



# NORWOOD NEWS

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**INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER;  
PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS | PG. 4**



**PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEES  
STUMP IN THE BRONX | PGS. 10-11**

## KNIC FILES SUIT AGAINST CITY

*Latest litigation further delays on Armory development*



File Photo by Adi Talwar

**THE FATE OF** the Kingsbridge National Ice Center, which would be built at the Kingsbridge Armory (in background), is once again heading to a courtroom.

**By DAVID CRUZ**

Developers of the Kingsbridge National Ice Center (KNIC) have filed a lawsuit against the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC), the city's real estate arm that had given developers another month to demonstrate it had enough

capital to proceed with the project at the city-owned property, the *Norwood News* has learned. The development could signal further delay, and perhaps endanger the project altogether.

In a 35-page summons and complaint filed in Bronx Supreme Court on April 12,

the lawsuit alleges the city had breached a contract and "have deliberately delayed the progress of the Kingsbridge Armory redevelopment [project]."

The suit alleges that the NYCEDC had in fact conspired with former principals tied to the project, Jonathan

Richter, Jeff Spiritos and Marcos Wignell. KNIC alleges that NYCEDC had looked to purposely have KNIC default on its commitment so it can hand the project to the three individuals. The trio had sued KNIC president Kevin Parker for control of the project, but

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## EDITORIAL

# Supporting Mr. Preet Bharara, a Supporter of Journalists

There are exceptions to everything.

For reporters, that mostly involves revealing your personal biases, good or bad. That's why it was so uncommon to witness some 200 journalists standing in a celebratory cheer for U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara, the keynote speaker at the 2016 New York Press Association spring convention.

The *Norwood News* stood with them, joining in several applause, including a long ovation for Mr. Bharara at the Gideon Putnam Hotel in Saratoga Springs. Indeed, it's largely his relentless assault against the culture of corruption long linked to the Albany Legislature that's earned him rock star status among New York's press crowd. Mr. Bharara playfully hinted more cases to come.

For the U.S. Attorney, setting his sights on Albany is not a matter of settling a score, but rather having lawmakers do right by the people who voted them into office. It was certainly humbling to hear his words laced with the kind of honesty and hope that made it refreshing.

He couldn't take all the credit. Once a news anchor and producer for WHRB News at Harvard University, he tipped his



Photo by David Cruz  
**U.S. ATTORNEY PREET BHARARA** speaks at the 2016 New York Press Association's spring convention, praising journalists for "keeping the wolves at bay."

hat to journalists "keeping the wolves at bay," a goal shared by prosecutors. After all, the two professions go hand in hand.

"The secret is we don't know where all the bad things are," said Mr. Bharara. "We don't know who all the bad guys are, we don't know where all the fraud is happening, we don't know where all the corruption is happening; and it turns out that often is the case that you folks are much better at figuring that out than the feds are, and often is the case that you folks are much better getting folks to talk to you than the feds are."

A Bronx resident's life is

not far removed from Mr. Bharara's work. Over the last seven years, his office has stormed Bronx streets to apprehend a swell of gangs that have dealt poison to young people, setting neighborhoods back for years.

So you should consider writing a letter to thank him, and the staff that's spent hours shining a light on matters that certain groups, be it some lawmakers who

think their questionable tactics are business as usual or shady gangsters prepping for their next score, would want to keep in the dark.

Mr. Bharara embodies the traits we want in an elected official: Someone who will always be looking out for you. There was talk he would consider a run for elected office. We feel he's most effective where he is now.

## Disappointment at Hillary Camp's Dis of Local Press

Despite a gaggle of press following Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton all the way up to the Bronx on April 7, most of the borough's local media were unaware of the stop, missing it altogether.

Video from CNN showed Mrs. Clinton making a stop in front of Yankee Stadium with Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. showing her around. Mrs. Clinton, who has largely been stationed in Brooklyn, took the number 4 subway train to 161st Street

for her surprise visit.

Afterwards, a spokesman told the *Norwood News* that Mrs. Clinton's appearance "was an unscheduled stop" and that we were "not left off any notice." It stands to reason that her camp should have done better in getting a list of journalists that cover the area. She has \$222 million in her campaign left to at least afford a good media relations office. There was a clear presence from national media outlets, and not a peep from the local press. Shame.

## Public and Community Meetings

**COMMUNITY BOARD 7** will hold its general board meeting on **THURSDAY, APRIL 21**, at Monroe College's Mintz Auditorium, 2501 Jerome Ave. CB7 committee meetings are held on the following dates at the board office, 229 E. 204th St., at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted: Traffic & Transportation on Apr. 14; Veterans Committee on Apr. 14 at 7:30 p.m.; Housing/Land Use & Zoning on Apr. 20; Community Relations/LTP on Apr. 26; Economic Development on Apr. 26 at 7:30 p.m.; Website/Acknowledgement & Media Apr. 27; and By-Laws Committee on Apr. 28. For more information, call the Board office at (718) 933-5650.

**THE BANGLADESHI AMERICAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL** will host a town hall meeting on Apr. 18 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, 3225 Reservoir Oval East.

**52ND PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meets Apr. 28 at The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., from 7 to 9 p.m. For more information, call (718) 220-5824.

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## INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE

This week we asked readers who they would consider voting for in the upcoming presidential primaries set for April 19 in New York State. (More coverage can be found on pages 10 and 11.)



I think that Donald Trump would be a fine president. Donald Trump is the right man for the right job. We need Mr. Trump as President of the United States of America.

**Phillip Daniel Chandler**  
Norwood



I wish Hillary Clinton would be president. She will help with the job situation and with Social Security benefits and housing. I think she's more for the people. I'm praying that Donald Trump doesn't become president. I don't like him at all.

**Alice Kanzulak**  
Norwood



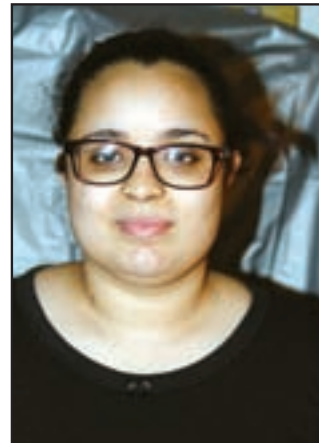
I don't believe any of them. Trump: he's entertainment and if we keep entertaining him, he's going to keep going for it. I hope he comes into some of these neighborhoods that need it and start helping them with the problems that are in the neighborhood. Jobs, education, housing, homelessness, helping the police learn how to talk to the community and teach the community.

**Sycona Jones**  
Bedford Park



Well, I think I'm going to go for Bernie. He's got what America needs because it's going to bring down a lot of capitalist people, by taxing the rich people and helping us, that's what we need right now. He will need the backup of [U.S.] Congress of course, and we all have to vote for Congress and vote for our senators. It's a process, but at least he will start it. It's been a hectic race; very controversial.

**Carolina Geronimo**  
Norwood



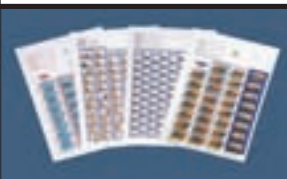
I think it's very difficult who to pick to vote for and right now I'm stuck between Bernie Sanders and Ted Cruz, but I'm leaning more towards Bernie Sanders because he seems more realistic and I've dug into his past and he's done a lot of crazy things. He's supported minorities, and women definitely, that's a big thing for me.

**Nicole Lopez**  
Burnside

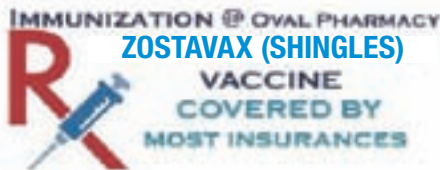
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# Boys to Men; Monroe College Hosts Talk on Manhood

By DAVID CRUZ

For four hours, some 400 teenage boys from the Bronx and beyond delved into the rites of becoming a man. They sat quietly at Monroe College's Mintz Auditorium, magnetized by stories from men who've successfully surpassed that coming-of-age mark.

For Monroe College, which hosted its seventh annual male empowerment forum, the topic served as the spark to a way of life free of despair and emotional turmoil. It turned to success stories in the fields of business, criminal justice, and education to inspire that talk.

"What it takes to be a man is to recognize that you have responsibilities not only to yourself but to your community as a whole, so it's [not only] being able to make a living but to make a life," said Dr. Steve Perry, founder of Capital Preparatory Magnet School in Harford, Connecticut, who delivered the keynote address.

The college hosted a similar forum exclusively for women on March 31. This time, 38 male mentors in the middle and late stages of their careers compared personal responsibility as a tool of stability. Mentors were on hand to prop up



Photo by David Cruz

**STUDENTS HEAR FROM** a seasoned mentor (rear left) at a roundtable talk at Monroe College in Fordham.

the potential of teenage boys, evincing themselves as role models of success.

"Good enough is not good enough. Not because it's not good enough...but because you always could do better," said Harold S. Reed Jr., a New Jersey-based motivational coach, leading a philosophical talk on successful living.

It's a lifestyle that could likely be tougher to attain when compounded by setbacks, according to organizers. In the Bronx, where single parent homes

and incarceration rates for minority men are high, impediments can be tangible. For other young men whose lives are circumscribed by square blocks, the prospect of success is reachable, yet admittedly a crawl filled with possibilities.

That point was already learned by John Mensah of Co-Op City. A student at Bronx Health Science High School, John saw that consequences could follow one even after lapses have occurred.

He told the story of a close friend who was swallowed by the prison system, released, and subsequently found difficulty landing work. "It becomes hard for him to know if he's going to get the job," said John, sitting alongside his friend Joseph Amponsah.

But mentors reemphasized that socioeconomic barriers, while a hurdle, should not dictate the course of one's life.

"Tying Into Manhood" served as this year's theme, illustrated at the end of the conference when guests were given orange ties to signify their burgeoning quest towards manhood. They were certainly worn with pride by the college's AimHigh Empowerment Institute, a group specifically geared to first-year students in need of resources and confidence building.

"We're giving them an image and a hope that all things are possible if they concentrate and work hard," said Dr. Cecil Wright, Monroe College's dean of admissions, who came up with the idea.

**Editor's Note:** More photos of this event can be found on [www.norwood-news.org](http://www.norwood-news.org).



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## Survey: Bronx Biz's Bullish

By NOAH BERMAN

Small businesses are booming in the Bronx, according to a small sample survey.

The analysis, conducted by TD Bank, asked 495 New York businesses about their prospects for the coming year. Some 100 participatory businesses are located in the Bronx.

The survey detailed citywide optimism for the year, with 86 percent of Bronx small business owners expecting higher revenue, the strongest mark of any borough. Additionally, 93 percent of those Bronx small business owners surveyed are optimistic or excited about 2016, making it the most optimistic borough in the city.

Some indicators for a positive outlook included cost of office space and the borough's immunity from international economic issues, according to a spokesperson for TD Bank.

A result of these projections is job growth with 71 percent of Bronx businesses expected to grow their workforce, another city-best statistic. Those figures align with expected job growth across the country.

Business owners owned by so-called Millennials, those born on or after 1982, could be the reason behind this overall job growth, as 80 percent of Millennials plan on increasing their firm's size. In contrast, only 16 percent of baby boomers look to follow those steps.

Millennial-owned businesses were more successful than their boomer counterparts, with nearly half of them exceeding revenue goals last year as opposed to 21 percent for baby boomers.

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## Theater at the Oval

New York City's trendy downtown culture visited the Bronx on April 2, as the Mobile Unit of Joseph Papp's celebrated Public Theater presented the classic play by William Shakespeare, *Romeo & Juliet*, at the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center.

Obie Award winner Lear deBessonet directed the production, described in the program as "the classic tale of star-cross'd lovers caught between the world outside the bedroom window and passion as boundless as the sea." The starring roles of Romeo and Ju-

liet were played by Sheldon Best and Ayana Workman.

The small indoor venue at the Oval was booked well in advance, with over 130 requests for about 65 seats. Those in the standby line who did not get seats were given vouchers for tickets to see the show at the Public Theater's home, 425 Lafayette Street in Lower Manhattan, where it is playing through May 1.

The Mobile Shakespeare Unit has the goal of improving community engagement with the arts by bringing

free, world-class productions of Shakespeare to neighborhoods across the city. The unit's actors are now regulars in and around Norwood, having presented "A Comedy of Errors" in last October at the same venue. Sheldon Best, pictured at left, took a few moments before the show began to chat with 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from Archer Elementary (P.S. 531), who will be staging their own production of the play in June. -- **Vivan Carter**



Photo by Vivan Carter

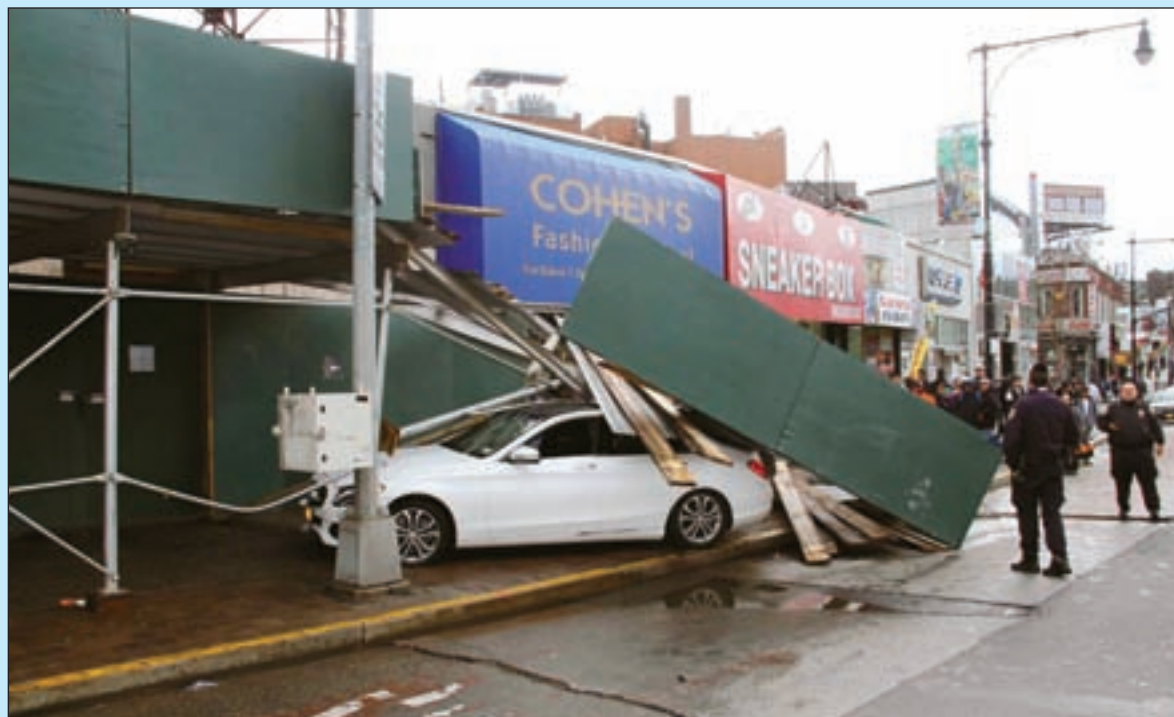
### Tales About the D Train? Share It!

See a train rumble pass and notice it's just the A or the B? Have you lost your patience waiting for the D train to come?

Lowell Green, a Community Board 7 member and chair of the Board's Transportation committee, wants to hear all about it.

Green hopes you can email the Board at [info@bronxcb7.info](mailto:info@bronxcb7.info). Stories will be shared with the MTA in the hopes of improving service --**David Cruz**

## Car Crashes at Busy Fordham



**SLAMMIN' IN FORDHAM.** Police are on the lookout for the driver of this apparent stolen vehicle. The driver fled the scene after jumping a sidewalk and slamming into this sidewalk-shed. The incident was reported at just before 4 p.m., on Apr. 7, along East Fordham Road, between the Grand Concourse and Valentine Avenue. One witness reported the male driver got out of the vehicle and quickly started to run away from the scene, as police and fire crews were still responding. No injuries were reported.

# Webster Avenue Bus Route Gets Upgrades and More

By DANIELA BEASLEY

Commuters in Norwood can expect transit and pedestrian safety improvements along the Webster Avenue Bx41 Select Bus Service route now that the city green-lit a contractor to complete the project.

The project is building on already completed upgrades that include one lane dedicated to buses and pockets of pedestrian islands that pepper the thoroughfare.

Services included in the renovations are real-time bus arrival information and additional shelters and seating. Construction will take place between East 205th Street in Norwood and East 165rd Street in Claremont Village with a sidewalk extension on the East side of Webster Avenue between East 194th and East 197th streets.

An additional pedestrian space at the intersections of East Tremont Avenue and Claremont Parkway is intended to advance bus operations, safety, and the overall pedestrian environment, according to a NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) spokesperson.

Another bus route can be expected from this plan on Webster Avenue from



Photo by David Cruz

**THE SPEEDIER Bx41** Select Bus Service (pictured) on Webster Avenue will see major safety upgrades later this year, thanks to a \$26 million project.

East 165th Street and East Gun Hill Road, which will add concrete medians, bus bulbs and curb extensions to the developments. Although commuters always embrace new bus routes, according to locals, the route that is highly anticipated is one that would travel di-

rectly from Webster Avenue to LaGuardia Airport in Queens.

The DOT, MTA New York City Transit, and New York City Department of Design and Construction (DDC) are collaborating on this \$26 million project, with Oliveira Contracting Inc. perform-

ing the work.

A DOT spokesperson claims the improvements made during the first stage of this project are already making a difference, stating that the current Bx41 SBS operates 19 to 23 percent faster than the former Bx41 LTD and 97 percent of Bx41 SBS riders are "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the changes.

"People need the public transportation," said frequent flyer Abdoul Diallo, "because people have to take a taxi to LaGuardia which costs around \$50."

"I would use it," said Darwin Columna when asked about the route. "What makes it good is you can go to more places easier."

"That'll be nice, that'll be nice for them," said Anthony Meglin. Meglin, while not a traveler himself, still thinks this type of route would benefit the community.

The DOT has not officially announced whether or not a bus route to LaGuardia airport will be included in this Webster Avenue SBS project, though there is a proposal in from the MTA for this specific route.

Construction is expected to start this summer.

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# Bainbridge Nursing Home Revives Patient from Brink

*"The care team never gave up," said Juana Velez*

By VIVIAN CARTER

Angela Velez is back home again, and she can thank a compassionate Norwood nursing home for that.

Velez, who turned 26 in April, was admitted to a local hospital in May 2015 with gallstones and acute pancreatitis. After most of her pancreas was removed, she was told by doctors that she had 24 hours to live, say her parents, Juana and Luis Velez.

But Angela endured for months in the hospital, aided by a ventilator and feeding tubes. By the end of September, she had completed her course of hospital treatment, and was ready to be released for rehabilitation services.

The Velez family had to battle huge bureaucratic hurdles to get Angela admitted to a nursing facility that would be a manageable distance from their home. Often patients under the age of 50 experience similar problems finding appropriate nursing care, as these facilities, most times, as a hard-and-fast rule, cater to an older clientele.

The Velezes are now indebted to the

Bainbridge Nursing & Rehabilitation Center at 3519 Bainbridge Ave. for the five months of care that made the difference between life and death for Angela.

Angela is now, to all appearances, in good health, judging from how she smiled and spread cheer at a party held in her honor at the nursing home on the day before her release.

A huge decorated cake with chocolate frosting and colorful spring flowers was cut to celebrate her victory. Angela was dressed in yellow, bright as a daffodil, surrounded by her care team. Bainbridge administrator Suzanne Hogan thanked everyone who was a part of Angela's success.

"The care team never gave up," said Juana Velez. Luis Velez agreed that his daughter, while "a tough cookie," was not always compliant with the things she was asked to do.

Carrie Ann Roe Nichols, Hogan's chief aide, is given a great deal of the credit for where Angela is today.



Photo courtesy Bainbridge Nursing Home

**THE CARE TEAM** of Bainbridge Nursing and Rehabilitation Center at 3519 Bainbridge Ave. surrounds Angela Velez (seated front and center, dressed in yellow).

*"Bainbridge is a wonderful place,  
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# NATIONAL POLITICS CO

By DAVID CRUZ, DAVID GREENE  
& DANIELA BEASLEY

From Mott Haven to University Heights, presidential candidates vying for the White House converged in the Bronx, bringing to the borough a week full of rallies, surprise stops, condemnation and a boost to its political influence.

Bernie Sanders, the U.S. Senator from Vermont, was the first to arrive, launching his New York campaign tour in the Bronx. Three weeks before the April primary and against the backdrop of St. Mary's Park in Mott Haven, the Democratic presidential contender told a roaring crowd, "We are going to invest in the South Bronx."

"What this campaign is about is creating a political revolution," he said, appearing before the audience as dusk began to settle. "And the 15,000 that are here this evening, you are the heart and soul of this revolution."

It was one of a few times Mr. Sanders directly mentioned the Bronx, an area largely impoverished with severe health and income disparities. Days before Mr. Sanders' visit, Twitter was abuzz with hashtags that read, #BernieintheBronx, and #BronxisBerning, paired with the already established catchphrase of #FeeltheBern.

His opponent, former Secretary of State and U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton, made an appearance at the Apollo Theater in Harlem the day before. A week later, she hopped aboard an uptown number 4 subway train for an "unscheduled stop" in the Bronx, though local press were unaware of it, with many outlets missing her rare Bronx appearance altogether. There was no rally, only an ad hoc tour by Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.

At the Sanders rally, Mr. Sanders espoused a progressive platform, arguing for demilitarization of police, heavy tax levies for the rich to subsidize college, and an increase in the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

His message on free college tuition resonated with Jade Rodriguez, 18, of Longwood. A senior at



Photos courtesy (left to right) Kasich Campaign,

**PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES ARRIVE** to the Bronx, with (l-r) Ohio governor John Kasich, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, U.S. Sen. Former President Bill Clinton (far right) also dropped by the Bronx.

Bronx Studio for Writers and Artists, Ms. Rodriguez praised Sanders' position, which compelled her to register to vote and wait on line to get into the park and hear Mr. Sanders speak. "Other candidates are not good enough to be president," she said.

Another first-time voter, Brittny Vargas, 18, commended Mr. Sanders' stop to the Bronx, pegging him as a fighter of the people. "Bernie just stands out to me," said Ms. Vargas, wearing a pin button where one half bore the New York Yankees logo and a message reading "Wins in October." The other half showed Mr. Sanders' face and a message reading "Wins in November."

Mr. Sanders' appearance in the borough aligned with his overall goal of equalizing the playing field, a position strongly backed by residents of the South Bronx.

"It's a testament to what [Mr. Sanders] really stands for," said Ms. Vargas, "because so many people are afraid to speak in areas this poor. They'll come to New York, but they'll go to the Javits Center and Hell's Kitchen, but they don't come to the real hell down here. It's okay. It's my home, I love it."

Ephraim Cruz, a former police officer in the Bronx, considered Mr. Sanders "way ahead of his time." "We have a candidate who has a consistency with his constituency, with his positions. He has a trust

factor that Hillary [Clinton] can't seem to garner," said Mr. Cruz.

Mr. Sanders' appearance in Mott Haven marked one of the few moments a presidential rally was held in the Bronx, with the last recorded rally happening in the borough in 1965 by Democratic presidential contender Robert F. Kennedy. The last presidential candidate to visit happened in 1999 when former President George Bush campaigned in Belmont, the same neighborhood where current Republican presidential candidate, Ohio governor John Kasich, visited on April 7. Mr. Kasich sat at Mike's Deli on Arthur Avenue for a lunch meal consisting of an above-average sandwich.

Indeed, the rare visits illustrate the mounting tension the election has morphed into during the last three weeks, given some out-of-state primaries that have gone against presumptive winners.

"This is one of those every-vote-counts races," said Bob Kappstatter, former New York Daily News Bronx Bureau Chief, political columnist, and now political consultant. "On the Democratic side is Bernie inching up to Hillary. On the Republican side is Kasich working as a spoiler for [Ted] Cruz at a contested convention."

Donald Trump, the clear Republican frontrunner, did not visit the Bronx, as of press time.

The Bronx, with its low-voter turnout (New York is the second

worst state for voter turnout), could be poised to head out to the polls in droves given the influence candidates have wielded in this year's elections.

"And these guys are going where the votes are," noted Mr. Kappstatter.

## Ted Cruz Visits Bronx

Mr. Sanders' visit was followed by Republican presidential candidate, Texas U.S. Senator Ted Cruz, who met with clergymen at the Sabrosura 2 restaurant in Castle Hill. Among the guests was Democratic state Senator Ruben Diaz Sr., a practicing reverend. The pairing was oddly timed—the get-together happened on the same day Mr. Diaz's son, BP Diaz Jr., joined with other Hispanic legislators to support Mrs. Clinton.

"I don't have to tell you how she is the most qualified person, hands down, to deal with international issues and deal with our foreign policy," said the younger Diaz, flanked by fellow Democrats outside Bronx Borough Hall on April 6.

He labeled Mr. Sanders as inexperienced. "Bernie is not qualified, and certainly nobody on the other side is qualified."

Assemblyman Marcos Crespo, who chairs the Bronx Democratic County Committee (BDCC), spoke on the newfound attention that New York is getting from the political candidates. Mr. Crespo believes

# COME TO THE BRONX



Bronx Borough President's Office, Daniela Beasley, Jasmine Gomez, and Bronx Borough President's Office Senator from Vermont Bernie Sanders, and U.S. Senator from Texas Ted Cruz making the rounds.



Photo by Daniela Beasley

**MEMBERS OF THE** Bronx Hispanic legislative delegation threw their support behind Mrs. Clinton at an April 6 rally. Mrs. Clinton was not present at the rally.

although a good thing, this must serve as a reminder to voters of how important it is to come out and have their voice heard.

Not behind Mrs. Clinton is state Assemblyman Luis Sepulveda of Soundview and Parkchester, who stands as the only legislator in New York State backing Mr. Sanders.

Mr. Sepulveda has made decisions that went against the grain. During the 2013 mayoral campaign, he had endorsed Bill de Blasio, who went on to become mayor. Mr. Sepulveda also disputed a published report stating that the BDCC had attempted to twist his arm into endorsing Mrs. Clinton. "Neither the chairman of the party nor people who I consider party establishment tried to force me, or strong-arm me, into endorsing Hillary," he said.

At Sabrosura 2, Mr. Cruz was met by a handful of demonstrators when he spent several hours in the Bronx on April 6.

Mr. Cruz criticized Mayor de Blasio's fractious moment when NYPD officers turned their backs to him in December 2014, shortly after two police officers were shot in Brooklyn.

"That spoke to the entire country that when you have politicians that will not stand with police officers, firefighters, and first responders, and for that matter our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, that's an example of how

these liberal politicians have forgotten who we are," said Mr. Cruz.

Mr. Cruz's conversation inside the Spanish eatery was interrupted by Rodrigo Venegas, who loudly condemned Mr. Cruz for his stance on illegal immigration while chastising Mr. Diaz for hosting Mr. Cruz. Mr. Cruz was expected to stop at a Bronx charter school, but it was abruptly canceled after several students and their parents voiced concern over his stop.

Mr. Cruz, flanked by the elder Mr. Diaz, did not answer questions about his previous statements regarding the borough.

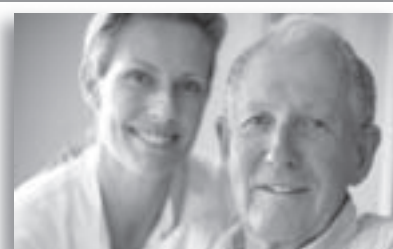
The candidates weren't the only ones making that rare trip to the Bronx. It also brought many who had little reason to come there. While a group came from as far as Germany, others came from across the Hudson River. Among them was Jennifer Rivero, 18, who drove to the Bronx from her home in Paterson, New Jersey, with her sister Estephanie.

"If [Sanders] loses, I'm going to cry," said Ms. Rivero, who convinced her sister to back Mr. Sanders. The sisters will have to wait until June 7 to cast a ballot for the presidential primaries in New Jersey.

*Additional reporting by Matt Surrusco and Jasmine Gomez.*



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# Fast Food Thieves Sidelined for Now

By DAVID GREENE

Despite the quick apprehension of two of four alleged fast-food thieves, few in the local restaurant industry think this is the end of a gang that has terrorized an entire block and could be responsible for as many as 12 similar incidents along a one-block stretch of the Grand Concourse.

Mike Koufalis, 37, the manager of the family-owned Bedford Park Café, said, "We got hit three times in one week." Koufalis recounted an April 2 attempted robbery of his delivery driver by three would-be thieves.

The local American eateries were suddenly feeling what the owners and deliverymen from Chinese restaurants have been dealing with since November. Restaurants, including the Mei Mei Chinese Restaurant on the Grand Concourse, the Ka Wa Chinese Restaurant on Valentine Avenue, and the Lucky Star Chinese Takeout, all reported at least one robbery of their deliverymen in the last several weeks. The Hong Kong Kitchen on East 198th Street, the Double Dragon on Jerome Avenue and the New China Chinese Restaurant on



Photo by David Greene

**POLICE TAKE ONE** of two suspects into custody for the latest incident, an armed robbery of a food deliveryman.

East 204th Street were also hit.

The incidents seemed to have escalated after a woman and child were confronted in a Grand Concourse elevator on Feb. 26, by a male wearing a mask.

Police caught a break in the case when an armed robbery was reported inside of 2894 Grand Concourse on April 4 and the suspects were identified by yet another deliveryman targeted in the building.

The arrest of the two underage suspects, twins, did little to ease the fears of local deliverymen. According to the Bronx District Attorney's Office, the underage pair is already back home, facing charges that include robbery and weapons possession.

Making deliveries along the Grand Concourse as police were making their arrests was Francis Goris, a young man who only expected to make \$40 for the night. He cautioned deliverymen to "take more precautions and make sure no one is hiding in the hall." "It's no longer safe here," said Goris, adding he may start to carry pepper-spray for protection.

The owner of one targeted eatery, who declined to give her name, took one look at photos of one of the young suspects. She quickly produced video and photos that she claimed were that of the suspect and his gang of nearly a dozen teens. They were spotted routinely swiping outgoing food orders from the counter.

The owner said with a grin, "They like my food, that's why they rob me so much."

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## Monte Study: Even Caregivers Need a Recharge

By DAVID CRUZ

As the Bronx continues to see a growing population of residents over the age of 65, demand for caregivers will follow, according to health experts.

But the inherent tasks of caregivers, often involving moments of their patients' sheer demand and will for complete attentiveness, can be physically and emotionally draining. For caregivers of those suffering from dementia, a debilitating brain condition coupled with financial, emotional and physical consequences, providing care can be twice as traumatic, particularly if the caregiver is a relative.

These insights were published in a report by Montefiore Health System and Albert Einstein College of Medicine, which outlined the hospital network's push for focusing on the health of caregivers as much as a patient's. In some cases, stress put upon a care-

giver (a.k.a. caregiver stress), be it professional or family member or home health aide, can lead to poor heart and liver conditions among caregivers.

"By educating and taking care of the caregiver, we're in a sense controlling their risk for heart attack and stroke because stress has a real biological and psychological impact. We know that vascular risk factors play a role in cognitive impairment, so helping control caregiver stress and their vascular risk factors is also helping to control their future risk for cognitive impairment," said Dr. Jessica Zwerling, director of the Memory Disorders Center and associate director of the Montefiore Einstein Center for the Aging Brain (CAB).

For multi-generational families in the Bronx, looking out for a loved one can become akin to a rite of passage. "Where it is possible to take care of a loved one at home, the role is met with



Photo courtesy Montefiore Health System  
**DR. JESSICA ZWERLING** (pictured) serves as director of the Memory Disorders Center and associate director, Montefiore Einstein Center for the Aging Brain.

much pride," said Dr. Zwerling. "Dementia can be associated with behavioral manifestations, and caring for

loved ones may not be feasible."

The Memory Disorders Center is settled in the Morris Park section of the Bronx, with CAB located in the city of Yonkers in Westchester County. Both sites offer a trained social worker and a care-coordination model that includes assessment of caregivers and some tips to stay relaxed. Both specialize in working with caregivers and dementia-afflicted patients and connecting them with community-based organizations. Services for more caregiver training expanded last year thanks to a New York State Health Resources and Services Administration grant offering help in working with seniors.

"What we're trying to do is suggest resources that are available, so they can do something extra for themselves: what kind of pleasurable activity can the caregiver return to," said Dr. Zwerling. "It could be a half hour. But starting with that is important."

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# Norwood News Scores Prizes at NYPA Awards



Photo by Adi Talwar

**HOLDING THEIR AWARDS** proudly are Norwood News editor-in-chief David Cruz (left) and photojournalist Adi Talwar, both honored at the New York Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest.

## By NORWOOD NEWS

The *Norwood News* won three prizes at the annual New York Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest, including a first-place prize for Sports Feature to the paper's editor-in-chief, David Cruz. He was recognized for his story on a pee-wee football team practicing without appropriate lights at Williamsbridge Oval Park. The story was published in November 2015. (inset right)

"[The story] tells the tale that so many programs have to deal with, just much better than most ever do," wrote the judges. "Multiple sources, such as players and adults, made the story pop, as did wordsman-like descriptions of the action. Similar to a sports radio broadcaster, the writer made the reader feel as if they were at the practice."

Cruz also took home a third place prize for Best Headline Writing, edging out several newspapers across the state for what judges called "biting"

headlines that he crafted. Judges notably singled out "Smoking Out Oval Firebugs," published in December 2015, as a catchy, attention-grabbing headline.

"We are extremely proud to have received this honor by our peers," said Cruz. "These prizes were earned through collaboration; that's why I want to publicly thank Judy Noy, Vivian Carter, Jasmine Gomez, Adi Talwar, David Greene, Melissa Cebolero, Dawn McEvoy, and Jane Corbett for lending their talents to the newsroom."

Cruz has been in the news industry for nearly 12 years, having worked at News 12 The Bronx, WCBS 880AM, *The Larchmont Gazette*, and *The Bronx Times Reporter*. He was honored by NYPA last year, taking home a third place prize for Coverage of Business, Financial, and Economic News.

There was also an honor awarded to the paper's top-notch photographer, Adi Talwar, who picked up a third

place prize for Photographer of the Year. A native of Dehli, India, Talwar has a background as a designer and an architectural model maker. He's been published at *The New York Daily News*, *The New York Times*, and *City Limits Magazine*, among others.

Judges said, "Adi's submissions show that he is willing to seek out unique perspectives and is capable of producing sharp, well-exposed photographs. His work appears to rely on wider-angle lenses, which are often ideal in news photography. When Adi gets close to his subjects, his photographs are capable of grabbing the viewer with a dominant subject while also conveying their environment. His work clearly goes beyond solid photography to tell the stories of and provide a window into the communities he covers. At this rate, and with a continued effort to make unique images, he stands to be named [first place] Photographer of the Year in the very near future."



Some of his photographs were featured in a tribute newspaper distributed to guests at the NYPA Awards ceremony.

"Adi is one of the sharpest photojournalists in the State," said Cruz. "He has this uncanny eye in turning an ordinary shot into pure gold. We really hope Adi captures first place next year."

The *Norwood News* has been published by Mosholu Preservation Corporation since 1988, first starting as a monthly publication that's turned into a full-color bi-weekly with a 15,000 copy circulation. The paper covers the neighborhoods of Norwood, Bedford Park, Kingsbridge Heights, Fordham and University Heights.

# Student Historians Look Back at Woodlawn Heights' Bygone Era

By VIVIAN CARTER

For the past month, a group of six Bronx students, ages 13 to 18, have been digging up the history of Woodlawn Heights, a neighborhood they call home. Not with shovels, but with laptops and visual observation.

Dubbed the "Student Historian Community Ambassador Class," the group meets on Saturday mornings at the Woodlawn Heights branch of New York Public Library on Katonah Avenue. Although participants are not being compensated for their work, they are eligible to receive community service credits from their schools for time devoted to the program. They are also rewarded with a free pizza lunch after each session. Most importantly, they are becoming experts on the origins of their local community, including its parks, historic homes, monuments, and houses of worship.

The teens, organized by civic volunteer group, Women of Woodlawn (WOW), is under the expert guidance of Susan Olsen, Director of Historical Services at Woodlawn Cemetery, and officers and members of WOW.

Each week, Olsen presents tips on researching buildings and their owners, using vintage maps, photographs, newspapers, census and military service records, and information databases such as Ancestry.com, Proquest, FamilySearch.com, and Zaba Search. Olsen also shares the names and stories of important neighborhood figures who worked at neighboring Woodlawn Cemetery and designed its landscape features, monuments, and mausoleums.

On a recent Saturday, students studied the inscription on the Indian War Memorial at 237th Street and Van Cortlandt Park East, then turned to the World War I Memorial across the street. Participants selected a name inscribed on the plaque, and tracked down family and military history records for the individual honored. A student spoke about historical details in her family's turn-of-the-century Woodlawn Heights home, from a ceiling medallion and stained glass window, to pocket doors.

Another described her family's long residence in a Craftsman bungalow from the 1920s, dating to years prior to her birth. There was also a lively discussion about the historical im-



Photo courtesy Women of Woodlawn  
**SUSAN OLSEN, DIRECTOR** of Historical Services at Woodlawn Cemetery (standing), offers research tips to students in the program. Participants spent the last weeks tracing the history of several homes in the Woodlawn Heights neighborhood.

portance of a home dating to the 1870s that is presently being offered for sale on East 234th Street between Katonah and Vireo avenues.

At the final meeting on April 16, participants and their families will be treated to a free private trolley ride through Woodlawn Heights, making it easier for them to visit major points of interest as a group, and share with others the locations they have researched.

Funding and technical assistance for the initiative is being provided by a neighborhood grant from Citizens Committee for New York City, and the Historic Districts Council, which designated Woodlawn Heights as a historic community in 2015 under its "Six to Celebrate" initiative.

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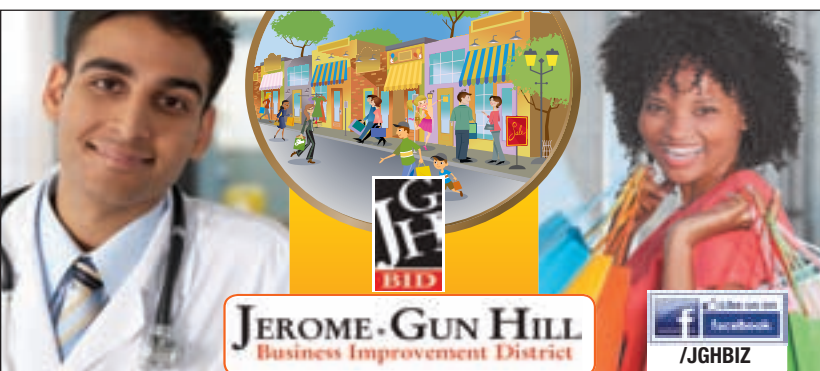
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## NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

### Cleanup Volunteers Needed

The Bedford Mosholu Community Association seeks volunteers to help in its annual cleanup of Mosholu Parkway on April 30. To sign up, email [bedfordmosholu@verizon.net](mailto:bedfordmosholu@verizon.net).

### Free Tax Services

Councilman Ritchie Torres hosts free tax preparation services for Bronx residents at his office, 573 E. Fordham Rd., from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., every day except Thursdays and Sundays; Mondays till 7 p.m. For more information or to make an appointment with a tax preparer, call (718) 842-8100.

### Computer Resource Center At Oval

The Williamsbridge Oval's Resource Center offers free digital learning resources for its members of all ages. Events include workshops, technology education, job-training opportunities, SAT prep, homework help, and more. For more information and to join, call (718) 654-1851.

### Summer Camp at Lehman

Lehman College, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., W., offers an Open House for its summer day camp, April 16 at 10:30 a.m. in the Carman Hall, room B08. Both half days and full days are available for ages 6 to 16 on the campus, for one week or more. Activities include swimming, sports, computer technology, arts and crafts, and more. Free breakfast and lunch is provided. For more information, details, and tuition, call (718) 960-8865. Additional Open Houses will be held May 7 and June 4. Early registration is advised.

### Park Volunteers Wanted

Register to volunteer at New York Cares Day Spring, a day of volunteer cleanup service for New York City Parks. The event takes place April 16 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at parks around the Bronx. To sign up, go to <http://bit.ly/NNNYCDS>.

### Homebuyer Workshop

University Neighborhood Housing Program will host a first-time homebuyer workshop expo on April 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Refuge House, 2715 Bainbridge Ave. For more information, and to RSVP, call (718) 933-3101.

### Help for Nonprofits

Community Resource Exchange Rising Fund is offering three months of free consulting services for nonprofit organizations to those who apply and qualify. Nonprofits have until April 29 to submit an application. To apply, go to <http://www.crenyc.org/cre-rising-fund>.

### SYEP 2016

The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) offers applications for 2016 through April 15 for ages 14 to 24. Participants are selected by lottery. For more information, call 311 or (800) 246-4646 or visit [www.nyc.gov/dycd](http://www.nyc.gov/dycd).

### CityParks Seniors Fitness

Seniors ages 60 plus can join Van Cortlandt Park's free fitness programs which include walking, free tennis lessons, and yoga, April 18 through June 10. Equipment is provided. For more information and event details, call (718) 760-6999.

### Taekwondo at MMCC

The Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, 3450 DeKalb Ave., offers taekwondo classes to children in Kg. to 6th grade. For more information and a schedule, call (718) 882-4000.

### Free Tutoring

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# Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

## EDITOR'S PICK

### Release Your Inner Undulations

Adults and young adults alike are invited to join a free Introduction to Belly Dance Class on April 16 at 2:30 p.m. at the Mosholu Library, 285 E. 205th St. Join the fun with this different type of dance. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

## Onstage

Lehman College's Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **Grupo Niche**, Latin salsa group, April 16 at 8 p.m. (tickets \$45 to \$60). Program is subject to change. For more information and program details, call (718) 960-8833.

The Bronx Arts Ensemble presents **Three Billy Goats Gruff**, April 17 at 2 p.m. at Lehman College's Lovinger Theatre, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W. Program is subject to change. Tickets: \$8. For more information, call (718) 601-7399.

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents **flutist Dr. Jessica Valiente**, plus songs and storytelling, April 16 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org).

Hostos Community College's

Repertory Theatre, 450 Grand Concourse (149th Street), presents **Batoto Yetu**, April 16: dance and percussion workshop with company members at 10:30 a.m., and group engaging inner city youth about their African heritage with music, dance and folklore at 11:30 a.m. Also presented is **Tito Puente Legacy Project: The History of Latin Jazz Part VI**, through April 30, at 11 a.m. in the Longwood Art Gallery (info: (718) 518-6656). All shows are free but tickets are required and must be picked up at box office. Additional programs are: **Drawn and Quartered**, play performed by the Hostos Repertory Company, April 20 to May 6 in the Black Box Theatre (\$10; students/free); **Bennyroyce Dance**, dance company, April 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Repertory Theatre (\$10; students and under 18/free); and **Papo Vazquez & the Mighty Pirates Troubadors**, performing Latin jazz, April 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the Repertory Theatre (\$20; students and under 18/\$5). For more information, call (718)

518-4455 or visit [www.hostoscenter.org](http://www.hostoscenter.org).

## Events

The Mosholu Montefiore Community Center holds its annual **B'N Fit Teen & Community Walk**, at the New York Botanical Garden, April 30, for all ages, to participate and call attention to ending teen obesity. In-person registration begins at 7:30 a.m.; walk begins at 8 a.m. Or, register at [mmcc.org](http://mmcc.org). Participants who raise \$50 walk for free. One who receives most donations receives trophy and \$100 gift card. For more information, call (718) 882-4000 ext. 350.

NYS Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj, Friends of Mosholu Parkland, NYC Parks Dept., Partnerships for Parks with 52nd Precinct Explorers, and the Jerome-Gun Hill BID, hold **Mosholu Parkway Cleanup**, April 30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Activities include planting, trash and graffiti removal and more. Volunteers are needed! Meet at Circle of Friends Plaza, Jerome Avenue and East Mosholu Parkway North. For more information and to volunteer, call (718) 409-0109.

Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Art Projects: Starting Seeds With Mini Fences**, to make small fences and plant signs to protect a plant, April 16 and 17; and **Stories and Symbols in Clay Masks**, to make clay mask out of natural materials, April 23 and 24; 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.

## 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; pre-registration required), Butterfly Book Making, April 14; Spring Bookmark Making, April 21; and Flower On a Popsicle Stick Making, April 28; and **Butterfly Boogie:** (ages 3 to 12), giant cockroach puppet teaches students why insects are cool, followed by The Tale of Flutterby and Piggie, to learn about interdependence between plants and animals through science, song and audience participation, April 16 at 2 p.m. Teens/young adults can attend: **SAT Prep: Overview:** to learn about the different sections and average scores, and resources for classes, April 14; **SAT Prep:** to learn strategies for improving your score, **Math:** Apr 21; and **Verbal/Writing:** April 28; all at 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org).

The Mosholu Library, 285 E. 205th St., offers for teens/young adults **film:**

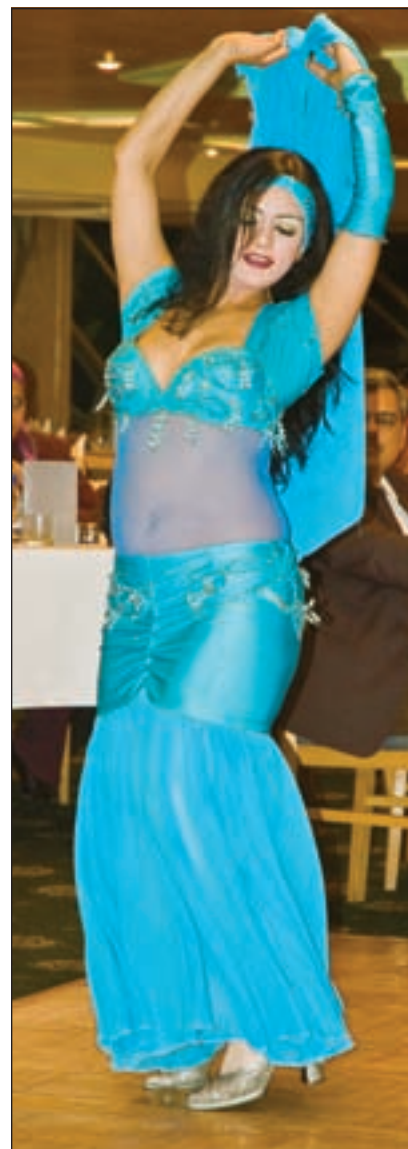


Photo courtesy Bing

**LEARN TO BELLY** dance like this glamorous performer at a workshop hosted by the Mosholu Library (see Editor's Pick for details).

"The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2," April 23 at 1:30 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.

The Jerome Park Library, 118 Eames Place (near Kingsbridge Road), offers for kids: **Kids Get Active Fridays at 3 p.m.:** to enjoy dance and zumba, April 15 and 22; **Afternoon Arts:** to do arts related projects, April 19 at 4 p.m.; and **Junior Explorers at 4 p.m.:** to learn the science of how toys work and tricks work (phone or in-person registration required), April 25 to 29; all for ages 5 to 12. Adults can attend **Computer Basics at noon:** April 14, 21 and 28; and **Ukulele Melee:** for basic instruction (materials provided with advanced request or bring your own uke), April 18 at 6 p.m. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

**NOTE:** Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to [norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org](mailto:norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org), and should be received by April 18 for the next publication date of April 28.



Photo courtesy Joshua Bright/Wave Hill

**STARTING SEEDS WITH** Mini Fences is one Family Art Project happening at Wave Hill April 16 and 17.

# KNIC Files Suit Against City

(continued from page 1)

ultimately lost. An attorney who represented the trio did not return a call.

"It now appears that, while publicly pretending to cooperate with KNIC, NYCEDC was secretly working to advance the private interests of the three favored individuals and other nonparty co-conspirators to the detriment of KNIC, the Kingsbridge community, the Bronx, and the City of New York," read the complaint.

KNIC had been in negotiations with the city to have the NYCEDC release the Armory's lease from escrow. The project, valued at \$350 million, required substantial capital from investors. KNIC secured \$30 million in private funding before turning to the state's Empire State Development (ESD) corporation for a construction loan. The state pledged \$130 million for the project. As per the terms of an agreement with the NYCEDC, KNIC needed \$158 million to have the lease released so it can begin phase one of the project, which included developers building roughly half of the nine-rink, 5,000-seat arena project by August 2018.

"Our clients believe they have satisfied the terms and conditions of the Escrow Agreement and they are ready to move forward with renovation of the Armory into an active ice skating facility," said William A. Brewer III, partner at Brewer, Attorneys & Counselors and lead counsel for KNIC. "The lawsuit seeks delivery of the lease and to address what our clients believe was an ongoing conspiracy to take this project from its rightful owners and put it in the hands of others."

Brewer continued, "We believe the lawsuit reveals conduct that has not only harmed our client, but also robbed the community of the many benefits of this transformational project."

But the NYCEDC has long argued that a pledge committed to the project is not enough, but actual capital. As it stands, the ESD only provided \$15 million of the \$130 million it had promised to set aside.

The development could place a major dent on the development of the Kingsbridge Armory, which for decades had been the primary location for redevelopment. Found in Kingsbridge Heights, the vacant castle has

essentially sat as an empty shell for years. The latest project had long been championed by local elected officials who've pegged the project as a game changer for the Bronx. Among its biggest supporters is Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.

Should a judge rule in favor of the city, it could completely null the project and start from the beginning. A victory would also null a Community

Benefits Agreement hammered out between community stakeholders and KNIC.

In a statement, Anthony Hogrebe, a spokesman for the NYCEDC said, "I can't comment on any potential litigation. NYCEDC has worked hard to advance and support the Kingsbridge project, and we remain committed to delivering for the people of the Bronx."

facebook

The Norwood News had published this story in advance of the print edition. Here are some Facebook comments on the development.

**Lora Frisch:** Show us the money, KNIC developers.

**Fred Karlton:** This will tie a big giant knot into the development, slow them down. The window period to secure financing will close, and possibly scratch the project. Everyone makes moves for their own interest. That's life!!!

**Nilsa Cintron:** Not surprised at all.

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