



NORWOOD NEWS

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INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER:
THOUGHTS ON PRIMARY | PG. 4



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CELEBRATES 80 YEARS | PG. 10**

GJONAJ / CABRERA GRAB VICTORIES

Winners of Democratic September Primary Advance to General Election



Photos by Miriam Quinones

PRIMARY WINNERS. Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj (left photo) and Councilman Fernando Cabrera (right photo) were among the winners in this year's Primary.

**By WENDY JOAN
BIDDLECOMBE, DAVID CRUZ,
and REGGIE FRANCOIS**

Democratic state legislators representing the Bronx secured victories in city council seats in the Sept. 12 Primary, with incumbents in other seats walking away unscathed. Though the winners simply secured the Democratic nomination, their Primary victory gives them a

virtual lock on a win over their Republican challengers in the November General Election given the Bronx's overpowering Democratic voting bloc.

City Council District 13

With nearly \$700,000 in contributions, Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj, representing Norwood, set a new record on cash spent in a City Council race since the

New York City Campaign Finance Board started keeping track in 1989.

The cash flush paid off, with Gjonaj winning the Democratic nomination for the 13th Council District with 38 percent of the vote, securing a victory by the slimmest of margins over challenger Marjorie Velazquez, who secured 34 percent of the vote. Velazquez did not return

calls seeking comment.

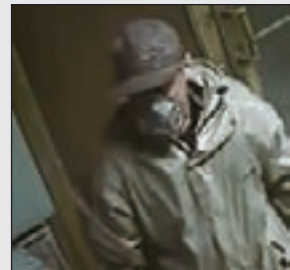
"That's what \$700,000 buys?" a Bronx political insider opined to the *Norwood News*.

The race was crowded, with four Democrats vying for the open seat that covers a large terrain of the East Bronx, stretching from Morris Park to City Island. Total spending for the 13th Council District seat sur-

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EDITORIAL

Bedford Park Residents: Consider a No Solicitation Zone

On Oct. 1, the Country Club section of the Bronx, a middleclass enclave that overlooks the Long Island Sound, will officially be considered a “non-solicitation real estate zone.” This should matter to residents living in Bedford Park.

This community, just five miles west of Country Club, should add it to its arsenal of neighborhood preservation tools to help thwart the issue of overdevelopment that’s become an ongoing problem within the community.

Here’s the catch: there has to be proof.

The designation stops pesky realtors from pitching homeowners to sell their homes. The Country Club section evinces a suburban-like setting. Residents there want to keep it so even in the face of aggressive development that’s swallowed the borough.

This could be a critical solution to the small band of residents wanting a less congested Bedford Park, a neighborhood that’s also grown mighty attractive to the number of developers who’ve decided to plant their flag on the neighborhood whether the project is appropriate for the neighborhood or not. Overdevelopment appears to be the watchword for Bedford Park these days.

As the *Bronx Times Reporter* noted in a recent write-up on the subject, solicitations in Country Club came in the form of glossy cards urging homeowners to sell for cash. Those cards were turned in as evidence to their local state legislators, who then turned them over to the New York State Department of State, the agency that approves or denies a zone. Realtors from Queens and Long Island also harangued homeowners by phone.



Photo by Diego Barcacer Peña

HOMES SUCH AS this one on East 203rd Street in Bedford Park could be a thing of the past if real estate speculators converge on the neighborhood.

It’s hard to determine where Bedford Park ranks in the solicitation stage. But stories have floated of speculators personally visiting homeowners to offer money in exchange for their house. For residents who’ve carved a life for themselves in Bedford Park and grown annoyed by nagging realtors, this designation offers a solution.

The state Department of State approves the zone when enough evidence of “intense and repeated” solicitation is presented. The evidence can be in the form of the solicitations or phone calls homeowners repeatedly receive. Should a homeowner ever be confronted with such a call, it should be logged and taken to their state representatives. In Bedford Park’s case, that is to state Sen. Jamaal Bailey and state Assemblyman Jose Rivera.

For Bedford Park to make this happen, it needs to organize. Neighbors need

to meet with neighbors to get a better understanding over whether solicitation stands as a major problem. The end game is to stymie development in a neighborhood never intended for high rises. Indifferent residents should wake up and realize that developers can blanket the neighborhood in the blink of an eye.

Of course, as governments go, there is a bureaucratic process involving an application that’s followed by hearings.

So if self-preservation, having the power to decide how you want your neighborhood to look like, matters to you, then there should be no time wasted. You should begin the process of collecting the information, saving it, turning it to legislators, and calling your neighbors.

Whether or not you’re successful doesn’t matter. Every effort should be made to preserve the character of the neighborhood and avoid being exploited.

Public and Community Meetings

COMMUNITY BOARD 7 will hold its general board meeting on Sept. 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Sister Annunciata Bethell Senior Center, 243 E. 204th St. Committee meetings are held on the following dates at the board office, 229 E. 204th St., at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted: Executive Committee meets on Sept. 14; Economic Development Committee meets on Sept. 26; Community Relations and Long Term Planning Committee meets on Sept. 26 at 7:30 p.m.; and Website and Media Committee meets on Sept. 27. For more information, call (718) 944-5650.

The **52ND PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meets on Sept. 28 at North Central Bronx Hospital, 3224 Kosuth Ave., 17th floor, from 7 to 9 p.m. For more information, call (718) 220-5824.

The **52ND PRECINCT NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY MEETING** for residents living within Sector D which encompasses Jerome Avenue from Mosholu Parkway to East Gun Hill Road; East Gun Hill Road from Jerome to Webster avenues; and Webster Avenue from East Gun Hill Road to Mosholu Parkway, will be held at Saint Brendan School in the gym, 268 E. 207th St. on Sept. 20 from 6 to 8 p.m.. For more information, call Neighborhood Coordination Police Officers Michelle Brown at (929) 285-0127 or Edward Barrett at (929) 281-7898.

Cohen to Board: Consider Protesting Norwood Shelter

By REGGIE FRANCOIS

Following acrimony over the city Department of Homeless Services' proposal to establish a homeless shelter across from an elementary school on Webster Avenue in Norwood, Community Board 7 still appears to be at an impasse in getting the city to reconsider.

But Councilman Andy Cohen, who attended the board's Sept. 12 Land Use/Housing & Zoning Committee meeting, said the city did not give him a "definitive answer" on whether it will relent and scout for a shelter elsewhere.

"They have not made the changes we have asked for," said Cohen, "and so I think it's going to require some organization on our part. I think it's time to prepare for the worst."

For Jean Hill, committee chair, that means protesting. Hill noted that the board will start a petition to organize a demonstration opposing the shelter the city is considering to build at Sam's Floor Covering at 3041 Webster Ave.

"You just have to be proactive about it," said Hill. "It doesn't take a whole lot of people."

The property owner of the carpet business submitted paperwork to the city Buildings Department that would convert the property to a space allowing for sleeping accommodations while adding another floor to the current two-story property. The proposed shelter at the carpet business could accommodate more than 200 people once built.

Should it be a men's only shelter, members worry there could be a lot of homeless wandering about unsupervised.

"It's not a humane solution for anyone," said Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky. Hartman-Kutnowsky, a CB7 board member, said her concern was for the group of homeless men that may have mental illnesses or drug problems. "Since there is such a big push to find housing for people, there has to be a way that's humane for them. Having people sleep in a shelter and then get pushed out and have no place to go for the whole day is really not a solution."

She also pointed out that the board's alternate location it proposed, a former social services space at 3600 Jerome Ave., did not seem reasonable either because of its proximity to the Bronx Dance Academy School.

John Reilly, a Bedford Park resident with a background in housing, suspects a majority of the homeless shelters, as part of Mayor Bill de Blasio's plan to build 90 shelters across the city, coming into the Bronx borough were being placed in the West Bronx.

"It's documented that a lot of these shelters, cluster houses and everything are being thrown into the Bronx," said Hill. "We don't mind taking out their share, but we are not going to be the dumping ground for anybody."

Photo by Reggie Francois



Photo by Reggie Francois

COUNCILMAN ANDREW COHEN (r) has been in talks with the city Department of Homeless Services to have the agency reconsider a homeless shelter on Webster Avenue in Norwood.

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INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



This week we asked readers their thoughts on the Primary Election (asked prior to the Sept. 12 Primary), particularly the races for mayor, Bronx borough president, and City Council.



The universal Pre-K has definitely been a huge benefit. It's not surprising that he (Mayor Bill de Blasio) has so [few] challengers. We just need to give him a chance. He's had some rough patches. For us, with two little guys, it's a huge benefit. For City Council, I'm voting for Majorie Velazquez; I think she will make the changes that we need.

Andrej Kozikowski

Pelham Bay



Voting is important. Certainly, I will back the mayor. I'll really back anyone who's a Democrat. I hope he does well. As for the other races, I will read the booklet before I head to the polls, but some of the words and tactics that some are using today seems borderline criminal.

Lagee Andre Greene
Westchester Square



The mayor has been doing well. I think he has six other challengers, but I think he'll win. You have to vote for the person who will do the most good.

Jbhangir Jaura
Norwood



I think de Blasio would win if a hundred people were running against him, because he's a good man. He's not afraid of anyone, including the president. I haven't noticed much improvement in the last eight years, but I have nothing against [Borough President Ruben] Diaz. I think he's a good guy. I will select the entire Democratic line.

Mohammed Abbas
Norwood



I am definitely coming out for the mayor. I think I was wavering, I wasn't sure, but after the debate, I think [de Blasio] was well-informed. I've been to a few of his town hall meetings and he comes very well prepared with all his commissioners there. They answer your question and I think he's doing a good job and he deserves to be re-elected. No doubt about it, I love Ruben Diaz. I think he has brought so much to the Bronx... Yeah this year was ugly and I've been in politics a long time, since 1948 when my family voted for Henry Wallace.

Sylvia Lask
Riverdale

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CRIME FILE



Espallat Office Robbed

Police need help in finding a thief, pictured above, who allegedly robbed the office of Congressman Adriano Espallat, who represents Norwood. Police say this occurred at 2530 Grand Concourse on Sept. 1 at 11:50 a.m. The suspect opened a door that led to a music studio as well as a door to another office. He left with no items.

This is not the first time the suspect has attempted to rob Espallat's office. Police report he entered the office the day before at 4:22 a.m., through a window. Police say he stole two laptops and an iPhone.

The robber is described as a male Hispanic with a dark complexion. He stands at 5'5" and weighs approximately 140 lbs. Video capturing the suspect in the first incident shows him wearing a dark colored coat, dark colored jeans, black baseball cap, black gloves, a face mask and dark colored shoes. The second video shows him wearing a light colored coat and a surgical mask.

—Diego Barcacer Peña

Man Shot in the Head Survives

An argument between two men ended with one of the men shot in the head near Dunkin' Donuts on East Gun Hill Road at DeKalb Avenue on Aug. 29. Police say video surveillance showed the two men fighting upon entering the camera frame, with one of the men pulling a gun and shooting the other in the head. The perpetrator quickly ran, leaving

the victim bleeding in front of the store. He was rushed to a local hospital and his condition is not known. Two male suspects were arrested several days later.

—David Cruz

Man Stabbed Near Oval

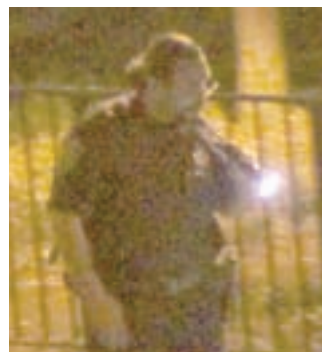


Photo courtesy Frank da Cruz
AN OFFICER LOOKS for leads following the stabbing.

A man has been arrested for stabbing someone near Williamsbridge Oval Park, just after an outdoor movie screening that attracted plenty of families. Police say the victim was stabbed in front of 3106 Bainbridge Ave. around 9 p.m. on Aug. 30 after a gang-related argument.

Witnesses could later hear a helicopter hovering around the neighborhood as cops from the 52nd Precinct tracked the stabber. The victim was taken to St. Barnabas Hospital and was listed in critical condition. Meantime, police say they've arrested one person and five others in connection with the incident.

A source tells the *Norwood News* that teens gone "wilding" could have been responsible. Later that night there was another gang-related fight on Kingsbridge Road and the Grand Concourse, within the confines of the 52nd Precinct. Another six people were arrested in a dispute between Bloods and Crips.

—David Cruz

15-Year-Old Falls to Death

News outlets have been reporting the death of a 15-year-old after falling five stories from a fire escape. The inci-

dent happened at 6:15 a.m. at 2921 Briggs Ave. near Bedford Park, shocking residents. The boy, identified as Leonardo Marmolejos, was rushed to St. Barnabas Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

—David Cruz

Serial Thief Strikes Again

A man wanted for allegedly snatching a gold chain off a 15-year-old boy is also wanted for a string of robberies happening across the Bronx. He struck on July 20, allegedly robbing the 15-year-old of his gold chain in front of 15 E. Fordham Rd. and quickly fleeing.

Police say the man has used a variety of weapons, including a gun and knives, in at least six robberies happening at various times of the day. Police later determined the same man allegedly robbed a 16-year-old of his cell phone in the vicinity of Jerome Avenue and East 193rd Street. He fled to St. James Park on foot.

On Aug. 10, the suspect allegedly robbed a 65-year-old woman of her chain by using a knife to cut it off her neck in the area of Quarry Road and East 181st Street at around 2 p.m.

Hours later, within the borders of the local 52nd Precinct, the thief allegedly robbed a 22-year-old man's chain by once again cutting it from the victim's neck. The thief then hopped an MTA bus but the victim followed him into the bus. After an brief argument, the suspect ran off.

Police say the suspect then allegedly removed a chain from a 62-year-old man in front of 2001 Clinton Ave. on Aug. 16 and another two chains from a 56-year-old man in front of 1922 Longfellow Ave.

The perpetrator is described as a male Hispanic, around 20 to 25 years old, medium complexion with a ponytail and a tattoo on his left arm. He was last seen wearing a black shirt and white shorts.

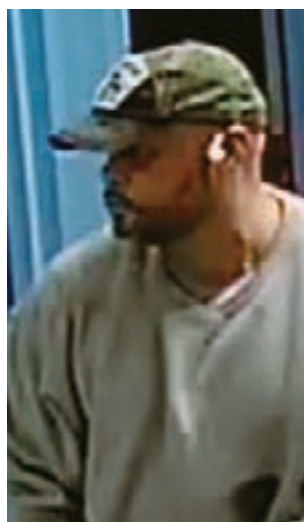
—David Cruz



TD Bank Thief Sought

Police need help identifying a thief, pictured above, on the run since March after stealing \$1,178 and depositing two altered money orders into a TD Bank account. The money orders were addressed to a private residence located between Jerome Avenue and Evelyn Place on March 29 at 9 a.m., according to police. Video captured the suspect in a car wearing a dark colored hoodie, blue jeans, and a red cap that says "Daddy."

—Diego Barcacer Peña



Burglar Strikes Norwood Laundromat

Police need help in identifying a thief, pictured above, who allegedly burglarized the Mei Laundromat in Norwood. They say the burglary at 3200 Bainbridge Ave. occurred on Aug. 19 at 2:35 a.m.

Video shows a heavysset male entering through the

business's back door and leaving with a DVD surveillance system and \$500 in cash. The video captured the suspect wearing a light-colored sweatshirt, dark-colored shorts, black hat with a nondescript insignia, and dark-colored shoes.

—Diego Barcacer Peña

Editor's Note: *Anyone with information pertaining to any of the above incidents is encouraged to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1-800-577-TIPS (8477), or 1-800-57-PISTA (74782) for Spanish speakers. All calls are kept confidential. Information can also be sent to the Crime Stoppers website at www.nypdcrimestoppers.com, or by texting 274637 (CRIMES) and entering TIP577.*

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Vacant Newsstand a Norwood Monolith These Days



Photo by David Cruz

THE NEWSSTAND ON East Gun Hill Road and Rochambeau Avenue has stood vacant ever since it was built sometime two years ago.

By DAVID CRUZ

The newsstand rests prominently in front of Montefiore Health System's Moses Campus on East Gun Hill Road at Rochambeau Avenue in Norwood, the perfect place for on-the-go candy, drinks and newspapers, of course.

Its silver exterior is hard to miss to the hundreds of hospital employees and residents who pass by the site. At a time when newspaper sales are dwindling, one can make the argument that the stand is a goldmine.

Except there's one issue: It's never been opened. "Not even once," Maria, a nurse at Montefiore, said.

"The doors have never been lifted up," said another hospital worker, pointing to the pristine shutters that seal the display.

For now, the kiosk is something of a neighborhood monolith, drawing attention from passersby though not enough to ever inquire why the city built a newsstand that's never once been utilized.

CEMUSA, a Spain-based advertising company, built the kiosk

roughly two years ago as part of a deal to build some 300 sleeker kiosks in exchange for advertising rights.

The New York City Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), which hands out licenses to prospective newsstand vendors, has remained mum on why exactly no one has snatched up the rights to the stand. Christine Gianakis, a spokesperson for DCA, said that an application for the site is pending. The process, as in most New York City projects, is brutally bureaucratic, requiring several sign-offs and more than \$1,000 in applications fees by other city agencies before DCA hands over a lease.

This is one of 10 pending applications for vendors looking to open newsstands across the Bronx. Overall, there are 13 legally operating newsstands in the borough.

"I haven't seen any activity," Giovanni Jimenez, who sells knick-knacks just feet from the stand, said. Jimenez thinks the stand would be a boon to whoever grabs the lease. "A lot of people pass over there."

Talkin' Trash

Cuomo to fix ongoing train delays via anti-trash campaign

By STEPHANIE LUCIANO

Governor Andrew Cuomo has announced his plan that looks to discourage subway littering to increase system reliability. And the impact could cost you.

"Littering is not only illegal but dangerous and directly causes hundreds of thousands of delays, inconveniencing millions of New Yorkers," said Cuomo. The MTA will run a public awareness campaign dubbed "Keep it Clean" to inform riders of the impact littering has on public safety.

According to the governor, litter contributes to 700 fire-related incidents on the tracks every year. Violators will now pay double the fine if they're caught throwing trash onto

subway tracks.

Based on NYC Transit Performance Dashboard, all subway lines must be at or above the expected target for on-time performance. The 2, 4, B and D lines, which travel through Norwood, are all below target by five percent or more. "This initiative will help stop littering-related delays at the source... helping the MTA deliver the subway service that New Yorkers deserve," Cuomo said.

As part of the initiative, MTA is performing preventative trash removal between stations and cleaning street grates. The plan is utilizing special heavy equipment that has already recovered 2.3 million pounds of trash and debris.



Photo courtesy Office of Governor Andrew Cuomo

GOVERNOR ANDREW CUOMO (l) looks at MTA crews cleaning a train track in Brooklyn.

Local Lawmakers Sound Off on Proposed DACA Nix

By YARA PALIN

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, along with 16 other attorneys general, has filed a lawsuit to protect Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients from deportation after the Trump administration announced that it would be rescinding the program.

The lawsuit has received support from many local politicians. "In New York, we don't let anyone mess with

our neighbors," said Mayor Bill de Blasio. "That is why we are joining together to fight the inhumane and cruel decision made by President [Donald] Trump to end DACA protections."

Many other local politicians have voiced their disapproval of repealing DACA. In a statement, Congressman Adriano Espaillat, who represents Norwood, said Mr. Trump has chosen to "cruelly end a successful pro-

gram that has tremendous bipartisan support."

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. was also critical of the Trump administration, saying Mr. Trump's "intentions were clear from day one," alluding to when Trump referred to Mexicans as rapists and drug dealers.

DACA was introduced in 2012 by former President Barack Obama in an effort to protect children who were brought to the United States

illegally. Roughly 800,000 undocumented immigrants face the possibility of losing their status with nearly 42,000 of them being New Yorkers. "Immigration is the lifeblood of New York State," said Schneiderman. "The decision to end DACA is cruel, inhumane, and devastating to the 42,000 New Yorkers who have been able to come out of the shadows and live a full life as a result of the program."

The lawsuit is led by Schneiderman, Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey, and their Washington counterpart Bob Ferguson. Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington D.C. and Virginia joined the suit.

Mr. Trump has given Congress six months to undo the program.



The Bronx Develops

A Metro-North Station is a City Within a City



Part 3

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 JULIA RIST



Sergio Linietsky has been living in the neighborhood of Parkchester for 50 years. Linietsky, a social worker at a community senior center, said that whenever he wants to go into Manhattan it becomes an ordeal because of the lack of options available to him.

"To get to my friends in Midtown now I either take the #6 train or I wait for the express bus. Usually, the wait can take up to an hour," Linietsky said. "So many times I have to go to Morris Park to take a bus there because they have two buses per hour."

Five years from now, Linietsky could get to Midtown in a half hour thanks to the MTA's plan to build a Metro-North station in the neighborhood.

The plan, approved and funded in 2015, has sparked the question of whether development in Parkchester is on the horizon. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., a major proponent of the project, thinks so. From the moment plans were greenlit, Diaz has suggested upzoning Parkchester and two other neighborhoods set to receive the stations in an effort to attract more development. Upzoning usually calls for taller buildings or types of buildings currently unavailable in a given neighborhood.

"It's been something in towns, in counties, and in cities that people have benefitted tremendously from," Diaz said.

Hunts Point, Morris Park, and Co-Op City are part of the massive \$695 million project, which will see stations built on the existing Hell's Gate rail track now used by Amtrak. For residents in those communities, it could mean more stores and office spaces popping up around their community.

"I think that we would be remiss if we didn't look at the area as a potential way where we can increase density, residential units as well as commercial and real estate spaces. These areas are just ripe for that," Diaz said.



Photo by Julia Rist

THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF Parkchester features 171 brick style residences (background) hugging the Fountain of Metropolitan Oval (foreground).

Co-Op City is not included on Diaz's wish list for rezoning since the neighborhood is already well-populated, with some 43,000 living in the neighborhood and near the enormous mall of Bay Plaza.

On top of office space, Diaz hopes affordable housing will be built in those communities.

"We want to make sure we do this for Bronxites. So, we have always kept [affordable housing] in mind as we do residential development, that we do this development with diversity. That means keeping in mind those individuals that are low income, but at the same time providing affordable housing for our working class and skilled professional Bronxites," Diaz said.

The New York City Department of City Planning (DCP), which regulates zoning across the city, has said that the addition of the Metro-North station has the ability to enhance Parkchester.

In a 2014 report supporting the Metro-North plan, DCP suggested the MTA place the station at the intersection of East Tremont Avenue and Dogwood Drive. One of the agency's recommendations suggests the MTA "[r]e-examine zoning along both sides of East Tremont Avenue to permit a mix of uses which encourages pedestrian activity and re-orient the surrounding communities towards East Tremont and the proposed station."

Salen Uddin, a real estate consul-



Photo by Julia Rist

THE PROPOSED SITE for a Metro-North station in Parkchester can be found at East Tremont Avenue and Dogwood Drive, currently occupied by a tow truck company.

tant and president of Parkchester Property Management, said that many of Parkchester's roughly 41,000 residents work in Manhattan, making for an hour commute. Uddin thinks that the addition of a Metro-North station is a plus, attracting more residents to Parkchester while increasing property values.

"Transportation is very important for real estate. This is a good thing," Uddin said. "Those people who are coming to Manhattan from upstate [New York], and Connecticut, like Stamford, Bridgeport, and other areas, I think slowly they will stay here. They will purchase properties here. They will live here. They will

also commute for a shorter time."

Diaz agreed, adding development will spur job growth.

"I think it's going to be great for Connecticut and upstate [New York] like the Hudson Valley. We will be able to give access to jobs that are created at the Hutch Metro Center," Diaz said, referring to the mega office complex in the Pelham Bay/Morris Park neighborhoods. The pending Morris Park station will be a roughly half-mile walk.

A spokesperson for Metro-North said the project is currently in the design, engineering and environmental work stages.

"When the project is complete, the new stations will drastically reduce travel times for people who commute to Manhattan and reverse commute to Westchester and beyond," said the spokesperson. The project is part of the MTA's 2015, five-year capital budget plan.

The addition of a station stands to complement Parkchester's history of a city built within a city.

The neighborhood, financed for construction by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in 1940, is home to 171 brick apartment buildings, uniform in its exterior though distinguishable by small terra-cotta statues that can be seen from the top of some of the buildings. The community was intended to provide reasonably priced housing for New Yorkers.

According to Parkchester Property Management, "Met Life's plan was to develop a fully landscaped self-contained community with its own shopping centers, restaurants, and commercial office spaces all to be attractively integrated among the residential buildings. It was, in essence, a community of convenience.

For Linietsky, Parkchester's neighborly atmosphere completely differentiates itself from other neighborhoods in the city. "Parkchester is like an enchanted forest in the city. Wonderful housing. Parkchester provides economical living and we can breathe easy about it," he said.

It will also have an easier commute in the coming years.

Diaz, who will be out of office by the time the trains roll in, said the Bronx couldn't be more ready. "We're focused on hurrying up and getting the stations built," he said.

SARAH SESSA, 83
member for 8 months



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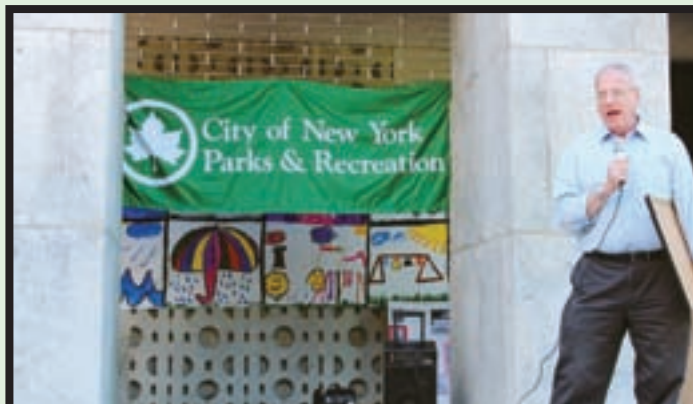
RiverSpringHealthPlans.org

Oval Celebration

THE NEW YORK City Department of Parks joined community stakeholders in celebrating the 80th anniversary of Williamsbridge Oval Park on Sept. 9 complete with music, signage and oral history of the park considered Norwood's jewel. Check out these photos by Deborah Cruz



STUDENTS FROM ST. Mary's Park tap dance team celebrate the Oval's milestone with a performance.



ASSEMBLYMAN JEFF DINOWITZ, representing the Oval side of Norwood, celebrates the Oval's 80th anniversary with a proclamation in hand.



SARAH BISHOW, **DIRECTOR** of the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, unveils the Oval's symbolic birthday cake to guests.



(L-R) BRONX PARKS Commissioner Iris Rosa-Rodriguez, Friends of Williamsbridge Oval Park President Sheila Sanchez, Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz, Director of the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center Sarah Bishow, Community Board 7 Chair Adaline Walker-Santiago, Friends of Williamsbridge Oval member Lorita Wilson, and Community Board 7 Vice Chair Barbara Stronczer help unveil a proclamation for the Oval.



BRONX HISTORIAN LLOYD ULTAN and Community Board 7 chair Adaline Walker-Santiago are among the guests at the celebration.

RECREATION CENTER WORKER prepares to hand out cake to kids waiting patiently to grab some before it runs out.



NORWOOD NEWS

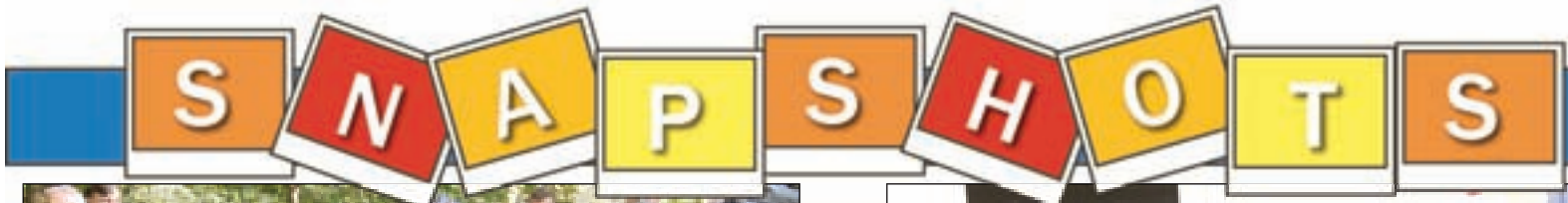


Photo by David Greene

A MILITARY VETERAN salutes victims of the 9/11 attacks. A ceremony marking 16 years since the attack happened, took place at Jacobi Medical Center at a commemorative garden honoring the nearly 150 Bronx residents killed during the attack. Families of victims along with hospital staffers were on hand for the yearly ceremony.

SYDNEY MCCRAW (PICTURED) of Williamsbridge landed in the September editions published by *New York Metro Parents* following the magazine's Cover Kids contest. The five-year-old will appear in all seven magazines from the chain, including Bronx Parent. She also received four tickets to Sesame Place.



Photo courtesy
Davler Media Group



Photo courtesy Montefiore Health System

EMILY ORTIZ, a patient at Montefiore Health System, addresses guests at the unveiling of a garden mural painted on the wall of Montefiore Medical Center's Child and Adolescent Psychiatric clinic in Norwood on Sept. 6. Ortiz, who doubles as the mural manager, helped transform the brick wall into a garden while making friends and practicing art therapy in place of traditional behavioral health treatment. The project was conceived and directed by attending psychologist Jenny Seham, Ph. D., and Montefiore's Healing Arts Program.



Photo by Stephanie Luciano

(L-R) BRONX AEROSPACE HIGH School students Mynor Medina, Adrian Santiago, Molly Ramsaran, and Joslyn Batten pose in front of a new flight simulator unveiled on Sept. 8. The simulator is the first to come to the school. The full story can be found at www.norwoodnews.org.



Photo courtesy
Jerome-Gun Hill BID

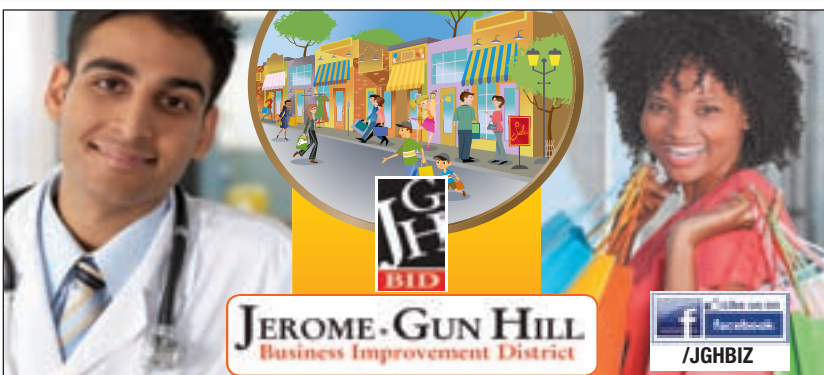
BID EMPLOYEES

ARIANA CIPRIANI (R) and Shauna Berrios (l) pose near the corner of Jerome Avenue and East 208th Street next to one of three pedestrian counters. The second counter is on Gun Hill Road at Rochambeau Avenue, and the third is on Gun Hill Road off Jerome Avenue, all within the borders of the Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District. They record the number of pedestrians walking within the BID and the direction they're heading. The BID hopes to learn where the high traffic areas are in the district.



Photo by David Cruz

SCORES OF MUSLIMS attended a ceremony at Williamsbridge Oval Park marking the start on Eid al-Adha, Islam's most sacred festival. The event, translating to "festival of the sacrifice," acknowledges the day when the prophet Abraham sacrificed an animal after G-d spared his son. Muslims celebrated the holiday on Sept. 1, nine days after the new moon, abiding by religious decrees.



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Annual Fun Fair and Flea Market, Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come for bargains, raffles, lunch, and fun. Household goods, jewelry, electronics, toys and books, and more. Bedford Park Congregational Church, corner of 201st Street and Bainbridge Avenue. Bargains, Bargains, Bargains.



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NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

Jerome-Gun Hill BID Board Mtg.

The Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District will be holding its quarterly board meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 26, at 6 p.m. at the Reservoir Keeper's House, 3400 Reservoir Oval E. The meeting is open to everyone. For more information, and to RSVP, call Jennifer Tausig, executive director of the Jerome-Gun Hill BID, at (718) 324-4946.

Free College Prep Class

The SUNY Bronx Educational Opportunity Center is hosting a free college prep course on Oct. 2. Students will be given pre-college level instructions in reading, writing and math. Instructors can also help in the college and financial aid application assistance. A high school diploma or equivalent is required to take part in the class. To register and to learn more, log on to bronxeoc.org/register.

Development Awards

Submissions for the annual Excellence in Development awards are open to architects and developers who've had projects built in the Bronx. To learn more about the awards selection criteria and how to apply, visit <http://nygala.uli.org/apply>. Submission deadline is Nov. 3.

SAFE Disposal

Safely discard solvents, automotive chemicals, flammable liquids and electronic products on Oct. 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Orchard Beach Parking Lot (follow Park Drive to the end) as part of the New York City Department of Sanitation's SAFE Disposal event. For more information, call 311.

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 Lehman College's Shuster Hall, 3rd floor, room SH-336, President's Conference Room, on Sept. 27 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 549-7300.

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.

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 students 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.

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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Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

EDITOR'S PICK

Beer, Botany and Blues

New York Botanical Garden presents Beer, Botany and Blues Weekend, Sept. 23 and 24 from noon to 4 p.m. for adults 21+. Enjoy classic blues performed by the Paul Josephs Blues Project at noon, 1, 2 and 3 p.m. on the Daffodil Hill Main Stage; sample craft brews and ciders at Daffodil Hill; and learn the botany of beer from a garden scientist relating how beer is made from barley, hops, and many other plants. Visitors can also attend plant collecting demonstrations at the Clay Family Picnic Pavilions from noon to 4 p.m. and participate in lawn games including beanbag toss and lawn darts at Daffodil Hill. Admission is \$15/garden members/\$43 non members which includes extras. For more information, call (718) 817-8512.

Onstage

Lehman College's Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents salsa legend **Eddie Palmieri and His Salsa Orchestra**, Sept. 16 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50 to \$65. For more information and tickets, call (718) 960-8833.

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents **Rafael Hernandez Music Festival**, to honor this musical composer, Sept. 24 at 2 p.m., featuring a variety of performers. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

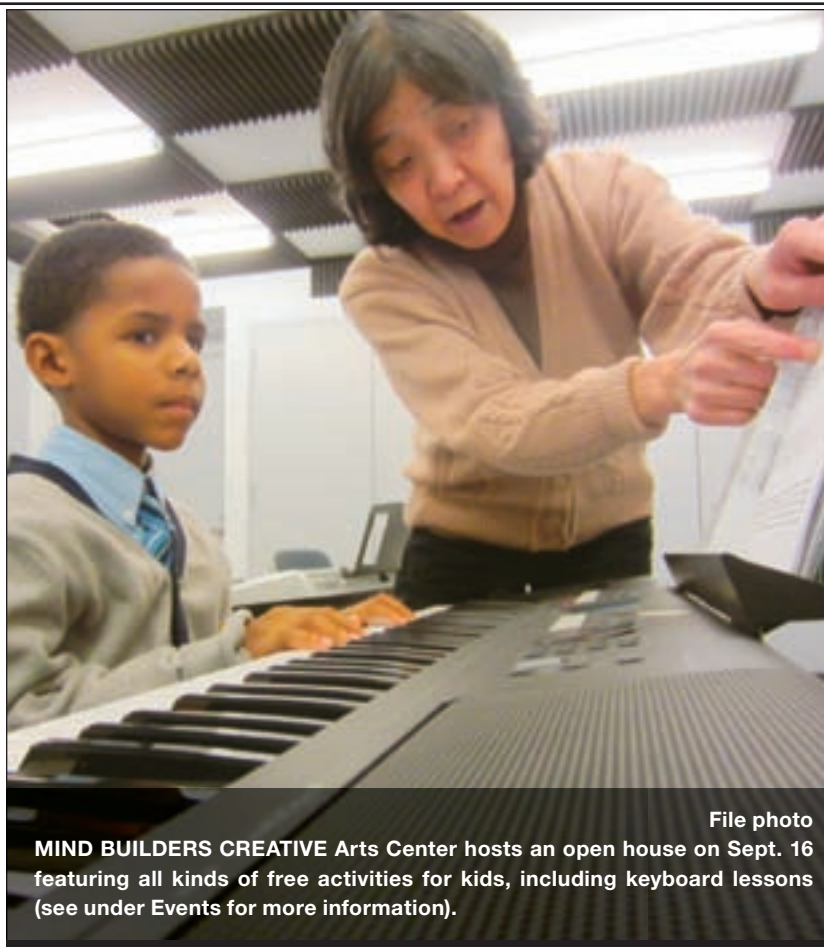
Events

Holy Nativity Church, 3061 Bainbridge Ave. (at 204th Street) holds a **fundraiser**

for food pantry, Sept. 30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Included are bargains, toys, books, clothes, and household goods. For more information, call (718) 652-5853.

Mind Builders Creative Arts Center, 3415 Olinville Ave., presents its 4th annual **Open House Street Festival and a Youth Talent Contest**, Sept. 16 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Events include free classes in dance, martial arts, salsa, keyboard, violin, African drum, and free performances, live music and DJ, rock climbing, and more. Contest winners receive prizes of \$100, \$75 and \$50. For more information, call (718) 652-7324.

The **Bronx River Bike Tour** will be held on Sept. 24 from 1 to 4 p.m. leaving from the Williamsbridge Oval at the Norwood 205th Street D train station at 280 E. 206th St., to its source in Valhalla



File photo
MIND BUILDERS CREATIVE Arts Center hosts an open house on Sept. 16 featuring all kinds of free activities for kids, including keyboard lessons (see under Events for more information).

at the Kensico Dam. Metro North train service is available from Valhalla for the return trip.

St. Patrick's Home for the Aged and Infirm, 66 Van Cortlandt Pk. So., holds a **special Mass** to celebrate its Carmelite Sisters, Sept. 20 at 11 a.m. For more information, call (718) 519-2800.

Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Art Projects**: Dotted Ladybug Backpacks Parade, to make a ladybug backpack followed by a parade, Sept. 16 and 17; and **Wave Hill Ecology** in a Bowl, to sculpt with rocks, sticks and moss, Sept. 16 and 17; both in the WH House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also scheduled are **Call & Response Dance Performance**, free, Sept. 16 at 2 p.m. in the Glyndor Gallery; **Nature Presentation: Ladybug Meet-and-Greet**, to learn about these insects and see some live ones, Sept. 17 from 1 to 3 p.m. on the grounds; and **Concert**, featuring Manhattan Chamber Players performing classical music, Sept. 24 at 2 p.m. in the WH House. Tickets are \$36 plus grounds admission/\$28 members (info: ext. 251). 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.

Exhibits

The Bronx County Historical Society presents **Over There, America and the Great War**, at the Museum of Bronx History, 3266 Bainbridge Ave. (at 208th Street), through Oct. 8. For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

Library Events

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents for children: **Hands on Projects** (ages 7 to 12; preregistration required): School Collage Making, Sept. 14; Animal Making, Sept. 21; and Leaf Book Making, Sept. 28, all at 4 p.m.; and Box Making, Sept. 17; and School Bus Holder Making, Sept. 24, both at 3:30 p.m. Adults can attend **films at 2:30 p.m.**: "Macbeth," Sept. 16; "Fences," Sept. 23; and "The Old Man and the Sea," Sept. 30; and **Computer Basics**: Sept. 19 at 2 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

The Mosholu Library, 285 E. 205th St., offers for teens/young adults: **Craft-eens at 3:30 p.m.**: Craft projects every Wednesday (materials are provided), Sept. 20 and 27; and **film**: Sept. 23 at 1:30 p.m. Adults can attend: **Knitting Circle**: Thursdays at 3 p.m. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

The Jerome Park Library, 118 Eames Place (near Kingsbridge Road), offers for children: **Preschool Storytime and Crafts at 11:15 a.m.**: (ages 3 to 5), including puppetry, dramatics, crafts and flannel boards, Sept. 21 and 28. Adults can attend: **Computer Basics**: Sept. 19 and 26 at 5:45 p.m.; and Sept. 21 and 28 at noon. 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. 18 for the next publication date of Sept. 28.



Photo courtesy New York Botanical Garden

AN EVENING OF booze, blues and botany await you at the New York Botanical Garden (see Editor's Pick for more details).

Gjonaj/Cabrera Secure Primary Wins

(continued from page 1)

passed \$1 million, making it the costliest council race of 2017. The challengers sought the seat held by Councilman Jimmy Vacca, who is term-limited.

"Together we made history, and sent a very clear message in the Bronx ... we can accomplish great things together," Gjonaj said, adding that he wants to improve the quality of life for seniors, and stress the importance of education for children.

Gjonaj said he vowed to run a clean and positive campaign despite the attacks of his opponents. "Together, we can accomplish so much more ... if we focus on building each other up," Gjonaj said.

Other hopefuls included John Doyle, a community leader and City Island's unofficial mayor, who raised nearly \$90,000. Doyle, who did not return calls for comment, took in 19 percent of the vote. Other challengers included Victor Ortiz, who secured close to five percent of the vote and Egidio Sementelli, who won nearly three percent of the vote as of press time.

Gjonaj was backed by the Bronx Democratic Party. Elected to the 80th Assembly District in 2012, his exit means that Norwood's assembly district could stay vacant until 2019, unless Governor Andrew Cuomo calls a special election (which he has a track record of not doing).

Gjonaj will challenge the sole Republican challenger John Cerini, an accountant from Throggs Neck, in the General Election. The City Council seat offers better pay than the assembly, but bars him from working a second job, according to council rules.

But by pulling 34 percent of the vote, Velazquez can run on the Working Families Party in the November General Election. Should she win the General Election, Velazquez could be the first Latina Councilmember for the district. Rumors have swirled Velazquez is merely a placeholder for her husband, Jeff Lynch, Vacca's former chief of staff who had aspirations of running for office.

If Gjonaj wins the General Election, it will leave the 80th Assembly District vacant for an indefinite time.

City Council District 14

Incumbent Councilmember Fernando Cabrera, a so-called "conservative Democrat" has secured the Democratic nomination for a third term in office with more than 56 percent of the



Photo by Miriam Quinones

RUBEN DIAZ SR. (at podium) shares a moment with his son, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. (l), as state Sen. Jamaal Bailey (center) looks on.

vote.

Cabrera's 14th Council District was challenged by Randy Abreu, a young attorney who briefly served in the U.S. Department of Energy under former President Barack Obama and as a delegate for former presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, and Felix Perdomo, a Dominican-born schoolteacher. Abreu secured 33 percent of the vote, a noticeably impressive number for a first-time challenger. Perdomo secured more than 10 percent.

"It's indescribable to be here for a third time," said Cabrera at his brief victory speech at Maestro's Caterers in Morris Park. "I believe the next four years are going to be the best the Bronx has ever seen. God bless you and give God all the glory." He did not offer specifics on what he has planned.

Across the Bronx, Abreu conceded defeat, telling a crowd of supporters he intends to improve the 14th Council District, which covers Kingsbridge Heights, Fordham, University Heights, and Mount Eden.

Cabrera, who was backed by organizations that include the Bronx Democratic County Committee, Local 32BJ, Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, the New York Hotel Trades Council and others, raised \$106,917.14 in his bid to retain his seat.

Abreu, endorsed by groups that include Streets PAC, 1199SEIU, United Auto Workers and Planned Parenthood, raised \$64,558.00, and Perdomo's backers threw \$15,519.65 toward his campaign. "Unfortunately we didn't pull this off tonight," said Abreu. "I



Photo by Reggie Francois

RANDY ABREU (L) speaks with a supporter at his primary night party. Abreu lost to Councilman Fernando Cabrea, the incumbent.

want to thank each and every one of you."

John Mantz, a Fordham resident, volunteered for Abreu's campaign. He was drawn to Abreu's take on issues because of his age and how that might bring change to Bronx communities. "Being young, he was more aggressive about bringing change to the community," said Mantz.

"Over the last eight years, we've seen an acceleration of displacement, we've seen an acceleration of gentrification," said Abreu. "So I hope Fernando does come through for our community."

Borough President

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. secured the Democratic nomination to his post for a third and final term with more than 80 percent of the vote.

Diaz, a former state Assemblyman, was first elected to borough president in a special election in 2009, succeeding Adolfo Carrion.

He was challenged by Camella P. Price, who formerly served as his deputy chief of staff, and Avery Selkridge, a Bronx resident whose Facebook page indicates he attended Touro College and John F. Kennedy High School.

Price received 12 percent of votes and Selkridge two percent as of press time. "It feels good that tonight we won big," Diaz Jr. said. "Look, ladies and gentlemen, for the last eight years we've been leading the Bronx in the right direction, creating jobs, affordable housing and fixing up our Bronx ... we are a team working to make a better Bronx."

Borough presidents are charged with funding organizations in their respective boroughs, deciding on land use, appointing community board and city planning members and advocating for residents. They cannot pass legislation.

Meantime, Diaz's father, state Sen. Ruben Diaz Sr., won a New York City Council seat for the 18th Council District in the southeast Bronx, soundly defeating opponents William Russell Moore, Elvin Garcia, Amanda Farias and Michael Beltzer. The contenders vied for the seat currently held by the term-limited Councilwoman Annabel Palma. Diaz Sr.'s campaign manager, Assemblyman Luis Sepulveda, is being seen as his potential successor in the senate.

Mayor

Meantime, Mayor Bill de Blasio easily won his Primary race against challengers Sal Albanese, Michael Tolkin, Robert Gangi, Richard Bashner and securing more than 40 percent of the vote and avoiding a runoff election.

"I told them that change can come and will come," said de Blasio at his Brooklyn campaign headquarters. "This is your city. And you know it's your city when you see it work for you."

De Blasio, who championed education and criminal justice reform, also faces a homelessness crisis and a city that's become unaffordable for low-income earners.

Editor's Note: Additional reporting by David Greene. An updated version of this story can be found on www.norwoodnews.org.



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