



NORWOOD NEWS

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By WILLIAM MATHIS

It's been an eventful year in Norwood, with developments in housing, politics and parks making headlines. As 2016 approaches, the *Norwood News* looks back at some of the year's biggest stories.

Housing and Development

It was the year of housing in New York as Mayor Bill de

Blasio's administration worked throughout the city to advance his Housing New York initiative, which would build or preserve 200,000 units of affordable housing citywide. However, community boards around the city, including in the Bronx, pushed back against two zoning amendments that would have made the building possible.

Community Board 7 and

the Bronx Borough Board, a 22-member panel comprised of Bronx New York City Council members and leaders of all 12 community boards, unanimously voted against the amendments, with Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. criticizing the plan's one-size-fits-all approach.

Earlier in the year, members of CB7 criticized an aspect

of the plan that would remove a requirement for off-street parking on affordable buildings. Without that provision, it will be even more difficult for residents to find parking. "This community is going up, we're going to need more parking," said Adaline Walker-Santiago, chair of CB7. "The senior people do need cars to get around."

(continued on page 9)

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EDITORIAL

Assessing How the Bronx Fared This Year

If there's one word once again blanketing the end-of-year lists relating to the Bronx, it's "development," a term that holds a double meaning in this context. In Norwood, the neighborhood experienced some two-steps-forward-one-step-back moments with some seeds of development planted and sure to grow in 2016.

Starting with Norwood, major construction continues to dot the landscape with Webster Avenue serving as the epicenter to reshaping the neighborhood.

With two projects (residential and supportive) expected to open in 2016, this further underscores the question: will the city increase its services to meet the impending population increase? More pointedly, will Mayor Bill de Blasio's plan for more affordable housing paralyze services altogether or keep up?

Elsewhere, Williamsbridge Oval Park, frequented by many Norwood residents, saw a great deal of new trees and repairs in the latter part of 2015. But it comes amid a wave of violent incidents involving a daytime stabbing, nighttime fires and random muggings, which the NYPD can't seem to topple despite its best efforts. Those new repairs, mainly the grand stone staircase leading to the park, could be compromised.

Meantime, a bond was strengthened among the Catholic faithful, with St. Brendan's Church and the now closed St. Ann's Church merging. The sacrificial lamb here was St. Ann's, a fixture that was a sacred refuge for many in Norwood.

In the east, residents remain divided over new trees planted along the mall of Mosholu Parkway. Longtime residents saw it as a slap in the face to Norwood's traditions of fall time football and a

Christmas tree lighting, all forced to relocate since the trees impede activities.

Again, two steps forward, one step back.

On a Bronx-wide level, the borough hit its stride, but it's not out of the woods.

When it came to crime fighting, most Bronx precincts didn't exactly "win the year," an expression used when crime dips for the year. As of press time (Dec. 22) four of the 12 precincts managed to see crime decrease, with the 52nd Precinct, covering Norwood, thankfully being one of those four. Overall, major crime within the Five-Two fell three percent. Credit is due to a 28 percent drop in burglaries, which initially gave the stationhouse the most trouble early this year. But gang problems still persist in the neighborhoods the precinct covers, contributing to a 42.9 percent climb in murders and a 17.4 percent spike in shooting incidents.

Political advancements added to the borough's development, particularly for the Bronx's African-American politicians. Carl Heastie, the low-profile assemblyman of the 84th Assembly District, ascended to the role of Assembly Speaker, arguably the third most influential position in state government, becoming the first African-American to assume the title. He rose following the arrest of now disgraced Assemblyman Sheldon Silver, becoming a symbol of political chicanery U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara has attempted to dismantle for years.

Many said that Heastie's representation is good for the Bronx, though his influence is not yet fully showing in the Bronx, save for a couple million in taxpayer monies to fund a pedestrian bridge

connecting two sections of Van Cortlandt Park.

Darcel Clark, a longtime jurist at Bronx Supreme Court, became the borough's first female district attorney, though it came under a major cloud of suspicion she'll never climb completely out of despite the loopy legalities that justified her climb. Voters, yes, chose Clark, but even she can't deny the awkward way in which she ascended.

Let's hope the politicians the small number of voters put into office do right by them. If not, a knock by the U.S. Attorney is not too far behind.

On the jobs front, there was a dramatic drop in the borough's unemployed--6.5 percent. Credit goes to an overall improved economy and Governor Andrew Cuomo's interest in solving the Bronx jobs crisis, all good steps.

The next is getting the employed higher earning jobs, still a nagging problem. A 2013 report by the Center for an Urban Future, a think tank group, found 47 percent of Bronx residents working in low-wage jobs, the highest percentage citywide. The federal government defines low-wage workers in New York State as those earning \$12.89 hourly or \$26,818 yearly. It'll likely take years before the Bronx pulls out of that hole.

But even as the borough chips away at its past, the storytellers and writers to the first draft of the borough's history wanes. Newspapers such as ours have sat on their perch, witnessing all the changes, warts and all, using a tool that's seldom used in the Bronx--the power of print.

In any case, the Norwood News will continue to sit on the perch, cataloguing news and events with the interests of readers in mind.

Public and Community Meetings

COMMUNITY BOARD 7 committee meetings are held on the following dates at the board office, 229A E. 204th St. at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted: Executive Committee: Jan. 5. For more information, call the Board office at (718) 933-5650.

BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION meets Jan. 6 at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. So., Apt. B1, at 8 p.m.

Saying Goodbye to Freilich Jewelers

By DAVID CRUZ

The door buzzed open at Freilich Jewelers, letting in Marilyn Maldonado, a faithful customer still stunned to learn the news—it would be less than a week until the store she frequented for 32 years would close after 76 years of business in the Bronx.

“It’s Marilyn, with a broken heart,” said Maldonado, who has entrusted the store with her personal life’s milestones.

“Why is your heart broken?” asked Allan Freilich, the bespectacled owner of the neighborhood jewelry shop.

“Because you’re going,” said Maldonado, eventually awash in tears. “Is there someone we can call? We need you here.”

“This is how it’s been for the past couple months,” said Freilich, appearing somber over the number of well-wishers of yesteryear who have made deliberate visits to bid their farewells. Longtime customers, hearing the news of his departure, have made personal visits. Some have picked up an extra jewelry item, a memento of Freilich, known for his brand of personalized customer service. On Dec. 24 at 6 p.m., customers would get their last taste of Freilich Jewelers’ familiar brand of personalized service one last time.

Six days before the inevitable closure, against the backdrop of mellow jazz tunes and ornate holiday decorations, business at Freilich Jewelers seeped of a bittersweet jive. The bargain basement deals and significant markdowns, yes, were better than what one would find at Macy’s. But Freilich admits to taking a loss for each item he sells, confessing he’s practically giving away the jewelry.

But the discounts represent the inevitable closure of the store, part of Norwood’s economic fabric for 45 years. These days the old line of dominant neighborhood businesses, many considered high-end, are no more.

“The traditional old-time watchmaker-jeweler that existed in Norwood, I believe, is gone,” said Freilich.

The business longevity in Norwood has waned some, with active turnover creating a distance between merchant and customer. “There seems to be less connection between the customers and the stores,” said Mickey Burke, a regular customer at Freilich Jewelers and former businessman on East 204th Street. “Allan was an exception.”

Freilich’s line of customer service



Photo by David Cruz

ALLAN FREILICH, NORWOOD'S jewel man for 45 years, tends to customer Marilyn Maldonado in one of the last days his eponymous store, Freilich Jewelers, would remain open. Closing day is scheduled for Dec. 24.

has drawn a wide number of regulars, said Millie Clavell, Freilich’s fiercely loyal store manager and proud protector of Freilich’s legacy. “You get that personal attention. They know you, and that’s a good feeling when they acknowledge you, they know your name. You’re not just a dollar bill or a credit card being swiped.”

Freilich’s father, Norman, opened for business on Westchester Avenue in the Soundview section of the Bronx in 1939 (it’s purported to have been the oldest jewelry store in the Bronx), but eventually moved up to Norwood, considered a more enviable part of the borough. The elder Freilich initially occupied 311 E. 204th St., before moving his business across the street, a large enough space to set up a jewelry-making lab.

The younger Freilich took to jewelry making and repairs on a part-time basis, toying with the thought of being full-time (he yearned to be a musician in his early years) before settling into his role and eventually becoming owner.

Freilich announced in October that he would shut down the store. Lease negotiations had stopped between Freilich and the landlord, prompting Freilich to make a decision to close the store. Relocating was mulled over, but eventually ruled out, given the startup monies needed to find a new home.

For now, Freilich has sold off most of the jewelry-making equipment, in-

cluding a laser welder and “some tools that were literally over 100 years old.”

He’s experienced a hard time letting go of his equipment in the same vein as saying so long to his customers.

On Maldonado’s visit to the store, she picked up the recently repaired

jewelry items, later hugging Freilich as he is about to start his new life, post-Freilich Jewelers.

“Thank you for everything and the great memories,” said Maldonado. “You’re more than jewelry, you were a family member.”



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INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



In light of the recent conviction of former state Republican Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, we asked readers if they think the outcome sends a clear message to Albany to clean up the way it conducts politics in this state.



I congratulate the federal prosecutor on pursuing these cases of corruption by the Speaker of the Assembly Sheldon Silver and Dean Skelos, and they deserve every bit of the justice system thrown at them that they got. I think Governor Andrew Cuomo has to be honest and truthful and really come out clean and make more corruption inquiries and get to the bottom of these things.

Francis Leo Hogan III
University Heights



I believe they should clean house in the Assembly and I believe they are doing a good job cleaning up Albany because the corrupt politicians aren't doing anything for the people in need. And you have all of these corrupt politicians stealing all this money that's supposed to go to the communities.

Erik Marrero
Norwood

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



I believe that all these politicians are a bunch of liars. They promise you this and promise you that when they're only getting elected, but once they get elected, its nothing. They don't give you anything. They just give you maybe five percent of what they promised the public and they take what belongs to us, especially the poor. They think we don't exist and there's more poor people than rich people. Things could change, if we could only get the right guy. A strong guy who will fight for the people.

Bobby Santiago
Bedford Park



Of course it's time to clean house in Albany, but I don't know if the powers that be up there have the determination to do it, because further investigations could implicate some more of their friends.

Jules Ira Rubenstein
Van Cortlandt Park South



Yes, it's time to clean house, but as long as politicians continue to allow private donations into politics they will always be bought off by the special interest groups. And there will always be a high level of corruption. The level of corruption is always high when you're dealing with a job that allows you to earmark certain things for friends. Eliminate all donations from special interest groups.

Karl Nemeth
Mount Hope

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Number of hours an art therapy session took to reduce symptoms in cancer inpatients.

(Source: Journal of Pain & Symptom Management, 2006)

Vital Stats

Montefiore Program Links Power of Art to Well-Being

By DAVID CRUZ

Within the grand hall of Montefiore Medical Center in Norwood, hospital medical staff and associates took a break from their daily tasks to stop by an art gallery showcasing the other side of their colleagues' hidden talents.

The Associate Art Showcase was hosted by Montefiore's Healing Arts Program, which served as a kind of collective meeting ground for hospital staffers looking to show off their artistic side.

"The feel in the room was really special and everyone was really enjoying themselves and connecting with each other," said Ronit Fallker, Director of Montefiore's Healing Arts Program.

Lining the tables in the room were photographs, drawings and paintings. At one table, Shirley Roy, pharmacy specialist for the Oncology Pharmacy

at Einstein Campus presented a photograph of a lioness protecting her cubs while Suzanna Harmouche, post-graduate resident at the Department of Psychiatry, crafted a painting of a ballerina seeing her own reflection. Bellinger Moye, a customer service liaison for Montefiore's Care Management staff in Tarrytown, went the pop culture route with a kaleidoscopic portrait of slain rap singer, Notorious B.I.G. Some of the pieces were created for the show, according to Fallker.

Attendees also were treated to an energizing performance by the Associate Choir, a moving song sung by Adam Summers (music therapist, Child Life Program) and with Kristen Corey (music therapist and program coordinator, Healing Arts Program) on piano, and readings of original poetry.

The art display represented several initiatives by the Montefiore



Photo courtesy Montefiore Health System

GUESTS AT MONTEFIORE Medical Center browse around an art show hosted by the hospital's Healing Arts Program.

Health System's Healing Arts Program, which offers art programming that's pleasing to patients' senses. The department collaborates with various departments, including the Division of Nursing, implementing various art-therapies to assist patients in distress. Studies have proven a link between improved health outcomes and creative art approaches.

"For patients we have bedside music, we have bedside art therapy, and also have what's called environmental music therapy," said Fallker. "The difference there is that rather than playing individually at the bedside, the music therapist plays on an open clinical unit where patients are all in the same space together so that everybody can hear the music together."

Under the department, volunteer musicians play soothing tones at waiting rooms, while creative art services for patients include coloring sessions.

Studies have indicated major benefits to creative expression, which aid in a person's psychological well-being, particularly among the older population. "The creative capacity actually uses other parts of your brain. It's actually building capacity on a neurological level," Fallker said.

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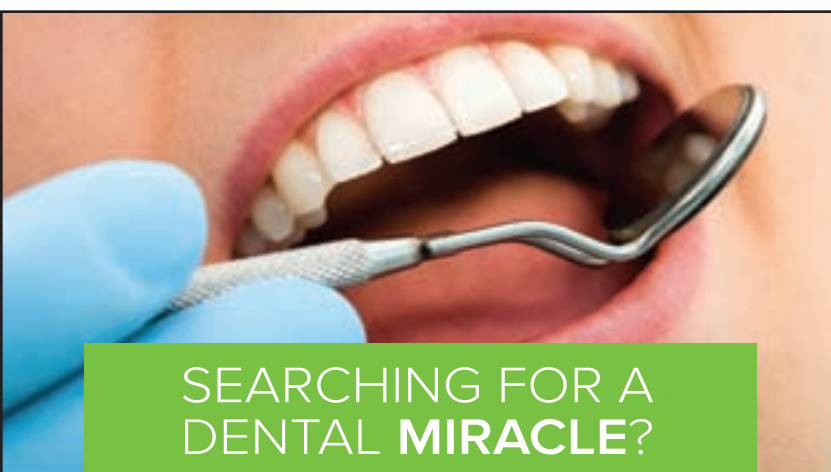
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Sparkling the Holiday Season

The northwest Bronx sure knows how to celebrate the holidays, with several events around Norwood and beyond lighting the holiday season.



Photo by Miriam Quinones

HO, HO, HO! Santa Claus visits the Fordham Road Business Improvement District's Sparkling the Holiday event Dec. 11, sharing a picture moment with these kids.



Photo by Miriam Quinones

(L-R) DANIEL BERNSTEIN, CO-EXECUTIVE director of the Fordham Road BID, Wilma Alonso, co-executive director of the BID, Councilman Fernando Cabrera, and Community Board 7 member Ischia Bravo, were among those at the BID's Sparkling the Holiday Season event.



Photo by David Cruz

IN NORWOOD, SEVERAL dozen neighbors witnessed the lighting of the holiday tree at East Mosholu Parkway. Hosted by Community Board 7 and the New York City Parks Department, the event featured carolers and an appearance by Santa Claus.



Photo courtesy Doug Condit

ALSO CELEBRATING THE holiday season is Inspector Nilda Hofmann, commanding officer of the 52nd Precinct (l), and Brenda Caldwell, president of the 52nd Precinct Community Council (r).



Photo by David Cruz

IN THREE, TWO, ONE...lights up! Community Board 7 flips the switch to its holiday tree Dec. 9 on Mosholu Parkway. Carolers provided the soundtrack to the annual gathering.

Norwood News: The Year in Review

(continued from page 1)

Development has certainly been a major theme in Norwood. In April, the Stagg Group, a family-owned housing developer, opened the Bedford Park Manor, which has 97 new units of housing in three buildings. About 20 percent of the units were set aside as affordable. In January, the Stagg Group purchased a total of three sites--3084 Webster Ave., 150 Van Cortlandt Ave. E., and 410-414 E. 203rd St.--further adding to its footprint in Norwood.

In March, another major developer, The Doe Fund, purchased the site at 3100 Webster Ave. for \$29.5 million. They plan to build an eight-story supportive housing complex for HIV/AIDS sufferers and the working poor. Community groups and local politicians expressed concern that the building could become a burden and change the commercial character of the neighborhood. "The site is an anchor for the 204th Street merchant strip," said Barbara Stronczer of CB7 and the president of the Bedford Mosholu Community Association. "I feel that The Doe Fund should have chosen a better site."

Project Renewal also announced plans to build a major supportive/affordable housing complex in Bedford Park on Jerome Avenue. The non-profit developer plans to spend \$85 million to build a 12- and 14-story complex at 2880 Jerome Ave. that will hold 213 units of housing.

The fate of the post office at 2963 Webster Ave. remains up in the air. Lilliam Rodriguez, the postmaster for the Bronx, visited the Bedford-Mosholu Community Association on Oct. 7 to tell concerned residents, "We have no intention of going anywhere." But real estate developer Andrew Maniglia bought the building in 2014 for \$1.5 million and has not renewed the lease, which expires in June 2016. The community, which relies on that post office, will be eyeing developments there in the coming year.

Politics

Assemblyman Carl Heastie became the first African-American Speaker of the new State Assembly when he was elected in February to replace the disgraced Sheldon Silver. Silver resigned as Speaker, though he kept his Assembly position, amid allegations of corruption in January and was convicted of corruption charges later in the year. Many saw Heastie's ascension as a boon for the Bronx, giving the borough a voice in the innermost circle of political power in Albany.

After Heastie moved up the ladder in March, Bronx Assemblyman Marcos Crespo of the 85th Assembly district took over Heastie's former position as leader of the Democratic County Committee. Crespo was hailed as a rising star in the Democratic Party, capable of forging unity among the party's members.

The biggest name in American politics, President Barack Obama, visited Lehman College in the Bronx this year in May. This was his first visit to our borough, and possibly the last, as a sitting president. He visited the college to promote the My Brother's Keeper Alliance, a nonprofit initiative aimed at setting minority men on a path to success.

Crime

The year started off with some good news: violent crime went down in the 52nd Precinct, which includes Norwood, Bedford Park, Kingsbridge Heights and parts of Fordham and University Heights. However, by March, crime had spiked, fueled by a dramatic increase in robberies, particularly in the sleepier neighborhoods of Norwood and Bedford Park. By September, shooting incidents in the 52nd Precinct had risen 27 percent compared to the same period in 2014. The situation was brought to a boil when 24-year-old David Hooks was shot to death near the corner of Briggs Avenue and 194th Street, a troubled part of the

precinct. Residents voiced concerns about rising violence at a town hall meeting organized by Councilman Ritchie Torres and attended by community members and NYPD officers.

In its fight in the war on drugs, the NYPD (and emergency rooms) saw a formidable enemy in synthetic marijuana, nicknamed K2. In May, CB 7 was the first community board in the city to hold a forum on the topic where Dr. Ernest Patti, ER director at St. Barnabas Hospital, noted a 220 percent spike in emergency room incidents attributed to the drug. Despite a major K2 bust by the DEA, NYPD and Homeland Security in the Bronx in September, use of the drug still continued.

Parks

The heart of Norwood, the Williamsbridge Oval Park, had some ups and downs this year. Park visitors increased, but with the increase came some problems. In September, the stone staircase on the northeast side of the park collapsed for unknown reasons, leaving park-goers wondering why more regular maintenance is not performed on park infrastructure. Also, a couple of brawls broke out among youths visiting the park in October. Community leaders convened a meeting to address the issue, but due to low attendance, particularly among youth, they were unable to make any progress addressing the growing violence.

There was positive news in the park as well. Significant progress was made towards building a new skate park in the Williamsbridge Oval. Community members, park planners, politicians and skateboarders all put their heads together to move the \$750,000 project towards reality.

Editor's Note: Do you have a 2015 milestone we missed? Send your thoughts to dcruz@norwoodnews.org.

Year In Pictures



Photo by Adi Talwar

(ISSUE 10) IN HIS FIRST and possibly only visit to the Bronx as an incumbent, President Barack Obama speaks at Lehman College on May 4 to promote his initiative, My Brother's Keeper, a non-profit program aimed at mentoring young minority men.



Photo by Adi Talwar

(ISSUE 23) RENT HIKES AND the threat of gentrification, among other housing-related issues, were hot topics of concern for Bronx residents this year, and the *Norwood News* did its fair share of coverage. On Nov. 19, at a meeting with NYC Department of City Planning officials, the Bronx Borough Board rejected two amendments tied to Mayor Bill De Blasio's housing plan.



Photo by Adi Talwar

(ISSUE 24) A STRING OF intentional fires plagued Williamsbridge Oval Park in late November-early December, prompting concerns from park-goers and residents. The NYPD and Parks Department officers increased patrols shortly thereafter.



Photo by Skyler Reid/CUNY Graduate School of Journalism

(ISSUE 13) IT WAS A BIG YEAR for the *Norwood News*. Among the two accolades the newspaper received, the paper won first place for Best Small Circulation Publication at the 2015 Ippies Awards, here being held by editor David Cruz.

Mosholu Library to Extend Hrs. in 2016

The Mosholu Library at 285 E. 205th St. has decided to extend its hours effective Jan. 4, 2016. Thanks to a \$43 million dollar grant to the New York City public library systems, patrons of the Mosholu branch will be able to enjoy a few extra hours during the week which are meant to encourage more patronage to the library. Along with the extra hours, the library will also be able to hire an additional children's librarian. The new hours are as follows: Mondays: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and closed on Sundays. The branch number is (718) 882-8239.

--Daniel Durand

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Dolph Schayes, Famed DeWitt Clinton HS Alum, Dies at 87

By VIVIAN CARTER

Dolph Schayes, a DeWitt Clinton High School alum who became one of the NBA's greatest players, died of cancer in Syracuse, New York, on Dec. 10. He was 87.

Adolph Schayes was born in the University Heights section of the Bronx on May 19, 1928, to Carl and Tina Schayes, Romanian Jewish immigrants who lived at 183rd Street and Davidson Avenue near Jerome Avenue. Schayes had grown to a height of 6'5" by the time he was 11, and eventually topped out at 6'8."

Schayes was a natural for the game of basketball, playing at Creston Junior High School 79, and then honing his game further at DeWitt Clinton H.S. on Mosholu Parkway. He later played for New York University, leading the team to the NCAA Final Four tournament as a 16-year-old freshman center.

Schayes was immediately snapped up in a 1948 bidding war, as there were two professional basketball leagues at the time. The New York Knicks drafted him as fourth pick, offering what was at the time their league's cap of \$5,000. The

Syracuse Nationals offered Schayes the cap in their league--\$7,500, and he accepted. The two leagues would merge shortly thereafter to form the NBA.

Schayes played his entire 16-season career, 1949 to 1964, for Syracuse, leading them to the championship in 1955. He led the team in scoring for 12 straight seasons, retiring as the NBA's all-time leading scorer with 19,249 points. He also played in more games than any other player—1,059. Perhaps Schayes' most amazing achievement was playing 706 straight games without missing a single one, from 1952 to 1961.

His trademark feature as a player was a high arcing shot his teammates called "Sputnik." Schayes was also widely known for his dangerous ability to shoot accurately, both left- and right-handed, a skill he developed while playing almost an entire season with his right arm in a cast. After retiring as a player, Schayes coached the Philadelphia 76ers and their legendary star, Wilt Chamberlain, from 1963 to 1966.

Schayes received all of the greatest honors bestowed in the basketball world. He was Rookie of the Year in 1949, played in the first NBA All-Star game in 1951, and would repeat the ritual 12 more times. He was named NBA Coach of the Year in 1966. He was voted "one of the 50 greatest players in NBA history" when the NBA celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1997, and inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Schayes returned to the Bronx on May 16 for the Bronx Ball, the penultimate soiree to Bronx Week, a celebratory event celebrating the positive aspects of the Bronx. The next day he was inducted into the Bronx Walk of Fame by Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. That same day, Schayes headed up the Grand Concourse to ride in the Bronx Day Parade along Mosholu Parkway. It would be his last trip up the Concourse and the Parkway, the route ending just blocks from DeWitt Clinton, where his basketball career began.

After the Bronx Day Parade, Schayes paused briefly to speak to a few local reporters--remaining elegant, dignified and courteous, despite his weekend consumed with non-stop activities.

After retiring from coaching, Schayes became a real estate developer in Syracuse. He was an active member of his local synagogue, Temple Concord, and was buried in the temple's plot in Woodlawn Cemetery, Syracuse. He is survived by his wife, Naomi, son Danny (who also played 18 seasons for the NBA), daughters Carrie Goettsch and Debra Ferri, and nine grandchildren.



DOLPH SCHAYES (pictured in his heyday), who grew up in the Bronx during his early years, played 16 seasons for the Syracuse Nationals.

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52nd Precinct Equips All Officers With Phones

By MICHAEL BROWN JR.

At the recent 52nd Precinct Community Council meeting, Inspector Nilda Hofmann announced that officers of the 52nd Precinct had received their NYPD-issued mobile phones and tablets intended to aid them in their fight against crime.

The gadgets were given out earlier in December to the Five-Two as part of an initiative by Commissioner Bill Bratton that was funded by the New York City Council. Under Bratton, every precinct in the city will have equipped its officers with a phone or tablet. Previously, high ranking NYPD officials, commanding officers, and some squad supervisors were assigned an NYPD-issued phone.

"You can reach an officer on the phone and it's going to be their personal phone," said Hofmann. She went on to add that "sometimes it's very difficult for the officer to give out their personal phone number, but now they have a Police Department number [where you can reach them]."

Every NYPD officer will have a phone and every squad car will have a tablet. Cops will also be given an email address to give out.

The phones feature apps linked to NYPD databases which offer access to an individual's arrest history, police

reports, wanted photos, filed orders of protection, and videos from the Police Department's public information office. Apps will also help identify what residences house felons wanted for a crime.

A recent example of the phones in action came when a home invasion had been reported after the phones were issued and after speaking to the victim, officers found out the victim had served time and had been burglarized a few months prior, proving the efficacy of the phones in actual policing situations where cops otherwise would be blind.

Access to all of that information allows patrol officers easier availability to tools necessary to do their jobs efficiently, instead of calling in to their stationhouse. The phones and tablets were provided by Lumia, with AT&T serving as its carrier.

Each phone is GPS-enabled, multi-password protected with an NYPD ID code for each officer to stymie theft. And if officers were to lose their phones, a notification would be made.

Hofmann noted that the Police Department will eventually equip patrol cars with a printer, to easily produce police reports, such as those for car accidents, on the streets.



Photo courtesy NYPD

POLICE OFFICERS AT the 52nd Precinct try out their new NYPD-issued phones intended to streamline crime fighting duties.

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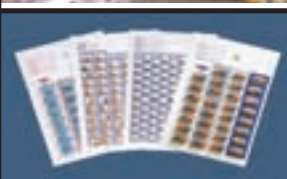
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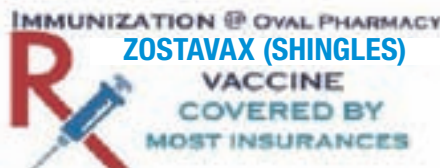
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NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

Journalism Program

The Bronx Investigative Internship Program is accepting applications for its paid, 10-week program combining group work and required hours of individual reporting totaling 10 hours per week running from late January to late March. High school students and college-age Bronx residents are eligible. Applicants must be available to attend sessions every Monday and Tuesday evening from 3 to 5 p.m. during the program's run. Applications are due by 9 a.m. Jan. 8, 2016. To apply, go to <http://bit.ly/1mwBd6i>.

Heating Assistance Available

This winter, the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) offers eligible households of low-income and elderly New Yorkers to receive a one-time benefit of up to \$625 depending on income, household size, and heating source. Applications for emergency benefits for those in danger of losing heat

will be accepted starting Jan. 4, 2016. For more information and requirements, go to <http://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap>.

Snow Laborers

Early registration has begun for part-time emergency laborers for the upcoming snow season. Pay is \$13.50 per hour, and \$20.25 per hour after 40 hours are worked in a week. To register, visit the Bronx yard at Mosholu Avenue and Broadway in Van Cortlandt Park, Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Applicants must be at least age 18, bring two small photos (1 ½ square), or original and copy of two forms of ID and a Social Security Card.

Free Tutoring

Sistas & Brothers United, 103 E. 196th St., 3rd fl., offers free tutoring for students ages 12 to 21 in the subjects of math, history, English, and science, Monday through Friday from 3 to 6 p.m. For more information, call Crystal Reyes, College Access Coordinator, at (718) 584-0515 ext. 243.



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Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

EDITOR'S PICK

Recycle Holiday Trees

The New York City Department of Parks & Recreation presents **Treecycle at Annual Mulchfest 2016**. Recycle your holiday tree into woodchips that will nourish trees and gardens throughout the city. Free mulch collection bags will be provided and patrons may bring home a bag of free mulch for their own garden at the chipping site at Van Cortlandt Park's golf course at Bailey Avenue and VC Pk. So., Jan. 9 and 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Donors may bring trees from Jan. 2 to 10 to local drop-off sites for future recycling: Williamsbridge Oval Park, Kossuth Playground at Mosholu Parkway No. and Kossuth Avenue, St. James Park at West 192nd Street and Jerome Avenue, or Poe Park at the Grand Concourse between East Kingsbridge Road and East 192nd Street. Remember to remove all lights, ornaments, and netting. For more information and additional sites, visit www.nyc.gov/dsny or www.nyc.gov/greenyc.

Events

Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Art Projects**: Winter Birdy Marionettes, workshop, Dec. 26 and 27; and Create Your Year – Hello 2016, to create an animal, based on Chinese and Native American, and take home calendar, Jan. 2 and 3; both in WH House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Grounds admission is free until noon Saturdays and Tuesdays all year. For more information and a schedule of events including tours and walks, call (718) 549-3200.

Holiday Events

The New York Botanical Garden's Enid A. Haupt Conservatory offers the **Holiday Train Show**, presented by the

New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, daily through Jan. 18, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., featuring model trains that zip through a display of 150 NYC landmarks, each recreated with bark, leaves and other natural materials. Advance reservations are recommended. For more information and tickets prices, call (718) 817-8716

St. Helena's Church, 1315 Olmstead Ave. (off Westchester Avenue, between Parkchester and Castle Hill avenues), hosts Parkchester's annual **Kwanzaa Program**, Creating Unity in the Community, Dec. 26 from 3 to 8 p.m., featuring free admission and food. The Kwanzaa program begins at 4 p.m. sharp. Events include African attire and African market, cultural performances, raffles, and speakers. Donations are accepted. Bring handcrafted or educational children's



File Photo

DONE WITH YOUR natural Christmas tree? You can "treecycle" it at the Annual Mulchfest 2016 on Jan. 9 and 10 at participating parks. (See Editor's Pick)



Photo courtesy Joshua Bright

A FREE YOGA event at Wave Hill is open to the community Jan. 9.

gifts, and games, books or toys. For more information, call (718) 409-5253 or (347) 525-4943.

Library Events

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents the following events for children: **Design and Test a Parachute**: (ages 7 to 11, preregistration required), workshop, Jan. 5 at 4 p.m.; **Preschool Story Time**: (ages 3 to 5), enjoy picture books, Jan. 7 at 11 a.m.; and **Hands-on Projects at 4 p.m.**: (ages 7 to 12; in-person preregistration required), Winter Frame Making, Jan. 7. Teens/young adults can join **Financial Literacy**: workshop to learn about money, finding a job, making and saving money and keeping a budget, Jan. 7 at 4 p.m.; and **films at noon**: "Elf," Dec. 24; and "Jurassic World," Dec. 30. Adults can attend **film**: "A Christmas Carol," Dec. 26 at 2:30 p.m.; and **exhibit**: Movements of the Heart, featuring pictures of dance, Dec. 31 at 6 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

The Mosholu Library, 285 E. 205th St., offers for children: **Toddler Time at 10:30 a.m.**: (ages 18 to 36 months), music, movement and stories, Dec. 24 and 31; **Preschool Story Time**: (ages 3 to 5), stories, songs, and activities, Dec. 28 at 4 p.m.; and **Dorothy in**

the Land of Oz: (ages 3 to 12), play presented by the Traveling Lantern Theatre, Dec. 30 at 2:30 p.m. Adults can attend: **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.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS!

NOTE: Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org, and should be received by Dec. 28 for the next publication date of Jan. 7.

CORRECTION:

In our Dec. 10-23 issue, at the end of Out & About, we wished our Jewish readers a happy and healthy Passover. It should have read Chanukah.

In the editorial of the same issue, it was stated that Parks Enforcement Patrol (PEP) officers cannot effect an arrest at parks. They can make an arrest, equivalent to a citizen's arrest.

The Norwood News regrets these errors.

Full Ride for AMSU Student



Photo courtesy Academy of Mount St. Ursula

CONGRATULATIONS TO ACADEMY of Mount St. Ursula student Cinthia Ibarra (pictured), who heads to the University of Pennsylvania's College of Arts and Sciences on a full scholarship. The funds, estimated at \$200,000, came from the QuestBridge College Match Scholarship program, which connects bright low-income students to America's best universities. Cinthia was one of 51 students nationwide to be admitted as QuestBridge Scholars at U Penn. "Receiving the news that I was granted the scholarship just before Christmas was such a blessing to my family and I," said Cinthia.

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