volunteering for Adopt-a-Basket. Through a simple online form, any volunteer can help protect local health and quality of life by committing to adopt one of the city's 25,000 litter baskets. The program is particularly critical in busy, densely populated and visited areas like the northwest Bronx business corridors, where litter baskets fill up faster than city sanitation teams can empty them. Residents and businesses have an interest in seeing that litter doesn't spill onto sidewalks and streets, where it can attract vermin and insects, and generate unpleasant sights and smells.

Once the volunteer has completed an adoption form, DSNY provides a supply of plastic liners, a collection schedule – and a direct local contact for DSNY. The volunteer monitors their litter basket on a daily basis. When the adopted litter basket is three-quarters full, the volunteer removes the partially filled plastic liner from the can, ties it securely, leaves it next to the basket for collection, then inserts a new liner into the basket. Six



Photo image courtesy DSNY

SPIFFY UPSCALE LITTER baskets such as these pictured could soon grace local streets in the northwest Bronx.

merchants from the Webster Avenue corridor have already offered to adopt litter baskets.

There's a bigger way that local businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and generous individuals can help reduce litter and improve conditions on the streets—by sponsoring the purchase of a deluxe, heavy-duty litter basket in an area. Sanitation teams will regularly empty these newly placed, pre-approved baskets that go a step beyond the city's

standard design. Once purchased by an organization or individual, baskets will include a logo or name to highlight that sponsor's commitment to maintaining the community's quality of life. Anyone can both sponsor and adopt a basket, if desired.

To adopt and/or sponsor a litter basket or learn more about this initiative, contact Marcia Cameron of MPC, at (718) 324-4946, or email MCameron@montefiore.org.

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Disclaimer: Made possible with support from Partnerships for Parks, a joint program of City Parks Foundation and NYC Parks. The Capacity Fund grant is funded in part by the Parks Equity Initiative of the New York City Council under the leadership of Speaker Melissa Mark Viverito.



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Special thanks to these members of the Webster Avenue Merchant's Association who are participating in the Adopt-A-Basket program!

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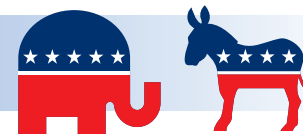
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THE BRONX BELTWAY

By DAVID CRUZ



Kingsbridge Armory

Councilman Fernando Cabrera, in his role as 14th Council District rep, has picked his appointees for the Community Advisory Council (CAC) linked to the Kingsbridge National Ice Center. The 11-member panel was born out of the Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) drafted by KNIC and community leaders. The body will oversee funds and assist in managing community space as part of the terms laid out in the CBA.

And the appointees are...Maria Khury, Barry P. Fitzgerald and Gregorio Feliciano. All have ties to the Kingsbridge/Riverdale area, with Feliciano having a foot in Washington Heights/Inwood as the first Dominican-born female district manager for Manhattan's Community Board 12.

The dynamic is very interesting: community leaders rubbing elbows with business-minded folks. As it stands, Community Board 7 has long picked its share of appointees, with then CB7 chairman Paul

Foster choosing himself, Lowell Green, William Francis, and Bishop Fernando Rodriguez, according to a press release by Cabrera's office. Holding out is the Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Alliance (KARA), instrumental in seeing this CBA through. They've been mighty quiet about this. Should they pick neighborhood activists, it can tip the scales of power towards the community.

One interesting caveat: this is not a cushy post. Each CAC member serves at the pleasure of their appointer, thanks to a CBA stipulation that states members can be removed with "cause or without cause." So should new leadership arrive midway to an appointee's four-year term, they can be let go. It could be a recipe for disaster.

But it's still unclear how the CAC will function. When will they meet? Will they be active once there's a groundbreaking? Who's the chairperson? Is there an independent auditor to ensure the CBA money is properly being spent? So many ques-

tions The Bronx Beltway intends to find out.

Rent Laws

The rent protection laws saga just won't end in Albany, and the bigger question is why.

One reason could be that it's not just about rent laws, but what Democrats and Republicans can do for one another. Leave it to legislators to attach a litany of concessions.

In this case, the Republican-controlled Senate's version of rent protection laws is tied to other bills unrelated to the rent laws, including an education tax credit bill, and a pro-charter school bill that Assembly Democrats just won't agree to linking. The Senate passed a bill to extend the rent laws as they are for eight years by adding provisions to ensure protections are for "those who need it," according to Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan. One provision looks to raise the vacancy decontrol threshold by \$100, from \$2500 to \$2600. Another aims for tenants to verify their income to landlords yearly to make sure tenants aren't scamming the system.

Senator Gustavo Rivera, a staunchly pro-tenant Democrat, said the provision could raise the workload of the state Division for Housing and Community Renewal, saying he's unsure if it "could handle the paperwork."

A *Daily News* report suggested the Senate GOP simply wants to keep their deep-pocketed real estate tycoons happy enough to continue donating to future GOP campaigns.

Governor Andrew Cuomo, juggling the rent law debate with the search for two escaped convicts, has remained on the sidelines some. Rivera urged Cuomo to "weigh in a much stronger way than he has already."

"Millions of New Yorkers are relying on us to come up with a package that provides them with the continued ability to live in the city," said Rivera, whose 33rd Senate District is home to some 70,000 Bronxites in rent-regulated apartments.

Bronx GOP Resurgence?

Got to hand it to the Bronx Republican Party—even as it's up against the wall, with 12 Democrats

outnumbering one Grand Old Party in the borough, the party is still on the hunt to grow its membership. It kicked off a borough-wide, town hall-style gathering at the Redwood Club on June 17.

Their biggest push—scouting for contenders in open City Council seats for 2017. "The GOP believes in 2017 there are City Council opportunities because of term limits, so they plan on taking advantage of that," said Anthony Riviuccio of Bedford Park, who attended the meeting.

Two City Council polls forced to relinquish their term-limited seat in 2017 would be Jimmy Vacca and Fernando Cabrera, both registered Democrats. Vacca's seat seems to have the best chance for a Republican. His district includes largely conservative Edgewater Park, Silver Beach and Morris Park. Cabrera is considered by many to be a social conservative Democrat, so a liberal Republican may not be that far-fetched.

Heastie's Finances

The mainstream press just won't relent on Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, and rightly so.

In its latest write-up, *The New York Times* dug into Heastie's campaign spending habits, showing Heastie's use of contributions on Manhattan nightclubs and \$30,000 in vehicle expenses over the course of nine years, according to the *Times* report. There was also another \$30,000 used for unexplained credit card expenses, according to the report.

Heastie's flack told the *Times* the campaign expenses were legal. But this report points to a problem even greater than Heastie's finances—an arbitrary campaign finance system where legislators pick and choose what to itemize. Even more suspicious are legislators using a campaign credit card for purchases, and not one itemization on the bill. This means legislators can run up thousands in credit card expenses and walk away without detection. The *Norwood News* has never attempted to gain a more accurate picture of these credit card statements, though a bright idea just flickered.

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Albany Nears Free MTA Transfer Extension

The Albany Legislature has approved a bill to save commuters some money by adding an extra free transfer between MTA buses and subways within a two-hour window.

Currently the MTA pay-per-ride fare costs \$2.75, which includes one free transfer that can be used for up to two hours. However, bad service and train delays can force commuters to pay another fare if their transfer expires.

Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz does not believe that commuters should pay for an extra fare due to service delays. He empathized with commuters who have a difficult daily commute and wants to rid the burden of having them pay more by adding another free transfer.

On average, there are over 8 million MTA straphangers who ride the rails weekly. The bill ensures that these commuters will not "punished due to cut-backs in service that already add time and stress to a commute by giving them an additional free transfer."

The legislation was sponsored by Senator Martin J Golden, and the bill will be sent to the governor's office.

--Tatyana Turner

St. Patrick's Home Honors Centenarians



Photo by Imani Hall

SENIORS AT ST. PATRICK'S Home Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center honored as they celebrate their centennial birthdays.

By IMANI HALL

Community and family members at St. Patrick's Home Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center recognized 10 senior citizens who reached the age of 100 or more, a milestone also honored by President Barack Obama.

"Your generation has shown the courage to persevere to the moments of uncertainty and challenge," the

President and First Lady Michelle Obama's statement read. "Your story is an important part of this American narrative."

The statement opened the beginning of the centenarian celebration for the seniors at the Van Cortlandt senior center on June 16.

"It is somewhat hard to absorb people living to 100 years," said Sr.

Margaret Mary, an employee at the nursing home, during the ceremony. "The 10 women we are celebrating today were women of strength and courage," she added.

Seniors were given gift bags and the home prepared a cake that read, "Happy Birthday Centennials." After the ceremony, music was played in celebration of their birthdays.

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Number of pregnancies among teen girls
ages 15 to 19 in the Bronx.

(Source: New York City Department of Health)

Vital
Stats

Montefiore School Health Program Tackles Teen Pregnancy With \$3 Mil Grant

Montefiore's School Health Program (MSHP) has been awarded \$3 million in funding by the Jerome L. Greene Foundation to combat teenage pregnancy in the Bronx. MSHP provides services to 40,000 Bronx students at 73 high schools in 22 school locations.

"We are pleased to join our longtime partner, Montefiore Health System, in an intensive effort to address unintended pregnancy in the Bronx," said Christina McInerney, the foundation's president, adding, "This new grant strengthens both our and Montefiore's mission to build a better future for today's youth."

The newly funded program will go towards the hiring of a research team comprised

of a research coordinator, research assistant, an epidemiologist, director of research, a project coordinator, a youth support worker and community health organizer "to identify those kids who are at risk of unintended pregnancy" in 12 of the 22 MSHPs, according to Dr. David Appel, director of the Montefiore School Health Program.

Participating schools will also experience a major advertising blitz of the program, with flyers distributed at school to get the word out on the program. The Bronx has the highest teen pregnancy rates in the city, with over 4,000 babies born to mothers between the ages of 15 and 19 yearly, according to city health

statistics.

"Our objective is to reduce unintended teen pregnancy by 50 percent over a three-year period," said Appel. "It's being staggered for schools through year one, year two and year three so we can see the impact, compared to what's happening without the funding from the Greene grant."

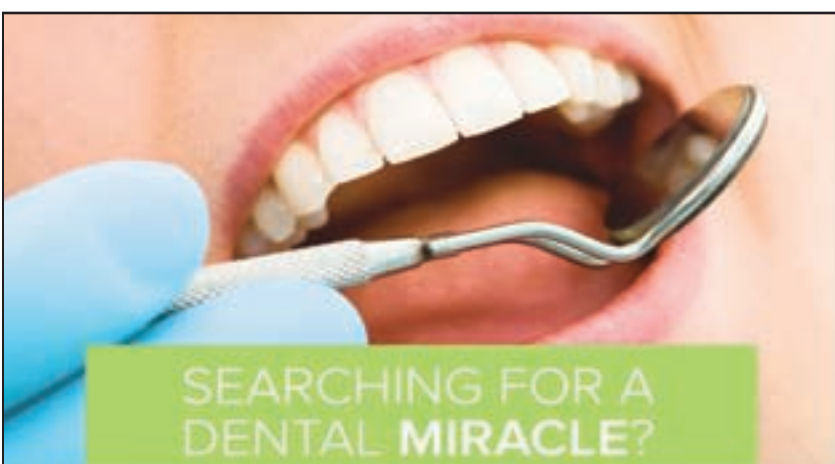
The teen pregnancy program is one aspect to MSHP. Each site has a full-time recreationalist, nurse, medical provider, mental health provider, a part-time dentist and a community organizer available during the school year.

"There is recognition that children in many neighborhoods like the Bronx throughout New York City, mainly ru-


ral and urban, find out there is a need for more than a school nurse in the school," said Appel. "The school nurses connect kids to their private care providers, but kids that don't have them, there's nothing to connect to, so it's bringing direct services to the schools."

With schools closing for the summer season, only eight of the 22 clinics will be open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Students whose school clinics don't stay open during the summer receive a flyer with contact information for the clinics that are open. For those in need of mental care, an on-call mental care provider is available.

Additional reporting by David Cruz.



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Damaged Staircase in Kingsbridge Heights to Get Repairs

By TATYANA TURNER

Repairs are slated for a dilapidated public staircase in Kingsbridge Heights. And it's a change that's long overdue, according to one neighbor.

For the past several years, resident Jose Orochena has noticed the Heath and Summit avenues staircase-known as a step street-crumble to the point where city Department of Transportation crews recently sealed it off. Despite that, residents still trudge up and down the step street.

There are 94 step streets around the city, with dozens located in the Bronx. The Heath and Summit avenues step street starts on 229th Street and Sedgwick Avenue, and is commonly used to get from one higher elevated street to another.

Kingsbridge Heights is known for its hilly landscape, and it's walking distance from Manhattan.

Orochena often uses the Sum-

mit Avenue step street and fears that someone can get hurt at any point. He's also worried over the safety of those also dependent on the staircase. "I would feel horrible to find out that one of my neighbors was hurt on these stairs and I kept quiet," he said. Another resident said, "This staircase should definitely be fixed, especially because a lot of elders use it."

Orochena has reached out to Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz, who suggested he call 311 because there were "bigger problems" the office was dealing with. However, for Orochena and his community, the step street has an impact on their accessibility. "We use it every day and it has an effect on the north Bronx."

As of now, the DOT has put barriers in front of the stairwell and is in the process of making repairs that should be completed later this month.

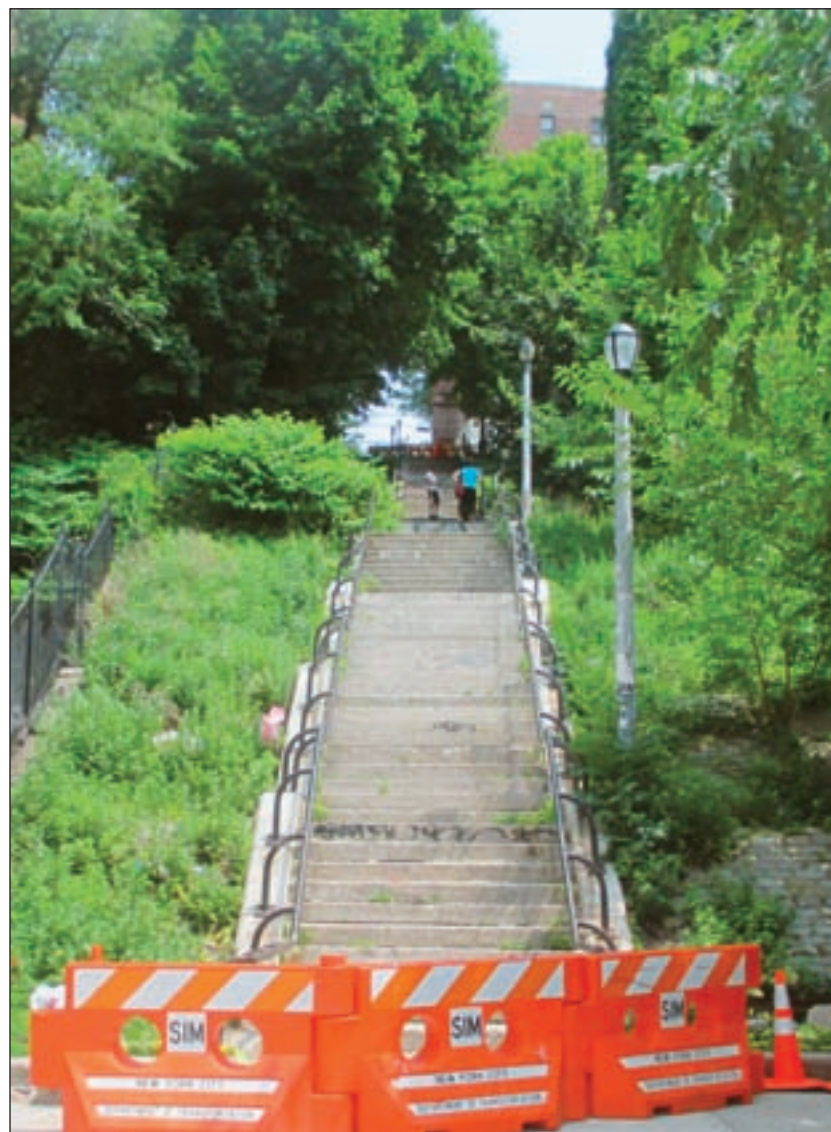


Photo by Tatyana Turner

WATCH YOUR STEP. Even though it's officially closed off, residents still trudge up and down this step street in Kingsbridge that's now primed for a fix.



MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION

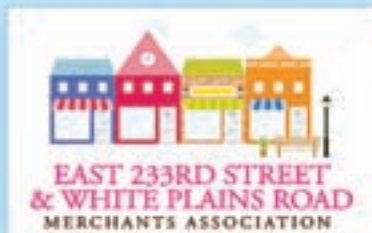
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S N A P S H O T S



Photo by Tatyana Turner

MARCIA CAMERON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR of the Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District stands with Air Force officials at the Grand Opening of the 105th Recruiting Station at the northeast corner of Jerome Avenue and East Gun Hill Road on June 17. The recruiting station lies within the borders of the Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District.



Photo by Tatyana Turner

FIRST AND SECOND GRADE students of the PS 94 dance club shake off their year by performing a variety of dances including cultural, modern and contemporary. The dance club was started by gym teacher Sheila Herndon who dedicated three days out of the week to teach dancing and help students find their passion and purpose. The enthusiastic students have been practicing diligently since the beginning of the school year and were excited to show off their moves.



Photo by Imani Hall

THIS MAN DRESSES FOR SUCCESS at the Veterans and Community Job Fair, hosted by Community Board 7 on June 19 at the Bronx Library Center. Some employers for entry and mid-level positions included the New York Air National Guard, the NYC Fire Department, Office of the Bronx District Attorney, and the Bronx Library Center. Community Board 7 and the library were honored with a proclamation by the Bronx Borough President's Office for their efforts.



Photo by David Greene

THIS FUTURE ALL-STAR keeps his eye on the ball at the 7th annual Fair @ The Square celebration on June 20. Thousands enjoyed the food and local performers at the festival hosted by the Westchester Square Business Improvement District, with sponsors that included Apple Bank, Key Food and the *Norwood News*.



Photo by Imani Hall

THIS YOUNG MAN puts himself in a police officer's shoes by sitting astride this NYPD motorcycle. Officers from the 52nd Precinct welcomed families to take part in this meet and greet on June 19, which included a rock climbing wall, some fine fare and photos with officers.



Photo courtesy Office of Councilman Ritchie Torres

YOUNG ASPIRING ATHLETES practiced their jump shot with former New York Knicks players at the Webster Police Athletic League on June 12. The event, hosted by Council Member Ritchie Torres, drew kids from nearby Parkside Houses.

Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

EDITOR'S PICK

Celebrate July 4

The Bronx Arts Ensemble's jazz and Dixieland band presents A Holiday Salute to George M. Cohan in Van Cortlandt Park's Rockwood Drive Circle, July 4 at 2 p.m. and at Fordham University at 4 p.m. Rain location is VC Park's Vladeck Hall, 74 VC Park So. (at Hillman Avenue). For more information, call (718) 601-7399.

The annual free NY Salutes America will take place at Orchard Beach on June 25 at 6 p.m. featuring an eating contest at 7:45 p.m. (contestants should submit their names at the event before 6:30 p.m.), and a fireworks extravaganza at 9:20 p.m. Events include magicians and musical performances. For more information, call (347) 229-3664.

Onstage

• City Parks Foundation presents SummerStage Kids free performing arts events featuring **Marika Hughes & Bottom Heavy**, July 9 at 10:30 a.m. at Van Cortlandt Park's Classic Playground, VC Park South and Orloff Avenue. For more information, call (212) 360-8281 or (212) 353-9585.

• The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents **The New York Exceptions in Concert**, featuring '50s and '60s rock and roll, June 27 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

Events

• The Fordham Road BID presents an **Outdoor Film Festival**, June 26 at 8:30 p.m. at Bryan Park (Fordham and Kingsbridge roads), "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day." For more information, visit fordhamroadbid.org.

• The Museum of Bronx History, 3266 Bainbridge Ave., hosts a **free talk** by author Phil Coltoff on his book, "The Block," about his growing up in the Crotona Park section of the South Bronx. For more information, call (718) 8881-8900.

• Bronx Museum of the Arts presents free **First Friday**, July 3, 6 to 10 p.m., film, "White Wedding," at Joyce Kilmer Park (Grand Concourse between 161st and 164th streets). Rain location is at the museum, 1040 Grand Concourse. For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

• Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Art Projects**: Lavender Blooms, to use

the lavender flower to make pillows and sachets, June 27 and 28; and Nature's Canvas Bag, to create a leafy impression on a canvas bag, July 4 and 5; both in WH House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also scheduled is **Outdoor Music Wednesdays**: July 1 - Lumiere String Quartet featuring Broadway, popular and patriotic tunes; and July 8 - Katie Mullins, singer/musician; both on the grounds from 7 to 8 p.m. (bring chair, no blankets; free with admission to grounds). 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 Street). From there, the trolley departs at 5:30, 6:30, and 7:30 p.m. Next ride is on July 1. 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 June 25; **Hands-On Projects** (ages 7 to 12): Visor Hat Making, June 25 at 4 p.m., and Super Book Making, July 9 at 2 p.m.; **Reading Aloud at 11 a.m.**: (ages 3 to 8), to enjoy picture books, July 6, 8 and 9; and **film**: July 7 at 2 p.m. For

teens/young adults, there is: **Put a Hero on It**: to decorate a T-shirt with a photo of your favorite hero, June 29 at 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

• The Mosholu Library, 285 E. 205th St., offers for children: **Toddler Story Time**: (ages 18 to 36 months), songs and rhymes, June 25 at 10:30 a.m.; and **Three Ancient Myths and My Annoying Sister**: (ages 5 to 12), performance presented by Urban Stages, June 26 at 3:30 p.m. Adults can enjoy: **Film**: "American Sniper," June 27 at 2 p.m.; 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: **Get Active Fridays**: (ages 5 to 12), dance and zumba, June 26 at 3 p.m.; and **African Dancing and Folktales**: (ages infant to 12 years), performance by Urban Stages, July 8 at 2 p.m. For teens/young adults, there is: **Paint on Silk**: to create anything from a bandana to hair ties to bracelets or wall art (materials are provided), July 7 at 2 p.m. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.



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City Seeks to Scrap Off-Street Parking Rule

(continued from page 1)

chair of the Land Use/Zoning committee. "There's not that many garages anymore where they offer you a space to park the car, which is why this is such a sensitive issue."

Transit Options

Analysts from the New York City Department of City Planning (DCP), the agency promoting the plan across the Bronx, reviewed data from the state Department of Motor Vehicles and found current off-street parking spots are underutilized citywide, since many low-income families do not drive and live near public transportation.

Working against Community District 7, home to the neighborhoods of Norwood, Bedford Park, Kingsbridge, Fordham, and University Heights, is its proximity to transit. DCP officials categorized the neighborhoods falling within a proposed Transit Zone, areas that have easy access to public transportation. The neighborhoods overlap with subway service via the B, D, 2, 4 and 5 lines. Affordable housing developers will not have to build parking in Transit Zones.

Parking Rules

A DCP official noted current parking requirements for affordable buildings are already low—12 to 42 percent. Figures for affordable senior housing are lower—only 10 to 30 percent have a parking requirement.

As it stands, affordable housing landlords carve out space for off-street parking spots, which runs anywhere from \$20,000 to \$50,000 in construction expenses. The off-street parking rule was instituted in New York City in 1950 to ease congestion.

Attending the meeting was Ted Weinstein, the Bronx Planning Director for the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, the agency that offers tax breaks and subsidized loans to affordable housing developers. Weinstein, arguing for the city's justification of eliminating spots, told committee members he walks through garages and sees "very few cars being used."

"An affordable housing developer can build a building with 100 apartments and you'll have, let's say, 15 to 25 spaces, and maybe five of them might be used," said Weinstein. "And that is a waste."

But thresholds can often be avoided.

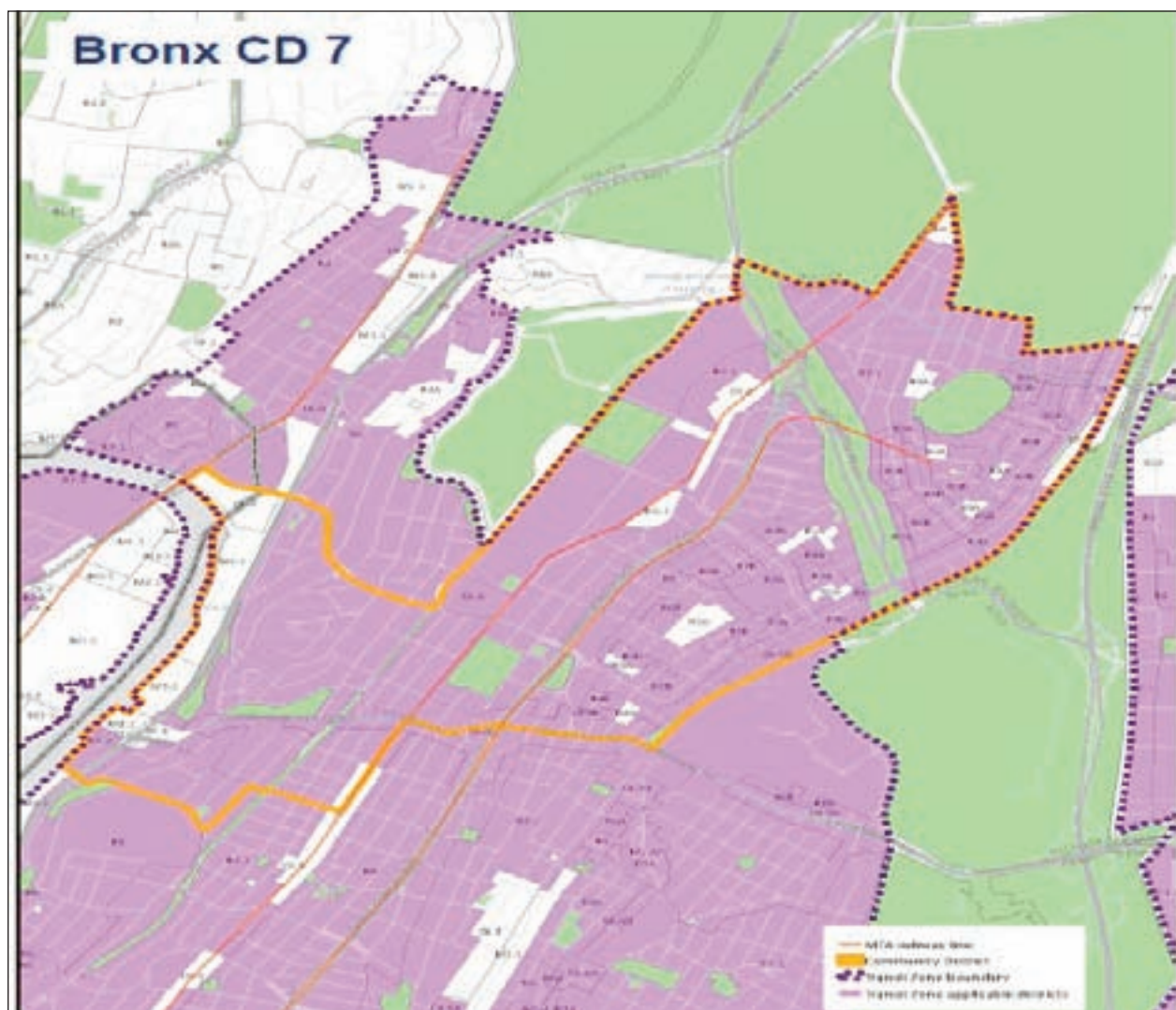


Image courtesy Department of City Planning

THE DEPARTMENT OF City Planning has proposed so-called Transit Zones that would exempt affordable housing developers from building parking under a housing plan. Pictured is a proposed Transit Zone for Community District 7.

In some cases, developers get a waiver so long as they prove there are insufficient units to trigger the parking requirement. Another way developers circumvent the parking requirement is by building smaller, subdivided buildings on a larger lot. With smaller-unit buildings, the need to provide parking does not apply.

By exempting property owners from creating parking spots, building affordable housing ultimately becomes cheaper and less restrictive, allowing crews to build more housing in tighter spaces. Landlords, who rely on loans to build affordable housing, can be more incentivized to build affordable housing units, which generate more revenue than parking.

The Search for Parking

Along Williamsbridge Oval Park, drivers can luck out quickly and secure a spot or circle the Oval multiple times around their neighborhoods be-

fore finding parking. During alternate side hours, traffic agents allow drivers to legally double park for 90 minutes so the New York City Sanitation Department can clean the streets.

"If you come here in the morning and the evening, it's a zoo of people driving," said Paul Foster, CB7's Senior Services Committee member. "People living here have to wait at sometimes 45 minutes to an hour just to get a parking space, and wait for the change of shifts." Foster suggested DCP should adapt its housing plan according to the needs of city neighborhoods.

Coinciding with the growing parking problem is a sharp increase in development in Bedford Park by new investors. The neighborhood has become quite marketable, with organizations such as The Stagg Group buying empty lots to create housing. In its most finished project, The Stagg Group circumvented the parking re-

quirement by dividing their lot into smaller buildings.

"This community is going up, we're going to need more parking for the regular parking," said Adaline Walker-Santiago, chair of CB7. "The senior people do need cars to get around."

Public Review

As most city initiatives, *Housing New York* requires a public review that will go all the way to the New York City Council and to de Blasio's desk. The initiative is high on the mayor's agenda, but he'll likely face opposition from the Board.

At the meeting, Councilman Andrew Cohen, representing parts of Community District 7, pledged to oppose an off-street parking ban once it arrives at City Hall. "I met with City Planning already, and I told City Planning that, under no unequivocal terms, that if my community boards don't support, I'm not going to support it," he said.

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