



NORWOOD NEWS

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INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER:
RATING DEWITT CLINTON HS | PG. 4



MCDWYER'S PUB
IN DANGER OF CLOSING | PG. 5

SEPTEMBER PRIMARY RESULTS

Familiarity trumps fresh faces in September Primaries



Photo by Adi Talwar

WITH HIS WIFE Giamara by his side, Jamaal T. Bailey (center) walks into Eastwood Manor in Edenwald the victor of the 36th Senate District race.

By **DAVID CRUZ, WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE, and JALEESA BAULKMAN**

The Bronx political landscape stayed on course in the northwest part of the borough, with incumbents and frontrunners predictably winning in the September Democratic Primary, a contest that closely predicts the outcome of Bronx races in November's General Elec-

tion.

The victories once again signaled the party machine at work, as major support and campaign money helped secure victories for the favorites.

36th Senate District

The 36th State Senate District, covering Norwood, Bedford Park, Wakefield, Edenwald, Co-Op City, and Mount Vernon in Westchester County, saw

Jamaal T. Bailey edge out four other contenders in a decidedly easy victory for the young politico. He trounced candidates Edward A. Mulraine, Alvin Ponder, Pamela A. Hamilton-Johnson, and Rev. Que English, grabbing more than 50 percent of the vote or more than 7000 votes.

Celebrating his win at the Eastwood Manor in Edenwald, Bailey said the

victory was not about him but the collective effort.

"United we stand and divided we fall-this is what I want to bring to the New York Senate," Bailey said. "It's not about the title. I would prefer it if you didn't call me 'Senator,'" Bailey said during his victory speech. He was flanked by Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie,

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IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST**BCHS Embarks on Digital Preservation of Relics***Something old will soon be new again***By DAVID CRUZ**

If someone wants to dig up the Bronx's past, they would have to email the Bronx County Historical Society for assistance. For a fee, a librarian would sift through a trove of aging artifacts, with some in such poor shape that handling them would compromise them even more.

For documents available to the public, a trip to the Society's archives is the only way to access them, depriving out-of-towners the chance for more efficient research of the borough.

It's a reason why the Society, a private not-for-profit, will launch an ambitious archiving project that will digitize some 400 years worth of priceless photographs, atlases and maps that chronicle the borough's nascent age, dark history and rising image.

"Why take out the same map and jeopardize it and have it ripped more and more when we could digitize it and people could just zoom in, zoom out, take notes, print out?" Angel Hernandez, director of programs and external relations for the society, said.

The digital undertaking, aimed at adding another layer of preservation to the borough's history, is mostly funded through an \$83,000 grant it received from the Office of Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. The funds were part of a \$1 million allocation for Bronx cultural institutions to "strengthen them."

It also opens a larger door of accessibility to the borough's mar-



Photo by David Cruz

ANGEL HERNANDEZ, THE Bronx County Historical Society's director of programs and external relations, looks at the collection of physical atlases held at the Norwood office.

quee documents. Among the projects Hernandez has in mind is a 360-degree tour of Poe Cottage, a mini-museum that was once the home of famed storyteller Edgar Allan Poe.

The monies would go towards high-tech scanners that will scan every book page by page, analog-to-digital audio converters, and high-resolution cameras that capture priceless figures from a bygone period, creating a framework in the form of an Internet database. Each item will be accessed through the Society's database for what Hernandez calls an hourly "nominal fee" that can also lower the cost of the Society's existing walking tours.

Currently, the Society's prized relics are catalogued at their portfolio of historical houses, though in some cases they're left in a vulner-

able place. At the Valentine Varian House in Norwood, for instance, documents are stored in the basement. During the summertime, a nearby hydrant is left open, forcing a deluge of water to flow downhill and towards the house, potentially destroying a collection of pieces from the Revolutionary period. It was enough for Hernandez to personally show Diaz Jr. the need to save them.

Moldy atlases at another Society-owned office now stand atop a bookshelf untouched. Because of that, a scanner has been designated to be the only scanner scanning them.

It will take five years to see the project through, Hernandez said. He hopes that by the time the project is complete, the Society's new archive would be considered the "Library of Congress for the Bronx."

Public and Community Meetings

COMMUNITY BOARD 7 will hold its general board meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 20, at 6:30 p.m. at Sister Annunciata Bethell Senior Center, 243 E. 204th St. 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: Housing, Land Use & Zoning Committee on Sept. 21; and Economic Development Committee on Sept. 27. For more information, call the Board office at (718) 933-5650.

THE 52ND PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL will meet Sept. 22 at 2455 Sedgwick Ave. (across from Fordham Hill Oval Cooperative) from 7 to 9 p.m. For more information, call the 52nd Precinct Community Affairs office at (718) 220-5824.



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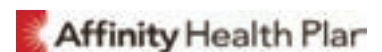
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INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



With school now open, this week we asked past and present students and teachers their thoughts on the troubling performance numbers for DeWitt Clinton High School.*



I am surprised. I know in my day they had a really great Macy's program, which was an elite program. At one point it was a really good school. I don't know what happened over the years, but I'm sorry to hear that. My son won't be going to Clinton because by the time he's of high school age we won't even be in New York. It's a shame.

Michelle Matias, former student
Van Cortlandt Park



I love Clinton even though we have a bad reputation, it's still a nice environment. It's a fun school. You can't believe everything the media says about a school or even believe test results, not everyone performs well on tests. [Santiago] Taveras (the principal) does a really good job of running the school.

Joshua Echevarria, 2016 grad
Norwood



The problem is the public persona brought on by the changing Department of Education's policies on making it (several) smaller schools. In 1998 we were in U.S. News & World Report as one of the top schools in America. What changed? When Mayor Bloomberg took over and they went to the 'Business as Schools' policy and they started to break down the school, I watched them start sending us kids that were under-performing in overwhelming numbers. They forced us, but we are now on our way back as a school. The last three classes coming here have been excellent kids and we're turning it around right now and we're going to survive.

Howard Langley
Physical Education teacher



I don't really agree that it's such a low performing school. The problem is the kids. The teachers are good, but the kids are out of control. I don't like the idea of mandatory school uniforms. It's so hot and they're ugly. I feel like everyone should be able to wear what they want. It will be mandatory starting next month and all of a sudden the school sold out of uniforms; they're all gone. So you have to go to Yonkers to get them. One problem here is when a student is being bad or disruptive they get a call home, but they should be expelled.

Melanie Martinez, student
Fordham



I think that ever since Clinton became a campus with three schools, it's changed drastically. I'm actually a part of the first class when the new schools opened up in 2013, so I will actually be in the first graduating class since this started. Overall I feel the school is very safe; everyone is connected in their own way. I don't believe the statistics. I think it's wrong and the school has turned around from its past. I don't like the uniforms. Only World View (a co-located high school on campus) is getting them. Clinton doesn't have uniforms and at Bronx Collaborative (another co-located high school on campus), our dress code is casual.

Anthony Ajodha, student
Fordham

*A review of the New York City Department of Education's High School Directory and High School Progress Report results shows the graduation rate at DeWitt Clinton H.S. at 45 percent, significantly lower than the average 69 percent citywide.

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Norwood Could Lose Last Historic Irish Bar

By WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE

The days of grabbing a pint at the last Irish bar in Norwood might be numbered.

A dispute between McDwyer's Pub and its landlord, 3120 Hull Realty Corp., has been working its way through Bronx Housing Court all this summer. A trial to determine whether Eamonn McDwyer's neighborhood saloon can stay or go is scheduled for Sept. 15.

McDwyer's Pub opened at 331 E. 204th St. at the corner of Hull Avenue in 1966. McDwyer's attorney, Jeffrey Frank Cohen, said that the landlord is claiming that the bar is on a month-to-month lease.

Cohen, who agreed to discuss aspects of McDwyer's case that were public record, said that McDwyer had previously been served with a notice to terminate the lease and vacate the building. The bar remains open, and court records show that McDwyer has appeared in court in May, June and July.

McDwyer, who celebrated his



Photo by Wendy Joan Biddlecombe

MCDWYER'S PUB AT 331 E. 204th St. in Norwood remains open...for now.

50th year in business this past March, declined to comment for this story other than saying he's not yet sure how long he will be able to keep the bar open. McDwyer, who's regularly served drinks since the joint opened, told *Norwood News* at the time of his 50th

anniversary that there might be older bars in the Bronx, but they can't boast that they've had the same barkeep behind the counter for five decades.

Calls to 3120 Hull Realty Corp. were not returned by deadline.

McDwyer's Pub became the

sole Irish bar in Norwood about six years ago when McMahon's Bar on the same block of 204th Street closed up shop. Bainbridge Avenue and 204th Street were once home to many Irish bars that catered to a wave of Irish immigrants who settled in Norwood and Bedford Park in the 1970s and 80s to escape violence in Ireland and work in the construction industry.

The Irish population in Norwood, large enough that Ireland's then-president Mary Robinson visited the neighborhood in 1993, dropped off in the 1990s, with some immigrants either heading back to Old Sod or settling in neighboring Woodlawn Heights. McDwyer himself has moved out of the neighborhood to Yonkers.

"I would think that this would be a loss for many people in the community," said Barbara Stronczner, a member of Community Board 7 who also chairs the Bedford Mosholu Community Association. "You always hate to see the old owners go."

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Lead Testing At Schools Law Takes Effect

It is now law that schools test drinking water for lead contamination. Governor Andrew Cuomo signed legislation to identify traces of lead, a toxin that can cause brain damage if overly exposed. The state Department of Health issued emergency rules mandating school districts test their water for lead contamination by Oct. 31 and report results to parents, the state Department of Health and local government officials.

Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, representing the northeast Bronx, said the new law gives “parents, students and faculty the peace of mind they deserve. If lead levels are detected above 15 parts per billion at any potable water outlet, the school must discontinue use of that outlet, implement a lead remediation plan to mitigate the lead level, and provide building occupants with an adequate alternate supply of water for cooking and drinking. Schools must report the results to the local health department within one business day.

--David Cruz

New Wing at PS 56 Soars

By DANIELA BEASLEY

The new school year is underway, and for the kids who attend Public School 56 in Norwood, that means taking advantage of a new addition to their school that has been under construction since 2014.

“They were over at a different school for first and second grade before the construction was finished,” Denise Gonzalez, a parent, said referring to her children who now attend PS 56. For a time, students were relocated to 3177 Webster Ave., a co-located school.

“I’m so happy that our kids are over here again. I graduated from here, this is our school,” Gonzalez added.

Construction began two years ago and was completed for the beginning of the current school year, according to a quarterly report by the School Construction Authority, the agency tasked to build the annex.

PS 56 now has a new library, a so-called “gymatorium” (a facility doubling as a gymnasium and auditorium), kitchen, cafeteria, multi-purpose room, a music room, medical suites and art and science resource rooms. Along with the new amenities, a new early childhood playground and a schoolyard are now available for students.

“Everything is great and the new principal is wonderful,” said Kathy Fortys, watching her son and friends make



Photo by Daniela Beasley

PS 56’S NEW WING (pictured above at left) introduces 428 additional seats, as well as new indoor and outdoor facilities in time for the new school year.

use of the new schoolyard. “I only have good things to say about how it turned out.”

The new wing also provides 428 additional seats for the school, an attractive feature for parents who view PS 56 as the preferred school for the area, according to parent Bonnie Mangual. According to a 2015 survey completed by the New York City Department of Education, parents and students consider PS 56 an above av-

erage school.

“Everybody knows it; it’s been here for forever. Even I went to this school,” Mangual said while picking up her daughter. “I think the more space will be good. Space has always been an issue and now we can have more kids come into the school that want to.”

Editor’s Note: PS 56’s new phone number is (718) 920-1100.

Muslims Celebrate Eid-UI Adha at Oval

With loudspeakers booming, hundreds of Muslims in the northwest Bronx converged onto Williamsbridge Oval Park en masse on Sept. 12 for the fifth annual celebration commemorating Eid-UI Adha.

Muslims, dressed in religious wear and kneeling to the north, heard the words of the local imam, Masjid Iqbal, for an hour-long ceremony on the grounds of the multi-use field.

The holiday, known as the “sacrifice feast,” is the holiest Muslim holiday of the year and tells the story of the Prophet Abraham’s dedication to Allah. After Abraham sacrificed his son, Allah replaced Abraham’s son with a ram. The story has inspired Muslims to sacrifice cows, goats, lambs, and sheep in the name of God.

After the massive prayer, Muslims are known to wish each other “Eid Mubarak” after taking part in the religious ceremony.



Photo by David Cruz

IMAM MASJID IKBAL (at mic), a Muslim leader in Norwood, speaks before the faithful at the Eid-UI Adha ceremony held at Williamsbridge Oval Park on Sept. 12. The ceremony was organized by the North Bronx Islamic Center.

The ceremony at the Oval also doubled as a plea for donations that would go towards the continued construction of the North Bronx Islamic

Center off Bainbridge Avenue in Norwood, which has been built piecemeal over the years. It now needs \$350,000 to build the rest of the center.

“Everyone extend your hand,” Iqbal said as he led the mass prayer. Eid UI Adha ended on Sept. 15.

--David Cruz

A Rooftop Playground, Low Priority at Tracey Towers, to Get Facelift

By DAVID CRUZ

Though Tracey Towers, Norwood's largest cooperative and the borough's tallest buildings, is home to some 869 families, refurbishing the towers' lone playground remained low on management's priority list for years.

Sitting atop the towers' parking garage, the aging centerpiece, a jungle gym, shows plenty of signs of wear and tear. Flaky and rusted, the gym stands unattractive and almost uninviting. A basketball court equipped with concrete risers, meantime, takes up half the rooftop. The playground and court's sizes could barely accommodate the towers' adolescent population.

"Forty-two years, people. We've been trying to get this done for 42 years. It was no easy thing to do," Jean Hill, president of the Tracey Towers Tenants Association, said at a news conference. There, New York City Councilman Andrew Cohen, who covers Tracey Towers, announced a \$200,000 investment into the playground. It's Cohen's latest round of allocations he's given to parks.

"The community that has well-maintained parks makes people think



Photo by David Cruz

COUNCILMAN ANDREW COHEN (gesturing) announces a \$200,000 allocation to fix Tracey Towers' worn out playground (background).

this is a well-maintained neighborhood," Cohen told the *Norwood News*.

The capital funds function more as a loan to RY Management, Tracey Towers' management firm, which will front the cost of the project and later be reimbursed by the capital funds. Should the capital funds have been used in its normal capacity, five years from when they're officially ear-

marked, construction on the project could have begun in 2021. In this case, the installation of new play equipment comprised of a slide, climbers and swing set is expected to be completed by spring 2017.

The development ends a decades-long fight by longtime residents to press RY Management to improve the playground's condition. "Before we

focused on the playground we needed to focus on the \$26 million worth of renovations that took place," Bob Vaccarello, RY Management's property manager, said. Vaccarello referred to the Towers' top-down renovation that began in 2012 following a massive rent hike.

"This is Phase Two of this project," Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj, whose district covers Tracey Towers, said at the conference. "This will be the way to keep them close to home, in a safe environment."

Though the association often clashes with management, Hill was quick to credit RY Management for stepping up to upgrade the playground. "Bumpy roads" aside, Hill admitted RY Management was more of a friend than foe this time out. Donele Harrison, a longtime resident of Tracey Towers, gave credit to Cohen, noting plenty of promises were made by other council members but never followed through until now.

"We have such an abundance of children at Tracey, this is like one of the best things that could happen," Harrison said shortly after the conference.

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Average number of children and adult patients seen at Montefiore Health System's Family Practice Center and Family Health Center

(Source: Montefiore Medical Center)

Vital Stats

For Respiratory Sufferers, an Improved Method of Care at Monte

By DAVID CRUZ

It used to be that when patients suffering from respiratory illness, such as asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), a primary care doctor and nurse would be the only available medical practitioners on hand. In some cases, patients would meet them at the emergency room if their condition worsened.

But as the healthcare industry adopts a proactive method of care following federal health reforms, doctors at Montefiore Medical Center's Williamsbridge Family Practice Center and Family Health Center will now train psychology fellows and residents to delve deeper into healing respiratory sufferers well before their winding up in the emergency room.

The initiative, deemed an advanced primary care co-training program, was made possible by a \$2.5 million federal grant by the Health Resources and Services Administration. Funds will cover the hiring of fellows, instructors' time, and a data analyst

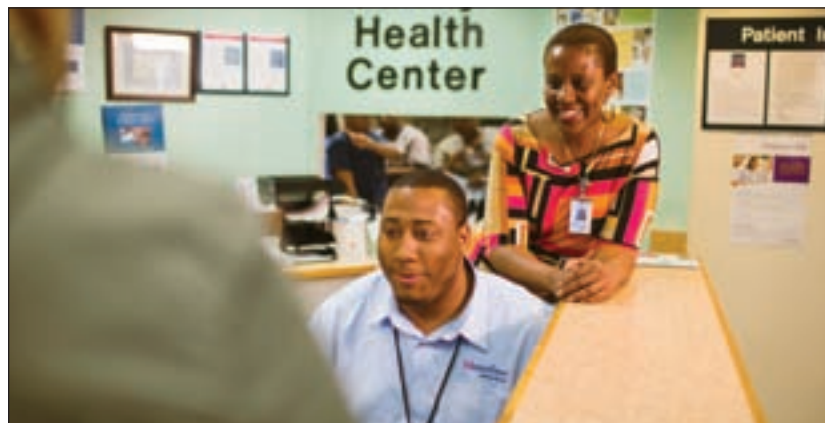


Photo courtesy Montefiore Health System

THE FAMILY HEALTH CENTER will feature a training program for residents and psychologists.

who will assess the program's effectiveness. Their plan is to train alongside doctors and nurses working at the two centers found in the Wakefield and Fordham sections of the Bronx.

For Dr. Mary Duggan, who's leading the initiative, integrating in-training psychologists in the treatment of respiratory sufferers further helps identify necessary changes in behavior

or physical surroundings. Some of those deterrents can include "smoking, depression, unsafe or unstable housing" conditions which could aggravate one's respiratory condition.

Patients will now be offered treatment options that include, "motivational interviewing to promote smoking cessation, medication and treatment adherence, other healthy

behavior and lifestyle changes, as well as help provide counseling, and therapy support for possible mental health conditions like depression...addiction, anxiety, family conflict, poor social support."

But treatment doesn't stop there. Montefiore already has in place a medical team that creates a unique method of care that's "delivered in a more strategic way to comprehensively address their COPD, improve chronic long term control of their COPD, prevent or minimize exacerbation frequency and severity," according to Dr. Duggan.

If Montefiore is successful in its initiative, it could decrease the rate of emergency room visits from respiratory sufferers by 20 percent and hospitalizations by 15 percent by 2021.

Editor's Note: Montefiore's Williamsbridge Family Practice Center is located at 3011 Boston Rd. Montefiore's Family Health Center is located at One Fordham Plaza.

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Bronx Primary Roundup

(continued from page 1)

who groomed Bailey to be a rising star within the Bronx Democratic County Committee ranks, and convinced the party to back Bailey.

"For every corner of the district, I think that he will be really big shoes to fill. People will be very happy because his heart is in the right place, his mind is in the right place," Speaker Heastie said at the party.

Bailey has toured the entire district over the course of the race, spotted in portions of Norwood and Bedford Park, areas that were largely under-represented, according to constituents. He's long pledged not to forget about the two neighborhoods. The seat was relinquished by longtime legislator Sen. Ruth Hassell-Thompson, who left the Senate to become special advisor for policy and community affairs of state Homes and Community Renewal under Governor Andrew Cuomo.

Natasha Green, 33, said she has been a "sporadic volunteer" since Bailey began campaigning and says she's been inspired by his age and connection to Speaker Heastie. "Millennials are going to change the way that future politicians will get work done and determine the path," Green, who lives in Williamsbridge said. Randall Ogilvie, 27, said he joined the campaign in June at a family member's suggestion. He said he hopes that Bailey will support local youth through educational programs.

Neither Mulraine, Ponder, Hamilton-Johnson nor English submitted statements for comment.

33rd Senate District

State Sen. Gustavo Rivera, representing the 33rd State Senate District, once again defeated recurring challenger, 14th District Council Member Fernando Cabrera. Unofficial results by the New York State Board of Elections (official results don't come out for weeks), showed Rivera winning 60 percent of the vote.

It was Cabrera's second attempt at unseating Rivera, with the first try happening two years



Photos by David Greene and Miriam Quinones
THUMBS UP! SENATOR Gustavo Rivera (left) poses for the camera at his election night party on Arthur Avenue. Rivera beat Councilman Fernando Cabrera (right) for the second straight time.

ago. Cabrera, who remains Councilman, told supporters at Sabor Latino on Jerome Avenue his legislative record is still substantial. "The fact is I'm the one who brought the Tenant Bill of Rights, and we'll rezone all of Jerome Avenue so we could have affordable housing, and low-income housing for our people, and we will fulfill that promise," Cabrera said.

For months, the two sides were at vicious loggerheads, with Rivera painting Cabrera as a Democrat with true Republican leanings. Cabrera criticized Rivera's record of achievements, saying Rivera hasn't brought a dime to the district. Rivera, meantime, has long criticized Cabrera's conservative leanings.

"I credit this victory to the fact that the people of the Bronx recognize a lie when they see one," Rivera told the *Norwood News*, referring to Cabrera. "I know that the work that my team and I have done over the last six years has made a difference in people's lives."

78th Assembly District

Assemblyman Jose Rivera edged out challenger Ischia Bravo in one of his more formidable races to date. Though viewed as a "do-nothing Assemblyman," Rivera grabbed 59 percent of the vote to Bravo's 32 percent. The 78th Assembly District covers Bedford Park, Fordham, Belmont, and Kingsbridge.

With support from powerhouse labor unions such as 1199 SEIU and Local 32BJ, Rivera once again keeps a post he's held



Photo by Daniela Beasley
AN EMOTIONAL ISCHIA Bravo hugs a supporter at her election night party. She lost to incumbent Assemblyman Jose Rivera.

for more than a decade. He's long been criticized as a lackluster legislator, having barely sponsored bills. This prompted Bravo to label Rivera as a lawmaker who simply "collects a paycheck."

Rivera wasn't available for comment. An emotional Bravo, at a scheduled election night party on Arthur Avenue, told supporters she thought she "put up a good fight," which was followed by applause. "What bothers me that this man continues to win, and we don't have representation," Bravo said. "But I'm not going away. I'm going to make his life miserable and I'm coming back in 2018."

86th Assembly District

In the west Bronx, 86th District Assemblyman Victor Pichardo once again staved off a defeat from perennial opponent Hector Ramirez. It was Ramirez's third attempt at unseating Pichardo. In the 2014 race, Pichardo narrowly defeated Ramirez by a mere two votes. This time, Pichardo trounced Ramirez, grabbing 62.39 percent of the vote, a clear indicator he will keep his seat without a judge deciding the race as in previous elections.

Pichardo, enjoying victory at Chelsea Craft Brewing Company, told supporters, "This victory is not about me...It was about the folks who are trying to figure out how to buy a gallon



Photo by Jaleesa Baulkman
VICTORY FOR VICTOR! Assemblyman Victor Pichardo speaks before supporters and other legislators at his election night party.

of milk and pay rent at the same time."

Ramirez, who faces a 242-count indictment for voter fraud in his failed Assembly bid against Pichardo in 2014, came in with 31.50 percent of the votes. The primary victory celebrated his win in the Bronx with family, friends and supporters, including Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Councilman Rafael Salamanca Jr., and Councilwoman Vanessa Gibson.

Pichardo said his win "lifted" a cloud that has hung over the 86th Assembly seat because of what he deemed to be Ramirez's "dirty tactics."

78th and 80th Assembly Districts (Female District Leader)

Incumbents holding the title of Female District Leader for the respective 78th and 80th Assembly Districts kept their seats against newcomer candidates.

Nilda Velazquez defeated challenger and first-time candidate Samelys Lopez in the 78th AD race while Andrea Siegel narrowly defeated Roxanne Delgado for the 80th AD.

Winning candidates will now head to the general election to be held Nov. 8.

Additional reporting by Daniela Beasley, David Greene and Miriam Quinones.

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Nicky's Pizzeria Reopens, Though Quietly

By DAVID CRUZ

It took almost two years, but a neighborhood pizza shop settled prominently at one corner of Norwood has finally reopened with nary a notice.

Over the summer, the owner of Nicky's Pizza & Ristorante, Peter Deliaj, lifted the shutters to the 30-year-old pizza place once again following a lengthy top-down facelift.

"I couldn't keep the store like it used to be," Deliaj said, speaking to the *Norwood News* from the recently re-opened eatery. Its shuttered state became an accepted mark to Norwood's small business district. It wasn't hard to miss. After all, it rests at the ever-busy corner of Bainbridge Avenue and East 204th Street, a prime location and the envy for any merchant. Since its entrance door is at the corner, this location has two official addresses: 280 E. 204th St., and 3070 Bainbridge Ave.

Inside, customers can expect a different look to the old joint. New white floor tiles blanket the business while elaborately designed custom-wood panels hug its perimeter, complementing the store's eye-catching awning that bears the original store name. "Sometimes you buy the pizza because of the name," Deliaj said. Traditional pizzeria fixtures remain, including paper-plate signs, a yay-high nose guard that protects fresh-out-of-the-oven pizza pies, and an industrial oven, only rejuvenated.

In a way, the makeover was one of necessity. Deliaj admits a fix was needed. Not to mention a scrubdown.

Before renovations, vermin had become such a mainstay at the pizzeria that the previous owner would give away pizza should a tiny critter land on a slice, according to Deliaj. These days, the joint is spotless. The New York City Department of Health, which conducts health inspections, stopped by Nicky's in April and cleared them to open.

Deliaj, an amiable shopkeeper, took over the store in 2007 after the original owner, Vito Sacchetti, hung up his apron. Deliaj temporarily closed the place in 2014 to begin improvements. But he admits it was a slow go—carpenters needed to be replaced, and the winter, especially in 2015, was brutal enough to halt renovations.

"The other guy who I hired for this one was from New Jersey," Deliaj said. "He didn't come not full-time but some time."

Perhaps the soft re-opening was motivated by Deliaj's ongoing presence in Norwood. After all, just a few doors down rests his other pizza shop, Napoli's, a frequent spot for anyone coming or going.

At Nicky's, Deliaj notes "more and more people are coming" for traditional Italian fare that includes signature Eppy Rolls—dough that wraps a variety of meats and other ingredients—served until the "wee hours of the morning" as the menu suggests.

"More and more people are coming," Deliaj said. "Otherwise who likes to see a roach. You cannot eat a slice. You'll throw it in the garbage. And I'd do the same."



Photo by David Cruz

PETER DELIAJ (PICTURED), owner of Nicky's Pizza & Ristorante in Norwood, re-opened his upgraded pizza eatery back in May.

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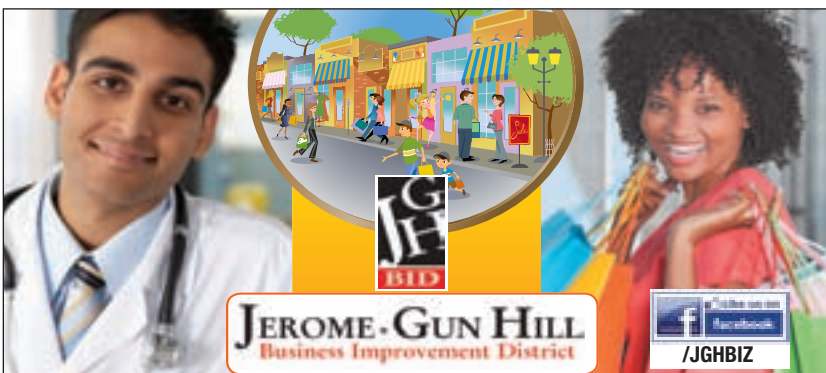
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SUMMER TRIPS

Kancella Travel & Tours, Sept. 17: Winery Tour and Wine Tasting in New Jersey. Enjoy an introduction to wine making and sample the finest at this location. Italian lunch included. 5-Hour Resorts Casino w/bonus price, \$89 pp; Oct. 2: Lobster Feast and seafood at Nordic Lodge Restaurant in Rhode Island – ALL YOU CAN EAT. 5 Hours at Mohegan Sun Casino w/bonus price, \$169 pp. Buses depart Queens, Brooklyn and the Bronx. Time 8 a.m.; Las Vegas, Nevada, Sept. 23: 5 days and 4 nights. Included: hotel, air transportation, tours, lunch buffet. 4 nights at Excalibur Hotel & Casino. Price \$889 pp. Call for reservation and purchase tickets. Kancella Tours – Justo Cancellata (347) 405-2017; Eddie Rosa Enterprise (718) 757-5485. Email kancellastours191@yahoo.com.



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Cops Seek Three in Deliveryman Robbery

The NYPD needs help in tracking three men who are linked to a nighttime robbery that happened Aug. 10 in front of 2860 Jerome Ave.

The victim, 48, was cycling away from the building he just made a delivery to when he was punched and robbed of his cell phone and \$300 by three male suspects, according to police at the 52nd Precinct.

The first suspect is described as a Hispanic male, around 25 years old, 6 feet tall, 170 lbs., and was dressed in all black. The second offender is described as a Hispanic male, around 18 years old, 5'9" tall, and was wearing a white T-shirt, black jeans and white sneakers. The third perpetrator was described as a Hispanic male, around 18 years old, 5'9" tall, and was wearing gray shorts, a black shirt with a white logo on the front, and black sneakers.

While the second and third suspects were captured in surveillance footage following the victim from his delivery spot just before the robbery occurred, the first suspect was not caught in the surveillance video.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1-800-577-8477. Tips can also be submitted through the Crime stoppers website at www.nypdcrimestoppers.com or by texting them to 274637 (CRIMES) then enter TIP577. All calls and tips are kept confidential.

—Daniela Beasley



Still images courtesy NYPD

TWO STILL SHOTS of two out of three suspects caught on surveillance video as they followed their robbery victim (not shown).

Remembering 9/11 Victims



Photo by David Greene

BRONXITES LAY FLOWERS at one of two markers honoring the 144 Bronx victims of Sept. 11, 2001.

By **DAVID GREENE**

More than 100 Bronxites from across the borough gathered together once again at 8:30 a.m. on Sept. 11 at the grounds of Jacobi Hospital to mark the 15th anniversary of the World Trade Center attacks.

The crowd, seated in front of a 9/11 memorial on hospital grounds, made up of community residents, some victims' families, members of the New York City Health + Hospitals Corporation and staffers of Jacobi and North Central Bronx hospitals.

Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj, representing Norwood, joined Assemblyman Mike Benedetto as the only local

elected officials in attendance.

"I dislike this day, because it forces us to reflect on something that goes against human nature," Benedetto told the crowd that surrounded two markers dedicated to the 144 victims who resided in the Bronx when they died at the towers.

"You don't reflect on the bad times," Benedetto said. "We don't like that, you cast that aside. You want to remember only good times. But today is a day that we should... and reflect upon the evil of that day."

Absent at the event was Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., who issued a statement that read in part, "We must

also remember the first responders of the New York Police Department, the Fire Department of New York, and others. They came without reservation, without hesitation, focused solely on those who needed rescue that day."

Diaz hosted his yearly 9/11 commemorative event near Borough Hall on Sept. 14.

The current figure puts the death toll in New York City at 2,793 people from 93 nations who are known to have perished on Sept. 11.

Deaths attributed to the 9/11 attacks consisting of victims who died later, mostly First Responders—now total 2,977.

Are you plagued by noise in your neighborhood?
The Norwood News is working on a story regarding noise in Norwood and its surrounding communities. If you would like to share your story, reach out to David Cruz, editor-in-chief, at dcruz@norwoodnews.org.

Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

EDITOR'S PICK

Fall Festival Fun

The public is invited to the Jerome-Gun Hill BID's 20th anniversary free celebration at its 15th Annual Fall Festival on Sept. 17 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine, on Jerome Avenue, between East Gun Hill Road and East Mosholu Parkway North. Events include live musical performances, children's activities, vendors and food, and a variety of BID merchants. For more information, call (718) 324-4946.

Onstage

Lehman College's Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., W., presents **Eddie Palmieri & Friends** performing salsa, and **Del Caribe Latin Jazz All Stars**, on Sept. 17 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50, \$55 and \$60. For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents **Sonido Costeño Trio in Concert**, featuring Latin music, Sept. 17; and **A Musical Tribute to Sam Cooke** performed by the **NYC Jazz/Pop Vocalist and The Ladies of Soul**, Sept. 24; both at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, 895 Shore Rd., Pelham Bay Park, presents **Summer Sunset Classical Concert** from 7 to 8 p.m. Sept. 15: Violinist and harpsichordist perform sonatas. Tickets are \$20/concert. For more information or to RSVP, call (718) 885-1461.

Events

The New York Botanical Garden presents **From the Heartland to Horror**, featuring larger than life sculptures of scarecrows crafted from natural materials; and **Pumpkins: Playful & Plentiful**, featuring rare and unusual pumpkins and gourds in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden, plus daily hands-on activities featuring a puppet playhouse, and on weekends, interactive demonstrations featuring bats and other creepy creatures; all from Sept. 17 to Oct. 30. Also offered is **Blues, Brews, and Botany**, Sept. 17 and 18 from noon to 5 p.m., to discover the connections between beer and botany with music, tastings, and talks by Garden scientists; and **Edible Academy Family Garden Picnic**, Sept. 25 from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., which includes live workshops with special chef guest, and enjoy a picnic in the Ruth Rea Howell Family Garden and hands-on organic gardening activities (special ticket required for each event). For more information, call (718) 817-



File Photo

THE 15TH ANNUAL Fall Festival features plenty of musical headliners like this one from last year. Games, giveaways and street merchants await you at the festival happening within the Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District (see Editor's Pick for more information).



File Photo

TODDLER STORYTIME, CHESS Club, and Backyard Exploration are some scheduled events to take advantage of at the Mosholu Library (pictured)

8700.

Library Events

Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Art Projects**: Ecological Landscapes, to sculpt with clay, rocks, sticks and other upcycled materials, Sept. 17 and 18; and Roald Dahl's James and the Giant Peach Handmade Pop-Up Books, to make pop-up books about nature with a variety of insects, Sept. 24 and 25; both in WH House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also scheduled: **Nature Program: Giant Insect Encounter**, to meet real-life live bugs and a display of preserved giant insects from around the world, on the grounds, Sept. 24 and 25 from 1 to 3 p.m. Grounds admission is free until noon Saturdays and Tuesdays all year. For more information and a schedule of events including tours and walks, call (718) 549-3200.

Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center will hold its **Third Annual Open House Street Festival** on Sept. 17 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 3415 Olinville Ave. Guests can tour Mind-Builders' renovated facility, view its African Arts Collection, sample free classes, and learn about registration and scholarships opportunities.

Bedford Park Congregational Church, corner of Bainbridge Avenue and 201st Street, presents events to help celebrate 127 years of service to the Bedford Park community: **organ concert** at 3 p.m. and **catered dinner** at 5 p.m., both on Sept. 18 (\$35/ticket); and **Anniversary Service** on Sept. 25 at 11 a.m. For more information, call Reverend Dr. Christopher Ponnuraj at (718) 367-8996.

The Children's Hospital at Montefiore, 3415 Bainbridge Ave., presents its annual **Back-to-School Resource Fair**, Sept. 21 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Included are education and recreation resources for families and service providers of children with disabilities, adult learning, after school, Dial-a-Teacher, homework help, and more. For more information, call (718) 741-2426.

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents the following: **Chess for Adults**: chess set provided, Sept. 16 at 3 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

The Mosholu Library, 285 E. 205th St., offers for kids: **Toddler Storytime at 10:30 a.m.**: (ages 18 to 36 months), stories, songs and finger plays, Sept. 15, 22 and 29; **Family Storytime at 4 p.m.**: (ages 3 to 12), stories and crafts, Sept. 15, 19, 22, 26 and 29; **Chess Club**: (ages 5 to 12), learn to play, Sept. 16 at 3:30 p.m.; **Backyard Exploration at 4 p.m.**: (ages 5 to 12), to hang out in the backyard, help with the garden, play, write with chalk, read, etc., Sept. 20 and 27; and **Mo Willems Party**: (ages 3 to 12), to celebrate this children's author with games, crafts and stories, Sept. 21 at 4 p.m. Teens/young adults can enjoy: **film**: "Gods of Egypt," Sept. 24 at 1:30 p.m. Adults can attend: **Device Advice at 10:30 a.m.**: One-on-one help with phone/tablet, text messages and download apps (call in advance for appointment), Sept. 21 and 28; **Free Computer Classes**: to learn email and basic computer information, Wednesdays, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.; and **Knitting Circle**: Thursdays at 3 p.m. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

The Jerome Park Library, 118 Eames Place (near Kingsbridge Road), offers for children: **Preschool Storytime and Craft at 11:15 a.m.**: (ages 3 to 5), stories, songs, and craft, Sept. 15, 22 and 29; **Kids Get Active Fridays at 3 p.m.**: (ages 5 to 12), dance moves on the Wii game console, Sept. 16 and 23; and **Kids Pajama Party**: (ages 3 to 12), read-alouds and craft, Sept. 19 at 6 p.m. Teens/young adults can enjoy: **film**: Sept. 19 at 5 p.m. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

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

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

Job Expo

The 6th annual Job Expo takes place on Sept. 21 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the Concourse level of The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (718) 579-4260.

Food and Clothing Drive

A food and clothing drive to benefit the fire victims of 267 E. 202nd St. runs through November. Donations can be brought to FDNY Ladder Co. 79, 2928 Briggs Ave. Specific items needed include women's and men's size medium, boys 3T or 4T, and clothing for girls size 14 to 16. For more information regarding donations, call Councilman Andrew Cohen's office at (718) 549-7300.

Register to Vote

Students attending any college or university under the City University of New York network can register to vote for November's general election by logging

on to their CUNYfirst account and clicking "NYS Voter Registration Form" box. Registration deadline is Oct. 14.

Photographic Society

Meeting Dates

The New York Botanical/Zoological Photographic Society meets twice a month from September through June, once in April and June, on Saturday mornings at 9:45 a.m. in room 327/329 at the Fordham Preparatory School, 441 E. Fordham Rd., on the Fordham University Campus. The next meeting date is Sept. 17. For more information and a detailed schedule, visit www.nybzsps.org.

Bird Watching at VC Park

Van Cortlandt Park features free bird walks Saturdays from 8 to 9:30 a.m. through November. Meet at the Nature Center, 246th Street and Broadway. For more information, contact Joseph McManus at McManus638@aol.com.

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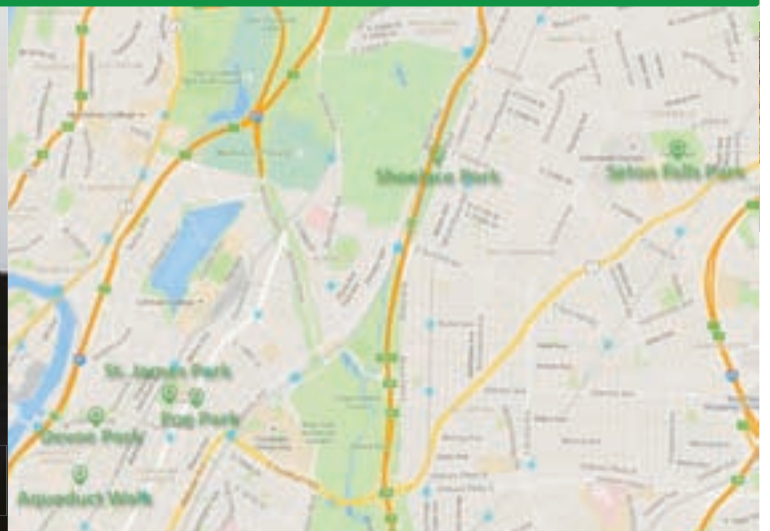
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Kathryn Davis (10:30-11:30 AM), Chef Wilson (11:30 AM-12:00 PM), N'Namdi Nelson (12:00 - 1:00 PM)

Wednesday, September 21

POE PARK

Grand Concourse, between E 192nd St and E. Kingsbridge Rd (Meet outside visitor center)

Chef Wilson (6:00-6:30 PM), N'Namdi Nelson (6:30-7:30 PM)

Saturday, September 24

SETON FALLS PARK

Between Seton Avenue and Baychester Avenue (Meet at corner of Seton Avenue and E 233rd St)

Kathryn Davis (10:30-11:30 AM), Chef Wilson (11:30 AM-12:00 PM), N'Namdi Nelson (12:00-1:00 PM)

Children under 18 must have a consent form or be accompanied by parents.

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