



NORWOOD NEWS

Vol 30, No 17 • PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION • AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 13, 2017



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SEPT. PRIMARIES FOR NW BRONX

Norwood News gets voters ready for September 12 primary



Photo by David Cruz

THE CANDIDATES FOR the 14th Council District seat include (l-r) Randy Abreu, incumbent Councilman Fernando Cabrera, and Felix Perdomo. The candidates appeared in a televised debate on BronxNet TV on Aug. 28.

By DAVID CRUZ

In two weeks, Democratic voters in the Bronx head to the polls to decide who will be their next city representative for the next four years. And with the Democratic primary mattering more than the November general election, given the sheer number of Democrats over Republicans, victors in the Democratic primary usually go on to win the general election.

The northwest Bronx has its

share of political jousts this year. Ahead of the Sept. 12 primary, the *Norwood News* breaks down each race along with those candidates who are officially on the ballot:

13th Council District (Open Seat)

While the 13th Council District covers mostly the east Bronx, the race's relevance to the northwest Bronx is Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj, running in the heavily crowded race. Gjonaj,

representing Norwood in the 80th Assembly District, has five years of experience in politics. Though he began as a pure outsider, even showing fealty to then Republican presidential nominee John McCain, thanks to donations he's made, Gjonaj is now considered an insider (he's since donated to the campaigns of Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton).

Should Gjonaj win the September primary and the November

general election, his Assembly seat could very well be vacant until 2019. Governor Andrew Cuomo, who has authority in calling for special elections, has not done so in the last few years, making the prospect of a vacancy entirely possible. The prospect of a special election rests on the outcome of two races involving state senators: Sen. Ruben Diaz Sr., running for City Council for the 18th Council District, and

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Vol. 30, No. 17

Norwood News is published

bi-weekly on Thursdays by

Mosholu Preservation Corporation (MPC)

3400 Reservoir Oval East

Bronx, New York 10467

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EDITORIAL

Good or Bad, We'll Have Four More Years of de Blasio

Even in the face of his shady campaign finance practices, alleged pay to play scheme, propensity for exercise during work hours, and now his aggressive plan to place homeless shelters in every neighborhood, there's a strong chance we will have four more years of Mayor Bill de Blasio after the Sept. 12 primary. This year's race is what former politics writer and newsman Bob "Kappy" Kappstatter, now working for a Bronx elected, said to the *Norwood News*: "It's an election made in heaven for the mayor." Here're a couple of reasons why:

- No recognizable challengers vying for the mayoral seat.
- He has a serious campaign apparatus that includes staff, fundraisers, etc.
- He's managed to lower crime albeit at the expense of de-criminalizing certain offenses.
- He's the trumpeter of the anti-Trump movement that's swept New York City.
- He's gone in good with the big unions (i.e. UFT, DC37, CWA).
- As an incumbent, he's got the mayor's seat to show off his list of accomplishments. Every event is a veiled campaign stop.
- **Probably Most Important:** We'll see one of the lowest voter turnouts in New York City history.

September primaries are kind of anti-climactic if there are no serious challengers. Years before, the current primary showed promise that it would be one to remember, given names like Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., City Comptroller Scott Stringer, Brooklyn Congressman Hakeem Jeffries and former New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn being floated around as possible contenders.

But a critical poll taken by Quinnipiac University in February showed de Blasio would win 43 percent of the vote over Diaz's six percent and Stringer's ten percent, becoming a harbinger that it was not Stringer nor Diaz's time. It also didn't help that Stringer nor Diaz would have to vacate their plum posts to run for mayor. With no



Image courtesy NY1

THE AUG. 23 mayoral debate hosted by NY1 featured incumbent, Bill de Blasio (l), squaring off against former Brooklyn Councilman Sal Albanese (r).

certainities, the two stuck to what they thought was a safer bet. It also helped that de Blasio warded off criminal allegations over his campaign finance dealings where he directed monies to Democratic county committees so he can dodge contribution limits during the 2014 state senatorial races.

Now comes his current challengers.

De Blasio's chief Democratic opponent on the ballot, former Brooklyn councilman Sal Albanese, appears to be running a misdirected campaign. Instead of flashing his so-called "de-Blahmeter," he should consider espousing more of his agenda. It would make his campaign appear less of a sideshow.

Also, has anyone heard of Brooklyn Community Board 6 member and attorney Richard S. Bashner, community activist Robert Gangi, or entrepreneur Michael Tolkin? We haven't. To their credit, each of the candidates have at least a decent rundown of policies on their campaign websites, which could have been a drag for de Blasio had the three participated in the Aug. 23 debate hosted by NY1.

Then there's the Republican challengers, who stand a remote chance of winning the mayoral seat, though

Staten Island Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis is giving it her all, touring neighborhoods, taking part in parades, and offering ideas. She faces Richard "Bo" Dietl, a former NYPD detective (he's also dabbled in Hollywood, playing himself in Martin Scorsese's *Wolf of Wall Street*) who's taken a hardline stance against de Blasio and his policies. But based on videos seen before and after he announced his run, particularly one where he bashes Asians, Dietl portrays himself to be an unstable legislator.

Malliotakis may pose a serious challenge for de Blasio. But with antagonism against President Donald Trump raging in New York City, it is not Malliotakis' turn to reign City Hall.

So it's de Blasio's race to win, good or bad.

It will be interesting to see the kind of approach de Blasio will take in his next term. Will he mend his relationship with Governor Andrew Cuomo to bring more state funding to the city? Will de Blasio crank up his trips outside New York for the sake of spreading progressive ideals? What new policy will he introduce? Will all his national exposure prompt him to consider higher office?

.....Stay tuned.

Public and Community Meetings

COMMUNITY BOARD 7 committee meetings will be held at the board office, 229A E. 204th St. at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted: Public Safety & Quality of Life Committee on Sept. 5; Health & Hospitals Committee on Sept. 5 at 7:30 p.m.; Environment & Sanitation Committee on Sept. 6; Education, Youth & Libraries Committee on Sept. 6 at 7:30 p.m.; Traffic & Transportation Committee on Sept. 7; Veterans Committee on Sept. 7 at 7:30 p.m.; and Housing, Land Use & Zoning Committee on Sept. 11. For more information, call (718) 933-5650.

The **BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** meets Sept. 6 at 8 p.m. at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. So., Apt. #B1. For more information, email bedfordmosholu@verizon.net.



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 - Municipal employees (5%)

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Unit Size	Monthly Rent ¹	Units Available	Household Size ²	Annual Household Income ³ <i>Minimum – Maximum⁴</i>	Monthly Rent ¹	Units Available	Household Size ²	Annual Household Income ³ <i>Minimum – Maximum⁴</i>
Studio	\$865	4	→ 1 person	\$31,543 - \$40,080				
1 bedroom	\$929	4	→ 1 person 2 people	\$33,806 - \$40,080 \$33,806 - \$45,840	\$1,270	1	→ 1 person 2 people	\$45,497 - \$66,800 \$45,497 - \$76,400
2 bedroom	\$1,121	4	→ 2 people 3 people 4 people	\$40,423 - \$45,840 \$40,423 - \$51,540 \$40,423 - \$57,240	\$1,529	3	→ 2 people 3 people 4 people	\$54,411 - \$76,400 \$54,411 - \$85,900 \$54,411 - \$95,400
3 bedroom	\$1,289	1	→ 3 people 4 people 5 people 6 people	\$46,766 - \$51,540 \$46,766 - \$57,240 \$46,766 - \$61,860 \$46,766 - \$66,420	\$1,760	3	→ 3 people 4 people 5 people 6 people	\$62,914 - \$85,900 \$62,914 - \$95,400 \$62,914 - \$103,100 \$62,914 - \$110,700
4 bedroom	\$1,442	1	→ 4 people 5 people 6 people 7 people 8 people	\$52,114 - \$57,240 \$52,114 - \$61,860 \$52,114 - \$66,420 \$52,114 - \$70,980 \$52,114 - \$75,600	\$1,969	1	→ 4 people 5 people 6 people 7 people 8 people	\$70,183 - \$95,400 \$70,183 - \$103,100 \$70,183 - \$110,700 \$70,183 - \$118,300 \$70,183 - \$126,000

¹ Rent includes gas for cooking.

² Household size includes everyone who will live with you, including parents and children. Subject to occupancy criteria.

³ Household earnings includes salary, hourly wages, tips, Social Security, child support, and other income. Income guidelines subject to change.

⁴ Minimum income listed may not apply to applicants with Section 8 or other qualifying rental subsidies. Asset limits also apply.

How Do You Apply?

Apply online or through mail. To apply online, please go to nyc.gov/housingconnect. To request an application **by mail, send a self-addressed envelope to: 3365 THIRD AVENUE: c/o Bronx Pro Group 1605 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd Bronx, NY 10453**. Only send one application per development. Do not submit duplicate applications. Do not apply online and also send in a paper application. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

When is the Deadline?

Applications must be postmarked or submitted online no later than **October 31, 2017**. Late applications will not be considered.

What Happens After You Submit an Application?

After the deadline, applications are selected for review through a lottery process. If yours is selected and you appear to qualify, you will be invited to an interview to continue the process of determining your eligibility. Interviews are usually scheduled from 2 to 10 months after the application deadline. You will be asked to bring documents that verify your household size, identity of members of your household, and your household income.

Español

Presente una solicitud en línea en nyc.gov/housingconnect. Para recibir una traducción de español de este anuncio y la solicitud impresa, envíe un sobre con la dirección a: **3365 THIRD AVENUE: c/o Bronx Pro Group 1605 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd Bronx, NY 10453**. En el reverso del sobre, escriba en inglés la palabra "SPANISH." Las solicitudes se deben enviar en línea o con sello postal antes de **31 de octubre 2017**.

简体中文

访问 nyc.gov/housingconnect 在线申请。如要获取本广告及书面申请表的简体中文版，请将您的回邮信封寄送至: **3365 THIRD AVENUE: c/o Bronx Pro Group 1605 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd Bronx, NY 10453**。信封背面请用英语注明 "CHINESE"。必须在以下日期之前在线提交申请或邮寄书面申请 **2017 年 10 月 31 日**。

Русский

Чтобы подать заявление через интернет, зайдите на сайт: nyc.gov/housingconnect. Для получения данного объявления и заявления на русском языке отправьте конверт с обратным адресом по адресу **3365 THIRD AVENUE: c/o Bronx Pro Group 1605 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd Bronx, NY 10453**. На задней стороне конверта напишите слово "RUSSIAN" на английском языке. Заявки должны быть поданы онлайн или отправлены по почте (согласно дате на почтовом штемпеле) не позднее **31 октября 2017**.

한국어

nyc.gov/housingconnect 에서 온라인으로 신청하십시오. 이 광고문과 신청서에 대한 한국어 번역본을 받아보시려면 반송용 봉투를 **3365 THIRD AVENUE: c/o Bronx Pro Group 1605 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd Bronx, NY 10453** 으로 보내주십시오. 봉투 뒷면에 "KOREAN" 이라고 영어로 적어주십시오. **2017년 10월 31일**까지 온라인 신청서를 제출하거나 소인이 찍힌 신청서를 보내야 합니다.

Kreyòl Ayisyen

Aplike sou entènèt sou sitwèb nyc.gov/housingconnect. Pou resevwa yon tradiksyon anons sa a nan lang Kreyòl Ayisyen ak aplikasyon an sou papye, voye envlopp ki gen adrès pou retounen li nan: **3365 THIRD AVENUE: c/o Bronx Pro Group 1605 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd Bronx, NY 10453**. Nan dèyè envlopp la, ekri mo "HATIAN CREOLE" an Anglè. Ou dwe remèt aplikasyon yo sou entènèt oswa ou dwe tenbre yo anvan dat **oktòb 31, 2017**.

العربية تقدم بطلب عن طريق الإنترنت على الموقع الإلكتروني nyc.gov/housingconnect. للحصول على ترجمة باللغة العربية لهذا الإعلان ولنموذج الطلب الورقي، أرسل مظروف يحمل اسمك وعنوانك إلى: **3365 THIRD AVENUE: c/o Bronx Pro Group 1605 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd Bronx, NY 10453**. على الجهة الخلفية للمظروف، اكتب باللغة الإنجليزية كلمة "ARABIC". يجب إرسال نماذج الطلبات عن طريق الإنترنت أو ختمها بختم البريد قبل **31 أكتوبر، 2017**.



INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



This week we asked readers if they witnessed last week's partial solar eclipse and if the hype of the event lived up to their expectations.



I watched it, but I really didn't know what to expect. It was a cool experience since it was my first eclipse and I didn't have the special glasses, but I did catch a glimpse of it. I just wish I was more prepared because I would have had a better experience.

Emily Mensah
Foxhurst



The eclipse was actually pretty cool. I saw it for less than 30 seconds because I didn't want to lose my vision. I saw the moon cover the sun. I used a regular pair of sunglasses just to see it, but it was too bright. I was afraid, so I just took a quick look and my eyes started to hurt, so I looked away. I will be ready for the next one in 2024.

Christopher Morillo
Foxhurst



I watched it on TV, I have the video. I did try and look at it with my phone and my glasses. It looked pretty cool. I saw the moon and the sun coming together and you can just see a ray of light coming from the sun. I got so excited, I can't wait for the next one in 2024.

Jake Justin
Van Cortlandt Park South



I missed the eclipse, I didn't even get to see it. I was coming off the subway and everyone had pictures of it. I didn't have my glasses, I didn't even know the eclipse was coming. Later I caught the great video they had on the evening news.

Sandra Holmes
Norwood



Yes, I saw it and it really didn't live up to my expectations. I mean, it was cool, but it looked like the moon, except it was more red. I think that if I had been in a better location to see the total eclipse, where it got dark and you could see the stars, then it would have been a lot more spectacular.

Elijah Axt
Washington Heights

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Solar Eclipse a Moment for the Ages in Norwood



Photo courtesy NASA

NASA CAPTURES THE eclipse at its height. The Bronx was not in the path of totality, the region where a total solar eclipse can be spotted.

By **DAVID CRUZ**

With a pair of special solar eclipse glasses, Ashley Abril peered up at the shaded sky over Williamsbridge Oval Park, paused for a moment and did something few have thought to do: she made a wish.

It was her hope that the rarity of the solar eclipse, the first for the Bronx since 1978, would make her wish come true.

"It's something special," Abril said after witnessing the afternoon celestial event on Aug. 21. She didn't have special eclipse glasses of her own. They were on loan from the *Norwood News*, which found a few Norwood residents ready to look up. Many seized the moment when the *News* was there to offer an assist.



Photo by Deborah Cruz

A NORWOOD RESIDENT gazes at the solar eclipse from Williamsbridge Oval Park.



Photo by Deborah Cruz

THIS LITTLE BOY takes advantage of these solar eclipse glasses borrowed from Norwood News editor David Cruz (l) as he stares directly at the sun from Williamsbridge Oval Park.

New York wasn't quite within the so-called path of totality, the regional area where a full eclipse could be seen, but for 90 minutes Bronx residents couldn't help but keep up to see 71 percent of the sun blocked by the moon.

On Bainbridge Avenue, Valeria James called it "beautiful." "I think it's an amazing wonder in the world," said James, whose only hope to see the eclipse before using the glasses was her camera.

Along Mosholu Parkway, Yaritza Jara fashioned a cereal box into a projector. She took the *Norwood News* up on its offer to view the sun with genuine eclipse glasses. "Oh wow," Jara said. "Oh that's cool. It kind of looks like what I see [in the projector], but it's nothing compared to what I see here, actually."

Meantime, Sheila Sanchez, a resident and president of Friends of the Williamsbridge Oval Park, rushed to nearby Bronx River Forest in the hope of catching sounds of wildlife during the eclipse.

Juan Pablo Morales knew about its importance to astrophysicists. On the ground, Morales saw it as the perfect time for unity. "It's a social thing," he said after watching it. "We're meeting here in community for something beautiful and productive"

"I told you I saw it! I told you I saw it!" screamed Joan McGriff, watching the eclipse on Bainbridge Avenue. "It's the cow jumping over the moon."

For Tony Vizcarrondo, the image resembled Pac Man. "I see it shifting," Vizcarrondo said at Oval Park just around 2 p.m., 45 minutes before the eclipse reached its peak. He was with his two kids, Ivan and Diana.

Near the park's playground area, Angela Andino couldn't help but notice a blue shade surrounding the pearly and partially eclipsed sun. She was thrilled to see the eclipse, having stopped by several stores in Norwood to find eclipse glasses. Sadly, no neighborhood stores carried them.

Editor's Note: The Norwood News produced a video on the solar eclipse. It can be found at www.norwoodnews.org.

LOOKING FOR A PARKING SPOT NEAR WILLIAMS BRIDGE OVAL PARK



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Letters should be 400 words max, and include writer's name. Anonymous letters will not be published, but names will be withheld upon reasonable request.

BCC Removes Confederate Statues at Bronx Hall of Fame

By DAVID CRUZ

Following the massive condemnation of demonstrations in Charlottesville, Va., Bronx Community College (BCC) has removed the sculptures of Confederate generals Robert E. Lee and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson from its much visited Hall of Fame, school officials announced.

The move came several days after neo-Nazi and white supremacists converged onto Charlottesville over the removal of a statue bearing Lee's image from public spaces. The violent protests resulted in the death of Heather Hayer, who was killed by a car that appeared to have deliberately run over counter-protesters by alleged driver James Alex Fields, Jr. The demonstrations drew condemnation from congressional Democrats and Republicans alike, calling on southern states to consider removing the statues from public view. BCC saw the busts as hurtful to the college's image.

"For 60 years, Bronx Community College of The City University of New York has remained committed to reflecting its values of diversity and inclusion in all of its actions and statements," Thomas A. Isekenegbe, Ph.D., President of Bronx Community College, said in a statement. "Embracing difference includes creating space where all people feel respected, welcomed, and valued. To that end, we will be removing and replacing the busts of Confederate Generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson from the Hall of Fame for Great Ameri-

cans."

The Hall of Fame opened in 1900 and features some 100 busts of famous historical figures. Lee had been the general of the Confederate Army during the Civil War, which saw the North and South clash over slavery. Statues of Lee can be seen across the southern states to this day, though growing dissent towards these statues on display has grown. Stonewall Jackson was Lee's second in command during the Civil War. His Virginia home was converted into a museum in the 1950s.

The move also came after fierce condemnation from elected officials who objected to the sculptures alongside other famous Americans that include presidents Abraham Lincoln and George Washington.

"Their inclusion at this location is especially galling: there is nothing great about two men who committed treason against the United States to fight to keep the institution of slavery intact," said Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. in a statement. "A more appropriate location for these statues would be a museum, such as the New York State Military Museum in Saratoga Springs, where they could be presented in a historical context rather than venerated. But they should not stay in the Bronx any longer."

With Confederate images on display across New York City, Mayor Bill de Blasio has formed a task force to determine which statues will stay and which ones will be removed indefinitely.



Photo courtesy Bronx Community College

THE BRONX HALL of Fame, home to some 100 busts, minus two following the neo-Nazi protests in Charlottesville, Va.



The Bronx Develops

Waterfront Projects in the South Bronx Spark Fears of Gentrification



Part 2

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

By ANDREW SEGER of



Amid the rise of real estate interest in the South Bronx, new developers along the waterfront say they will deliver more housing, public parks and retail stores to areas like Port Morris and Mott Haven. But, promises of “luxury waterfront living” and “world class dining” have long-time Bronxites asking, “Who exactly is this development for?”

Right now, waste transfer plants, bus depots, industrial buildings and self-storage facilities take up most of the waterfront in Mott Haven and neighboring Port Morris, where median household incomes fall around \$26,000. Over 35 percent of people in these South Bronx neighborhoods are among the poorest of the poor, according to U.S. Census figures.

Upscale development in a neighborhood, once at the epicenter of blight, has inspired the oft used phrase, “The Bronx is not for sale.” It’s a phrase championed by Mychal Johnson.

Johnson, a Bronxite of 15 years and the co-founder of South Bronx Unite, calls these “man made impediments.” He said they get in the way of the tens of thousands of local residents who have no way to access the waterfront, noting that the new developments will add to the problem. “Our children have very little understanding that water even surrounds this community,” Johnson said.

Developers have already gone to work on two market-rate housing complexes on the Harlem River waterfront facing Manhattan. Chetrit Group and Somerset Partners broke ground earlier this year on the properties at 2401 Third Ave. and 101 Lincoln Ave., which abut the Third Avenue Bridge. Amenities will include a pet care room, ground-level shopping, café and pool.

The complexes--seven towers ranging from 16 to 25 stories--will contain 1,700 condos.

The five acres of waterfront property were home to a school bus parking lot and an abandoned iron works



Photo by Andrew Seger

A VIEW OF the future site of 101 Lincoln Ave. in Mott Haven, where crews with Chetrit Group and Somerset Partners are priming the space for several luxury towers.

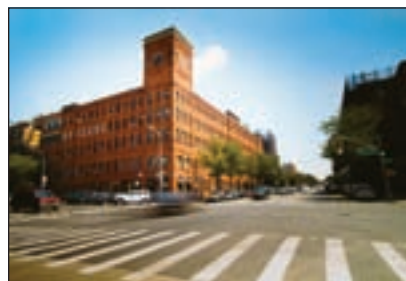


Photo by Andrew Seger

THE CLOCK TOWER Building at the corner of Lincoln Avenue and Bruckner Boulevard opened in 2005, offering market-rate lofts in the South Bronx.

factory before. But Johnson said he would rather see the land used as public green spaces that could bring families together and enhance the lives of Bronx residents. He said that would allow residents to escape the urban milieu and congestion at the center of the Bronx, and it could help mitigate the borough’s high rates of asthma, obesity and diabetes.

“There’s very little green space and recreational opportunities, sky-high rates of asthma, obesity and diabetes because there has not been a real investment into quality of life enhancements by city, state and local governments,” Johnson said.

But that is exactly what developer Keith Rubinstein, founder of Somerset Partners, promises to provide. Between the two projects, there could be a combined 840 feet of new public access to the waterfront.

Still, Bronx activists have their reservations. Johnson said if developers fail to listen to local voices, their investments could lead to displacement and gentrification. “There’s a community here, there’s culture here,” Johnson said. “But what you’re essentially saying is that it’s now acceptable for people from the outside to move here because the South Bronx has changed.”

Rubinstein was unavailable for an interview as of press time despite numerous attempts. In an interview with the Commercial Observer, Rubinstein said he does not expect the projects to be a “huge engine of gentrification.”

“That area was rezoned starting in the early 1990s through 2005,” Rubinstein said. “When you talk about gentrification and displacement, and when you talk about developers taking rent-stabilized buildings, destabilizing them, evicting tenants, tearing them down and building, that’s the opposite of what’s happening here.”

Residents are pointing to the historic Clock Tower building in Mott Haven as another example of their worries. It’s a former piano factory that was converted into a market-rate housing residence 12 years ago, right across the street from the waterfront development sites. Carnegie, the real estate group behind the renovations, is currently working on another complex right next door. Rents in the Clock Tower building can go up to

\$3,500 a month, compared to \$850 median average rent for apartments in Mott Haven.

Johnson says he and other Bronxites are all for development and quality of life enhancements in the neighborhood, but he would rather not see them come hand-in-hand with luxury projects. He said he and others are worried that the market-rate buildings will drive up rents in the area and push out low-income residents.

But among the stronger supporters looking forward to development in the South Bronx is Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. In this year’s State of the Borough address, Diaz Jr. said space along empty lots on the waterfront could be used to “bring a tech-incubator or a medical school to our borough, while also creating union jobs, new waterfront access, parkland and recreation facilities.”

Earlier this year, Diaz released a report detailing the investment in the Bronx since he took office. In 2016 alone, the borough saw more than \$3 billion in overall investment, which was the highest since 2009. A majority (52 percent) of that money went towards housing, with 12,200 units in the works from private developers.

In addition to private development, the city is also working on building along the Harlem River waterfront. A project is in the works to build a 40-story unit of affordable housing by the Major Deegan Expressway and the West 145th Street Bridge. The city-owned property is now an empty lot, and Bronx officials like Diaz are all for the investment.

But developers are promising more than just housing. They say they will deliver thousands of square feet of public waterfront access. Advocates and health officials say adding green spaces and giving residents more room to exercise could bring some much needed relief to residents struggling with health problems.

Somerset and Chetrit are set to start construction within a month, and the projects are expected to be completed by the summer of 2019.

Editor’s Note: A radio and television news report of this story is available on norwoodnews.org, wfuv.org and bronxnet.org.



FACE PAINTING WAS the order of the day at the back-to-school fair with these kids getting all done up.

NCBH BACK-TO-SCHOOL FAIR

Photos by Miriam Quinones

NEW YORK CITY Health + Hospitals/North Central Bronx got kids prepared for the new school year with its annual health fair on Aug. 23 on Kossuth Avenue in Norwood. Councilman Andy King was the guest speaker for the fair, which included appearances by Senator Jamaal T. Bailey and Wonder Woman!



THE BACK-TO-SCHOOL event drew dozens of Norwood residents. Many stopped by the giveaway tables loaded with goodies.



THIS LITTLE GIRL poses with her grand prize raffle winnings courtesy of New York City Health + Hospitals/North Central staffers, and flanked by some of them.



THE DC COMICS superhero Wonder Woman shares a moment with Councilman Andy King as they bring you this Bronx greeting!



COUNCILMAN ANDY KING (holding Certificate of Appreciation received from the New York City Health + Hospitals/North Central) shares a moment with (l-r) NCBH staffer Gloria Bent; Aldo Perez; and a King staffer, Adam Bermudez. Perez was also honored by New York City Health + Hospitals/North Central.



STATE SEN. JAMAAL Bailey (holding mic), representing Norwood, was on hand during the event.

NORWOOD NEWS



Photo courtesy Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition

THE CORNER OF West 197th Street and University Avenue was named after the late Francis "Al" Chapman in a dedication ceremony on Aug. 28. Chapman, who died in March, was the long serving chair of the Kingsbridge Neighborhood Improvement Association and a trailblazer when it came to tenant protections.



Photo courtesy Office of Sen. Jamaal Bailey

STATE SEN. JAMAAL Bailey, representing Norwood, speaks with an attendee at an immigration resource fair his office held on Aug. 19 at Tracey Towers. Guests heard from a panel of experts on the various rights immigrants and undocumented immigrants have in the United States.



Photo by Miriam Quinones

CONGRESSMAN ADRIANO ESPAILLAT (center) stopped by the Jericho Project's Kingsbridge Terrace, a supportive housing complex for former homeless veterans. The home opened in 2013. Espaillat's 13th Congressional District stretches from Upper Manhattan to Norwood. The congressman is joined by (l-r) LaToya Williams-Belfort, Jericho project chief development & communications officer; Bill McKeithan, managing program director; Mark Williams, veteran; Tori Lyon, Jericho CEO, and James Santiago, veteran.



Photo by Miriam Quinones

STATE SEN. GUSTAVO Rivera hands a backpack to this little girl at a back-to-school health fair he and Assemblyman Victor Pichardo organized at Devoe Park in Fordham on Aug. 25. Scores of kids stopped by to receive their backpack and a chance to get a quick health screening.



Photo by Miriam Quinones

A PORTRAIT OF the late Community Board 7 District Manager Andrew Sandler hangs at Bedford Pizza, 380 Bedford Pk. Blvd. Assemblyman Jose Rivera (l) and Aldo Perez helped organize the unveiling on Aug. 27.



Photo by David Greene

YOUNG KIDS AT Tracey Towers play at a new and improved playground atop the Norwood towers on Aug. 27, part of a ribbon cutting to its new state-of-the-art playset. The \$200,000 project was allocated from discretionary funding from Councilman Andrew Cohen. The original playground had not been replaced since the towers opened 37 years ago and work began on the project this past June.

Parks, FOTWO to Honor 80 Years of Oval Park

By DAVID CRUZ

Community groups and the city Department of Parks plan to honor the 80th anniversary of Williamsbridge Oval Park with a sign dedication ceremony set for Sept. 9.

Before becoming the epicenter of Norwood, Oval Park served as a reservoir for the borough during the late 1800s.

But it wasn't long before fresher water was found in the Catskills and a better water transferring system became operational. The reservoir was shut down in 1919 and drained in 1925. Robert Moses, the famed though ruthless city planner with a fondness for building and preserving park space, converted the reservoir into a 19.7-acre recreation space in 1934. Three years later, the refurbished land opened with a parade, dances from school age children, and a football scrimmage between Fordham University and Manhattan College.

Moshulu Preservation Corporation (MPC) was inspired to broach the idea for an anniversary plaque after its director, Jennifer Tausig, read an op-ed article by Frank da Cruz, a Norwood resident, who believed the park deserved its due and proper acknowledgment. The article was featured in an edition of *Norwood News*, which is published by MPC.

MPC shares a unique bond with the park. Since 2000, it's headquartered at the Reservoir Keeper's House, a stone cottage specifically built to house the reservoir's supervisor. Matthew Malahan was the lone supervisor to occupy the L-shaped home when the reservoir was operational. Dr. Isaac Barkey, a private citizen, later spent years wrangling with New York City to buy the rock-faced ashlar home. He finally did so in 1946.

"The Williamsbridge Oval is the social center of the neighborhood; a resource that we all use and treasure and depend on for our well-being and peace of mind in these stressful times," da Cruz told the *Norwood News* in an email. Da Cruz, however, was unhappy over Parks scrapping a plaque in favor of a sign detailing the park's history.

Da Cruz's admiration for the park lies in its back-story. With the 1930s Great Depression creating a severe jobs shortage, construction of the park was funded through President Frank-



File photo

THE WILLIAMSBRIDGE OVAL (pictured) is described as Norwood's "gem." The park celebrates 80 years since it opened.

lin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal program. The federal government's now defunct agency, the Works Progress Administration (WPA), sponsored the construction that put Americans back to work.

The New York City Department of Parks, which oversees Oval Park, will facilitate the installation of the sign.

"The Williamsbridge Oval is a gem of New York City's park system," said Bronx Borough Parks Commissioner Iris Rodriguez-Rosa. "For 80 years, it has been a life-changing resource for Bronx residents, and we are continuing to make even more renovations so this park can be used by many generations to come. Soon we'll start construction on a brand new skate park here at the Oval, which I know many kids are anxiously awaiting."

Friends of the Williamsbridge Oval (FOTWO), the volunteer park group promoting the benefits of the neighborhood park, will help usher the sign dedication.

"This park means a lot to the neighborhood. There's a lot of people who use it, not just the people who live around here," Sheila Sanchez, president of FOTWO, said. "Discovering the park was probably one of the best things that happened to me."

Editor's Note: The sign dedication ceremony will take place at the Oval from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

HEALTH CHECK

Disasters Don't Plan Ahead. You Can!

By DR. NICOLE HOLLINGSWORTH, EdD, MCHES

September is National Preparedness Month. In light of the devastation of Hurricane Harvey in Houston, TX, everyone can take action to prepare! In New York, the New York City Community Emergency Response Teams (NYC CERT) are groups of dedicated volunteers who help to prepare their neighbors and communities for different types of disasters. NYC CERT falls under the Community Outreach unit within New York City Office of Emergency Management, the city's coordinating agency for organizations and agencies involved in emergency planning, education, and information dissemination.

The NYCOEM and The Department of Homeland Security recommend the following helpful tips on and how to prepare before disaster strikes:

- **Pick a Place.** Decide where your household will reunite after a disaster. Identify two places to meet: one right outside your home and another outside your neighborhood, such as a library, community center, or place of worship.
- **Make the Call.** Designate an out-of-state friend or relative that household members can call if separated during a disaster. If New York City phone circuits are busy, long-distance calls may be easier to make.

- **An App for That.** Download a group texting app so your entire crew can keep in touch before, during and after an emergency.

- **Practice Makes Perfect.** Practice evacuating in the car with your animals, so they're more comfortable if you need to evacuate in an emergency.

- **Insurance.** Make sure you know what your insurance policy covers before an emergency.

- **Financial Prep Tip.** Flood-proof important documents by putting them in plastic bags to protect against water damage.

- **Rainy Day Fund.** Keep some cash on hand in case of emergencies.

People with disabilities must take additional steps when making a plan to be prepared. *Ready New York: My Emergency Plan* is a workbook designed to assist New Yorkers with disabilities or access and functional needs create an emergency plan.

To assist your family with their planning, you can contact 311 (212) 639-9675 or TTY, (212) 504-4115, or sign up for local emergency alerts in your area by contacting NYC.gov/notifynyc.

Editor's Note: Dr. Nicole Hollingsworth is Assistant Vice President for Montefiore Health System's Office of Community & Population Health.

WWE Stars Visit CHAM



Photo by David Greene

(L-R) WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT stars, the "Big E," Xavier Woods and Kofi Kingston greet these young patients and staff at The Children's Hospital at Montefiore on Aug. 20 ahead of the highly anticipated SummerSlam event.



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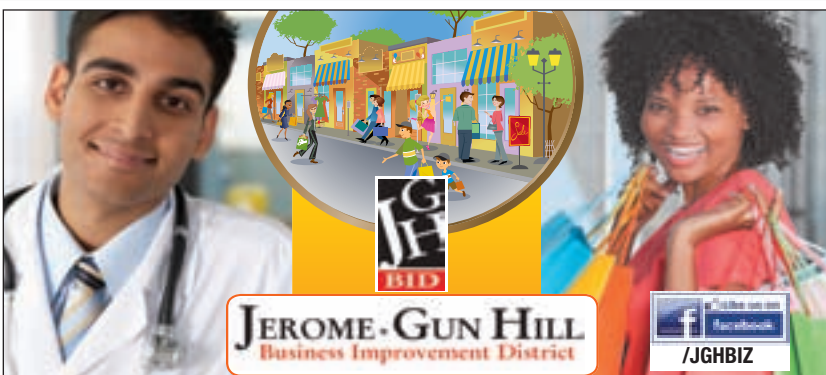


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Trip to Resorts Casino, Atlantic City on Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017 at 9 a.m. from East 163rd Street and Southern Boulevard. SPECIAL PRICE \$40 pp, BONUS \$25. For more information, please contact Eddie at (718) 757-5485.

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NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

September Primary

New York State's Primary takes place on Sept. 12. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. across the Bronx. To find your nearest poll site, go to <https://poll-sitelocator.com/search>.

Participatory Budgeting

The Office of Councilman Andrew Cohen will host a public session on Participatory Budgeting, where constituents can decide how \$1 million in capital monies can be spent on community improvements. It will be held at Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, 3225 Reservoir Oval E. on Sept. 13 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 549-7300.

Farmers Market

NYC Health + Hospitals holds a farmers market near NYC Health + Hospitals/North Central Bronx at 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 the month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and every second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 1 to 5 p.m. For more information, call (718) 547-8854.

School Calendar

The New York City School Calendar for the 2017-2018 school year is available online at <http://on.nyc.gov/2vwWJgm> or at your nearest school. The first day of school is Sept. 7.

Tenants Support Specialists

The Mayor's Tenants Support Unit is available to answer questions tenant-related at the office of Sen. Gustavo Rivera, 2432 Grand Concourse, Suite 506, each Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (last appointment is at 2:30 p.m.) Appointments are required. To set up an appointment, call (718) 933-2034.

Be a Mentor

Sign up to be a mentor through iMentor, which matches high school stu-

dents with mentors to help build mentees' soft skills like communication, time management, and optimism in their future while guiding mentees through the college application process. Mentors are required to commit to a weekly online communication and a monthly in-person meeting at the school. To sign up, log on to www.imentor.org. Mentors are typically paired with a mentee by October.

Poll Workers Sought

Apply to become a standby poll worker at <http://bit.ly/2wDbcuX>. Responsibilities include setting up voting equipment, process voters, and assist voters if required. Candidates must be a New York City resident.

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.

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.

NYBG

EXPLORE NATURE WITH YOUR TODDLER THIS FALL

Bring your little one for guided outdoor explorations, hands-on activities, plus stories and songs this fall in The New York Botanical Garden's Nature Explorers Program for caregivers and kids ages 2-3. Come smell the roses in a scent hunt, look closely at Monarch Butterflies and Milkweed, investigate how seeds travel, and hike along the forest and wetland trails searching for fall fruits, leaves, and plants as well as animals.

Choose from four Fall Sessions starting September 9 and 13.

Learn more and register online at nybg.org/explorers

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN



Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

EDITOR'S PICK

Oval Park Turns 80

The public is invited to attend the NYC Department of Parks Williamsbridge Oval sign dedication ceremony at the Oval on Sept. 9 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in honor of its 80th birthday. This free event includes 1930's style games, music, tap dance and lessons, and cake. For more information, call (718) 543-8672.

Onstage

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

Events

The Bronx County Historical Society leads a **tour** of the Fort Apache neighborhood in the Bronx on Sept. 9 at 11 a.m. Meet on the northeast corner of Simpson Street and Westchester Avenue. For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

Fordham Business

Improvement District presents **film**: "The Goonies" on Sept. 9 at 8 p.m. 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 Fordham Fever Fridays, Sept. 1 and Oct. 6 from 2 to 6 p.m. at Muller Park and Plaza on Creston Avenue between East Fordham Road and 190th Street. Events include music, games and activities. **Back-to-Business Sidewalk Sale** is held Sept. 7 to 9 from noon to 7 p.m. For more information, call (718) 562-2104.

Van Cortlandt Park, West 242nd Street and Broadway, offers the following activities: **Rowboating on VC Lake**: Sept. 1 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. (free; enter the park at VC Park South and Bailey



Photo courtesy Wave Hill

LEARN ABOUT IKEBANA at Wave Hill (see under Events for more details).

Avenue; meet near the lake); **Horseback Riding Instruction**: Daily lessons by the Riverdale Stables (for more information, visit riverdalestables.com); and **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: (718) 760-6969 ext. 0) or 311). For more information, call (718) 601-1553.

Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Art Projects**: Painting Outdoors With Eliza, Susie and Harriet, to learn about painting followed by painting with watercolors and pencils, Sept. 2 and 3; and Borderless Plants and Kavad Boxes, to learn about book making and plants followed by making a collage and a folding travel box, Sept. 9 and 10. both in the WH House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also scheduled, free, in the WH House on Sept 9, is **Ikebana on View** (from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.) and **Ikebana Demonstration** (from 11 a.m. to noon), to learn about this Japanese tradition of flower arranging and attend a live demonstration. 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 Mosholu Library, 285 E. 205th St., offers for adults: **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 Crafts at 11:15 a.m.**: (ages 3 to 5), including puppetry, dramatics, crafts and flannel boards, Aug. 31, Sept. 7 and 14. Adults can attend: **Computer Basics**: Aug. 31, Sept. 7 and 14 at noon and Sept. 5 and 12 at 5:45 p.m. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

NOTE: Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org, and should be received by Sept. 4 for the next publication date of Sept. 14.



File Photo

WILLIAMSBRIDGE OVAL PARK, the site of the annual Spring Egg Hunt, celebrates 80 years with a sign dedication ceremony on Sept. 9 (see Editor's Pick for more details).

Sept. Primaries in NW Bronx

(continued from page 1)

Westchester County state senator George Latimer, running for Westchester County executive. With the Senate evenly split between Republicans and Democrats, Cuomo, a Democrat, could be under pressure to call the special election should Diaz and Latimer vacate their seats.

Reginald Johnson, a spokesman for Gjonaj, said in a statement that, “[Gjonaj]’s full attention is on listening to needs and concerns of district voters and laying out his plan to deliver results. He is not focused on hypotheticals.”

Gjonaj’s opponents have not thrown in the towel yet. Among his more formidable rivals are 82nd Assembly District Leader Marjorie Velazquez and community leader John Doyle. As of press time, Velazquez, who has received the endorsement from incumbent and term-limited Councilman James Vacca, has raised more than \$100,000. Doyle, whose City Island base has helped drive his campaign (he’s often referred to as the “Mayor of City Island”) has raised more than \$83,000.

Those figures pale to Gjonaj’s \$600,000, whose allies in the real estate sector have contributed roughly a third of the total funds to his campaign. According to an analysis by the *Norwood News* (Gjonaj has not participated in the matching funds program). Campaign funds usually help political candidates develop a strong campaign apparatus, with monies usually going towards a campaign office, stationery and media ad buys.

Among those not on the ballot is Alex Gomez, ironically the first candidate to announce a run. Gomez, a Throggs Neck resident who works as a program director for Phipps Neighborhoods, a South Bronx-based social services nonprofit, had only raised \$5,912. Gomez has accused Velazquez of underhandedly removing him from the ballot after a Velazquez supporter challenged Gomez’s petitions. A court sided with the challenger, making



Images courtesy NY1

INCUMBENT MAYOR BILL de Blasio (l) takes on former Brooklyn Councilman Sal Albanese in Democratic race.

thanks to a temporary term-limit expansion that allowed councilmembers in office during 2010 to run a third time. Cabrera’s 14th Council District covers the neighborhoods of Kingsbridge Heights, Fordham, University Heights, and Mount Eden. Ongoing issues persist, mainly poverty, poor health outcomes, gentrification fears and a relatively low employment rate.

Cabrera, who is the senior pastor at New Life Outreach International in the Bronx, has been characterized as a conservative Democrat. He has drawn past criticism for appearing on a radio show hosted by the Family Research Council (which is listed as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center) and praising the “godly” Ugandan government (homosexuality is a criminal act in that country). More recently, Cabrera received negative press after a video surfaced in July showing Cabrera saying that it’s harder to be rich than poor.

Cabrera faces two challengers: Randy Abreu, a former attorney with the U.S. Department of Energy under President Barack Obama, and Felix Perdomo, a school teacher with limited political experience. In early August, Cabrera skipped a candidates forum held by the Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition. Gentrification, especially in the face of the proposed Jerome Avenue rezoning and the

Auto Workers and Planned Parenthood. Cabrera, who is backed by the Bronx Democratic County Committee, Local 32BJ, Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association, the New York Hotel Trades Council and others, has raised \$73,063.04 toward his reelection.

Bronx Borough President

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., who for months flirted with the prospect of running for New York City mayor, is now looking for a third term instead. He faces Camella D. Price, former deputy chief of staff for Diaz Jr., and Avery Selkridge, a Bronx-born resident.

“I’m not saying I’m better than [Diaz Jr.]. I want to run because I have a different vision than him,” Price said. “My vision is to work with all people; not just a



File Photo/second and third photos courtesy Facebook

CONTENTERS IN RACE for Borough President include (l-r) incumbent, Ruben Diaz Jr., Camella Price, and Avery Selkridge.

certain group of people in a certain section of the Bronx. It’s working with everyone and trying to help everyone to be productive, and be happy, and stay in the borough.”

Price, who had sued Diaz in a racial discrimination suit she ultimately rescinded, looks to encourage job growth, higher paying jobs, and improving the public school system in the borough.

Selkridge, who attended Touro College, told the *Norwood News* he cares “about the people and the people need someone who is listening and willing to try to help.”

The Bronx has been on a climb in recent years, thanks to a uniformly lower crime rate (it still ranks the highest when compared to the five boroughs), and interest from the real estate sector, thanks to the borough’s cheap land options.

Political observers have pegged Diaz as a charismatic leader who’s swayed legislators at higher offices and real estate developers to give the Bronx some attention. Priming to run for mayor, Diaz Jr. has increased his campaign kitty in the last year, raising more than \$1 million. Price has raised less than \$6,000. Diaz appears to pay little attention to his rivals—there is presently no campaign material Diaz has prepared for his 2017 run. In an email statement sent by Kalman Yeger, executive director for New Yorkers for Diaz, Diaz said the Bronx is “moving in the right direction.”

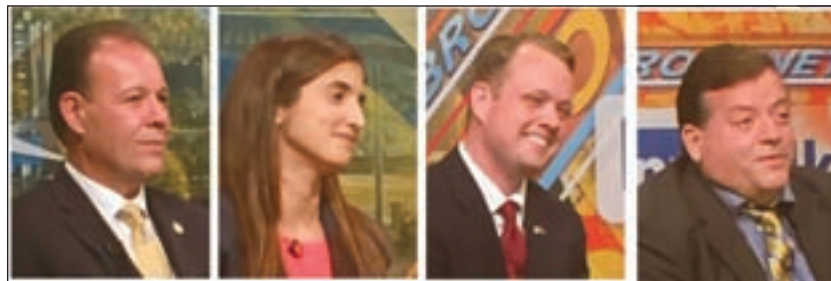
“We’ve created jobs, increased wages,

improved the health and well-being of our residents, built thousands of units of affordable housing and provided our schools with much-needed capital funding. We are attracting new businesses and new development,” Diaz wrote.

New York City Mayor

Mayor Bill de Blasio, the incumbent mayor elected on a progressive platform in 2013, appears to crank up the progressive agenda, thanks to the antagonism New York’s political base has given to Republican President Donald Trump.

On the Board of Elections ballot are former City Councilman Sal F. Albanese, Richard S. Bashner, Michael Tolkin, and Robert Gangi. But Albanese and de Blasio were the only ones allowed to take part in a televised debate organized by the New



Photos by David Cruz

CANDIDATES FOR THE 13TH Council District include (l-r) Norwood Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj, 82nd Assembly District Leader Marjorie Velazquez, and community activists John Doyle and Egidio Sementelli.

Velazquez the only candidate of Latin descent on the ballot come September.

Whoever wins will take on Republican John Cerini, an accountant whose political stronghold rests in Throggs Neck.

14th Council District

Incumbent Councilman Fernando Cabrera is cleared to run for a third term,

Kingsbridge Armory project, were among the main issues discussed at the event.

Outside money has kept Abreu afloat, with donations coming from as far away as Houston, Texas. So far, he has raised \$48,500 in campaign contributions to Perdomo’s \$12,691.65, and received endorsements from organizations and unions that include StreetsPAC, 1199SEIU, United

York City Campaign Finance Board since they followed the board’s financial stipulations.

Notwithstanding his political scuffles with the NYPD and public opinion over his policies combatting homelessness, de Blasio has warded off any stiff competition from fellow Democrats. Among the lead candidates for the Republican ticket are Staten Island Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis and former NYPD detective Richard “Bo” Deitl, though a technicality forced him to run as an independent.

Bronx Progressives

Among the newer political organizations to emerge following the influence of 2016 Democratic presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders is the Bronx Progressives. Like Sanders’s liberal views, the Bronx Progressives sees itself as working for “community empowerment and progressive political and electoral reform.” Over the last month, the nascent group has backed Abreu in the 14th Council District race and Doyle for the 13th Council District seat.

“Our group is determined to journey along with other groups to guarantee the success of these candidates,” Carlos Suarez, coordinator for the Bronx Progressives, said.

Editor’s Note: Additional reporting by Wendy Joan Biddlecombe. A list of all the candidates can be found at <http://bit.ly/2wF4vbq>. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sept. 12.



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