



NORWOOD NEWS

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INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER:
NYPD BODY CAMS | PG. 4



BRONX BARRIERS:
REVISIONING JEROME AVE. | PG. 10

NORWOOD TO CITY: NO SHELTER AT SAM'S

As city mulls decision to place homeless shelter at Sam's Carpeting, community condemns it



Photo by Aaron Mayorga

COUNCILMAN ANDREW COHEN (AT podium) at the Sept. 19 demonstration says the proposed homeless shelter across from PS/MS 20 is a bad idea.

By DAVID CRUZ

Norwood residents are looking to pull the rug out from under a proposed shelter at a carpet store on Webster Avenue.

Elected officials, community stakeholders and schoolchildren demonstrated across the street from Sam's Floor Covering, in front of PS/MS 20, on Sept. 19. The business,

also known as Sam's Carpeting, at 3041 Webster Ave., filed paperwork to convert the business to a homeless shelter. Opponents of the shelter have continued to pressure the city to relocate the shelter, which would be located diagonally across from the K through 8th grade school. Parents fear the shelter would endanger their kids.

"This neighborhood is calm," Jamie Ramirez, the mother of a seventh grader, said. "[B]ut if they put a shelter here it's going to be chaos." Ramirez said she'll consider pulling her son out of school should a men's shelter open.

Students from the school at the demonstration bore signs reading "Don't Place a Shelter Across From Our

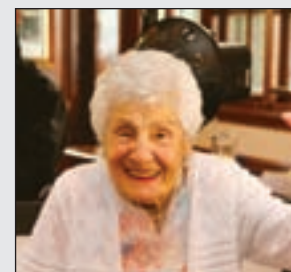
School" and "Community Input Needed Now." "We are all united to tell the city that we do not want a 200-bed, dormitory-style men's shelter across the street from this school," Councilman Andrew Cohen said at the demonstration.

The proposal is being vetted by the New York City Department of Homeless

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THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL FOR
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IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

To Stop Violence at Oval Park, Locals Propose Nightly Lockup

By REGGIE FRANCOIS

Community stakeholders are demanding the city Parks Department lock up Williamsbridge Oval Park at night to increase safety and quell fears of parents alarmed by a recent gang-related stabbing inside the park.

The incident occurred Aug. 30, in the park's tunnel entrance by Van Cortlandt Avenue East and Reservoir Oval East just as a movie screening wrapped up inside the park.

"It used to be during the springtime," said Sarah Bishow, the Oval's recreation center's director, speaking at a meeting on Sept. 19 addressing the park's safety. "And now it's just fights happening outside, but we're seeing it more often now."

Officers from the 52nd Precinct blamed much of the violence on the so-called "G-Side Gang," known to cause outbursts and fights at the park. Many of the gang members are between the ages of 11 and 19, said Officer Michelle Brown of the precinct's Neighborhood Coordination Officer program.

"Anybody who is not G-Side is not allowed in the park. That's in simple terms," Brown said. "They have drama with people on the other side of Jerome [Avenue]. They have drama with people from the 34th Precinct, which is in Washington Heights."

Sheila Sanchez, president of Friends of Williamsbridge Oval Park, said installing security cameras in and around the park, particularly in the tunnel at the Reservoir Oval East entrance, would help catch offenders. "We are accumulat-



Photo by Reggie Francois

THE AUG. 30 stabbing occurred inside the Oval's tunnel (pictured). Several people were arrested.



Photo by Miriam Quinones

NYPD OFFICERS EDWARD Barrett and Michelle Brown (at rear center) talk to residents about the state of crime in Norwood at a Safety Summit meeting on Sept. 20. Safety at Williamsbridge Oval Park was discussed.

ing crime," said Sanchez. "We don't need more crimes. With the cameras, we can get better."

Iris White, a daycare center employee, comes to the Oval because it's convenient. She was not aware of the stabbing at the Oval. "It's normally pretty safe," White said. "But security cameras would be great. Safety is in the best interest of everybody."

But installing one security camera may run upwards of \$3,000, according to Tony Rosa, maintenance and operations manager for parks falling within Community Board 7, which covers the park. The recreation center would have to consider additional funding and that may take up to three years to happen.

Having the cameras in the park also raises concerns of privacy. Sanchez said Councilman Andrew Cohen was worried about violating the privacy of his constituents.

Hearing about the stabbing didn't put fear into local resident and parent Kylie Vidal. Vidal said she came to the park when she was little and now brings her own kids here. Vidal thought having park staff posted throughout the area to watch entrances might be helpful.

"I don't see security cameras or police presence stopping people from doing what they want to do," Vidal said. "For the most part, this is a relatively safe park."

Sanchez suggested closing the playground and basketball court at night as the quickest solution. She said the recreation center should ask Councilman Cohen for funding to repair the historic gates around the park to at least seal the area from nighttime intruders.

"In response to safety concerns, New York City Parks Enforcement Patrol and the NYPD have been providing extra coverage within Williamsbridge Oval Park," said the Parks Department in a statement. "We will continue to work with the community to address concerns at the park."

Public and Community Meetings

COMMUNITY BOARD 7 committee meetings are held on the following dates at the board office, 229 E. 204th St., at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted: Public Safety & Quality of Life Committee meets on Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. at Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd.; Health & Hospitals Committee meets on Oct. 3 at 7:30 p.m.; Environment & Sanitation Committee meets on Oct. 4; Education, Youth & Libraries Committee meets on Oct. 4 at 7:30 p.m.; Traffic & Transportation Committee meets on Oct. 5; and Veterans Committee meets on Oct. 5. For more information, call (718) 833-5650.

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.

BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION meets Oct. 4 at 8 p.m. at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy., Apt. B#1. For more information, email bedfordmosholu@verizon.net.



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INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



This week we asked readers whether it was wise of the NYPD to release body camera video of officers fatally shooting a man in the Edenwald section of the Bronx and whether it tells the whole story.



I'm in favor of the body cameras and I'm glad they released the video to the public. I think the cameras tell a good part of the story. Some officers may try and block the view, but most won't. Body cameras are an essential tool in a police officer's toolbox.

Collie Crawford
Morrisania



I don't think the video showed the whole story and the officer claimed he warned him 41 times to show his hands. In such little time, how can you say 41 times to show your hands? That's what the officer said on the news... we only heard him say it three times and why couldn't they use the Taser on him? He was sitting on the dresser, we didn't see him get off the dresser. All we heard was pop, pop, pop, pop, and he's down. The cameras are very important, but you can't turn them off, you have to leave them on. They have to make it so you can't turn them off in the middle of an action. It is important for them to release the video, because people need to see.

Richard Parker
Parkchester



The body camera is really good, because sometimes the police out here do wrong and the body camera will show it and will tell the truth. It will also protect the officers. It's good for the police to release the video so the public can see who is right. It doesn't tell the whole story, no. You don't see how it starts, you just see the end.

Jackie Morrison
Baychester



I believe in body cameras. I think they should be worn and they should have been using them a long time ago. It will only help the public to see what took place, and it also protects our police from false allegations. I don't understand why they released the video immediately. I think it should have been examined by their superiors and then shown to the public. I did have questions about its immediate release.

Marjorie Smith
Bedford Park



Yeah, they warned the guy to put it [the knife] down. Their safety is on the line as well and people don't look at that. They asked the guy to put his hands down and he didn't, so what else could they have done? They do have Tasers. A cop's life is very difficult and we have to put ourselves in their shoes. The video told most of the story and I agree with the cameras because they protect both sides, they should have more of them. I think it's good they release the video, because it's important to see what's going on.

Julio Roldan
Norwood

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Mary Vallati, Bedford Park Stalwart, Dies at Age 102

By DAVID CRUZ

The Bedford Park apartment home of Mary Vallati, the outspoken community activist who died at the age of 102, captures the character of an altruistic community leader.

There're the portraits of her family, including a vintage photo of her mother, Catholic imagery, personally crocheted items, and proclamations from various elected officials that adorn the walls of her living room. Words like "role model" and "community leader" were the watchwords for Mrs. Vallati.

Mrs. Vallati never sought the recognition, wasn't motivated by it, her daughter Linda McCauley, recalled. Her faith and love lay in the community. "She didn't want the glory," McCauley said, speaking to the *Norwood News* from her mother's living room. "All her life she was in the background. And she took that background role on. When she did have a lot to say, and when she got to say it, watch out."

Mrs. Vallati passed away on Sept. 13 from pneumonia.

She was born July 18, 1915 in Collinsville, Illinois, a town known for its horse-radishes. Mrs. Vallati, the oldest of four children, left Collinsville in 1927, moving north to the Bronx with her siblings and mother. She settled in the neighborhood of Belmont at the age of 12, in a time when the borough transitioned from farmland to the beginnings of urban industry. Mrs. Vallati found verdant pastures on Mosholu Parkway, living on the first floor of a mid-rise building near Perry Avenue for decades thereafter.

In 1940, Mrs. Vallati married Charlie Vallati, a construction worker, and had three kids—Dennis, Linda, and the late Richard Vallati.

Mrs. Vallati had balanced the demands of a mother with her career as a customer service representative at New York Telephone Inc., known as Verizon today. Like most mothers, Mrs. Vallati groomed her kids with a mix of undeniable love and the fear of her infamous wooden spoon. Imposing discipline went beyond her kids. Even the neighborhood kids were aware of that spoon.

[O]ne day Dennis stole the spoon and broke it in half, which prompted grandma to bring out a metal spoon," said Jamie McCauley-Iacocca, Mrs. Vallati's granddaughter, at the Sept. 15 funeral held at St. Philip Neri Church in Bedford Park.

Mrs. Vallati was a regular at St. Philip Neri Church, practicing the Catholic teaching of doing unto others as they themselves would like to be treated. "She looked for the good in everyone. Never had a negative thing to say about anyone," said McCauley-Iacocca.

Her sense of tradition extended to her



Photo courtesy of the Vallati Family

THE LATE MARY VALLATI who died from pneumonia at the age of 102.



File Photo

MARY VALLATI (L), stands outside Norwood's Foodtown on 204th Street opposing the owner's closure of the C-Town on East 204th Street in Bedford Park, both of which he owned. This photo appeared on the front page of the *Norwood News* dated Aug. 13-26, 1998.

civic engagement side. Dennis couldn't quite pinpoint why. "She was always that way," he recalled.

Mrs. Vallati entered the world of civic engagement during the 1970s, serving as a tenant leader for a building on Decatur Avenue near Webster Avenue. She eventually joined the Bedford Mosholu Community Association (BMCA), the civic body that functioned much like Mrs. Vallati—a neighborhood guardian.

"Mary was a trooper," recalled John Reilly, then a community organizer for the Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition. "She went to meetings in the bitter cold or the pouring rain."

"Mary was always on the forefront whenever there was something to be done or a meeting to go," Barbara Stronczer,

current president of BMCA, said.

Her notable moments included taking part in a demonstration against the closure of the C-Town on East 204th Street between Valentine Avenue and East Mosholu Parkway South in 1998. Sydney Katz was the owner of the C-Town, who also owned the Foodtown on East 204th off Bainbridge Avenue in Norwood.

"Early one morning, many of us could not go because we had work. Mary was out there before eight o'clock in the morning. And then after that, as a follow-up, on a rainy day, we were picketing Foodtown on 204th Street because our supermarket had closed. Thank God we were successful in reopening the supermarket on that side of Mosholu."

Anthony Riveccio, a longtime Bed-

ford Park resident and neighborhood activist, met Mrs. Vallati at the demonstration. "She was a very loving, caring, community-based person that carried a big stick and a big mouth," Riveccio said. "I didn't see the wooden spoon, but I did see the wooden stick."

And even as the years wore on, Mrs. Vallati's need for involvement carried on. Well into the age of 100, Mrs. Vallati remained a member of BMCA, faithfully mailing meeting invitations to the list of members.

"I believe many of her long years are due to the fact that she kept both her mind and body very active," Stronczer said.

One could argue that it was her brand of apple cider vinegar elixir that kept her vibrant.

Her propensity for civic engagement came at a moment's notice. When unscrupulous residents would be found littering or ignore picking up after their dog along the parkway, Mrs. Vallati was there to shame them. "We used to tell her, 'Mary be careful. Today you can't do that,'" recalled Stronczer. "But she was right there, [saying] 'I live here, I want to keep it clean.'"

McCauley understood why. "Some people would tell her, 'mind your own business,' but to her that was her business," McCauley said.

She also remained active with the 52nd Precinct Community Council, joining in functions that included the Open House held at the Webster Avenue precinct in July. Her dedication was such that the police allowed a bench funded by Mrs. Vallati's family and bearing her name to be placed outside the station-house.

Outside the council and BMCA, Mrs. Vallati was an active member of the Bronx Pioneers, a charitable group comprised of retirees from the telephone company. "Mary, my dear friend, went from here straight to heaven in an express elevator," Grace Siemers, a good friend whose husband was a fellow Pioneer, said.

Staying sharp and constantly moving helped to Mrs. Vallati living a long life. On her 100th birthday celebration, Mrs. Vallati had personally walked to BMCA's headquarters to be wished a happy birthday.

For McCauley-Iacocca, staying involved arguably helped her lead a life of longevity.

"[H]er one piece of advice was to never stop moving. Even when you feel like things might be over or life has changed, never stop getting involved," said McCauley-Iacocca.

Mrs. Vallati is survived by a son, Dennis, daughter Linda, four grandchildren, one great grandchild, and a public bench in her name.

Children Services at Mosholu Library on Hold for Now



Photo by Aaron Mayorga

SEVERAL THOUSAND YOUNG people have taken advantage of the children's section at the Mosholu Library (pictured).

By STEPHANIE LUCIANO

Mosholu Public Library has no current children's librarian, causing the neighborhood depository to suspend many of the children's programming and leaving them with no story time.

The library on 285 E. 205th St. near the East 205th St./Norwood subway station is experiencing a staff shortage that the community is unhappy about. Within a month, two children's librarians have either left or have been transferred, according to resident Elisabeth von Uhl. "As a parent and library donor and lover, I am infuriated by this gap in services," said von Uhl.

"This isn't a shortage as much of terrible timing," said Angela Montefinise, a spokesperson from the New York Public Library. "Two children's librarians are needed to operate a branch of Mosholu's size.

It is extremely rare to have both children's librarians leave a branch at the same time. Generally, the Library works hard to avoid situations like this, but in this unique case, it could not be helped."

The branch typically offers seven programs a week. While they actively recruit the best possible candidates, the branch continues to offer a drawing class for kids once a week. According to Montefinise, the moment a children's librarian is hired, programming will be restored.

"The more help, it's easier," says Valerie Vlado who visits the library with her granddaughter. "They help and show me where the books are."

Overall, program attendance at the branch is up 23 percent from previous years. The New York Public Library is working on filling up these specialty positions.

Monte Celebrates Lives of Transplant Patients

By DIEGO BARCACEL PEÑA

The Grand Hall of Montefiore Medical Center's Moses Campus roared with the sounds of doctors and transplant patients mingling about. On Sept. 13, those who've received a transplant at the Norwood hospital came to say "thank you." The celebration came on the heels of the 50th anniversary of when the hospital began performing transplants.

Montefiore performs some 250 transplant operations yearly, with kidney transplantation most commonly performed. The hospital is slated to introduce lung transplants to its offerings in the near future.

In the last 50 years, thousands of patients have walked into Montefiore's flagship hospital for a transplant. Dr. Jay A. Graham, the director of Helping Hands, visualized those numbers by corralling transplant patients together to demonstrate how many and what type of organ transplant procedure was performed.

"The first transplant was done in 1954 and that was before they had any immunosuppressive drugs," said Dr. Milan Kinkhabwala, director of abdominal transplantation at Montefiore. "So we had started very early doing transplants. And during that time we've seen an explosion of better drugs that prevent rejection, better antibiotics for infection, and better surgical techniques."

But the organ wait list is long in New York. It's a reason Dr. Kinkhabwala is



Photo by Diego Barcaceal Peña

LIVER TRANSPLANT PATIENT Jacqueline Oleanik (left) has a conversation with her transplant coordinator Dr. Nahal Niankan (right).

urging the community to "register for organ donation on the Donate Life website or through the [New York State Department of Motor Vehicles website]."

Edwin Rodriguez donated his kidney to his son in 2008. His son, who was 21 years old when he underwent the operation, spent most of his adolescence taking medication for his kidney. "As a kidney donor, I have no changes in my life physically, but to give my son a second opportunity in life as a parent is a no-brainer," Rodriguez said.

"I appreciate my life, other people's lives and handicaps, and value how short life really is," said Jacqueline Oleanik, a transplant patient. "I hope that one day I can reciprocate and give someone an organ. That would be the icing on the cake."

Editor's Note: See *Neighborhood Notes* on page 13 for more information on organ donation enrollment.

Bronx Point to See 1000+ Units of Housing

By AARON MAYORGA

One of the largest city-owned lots in the Bronx is slated to be home to 1,045 new housing units and country's first hip-hop museum, officials announced.

The \$200 million project, named "Bronx Point," is poised to bring a wave of transformation to a previously underutilized stretch of land abutting the Harlem River and just minutes away from Hostos Community College in Mott Haven.

Along with the thousand units of market rate and affordable housing, Bronx Point will include a state-of-the-art multiplex theatre, a

dedicated programming space for the community organization Bronx-Works, and a new waterfront esplanade that will join with the nearby Mill Pond Park. Bronx Point will also be home to the Universal Hip-Hop Museum, the nation's first-ever hip-hop museum.

In a statement, James Patchet, president of the New York City Economic Development Corporation, the city's real estate arm, said the project was a result of a two-year long effort to address the South Bronx's need for more affordable housing and greater waterfront access.

Bronx Point is anticipated to

be developed in two phases – with the first phase expected to be completed by 2022 and deliver 600 units of affordable housing "that targets households with incomes ranging from extremely low to moderate."

Over the course of its construction, Bronx Point is expected create 915 jobs and will, upon its completion, bring more than 100 permanent jobs to the community. L+M Development Partners and Type A Projects, a woman-owned developer, were awarded the contract to build the property.

The Bronx Point project is also confirmed to partake in HireNYC,

an initiative that seeks to connect neighborhood residents with jobs related to local development.

In a statement, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. referred to Bronx Point "as a tremendous step forward for our borough" and called it "a model for future projects across the nation."

The project will also feature the construction of a new 2.3-acre waterfront park on 144th Street blocks from the property, improvements in infrastructure along Exterior Street, redesigns of nearby intersections, and an expansion of commercial high-speed broadband access.

New Stores Crop Up Along Jerome-Gun Hill BID

By **DIEGO BARCACEL PEÑA**

Pizza & Burgers opened its doors at 295 E. Gun Hill Rd. roughly four months ago. The same location has been home to two other pizza shops. In 2016, it switched from Joseph's Pizzeria Restaurant to Gun Hill Pizza Restaurant.

"We feel good in that we are a little different from the rest of the stores in this area," said Ahmed Alkaify, son of Pizza & Burgers' owner. "Everybody is focusing on grocery stores and delis, and we're focusing on giving people a choice." That choice could include adding "vegetarian options, veggie pizza, [and] veggie burgers."

The eatery is among the growing number of businesses that have opened along Norwood following a year where many storefronts remained vacant. Businesses have cropped specifically within the Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District.

The BID, stretching from Jerome Avenue, between Mosholu Parkway and East Gun Hill Road, and East Gun Hill Road between Jerome and Webster avenues, helps promote the roughly 200 stores along the corridor. At least seven stores have opened this year, including a Mexican restaurant, children's clothing store, a barber shop and even a psychic reader.

Three new stores, Fish in a Flash, Salad Saloon, and Mexican Grill are slated to open.

Like Pizza & Burgers, many of these stores focus on bringing something different to the BID. Alkaify emphasized that Pizza & Burgers not only sells

pizza, but also burgers. McDonald's at 3509 Webster Ave. is the nearest burger place to Pizza & Burgers, but even then it's a big corporation with eateries around the world. The need for local businesses are important to the residents of the BID. "We needed a burger spot around this area and also a pizzeria," said Alkaify.

Another business bringing something different to the BID, and responding to Norwood's growing Hispanic population, is Tulcingo Panaderia Mexicana, a bakery found at 3421 Jerome Ave. The location was last home to Sam Ho Kitchen, a Chinese food restaurant.

The bakery sells snacks that are typically found in Mexico. Because it's close to DeWitt Clinton High School, they get a lot of traffic from the students. It opens its doors at 7 a.m. and has become a part of residents' daily routine.

"A lot of Mexicans, Central Americans, Dominicans, Koreans, and even Chinese come here," said Andre Guerrero, who works the counter. "They all come here to try the bread and look at all the products that are here."

While new stores crop up, others have been mainstays for decades. Among them is BX Sports located on 3476 Jerome Ave. "You got everything around here," said manager Luis Cardona. "Young, old, men, women, everything because you have a school right around here and this is a close knit community." He added, "We've seen businesses come and go, we hire people from the community, and we hire people from outside the community, and in that way we help the area."

Weekend Walk



Photo by Adi Talwar

THIS PUERTO RICAN dance group performs at the seventh annual Weekend Walks along East 204th Street and Bainbridge Avenue on Sept. 23. The daylong event, sponsored by the city Department of Transportation and the East 204th/Bainbridge Avenue Merchants Association, saw the streets shut down for several hours as residents enjoyed some of the event's offerings. That included street vendors, healthcare groups, and mascots on hand to show off their stuff. The neighborhood is home to the East 204th/Bainbridge Avenue Merchants Association.



Photo by Adi Talwar

NOTHING BUT NET. This local youngster takes advantage of a pop-up bouncy castle at the seventh annual Weekend Walk along the East 204th Street/Bainbridge Avenue commercial strip. The family friendly event also included musical performances by Edgar Perez & The Bronx All Stars, singer Shayla, and The Red Letter Band.



Photo by Diego Barcacer Peña

PIZZA & BURGERS at 295 E. Gun Hill Rd., along with many other stores, has made the Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District its new home.

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The Bronx Develops

Rezoning Plan Takes a Toll on Residents in the Southwest Bronx



Part 4

The Norwood News, WFUV, and BronxNet TV complete their four-part series profiling ongoing challenges impacting the Bronx.

By DIANA NELSON of



Carmen Vega-Rivera is bracing for change, as her neighborhood may look a little different in the next few years. She's lived in the Bronx for 36 years, a block away from Jerome Avenue, where it's poised to undergo major rezoning to make room for more affordable housing. As soon she heard about the city's plan three years ago, she joined forces with the Bronx Coalition for Community Action to defend the residents in the community who have been there for as long as she has.

The Department of City Planning (DCP), the agency that will enforce the new residential zoning designations, began studying the Jerome Avenue corridor in 2014. The plan covers a two-mile stretch along its commercial and major transit corridors in community districts 4, 5 and 7, off the Cross Bronx Expressway and parallel to the Major Deegan Expressway. The city said it's expected to spur the creation of more than 3,000 affordable



Photo by Diana Nelson

F&C BODY SHOP & Auto Repair at 1271 Jerome Ave. in the Highbridge Section of the Bronx is among the many auto body shops found along Jerome Avenue.



Photo by Diana Nelson

FEARS OF DISPLACEMENT have been the talk of Jerome Avenue since 2014 when the city announced plans to rezone the stretch to make room for affordable housing. Pictured here is a string of mechanic shops found on Jerome Avenue near East 169th Street.

units of housing in the 92-block area between Kingsbridge Road and 167th Street that covers the neighborhoods of Morris Heights, Mt. Eden, and Highbridge.

But local groups like the Coalition said they're worried the new development would displace small businesses and existing residents who will no longer be able to afford rent. Vega-Rivera said local residents and advocacy groups were left out of early meetings about the rezoning. She had to hear about it through a friend.

DCP's Bronx Director Carol Samol met with local community boards 4 and 5, and the Coalition to talk about some of their concerns at an open house in mid-September.

"We've got a full sweep of changes and improvements that will be better for the community overall," she said. "Everything from parks and streets, to businesses, retail corridors, access to jobs, helping people plan for careers, and bettering the health of the community."

Vega-Rivera made sure she was in attendance at the open house. "Today there's nothing on the table about real affordable housing for those that need it," she said. "What's here is about new parks and transportation improvements, all wonderful ideas, but if you don't have a roof over your head, you're not gonna be able to stay here, and you're not gonna be able to utilize the wonderful parks and facilities that

are here."

In the neighborhoods where zoning is expected, median incomes run \$28,556, but most of the affordable housing proposed is set to accommodate those who make between \$52,000 to \$70,000 a year under some of the current options of the plan. Only 13.6 percent of the existing population can qualify.

According to DCP's website, the affordable housing units in the rezoning plan would be permanently affordable. Samol said the city also plans to work with tenant groups that are experiencing difficulties. "We want to make sure they stay affordable, and make sure that those buildings get improvements, and in exchange for capital and other kinds of supports, that the buildings remain affordable for the foreseeable future," she said.

But some residents are especially concerned about the fate of the auto repair shops and other commercial businesses along Jerome Avenue.

There are 200 auto body shops along the affected area of Jerome Avenue that stand underneath the bustling 4 train and major roadways. Many of them are owned and operated by Dominican immigrants. Pedro Estevez is one of them. He founded the group United Auto Merchants, and represents the auto body shops in the area. He's consistently spoken with the city about this development project for over two years, trying to find a solution for

these workers and owners. He said under the city's plan, he thinks they will be displaced.

"Seventy-two percent of these businesses have no lease, or maybe one year of lease. The rest of them have a lease that is day by day, and is being raised double or triple the amount of normal rent," said Estevez. "Let's say you have a shop that's paying \$3,000 for rent, and now landlords raise it to \$9,000 when they hear of the rezoning. The guys doing the same jobs will now have to pay three times more."

Samol made it clear that the auto body shops can stay. "Any pre-existing use can remain as a part of the rezoning," she said.

DCP acknowledged in the written plan that the auto body shops will face competition, but they've also developed a plan to try and address their needs. It includes connecting auto workers to jobs, training opportunities, and language and immigration services.

The existing zoning that allows for auto body shops has been in place since 1961. East 167th Street, East 170th Street, Mount Eden Avenue, Edward L. Grant Highway, Tremont Avenue, and Burnside Avenue are vibrant local retail corridors in the area. More than 80 percent of the housing in the surrounding area was constructed before 1950.

New schools also recently developed in the area include the New Settlement Community Campus and the Morris Heights Educational Complex. The area has several small parks and playgrounds that are well used, and The Bronx Museum of the Arts, Bronx-Lebanon Hospital, and Bronx Community College are located just outside.

"The neighborhood has changed a lot since 1961, and we want to plan for the future," said Samol.

The City Planning Commission will be hold a public hearing on Oct. 4, then wait 60 days to vote on the matter. The New York City Council has the final review and say on the approval of the plan.

Even though the residents and businesses in the community have their concerns, some said they want the same thing for Jerome Avenue as the city.

"We want to see Jerome Avenue flourish and be beautiful," said Estevez. "But first we need to make sure these hard working people who have been in the community for decades are taken care of."

HEALTH CHECK

Health Check: Food Safety in A Weather Emergency

By JESSICA SHAPIRO, MS, RD, CDN, CDE

With hurricane season upon us and snowstorm season around the corner, it is important to know what to do in the event of an extended power outage stemming from a natural disaster.

- Being prepared is more than just about stocking up on nonperishables and water. Keep your family safe and prevent foodborne illnesses by properly assessing your food and food storage areas after a power outage with the following tips and suggestions:

- Be proactive and fill up gallon bags with water and use them to fill the freezer. This helps keep the food cool and creates clean water sources, if needed.

- If you have lost power for less than four hours your food should be safe to eat.

- Make sure to keep your refrigerator and freezer doors closed to retain the cold.

The food in the refrigerator becomes questionable after it is more than 40°F, and a freezer after it is more than 0°F for over two hours.

A freezer that is half full is safe up

to 24 hours and a packed freezer can last up to 48 hours.

Not all items will need to be discarded if the time of safety has elapsed. However, you should discard meat, poultry, seafood, soft and shredded cheeses, dairy products, eggs, cooked or cut produce, opened baby formula, dough, and cooked pasta.

Sanitize the refrigerator and freezer before restocking after an extended power outage with a solution of one tablespoon of liquid chlorine bleach per gallon of water and letting air dry. This solution can also be used to sanitize pots, pans, and utensils as needed.

Stay alert for any announcements from your area's health department about the safety of your local tap water after a weather emergency.

Never taste food to determine its safety.

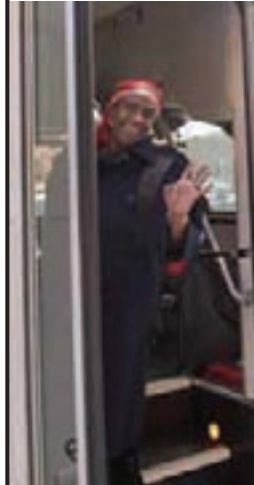
When in doubt THROW IT OUT!

For more comprehensive information visit: www.foodsafety.gov.

Editor's Note: Jessica Shapiro is the associate wellness dietitian at Montefiore Medical Center.

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Thumbs Up to Healthy Lifestyles



Photo submitted by Montefiore Health System

EMPLOYEES WITH MONTEFIORE Health System joined Bronx Community Board 10's Health and Human Services Committee for a Healthy Lifestyle Challenge Walk on Sept. 16. Attendees shuttled to Orchard Beach for a walk around neighboring Hunter Island. Walking has proven to lower the risk of heart disease and diabetes II.



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District Manager position available at Bronx Community Board 7. Description, requirements and deadline are available at: www.BronxCB7.Info. Please send resume and cover letter by postal mail to: SEARCH COMMITTEE, Bronx Community Board 7, 229-A East 204th Street, Bronx, New York 10458 or by e-mail to: Info@Bronxcb7.Info.



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NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

Free WiFi for Students

The New York Public Library offers free WiFi for eligible students in kindergarten through 12th grade who don't have WiFi at home. A lending event, where hotspot devices can be checked out for free, takes place Oct. 3 at 6 p.m. at The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd. A valid library card and preregistration are required. For more information, call (718) 579-4244 or visit <http://hotspot.nypl.org/>.

Job Recruitment Events

Pop-up recruitment events where job seekers can meet with potential employers will take place as follows: Jerome Park Library, 118 Eames Pl., on Oct. 2 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and Mosholu Library, 285 E. 205th St., on Oct. 16 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Attendees are asked to bring plenty of résumés and dress professionally. For more information and to preregister (required), call (718) 549-5200 for Jerome Park Library or (718) 882-8239 for Mosholu Library. In addition, job seekers can meet with a career coach, get free resume help, and participate in formal mock interviews. To schedule an appointment, call (718) 549-4260 or email ceis@nypl.org.

Free Breast Exams, Pap Smears & Mammograms

Free breast exams and Pap smears for women 18 and older, and mammograms for women 40 and older, who are uninsured and underinsured, will be available on Oct. 7 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Montefiore Einstein Campus (the tower at Montefiore Medical Park), 1695 Eastchester Rd. For more information and to register, call (718) 920-5906. Free gift bags and MetroCards will be available.

Free Breast Exams and Mammograms

St. Barnabas Hospital's Mobile Mammography Unit is offering free breast exams and mammograms for

women 40 and older with no insurance, on Oct. 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Office of Councilman Andy King, 940 E. Gun Hill Rd. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (718) 684-5509.

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.

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.

Organ Donation Enrollment

Sign up to donate your organs at Montefiore Medical Center's third annual Organ Donor Enrollment Day on Oct. 4 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Moses Campus, 111 E. 210th St., inside the Moses Food Pavilion. For more information, email Leo Trevino at ltrevino@montefiore.org.

Naloxone Availability

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

Get your high school equivalency diploma!



MMCC is offering **FREE** classes for young people ages 18–24, looking to get their TASC/HSE (formerly known as GED).

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Orientation/registration sessions are held every Thursday!

For more information or to make an appointment,
Call (718) 652-0282 or VISIT mmcc.org



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Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

EDITOR'S PICK

Kossuth Playground Fall Festival

The public is invited to attend the annual Kossuth Playground Fall Festival on Oct. 7 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Events include music, mime, craft, story time, photo ops, and the Parks Fitness Mobile. For more information, call (347) 371-3085.

Onstage

Lehman College's Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **Boogaloo Extravaganza** with Richie Ray & Bobby Cruz, Pete Rodriguez, The New Swing Sextet, and other special guests and attractions, Sept. 30 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$50 to \$100. For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

Events

The Bronx Zoo offers **Boo at the Zoo**, weekends and holidays from Sept. 30 to Oct. 29, to celebrate the Halloween season with a haunted forest; hayride; pumpkin carving; Bootoberfest (live music and food); mind reading, magic and puppet shows; crafts; and meeting with vultures, owls and ravens. For more information, fees, and a detailed schedule, call (718) 367-1010.

Bedford Park Congregational Church, 311 E. 201st Street (at Bainbridge

Avenue) presents its annual **fun fair and flea market**, Oct. 21 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Events include raffles and lunch. Sale items include household goods, jewelry, electronics, toys, and books. For more information, call (718) 733-3199.

The Jerome-Gun Hill BID presents its **16th Annual Fall Festival**, Oct. 14 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., along Jerome Avenue between Mosholu Parkway and Gun Hill Road. Events include musical performers, hula hoops, jump rope, caricatures, face painting, food, free health screenings and giveaways. For more information, call (718) 324-4946.

The East 204th Street and Bainbridge Avenue Merchant Association presents its 7th annual **East 204th Street/Bainbridge Avenue Walk**, Oct. 14 from noon to 7 p.m., from Bainbridge Avenue to Decatur Avenue. For more information, call the DOT at (212) 839-4850.

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



File Photo

THE FRIENDS OF Mosholu Parkland are gearing up for their second annual Fall Festival at Kossuth Playground. Pictured are kids who took part in the festivities last year (see 'Editor's Pick' for more information).



Photo courtesy Wave Hill

FALL FOLIAGE CAN be spotted at Wave Hill (see 'Events' for more information).

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.

The Fordham Road BID presents the following events: **Street Fair** (on Fordham Road from Creston Avenue to East Kingsbridge Road), Sept. 30 from noon to 6 p.m.; and **Fordham Fever Fridays**, at Muller Park & Plaza (Creston Avenue between East Fordham Road and 190th Street), Oct. 6 from 2 to 6 p.m. featuring Superhero Celebration, including music, games, activities and more. Also scheduled is **film**, Oct. 7. For more information, call (718) 562-2104.

Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Art Projects**: Mapping the Bronx Green, to create collages using recycled maps and printmaking, Sept 30 and Oct. 1; and **Raptors in the Autumn Sky**, to make a movable raptor puppet, Oct. 7 and 8; both in the WH House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also scheduled are **concert** featuring Bridget Kibbey & The Sebastians performing classical music, Oct. 8 at 2 p.m. in the WH House (tickets are \$28 plus admission to the grounds/\$24WH member/\$12/ages 8 to 18; info: ext. 251); and **Falconry Presentation: Skyhunters in Flight**, Oct. 9 at 1 p.m., on the grounds, to observe hawks, falcons and owls in an outdoor flight demonstration, learn about the ancient sport of falconry, and see raptors from around the world (free with grounds admission; admission on Wings Over WH Day is \$10/adults, \$6/students/seniors 65+, \$4/ages 6 to 18, free/members/under age 6. 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.

presents **Over There, America and the Great War**, at the Museum of Bronx History, 3266 Bainbridge Ave. (at 208th Street), through Oct. 8. Also at the museum is **What Lies Beneath Cemeteries of the Bronx**, exhibition from Oct. 12 to April 8, 2018. Opening reception on Oct. 12 from 4:30 to 7 p.m., free, includes drinks and snacks. 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): Leaf Book Making, Sept. 28 at 4 p.m. Adults can attend **film**: "The Old Man and the Sea," Sept. 30 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

The Mosholu Library, 285 E. 205th St., offers for children: **Bilingual Birdies Class: Mandarin** (ages through 12 years), to collect fruits, ride a bike, and visit a farm. Events include live music and language learning, Oct. 11 at 10:30 a.m. Teens/young adults can attend: **Craft-eens at 3:30 p.m.:** Craft projects every Wednesday (materials are provided), Oct. 4 and 11; and **films at 1:30 p.m.:** "Kong Skull Island," Sept. 30, and TBA on Oct. 7. 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 28. Adults can attend: **Computer Basics**: Sept. 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 Oct. 2 for the next publication date of Oct. 12.

Exhibits

The Bronx County Historical Society

Norwood to City: No Shelter at Sam's Carpeting

(continued from page 1)

Services (DHS), which has had a long-standing policy of giving the community a month's notice that a shelter is arriving. Critics call the notice unfair, seeing it as a policy that jams shelters down the throats of neighborhoods.

"Maybe, seven, eight out of 10 of them [the homeless] have a criminal background, have some kind of addiction. It's just not a place to have near our school. A lot of our kids come and go on their own. It's not safe for us," Gissele Espinal, the mother of a third grader, said.

"We're doing this at the right time at the right place to make sure they hear our voice," Adaline-Walker Santiago, chair of Community Board 7, told reporters at the protest.

For the last year, the city has attempted to quell the growing homeless population that appears to have engulfed the city. It's moved away from the cluster-site model, placing the homeless in apartments, and shifting back to traditional shelters instead.

Nonprofit shelter providers are



Photo by Aaron Mayorga

A HOMELESS MAN (pictured) is spotted outside the new Fordham Plaza Center on Fordham Road.

seizing on the homeless crisis, scouting for buildings that could be turned into shelters. Sam's Floor Covering filed building permits early this year to add another floor to its existing two-story property and change the designation of the building to allow for sleeping accommodations, records show. The same language was found at an impending men's only homeless shelter at 233 Landing Rd. Up to 200 people can sleep inside the Webster

Avenue property should it be repurposed.

While the homeless have been routinely spotted sleeping on the grass or on benches along a stretch of Moshulu Parkway, neighboring Fordham has seen a noticeable increase. There, the homeless have set up makeshift beds near a comfort station at the corner of Fordham Road and Webster Avenue. City Department of Parks crews have since locked the station to prevent any more stay-overs. Walker-Santiago of CB7, which covers Fordham, recalls being told by a Parks Department employee, "You don't know the mess that was here before you [got there]."

At CB7's general board meeting held the same day as the demonstration, NYPD officer Crystal Reveron recommended calling 311 if one spots clusters of homeless people occupying the same area. She said the complaint "hits the mayor's office and then it hits homeless outreach and then it hits Parks Department if you call 311 for the specific area."

There is also an initiative to provide services to the homeless in surrounding areas as well. Because of the rise of

homelessness in areas like French Charley's Park near Webster Avenue at 204th Street, Bryan Park on Fordham at Kingsbridge Road, and a small sitting area at Webster Avenue and Fordham Road, the initiative aims to provide services to the homeless by escorting them to the hospital, preventing them from breaking the law, and stopping them from disrupting pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Reveron noted that although they can't force anyone to receive help "the [initiative] is something that we do regularly and we do have problematic areas."

Reveron also suggests that residents call 911 if they see a homeless person in their building. "That's trespassing," she said. "They're breaking the law, so I would say call 911 just to protect yourself and I do not recommend anyone confronting anyone."

The Bronx has the most shelters in the city. DHS adheres to a "borough of origin" policy that places the homeless in the borough they lived in prior to becoming homeless.

Representatives from Sam's Floor Covering declined to comment.

Yara Palin contributed to this story.

Bronx to Host Drive for Hurricane Maria Victims

By YARA PALIN

A drive to help Puerto Rico recover from the devastating blow caused by Hurricane Maria is slated for Sept. 30. The Category 5 hurricane has become a major source of worry to the borough's Puerto Rican population, which hovers at 300,000.

The New York Hispanic Clergy Organization has also scheduled the drive to help Mexico which suffered from a 7.1 magnitude earthquake on Sept. 19.

The drive will take place on Sept. 30 at noon at the corner of Southern Boulevard and Aldus Street. The organization will accept donations including clothing and non-perishable food.

Hurricane Maria walloped Puerto Rico on Sept. 20, leaving a path of destruction with no electricity, phone lines or Internet.

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. is supporting the event. "It is in times like this when we all must

come together, to help those in great need," he says. "The road to recovery can be quite difficult, which is why I am urging everyone to support the New York Hispanic Clergy Organization's drive to collect donations for those who need them."

Assemblyman and chair of the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force Marcos Crespo urges Bronx residents to take time to donate. He says, "No donation is too small at times like these. Your help in assisting the victims of recent hurricanes and earthquakes in our hemisphere is desperately needed."

Congressman Adriano Espaillat, who represents Norwood, says, "This is a critical time for Puerto Rico and Mexico City, and we each have a moral duty and responsibility to aid in the immense rebuilding efforts that it will take to rebuild."

For more information on how to participate in the event, contact (718) 991-3161.

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