

NORWOOD NEWS



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INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER:LOGGING NYPD FORCE I PG. 4



A BREAKDOWN OF CB7'S 311 COMPLAINTS I PG. 2

BEDFORD PARK POSTAL WOES

PS 46's Stinky Situation I pg 5

New property owner of post office site tied to luxury housing development





Tour de Bronx Set for Oct. 24 | pg 8

No Injuries in Bedford Park Blaze I pg 12

Photo by David Cruz

THE 2963 WEBSTER AVE. Post Office has been in Bedford Park for decades. For the past few years its future has always been up in the air.

By WILLIAM MATHIS

The future of the post office at 2963 Webster Ave. remains uncertain, thanks to a recent new buyer who's been in the business of developing luxury housing. Questions still languish over whether the post office will stay open despite assurance from high-ranking officials at the United States Postal Service (USPS) over its intention to stay.

Back in 2009 the branch was put on a potential closure

list due to USPS budget cuts. However, the community rallied behind the branch to successfully keep it open. Now, the post office is threatened by potential development plans from the property's new owner.

The rezoning of 80 blocks

of Webster Avenue to support residential housing, also in 2009, has caused developers to pay high prices for real estate there, with eyes on future lucrative developments. In 2014, a developer purchased (continued on page 15)

Out & About pgs 18-19

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IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST



Housing Complaints Top CB7 311 List

By JASMINE GOMEZ

When it comes to the 311 system, a look at Community Board 7's list of gripes will tell you there are plenty of building issues to complain about.

An analysis by the *Norwood News* found the top category of logged complaints during the last week of September in Community Board 7 fell under Property and Buildings. The category of Public Safety, which catalogues hydrant issues, came in second. The Board, covering Norwood, Bedford Park, Fordham, Kingsbridge and University Heights had a total 771 complaints,

Of the data collected, CB7 residents logged 181 complaints related to property and buildings. These complaints ranged from defective elevators to plumbing issues in sinks and toilets.

After exhausting several avenues to fix a problem themselves, frustrated tenants often turn to the 311 system as judiciary support, as 311 forwards complaints to the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, which in turn, dispatches inspectors to residential buildings.

"Most people in the community know their rights. They know what the landlord is required to do and if the landlord isn't doing it, they know that this is what they should be doing--reporting it. If you don't report it, it's like it never happened," said Sally Dunford, executive director of West Bronx Housing Center.

But Dunford also believes that sometimes tenants may exaggerate their complaints in order to expedite the 311 response. Unaware of heat laws, a tenant may call 311 complaining they are receiving no heat, when in reality the heat, albeit low, may be turned on. "What sometimes people do, and it's problematic, is people will call over and over again about the same thing. The city is pretty sophisticated about this," she said. "If they get six calls from the same person or the

same person is calling every day, they're going to decide that that person is probably kind of a 'crank'."

The 311 system catalogues every complaint that's then tied to a complaint number. But what may increase the number of complaints is numerous calls from that same caller since a new complaint number is given each time a complaint is made. An exception is reached when the caller follows up on a previously recorded complaint number.

Analyzing the 12 community boards all together, tree-related issues ranging from new tree requests to removal of overgrown trees or branches, were the number one type of complaint coming in with a total of 1,788 311 calls.

Community Board 12 had the most tree-related complaints, totaling 313. CB12, the largest community board in the Bronx, covers the northeast Bronx, including Baychester, Edenwald, and Williamsbridge. CB12's category with the second most complaints was property and buildings, logging in a total of 127 complaints.

Across the Bronx, the categories with the highest complaints included noise, property and buildings, public safety, and trees.

However, one exception that deviated from the most popular categories across all boards was found in CB10, covering many neighborhoods including City Island, Throggs Neck, and Pelham Bay, where its most popular category for complaints was streets and sidewalks, at 313 complaints. A complaint logged under the streets and sidewalks category can range from a broken street light to a sidewalk condition that needs attention.

"We need to keep improving our quality of life. If we don't continue to call 311, what happens is it's very easy for misbehavior to continue and grow," said Elizabeth Quaranta, president of Friends of Mosholu Parkland.

Beating the Cold: Staying Warm During Chilly Months

During heating season, which runs from Oct. 1 through May 31, residential building owners with tenants are legally required to maintain an indoor temperature of at least 68 degrees Fahrenheit between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. when outdoor temperatures drop below 55 degrees. Between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., indoor temperatures must be 55 degrees when outside temperatures fall below 40 degrees. Hot water is required to be maintained at 120 degrees yearround.

If you have heat or hot water problems, here are some tips to make your complaint work for you:

New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) is required to respond to every complaint. When you call 311, HPD calls the owner.

If the owner reports that the problem is repaired, HPD will then call the tenant back to verify.

If the heat has not been restored, HPD sends out an inspector.

If the inspector finds a problem, they have a number of tools they can use including making repairs and/or delivering oil and can bill the owner.

So what can go wrong? Here are a few things:

- 1. There are not enough inspectors.
- 2. Complaining tenants do not want to give their name and number.
- 3. Tenants exaggerate problem, or are not specific enough.
- 4. The tenant feels cold, but temperature is within legal limits.
- $\label{eq:couple} 5. \ \ The owner raises heat for a couple of days and then lowers it again.$

(Source: West Bronx Housing and Neighborhood Resource Center)

NEXT ISSUE: Avoiding common heat complaint traps.

Public and Community Meetings

COMMUNITY BOARD 7 will hold its general board meeting on Oct. 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bedford Park Senior Center, 243 E. 204th St. CB7 committee meetings are held on the following dates at the board office, 229A E. 204th St. at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted: Housing/Land Use & Zoning Oct. 21; Community Relations/Long Term Planning Oct. 27; and Economic Development Oct. 27 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 933-5650.

A Forum on Violent Crime Turns Into Crime Fighting Debate

By ADEDAMOLA AGBOOLA

The recent spike in violent crimes in Fordham/Kingsbridge raised concerns from residents over policing tactics and deployment of resources in the neighborhoods.

The September fatal shooting of 24-year-old David Hooks on Briggs Avenue and 194th Street has worried residents and civic leaders as shooting incidents have risen by 27 percent in the 52nd Precinct so far this year.

Those concerns were loudly voiced at a recent town hall meeting organized by Councilman Ritchie Torres of the 15th Council District to discuss the violence in the community after Hooks' shooting just blocks from Fordham University. The motive for the shooting is still unclear.

Some policies that the NYPD have discontinued may have contributed to the rise in crime according to Billy Cannon, professor of Criminal Justice at Monroe College. Cannon, who retired as a detective sergeant with the NYPD after 27 years, says policies such as stop-and-frisk have handcuffed police officers from doing their jobs, which could lead to a crime



Picture by Adedamola Agboola

JOHN GARCIA (Second from right, standing) executive director of Fordham Bedford Community Services asks NYPD Bronx Borough Commander, Larry Nikunen (2nd from left, standing) a question at the Stop the Violence Town Hall Meeting at Our Lady of Refuge.

spike. Last year, a federal judge ruled the policy as unconstitutional.

"Why should a cop put his license and career on the line by stopping people?" said Cannon. "No doubt stop-and-frisk was overused and the police have lost the trust of the communities. But broken window crimes aren't being enforced. And when violent criminals know they won't be stopped, crimes go up."

Torres disagrees with the link between a lax stop-and-frisk policy and the rise in violent crimes. Instead, more available resources for the community are what are needed, according to Torres. "There are some of these kids who engage in violence because they don't have opportunities. That is the responsibilities of the government and we are fighting to bring the necessary resources to the community."

The Fordham Bedford Community Services, a nonprofit community-based organization, runs a free playground directly across from where Hooks was shot. Over 500 kids were registered to attend daily events this past summer and an average of only 85 to 100 kids showed up, the lowest attendance ever in the community.

Some residents blame it on a disconnect between local officials, law enforcement and the communities they serve. "There's never an ongoing dialogue between the police and the community. The only time that happens is when the police go to investigate a crime," said Aldo Perez, a resident and local activist who attended an anti-crime rally Sept. 24. "The problem is that we have old ideas and old fashioned way of doing things without having an integrated community dialogue."



INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



This week we asked readers their thoughts on new NYPD guidelines that would investigate all claims of use of force and officers who fail to step in during moments of alleged misconduct.



I think it would be very helpful. I think that having another officer with them when something arises would be helpful in court. It would also help solve a lot of police brutality because there'll be somebody watching, and somebody who will hopefully tell the truth when the time comes.

Laura Premosch The Hub



If one officer is doing something wrong to a suspect, his partner should actually report that to the chief and the commissioner and actually both should be fired or suspended if they don't report it. That would help keep officers in line because no one is above the

Jamal Wilson Morris Park

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



Yes, I think it's a good thing as long as they go through with it. Police always silence themselves. They always have backup and lawyers, money and everything. They don't want their cops to look bad. This will change the game around, it will make it more even and balanced.

Richard Arriaga Parkchester



As a community, I feel like it's good that it would stop police brutality. As far as police officers go, I think it would create a distrust between partners and that's never really good if you think about it, because you need your partner to have your back on the job, so if there's any distrust at all you're not going to be able to do the job as efficiently.

Tom Baez Clason Point



Yes, I am in favor of it. If it's done properly, I have no issues with it.

Dennis Kuflik Bedford Park



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Dismissal Time at PS 46 A Stinky Situation

By DAVID CRUZ

PS 46 Edgar Allan Poe classes end daily with a stream of several hundred fourth graders rushing out the blue doors on the side of Briggs Avenue. Students are met with an obstacle course, leading to a cramped sidewalk where they have to weave, dodge and single file out, parents in tow.

The Briggs Avenue path is reduced by half, thanks to the mounds of school trash abutting the sidewalk.

The nuisance has quietly angered parents, who have made no official complaints to the school, but have voiced frustration, and at times, resorting to move the trash bags out of the way.

"This is not right, it's not healthy, and there's no place to wait for the kids," said Elizabeth Carvajal, a resident who regularly picks up her granddaughter Sadie by the Briggs Avenue exit.

Clear plastic bags filled with discarded food, paper lunch trays and other refuse, are routinely chucked out the Briggs Avenue side by school personnel at all hours. The drop-off site has created a permanent stain on the sidewalk, thanks to leftover liquids that seep from the garbage, normally picked up by sanitation crews Tuesdays. Thursdays, and Saturdays.

"The smell is too much for the kids," said Alfredo Quinones, whose niece goes to the school. He proposed school personnel buy bins in which to place the trash.

Another parent, Tina Sanchez, proposed fourth graders exit school from the front side, once designated to the fifth grade class, which was temporarily relocated. She added the current location is not a suitable exit for a large fourth grade class. "There's a lot of kids that come out through this one door," said Sanchez. "If you're walking through the rain with your children and umbrellas, you're single filing and you're trying to get your kids. There's nowhere to walk."

Conditions have become so commonplace for John Garcia, executive director of Fordham Bedford Services and a lifelong Bedford Park neighbor who had attended the school, that he no longer remembers when he began spotting the mess. "Parents have to wait right next to garbage to pick up their kids," he said. "How does anyone not see a problem with that? The school is the one perpetrating this."

The New York City Department of Education did not respond to inquiries. The New York City Department of Sanitation noted it has not received any complaints relating to the garbage at PS 46. Usually, DSNY will police problem spots by sending agency officers to speak to school custodians.

For now, the arrangement persists. Garcia, an advocate for better quality of life improvements, said the school is sending a message to kids: "We don't care enough to move the garbage a little further down. We're going to dismiss our kids amongst the garbage."



Photo by Jasmine Gomez STUDENTS LETTING OUT at PS 46 meet head-on with a pile of garbage each day, infuriating parents.



Upgrades for University Hts. Park

Walton Park in University Heights has been added to a growing list of public spaces slated for major upgrades.

Under Mayor Bill de Blasio's Community Parks Initiative (CPI), the playground at the corner of Walton Avenue and East 181st Street will receive a share of \$285 million set aside for underfunded parks over the next five years. Monies will go towards the renovation of the park that's solely comprised of a basketball court. Councilman Fernando Cabrera, whose 14th Council District covers Walton Park, called the funding "timely and necessary."

CPI will also be earmarked for more park workers, community outreach and recreational programming.

Funds will also be earmarked for Partnership for Parks, a program between New York City Parks & Recreation and the City Parks Foundation. The program connects with community groups, helping them refine community organizing skills and be better advocates for parks.

--David Cruz

Exploring the Borough's Past



Photo by Miriam Quinones

VISITORS AT THE historic Valentine Varian House, doubling as the Bronx History Museum, got a taste of the Bronx's past through an exhibit celebrating 60 years of the Bronx County Historical Society. Guests walked about the preserved home, viewing artifacts, artwork and photos that captured some of the borough's bygone moments. The Bronx Historical Society has been the premier cultural institution whose sole aim is to keep the Bronx's memories intact.

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JPR Access Walk-through Tour Reset for Nov. 14-15

By DAVID CRUZ

A walk-through of the still-closed Jerome Park Reservoir has been rescheduled for Nov. 14 and 15 after city officials postponed it due to severe weather forecasts.

The tour of the massive manmade reservoir was supposed to have taken place Oct. 3, following years of prodding by park advocates who have long hoped for the public reservoir access. As it stands, residents are prohibited from walking the reservoir's scenic two-mile perimeter for security reasons, a position long held by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the agency that holds oversight of the reservoir. A fraction of the city's drinking water, originating from the New Croton Aqueduct, comes from the reservoir. The water's purified by the neighboring Croton Water Filtration Plant, built underneath Van Cortlandt Park.

Park activists have pressed the DEP to allow access to the pathway for decades. Those efforts were exacerbated



Photo courtesy Gary Axelbank

JEROME PARK RESERVOIR

by a 2011 report by the Bronx Borough President's Office that called for pilot access. Under the de Blasio Administration, the pilot program was established and a Jerome Park Reservoir Task Force was created to see the program through.

The original plan has been largely kept intact, with residents required to present tickets for guided tours scheduled for Nov. 14 and 15, beginning at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. each day. Self-guided walks will happen from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. both days. The same rules for participants still apply: bags, cell phones and cameras will be barred from the premises for security reasons.

Mystery of Damaged Oval Park Staircase Continues

By DAVID CRUZ

With slabs of concrete leaving one giant mess, the collapse of an aging stone wall and staircase at the northeast side of Williamsbridge Oval has sparked plenty of speculation on just what caused it to cave. Yet from all the conjecture and guessing games, there haven't been many clear cut answers, bewildering soccer players, dog walkers and parents of young children playing at the heavily used park.

As it stands, police have cordoned off the damaged concrete staircase leading to the park's lower level. But the fallen yellow tape and tipped-over NYPD fences haven't done much for park goers who walk down the damaged staircase at their own risk.

As the days wore on, a growing chorus of Norwood residents have demanded the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) fast track repairs to the brittle wall, pointing to other potentially troublesome spots around the park.

"It's a safety hazard," said Betty Arce, a neighbor and fellow member of Friends of the Williamsbridge



Photo by David Cruz **REMAINS OF A PORTION** of the northeast stone wall and staircase leading to Williamsbridge Oval Park were first spot-

Oval Park, a volunteer group working as an auxiliary force for the park. "If this doesn't get fixed before the winter, it's going to languish." Her assumption on what happened: last week's torrential rainstorm caused the wall to weaken, and later pushed mightily by young people.

ted the first week of October. It's unclear

what caused it to tumble.

Doug Condit, a fellow FOTWO member, pointed out other loosened slabs belonging around the west side of the wall, noting the issue isn't

isolated to the northeast side. "Why can't [Parks] just do routine maintenance?" he asked.

Ralph Martell, walking his dog around the Oval, agreed with Condit. "That should've been taken care of, because it's going to get worse and worse," he said.

Others presumed that time may have caught up to the old staircase. "I remember walking up those stairs and sometimes I think one of the stepstones was loose," said a Norwood

mother of three. "Maybe it was just time before it all just crumbled."

A DPR spokesperson said in a statement that the agency is "investigating remedial action to reopen the stairs," and reminding park users that a "second set of stairs 25 feet away, can still be used."

Williamsbridge Oval Park was built in 1937, repurposed from a massive reservoir that served as the borough's partial drinking water supply.

Whalen Park Approved For Facelift Project

Whalen Park, a small park just next to the Norwood/205th Street D subway station and steps from the Mosholu Library, has been approved for a \$1.3 million facelift.

"Whalen Park was approved for reconstruction by the Public Design Commission on Oct. 5. The project is scheduled to be transmitted and enter the procurement cycle by the end of this month," read a statement by the New York City Parks Department.

The procurement phase involves securing contractors to rebuild the park.

-- David Cruz



Be Healthy 7K

Number of cyclists expected at **Tour de Bronx**

(Source: Bronx Borough President's Office)



Tour de Bronx Puts Pedal to the Metal Oct. 25

By VIVIAN CARTER

The borough's biggest tourism event of the year is on the way, when more than 7,000 bicyclists will hit the borough's streets.

The 21st Annual Tour de Bronx is scheduled for Oct. 25. Established in 1994 by Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer and The Bronx Tourism Council as a way to promote health, eco-friendly transportation and tourism, the event is now a highly anticipated fall tradition in the region. Cyclists from the Bronx and beyond have a chance to meander through scenic neighborhoods, and pass by the borough's picturesque waterfront and greenways.

"Tour de Bronx is a great event for people of all ages, especially for visitors to our vibrant borough. It gives everyone an opportunity to explore historical sites, see beautiful waterfronts, and ride through our amazing



File photo by Adi Talwar/Montefiore Health System PEDAL POWER! CYCLISTS traverse neighborhoods across the Bronx at last year's Tour de Bronx.

local neighborhoods," said Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. "Once again, we are welcoming riders from across the region and around the globe to see the Bronx as they had never seen it before."

Participants arrive from all over, choosing to complete either a 25-mile ride or 40-mile itinerary. The shorter route covers southern, eastern and central Bronx points of interest, including Mott Haven, Clason Point, and Pelham Bay Park.

The 40-mile route passes by historic Fort Schuyler on the Throggs Neck peninsula, and the maritime enclave City Island, snaking along two northwest Bronx neighborhoods steeped in history--Woodlawn and Riverdale. The New York Botanical Garden will host concluding festivities, in which riders receive a complimentary souvenir T-shirt and enjoy live music and light snacks.

For early birds, there is a reward from the New York City Department of Transportation. The agency will fit and provide a limited number of free bicycle helmets to participants between 8 a.m. and noon, while supplies last. Being at the starting point early has other advantages, as riders in

front can get ahead of the significant crowd expected to participate.

For those who wish to take a commuter train to the event, Metro-North will not require permits or limit the number of bikes aboard trains throughout the day.

When the event began in 1994, just a few hundred signed up. By 2014, the tour ballooned to a record-breaking 7.000 participants from around the country, plus a few foreign visitors. Transportation Alternatives and Montefiore Health System are major sponsors.

"This annual event sends an important, positive message about our community and being physically and mentally active," said Steven M. Safyer, M.D., president and CEO of Montefiore Health System.

To learn more and register for the ride, visit www.ilovethebronx.com.



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Check-in at 9am at The Bronx County Building, 851 Grand Concourse at 161st Street. Ride ends at The New York Botanical Garden at 2900 Southern Boulevard. Participants 17 or younger MUST be accompanied by a parent or guardian, who must sign a waiver.

To register, go to: www.iLoveTheBronx.com



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2015



Tech Fund Surprise for Williamsbridge Schools



CAMERA-READY STUDENTS and staffers at PS 112, the Bronxwood School, pose with a \$200,000 check allocated for 15 smart boards and other tech upgrades. PS 41, several blocks away from PS 112, was also awarded a sizable check for \$60,000 earmarked for other high-tech upgrades and smart boards. The funding was given by Councilman Andy King (back row, center), who serves the 12th Council District.

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Discovering Bronx Roots in 17th Century Sweden

By JANET NORQUIST-GONZÁLEZ

It's been nearly four decades since I last visited Sweden. In 1976 my college roommate, Elisabet, suggested I visit her in Stockholm. It sounded like a good way to explore my Swedish roots for a few months, so I gladly accepted the invitation. I ended up staying nearly two years, long enough to fall in love with the culture.

For years after returning to the U.S.A., I subscribed to the children's comic book, *Bamse*, to keep in touch with the language. Would I be able to communicate in Swedish with real people after such a long time? I was determined to try during another visit this summer, even though, as some people may know, all Swedes speak fluent English. My patient friends helped me to stumble through, though, and had fun listening to my *Bamsespråk*.

I made Stockholm my home base, staying with Elisabet and her husband Thomas, and took a day trip by train to Småland's Jonas Bronck Center. My excuse for the trip was that I am an educator for The Bronx County Historical Society. Although I would only be at the center for a few hours, my plan was to begin researching events surrounding the early life of Jonas Bronck, the first European settler in the area now known as the Bronx, and to network with a few town officials and fellow educators.

Jonas Bronck was born in 1600 in the southern Swedish hamlet of Komstad, the town most historians now accept as Bronck's birthplace. Located just outside of Sävsjö municipality in Småland, Sävsjö is like the U.S.A.'s Minnesota. It is a sparsely populated area graced with fertile, yet stony forested farmland and gleaming chains of lakes and streams. But why would young Jonas leave such a beautiful place, leave his family, and make his way out into the world?

Curt Wrigfors, a successful Swedish businessman and the founder of the Jonas Bronck Center in Sävsjö, offers some clues. Recently retired, he has made it his avocation to help people on both sides of the Atlantic to know more about Jonas Bronck. He organizes a yearly celebration at the Center.

My destination, Sävsjö Station, was inaugurated in 1864, when the community consisted of only a few houses. Because of the railway, carpentry and other wood-related industries grew. Mr. Wrigfors met my train, and graciously



Photo courtesy Janet Norquist-Gonzalez **JANET NORQUIST-GONZALEZ** of Norwood stands in front of a Sävsjö mill site during a trip to Sweden, birthplace of borough founder Jonas Bronck, over the summer.

took me under his wing, whisking me off to meet with fellow history buffs and educators. Over a typical smörgåsbord luncheon, we shared ideas on how to network student historical research projects in Sävsjö to those going on at the Bronx County Historical Society's Museum of Bronx History. We discussed mapmaking, newspaper production, quilting, theater projects, and other possible educational means.

The Jonas Bronck Center is located near several sites that already existed during Jonas Bronck's childhood. The Center's exhibit provides a glimpse into the lives of people associated with Jonas Bronck from both sides of the ocean, then and now.

Obviously Sweden has changed dramatically over the years, from centuries of feudal oppression to a modern social democratic system where there is virtually no poverty or homelessness. At the time of Jonas Bronck's childhood, however, life was in many ways filled with turmoil for the people of Småland. They were surrounded by war, famine, and oppression. The church, feudal lords, royalty, all demanded impossible tributes and taxation from the poor.

While driving me around, Mr. Wrigfors described life in Sävsjö during Jonas Bronck's childhood. The area still includes the mill site where farmers processed their grain, the

12th century Norra Ljunga Church where young Jonas was baptized, and the Ecksjö Court Mansion that dates back to the 15th century.

One can visit a hill where alleged heretics were beheaded, and a place where religious fanatics burned women accused of being witches, their fates having been determined by purported eyewitness accounts extracted from children. During this period, Sweden was at war with Denmark, and Danish soldiers occupied much of southern Sweden. Jonas Bronck would have been under pressure to choose a side and join up. Most of Europe was in fact on the verge of some kind of conflict. The Thirty Years War was about to throw Swedish, Danish, and French Protestants into a bloody revolt against German Catholic religious oppressors. It seemed like an easy decision for young Jonas to leave his homeland and seek his fortune elsewhere.

In today's Sävsjö, Danish soldiers no longer torment its inhabitants unless it is with silly jokes. It has a rustic feel to it, and, although there are no big tourist attractions, for a history buff, it provides a fascinating and peaceful vacation. It is a great place for a bicycle tour. My parents did it on a tandem bike back in 1947. There are hotels and a lovely camping site on Sävsjö's lake, simple Swedish food in quaint restaurants, and it is close enough to Stock-

holm to make a quick day-trip of it, as

I found, as in every place I visited in Sweden, that potatoes accompany almost every meal, usually with a generous dollop of butter, salt and dill. Add a portion of herring and a side of salad, and you will have a typical Swedish meal. My brother, John, claims that the Swedes invented hospital food, but I have found it a lot more interesting. Traditional weekday specials in small cafés might include split pea soup accompanied by pancakes with lingonberry preserves, or Swedish meatballs with cream sauce, mashed potatoes, pickled gherkin, also with lingonberry preserves. A konditori will serve coffee with an assortment of sandwiches, sweets and gooey pastries, making one wonder why obesity is so rare in Sweden. I decided not to worry about it. I ate kanel bullar (cinnamon buns) and princess torte (cake swathed in marzipan) with impunity, did a lot of hiking as compensation, and, like any good Swede, came home five pounds lighter.

Editor's Note: Janet Norquist-Gonzalez is a cartographer and teacher at the Bronx County Historical Society. She is the organist and choir director for Epiphany Lutheran Church.



Photo courtesy Janet Norquist-Gonzalez CURT WRIGFORS, DIRECTOR of the Jonas Bronck Center in Sävsjö, Sweden stands at 12th century Norra Lunga Church where Jonas Bronck was baptized.

This building is being constructed through tax exempt bond financing and the Low Income Housing Tax Credit through NYS HFA and additional financing from the New York City Housing Preservation and Development HOME program.



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2 bedroom	\$929	2	→	2 people	\$33,292 - \$34,550 \$33,292 - \$38,850 \$33,292 - \$43,150
1 bedroom	\$931	16	\rightarrow	1 person 1 person 1 people 1 p	\$33,326 - \$36,300 \$33,326 - \$41,460
2 bedroom	\$1,124	35	\rightarrow	2 people 3 people 4 people	\$39,978 - \$41,460 \$39,978 - \$46,620 \$39,978 - \$51,780
3 bedroom	\$1,292	2	→	4 people 5 people 6 people	\$46,183 - \$51,780 \$46,183 - \$55,980 \$46,183 - \$60,120

* Rent includes gas for cooking and heating.

** Household size includes everyone who will live with you, including parents and children. Subject to occupancy criteria. *** Household earnings includes salary, hourly wages, tips, Social Security, child support, and other income for household members. Income guidelines subject to change.

How Do You Apply?

Apply online or through mail. To apply online, please go to: www.nyc.gov/housingconnect. To request an application by mail, send a self-addressed envelope to: Norwood Terrace Apartments 1357 Broadway Box 309 NY, NY 10018. Only send one application per development. Do not submit duplicate applications. Do not apply online and also send in a paper application. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

When is the Deadline?

Applications must be postmarked or submitted online no later than **November 30, 2015**. Late applications will not be considered.

What Happens After You Submit an Application?

After the deadline, applications are selected for review through a lottery process. If yours is selected and you appear to qualify, you will be invited to an interview to continue the process of determining your eligibility. Interviews are usually scheduled from 2 to 10 months after the application deadline. You will be asked to bring documents that verify your household size, identity of members of your household, and your household income.

Español

Para recibir una traducción de este anuncio y la aplicación en español, envíe un sobre con su dirección a Norwood Terrace Apartments 1357 Broadway Box 309 NY, NY 10018. En la parte posterior del sobre, escribir en inglés la palabra

简体中文

<u>若要获取此广告和申请表的中文翻译</u>,请将回邮信封发送到: Norwood Terrace Apartments 1357 Broadway Box 309 NY, NY 10018. 请在信封的背面书写英文单词 "CHINESE"。填写好的申请表必须在 <u>2015年11月30日</u> 当天或之前加盖邮戳。

한국어

<u>이 광고문과 신청서에 대한 한국어 번역본을 받아보시려면</u> 반송용 봉투를Norwood Terrace Apartments 1357 Broadway Box 309 NY, NY 10018. (으)로 보내주십시오. 봉투 뒷면에 "KOREAN"이라고 영어로 적어주십시오. 작성된 신청서에는 늦어도 **2015년11월30일** 까지의 날짜 소인이 찍혀 있어야 합니다.

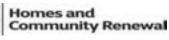
Kreyol Ayisyien

<u>Pou resevwa yon tradiksyon reklam sa a ak aplikasyon an nan lang</u>, voye anvlòp ki gen adrès pou retounen li a nan Norwood Terrace Apartments 1357 Broadway Box 309 NY, NY 10018. Dèyè anvlòp la, ekri mo, "HAITIAN CREOLE" nan lang Anglè. Ou dwe tenbre aplikasyon ou ranpli yo anvan dat <u>Novanm 30, 2015.</u>

Русский

<u>Для получения данного объявления и заявления на русском языке</u> отправьте конверт с обратным адресом по адресу: Norwood Terrace Apartments 1357 Broadway Box 309 NY, NY 10018. На задней стороне конверта напишите слово "RUSSIAN" на английском языке. Заполненные заявления должны быть отправлены по почте не позднее <u>30</u> ноябрь 2015









"SPANISH". Las solicitudes llenas deben enviarse por correo a más tardar el 30 de noviembre 2015

No Injuries in Bedford Pk. Blaze



Photo by David Cruz

IT'S STILL UNCLEAR what caused an apartment to go up in flames at a Bedford Park building, which sent tenants rushing out of the building. FDNY Captain Dominic Caleri told the *Norwood News* the fire began on the fifth floor at 2701 Grand Concourse just before 2 p.m. on Oct. 6. Nine fire trucks rushed to the scene, finding tenants waiting outside as crews knocked out the fire. One truck utilized its turntable ladder to reach the roof of the building to put out the blaze. Caleri pointed out that no one was in the apartment.



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At K2 Summit, Talk of Legislation and More Resources to Combat Drug

By ADEDAMOLA AGBOOLA

The Bronx held its first K2 summit last week with lawmakers and top law enforcement and health officials from all around the state in attendance.

NYPD, DEA, FBI and other federal and local officials convened at Jacobi Medical Center to discuss the growing concern and ways in which the sale and usage of synthetic marijuana, more commonly known as K2, in New York can be tackled.

With nearly 700 emergency room visits in recent months, usage of K2 has been described as a new health epidemic. The forum's aim was to come up with a coalition and a plan to curb K2 use.

The median age of users is 37 years old and 99 percent of people who go into the ER are 18 years and over, according to the data presented by Mary Travis Bassett, the New York City Health and Human Services commissioner. There has also been some 4,500 K2 related visits to hospital emergency rooms around the city. Bassett noted a major spike in ER visits occurred over the summer.

K2 or Spice mixes herbs, plants and spices which are then sprayed with synthetic chemicals just like marijuana.

Law enforcement officials also voiced concerns and complaints about the detection of and inability to prosecute perpetrators selling the synthetic opioids. K2, also known by drug counselors as the "loophole" drug, is often used with other substances making its detection difficult, explained Joshua Vinciguerra, the director of the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement. He added that local law enforcement agencies lacked the capabilities to test for K2 chemicals making it easy for users to beat a drug test.

The New York City Sheriff's Department tasked to combat the widespread usage and sale of the drug is working to deter its sale. Emergency room visits has since dropped 28 percent. Sheriff Joe Fucito noted there'll be a drop in storeowners selling for a bit, though it's also dealing online sales of K2, which are unregulated. Vinciguerra worries dealers will raise the bar of distribution by making street deals. This can add a layer of red tape since possession of K2 is not a prosecutorial crime.

Currently, the Sheriff's Department under the direction of the Department of Consumer Affairs can execute ar-



Photo courtesy NYPD

THE NYPD SEIZED two million packets of synthetic marijuana during a bust in Soundview on Sept. 24, the latest major takedown of the drug.

rest warrants and enforce tax levies on the sale of tobacco. Since punishment of K2 use comes down to a ticket violation, a strategy being used by the Sheriff's Department is to search for stores selling untaxed cigarettes, said Fucito. Often times, K2 is almost always discovered.

K2 is currently a violation of the

state's sanitary code, a minor offense that carries up to 15 days in jail and up to a \$1500 fine.

Proposed solutions by elected, health and law enforcement officials during the meeting include but are not limited to:

• The amendment of the law to

make the sale of K2 a crime/felony.

- Creation of an analog system that allows federal agencies to track the many different chemicals being sprayed on K2 leaves.
- The ability to alter the criminalization of possession of different chemicals being used in the creation of drugs.
- Legislation to criminalize all analogous chemicals put into the colorful K2 packets.
- Legislation to increase penalties for stores that continue to peddle synthetic marijuana.
- Support for law enforcement officials through new laws and funding for street testing kits.
- Eliminate the incentive for bodegas to sell K2 by revoking alcohol and tobacco license on the first strike.
- Change in packaging and properly labeling the K2 manufacturer's name listed, making it a violation worthy of prosecution for bodegas.
- More resources such as wiretaps available for large narcotics investigation.

Recent investigations by the DEA, NYPD, Homeland Security Investigations and the Sheriff's office yielded two major busts of five facilities holding 200 kilograms of chemicals and 270,000 packets of K2 worth an estimate \$30 million.



MTA Clears \$\$\$ For Bronx MetroNorth Expansion

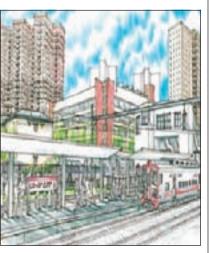
The plan to bring four new Metro-North stations to the East Bronx has been finally financed following a deal struck between city and state officials on Oct. 10.

The Penn Station Access project, championed by borough lawmakers, will see four stations built on already existing track that crosses through the neighborhoods of Hunts Point, Parkchester, Morris Park, and Co-Op City. The rails will snake along Amtrak's Hell's Gate Line and into Manhattan's Penn Station when built, cutting commuter times, according to MTA officials. Total cost of the project is reportedly estimated at \$350 million. Construction of the project will begin only after the completion of the East Side Access project, which will offer Long Island Railroad riders direct access into Grand Central Terminal. An environmental review of the Penn Station Access project is expected in 2017.

Funding is part of the five-year, \$29.1 billion Capital Funding Plan by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the largest in the Authority's history. The city and state, fueled by Mayor Bill de Blasio and Governor Andrew Cuomo, were at odds over how much funding each government level should allocate. In the end, the city allocated \$2.5 billion while the state earmarked \$8.3 billion.

Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., who released a report on the financial benefits of the East Side Access project, deemed it to be "the most significant infrastructure improvement our borough has seen in decades."

--David Cruz



Rendering courtesy MTA
ARTIST'S RENDERING OF Co-Op City



Photo courtesy Friends of Mosholu Parkland

THIS NEIGHBOR (RIGHT) chats with two representatives from Partnership for Parks on hand at an interactive visioning session at Kossuth Playground.

Shaping a Fresh Vision for Kossuth Playground

By DAVID CRUZ

Determining Kossuth Playground's destiny came with plenty of help from neighbors, who pitched ideas to Friends of Mosholu Parkland on how to better the playground.

The interactive visioning session, held at the park Oct. 10, featured arts and crafts, charts and other visual aids to encourage an exchange of ideas. The 85-year-old playground, equipped with a jungle gym, basketball court and sprinkler system, is the only recreational space along the leafy roadway. The span connects drivers from the Bronx River Parkway to several Norwood/Bedford Park side streets and the Saw Mill River Parkway.

In March, community stake-



Photo courtesy Friends of Mosholu Parkland **ELIZABETH QUARANTA, PRESIDENT** of Friends of Mosholu Parkland (I), shares a moment with Bronx Parks Commissioner Iris Rodriguez (r).

holders and cultural institutions reignited interest to revitalize the aging roadway. The visioning plan for Kossuth Playground is part of that larger goal of improving conditions at the parkway, which hasn't seen any revitalization efforts take place there in decades.

Friends of Mosholu Parkland, which spent months preparing for the event, received help from People Make Parks, a program under the City Parks Foundation that collaborates with volunteer park advocates across the city. The hope, according to organizers, is to cobble the neighborhood's wants and needs and draft them into a formal plan for lawmakers. But the plan isn't a guarantee towards capital funding for the park improvements, though it stands to present a clear and organized plan for park improvements should funding come through.

Bedford Park Postal Woes

(continued from page 1)

the building that holds the post office. While there has been no official statement that the new owner will build on that location, the high price paid for the building, \$1.5 million according to financial documents reviewed by the *Norwood News*, suggests that the property has the potential to be a major development project.

If the current post office location were to close, the increasing population of that neighborhood and the businesses that serve them will be at a loss and forced to travel to another neighborhood to access vital mail services. The nearest post office is on the other side of Mosholu Parkway, at 3102 Decatur Ave., a half-mile from the Webster Avenue site.

Postmaster Visits BMCA

On Oct. 7, Lilliam Rodriguez, the postmaster for the Bronx, visited the Bedford-Mosholu Community Association to respond to the community's concerns about the possible closing of that branch. "We have no intentions of going anywhere," Rodriguez told the group.

Even so, Barbara Stronczer, presi-

dent of the Bedford-Mosholu Community Association, told the postmaster that her group had already found alternative spaces for the post office to move to should it come to that. "Most of the people in Bedford Park use the post office," Stronczer told the *Norwood News*, noting that there are three senior complexes in the area and two more in the planning stage. She recalled the fight to keep the branch back in 2009. "We're ready to do that again if necessary to keep it in Bedford Park."

The current lease for the branch expires June 2016. When the post office renegotiates the lease, they will be doing so with a new owner. In January of 2014, Andrew Maniglia purchased the property through a limited liability company called North Central Bronx Real Estate, LLC. Maniglia has connections with a Westchester County development firm called Ginsburg Development Companies, according to an email address tied to Maniglia. The group has been in the residential real estate business for decades, building mostly luxury apartment buildings in Haverstraw and Wallkill, NY. A request for comment from Maniglia was not answered by press time.

Maniglia and North Central Bronx Real Estate, LLC have been seeking to buy a number of properties along Webster Avenue since 2013. In addition to the post office property, they also purchased a lot down the street at 2993 Webster Ave. from Julio Nuñez, who operated Nuñez Auto General Mechanic that's wedged among the buildings of the Bedford Park Manor apartment complex developed by The Stagg Group. Nuñez sold the property to Maniglia for \$1.5 million, despite an assessed value of only \$70,200, according to the transfer of deed filing.

When Nuñez made the sale he said he entered into a three-year lease with the new owners to continue operating his business at the same location. But the lease will expire in February 2016 and Nuñez said he was not offered a renewal yet. Last month he relocated his business to Park Avenue between East 181st and East 182nd streets in Belmont. "I didn't want to move from there," he told the *Norwood News*. "It's a good location there."

Nuñez suspected that the new owners have big plans for the location. "I

imagine they will build a building there like they did next to it," he said, referencing Bedford Park Manor.

The trio of buildings opened in April of this year, and is viewed as a template for major developments along the Webster Avenue corridor. That property was the first on the block to break the million-dollar mark back in 2012 when it sold for \$1,082,142.

In addition to the two properties that North Central Bronx Real Estate, LLC purchased outright, they also paid \$150,000 in May 2013 to secure a right of first refusal on the two properties in between the post office and the Bedford Park Manor apartments. This deal gives the group the right to buy those properties from the current owner should they decide to sell within the next five years, with the option to extend that agreement for another five years at an additional \$150,000.

While the developer's intentions for the properties on Webster Avenue are not publicly known, their attempt to buy up a string of contiguous properties there indicates an intention to develop, leaving the post office option up in the air.

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NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

Poetry Workshop

The Mosholu Library, 285 E. 205th St., offers a free six-week poetry workshop Saturdays through Nov. 14. from 10:30 a.m. to noon. For more information or to register, call (718) 882-8239.

Gifted & Talented Exams

Parents interested in having their kindergarten, first, second or third grade children take the Gifted and Talented exam can submit a request online at https://prod. semsnycdoe.com/parentsite/, person at their school, or at a Family Welcome Center until Nov. 9. An information session will take place at the Theodore Roosevelt Educational Campus, 500 E. Fordham Rd.. on Oct. 21 from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information, call (718) 935-2009.

CHAM Story Time

The Children's Hospital at Montefiore, 3415 Bainbridge Ave., upper lobby, invites children from pre-K to age four to be registered for story time at the Family Learning Center, Oct. 23 at 10 a.m. Refreshments will be provided. Registration is required; only 25 children will be allowed to participate. For more information or to register, call (718) 741-2357 or email flp@montefiore.

Student Essay Contest

Cablevision invites students from 6th to 12th grades to submit an essay up to 500 words that names a Latino, past or present, with whom they would spend a day, and explaining why. Essays can be emailed to edinfo@cablevision.com. or Cablevision: Attention Optimum Community, 1111 Stewart Ave., Bethpage, NY 11714. Grand prize is a \$2500 cash scholarship. Submission deadline is Nov. 2. For more information, call (516) 803-2351.

Norwood Terrace Applications

Applications are available for affordable housing for low-income individuals wanting to secure housing at 3349 Webster Ave. Apply online or through mail. To apply online, go to www.nyc.gov/housingconnect. To request an application by mail, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Norwood Terrace Apartments, 1357 Broadway, Box 309, New York, NY 10018. Only send one application per development. Do not submit duplicate applications. Do not apply online and also send in a paper application. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

Photo Club Meet-up

The New York Botanical/Zoological Photographic Society meets Saturday mornings at 9:45 a.m., through June, at the Fordham Preparatory School, Room 243 on the Fordham University Rose Hill Campus, 441 E. Fordham Rd. Photographers can improve their skills, show their work, receive instruction, and attend workshops, photo shoots, and competitions. Admission is free. For more information, call (718) 543-3115.

To submit items for Neighborhood Notes, email dcruz@norwoodnews. org, subject line "Neighborhood Notes."



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Stomach Flu/Virus Urinary Tract Infection On Site X-Ray



Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

EDITOR'S PICK

Tour de Bronx

The Bronx Tourism Council and the Office of the Bronx Borough President invite the public to the 21st Annual Tour de Bronx, to bike ride 25 or 40 miles and explore Bronx neighborhoods, historic districts, and beautiful waterfronts, Oct. 25, ending at the New York Botanical Garden, with live music and light snacks. Check in at 9 a.m. at the Bronx County Building, 851 Grand Concourse (161st Street). The Department of Transportation will fit and distribute free bicycle helmets from 8 a.m. to noon while supplies last. Riders must sign a waiver. Participants 17 or younger must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, who must sign a waiver. For more information or to register, visit www.lLoveTheBronx.com.

Onstage

Williamsbridge Oval presents free performance of Shakespeare's "Comedy of Errors," Oct. 24, 1 to 3 p.m. For more information, call (718) 543-8672 ext. 307.

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., W., presents **Noche de Salseros**, Oct. 17 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$45 to \$60. For more information, call (718) 960-8833 or visit www.LehmanCenter.org.

Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture, 450 Grand Concourse, presents Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra, Oct. 17 at 7:30 p.m., in the main theatre, featuring an all-Cuban concert (tickets: \$25/orch; \$20/mezz; and \$10/students and under 18); and The Dalí Quartet, Oct. 20 at 7 p.m., in the Repertory Theatre, featuring classical and Latin music (tickets: \$10; \$5/ students and under 18). Shows are subject to change. For more information, call (718) 518-4455 or visit www.hostoscenter.org.

Bronx Arts Ensemble presents **classical music**, performed by trio, Oct. 18 at 3 p.m. in the home of Dr. Judy Gurland, 3117 Palisade Ave. (\$25). For more information, call (I718) 601-7399.

Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance (BAAD), 2474 Westchester Ave. (near Westchester Square), presents **Consider Water,** featuring dancer, Oct. 17; and **Bombazo Dance Company,** featuring dance and drum ensemble, Oct. 24 (both at 8 p.m.; each \$20). For more information, call (718) 918-2110.

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents **A Musical Tribute to Sam Cooke**, featuring Cooke classics, Oct. 17 at 2:30 p.m.; and **The Rafael Hernandez Music Festival 2015**, featuring Latin performers, Oct. 18 at 2 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

Events

The Bedford Park Congregational



A LOOK AT last year's Tour de Bronx, which drew thousands of cycling enthusiasts. File photo courtesy Montefiore Medical Center



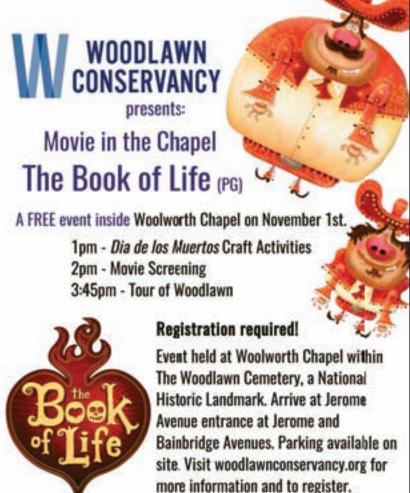
Photo courtesy Wave Hill/Joshua Bright **THE ANNUAL HONEYBEE** weekend event at Wave Hill is one of the more highly anticipated fall traditions.

Church, 309 E. 201st St. (Bainbridge Avenue), hosts **Fun Fair and Flea Market,** Oct. 24 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. including a raffle and food. For more information, call (718) 733-3199.

Williamsbridge Oval presents **The Hearts** and **Health of Zumba**, Oct. 23, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., a zumba aerobic dance workout class. For more information, call (718) 543-8672.

City Parks Foundation offers seniors free fitness classes including yoga and fitness walking through Oct. 30, at Van Cortlandt Park's Woodlawn Tennis Courts, Jerome Avenue and East 233rd Street. Walking schedule is Tuesdays and Thursdays and yoga schedule is Mondays and Wednesdays; both at 9 am. For more information, call (718) 760-6999.

The Woodlawn Conservancy presents Unlocking Mausoleum Interiors,
Oct. 18 at 4 p.m. a free tour to visit mausoleums (enter cemetery at Jerome Avenue entrance); and The Transit Museum's Nostalgia Train Comes to Woodlawn, to ride a WWI-era IRT subway car from Grand Central Station to Woodlawn (\$35), Oct. 24 at 4 p.m.



(bring picnic lunch and a flashlight). Train returns at 9 p.m. For more information, call (718) 920-1469.

Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers Family Art Projects: Be a Bee, to wear wings, antennae, pollen cup and kazoo, then join a parade at 12:30 p.m. and dance, Oct. 17 and 18; and Tiny Terrariums, to create a mini terrarium in a recycled glass jar, Oct. 24 and 25; both in WH House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also scheduled is Honey Weekend: Oct. 17 and 18: Tastings: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the Perkins Visitor Center: Extractions Demo: 12:30, 1:30, 2:30 p.m., in the Ecology Building; and Hives and Honey Info: to try on gear and peer into empty hive, 1 to 3 p.m., in the Perkins Visitor Center. In addition will be Bohemian Trio: concert, performing jazz and Afro-Cuban rhythms (\$28/adults, \$22/WH member; \$15/ages 8 to 18; \$12/WH member, Oct.25 at 2 p.m. Grounds admission is free until noon Saturdays and Tuesdays all year. For more information and a schedule of events including tours and walks, call (718) 549-3200.

Library Events

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents the following events for children: **Hands-on Projects at 4 p.m.** (ages 7 to 12; preregistration required): Spooky Coffin Making, Oct. 15; Pumpkin Bag Making, Oct. 22; and Black Cat Making, Oct. 29; and **"The Frog Prince"** (ages 3 to 12), presented by



File Photo

A TREASURE TROVE of items await at the Bedford Congregational Church Fun Fair and Flea Market.

Puppets to Go, Oct. 17 at 2 p.m. Adults can attend: **Microsoft Word 2010 for Beginners:** Oct. 20 at 6 p.m.; (requires in-person advance registration). For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

The Mosholu Library, 285 E. 205th St., offers for children: **Hoot and Halloween:** (ages to 12 years), interactive musical, Oct. 23 at 3:15 p.m. Teens/young adults can enjoy: **film,** "The Nightmare Before Christmas," Oct. 24 at 1:30 p.m. Adults can attend: **Beaded Jewelry at 11 a.m.:** (bring your materials), Oct. 15, 22 and 29;

and **Free Computer Classes:** to learn email and basic computer information, Wednesdays, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

The Jerome Park Library, 118 Eames Place (near Kingsbridge Road), offers for kids: **Kids Get Active Fridays at 3 p.m.:** (ages 5 to 12), dance and zumba, Oct. 16 and 23; **Kids Pajama Party:** (ages 18 months to 12 years), crafts and read aloud, Oct. 19 at 6 p.m.; **Super Cool Science:** (ages 5 to 12), hands-on experiments, Oct. 20

at 4 p.m.; and **Pumpkins to Jack O'Lanterns:** (ages 5 to 12), arts and crafts and songs, Oct. 26 at 4 p.m. Teens/young adults can enjoy **Create Goth Jewelry:** (materials provided), Oct. 28 at 3:30 p.m. Adults can attend **Computer Basics at noon:** Oct. 15, 22 and 29. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

NOTE: Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to norwoodnews@ norwoodnews.org, and should be received by Oct. 19 for the next publication date of Oct. 29.



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