



NORWOOD NEWS

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INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER:
SUBWAYS & DE BLASIO | PG. 4



SEE PHOTOS: 5-2 PCT.
NAT'L NIGHT OUT AT THE OVAL | PG. 8

SHELTER WORRIES FOR NORWOOD

Shelter most likely coming to neighborhood. Site is pending.



Photos by Miriam Quinones

THESE TWO PROPERTIES -- 3600 Jerome Ave. (top) and 3041 Webster Ave. (bottom) -- in Norwood are under consideration for a homeless shelter.

By **DAVID CRUZ**

The city Department of Homeless Services (DHS) is mulling over two locations for its next homeless shelter in Norwood. They include a carpet store on Webster Avenue, and the site of a former social services nonprofit on Jerome Avenue, drawing ire from neighborhood residents.

Should DHS consider Sam's Floor Coverings at 3041 Webster Ave., it would signal yet another setback for a broad vision to turn the wide corridor into a bustling residential and commercial destination.

Community leaders have expressed outrage over news of an impending shelter in Norwood, which they initially

heard about in a story published by the *Norwood News* in October last year. DHS insisted then that the property was not being eyed as a site.

But building records reviewed by the *Norwood News* show the owner of Sam's Floor Coverings, Carmine Rossi, submitted paperwork proposing that business at

the corner of East Mosholu Parkway North should be re-configured specifically for "philanthropic or non-profit institution with sleeping accommodations." The phrase is common for properties that house the homeless, as indicated by documents for 233 Landing Rd., a shelter/afford-

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Mosholu Preservation Corporation (MPC)
3400 Reservoir Oval East
Bronx, New York 10467
Phone: 718 324 4998
Fax: 718 324 2917
E-mail: norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org
Web.: www.norwoodnews.org

Publisher
Mosholu Preservation Corporation

Executive Director of MPC
Melissa Cebollero

Director of MPC
Jennifer Tausig

Editor-in-Chief, Norwood News
David Cruz, dcruz@norwoodnews.org

Accounts Receivable
Dawn McEvoy

Proofreader
Judy Noy

Regular Contributors
David Greene, Adi Talwar

Contributors
Miriam Quinones,
Wendy Joan Biddlecombe,
Devin Dae Tucker, Jacob Shore

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EDITORIAL**Eulogy for a Public Servant**

On a drizzly Monday morning, several hundred mourners gathered to pay their respects for Andrew Sandler, the former district manager for Community Board 7 who had died two days before. It was hard to peg the numbers. There were 200, perhaps close to 300 people at Sandler's funeral, with elected officials on the city and state level personally offering condolences.

The large numbers seemed to reflect the respect he carried across communities of Norwood, Bedford Park, and Riverdale. It could also be what Sandler symbolized: the unsung heroes who operate in government.

Sandler was cut from that cloth, spending years working on citizen complaints from the time he began working for then Councilman Oliver Koppell followed by Councilman Andrew Cohen. His experience certainly laid the groundwork for his transition as district manager for the board, drafting letters, hearing complaints, and acting as a facilitator for positive change. It was a behind-the-scenes role that befitted Sandler's nature of working on behalf of citizens, away from the spectacle often attached to elected officials basking in attention.

Across the Bronx, officials on the local, state and federal level hire staffers to answer citizen complaints. Some are better than others. And even as the staffer works the phones, visits a problem site, stubbornly sticks with the issue with plenty of follow through, they'll likely know that it's the elected representative they work for who will take most of the credit. In the many press releases thrown our way, seldom does the elected official thank the men



Photo courtesy Friends of Mosholu Parkland Facebook Page

THE LATE ANDREW SANDLER (second from left) with Friends of Mosholu Parkland volunteers.

and women working on their behalf. It would behoove lawmakers to consider adding their staffers to press releases to publically thank them for playing a major role. One takeaway from Sandler's death (he was only 31 years old), is that there are never any guarantees. Death lurks all over; it can take us at any given moment.

In many ways, working behind the scenes is a thankless job. Sandler didn't mind. It takes guts to be selfless, knowing that the work one does comes from the heart. Results were Sandler's juice.

His admiration extended beyond his funeral. On the *Norwood News* website shortly after publishing Sandler's obituary, a stream of comments characterized Sandler as a go-getter with the community in mind. "I knew Andrew since his days with [Councilman] Koppell," wrote Walter Algarin. "[The] consummate public servant, he possessed vigor and idealism when righting a wrong. He will be sorely missed in the borough he loved! Rest in peace my friend."

Yes, rest in peace, Andrew. You leave this borough on a high note.

Public and Community Meetings

RESIDENTS LIVING WITHIN the 52nd Precinct's Sector C division are invited to a Safety Summit Meeting organized by Neighborhood Coordination Officers Stephen Urbanowicz and Tara Convery on Aug. 29 at 6 p.m. at Lehman College's Music Building, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W. Sector C encompasses from West Gun Hill Road to Webster Avenue at Mosholu Parkway and from Goulden Avenue south to Kingsbridge Road and west to east along East 196th Street. For more information, email Stephen.Urbanowicz@nypd.org or Tara.Convery@nypd.org.

Andrew Sandler, Former CB7 District Manager, Passes Away

By DAVID CRUZ

At the tender age of 31 years old and having spent a year and a half as Community Board 7 district manager, Andrew Michael Sandler carried a great deal of respect as shown by the outpouring of support he received at his funeral.

Sandler died on Aug. 5, the result of a battle with cancer. His close friends and loved ones knew his condition. He wanted few to know.

"He was one of the rare ones who selflessly just wanted to help people," said Stephanie Sandler, Andrew's sister, who confirmed his death to the *Norwood News*. At his funeral on Aug. 7, Stephanie called Sandler a "superhero."

Sandler was born on May 8, 1986 to parents Sandra and the late Albert Sandler, living his entire life in the Bronx. He attended Manhattan College in 2004, with ambitions working for gov-

ernment, even as dreams of being a comedian or filmmaker lurked within his periphery. He ultimately graduated with honors in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in political science and government.

After interning at Congressman Eliot Engel's office, Sandler found work as director of community affairs for then Councilman Oliver Koppell, representing the 11th Council District. His expertise in handling landlord-tenant cases, transportation issues and other quality of life matters helped Sandler remain in that post when Koppell's successor, Councilman Andrew Cohen, took the helm representing the Norwood district.

"When he set his sights on taking on a problem, he was relentless," Cohen told the *Norwood News*. "There's no doubt he left the world a better place than when he found it."



Photo courtesy Facebook

ANDREW SANDLER

Between his community involvement and background in responding to citizen complaints in the northwest Bronx, Sandler's transition as district manager for Community Board 7 appeared natural. Sandler maintained he had no political aspirations--the role of

working behind the scenes appealed to him best.

Sandler was hired by Community Board 7 in January 2016. As most district manager job duties go, Sandler served as the go-between for city government and constituents. He kept a large presence within the board's

neighborhoods of Norwood, Bedford Park, Kingsbridge Heights, Fordham, and University Heights. His actions followed the temperament of the board. Among them was the proposed rezoning of Bedford Park and Kingsbridge Heights, which resulted in the hiring of an independent urban planner to conduct a study.

In January 2017, Sandler took medical leave. He vowed to return to work, doing so on a part-time basis in June 2017. His condition soon gave way, having relied on a home health aide while working at the office. Sandler ultimately resigned from his job.

Funeral services for Sandler took place Aug. 7 at Riverdale-on-Hudson Funeral Home. Sandler is survived by his mother, sister, sister-in-law Elizabeth Kountzman, aunt Yvette Sandler and uncle Ronald Wallach.

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By DAVID GREENE

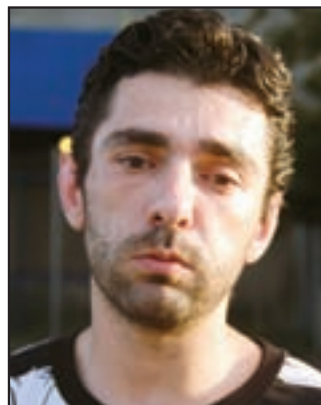


This week we asked readers if they plan on voting for Mayor Bill de Blasio in the upcoming election and whether they believe his proposed millionaire's tax would bring enough funds to overhaul the New York City transit system.



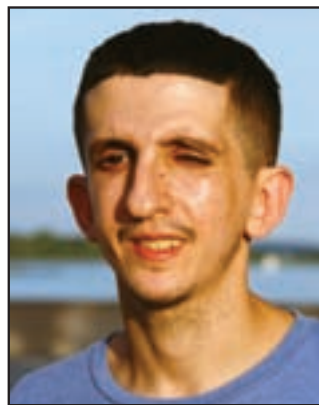
I can't recall if I voted for him initially, but I don't think I'd vote for him now because I feel he's a little biased overall, even though his wife is a woman of color. I think he's a biased person and I don't think he does enough for the community. The tax would have to be substantial. But would the millionaires have a right to appeal the tax? Because if they can appeal it--and I know they will-- it's a moot point.

Jeannie Resto
Schuylerville



I don't know if he'd get my vote; has he been good for us? I don't feel like he's done anything for the people. If he's going to tax the rich and give it to the poor, then I'm with him. Everyone takes the subway and the city needs it to survive.

Boris Britvan
Pelham Parkway



Yeah, I think I will vote for him again; he's been a reasonable mayor. I think the tax is a great idea, but will it be enough? I don't know, but I think it's a good start. We have to do something.

Igor Agaromov
Pelham Parkway



Yes, I will vote for him again. To me he's been doing a good job. Regarding the tax, I don't think it's going to be enough to fix the MTA because it's become quite a big problem to fix it. But I do think it's a good start. I also think the rich need to start getting used to giving a little more in taxes.

Frank Ledi
Norwood



I may vote for him again; I think he's done a fair job so far. I don't think the tax will be enough. We're going to need more than what that tax will raise, but it's a good idea, a good start.

Nesty Cartagana
Bedford Park

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Securing Kingsbridge Ice Center Funding a Waiting Game

By DAVID CRUZ

In April, the New York State budget approved by Governor Andrew Cuomo included a \$108 million capital loan to the developers of the Kingsbridge National Ice Center (KNIC), clearing a major hurdle for the project.

But securing funding for the impending hockey center is one thing. Exploring the terms is a completely separate endeavor, and one that could take months. This delays the project even more. Completion of it could come in 2020, three years behind schedule.

And while community stakeholders and elected officials, including Mayor Bill de Blasio, prognosticate on when the project would be approved by the state, it remains unclear when the actual loan terms would be finalized. De Blasio hoped the project would receive state approval in June. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., a staunch supporter of the \$350 million project, expected it in April. Still, the project has yet to land on the agenda of the Empire State Development corporation (ESD), the state authority under the control of Cuomo. The Board of Directors meets monthly. At its July 27 meeting, ESD did not place the KNIC project on its agenda.

ESD is the first stop. Lawyers from ESD typically work out the loan terms with lawyers representing any developer.

Advancing the project simply hinges on the back and forth negotiations between KNIC developers and ESD. Cuomo had pushed the state to earmark the loan to KNIC. Political observers noted that Cuomo's approval of the project stems largely from his allegiance to Diaz, whose ambitions to run for mayor pulled him closer to Cuomo.

In a statement, Amy Varghese, a spokesperson for ESD, said, "The State has always been committed to revitalizing the long-vacant Kingsbridge Armory, which will bring hundreds of needed jobs to the Bronx. ESD already approved \$30 million for this project last year and the remaining \$108 million was appropriated this year and will be released after the required public approval process."

KNIC received the funds following a process, both closed door and public, that began in August 2015. This time, the full \$108 million is sought, a move likely motivated by the city's insistence that the full \$158 million, the amount needed for the first phase of the project, be in hand before any construction



File Photo

THE KINGSBRIDGE ARMORY STANDS vacant years following the New York City Council's decision to approve the property for a \$350 million ice skating center.

can begin on the city-owned property. The Armory, located at the corner of Jerome Avenue and Kingsbridge Road, is expected to house nine Olympic-size skating rinks and a 5,000-seat arena.

Funds typically come from one or several funding streams. In the case of the \$30 million loan, KNIC was offered the capital loan under the Transformative Investment Program Fund (TIP). The initial loan, which represents 7.5 percent of the funds' \$400 million TIP program, was approved since the proj-

ect passed a number of parameters, mainly that it could create and retain private jobs. KNIC received the \$30 million loan at an interest rate of seven percent with the promise it will pay the loan back in 24 months.

Just what type of program the new loan falls under remains unclear. A representative from KNIC did not return an email seeking response.

Once ESD clears the terms, the project moves to the Public Authorities Control Board (PACB), which gives fi-

nal sign-off on the funds.

Still, negotiations between ESD and KNIC represent a healthy step forward for the project that was beleaguered by years of false starts and recent litigation. The ice project was first announced by then Mayor Michael Bloomberg, favoring financier Kevin Parker's project. NHL legend Mark Messier became the face of the project.

KNIC's legal issues began after the city insisted on receiving the full amount for the first phase of the project in exchange for the lease release. This held up development as KNIC argued in Bronx Supreme Court that for it to receive the rest of the funds, it needed to show the state it had a lease in hand. Early this year the two sides settled their legal differences.

With legal matters resolved, and the project back in the state's hands, community and elected leaders await with bated breath on when the state will clear the project. Once that happens, the city will continue monitoring them.

"But we are going to be very strong in making sure that the private partners do what they commit to do. We want to see it get done; we believe it can get done," de Blasio said at a July 11 town hall in the Bronx. "So I think we're at a point where we believe it can happen. We're going to be all over monitoring it. Anything goes wrong we will intervene quickly. We really would like to see it get done."



Screengrab courtesy Empire State Development

THE EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT agency first met to approve loan financing for the Kingsbridge National Ice Center in December 2015.



The Bronx Develops Luxury Student Housing Rises In Bronx's Little Italy



Part 1

The Norwood News, in partnership with WFUV and BronxNet TV, brings you a four-part series on development projects happening across the Bronx and its impact on community residents.

By JACOB SHORE



For Fordham University students, living off campus is a respite from on-campus housing prices and its rules. It's worked for Brendan Batcheller, a senior at Fordham's Gabelli School of Business. The public accounting major said living off campus is markedly cheaper than living within Fordham's gates.

"The cost of a year's rent for us is less than nine months' worth of living in a dorm," Batcheller said in an email. "There is definitely a greater sense of independence living off campus—having to deal with a landlord, paying utilities, fixing things as they come up, etc. provides a more realistic living situation than calling [a resident advisor] or Facilities whenever you have a problem."

The demand has drawn developers to create off-campus housing in Belmont, dubbed the Bronx's Little Italy and blocks from Fordham's campus. This has worried some who view these developments as keeping permanent residents out. But the development comes with a twist—these days, luxury housing is trending. Developers like AB Capstone intend to give students an off-campus luxury alternative to Fordham dorms.

Currently under construction is AB Cap-



Photo by Jacob Shore

CONSTRUCTION SITE FOR a future luxury residence marketed for students on Hoffman Street in Belmont, a few blocks from Fordham University.

a 30-person luxury residence on Lorillard Place, each a block away and marketed as an upscale option for students. Students have already moved into the Artu Viale and Lorillard properties.

"Arthur Avenue is a place for tourists and locals to shop and eat. But most of the people who do live in these houses around us are predominantly students. So how have we

ings since January.

Like Zanzuri, Manheimer said his company offers "premiere rentals for the neighborhood." Manheimer said they won't discourage other Bronx residents from living in their units, though they'll prioritize their units to Fordham students.

Their website, www.fordhamhousing.com, directly markets apartments to Fordham students, even suggesting they're affiliated with the university. Fordham University does not sponsor off-campus housing developments, but companies like the BSP saw a market for students who wish to live off campus, said Manheimer. The website offers students \$250 for every referral leading to a rental. "[W]e market towards students because I think that's the highest supply of tenants in the neighborhood. It's smart business to market that way," he said.

But some worry that by continuing to market housing developments and properties to mostly Fordham students, a spot in housing is lost to someone who leaves after four years rather than someone looking to stay in the neighborhood long-term. District Manager of local Community Board 6 John Sanchez said when one markets housing exclusively for students, you can keep out young professionals looking to live there longer than four years.

"We don't want community residents to be denied the chances to have these apartments," said Sanchez. "I think when you have an exclusive development or you market it as exclusively for students, that can create tension between residents and the students. And there shouldn't be that tension because the students are a part of our community."

Councilman Ritchie Torres, representing the neighborhood, said he's not opposed to luxury student housing but would prefer more development in the area tailored to long-term residents and working professionals, like the Bronx's many healthcare workers. "The key to deconcentrating poverty is to have a mix of incomes living in the neighborhood," said Torres. "It's a noble pursuit." Torres said the new buildings going up have not displaced any residents so far, but he will be on the lookout for it.

For Frank Franz, treasurer of the Belmont Business Improvement District, students are vital to the Bronx, even if they only live there briefly. Franz, a lifelong Bronx resident, wants to see the borough build up the quality of Belmont's housing developments not just for students, but for the borough's teachers, police officers, and medical professionals. "You can't get people of better means living here in crappy housing," said Franz. "The neighborhood needs to be economically diversified."

Belmont has historically been a delicate balance of Italian heritage, college town, and recent immigrants. The NYU Furman Center put the neighborhood in 2015 at 64.1 percent Hispanic, 29.7 percent black, and 4.5 percent white. The district also has the city's highest unemployment rate with 44 percent of residents living below the federal poverty line.

Fordham University has changed from the small commuter college of years past to boasting three campuses and more than 6,000 undergraduate students at its Rose Hill location. Despite recent developments and increased renovations of properties to rent to students, Fordham University maintains that fewer students are moving off campus. By looking at the difference between housing deposits and number of students, university spokesman Bob Howe said around 500 to 1,000 students leave Fordham housing to live in Belmont. "Fordham students rent apartments across a variety of housing types in the local neighborhood, few of which could be described as luxury housing," said Howe in an email.

For Sanchez, the development in Belmont should involve the community board so they can work on housing that balances both the population of students in the area with young professionals who work in the Bronx and are the future of the borough. "The students are a huge boon to the economy but in the same way so is the community that has been here for years," Sanchez said. "I think having them coexist is a lot better than trying to separate university from the community. We should be intermingling."

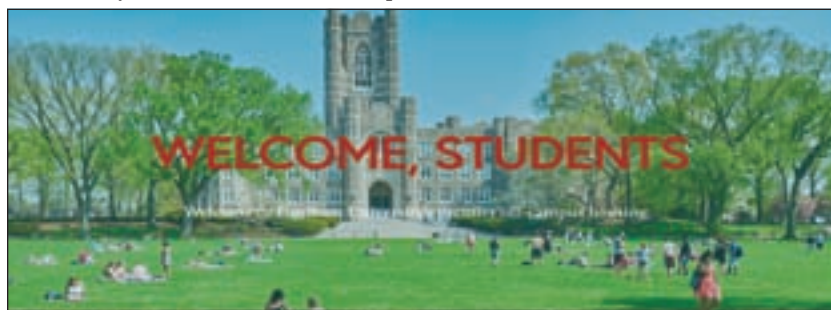


Image courtesy Brooklyn Standard Properties

FRONT PAGE OF Brooklyn Standard Properties' website, marketing campaign for Fordham students.

stone's third luxury housing unit, the first company to bring such housing to the neighborhood. Their most high profile residence is dubbed Artu Viale on Arthur Avenue, two blocks from the Arthur Avenue Retail Market. It was completed this spring.

Creative Director of AB Capstone Joseph Zanzuri said the apartments cost roughly \$1000 per bedroom, though he did not elaborate further. But residents said one- and two-bedroom units typically go from \$1500 to upwards of \$3000.

Artu Viale and the property under construction on Hoffman Street are joined by

hurt the community by offering something better than there was before?" said Zanzuri. "More students are looking to live off campus nowadays."

Another real estate firm marketing off-campus housing in Belmont include Brooklyn Standard Properties (BSP). They completed a deal last month to own a swath of buildings previously marketed as off-campus housing for Fordham students. The deal was finalized by co-founder David Manheimer who secured 104 rental units in 10 buildings, totaling their Fordham portfolio to 14 build-

National Night Out

THE 52ND PRECINCT Community Council and the 52nd Precinct co-hosted the annual National Night Out Against Crime at Williamsbridge Oval Park on Aug. 1, an event happening separately among the 11 Bronx precincts. At the Oval, representatives from Mosholu Preservation Corporation, Bronx Community Board 7, and Target were on hand. Check out these photos by Miriam Quinones.



MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION grants manager Cid Rivera (r) hands an MPC keychain strap to event visitor Rosanna Delgado.



TWINS AARON AND EVAN Rolon roll on through the 52nd Precinct National Night Out event in this mini cop car.



NYPD COMMUNITY AFFAIRS Officer Crystal Reveron (l) cheers some of the finalists in a friendly game of musical chairs.



(L-R) COUNCILMAN FERNANDO CABRERA with Public Advocate Leticia James, 52nd Precinct commanding officer Deputy Inspector Peter Fiorillo, 52nd Precinct Community Council president Brenda Caldwell-Paris, and Assemblyman Victor Pichardo. Fiorillo holds up a proclamation given to him by James for his services to the community.



THE 52ND PRECINCT Community Council holds up awards by the Public Advocate's Office. They include (l-r) Council President Brenda Caldwell-Paris, member Sallie Caldwell, 52nd Precinct commanding officer Deputy Inspector Peter Fiorillo, member Patricia L. Newland, Jerry Landron, Gwen Hunter, and Grace Seimer (seated).



RIDGEWOOD SAVINGS BANK employees hand out some swag at National Night Out.

NORWOOD NEWS

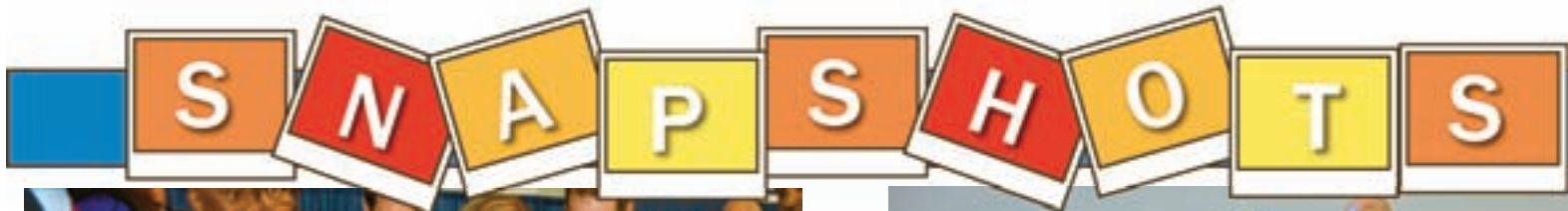


Photo by Miriam Quinones

MAYOR BILL DE BLASIO (seated) signs the Right to Counsel Bill, which guarantees legal representation for low-income New Yorkers facing eviction. De Blasio signed the bill amid housing advocates, Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito (to de Blasio's left), and community stakeholders on Aug. 11 at New Settlement Community Center in the Mt. Eden section of the Bronx.



Photo by Miriam Quinones

A BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT organized by Shooting 4 Peace, which calls attention to ending gun violence, took place at Lehman College on Aug. 5. (Top row, l-r) Dr. Ted Sutton from HBO's "The Wire," Reggie White of the Philadelphia Eagles, Greg Harrell of the LA Raiders and USA bobsled team member, and Founder of Shooting for Peace Ray Sydnor of the Philadelphia Eagles. (Bottom Row l-r) NBA legend Tiny Nate Archibald, 9-year-old Teanna, 11-year-old Geo Bonnie, and Albert Williams.



Photo by Miriam Quinones

VOLUNTEERS PUT THE finishing touches on several murals hung outside M&T Bank's newest branch at 2460 Grand Concourse next to the Fordham Road B/D subway stop on Aug. 9. The collaboration between the bank and the DreamYard Project, a community arts group based in Hunts Point, was made in a show of neighborly pride for one of Fordham's newest businesses.



Photo by Devin Dae Tucker

BUBBLES GALORE. THESE kids get caught up in a slew of bubbles at Montefiore Health System's 6th annual Education Day by the Division of Pediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes at CHAM. Kids enjoyed a variety of activities at the Bronx Zoo, including arts and crafts, face painting and educational games.



Photo by Miriam Quinones

AN OFFICER WITH the 47th Precinct gets a game of hopscotch going with these young girls at the annual National Night Out Against Crime on Aug. 1 in the Edenwald section of the Bronx. The event aims to build stronger bonds between police and the community.



Photo by Miriam Quinones

TEACHING ARTIST RACHEL LEE tosses free T-shirts into the crowd, courtesy of the musical "Newsies." A live performance of some of the acts featured in the Broadway play took place at Williamsbridge Oval Park on July 24. It was followed by a film screening of the play about newsboys in 1899 New York City.

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In Forum for 14th Council District Seat, Incumbent a No Show

By **WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE**

Councilman Fernando Cabrera couldn't make it to a forum that would have seen him defending why he should remain the representative for the 14th Council District. Instead, he was represented by a portrait of himself.

The Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition (NWBCCC) held the forum at Monroe College, with residents in the district getting better acquainted with the two men challenging the incumbent ahead of the Sept. 12 primary.

Randy Abreu, a lawyer who briefly worked for the U.S. Department of Energy under former President Barack Obama, and Felix Perdomo, a teacher who was born in the Dominican Republic, are vying for the council seat. The district covers the neighborhoods of University Heights, Kingsbridge Heights, Fordham and Mt. Eden.

Claire McLeveign, Cabrera's spokesperson, said the councilman initially agreed to participate, but that his schedule conflicted with National Night Out Against Crime, an event that aims to improve relations between police and communities. McLeveign said Cabrera's attendance to the national event was especially critical this year, given the recent shooting death of NYPD Detective Miosotis Familia and the shootings at Bronx-Lebanon Hospital that left one doctor dead and six others injured. Both incidents happened within Cabrera's district.

When forum organizers noted they had changed the original forum date to accommodate Cabrera's schedule, the news was met with boos and taunts of "that ain't right." During the two-hour event, the hopefuls answered questions from community members affiliated with local groups and responded to questions submitted by guests.

Perdomo stressed his outsider status, saying that he's not a politician, but just a "schoolteacher, basically," while underscoring the importance of community input in decision making. "I came to this country without opportunity, without housing, without anything...just the desire to come to this country to make a better life," Perdomo said. "I want to be a City Council member because I know how hard it is to succeed."

Abreu called for a stop to the city's Jerome Avenue rezoning efforts, a move that would see more affordable housing along the corridor. Turning to the Kingsbridge Armory redevelopment project, Abreu added that the project must benefit those already living in the community. He vowed to take bad landlords to task if elected, and expressed a strong interest in chairing the Council's Small Business Committee. "We really only have about four, five years to go until...gentrification gets the best of us," Abreu said. "It's my barber on Fordham Road; it's my dry cleaner on 183rd Street; it's that Mexican restaurant I love over on Burnside [Avenue]. Everyone, everyone is hurting right now."

Without naming names, Perdomo criticized "another candidate" of accepting campaign funds from developers and landlords. He was likely referencing Cabrera, whose campaign finance report shows he has more than \$73,000 in campaign funds as of this paper's press time, with members of the real estate sector contributing a hefty sum.

Campaign finance reports show that Perdomo has raised \$12,692 in campaign donations. Abreu has raised \$48,000 and received endorsements from several organizations and unions that include 1199SEIU, United Auto Workers, Planned Parenthood and Bronx Progressives.



Photo by Wendy Joan Biddlecombe

THE CANDIDATES FOR the 14th Council District seat include (l-r) Randy Abreu, Felix Perdomo, and incumbent Councilman Fernando Cabrera, represented by his official portrait at a scheduled forum.

HEALTH CHECK

Smoking It's Time to Quit!

By **BRENDA BOATSWAIN, PhD.**

According to the U.S. Surgeon General, "cigarette smoking remains the chief preventable killer in America, with more than 40 million Americans caught in a web of tobacco dependence." Each day, more than 3,200 youth (younger than 18 years of age) smoke their first cigarette and another 2,100 youth and young adults who are occasional smokers progress to become daily smokers.

Studies have shown that smokers are more likely than non-smokers to develop heart disease, stroke, and lung cancer. Tobacco use remains the single largest preventable cause of disease and premature death in the United States. Pregnant women and those who have a heart condition are particularly vulnerable and should avoid tobacco products.

This is a call to action. Quitting smoking can be a long and hard process. The American Cancer Society suggests the following to get through the rough times of quitting:

1. Take one day at a time.

When you wake up each morning, make the promise you won't smoke a cigarette that day. A day at a time keeps the whole thing more manageable.

2. Avoid temptation.

Stay away from activities, people, and places you link with smoking.

3. Take extra care of yourself.

Drink water, eat well, and

get enough sleep to have the energy to handle extra stress.

4. Cope with your emotions.

Know that anger, frustration, anxiety, irritability, and even depression are normal after quitting and will get better as you learn ways to cope that don't involve tobacco.

5. Tell yourself "no."

Say it out loud. Practice doing this a few times, and listen to yourself. Some other things you can say to yourself might be, "I'm too strong to give in to smoking," "I'm not a smoker now," or "I will not let my friends and family down." And most important, "I will not let myself down."

6. Resist Temptation.

Never let yourself think that "one cigarette won't hurt," because it very likely will.

Get support you can count on. If you're thinking about reaching for a cigarette, reach for help instead. Ask your friends and family to encourage the new non-smoking you, reach out to a support group, visit Nicotine Anonymous, or call (800) QUIT NOW. You can always call the American Cancer Society at (800) 227-2345.

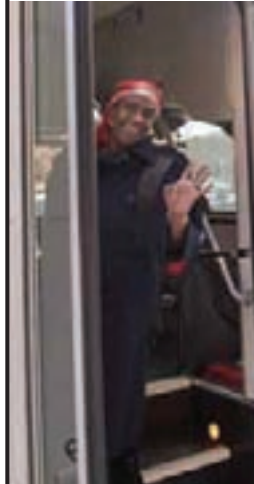
Each day that you don't smoke is a small victory. These all add up to a huge victory over time.

Source: Dr. Brenda Boatswain is the Wellness/Wellbeing Coordinator at Montefiore Health System's Office of Community & Population Health.

Have you or someone you know recently been the victim of mail fishing? If so, the *Norwood News* wants to hear from you. Email David Cruz at dcruz@norwoodnews.org or call (718) 324-4998.

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HELP WANTED

District Manager Position available at Bronx Community Board 7. For job description, requirements and deadline, please visit our website: www.BronxCB7.info. Send cover letter and resume, ONLY by postal mail to: Search Committee, Bronx Community Board 7, 229-A E. 204th St., Bronx, NY 10458.

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BACK-TO-SCHOOL EVENT

he Bedford Park Congregational Church will hold a Back-to-School Prayer & Community Day celebration on Sunday, Aug. 27, 2017 from 2 to 5 p.m. School supplies and snacks will be given out to community children, while supplies last. Children must be present. The Bedford Park Congregational Church is located at the corner of East 201st Street and Bainbridge Avenue.

TRIP

Trip to Medieval Times, Dinner and Tournament. In Lyndhurst, NJ on Sunday, Sept. 17, 2017 at 10 a.m. from East 163rd Street and Southern Boulevard. For more information, please contact Eddie at (718) 757-5485.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

MMCC Trip

Mosholu Montefiore Community Center (MMCC) offers an overnight trip to Washington D.C. and Baltimore, Oct. 5-6, with a visit to the National African-American History & Culture Museum. Stay includes one-night hotel and several meals. For more detailed information and rates, call the MMCC Senior Center at (718) 798-6601.

Job Expos

Employer pop-up recruitment expos are taking place at the following libraries from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd. and Belmont Library, 610 E. 186th St., both on Aug. 30; and Eastchester Library, 1385 E. Gun Hill Rd.

on Aug. 24. For more information, call (718) 579-4260.

Naloxone Availability

Individuals with prescription health insurance coverage, including Medicaid and Medicare, can receive up to \$40 in co-payment coverage for naloxone. This medicine is used to reverse opioid overdoses. Uninsured New Yorkers and those with no prescription coverage can get naloxone for free through New York's network of registered opioid overdose prevent programs. A listing of pharmacies accepting the new health insurance coverage can apply to <http://on.ny.gov/ZhDGZW6>.

Health Bucks

Health Bucks coupons,

which offer \$2 discounts on fruits and vegetables purchased at farmers markets, is available through the offices of Councilman Ritchie Torres, 573 E. Fordham Rd. (718) 842-8100, or Councilwoman Vanessa Gibson, 1377 Jerome Ave. (718) 588-7500.

Free Summer Meals

Free summer meals for children age 19 and under is available until Sept. 1 at public schools, community pool centers, New York City Housing Authority complexes, libraries and other locations around the city. No registration, documentation, or ID is required to receive breakfast or lunch. Nearest school location is PS 8, 3010 Briggs Ave. Breakfast is 8 to 9:15 a.m. and lunch

from 11 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. For additional locations and times, go to <http://bit.ly/UuevOA>.

Farmers Market

NYC Health + Hospitals holds a farmers market near NYC Health + Hospitals/North Central Bronx the corner of Mosholu Parkway and Jerome Avenue every Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Nov. 22. For more information, call 311.

Sen. Bailey Office

Hrs. at MMCC

Constituent service hours by the office of state Sen. Jamaal T. Bailey are now available at Mosholu Montefiore Community Center (MMCC), 3450 DeKalb Ave., every first and third Wednesday of

every month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and every second and fourth Wednesday from 1 to 5 p.m. For more information, call (718) 547-8854.

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 511.

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Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

EDITOR'S PICK

Weekend Walk

The East 204th Street and Bainbridge Avenue Merchants Association hosts its 7th annual Weekend Walk on Aug. 19 and Oct. 1 from noon to 7 p.m. Walk goes from East 204th Street and Bainbridge Avenue to Decatur Avenue. Streets will be closed to traffic. Everyone is invited. For more information, call 311.

Onstage

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **Formell y Los Van Van**, Cuban dance orchestra featuring Afro-Cuban, disco and funk music, Aug. 26 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$45 to \$60, \$100/VIP (VIP includes pre-concert drinks, hors d'oeuvres reception at 6:30 p.m., and best seats in the house). For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz and the Bronx Council on the Arts present free **summer concerts**, all from 7 to 9 p.m. as follows: The Just Nuts Party Dance Band at Henry Hudson Park, Aug. 17; and The Gene DiNapoli Variety All-Star Show on Aug. 21, NY Skyscrapers and Friends on Aug. 22; and River of Dreams (Billy Joel Cover) on Aug. 23; all at the Riverdale YM-YWHA. For more information, call (718) 796-5345.

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. presents **Bronx Summer Concert Series**, at Orchard Beach's Main Stage at Section 9, through Sept. 3, from 1 to 5 p.m. Included are salsa, freestyle, bachata, merengue, R&B, and pop. Zumba will also be provided. For more information, call (718) 590-3500.

Events

North Central Bronx Hospital, 3424 Kossuth Ave. (between 208th and 210th streets), invites the public to its **health fair**, Aug. 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Elected officials will attend. Events include free health screenings, children's ID fingerprinting, games, free giveaways, raffles, and more. Rain date: Aug. 24. For more information, call (718) 519-3537.

Williamsbridge Oval presents the following free events: **Outdoor Movie**, "La La Land," Aug. 18 at 8 p.m. (held

indoors if inclement weather); **Back-to-School**, Aug. 19 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., featuring school supplies giveaways, library presentations, cooking demo, and fitness demos; and **Splash From the Beach**, Aug. 23 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., featuring sandboxes, water tables, beach games and more. For more information, call (718) 367-3657.

Councilmember Andrew Cohen will host an **outdoor film screening** of "Grease" in Harris Field, corner of West 205th St. and Goulden Ave. at 8 p.m. For more information, call (718) 549-7300.

Councilmember Fernando Cabrera presents **Summer in the Park**, at St. James Park, 2550 Jerome Ave., Aug. 19, and 26 from 4 to 9 p.m. Included are free refreshments, movies and giveaways. For more information, call (347) 590-2874.

Fordham Business Improvement District presents **films at 8 p.m.**: "Remembering the Titans" on Aug. 18, and "Rocky" on Aug. 19 at Bryan Park (East Fordham and East Kingsbridge roads), preceded by music, games and activities at 5 p.m. Bring chair or blanket. Popcorn is provided. The BID also hosts **Back-to-School Sidewalk Sale**, Aug. 24 to 26 from noon to 7 p.m. For more information, call (718) 562-2104.

Van Cortlandt Park, West 242nd Street and Broadway, offers a variety of summer activities including: **Rowboating on VC Lake**: Fridays through Sept. 1 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. (free; enter the park at VC Park South and Bailey Avenue; meet near the lake); **Horseback Riding Instruction**: Daily lessons by the Riverdale Stables (for more information, visit riverdalestables.com); **Swimming**: Free outdoor pool open daily through Sept. 10 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. (closed from 3 to 4 p.m.; also offered are learn to swim programs (info:



File Photo
REVELERS AT 2014's Weekend Walk along East 204th Street. The event, which opens the streets exclusively for pedestrians, takes place Aug. 19 (see Editor's Pick for details).

(718) 760-6969 ext. 0) or 311); and **Art Classes**: Fridays through Aug. 25 at 6:30 p.m., for Twilight Hike & Draw (meet at Woodlawn Playground Nature Center). For more information and a detailed schedule, call (718) 601-1553.

Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Art Projects**: Be a Bee, Aug. 19 and 20, to wear wings, antennae, pollen cup and kazoo to hum with, followed by a bee parade at 12:30 p.m. weather permitting; and Shades of Summer, Aug. 26 and 27, to create sunglasses equipped with colored lenses, Aug. 26 and 27; both in the WH House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also scheduled is **Honey Weekend**, Aug. 19 and 20, featuring a variety of programs (call for details). 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: **Big Top Science**: (ages 5 to 12), series of chemistry and physics demos that explain how a bed of nails can provide a great night's sleep, and more, Aug. 26 at 2 p.m. Teens/young adults can enjoy: **Back-to-School Crafts**: make pens, pencils, locker magnets and more, Aug. 21 and 28 at 4:30 p.m. Adults can attend: **Microsoft Word 2010 for**

Beginners: Aug. 24 at 2 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 children: **Talent Show**: (ages 18 months to 12 years; registration required), all are invited to show their talent, Aug. 30 at 1 p.m. Teens/young adults can enjoy: **film**: "Kong: Skull Island," Aug. 19 at 1:30 p.m.; and **Craft-eens!** Crafts every Wednesday, Aug. 23 and 30 at 3 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: **Preschool Storytime and Craft at 11:15 a.m.**: (ages 3 to 5), including puppetry, dramatics, crafts and flannel boards, Aug. 17, 24 and 31; **Kids Get Active Fridays at 2:45 p.m.**: (ages 5 to 12), dance moves on the Wii game console, Aug. 18 and 25; **Rhythm and Sound**: (ages 3 to 12), audience members join percussionist on stage to play instruments, Aug. 21 at 3 p.m.; and **film**: Aug. 26 at 2:30 p.m. Adults can attend: **Computer Basics at noon**: Aug. 17, 24 and 31. 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 Aug. 21 for the next publication date of Aug. 31.

Shelter Worries for Norwood

(continued from page 1)

able housing hybrid that's slated to open in Fordham this fall.

Rossi did not return calls to the *Norwood News* despite numerous attempts.

More than 200 people would be able to sleep inside the Webster Avenue property, according to the documents, which also show that another floor would be built atop the existing two-story building. Building a parking facility would also be waived, according to the documents.

Across the street from the carpet business is PS/MS 20 with the local 52nd Precinct next door to the school. A major fear is of the shelter being so close to the school.

"I do not understand how they can put a shelter directly opposite an elementary school. There has to be a more appropriate location," Barbara Stronczer, president of the Bedford Mosholu Community Association, which holds monthly meetings just a block from the proposed site, said.

Sheila Sanchez, a resident living near the proposed Webster Avenue site, is weary of a shelter near a school. "We already have homeless people sleeping on the parkway," Sanchez said at an emergency Community Board 7 Land Use/Housing & Zoning Committee meeting on Aug. 14. "I know for a fact that 6 o'clock in the morning every shelter asks the people that sleep in them to leave. So six o'clock in the morning we will have 200 men—we don't know if they're good, they're bad, they're criminals or whatever—walking around when our kids are going to school. And I know some parents who have their kids walk by themselves."

A source familiar with ongoing discussions tells the *Norwood News* that DHS is now reviewing another Norwood property once owned by the Federation Employment and Guidance Service Inc. (FEGS) at 3600 Jerome Ave. The property, slightly isolated, though two blocks from the Woodlawn subway station at the end of the 4 line, has been vacant since the social services firm went bankrupt in 2015.

In a statement, Isaac McGinn, a spokesman for DHS, said, "No final determinations have been made regarding the use of this [Webster Avenue] site."

The property has since been purchased by 3600 Jerome LLC, according to a review of records on Property-

Shark. Its head officer, David Levitan, is linked to shelters across the Bronx, Manhattan, and Brooklyn. Levitan was named in a 2012 wrongful death lawsuit filed by the family of a homeless man fatally shot inside the hallway of a Southern Boulevard shelter operated by another limited liability corporation Levitan was linked to. The case was dismissed, according to court records.

Levitan had filed permits for a \$783,000 renovation project for the Jerome Avenue property, with plans to remove walls, mechanical ducts, plumbing fixtures and cooking equipment. Levitan did not respond to calls for comment.

As in most DHS-funded shelters, a nonprofit shelter provider would likely be picked to manage the shelter's operations. In the *Norwood News'* original story on Webster Avenue, sources had told the paper that Eduardo LaGuerre, CEO of Neighborhood Association for Inter-Cultural Affairs (NAICA), a Bronx-based shelter provider, had approached Rossi to consider repurposing his carpet business to a shelter. The nonprofit owns four shelters in the Bronx, records show. It also housed the homeless at the troubled Van Cortlandt Motel in the Riverdale section of the Bronx. In October, the baby of a homeless mother had died inside a hotel room reserved for the homeless. LaGuerre did not respond to emails for comment.

In January, Rossi began submitting paperwork for converting the 14,782-

square-foot property. In April, Rossi's plans were approved by the Buildings Department.

The plans seem to conflict with a victory community stakeholders secured in 2011 when they lobbied the city to rezone 80 blocks of Webster Avenue, between East Gun Hill and Fordham roads, opening opportunities for residential and commercial space. New buildings going up were now required to set aside storefronts. The results have been mixed, with supportive housing sites, exempt from building storefronts, opening alongside affordable apartments.

The Stagg Group was among the first to build a new affordable housing property on the strip. It's now in the middle of building Norwood Gardens at the corner of Webster Avenue and East 203rd Street.

The proposed shelter represents a shift back to traditional shelters, with the de Blasio administration phasing out the cluster site shelter model that places the homeless in regular apartment buildings. Mayor Bill de Blasio has stood firm that everyone shares in seeing the construction of shelters across the city. For more than 30 years, the city has been under a federal mandate to build homeless shelters. That mandate has been amplified more in recent years given the substantial increase of homeless throughout the city.

Developers and nonprofit shelter providers have since capitalized on that, knowing city contracts can be

in the millions of dollars. The Stagg Group, though building affordable housing, is also in the business of housing the homeless, facing backlash by the community for turning its newest property in Kingsbridge into a shelter.

The city has currently promised to end the use of 217 cluster site apartments in 22 sites across Community Board 7, where the proposed Webster Avenue shelter resides. Over the next few years, the city intends to identify new shelter space within CB7 to accommodate 1,000 or more homeless residents.

But even as the city grapples with securing shelter space, it still does not have enough units to accommodate every homeless resident, making it a developer's market. Right now there are 674 cases of homelessness within CB7. The city has identified 1,537 homeless residents within the district.

The pressure to build is there, though much of the antagonism towards DHS has been aimed at its meagre 30-day notification to the community about a shelter's opening.

"I think that is tough road to go in terms of siting shelters," Councilman Andy Cohen, whose district overlaps with the proposed shelters, said. "I'm sympathetic to DHS, but I think just because it's a tough road doesn't mean you don't have to go down in it and I think you need to treat communities with respect and tell them that this is the plan, and

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