



NORWOOD NEWS

Vol 31, No 11 • PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION • MAY 24-JUNE 6, 2018

**INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER:
MARIJUANA ARRESTS | PG. 4**



**SEE PICTURES:
BRONX WEEK PARADE | PG. 9**

PARKS BRACE FOR BBQ SEASON

Designated parks will allow for BBQ while others won't



THIS "NO BARBECUING" sign on East Mosholu Parkway just south of East 204th Street can be spotted ahead of barbecue season at Bronx parks.

Photo by Adi Talwar

**BY MARTIKA ORNELLA
and DAVID CRUZ**

Three weeks before the unofficial start of summer, Barbara Stronczer wanted to get ahead of what's expected to be a raucous season at Mosholu Parkway. As it's been the case for years, she wants the "No Barbecuing in the Area" signs

up before the parties begin.

"We expect it by Memorial Day," said Stronczer, chair of the Parks Committee for Community Board 7 at a meeting on May 9 regarding the signs in neighborhood parks. "If you don't have it by then, then it's a big battle for us."

Barbecuing is illegal in De-

voe Park, Williamsbridge Oval Park, and Mosholu Parkway, yet year after year park guests set up illegal BBQ pits much to the angry protests of community leaders like Stronczer. The closest legal barbecue spots in Norwood is in Van Cortlandt Park. In areas that bar the recreational practice, red signs

reading "No Barbecuing in this Area" are installed. On Mosholu Parkway South at the entrance near East 204th Street, residents can already see one installed there.

Joseph Magneri, the administrative Parks and Recreation manager for parks within CB7,

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Norwood News is published
bi-weekly on Thursdays by

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EDITORIAL

A Bruised Confidence in Our Public Officials

The evidence against former Attorney General Eric Schneiderman was overwhelming. It was for him too. In less than three hours after four women gave their accounts to *New Yorker Magazine* of alleged abuse, he was gone. Along with his career.

The article detailed moments when their bodies were so badly damaged they needed medical attention. Compounding that hurt was the subsequent mental torment that came after many told them to stay silent. Some of them included women.

Along with the bruised women allegedly at the hands of Schneiderman is

a bruised confidence in our elected officials. Just who are they when the cameras are not watching?

Schneiderman's case shows the Jungian way people live their lives. They can say something in public life that runs counter to their private life. For politicians, even those in law enforcement roles, the price to living duplicitously is hard. You can be on top of the world one hour, then at its pits three hours later, as was the case of Schneiderman.

We expect public officials to be the people they are in their public life—honorable and with integrity. What Schneiderman was alleged to have done is indefensible. And we're glad an inde-

pendent press was there to chronicle it all. The story, masterfully reported in the interest of avoiding witch hunt journalism, should put elected officials on notice that the press is constantly watching, keeping tabs on them. We're carrying out the duly sworn decree in our US Constitution to keep politicians honest.

The story adds a culture of protection towards Schneiderman, framing the argument that he's too valuable for the Democratic party. It's sad to see that. Is political gamesmanship worth the loss of justice? If that's the case, the enablers protecting unsavory elected officials are no better than the politicians carrying out these disturbing acts.



Letters To The Editor

Presumed Guilty

On May 7, Gregory Counts and Van Dyke Perry were fully exonerated by the Manhattan District Attorney's office for a 1991 rape that never happened. Counts had served 27 years and released last August. Perry had served 12 years and was then sentenced to probation for refusing to register as a sex offender.

After their accuser recanted her story, DNA testing was done that showed the accused were not connected to the crime that never happened.

Two questions arise. First, how does a district attorney even get an indictment in a case without evidence other than one person's testimony? We know (based on numerous in-

stances) that prosecutors just want to win the case and don't care if the way to do it is by putting an innocent person in prison.

Second, how come a jury convicted these men? Jurors are clearly instructed that the prosecution must prove the defendant's guilt. The defendant does not have to prove his or her innocence. The three times I served on trial juries, we took that seriously. That's why all three weak cases resulted in acquittals. Obviously, many jurors do not take this seriously. Otherwise, they would not find anyone guilty in an evidence-free case based on one person's testimony.

This is far from the only example. Clifford Jones is currently suing the city

after spending 29 years in prison for the rape of a woman and the murder of a man in Manhattan. Police withheld evidence proving Jones was innocent. In this case, the crimes actually happened. So, whoever did it got away with it. The jury convicted Jones on the rape victim's testimony alone. Again, he went to prison though no evidence proved he committed the crime.

Then there's Derrick Redd. He was convicted in Queens in 2012 of viciously stabbing his pregnant girlfriend to death. As reported by Christina Carrega in the April 6 *New York Daily News*, he was acquitted in a retrial.

An appellate court overturned the conviction due to pervasive prosecution misconduct. The jury in the retrial acquitted Redd because cellphone records proved he wasn't there and the witness gave inconsis-

tent testimony. So Redd lost his girlfriend and unborn child to a murderer who still hasn't been caught. Plus, he had to do time in prison.

These are just three examples. I've read many others over the years and they all involved black male defendants. I remember arguing with a good friend who thought defendants should have to prove their innocence. I asked him how he would prove his innocence if someone accused him of rape. If he's home alone, who can testify that they saw him home?

I'm certainly for putting dangerous people in prison, for life if necessary. But I don't want to live in a society where anyone can point a finger at anyone else and say he or she is guilty of a crime and that person automatically goes to prison.

Richard Warren
Van Cortlandt Village

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: Economic Development Committee meets on May 29; Community Relations & Long Term Planning Committee meets on May 29 at 7:30 p.m.; and Website, Acknowledgement & Media Committee meets on May 30. For more information, call (718) 933-5650.

The **BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** meets on June 6 at 8 p.m. at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. So., Apt. B#1. For more information, email bedfordmosh@verizon.net.

The **52ND PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meets May 24 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Bailey Houses Community Center, 2660 Bailey Ave. Get to hear directly from the commanding officer of the precinct, Deputy Inspector Peter Fiorillo. For more information, call (718) 220-5824.

A Troubled Path

Built to be family friendly, Aqueduct Park now a haven for vice

By MARTIKA ORNELLA

Straddled among apartment buildings and shopping squares sits Aqueduct Walk, a sectional strip of green paths, basketball courts, and playgrounds.

The walkway cuts through Morris Heights and Kingsbridge, ideally offering a place for bike rides, jogging, and peaceful strolling. But during a typical trek through the five-acre walkway, the *Norwood News* spotted hoards of household trash, junk piles, overgrown weeds and foliage, and used syringes. Public urination and drug use were out in the open.

Despite efforts by local officials and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, Aqueduct Walk remains plagued with all the physical signifiers of institutional neglect.

This week, the city announced new plans to install boxes throughout Aqueduct Walk to dispose of used needles, as part of an attempt to secure green spaces throughout the Bronx. Along with offering safer ways to dispose of needles, the city also plans to collaborate with local outreach groups to help educate drug abusers.

Not everyone is convinced the needle disposable program will be good for the walk.

"It's gonna attract more. They're already doing it," said Michelle Rivera, sitting on a bench in Aqueduct Walk Plaza. "Now they'll be like, 'let's sit by the park and do it more.' It's so sad," she said.

Remnants of drug use are commonly seen abandoned throughout the walk, according to local resident Leon Sutherland.

"Yesterday, as I was moving my car, I had to move a syringe. That's actually been an issue," Sutherland said. "I don't think I would want something to put syringes in. It's more about fixing the problem of drug abuse."

Sutherland also pointed to the trash problem that's plagued the park. The issue of cleanliness was touched on at a recent Parks Committee meeting at Community Board 7, which covers a portion of the greenway. Joseph Magneri, the administrative Parks and Recreation manager, said efforts to keep the park clean have fallen short representing the latest in a series of questions over what to do about the



Photo by David Cruz

A USED SYRINGE found at Aqueduct Walk sits feet from the construction site of a playground that's dragged on for more than a year.



Photo by Martika Ornell

PILES OF TRASH and graffiti mark the northern entrance of Aqueduct Walk. The garbage was eventually removed.

walk's ongoing waste problem.

"We did a cleanup on a Thursday, so I have what it looked like on Thursday. And then on a Saturday, what it looked like," said Magneri. "It was like we didn't do anything."

Aqueduct Walk's increasing crime rate should also alarm local officials. In 2016, there were two felony assaults at the walk compared to eight crimes in 2017, a 300 percent increase. The nature of the crimes has also changed, with steep upticks in robberies and grand larceny.

Aqueduct Walk is constructed above the Old Croton Aqueduct, an archaic viaduct that moved water from Westchester to Lower Manhattan during the 1840s. After the waterway was

replaced by the parallel New Croton Aqueduct, the city absorbed the old aqueduct line, converting it to public greenways and playgrounds.

Parts of the walk are elevated, much like Manhattan's High Line, the popular tourist attraction. But, unlike the High Line, the Bronx's leafy thoroughfare is less than picturesque.

Like all city parks, the cleanliness, structural and environmental conditions of the walk are rated through the Department of Parks and Recreation's Park Inspection Program (PIP). Periodic inspections of Aqueduct Walk have produced the same observations: excessive litter, graffiti, weeds and unkempt grass, along with broken pavements and sidewalks, which contribute

to the walk's consistent 'unacceptable' PIP rating.

In a statement to the *Norwood News*, Councilmember Fernando Cabrera of District 14, which covers the entire Aqueduct Walk, says the impending rezoning of Jerome Avenue will include \$10 million in funding to continue renovations of the park.

However, current revitalization plans for parts of the walk, including projects at Aqueduct Walk Plaza, and the construction of a comfort station on 182nd Street, are behind completion goals, according to the Parks Department's Capital Tracker website.

"We need people from the area to get involved. That is what we need," said Barbara Stronczer, chair of CB7's Parks and Recreation Committee. "There doesn't seem to be any interest among people to try to pitch in and do something."

The walk remains largely insulated from public streets, opening the door for anyone to dump trash at the site. Indeed, the main problem that continues to result in the walk's 'unacceptable' rating is the overwhelming amount of trash visible everywhere. Miscellaneous car parts, Ramen Noodle cups, a broken seven-foot basketball hoop stand and roving trash bags were just some of the observations logged by the *Norwood News*.

Stronczer also suspects Aqueduct Walk has another source of garbage: lazy neighbors dumping their trash through the window. "Evidently, people just dump their garbage. I don't know if some of the garbage is coming out of windows, because there's quite a bit of apartments with windows that face the walk," Stronczer said.

During the summer, safety and cleanliness at most public parks decline since more people are spending time in the parks.

Stronczer believes the solution is to create a community group specifically tasked with maintaining the walk.

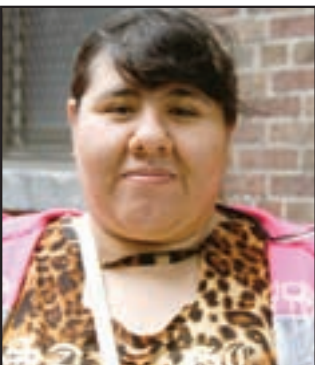
"I've said all along that we need a group called the 'Friends of Aqueduct Walk,' what they've done in other parks," Stronczer said. "Be able to get a group of friends, who have some interest in it, who'll put up some signage from time to time. We'll have clean up, talk to the area residents, people who live there, and say, 'give us a hand.'"

INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



This week we asked readers their thoughts on Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark's move urging the NYPD to issue tickets instead of making arrests for recreational marijuana use.



I think I see a lot of people smoking marijuana these days. If you try and arrest everyone with marijuana, it's going to be a whole bunch of people in jail. Nobody would be left out here because too many people smoke it. Half the people in the country want it legalized. You can't throw them all in jail. I think there are more serious crimes going on.

Jackie Fadalla
Norwood



I think in one way she's right, and in another way she's wrong because marijuana is good for some, but it's not good for everybody. If they are using it as medication, fine. It could help ease the pain of so many, but some take too much and cause accidents. Anybody who misuses it should pay a penalty.

Juliet Blankson
Bedford Park



It's long overdue because it ties up the courts. It's not really that harmful. I think alcohol is more harmful and I think marijuana should be legalized, yeah. There should be no jail time whatsoever. Maybe something like a summons would be good.

Bill Michaels
Bedford Park



Those who use small amounts of marijuana shouldn't be prosecuted with a heavy penalty, like jail time. It's not a big crime, maybe a fine like \$25. That's my opinion. Nowadays, I see people do it more openly, but with the respect of others, and they have it around. It's very open now. I believe that police would then be able to concentrate on the illegal guns, that's the big issue. If you see most of the people who consume marijuana are often alone and doing it and not committing bigger crimes. They're relaxed.

Joe Montenegro
Norwood



Yes, I agree with it because it's a minor drug; it's really not a big thing. Other states are using it for medical purposes and gaining a lot of profit from it. It's helping the economy and helping people that have issues. I say it's all about willpower because I have not done any other drug, because of my willpower. They have to understand, it's not always a stepping-stone to harder drugs. If people have the strength to say no to certain things, they learn how to just better themselves and learn the science behind the harder drugs. There are harder drugs that are more associated with crime.

Jessica Lugo
Norwood

CRIME FILE

By MARTIKA ORNELLA



Violent Home Invasion

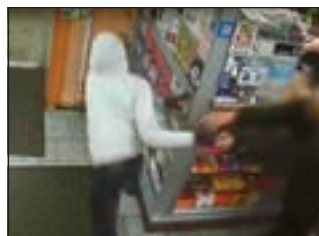
Two men (pictured) are wanted for a violent break-in at a home on Marion Avenue in Bedford Park.

Police say the incident happened around 2 p.m. on May 20, when the men disguised as UPS employees, knocked on an apartment door, forcing their way into the home and tying up two people with zip-ties.

The perpetrators then attacked someone in the home, stabbing them in the right thigh with a knife and demanding money. The attackers then fled the apartment with a bookbag filled \$16,000 in cash, according to police.

Police describe both alleged perpetrators as Hispanic, 20 to 24 years old; one, slim, last seen wearing a black and gray hooded sweater, black sweatpants and gray sneakers; and the other, stocky, last seen wearing a blue baseball cap, a gray hooded sweater, blue jeans and black sneakers.

The injured victim is expected to recover.



Attempted Theft

Police are asking for the public's help in finding a man who attempted to steal a man's wallet in a Kingsbridge Heights bodega. Police say it happened at 111 E. Kingsbridge Rd. on April 30 just after 10 p.m.

Video surveillance shows the would-be thief standing inside the front of the store seemingly waiting for his unsuspecting victim. When the victim appears, the thief lunges for and snatches the man's wallet, immediately taking off out of the store with the victim in hot pursuit. The wallet was soon recovered.

The suspect is described as black, tall, and last seen wearing a white hoodie with a black cap.

Apartment Robbery

The NYPD is looking for two men wanted for beating and robbing a man entering his apartment in Norwood. The men forced the victim into his apartment near East Gun Hill Road and Kings College Place, beating him with a baseball bat, and stealing \$300 before fleeing. The victim was taken to an area hospital with bruised ribs, a shattered elbow, and a cut to his right eye.

Both suspects are described as black, in their mid-

to late 20s, each with dreadlocks. One (pictured left) has a southern accent. The second stands at 6'5".

Anyone with information on the above crimes is asked to call the NYPD's CrimeStoppers Hotline at (800) 577-TIPS (8477) or (888)-57-PISTA (74782) for Spanish speakers. All calls are kept confidential.



Fewer Arrests for Lighting Up?

The NYPD says it's recon-

sidering how they enforce marijuana-related offenses. Police Commissioner James O'Neill announced that a NYPD group would be formed to address disparities in the policing of marijuana, namely the rate of summonses and arrests issued to low-level offenders. The new move comes on the heels of Mayor Bill de Blasio's promise to "overhaul" current marijuana enforcement laws, and an announcement by Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark urging the police to issue criminal summonses over arrests.

Clark's counterparts in Brooklyn and Manhattan have announced they will no longer prosecute cases where people have been arrested for smoking pot.

Editor's Note: Read what Bronx residents have to say about Clark's decision in our Inquiring Photographer at the top of this page.

Risse Gardener Fights Back

Now considering lawsuit against fellow gardeners

By DAVID CRUZ

The plants that once belonged to Elizabeth Carson have been destroyed. And she knows who did it. It didn't take long for Carson to know who damaged those beds at Risse Street Garden. It was an apparent team effort.

At a meeting among gardeners at Risse Street Garden the morning of April 22, Carson confronted Brendan O'Regan, another gardener, over who destroyed her flower beds.

"Those plants have been nicely removed," O'Regan was captured on Carson's cell phone video recorder saying, his arms folded as he carefully explained what happened to Carson's flowers.

"Anytime I tried to respond to anything there was an attempt to keep me from responding by someone who wasn't chairing the meeting," Carson told the *Norwood News*.

It's the latest chapter in an ongoing spat between Carson and

members of Risse Street Garden. Last year, the garden's steering committee voted to remove Carson's gardening privileges last year, citing violation of some of the garden's bylaws. Carson has called the vote illegitimate, and instead continually used the flower beds for planting. Carson said she was being targeted for calling out procedural policies involving a project O'Regan started.

O'Regan previously told the *Norwood News* that Carson's ouster was the result of her violating several garden rules that included bringing unruly friends to the garden, a point Carson has disputed. O'Regan said her guests violated the garden's bylaws.

Despite Carson's objections, O'Regan still enforced the sanction. The garden falls under GreenThumb, a division of the New York City Parks Department. Since last year, Carson has pressed GreenThumb to intervene over



O'Regan photo by David Cruz/Image courtesy Elizabeth Carson

ELIZABETH CARSON (LEFT) attends a Community Board 7 Parks Committee meeting charging that her flowers were removed from its plant beds. The removal was led by Brendan O'Regan (right), Carson said.

what she claims is lawlessness at the 28-year garden. She's kept records of her version of events, pointing to the larger issue of lax record keeping and proper governance at city recognized community gardens when squabbles

occur. Carson compares them to "little private clubs" that are "not accountable to anyone."

"The fact that there are no good records of what has gone on at Risse is really one of the troubling parts," said Carson. "They cannot present to anyone why they decided to take those beds from me." Carson has since lodged a formal complaint against O'Regan to GreenThumb, but hasn't heard back.

Citing criminal mischief, Carson is now considering suing O'Regan for \$1500, the estimated cost of her perennials and plants that were plucked from the flower beds. She also brought her issue to the latest Community Board 7's Parks Committee on May 9. "This conversation will be continued," Barbara Stronczer, chair of the Parks Committee said.

In an email to the *Norwood News*, O'Regan called Carson's version of events "false allegations."

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Oliver Place Gets Much-Needed Cleanup

By DAVID CRUZ

Cleanup crews were all in for a cleanup job at the corner of Oliver Place and Decatur Avenue. The troubled grounds have been quite the eyesore for the neighborhood over the last few decades, as many treat it as a dumping ground.

Teams from the nonprofit group FEDCAP were on hand, as well as employees of Councilman Ritchie Torres, whose 15th Council District covers the Bedford Park lot. Torres's office allocated \$100,000 for the cleanup crew. Some items collected included bicycle wheels, parts of a fan, and small wooden planks.

But just where the trash is coming from bewilders Joe McManus, Torres's employee, who was there when the trash was collected. A fence has been installed to keep anyone from easily throwing trash onto the neglected lot. Still, the trash persists.

"It was piled two and three, four feet high. So that means they got to be throwing it out their windows," McManus said at the May 2 Bedford Mosholu Community Association meeting. "Shame on the people who live there. No way you could launch it from the street."

Ideas over where the trash was originating from were batted around at the BMCA meeting. Some suspected locals who just dump it there.

The property belongs to the city Transportation Department, which has yet to honor a request from the community to convert the grounds into a playground. The property falls under Community Board 7, which has raised the matter every now and again.

"I had hoped that maybe because Edison Arms, the senior complex across the street, that someone get involved and want to put an urban garden there," said Barbara Stronczer, president of BMCA. "We need something because this is something that's going to happen again."

**TO REPORT A
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Yes, Coyotes Are Found in the Bronx

By DAVID CRUZ

With the northwest Bronx surrounded by some of the city's largest parks, the city's wildlife calls these greenspaces home.

That includes coyotes.

"[Y]ou're surrounded by coyotes," Sunny Carrao with the Parks Department's Wildlife Unit said at a presentation before Community Board's 7's Parks Committee.

From nearby Van Cortlandt Park to Pelham Bay Park, coyotes have settled deep into the woods, said Carrao. It's common to see the the four-legged feral dogs out in the open. Mating season is over, and coyotes are now scavenging for food for their new pups.

"They do what a coyote does best,



Photo courtesy New York City Parks Department website

COYOTES HAVE CALLED the Bronx home since at least the 1930s, according to the city Parks Department.

and that's avoiding people," said Carrao. "They are naturally worried about humans, so there's really nothing for

people/residents to be super worried about."

Some tips Carrao offered include:

Don't feed wildlife. "We don't want people feeding wildlife intentionally, which people have been known to feed wildlife intentionally, and once that happens they look at all humans as a source of food and they begin to approach people," said Carrao.

Don't leave food out. "Coyotes are omnivores. They're going to eat whatever they could find. Predominantly they'll hunt small rats, rodents, squirrels. But if you have a garbage can that's accessible, they'll go into it," said Carrao.

Don't leave small pets unattended. "This time of year, coyotes are going to see small dogs as a source of food and they'll see large dogs as competitive or territorial," said Carrao.

Warding them off. "If a coyote does approach you, it is best to try and scare them off. We call it hazing. So it's everything from clapping your hands, waving your arms, you can pick up small rocks and throw at them. You want to keep coyotes wary of people," said Carrao.

Run. Running away will not cause a coyote to run.

The city Transportation Department and Health Department have joined Parks in spreading word on the presence of wildlife across the city's green areas.

Editor's Note: To learn more about wildlife across New York City, go to <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/wildlifeny/index.page>.



Photo by David Cruz

SUNNY CARRAO, WITH the Parks Department's Wildlife Unit, gives a brief presentation on coyote sightings around the Bronx.

Skate Park Quietly Gets Under Way

Without much of a notice, the bulldozers came to the west side of Williamsbridge Oval Park to break ground on the long-awaited skate park. A large patch of soil blankets the area once used for a dog run, with crews ready to spend until winter of next year to complete the project.

But the council member who funded the project is planning a formal celebration. Councilman Andrew Cohen secured \$750,000 in capital funding for the project in 2014, holding a news conference on the funding soon after. The price of the project eventually went up to \$888,000. It was among the first major projects for Cohen representing Norwood. It's also a project that residents have asked for since 2004 when clergy leaders teamed with neighborhood kids to get a skate park in the area.

The holdup stemmed largely from picking a contractor to perform the project. Parks had identified a bidder who eventually backed out. LC



Photo by David Cruz

RUBBLE FROM THIS excavated dog run at Oval Park will soon be cleared to make way for a long awaited skate park.

Construction Consulting, a Queens-based construction firm, finally agreed to construct the mini-arena, complete with steep banks, mounds and quarter pipes.

Miles Burnett, a spokesman for Cohen, told the *Norwood News* that a

formal groundbreaking ceremony is expected on June 5 at 11 a.m.

Cohen has held groundbreaking ceremonies for other park projects in the past, notably a skate park in Van Cortlandt Park last year.

—David Cruz

NORWOOD NEWS



Photo by David Cruz

THE MAY 16 thunderstorm that ripped into the Bronx took down this tree limb on Mosholu Parkway South near the corner of Bainbridge Avenue. The storm peaked at the height of rush hour, sending unprepared commuters running for cover.



Photo by David Cruz

HASHEM YESHIYA, (2nd from right), owner of Tasty Picks at 89 E. Gun Hill Rd., readies the dressing he's about to pour into the Bronx Salad for Chef King Phojanakang (left) at a how-to workshop for merchants of the Jerome Gun Hill Business Improvement District on May 17. The Bronx Salad is being promoted as part of a larger effort to reverse poor health outcomes in the Bronx. Melissa Cebollero (2nd from left), Montefiore Health System's senior director for community and government relations, and Hakeem Alhariri (right), owner of Tita Minimarket, look on. More photos of the event can be found on the BID's Instagram page,



Photo by Miriam Quinones

8-YEAR-OLD FASHIONISTA Miracle Robinson poses with mom/manager Shanequa Charles at a May 10 pop-up shop debuting Miracle's line of hand-crafted fashion wear dubbed Styled By Miracle. Miracle's work can be found at <https://www.styledbymiracle.today>.



Photo courtesy Montefiore Health System

EVELIN HERNANDEZ, RN, staff nurse at the Wakefield Division of Montefiore Health System basks in her moment as she's honored with the 2018 Nurse of Distinction award by 1199SEIU and the League of Voluntary Hospitals and Homes of New York. Congrats Evelin!



Photo by José A. Giralt

CALVIN MITCHELL AND daughter, Dejaa, run in the three-legged race at the inaugural Family Day Olympiad at Williamsbridge Oval Park on May 12. Participants in the official Bronx Week event also met members of the Bronx Buccaneers, who regularly practice at the Oval.



Photo courtesy Office of Gustavo Rivera
SEN. GUSTAVO RIVERA honors Leticia Harper, one of many mothers in his 33rd Senate District honored by him and colleague Assemblyman Victor Pichardo at a Mother's Day event on May 19.

Building Boom For the Bronx

By MARTIKA ORNELLA

The Bronx saw \$2.3 billion in residential development last year, falling short of the 2016 total dollar figure for residential properties, according to a new report released by Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.

Most of the new residential development across the borough is government funded, according to the report. In 2017, over 58 percent of new residential units were subsidized, with the vast majority going towards developing multi-family residential buildings. This includes a \$70 million investment in new apartments near Creston Ave. and 191st Street in Fordham.

"We are making sure that new development works for those families who already call the Bronx their home," Diaz said in a statement. "And that new attention in the Bronx helps everyone thrive."

It is not clear how many of the impending subsidized units will benefit low-income residents in the borough, where a third of residents fall at or below the federal poverty line. The report also does not mention any information on eligibility or the cost to rent the newly-built residential units.

Last year, \$164 million was invested in the mixed-use and mixed-income building that will sit at 425 Grand Concourse in Mott Haven. The planned building will include energy-saving solar panels and a garden roof deck.

Funding for building homes and apartments has increased over 700 percent since 2010, following the Great Recession. It was then that \$281 million was invested into residential development. But in 2017, over \$2.2 billion went to building new homes throughout the Bronx, with 4,299 of those new units being publicly funded.

Although most of the new development is in the South Bronx, Community District 7, which covers Norwood, had the sixth highest rate of residential development last year, out of the 12 Bronx community districts. Nearly 800 new residences were built in CD7 last year.

Stop Work Orders Issued at 2 of 4 New Norwood Projects

By DAVID GREENE

A building boom along a four-block stretch in Norwood has once again been halted as the Department of Buildings (DOB) has issued stop work orders at two of the four projects currently under development.

DOB records show a full vacate order and a partial stop work order remain in effect for 3083 Hull Ave.—a one-story property by East 204th Street consisting of five shops. Records reveal "There is an active permit for interior demolition of the property. However a violation for work without permit was issued for activities outside the scope of the permitted job at the time of the collapse." DOB officials did not elaborate on the specific violation.

According to the document obtained by the *Norwood News*, members of the DOB's Interior Demolition Unit continue to work with an engineer hired by owner, Brooklyn-based developer Transition Acquisitions-- to oversee the continued emergency stabilization work and partial demolition of the building in order to protect the public.

Around the corner, a passerby was burned on the top of his head by embers originating from a welding machine operated by a construction crew member working on the fourth floor of 374 E. 204th St. by Webster Avenue. The remodeling project consists of a



Photo by David Greene

A DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS inspector slaps a stop-work order on the emergency barricade after a partial building collapse at the corner of Hull Avenue and East 204th Street.

new five-story building being built atop an existing one-story commercial business.

The victim who declined to be publicly identified, recalled, "I was coming out from under the scaffold and it got me right there, when I came out. They had no protection, nothing. Just someone standing in

the street. That's why they left. He called the guy on the phone, told him to stop working and he came down. This job has been shut down plenty of times."

A DOB record of the incident reports, "A partial stop work order for welding operations was issued on 5/7/18 due to a pedestrian injury; a violation was also issued for failure to safeguard the public." The DOB report continued, "The partial stop work order due to the ongoing dispute with the owner of the adjacent property is also still in effect."

That ongoing dispute between developer Edward Khalil and homeowner Darrell Burgess, began almost from the day the project began back in 2013.

According to Burgess, "It's considered as renovation, not new construction. That's how they get around a lot of rules." Overlooking the initial problems, Burgess recalled, "It took me a long time to mount a fight, which was a big mistake on my part."

"It really makes you wonder," Burgess concludes, "if these inspectors are on the take, how do they come out here and not see" what's going on at construction sites.

An employee of Khalil's said the developer was at a job site and was unreachable by press time.

New Honorees at Bronx Walk of Fame

By DAVID GREENE

An activist, singer, and advocate with borough roots were honored for making the Bronx proud.

The honorees for this year's Bronx Week celebrated on May 20. Tarana Burke, the founder of the #MeToo movement, actress Maggie Siff and hip-hop legend Slick Rick were honored with special individual street signs on the Grand Concourse.

Siff told the crowd, "This is such an honor. I was just talking to my dad last night and he was born in this neighborhood. And he said in 1944, one of his very first memories was seeing [President Franklin Roosevelt] drive by in an open motorcade, so I don't know but there is something about that, that goes full circle."

Burke stated, "This is an enor-



Photo by David Greene

ACTRESS MAGGIE SIFF of "Mad Men," "Sons of Anarchy," and "Billions" fame, joins her family and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. as she's inducted into the Bronx Walk of Fame.

mous honor. I have clearly been all over the place recently and I don't think anything measures my love for the Bronx." She added, "As much as I love the Bronx, I do know that these communities in the Bronx are still vulnerable and

like communities everywhere, they're vulnerable to sexual violence and in order for us to make these communities less vulnerable, we have to talk about this issue."

After the unveiling of his new street sign, Slick Rick was asked about his favorite places in the borough. "The Grand Concourse and Fordham Road. I used to visit the Loew's Paradise Theater, but that was a long time ago," said Rick. "I'm not sure what it is now, but that was back in the day."

The Walk of Fame festivities ended with a parade and street fair along Moshulu Parkway that featured a performance by hip-hop star Remy Ma.

Editor's Note: See next page for highlights of the Bronx Week Parade.

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THE 47TH ANNUAL Bronx Week Parade was complete with plenty of pageantry and celebration of the borough's benefits to its residents. Mosholu Parkway was the scene of the midday parade on May 20, capping off 11 days of Bronx Week events. Photos by Miriam Quinones



CADETS FROM DEWITT Clinton High School's JROTC program march along the parade route.



FRIENDS OF MOSHOLU PARKLAND, the volunteer group that takes care of Mosholu Parkway, heads up the parade route.



SLICK RICK PERFORMS onstage during the Bronx Week Parade festivities.



MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY Board 7 march among the dozens of groups taking part in the parade.



STUDENTS FROM MS 80'S ROTC program march up the parade route on East Mosholu Parkway.



TARANA BURKE, FOUNDER of the #MeToo movement, is there at the parade.



THESE DANCERS SHOW off their moves at the Bronx Week Parade.

Local Officials To MTA: Get Elevator for Mosholu Station

Officials representing Norwood are urging the MTA to consider building an elevator at the Mosholu Parkway subway station, which could be a boon to disabled riders who get on and off the station.

In a letter drafted to authority president Andy Byford, Assembly Members Jeff Dinowitz and Nathalia Fernandez, Councilman Andrew Cohen, and state Senator Jamaal Bailey, lobbied for the station to get an elevator.

The news comes as the MTA Board approved \$300 million to reconfigure 18 stations to make them wheelchair accessible, adhering to a 1993 federal ruling that mandates all current and new stations across the system comply with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act.

“Not only does the zip code containing this station (10467) reflect a population with a disability rate of 15.2 percent (14,800 people, which is numerically the most of any zip code in the Bronx) but also there are a multitude of institutions that assist people with mobility impairments within a mere half-mile of this station,” wrote Dinowitz of the Mosholu station.

MTA figures show 2.8 million riders got on or off at the station in 2016, ranking as the 182nd busiest subway station in the city for that year.

The station is within walking distance of Montefiore Health System’s Moses Campus, North Central Bronx Hospital, and three nursing homes.

“[P]eople who require an elevator to use New York City Transit have only five percent of the trip-making opportunities as their non-disabled counterparts,” Dinowitz said in the letter. “Let’s work together to ensure that we rectify this imbalance by prioritizing stations that best serve the needs of those for whom the city has been out of reach for too long.”

The MTA did not respond for comment.

—David Cruz

Writing Workshop Creates “Safe Space” For Vets to Share Experiences

By MARIYA MOSELEY

A free writing workshop aims to provide a creative outlet for veterans.

The Craft of War Writing is a weekly program that focuses on war narratives and offers attendees the opportunity to read curated stories, interact with guest speakers and share pieces about their personal experiences.

Jeremy Warneke, a U.S. Army veteran who currently serves as district manager for Community Board 11 in the east Bronx, founded the program in 2015 after hosting a number of war reading series at a local library in the Bronx. His work has been published in the New York City Veterans Alliance, Homefront Progressives and Task & Purpose website.

Although Warneke expressed how therapeutic the program is for veterans, he stressed the importance of having the workshop open to the public as “war affects more than just military veterans.”

John LoSasso of Norwood is a former attendee turned teaching associate for the program. The Brooklyn-born retired English professor has more than three decades of teaching experience under his belt. He expressed how crucial it is to create an environment for participants to be open and transparent about their experiences. “We’re very cautious about making this a



Photo by Mariya Moseley

JEREMY WARNEKE (TOP RIGHT) is the founder of Craft of War Writing who took part in the May 5 class at the Morris Park Library.

safe space to hear and welcome everyone,” LoSasso said.

Yvette Edwards, 48, a crossing guard, attends the workshop from Manhattan. She said that although she’s not a veteran, hearing perspectives from other participants and stories from her uncle who served in the Korean War has exposed her to the ‘intense’ effects. “There’s more to it than meets the eye. You don’t just go on, it’s always embedded in you,” she said.

The National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder estimates that 11 percent to 20 percent of veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan have PTSD. Among Vietnam War veterans, an estimated 30 percent will suffer from

the disorder in their lifetime.

Statistics from the U.S. Bureau of Labor reported in 2014 that nearly one million veterans are scattered across New York State. Those included in the study involve those who served in World War II, the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Omar Columbus, who served in the Air Force for 12 years, said the program provides him with an outlet for the physical, emotional and spiritual effects of serving in the war. “It gives you a chance to deal with those issues in a creative way,” he said.

Warneke said that while the theme of each workshop is war, each session operates differently. However, the format for each workshop primarily includes reading an assortment of published pieces of work together. Next, participants discuss and review their personal stories, poems, etc. Some weeks even include a relevant lecturer to chat with the members.

Maria Paserman, a senior citizen who has attended workshops for about six months, said that although she’s not a veteran, she’s gained valuable insight from the speakers, exercises and roundtable discussions. “Just because I’m not a veteran doesn’t mean I don’t know anything about conflict. It speaks to a human experience,” she said.

Editor’s Note: *The Craft of War Writing, in collaboration with Voices of War, host their sessions at The Morris Park Library on Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.*



Photo by Mariya Moseley

A MEMBER OF the Craft of War Writing workshop shares his story at their session on May 5



HEALTH CHECK

Avoiding the Sugar Flood

By DR. AMANDA PARSONS

You might have heard about the calorie balance: the idea that to avoid gaining weight you have to burn as many calories as you gain. This may lead you to think "Oh, I can just exercise away that sugary soda or that cookie." But this is not true--you can't just exercise away the sugar you eat.

Sugar causes your body to release insulin, which is your body's messenger to tell your cells to absorb the sugar that is in your blood. Sugar is a source of fuel for your body, but in high levels, it is damaging to your organs, especially your eyes and your kidneys. Diabetes occurs when your body can't keep up with the amount of sugar in your body and can't release enough insulin or when your cells stop listening



Photo courtesy rawpixel.com

SUGAR SHOULD BE consumed in moderation to avoid health effects, say experts.

to the insulin. Essentially, diabetes occurs when your body has had too much sugar too frequently.

Think about a house or your local roads. If it rains seven inches over the course of the whole day, there is very

little chance of flooding. However, if all that rain comes down in three minutes, flooding is much more likely because the drains are overwhelmed. The same thing happens with your body's ability to release insulin. If you give your body too much sugar too quickly (like regularly drinking a soda or snacking on cookies), your body can't keep up. That's why it is best to limit the amount of sugar your body gets over the course of the day to no more than 20 to 25 grams of sugar (roughly seven to eight teaspoons). The less sugar the better.

Some easy ways to significantly reduce your sugar intake:

- **Eliminate Soda and Sugary Drinks:** Replace them with water or sparkling water. Many sparkling waters come with natural flavors and taste delicious. Even kids like them!

- **Don't Buy Snacks Like Cookies or Candy:** the more readily available they are, the more you are likely to be tempted.

- **Limit Sugar Portions:** Save some for later. One trick is to find foods that are sold in smaller quantities (e.g. snack size snacks instead of the regular size).

- **Move After You Eat:** Even a

short walk can help burn off some of the sugar by sending more blood to your muscles (and your muscles use up some of the sugar in the blood). Remember that even if you exercise after you eat, you can't undo all the harmful effects the sugar had on your body.

- **Keep Healthy Snacks Around:** Nuts, dried berries and fresh fruit are better for you (more nutritious)

- **Keep a Food Journal:** There are many apps for this online, or you can just use a little notebook. Keep track of what you ate and how much you ate. Learn your patterns - when do you consume the most sugar? Are there ways you can avoid it?

- **Start Your Day Right:** Don't eat pastries, muffins or sugary cereals for breakfast. Choose healthier options like eggs, berries or oatmeal.

Remember: Avoid flooding your body with sugar. Exercising is important, but you can't exercise away the damage sugar does to your body.

Editor's Note: Dr. Amanda Parsons is vice president of Montefiore Health System's Office of Community & Population Health and assistant professor of Family & Social Medicine, Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

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NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

Free Graffiti Cleanup

"Guerinos Against Graffiti" is offering one military veteran free graffiti removal in honor of Memorial Day. Those eligible be a US military veteran who was honorably discharged and wounded in combat. Applicants must submit their photo standing next to their property. Send submissions to ssg.nag@gmail.com. For more information, call (718) 600-2570.

Free Immigration Service

West Bronx Housing, 220 E. 204th St., provides free basic immigration services. They offer application assistance for citizenship, permanent residence Green Card applications, renewals, and other basic services. Clients can bring an interpreter, if necessary. For more information, call (718) 798-0929 to make an appointment and to answer your immigration questions.

Excelsior Scholarship

Applications for the Excelsior Scholarship are now open for new applicants pursuing a college degree at city- or state-funded colleges/universities for the 2018-19 academic year. Eligible candidates must be New York State residents, take 30 credits per year (including summer and winter sessions), a family whose annual household income is below \$110,000, and be on track to graduate on time with an associate's degree in two years or a bachelor's degree in four years. Applications will be accepted through July 23. For more information, and to apply, go to <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/excelsior/>.

Bird Walks

Free bird walk tours with guides provided by the New York City Audubon Society and Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy, are scheduled for every Saturday through July 21 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy. Meet at the VC Nature Center. For more information, contact Joseph McManus at mcmanus638@aol.com.

Commercial Lease Help

Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition offers free legal help to small businesses in negotiating commercial leases with their landlords. Businesses have to be in New York City, must be non-franchise, have a household income below 500 percent of the federal poverty guideline, and have a new or renewal lease. For more information, contact Evy Viruet at (718) 584-0515 ext. 100.

Personal Finance Workshops

The Cary Leeds Center, 1720 Crotona Ave., holds financial literacy workshops from noon to 1 p.m. on June 16, 23, and 30. Topics include budgeting, credit cards and tax season. No registration is required. For more information, call (718) 247-7420 or email iramirez@nyjtl.org.

Free Naloxone Training

The Bronx Neighborhood Health Action Center at Tremont, 1826 Arthur Ave., is offering free training on a monthly basis in the use of naloxone, which reverses the effects of an opioid overdose and restores breathing, on May 30 at 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Participants who complete the program will be offered a free naloxone kit. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/2GBWmWo>.

No Garbage Pickup

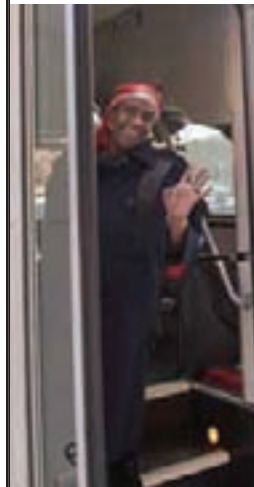
In observance of Memorial Day, the New York City Department of Sanitation will suspend garbage collection on May 28. Residents who normally receive Monday trans, organics or recycling collection should place their material out at curbside after 4 p.m. on May 28.

Register to Vote

The last day to register for the June 5 primary in New York City is June 1. To register to vote in New York City you must be a U.S. citizen, a New York City resident for at least 30 days and be age 18 by Election Day. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/2IR9yfp>.

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Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

EDITOR'S PICK

Holiday Concert

The public is invited to a free Memorial Day Concert, May 27 at 2 p.m., featuring music from Broadway shows by Leonard Bernstein, George Gershwin, Cole Porter, and Andrew Lloyd Webber, presented by the Bronx Arts Ensemble, in Van Cortlandt Park at West 242nd Street and Broadway. Rain site: Vladeck Hall, 74 Van Cortlandt Pk. So. For more information, call (718) 601-7399.

Onstage

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **La Sonora Ponceña** featuring pianist Papo Lucca, June 2 at 8 p.m., performing salsa. Tickets are \$50 to \$65; \$100 VIP (includes pre-concert wine, beer, and hors d'oeuvres at 6:30 p.m.). For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

Riverdale Choral Society presents **Summer Sing** featuring two Requiems, June 13 at 7:30 p.m. (\$15), at Christ Church Riverdale, 5030 Henry Hudson Pkwy. (252nd Street). Singers can bring their own scores if they have them or scores will be provided. For more information, call (718) 543-2219.

The Bronx Zoo presents **Boogie Down**, featuring a variety of performers and artists; hip-hop, doo wop and salsa music; art, dance, food, and more, weekends through June 3 including Memorial Day. For more information, tickets, or a full

schedule of performances, call (718) 367-1010.

Events

Williamsbridge Oval offers **free events** during June. For more information and a detailed schedule, call (718) 543-8672.

Unity in the Community **street fair** will take place June 15 from noon to 6 p.m. on Reservoir Avenue between West Kingsbridge Road and 195th Street. Events include giveaways, activities, and food. The public is invited to join the fun.

Bronx River Alliance presents **Bronx River Flotilla**, to paddle along the river, May 26 (rescheduled from May 19 due to rain). Paddlers are welcome for this fundraiser. For more information and to RSVP, call (718) 430-4665.

Bronx County Historical Society presents **Memorial Day Wreath Laying Ceremony** at the Museum



Photo courtesy Joshua Bright/Wave Hill

WAVE HILL OFFERS a Turtle's Pace design workshop on June 2 and 3 (see under "Events" for more information).

of Bronx History, 3266 Bainbridge Ave. to commemorate our nation's fallen soldiers, May 28 from 11 a.m. to noon. Also scheduled is **Bronx Brewery Legacy Trolley Tour**, June 9 from noon to 5 p.m., leaving from Woodlawn Cemetery's Jerome Avenue entrance (\$40). For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

Van Cortlandt Library, 3874 Sedgwick Ave., presents **films**: "Atlantis: The Lost Empire," May 23, and "Peter Rabbit," May 30; each at 3:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 543-5150.

A **Community Organizations Fair** will be held at DeWitt Clinton High School, 100 W. Mosholu Pkwy. So., June 2 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Social service organizations are scheduled to be present to provide key health and wellness resources and information with the goal of improving healthy food access particularly focusing on kids' meals. Various service tables will be present including one for blood pressure and BMI screenings.

Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Art Projects**: At Home in the Sky, to paint birds for sky-painting project, May 26 and 27; and A Turtle's Pace, to design and decorate a stuffed wearable turtle-shell backpack followed by a parade, June 2 and 3; both in the WH House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also scheduled is **Turtle & Shell Show and Tell**, to see a live turtle; and **Nature Presentation: Turtle Talk**, to learn about turtles; both in the WH House, June 3 from 1 to 2 p.m. Grounds admission is free until noon Tuesdays and Saturdays all year. For more information and a schedule of events including tours and walks, call (718) 549-3200.

Exhibits

Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse, presents **Oded Halahmy-Exile is Home** and **Moses**

Ros: Landing/Aterrizaje, through July 1. For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

The Museum of Bronx History, 3266 Bainbridge Ave. (208th Street), presents **Bronx Expo - The Starlight Park Story**, through Sept. 30; and **Women's Suffrage and New York City: A Centennial Celebration**, through April 11, 2019. For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

Rafaela (Ella) Santos, 315 E. 201st St., presents her solo art exhibit **W/O [man] Hood**, through May 27 from 1 to 5 p.m.

Bronx River Art Center (BRAC), 1087 E. Tremont Ave. presents **River Rising** through June 17, exposition in Starlight Park. For more information, call (718) 589-5819.

Library Events

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents for teens/young adults: **film**: "Harry Potter," May 25 at 3:30 p.m.; and **Wildlife**: to see various animals, June 6 at 4:30 a.m. Adults can enjoy **Computer Basics**: June 2 at 11 a.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: **Crafty Fridays at 3 p.m.**: crafts, May 25, June 1 and 8; and **STEM: Kids Science at 3 p.m.**: May 29 (air/gravity), and June 5 (music); all for ages 5 to 12; and **Toddler Storytime**: (for ages 18 to 36 months), stories, action songs, fingerplays, and crafts, May 31 at 11 a.m. Adults can attend: **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, and should be received by May 28 for the next publication date of June 7.



File Photo

AN ASSORTMENT OF activities and events await you at the Mosholu Library (more information can be found under "Library Events").

Parks Brace for BBQ Season

(continued from page 1)

offered a new plan for tackling the trend of unlawful barbecuing.

"A big problem is that [the signs] were being torn down," Magneri said. "So I asked that they be put on bigger posts, and cemented into the grass."

Magneri's proposed 'cemented' signs, along with plans to install additional gates around Devoe Park, are just some of the contingencies local officials are taking to stave off illegal cookouts as the summer approaches.

'Let People Barbecue'

But for some park patrons, the signs aren't clear enough. To some, "No Barbecuing in this Area" could mean no barbecuing in one particular spot, not the entire park. For others, the signs are few and far between.

"I've never seen them," said Eon Bethel, walking his dog along Mosholu Parkway. "Let people do what they wanna do. Let people barbecue out here. It's plenty space out here for anybody to grill." Bethel recalls his own experience of having his barbecue party broken up by police as it went on for several hours. "They just pulled up on us and said we gotta get our equipment, like the grill, everything, out," he said.

Norwood News previously reported a host of issues that can result from illegal barbecues, like excessive litter and food waste which attract vermin, noise complaints, damaged grass or trees from the incorrect dumping of coal, or the potential for small fires.

As cookout season kicks off, Park Enforcement Patrol (PEP) officers are once again tasked with ensuring summer barbecue rules don't go up in smoke.

A Parks Department spokeswoman said that 40 PEP officers are expected to patrol the parks during Memorial Day and July 4th holidays.

But timesheet records obtained through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Parks Department showed that 26 PEP officers patrolled Bronx parks last July 4th. This year, PEP will increase their numbers to 40 officers patrolling borough parks on Memorial Day and July 4th.

The Parks Department did not respond for comment on last year's PEP numbers.

Park officers are specifically tasked with patrolling public parks, even quelling disputes that sometimes can lead to arrests.

Sharing Duties

PEP officers share patrol duties with the NYPD.

Over the years, the Police Department has relaxed enforcement against illegal barbecuers, preferring to educate park guests about rules, and directing them to legal BBQ sites. In most cases, officers have used discretion when observing illegal barbecuing.

In some cases, officers have broken up parties in rougher ways. Last summer, an NYPD officer poured a gallon of water over a flaming charcoal grill on a Harlem street corner. The officer was lambasted by grillers and guests, even having food and ice thrown at him. Notwithstanding the officer's aggressive approach, it is illegal to have an open flame on any city sidewalk.

Throughout the summer, PEP officers will patrol hotspots like Devoe Park and Mosholu Parkway, and if needed, direct people to designated BBQ areas.

Sitting on a bench on the northern side of Mosholu Parkway, 17-year resident Jose Mulero says he's not a fan of summer barbecues. "They're there for five to six hours," Mulero said, referring to people barbecuing on the parkway. "I don't like it because of the smoke, the garbage, and the fire thrown on the trees."

According to Elizabeth Quaranta, president of the community group Friends of Mosholu Parkland, the red signs are not enough to detract determined barbecuers. "We are nowhere near prepared for the barbecue season," Quaranta said. "The outreach for letting people know where the barbecue areas in the Bronx [are] has been none from Parks Department."

Quaranta also believes that new visitors to the neighborhood aren't aware of the current barbecue rules. She said, "With the increase of housing and new families already here, and the new ones coming in, the Friends group are afraid that when they see someone barbecue on the parkway, they will assume that it is allowed."

Violators face a \$50 fine if caught illegally barbecuing. A \$250 fine will be given to people who disobey direct orders from police or PEP officers.

Editor's Note: *Parts of Van Cortlandt Park, Pelham Bay Park, Mill Pond Park, Ferry Point Park, and other Bronx parks allow for barbecuing. A full list can be found on Parks Department website: www.nycgovparks.org/facilities/barbecue.*

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