



NORWOOD NEWS

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**INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER:
CRIME TUMBLES, NYPD SAYS | PG. 4**



**ABANDONED HOME A
FAMILIAR SIGHT IN NORWOOD | PG. 3**

NORWOOD EYED FOR SHELTER

Developer at center of controversial homeless shelter in Riverdale



Photo by Adi Talwar

STUDENTS AND PARENTS of students from PS/MS 20 walk across the street from Sam's Floor Covering at 3041 Webster Avenue near Mosholu Parkway North, the site of a potential homeless shelter, sources told the Norwood News.

By DAVID CRUZ

A homeless shelter provider is eyeing a Norwood property that rests across from PS/MS 20 as his next shelter, sources told the *Norwood News*.

But the New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS), which offers multi-million dollar contracts to nonprofit shelter providers, hasn't drafted a contract, according to the agency.

News of the proposed site, currently Sam's Floor Covering at 3041 Webster Ave. near Mosholu Parkway North, caused widespread panic among stakeholders who have demanded that specialized housing be kept to a minimum along the Webster Avenue corridor.

The proposal conflicts with and appears to undermine long-term plans to transform Webster

Avenue into a bustling corridor complete with storefronts. The plan was inspired by the 2011 rezoning of 80 blocks of Webster Avenue between East Gun Hill and Fordham roads. Today, that plan has somewhat born fruit, with construction of new affordable housing with a mandated first floor storefront under way along the Norwood portion of Webster Avenue. A shelter on Norwood's

portion of Webster Avenue could weaken the neighborhood's position as an affordable housing destination, residents argue.

Supportive housing, which offers services to a specific population, has also sprouted in Norwood. Those sites are exempt from building any storefront, holding back the potential for a vibrant commercial strip while

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IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

New Affordable Housing Rules Attempt to Prevent Discrimination

By DAVID CRUZ

As Norwood continues its building boom of affordable housing, with more projects under way, securing a unit could improve for applicants placed on so-called “landlord blacklists” following changes in the City’s affordable housing lottery and screening processes.

With affordable housing often cut off to New Yorkers who may carry a poor credit score or had once sued their landlord, the new rules mandate landlords and developers disregard those considerations when renting a City-subsidized affordable housing apartment. The revised rules came after City officials solicited feedback over the fairness the housing lottery, a selection process that merely qualifies an applicant to formally apply for a unit and does not guarantee housing.

It seems to make sense to change these rules, according to John Reilly, executive director of Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation, which develops and manages affordable residences across the Bronx. Among the more pragmatic changes is placing less value on credit scores, which could be ruined just by paying a bill late, said Reilly.

“We’ve heard of people who couldn’t find enough tenants out of the lottery to fill the units, but they were turning people down because they had a cell phone bill that hadn’t been paid,” Reilly said. “You’re never going to find enough people then. I mean, you’re really trying to look for a record, not an incident.”

Mayor Bill de Blasio, carrying on with his long-term agenda of equitable housing, said the changes, published in its revised Marketing Handbook for affordable housing developers, encourage a more “level playing field.” The New York City Department of



Photo by Daniela Beasley

WORK GETS UNDER WAY at Norwood Gardens at the corner of Webster Avenue and East 20rd Street by The Stagg Group.

Housing Preservation & Development (HPD), carrying out de Blasio’s Housing New York affordable housing plan, will enforce the new rules found in the handbook. The housing initiative is expected to see 200,000 new or refurbished affordable apartments by 2024. Estimates released in July by the de Blasio administration shows the City has built or preserved some 52,936 units under the plan, with 3,500 units earmarked for those earning a \$24,000 salary or below.

Some changes include placing less emphasis on an applicant’s credit score, prioritizing victims of domestic violence forced into the shelter system, and increasing transparency should an applicant appeal their denial. Interviews will even come with interpretation services. Others included, in the words of the Mayor’s Office:

- Accounting for the special challenges residents of homeless shelters face in meeting eligibility criteria, including victims of domestic violence, to improve the chances that households will be placed in permanent housing.
- Clarifying how developers calculate

income of applicants receiving government benefits, for example those receiving GI Bill or Section 8 benefits, to ensure consistency and forestall discrimination.

- Tightening guidelines to ensure those who qualify for affordable housing will use their new home as their primary residence.
- Requiring that interview locations be accessible and clearly marked, and that interviewers provide interpretation services, including American Sign Language.
- Ensuring developers’ outreach and advertising efforts include diverse communities citywide.
- Revising interview standards to ensure more privacy and security of personal information.
- Prohibiting home visits, which are too subjective to be fair.

The City is already making prospective developers aware of the changes well in advance of securing financing from the Housing Development Corporation (HDC). Seven months before construction on an affordable building wraps up, each developer must submit an HPD/HDC-approved marketing plan that reflects the new rules.

So far, three affordable housing projects are under way—Norwood Gardens at the corner of Webster Avenue and East 203rd by private developer The Stagg Group; an affordable/supportive housing model at the corner of Webster Avenue and East 204th Street by nonprofit developer The Doe Fund; and the third by the Azimuth Development Corp at 3160 Webster Ave. Of the three, The Stagg Group would have to comply with the rules since its project is partially bankrolled by the City.

Recently, Dunn Development filed plans to build a 72-unit affordable housing building at 3211 Parkside Pl.

Public and Community Meetings

COMMUNITY BOARD 7 will hold its general board meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 18 at 6:30 p.m. at Tracey Towers, 40 W. Mosholu Pkwy. S. (Community Room 8). CB7 committees are held on the following dates at the Board office, 229A E. 204th St., at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted: Traffic & Transportation Committee on Oct. 13; Veterans Committee on Oct. 13 at 7:30 p.m.; Senior Services Committee on Oct. 17; Parks & Recreation on Oct. 17 at 7:15 p.m.; Housing, Land Use & Zoning Committee on Oct. 19; Environment & Sanitation on Oct. 20; Budget, Personnel & Ethics Committee on Oct. 24; Economic Development Committee on Oct. 25; Community Relations/Long-Term Planning Committee on Oct. 25 at 7:30 p.m.; and Website, Acknowledgement & Media Committee on Oct. 26; For more information, call the Board office at (718) 933-5650.

Abandoned Home Becomes a Familiar Sight on Norwood's Landscape

By DAVID CRUZ

The leftover Christmas lights and glitter-covered candy canes hanging from its exterior tell the story of a house once occupied in Norwood.

For the last decade or so, the ramshackle, two-story home at 3259 Decatur Ave. has been left forsaken, used as a makeshift junkyard and haven for squatters, and teenage partygoers, according to residents. Complete with overgrown weeds, peeled paint and rusty white fence, the home has now seen an increase in the amount of debris that includes broken window sills and furniture strewn about the front yard.

Though it's been in shambles for nearly a decade, contributing to a decline in Norwood's property values, it's bothered residents much more ever since PS 56, Norwood's elementary school, opened its new annex last month, boosting the student population.

A mission to get the house in order has been carried out by Elisabeth von Uhl, a resident, working the phones to convince elected officials and city agencies to take a look at the house.

"I fear some kids will get inside and get hurt," von Uhl said. "I have contacted [the New York City Department



Photo by David Cruz

THIS HOME AT 3259 Decatur Ave. has been in a state of gloom for nearly a decade, say residents. Beside it stands PS 56.

of] Sanitation via 311 numerous times, but all they can do is issue tickets."

DSNY last issued a \$250 ticket to the house for having an unkempt lot, leaving it taped to the property's front gate on Oct. 3.

Another resident, whose house abuts the property, said neighborhood residents have called the 52nd Precinct and "asked the cops to board up the windows." Unfortunately, no one came.

It's unclear whether the home is considered a "zombie property," a term that describes owners walking away from

their home without filing foreclosure proceedings, languishing in limbo over whether the bank or owner is responsible for general upkeep of a vacant home's front yard.

The building's history shows it changed hands numerous times. A review of financial statements shows Fannie Mae, the government-backed financial institution, purchased the mortgage from JP Morgan Chase in 2014. Fannie Mae did not return an email requesting comment. Fannie Mae hired Seterus, a mortgage loan servicing company, to

collect the debt. It's unclear if it has been successful.

Before that, the house was under the names of Mercedes Galdamez and Luz Catano, co-signers to a mortgage in 2007. Catano's name appears in the number of tickets the New York City Department of Sanitation has taped to the door of the property.

Faisal Mustafa, a resident waiting to pick up his daughter at PS 56, was willing to pay \$50,000 to buy the home and flip it.

Mary, a resident living across the street, had hoped "that the school purchase the property." After all, Mary has spotted "undesirables" at the property, and worries "they may get ideas" knowing children are not too far away.

Regardless of who owns the property, a state law set to take effect in December will mandate banks and mortgage services to properly maintain the exteriors of vacant or abandoned homes or face a \$500 fine.

Meantime, Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj, who represents the neighborhood in Albany, told the *Norwood News* he's drafting letters to the city Department of Buildings underscoring the state of the empty home.

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INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



With recent NYPD crime statistics showing September as the safest month since the Police Department began tracking violent crime trends, we asked readers if they believe that.



No. I think it's the same as it's always been. I see a lot of crime and it's not safe. I don't know if the police are under reporting crime, but I know these streets are still dangerous.

Sylvia Soriano
Morris Heights



I'd agree with that; I don't really hear anything going on around here. I think it's mixed, but I don't think crime is drastically down like that. Do they say what areas or what crimes? Most crimes? I don't believe that. I do think they are under reporting crime. They should just say that issuing tickets has gone up, because they're writing everyone tickets.

Deena Deveaux
Bedford Park



I'd say crime is down, everything's good. Sometimes you hear something on the news that something happened, but the police are controlling the crime, absolutely.

Gijhad Quteibi
Bedford Park



The neighborhood is good, I'm seeing a lot of police and it's safe. Me? I've been here 19 years in this area and it's good. It's safe, yes. Thank you NYPD.

Hata Rodonic
Norwood



To be honest, I go to Evander Childs High School and there's a lot of crime going on at my school. Maybe a lot of crime is going on and they just don't know about it. If they say crime is down, then I guess it is. Crime this year is the same as last year. I think the NYPD needs to step up their game and stop being lazy.

Abass Beye
Washington Heights

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New School Coming to Defunct PS 51

Within the next few months, what was previously PS 51 will be reborn as a school for autistic students living in New York City.

PS 51, located at 3200 Jerome Ave. by Van Cortlandt Avenue, was shut down in August of 2011 after high levels of toxins were discovered. The renovated building, cleared for occupancy by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, will house the special needs school run by Quality Services for the Autistic Community (QSAC).

To accommodate the school, QSAC is working to change the parking restrictions to no parking 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday along the border of the school on Jerome Avenue, and no parking 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday on the Van Cortlandt Avenue side of the school.

The later hours and extra day of parking restrictions are needed because of impending afterschool and Saturday programs because of the nature of this particular school, according to QSAC representative Lisa Veglia.

Veglia, attending the latest Community Board 7 general board meeting, said because of the "great need in the Bronx borough for children with autism" a school was warranted in the borough.

This will be one of only two schools in the Bronx that service autistic students and are funded by the state without falling under the private or public school sectors. It is a state-approved, non-public school that that will accept all children referred to them by the Department of Education.

The school is open to autistic students up to the age of 21.

—Daniela Beasley

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Montefiore Advises to Get the Flu Shot, and Get it Now

By DANIELA BEASLEY

Flu Season may peak during December and March, but Beatrice McMillan, along with others, isn't chancing it this year and has already gotten her shot.

"I think they are out of their minds," McMillan said of people who choose not to get vaccinated. "I would feel unsafe if I didn't get it. I need that flu shot."

This is the third year in a row McMillan has gotten her vaccination at the R.A.I.N. Boston Road Senior Center. A member of the center since 2009, the fact that it's free certainly works as an incentive to get her shot as early as October.

For years, Montefiore Health System and the Walgreens pharmacy chain have teamed up to host pop-up flu clinics throughout the Bronx, where Walgreens and Duane Reade pharmacists provide free flu shots to anyone over the age of 18 who show up.

Already surpassing the amount of people vaccinated this time last year, Montefiore hopes to cut down on ER visits connected with the flu this coming winter. In addition to Bronx residents regularly getting their flu shot, Montefiore looks to target those who forego getting the shot because of fears of the vaccine or its significance.

"The younger age group usually



Photo by Daniela Beasley

JAMES CAREY, PROGRAM Director for the R.A.I.N. Boston Road Neighborhood Senior Center, receives his vaccination from a Walgreens pharmacist, taking Montefiore's advice to get the flu shot as early as possible.

feels like they're invincible, that they don't need to get the flu shot," Geraldine O'Connell, Community Health Nurse at Montefiore's office of Community and Population Health said. O'Connell added there are 36,000 deaths linked to the flu virus each year. "What people don't realize is that there can be a lot of complications with the flu. You want to not only protect yourself, but protect those

around you," O'Connell said.

Carlos Tejada, Community Health Specialist for Montefiore, noted that the hospital offers educational workshops on the flu warning about the risks of going through the flu season without the shot.

Workshops also teach the best ways to prevent the flu and dispels myths about the vaccination.

Hamming it Up at the FOMP Fall Festival



Photo by Miriam Quinones

THESE NORWOOD KIDS show they're having one great time at the First Annual Friends of Mosholu Parkland Fall Festival's spider web obstacle course on Oct. 8. The autumn-themed event, held at Kossuth Playground, drew several families, all in support for the neighborhood playground and the neighborhood group looking out for Mosholu Parkland. More pictures of the fun-filled event can be found on www.norwoodnews.org.

Park Reservoir Tenants Call On Bylaw Change Following Amalgamated Plan Switch

By JALEESA BAULKMAN

The civil war continues at a Mitchell-Lama complex in Van Cortlandt Village.

Following opposition to a plan by the Board of Directors to replace management services by Amalgamated Houses for another, more than 100 cooperators living at Park Reservoir approved a proposal to modify the building's bylaws to prevent its management firm to be replaced without two-thirds support of tenants.

But the proposal, approved 111 to 35 in favor, must be approved by the state Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR), the agency that oversees Mitchell-Lama cooperatives. If this amendment is approved, cooperators could thwart the board's yearlong plan to overthrow Amalgamated Houses.

"We felt it was important to make this statement," said Gary Axelbank,

a longtime resident who helped form The Committee to Save Park Reservoir. "It is a moral responsibility for [the board] to represent the people that voted for them."

Meanwhile, the board's vice president, Steve Zitrin, who's pushing for the hiring of a new management firm, deems the tenants' attempt to adopt a new bylaw request pointless since it would violate business corporation law and interfere with the board's jurisdiction by taking power away from the governing body. He added that the tenants' reactions are over the top since they "don't have any facts" other than what the committee and board president Andrew Kimerling—one of the three board members against the plan—has fed them.

While there are indications from the state that the bylaw changes won't "pass the smell test," Axelbank said the agency only ex-

pressed an opinion based on other cases they have seen in the past and that Park Reservoir's case is a special one that should be considered.

"Regardless of what the state decides and what the legal issues are, it was very important to establish that three-quarters of the people who voted expressed that they didn't like that they were left out of the process," Axelbank said. "The larger picture is that cooperators came out to voice that they want to have a say in their own future and they don't like what this board did in making decisions without them."

For over a year, Park Reservoir's board members sought to hire a new management team and, after searching for about a year, selected Midas Management, a family-owned realty management in the Bronx, to replace Amalgamated Houses.

"How can [Midas Management] be the best choice if they have no Mitchell-Lama experience?" 20-year cooperative Mary Copeland asked. "That is such a complex task. I can't imagine that the learning curve would be for someone who has never dealt this. I don't even know why they'd want to deal

with this."

Co-op owners weren't aware of the board's plan until July when the board's search was nearly completed, and argued the board stood opaque during the vetting process.

The board's process in seeking new management also got the state's attention as it seems they were "ramming" through the process and failing to comply with the DHCR's policies, according to Kimerling.

Currently, Park Reservoir offers a number of services and amenities, including an education program, custodial services such as pre-dawn snow shoveling, and health and social services to senior citizens.

Zitrin maintains that replacing Amalgamated Housing is the best financial route Park Reservoir can take, giving it more control over finances and prevent rent hikes. With Midas Management, Park Reservoir could save about \$250,000 per year, according to Zitrin. Kimerling disagrees.

"[The board] wants to go from a not-for-profit organization that runs you to a for-profit organization. There's not going to be a benefit there at all," Kimerling explained.

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Arthur Ave. Declared One of Nation's Best Streets, But the Bronx Already Knew That

By DAVID CRUZ

What does Manhattan's Fifth Avenue and the Bronx's Arthur Avenue have in common? They're both considered great streets.

Bronx residents will tell you they already knew that, but not the American Planning Association (APA). Until now. The group officially named the busy Belmont strip known as Little Italy one of America's "great streets," a distinction that helps slowly chip away the nagging image of a Bronx in blight. It's the first such distinction for the borough.

"This is a big deal," Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. said at a news conference announcing the honor.

Diaz's office didn't quite have much in the way to do with garnering the recognition. That credit went more to office's behind-the-scenes man, James Rausse, Diaz's director of capital budgeting who in his private life serves as president of the APA's regional chapter. With his APA term expiring Dec. 31, Rausse calls news of the honor a nice sendoff.

"I assure you, I assure you that Arthur Avenue won this on its own merits," Diaz joked of the relationship between Rausse, the APA, and his office.

The tree-lined strip, running between 184th and 187th streets, was one of five streets honored by the APA this year. Others include Sherman Avenue in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; Main Street in Ketchum, Idaho; South 24th Street



Photo by David CRUZ

ARTHUR AVENUE REMAINS one of the Bronx's more visited streets. It was hailed one of 2016's "Great Streets" by the American Planning Association.

in Omaha, Nebraska; and Main Street in Davidson, North Carolina. Judges based their decision on the street's "deep sense of community, ability to be walkable, be near transit, be a healthy community," Rausse said.

On its website, the APA singled out Arthur Avenue for its rich history, where "nearly every shop is an institution, passed down through generations of families that have lived in the neighborhood."

Indeed, Arthur Avenue's integral draw is its predominant number of Italian restaurants, remaining so for more than a century. Some key sites at the strip include The Arthur Avenue Retail Market and the Enrico Fermi Library and Cultural Center (the news con-

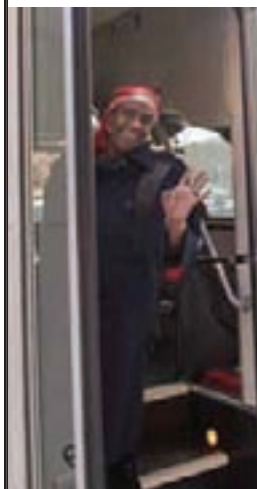
ference was held there). Its demographics have changed some over time with Albanian and Latinos becoming embedded in the neighborhood's history.

Business owners and community stakeholders have confronted opposition to Arthur Avenue's mom-and-pop vibe over the years, occasionally squaring off against corporate giants. That included McDonald's, whose tenure at Arthur Avenue in the 1990s was very brief.

"It was the public that said, 'You don't belong here,'" Peter Madonia, chairman of the Belmont Business Improvement District, told the *Norwood News*. "That isn't what we want. We want consistent businesses that are family-run and integrated into the fabric of who we are."

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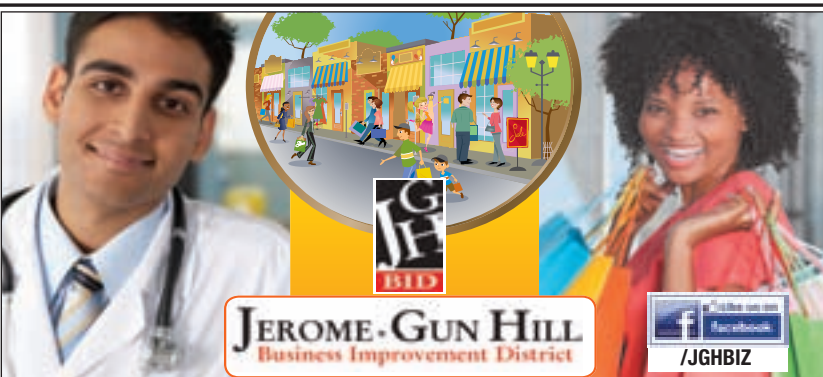
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NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

Donate Used Coats

The Office of Councilman Andy King, 940 E. Gun Hill Road, 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.

Free Flu Shots

Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, Montefiore Health System, Walgreens Pharmacy, and others, are sponsoring free flu shots at the Riverdale YM-YWHA, 5625 Arlington Ave. on Oct. 27. Members of the community must be 18 years of age or older to participate, and cannot be allergic to eggs. For more information, call Dinowitz's office at (718) 796-5345. Residents MUST call to guarantee a flu shot.

Free Bike Helmet

Councilman Andrew Cohen is sponsoring a free bike helmet fitting and distribution event at the Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, 3450 DeKalb Ave. on Oct. 22 from noon to 4

p.m. Helmet recipients must be present and learn how to properly fit their helmet before leaving. For more information, call Cohen's office at (718) 549-7300.

First-time Homebuyer Fast-Track Series

University Neighborhood Housing Program (UNHP) is sponsoring three homeownership workshops. Learn the essentials of buying a home and fast-track your path to homeownership. Understand the roles of key players (realtor, attorney, inspector, etc.) and what the process entails. Participants who attend all three workshops receive a completion certificate, valid for closing grants. Attendees will receive a Market Guide, a useful tool to track housing trends. Schedule is as follows: Tuesday, Oct. 18, 6 to 8 p.m. at Concourse House, 2751 Grand Concourse, (entrance on East 196th Street); and Saturday, Oct. 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Refuge House, 2715 Bainbridge Ave. (corner of East 196th Street). For more information, call (718) 933-3101.

CRIME FILE

By David Cruz



Hate Crime Suspects Sought

Three suspects are on the run and wanted by police for yelling anti-Islam slurs at a Muslim man and his mother in Fordham last month.

The suspects, two men and one woman, were riding in a Toyota Camry with gold license plates reserved for taxis when one of them began screaming at the victims, police say. One of the victims confronted one of the suspects but was then attacked by the driver and one of the passengers. The suspects fled the scene while the victim was rushed to Jacobi Medical Center and treated for injuries.

Two of the three suspects were caught on video and described as follows:

A male Hispanic (pictured), in his mid-20s, 5'6", weighing 170 to 180 lbs., last seen wearing a dark T-shirt

and blue jeans.

A female Hispanic (pictured) who accompanied the two male suspects, but did not attack the victim, in her mid 20s 5'6", 170 lbs., last seen wearing a light colored tank top and dark pants.

The third person (not caught on video) is described as a male Hispanic in his mid-20s, last seen wearing a light colored shirt and dark pants.



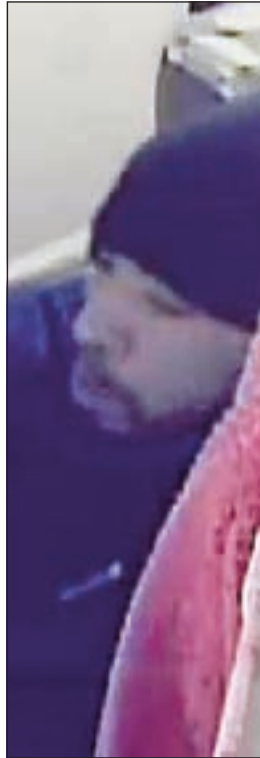
Party Crashers Loot Guests

Police are looking for a pair of pistol carrying thieves wanted for stealing a total of \$7300 from guests attending a party inside a Webb Avenue building.

The brazen thieves, all wearing black, entered from the front of the Webb Avenue building at the corner of Father Zeiser Place on Sept. 30 during the overnight hours with black semi-automatic handguns drawn. After ordering the guests to drop to the floor, the thieves stole the cash along with cell phones and credit cards before fleeing. No one was hurt.

The first suspect (pictured) is described as a light-skinned black or Hispanic man with a beard. He was last seen wearing a black jacket, black pants, black skullcap and black gloves. The second suspect

was seen wearing a black jacket, black pants, black baseball cap and black gloves.



Gun Suspect Shuts Down Knox Place

Knox Place, between East Gun Hill Road and Mosholu Parkway, was under a state of lockdown during the late afternoon of Sept. 29 after a chase with a gun-toting suspect ended at the street.

Helicopters and K9 dogs were used in tracking the suspect who residents say was involved in a daring car chase that began in Fordham. The suspect

ditched the car and fled into one of the buildings. Cops spent an hour going door to door trying to find the suspect, but he apparently got away. The car (pictured) meantime, was impounded.

Anyone with information regarding any of the above incidents is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at (800) 577-TIPS (8477). All calls are kept confidential.



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Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

EDITOR'S PICK

Biking the Bronx

The public is invited to join the 22nd annual Tour de Bronx on Oct. 23. Participants have a choice of a 25- or 40-mile ride, both of which explore Bronx neighborhoods. Check-in is at 9 a.m. at Harris Field, Bedford Park Boulevard West between Paul and Goulden avenues. The rides end at the New York Botanical Garden with live music and light snacks. The NYC Department of Transportation is offering to fit and distribute free bicycle helmets for participants from 8 to 11 a.m. while supplies last. Those 17 and younger must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, and all riders must sign waivers. For more information or to register, visit www.tourdebronx.com.

Onstage

Bronx Arts Ensemble, 80 Van Cortlandt Pk. So., presents **Songs and Strings**, Oct. 23 at 2 p.m., performed by the BAE String Quartet featuring mezzo-soprano Blythe Gaissert. For more information, call (718) 601-7399.

Lehman College's Center for the

Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **The Kingdom of India**, featuring India, the princess of salsa, Oct. 15 at 8 p.m., with guest appearances by Eddie Palmieri and Ray de la Paz. Tickets are \$65 to \$100. For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents **Double**



File Photo

CYCLISTS EXPECT TO see a different side of the Bronx at the 22nd Annual Tour de Bronx slated for Oct. 23 (see Editor's Pick for more details).

Entendre in Concert, Oct. 22 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

Events

Friends of Van Cortlandt Park offers **Canoemobile Day in VC Park**, free canoe rides on VC Lake, tours and children's activities, Oct. 15 from noon to 4 p.m. Meet at VC Lake near the Golf House; enter park at South and Bailey avenues. For more information, call (718) 601-1553.

Bronx County Historical Society offers the following events: **walking tour**, exploring Van Cortlandt Park's Old Getty Square Branch, preceded by tour along the old Putnam Railroad Line route in VC Park, Oct. 22 at 10 a.m. (\$10/members; \$20/non members); **free public lecture**, History of the Bronx Latino, Oct. 15 at 1 p.m.; **Free Open House**, at Poe Cottage and the Museum of Bronx History at the Valentine-Varian House, 3266 Bainbridge Ave., Oct. 15 and 16; and **free fall exhibition opening reception**, at the Museum of Bronx History, Oct. 13, 4:30 to 7 p.m. 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, Oct. 19 and 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.

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 through Oct. 30. **Giant Pumpkin Weekend**, Oct. 22 and 23, to view pumpkins as large as a ton in weight (through Oct. 30). For more

information, call (718) 817-8700.

Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Art Projects**: Farming and Patterned History, to make collage of personal histories using cloth and paper silhouettes, Oct. 15 and 16; and Magical Wands and Fairy Houses, to make tiny, fairy-sized dwelling using sticks, leaves and bark, Oct. 22 and 23; all in the WH House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Grounds admission is free until noon Saturdays and Tuesdays all year. For more information and a schedule of events including tours and walks, call (718) 549-3200.

Library Events

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents the following for children: **Hands-On Projects at 4 p.m.**: (ages 7 to 12; preregistration required), Owl Making, Oct. 13; Scarecrow Making, Oct. 20; Picture Frame Making, Oct. 23 at 3:30 p.m.; and Black Cat Making, Oct. 27. Teens/young adults can attend **films at 5 p.m.**: "Selma," Oct. 14 and "The Ring," Oct. 28. Adults and teens can enjoy **film**: "Blackboard Jungle," Oct. 15 at 2:30 p.m. Adults can join **Chess**: (chess set provided), Oct. 21 at 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

The Moshulu Library, 285 E. 205th St., offers for teens/young adults: **film**: "The Jungle Book," Oct. 22 at 1:30 p.m. Adults can attend: **Free Computer Classes**: to learn email and basic computer information, Wednesdays, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.; 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 at 3 p.m.**: (ages 5 to 12), dance moves on the Wii game console, Oct. 14 and 21; and **Kids Pajama Party** (18 months to 12 years; registration required), craft and read-alouds, Oct. 24 at 6 p.m. Adults can attend: **Computer Basics at noon**: Oct. 13, 20 and 27. 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 Oct. 17 for the next publication date of Oct. 27.

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Norwood Eyed for Shelter

(continued from page 1)

drawing rancor from local Community Board 7. The latest site by Concerned for Independent Living opened in late spring.

Property

The property is currently Sam's Floor Covering, a successful family-owned business for decades. The store's owner told the *Norwood News* there's only ongoing talk about the building's future, though he declined to elaborate.

But sources say interest is coming from Eduardo Laguerre, CEO for Neighborhood Association for Inter-Cultural Affairs (NAICA), a Bronx-based social services nonprofit group and developers of homeless shelters. The 42-year group did not return calls to request comment.

NAICA is no stranger to controversy.

The group set up housing for homeless men at the troubled Van Corltandt Motel in the Riverdale section of the Bronx. One of the attendants was accused of two robberies early this year. They were later replaced with homeless women and children, though still drawing ire.

Several years ago, Laguerre was caught submitting a phony petition to the Office of the Bronx Borough President, telling the office that residents of Borin-

quen Courts preferred his group assume management duties at the building.

NAICA owns at least four shelters in the Bronx, records show. A review of NAICA's shelters shows it has a total of 23 violations, less egregious compared to other Bronx shelters.

Close to School

Compounding the proposal is the location of Sam's Floor Covering, across the street from PS/MS 20, a kindergarten through eighth grade school. Its proximity immediately troubled some parents picking up their children at the school on Oct. 11.

"It might not be a good idea right across the street from the school. Any other place in the neighborhood, but not right across the street," said Jeannie Ahearn, a mother of a student attending the school.

Norwood does indeed have a cluster site shelter, a practice of housing homeless inside apartment buildings, on the opposite side of the neighborhood at 15-19 West Mosholu Parkway North.

While Cecil Ramirez, a father of three, characterized the proposal as making "no sense for the kids," Ousmane Diallo, a grandfather, worried

how students are "going to feel if they see" homeless people near the school.

Adelaide Morales, a grandmother picking her child up at the school, wondered how parents would be notified if changes were under way. "They need to hold a meeting before it goes up," Morales said. "Because my son will probably have a lot of concerns about it. They should be notified and let the parents know what's going to happen."

But community notification of a shelter's arrival isn't a requirement for DHS, which operates as a shadowy agency, often shuttling the homeless to a shelter overnight. The practice roils Councilman Andrew Cohen, whose district covers Norwood and Riverdale. "They sneak a shelter into a neighborhood in the middle of the night with no community notice or community involvement. We are left totally in the dark, and that is simply unacceptable," Cohen said in a statement. "Sadly, this is the way DHS seems to be operating these days."

Shelter contracts can prove lucrative for nonprofit developers, who receive millions of dollars to operate a shelter. Shelter costs depend on the shelter's arrangement, with developers receiving daily remunerations of upwards of \$100

per bed for family shelters or \$78 per bed for adult-only shelters. Most shelters can be built "as-of-right," requiring no approvals from the local community board that overlaps with the shelter.

Barbara Stronczer, a Community Board 7 member and president of the Bedford Mosholu Community Association, said to build the shelter is "unfair to residents and the developers who are building according to the specifications of the rezoning plan."

Stronczer warned "Bedford Park and Norwood residents would not sit back and allow a shelter to open opposite their neighborhood school."

But getting much sympathy from Mayor Bill de Blasio, still working on finding homes for the whopping 64,000 homeless still on the streets, will be tough. At a recent news conference reacting to community opposition of a shelter in Maspeth, Queens, Mayor de Blasio said the responsibility to house the homeless is "everyone's problem."

"And I told them that I welcome their pickets as many times as they want because I will happily stare them down," de Blasio said. "We are going to put a roof over people's

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To register, go to: www.tourdebronx.com

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