



NORWOOD NEWS

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INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER:
NYPD BODY CAMS | PG. 4



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MMCC ROAST & SPRINGFEST | PG. 8

FIVE-TWO BATTLES HEROIN EPIDEMIC

Precinct sees heroin overdose spike, points to fentanyl as source



Photo by Adi Talwar

THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF East 194th Street between Valentine and Webster avenues stands as one of the more troubled areas when it comes to hard drugs, according to police.

By DAVID CRUZ

The commanding officer of the 52nd Precinct stunned his audience with a familiar topic that came with a twist: the local precinct ranks first in fatal heroin overdoses out of all 11 Bronx precincts. Compounding the problem is the mix of heroin with fentanyl, a powerful narcotic described as putting heroin on steroids.

"It is so bad that our un-

dercovers and narcotics officers don't want to touch it without any kind of gloves," Deputy Inspector Peter Fiorillo, commanding officer of the precinct, said at the recent 52nd Precinct Community Council meeting on April 27. "And it's very hard for undercover not to touch it when they're apprehending in an undercover capacity."

So far, eight people have

died from heroin overdoses within the Five-Two over the year, according to NYPD statistics, outnumbering the 40th Precinct, which usually sees more overdoses. Last year the Five-Two saw a total of 18 heroin-related deaths and fear the latest uptick will put them past that figure.

The trend comes amid a sweeping offensive against

heroin, an opioid that could compromise progress for a borough whose drug use has been on the rise. So far, federal, state, and city governments have put the reversal of heroin use at the forefront.

The precinct's troubling heroin figures are second to the 19th Precinct in Manhattan, which has a higher socioeconomic status than

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OPINION**The Economic Engine of Affordable Housing in the Bronx****BY JOLIE MILSTEIN**

From the Mill Brook Houses to Lafayette Boynton, families in the Bronx have always been on the front line of fighting for affordable housing. That fight has only taken on greater importance as the borough gets less and less affordable for low- and middle-income families who are struggling to make ends meet.

Thankfully, the borough of the Bronx – and all of New York – has taken a huge step forward in combating our state's dire housing crisis, as the Governor and State Legislature recently approved \$2.5 billion for affordable and supportive housing. With over 88,000 New Yorkers still homeless and more than half of statewide renters struggling to afford their homes, the housing funds could not have come at a more critical time.

The positive impact that affordable housing could have in the Bronx is astounding. In fact, New York's affordable housing industry generated more than \$54 billion in total economic impact across the state between 2011 and 2015, as we found in a recently released report. Most of that spending took place within New York City, where more than 83 percent of the state's subsidized housing – or around 106,000 affordable units – was built and preserved during that period.

As we continue pushing for resources to build and preserve affordability across the Bronx, advocates should remember that benefits of these developments are not limited to the units of housing they provide.



Photo by Dylan Croll

CREWS ARE ERECTING this building at the corner of Webster Avenue and East 203rd Street that's half affordable housing and half market rate.

Our analysis also found that affordable housing production supports more than 65,000 construction-related jobs annually across the state, including hardhat jobs on the worksite and others involved in providing development materials. The same buildings also provided more than 9,000 permanent jobs each year, such as those for building service workers and employees of ground floor retail tenants in mixed-use projects.

Thousands are seeing the power of development firsthand in the Bronx, where Bronx Commons will soon provide 305 affordable homes alongside the world-class Bronx Music Hall, a 300-seat music and arts venue focused on the rooted history of the Bronx music scene. The project will

also assist in driving growth through a landscaped public plaza and a wide array of job-creating retail spaces.

While these new funds will have an enormous impact, there is still much more work to be done to address New York's housing crisis. As we continue to advocate in favor of safe, quality affordable housing for low and middle income families, we will continue to spread the word that well-planned projects provide the local spending and good-paying jobs that sustain neighborhoods and create pathways to the middle class – for residents of the Bronx and all New Yorkers.

Jolie Milstein is president and CEO of the New York State Association for Affordable Housing (NYSAAFH).

Public and Community Meetings

COMMUNITY BOARD 7 holds its general board meeting on May 16 at 6:30 pm. at Tracey Towers, Community Room B, 40 W. Mosholu Parkway So. Committee meetings are held on the following dates at the board office, 229 E. 204th St., at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted:

Veterans Committee meets on May 11 at 7:30 p.m.; Housing, Land Use and Zoning Committee meets on May 17; Economic Development Committee meets on May 23; and Community Relations & Long-Term Planning Committee meets on May 23 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 933-5650.

The **52ND PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** will hold its monthly meeting at Montefiore Medical Center, Cherkasky Auditorium, 111 E. 210th St., on May 25 at 7 p.m. For more information, call (718) 220-5824.

Officers from the **NEIGHBORHOOD COORDINATION OFFICER** program of the 52nd Precinct will hold a "Safety Summit" on June 6 at 3400 Reservoir Oval E. More information can be found in our Neighborhood Notes section on page 13.

Feds Charge Seven in Norwood for Drug Crimes

By DAVID CRUZ

Federal agents and the NYPD have rounded up an organized drug gang in the Norwood section of the Bronx, capping an investigation that began last summer.

In downtown Manhattan, Acting Manhattan U.S. Attorney Joon H. Kim said the gang, Mosholu Money Over Bitches (MMOB), operated on Knox and Gates places, and “trafficked in all types of drugs, including crack cocaine, oxycodone and marijuana, and peddled them on the streets, by delivery, and out of apartment buildings in the area.”

Seven members of the gang, Joshua Perez, 30; Javier Collazo, 20; Hiram Collazo, 19; Natalie Jusino, 34; Kevin Mieses, 25; Amaury Modesto, 37; and Andrew Perez, 24, have been charged with narcotics possession and other crimes. The Drug Enforcement Administration began its investigation into the gang in July last year.

According to the indictment, the gang was allegedly known to have dealt hard drugs in hand-to-hand



Photo by Adeline Hanssen

FEDS SAY THE GANG, Mosholu Money Over Bitches, operated largely on Knox and Gates places.

transactions or by packaging. The gang operated on Knox and Gates places, Mosholu Parkway, and East Gun Hill Road, according to the indictment. While six have been apprehended, Joshua Perez, the alleged ringmaster who distributed drugs to his street dealers and handled customer complaints, according to the indictment, remains

at large.

Kim added the arrests hope to “stem the flow of drugs and the havoc they wrought on the Norwood neighborhood of the Bronx.”

To cover up their crimes, the indictment alleges Modesto had thrown drugs out of his window when police came by his house in

January this year. Javier Collazo, the indictment claims, was called by Modesto to retrieve the drugs.

The arrests underscore the already accepted claim that the neighborhood Knox and Gates is rooted in drugs. Residents have confirmed this to the *Norwood News*, though many refuse to go on record.

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INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



This week we asked readers their thoughts on this week's rollout of new NYPD body cameras to be worn by patrol officers.



Honestly, I think it could go either way, but there are cameras all over. Basically, the NYPD has cameras on every corner, but the body cameras can be used in police brutality cases as evidence of what actually happened at a crime scene as the video shows what happened before or after an event. I think it could cause some privacy issues and people will feel like their rights are being violated. It's a fact that they sometimes turn off the cameras in the car, so I don't know how easy it will be for them to turn [the body cameras] on. Let's see what happens, but I don't like it at all.

Domingo Mercado
Fordham



If they're used correctly it would be a great asset. It would deter crime, I believe. Whoever monitors the feed, someone should monitor them. But it will be a good asset to the Police Department to have cameras. This way a lot of discrepancies can be avoided. I believe that once they have the cameras on, there is no way to turn it off unless they go to the precinct. I do think it's good, but on the other hand people may be fearful of it.

Bishop William Cross
Melrose



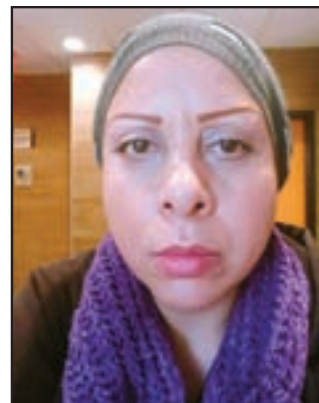
I had heard about it, but wasn't sure when it was coming. I think it will make the public feel more comfortable when they interact with the police. But I wonder who will benefit from the cameras, the police or the public. They've been testing the cameras for a while, and I don't think it will make a difference. I believe they will be able to turn the camera off or other officers will block the camera.

David Vazquez
Norwood



I've always lived my life like someone sees everything I do, like the man upstairs or my dad, rest in peace. [E]veryone has a cameras these days and so should cops. If everyone thinks that the eye in the sky is watching them, maybe they will play nice.

Timmy Brennan
Walden, N.Y.



I am afraid they will turn them off or find a way of getting out of using them. Then give a phony excuse and then being pardoned for it.

Diane Lane
Van Nest

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Traffic Agent Attackers On the Loose

By DYLAN CROLL

The NYPD is looking for two men wanted in connection with an assault that happened near 3500 Perry Ave. on April 13. An NYPD Traffic Enforcement Agent was knocked into a wall by the first attacker and his phone was knocked out of his hand by the second.

The victim suffered a concussion but ultimately refused medical treatment. Both perpetrators were caught on tape. Each is black and in his mid-20s, and each wearing a black sweat-shirt and black sweat pants.

The first is estimated to be roughly about 5'10 and 200 lbs. and wearing a black hat. The second is roughly 5'6 and 160 lbs. Both men fled on foot after committing the crime.



Photo by Christine Owusu-Ampaw

COUNCILMAN ANDREW COHEN (center wearing glasses), is flanked by supporters and volunteers of Participatory Budgeting, at a news conference announcing results of this year's civic exercise.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has received a Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) application from 1226 E. GUNHILL LLC for a site known as Joey's Cleaners, site ID #C203076. This site is located in the Borough of the Bronx, within the County of Bronx, and is located at 1244 East Gun Hill Road. Comments regarding this application and other relevant documents are available at the document repository located at the New York Public Library-Allerton Branch, 2740 Barnes Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467. Information regarding the site and how to submit comments can be found at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/60058.html> or send comments to Bryan Wong, Project Manager, yukylin.wong@dec.ny.gov; or call 718-482-4995. To have information such as this notice sent right to your email, sign up with county email listservs available at www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html.

Participatory Budget Funds Allocated for Tech Upgrades to Precincts and Schools

By ADELINE HANSSEN
and DAVID CRUZ

For community resident Rosalina Garcia, this year's Participatory Budgeting (PB) process within the 11th Council District, which covers Norwood, was her first. And it was an eye opener and one she proudly described as a "very interesting journey."

"You see how the [council members] want to spend the money to help the community, and that's rare because usually politicians like to fill their own pockets," said Garcia. On April 26, Council Member Andrew Cohen, one of 31 council members participating in PB, announced the results of the yearly PB to volunteers and District 11 residents in front of the 52nd Precinct.

PB, which has taken off in the last few years, lets constituents decide how \$1 million from a City Council Member's annual capital

budget should be spent.

The winning projects include the installment of security cameras in the 47th, 50th and 52nd precincts, a technology upgrade for eight schools within the district, and a renovated Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible bathroom at the Riverdale Library. They will each receive a cut of the \$1 million budget for community-driven capital improvement, a portion of the \$5 million allocated to Cohen by the state.

Beginning last fall, residents submitted their proposals for capital projects to Neighborhood Assemblies on the New York City Council website and through emails to Cohen's office. This year community volunteers, including Garcia, reviewed over 125 proposals, and created the ballot with the final 10.

"Each idea has to be vetted

to make sure that it's viable and the agency that we're funding ultimately can do the project and supports doing the project," said Cohen. According to Cohen, the process of streamlining the proposals was extensive for PB volunteers, but valuable.

The PB process gives community members over the age of 14 and non-citizens the opportunity to vote. Exactly 2,237 residents voted at the end of March, each choosing projects they wanted to see come to fruition. According to Cohen, voting has increased by 27 percent from the previous year. This could be due to the addition of online voting, which drew in around 700 voters.

"There are fringe benefits of civic engagement and young people getting an opportunity to vote," said Cohen. "We try to get them into the habit of knowing, 'your vote matters.'"



Cinco de Mayo Place Unveiled on Cinco de Mayo



Photo courtesy Office of Councilman Fernando Cabrera

(COUNCILMAN FERNANDO CABRERA) celebrated Cinco de Mayo with a street renaming fittingly named after the Mexican holiday. Cinco de Mayo Place (May Fifth Place) can be found at the corner of Jerome Avenue and East 193rd Street in Kingsbridge. Cabrera sponsored the bill that saw the street renaming become law. He joins in celebrating the occasion with members of the Mexican Coalition that include (l-r) President of Migrant Affairs Committee Estado Puebla Mexico Maritz Marin, an unidentified woman, Consul General of Mexico ambassador Diego Gomez, secretary of Migrant Affairs for Estado Puebla Mexico Ernesto Leyva, President of the Mexican Coalition Jairo Guzman, Mr. Cabrera, and an unidentified boy.

City Expands Legal Help for Immigrant Communities

The city announced it has launched a \$1.3 million expansion in legal assistance and training for the city's immigrant communities, doubling down its commitment to protecting immigrants regardless of status. Beginning this summer, ActionNYC, which has been kicking up immigration services following an aggressive enforcement stance from the federal government, will have a new legal screening site at NYC Health + Hospitals/Lincoln in the South Bronx opened. ActionNYC will also grant 20 fellowships for legal and outreach training and technical assistance to community-based organizations across the city.

"We are committed to expanding services for our fellow New Yorkers,

especially in the face of the Trump administration's extreme anti-immigrant policies," said Mayor Bill de Blasio. "Now, through this partnership between ActionNYC and NYC Health + Hospitals, New Yorkers will have greater access to high-quality legal assistance and healthcare in their communities. At the same time, organizing and legal fellowships will support organizations with strong ties to vulnerable immigrant communities to more effectively engage and serve these groups. ActionNYC is yet another way we welcome immigrant communities whose contributions help make this the greatest city in the world."

--David Cruz



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Bronx Week to Induct Four to Walk of Fame

By TATYANA TURNER

The annual Bronx Week celebration, an 11-day extravaganza underscoring the borough's strengths, is under way in the Boogie Down.

At a media preview three days before, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. presented this year's inductees to the Bronx Walk of Fame, which include a celebrated doctor, actress, DJ, and musician.

Roughly 100 guests gathered inside Bronx Borough Hall for a media preview of inductees who've achieved significant success in their fields. Their names will be etched along the 106 names that make up the Bronx Walk of Fame, running along Grand Concourse south of 161st Street.

This year's honorees are medical pioneer Dr. Manny Villafaña, actress Selenis Leyva of *Orange Is the New Black* fame, Hot 97 veteran radio DJ Funkmaster Flex, and Latin music sensation Prince Royce.

"The Walk of Fame is

where we induct individuals who were either born or raised in the Bronx and went on to do significant things in their area of expertise," said Diaz. "It is important to us that we induct people who unashamedly say to the world, 'I come from the Boogie Down Bronx.'"

Previous inductees included news anchor Marvin Scott, actor David Zayas, and ballet director Eduardo Vilaro.

Dr. Villafaña, nicknamed "the cardiac kahuna," is credited for engineering top-of-the-line pacemakers surgically implanted into 10 million people.

Selenis Leyva, a Bronx-bred actress from a Dominican and Cuban background, was recognized for her career in television. Other TV credits include *Girls*, *The Sopranos*, and *House of Cards*.

Popular music DJ Funkmaster Flex was recognized for the influences that he made in the hip-hop community. During his career, he's worked with other notable artists including, Fat Joe,

Remy Ma, 50 Cent, and Mary J. Blige.

The final inductee is Prince Royce, who scored 15 #1 hits in Latin radio charts, 22 Latin Billboard awards, nine Grammy Award nominations, and other awards in Latin media. His new song "Déjà vu," starring popular artist Shakira put him among the top three artists with the most #1 hits in the history of the Latin Billboard charts.

Montefiore Health System is the lead sponsor for Bronx Week, which begins on May 11 and runs through May 21. The Walk of Fame induction takes place on May 21, and stands as one of several dozen scheduled events that range from veterans appreciation breakfast, a health and wellness event, and walking tours throughout the week. The bonanza is capped by a parade Diaz calls "the biggest one ever."

For more information regarding the class of 2017 inductees or Bronx Week, visit ilovethebronx.com or #Bronx-week2017.



Photos courtesy Office of the Bronx Borough President
(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT) Actress Selenis Leyva of *Orange Is the New Black* fame, Hot 97 veteran radio DJ Funkmaster Flex, medical equipment pioneer Dr. Manny Villafaña, and Latin music sensation Prince Royce are the newest inductees to the Bronx Walk of Fame.

NYBG Reopens East Gate Following 10-Year, \$3.3 Million Renovation

By **ADELINE HANSSEN**
and **DAVID CRUZ**

For years, the East Gate was a “pretty rough way of getting to **The** New York Botanical Garden,” as the institution’s president Gregory Long put it. Now, with the swift snip of a yellow ribbon, the entrance was officially reopened on April 27, intended to increase foot traffic into the Garden after a lengthy renovation.

The East Gate is one of three entryways to the Garden, though it wasn’t the most popular. The gate is found at a geographically obscure section of Allerton, at the corner of Waring Avenue and Bronx Park East. Getting to the gate involves walking a meandering path and past an unwelcoming overpass. Signs heading to the gate are still not there, though NYBG officials told the *Norwood News* they’re working on it.

The brief ceremony capped 10 years of collaboration among federal, state and city governments. For those largely involved in the gate’s renovations, some jokingly said they’ve been working on the opening “all their lives.”

According to Long, finding financial support was arduous, slowing down renovations. The project eventu-

ally received a combined \$3.3 million in private and public dollars, including \$2.2 million from the city, \$600,000 from the state and \$485,000 from the federal government. These funds have helped create the restored entrance, a Green Materials Recycling Center, a composting bathroom and a sloping, winding pathway that leads to the abundant green oasis below.

“We call it the ‘Green Zone,’” said Long. “It was an engineering challenge, and also a design challenge. We certainly had a vision. We knew we needed it.”

Long notes the area has a deep ravine, which made construction of a wheelchair accessible path difficult. Creating a composting bathroom seemed to be one of the few options for that section of Garden since there is no sewage system in place there.

The reopening of East Gate will make the Botanical Garden more accessible to the public. The two other entryways include the Mosholu Gate near Botanical Square and Conservatory Gate by Fordham. The new gate will be open during regular daytime hours with free grounds admissions all day on Wednesdays and from 9 to 10 a.m. on Saturdays.

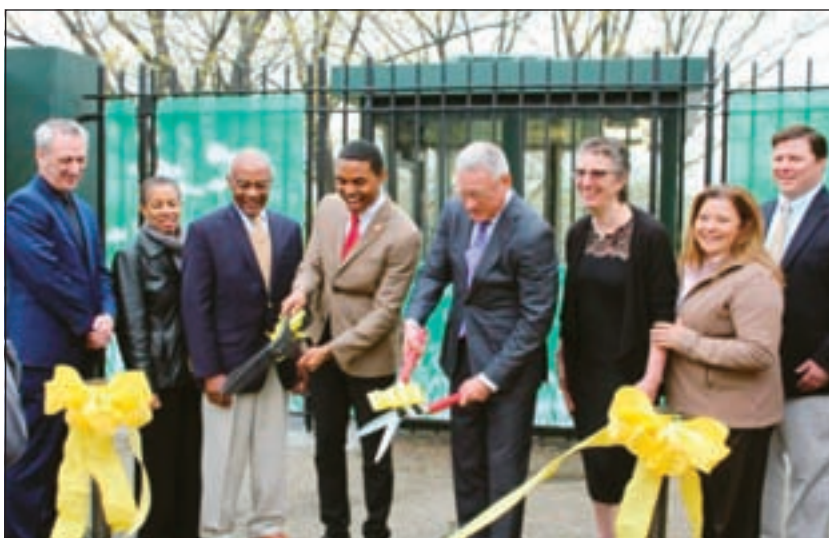


Photo by Adeline Hanssen

COUNCILMAN RITCHIE TORRES (4th from left) and New York Botanical Garden CEO and President Gregory Long (4th from right) cut the ceremonial ribbon to the newly renovated East Gate at the New York Botanical Garden.

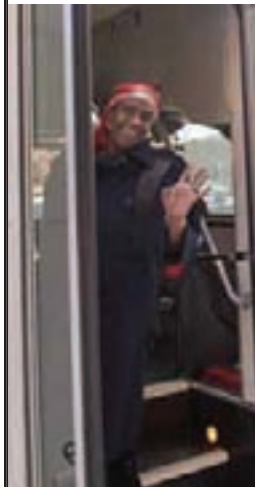


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MMCC's Roast and SpringFest



MOSHOLU MONTEFIORE COMMUNITY CENTER had a big weekend in the last days of April as it hosted a nice sendoff to its longtime executive director and celebrated its offerings as a neighborhood activity center with SpringFest. Photos by Miriam Quinones

MMCC'S DANCE TROUPE shows off its acrobatic skills before a live audience.



MMCC VOLUNTEERS MAN this table where free T-shirts await attendees.



MMCC DANCERS WARM up before their big dance-off in front of a live audience.



DONALD BLUESTONE, RETIRING MMCC executive director, says a few words at his roast.



DONALD BLUESTONE HOLDS up his commendation given to him at the evening's event. He stands alongside MMCC staffers (l-r): CEO Rita Santelia, Board Members Robert Esnard, Natly Esnard, and Robert Weiss, former Board President Susan Memberg, new Board President Robert Moore III, and Board Members David Ehrlich, Helen Kornblau, and Jonathan Lefkowitz.



THESE KIDS OCCUPY their time at MMCC's arts and crafts table, making "popsicle" art.

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At 60 Years, Bronx Community College Serves as the First Step

By DAVID CRUZ

For its 60th anniversary, Bronx Community College (BCC) turned to its past, present, and future, finding a common denominator: its propensity to be the first step.

The mantra goes back decades, particularly for its population of foreign-born students building a foundation for their ambitions.

It applies for Kam Wong, currently president of Municipal Credit Union, with asset holdings of \$2.6 billion. It was in 1978 when Wong, a Hong Kong native, enrolled in the school with little discipline and a need to experience the wild side of college. By the time he completed school, he had an associate's degree, a wife he met at the school, and a career in management. And it all started with a phone call from a recruiter.

"If I did not receive that phone call, I'm not sure what I would've done today," Wong, serving as the keynote speaker for BCC's first-ever Trailblazer Series, said.

Nicholas Asamoah, a native of Ghana, enrolled at BCC well before he was even a student. After waiting a year to ensure he qualified for state aid, Asamoah soon enrolled in BCC's GED program in 2014. He immediately applied to BCC soon after. "I came back to BCC because it just made sense," Asamoah, who serves as student government president, said. "They helped me, they trained me. They were my family."

Asamoah is now headed to John Jay College with a double major in psychology and chemistry.

Asamoah and Wong's stories mirror a portion of BCC's students, many of them foreign-born and beginning to find their way around an overwhelming process.

"The luxury that my kids have, they don't have that. My kids will call me, saying 'Dad, I'm struggling in this class. What should I do? Or should I register for this class, or should I register for this class?' But when you're a first-generation student, you're the first in your family to go to college, probably the first in your family to really come into this strange land here, you don't have that guidance at home," Dr. Thomas Isekenegbe, the school's current president, said.

Indeed, the school is mostly minority, with 54 percent of its 12,000 student body born outside the U.S.



Photo by Adeline Hanssen

BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE surrounds itself with architectural jewels including the famous Gould Memorial Library (background) as well as the Hall of Fame.

and many embracing the college's role as a ticket to upward mobility. That message remains clear for Dr. Isekenegbe, the school's sixth-serving president, and himself an immigrant to Nigerian parents.

Dr. Isekenegbe's view of education's pipeline to success goes back to his days growing up in a tiny village in Agenebode, outside of Nigeria. "My father, at every point in time, at every opportunity he had said to us, 'The only way you're going to move up is through good education,'" Dr. Isekenegbe recalled. "This has been wired into my DNA for a long time."

It's Dr. Isekenegbe's philosophy he hopes will seep into students who fall within the 80 percent of those who don't graduate college. Dr. Isekenegbe looks to reduce the figure by scaling up CUNY's Accelerated Studies Associate Program (ASAP). The four-prong program takes on low graduation rates holistically by offering tuition-free college, more personalized attention, and even MetroCards to get to school.

"We have a lot of students who give various excuses that they can't come to school today because I don't have no money in MetroCard, or I don't have a car to get here," Dr. Isekenegbe said. "So you have no reason why you're not in class."

When the pilot program was introduced in 2012, 60 percent of ASAP students graduated. It was a success for Dr. Isekenegbe, who hopes that half of BCC's student body enrolls in the program by 2020.

Among the graduates is Kirssy

Martinez, who became valedictorian in 2015, but with a twist: she's a Dreamer, a status given to undocumented immigrants who arrived to the country before turning 16. "I had that goal since the first day I went to school," Martinez said.

Martinez came from the Dominican Republic, embraced BCC as a cradle of education, and is now enrolled at City College in Manhattan to study political science.

Settled atop an elevated section of University Heights, Bronx Community College seems to be tucked away by its geography. But treading

up the hill on Hall of Fame Terrace, students will find the perimeter surrounded by several Classical-styled buildings visualized and created by famed architect Stanford White. Those include Gould Memorial Library and The Hall of Fame of Great Americans, where busts of intellectual pillars in philosophy, politics, and business are on display year round, complementing the campus' collegial atmosphere.

Falling under the City University of New York network of schools, BCC first opened its doors in 1957 at the former Bronx High School of Science at the corner of Creston Avenue and East 184th Street. BCC's current location was once a satellite campus for New York University before the liberal arts school settled in Manhattan, shifting ownership of the property to BCC in 1973.

Along with academic investment, BCC has also seen a \$104 million infrastructure investment, building the North Hall and Library in 2012 and recently seeing a completed renovation of its center mall, an outdoor space for students to lounge or study.

But dressings aside, Dr. Isekenegbe looks to maintain BCC's spirit of beginnings. We've been doing that for 60 years, and I know in the next 60 years we are going to do that better," he said.



Photo by Adeline Hanssen

KAM WONG, a BCC alumni and now president of Municipal Credit Union, recounts his days at CUNY's oldest community college at the first-ever Trailblazer Series on April 28.



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Lack of Elite Screened High Schools, A Tough Call for Bronx Parents

By DAVID CRUZ

In 2015, Farrah Rubin of Riverdale was incredibly serious about enrolling her high-achieving son to an academically rigorous school, vetting schools using the New York City High School Directory and attending various school fairs.

She eventually narrowed the list down to screened high schools. Unlike Specialized High Schools, where the sole requirement of admissions is a high score on the Specialized High School Admissions Test, screened high schools have more particular applications and offer a more challenging curriculum.

But as Rubin shortened the list, an observation popped: no screened school in the Bronx matched. The standards, she found, were lacking. "All the screened schools that we saw were in Manhattan. And that's a choice," Rubin said. "It's a big commute, but yeah, we were very upset at the choices that we had. There really was limited choices. I feel in the other boroughs at least there was more choices."

There was also the matter of convenience. Should she decide on a screened high school outside the Bronx, it would involve an hour-long commute. She ultimately opted for a neighborhood high school she was pleased with. The story could be different for other parents, who she feels are settling. "And I'm not complaining about my school. The kids are doing great," Rubin said. "But there are better schools out there that we would like to have those choices here in the Bronx."

Screened high schools are available in the Bronx, though none make it to the top 50 in the city, putting Bronx parents who place a high value on education at a disadvantage. That position is supported by an independent report compiled by David Rubel, a consultant at BronxWorks, who based his findings on test scores incoming high school freshmen presented to administrators at screened high schools. The findings were corroborated by the Norwood News.

Rubel noticed the disparity when he began researching screened high schools for his sons, finding that the top schools are indeed in Manhattan, but nowhere in the Bronx. The report he drafted in September 2015 found that the top 50 screened are spread throughout the rest of the city. There are 21 in Manhattan, 17 in Queens, 10 in Brooklyn, and two in Staten Is-



Photo by Adeline Hanssen

BRONX CENTER FOR Science and Math (pictured) ranks as the only screened high school in the Bronx that comes close to being among the city's top 50 screened high schools, according to an independent analysis.

land, according to school year 2013-14 eighth grade English and math test scores Rubel used to support his premise. Manhattan's enormous School District 2, where household incomes range from \$94,022 to \$114,939, houses the most screened high schools in the top 50 list, with 11.

To Rubel, the report exposes barriers Bronx students face when obtaining quality education. Among them is the decision to travel outside the Bronx to attend a top tier school, adding to an arduous roundtrip commute, and the realization that, when compared to students who reside near the top 50 screened high schools, they are low priority. "Why should parents in one borough have a whole group of schools to pick, and parents in others have almost none?" asked Rubel.

Unlike specialized high schools, entry into a screened high school is largely based on test results from the state English and math proficiency tests students take in the eighth grade. A score of 3 or higher mostly qualifies students to enter a screened school.

"[T]here's like an almost obsessive interest in the eight schools that administer the SHSAT exam, and then there's a much larger group of schools that have many more students who are trying to get into them that are get-

ting absolutely no recognition whatsoever," Rubel said. "But the same underlying concept is there's a group of students who are high achieving and they want to be in a classroom with other high achieving students."

The screening process involves students picking schools they find matches with their interests. Students are accepted according to test score, portfolio of school work, and attendance.

But choosing a school doesn't mean they'll automatically get in despite fitting the criteria. Because the DOE places students into high schools closest to their home, a Bronx student's request to be enrolled in a Manhattan-based screened high school is at a lower priority than a student living in Manhattan, and vice versa.

Another Bronx parent, who asked not to be named, said she spent many hours getting her child into a top screened high school, learning about the DOE's screened school policies felt like a "full job time." "We found that out the hard way by listing Millenium [High School] as one, and my husband and son went to the Millenium open house in Manhattan and then they said that it was a district 2 priority for the school," she recalled. "[Y]ou had to live in the district first and

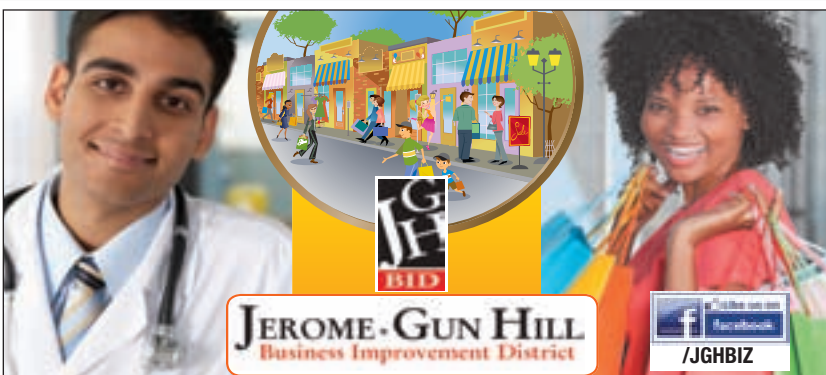
foremost. Then priority went to students from Manhattan. Then to the city. Otherwise there's a zero chance of getting in."

Should a Bronx student stick with finding a screened high school in their borough, they are picking a school that falls below the top 50 screened school list. This forces Bronx students to simply settle for second best, accepting a less intensive form of education.

"These are kids who are going to college, who are going to succeed... Why are they not as equally valued as the other group?" said Rubel.

Ranking close to the top 50 screened schools is Bronx Center for Math & Science in Claremont Village, where an English and math score at or above 2.77 and 2.64 respectively can grant a student admission.

But even as students compete for admission into a screened school, seat availability remains a problem. Rubel's analysis found that of the 18,964 students who took the English proficiency test in seventh grade, qualifying them to a screened school, only a total of 11,604 seats are available. "[T]he city should be developing more screened high schools for academically strong students," Rubel said.



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TRIPS

Kancella's Travel & Tours presents "Tour 2017"

Jonah The Spectacular Show at the Sight & Sound Theatre in Pennsylvania on Saturday, May 20. \$169 per person includes buffet dinner.

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Noah's Ark in Kentucky. 3-day weekend. \$389 per person includes admission to Noah's Ark and Creation Museum on Friday, Aug. 18.

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Bally's Casino, Atlantic City. Saturday, May 27, Memorial Day Weekend. Depart 9 a.m. from East 163rd Street and Southern Boulevard. Price: \$45. Bonus: \$30. For more information and reservations, please contact Kancella's Travel & Tours at (347) 405-2017 or Eddie at (718) 757-5485.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: Kingston 8ight Project Management Consultants, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 1/17/2017. Office location: Bronx County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

Fresh Air Fund

Registration is open for the Fresh Air Fund, which offers free summer experiences for children from low-income communities throughout the city for ages 7 to 12 with volunteer host families and sleep-away camp for ages 8 to 15. For more information, visit www.freshair.org or call (800) 367-0003.

Safety Summit

Residents living within Norwood, specifically Webster Avenue from East Mosholu Parkway North to Jerome Avenue; Jerome Avenue to Bainbridge Avenue; Bainbridge Avenue to East Gun Hill Road and down to Webster Avenue, are encouraged to attend a "Safety Summit" meeting on June 6 at 7 p.m. at 3400 Reservoir Oval East where

they can talk with NYPD officers over safety issues in the neighborhood. For more information, call Police Officer Marielena Reilly-Derasmo at (929) 499-7027 or email marielena.reilly-derasmo@nypd.org.

Volunteers Needed

The Bedford Mosholu Community Association seeks volunteers to clean up a portion of Mosholu Parkway on May 20 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in celebration of "It's My Park Day." For more information, email bedfordmosh@verizon.net.

Citizenship Assistance

Free assistance to fill out a citizenship application takes place May 13 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the UFT Bronx borough office, 2500 Halsey St. For

more information on what to bring and to schedule an advance required appointment, call (888) 839-8682 or go to <http://bit.ly/2ma1mMv>.

Immigration Services

Free immigration services ranging from naturalization, citizenship, visa renewals, and information on DACA are available by appointment at the office of Councilman Ritchie Torres, 573 E. Fordham Rd. (entrance on Hoffman Street) Mondays and the first and third Wednesday of every month from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (718) 842-8100.

Paid Work Training

New York City Small Business Services is ac-

cepting applications for anyone interested in 300 hours of paid, work experience installing reflective rooftops. For more information or employment, email coolroofs@sbs.nyc.gov, call 311 or log on to www.nyc.gov/sbs.

MetroCard Bus/Van

Buy or refill your MetroCard at a MetroCard bus or van at the following locations on every second and fourth Friday of each month: Fordham Road and Grand Concourse from noon to 2 p.m.; Fordham Plaza, Third Avenue and Fordham Road from 2:30 to 4 p.m.; and Van Cortlandt Village, 3887 Sedgwick Ave., from 9:30 to 11 a.m.; and every fourth Monday at Scott Tower, 3400 Paul Ave. from 1 to 3 p.m. For more information, call

(718) 330-1234 or 311.

SAFE Disposal

The New York City Department of Sanitation will host a SAFE Disposal Event (Solvents, Automotive, Flammable, Electronics) at the Orchard Beach Parking Lot on May 13 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. where these items can safely be discarded, as well as medical items and paints. For more information, call 311.

IDNYC

IDNYC, an official New York City ID card that offers discounts, will have a pop-up site May 11, 12 and 15 at the Muslim Women's Institute for Research and Development, 1363 Ogden Ave., at West 170th St., from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information and to make an appointment, call 311.

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Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

EDITOR'S PICK

Showing Bronx Pride

The public is welcome to show its Bronx pride at the free closing event of Bronx Week on May 21 at noon, featuring celebrities, marching bands, community organizations, schools, sports teams, and civic groups as they march along Mosholu Parkway, highlighting the best of the borough. The reviewing stand is at Mosholu Parkway East at Van Cortlandt Avenue. For more information, visit www.ilovethebronx.com.

Onstage

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., features **Rapunzel** presented by the Lehman College Music Department, May 13 at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., free but reservation is required. For more information and to RSVP, call (718) 960-7796. Also scheduled is **Sonido Costeño Trio**, performing Latin music, May 20 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

Lehman College's Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents the following performances: **Orquesta Aragón & Orquesta Broadway**, May 13 (tickets: \$50 to \$65; \$100/VIP); **The Purple Xperience**, May 20, featuring the music of Prince (tickets: \$25 to \$45; \$75/VIP; \$10/age 12 and under); and **Willie Rosario & His Orchestra w/Tony Vega**, May 27 (tickets: \$45 to \$65; \$100/VIP); all at 8 p.m. VIP tickets include pre-concert wine and hors d'oeuvres reception and the best seats in the house. For more information and to RSVP, call (718) 960-8833.

Bronx Week Events

Bronx Week, May 11 to 21, includes the



File Photo

BRONX WEEK ENDS on May 21 with a grand parade along Mosholu Parkway and a concert on Mosholu Parkway at Bainbridge Avenue (see Editor's Pick for more information).

following events (also see Editor's Pick), and for more information visit www.ilovethebronx.com:

May 13 at 11 a.m. - **Historic Houses of the Bronx**, free public lecture/illustrated presentation, at the Bronx County Archives, 3313 Bainbridge Ave., presented by the Bronx County Historical Society (BCHS). May 20 at 11 a.m. - **In the Footsteps of Edgar Allan Poe**, a 3-mile BCHS guided tour from Poe Cottage to High Bridge (meet at Poe Cottage, Grand Concourse and Kingsbridge Road; \$10/members; \$20/non members). For more BCHS information, call (718) 881-8900.

May 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. - **Jeter Day Block Party**, to celebrate Yankee legend Derek Jeter with souvenirs, song, and dance, free, at River Avenue between East 161st and 162nd streets.

May 21 from noon to 6 p.m. - **Free Bronx Food & Arts Festival**, to buy food and hand-crafted and specialty items from NY-based artists and vendors, at Mosholu Parkway between Van Cortlandt and Bainbridge avenues. The Bronx Health Pavilion will offer free health screening, and the stage will offer live music all day.

May 21 from noon to 6 p.m. - **Free Bronx**



Photo courtesy Joshua Bright

FREE ADMISSION TO Wave Hill's grounds (free before noon on Saturdays) can be the perfect way to celebrate Mother's Day weekend.

Week Grand Finale Concert, featuring a variety of artists performing live music, including hip-hop, R&B, salsa, and more, at Mosholu Parkway and Bainbridge Avenue.

Mother's Day Events

Senator Jamaal T Bailey invites the public to **Celebrate Mother's Day** at the Bartow Community Center, 2049 Bartow Ave., rooms 28 and 31 in Co-op City, on May 20 from 1 to 5 p.m. Events include free beauty care, massages, and health screenings. For more information, and to RSVP (by May 15), call (718) 547-8854 or email Ngaray@nysenate.gov.

The Fordham BID is holding its **Mother's Day Sidewalk Sale**, May 11 to 13 from noon to 7 p.m. between Washington and Jerome avenues, where businesses will display seasonal merchandise. For more information, call (718) 562-2104.

The New York Botanical Garden presents **Mother's Day Weekend**, May 13 and 14, featuring live music, dancers, games and food. For more information, call (718) 817-8700 or visit www.nybg.org.

Events

Montefiore Medical Center offers free **cervical and breast cancer screenings** to women ages 21 to 64 who are uninsured or underinsured, May 13 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Montefiore Imaging Center, 3400 Bainbridge Ave., lower level suite #300 (test results in two to three hours). For more information and to register, call (718) 920-4600.

Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Art Projects**: Fabric Frames and Lavender Sachets for Mom, to make a frame and adorn it with dried flowers and ribbons, and a fragrant gift sachet, May 13 and 14; and Starting Seeds With the Next Epoch Seed Library, to plant seeds and decorate containers to hold them, May 20 and 21; both 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 for children: Hands-On Projects at 4 p.m.: (ages 7 to 12; preregistration required), Popsicle Jewelry Holder, May 11; Craft Stick Spring Birds, May 18; Wooden Airplane Making, May 25; and at 3:30 p.m.: Mother's Day Magnet Making, May 14; and Tee-Shirt Making: (ages 7 to 12), to design a summer reading T-shirt, May 13 at 2 p.m. (supplies provided; in-person pre-registration required). For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

The Mosholu Library, 285 E. 205th St., offers for children: **Greenhouse Exploration**: (ages 5 to 12), weather permitting, to hang out in the back yard to play and help maintain the garden, plant seeds, compost, water plants or do craft, May 24 at 3:30 p.m. Teens/young adults can enjoy: **film**: "A Star Wars Story," May 20 at 1:30 p.m. Adults can attend: **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 2:45 p.m.**: (ages 5 to 12), dance moves on the Wii game console, May 12 and 19; and **Preschool Story Time and Craft at 11:15 a.m.**: (ages 3 to 5), featuring books, puppetry, dramatics, crafts and flannel boards, May 18 and 25. Adults can attend: **Computer Basics**: May 18 at noon and 6 p.m. and May 25 at noon. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL OUR MOM READERS!

NOTE: Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org, and should be received by May 15 for the next publication date of May 25.

Five-Two Tackles Heroin

(continued from page 1)

the Bronx, signaling heroin's grip regardless of status. As of press time, 11 people have died from a heroin overdose at the midtown precinct so far this year.

The NYPD's roving narcotics squad has now spent more time within the Five-Two's borders, which cover Norwood, Bedford Park, Kingsbridge Heights, Fordham, and University Heights. It is unclear where the majority of overdose cases have been reported and officers haven't provided any details on the victims' ages or ethnic backgrounds. But officers have zeroed in mostly on East 194th Street, a largely working poor section near Fordham and Bedford Park, as the epicenter for heroin use within the precinct's jurisdiction. The New York City Department of Health has placed Fordham and Bedford Park among the top five neighborhoods with the highest rate of overdose deaths. Three other neighborhoods and another in the borough of Staten Island round out the top five neighborhoods with a rise in opioid use. To officers in Fordham and Bedford Park, it's known as Sector B, and many have maintained a large presence there.

"They have their targets, and hopefully arrests will become sooner [rather] than later," Fiorillo said.

Elsewhere, narcotic takedowns continue, most recently in Norwood, where agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration charged seven for drug distribution in Knox and Gates places (see page 3 for the story).

But heroin use is not so much of an in-your-face issue as many may believe. It happens away from public view, at homes or parks late at night, making it an undetectable epidemic to the public. "It's really part of our issue in really viewing this as an epidemic, because it is so hidden," Debra Pantin, executive director of VIP Services, a drug treatment clinic in Tremont, said. "It is almost like the best-kept secret and we don't know that it's happening under our noses."

VIP Services has seen an influx of heroin users walk into its clinic on Arthur Avenue. Of the 1000 clients it sees daily, counselors have begun noticing even more taking advantage of its services, said Pantin.

Rise of Fentanyl

In combating heroin use, the Police Department has found an increased use of fentanyl blended with heroin, another opioid that prolongs the high. Its popularity has risen over the last three years, thanks to its power in boosting the effects of the high. Of the 1,268 fatal drug over-

doses recorded by the New York City Department of Health in 2016, half of them were related to fentanyl, whose nicknames include Apache, China Girl, and Goodfella.

Fentanyl, when prescribed properly, works as a painkiller and is arguably more effective than morphine. Symptoms of improper use of fentanyl include stiffening of the body, blue lips, foaming at the mouth, and slowed breathing.

Dr. Mai Takematsu, an emergency room doctor at Montefiore Health System, who's seen a steady number of overdose cases at the ER over the year, says opioid's killer component is its ability to slow breathing.

"The opioid itself is gonna suppress all the reflexes to breathe," Dr. Takematsu, who also has a background in toxicology, said. "Even if the oxygen goes down and they would not start breathing, and that's the scary part. It depends on how severely their respiratory center in their brain is affected."

Just how fentanyl is getting into the hands of suppliers baffles the police. Protocols mandated by the state, including the conversion of prescriptions from paper to electronic form, have made it tougher to obtain fentanyl from the health sector. The Police Department believes the drug is synthetically manufactured outside New York State, and trafficked to city streets.

"The consumers don't even know that most of the time the heroin is mixed with fentanyl," Pantin said. "In some cases they do know. In some occasions they do not."

Education

While the Five-Two continues to lead or join various drug takedowns across its precinct, it's also taken a more empathetic approach to the user. These days, the Police Department's force of 34,450 uniformed officers has been trained in administering Narcan, a chemical that reverses the effects of heroin, widening the availability of the antidote.

Drug clinics across the Bronx have also done their part, combining distribution of Narcan with outreach. "They're getting it with a lot of education, and a lot of training," Pantin said.

But one dose may not be enough, according to experts, who've found it takes two or three doses of Narcan to revive a user who's taken a heroin-fentanyl mix.

Time remains a factor in administering the Narcan, Dr. Takematsu has found. "[If] you're not administered the naloxone within I would say 30 minutes or so, give or take, you may not have a good brain function after you come back."

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