

# NORWOOD NEWS

Vol 28, No 14 • PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION • JULY 9-22, 2015



## VENDOR CAP LIFT WORRIES

*BIDs get early jump to stymie vendor cap lift movement*



Photo by Adi Talwar

**MILITARY VETERAN ROBERT MCDANIEL**, a licensed street vendor for 10 years, speaks with a shopper on Jerome Avenue.

By **DAVID CRUZ**

As an army of vendors mobilize for an increase in street vending permits, business improvement districts in Norwood and Fordham are gearing up to prevent an increase of vendors abutting brick and mortar estab-

lishments.

Fears by the Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District and Fordham Road Business Improvement District prompted their executive directors to initiate their own campaign countering a movement by The Street

Vendor Project, an offshoot of the Urban Justice Center, which has been lobbying City Hall into lifting the cap on street vendor permits. As it stands there are 3,000 food vendor permits and 853 general merchandise vendor permits available, a figure that's

stood roughly the same since imposed in 1981 by the New York City Council.

At a June 29 meeting with Community Board 7's Economic Development Committee, business stakeholders shared the

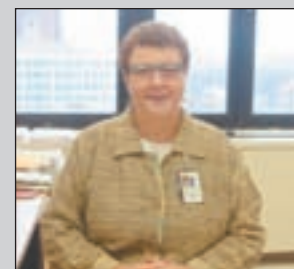
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3400 Reservoir Oval East  
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Phone: 718 324 4998  
Fax: 718 324 2917

E-mail: [norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org](mailto:norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org)  
Web.: [www.norwoodnews.org](http://www.norwoodnews.org)

**Publisher and Executive Director, MPC**  
Roberto S. Garcia

**Deputy Director, MPC**  
Marcia Cameron

**Editor-in-Chief, Norwood News**  
David Cruz

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## IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST



# In Last Meeting Before Break, the 52nd Pct. Outlines Anti-Crime Strategy

By IMANI HALL

The 52nd Precinct held its last community meeting before going on a two-month hiatus. At the meeting, Inspector Nilda Hofmann outlined the nagging spike in reported crime this year, focusing her attention on any impending increase this summer.

Crime has so far climbed 2.6 percent from the same time last year, according to crime figures Hofmann noted. Shootings have risen tremendously in the past year, resulting in most officers having to work mandatory overtime shifts.

ShotSpotter, a gunfire detection system, was recently installed in pockets of the precinct, though it's done little to bring down shooting incidents.

"Currently we are at 17 shootings versus nine last year," Hofmann told an audience at Part of the Solution on June 25. Five of those shootings happened on 194th Street on the outskirts of Bedford Park, the result of a turf gang war that's raged. It's a reason why Hofmann's deployed officers to the area.

"If you're in the neighborhood, you've noticed that I now have 24-hour coverage on 194th Street," Hofmann said about her new strategy.

Her plan has appeared to work. In



Photo by Imani Hall

**BRENDA CALDWELL, PRESIDENT** of the 52nd Precinct Community Council, briefs members of the audience.

June, 194th Street has seen no shooting incidents since May 22, the day a young man was shot near a barbershop.

Giving the precinct an extra leg up in fighting crime recently are 12 newly assigned officers to the precinct under the de Blasio administration's Summer All Out initiative. Many will be spotted walking the beat in tough neighborhoods, with two rookies supervised by one senior officer.

But Hofmann is not only relying on officers to lower crime numbers. She's also recruiting the public, utilizing so-

called Community Partners to "come out to community meetings, and meet with people in the community." The idea is to establish a formal relationship between officers and the community.

The 52nd Precinct has done its share of community outreach, forging relations between officers and young people. On June 19, the precinct hosted an Open House geared towards young people. It also celebrated one of its own (see story on page 6).

## (Cut and Save)

## Helpful Numbers

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### New York City Agencies

NY Police Dept. 52nd Precinct, 3016 Webster Ave., (718) 220-5811

Inspector Nilda Hofmann, Commanding Officer

NY Fire Department, N. Bronx Firehouse, 2928 Briggs Ave., (718) 430-0279

NY Dept. of Sanitation Action Line, (212) 219-8090

NY Dept. of Environmental Protection Helpline (air, noise, hazardous materials, water – including open fire hydrants), (718) 337-4357

Community Board 7, 229A East 204th St., (718) 933-5650

Chair: Adaline Walker-Santiago; District Mgr: Dustin Engelken

### Elected Representatives

NY State Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson, 959 E. 233rd St., (718) 547-8854

NY State Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz, Dist. 81, 3107 Kingsbridge Ave., (718) 796-5345

NY City Council Member Andrew Cohen, Dist. 11, 3450 DeKalb Ave., (718) 549-7300

### Recreation

Williamsbridge Oval Park - (718) 543-8672



# Norwood Cluster Site Still Housing Homeless Despite Closure



File Photo/Adi Talwar

**A PHOTO TAKEN** last year of residents milling around 15-19 W. Mosholu Pkwy. N., which saw spurts of violence and disruptive music throughout the day.

By **DAVID CRUZ**

On a recent Monday night, stereo sound clamored at an apartment unit at 15-19 W. Mosholu Pkwy. N., which until recently housed a cluster site homeless shelter. It was 11:30 at night, and the sound roared into the apartment unit of Sandra Tovar, one of several rent-paying tenants burdened by rowdy neighbors.

She's lived there for 14 years, and six of those were bliss, until the cluster site—a city initiative that houses the homeless with rent paying tenants—opened. With the site closing, Tovar thought the shelter residents, 39 families in all, would leave. But five have inexplicably stayed behind, inspiring a wave of rumors ranging from an impending deal with landlords to secure permanent housing, intrusive squatting, or a shelter resident's outright refusal to be processed at the Prevention Assistance and Temporary Housing (PATH), a New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS) intake center.

But even as facts slowly trickle in, the loud music and recurring nights of disturbances continue for rent-paying tenants. Each weekday, a boom box can be spotted affixed to a first floor window housing a shelter resident, endlessly deafening. At the courtyard, children buzz about, blocking entrances as some play a game of bas-

ketball.

"They always have [the music] all day long until after midnight, or sometimes after midnight," said Tovar, who now has a pending court case against one of the shelter residents accused of attacking her last November.

Catherine Barbosa, another rent-paying resident, took note of some of the grievances. "There's been illegal barbecuing going on," said Barbosa, who recalled the building experiencing a very violent summer last year. "You can keep calling 311, putting in a ticket. The behavior is constant."

The developments that led the shelter residents into the building, and management's lax enforcement, leaves residents like Tovar to inherit problem tenants.

Acacia Network, with shelter sites scattered throughout the Bronx, was listed as the shelter provider, receiving several thousand dollars to cover market-rate rent to a landlord, who agreed to house the homeless among rent-paying tenants.

Acacia took over the cluster site early this year after the original provider, Aguila Inc., was accused of mismanaging the site as waves of violent incidents escalated. On May 15, families were told to leave.

The 34 families who moved out of their units were offered housing by DHS. Quality One Management, which

manages the entire property, has since installed hinges used as makeshift locks to keep squatters from entering. There was no phone number listed for the management company.

"What's the point in going to PATH when you're already here?" asked Patricia Cruz, 28, a shelter resident and single mother. For now, she's awaiting management's decision to see if they can be permanently housed, a demand long pushed by the Coalition for the Homeless, a homeless advocacy group.

On her days off, Cruz can be spotted at the building's courtyard lounging with a fellow shelter resident, Maribel Dores. As children scamper around, security guards hired by the Acacia Network chitchat with residents, leaving rent tenants to wonder what their daily tasks are. Two guards told the *Norwood News* they're unsure why

they were still stationed there.

Residents pointed to a first floor shelter resident as the noisy culprit. The man, who declined to give his name, told the *Norwood News* he maintains a quiet life, countering residents' claims of non-stop music coming from his unit.

A DHS spokesperson said the agency had exhausted all types of assistance to remaining families, including housing relocation and case management. "We cannot force anyone to use our services, but we do ensure that people are aware of the options our agency offers," said the spokesperson.

"We fear that this could lead to a second incident of the type that befell Ms. Tovar back in November," said one resident, who asked not to be named for fear of being harassed by shelter residents.


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# INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



This week we asked readers their thoughts on billionaire Donald Trump and his recent announcement to run for President of the United States.



He's actually not running officially because he hasn't filed any paperwork in any of the 50 states. Would I vote for him? Absolutely not. Trump speaks his mind, he's not a politician so he's not being politically correct. He speaks from whatever feelings he has, I don't know where it's coming from. Is he racist? This country has an immigration problem, the Republicans control the House and the Senate. Let them pass a law, it's as easy as that. The President has no control over Congress. They could pass a law and end it.

Joe Gari  
Norwood



Well, I think what he said wasn't right because I have a girlfriend who's Mexican-American, and she took it the wrong way and I feel it wasn't a great statement for him to make because it was incorrect about a race he knows nothing about. I'm not sure if he's racist, but no, he shouldn't run for President because he doesn't believe that everyone is equal

Avery Lopez  
Bedford Park



I think he's racist for what he said about Mexicans and accusing them of raping American women. When they cross the border they cross it to look for a good job and seek the American Dream, and he puts them down for it. I don't think he should be President of the United States, no.

Isa Rahimi  
Norwood



No, I don't believe he should be running for President because a person who is a candidate for President has to understand he is a candidate for all people, not just some people. He should stop with the Mexicans and go after Congress who has never dealt with immigration. His money is his strength, but his tongue is his weakness.

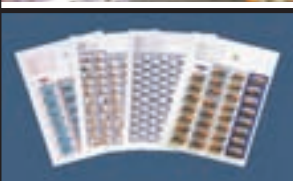
Irene Estrada  
Pelham Gardens



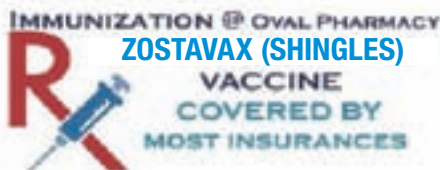
Honestly, I felt it was a good try for him to run for President, but to say Mexicans are the reason for this is wrong because actually they do help a lot and are not doing anything wrong. He basically did put his foot in his mouth and I'm not going to vote for him due to that.

Catherine Murphy  
Morris Park

**Editor's Note:** Have an idea for an Inquiring Photographer question? Send suggestions to [dcruz@norwoodnews.org](mailto:dcruz@norwoodnews.org).



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# Family Fitness Festival

Light rain and cool temperatures did not dampen spirits at the second annual Family Fitness Festival in Williamsbridge Oval Park, sponsored by the Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District, Tiga Pediatrics, Friends of the Williamsbridge Oval, Mosholu Preservation Corporation, and NYC Parks Department. The festival attracted hundreds of neighbors to the park throughout the afternoon of June 27, offering free healthy food samples, dancing, contests, fitness demos, and raffles.



Photo by Miriam Quinn

**WOULDN'T YOU BE** smiling, too? This resident beams on winning a new bicycle, donated by Jerome-Gun Hill BID and BID member Boogie Down Bicycles.



Photo courtesy Angie LMV Photography

**TUG OF WAR** is always a perennial favorite..



Photo courtesy Angie LMV Photography

**BABY, WORK OUT!** Belin Boot Camp instructors lead the charge, as Yasmin Cruz of Image Marketing (l) joins in.



Photo by Miriam Quinn

**FRIENDS OF THE** Williamsbridge Oval President, Sheila Sanchez (far right), and supporters, greet newly appointed Bronx Parks Commissioner, Iris Rodriguez-Rosa (second from right).



Photo courtesy Angie LMV Photography

**FACEPAINTING BECOMES ACTIVISM**, with the #not62 Twitter hashtag encouraging healthier lifestyles in the Bronx.



Photo courtesy Angie LMV Photography

**MPC DEPUTY DIRECTOR** Marcia Cameron (far upper right) congratulates winners of the dance-off prize, fresh from a youth league football game, and their coach.



# Another Property Sold Blocks From Armory

By DAVID CRUZ

Another piece of property has sold for nearly \$15 million in Kingsbridge, blocks from the Kingsbridge Armory. The transaction is just another sign of growing real estate activity near the Armory that's now slated to become an enormous ice skating center.

Eastern Consolidated brokered a deal with an unnamed buyer for the real estate property at 135-145 W. Kingsbridge Rd. near the James J. Peters Veterans Hospital. The 67,000-square-foot property is home to a six-story walk-up complete with 10 occupied retail stores and 57 mostly rent regulated apartments.

"The strength of the retail was a driving force in achieving the price that we were able to obtain, as well as the recent attention the Bronx has been enjoying," said Adelaide Posinelli, who represented Eastern Consolidated. "The investor appetite for core residential investments is continuing at a rapid clip in every borough."

Ronda Rogovin, principal and senior director at Eastern Consolidated who represented the buyer, said the property has "future upside," noting it is a "desirable addition to the portfolio of the investor."

The news comes roughly a year after merchants at another property across the street from the Armory, were hit with increased rents. Retail tenants suspected New Kingsbridge LLC of pricing them out to bring in higher-paying retail tenants.

The Kingsbridge National Ice Center would be the world's largest ice skating center, with many real estate analysts considering the project a major game changer for the Bronx.

## 52nd Precinct Celebrates One Member's Centennial

By IMANI HALL

At the 52nd Precinct's Community Council meeting June 25, members of the Council paused to recognize longtime member Mary Vallati, who will turn 100 this month. As part of the celebration, Vallati was presented with a proclamation from Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. with her family by her side.

"You have been a great source of wisdom and strength to our family and a loving person to your neighbors and friends," Brenda Caldwell, president of the 52nd Precinct Community Council, read. "On the occasion of your 100th birthday, I, Ruben Diaz, the Borough President of the Borough of the Bronx, salute you."

Caldwell paid tribute to Vallati, telling a packed room at Part of the Solution that "as long as I've been in the Five-Two, Mary was always there." "I see her as this wise, wise woman who has so much to teach us and still teaches us," said Caldwell, as members of the audience offered a standing ovation to Vallati.

Vallati was also presented with a statue in honor of her years with



Photo by Imani Hall

**MARY VALLATI (CENTER)**, longtime member of the 52nd Precinct Council, poses with family members with a proclamation presented by the Borough President's Office. Vallati will turn 100 this month.

the Council. She admitted she was at a loss for words, repeating to the crowd, "I don't know what to say."

Vallati has remained an ever-present resident at community

gatherings. To this day, she's still active with the Bedford Moshulu Community Association, preparing notices for its monthly meetings.

## NYC Rent Freeze Praised by Tenants, Opposed by Landlords

By IMANI HALL

New York City's Rent Guidelines Board voted for a rent freeze for tenants on June 29. The historic decision prohibits landlords from raising the rent for tenants with one-year rent-regulated leases. There will be an increase in rent by two percent for tenants with two-year leases. The new rent guidelines will affect the over 1 million tenants living in rent-regulated apartments in the city.

"Under this year's current data, a guideline which grants a zero percent increase is appropriate," said chairwoman of the Board, Rachel Godsil.

Board members, all appointed by Mayor Bill de Blasio, a Democrat, voted

for the freeze, with its two landlord representatives Sara Williams Willard and Scott Walsh voting no. "I absolutely voted with a resounding no," said Willard, speaking of the vote.

Tenant representatives however celebrated the decision. "Today we take a stand and say that a zero is a huge victory," said Harvey Epstein, tenant representative of the Board.

Many city elected officials have also commended the decision made by the RGB. "I think the Rent Guidelines Board did a very, very good job looking at all the facts," de Blasio said. "When they composited all of the costs, they found that decision—that zero—was the right decision economically," he

added.

"This historic move will help provide meaningful relief to the more than 1.2 million tenants whose leases expire this year," Bronx Assembly Member Victor M. Pichardo of the 86th Assembly District, said in a statement.

Council Member Andrew Cohen also applauded the decision saying, "The rent freeze has provided a sense of relief to these residents and will prove to be the right step forward for people living in the city on fixed incomes."

Last month, the New York State Legislature voted to extend rent regulations until June 2019. The new regulations will be in effect in October.



# In Norwood, Open Fire Hydrants Signal Jubilation and Fear

By TATYANA TURNER

Norwood residents are trying to find measures to beat the heat as the summer settles in, by cracking open a fire hydrant. But as children turn open hydrants into neighborhood gatherings, a slew of open fire hydrants throughout the summer has members of the FDNY shutting them off, pointing out the dangers in leaving them open.

On Hull Avenue by East Mosholu Parkway, a man was seen washing his car with help from a moderately gushing hydrant. According to one neighbor, the hydrant had been left open for days. On Decatur Avenue near 197th Street, children hopped in and out of a hydrant stream. According to the FDNY, "Fire hydrants create dangerously low levels of water pressure, which can significantly impact FDNY operations in case of a fire."

"Illegally opened fire hydrants release more than 1,000 gallons of water per minute," according to a recent statement by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). On a recent afternoon in Norwood, open fire



Photo by Vivian Carter

**THIS CHILD IS SEEN** playing at the FDNY-approved capped hydrant at the corner of Putnam Place and Reservoir Oval East. The cap was installed after the hydrant was found gushing for hours.

hydrants have been spotted at the corner of Reservoir Oval East and Putnam Place, where kids spent several hours playing at the corner hydrant before the FDNY reduced pressure, and installed a sprinkler cap. But even so, the hydrant's sprinkler system remained on for days, with people spotted cleaning their hands and feet, feeding their

dogs and using it to wash their cars.

Some neighborhood parents have heeded that call, though for the safety of their children.

At Williamsbridge Oval Park, home to an active sprinkler system, Angie Ramirez told the *Norwood News* she won't allow her kids to play at a hydrant since "there are crazy drivers

that can put children at risk." "I would play in them when I was younger," said Ramirez, "but times have changed."

Chanta Pressley, another Norwood mom hanging out by the park's benches, said, "I would let my children in the fire hydrant because they are old enough to be a part of that culture. My only main concern would be vehicles."

For years, a program called Hydrant Education Action Team (HEAT) has taken measures in preventing the abuse of open fire hydrants. Last year, HEAT opened its doors to teens in the Summer Youth Employment Program to expand their campaign and teach locals about fire hydrant safety by handing out informational flyers and hosting community events.

Anyone responsible for leaving a fire hydrant open can pay a fine up to \$1,000 and spend up to 30 days in jail.

Residents can call 311 to have the FDNY install a city-approved spray cap given to anyone over the age of 18 at any fire station. This can reduce the amount of running water because it only releases between 20 and 25 gallons of water per minute.

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# Community Residents Oppose Opening of Juvenile Center

By TATYANA TURNER

“Save our community” was the message Baychester residents chanted in protest of a juvenile detention facility in their area. The impending facility adds to a growing list of facilities within that community district.

The new juvenile facility will be built at 3030 Bruner Ave., a largely residential area made up of two-family homes. It’ll be part of the Administration for Children Services’ (ACS) Close to Home program that detains juvenile inmates while offering educational services from the city Education Department. A larger goal is to put the incarcerated into a more homey setting, closer to their families and in a less prison-like atmosphere.

But residents felt ACS betrayed them after believing the agency would build an all-female group home instead.

“I clearly understand the Close to Home program,” said Councilman Andy King, representing the district where the facility will be built. “But there are certain rules that cannot be violated. Families should not succumb to the ills of the individuals who have violated the law.”

The “certain rules” King referred to is zoning laws that determine the placement of an institutional building, be it residential or industrial, based on the needs of the facility.

The facility falls in an R4-1 district, which calls for one- or two-family homes that are either attached or semi-detached. Facilities that require security, such as prisons or reformatories, are usually built in an I-3 zone. But a check with the Department of

Buildings shows an I-3 property operating as an inhabited placement facility is permitted in an R-4 zone as-of-right.

In a statement, a spokesman for ACS said “the goal is to provide a safe, stable, close-knit residential environment for those who need rehabilitation services while also ensuring the safety of residents and surrounding community. We will continue outreach to community leaders and elected officials to ensure that their questions or concerns are answered.”

Community District 12, which largely overlaps with King’s Council District, has a history of housing facilities such as shelters in their largely residential community. A 2014 special needs housing report by the Borough President’s Office shows the district ranks third as having the most special needs buildings in the Bronx, with 48 buildings comprised of 1,256 units. This includes Praxis, which owns a supportive housing site in Wakefield for couples and individuals who do not have children.

Father Richard Gorman, who chairs Community Board 12, encouraged frustrated residents to write letters to ACS and tell them to “shut it down.” Protesters collectively chanted “Move it to Riverdale,” a more affluent portion of the Bronx, with no juvenile detention center.

“Those who think this project shouldn’t be in their area should focus more on stopping it rather than advocating that it be in the neighborhood of fellow Bronxites,” said Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, representing Riverdale.



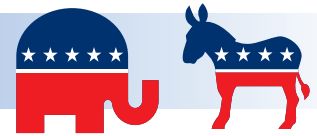
Photo courtesy Office of Councilman Andy King

**RESIDENTS JOIN COUNCILMAN** Andy King outside a nearly completed juvenile detention facility in Baychester.



# THE BRONX BELTWAY

By DAVID CRUZ



## Sepulveda

It comes with a heavy heart in hearing that Bob “Kappy” Kappstatter, former longtime editor and political columnist of the *Daily News* and most recently *The Bronx Times Reporter*, has joined the “Dark Side”—public relations. Now a political consultant, his first client is Parkchester Assemblyman Luis Sepulveda. Kappy sounds happy in his new role. “After years on being on one side of the fence, it’s now kind of fascinating to be on the inside, and hopefully doing some good.” Good luck Kappy.

This only adds weight to a long-running rumor of Sepulveda’s quest to run for higher office—ahem, Bronx District Attorney. Sepulveda has been viewed as a potential DA candidate, but decided against it this year. He hasn’t ruled out any future run. Sepulveda can also become a replacement should Johnson, at some point, become a judge. For now, Sepulveda’s planting some seeds, bringing a heavy-weight in.

## #DumpTrump

That Twitter hashtag has been floating around recently after egobillionaire Donald Trump marginalized people of Mexican descent by calling them rapists. The comments sent ripple effects to the world of local politics, going up to the office of Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.

The tie there? Diaz went palling around with Trump when the borough’s new golf course, Trump Links at Ferry Point, opened in March. The city-funded project, greenlit during the Bloomberg years with The Donald fronting \$10.5 million, is being held up as another redesign of the Bronx’s image. And while the de Blasio administration has ruffled Trump’s feathers by saying it will review their existing contracts with him, the Borough President’s Office didn’t outright say it would distance itself from Trump.

Diaz Jr.’s status with Trump was insinuated in a statement saying, “The Trump Links at Ferry Point should be a monument to the transformation of our borough and the great things happening in the Bronx, and Mr. Trump’s hurt-

ful, insensitive remarks have made that difficult. NBC’s and Macy’s actions should send a strong message to Donald Trump that hateful, divisive rhetoric will not be tolerated, and that such rhetoric has real consequences. Mr. Trump must apologize.”

Meantime, Welcome2TheBronx, a well-know blog covering South Bronx issues, called on the city to consider removing Trump’s name from the links, which could be tricky since bulletproof contract law could bar the city from moving on that idea. Unless there was a payout of some kind?

So why all the dump on Trump? Well, populist politicians are fully aware that the Hispanic vote represents a critical voting bloc in elections these days. With the Bronx boasting a large Hispanic population, and largely leaning Democrat, it behooves Mayor Bill de Blasio and Diaz (who is Puerto Rican) to make nice with Hispanics. After all, both politicos are going after the same job, with one trying to keep it, and another trying to succeed him.

## Cuomo vs. de Blasio

Mayor Bill de Blasio didn’t come out much of a winner during one of the more tumultuous periods in the Albany Legislature. The mayor, a progressive Democrat whose Bronx-related asks—extending mayoral control beyond one year, more funding for NYCHA repairs, and less tax benefits to housing developers of the 421a program—fell flat.

De Blasio, in a move seen as calculating and foolhardy, railed on Cuomo’s indifference in an interview with the City Hall press corps., a day before his family vacation.

With de Blasio’s strained relationship with Cuomo, it’s likely de Blasio will lose any endorsement come re-election time. This makes Cuomo a wildcard endorser, conceivably backing Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. should he want to run for mayor. After all, Diaz has his major chess piece (maybe queen?) in Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie. Should those two continue to play nice, Cuomo could lean towards Diaz.

With Cuomo offering little in the way of support for Downstate affairs, it’s incumbent on its cast of local politicians such as Speaker Carl Heastie to deliver on improvements for the borough.

## How’d They Do?

With the Albany Legislature now over (lawmakers are undoubtedly performing cartwheels), The Bronx Beltway reviewed how the borough’s state senators fared this year in getting their lead-sponsored bills at least heard in the chambers. For the State Senate, the nifty website Open New York Senate helped shed light on floor votes. They are:

Of the 126 bills Senator Ruben Diaz Sr. sponsored, seven went to a floor vote.

Of the 70 bills Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson sponsored, three went to a floor vote.

Of the 79 bills Senator Jeff Klein sponsored, 31 went to a floor vote.

Of the 47 bills Senator Gustavo Rivera sponsored, two went to a floor vote.

Of the 53 bills Senator Jose Ser-rano sponsored, four went to a floor vote.

Hassell-Thompson’s office didn’t return a call seeking to double-verify the numbers. Overall, of the 1,712 floor votes reported on the Open New York website, 68 were from Bronx state senators, according to a review by The Bronx Beltway. As the numbers indicate, Klein wielded the most influence, no doubt from his position as co-leader of the Independent Democratic Conference. As for whether these bills passed, that’s an entirely different matter. The figures are pending, though Sen. Gustavo Rivera, representing the 33rd Senate District, yielded two bills signed by Governor Andrew Cuomo. He also signed one of Klein’s bills, which extends the free Wednesdays at the Bronx Zoo through 2020.

Deadlines kept us from reviewing this further, so next time we’ll tell you where Bronx Senators rated when compared to the rest of the city.

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## Starring Roles for Historical Women



Photo courtesy Community Board

**SOME COMMUNITY WOMEN** get decked out in costumes as they showcase women who have left an imprint on society. The June 29 play entitled "Historical Women" took place at Sister Annunciata Bethell Senior Center at 243 E. 204th Street. Participants explored the contributions and legacies of women such as first-ever African-American Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, Egyptian queen Hatsheput, and Civil Rights activist Rosa Parks. Pictured l-r: Leona Heyward Hull, play director; Adaline Walker Santiago, chair, Community Board 7; Dorothy Vitalis as Rosa Parks; Jane Addison, manager, Mosholu Branch Library; Guadalupe Garcia as Vasquez-Yemaya; Mary Buckley as Christian Lady Bruce; Barbara Bailey as Shirley Chisholm; Dale Kinney as Hatsheput; Sherlie Walker as Sojourner Truth; Patricia Burlace, senior center executive director; and Militeri Tucker, Bronx Council of the Arts and Sparc Program manager.

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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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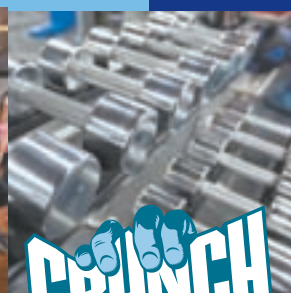
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# Be Healthy

# 9.1%

Percentage of Bronxites afflicted with  
mental illness for 14 days or more

(Source: New York City  
Department of Education)

Vital  
Stats

By DAVID CRUZ

The debate over whether institutionalization of the borough's mental health population continues, with state officials seeing it as vestige of a bygone era. In the last few years, it has shifted away from housing the mentally ill, and seeking different forms of treatment instead.

In the Bronx, opting for unorthodox care for the mentally ill has been a recent trend at North Central Bronx Hospital (NCBH), one that's shown a degree of success. For NCBH, partial hospitalization has been a successful model, though seldom utilized, according to officials. Advocates for NCBH's Partial Hospitalization Program have since pressed upon the families of the troubled to consider the option over full hospitalization. As it stands, the Bronx leads the state with the most reported cases of mental illness.

"We can provide intensive care to these patients in need at a fraction of

the cost of hospitalizing them," said Dr. Madeline O'Brien, director of the PHP. "Our re-hospitalization rate of patients who complete or graduate this program is also dramatically lower than those who forgo PHP."

Every weekday, roughly 20 sufferers of bi-polar disorder, anxiety and schizophrenia are picked up from their home and taken to day-long therapy sessions at the hospital on Kossuth Avenue in Norwood. The routine implements a form of stability-treatment while still enjoying the familiarity of home. Inside the hospital, patients grow accustomed to the same faces, another benefit to sufferers who would otherwise be shuffled from one new doctor to the next, creating destabilization, according to O'Brien.

Breakthroughs happen at any time, with combinations of private and group talk therapy sessions usually serving as tools. Art therapy is also offered, allowing patients to let



Photo courtesy North Central Bronx Hospital  
**FDR. MADELINE O'BRIEN** oversees North Central Bronx Hospital's Partial Hospitalization Program.

their thoughts flourish on a canvas.

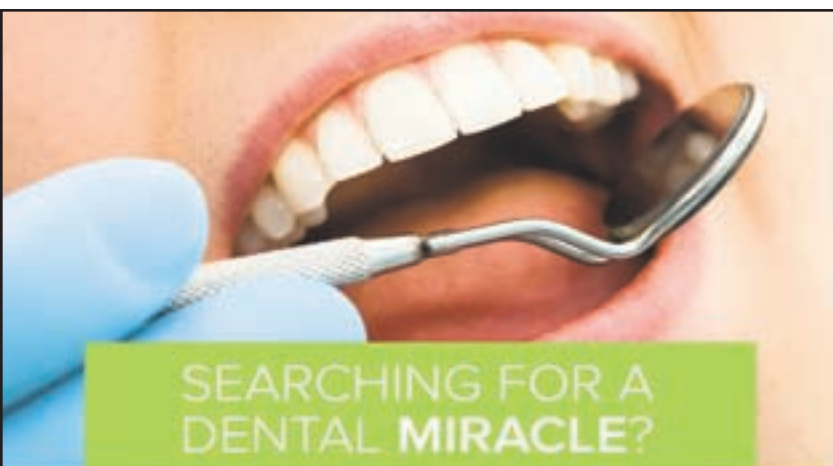
Attendance is seriously stressed at PHP, with staffers often conduct-

ing house calls should a patient miss a day. Understanding of medications is also ingrained into patients.

The stays are short-term, just six weeks, culminating with a graduation ceremony where residents earn a certification. The hospital can't win them all, officials admit. Those who don't make it are often referred to other behavioral health services.

But many do complete it, like Michelle. A Bronx resident, Michelle suffers from depression and suicidal thoughts. She entered the program in December and graduated this spring. "The groups allowed me to bond with people who had similar traumatic experiences," said Michelle. "Also, the staff was wonderful, very attentive to my care and provided support for keeping my medication consistent so I could get better."

Medicaid and private insurance plans are accepted. Those interested can call (718) 519-2439 to schedule a behavioral assessment screening.



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# Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

## EDITOR'S PICK

### Adult Summer Reading

Adults are invited to sign up for a free **Adult Summer Reading 2015** at the Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd. and submit reviews at [www.summerreading.org](http://www.summerreading.org) or in the library by 5 p.m. on Aug. 28. Prizes will be awarded to the four individuals who read the most books and post/submit reviews. Winners will be announced on Aug. 29 at 2:30 p.m. This program is open only to those who select the Bronx Library Center as their local library. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org).

## Onstage

• The Bronx Arts Ensemble presents **Romantic Music for 7 and 8**, featuring classical music, on July 12, and **The Beatles and More '60s Favorites** on July 19; both at 2 p.m. in Van Cortlandt Park's Rockwood Drive Circle (rain location is VC Park's Vladeck Hall, 74 VC Park So. at Hillman Avenue), and at 4 p.m. at Fordham University. Also presented is **Latin and Afro-Cuban Hits**, July 10 at 6 p.m. in Pelham Bay Park, Middletown Road and Stadium Avenue (rain location is International Caterers, 3243 Ampere Ave.). For more information, call (718) 601-7399.

• The **Bardekova Ensemble** will perform music of Mozart, George M. Cohan, Irving Berlin, Scott Joplin and others, free, at Woodlawn Cemetery Chapel on July 12 at 3 p.m. (enter at the Jerome Avenue gate); and at Poe Park Visitor Center, 2640 Grand Concourse (between East 192nd Street and East Kingsbridge Road) on July 15 at 2 p.m. For more information, call (917) 584-6626.

• City Parks Foundation presents SummerStage Kids free performing arts events, all at 10:30 a.m.: July 9 - **Marika Hughes & Bottom Heavy**; and July 16 - **B-Love's Hip-Hop Jazzy Groove**, both at Van Cortlandt Park's Classic Playground, VC Park South and Orloff Avenue; July 23 - **City/Parks PuppetMobile**, at Van Cortlandt Park's Sachkerah Playground, Jerome Avenue and Gun Hill Road; and July 24 - **Lucky Bob**, at Poe Park, Grand Concourse at 193rd Street. For more information, call (212) 360-8281 or (212) 353-9585.

• The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents the **New York Opera Forum** performing Maria Stuarda by Gaetano Donizetti, July 11; and **A Musical Tribute to the Music of Motown**, July 18; both at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org).

## Events

• The New York Botanical Garden presents **Viva la Frida!**, July 11 and 12, to celebrate the life, style and spirit of Mexican painter Frida Kahlo. Events include her original artworks, live mariachi performances, a Frida look-alike contest, Frida impersonators, and a craft workshop to make a flower crown.

Visitors can also savor Mexican food and refreshments. For more information, call (718) 817-8700.

• Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Art Projects**: Friendly Vegetables and Microbes, to view inner structures of vegetables through a microscope, then create a collage, July 11 and 12; and Floating Flowers, to create a collage with foam materials to see if it floats, July 18 and 19; both in WH House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also scheduled is **Outdoor Music Wednesdays**: July 15 - Metropolitan Four, featuring music for flutes; and July 22 - Alan Hampton, singer/musician and others; 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.

## Exhibits

• Poe Park Visitor Center, 2640 Grand Concourse (between East 192nd Street and East Kingsbridge Road) presents **High Bridge: Rebirth of the Harlem River**, featuring photographs celebrating the High Bridge, through July 25, Tuesdays through Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The photographers will be present at a meet and greet reception on July 18. For more information, call (917) 584-6626 or (718) 365-5516.

• The Bronx Museum, 1040 Grand Concourse at 165th Street presents **Wild Noise**, featuring visual arts exchange between Cuba and the United States, through Aug. 16. For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

## Library Events

• The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents for children: **Hands-On Projects at 2 p.m.**: (ages 7 to 12): Super Book Making, July 9, and Hero Door Hanger Making, July 16; **Reading Aloud at 11 a.m.**: (ages 3 to 8), to enjoy picture books, July 9, 10, 13, 15, 16, 17, 20, 22 and 23; **films at 2 p.m.**: July 14 and 21; and **Harvest Moon**: (ages 4 to 10), The Colorado Sisters share some of their favorite stories from Native American Indian tales, presented by Urban Stages, July 18 at 2 p.m. For teens/young adults, there is: **Girls Circle at 2 p.m.**: July

9, 21 and 23; and **film**: July 16 at 5 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org).

• The Moshulu Library, 285 E. 205th St., offers for children: **Toddler Story Time at 10:30 a.m.**: (ages 18 to 36 months), songs and rhymes, July 9, 16 and 23; **Be a City Hero at 3 p.m.**: (ages 5 to 12), free hands-on science workshop, July 9, 16 and 23 (advance in-person registration required); and **Literature at Play**: (preK to 5th grade), workshops in acting, songwriting, creative movement and playmaking resulting in presentation of an original play or musical, Fridays at 2:30 p.m., July 10, 17, 24 and 31. Teens/young adults can attend **film**: "Chappie," July 11 at 1:30 p.m.; and **Spa Time**: workshop to make bath salts, lip balms, shower scrubs and more (all

materials provided), July 16 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 at 2 p.m.**: (ages 5 to 12), dance and zumba, July 10 and 17; **Kids Pajama Party** (ages 18 mos. to 12 years), July 13 at 6 p.m.; **film**: (ages 5 to 18), July 15 at noon; and **Be a City Hero**: (ages 5 to 12), free hands-on science workshop, July 23 at 2 p.m. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

**NOTE:** Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to [norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org](mailto:norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org), and should be received by July 13 for the next publication date of July 23.



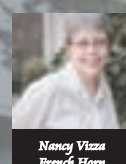
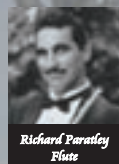
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## Free Concerts at Bronx Landmarks

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July 15, 2pm: Poe Park Visitor Center,  
2640 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10458



Performances made possible with funds from Bronx Council on the Arts, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, Greater NY Arts Development Fund, Music Performance Trust Fund, Bronx Delegation of NY City Council, and Private Donations.



# Vendor Cap Lift Rage

(continued from page 1)

dark side of vending to committee members and representatives of elected officials. Some illegal practices can involve legitimate vendors illegally subcontracting their vendor licenses, clogging streets and leaving mounds of trash behind. The long running argument remains from BID merchants: vendors threaten to siphon foot traffic and profits away from retail establishments who bear much higher overhead.

They also edge closer to brick and mortar establishments, a noticeable problem within the borders of the JGH-BID. "Sidewalks have been shortened. They're not as wide as they used to be," said Marcia Cameron, executive director of JGH-BID, home to some 200 stores. "Streets are used for so many things. You have to do a study before lifting the ban."

Business improvement districts are special commercial zones where property owners pay a special tax assessment for cleaning and marketing services. Property owners typically pass the cost on to store owners.

Cameron was joined by Wilma Alonso and Daniel Bernstein, executive director and co-executive director of the Fordham Road Business Improvement District, the largest BID in the Bronx. Together they presented a four-page statement prepared by the New York City BID Association, a

contingent of 72 BIDs across the city that warned a "unilateral, piecemeal change" to the current laws "will lead to unintended consequences."

"We oppose any proposal to lift the cap on vending permits in the absence of a comprehensive, deliberate, and research-based study, with input from public stakeholders including business owners, property owners, and residents, as well as community boards..." read the statement.

For now, CB7 hasn't taken an official position.

## Vendors' Struggles

In many instances, the decks appear to be stacked against prospective vendors, particularly those selling food, according to organizers from the Street Vendor Project. With only 3,000 food permits handed out yearly, in compliance with a 1981 City Council rule, waiting lists are common, sometimes taking years to be built. This pushes them to either work for a licensed vendor, enter the black market by renting a permit at an inflated price that can run upwards of \$25,000 for two years (permits typically cost \$200) or just illegally vend. They run the risk of heavy fines, which can go upwards of \$1,000 for infractions that include vending too close to a storefront.

Fines are common by inspectors from

the New York City Department of Health (DOH) or Department of Consumer Affairs, which share oversight in awarding licenses. But arrests can be effected. For the NYPD, arrests are not just part of the process, but logging merchandise that turns into evidence, according to Captain John Korabol, executive officer of the 52nd Precinct, which covers Norwood and parts of Fordham.

The limit on vendors has been seen as economically counterproductive for the Street Vendor Project, which has fought for years to improve conditions on behalf of those seeking permits.

"We have a lot of research about competition. Studies show that vendors are not competing with brick and mortar establishments. They are selling different items at different price points," said Sean Basinki, director of the Street Vendor Project, which has met with 41 of the 50 City Council members in attempts to have them lift the cap. Their version of a bill involves the city Department of Small Businesses and the city DOH to issue an unlimited number of vendor licenses to effectively weed out the black market.

Basinki argues that more vendors translate to less unemployment and a sense of increased entrepreneurship. A vendor's presence, Basinki claims, "gets people shopping."

## Every Vendor to Themselves

With stiff competition out on the streets, a kind of "every person for themselves" attitude courses through the world of vending. Along the Jerome-Gun Hill BID, legal vendors, all U.S. military veterans, expressed concern over the city issuing unlimited licenses.

"That's going to push us out," said Robert McDaniels, a 10-year Norwood vendor and U.S. Navy veteran who routinely sells his brand of watches and colognes in front of a general store. "That's going to bring more problems, it's gonna bring more laws, and more headaches for existing vendors."

A charm bracelet vendor, a Riverdalian who only went by Ed, said he'd welcome new vendors so long as "they're not in competition with me."

"You don't want too many because then they'll flood the streets," said Jim Lane, a Norwood vendor selling handmade pet tags.

For vendors, selling products can serve as a road to a brick and mortar establishment, a reason why Basinki can't quite understand the vitriol towards vendors. "The animosity doesn't make sense," he said.

**Editor's Note:** Minutes for CB7's June 29th Economic Development Meeting Committee meeting will be posted on their website, [www.bronxcb7.info](http://www.bronxcb7.info).

# 2015 FORDHAM ROAD FILM FESTIVAL

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BRING A CHAIR OR BLANKET AND ALL YOUR FRIENDS!

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NYC COUNCILMAN FERNANDO CABRERA

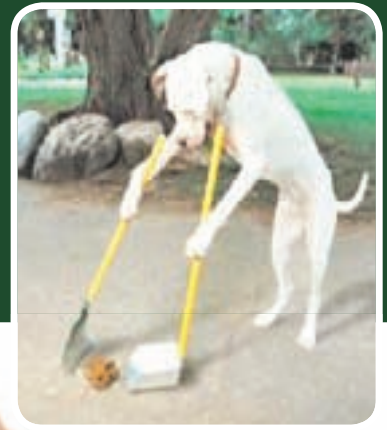
NYC COUNCILMAN RITCHIE TORRES







HELP US KEEP OUR  
NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN  
AND BEAUTIFUL!



START A TREND  
DROP IT IN



¡ AYUDENOS A MANTENER  
NUESTRO BARRIO  
LIMPIO Y BONITO !

**DON'T  
FORGET TO  
RECYCLE**

