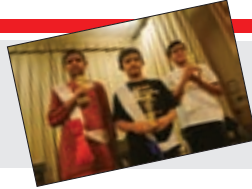




# NORWOOD NEWS

Vol 31, No 3 • PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION • FEBRUARY 1-14, 2018

**INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER:  
TRUMP'S YEAR ONE | PG. 4**



**PS 94 A-B-U-Z-Z  
FOR SPELLING BEE | PG. 8**

## K'BRIDGE NATIVE SOARS IN NYPD RANKS

*Former 52nd Pct. commanding officer becomes first Latina Community Affairs chief*



Photo by Adi Talwar

**NYPD COMMUNITY AFFAIRS** chief Nilda Hofmann (r) accepts her star presented by NYPD Commissioner James O'Neill (l) and Mayor Bill de Blasio (c).

**By DAVID CRUZ**

About 17 miles from Norwood, in Manhattan's Battery Park, a familiar face in the neighborhood was awarded a gold star.

For Nilda Hofmann, the former commanding officer of the 52nd Precinct who was formally promoted to Chief of Commu-

nity Affairs on Jan. 18, the gold star symbolizes an expansion to familiar territory—managing the fraught bond between the NYPD and communities. Just how to keep that bond between communities and the Police Department stands at the heart of her objective.

"You have to reach out to

people that are not comfortable talking to the police," Hofmann said at a news conference shortly after the formal, though preppy promotions ceremony. "You have to be open to listen to people that you don't agree with. And we need to reach out and that's one of the things that I did when I was

at the Five-Two."

Much of those interactions came at the monthly 52nd Precinct Community Council meeting, where Hofmann was a regular. In each instance, even in an incident where she was confronted by critics demanding more transpar-

*(continued on page 15)*



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Get Facelift | pg 5**



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Near Oval Park  
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## EDITORIAL

# Not a Good Message, Mr. Council Speaker

When New York City Council Speaker Corey Johnson took the reins from his predecessor, Melissa Mark-Viverito, we knew change was certainly inevitable.

We just didn't think this was going to happen.

Within two weeks from the time Mr. Johnson was sworn in, out went the Speaker's entire Community Engagement Unit, an office whose job was to work with the city's diverse community and ethnic media. This move, which the office addressed as benign, spoke volumes. Four staffers were let go; all of them Latina women.

The disbanded team, falling under the Council's public tech division, worked well in sending out a message to New York's community and ethnic media, a niche group of publications that was largely ignored before Mark-Viverito's team came on board. The idea, under Ms. Mark-Viverito, was to create a civic engagement spark in a populace that's generally wary of government.

It's unclear whether Mr. Johnson is aware that New York City is home to some 300 publications across the city that gear towards a certain community or immigrant population. These papers tap into the unique needs and concerns of their readers while also bringing news of changes in New York City policy that have a direct impact on them. These include the city's response to the federal government's aggressive stance on so-called Dreamers, its unwillingness to assist federal authorities from detaining immigrants, and offering undocumented immigrants an official New York City identification card. Daily papers cover these issues, sure,



Photo courtesy New York City Council

**MEET THE NEW** Council Speaker for the New York City Council.

but community papers offer granular coverage not seen in dailies.

It shouldn't be news that these immigrant communities typically rely more on these niche publications than their mainstream counterparts. And Mr. Johnson should have thought his decision through before pulling the plug. It's been suggested that this was a politically motivated move by Mr. Johnson, who sought to reward supporters by offering them plum posts. Monies that paid the salaries of four staffers under Ms. Mark-Viverito were thus shuffled elsewhere. The sacrificial lamb for those pledging loyalty to Mr. Johnson was the disbandment of the Community Engagement Unit.

It appears Mr. Johnson's move also throws salt in the wounds of opponents who say the Council has regressed in its effort to diversify the upper echelons of the Chamber. It's hard to say whether that's really the case. Among the winners to benefit for their loyalty is Brooklyn Council-

man Rafael Espinal Jr., now doubling as Deputy leader for digital communications. The job was created solely for Mr. Espinal.

Not a good start, Mr. Speaker. The message tells this publication that you don't seem to care too much about a city where at least 35 percent of it is comprised of foreign-born citizens.

It's been a month since Mr. Johnson was voted in. In that last month, the *Norwood News* hasn't received any news releases that could be shared with our readership. This "top-to-bottom review" to "better streamline" services, as Council spokesperson Robin Levine put it in several publications regarding these changes, is taking a long time. And it's readers in largely quiet communities like Norwood who suffer for it.

Under Ms. Mark-Viverito, a door had opened to these overburdened publications. Now it appears as though it's closed.

## 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: Traffic & Transportation Committee meets on Feb. 1; Veterans Committee meets on Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m.; Public Safety & Quality of Life Committee meets on Feb. 6; Health & Hospitals Committee meets on Feb. 6; Environment & Sanitation Committee meets on Feb. 7; Education, Youth & Libraries Committee meets on Feb. 7 at 7:30 p.m.; Housing, Land Use & Zoning Committee meets on Feb. 13; Senior Services Committee meets on Feb. 14; and Parks & Recreation Committee meets on Feb. 14 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 933-5650.

The **BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** meets on Feb. 7 at 8 p.m. at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. So. #B1 (lobby floor). For more information, email [bedfordmosholu@verizon.net](mailto:bedfordmosholu@verizon.net).



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\* Rent includes water, sewer, heating, and gas for cooking.

\*\* Household size includes all persons who will live in the unit subject to occupancy criteria.

\*\*\* Household earnings include salary, hourly wages, tips, Social Security, child support, and other income. Income guidelines are subject to change. Asset limits also apply.

### How do you apply?

You must apply online. To apply online, please go to <https://selfserve.nycha.info/serviam>. If you have a disability that limits your ability to apply on-line, you may request a reasonable accommodation by calling (212)306-4609 between the hours of 8am-5pm, Monday – Friday.

### When does the application period open and what is the deadline?

The application period will be open on February 6, 2018 and will close once 2,000 applications have been received.

### What Happens After You Submit An Application?

After the deadline, applicants will be invited to an appointment to continue the process of determining eligibility according to the date and time of their application submission. Applicants will be asked to bring documents that verify their household size, identity of members of their household, and their household income. If the developer determines that an applicant is eligible for a unit, NYCHA will contact the applicant regarding Section 8 eligibility and certification.



## INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



This week we asked readers their thoughts on how President Donald Trump's first year in office went.



He's done some things good and some things he's messed up. He's going after the pedophiles and the corrupt politicians, but he's just as dirty as they are anyway. He's corrupt too; all his business dealings and he doesn't show his taxes and we don't know anything more about him than what he's shown. Everybody has their taxes exposed, but his are hidden. Why, I don't know. But I prefer him over Hillary Clinton because she's an old school politician who's done nothing for us. The poorest people will feel the tax cut, because he's going to cut welfare and Social Security. It's going to help the rich people, not us. They're going to get me for this too.

**Carl Kellier**  
Wakefield



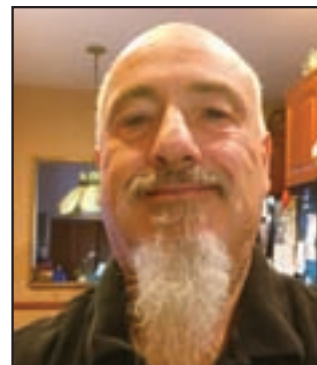
I don't think he's living up to the expectations and I don't think he's actually doing what he said he's going to do. At the end of last year he said there would be a big tax cut and then it changed and the government shut down. What is all of that about? As far as him being a racist, I would say yes and yes. I think he's a big liar. And I think he likes to nitpick and dwell on things he shouldn't be dwelling on. I am very concerned for the future of the country.

**Ethan Moore**  
Bedford Park



I believe President Trump is not a good match for our country. He puts his energy into the wrong areas. I don't understand why we need to put so much energy to prevent immigration when there is nothing pressing about it and doing so doesn't help society's health. His tax law ultimately benefits the already rich, rather than the middle class or poor. His constant fight with Obamacare looks like he wants things to be his way rather than what would benefit America as a whole. And lastly, I believe he doesn't give respect to people who are different in any way.

**Anna Romanovich**  
Brooklyn



He needs a little more tact and diplomacy and less posting to social media, which was not around when other great presidents were in office.

**Andrew Peretti**  
Throggs Neck



He's doing a decent job, he's getting a lot of publicity, more than a lot of people ever thought he'd get. He's in the paper, he's making a triumph with that. You have to look at the groups and people who antagonize the president and others who are basically trying to discard him. I think the Russia investigation is bogus. They are looking for some way, some reason, to dishonor him.

**Louis Valentino**  
Morris Park

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# Norwood Commercial Building to Get Major Facelift

By DAVID GREENE

A Brooklyn developer has purchased a parcel of land at the northwest corner of Hull Avenue and East 204th Street, with hopes of transforming it into a modern two-story building featuring medical offices, a fitness center and popular restaurants.

Both the Miramar Grocery and Botanica on Hull Avenue closed more

than a year ago. The popular Beso Lounge on East 204th Street closed this past June and Liberty Tax closed around the same time. This came shortly before Transition Acquisitions, a family-owned Brooklyn-based real estate firm purchased the 78-year-old, 5,150-square-foot property.

Faith Hope Consolo of Douglas Elliman Real Estate, the exclusive leas-

ing agent for the property, recently told the *Norwood News*, "The Bronx is really booming." She noted, "There's good investment in the Bronx for different types of owners and investors and we foresee the Bronx as being the next frontier."

Having completed the purchase of a former clothing store in Brooklyn for \$15.1 million in 2015, Transition

Acquisitions spent \$5 million to convert it to a 40-unit apartment building.

"What we're trying to do is take this small group of stores—we have the possibility to build two levels and really make something special, not only for that corner, but the Norwood section," Consolo said.

Consolo said that currently they are in negotiations with several large fitness organizations. Despite several hospitals in the area, she also sees a need for additional space for medical clinics, as well as a need for large chain restaurants and clothing stores.

The owner of Botanica, who declined to give his real name, said the new owners refused to give him a new lease. "I'm assuming they want to renovate and charge more rent," said the owner, who only went by "David." "I was sorry to leave the neighborhood after so many years."

The Botanica has now relocated to Pelham Parkway.

The MetroPCS has been the only holdout at the property. "Our goal is to build around them and we'd like to keep them in the development," Consolo said. "But all our options are open."

A manager at MetroPCS confirmed his rent was recently increased by \$1,000 a month, stating, "He's going to repair everything, the whole building and I hope to stay."

Longtime Norwood resident, Toby Norwood, welcomed the idea of large chain stores and restaurants coming to the area.

"I'd like to see an IHOP or Burger King open there. Something good," said Norwood. "Something for the community; maybe a place for the kids to play after school."

*David Cruz contributed to reporting.*

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Image provided by Douglas Elliman Real Estate

**THIS RENDERING OF** East 204th Street and Hull Avenue shows a range of hypothetical stores coming to the Norwood building.



## Teen Shot Near Oval Park

Police at the 52nd Precinct are “aggressively looking” for a video that may help them find a suspect involved in the shooting of a 16-year-old near Williamsbridge Oval Park the night of Jan. 24. The video may contain footage of the car from which shots were fired and clothing the suspect was wearing.

Inspector Peter Fiorillo told an audience at the latest 52nd Precinct Community Council meeting on Jan. 25 that officers had reason to believe the shooting was gang-related spawned by a turf war. Fiorillo said the gang known as the Crips was coming down to the Kingsbridge area near Morris and Preston avenues and learned members of the rival group Bloods had set up at the Oval.

“We think that is was being egged on from a previous fight,” said Fiorillo. He suspected that the Crips were trying to send a message back to the Bloods in the Williamsbridge Oval area when they were met with roughly 30 gang members and “a gun.”

Though the victim is in stable condition, Fiorillo reported that the victim was being uncooperative with police briefings. Still, police made some progress with a witness able to describe the car and plate number.

—Reggie Francois

## What Was the Oil Drum Doing on East 204th Street?



Photo by David Cruz

**THIS YELLOW DRUM** (pictured) was left at the northwest corner of East 204th Street and Perry Avenue for at least two weeks.

By MARY MELLON

A salvage drum filled with diesel fuel has finally been collected from the northwest corner of East 204th Street and Perry Avenue after languishing there for several weeks. Residents worried about potential safety risks, including the possibility that it would explode.

“I just want everyone to be safe,” said one resident, who first reported the incident to the *Norwood News*. “That’s basically it.”

The resident, who asked to remain anonymous, said, “I live in the area and walk past the area every day and all of a sudden I see this big yellow

drum there. Like, what is this? So I looked on the top of it and I saw a note dated January 9, give them time to collect it. I checked a couple of days later on the 14th. Still here.”

The FDNY first placed the salvage drum on the northwest corner of 204th Street and Perry Avenue after an accident caused a fuel spill in the area. The tank was originally left outside Foodtown Supermarket one block up from its current location but later moved. A spokesperson for the FDNY said this was “standard procedure.”

Tony Enamorato, who works at Jerry’s Hardware Store across the street, saw the accident. “It was snowing. It

was snowing a lot. The truck was going up the hill. The car was coming down and it looked like it braked but it spun. Boom! Right into the gas tank.”

Tony feared what would happen if the tank ignited. “If that blows up, all the glass, my glass, the supermarket glass, will break because it’s a heavy explosion.”

Adanna Roberts, a spokesperson for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), said the DEC runs a Spill Fund “Drum Run” program to retrieve stray waste petroleum drums left on the streets. She alerted *Norwood News* when the tank was finally removed on Jan. 24.

## Five-Two Inspector Responds to Precinct Probe

Following pending investigations by the Bronx District Attorney’s Office, 52nd Precinct Inspector Peter Fiorillo contested allegations that officers were using illegal methods to up their 2017 gun arrests at the precinct’s monthly council meeting Jan. 25.

The investigation was first reported by the *New York Daily News*. Fiorillo described the article as “horrible,” affirming that officers at the precinct targeted specific individuals rather than running through the streets trying to confront people spontaneously.

Peter Jones of the Legal Aid Society said in the *Daily News* article that the non-profit noticed patterns of complaints of officers falsifying consent and illegally stopping people “in an at-



PETER FIORILLO

tempt to generate information on unrelated cases.”

Fiorillo said his officers were will-

ing to testify in any of the arrests that they have made.

“I believe they can explain how they made that arrest in a very justified and legal way,” said Fiorillo. “We went after specific individuals who we had information on. We didn’t just randomly go out there and turn the whole neighborhood upside down.”

The investigations are also looking into whether police officers offered empty deals to suspects in exchange for information and harassed people in their homes.

“We’re very transparent. We don’t hide anything,” said Fiorillo. “If you don’t believe my officers, let’s go to trial.”

—Reggie Francois

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# Fr. Richard Gorman, Community Leader Tarnished by Scandal, Dead at 63

By DAVID GREENE

Father Richard Gorman, a community leader and Bronx priest who fell from grace after being accused of a molestation incident alleged to have happened 30 years ago, died Jan. 23 after an apparent heart attack. He was 63.

Archdiocese of New York spokesman Joseph Zwilling confirmed Gorman's death, calling it "sudden and unexpected."

Gorman, who lived in a home for infirm priests in Riverdale, was rushed to Jacobi Medical Center where he died. Gorman reportedly had heart ailments going as far back as 2002.

For years, Gorman spoke publicly on injustices impacting the Bronx. Ordained by the Archdiocese of New York in November 1982, Gorman served as an assistant at St. Barnabas Church. After spending three years at Stepinac High School in White Plains, Gorman became priest in residence, a position that precluded him from leading mass. Gorman also doubled as chair of Community Board 12, covering a large swath of the northern Bronx, which include the neighborhoods of Baychester, Edenwald, Wakefield, Olinville, Williamsbridge, and Woodlawn. In 2002, Gorman earned a law degree at St. John's University School of Law.

His CB12 chairmanship granted him a rotating chairmanship position on the Croton Filtration Plant Monitoring Committee, which oversaw progress and addressed concerns relating to the Croton Water Filtration Plant. His omnipresence at vigils, news conferences, and meetings garnered borough-wide respect. Gorman worked directly for the Archdiocese of New York after spending 20 years at Cardinal Spellman High School. Those responsibilities included leading service at prisons, sometimes alongside Cardinal Timothy Dolan.

But after accusations by at least two former parishioners at



File Photo

**FR. RICHARD GORMAN** seen here in 2009. Gorman died on Jan. 23 at the age of 63.

St. Barnabas Church in the Woodlawn section of the Bronx in the 1980s, Gorman was suspended from church duties on January 21, 2016 and stepped down as Chair of Community Board 12. He also fell into obscurity, no longer attending community meetings or public events. Zwilling explained that the case against Gorman was still to be prosecuted at the time of his death.

Joe Thompson, a local activist who came to know Gorman well as the two were spotted at the same community meetings and rallies over the years, was sorry to hear the news.

"He was very active and involved in the community and I was saddened to hear that he died," Thompson said of Gorman. "I always appreciated him for his passion in all the community affairs and activities, including going down to the borough president's office and sitting in on the meetings. He always had comments and questions."

A mass was held for Gorman at St. Michael's Church in Co-op City on Jan. 29, followed by a burial at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Valhalla, New York.

*David Cruz contributed to reporting.*

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# Spelling S-h-o-w-d-o-w-n at PS 94



Photo by David Cruz

**W-I-N-N-E-R-S!** THE TOP THREE spellers at the 2018 annual Spelling Bee competition at PS 94 (l-r) Raisa Alam (2nd place), Mazeen Chawdhury (winner), and David Marcos (3rd place), pose with their awards.



Photo by David Cruz

**ANDREW, A FIFTH** grader (holding mic), stood among the fan favorites at the school. He finished in fourth place.

## By DAVID CRUZ

After 15 rounds and a suspenseful 90 minutes, 10-year-old Mazeen Chawdhury emerged champion of PS 94 King College School's annual Spelling Bee, which drew plenty of ooohs, aahs, and aha moments.

Separating Raisa Alam, the runner up, from first place: serviceable. Raisa fell short in spelling the word, but Mazeen did not. With this winning word, a first place ribbon soon followed.

The two, along with third place winner David Marcos, took on 22 others in an edge-of-your-seat competition that ranks as one of the more anticipated events at the Norwood grade school. The group of competi-



Photo by David Cruz

**RAISA ALAM (HOLDING MIC)** emerged as the second place finisher at the spelling bee.

tors were already some of the top spellers in the school, beating out classmates in small-scale spelling bees each fourth and fifth grade class took part in leading into the competition.

Many participants were crushed by the outcome, eliminated by words like "restoration," "occasion," and "initiation." They walked off the stage gracefully, with supportive staffers waiting for them.

But win or lose, the Jan. 23 academic event served as a lesson for the students as far as Joanne Clarke-Condon is concerned. For Clarke-Con-

don, who began organizing the verbal contest in 2007 with help from parent coordinator Miriam Seminario, the ability to conquer stage fright, build memory skills and sharpen literacy skills represented the real positive takeaway from the moment.

"If you can do this, you can do anything," Clarke-Condon said of participating in the spelling bee. "It encourages them to study, become better spellers." Clarke-Condon announced the contest in December.

Mazeen, who took part in the spelling bee last year, said he began



Photo by David Cruz

**AUDIENCE MEMBERS ADD** to the energy at the spelling bee.

practicing in November. "My mom tests me—the whole packet—every single day," he said.

Practicing became part of the routine for Raisa, who said the "words out loud" to remember them with speed.

David spent an hour memorizing words each day. "I just spelled every word, one by one, and said it out loud," David said.

At the bee's halftime, Congressman Adriano Espaillat, representing Norwood, paid a visit to the school. Offering advice, Espaillat said the bee will help them become better students. "You do better in school, you do better in life," he said.

**Editor's Note:** Check out more pictures of the suspenseful event on the Norwood News Facebook page.



# CEC Meeting Turns to JHS/MS 80 Pep Rally

By **DAVID CRUZ** and **NIAL RIDGLEY**

They came prepared with signs defending the school's reputation. And they were very vocal about praising it.

Despite reports by the *New York Post* portraying a school in turmoil, students and parents of JHS/MS 80 rallied behind the school. They came together at the recent Community Education Council (CEC) meeting on Jan. 18, packing the school's auditorium. Signs held aloft by a group of students displayed the hashtag "#Istand-withMS80" superimposed on images

of children holding hands in a hallway, while another student raised a hand-drawn sign reading "We R Staying."

Among the guests was Antonio Ramos, an online celebrity regularly seen on MTV's "Wild N' Out" and a graduate of MS 80, who praised the school. "Where I am now is because of 80. If it wasn't because of 80 I wouldn't be where I am at right now," Ramos, known as Tonio Skits, told students.

Ramos spoke in support of the school's polarizing principal, Emmanuel Polanco, adding, "[Polanco's] vi-

sion from what this school used to be to what he brought it to - I was here, I see the difference."

Polanco has been the subject of several stories by the *New York Post* chronicling alleged cronyism and general abuse of his position. The stories also cite years of poor math and English scores by students, with no mention of the fact that many of MS 80's students are first-generation immigrants.

Teachers and students alike spoke out against misleading media coverage



Photo by David Cruz

**STUDENTS WAVE SIGNS** in support of JHS/MS 80.

## Applications are now being accepted!



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in their speeches at the two-hour meeting, outsiders misrepresenting MS 80's culture being a common thread. Sylvia Lugo, a parent volunteer, spoke in praise of the school, saying, "Regardless of what you've heard, this school has been like family. From the principal to the teachers, the staff, you have to be here every day." "You know all I have to say is talk to your child. See what your child says and you are going to hear what is really going on in this school," she concluded.

This sentiment was confirmed by student Jazmine Bailey, an eighth grader, who said that she loves the school and felt welcome right away after enrolling this year. "It's amazing, this school. I really don't like what they say in the media because it's not true. If you're not here I don't understand why you are saying all these things about this school and it's not true," Jazmine said in front of an audience comprised of faculty, parents and peers.

But not everyone feels that about the school. Over the last month, a war of words has broken out between parents who've praised the school and parents sick of the administration, with comments spilling into the Google Reviews page for MS 80 and Polanco's Don't Tread On Educators (DTOE) profile.

DTOE is a site where educators can speak out publicly and anonymously against perceived abuses of power. One commenter, posting under the pseudonym of 'Star Chamber Master of Justice' writes, "This man [Polanco] has been judged and is guilty. His sentencing is being decided when the Star Chamber meets in three months. May God have mercy on his soul and his progeny."

Students were not required to attend the CEC meeting, according to parents.



## You Can Protect Yourself From HPV

By ROXANA YUSTI

This year, 80 million Americans, about one in every four people, will be infected with the Human Papillomavirus (HPV). HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection. The virus can resolve on its own within two to three years without symptoms or other health complications.

However, for every one in 10 people infected with HPV, it can lead to cancer or other issues such as genital warts. HPV can lead to cancer of the cervix, vagina, and vulva in women, and cancers of the penis in men. In both men and women, the virus can cause cancers of the anus and back of the throat. While this may seem scary, there are steps that you can take to reduce your risk of becoming

infected with HPV.

**Get the HPV Vaccine:** HPV causes over 30,000 cancers a year. The HPV vaccine has been shown to protect against the strains that cause many of these cancers, with the potential to prevent as many as 28,000 cancers each year. The vaccine is recommended for boys and girls 11 to 12 years of age, and can be given until the age of 26. However the vaccine is most effective when given before a person becomes sexually active.

**Wear Condoms During Sex:** Condoms can help reduce your risk of getting HPV, however HPV can still be transmitted through contact with the genital area not covered by the condom.

**Pap Tests for Women:** Women should get regular pap tests begin-

ning at the age of 21 until age 65. This test can detect cervical cancer in the early stages and before it even develops through abnormal cell changes. A pap test can also detect HPV, which can help your doctor track the virus and

make sure it is not turning into something more serious.

**Editor's Note:** Roxanna Yusti, MPH, CHES, CLC, works with Montefiore Health System's Office of Community & Population Health.

## Cuomo Orders Pharmacists to Help in Flu Outbreak

Governor Andrew Cuomo has signed an executive order allowing pharmacies to administer vaccines to children ages 2 to 18 as of Jan. 25 to combat the flu outbreak as weekly diagnoses and hospitalizations reach record highs.

Cuomo's executive order suspends a section of state education law that prevented pharmacists from administering immunizations to persons under age 18, thus enabling New York youth to have a better chance at avoiding a nasty flu strain in a particularly beleaguered state. The state has logged 7,800 cases of the flu strain with 1,759 requiring hospitalization.

"I urge all New Yorkers to help us combat this quick spreading strain of flu and make sure they and their loved ones are vaccinated," said Cuomo.

In the meantime, New Yorkers can ward off the flu by simply washing their hands in warm water for at least 20 seconds, carrying alcohol-based sanitizer, and holding off on sneezing or coughing in ones hands.

New Yorkers can find the nearest available flu shot at <http://www.vaccinefinder.org/> and are encouraged to call their local pharmacy ahead of their child's visit.

—Niall Ridgley

## Bronx to Finally Get Animal Shelter

By MARY MELLON

There will finally be a city-funded animal shelter in the Bronx, city officials announced. The 47,000-square-foot Bronx shelter is expected to be built in Co-op City by 2024, and will have room for 70 dogs, 140 cats, 30 rabbits, and 20 animals from other species. The news comes after years of wrangling by animal rights groups in the Bronx, who see shuttling animals to Manhattan as unfair.

In a statement, Mayor Bill de Blasio said the shelter will "offer direct adoption because we know how much New Yorkers love their pets, especially those in need of a home."

City-funded animal shelters have had a 93 percent success rate finding new homes for cats and dogs, accord-

ing to officials.

The de Blasio administration has designated \$98 million to the development of full-service animal shelters in all five boroughs. Animal Care Center (ACC) currently provides full-service shelters in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Staten Island, as well as admission centers in the Bronx and Queens. The Bronx shelter will be subjected to a detailed community engagement process throughout the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) before construction.

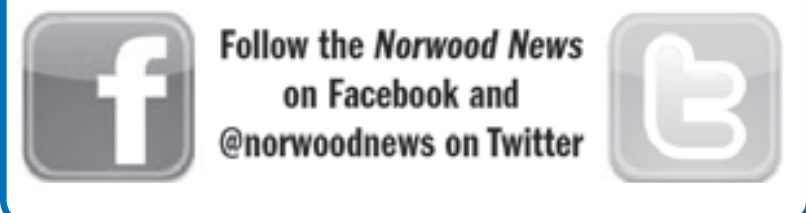
For a look at ACC rabbits, cats, and dogs available for adoption, check out <http://nycacc.org/Adoption-Search.htm>, or the ACC's free mobile app (available on Google Play and iTunes).

## Academic Accords at Lehman College



Photo by Miriam Quinones

**DR. GUSTAVO VEGA** with the El Colegio de México (COLMEX) (l) joins Lehman College President Dr. José Luis Cruz (r) at a symbolic signing between Vega's and Cruz's academic institutions aimed at strengthening cooperation and promoting mutual understanding. These agreements between Lehman College and eight other schools are intended to lead student and faculty collaboration. The event happened at the Bedford Park-based college on Jan. 18.





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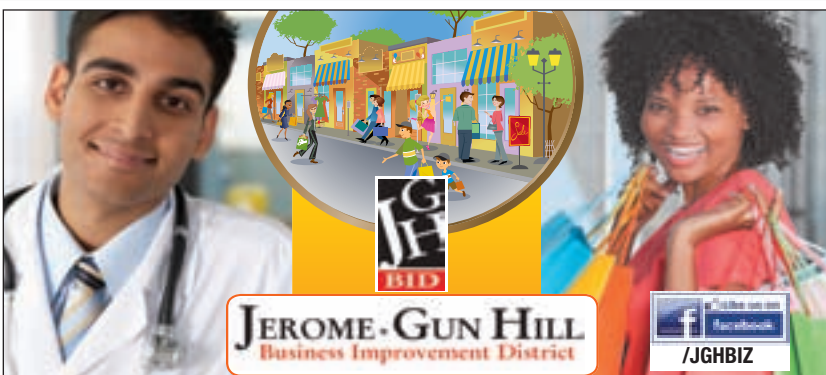
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## NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

### Flea Market Donations Sought

Donations are needed for the Bedford Mosholu Community Association flea market scheduled to be held on March 10. Bring new and used items (except clothing and hard cover books) to the BMCA office at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. So., apt. B1 (lobby floor) on Feb. 21 and 28 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., March 3 from 1:30 to 4 p.m. and March 7 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. For more information, call (718) 367-2230 or email [bedfordmosholu@verizon.net](mailto:bedfordmosholu@verizon.net).

### Free Tax Filing Assistance

Free tax filing is available for families whose total income is \$54,000 or less or individuals who make \$30,000 or less at the following locations: MMCC, 3450 DeKalb Ave. (appt: Dewayne Lee at (718) 882-4000 ext. 209 or email [DLee@mmcc](mailto:DLee@mmcc).

org); and SUNY Bronx Educational Opportunity Center, 1666 Bathgate Ave. (appt: (718) 530-7019). Applicants must bring a W2 and/or 1099 form or any other proof showing income, government-issued ID, social security card or ITIN number for self, spouse and dependents, a 1095 health form or health insurance statements and bank account information for those looking to have their tax refund direct deposited. Appointments are required.

### Become Civically Engaged

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. encourages New Yorkers to become more civically engaged as part of the "Hour New York Challenge." Those interested take a pledge to dedicate at least one hour each month throughout 2018. Activities include attending

community board meetings, volunteering with a nonprofit, and generally being a more informed and active citizen to improve neighborhoods. For more information, call (718) 590-3543.

### Catholic Schools Open Houses

Bronx Catholic elementary schools are holding "Touring Tuesdays" open houses: Feb. 13, March 13 and April 24 from 9 to 11 a.m. or by appointment. Local schools are: St. Brendan School, 268 E. 207th St.; Our Lady of Refuge School, 2708 Briggs Ave.; and St. Philip Neri School, 3031 Grand Concourse. Grades are pre-K through 8th. Tour the school, learn about the admissions process, and meet with the principal, faculty and students. For more information, to RSVP, or schedule an appointment, call (646) 794-2885.

### Apply to Local Community Board

Applications for placement into a local community board are available. City residents who qualify must either reside, work or have a professional or other significant interest in the Bronx. Applications are open to anyone as young as 16 years old. Deadline for application submission is Feb. 9. For more information and to apply, call (718) 590-3913 or visit [bronxboropres.nyc.gov/community-boards/](http://bronxboropres.nyc.gov/community-boards/).

### Heating Assistance

Sign up to receive free heating assistance through the New York State Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). Eligible households can receive assistance of up to \$725. A family of four with a yearly income of \$53,482 can still qualify for help. For more information about eligibil-

ity, and to sign up, call (212) 331-3126.

### Snow Laborers Sought

NYC seeks emergency snow laborers to help remove snow and ice from bus stops, step streets, and other locations throughout the city this winter. Interested applicants must be at least 18, eligible to work in the USA and capable of performing heavy physical labor. Registration is at the DOT garage, Bronx Yard, Mosholu Avenue and 258th Street (Van Cortlandt Park), weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring two small photos (1 1/2" square), original and copy of two forms of ID, and SS card or Tax ID number. Hourly salary is \$15; and \$22.50 after 40 hours are worked in a week. For more information and locations, call 311.

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# Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

## EDITOR'S PICK

### Motown Music

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents **A Musical Tribute to the Music of Motown**, performed by jazz/pop vocalist **Cody Childs and the Ladies of Soul**, Feb. 3 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org).

### Onstage

Bronx Arts Ensemble (BAE) Woodwind Quintet presents a **concert of folk dance arrangements** at Vladeck Hall, Amalgamated Houses, 74 Van Cortlandt Pk. So., Feb. 11 at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$15; \$25/ at the door. For more information, call (718) 601-7399.

### Events

Williamsbridge Oval presents the following free events: **Winter Olympics**, Feb. 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., for ages 6 to 13, which include arts and crafts, hockey, mini bobsled, ice skating, and curling (bring your own lunch); **Marionette Theatre Trip** (puppet show in Central Park), Feb. 9; **Toddler Valentine**, to bring your stuffed animal and snack to share for a party, Feb. 12; and **Tiny Prints**: Baby and Toddler Program, Mondays 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and Fridays 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. For more information, call (718) 543-8672.

BronxWorks presents **Dip Against Homelessness**, Feb. 17 at 11 a.m. at Orchard Beach. Donations are welcome for this fundraiser. Non-dippers may donate new gloves, socks, hats or scarves at the event or to BronxWorks through Feb. 16. For more information and locations, call (646) 393-4002.

Bronx River Art Center (BRAC) presents art workshops at Bronx Community Board 6, 1932 Arthur Ave. (East Tremont Avenue), 4th floor, as follows: **Street Photography** on Feb. 3, **Printmaking with MRS** on Feb. 10, and **Cartooning** on Feb. 17 (\$8/youth; \$10/adults; \$15/parent/child. Also offered is **Cartooning Classes**, through March 9 from 4 to 6 p.m. for ages 12 to 18. \$65/eight sessions (sign up at Eventbrite.com. For more information, call (718) 589-5819.

Mosholu Montefiore Senior Center, 3450 DeKalb Ave. offers seniors **dance workshop**, Latin Rhythms, Music and Dances From Around the World, at 10 a.m., Mondays through March: Feb. 5, 12, 26, March 5, 12 and 19. Register in advance or just show up.



Photo courtesy Joshua Bright

**WAVE HILL'S FAMILY Art Projects** include paper puppet-making during the **Coyote and Owl Fixtures and Tricksters** workshop (see Events for more information).



Photo courtesy Zun Lee

**THE BRONX DOCUMENTARY CENTER** hosts an opening reception for an exhibit dubbed "**Father Figure: Exploring Alternative Notions of Black Fatherhood**" by Zun Lee (see Exhibits for more information).

The course culminates in a revue. For more information, call (718) 798-6601.

**Wave Hill**, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Art Projects**: **Coyote and Owl Fixtures and Tricksters**, to hear folklore, then create paper puppets, Feb. 3 and 4; and **Hearts and Flowers**, Love for Belugas, to learn about these whales, then make a stuffed beluga sock-puppet, Feb. 10 and 11; from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Additional events include **Coyote Scat-Detection Dog Demonstration**, to observe dog trainer, Feb. 3 at 1 p.m.; **Nature Presentation: Owl Discovery**, to meet live owls, Feb. 4 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; **Owl Pellet Dissection**, workshop to learn that owls swallow their prey whole and then regurgitate, Feb. 4 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; **Nature Presentation: Owls - Raptors of the Night**, to meet a live owl, Feb. 4 at 2 p.m. All events are in the WH House. 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

Bronx Documentary Center, 614 Courtlandt Ave., presents **Opening Reception** of exhibit "**Father Figure: Exploring Alternative Notions of Black Fatherhood**," Feb. 3 from 6 to 9 p.m. The exhibit will be on display Feb. 3 to March 31, Thursdays and Fridays 3 to 7 p.m. and Saturday and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m. Also scheduled is **Discussion/Book Signing**, "Bearing Witness: The Unconventional Collaboration Between Nina Berman (documentary photographer) and Kimberly Stevens (survivor of sex trafficking and child pornography)," a conversation about An Autobiography of Miss Wish, Feb. 1 at 7 p.m. For more information, call (718) 993-3512.

The Bronx County Historical Society presents **What Lies Beneath -- Cemeteries of the Bronx**, through April 8, at the Museum of Bronx History, 3266 Bainbridge Ave. (208th Street), For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse (at 165th Street), presents

**Gordon Matta-Clark: Anarchitect**, and **Susannah Ray: A Further Shore**, both through April 8. For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

Lehman College Art Gallery, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents free, **Dark and Stormy Night Gothic Influence in Contemporary Art**, Tuesdays to Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., through Feb. 10. For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

### Library Events

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents for children: **Black History Month: Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky**: with original music and puppets, Feb. 10 at 2 p.m. Teens/young adults can enjoy: **Multi-i-grees**: Meet a shelter animal from the North Shore Animal League looking for a forever home, Feb. 14 at 4 p.m. Adults can attend: **Computer basics**: Feb. 6 at 2 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org).

The Mosholu Library, 285 E. 205th St., offers for children: **Crafty Fridays at 3 p.m.**: (ages 5 to 12), crafts, Feb. 2 and 9; **Toddler Bilingual Storytime at 10:30 a.m.**: (ages 18 to 36 months), librarian will read, sing and play songs in English and Spanish, Feb. 5 and 12; **STEM: Kids Science at 3 p.m.**: (ages 5 to 12), Feb. 6 and 13; **Read Aloud at 3 p.m.**: (ages 5 to 12), listen to a story followed by crafts, Feb. 7 and 14; **Family Storytime at 4 p.m.**: (3 to 5 years), stories and crafts, Feb. 1, 5, 8, 12 and 15; and **Bilingual Birdies Spanish Series at 11 a.m.**: native Spanish speakers play guitar, percussion, and use puppets, Feb. 7 and 14. Teens/young adults can enjoy: **Craft-eens! at 3:30 p.m.**: Crafts on Wednesdays, (all materials are provided), Feb. 7 and 14; and **film**: "Cars 3," Feb. 10 at 1:30 p.m. Adults can attend: **Valentine Craft Time**: Feb. 14 at 3 p.m.; and **Knitting Circle**: Thursdays at 3 p.m. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

**NOTE:** Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to [norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org](mailto:norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org), and should be received by Feb. 5 for the next publication date of Feb. 15.



# K'Bridge Native Soars in NYPD Ranks

(continued from page 1)

ency when it came to Civilian Complaint Review Board matters, Hofmann extended a level of respect. She was also a regular at the Community Board 7 meetings.

Hofmann, now a three-star chief, replaces the now retired Joanne Jaffe. The promotion puts Hofmann back in uniform, which wasn't required when serving as executive officer for the NYPD's Risk Management Bureau in 2015. It also etches her in the annals of NYPD history, serving as the first Latina chief at Community Affairs.

"I met Nilda when she was the second platoon tour commander up in the Four-Four Precinct," NYPD Commissioner Jimmy O'Neill said at the news conference. "She went over to Patrol Borough Bronx as a Community Affairs lieutenant so her experience is going to help us move forward in Neighborhood Policing."

O'Neill is credited in implementing and rolling out the Neighborhood Coordination Officer pro-



Photo by Adi Talwar

**HOFMANN GETS HER** third gold star pinned to her by a colleague following the promotions ceremony.

gram, which takes two officers out of radio runs and assigns them to one sector. O'Neill has attempted to embed the crimefighting model into the NYPD's DNA, hoping to produce a more relatable Police Department. With community relations placed higher on O'Neill's

priority list, Hofmann's position is more pronounced.

Hofmann's rise is 27 years in the making. She became a cop in 1990, the year homicides were at 2,245, the highest in recorded history for the city. She was raised on East 196th Street and Decatur

Avenue, where drugs and violence were rampant. Before the NYPD, Hofmann graduated from Walton High School and shortly enrolled at John Jay College, graduating with a degree in Forensic Psychology. She later served tours at the 23rd, 25th, 43rd and 44th precincts.

Things came full circle in 2013, when after serving a variety of commands across the city (she commanded the 42nd and 25th precincts), she was handed the reins at the 52nd Precinct, replacing Inspector Joseph Dowling. She admits the 52nd Precinct stands as one of her favorites.

"I grew up in the Five-Two," said Hofmann.

Her inclusion reflects a more diverse group within the NYPD's high ranks. The observation of the higher echelons of the NYPD being all white males has long been criticized for not reflecting the demographics of New York City.

"We have to have an executive staff that represents the diversity of this city," O'Neill said. "That's how you build trust."

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