



# NORWOOD NEWS

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**INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER:**  
**STATE OF DEMOCRACY | PG. 4**



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**NORWOOD NEWS SNAPSHOTS | PG. 9**

## NEW CB7 CHAIR A RISING LEADER

*Jean Hill now replaces Adaline Walker-Santiago, who resigned*



Photo by José A. Giralt

**(L-R) NEWLY ELECTED CB7 chair Jean Hill, interim chair Barbara Stronczer, and acting secretary Nora Feury at the general board meeting inside Ross Hall at the New York Botanical Garden on June 19.**

**By MARTIKA ORNELLA,  
JOSE A. GIRALT,  
and DAVID CRUZ**

Jean Hill, a Community Board 7 member, was officially voted in as the new chair of CB7, humbly rising from her seat with a declaration to members: “[W]hen

you come back in September you be ready to work.”

“Everyone here has a job to do,” Hill told members at the latest general board meeting on June 19 at the New York Botanical Garden’s Ross Hall. “You know I can’t do this all by myself.”

A round of applause soon followed, kick started by Ischia Bravo, CB7’s district manager. The two were seen sitting together.

Hill fills out the term left vacant by Adaline Walker-Santiago, who sources told the *Norwood News* abruptly

stepped down amid political pressure. Walker-Santiago remains a member, but was absent.

Even before the vote, Hill had already secured a win. She had been nominated for chair at last month’s CB7

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**IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST****Local Debate Begins on Future of Specialized High School Test****By DAVID CRUZ**

Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie's decision to delay discussion on whether to keep or reject the Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT) opens the door for a yearlong conversation. And at least two local legislators look to keep the test, with one requesting add-ons be included.

Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz and state Senator Jamaal Bailey, representing Norwood, told the Norwood News that keeping the test is vital to the selection process of the city's most prestigious schools. Dinowitz

and Bailey both attended the Bronx High School of Science in Bedford Park, a highly sought-after specialized high school for placement.

Questions over whether to outright do away with the test comes amid a push by new Schools Chancellor Richard Carranza, whose position to phasing out the test is supported by Mayor Bill de Blasio. State legislation is required to make changes to the specialized high school requirements as a way to create equity at schools. Brooklyn-based lawmakers Assemblyman Charles Barron and Senator Kevin

S. Parker have introduced bills to lessen the importance of the test.

"When you create a situation like this, there're going to be winners and losers and most of the losers will be Asian-American students who might not get in because of this kind of change," said Dinowitz, in a phone interview with the Norwood News. "Rather than pit one group against another, we should be looking to enlarge the pie by increasing the number of specialized high schools because there are certainly a large enough supply of really bright kids

*(continued on page 8)***Letters To The Editor****Helping the Low-income  
and Minority**

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. proposes that Mayor Bill de Blasio implement legal help for low-income residents by 2020. The mayor currently is shooting for July 2022.

Here's a better idea. Move it up to as soon as possible. Poor people facing eviction need help not in two or four years, but right now. Besides, it's less costly for the city to keep residents in their apartments than to put them in homeless shelters.

In the May 10-23 *Norwood News*, Martika Ornella reports that de Blasio signed into law a bill requiring the development of a pilot program reserving off-space and municipal parking spaces for car-sharing programs. Ornella perfectly summed up the problem with

this when she wrote, "The effort makes car-sharing vehicles more widely available, though it knocks out parking spots for regular cars."

Things aren't any better in Forest Hills, Queens, where parking spaces have been eliminated for bike lanes. When I have visited a friend in the past, finding parking has been difficult enough. I fear how bad it will be now. Using public transit, it's a very long trip.

Businesses on Queens Boulevard have suffered due to parking spaces eliminated on their blocks.

On the education front, a third-grader at P.S. 146 gets dragged by his neck to the principal's office by another student's mother. School officials wouldn't identify the mother.

At P.S. 178, a mother complains about her son being repeatedly kicked in the groin. A teacher tells her that's

a game students commonly play. Who makes recreation policy there, Shinsuke Nakamura?

Meanwhile, education provided to non-Asian students of color has declined so much. The student population at the elite schools used to be 25 percent black and Hispanic. Now it's 7 percent. Does de Blasio propose to improve education in minority neighborhood schools? No! Instead he wants to lower standards for the top schools.

The federal government has forced de Blasio to finally devote more money to fixing NYCHA apartments. They consist mostly of people of color.

Then there's Thomas Jennings, a black man who was awarded \$3 million by a federal jury in a police brutality case. Under our allegedly progressive mayor, the cops involved, like most officers involved in wrongdoing, remain on the force. Just as it's always been.

It seems that de Blasio's allegedly progressive agenda is doing little for most people of color (or most other people).

**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 June 26; Community Relations & Long-Term Planning Committee meets on June 26 at 7:30 p.m.; Website Acknowledgement and Media Committee meets on June 27. For more information, call (718) 933-5650.

**52ND PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meets on June 21 at 7 p.m. at North Central Bronx Hospital, 3424 Kossuth Ave., at the 17th floor. For more information, call (718) 220-5824.

**Editors Note:** *These are the last meetings before Community Board 7 and the 52nd Precinct Community Council go on hiatus until September.*



# Five-Two Collars Three Suspects in Three Separate Norwood Killings

By DAVID CRUZ

Police have made three arrests for three separate murders that happened in Norwood over the last two months, a rarity for the north Bronx neighborhood.

Detectives from the 52nd Precinct and Bronx Homicide Task Force arrested Tyrone Frank, 33, on June 7, more than a month after police distributed wanted fliers alleging he fatally shot Dwayne Saunders, 37, of Queens on May 1.

Police said the shooting involving Saunders was sparked when Frank ran into Saunders hanging out in a playground with Saunders' current girlfriend and his ex-girlfriend, now going out with Frank. "Saunders and his current girlfriend were in the area getting his car fixed when they encountered his old girlfriend," said a police source. "The three of them go to the park to hang out, where Frank en-

counters them and shoots Saunders."

Saunders was found shot at the corner of East 209th Street and Perry Avenue. His death was the second in a list of fatalities that happened with Norwood's boundaries in recent weeks.

Saunders was known by officers of the 52nd Precinct.

Frank has a criminal record, having registered as a sex offender since 2003 after he was found guilty of pimping a 14-year-old girl.

The Norwood killing spree began on April 23, when a 38-year-old man was shot to death inside 3152 Hull Ave. On May 29, Damion C. Gilbert, 18, was found by police stabbed to death at the corner of DeKalb Avenue and East 212th Street.

The fatal stabbing pushed the homicide rate at three, one more than the total number of homicides that happened at the Five-Two last year.

On June 8, police arrested Roshawn



Image courtesy NYPD

**POLICE ARRESTED AND** charged Tyrone Frank for the murder of Dwayne Saunders on a Norwood street on May 1.

Pine, 23, with second degree murder, manslaughter, assault, and other

charges.

Meanwhile, police have arrested Derrick Johnson, 31, of Brooklyn in connection with the April 23 fatal shooting of Rommel Goode, 38, of Brooklyn. The shooting happened inside 3152 Hull Ave. just off East 205th Street and a half-mile from where Saunders was killed a week later.

A police source said that Goode had been staying with his girlfriend at her uncle's apartment. The couple got into a fight that continued for two days. The uncle called Johnson for help. "When he and a friend arrive, Johnson starts banging on the door. When he finally forced the door open, Goode's standing there with a gun and shoots him several times.

"We knew who he was and we have pictures of him fleeing to the subway."

*Additional reporting by Bob Kapp-statter*

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## INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



# With the upcoming Fourth of July holiday, we asked readers their thoughts on the current state of democracy in the United States.



I think most things are going great. I do think the government needs to provide more support for homeless shelters, because there're just not doing enough for the homeless. We also need more jobs for those able to work and more money to house the homeless, because it's still a big problem. The upcoming holiday I plan on attending a couple of cookouts here in the Bronx.

**Alicia Salinas**  
Norwood



I don't believe there is democracy. I think the president we have in the White House now is degrading the laws that protect us and he's completely torn up the Constitution. Because I believe it starts from the top and eventually comes down to us. But now we have to start from the bottom and work our way up to bring about democracy. I worry for our democracy every day. Being an African American, I have to worry because a lot of times when the Constitution is torn up, we're the first ones it has an effect on. I plan on spending the Fourth of July with family; maybe we'll have a cookout.

**Muhammad Nathaniel**  
Morris Heights



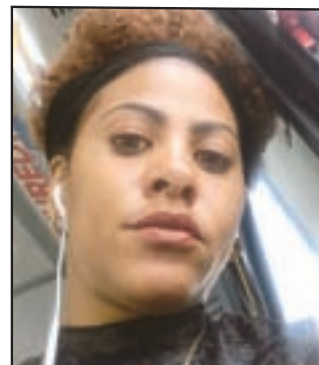
Individually, I think we're in a good place because I work in construction and I see the difference in pay and I'm from a country that caters to tourists. I'm originally from Jamaica. But collectively, I think we're in a bad place as a country because no one wants to listen to anyone and it could turn sour at any moment, and that's not good. If it turns sour then no one is going to live peacefully, it's going to be a mess. Everyone goes back to their original countries and we'll leave the Indians here by themselves. We're all here together, we've got to live together so we have to find a way to get along. I plan on spending the fourth camping in Maine for two weeks.

**Headley Sewell**  
Van Nest



American democracy is good because it gives freedom of speech, freedom of movement. People can demonstrate anytime, anywhere they want with the permission of the authorities in charge. Freedom of speech, women's empowerment. You can stand up and say what you feel about your own rights. If you look at the democratic system itself, more people need to stand up and recognize what it stands for and what it really means. I live in the Bronx and you have people from many different nations coming here. Kudos to the democratic system of the United States.

**Tijam Touray**  
Soundview



Freedom should be cherished, just ask the families who are being separated at the border today. A strong democracy would not separate mothers from their children. It only brings heartbreak and discourages, even tarnishes, the American dream, which in itself is an institution. We need to, again, join hands and defend the vulnerable and the innocent. I'm working on the morning of July [Fourth], but I'll find something captivating to do with my friends.

**Andrea Nesbeth**  
Co-Op City

## 25K Crops Expected to Grow at DeWitt Clinton HS School Farm

By **CHRISTY RAE AMMONS**

DeWitt Clinton High School is now home to the largest student-operated hydroponic system in New York and is expected to produce 25,000 lbs. of vegetables and herbs annually. That is enough to feed all 2,200 students lunch daily, with over 300 lbs. a week left over for the community.

Officials unveiled the futuristic farm on June 2.

Whatever produce isn't used for school lunches will be donated to food pantries and emergency food assistance, like Good Shepherd Services at the school or City Harvest. The students will also set up a small farm market at the school, selling produce and accepting food assistance benefits as payment.

Inside the farm, plants occupy the shelves of large racks. A recirculating water system feeds them, and uses 90 percent less water than traditional agriculture. Instead of soil, the plants sink their roots into a reusable coconut-hulled fiber dubbed coco coir. LED lights provide artificial sunlight for the plants.

While the farm's unveiling took

place this month, it began construction in September 2017. With \$126,870 from the Green Mountain Energy Sun Club and additional funding from Councilman Andrew Cohen, representing Norwood, the school repurposed an unused chemistry lab for the farm.

Members from the Teens for Food Justice (TFFJ)/Sun Club program began growing produce after winter break, and by the time of the unveiling, more than 6,000 plants that include lettuce, herbs, swiss chard, bok choy, cucumbers, and tomatoes were cultivated.

Not only are the students responsible for running the farm, but they have been learning about the importance of their work. "In the neighborhood around the school, there is little availability of unprocessed food," said Katherine Soll, CEO of TFFJ. "Our students, particularly through our afterschool program, focus on learning about nutrition and health, and also how to advocate for a more just food system."

Teachers and parents are fully on board with the project. "They [teachers] see in their students a real in-



Photo courtesy Teens for Food Justice (TFFJ)/Sun Club

**DEWITT CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL** ninth grade student Miguel Graham cares for this crop of tomatoes at the school's hydroponic farm.

crease in enthusiasm and pride in the school, and I think that's something that's really important," said Soll.

Miguel Graham, a ninth grade student in the afterschool club, strongly believes in the importance of the food education students are receiving. "... [I]t will help people to understand the meaning of greens and healthy food, and why it's better," he said. "If we eat more healthy and stop eating all

these junk foods, we will live a longer life, and I'm sure that everyone in this world would like a longer life."

Working in the farm has been a way for students to connect with each other and with their community. "It puts us together to learn how to work together and do all these things to help the world and our community," said Miguel. "We want to help the world and we want to have a better life."



# What You Should Know About the Bronx Bike-Share Program

By JOSE A. GIRALT

Officials from the city Department of Transportation (DOT) presented a slideshow to Community Board 7's Traffic & Transportation Committee explaining how the new dockless bike share pilot program will work.

Unlike the popular Citi Bike program that dominates Manhattan, the Bronx's program will not include the bulky and space consuming docking stations. Instead, residents will use an app to unlock the bikes which will be parked on sidewalks.

Bikes will be available throughout community board 5 and 6, with a small part of the southernmost section of CB7 included. Although the bikes will be only available in the designated areas, bikers can ride anywhere as long as they return them within the boundaries.

The Fordham neighborhood was chosen because of its central location, according to David Arancio, director of com-



Photo courtesy Daniel Lobo/Creative Commons

**DOCKLESS BIKE SHARING** program in Washington, D.C. A similar program is coming to the Bronx this summer.

munity affairs and planning at DOT. "We wanted an area that is diverse and included a mix of schools, commercial districts, and residential buildings," he said.

The final boundaries have not been laid out by the city, so far. The DOT has fanned across the city to the relevant community boards to determine final

boundaries and choose which bike sharing company will be assigned to the neighborhood. Ofo, a Chinese bike share company, is one of 12 vendors vying for a city contract. They charge riders \$1 per hour without a membership.

The city will begin phasing in the bikes by July.

But committee members

worry the program could increase congestion. CB7 board member Yajaira Arias lives by the Grand Concourse and 192nd Street and sees potential problems with parking bikes on sidewalks. "I know certain sections will be problematic. If you look at the buses, subways, merchants, and pedestrians that come together in my neighbor-

hood, I know people will complain about adding bikes to sidewalks," says Arias.

Whatever difficulties may arise from rolling out the program in the Bronx, Amril Hamer, Bronx Organizer of Transportation Alternatives, sees many more positive outcomes for residents. "The Bronx has some of the highest rates of obesity, asthma, diabetes, and hyper-tension in the country. Bike riding is a convenient way to get people to exercise," she says. She also notes the program will offer an option for those who seek relief from delays on MTA subways and buses.

"Our data has shown that bike ridership has increased in the Bronx and we believe it has to do with frustration over worsening service problems on mass transit," Hamer says.

Hamer is hopeful the bike sharing program will succeed in the Bronx. "Anytime we can get people up and moving, that's a good thing," she says.

## Defunct Garage Displaying Relic Wall Sign Could Come Down

By ANGEL MINDANAO

Though at first glance, the garage at 383 E. 201st St. appears to be simply old and abandoned, in its alleyway is a historic relic that could come down.

At the last monthly Bedford Mosholu Community Association meeting, president Barbara Stronczer announced that a developer had purchased the garage, putting a wall sign at risk while also lowering the chance the garage will ever be used for its intended purpose. The wall sign reads "Vote Henry Bruckn," with a portion of its right side painted over.

Stronczer told residents that she came out of her apartment building two weeks prior and found three men taking down the garage's sign that read "Available Parking Space." Upon inquiring, the men told her that "an Albanian man" bought it.

City financial records show that the property was purchased by a group that went by the name of 390 Mosholu LLC. Stronczer said that this implies that they may designate Mosholu Parkway as the front of the building.

"It sounds very suspicious that it may become an apartment building



Photo by Angel Mindanao

**THE HISTORICAL AD** on the side of this building at 383 E. 201st St. (pictured) reads "Vote Henry Bruckn."

because I think that would be more profitable to have an address on Mosholu," she said. "We may be hearing about demolition."

Several local residents told the *Norwood News* that the property has always been abandoned. A 20-year resident who only went by Jose C. and was employed at Mary's Dry Cleaners said that he knew nothing about the garage

"except that it used to be owned by a German woman." A neighbor, who went only by Beny, said that in all the 10 years that he lived there, he had not heard anything about the owner or its development.

The garage building's wall sign could likely be referring to Henry Bruckner, who served as a state assemblyman in 1901, was a congress-

man from 1912 until 1917, and then went on to serve as the fifth borough president until 1933. He died in 1947.

Lisa Keller, a SUNY Purchase College history professor, told the *Daily News* that taller buildings became mainstream as the size of buildings grew in the early 20th century. She said that wall signs, from the 1920s to the 1940s, were a cheap type of advertisement, but as building density increased, they became less popular.

Colleen M. Heemeyer, an employee at the New York Landmarks Conservancy, a nonprofit that provides education on the landmarks process, said that the building is not a designated landmark. "One would have to petition the building to become a landmark through the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission," she said.

Angel Hernandez with The Bronx Historical Society told the *Norwood News* that wall signs were "a very popular way of advertising. You'll see it all over the South Bronx. They are reminders of how businesses sold their products. It's just as Bronx as anything else."

## Fordham Farmers Market Now Accepts Food Scraps

A weekly farmers market hosted by GrowNYC opened June 15 in Fordham Plaza and is interested in compiling your organic waste. On top of its array of fresh regional produce, the Fordham Plaza Greenmarket will also feature a food scrap collection for visitors to dump their food waste.

The food scrap collection is an initiative organized by the nonprofit in partnership with the city Sanitation Department that started last year in Fordham Plaza, on East Fordham Road between Webster and Third avenues. Nearly 2,000 pounds of vegetable scraps, stale bread, and coffee grounds were donated and later turned into compost for gardens and other green spaces during last year's donation period.

This year, the food scrap collection has been added as a permanent feature of the market and visitors are encouraged to deposit their food scraps between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m. Items, such as tea bags, eggshells, and dried plants, are acceptable. But make sure not to recycle any animal products, such as meat, bones and dairy to the collection.

The Fordham Plaza Greenmarket will also have a separate collection for clothing, textiles, and shoes. In addition to serving as tax-deductible donations, the items deposited will be reused and recycled into new products such as rags and insulation.

Food waste and textiles make up 27 percent of the city's waste, a reason the city is attempting to further reduce the city's environmental impact. Through GrowNYC's Greenmarkets across the five boroughs, the program has already collected more than 5 million pounds of clothing and textiles and 11 million pounds of food scraps since 2011.

The Fordham Plaza Greenmarket is open Fridays through Nov. 30. Food scraps and clothing are collected from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, visit [www.grownyc.org/](http://www.grownyc.org/) or call (212) 788-7964.

—Sophia Ebanks

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## Struggling Non-Profit Running Its Course

By JOSE GIRALT

The Kingsbridge Heights Neighborhood Improvement Association (KHNIA) may not celebrate its 39th anniversary next year. The grassroots nonprofit faces eviction with no plans for an alternate location, entering an uncertain future that will be settled in Housing Court.

The organization operates out of 2805 University Ave. by its vice president and outreach coordinator, Elizabeth Thompson. The building management company, The Morgan Group, is proceeding with an eviction action after KHNIA accrued \$6,000 in back rent. Until a final ruling is made on the eviction, a judge is allowing Thompson to use the apartment for one hour a day to take care of business matters on behalf of the waning group.

Thompson is trying a variety of fundraising activities to meet the group's financial obligations. "I've organized flea markets and an Easter egg hunt so we could keep paying our bills," Thompson says.

She has also made financial requests to New York City Council members, reached out to Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., and contacted individuals from the Bronx Democratic County Committee in search of additional funds. "I haven't heard back from any of them," says Thompson.



Photo credit: Google Maps

**2805 UNIVERSITY AVE.** houses the office of the Kingsbridge Heights Neighborhood Improvement Association. The organization has accrued \$6,000 in back rent and faces eviction from the building management company, The Morgan Group.

Under the leadership of founder Al Chapman, who passed away in February 2017, the organization had a paid director, treasurer, and had hired organizers to help with the various issues affecting the neighborhood. It also could count on funding of up to \$25,000 from convicted State Senator Pedro Espada, Jr., a seat currently held by State Senator Gustavo Rivera, according to Thompson. "I remember Al commenting how generous Espada was with the association," Thompson says. Under new rules member items have been eliminated at the Legislature. The group is now searching for a grant writer who can volunteer their services as they cobble donations.

Throughout its history KHNIA

has taken up community issues from fighting the closing of a Citibank branch in the 1980s to supporting parents protesting the busing of 5-year-olds from PS 86 to PS 257 in Tremont.

KHNIA was also an active voice in the repurposing of the Kingsbridge Armory. Through the years it has made sure that residents' concerns were heard with every idea proposed from plans to turn it into a shopping center to the creation of public schools within the massive structure. The Armory is now slated to become the Kingsbridge National Ice Center.

A review of 990 tax forms that are required to be filed by nonprofit groups reveals that KHNIA has not filed its taxes since 2004. Its last 990 form covering their fiscal year ending June 2003 reveals direct financial support from the public of \$19,471 and an ending fund balance of \$26,662 after paying expenses.

After a hearing in the Bronx Housing Court June 15, Thompson was given one week to return before the judge and present eyewitness proof that other board members recognize her as Chapman's successor. This recognition will allow her to make official decisions on behalf of the board.

"Money or no money, the board's mission must go on. We're praying to get it done," says Thompson.

## For NYCHA Residents, Resolve

After years of complaints from residents of the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) about problems such as lead poisoning in children, the city has agreed to provide \$1.2 billion in capital funding over the course of five years and \$200 million every year thereafter to improve conditions in public housing.

Geoffrey S. Berman, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and Scott Pruitt, Secretary of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), filed a legal complaint against the administration that houses a population of 400,000 after mismanagement of services led employees to ly-

ing on inspection reports.

According to the Berman, among the inadequacies of New York's public housing were rat and roach infestations, elevator outages, and mold in apartments. During the winter of this year, 320,000 residents, which make up 80 percent of the public housing population, had no heat. The problems were enabled in part by NYCHA staff who were provided with a list of "Quick Fix Tips" to improve its Public Housing Assessment System inspection scores.

For Councilman Ritchie Torres of District 15, the former chair of the Council's public committee and longstanding advocate for fixing public hous-

ing, the finding "exposes systemic falsehood and failure at the highest levels of the de Blasio Administration and the New York City Housing Authority."

"New Yorkers have every right to feel betrayed by a government that not only lied to them but also put their health and safety at risk," said Torres in a statement. "As a product of public housing, I surely do."

Mayor Bill de Blasio defended his administration, telling reporters at a news conference, "The federal government disinvested progressively over years but the city and the state government often turned their backs on public housing as well.

—Angel Mindanao





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# A Seat at The Table

*Local democrats want vacant county committee seats filled this summer*

By **MARTIKA ORNELLA**  
and **DAVID CRUZ**

As the Bronx political season kicks into high gear, community organizers like Samelys Lopez of Bedford Park are working to ensure more equitable political participation across the borough. This not only includes going to the polls, but running for a county committee seat, a governing body composed of members of the same political party.

As it stands, the process is esoteric. How does one get on a county committee?

The question stood at the heart of a workshop organized by Lopez, who corralled community activists and leaders from various political groups across the city to St. Paul's Church in Parkchester on May 26. The groups present veered away from establishment political clubs.

Lopez's group, Local Democrats of New York, co-hosted the panel with Bronx Progressives, another political group, with the aim of crystallizing the role county committees play while encouraging guests to consider a run. Panelists, including the Brooklyn-based Rep Your Block, You Matter Nation, and the Albany-based County Committee Sunlight Project, shared their experiences as committee mem-

bers and as organizers working to expand civic participation.

To become a county committee member, one needs signatures, a process called petitioning. This year's process began on June 5 and ends July 12.

Understanding the mechanics of county committee is absent on the website for the Bronx Democratic Party, the main political party that up until recently was known as the Bronx Democratic County Committee. Its website is dated, and county committee bylaws, which dictate party rules and the arcane county committee process, are not posted. Marcos Crespo, chair of the Bronx Democratic Party, said the rules can be seen at the Bronx Board of Elections office.

Despite little commitment required of committee members, a third of Bronx Democratic Party county committee seats stand vacant, according to documents filed by the New York State Board of Elections. Committee membership is the second highest in the city, with higher vacancies in Queens, Brooklyn, and Staten Island. But, not everyone is convinced the borough's membership rate is accurate.

"To say that they're active isn't exactly true," said Michael Beltzer, a Soundview resident who recently ran



Photo courtesy Michael Beltzer

**BEN YEE (LEFT)**, secretary of the Manhattan Democratic County Committee and spokesman from the County Committee Sunlight Project, speaks to attendees of Local Democrats of New York's May 26 county committee workshop panel.

for the 32nd Senate District seat occupied by Sen. Luis Sepulveda after his predecessor, Ruben Diaz Sr., vacated the seat to become Councilman. Beltzer co-founded Local Democrats of New York with Lopez, adding "[County] committee should be active and discussing policy and different things that can be reformed, but it currently doesn't do that."

One of the workshop's panelists, Rev. Carmen Hernandez of Soundview, questioned the commitment of the Bronx Democratic Party to fill county seats. "This is a political gang," Hernandez said. "They vote for each other, they stick together."

"The perception some critics try to create, either to demoralize county committee members or to allege that Bronx County somehow misleads or misuses our County Committee is absurd and void of truth," Crespo told the *Norwood News*. Crespo also believes it's important to not misinform potential members of the limited power county committee members hold.

Indeed, the influence county committee seats hold—much like the powers of a U.S. vice president—are broad but narrow. The body's true influence comes when a state legislator vacates a seat, opening the door for committee members falling in the district of the vacant seat to convene and decide who will fill the seat. This is done with very little influence from the Bronx's general voting bloc.

Lopez believes increasing county committee membership will increase the number of voters going to the polls this election season. The Bronx produced the lowest voter turnout in the city during the 2016 presidential election, with 52 percent of registered voters casting a ballot.

As it stands, all 2,500 county committee seats in the Bronx are currently up for election, with seats rarely contested.

As a largely Democratic county, committee seats in the Bronx are comprised of registered Democrats who live within the assembly district they petition in. Each assembly district is made up of election districts, which usually span a handful of city blocks. Anyone who lives in these election districts can run for county committee, and each election district has about two to four available seats.

Prospective committee members will need to gather signatures from at least five percent of the election district they're running in. For instance, if someone runs in Election District 38, within the 78th Assembly District, they would need 39 signatures out of the 780 registered Democrats living in that district.

Candidates for county committee only appear on ballots if their seat is contested.

## Local Debate Begins on Future of Specialized High School Test

(continued from page 2)

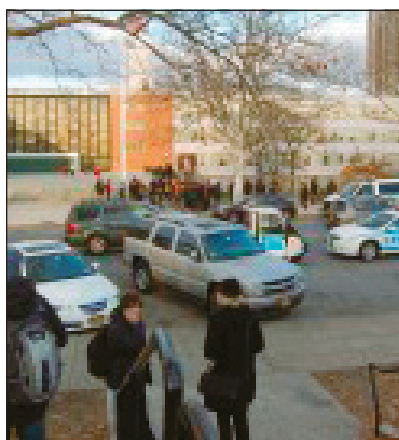
who would do well in specialized high schools."

Much of the controversy is centered on the lack of black and Hispanic students that are selected for a specialized high school. The latest figures by the city Education Department show that even though 70 percent of public school students are black or Hispanic, a combined 10.5 percent of black and Hispanic students were offered placement to a specialized high school in 2017. White and Asian students largely make up a specialized high school's demographics. A high score on the test stands as the only determining factor for placement.

Bailey, who represents Norwood, says the lack of awareness of the test is one reason behind the largely absent black and Hispanic representa-

tion at specialized high schools stemming from elementary and middle schools under-promoting the test. "I happened to be lucky enough to go to a great elementary school and a great middle school. Unfortunately, the reality is that many of our children in black and brown communities don't get that same chance, so they don't get the awareness of the test. By the time they hear about the test they're not prepared,"

Bailey introduced a package of bills aimed at equalizing the specialized high school admissions process. The bills, if passed, would create a pre-SHSAT exam to prepare students for the real test, along with expanding test prep initiatives and the Discovery Program, geared toward low-income students are not widely available or publicized throughout the public school system.



File photo

**BRONX HIGH SCHOOL** of Science in Bedford Park stands as one of the more desirable specialized high schools, with many students taking more than an hour train ride to study there.

Dinowitz's purist stance on admissions differs from Bailey, who wants the process to be viewed

from a "multiple measure lens" that also includes the test.

"Seeing how great somebody is as a test-taker doesn't necessarily mean they're gonna be a great student," said Bailey. "And simply just because somebody gets good grades in a middle school environment doesn't necessarily mean it's going to translate over to a high school environment, whether specialized or not."

Should the legislation pass, Dinowitz cautions it could lower the prestigious quality of specialized high schools.

"I think there will certainly be a perception that they've lowered the standard and therefore the school will be less desirable," said Dinowitz, adding, "I think Bronx Science will always be a desirable."



# NORWOOD NEWS



Photo by David Cruz

**IMAM MOHAMMED MASHUD IQUBAL** leads several hundred Muslims in prayer at Williamsbridge Oval Park on June 15 for Eid Al Fitr, the holiday that marks the end of Ramadan. Members of the North Bronx Islamic Center were on hand to take part in the mass prayer on the morning of June 15. The center is close to opening the long awaited center on East 206th Street off Bainbridge Avenue.



Photo by Sophia Ebanks

**(L-R) FRIENDS OF THE 52ND Precinct** Betty Arce, Doug Condit, Sirio Guerino, Heather Guerino, and 52nd Precinct Community Affairs Officer Stephen Echeverria are all smiles as they socialize and help out at the fourth annual open house hosted by the 52nd Precinct Community Council on June 15 at the stationhouse.



Photo by José A. Giralt

**NEW YORK CITY** Mayor Bill de Blasio (in pink tie) and FDNY Commissioner Daniel A. Nigro (in light blue tie) attend the renaming of Boston Road and East 169th Street in honor of EMT Yadira Arroyo in the Bronx, on June 15. Arroyo was killed March 16, 2017 by an alleged gang member who hijacked her FDNY ambulance and ran her over.



Photo by José A. Giralt

**THESE "NO BARBECUING"** signs have now been placed on Mosholu Parkway to complement the already established "No Barbecuing" signs along the greenway. The signs come amid a high frequency of illegal barbecue along the parkway's walls.



Photo by David Greene

**THIS AEROBICS INSTRUCTOR (L)** leads a free outdoor workout during "Unity in the Community" day at DeWitt Clinton High School on June 16, which included games of chess, a demo of the hydroponic farm, and a bouncy castle.



Photo by Sophia Ebanks

**NURSE ROSEMARY BARRETT** (right) embraces and gives gift to 99-year-old Ada McDonald (seated) during the annual Centennial Celebration event at the St. Patrick's Home on June 19.

# Have an Opinion On What You've Read in Our Paper?

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welcomes and encourages  
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**Bronx, NY 10467**

*Letters should be 400 words max, and  
include writer's name. Anonymous let-  
ters will not be published, but names  
will be withheld upon reasonable  
request.*



## Skin Cancer: What You Should Know to Detect and Prevent It

**By DR. AMANDA PARSONS**

More people are diagnosed with skin cancer each year than all other cancers combined and one in five Americans will develop skin cancer by the age of 70. You can protect yourself by checking your body for signs of skin cancer and by taking precautionary steps.

### Checking Your Body

Moles and other brown spots on the skin are usually harmless. Use the ABCDEs to help you decide whether or not you need to see a doctor:

**Asymmetric:** This means that the spot is not even so that if you draw a line down the middle, the two halves do not match. For example, if half of the spot is very round and the other half is splotchy, you should get it seen by a doctor.

**Border:** Many skin cancers have irregular borders, meaning the edges are not smooth. Perhaps they look scalloped or indented.

**Color:** Normal moles, spots, or growths are usually all one color. Skin cancers however can have multiple shades of the same color (e.g. two different brown colors) or can become other colors like red or blue.

**Diameter:** Skin cancers tend to be bigger than most moles (think the size of the eraser or a pencil or bigger).

**Evolving:** Skin cancers tend to change in size, color, shape, and/or texture. They may even start to crust or bleed.

### Preventing Skin Cancer

To prevent skin cancer, the best thing to do is stay out of the sun during peak hours (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.). If you do go out in the sun, the best

protection is clothing (long sleeves and pants), hats and UV-protection sunglasses. For any parts of your skin that are exposed wear a broad spectrum sunscreen (covering both UVA and UVB rays) and reapply frequently, especially if you are sweating or going in the water. It is best to use sunscreen with an SPF of at least 15 or 30 (definitely use 30 if you are outside for long periods of time).

UV tanning beds are very unsafe and should be avoided at all costs. If you need to look tanner than you currently are, consider a spray tan or self-tanning cream instead. These are safe and can give you the same healthy glow, without the risk of cancer.

Remember, babies under the age of 6 months can't wear sunscreen so they should always be kept out of the sun. There are stroller covers and little tents designed for this purpose, but be also mindful that babies don't tolerate the heat very well and can rapidly overheat. The safest place for a baby is away from heat and direct sunlight.

Remember, the more your skin burns, the higher the risk of skin cancer.

Getting your body checked over by a doctor every year as part of your annual physical is a good way to supplement your own self-check.

Enjoy the summer and stay safe.

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



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5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL

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## NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

### Insurance Help

Free insurance enrollment help is available at NYC Health + Hospitals/North Central Bronx, 3424 Kossuth Ave., from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on June 21, 22, 28 and 29. For more information, call 311.

### New Social Security Cards

New replacement Social Security cards can be now obtained by going to [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount). The new cards will no longer include the Social Security number to further protect privacy. For more detailed information, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber\\_](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber_).

### 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](mailto: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.

### Rent Freeze Programs

University Neighborhood Housing Program offers assistance in applying for a rent freeze through the state SCRIE/DRIE programs. Eligible applicants must be at least 62 years old, have someone in their house at least 62 years old, or disabled (receiving SSI/SSD benefits). Sessions are available Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Refuge House, 2715 Bainbridge Ave. (corner of East 196th Street). For more information and to RSVP, call (718) 933-2539.

### Naloxone Availability

Individuals with prescription health insurance coverage, including Medicaid and Medicare, can receive up to \$40 in co-payment coverage for naloxone. This medicine is used to reverse opioid overdoses. Uninsured New Yorkers and those with no prescription coverage can get naloxone for free through New York's network of registered opioid overdose prevent programs. A listing of pharmacies accepting the new health insurance coverage can be found at <https://a816-healthpsi.nyc.gov/NYHealthMap>.

### BronxNet Workshops

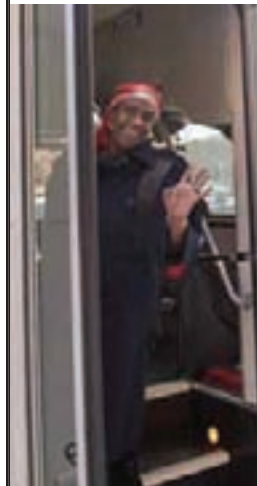
Residents can sign up for hands-on training workshop in video production using professional equipment and studios. Certification provides producers with access to broadcast time on BronxNet channels. The summer 2018 training cycle begins on July 9. To register, go to [www.bronxnet.org](http://www.bronxnet.org) or email [training@bronxnet.org](mailto:training@bronxnet.org) for more information.

### Community Reinvestment Act Forum

A forum analyzing the history of the 1977 Community Reinvestment Act, the federal law that continues to help revitalize the Bronx today takes place at Serviam Gardens, the Building A Theatre, 323 E. 198th St., on June 28 from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. Registration is required through Eventbrite at <http://bit.ly/2tc4MzV>.

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# Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

## EDITOR'S PICK

### Wellness Fair

The public is invited to a Wellness Fair sponsored by Mosholu Preservation Corporation, NYC Department of Small Business Services, and Friends of Mosholu Parkland, at Frisch Field, Webster Avenue and Botanical Square (East Mosholu Parkway South), on June 24 from noon to 4 p.m. Events include games, fun activities, music, refreshments, treats, and more. For more information, call (718) 324-4461.

### Onstage

The Bronx Arts Ensemble presents **free concerts**: Latin jazz on June 22 and oldies, pop, and R&B music on July 8, both at the Williamsbridge Oval at 6:30 p.m.; and **A Salute to America** on July 4 at 2 p.m. at Rockwood Drive Circle in Van Cortlandt Park (Mosholu Avenue and Broadway near the stables. For more information, call (718) 543-8672.

### Events

Holy Nativity Church, 3016 Bainbridge Ave., holds  **flea market/fundraiser** for its food pantry, June 30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.. Fish dinners will be sold as well as shoes, clothing, books, household items, jewelry and discounted items. Vendor tables are available for \$20. For more information, call (718) 652-5853.

Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. and State Senator Jeff Klein co-host **"New York Salutes America"** free fireworks celebration, June 28 from 6 to 10 p.m. at Orchard Beach, featuring fun and music. For more information, visit [www.ilovethebronx.com](http://www.ilovethebronx.com).

Williamsbridge Oval offers free: **Metropolitan Opera Summer Recital Series**, June 23 at 3 p.m.; and **film**: "Moana," June 26 at 8:30 p.m. (bring blanket and chairs). For more information and a detailed schedule, call (718) 543-8672.

Bedford Park Congregational Church, 309 E. 201st St. (Bainbridge Avenue), is holding a **Lawn Party** (cookout/picnic), June 24 at 1 p.m. Food offered includes hamburgers and hot dogs from the grill and a variety of salads and desserts; \$10/adults; \$5/children. For more information, call (718) 733-3199.

Bronx County Archives, 3313 Bainbridge Ave. presents free public lecture, **Islands of the Bronx**, June 30 at 1 p.m., featuring both well known and lesser known islands in the Bronx. For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

Nest Music Conservatory presents **Karaoke in the Park**, at Magenta Playground, 3330 Olinville Ave., June 30 from 2 to 5 p.m. Visitors can enjoy free snacks, gifts and prizes. For more information, visit [nestmusicinc.org](http://nestmusicinc.org).

The Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance (BAAD), 2474 Westchester Ave., presents its 18th annual **Out Like That Festival**, through June 26, celebrating gay pride in the Bronx. Events include dance, film, theater and performances. For more information and a detailed schedule, call (718) 918-2110.

Bronx County Historical Society presents **History Comes Alive at Bronx Cemeteries Trolley Tours**, to visit the graves of the famous, June 23 from noon

to 5 p.m. (\$40). For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

The New York Botanical Garden's **Farmers Market** is scheduled to be held Wednesdays through Oct. 31 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., just inside the Mosholu entrance and across the street from the Botanical Garden station of the Metro North commuter railroad. Also scheduled are **Salute to the Crescent City: New Orleans**, concert on June 22 at 7 p.m. (bring blankets and chairs; \$43/ members; \$48/non members); **Hula With Music**, live demonstrations, June 23 and 24 and June 30 and July 1, all at noon, 1, and 2 p.m.; **Artisan Demonstrations**, featuring puppet and lei making, Hawaiian instrument crafting, storytelling, and more, June 24 and 30 and July 1, all from 1 to 4 p.m. (bring your own ukelele); **The Paper Microscope**, for ages 8+, at the Discovery Center, weekends this summer, to make portable microscopes to take home, June 23 and 24 and June 30 and July 1, all from 2 to 3:30 p.m.; **Aloha Night**, featuring live music and interactive hula lessons (ages 21+: \$28/members; \$38/non members; and ages 2 to 12: \$13/members; \$18/non members), June 23 and 30 from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m.; and **Film Screenings: Hawaii Past and Present**, June 24 and July 1, both at 2 p.m. For more information, call (718) 817-8700.

**Wave Hill**, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Art Projects**: Butterfly Habitat Hats, to make a butterfly habitat hat filled with flowers and insects, June 23 and 24; and Love-a-Tree Canvas Bags, to use stencils and fabric paints to make tree art on your bag, June 30 and July 1; both in the WH House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also scheduled is **Sunset Wednesdays: Live Music on the Great Lawn**, June 27 at 7 p.m.: The Hot Sardines performing classic jazz. Concerts will move indoors in case of inclement weather. 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

The Museum of Bronx History, 3266 Bainbridge Ave. (208th Street), presents **Bronx Expo - The**



File photo

BRONX OFFICIALS WILL celebrate the Fourth of July at Orchard Beach (see Events section for more information).

**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.

### Library Events

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents for children: **Hands-on Projects**: (ages 5 to 12; preregistration required), Bookmark Making, June 21 and Heart Bumblebee Making, June 28, both at 4 p.m.; and Paper Plate Fish Making, June 24 at 3:30 p.m. Teens/young adults can attend **films**: "The Maltese Falcon," June 23 at 2:30 p.m. and "The Maze Runner," June 29 at 3:30 p.m. Adults can enjoy **An Afternoon With Davalois Fearon Dance**: meet and greet lecture demonstration including video performance and dialogue, June 30 at 2:30 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 ages 5 to 12: **Crafty Fridays at 3 p.m.**: crafts, June 22 and 29; and **STEM: Kids Science at 3 p.m.**: June 26 (music) and July 3 (electronics/electricity). Adults can attend **Knitting Circle**: Thursdays at 3 p.m. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

Jerome Park Library, 118 Eames Place (near Kingsbridge Road, offers for children: **Little Dramatics Workshop**: (ages 3 to 5), summer program includes making marionette puppets, play theatre games and explore the world of drama, June 27 at 4 p.m. Adults can enjoy **Computer Basics**: July 5 at noon. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

Van Cortlandt Library, 3874 Sedgwick Ave., presents **free films**: "A Wrinkle in Time," June 23 and "Cars," June 30, both at noon; and "Frozen," June 27 at 3:30 p.m.

**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 June 25 for the next publication date of July 5.



Photo courtesy Stephanie Berger/Wave Hill

GET READY FOR Sunset Wednesdays all throughout the summer at Wave Hill (see Events section for more information).



# New CB7 Chair A Rising Leader

(continued from page 1)

general board meeting, running unopposed. But she didn't want to jinx her presumptive win. In an interview a day before winning, Hill spoke to the *Norwood News* saying she did not want to discuss the future.

That didn't mean she wasn't already thinking of the a myriad of issues that need to be addressed.

Hill has been a part of the Norwood community for over four decades, and she's ready to continue her work to improve it. Listing impending rezoning, overcrowded schools, insufficient parking, and unaffordable housing as some of the issues she will continue to tackle, no matter her title, Hill has plans for CB7. The board covers Norwood, Bedford Park, parts of Fordham, Kingsbridge Heights, and University Heights.

"There's a lot of work in the community that needs to be done," Hill said. "The only way to get something done, is to go out and do it. And that's how I work."

Hill's ascension as chair now gives her greater influence in the northwest Bronx community. She is also the district leader for the 81st Assembly District, and also serves as the longtime president of the Tracey Towers Tenants Association. Hill was at one point treasurer of CB7. She was also the board's chair

of Land Use, Zoning, and Housing Committee.

Last year, Hill narrowly lost the vote for CB7 chair to Walker-Santiago.

CB7 chairs are limited to serving no more than three consecutive one-year terms, and are allowed to remain community board members after their chairmanship ends.

One issue that's on Hill's mind: getting an elevator at the Mosholu Parkway train station. Currently, there are plans to build an elevator at the D train station in Bedford Park. According to Hill, Mosholu Parkway needs the elevator more.

"We desperately need [an elevator] here," Hill said. "We're on Mosholu Parkway. We have Tracey Towers, two hospitals, a high school, a college, and we don't have an elevator for people to get up to the subway platform."

As the president of Tracey Towers' Tenants Association, Hill has spent years advocating for affordable housing in the area, and believes the solution isn't as simple as new development. She aims to use the civic power she's amassed, as chair, tenant president and district leader to impact the sort of housing development rising nearby.

"We have a varied range of income in the area that has to be supported

by the new development," Hill said. "When you have young professionals, we're going to need housing that will fit their needs too."

That means more mixed-income housing, but not at the expense of longtime, low-income residents in the community. Hill said, "Community residents who've been here for long periods of time should not be

chased out of their residences."

"You have long-term residents, and you have newer people who are moving into the area. They're looking for affordable housing," Hill continued. "That mix is what makes the neighborhood strong. Everybody brings something to the table, so we don't exclude anybody."



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## Bronx Night Market Brings Evenings of Music and Food to Fordham

By SOPHIA EBANKS

Fordham Plaza is getting its first-ever night market this summer, aimed at celebrating the diversity within the borough.

Similar to the Queens Night Market and the Brooklyn Night Bazaar, the Bronx Night Market will be a free outdoor festival that will last all summer and offer food, culture, and entertainment.

The market is run by quarterly magazine *Edible Bronx* and the creative agency BLOX in conjunction with the Fordham Road Business Improvement District. Amanda Celestino, the *Edible Bronx* publisher and Bronx Night Market co-founder, hopes that it will show visitors all that the organizers believe the Bronx has to offer. "The market is an effort to bring awareness of just how amazing and diverse our borough is, and how much there is to offer by way

of food, drink, culture, and performers," said Celestino.

The Bronx Night Market will offer a vast variety of food options from different cultures that spread across the borough. The festival will host more than 40 food vendors including the borough's popular Bronx Beer Hall in the Bronx's Little Italy and the Spanish-cuisine company Empanology in Mott Haven.

Local performers will also be on hand. Durieux is a singer-songwriter who is one musical act set to perform on the opening night, bringing his eclectic blend of alternative rock and R&B soul to the event. DJ Menyu, DJ Sabronxura, and Consumata will also perform that night. These performances will play as the soundtrack for the event as visitors have the chance to purchase food that's expected to be under \$10 and stop by the outdoor booths filled with local artisans and merchants.



Photo by Sophia Ebanks

**FORDHAM PLAZA WILL** host the first-ever Bronx Night Market beginning June 30.

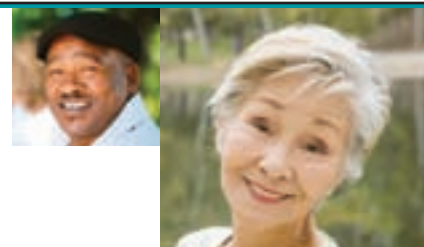
"It has been our ongoing mission to make sure that the residents of our borough have one more thing to be proud of," said Celestino, "and that greater New York recognizes the kinda Bronx

we know exists."

The festival kicks off on June 30 from 4 to 9 p.m. It will recur on the last Saturday of every month through October.

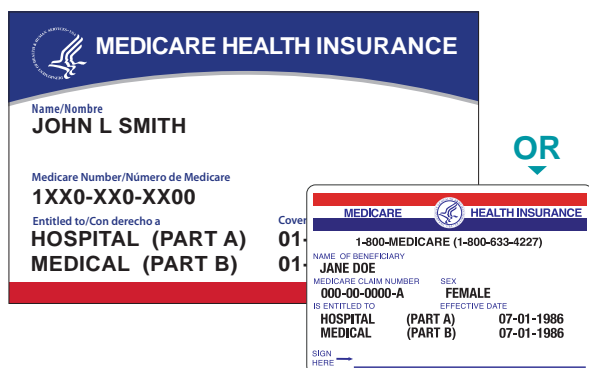


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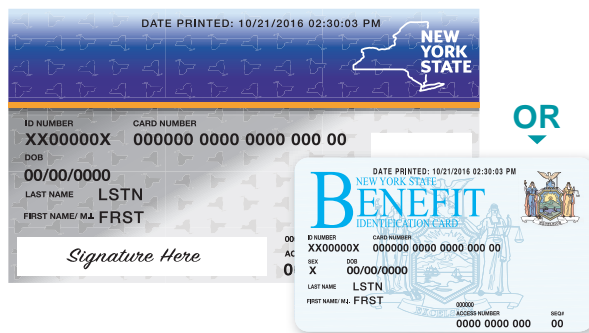


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