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...
EDITORIAL

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

Even in the face of his shifty 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’s 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 harbingier 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 certainties, 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 (r), appears to be running a misdirected campaign. Instead of flashing his so-called “de Blasio meter,” 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 Tokkin? 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.

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

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. Moshulu Pkwy. So., Apt. #B1. For more information, email bedfordmosholu@verizon.net.
Affordable Housing for Rent
3365 Third Avenue:
22 NEWLY CONSTRUCTED UNITS AT 3365 Third Avenue Bronx, NY 10456
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Amenities: On-site superintendent, laundry facility, energy efficient appliances, sleek modern kitchens and baths.
Transit: Subway: B, D, 2, 4, 5, 6; Bus: Bx 6, 15, 21, 35, 41
No application fee • No broker’s fee • Smoke-free building

This building is being constructed through the Neighborhood Construction Program (NCP) and Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development.

Who Should Apply?
Individuals or households who meet the income and household size requirements listed in the table below may apply. Qualified applicants will be required to meet additional selection criteria. Applicants who live in New York City receive a general preference for apartments.

A percentage of units is set aside for applicants with disabilities:
- Mobility (5%)
- Vision/hearing (2%)

Preference for a percentage of units goes to:
- Residents of Bronx Community Board 3 (50%)
- Municipal employees (5%)

AVAILABLE UNITS AND INCOME REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Size</th>
<th>Monthly Rent1</th>
<th>Units Available</th>
<th>House- hold Size2</th>
<th>Annual Household Income3 (Minimum – Maximum)4</th>
<th>Monthly Rent1</th>
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<th>Annual Household Income3 (Minimum – Maximum)4</th>
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<td>$1,529</td>
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<td>3 people</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>1 person</td>
<td>$40,423 - $57,240</td>
<td>$1,760</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5 people</td>
<td>$62,914 - $103,100</td>
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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.

한국어

Ruïkse
To be able to apply for this program, please visit nyc.gov/housingconnect. For a copy of the application, call 3365 THIRD AVENUE: c/o Bronx Pro Group 1605 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd Bronx, NY 10453. Applications will only be considered if submitted by September 13, 2017. Applications will be 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.

Kreyòl Ayisyen

موتوريل بيل دي بلاسيو • HPD Commissioner Maria Torres-Springer
INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

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

I visited Green Earth Food Deli

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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.

“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.

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.”

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

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.

“Theyir 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.
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 90.7 WFUV

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 240 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 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 12,500 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 146th 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.
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!

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Mosholu 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 headquarterd 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 Franklin 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.

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 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 work-book 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

(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.

Photography by David Greene
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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.

TRIP

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.

**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, every 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.

**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.

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**Expore 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**
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 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. 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 Moshulu 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.
(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 Michael Carlucci, 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 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, 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 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 $46,500 in campaign contributions to Perdomo’s $12,691.65, and received endorsements from organizations and unions that include StreetsPAC, 1199SEIU, United Auto Workers and Planned Parenthood.

Cabrera, who is backed by the Bronx Democratic County Committee, Local 238J, Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association, the New York Hotel Trades Council and others, has raised $73,063.04 toward his reelection.

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 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 has sued Diaz in a racial discrimination suit she ultimately receded, 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 with 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 York Campaign Finance Board since they followed the board’s financial stipulations.

Notwithstanding his political scruffles with the NYPD and public opinion over his policies combating 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 Suárez, 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/2wFtvbg. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sept. 12.
Community Board 7 backs downzoning of Mosholu Pkwy.

THE CAMPAIGN mining the character of Ruben Diaz Jr. and his Bronx constituents, assured the community it will assess the look of Van Cortlandt Avenue East (pictured) is among the streets community activists hope to have preserved.

sd

The group won a victory to patterns while enquiring the character while stemming borders as a way to preserve working class.

almost impossible for the City, including the Bronx, making living in New York City Department of City, including the Bronx, making living in New York City Department of Education's gifted and talented class.