



# NORWOOD NEWS

Vol 29, No 12 • PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION • JUNE 9-22, 2016



**INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER:**  
**SUMMER FUN IN THE SUN | PG. 4**



**NORWOOD NEWS**  
**PICKS UP SEVERAL AWARDS | PG. 10**

## TENANTS: PUNISH WORST BX. SLUMLORD

*Owner of 40 apartment buildings in the Bronx subject to penalties*



Photo by David Cruz

**PROTESTORS DEMONSTRATE THEIR** displeasure with Ved Parkash, pegged the worst landlord in New York City at Bronx Housing Court on June 2.

**By TATYANA TURNER**

Though he's ranked the worst landlord in New York City, Ved Parkash told the *Norwood News* in a phone interview that his buildings are in "excellent" shape. But tenants have long painted a different picture that's finally prompted the city to take action.

Residents living in several of his buildings in the northwest Bronx have formed the Parkash Ten-

ant Coalition. The group plans to meet with the landlord to address their frustrations. To initiate their plan, the group representing 15 Parkash-owned buildings coordinated a rally against the landlord to present a letter demanding repairs. Those requests were immediately rejected by Parkash's attorney. The requests came days after the city announced it would withhold over half a million

dollars in rent subsidies to Parkash.

Roughly 100 residents and housing organizations, including those from the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition, gathered in front of Bronx Housing Court on June 2 to support the coalition, capping several weeks of pressure on Parkash to make repairs.

For years, tenants in Parkash-owned properties have demanded better liv-

ing conditions and more humane treatment. Many residents have dealt with a number of issues in their building such as rodent infestation, boiler problems, and collapsed ceilings. But representatives from Parkash's office, based in Queens, either hang up or don't pick up the phone, according to residents. New York City Public Advocate Letitia James attended the rally to help these tenants

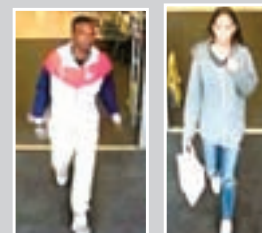
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## EDITORIAL

## Choosing the Right School Can Change the Trajectory of a Child's Life

Admission into a New York City high school fares way more difficult than neighboring Westchester County, where municipalities typically have one public high school. In some extreme cases, the process to enter a New York City high school can begin at the end of sixth grade.

It is a cumbersome process that, given its length, could turn parents off. But the investment and time one puts into it can change the direction of their young child's life.

The New York City Department of Education (DOE) released an updated high school directory, a profile listing of every high school in each borough, available in seven languages and accessible online or at Family Welcome Center (the closest one is 1 Fordham Plaza on the seventh floor, and open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday). The 160-page Bronx booklet includes 117 Bronx high schools featuring a breakdown of graduation rates, school attendance, college acceptance rates, and a listing of extracurricular activities offered. Among them is a school newspaper, which could offer valuable exposure to students interested in improving their writing and speaking abilities.

Seventh graders are given the book at the end of the year, and they can pick up to 12 schools, ranking each in order of importance to that individual child. The length of time your child spends deciding where to go doesn't ex-



Image courtesy New York City Department of Education

**THE 2017 NEW YORK CITY** High School Directory can be found at a Family Welcome Center in Fordham (see Neighborhood Notes on page 13 for more details).

actly translate to an increased chance of getting the first pick. A secret algorithm is used to determine that. Where you come in happens when you review each school, using the school directory, to weigh a school's pluses and minuses. Those decisions can also indicate which schools are not desirable, leading the DOE to perhaps shut the school down.

While you're deciding, these are some questions the student should consider:

1. *What are my interests?*
2. *What schools offer my interests?*
3. *How close is the school to home?*
4. *What is the school's graduation rate?*

But with other pressing responsibilities clogging up their lives, and the sheer process involved in assessing a school, parents are confounded, especially single parents, and are tempted to ditch the process altogether. But the investment is begrudgingly worth it.

The DOE should consider even more streamlined methods, such as a first-come, first-serve model that could incentivize students into handing in applications ahead of time. After all, applying early demonstrates the importance one particular school is for a student. So, should students apply early, there's a greater chance of getting in.

Something akin to that method is used via "Limited Unscreened," a process that gives you higher priority. The status is contingent upon parents attending school open houses or high school fairs. But once again, how many busy parents, already confused by the process, can commit to that time?

It's pretty clear that education can serve as a portal to success. These days it's not so much how well one did at a school, but really what school they attended. After all, the seven-hour days a child spends at a school can function like a sponge: students should be absorbing everything. This includes good study habits, passions imbued by teachers, opportunities for growth, and most importantly, the subject matter. The inconvenience is limited, but the impact is everlasting.

## Public and Community Meetings

**COMMUNITY BOARD 7** will hold its general board meeting on Tuesday, June 21, at 6:30 p.m. at The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Blvd. 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 Committee meets on June 9; Veterans Committee meets June 9; Education/Youth and Public Safety/Quality of Life committees meet at Monroe College, 2501 Jerome Ave. on June 14; Environment & Sanitation Committee meets on June 15; and Health & Hospitals Committee meets on June 15. For more information, call the Board office at (718) 933-5650.





# Letters To The Editor

## Frequent Fast Foods: Fattening

In your issue dated May 12-May 25, 2016, the article entitled "Chew on This: Fast Food Can Lead to Health Risks," it is mentioned that teens choose to eat at fast food places for a "quick, affordable, and convenient meal."

While this may be true it can apply to people of all ages, including young kids, preteens and seniors. I venture to guess that not only are the meals prepared speedily, but for the most part can be tasty, and diners may tend to overeat. In addition, the temptation of sweets, desserts and sugared drinks can be a negative at fast food places, as super-sizing is common.

The eateries are in business to make a profit as quickly as they make the food and wouldn't concern themselves over their high caloric fare, a customer's food intake, or possible weight gain. Much of the food is not only breaded, but also deep fried, which means loads of calories, probably a lot more than the average consumer's recommended total daily intake...a great way to gain weight.

Frequent meals at these establishments can put on the pounds, causing obesity. Those who work out and exercise may be able to work off the extra calories, but if not, the weight stays on.

Much is written about obesity, but the decision on how much to eat is made by the consumer, not by the restaurant. In your article, a teen is quoted as saying that he eats fast food near his school because "it's all that's available."

Whatever happened to the no-

tion of students bringing a healthy lunch to school? It not only may be better than eating out, but also less expensive. In general, it's a good idea to eat any kind of food in moderation. While it's nice to eat out sometimes, eating fast food daily is not only a way to gain unwanted weight, but to be on the quick road to health risks and obesity.

**Judy Noy**  
Norwood Resident

## Medical Marijuana is Legal in New York

Why is the media keeping this quiet? Many people can be helped. Early in January, the NYS Dept. of Health opened eight medical marijuana dispensaries. A few doctors have already secured the NYS prescribed medical marijuana certification. One doctor, Dr. O'Brien, located on the East Side of Manhattan on 60th [Street] and Lexington Avenue has already helped over 200 of his patients with excellent results. To find out more about this NYS program or about his medical practice, call (212) 201-9122 or go [drtommyo.com](http://drtommyo.com).

**Carole**  
Naples, FL

## Mailbox 'Fishers' Strike Again

We noticed an article in the Feb. 4-17 *Norwood News* about Mailbox 'Fishers' that mentioned only the 52nd Precinct investigating this type of activity on the Grand Concourse.

Our neighbors near the Oval Park should be aware that a very similar crime happened 'closer to home' than the Grand Concourse. On Jan. 1, [2016], my wife and I were walking our dog in the Oval Park and found mail that I had deposited in the mailbox at Wayne Avenue and Williamsbridge Reservoir Oval East the evening before. The mail was opened ---of course--- and we also found several other pieces of opened mail, some of which very probably had included checks to pay bills.

The return addresses on that mail were all in Zip 10467 except one. I mailed the [mutilated] mail to those return addresses and personally went to the main 10467 post office on Gun Hill Road just east of White Plains Road to

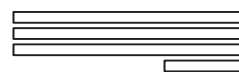
let them know where mail had been stolen and tampered with. Since your article does not mention evidence of mail theft where we certainly found it, I am wondering whether the post office advised the police.

As I am sure you know, the mailbox mentioned above is only two blocks from your office. Maybe another little article is in order to let our immediate neighbors know to be careful when and where they put things in the U.S. mail. I suspect the action against my mail would not have happened if I had mailed it early in the day, expecting it to be picked up that day, during daylight hours.

**Frederick J. Kurtz**  
Norwood Resident

## Have an Opinion On What You've Read In Our Paper?

*The Norwood News* loves, welcomes and encourages letters to the editor.



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**David Cruz, Editor-in-Chief**  
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## INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



This week we asked readers their plans for the upcoming summer season.



Well, I'm planning to get a few extra credits at my school so I can graduate earlier. Having some fun, celebrating my holiday Ramadan, in which we fast for the entire month. It starts on June 6 and ends July 6. And I will help take care of my dad's two stores and try and have a little fun.

**Mohammed Abdullah**  
Zerega



I'm going to rest, relax and enjoy the weather until the cold comes back. In Norwood, I like coming to the Williamsbridge Oval Park where I play soccer and basketball, work out and stretch. It's a good place.

**Ivan Ramirez**  
Norwood



We usually go to Central America, but this year because we have a 1-year-old named Monte, we're going to go to Rhode Island, do a road trip, and stay close. But then we'll do little day trips down here. We love to come to Morris Park. I get all my food here from the bakery and the meat market and they always have these little parties on the street.

**John Montenero**  
Pelham Gardens



I kind of play it by ear. I do celebrate my birthday in August. I plan to go skateboarding in the city at Union Square or long-board to Orchard Beach or visit the beach at Coney Island, and working my summer job.

**Steven Bolbierer**  
Allerton



I'm going to go visit Disney World, and when I come back I will visit Orchard Beach. I will also play basketball with my friends at Loretto Park.

**Anthony Pisano**  
Morris Park

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

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## Fordham Gas Station Plan Fuels Community Opposition

By DANIELA BEASLEY

A proposal for a new BP gas station on West Fordham Road was met with strong opposition and little support from the community board whose jurisdiction covers the gas station.

The gas station would be replacing a 55-space parking lot at 205 W. Fordham Rd. by Sedgwick Avenue. The plan lays out the gas station as having five pumps, a canopy and three curb cuts serving as entrances and exits.

The placement of the curb cuts is what troubled Community Board 7's Land Use/Housing Committee with respect to driver safety. West Fordham Road, a major thoroughfare, has cars traveling past the lot. One worry from members is the possibility of eastbound drivers cutting to the westbound side to get to the gas station, putting all drivers at risk for a collision.

"This is an accident waiting to happen," said Jean Hill, committee chair.

Michael Nacmias, a lawyer who appeared on behalf of developers, said the gas station will have state-of-the-art tanks in place that comply with the city and state environmental guidelines. When asked if there had been any actual environmental studies done, Nacmias said that according to certain regulations there wasn't a need for an official study to be conducted at this site.

Nacmias said his clients were hoping for a letter of support from the community board for the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA), a city committee that approves applications for commercial establishments.

The housing committee ultimately rejected the project. Because the full Board generally honors the recommendations of its committees, it will likely be sending a letter of opposition for this project after it meets on June 21. It's the same day Nacmias' clients will meet with the BSA.

## Public Bench Dedicated to Norwood "Gem"

By DANIELA BEASLEY

Call it an early birthday present for a Norwood centenarian.

Longtime member of the 52nd Precinct Community Council, Mary Vallati, was recognized May 26 with the unveiling of a public bench right in front of the landmark precinct on Webster Avenue, engraved with her name.

Vallati will be turning 101 in July, and although she faced some health problems recently, she was all smiles as the eponymous bench was revealed to the public. The event was marked by special appearances from former Five-Two commanding officers Joseph Dowling and Nilda Hofmann. The latter was recently promoted to a position at police headquarters in Lower Manhattan.

Accompanied by family and friends, Vallati was acknowledged for her involvement in the 52nd Precinct with a proclamation by state Sen. Ruth Hassell-Thompson, the out-



Photo by Daniela Beasley

**MARY VALLATI SHARES** bench engraved with her name, with former 52nd Precinct commanding officer, Inspector Joseph Dowling, a guest at her bench dedication ceremony on May 26.

going legislator who made a rare appearance in the neighborhood.

"I still can't believe that they did

this for me," said Vallati while sitting on the bench inscribed 'Mary Mama Vallati, A Friend To All.'

## Norwood Veteran Honored in Albany



Photo courtesy New York State Senate  
**DOUG CONDIT OF** Norwood poses with state Sen. Ruth Hassell-Thompson after receiving a nomination to be included in the NYS Senate Veterans Wall. Condit is a veteran of the US Navy, having served for close to four years. Congratulations to Mr. Condit!

## Norwood News Sales Person Leaves Paper, Joins Local Councilman's Team

Vivian R. Carter, the boisterous sales person for the *Norwood News*, has parted with the bi-weekly community newspaper and now serving as director of communications for local Councilman Andrew Cohen.

Ms. Carter embodied the spirit of community. Working on a modest commission, she invested hours into the almost 28-year-old newspaper, offering a wealth of ideas, attending community cultural events, and lending a wealth of personal knowledge to the newsroom.

Ms. Carter worked in the fields of law (she had worked alongside current U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch) and education before focusing her attention on the history of Rockaway, a neighborhood in Queens. She later wrote a book on the beachside neighborhood's bygone years, which was published by Arcadia Publishers, a leader in regional history books.

During her time at the *Norwood News*, Ms. Carter landed some important clients, including neighborhood staples Ridgewood Savings Bank, St. Patrick's Home, Leroy Pharmacy, Metro Urgicare, All Metro Health Care, and Oval Pharmacy. It contributed to



**VIVIAN CARTER**

a healthy page count that allowed the newspaper to draft important community stories.

On behalf of David Cruz, editor-in-chief of the *Norwood News*, and fellow colleagues Judy Noy, Jasmine Gomez, Nohelia Aquino, Wendell Alexis, Miosotis Muñoz, and Melissa Cebollero, we wish Ms. Carter the best of luck. She will certainly be a light in the so-called dark side of journalism...public relations.

**Editor's Note:** Anyone wishing to place an ad with the newspaper can call the newsroom at (718) 324-4998.



# Rev. Que English, Running for State Senate, Looks To Preserve Albany's Limited Female Presence

By DAVID CRUZ

When Rev. Que English, the latest candidate to enter the race for 36th Senate District, was asked to describe her political style, English gave a response that captured her middle-of-the-road bent. "I consider myself an innovator, a strategist," said English, a Democrat. "I am able to protest and sit at the table."

Sitting over breakfast at Perista Coffee Shop in Kingsbridge Heights, English spoke to the *Norwood News* on her ambitions for the district, several issues that require fixing, and what it feels like entering the male-dominated culture of New York politics.

"[Men] cannot be our voice; they can be a voice," said English. "But they won't be our voice. That's why I'm determined to win. I am determined to win to make sure this seat does not go to a man."

Ironies are certainly coursing through this race. The seat has long been held by a woman, Sen. Ruth Hassell-Thompson, and it's a race where female candidates dominate over men.

Katrina Assante, chief of staff to state Sen. Gustavo Rivera of the 33rd Senate



Photo by David Cruz

**REV. QUE ENGLISH** makes a run for the 36th Senate District. Among her list of successes is the creation of a Community Benefits Agreement between developers of an ice skating center at the Kingsbridge Armory (background).

District, was the first to announce her run for the seat. Together, the two face Jamaal Bailey, community affairs director for Speaker Carl Heastie. Bailey recently received endorsements from

most of the borough's lawmakers, bringing with it a wave of donations and solid volunteer apparatus.

English didn't seem bothered by Heastie's support of Bailey. Instead, she narrowed her focus on issues she intends to chip away within the 36th Senate District, which covers Norwood, Bedford Park, Wakefield, Williamsbridge, Baychester, and parts of Mount Vernon in Westchester County. On the subject of Norwood, English underscored she'll "take care of Norwood. They will not feel neglected."

And neither will issues, according to English. Expanding mental healthcare, and paving the way for criminal justice and education reforms lie at the heart of her political blueprint. Criminal justice reform, for instance, bears a more personal connection—her brother, a heroin addict who was in and out of the prison system, died at age 26 from HIV AIDS.

"Our system is punitive. There is not a path once you get out. We are responsible for that," said English.

English grew up in Spanish Harlem when the crack-cocaine epidemic and the emergence of HIV/AIDS raged in New York City. Her experience with the Bronx goes back to her adolescent years when she was enrolled at the Bronx High School of Science. A year later, she left the school for the more sought-after Stuyvesant High School in Lower Manhattan. English later became a pastor through the New York Theological Seminary.

She has notched several victories,

boasting over how results came with no political title, but raw gumption. Those included a so-called People's Police Academy for NYPD officers, pushing a mental health expansion platform for First Lady Chirlane McCray, and create programming for former convicts. "For me that's key in being able to prove what I can do. It's as if I satisfied a prerequisite," said English.

For the past four years, she has been closely tied to the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition, the socially progressive group that lobbied the city to pass a living wage bill in 2012. English was also one of 26 signatories behind the Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) linked to the impending Kingsbridge National Ice Center. The CBA is expected to provide \$1.7 billion in community enhancements over the course of 99 years.

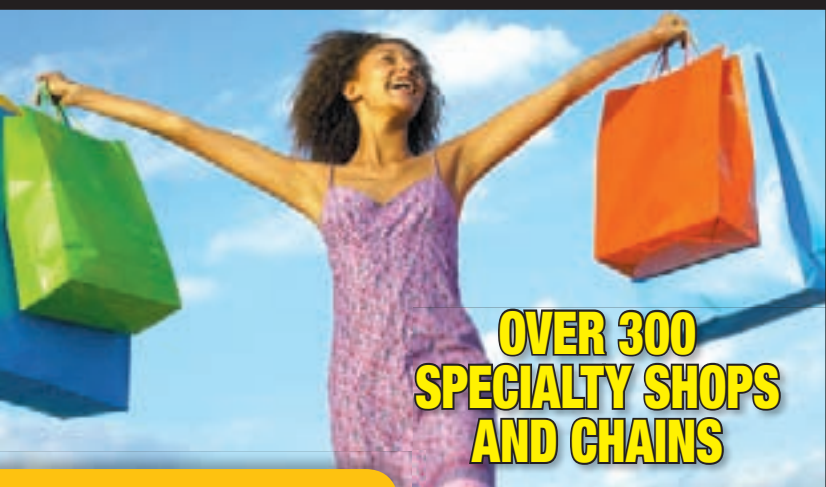
"I feel because of my track record that I really do have the pulse of the community," she said.

English's feel for a community regularly extends into the 36th Senate District. When she's not handling community matters in Kingsbridge Heights, English can be seen leading a flock of 300 members at Bronx Christian Fellowship on East Gun Hill Road in the Williamsbridge section. There, she shares pastoral duties with her husband Tim.

"Many people go to Albany and they come back and build a base," said English. "I already have a base that I'm taking to Albany with me."

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# Funds for Animal Shelter Secured, Where to Build Next Question

By **ADRIANNA LOMBARDO**

After many years of lobbying for a full-service animal shelter in the Bronx, the voices and barks of those in need have finally been heard, thanks to \$10 million earmarked by the city to create a state-of-the-art shelter.

While talk of a shelter's amenities has stood at the forefront, one remaining question lingers: where will it be located? The answer depends on where several animal advocates live.

For now, Marion Koenig, a co-founder of the Bronx Animal Shelter Endeavor (B.A.S.E.), believes that an animal shelter in the Bronx is long overdue. Koenig said the site should be a sustainable, eco-friendly building that could reduce the use of natural resources, and decrease pollution rates. B.A.S.E. is asking local boards for input on proposals. It's so far sent lists of potential sites including vacant land, be it city properties or privately owned sites.

"I want my fellow Bronxites to know we MUST choose the best, clean site to allow a state-of-the-art design," said Koenig in an email.

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene usually determines a site for a shelter base on zoning requirements and building requirements.

Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky, a member of Community Board 7 and an animal advocate in Bedford Park/Norwood, wants the shelter to be close to her neighborhood. She cited the location of P.S. 51, on the corner Van Cortlandt Park South and Jerome Avenue, as the ideal spot for the shelter. Building an animal shelter has long

been a point of discussion for Community Board 7, which covers Norwood.

Not only is it accessible to public transportation (the 4 and D subway trains and many bus lines are nearby), but is it also near DeWitt Clinton High School, which once had a Vet Tech Program. It's also close to Lehman College.

"One of the biggest issues we now face is what to do if you have an emergency after hours. There is no place to take animals locally," said Hartman-Kutnowsky. "If we had a shelter, we would want it to be available for emergencies 24 hours."

Sheila Sanchez, a Norwood resident and a diehard admirer of cats, said P.S. 51 is also a worthy site because of its green areas, accessibility, and peaceful surroundings. She noted that a shelter in the community "is a need."

But Bernadette Ferrara, a member of Community Board 11 in the East Bronx and a dogged animal advocate, identified two large lots on corner of Zerega and Commerce avenues on the outskirts of the Castle Hill section of the Bronx. The two sites are ideal because of their large space and its far distance from residential neighborhoods.

"I submitted it to the mayor's liaison and I'm now awaiting a time to meet with them to see how to keep them accountable about what they do when it goes to bid," said Ferrara.

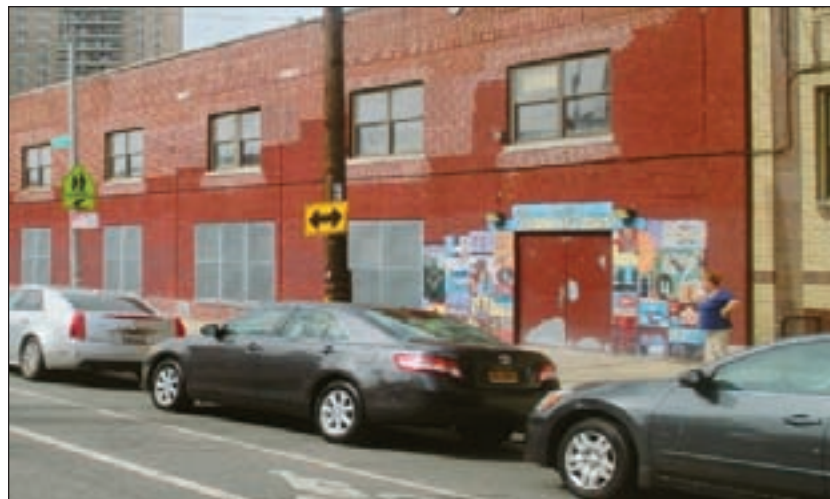
NY-CLASS, an animal advocacy group, noted that a new full-service animal shelter will lead to double the number of pet adoptions across the city to 16,000.



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File Photo

**ONE PROPOSED SITE** for an animal shelter is the former PS 51 building (pictured) located at the corner of Van Cortlandt Avenue East and Jerome Avenue.

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# Greener Pastures: Report Outlines Kid-Friendly Vision for Kossuth Playground

By TATYANA TURNER

The results are in!

A local grassroots group has finally gotten a clearer idea of how to plant a greener future for a neighborhood park.

The Friends of Mosholu Parkland (FOMP) tallied the results of a survey and found Norwood wants a new comfort station, improved lighting, and renovated water features for Kossuth Playground, which opened in 1930.

To bring the proposal to life, FOMP reached out to the office of Councilman Andrew Cohen, who represents Norwood, and Partnerships for Parks to help organize an event that would allow residents to voice the needs for Kossuth Playground.

“We had a lot of fun doing this with the community residents, and it created a togetherness that we are all in this neighborhood together working towards improvements,” said Elizabeth Quaranta, president of FOMP. “We [FOMP] have had community conversations with the residents one-on-one, which is why we came up with the idea that we needed this community visioning to document what the



File Photo

**KOSSUTH PLAYGROUND (PICTURED)** stands as the only acceptable play area along Mosholu Parkway.

residents were telling us,” she said.

Support for a community visioning plan started in early 2015. FOMP hosted an event in mid-October to give residents a chance to express what they would like to see in their neighborhood park. Over 100 participants joined in on the interactive survey.

With the help of Partnerships for Parks and People Make Park Strategies, FOMP was able to create storyboards, conduct video interviews,

and establish voting booths to gain feedback. The responses then went to the “Tree of Wishes,” a gimmicky way of collecting suggestions on improvements for the park.

Results also showed that a majority of the people who go to the park are teens who use the park to play basketball. While the least number of park-goers were children aged nine or younger, some responders stated that they would not let their children play

in Kossuth Playground because it is too dingy. “We were not surprised by the results,” said Quaranta.

A report was later compiled by Fernando Tirado, former Community Board 7 district manager and member of FOMP. The report would be used as a formal way to present its findings to city agencies.

“[Tirado has] worked with the community as the past district manager and has moved on since then helping small businesses and non-profit groups like us to tell their story so they can see the same vision and achieve that goal,” said Quaranta.

“The playground is extremely important to this group because it is the only playground on the grounds of Mosholu Parkway,” said Quaranta. “It felt like Parks and leaders in the area gave up on this neighborhood when things got bad in the old days.”

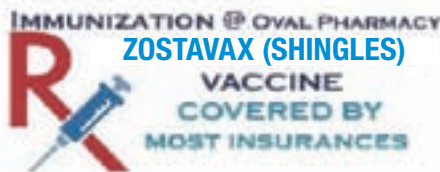
Quaranta will meet with the Bronx Parks & Recreation Commissioner this month to discuss the results of the Community Visioning Report. The cost of these improvements has yet to be determined.



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# A Street Renaming for a "Street Priest"

By **TATYANA TURNER**

A crowd of around 100 people gathered together to eagerly witness the unveiling of a street sign bearing the name of Reverend John C. Flynn, a beloved priest who passed away almost four years ago. The reverend served the Roman Catholic Church of St. Martin of Tours for more than 20 years and was honored on May 27.

Since his death, the community continued to admire him for his services around the Bronx. Residents and church members sought to pay tribute to him.

Joe Padilla, a community member who was touched by Reverend Flynn's life of service, spent a number of Saturdays getting signatures to have the corner of East 182nd and Grote streets to be named John C. Flynn Way.

Reverend Flynn was ordained a Catholic priest in 1955 after spending his childhood in receiving his religious training in Yonkers, NY. He was often referred to as the last of the so-called "street priests," walking the streets at

night asking the youth to trade in their guns for a crucifix.

In September of 2012, he passed away at the age of 83.

Those who knew the reverend describe him as an activist, having been affiliated with the North West Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition. "He protested against budget cuts and is known for his engagement with the youth," said Councilman Richie Torres.

While Padilla led a community effort to immortalize Reverend Flynn's contributions, Torres, representing the neighborhood, lobbied for the street naming at City Hall. "In the 1990s, the reverend started a program to assist high school dropouts called Save a Generation, allowing people to earn their GEDs and prepare for college," Torres said.

"Father Flynn was really my mentor for many years," said Heidi Heinz who is the director of the Mary Mitchell Family and Youth Center in Crotona. "I felt like he was my partner...



Photo by Tatyana Turner

**SUPPORTERS PULL THE** drape off a new street sign named after the late Reverend John C. Flynn.

it was a great honor to have known him."

Martha Rodriguez, who is the secretary of St. Martin of Tours was in tears as she spoke about Flynn at the podium. "He was respected by the whole community and loved by all races," she said.

Mary Ellen, Reverend Flynn's sister, was given a commemorative pen. Mayor Bill de Blasio used to sign the street naming bill into a law. She was also presented with her own street plaque bearing her brother's name.

"We have 19 grandchildren; they would love this," said Mary Ellen.

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# Major Honors Awarded to Norwood News

It was a big night for the *Norwood News*, picking up three awards at the 14th annual Ippies Awards on June 2. The awards ceremony, sponsored by the Center for Community and Ethnic Media and CUNY School of Journalism, is the only awards show to honor multi-language newspapers and community press. The almost 28-year-old newspaper once again took home a First Place prize for Best Small Circulation Publication, this time tying with *The Riverdale Press*.

“Both Bronx news outlets prove that small independent news outlets that serve their communities well can survive and thrive in this era of journalistic turbulence,” read Tom Robbins, CUNY’s investigative journalist in residence. “Both publications give voice to local frustrations and suggested solutions on their editorial and op-ed pages. They cover local sports, offer robust lists of community and cultural events, and closely track local politics. The picture that emerges is of two communities that are so much more vibrant and complex than their borough’s outdated reputation.”

David Cruz, the editor-in-chief of the *Norwood News*, won a big prize for Best Investigative/In-Depth Story for “Tenants Turn Heat Up on Landlord,” a series he began writing in February 2015 that explored nagging heat conditions at buildings owned by The Related Companies, a major landlord



Photo courtesy Skyler Reid

**DAVID CRUZ (2ND from left)**, editor-in-chief of the *Norwood News*, shares a moment with (l-r) the paper’s freelance photographer Adi Talwar, former *Norwood News* salesperson Vivian Carter, and freelance reporters Jasmine Gomez and Daniela Beasley at the 2016 Ippies Awards. The paper once again took home first place for Best Small Circulation Publication.

in New York City. The buildings were bought using funds from the New York City Pension Fund system.

“*Norwood News*’ stories helped spur...the Office of the City Comptroller, which oversees the Pension Funds to investigate and he pushed Related to improve conditions,” said Mr. Robbins.

Adi Talwar picked up a third place prize for the photograph he took enti-

tled “A Mad Dash Around Oval Park,” which appeared in the Vol. 28 No. 17 edition of the *Norwood News*, dated Sept. 3-16, 2015. “The judges liked this well-executed feature image for its upbeat image and perfect execution,” read Randall Pinskston, a seasoned journalist who served as the event’s master of ceremonies.

Mr. Talwar scored another win, this time taking a First Place prize for a shot he snapped for *City Limits*, an online local news magazine.

The *Norwood News* wishes to thank everyone involved with the paper, specifically Judy Noy, Vivian Carter, Mauro DeLuca, Adi Talwar, David Greene, Jasmine Gomez, Jenny Sharp, Wendy Joan Biddlecombe, Miriam Quinones and Tatyana Turner for bringing all their talents to the publication last year.

The paper’s multiple wins came just a day before the Bedford Mosholu Community Association, a civic group based in the neighborhood of Bedford Park, awarded Mr. Cruz with its annual community service award. The Jack Kelly Memorial Award, named after one of the 41-year-old group’s founding members, is given someone who has demonstrated consistent community service to the neighborhood. A committee had chosen Mr. Cruz for the award.

“From month to month we’ve discuss different issues and concerns in the neighborhood, be it overdevelop-

ment, be it crime, be it our parks, you name it, it gets discussed here. However, in order for us to get anything done about it, you all know that we need to touch base with our electeds, we need to touch base with our city agencies, we need to get the problem out to the rest of the community,” said Barbara Stronczer, the group’s president, before revealing Mr. Cruz’s name. “This individual has done a great job doing that.”

Mr. Cruz has been in the news industry for 12 years. His first job was working as an assignment desk coordinator for News 12 the Bronx. He remained there for exactly one year, and later found work as a desk assistant for WCBS-AM, a 24-hour news radio station. He spent five years at the radio station, working alongside great radio news professionals. He worked his way from doing basic clerical tasks as a desk assistant, later conducting off-air interviews as a tape operator, then serving as a fill-in writer before finally becoming a producer.

After learning all he could, he decided to switch gears and enter the print business. He began his reporting career at *The Bronx Times Reporter*, staying there for close to two years before landing the role as editor-in-chief of the *Norwood News* in 2013.

**Editor’s Note:** A full video of the Ippies Awards presentation can be found at <http://bit.ly/1U62Z5E>.



Photo courtesy Bedford Mosholu Community Association

**DAVID CRUZ HOLDS** The Jack Kelly Memorial Award given to him by Barbara Stronczer (r), president of the Bedford Mosholu Community Association.



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# A Bee Story: Honeybees Now Buzzing in Norwood

By **WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE**

If you've noticed more bees zip-ping and swarming along the Mosholu Parkway greenway, you're not imagining things.

The Risse Street Community Garden, at the corner of Risse Street and Grand Concourse just tipping Mosholu Parkway, is now home to thousands of honeybees working to pollinate the plants in the community garden and beyond.

The hive was installed in April by resident beekeeper Brendan O'Regan, a contractor by trade. "I would have done this years ago if I had a place to put them, absolutely," O'Regan said. "I didn't know anything about keeping bees, but I did know that it wasn't rocket science."

O'Regan is one of five committee members who oversee the community garden. He recently brought the idea of adding the beehive after attending a beekeeping training seminar on Randall's Island, learning about the benefits of bees and their honey.

The vote wasn't unanimous, and O'Regan said many of his fellow gardeners were apprehensive or afraid of sharing their space with the bees. "Generally, the bees that sting you when you're a kid are not honeybees—they're yellow jacket wasps or bumblebees, and many people don't realize that," O'Regan said.

But some of the gardeners were

swayed by the prospect of sharing the honey bounty at the end of the season. Once O'Regan's idea got a majority vote, he invested \$500 of his own money to get the hive up and running. "There's no catch to it," O'Regan said of his intention to operate a hive. "Let everyone benefit from it."

The bees have been hard at work the last two months building up wax cells on the plastic molds in the hive. Every two or three days, O'Regan dons a beekeeper's hat, opens up the hive and feeds the bees a mixture of sugar and honey to increase wax production. The hive started with 10,000 honeybees, and O'Regan estimates the number is now at 25,000.

The bees likely won't produce much honey this first year, but if the winter is mild and the bees survive, the hive could produce anywhere from 50 to 80 pounds of honey in 2017. Volunteer gardeners plan to share the nectar among themselves.

City Hall overturned a decade-long ban on working with honeybees in 2010. Now, those who want to be bee owners just have to register their hive with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

A Health Department spokesman told the *Norwood News* that there are 98 registered beehives in the city this year, with five of those hives in the Bronx.



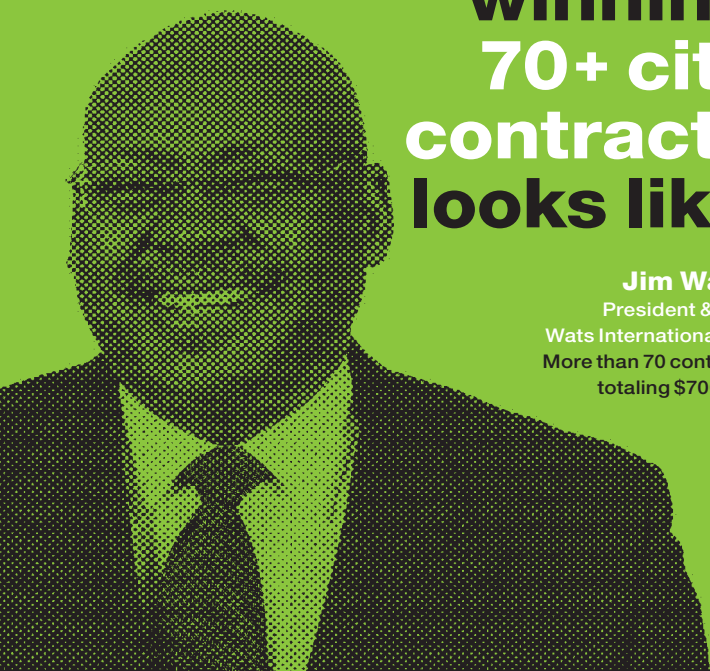
Photo by Wendy Joan Biddlecombe

**BRENDAN O'REGAN LOOKS** after the new beehive at the Risse Street Community Garden in Norwood. The hive was installed this spring and has since become home to approximately 25,000 bees (and counting).



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## NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

### Open House

A meet and greet event with officers of the 52nd Precinct takes place June 17 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the station-house, 3016 Webster Ave. Children are encouraged to come to the free event and take advantage of rock wall, a hot dog stand, and try out some officer equipment. For more information, call (718) 220-5807.

### Rent Freeze Meeting

A Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) workshop will be held on June 29 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Serviam Gardens, 323 E. 198th St. Those eligible may be able to receive a rent freeze, and can receive help completing their applications and collecting all documents needed for this program. Seniors must be at least age 62 or disabled, have a household income of \$50,000 or less, and pay more than a third of their monthly income on rent. Section 8 recipients don't qualify. For more information or to RSVP, call (718) 933-2539.

### NYC School Directory

The 2017 New York City High School Directory, a booklet profiling 160 high schools in the Bronx, is available online at <http://on.nyc.gov/1TTBWs9> or by going to a Family Welcome Center, 1 Fordham Plaza, 7th floor, between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. It's also available in seven languages. For more information, call (718) 741-8495.

### Reduced Parks Fees

As of June 1, annual membership fees for New York City Parks recreation centers for U.S. veterans and people with disabilities has been reduced to \$25. Fees for seniors and young adults remain at \$25, free for under age 18, and \$100 to \$150 for adults.

### Alternate Side Suspension

Alternate side parking will be suspended June 12 and 13, though meter rules will remain in effect, in observance of the religious holiday of Shavuot.

### Community

#### Improvement Grants

In Our Backyards, a non-profit, is asking residents of Claremont, Hunts Point and Morrisania to submit ideas for programs to improve their communities. Winners will receive matching grants, crowd funding, and help carry out their projects. The deadline for the contest is Aug. 1 and applications can be found at [ioby.org/healthy](http://ioby.org/healthy).

#### DreamYard Art Center Programs

DreamYard's Art Center Programs, 1085 Washington Ave., ground floor, include free art and digital media classes, free on-site college advising and an alumni network that presents opportunity for paid employment. Hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call (718) 588-8007 ext. 219.

#### 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) 760-6999.

#### Free Tenant Legal Advice

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.

#### MMCC Programs

The Mosholu Montefiore Community Center offers free programs for out of school youth ages 16 to 24, a food stamp assistance program, English as a Second Language, and Mosholu Day Camp. For more information, or to donate, call (718) 882-4000 or visit [www.mmcc.org](http://www.mmcc.org).

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# Suspected Grand Larcenists Run Near \$700 Tab on Victim

By DANIELA BEASLEY

Two suspected thieves remain on the run after police say they went on a shopping spree at a local Bronx mall.

The grand larceny incident was reported within the 52nd Precinct on Monday, May 2 at around 8:30 a.m., when the duo was accused of stealing three credit cards belonging to a 28-year-old male victim. The pair later went to the Bronx Terminal Mall at 700 Exterior St. in Morrisania, spending \$674 on various household items at both Target and Home Depot.

One on-the-run suspect, a black male, entered the mall wearing a grey hooded sweatshirt by Nike and khaki pants. He was later caught on video leaving the mall with a multi-colored jacket and white pants. His suspected cohort, a black woman, was also seen wearing a grey hooded sweatshirt with a white zipper, ripped jeans, and white shoes. She did not change her appearance.

Though overall crime within the 52nd Precinct has risen 1.45 per-



Images courtesy NYPD

**THE POLICE ARE** still searching for these two people alleged to have made off with a man's credit cards and going on an almost \$700 shopping spree.

cent, when compared with last year, grand larceny cases have dropped 3.7 percent in the past year, accord-

ing to NYPD data. However, in the 28-day category, grand larceny has gone up by 16.7 percent and in the

weekly category, it's spiked at 36.4 percent, comparing 15 incidents this year to the 11 incidents reported at the same time last year.

What constitutes grand larceny is different in every state because it is based on the value of the property that is stolen. In New York, any stolen items valued over \$1000 is considered grand larceny. If the theft involves stolen credit cards and there is proof that they were used, it is automatically considered grand larceny regardless of the amount.

Anyone with information about these individuals or regarding this incident are asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1-800-577-TIPS (8477) or for Spanish, 1-888-57-PISTA (74782). The public can also submit their tips by logging on to the CrimeStoppers website at [www.nypdcrimestoppers.com](http://www.nypdcrimestoppers.com) or by texting their tips to 274637 (CRIMES) then enter TIP577. The NYPD would like to remind the public that all calls are strictly confidential.

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Photo courtesy LeAP

**STUDENTS OF COMMUNITY SCHOOL 211X** show off their lunch table at Tremont Park, repainted to address issues of gun violence and drug abuse affecting the nation. New Venture Academy 219X unveiled their table at Crotona Park, which addressed the issue of Child Abuse. The painting was made possible by Learning through an Expanded Arts Program, or LeAP. Every year, the nonprofit group partners with local schools to paint a mural touching on national issues.

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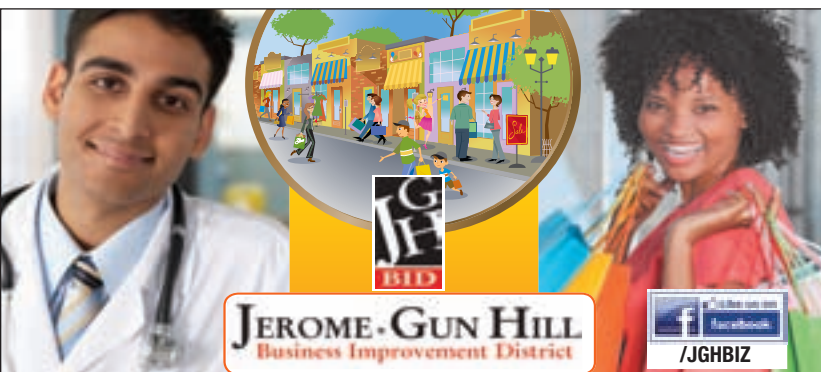
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### LAWN PARTY

**The Bedford Park Congregational Church**, located at 201st Street and Bainbridge Avenue, will host a LAWN PARTY on Sunday, June 26, 2016 at 12:30 p.m. Hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, desserts, and a small raffle. Admission: \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under age 12. All are welcome.

### TRIPS

**Trip to Mohegan Sun Casino** in Connecticut on Saturday, June 11 from East 163rd Street at 9 a.m. For more information, contact Eddie at (718) 757-5484.

**Lake Compounce Amusement Park and Water Rides** in Connecticut June 25, \$85 pp. Depart from Brooklyn and Bronx.

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# 25 Bronx Residents Pick Up BRIO Distinctions

By DAVID CRUZ

Celebration of the arts and its artists was the order of the evening for the Bronx Council of the Arts. The nonprofit group, boosting the Bronx's artistic side, hosted the yearly Bronx Recognizes Its Own, or BRIO Awards, on June 1.

Twenty five Bronx residents took home a distinction for their contributions to a specific medium, be it literary, media, performing and visual arts. The awards come with a \$3,000 cash prize.

"Each year we are overwhelmed by the breadth of media and the artistry of the entrants. This group utilizes sophisticated digital resources and demonstrates how technology is giving artists even more tools for experimentation and creativity," said Lydia Clark, BRIO director, in a statement.

This year's winners include Dominic Colon for screenwriting; Alison Koffer and Sarah Stern for poetry; Maryrose Wood and Court Wayne for fiction; Richard Grunn for experimental film/video; Ursula Liang and Emmitt Thrower for documentary film/video; Davi Davis for choreography;



Photo by Miriam Quinones

**THE 2016 BRIO Awards** above, include (l-r) Jocelyne Jeannot for photography, Rock Wilk for acting, Alethea Pace for dance and Misra Walker for photography.

Laura Kaminsky and Gregory Lathan for music composition; Alethea Pace for dance; Rock Wilk for acting; Alison Collins for installation art; Linda Cunningham for mixed media; Donna Diamond for drawing; Marine Fougeron, Jocelyn Jeannot, Jonathan Santiago and Misra Walker for photography; Ivan Gaete for mixed media; Jessica

Lagunas for creating an artist book; Aristides Logothesis for sculpture, and Roy Secord and Jennifer Tamaiolo for painting.

Winners, all of whom are required to reside in the Bronx to qualify, were selected by a group of 40 judges who live outside the borough and have a background in art.

Photo by Miriam Quinones

**OTHER WINNERS OF** the 2016 BRIO Awards below, include (l-r) Ivan Gaete for mixed media, Maryrose Wood for fiction, Jessica Lagunas for creating an artist book, and Dominic Colon for screenwriting.



## BAINBRIDGE NURSING AND REHABILITATION CENTER IS PLEASED TO OFFER THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

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Joint Replacement/Trauma Injury Recovery Program

Specialized Stroke Rehabilitation Program

IV Therapy

Hospice and Palliative Care

Specialized Wound Care Program

Alzheimer's and Memory Care

Therapeutic Activity Program

Social Work Services

Long-Term Skilled Care Services

Psychological Services

Sub-Acute Skilled Services

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# B

## BAINBRIDGE NURSING & REHABILITATION CENTER



3518 Bainbridge Avenue Bronx, NY 10467

718-655-1991

[www.BainbridgeCares.com](http://www.BainbridgeCares.com)





# Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

## EDITOR'S PICK

### Family Fitness Festival

The Jerome-Gun Hill BID in cooperation with a number of local organizations, presents the **Third Annual Family Fitness Festival**, June 18 from noon to 2:30 p.m., at the Williamsbridge Oval. Events include entertainment, food, activities, zumba exercise, relay races, cooking demos, health screenings and workshops, face painting, gifts, prizes, and giveaways. For more information, call (718) 324-4946.

### Onstage

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents **Senor Lucky Jazz Duet**, featuring guitar and vocals, June 11 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org).

**The New York Philharmonic** will present a free concert featuring classical music, followed by fireworks, June 21 at 8 p.m. on the Van Cortlandt Park Parade Grounds. Enter park from Broadway at West 251st Street, and bring blankets. They reserve the right to cancel due to inclement weather. For more information, call Department of Parks at (718) 430-1800.

The New York Botanical Garden presents **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra**, featuring Wynton Marsalis, June 9; and **Father's Day Weekend**, with Villalobos Brothers and Gizel Xanath, June 18; both from 7 to 8 p.m., outdoors on the Conservatory Lawn, including beer and spirits. Bring blanket. Tickets are required. Also offered is **free music, fun events, and information kiosks**, June 11 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Clay Family Picnic Pavilions. Bring lunch. Advance

free tickets are required by sending self-addressed stamped envelope with number of tickets (6 maximum) to: Elizabeth Figueroa, Director of Community Relations, NY Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Blvd., Bronx, N.Y. 10458. If inclement weather, call to confirm. For more information, call (718) 817-8700.

The Point, 940 Garrison Ave., presents free **Social Circus**, June 9 at 7 p.m. featuring Bronx youth performers in acts ranging from juggling to acrobatics and aerial. For more information, call (718) 542-4139.

### Events

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. invites the public to **Ramadan**, to celebrate with the Bronx Muslim community on June 16 at 7 p.m. at Lehman College's Music Building Faculty Dining Room, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W. Program begins at 7:30 p.m. followed by prayer and dinner. For more information or to confirm, call (718) 590-3522.

The Williamsbridge Oval hosts **film**, "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles," June 11 at 7:30 p.m. Bring blankets or beach chairs. Outdoor film will be



Photo courtesy Joshua Bright/Wave Hill

**KIDS CAN LEARN** to make handmade miniature river rafts at Wave Hill.

shown indoors in inclement weather. For more information, call (718) 543-8672.

MMC will hold two workshops, both at 3400 Bainbridge Ave. in the Medical Arts Pavilion on the 2nd floor: **The Kidneys and How They Work**, to learn about kidney disease, medications and nutrition, will be held on June 7 from 1 to 3 p.m.; and **Treatment Options for Kidney Failure**, about hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, home dialysis, and supportive care, will be held on June 23 and July 21 from 2 to 4 p.m. A **diabetes workshop** will be held at 2532 Grand Concourse in the 3rd floor conference room on June 14 from 4 to 6 p.m. All events are free and hosted by Montefiore Health System. For more information, call (800) MD-MONTE.

**Wave Hill**, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Art Projects**: Papermaking With Lavender, to make paper from scratch, June 11 and 12; and Big Hand, Little Hand, to make replica of your hand with plaster of Paris, June 18 and 19; both in WH House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also scheduled is **Make Music New York: Inside the Bird Chorus**, featuring musicians, on the grounds from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., free. 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.

Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, 3450 DeKalb Ave., presents its **3rd Annual Golf Classic**, June 27, at Paramount Country Club, 60 Zukor Rd., NY. Events include pre-golf breakfast, on-course lunch, post-golf dinner, raffles, auction, and prizes. Golf package options are available. For more information or to reserve a spot, call Julissa Reyes at (718) 882-4000 ext. 350.

### Library Events

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents the following events for children: **Summer Reading**: (ages 7 to 12): June 9 at 11 a.m. to sign up; and at 2 p.m. to design T-shirt for end of summer (supplies provided; pre-registration required); **Hands-On Projects at 4 p.m.**: (ages 7 to 12; pre-registration required), Father's Day Card Making: June 16; and Plant Pot Making, June 23. 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 adults: **Free Computer Classes**: to learn email and basic computer information, Wednesdays, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Teens/young adults can enjoy **film**: "Gods of Egypt," June 11 at 1:30 p.m. **Summer Reading Kickoff on June 14**: (ages 3 to 18 at 1 p.m.; to play games and do crafts; in person registration required); and (adults at 4 p.m., enjoy fun activities with the staff). For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

The Jerome Park Library, 118 Eames Place (near Kingsbridge Road), offers for kids: **Kids Pajama Party**: (18 months to 12 years), craft and read-alouds (registration required), June 13 at 6 p.m.; **Kids Get Active Fridays**: (ages 5 to 12), dance and zumba, June 17 at 3 p.m. Adults can attend **Computer Basics at noon**: June 16 and 23. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL OUR DAD READERS!**

**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 June 13 for the next publication date of June 23.



File Photo

**PLENTY OF THRILLS** await families at the third annual Family Fitness Festival at Williamsbridge Oval Park on June 18.



# Tenants: Punish Worst Bronx Slumlord

(continued from page 1)

seek a measure of social justice.

James' office has continued the tradition of rolling out the yearly Worst Landlords Watchlist, a website that residents can use as a resource to find out which property owners have allowed their buildings to fall into disrepair.

Violations and complaint data collected from the New York City Department of Buildings (DOB) and New York City Department of Housing Preservation (HPD) is used to identify the worst landlords in the city. Parkash, whose records show lives in a tony section on Long Island, where the median income is \$192,000, has consistently been on the list, earning a spot on the "Dirty Dozen," a list comprised of eight landlords who have mismanaged 12 apartment buildings in the Bronx, Manhattan, and Queens.

For a landlord to be on the watchlist, they must own a rental building and have the minimum threshold of open violations and complaints from HPD or DOB per unit, according to the watchlist.

Parkash's alleged inaction to make repairs does not quite rise to the severity of a criminal case. In those cases, often taking several years to build, negligence and intent to evict tenants through intimidation tactics is usually the threshold to proceed with a charge.

"They [residents] pay their rent," said James. "They pay their rent and are entitled to services and to live in conditions that do not threaten their safety and their lives."

According to residents, Parkash constantly takes his residents before the judge, some have been evicted. A report by the *Huffington Post* said Parkash usually employs his sons, all housing attorneys, to represent him in Housing Court. Anurag Parkash, one of his sons, usually represents him.

Some have accused Parkash of deliberately holding off cashing rent checks to put tenants in arrears. "I feel like he likes to play tricks with the rent," said Dawn Goodall, a Kingsbridge Heights resident. "I personally received a lease without the proper amount on it. I've been in court with him two or three times."

Over the past few years, Parkash has received more than half a million dollars in Section 8 payments. City officials are now in the process of withholding these subsidies until repairs are made in the buildings.

Parkash owns 60 buildings in the city, with 40 in the Bronx. Among them is 2675 Creston Ave., which has 121 violations there, according to the watchlist. In all,



File Photo

**THIS HOLE IN** the ceiling of an apartment at 2675 Creston Ave. was reported last year. Residents at the building have long complained of dangerous conditions, including a mole problem, at the building.

Parkash's portfolio of properties has accrued 5,000 violations, 4,000 of which are considered the most heinous, according to the public advocate's office.

For more than six months, residents at the Creston Avenue building off Kingsbridge Road had no hot water.

"We had paint buckets, washed them out, boiled [water] and put it in the shower," recalled Brigida Venzuela, a Creston Avenue tenant who recently joined the Parkash Tenant Coalition movement. "It seemed like everybody except for one didn't have hot water."

The "one" tenant Venzuela referred to serves as an agent of Parkash. Venzuela claimed the tenant was hired by Parkash to paint around the building and handle gardening responsibilities, in exchange for rent assistance. The tenant is not the registered super.

Problems persist in the buildings including a termite issue. "We have termites and we've been dealing with every single year," said Venzuela, who intends to follow through on spreading the word on Parkash's alleged treatment of tenants.

"The reason I wanted to join [the Parkash Tenant Coalition movement] was because I feel like we have a say in either getting him to meet our demands or getting him out. I want to let my other neighbors know that it's okay to speak up if they are getting harassed or [not] get-

ting repairs. A lot of us mostly immigrants and probably some of them are undocumented so I feel like I can probably speak for them."

*Additional reporting by David*

*Cruz.*

**Editor's Note:** To reach Ved Parkash, tenants can call (917) 497-0270 or email Anurag Parkash at [anurag.parkash@gmail.com](mailto:anurag.parkash@gmail.com).

## NEWLY CONSTRUCTED APARTMENTS FOR RENT



[www.ApplyLaPorte.com](http://www.ApplyLaPorte.com)

La Porte Apartments is pleased to announce applications are now being accepted for 159 affordable housing rental apartments under construction at 203 Gramatan Avenue, in the city of Mt. Vernon. This building is being constructed with financing provided through the LIHTC program of the New York State Homes and Community Renewal and the HOME program. The size, rent, and targeted income distribution for the 159 apartments are as follows:

# Apts. Available	Apartment Size	Monthly Rent*	Household Size**	Total Annual Income Range	
				Minimum	Maximum***
20	Studio	\$1,115	1	\$38,812 -	\$45,300
3	1 Bedroom	\$990	1	\$34,663 -	\$37,750
			2	\$34,663 -	\$43,150
96	1 Bedroom	\$1,192	1	\$41,589 -	\$45,300
			2	\$41,589 -	\$51,780
39	2 Bedroom	\$1,429	2	\$49,920 -	\$51,780
			3	\$49,920 -	\$58,260
			4	\$49,920 -	\$64,680

\*Tenant responsible for Electric \*\*Subject to occupancy criteria \*\*\*Income guidelines subject to change

Qualified Applicants will be required to meet income guidelines and additional selection criteria. To receive an application, mail a **SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE** to: La Porte c/o: The Wavecrest Management Team, 87-14 116<sup>th</sup> Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418, or download an application from [www.ApplyLaPorte.com](http://www.ApplyLaPorte.com).

Submit completed applications by **regular mail only** to the post office box number listed on the application postmarked by **July 11, 2016**. No priority, certified, registered, expressed or overnight mail will be accepted. Applications postmarked after 7/11/16 will be set aside for possible future consideration. Applications will be selected by lottery. There will be a preference for 33% of the apartments for applicants currently residing in the City of Mount Vernon. Applicants who submit more than one application will be disqualified. Disqualified applications will not be accepted.

**No Broker's Fee. No Application Fee.**



**Andrew M Cuomo, Governor**  
New York State Housing Finance Agency  
James S. Rubin, Commissioner  
[www.nyhousingsearch.gov](http://www.nyhousingsearch.gov)





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