



NORWOOD NEWS

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INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER:
MUSINGS ON ELECTION DAY | PG. 4



**NORWOOD PART OF
BRONX'S HOTEL BOOM | PG. 6**

CB7 SPARES DM...FOR NOW

Probationary period extended to February 2017



Photo by Daniela Beasley

ANDREW SANDLER (RIGHT), District Manager for Community Board 7, at the latest general board meeting.

By DANIELA BEASLEY

It was the kind of crucible Andrew Sandler thought he passed, only by the end of the night he realized he had more to go.

Eight months after Sandler, Community Board 7's District Manager, was hired, members voted on Oct. 18 to extend his probationary period into February 2017, continuing the fractious relations members have

had with the rotation of its district managers in the last four years.

Prior to the vote at the community board meeting, several people defended Sandler, criticizing the board's experience with Sandler's predecessors. Since 2013, CB7, which covers Norwood, Bedford Park, Kingsbridge Heights, Fordham, and University Heights has seen three DMs leave their posts, an

unusual turnover rate when compared to other boards.

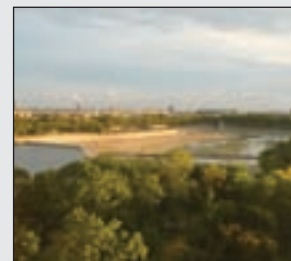
"I don't think he should have a probation period. I think he's an excellent worker and we should leave him alone," said Elizabeth Thompson, representing Kingsbridge Heights Neighborhood Improvement, a community group, garnering applause from people in agreement.

"As I have seen this board

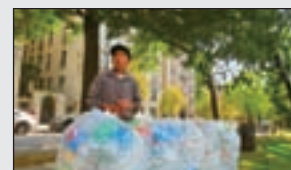
now with four district managers," said Robert Press, a Bronx resident and blogger of Bronx news, "I think this board will be making a big mistake if they don't give him a permanent [position]."

Alina Dowe, a mother and Bronx resident, listed Sandler alongside CB7 chair Adeline Walker-Santiago and board member Robyn Saunders as she

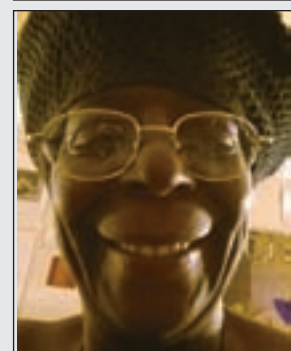
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EDITORIAL

How do you perceive the mentally ill?

Is there sympathy? Frustration? Perhaps both? For those who barely deal with the mentally ill, frustration supersedes all emotions. That frustration lies when a sufferer's emotions or actions defy logic and social conventions. It's particularly misunderstood by those who barely interact with the mentally ill altogether, never taught that conditions like obsessive compulsive disorder, schizophrenia, depression and bipolar disease, are the result of an involuntary chemical imbalance that renders the sufferer helpless. It's a disease where its symptoms are not so apparent, and where the fight for normalcy happens in the cerebral arena.

For the NYPD, confronting the mentally ill is part of the job, a near everyday occurrence to officers who don the uniform. They avert crises, and in many cases have spared the lives of sufferers and the heartache of thousands of families.

It's because of that training that the shooting of Deborah Danner, a 66-year-old Bronx resident living in Castle Hill, has struck the minds of so many. Danner, who was unarmed, was shot twice in the chest by Sgt. Hugh Barry, one of the officers responding to a 911 call.

It's a case that bore similarities to the 1984 fatal shooting of another Bronx resident, Eleanor Bumpurs, by an NYPD officer. In both cases, the victims were senior citizens who suffered from mental illness. In both cases, the victims were handling weapons (Bumpurs a pair of scissors, Danner a pair of scissors and later a bat) the NYPD officers felt endangered their lives.

But driving a wedge between the cases is the new training NYPD officers receive when encountering the mentally ill, training Sgt. Barry, an eight-year veteran, hadn't received.



DEBORAH DANNER

Encountering the mentally ill is not always easy, though the NYPD has protocols in place to assuage the mentally ill, protocols that were apparently ignored in the Danner case. That lapse in judgment unfairly cost Danner her life. She was well aware of her lifelong battle against a disease so unmanageable, it caused her to wonder whether anyone can really handle it.

"Even the smartest people/persons in the world could not function in the realm of normalcy with that monkey on their backs," she wrote in 2012 in an essay entitled "Living With Schizophrenia."

The incident also cast a dark shadow on Sgt. Barry, who erred after opting for his police-issued gun over the Taser he was also carrying, a decision that underscores the permissible gun culture pervading the Police De-

partment.

NYPD Commissioner James O'Neill said it best when he told reporters less than 24 hours after the shooting that the NYPD failed Danner. His comments could cost him politically, though they encapsulate the feeling the general public thinks of the incident. After reflection should come action. And in that action the NYPD should consider real reform that's not knee-jerk. This includes the immediate re-training of officers encountering the mentally ill and a psychologist brought to the scene of an incident involving a mentally ill person. With psychiatric centers closing across the state, it's more and more likely the NYPD will face sufferers who lash out.

The only person who will truly know why Danner was killed is Sgt. Barry. Did he think his life was in danger? Was he only attempting to subdue her? Or did he just not know how to deal with the mentally ill?

Sgt. Barry's history is checkered. He's been sued twice for police brutality; once for pepper spraying a Manhattan resident standing at his stoop and another after he was caught on video violently pummeling a Manhattan man told to clear the street during crowd control. The first incident was settled out of court, while the other was dismissed. Either way, it proves embarrassing that the NYPD has allowed this officer to have continued to represent the department in the streets.

He should have been tasked to desk duty. Instead, he responded to a 911 call at Jamie Towers Housing where he encountered Danner. In the essay she wrote six years before she was shot, Danner wondered how the illness would ultimately shape her life.

"What if my medication fails me? I ask myself. Will I know if it does? Will the illness overpower its effectiveness? When? Where?" she asked.

Public and Community Meetings

COMMUNITY BOARD 7 committee meetings are held on the following dates at the board office, 229 E. 204th St., at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted: Executive Committee meets on Nov. 1; Public Safety & Quality of Life Committee meets on Nov. 3; Education & Youth Committee meets on Nov. 3 at 7:30 p.m.; Senior Services Committee meets on Nov. 9; Parks & Recreation Committee meets on Nov. 9 at 7:15 p.m.; Traffic & Transportation Committee meets on Nov. 10; and the Veterans Committee meets on Nov. 10 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 933-5650.

BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION meets Wednesday, Nov. 2, at 8 p.m. at 400 E. Mosholu Parkway South (Apt. B1). For more information, email the group at bedfordmosholu@verizon.net.

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INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



Ahead of the Nov. 8 General Election, we asked readers their thoughts on the recent debate and the 2016 Presidential election.



I don't like Donald Trump, and I'm confused because I don't know who's doing right. They're confusing me; it seems like they're both dishonest. I've never seen an election like this, it's crazy. I'm concerned about talk of more war and talk of implanting a chip in people that can be scanned; I don't agree with that. Maybe I'll vote for Hillary, I don't know. I would only vote for her because I don't like him. Trying to send people back to their countries is not right.

Mariana Archilla
West Farms



I saw the last debate. I thought Hillary won, but I think Donald Trump should have won because he is concerned about the economy. Hillary, like Trump said, had all those years to do something. A lot of people say he's racist, but in my opinion that doesn't matter to me. I just want our economy to improve, so I would like to vote Trump. They acted very nasty to each other and one was no better than the other. They both had words for each other and it was insane.

Tracy Whitmore
Norwood



I didn't catch all of the debate because I was flying, but I saw the other two and they were so-so. I wanted to see the third one, but really didn't get the chance. Never in my life have I seen a race like this. I'm from down south where they get hot, but this is worse than anything I've ever seen, even when I was a kid in the 50s. This was worse. If you look at some of the clips and if you look at when George Wallace was running for president, look at the words of Donald Trump and their words are identical. It's scary and you don't want that.

Fredrick Thomas
Kingsbridge



I caught enough of the debate. My feeling is it seems to be more like kids in a playground than politicians trying to let people know what they would do to help the people; it's way out of line. It's a mudslinging thing. I don't want to say "Donald Chump," but he's not political, he's a business man. Hillary Clinton is a politician, she might not be the most straightforward politician, [but] I would trust her dealing with other world leaders before I would trust Donald Trump. We need more than just two people and I think they should have let the independent candidates in the debate.

Mark Butts
Bedford Park



I don't like either candidate, but I trust Hillary Clinton more than I trust Donald Trump. I'm glad that Donald Trump is honest because I can imagine him holding all his feelings back and then becoming president and then we see who the real Donald Trump is. So I'm glad he's been very honest that now we know. A President Donald Trump scares me to tell you the truth. Words that he says, you wouldn't think a person running for the office of president would actually say.

James Jones
Bedford Park

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Reservoir Park Access Set for Nov. 19

The city is once again reopening Jerome Park Reservoir for one November weekend, throwing a bone to residents who've longed for permanent access to the closed-off site.

"No restrictions," said Adaline Walker-Santiago, Community Board 7 chair and member of the Filtration Monitoring Committee (FMC), the group that campaigned for access. "All residents will be able to go inside the gates of the reservoir. We'll walk around the reservoir."

The city Department of Environmental Protection has kept the public off the reservoir grounds, citing safety concerns to the millions of gallons of drinkable water to the city.

This is the second year the DEP allowed public access to the reservoir, with FMC members declaring it a success despite the presence of police officers carrying heavy military-grade weapons.

Access will take place Nov. 19 and 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Reservoir. Entry will be at the intersection of 205th Street and Goulden Avenue, across from the Bronx High School of Science.

--David Cruz

At 7 Years Old, Norwood Twins Bolster Benefits of Water

By DANIELA BEASLEY

Two local kids with a passion for leading a healthy lifestyle and a desire to educate others on the importance of nourishing one's body the right way made a splash in Norwood with the advent of a new brand of water.

Princeton and Brazil Dowe, a pair of seven-year-old twins, have set out to make kids more aware of what they're putting into their bodies with the launch of Water2Kids, a label that specifically targets children who may be unaware of the health benefits of water.

The product was conceived after the Dowe family watched a health news segment on a local news station. "Mommy, the girl, she's not drinking a lot of water," Brazil recalled seeing.

Princeton saw the need to market water for kids because "a lot of kids in school drink soda or juice," drinks that have little positive effect on a child's body.

The Dowe twins are determined to help their peers avoid

making bad choices when it comes to diet and exercise to prevent facing future health complications. Since the brand's launch, Brazil and Princeton have campaigned for promoting a healthier lifestyle to the borough's young people.

When asked about the other ways to stay healthy besides drinking water, Brazil's answer was by eating vegetables and Princeton stressed the need for daily exercise.

Although the Dowe's brand of water specifically targets kids, the benefits of drinking water apply for everyone and can have a huge impact on the overall health of one's body and mind.

Some of the benefits of drinking water are:

- Increase in energy
- Removal of toxins
- Accelerated metabolism
- Improved skin complexion
- Maintained regularity
- Better immune system

The water has already hit grocery stores and bodegas in the borough.



Photo by Daniela Beasley

7-YEAR-OLD TWINS PRINCETON and Brazil Dowe show off their specially-labeled water bottles at Green Earth Food & Deli on East 205th Street.

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Hotel in Norwood Continues Burgeoning Trade in the Bronx

By DAVID CRUZ

In the span of six months, Norwood has seen an uptick in construction along Webster Avenue, a corridor that for years was primed for steady economic growth unseen in the neighborhood.

New affordable housing residences complemented by a storefront pepper tiny pockets of the stretch, heavily rezoned to welcome such properties and the working to middle class families developers hope to attract. And while cafés, restaurants, and a bookstore, priority businesses, are still in waiting, other considerations have been met.

Among them is a hotel, the second along the corridor. Just what kind of hotel remains to be seen.

News of the hotel, first reported by YIMBY, continues the rise of hotels across a borough, which up until recently, remained largely scarce of them. That climb, with some 200 hotels in the works across the city, coincides with the existence of more Airbnb rental apartments in the Bronx.

But even as the hotel trade in the Bronx, driven by a reduced crime rate and increased population, advances thanks to a New Jersey-based developer's purchase of four properties for hotels this year, the movement was initially sparked three years back when the Bronx Opera House Hotel opened at a commercial district in the Mott Haven section of the Bronx.

"The Bronx Opera House really paved the way for boutique hotels to be successful and to show that that type of product could be successful in the Bronx," Scot Hirschfield, vice president of Ariel Properties, a New York City-based commercial real estate sales firm, told the *Norwood News*. "People have events in the Bronx, weddings, other events, and there's never really been decent places for these people to stay."

The hotel frontier is taking hold of the East Bronx, where the immense popularity of the Bronx's first major hotel, a Marriott Residence Inn at the mammoth Hutchinson Metro Center campus, inspired developers to construct a second Marriott Residence Inn, meeting a demand that's still in short supply.

"We do need hotels in the Bronx," Kathy Zamechansky, a real estate broker and Bronx insider, said. "We're trying to build a hotel trade."

Data from the New York City De-



Photo by David Cruz

THIS VACANT LOT (partially seen behind the fence, pictured) at 3466 Webster Ave., is slated to become the site of a hotel.

partment of Buildings shows the Bronx lagging in the number of hotels. Within the last decade, 15 hotels have opened in the Bronx. Brooklyn leads with 38 hotels, followed by Manhattan with 25, Queens with 18, and Staten Island with six.

Building the hotel trade is a goal bolstered by the New York City Planning Department. In a report the agency released in 2014, it concluded that a hotel in Fordham, roughly a mile from Norwood, could benefit the area. That position supports a separate, long-term goal of the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG), settled in Bedford Park on the outskirts of Fordham, to build its own hotel just a block from its floral institution. The NYBG plan, notwithstanding the new hotel in Norwood, is still in the works and would not "have any adverse impact on our plans," Aaron Bouska, NYBG's vice president for government and community relations, told the *Norwood News*.

Howard Johnson Hotel?

The new hotel will be built at 3466 Webster Ave., a weed-filled 15,929-square-foot lot just near East Gun Hill Road. Six floors will be built—five floors that'll hold seven to 10 rooms each, and a community facility on the sixth floor.

Its location is advantageous given powerhouse institutions such as Montefiore Health System, The Bronx Zoo, NYBG, and Fordham University just

minutes away. Out-of-towners usually do business or pay a visit to the institutions, often forced to drive outside the Bronx for hotel accommodations.

Records list Nehalkumar Gandhi as owner of the impending hotel, purchasing the property for \$950,000 in April, working out to be \$59 per square foot. If his current businesses are any indicator of future projects, Gandhi may very well set up a Howard Johnson, a national chain of affordably priced hotel rooms. A review of records show his new property's limited liability corporation, dubbed 3466 Webster LLC, has the same address as a Howard Johnson in North Bergen, NJ just off Route 1. His Webster Avenue hotel will be the second along the corridor, not too far from the Rodeway Inn, part of the Choice Hotel chain that's seen a steady stream of guests.

Mr. Gandhi's name is linked to three other hotel projects in the Longwood, Soundview and Belmont sections of the Bronx. The Belmont location at 150 E. 185th St. is expected to be the largest of his hotels, with 88 units planned. Mr. Gandhi did not respond to requests for comment.

But the hotel business has also proven to work as emergency housing for the homeless, with the New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS) commonly utilizing hotels for alternative shelters, complying with a federal ruling that mandates housing for all New Yorkers. With DHS paying

hotel owners top dollar for rooms, with monthly payments going as high as \$3,000 per room, realtors ingrained in the Bronx, and residents living there, are wary that hotels are fronts.

"The trepidation on the part of the community is based on the fact that people don't do the right thing," Zamechansky said, referring to hoteliers.

Zamechansky cited the Capri Whitestone Motel in the Throggs Neck section, a "hot sheet" inn that was converted into a shelter in 2014, surprising residents. She compared the shelter conversion to a kind of "warehousing" for the homeless given the paltry services available in that neighborhood.

In Riverdale, a pop-up shelter at the independently owned Van Cortlandt Motel over the summer was met with scorn by the local community. Independent hotel chains have a greater chance of being converted into a shelter since it's the national hotel chains that usually adhere to a standard where its "flag" or brand would avoid any link to a shelter, according to Zamechansky.

The likelihood of the Webster Avenue hotel being converted into a shelter seems remote, said Hirschfield. The news of hotels in the Bronx could also become less important given its constant trend. "It was a big news, but now, they're starting to be more prevalent," Hirschfield said. "With each one that pops up, it's less of a news story."

"Can"-Do Attitude

Norwood man works to keep Mosholu Parkway clean, one can at a time

By DAVID CRUZ

At 5 a.m. each morning, Alfonso Barbedio Puma of Norwood is out to clean some Bronx streets. To do his part.

He doesn't employ the usual broom-and-dustpan method, but uses his hands instead. Every day for the last three years, Puma picks up bottles and cans, or "latas," an off-the-books living that he and others from Latin America have taken on throughout the borough. It's the only job available, said Puma, not because of his status—Puma entered the U.S. from his native Ecuador legally—but his age.

At 76, Puma feels the effects of ageism with no one looking to hire him. Back in Ecuador, getting a job was easy, he said. In Ecuador, Puma was a construction boss, building homes. In America, he's all but given up on finding a job.

On Oct. 17, Puma, a quiet, unassuming man, wearing sandals and a New York Yankees cap, looks upon his work as a mutual benefit to a neighborhood where trash concerns are always an issue. He's doing his part alright; collecting trash that functions as his treasure.

Among his many stops in Norwood is Mosholu Parkway. There,

hauling a cart, Puma hits the leafy dale, scrounging for cans or bottles left behind by irresponsible litterers. His weather-beaten hands, rough and sticky, with clear plastic bags (recommended for recycling), Puma fills the bags to capacity, tying them carefully. He's not hoarding them, but amassing a haul for another collector.

On that balmy mid-October day, Puma carefully placed a total of eight huge bags full of cans and soda bottles, carefully divided, at the valley of one of the parkway's many hills. Soon, Puma grabbed those bags, two at a time, and hiked up to the corner of Mosholu Parkway North and Van Cortlandt Avenue. It was just after 1 p.m., and his Manhattan connection would arrive any minute. That contact, a representative with a waste management company, "buys" the empty plastic bottles at a bulk rate, alleviating Puma from shuffling to a local supermarket to redeem the goods.

After eight hours, Puma walks away with somewhere between \$50 to \$80. "We all have to do our part," he said, his thick accent making it tough to decipher what he's saying.

Once the contact is off with packed bundles of cans and plastics, Puma does it again, hoping the next day's collection would make sense.

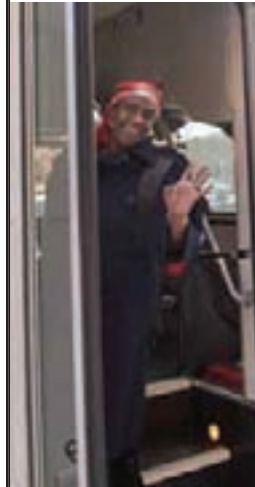


Photo by David Cruz

ALFONSO BARBEDIO PUMA stands behind his haul of can and bottle items he picked up in Norwood and its nearby neighborhoods.

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NORWOOD NEWS

S N A P S H O T S



Photo courtesy Bedford Mosholu Community Association

CADETS FROM THE Legionnaire Greys clean up trash, plant bulbs and paint pillars along Mosholu Parkway South for the It's My Park Day on Oct. 22, hosted by the Bedford Mosholu Community Association. They also received assists from the 52nd Precinct Explorers and volunteers.



Photo courtesy Office of Councilman Andrew Cohen

WAKEFIELD ADVOCATES AND Bronx Community Board 12 staff join Councilman Andrew Cohen (3rd from right) to launch the "District 11 Community Activist of the Month" Award. The first award was bestowed by Cohen upon Audrey McAllister (3rd from left) for her successful efforts to improve the Wakefield playground, the only public recreational space in the community.



Photo courtesy Montefiore Health System

VOLUNTEERS AND EMPLOYEES with Montefiore Health System (foreground) pause for a moment before the start of the annual Tour de Bronx, where thousands of cyclists rode through the Bronx on Oct. 23. Volunteers met at Harris Field, the starting point where cyclists get ready to put the pedal to the metal. Montefiore Health System was a major sponsor of the event.



Photo courtesy Office of the Bronx Borough President

BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT Ruben Diaz Jr. (l) meets with newly appointed Israeli Ambassador Dani Dayan to exchange views on how their offices have worked successfully in the past and how they can continue to do so moving forward.



Photo by Adi Talwar.

SUE ZEIGLER (R), a 16-year Norwood resident, talks to Erne Robles (l), a Norwood resident for over 35 years, at the Annual Church Fun Fair. Seated in the background is volunteer June Sweeney. Both long time and new residents showed up at the fair.

MMCC Executive Director, Retiring in 2017, Honored With Camp Renaming

By JALEESA BAULKMAN

Stories telling of the exponential growth of the Mosholu Montefiore Community Center (MMCC) under the leadership of Donald Bluestone will no longer be the only way to remember the executive director after he retires in 2017.

On Oct. 20, board members unveiled the renaming of a central point of one of MMCC's campgrounds in upstate after Bluestone, sealing Bluestone's enduring legacy that saw the neighborhood center impact the lives of thousands of young Bronx residents.

"We decided that the best way to honor Donald was the camp," longtime MMCC board member Natly Esnard said at a dinner honoring Bluestone. The camp, found at Harriman State Park in Slootsburg, NY, features a Central Square, a meeting ground for campers who begin and end their day there. "Every morning, the campers gather in Center Square, they have their programs and then they go on to do their thing at camp, so we decided to name it Bluestone Square."

In addition to making camp a staple of MMCC, offering adventures, arts and crafts, and sports, Bluestone also



Photo courtesy MMCC

(L-R) **BRUCE SCHLECTER**, Mosholu Montefiore Community Center treasurer; and Natly Esnard, co-chair of MMCC's Board of Directors, pose with Donald Bluestone, the Center's longtime executive director, at a ceremony honoring him on Oct. 20.

helped MMCC grow from a \$1.5 million not-for-profit to a \$26 million operation with a large foothold in the Bronx.

"Twenty-seven years ago I came to MMCC," Bluestone recounted. "I presented my ideas to the board hiring me, telling them all the programs

that I would start and everything that was wrong with MMCC. In spite of this they hired me."

MMCC, which was launched in 1942 by a group of women to serve Norwood, went from serving 3,500 people a year to serving more than 35,000 people an-

nually under Bluestone's tenure, making it one of the largest youth-centric groups in the Bronx.

Bluestone has undoubtedly expanded the center's reach and vision and he's achieved this by introducing more services and programs that include crisis intervention to summer camp, and even a Head Start program.

"I mean, the man is a genius when it comes to programming and bringing programs into the community," Bob Altman, who served as the assistant executive director of MMCC for almost 20 years, said. "I've known Don for over 35 years. He's a dynamic person. He really cares about the kids and the community."

MMCC CEO Rita Santelia, who's been with the center for roughly 25 years, will take over the reins as executive director after Bluestone retires in 2017. Santelia plans on maintaining Bluestone's vision and expand the center in the area of the arts and entitlement.

"We're looking for programs that complement what we're currently doing," Santelia explained. "Even though he's only 5' 3", he has big shoes to fill."

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October 11, 2016 – December 9, 2016

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Computer Coding 6:30-8:30PM	Minilodge (Acting Class) 6:30-8:30PM	Young Voices (Singing) 6:30-8:30PM	Teen Talks (Open Discussions) 7:00-8:00 PM
New Member Orientation 7:00PM	Studio Life: Lyricism 101 6:30-8:30PM	Film and Video Production 6:30-8:00PM	BASKETBALL 7:00-8:00PM Girls' Basketball
Drama 6:30-8:30PM	Young Voices 6:30-8:30PM	Teen Council 7:00-8:00PM	8:00-10:00PM Boys' Basketball
Cartoon Art 6:30-7:30PM	College Bound 6:30-8:30PM	Math Regents Prep 6:30-8:30PM	Studio Life: Recoding and Production 7:00-9:00

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15 YEARS OLD & UNDER				
6:30-7:45	Fitness Boot Camp	SKILLS & DRILLS	SKILLS & DRILLS	Girls' Basketball 7:00-8:00PM
7:45-9:00	GAME DAY	Study to Be Great	Boys' Night	
16 YEARS OLD & OVER				
6:30-7:45	Fitness Boot Camp	Study to Be Great	Boys' Nite	Open Gym 8:00-10:00
7:45-9:00	SKILLS & DRILLS	GAME DAY	SKILLS & DRILLS	

DHS Launches Probe Into Death of Baby in Hotel Shelter

By DAVID CRUZ

The head of the city's homeless services agency has launched a full investigation into the death of a newborn baby inside a pop-up shelter in the Riverdale section of the Bronx. Steven Banks, commissioner for the New York City Social Services Department, appearing at a forum with the CUNY Journalism School's Center for Community and Ethnic Media, said the probe into the four-month-old's death, is under way. The baby's death is unclear. Banks told a room full of reporters that "we should await an outcome from the Medical Examiner's report."

The body of Duane Pollard Jr. was found unconscious at the Van Cortlandt Motel, a notorious motel on Broadway near 256th Street in Riverdale. The boy was rushed to Montefiore Medical Center where he died.

The news adds another layer of trouble for the motel, pegged as a sleazy inn where rooms are rented by the hour. Homeless men were quietly moved into the motel rooms earlier this year. Residents caught wind of the news and



Photo by David Cruz

NYC SOCIAL SERVICES Commissioner Steven Banks (wearing glasses) speaks at a forum sponsored by the Center for Community and Ethnic Media.

demanding they be removed. The New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS), which Banks oversees, replaced them with homeless families. Banks noted that "during the summer we see a seasonal increase in family homelessness," which warranted the continued practice of housing the homeless at the motel, complying with a city standard in effect for the last 40

years. Banks admitted the motel stays are a "short run."

But Banks has no regrets putting homeless in hotels or motels, complying with a federal order that mandates the city house the homeless in any which way.

Community Board 8, representing the neighborhood the shelter falls in, passed a resolution demanding Banks

resign and that the city Buildings and Health departments review the motel's layout to determine whether it's suitable for a pop-up shelter.

"[The Van Cortlandt Motel] is no place for our most vulnerable New Yorkers to reside and among the last places where we would want children to be placed," Dan Padernacht, the Board's chair, said in a statement.

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Bronx DA to Investigate NYPD Shooting Death of Unarmed Senior

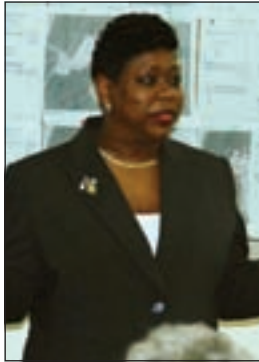
By DAVID CRUZ

The Bronx District Attorney's Office has launched an investigation into the fatal shooting of a mentally ill Castle Hill woman shot by an NYPD sergeant.

Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark announced her office's intent to launch the investigation after state Attorney General Eric Schneiderman determined the case does not fall into his jurisdiction. The shooting cast a dark shadow on the NYPD and its handling of those suffering from mental illness.

In a statement, Clark said her office will approach the investigation with an "open mind," and "any decisions that I make will be based upon the evidence."

The shooting happened just after 6 p.m. on Oct. 18 at 630 Pugsley Ave. in the Castle Hill section of the Bronx. Police were called to answer reports of what they term an emotionally disturbed person. Sgt. Hugh Barry, responding to the scene, saw senior Deborah Danner holding scissors. After ordering her to put them down, Danner then went for a bat. Jennifer Danner, the victim's sister and legal guardian,



BRONX DA DARCEL CLARK

stood outside a hallway when she heard a shot. Deborah Danner was rushed to Jacobi Medical Center where she died of her wounds. Sgt. Barry, meantime, was stripped of his gun and badge and placed on modified duty.

At a news conference a day after, a somber Mayor Bill de Blasio told reporters that the shooting "should never have happened," citing the incident could have been avoided altogether.

And the questions kept coming: Why was a gun used over a Taser, which the officer had? Why wasn't Emergency Services Unit, which handles the mentally ill, brought in?

"It's not for lack of training," de Blasio told reporters. "There were decisions made that should have been made differently."

De Blasio condemned

the actions of Sgt. Barry, telling reporters justice will be sought. He added that in situations involving the mentally ill, protocols were not followed. It prompted NYPD Commissioner James O'Neill to declare the police "failed" in following standard protocol. "That's not how it's supposed to go. It's not how we train," O'Neill told reporters shortly after a scheduled breakfast.

These days, the NYPD's Emergency Services Unit is required to respond to confrontations involving the emotionally disturbed. Danner was known to have suffered from schizophrenia. "[Had] the Emergency Services Unit had been given the opportunity to do what they are specially trained to do, I am very certain there would have been a different outcome," de Blasio said.

Elected officials have called for a thorough investigation. Assemblyman Luis Sepulveda, a legislator representing the Castle Hill section, said he "would question why the sergeant who was armed with a Taser was unable to use it, but we were not there. Again, I urge calm while the investigation proceeds."



Photo by David Cruz

MAYOR BILL DE BLASIO speaks to reporters about the shooting death of Deborah Danner.

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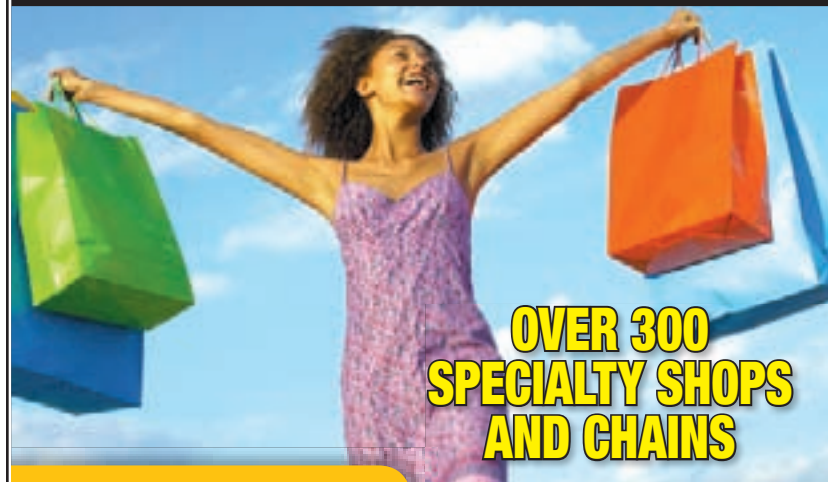
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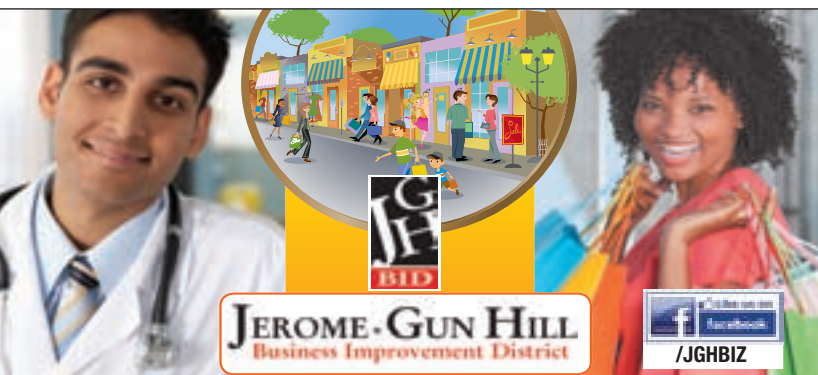
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TRIPS

Trip to **SUGAR HOUSE CASINO** in Philadelphia and **PREMIUM OUTLETS MALL**, Sunday, Nov. 20, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. from East 163rd Street and Hunts Point Avenue. For more information, please contact Eddie at (718) 757-5485.

HELP WANTED

The C.O.V.E. seeks a part-time maintenance worker. Must be 18 or over; \$15/hr for 3 hours bi-weekly. To schedule an interview, contact Ms. Prescott at (718) 405-1312 or (347) 449-3016.

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NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

Free Legal Services

The Office of Councilman Andy King is hosting a free civil legal services mobile van for Bronx residents in front of his district office, 940 E. Gun Hill Rd., on Nov. 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lawyers will be on hand to assist with family issues, immigration, and more. To set up a required appointment, call (718) 684-5509.

Grants for Nonprofits

Cleanup and improvement project grants valued at \$1000 are available to neighborhood groups who apply. Applications are due Nov. 7. To apply, visit www.citizensnyc.org/grants/love-your-block or call (212) 822-9563.

Gjonaj Mobile Van

The Office of Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj seeks suggestions on where the office's mobile constituent services van in Norwood should be placed. To suggest a location, call (718) 409-0109.

Tenant Assistance

The Office of Senator Gustavo Rivera

offers assistance on tenant-related issues every Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. by appointment at 2432 Grand Concourse. For more information or to make an appointment, call (718) 933-2034.

Free Turkey Raffle

The Office of Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj is holding a turkey raffle from Nov. 1 to 20. Applicants must live within the 80th Assembly District. To submit your name, address and phone number for the raffle, call (718) 409-0109.

Pumpkin Smash

Bring your used pumpkins, big or small, to Lehman College, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., W., for the annual "Pumpkin Smash" on Nov. 2 from 3:30 to 6 p.m. (rain or shine). The NYC Compost Project will turn them into compost. Event includes refreshments and raffles. For more information, visit nyc.gov/compostproject.

Housing Assistance Night

NYS Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie and Councilman Andy King are hosting a free "Homeowners & Renters

Service Night" at the Williamsbridge NAACP Early Childhood Education Center, 680 E. 219th St., Nov. 17, from 5 to 8 p.m., for landlords, tenants and homeowners who need assistance with housing issues. Attorneys will address all types of housing issues and programs for low-income seniors and the disabled. For more information, call (718) 684-5509.

Donate Used Coats

The Office of Councilman Andy King, 940 E. Gun Hill Rd., is accepting winter coats for the less fortunate, through Oct. 31. Donate new or gently used, clean coats weekdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call (718) 684-5509.

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 and men's size medium, boys 3T or 4T, and clothing for girls size 14-16. For more information regarding donations, call Councilman Andrew Co-

hen's office at (718) 549-7300.

College Financial Aid Help

A workshop for college bound students on understanding the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will take place Nov. 19, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Fordham University, Fordham Road and Third Avenue on the first floor of the Hughes Building. For more information, visit collegegoalNY.org.

C.O.V.E. Seeks Interns

Community Organized with a Vision of Excellence at 3418 Gates Pl. (basement) is seeking paid interns ages 14 to 18 to work at the after school program. For more information, call (718) 405-1312.

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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Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

EDITOR'S PICK

Halloween Happenings

The public is invited to an evening of Halloween fun on Oct. 31 for a party with music by DJ Krazy Rob, and featuring a costume contest and games with prizes at the plaza on Jerome Avenue and Mosholu Parkway North at 4 p.m.; and a trick-or-treat parade through the stores on Jerome Avenue and Gun Hill Road at 6 p.m. For more information, call (718) 324-4641. See additional listing of holiday 'happenings' under Halloween Events.

Onstage

Bronx Academy of Arts & Dance (BAAD), 2474 Westchester Ave., presents **An Evening of Dance**, featuring contemporary dance and folkloric moves, Nov. 5 at 8 p.m.; and **Trying to Sweep Back the Ocean With a Broom**, a dance concert about a mixed race woman and her white husband, Nov. 6 at 3 p.m. (each \$20). For more information, call (718) 918-2110.

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents **Murder and Madness and Poe**: Drama with poetry, music and readings, Oct. 29 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

Events

Bronx County Historical Society and the Bronx Council on the Arts present **From Poe's Porch, Poetry Macabre Edition**, Oct. 29 from noon to 3 p.m. Poets will read from Poe Cottage's porch from noon to 1:10 p.m. followed by workshops and panel discussions at Poe Park Visitor Center from

1:30 to 3 p.m. Cottage tours are available and both programs are free. For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

Montefiore Medical Center's Healing Arts & Caregiver Center offers **5 Rhythms for Caregivers**, dance/movement class offering some relief from caring for your loved one, that promotes physical and emotional well-being, releasing tension and stress, by free-form dancing, for all ages and physical abilities, Nov. 2, 5 to 7 p.m., in the Grand Hall of the Tishman Learning Center at Moses Campus, 111 E. 210th St. No dance experience or sense of rhythm necessary. For more information or to register, call (718) 920-8434 or 8080.

Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Art Projects**: Furry Bat Shadow-Puppet Cave, to learn about bats and make miniature paper shadow bat puppets, Oct. 29 and 30; and Papermaking in Autumn Color, to make colored paper using red, orange and yellow pulp, to fashion into a leafy shape, Nov. 5 and 6; all in the WH House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also scheduled are two concerts, both in the WH House at 2 p.m. (info: ext. 251):



File Photo

KIDS FROM LAST year's Miss Abbie's Halloween Health Extravaganza dance at one of the event's many activities (more information about this year's event found under "Halloween Events").



Photo courtesy New York Botanical Garden

SOME OF THE largest pumpkins in the world such as this one (pictured) are on display at the New York Botanical Garden through Oct. 30.

Sinfonietta of Riverdale, featuring classical music, Oct. 30 (\$45/\$35 WH members); and **Brasil Guitar Duo**, featuring a variety of music, Nov. 6 (\$28/\$22 WH members; ages 8 to 18: \$15/\$12). 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.

Halloween Events

Williamsbridge Oval: **Pumpkin Party** - Includes arts and crafts, carnival games, prizes, and photo op, for ages 12 and younger, 4 to 6 p.m.; and **Haunted House** - Featuring ghosts, zombies, and creatures, for ages 12 and older, 7 to 9 p.m., all on Oct. 31. For more information, call (718) 543-8672.

Decatur Avenue between Fordham Road and 193rd Street: **Halloween Extravaganza** - Featuring a Health/Wellness Fair & Block Event, Oct. 31, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., with free granola bars, apples and other snacks, free blood pressure screenings, and NYPD fire trucks open for visits by kids. For more information, text (347) 458-5040.

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd.: **D.I.Y. (Do It Yourself) Haunted Halloween** - Featuring creepy crawly crafts for teens/young adults, Oct. 27 at 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

The Mosholu Library, 285 E. 205th St.: **Mummy Games** - To play creepy games, Oct. 31 at 4 p.m., for ages 3 to 12. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

The Jerome Park Library, 118 Eames Place (near Kingsbridge Road): **Halloween Party** - Listen to some scary stories, get goodie bags and do ghoulish arts and crafts (preregistration required), for ages 5 to 12, Oct. 31 at 6 p.m. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

The New York Botanical Garden: **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 the weekend, interactive demonstrations featuring bats and other

creepy creatures; all through Oct. 30. Also offered is **Scarecrow Nights**, Oct. 28 and 29, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. (special ticket required); and **Giant Pumpkins on Display**, to view pumpkins as large as a ton in weight, through Oct. 30. For more information, call (718) 817-8700.

Bronx Academy of Arts & Dance (BAAD), 2474 Westchester Ave.: **Halloween Party & Open Stage** - Costumes, dancing, artful fun, snacks and candy, Oct. 29 at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited to participate at 8:30 p.m. (\$5 suggested donation). For more information, call (718) 918-2110.

Library Events

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents the following for children:

Hands-On Projects: (ages 7 to 12; preregistration required), Black Cat Making, Oct. 27 at 4 p.m.; and **Birds of Prey** (ages 5 to 12), to see hawks, owls, and falcons, Oct. 29 at 2 p.m. Teens/young adults can attend **film**: "The Ring," Oct. 28 at 5 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 adults: **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: **Kids Get Active Fridays**: (ages 5 to 12), dance moves on the Wii game console, Oct. 28 at 3 p.m. Adults can attend **Computer Basics**: Oct. 27 at noon. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

Public Service Announcements

Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 6. Turn clocks back one hour.

Presidential Election Day is on Tuesday, Nov. 8. NYC voting hours are 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Make your voice heard. Get out and vote.

NOTE: Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org, and should be received by Oct. 31 for the next publication date of Nov. 10.

CB7 Spares DM...For Now

(continued from page 1)

conveyed that "If we're [CB7] going to be looking for people to stick around, then these are my go to people."

The motion to extend Sandler's probation back in September was said to be the result of a staff decision Sandler made without the board's approval. However, to some, it implied possible animosity between Sandler and Walker-Santiago.

Charges of Retaliation

Sandler was caught in the crosshairs of CB7 after he allegedly allowed an office employee to use a city-owned computer to handle tasks from home while they took care of a personal matter. Sandler was also accused of allowing two office employees to take vacation simultaneously, thus having no employees in the office.

But sources told the *Norwood News* that the charges was retaliation against Sandler after he reported to the Borough President's Office that Walker-Santiago had used company stationery to persuade an employer into hiring a friend of hers, a violation of the city's Conflicts of Interest.

Andrew went to them [BP office] and said here's this thing you need to take care of this. Then they talked to her and then that was it, said a source familiar with the infighting, but asked not to be named. Now, Adaline is being retaliatory for Andrew speaking up on things that should have been spoken up on.

In a statement, a spokesman for Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. acknowledged the "issue was brought to our attention," though he didn't elaborate. "It was resolved, and we've moved on," said John DeSio, communications director for Diaz.

Walker-Santiago said it was nothing more than a mistake and the letter was switched over to her own stationery the same day, after being made aware that using the CB7 letterhead in this way was inappropriate.

"There was no retaliation to anyone," Walker-Santiago said of accusations of having an ulterior motive in prolonging Sandler's probation. "We're trying to help him with leadership coaching."

Sandler declined to comment for this story.

A Balancing Act

The district manager's position is described as a liaison between the community and city agencies, but, unlike board member or the chair, is a paid city em-

ployee. The City Charter of the City of New York states that district managers serve at the pleasure of the board, creating a system of checks and balances between those the all-volunteer board and DM. DMs do not receive any training.

It's not an easy job, explained Jeremy Warneke, a District Manager himself for Community Board 11, representing the east Bronx. There's a lot

of internal politics that people aren't aware of. Andrew probably didn't know what he was getting into either. Sandler replaced Dustin Engelken who resigned back in September of 2015, followed by talk of a testy relationship between him and Walker-Santiago. Sources have told the *Norwood News* his relationship with Walker-Santiago was the real reason he left his position, using the cover of his

wife's new job overseas as reason for his departure.

"Adaline has a track record already. She's going to go through two DMs. If Andrew is her third, I think that reflects poorly on the board," said George Torres, DM of Community Board 12.

The board will revisit the terms of Sandler's probation come February.

Additional reporting by David Cruz.



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