By DAVID CRUZ

On his third day as the newest commanding officer of the 52nd Precinct, Deputy Inspector Peter Fiorillo emphasized the relationship between community and police can only strengthen and “better the community.”

“It’ll also probably make the officers’ work a little bit easier and more efficient,” said Fiorillo, addressing residents at the latest 52nd Precinct Community Council meeting, a public forum where residents voice crime-related concerns with the precinct’s top officers.

At the meeting, Fiorillo got a taste of everyday issues happening in the Five-Two, a stationhouse covering Norwood, Bedford Park, Kingsbridge, University Heights and parts of Fordham. Crime has stood steady this year, with 668 reported major crime index cases reported, the exact number as the same time last year, according to NYPD statistics. Cases involving rape, felony assault and burglary have seen increases so far.

“This is a functioning, a very good functioning precinct,” said Fiorillo, who’s had stints as executive officer of the 47th Precinct, a member of the Bronx’s Borough Command, and commanding officer of the (continued on page 23)
IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

Participatory Budgeting Shows District-wide Enhancements

By JASMINE GOMEZ

Residents of 11th Council District should expect new district-wide improvements including bus countdown clocks and security cameras, thanks to Councilman Andrew Cohen’s participatory budgeting process.

Cohen gathered with volunteers and community organizers at the Rambling House bar/restaurant in Woodlawn to announce the results of the process in which local residents vote on what community improvement projects to spend a portion of his 2017 fiscal year budget on.

In a yearlong process, residents of Council District 11 were able to discuss and propose ideas that would appear on the final ballot after a review by volunteers and city agencies. After the final ballot was designed, residents were able to vote on how $1 million of Cohen’s capital budget will be spent next year.

This year, four projects received enough votes to receive funding including the installation of bus countdown clocks at the Bx1, Bx10, Bx16, Bx26, and Bx34 bus stops worth $120,000, new security cameras to be divided by the 47th, 50th, and 52nd precincts valued at $300,000, a district-wide technology upgrade for schools including PS 19, PS 340, and the In-Tech Academy among others, and lastly, $400,000 towards an air filtering system at the Moshulu Library in Norwood.

About a total of 1,000 residents cast ballots in the process with the first place project, district-wide bus countdown clocks, receiving a total of 1035 votes.

Cohen was thrilled to see many of the projects impacted the whole district, rather than just a portion of it. “It’s important to me since I’ve been in office, because I represent all these kinds of distinct neighborhoods, that everybody feels like they’re getting the appropriate mention,” he said.

Cohen’s first time introducing the participatory budgeting process was last year and it is still an evolving process. But this year, his office was able to increase the number of voters in the process by a third. Unlike last year, residents of the district as young as age 14 were able to vote, as opposed to last year where the youngest age requirement was 16 and participants were able to vote for as many as up to five projects out of the 12 projects listed.

The change in age requirement helped to bolster participation in the process, as some ballots were taken into local schools for voting. “I think it’s an opportunity to engage people. If you want to go vote for me in an election you have to be 18, and this is tapping into a group of people who otherwise don’t have the opportunity to vote and I think are capable of making these kind of decisions,” said Cohen.

After community requests, Cohen also opted to provide funding in the total of $275,000 for auditorium renovations at PS 280/MS 80, serving as a kind of consolation prize. The auditorium, commonly used for community events, will receive new seating.

Cohen plans to re-introduce the participatory budgeting process again next year, with hopes that the turnout of voters will continue to grow.

WITH HELP FROM a giant writing pad, Councilman Andrew Cohen unveils the latest winners of the yearlong participatory budgeting process.
A pair of rallies, held on different days, focused on the Kingsbridge National Ice Center (KNIC). But while one called for the city to finally hand over the keys to the ice center developers, another once again urged the public to know the consequences should it be built.

People Power Movement, a progressive grassroots group, staged a rally on May 1, a date corresponding with the yearly May Day, also known as International Workers Day. A group of people (picture left) stood in front of the Kingsbridge Armory, the purported site of the impending Kingsbridge National Ice Center, calling on neighbors to learn about the potential implications behind the massive project. Organizers pointed to reports of rent hikes and mistreated employees happening around the Kingsbridge Heights neighborhood, which they say are indirectly linked to the development of the 750,000 square foot landmark. A community benefits agreement between community members and KNIC was signed to help keep the existing residents in the neighborhood. Among the stipulations was 51 percent of KNIC’s employees would be from the Bronx.

Two days later, a cadre of community stakeholders and elected leaders joined members of KNIC, including president and all-star hockey veteran Mark Messier at a “hour of prayer” in front of the Armory. Together they called on the city to release the Armory lease that’s remained in escrow for over a year. Borough President Ruben Diaz (picture right, Diaz at podium, with Messier at center, and KNIC developer John Neary, far left), KNIC, and the New York City Economic Development Corporation remain in a legal battle over lease-related stipulations. KNIC says it has the necessary funds to proceed with the project’s first phase. The city disagrees.

The two sides are expected to go to trial at the Bronx Supreme Court on June 30.
In light of a major gang bust in the Bronx, this week we asked readers their thoughts on street gangs in the Bronx and how to fix this major issue.

I had a problem with gangs and I had to move in 1986 from my place on Westchester Avenue and Jackson Avenue. It’s different now; it’s much better now. Everyone does everything now quiet, but there are more gangs today. You don’t see it like you did in the 1980s. I don’t see any gang movement today, but we have a lot of drugs in the area.

Rafael Ojeda
Bedford Park

I think the police are starting to crack down a little more on the gangs. If you watched Channel 12 News, they had a raid and [arrested] a lot of people and locked them up for gang activity, so I think law enforcement has improved to make the neighborhoods a little safer for the people who live here. If they continue to do that we will all be a little safer.

Gilbert Johnson
Norwood

I never really had problems with gangs. I don’t go out much, so I don’t see them. I hear about the slashings on the news and think that’s horrible and think they should just grab these guys and put them away. The only way I know to get kids away from gangs is opening more programs for them to participate in afterschool like the Mosholu Montefiore Community Center and The C.O.V.E., and we need more of those types of things to deter kids from gangs.

Peter Hernandez
Norwood

People join gangs because they want to feel like they’re a part of something. Maybe they don’t have that at home or don’t have a father figure or even a mother to show them the right path to follow, so they just want to be a part of something. Definitely, programs keep the kids out of the street. Some kids are out in the street and they just get caught in the crossfire just because they don’t have anywhere else to go. Youth programs are a good start. The NYPD could do more, I think that was just a stunt. It was just one bust and now they can take off for the rest of the year.

Michael Angelo
Allerton

Honestly, I'm from Bosnia and I don’t like to see people kill each other for no reason. It’s very stupid. The police are doing all they can, but the police don’t see the gang members.

Nedzad Radoncic
Norwood

Editor's Note: Have an idea for an Inquiring Photographer question? Send suggestions to dcruz@norwoodnews.org.
Police are looking for a clumsy troublemaker who allegedly attempted to set fire to a local tavern this past Mother’s Day, but accidentally set his cohort ablaze, say witnesses.

NYPD units from the 52nd Precinct and members of FDNY’s Battalion 15 responded to a report of a fire at the Woodlawn Café at 3700 Bainbridge Ave., by the Woodlawn Cemetery train stop at 9 p.m. on May 8.

NYPD spokeswoman Arlene Munoz said police were looking for the “unknown person who started a fire intentionally to an occupied building... and the case is being investigated by the Fire Marshal.”

Witnesses, who continued to celebrate Mother’s Day at the neighborhood bar/restaurant despite the incident, reported that the older suspect had been drinking when his younger pal, the alleged arsonist, attempted to have a drink. He was immediately denied service and was tossed from the bar for prior incidents. One bartender reported, “He used to steal the tips off the bar.”

“He was very aggressive,” reported one witness who was shocked when she saw the flash of fire ignite outside the bar. She recalled the blaze “nearly knocked me off my feet.”

Joseph Pagan Sanchez, 46, an employee of Gary & Gino’s Pizza next door, said the suspect duo drove around the corner in a truck and pulled over at the back of the bar at 3100 Jerome Ave., and saw one of them toss what appeared to be a bag. “[W]hen I turned around, he lit a match and it ignited,” said Sanchez. “It sparked fire up the side of the building. The entire building was in flames.”

But the arsonist turned his partner into a victim, according to Sanchez. “It looked like he got gasoline on his arm and his legs and arms were on fire.” Sanchez helped knock out the fire. “This is freaking crazy,” said Sanchez, gazing at the charred sidewalk. “My boss just paid $40,000 for the new sidewalk.”

The unidentified suspect eventually was free of the flames, before jumping back into the truck and fleeing the scene.

No arrests have been made.
World Science Festival Dazzles at Lehman College

By WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE

Families packed the APEX building at Lehman College on Saturday, May 7 to escape the dreary weather and get hands-on with science.

Though the annual science festival has taken place in New York City since 2008, this is the first time the event, which demonstrates science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in larger-than-life exhibits, has traveled to the Bronx. The visit comes at a time when the borough continues to lag in the number of its residents working in the tech sector.

“What we wanted to do is take kids’ natural instinct to touch things and be curious, and use science and technology and engineering and math as our teaching tool,” said Caroline Gelb, head of education at the World Science Festival and the event’s producer. “So kids are learning pretty intense lessons about neuroscience and physics.”

This year, the festival has built its own large scale and highly interactive exhibits, and has events planned in the five boroughs. The Bronx was its first stop.

“One of our intentions is to come to underserved communities to reach a diverse crowd,” Gelb said. “If you get your hands dirty, and you have fun doing something like tug of war and you’re learning lessons about non-Newtonian fluids or forces of energy and you walk away having learned a couple things about science, you might realize it’s not that hard and can be a lot of fun.

Exhibits included a giant pendulum, a space simulator, robotics and fluids that allow you to walk on water. A team of experts, mostly teachers from local schools and college students, were at the event to explain the nifty science behind the demonstrations.

Demi Rivera, a program assistant from The Point CDC, a nonprofit after school program in the Bronx neighborhood of Hunts Point, brought many students from her after school class to Lehman College for the festival.

“I found out about it last week and just wanted to see how many kids can come,” Rivera said. “As soon as they walked in they’re like ‘I want to run everywhere!’

“I ask my kids all the time what their favorite subject is. They say ‘lunch.’ It’s never any actual subject that they learn from and I’m really excited because even though science might not be their favorite subject, after today they can ask questions because they’ve been exposed in a fun way,” said Rivera, adding that some of the presentations gave her ideas for her own class.

If you missed the World Science Festival in the Bronx, the next event is scheduled for June 5 in Washington Square Park. More information is available at worldsciencefestival.com.
By DANIELA BEASLEY

After learning of the recent down zoning of a portion of streets in the neighborhood of Woodlawn, the Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation (FBHC) is now fighting even more for portions of Bedford Park to receive the same outcome.

A request was put into the New York City Department of City Planning (NYCDCP) to down zone 202nd and 203rd streets five years back when other areas of Bedford Park underwent rezoning. The request called for R5B or R7B zones to be adopted on these narrow streets, mandating developers to put up structures at the same height as the century-old houses that make up the suburban look of the neighborhood.

John Reilly, executive director of FBHC, is heading the campaign, having stopped by the recent Bedford Mosholu Community Association gathering to explain recent developments. In a letter sent to Carol Samol, Bronx commissioner for NYCDCP, Reilly said he feels his efforts have been ignored. The lack of zoning, he notes, has caused one developer to begin evicting tenants at a building on 202nd Street off Briggs Avenue. Reilly wrote “developers are now trying to evict some of my neighbors so they can squeeze a way oversized building onto our narrow street.” The developers were identified as Jac Zadrima and Peter Fine, who are not listed as owners of the property, according to a lawyer representing tenants.

The home is divided into six units. Families were sent eviction notices giving them 30 days to leave, resulting in a separate court case demanding repairs be made.

Andrew Darcy, an attorney representing the tenants, told the Norwood News Fine “has proceeded to harass [tenants] by sending men to the building claiming to be the super, flying drones above the block to intrusively take pictures, and doing drilling without a permit in the driveway next to the building to test the concrete. This is an example of the displacement that may be coming to the Bronx.”

“This is a guy who’s made a lot of money,” said Reilly of Fine. “He’s been building 30 million dollar homes in Florida and he comes back to the Bronx after being away for about five years to put up huge buildings on my block?”

Reilly and the Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation have begun circulating petitions against the development of the areas that these developers have recently acquired as well as petitions calling upon elected officials to stand up for the tenants who are being forced out of their homes. FBHC worries political ties these developers seem to have could impact efforts to rezone these areas.

“Our goal in all cases is to be a good neighbor,” said a representa-tive for Fine. “We are still considering our options for the property so it’s premature to discuss our plans. But in all cases we respect the law and that including honoring legal leases.

Additional reporting by David Cruz.

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Announcement of Senate Candidacy in the Bronx Doubles as Endorsement

By DAVID CRUZ

Jamaal Bailey, an employee and established protégé of Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, announced his run for the 36th Senate District, a seat currently held by Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson, who plans to step down.

The announcement quickly became a major endorsement for Bailey by the Bronx Democratic County Committee (BDCC). Outside Wakefield’s Butler Memorial Methodist Church, where Bailey sometimes speaks, Bailey stood alongside Speaker Heastie and other Bronx legislators, including BDCC chairman Marcos Crespo.

“What a time to be alive,” said Bailey, 33, also flanked by his parents, wife and daughter as he delivered a Democratic platform of education reform, criminal justice reform and better wages for union employees.

Supporters characterized Bailey as heavily entrenched in the neighborhoods of the 36th Senate District, covering Norwood, Bedford Park, Wakefield, Eastchester, Co-Op City, and Allerton. The district also pushes into Mount Vernon in Westchester County. The city’s district leader, Crystal Collins, threw her support for Bailey.

Comprised of a large socially conservative black voting bloc, the district stands as one of the most multicultural and diverse in the state, Bailey was given plenty of responsibilities, which included the authorship of a bill to regulate nicotine-laced water.

That bill was ultimately passed by both houses of the Legislature, and signed by the Governor, where it became law,” said Bailey, who later framed a copy of the bill certificate as a reminder of “what government can do.”

With Speaker Heastie as an ally, Bailey has parlayed that relationship into serious backing and funding from BDCC, making him a formidable contender for the race.

“You’re gonna have reinforcements coming from the west side,” Councilman Fernando Cabrera told Bailey at the announcement. “We’re gonna help you with bodies. We’re gonna help you financially. We’s gonna help you with anything you need. Just call us, we’s gonna be there.”

Bailey’s main contender would likely be Katrina Asante, chief of staff to Senator Gustavo Rivera of the borough’s 33rd Senate District. Asante, an African-American female, stressed the need to keep the seat filled by a woman, given the few women in the Albany Legislature. “We have only 12 women in the state senate. Four of them are black,” said Asante. “If that seat is replaced by a male, our representation is depleting, and that’s not where I want to go.”

Asante’s experience mirrors Bailey’s—both work directly with constituents to resolve quality of life issues. In Asante’s case, the issues of welfare, access to better housing and financial are those she’s had personal connection to. “People are going through still hard times, and are trying to save their homes,” said Asante, who was the first candidate to announce a run.

Bailey’s announcement came one week after Senator Hassell-Thompson, who’s held the 36th Senate District seat for 15 years, announced she will step down in July to focus solely on her newly-appointed role of special advisor for policy and community affairs for Governor Andrew Cuomo.

Her tenure will start in July. The timing of Bailey’s announcement bore similar hallmarks to the race for Bronx District Attorney. In that instance, the safe incumbent, Robert Johnson, stepped down to accept the nomination for a judgeship, giving BDCC the chance to insert its choice, current Bronx DA Darcel Clark. Clark had been a favorite of Speaker Heastie.

Michael Whyland, a spokesman for Speaker Heastie, called the speculation “false.”

“The Governor has recruited a number of talented legislators for positions in his administration and the Speaker had nothing to do with this appointment,” said Whyland, in a statement.

Crespo labeled the allegation a “conspiracy theory,” adding no backchannel deals were orchestrated. “The notion that the only way Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson could get something is by somebody asking, that’s nonsense,” he said. “People either have too much fun believing somehow [we’re] running strings everywhere.”
13th Congressional Debate in Norwood Puts Focus on Muslim Demographic

By JASMINE GOMEZ

Candidates in the race for the 13th Congressional District seat, sprinting to secure votes ahead of the June primary, gathered to address community concerns in a debate framed as a town hall forum. Organized by the Muslim community, the forum featured two hours of outbursts, gang-ups, and comings and goings.

The crowded field of candidates, including Mike Gallagher, Clyde Williams, ambassador-at-large Suzan Johnson Cook, state Senator Adriano Espaillat, Sam Sloan, Adam Clayton Powell IV, state Assemblyman Keith Wright, and Yohanny Caceres, converged at the Sanctuary Grand Hall at 2773 Webster Ave. in Norwood to plead their stances at the event hosted by the Bangladeshi American Community Council on April 29.

The first half of the town hall, moderated by Daisy Khan, executive director of the Women’s Initiative on Spirituality and Equality, opened with a question regarding concerns that the American Muslim community is seen and judged through a “national security lens” rather than that of an immigrant community and how each candidate would combat this view.

All candidates agreed no one should be marginalized for their religion, while pledging to work to ensure that Muslims are granted the same basic protections as any other American, including the right of religious freedom.

Some candidates cast themselves as marginalized, while highlighting their past personal achievements. “I am a woman, an African-American woman in the United States, so I know what it means to be marginalized,” said Cook, who has previously served as Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom.

Cook also cited her pledge to open a congressional office in the Bronx, which would be more accessible to the growing Bangladeshi community in the borough.

Espaillat also renewed his pledge to open a Bronx congressional office, a promise stemming from his unsuccessful bid for the seat in 2014.

The discussion then prompted questions regarding unlawful surveillance of mosques by the FBI, and whether each candidate would defund the agency.

While no candidate committed to take such action, all stressed that they would hold the FBI accountable to federal laws.

“The government has the responsibility to protect its citizens and that’s what they should do. But nobody should be singled out because of their race or ethnicity or because of their religion. That is wrong,” said Williams, whose 2012 congressional bid garnered high profile support, including endorsements from the Daily News and New York Times, though not enough to secure the seat.

After a brief intermission, the panel was later joined by Sloan and Caceres who demanded to know which candidate was working to push her off the ticket to make themselves known to her, to which no one replied. “I would like to challenge one of those guys to stand up and say it in front of my face who is the one that is going behind [my back],” said Caceres.

Caceres then declined to answer any questions citing that she was unprepared.

Sloan opened up with a personal tale about the kidnapping of his Muslim daughter by “hillbillies in Virginia” who wanted to raise her as a Christian.

While the first half of the town hall focused on issues faced by the Muslim community, the second half focused on broader topics including failing public schools, veteran benefit cuts, and growing concerns about gentrification in the Bronx, and New York City overall.

Wright, who has received endorsements from incumbent Charles Rangel, the Bronx Democratic party, and various labor unions, was grilled by an audience member about his acceptance of campaign funds from various real estate developers. Wright said he is committed to fighting unjust landlords. Wright cited a win in his own personal lawsuit against a landlord who was overcharging him rent and a plan to create more moderate and low-income housing.

But other candidates at the forum were not convinced of Wright’s commitment to affordable housing in New York City.

“Rents have gone up... and that’s because of people like him and others who have failed to do their jobs, that are more concerned about taking money from special interest groups in order to fund their campaigns than they are about your concerns,” said Williams referring to Wright.

The 13th Congressional district primary is scheduled for June 28.

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A LONG LINE of walkers tread through The New York Botanical Garden for the annual B’N Fit Teen and Community Walk, an event advocating a healthier lifestyle for Bronx residents. Participants spent the morning walking about the Garden’s grounds, grabbing some air and feeling fit. Mosholu Montefiore Community Center served as a lead organizer. The fundraising walk is intended to support the B’N Fit teen weight loss program.

THESE TWO MOMS and their cute infants take part in a Mother’s Day dinner hosted by Montefiore Health System. Over 40 babies who spent time at Montefiore’s neonatal intensive care unit joined their moms for the May 5 meal in recognition of Mother’s Day. Families met with other moms, and played games with their young ones over a nice meal.

THESE VOLUNTEERS HELPED beautify Moshulu Parkway, thanks to a massive cleanup of the lush greenway on April 30. The Office of Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj, Friends of Moshulu Parkland, Bedford Moshulu Community Association, Community Board 7 members, and the NYPD Explorers spent a few hours sweeping, planting flowers and picking up garbage at the 1.3-mile stretch. The Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District served as a sponsor.

VOLUNTEERS CUT THE ribbon at the annual Run for the Wild 5K race. The fundraising event, held at the Bronx Zoo April 30, called attention to endangered animals across the globe. This year, participating families and groups picked their own animal they want to protect from extinction. Montefiore Health System served as a sponsor.

(Congrats to NYPD Explorers (l-r) Sgt. Antonio Landron, Lt. Ermelinda Vujai, newly promoted one star chiefs Jennifer Landron and Frank Casado, and Sgt. Nahitha Mondegro, who took home 2nd place for diffusing a mock bomb and 3rd place for solving a mock white collar crime at a citywide spring competition on May 7 in Staten Island involving other Explorers.

BRENDA CALDWELL (LEFT), president of the 52nd Precinct Community Council, holds up a token of thanks from members of the Friends of Williamsbridge Oval Park, represented by members (2nd from left to right) Anthony Rivieccio and Betty Arce, and FOTWO president Sheila Sanchez. Sanchez said Caldwell was honored for improving and making the council “flourish.” She was honored at the latest council meeting April 28.
An Affair to Remember: When a Loved One Passes Away

Seventy-seven-year-old Esther succumbs to her 20-year battle with breast cancer. Forty-two-year-old Michael, while on his way to work, is fatally hit by a drunk driver. Eight-year-old Samantha is tragically hit by a stray bullet while playing with her dolls in her bedroom. Devastating news indeed!

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), “In 2014, a total of 2,626,418 deaths were registered in the United States.” This represents 2.6 million moments of loss, grief, silence, and stress. The rollercoaster ride of emotion can be endless! Anticipated or unexpected, death is an inevitable part of one’s life that no one looks forward to. The question then becomes, “How do I prepare myself and my family for this unavoidable event?”

Whether you are 25 years old or 55 years old, obtaining life insurance is one of the first things that one should do. Life insurance is an excellent tool that affords you the opportunity to provide financial protection for your family. This is extremely important when family members will undoubtedly be running on raw, unadulterated emotion from the loss of YOU. It will bring a measure of stability during an emotionally precarious time.

Another principal part of the death arrangement process is securing a qualified, organized, and compassionate funeral service provider. The question you may ask is, “How do I choose this type of funeral service provider?”

Aside from word-of-mouth referrals, the Department of Health’s (DOH) database for funeral home services is an excellent resource. One firm recognized in the DOH’s database is T. Carrillo Funeral Service, LLC located at 3129 Perry Ave. in the Norwood section of the Bronx.

T. Carrillo Funeral Service, LLC, owned by Tyrell Carrillo Sr., is a full service funeral home that offers accessibility to the funeral director 24 hours a day as well as dignified and affordable service packages with emphasis on convenience such as funeral arrangements made in the comfort of the family’s home and live webcasting of the dignified funeral service, to name a few.

Mr. Carrillo has a heart and passion for all his clients and their families. He embraces his clients as if they were his own family members - even comforting them in the wee hours of the night. It is the mission of T. Carrillo Funeral Service, LLC to celebrate the life of the dearly departed and provide support and comfort to families during their time of grief. “My goal,” Mr. Carrillo says, “is to see families happy and satisfied with how their loved one’s homegoing was carried out.”

T. Carrillo Funeral Service, LLC focuses on creating a memorable experience for family and friends that will last a lifetime. Demonstrating deep passion for helping families in need for many years, Mr. Carrillo’s kind-heartedness extends beyond his mortuary ministry. He provides scholarships and back-to-school materials to students in need as well as hosting community events and seminars.

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Editor’s Note: This paid article was brought to you by T. Carrillo Funeral Service.

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Norwood Hospital Named “Baby Friendly”

By NOAH BERMAN

Oh baby!

In a combined initiative by the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), NYC Health + Hospitals/ North Central Bronx (NCB) has been deemed “baby friendly.”

“The Baby Friendly” designation demonstrates that North Central Bronx provides the highest levels of care to both mothers and babies,” acting hospital chief executive officer Maureen Pode said. “Patients are in the best hands from the moment they walk through our doors as we set the standard in supporting and maintaining excellence in maternity and neonatal care,” she said.

The label was designed to recognize hospitals that demonstrate a high level of infant care, particularly breastfeeding.

In creating the “baby-friendly” label, the two organizations sought to encourage hospitals to offer quality care for breastfeeding mothers and their children. The designation is awarded only after a thorough on-site investigation is completed and reviewed every five years.

The hospital must also meet several critical patient standards, including immediate skin-to-skin contact between mother and baby following birth, allowing babies to remain with their mothers 24 hours a day, and providing connections with local breastfeeding support groups. Baby friendly hospitals need to provide continued education to patients and staff on the benefits of breastfeeding.

Since NCBH resumed its labor and delivery service in 2014, over 1600 babies have been delivered. The hospital is the fourth medical center under the NYC Health + Hospitals system to earn the status of “Baby Friendly” and the 344th in the nation.
Hello...Goodbye
School Lifts, Then Restores Cell Phone Ban After Rules Broken

KWESI SAMPAH

The ban on cell phones in New York City public schools was lifted by the de Blasio Administration on March 22, 2015. Although the ban was lifted, school principals were given discretion over lifting or keeping the ban in their respective schools.

Bruce Abramowitz, the principal of the High School of Computers and Technology, one of six small schools at the Evander Childs Educational Complex in the Williamsbridge section of the Bronx, lifted the phone ban in his school on the condition that they would be used during lunch, after school or when given permission in a class by a teacher.

Fast forward to this year. Abramowitz reversed his position on the left, once again banning after students pushed the agreed upon conditions to the limit and sometimes, some breaking them. In an announcement over the school’s PA system, Abramowitz said that a big reason he reinstated the ban is because students had been recording videos of fights in the school and had been posting them on social media websites, such as YouTube. Abramowitz said over the PA he believed posting those kinds of videos hurts the school’s reputation.

Dave Wills, the assistant principal and an AP English literature and composition teacher at the school said, “There were reports of students going to the bathrooms and using their phones. Also, they were using the phones in class during tests and work,” which could also have motivated Abramowitz’s reversal.

When asked about his opinion of the ban, Wills said, “I’m in the middle of this. As a teacher, it never bothered me. Administratively, I was happy about this because teach-

(without page reference)

The Cost of Street Violence

AMBER PEREZ

Christian Garcia would’ve turned 21 on March 15, 2016. Last August, friends and family held a candlelight vigil in his memory in the Soundview neighborhood of the Bronx, where Garcia had lived. He was shot in the chest and killed at a park in Soundview on Aug. 2, 2015, a victim of street violence. Since he died, a hole has been left in the hearts of his family and many friends.

“I didn’t think it was real. Like, I had just spoke to him a couple hours before he died. Then all of a sudden I get a call that he was killed,” said Kiara Colon, 19, a friend of Garcia. “I then felt hate cause the bullet wasn’t for him; he should still be here; he was so young.”

Garcia’s life wasn’t supposed to be taken that night. He was just a bystander, hanging with other friends when a gang member allegedly began shooting at the park. The bullet was meant for someone else, a would-be victim who fled. Garcia, struck by the stray bullet, was left to die. According to Colon, the alleged killer was himself killed in March 2016 over an argument.

Hennessy Gonzalez, 17, said she didn’t really know Garcia, but regardless, she’s 100 percent against street violence. “I think gang violence is really unnecessary; you’re all doing the same thing, just repping different colors,” said Hennessy, a student at Stevenson High School, located a block from where Garcia was killed. (continued on page 14)
The Cost of Street Violence

(continued from page 13)

killed. “We are jeopardizing our lives for people’s stupidity.”

“I think it’s calmed down a little, although there are still some confrontations going on. Our community is not [as] at risk as it used to be,” said Isaias Vega, a student at Stevenson High School. “But they’re getting used to the violence and that’s something we’re doing wrong.”

From January to May 2015, 82 shootings were recorded in the Bronx, and so far in 2016, there have been 68, according to NYPD statistics. Some of the shootings were because of street violence, any type of violence that takes place in a public area. Many teens say they fear leaving their house because the streets are unsafe.

In some instances, many are afraid to walk out of their house wearing certain colors because they might get mistaken for a gang member.

A former gang member from the Bronx, who asked to remain anonymous because he feared for his safety, said that he joined the Crips, a reputed gang, at the age of 13 because he was “young and dumb.”

“Gang violence is wack now, but kids still join them because everyone wants to have a name out for themselves and they also want protection,” said the ex-gang member, who is 33. Some see personal advantages to gang membership.

Milagros Reyes-Luciano, a social worker at Pablo Neruda Academy High School in the Bronx, said she’s been working with teens dealing with street violence since 2004. “You never get used to it; it always feels bad. Teens’ lives are supposed to be safe, not endangered. It makes them grow up faster, and not in a good way,” she told the Norwood News.

“But I think we can bring awareness to the kids and show them that violence isn’t the answer, because it’s not fair. Most of the people who get killed are innocent. It’s sad.”

Reyes-Luciano said a couple of years ago she met with a professor from Fordham University and a couple of members from different gangs on the Stevenson High School campus. They all sat around and talked about the dangers of street and gang violence.

“It actually helped out our school a little,” she said. “You don’t see as much gang violence on school grounds anymore.”

Hello...Goodbye

(continued from page 13)

ers were happy about this due to the fact that it poses less distractions.”

Phones brought to school are kept in ID-specific bags assigned to them and held by a staff member not responsible if a phone goes missing (as per a contract signed by participating students in the beginning of the year). If the student does not remember the number, there is also a picture of each student on the bag to help identify them.

Students expressed varying opinions of the phone ban. “It is what it is,” said Steve Couvertier, 16, a junior. “[Abramowitz] gave us an opportunity to use our phones. We abused our opportunity and we paid the consequences.”

Senior Sean Peña, 18, said he thought Abramowitz banned cell phones in order to prevent students at other schools from disturbing High School of Computers and Technology students during the school day.

“But it’s not fair for us,” Peña said. “We have to suffer the consequences because of others. I think the ban should be lifted on just our school.”

Some students like Garfield Phillips, 17, and in his junior year in high school, have a similar take to that of Wills. “In its own right, I think [Abramowitz] had a good reason to ban the phone. But I don’t think he had our best interests at heart. He just did it to protect the school’s image,” Garfield said.

Abramowitz was unable to be reached for comment regarding his decision and school announcement to reinstate the cell phone ban.

“In its own right, I think [Abramowitz] had a good reason to ban the phone. But I don’t think he had our best interests at heart. He just did it to protect the school’s image.”

—Garfield Phillips, 17, student.
The Big ‘L’
Why Do Teens Fall in Love?

STEPHANIE NAZARIO

Bronx teenagers are getting hit by Cupid’s arrows. Many teens see being in a romantic relationship as beneficial because it offers them emotional support, care and security. Even though relationships have pros and cons, when speaking with Bronx teens, some dating factors resonate.

Teenagers in relationships often develop a sort of dependence on their significant other. Anthony Garriga, a single 17-year-old with past dating experience, said he has developed an attachment to a former girlfriend.

“She got to comfort me, and is actually there for me. That’s really all I need from a girl. When my friends aren’t there, she [has] to be. And that’s what matters,” he said. When discussing his past relationships, Anthony realized that his girlfriend instilled positive values such as facing obstacles, applying for college, taking care of his siblings, and working.

Anthony said there weren’t many downsides to his past relationships, and said he saw relationships as mostly comforting. This emotional support that comes with relationships is what teenagers crave at a time of need. Even though relationships can end, teenagers create a sense of comfort in themselves after the relationship.

But adults frequently around teens have a different outlook on teen relationships and how they impact a teenager’s life. Megan Steenrod, a teacher at Renaissance High School for Musical Theater and Technology in the Pelham Bay section of the Bronx, believes teenage relationships are “distracting, disruptive, damaging -- and utterly necessary.” Steenrod, who works with teenagers five days a week, says relationships, even bad ones, are a rite of passage. They “are an integral part of the teenager experience and there’s no getting around that,” she said. “[They] also offer an opportunity to learn about oneself and grow.”

According to Emerald Fletcher, 15, who attends Harry S. Truman High School in the Baychester section of the Bronx, teenage relationships were shown to offer emotional support and reflection. Emerald said her boyfriend of three years was someone she didn’t want to be without. “[W]e get into some issues, but he always pushes me forward. When I’m in a bad place, I go to him and he really brings out the better in me,” she said. Emerald explained the position her partner has in her life, and that he is always busy with football, so he’s always traveling. The relationship is very significant since they’ve been a part of each other’s life since they were kids. Emerald added that every time he’s away, he calls to talk about their day, and to make sure that all is well.

The Stage of Life website surveyed more than 4900 teenagers in April 2014 and found roughly 60 percent of them said they believe relationships are negative. The survey also showed that 61 percent of teenagers have been “in love.”

Teenage relationships that go bad are most commonly the result of abuse coming from a partner. According to LoveisRespect.org, “One in three adolescents in the U.S. is a victim of physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds rates of other types of youth violence.”

However, relationships can be something to build upon, Steenrod pointed out. “I also acknowledge that teenagers are figuring out who they are, how they relate to others, what they expect of themselves and the people they are close to. And the way to figure this out is sometimes through heartbreak and recovery, having those relationships and learning, firsthand, how they affect your life,” she said.
Worn Out
Bronx Teens Say School Dress Code Shows Gender Bias

SAYEDA YASMIN

Shorts, shirts, pants and tank tops; everyday pieces of clothing that serve the same purpose. But while one student is told to go home for wearing a certain item of clothing at school, another just skates by. The only difference between the two? Their gender.

Dress codes, instituted in various forms, vary in scope and restriction within New York City’s public school system, though the general rule that appropriate attire must be worn applies to all schools. The New York City Education Department, which regulates the school dress code, states on its website that dress codes are intended to “provide an environment conducive to promoting educational excellence with minimum distractions and disruptions of the learning environment.”

But some girls in the Bronx recently told the Norwood News that an outright imbalance of the school dress code exists, where girls are discriminated against more so than boys, creating a kind of double standard that’s led many young females to label the dress code unfair.

Students say that while boys have greater freedom to wear what they want, girls are more likely to be reprimanded for wearing what appears to be regular clothing. This has forced many to shed their style of fashion some, avoiding wearing tank tops or shorts because they “jeopardize” girls’ self-respect. In some instances, a woman wearing a short skirt will be stereotyped and labeled various disdainful and unjustified terms despite the fact that her intentions were far from what was interpreted by her peers, say students.

“A female could be wearing an item of clothing that there could be no rules against, but she will be stopped and told that it is not ‘appropriate’ attire for school,” said Afridah Rahman, 17, a senior at DeWitt Clinton High School. “On the other hand, I have witnessed males in my school change their shirt in the middle of the hallway, and there would be no reaction from school aides.”

Staryion Smith, 17, a resident in the Bronx, said the dress code “places responsibility on girls on how boys should behave because if we wear certain things, we’re ‘distracting’ them.”

Staryion argued the dress code “perpetuates rape culture,” a term feminists use to describe the social conditions in which a rape victim is blamed for being raped instead of blame falling on the rapist. “[I]t creates this imaginary correlation between what you wear and the respect you deserve,” said Staryion. “What I wear has nothing to do with my self-respect.”

Staryion ultimately considered the dress code flawed. “The school dress code reflects how in the real world being ‘modest’ is the essential to being professional, which is complete BS,” she said.

With Increased Services, City Seeks to Help More Homeless Youth

SUSEJ MENDOZA

The number of homeless people in the Bronx has increased since last year, with some of that number being teens, according to the Coalition for Homeless Youth, an advocacy and direct service organization based in New York City. Many of them do not have a place to lay their heads at night, an issue becoming more and more common.

“As a former homeless young person, I know how hard it is to get by without a safe, affordable place to live,” said Jawanza Williams, a youth organizer at VOCAL-NY. The community organizing group took part in a January news conference announcing increased city services for homeless youth. Williams added services would most importantly help “LGBT youth, who are an estimated 40 percent of the runaway and homeless youth population in New York City.”

The number of teen runaways has increased, according to Friends Committee on National Legislation. Coalition for Homeless Youth, which also works with runaways, reports that 39,791 homeless youth received services from a New York State provider from 1985 to 2015. Coalition for the Homeless estimates the number of homeless people in New York City every night has increased from 60,096 in December 2015 to 60,410 people in February 2016. Out of these 60,410 homeless people counted in February, 23,738 were children or young adults.

The Department of Youth and Community Development will add 300 beds over the next three years, according to an announcement made by the de Blasio Administration early this year.

Shafera Hyatt, the director of the California Homeless Youth Project, a California-based program that helps young people in need of a place to sleep, eat and find personal aid, has experienced youth homelessness firsthand. “I see a lot, especially transitioning 18- to 24-year-olds,” who are moving between housing options, Hyatt said. “[The] number one factor nationwide of them being homeless is poverty. And when you experience poverty, conflict can arise within families.”

Hyatt understands the struggle these teens go through, having once been homeless herself. “I have lived in hotels and motels with family as a teenager. I remember blaming my parents, but now I blame the lack of response from our government in that time,” she said.

City agencies like the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS), Deputy Chief of Asset Management Operations Jerry Torres, and Hunter Gradie, policy adviser at the Mayor’s Office of Operations from City Hall, have worked with 55 resource facilities to support and repair violations in homeless shelters. They are replacing radiators, fixing air conditioners, treating rooms and halls to remove and prevent rodents and insects, and also bringing new supplies such as blankets, sheets and pillows.

“If we have a good quality of life for parents, then it can reflect on our children. If the resources are there for parents, then that can make a good quality of life for their kids,” Torres said. “If parents cannot be educated or gain resources, then how can our children make it?”
English, Isolation, and the Next Steps Facing Teens of Foreign Born

AISHA KHAN

Working while attending school, overcoming misplaced perceptions, and struggling to learn English often leaves young English language learners (ELLs) with the tough decision on whether or not to stay in school.

It’s a decision that frequently hits children of foreign-born parents.

“I didn’t know anyone here. Didn’t have any friends,” Lily Rivas, 18, a freshman attending Lehman College, told the Norwood News. “I couldn’t even talk to anyone because they wouldn’t understand [me] and I wouldn’t understand them either.”

Rivas, a former English as a second language (ESL) student, graduated from the Leadership Institute High School in the Bronx last year. She immigrated to the United States from the Dominican Republic when she was 15, with her mother and two younger sisters.

“The two options were either you come [to the U.S.] or you stay there [in the Dominican Republic] forever,” said Rivas, adding that her mother wanted her and her sisters to have better job opportunities as they got older. “In my country, even if you go to college, the possibility of getting a job is low.”

Rivas, the oldest of three, also faced pressure to take care of her younger siblings.

After immigrating to the Bronx, Rivas said she felt isolated in her new surroundings because she spoke only Spanish. She also had to dissolve important family ties and friendships in the Dominican Republic, leaving her father and friends behind. “At 15 years old, I had my friends and everything there,” she said. “I thought I had my life completed.”

For many immigrant students, maelstroms have swept their lives. They may be living away from their families, or be responsible for taking care of their younger siblings, said Joe Luft, the executive director of the Internationals Network for Public Schools, a nonprofit organization that collaborates with 15 international high schools in New York to serve newcomer ELLs and students with limited English proficiency or interrupted formal education.

Some immigrant students are even “breadwinners” for their families, according to Eve Stotland, the director of the Legal Services Center at The Door, an organization that provides ESL classes, legal services for undocumented immigrants, and GED classes. “Many of them are sending money back to families in their home country,” she said, adding that many adolescent immigrants arrive to the states on their own.

In some instances, immigrant youth have experienced traumatic events, with some youth from Central American countries, including El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, having “seen siblings shot and killed.” Stotland also said foreign born parents have been known to leave their children in the states and in the guardianship of an adult who would sexually abuse them.

Established negative stereotypes also create challenges for immigrant students looking to finish school. A 2010 U.S. study titled “Being Mexican: Strengths and Challenges of Mexican-Origin Adolescents,” found getting a leg up in school comes with moments of discrimination toward Mexican youths.

One study participant denounced the view that “just because you’re Mexican … you’re one of those, like, gangster people … who steal … who get high … you’re gonna drop out … you’re gonna be pregnant.” These stereotypes often affected how teachers interacted with students of Mexican origin, according to the study.

On the subject of teachers, another participant said, “They all expect you to do bad in classes and they don’t pay attention to you because they all think you’re going to fail anyway.” Mexican immigrant students are stigmatized and overlooked by their teachers and the general community due to stereotypes such as susceptibility to crime, recruitment in gangs, pregnancy, and dropping out, according to the study.

In addition to these challenges, immigrant youth often find it difficult to understand content taught in English. This was something that Rivas had to overcome when she first arrived in the U.S. “I couldn’t understand the teachers or the classes,” she said. “We all came here without knowing a word [of] English.”

“I was in high school, two years before graduating, so I had a lot more pressure to learn because I needed to learn [English] in order to graduate and then go to college,” Rivas said. Her perseverance resulted in commendable outcomes: She was the valedictorian of her graduating class.
Chew on This: Fast Food Can Lead to Health Risks

JAVIER ACOSTA

Bronx teenagers crave what the borough has to offer in abundance: fast food. Often, teens prefer to eat a quick, affordable, and convenient meal and the Bronx is meeting that demand.

However, many of these teens may be unaware of how various fast food restaurants often use ingredients that contain high fructose corn syrup, hydrogenated oils, carbohydrates, sodium, and saturated fat, to prepare a meal.

The high presence of fast food eateries in the Bronx coincides with the borough's dead last rank in healthy New York State counties.

As of 2015, the Bronx “has the strongest growing rate of fast food restaurants in New York City,” according to a report by the Center for an Urban Future, a nonprofit think tank that focuses on pressing issues in New York City. The prevalence of more fast food restaurants negatively affects the health outcomes of Bronx teenagers.

The Center for an Urban Future reports that the Bronx has 43 of the 232 McDonald’s restaurants in the five boroughs, 80 Dunkin’ Donuts coffee shops compared to 568 citywide, 15 Burger King restaurants compared to 85 citywide, and 59 Subway shops compared to 444 citywide.

Jahmiye Gray, a 17-year-old student at Bronx Academy for Software Engineering in Belmont, said that on his walk to school, he doesn’t see many restaurants selling healthy food.

Bronx teenagers, tend to choose fast food over a healthier restaurant because food orders are usually made quicker. Dwayne Campbell, 16, who lives in the Bronx, says that he eats fast food because it’s near his school and “it’s all that’s available.”

Its availability is nowhere near the amount of calories consumed for each fast food run. According to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the average teenage boy needs to consume about 2,200 to 3,200 calories per day, and the average teenage girl needs 1,800 to 2,400 calories per day. The group also reports that consuming 100 extra calories a day can cause one to gain 10 extra pounds each year.

A possible McDonald’s meal, including a Big Mac burger, small size of french fries and four-piece Chicken McNuggets, is a combined 960 calories, about half the recommended daily caloric intake for a teenager. Burger King's Whopper sandwich contains 650 calories alone. All of these calorie counts are for one meal alone, not including the additional calories that come with breakfast and dinner.

Consuming too many calories can contribute to weight problems such as obesity. According to Sharon Movsas, a diabetes educator at Montefiore Health System, “Being overweight and not exercising are the main causes of type 2 diabetes, the most common type of diabetes.” Movsas also explained that type 2 diabetes can cause eye damage that could lead to blindness, nerve damage, and heart disease.

BJC HealthCare, one of the nation’s largest nonprofit health care organizations, reports pre-teens and teens who consume 1,800 to 2,000 calories daily should only consume 20 to 32 grams of sugar daily. Restaurants such as Dunkin’ Donuts have frozen coffee drinks, such as their Frozen Coffee Coolatta, which contain up to 43 grams of sugar in their small size offering.

Fast food restaurants “encourage teens not to learn about cooking [and] healthier choices,” said Louis Reid, a fitness club supervisor at the Bronx Academy for Software Engineering. “[Teens] develop a taste for [fast food], which is tough because you like things that you have often.”

Still, fast food chains have attempted to polish their image as purveyors of fast food by introducing a more health-conscious menu. Some restaurants have opted to tone down the calorie-heavy foods entirely.

John DeSio, the director of communications for the Bronx Borough President’s Office, has noticed improvements in the borough’s food landscape, thanks to healthier fast food restaurants such as Chipotle, setting up shop in the Bronx. The Mexican-inspired restaurant offers fast food that is made with healthier, organic ingredients that give teens that fast food kick they’re craving.
BRONX YOUTH HEARD reporters Sayeda Yasmin and Nazeath Ema- ma practice the art of Person on the Street interviews during the session’s second gathering. “The goal was to make them comfortable approaching people on the streets, part of the job as a roving reporter,” said David Cruz, program director for Bronx Youth Heard.

BRONX YOUTH HEARD students learn the art of the sit-down interview by practicing with their fellow would-be journalists. One-on-one interviews, when done right, can be quite the revelation for a reporter.

BRONX YOUTH HEARD reporter Amber Perez (right) gets the shock of the day when she’s put on the spot for some front-camera anchoring by NY1 news anchorman Lewis Dodley. It was all for practice! The trip to NY1 news in Manhattan’s Meatpacking District capped a 12-week run of the program.
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NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera, 2432 Grand Concourse, suite 506, 5th floor, hosts tenant specialists on Tuesdays (11 a.m. to 3 p.m.) and free legal services for Housing Court cases for tenants who seek help with apartment issues including repairs, eviction, and Housing Court. For more information and to schedule an appointment, call (718) 933-2034.

Free Summer Soccer
Kids ages 8 to 12 can register for a free summer youth soccer program at St. James Park, on a first-come basis. Participants meet twice a week and receive technical guidance and participate in scrimmages. For more information, visit www.cityparksfoundation.org/cityparks-soccer-st-james-park/.

Summer Camp at Lehman
Lehman College, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., W., offers an Open House for its summer day camp, June 4 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. Early registration is advised.

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.

CityParks Seniors Fitness
Seniors ages 60 plus can join Van Cortlandt Park’s free fitness programs which include walking, free tennis lessons, and yoga, through June 10. Equipment is provided. For more information and event details, call (718) 780-6999.

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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RSVP Contact Adriana Garcia
EDITOR’S PICK

Bronx Week

The public is invited to enjoy Bronx Week which takes place from May 5 to 15. Events include outdoor performances, health fairs, and more, culminating on May 15 in the free grand finale which includes Bronx Walk of Fame inductions at the steps of the Bronx County Building on the Grand Concourse at 161st Street (11 a.m.), followed by annual parade at noon (reviewing stand at Moshulu Parkway East at Van Cortlandt Avenue), and food & arts festival and concert on Moshulu Parkway at Bainbridge Avenue (noon to 6 p.m.). For more information, visit ilovethebronx.com.

Onstage

Lehman College’s Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents the following free events: Daniel in the Lion’s Den, musical theatre production, May 12 at 7 p.m. and May 13 at 11 a.m. (reserve tickets at (718) 960-7796), in the Recital Hall, Music Building 3rd floor room 306; (also at the Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., May 14 at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.); Lehman College & Community Band A Mad Dash to the Finish, featuring popular music, May 15 at 2 p.m. in the Lovinger Theatre; and Lehman College & Community Chamber Orchestra, performing symphonic works, May 18 at 7 p.m. in the Heathroom, 3rd floor, Music Building. Programs are subject to change. For more information and program details, call (718) 960-8833.

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents Hear the Roar of Daniel in the Lions’ Den, dramatic musical for adults (free, reservation required at (718) 960-7796), May 14 at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.; and Doo Wop, featuring the New York Exceptions performing music from the ‘50s, ‘60s, and ‘70s, May 21 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

The Bronx Arts Ensemble presents a musical performance May 15 at 3 p.m. in the home of Dr. Peter and Ute Gouras, 5225 Sycamore Ave. ($25); and for children: Cindyrella, May 22 at 1 and 2:30 p.m. at the New York Botanical Garden ($8; free with all-Garden pass). Programs are subject to change. For more information, call (718) 601-7399.

The Woodlawn Conservatory presents Miles Davis Tribute Concert performed by the Ron Carter Trio, May 15 at 2 p.m. ($25), at Woodlawn Cemetery. For more information, call (718) 020-1469.

Events

The NYC Department of Parks presents free films: “Inside Out,” May 19; and “Jurassic World,” May 26; outdoors, both at 7:30 p.m. at the Williamsbridge Oval. Bring blankets or beach chairs. For more information, call (718) 543-8672.

The Bronx River Alliance presents its Bronx River Flotilla, a 5-mile paddle for the river, May 21 (postponed from May 7), to celebrate progress to reclaim the river and a fundraiser for its canoe program. For more information or to put a team together, visit www.bronxriver.org/flotilla.

The public is invited to the 4th annual Bronx Day in Albany, May 24, where Bronx neighborhood groups will be represented to promote the borough by showcasing positive features, particularly to encourage out-of-towners to visit. The event includes free round trip bus, luncheon, and live performances. For more information and to reserve a seat, call (718) 409-0109.

Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers Family Art Projects: Speckled Frog Parade, to design a frog hat, feel, and frog fly-catcher out of fabric and leather, to wear in a parade, May 14 and 15; and Paint a Still Life, to sketch plants or fruits followed by coloring them with bright colors, May 21 and 22; both in WH House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also offered is Nature Presentation: Fantastic Frogs and Terrific Toads, to learn about them and meet some in person, May 15 at 1 p.m. in the WH House. Grounds admission is free until noon Saturdays and Tuesdays all year. For more information and a schedule of events including tours and walks, call (718) 549-3200.

The Jerome Park Library, 118 Eames Place (near Kingsbridge Road), offers for kids: Kids Get Active Fridays: (ages 5 to 12), dance and zumba, May 13 at 3 p.m.; Kids Pajama Party: (ages 18 months to 12 years; registration required), to create a craft and hear read-alouds, May 16 at 5 p.m. Adults can attend Computer Basics at noon: May 12, 19 and 26. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

NOTE: Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org, and should be received by May 16 for the next publication date of May 26.
Hofmann, retiring from her post as commanding officer of the 5-2
Brooklyn Precinct, where she served as the executive officer since
2014, thanked her friends and family for their support during her 33
years of service.

Hofmann, who has worked for the NYPD since 1983, has
been involved in various capacities, including as a
Community Affairs Bureau chief and as a member of the
Risk Management Bureau (RMB). Hofmann's
departure was characterized as bittersweet,
with her colleagues expressing their respect
and gratitude for her contributions.

“I go there and I feel like they’re
my grandmothers,” said Hofmann, at one point one of
the first women to command a precinct.

Hofmann’s run as commanding
officer of the 5-2 Precinct,
which includes stations in
Brooklyn and Manhattan,
will be reflected on two and a
half years of pushing down
violent crime, dismantling
gangs, and improving
community relations. Hofmann
acknowledged the challenges
of working with the
Grandmothers’ Love Initiative,
which supports Bronx
women affected by drug
abuse.

“The people made me feel like
home,” said Hofmann, crediting
the community for making her
job easier. “They see what we don’t
see, what we don’t think is
important,” she said.

Hofmann was afforded the
opportunity to take part in
the Neighborhood Coordination
Officer (NCO) program,
launched in 2014, where
she was paired with
NYPD Transit officer
Nilda Hofmann, who accepted
her promotion and sentenced
the precinct to be
murder-free.

Hofmann’s tenure as
commanding officer
included the launch of
the Impact Response Team
in the Bronx, a division
that focuses on
preventing crime and
improving community
relations.

“I’m going to miss that
program. It would’ve been
nice to see,” said Hofmann,
hoping that the
NCO program can
inspire victims
to report crimes
and work with
police to prevent
future incidents.

Hofmann’s new role at the
RMB, a nascent division working
to improve police-community
relationships, is seen as the
NYPD’s critical arena.

“All the procedures that get
rolled out there’s hundreds of
meetings on it; and lawyers going
back and forth on ‘is this correct,
that correct.’ Now it’s given to the
federal monitor for him to look at,
approve it, not approve it, send it
to the judge, and the judge making
the decision,” said Hofmann.

“Don’t realize that being in a
precinct all that it takes to roll
out procedures.”

With her run as commanding
officer of the Five-Two over, it
closes the book on her days running
a command, having
commanded the 25th Precinct and
NYPD Transit. It was her last.

“It’s sad,” she said. “Very
sad.”
A percentage of units are set aside for:
- Vision or Hearing impaired (2%)
- Mobility Impaired (5%)
Preference for a percentage of units goes to:
- Residents of Bronx Community Boards 4 & 9 (50%)
- Municipal employees (5%)

Who Should Apply?
Individuals or households who meet the income and household size requirements listed in the table below may apply. Qualified applicants will be required to meet additional selection criteria. Applicants who live in New York City receive a general preference for apartments.

1. View the Available Units → 2. See Unit Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Size</th>
<th>Monthly Rent</th>
<th>Units Available</th>
<th>Household Size***</th>
<th>Annual Household Earnings***</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Studio**</td>
<td>$975</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 person</td>
<td>$34,766 - $76,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studio*</td>
<td>$1,146</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 person</td>
<td>$41,178 - $76,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 bedroom**</td>
<td>$1,164</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 person</td>
<td>$44,280 - $76,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 bedroom*</td>
<td>$1,167</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 person</td>
<td>$44,166 - $76,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 bedroom**</td>
<td>$1,224</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 people</td>
<td>$43,338 - $76,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 bedroom*</td>
<td>$1,230</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 people</td>
<td>$43,543 - $76,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 bedroom**</td>
<td>$1,230</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 people</td>
<td>$43,543 - $76,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 bedroom*</td>
<td>$1,230</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1 person</td>
<td>$44,126 - $76,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 bedroom*</td>
<td>$1,296</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 person</td>
<td>$46,389 - $76,200</td>
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<td>2 people</td>
<td>$52,766 - $76,200</td>
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<td>2 bedroom*</td>
<td>$1,553</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3 people</td>
<td>$55,235 - $76,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 bedroom*</td>
<td>$1,709</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5 people</td>
<td>$61,063 - $117,480</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Tenants must pay their own electric and cooking gas. ** Tenants must pay their own electric.
*** Household size includes everyone who will live with you, including parents and children. Subject to occupancy criteria.
**** Household earnings includes salary, hourly wages, tips, Social Security, child support, and other income. Income guidelines subject to change.

How Do You Apply? Apply online or through mail. To apply online, please go to nyc.gov/housingconnect. To request an application by mail, send a self-addressed envelope to: MGM Apartments: c/o Bronx Pro Real Estate Management, Inc. 1605 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Bronx, NY 10453. Only send one application per development. Do not submit duplicate applications. Do not apply online and also send in a paper application. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

When is the Deadline? Applications must be postmarked or submitted online no later than June 24, 2016. Late applications will not be considered.

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

Español Presente una solicitud en línea en nyc.gov/housingconnect. Para recibir una traducción de español de este anuncio, por favor llame y solicite una traducción gratuita en español.***

简体中文 访问 nyc.gov/housingconnect 在线申请。如需获取本广告及书面申请表的简体中文版，请将您的回信封寄至：MGM Apartments: c/o Bronx Pro Real Estate Management, Inc. 1605 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Bronx, NY 10453。信封背面请用汉语注明“CHINESE”，必须在以下日期之前在线提交申请或邮寄申请：2016年6月24日。

