



# NORWOOD NEWS

Vol 31, No 17 • PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION • AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 12, 2018



**INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER:**  
**CAR SHARING REGS | PG. 4**



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**PREPPING FOR BACK TO SCHOOL | PG. 16**

## BAINBRIDGE PROJECTS TO SNARL TRAFFIC

*Problems could worsen once schools are back in session*



Photo by Adi Talwar

**THE INTERSECTION OF** Bainbridge Avenue and East Gun Hill Road is packed with traffic, with the northbound side of Bainbridge Avenue cut off to traffic as crews work on a major sewerpipe replacement project.

**By DAVID CRUZ and  
JONATHAN CUSTODIO**

Bainbridge Avenue in Norwood faces dual projects at its roads, which could spell traffic headaches for the hundreds of drivers that navigate the busy artery following the unofficial end of summer.

The problems will likely come during the morning rush,

when crews for both projects each running on opposite ends of Bainbridge Avenue--will be on the road. Between parents dropping off children at the neighborhood schools beginning the first day of school on Sept. 5, employees or visitors of Montefiore Health System and North Central Bronx Hospital, and shopping activity at

the Jerome Gun Hill Business Improvement District, getting around will pose some major issues for the community.

Bainbridge Avenue and East Gun Hill Road serves as a major nexus of activity, with buses, cars, and ambulances cutting through. Parking spots have also been occupied by the operating crews and their

trucks, reducing the already limited number of spots.

The project is overseen by the New York City Department of Design & Construction (DDC). It began in 2016 as a way to upgrade pipes connecting to the Croton Water Filtration Plant, which reentered service in 2015.

*(continued on page 23)*



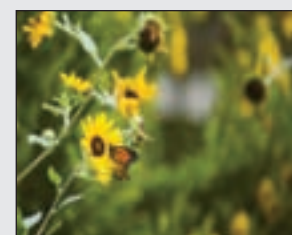
**Editorial:**  
**VOTE**  
**pg 3**



**Building Plans for  
Bedford Park Strip**  
**pg 5**



**Pols Push for Mosholu  
Pkw. Station Elevator**  
**pg 8**



**Out&About**  
**pg 22**

Vol. 31, No. 17

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# OPINION

## “The Great Equalizer”: Jury Duty with Mayor Bill de Blasio

By DAVID CRUZ

I didn't expect to have one foot in as a private citizen and the other as a reporter during my sole day as a prospective juror at Manhattan Criminal Court. I figured I'd brace myself for two days of killing my hours in a giant room nervously awaiting my name to be called as though it were some kind of death sentence.

But, the day before as I was wrapping up a long production day, in came an email showing the next day's public schedule for Mayor Bill de Blasio: jury duty.

I immediately told this to my wife via text, who was floored. In a city of roughly eight million, I happened to have the same jury duty date as the Mayor.

I can tell you it was no boring day at 100 Centre St. I got to court before de Blasio, noticing the Mayor's security detail waiting outside the courthouse along with his communications director, Eric Phillips, and a bevy of news photographers ready to snap photos of de Blasio's arguably only time of possible service in a jury as Mayor of New York City.

In the giant jury pool upstairs, the buzz of de Blasio's visit overcame the hum of the air conditioners. De Blasio arrived with Eric alongside, which I thought was a no-no, but I suppose it's a public room?

My perception of de Blasio's service, from my vantage point, seemed somewhat genuine. Here was a longtime New Yorker having to do his civic duty. At the same time, it allowed him to score points with his mostly adoring public. An employee at the courthouse (won't mention name or title) said, “F--- him. He hasn't done anything for me!”

There was a pleasant tone throughout de Blasio's visit. He sat at the front row facing the court officer's desk. Like everyone else he sat through a standard instructional video on the jury selection process, studying the screen with intent.

Throughout the jury's time, eyes had drifted toward de Blasio. Some sneaky. Some full blown stares. There was confusion alright. Aren't mayors supposed to be excused? They're running a city for crying out loud.

“Guess everyone has to serve,” one lady was overheard saying.

“That's why the cops checked out the place. I knew it wasn't for us,” another prospective juror told me.

Not too far away were some reporters from the City Hall press corps, who brazenly went inside the jury room to rightfully keep tabs on the Mayor. I spotted Jillian Jorgensen, the awesome City Hall Bureau Chief for the *New York Daily News*. We made small talk, and talked shop, mainly the unfortunate gutting of the newspaper's staff. I left her alone and went back to my seat.

Shortly after the video, a 45-minute break was called. In my capacity as a reporter, I've had to be the one asking questions. I didn't want the Mayor thinking I was there for that. So, out of an abundance of transparency, I approached him. He initially thought I was a constituent, eyes smiling as all of his 6' 5" of him stood up. Though de Blasio couldn't quite figure out who I was, Eric did, recognizing me as the editor of the *Norwood News*.

“I'm here to serve, just like you,” I told him. “We're all serving. It's the great equalizer,” said de Blasio. My guess he was referring to the random

selection process that is jury duty.

I went outside the jury room during the break, and approached Jillian, who interviewed me about the experience so far. A *New York Times* reporter and *New York Post* reporter stood alongside Jillian, their recorders out as they heard my take so far.

Then it came time for what we were there for: selection. Out of a list of 75 people, de Blasio's name was called first followed by mine. The battalion of jurors were ushered out of the main jury pool room and told to head downstairs to the 11th floor. De Blasio stood as the rock star, having no qualms speaking with people. He then turned to me, laughing, “We're on the same boat, man!”

The courtroom was once again the scene of noticeable stares, with court officers remaining professional as the man who runs the City of New York sat among the other jurors, sometimes sneaking in a conversation or two with eager New Yorkers. He sat in the fifth row, as an affable judge gave instructions. She knew who the Mayor was, but treated him like everyone else.

Not sure if this is a sign of good or bad luck, but de Blasio was named to be a prospective juror. A court officer directed him to his seat, sitting in the back row of the 16-seat jury box. The questions came thereafter, chief among them was whether any vacation time will hinder your participation in the case that'll last through Aug. 16.

De Blasio had a conflict, explaining to the judge his pre-planned trip would make him ineligible to participate. The judge, treating de Blasio like everyone else, excused him from the jury box and told to head back to the 15th floor. I

(continued on page 15)

## 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: Housing, Land Use & Zoning Committee meets on Sept. 4; Education, Youth & Libraries Committee meets on Sept. 5; Traffic & Transportation Committee meets on Sept. 6; Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs Committee meets on Sept. 12; and Health & Human Services Committee meets on Sept. 12 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 933-5650.

The **BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** meets Sept. 5 at 8 p.m. at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. So., Apt. B1 (lobby floor). For more information, email [bedfordmosholu@verizon.net](mailto:bedfordmosholu@verizon.net).





## Letters To The Editor

### NYCHA Tenants Woes

David Cruz' excellent August 2-29 article on the NYCHA Bailey Houses refers to how the conditions these tenants live in affects their mental health. But when Tiesha Jones faces "toilet stoppages, leaks, and so forth, your elevator not working," I'd say her depression is evidence of her sanity. Only someone insane or really high on drugs would be happy under those circumstances.

I'm fortunate to have affordable housing in the Amalgamated Housing Cooperative. When repairs are needed, they are done within days, not years. Emergency repairs are done immediately.

My building is about 20 years

older than the Bailey Houses, which were built in 1972. Plenty of other older buildings which are properly maintained are quite livable. Now I'm old enough to remember when NYCHA apartments were also quite livable. This deterioration is a result of long-time neglect.

The lead paint scandal is another example of this. Lead paint use was banned from housing in 1978. Many people have moved out of NYCHA apartments since then. Certainly this presented numerous opportunities to eliminate the lead paint while the apartments were empty.

As for Mayor Bill de Blasio's assertion that he inherited these

problems, this is true. But he is into his second term. Considering that he campaigned as a progressive, he should have been expected to do more than continue his predecessors' policies.

**Richard Warren**  
**Van Cortlandt Village**

### Return Rigorous Instruction

We both attended Bronx Science in the early '60s. Test prep classes? Never knew they existed. Our test prep? Parents stressing education's importance; elementary and junior high schools teaching per recognized standards.

Mayor Bill de Blasio wants more individuals attending specialized high schools; he should heed the late Senator Brian Moynihan's warnings regarding the dumbing down of America. The Mayor should return New York City public schools to the standards and

goals of 70 years ago. At that time, a New York City high school diploma guaranteed literacy and numeracy. High school grads could speak, read, write English fluently, knew all math computations, were proficiently skilled to be gainfully employed.

Right now, too many New York City high school grads must go to remedial reading classes in our community colleges to become qualified to enroll. Remedial reading for high school graduates?

There's the problem, Mr. Mayor! Worthless diplomas, students cheated of meaningful education. Time to require all schools to actually educate children; stop promoting illiterates; ensure that ALL public schools function.

**Bill and Anne Cohen**  
**Van Cortlandt Village**

## EDITORIAL

# Don't Throw Away Your Vote

The September Primary is right around the corner, and that means crunch time for anyone on the ballot vying to keep or secure public office.

You will see volunteers handing out literature of smiley politicians attempting to get you on their side. They'll appear at festivals, street corners, or your social media feed. They will do everything they can to get you to vote.

But as the years go on, drawing voters to the polls has become a tough sell. Apathy mixed with busy schedules and bad experience at prior elections are enough to keep the regular public from performing a civic duty that's been fought for and sacrificed by our nation's military, not to mention Women's Suffrage.

What gets lost throughout the

political season is how important you are. Let's face it—without you, a lawmaker cannot ascend to public office. That happens at your local polling site. Whether darkening a circle, checking a box, punching a button, or pulling a lever, voting is a practice that involves you and you alone. It's also a practice barely shared around the world. We should consider ourselves lucky.

But if recent history has taught us anything it's that registered voters across the Bronx will still stay home, despite pleas from some politicians to exercise their vote. Bronx voters barely made noise during the presidential election, tying with Brooklyn with 58 percent of registered voters going to the polls, according to the New York City Board of Elections' annual report for 2016. For a highly contested race

between President Donald Trump and rival Hillary Clinton, the turnout was poor.

We have to do better, otherwise we could be left with do-nothing politicians who want the title and none of the responsibilities. In some parts of the Bronx that practice remains so, and you, the constituent, suffer. Don't expect that do-nothing politician to get back to you, hold regular office hours to fix that quality of life grievance or even speak on your behalf. Expect an automated message and a hope that they'll get back to you. That's unacceptable.

Remember, politicians care about you more if you vote and pay attention. In some sense, governments should fear their constituents because it's the constituents who have the power to

So, on Sept. 13, take an hour before or after work to go out and vote in your local election. And come there prepared. Take a half hour to pore over the positions of those who are running for office. The New York City Board of Elections has a breakdown of the candidates and where they stand issues, though as of press time that booklet is yet to be uploaded.

If you don't know where to vote, but are registered, the New York City Board of Elections has this website that can point you in the right direction: <https://nyc.pollsite-locator.com/search>.

The power of voting appears to have been lost in the last few years. The outlook on this civic act is lost, guided largely by shenanigans happening in Washington, D.C. Still, give voting a chance.

**TO REPORT A STORY TO THE NORWOOD NEWS,  
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# INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE

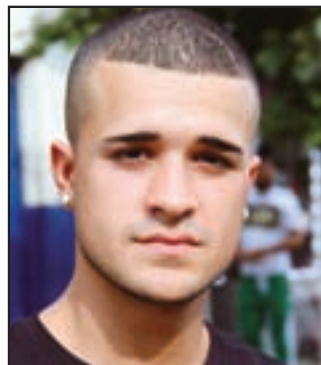


This week we asked readers their thoughts on the City Council's decision to impose new regulations on Uber and Lyft drivers, that include a 1-year hiring freeze and minimum pay standards for drivers.



I think it's better for the Uber driver. If anything, they'll make more money for the company and themselves, if it makes [them] bigger. They provide a better service, really. Taxis are everywhere, but I feel like Uber service is a lot better than the yellow taxis. Uber is all around; they're everywhere and the taxis will drive right by you. If Uber can't survive, Bronxites will be out of luck.

**Tremayne Barnes**  
Van Nest



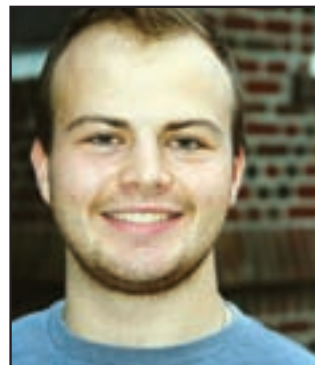
Yes, I use Uber all the time and it's a lot faster than the yellow cabs. I'm looking for the yellow cabs, or actually the green cabs, and you never find those ever, and the regular cabs just pass right by you. The regular cabs? They never stop for me. I feel Uber is safer and they're trying to get their five-star rating, so they're good to you. They give you water, candy, whatever you want. It's good they do a background check, because you don't know who's driving your cab.

**Matthew Santiago**  
Bedford Park



Yes, it's very good that we have these taxis here, because we need it here. Also, people here have less money in the Bronx, so it's easier for them because it's a little cheaper. Regulations are good, but I think it will be difficult for many of the drivers to comply.

**Jose Nuñez**  
Kingsbridge



The price would go up with an insurance increase and I understand why they'd do that, but at the same time they use a lot of gimmicks that make no sense to New Yorkers. The Uber bicycles, they're way too dangerous for this city. The regulations themselves will make the prices much higher. I get the idea about safety, but at the same time it's costing more money to operate the taxi. It could be better if the rates stayed the same.

**Michael Tarkovsky**  
Morris Park



I like the Uber service and I certainly think the new regulations are going to hurt. It's limiting people finding more work. At the same time I feel like it will keep less drivers on the street. It's just making it more difficult for more people to get around. The background check isn't as much a concern for the yellow taxis. They need driver training. Their driving isn't as good as you'd think. With Uber, you know the driver, you're not dealing with actual cash. Uber is better.

**Doug Vazquez**  
Norwood



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# CB7 to Review 11-Story Building Plan on Tiny Stretch

By MARTIKA ORNELLA

Community Board 7 plans to discuss the proposed 11-story building in Bedford Park at its next Land Use, Zoning and Housing Committee meeting on Sept. 4.

Fresh renderings of the apartment residence coming to Bedford Park Boulevard were recently released. Images of the future site of 33 Bedford Park Blvd. show a narrow 11-story residential and commercial building,

with balconies on every floor and a roof deck.

The mixed-use property will look somewhat out of place on the boulevard, with adjacent buildings averaging a mere maximum five stories in height.

The irregularity of the planned building's height isn't lost on Jean Hill, the newly-minted chair of Community Board 7, which covers Bedford Park and Norwood.

Referring to the height of

the building, Hill told the *Norwood News*, "That part seems out of character." "The surrounding buildings probably go up to about eight [stories], so now you're going up higher than the adjacent buildings," she said.

Hill also questioned the building's plan to take advantage of the city's zero-lot line designation, which allows new buildings to almost abut already existing buildings, leaving just a few inches between

the buildings while rendering any side window useless.

"If it's gonna be that tall, it'll take the sun away," Bedford Park resident Jose Madera said. Madera lives on Villa Avenue, adjacent to the western facade of the projected site.

Nestled between a laundromat and a barber shop on Bedford Park Boulevard, a vacant lot overrun with tall grass and graffiti will soon house the lofty building. "How's that gonna fit?" said another Bedford Park resident, who only went by Kelly. "There's no space here for something like that."

According to permit filings, the vacant lot is currently about 2,400 square feet, with each apartment sized at 800 square feet. There will be 19 residential units, but no word yet on whether they will be rentals or condos.

For Kelly, it doesn't matter what type of residences will be in the new building. She doesn't believe they're meant for Bedford Park's cur-

rent residents. "All the folks that live here are not gonna be able to afford that," Kelly said. "They said the Bronx is the new Manhattan," she added. "There's no way this is for people of color. I doubt they'll be able to afford it."

The property, blocks from Lehman College and near public transportation, will include amenities like built-in air conditioners in each apartment, a laundry room, a bike room, and storage space.

Kelly's friend and fellow Bedford Park resident Nory joked, "Starbucks! That's what's coming next." When asked what she'd prefer to see instead of the towering building, Nory suggested a community garden.

"It would be nice to have a garden here," Nory said. "If there was a community garden here, it would help break the unhealthy cycle of eating with young people in the area."

A person with a phone number listed as the permit contact was unreachable.

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Image courtesy Angelo Ng & Anthony Ng Architects Studio  
A RENDERING OF 33 BEDFORD PARK BLVD. BY Angelo Ng & Anthony Ng Architects Studio



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## NCBH Gets New CEO Following Outrage Over Initial Snub

By DAVID CRUZ

North Central Bronx Hospital (NCBH) has found its new CEO in one of its own, a week after officials with NYC Health + Hospitals initially snubbed her for the post.

Cristina Contreras has been kicked upstairs to run the hospital after service as the city-funded hospital's chief operating officer. Contreras succeeds outgoing NCBH head Maureen Pode, who announced her retirement.

“We are lucky to have Cristina Contreras take on this new senior administrative post,” said NYC Health + Hospitals President and CEO Mitchell Katz, MD, in a statement. “Her leadership and commitment to the hospital staff, patients, and the community are essential as we continue to focus on strengthening the vital role NYC Health + Hospitals/North Central Bronx plays in this community.”

In a statement, Contreras said she is so “pleased to have been tapped for this important leadership role and have the opportunity to continue working with the staff, patients, and the North Bronx community that I love.” Contreras has been a visible figure in Norwood. She also serves as a member of Community Board 7.

The news is an about-face by NYC Health + Hospitals, which initially announced at an employee town hall a “restructuring” of high-level management, with the current CEO, Christopher Mastromano, of NCBH's sister hospital, NYC Health + Hospitals/Jacobi, initially slated to manage both hospitals.

That angered elected officials such as Councilman Fernando Cabrera, who was in attendance at the Aug. 21 town hall briefing. Cabrera had worried Mastromano would have prioritized Jacobi's needs over NCBH. The practice, Cabrera said, has been done before when Jacobi and NCBH fell under the same network up until 2016.

While making no accusations, Cabrera pointed to three promotions of other hospital employees who were white. Contreras was born in the Dominican Republic. “And then the only time that they mentioned one person of color it was with Cristina, and they just said, ‘You’re doing a good job.’ I mean, are you serious?” said Cabrera.

Contreras' rise comes amid the hospital system's current financial woes. Estimates show the hospital network will be \$1.8 billion in the red by 2020.

Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez, had originally questioned the logic behind one person managing two enormous hospitals. “I said, ‘That’s great. I know [Mastromano] does a great job managing Jacobi, but to do two hospitals is too much for just one person.’”

Fernandez recalled staffers staring at each other in disbelief over Contreras' promotion snub. “Nearly everybody in the room was like, ‘Why not just promote Cristina?’ Like, ‘Why you looking for new people to come into a community they don’t know, to come into a hospital that they don’t know, when you have somebody here?’”

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# Big Changes Could Come to Community Boards in '19

By DAVID CRUZ

A regulatory body empaneled to update the city's written policies looks to impose term limits on community board members, a rule that will likely be on the ballot for a vote in the November general election.

The City Charter Revision Commission, charged with updating the New York City Charter, a document akin to

the U.S. Constitution, said the proposal will allow board members a maximum of four consecutive two-year terms. Currently there are no term limits. Members would have to reapply one year after they are no longer on the board, under the proposal.

"I wouldn't say I could agree with that," said Jean Hill, chair of Community Board 7, repre-

senting Norwood. "You need continuity."

That sentiment is shared by Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. who, along with three other borough presidents, penned a letter, calling the proposals "hasty."

"To impose term limits on these members serves only to further empower real estate developers and the lobbyists and technical advisors who appear

on their behalf before the community boards," read the letter to the commission.

Community boards serve as ad hoc city agencies where community issues are brought forward and discussed. Boards often issue advisory recommendations that help influence decision making at City Hall.

The commission did not change the process over getting on the board, which involves the borough president appointing half the members of the board and the other half appointed by the number of Council Members whose districts overlap with the board. The decision, if passed, will be effective April 1, 2019.

Offices of borough presidents will also have to draft a yearly report outlining recruitment methods, names of board members, and the criteria in the selection process. Community boards have long been criticized for the its lifetime membership policy, which can stymie any fresh approaches to solving issues.

"They would apply every time to be on the com-

munity board and they never get appointed and we're looking at ways at which to correct some of that. It is one of the reasons we are looking at term limit," Una Clarke, a commissioner on the commission and former Brooklyn councilwoman, said at a forum organized by the Center for Community & Ethnic Media and the Mayor's Office on Aug. 16. "As the community changes, it is more likely to get somebody that is a new resident to be a part of the process."

The commission, created by Mayor Bill de Blasio in April, has convened hearings to determine a number of policies that need updating. They held two hearings in the Bronx, obtaining testimony from the public over a variety of issues, including participatory budgeting and campaign finance.

The commission is expected to file their ballot proposals with the City Clerk's Office by Sept. 7, which will be followed by a public awareness campaign.

Election Day is Nov. 6.



File photo

**TERMS LIMITS ON** community board members could take effect next year. Here, a Community Board 7 Parks Committee meets in May this year.



# Pols: Elevator Needs at Mosholu Pkwy. Station

By DAVID CRUZ

A petitioning campaign is under way in Norwood aimed at putting pressure on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to prioritize the installation of a much-needed elevator at the Mosholu Parkway No. 4 train station.

The effort is noticeably led by Eric Dinowitz, District Leader for the area's 81st Assembly District who's expressed interest in running for the City Council seat currently held by Norwood Councilman Andrew Cohen. Cohen, whose district overlaps with the train station, was not there.

"We know that more than 10 percent of the population here has a disability, so you could figure it's over a thousand people who would be able to use this train station but are unable to," said Dinowitz, flanked by elected officials including Senator Jamaal Bailey, Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez and Dinowitz's father, Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz. The younger Dinowitz works as a special education teacher for mentally and physically disabled students and considers himself a disability advocate.

Much of the urgency lies in a scheduled meeting by the MTA, where its 23-member board will convene Sept. 26 to discuss elevator installations at five more subway stations across the system. The move was made possible after the board approved the allocation of another \$200 million for elevators to its 2015-2019 capital budget. The MTA hasn't decided which stations will receive an upgrade.

Dinowitz has teamed up with Community Board 7 chair Jean Hill to lobby for a Mosholu Parkway station elevator. "That flight of stairs has become daunting for someone like me," said Hill, who's also president of the nearby Tracey Towers Tenants Association. "It has become imperative to have an elevator here."

Hill later mentioned that a request for an elevator has long been made.

In a statement, Shams Tarek, a spokesman for the MTA, said Andy Byford, MTA president, "has made accessibility in the subway system one of his top four priorities since he took office this January."

The MTA's move to fast track more elevators across the system is part of the Fast Forward Plan launched by Byford. The MTA, under a federal mandate stretching back to 1993, has been ordered to make all stations wheelchair-accessible. Three stations



Photo by Miriam Quinones

**ERIC DINOWITZ, (AT MIC)** Male District Leader for the 81st Assembly District, covering a portion of Norwood, speaks at the news conference. The area where the station rests falls within the 80th Assembly District.

in the Bronx—the Bedford Park Boulevard station at the B/D line, the Gun Hill Road station on the 2 line and the East 149th Street/Grand Concourse 2, 4, and 5 lines—are among the Bronx stations already included in the 2015-2019 capital budget plan.

With the majority of the system built well before the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act was enacted, the MTA's system is virtually unusable by thousands of New Yorkers who get around using a wheelchair, other assistive device, or Access-a-Ride. So far, 23 percent of the system's 472 stations are wheelchair accessible.

Relief for an elevator can't come soon enough for Michael Elliott, a 42-year Norwood resident. Elliott gets around using a cane, avoiding the Mosholu Parkway station's four-flight staircase whenever he can.

"It's like climbing Mt. Everest," said Elliott, who climbed the steps six months ago with great pain, all to attend a New York Yankees game. "But I had to take one step at a time. I told my friend, 'You gotta wait. This is the first and last time I go.'"

The game was part of a series. Elliott avoided the other two games.

With only a quarter of the system wheelchair accessible, navigating around the city becomes a journey complete with transfers, extra minutes and aggravation mainly for the disabled.

"Many of my stations I wanted to go to had no elevator access or was completely out of my way," said Dustin Jones, a former Bronx resident and board member for the Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York, who gets around with his wheelchair.

"I shouldn't have to take a bus to a train, to then get off at a different station, to get off at a different station to take a bus or another bus just to get to my destination."

"What if you're temporarily disabled? Let's say you're a student at DeWitt Clinton [High School] and you sprain your ankle? It makes it more



Photo by Miriam Quinones

**A BRONX RESIDENT** signs a petition in support of a proposal to bring elevator access to the Mosholu Parkway No. 4 train station.

difficult to get to school," said Bailey. DeWitt Clinton High School is near the Mosholu Parkway station.

The MTA factors station usage and proximity to so-called activity centers to determine whether a station would receive an elevator. Mosholu Parkway serves as a nexus for travelers visiting North Central Bronx Hospital and Montefiore Health System, DeWitt Clinton High School and Mosholu Montefiore Community Association. Tracey Towers is the largest Mitchell-Lama complex in the Bronx while Scott Towers

runs between the Mosholu Parkway and Bedford Park Boulevard stations. The station also abuts the Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District, Norwood's main shopping corridor. The BID's executive director, Jennifer Tausig, said elevator access for the disabled is critical to the "survival of the commercial corridor."

Petitions are expected to be distributed throughout the community meetings leading up to the MTA Board meeting. Organizers said there is no set number of petitions they intend to gather.

Petitioning had previously helped sway the MTA to prioritize certain stations over others. It worked for the East 149th Street/Grand Concourse 2, 4, 5 line, according to Julio Munoz, president of the South Bronx Community Congress, in a report by the *Bronx Times Reporter*.

Noble efforts aside, the campaign cast a spotlight on the younger Dinowitz, whose ambitions to run for office became closer to reality after forming a campaign committee to consider a run.

"Whatever my future is I'm gonna get there because I'm doing the right thing and fighting for the people who need the most help," said Dinowitz.

Not too far away was Daniel Padernacht, already a candidate for the 11th Council District. Padernacht stood behind advocates, observing.

**Editor's Note:** For more information on the campaign, residents can email [mosholu4trainelevator@gmail.com](mailto:mosholu4trainelevator@gmail.com).





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# Candidates Forum Reminds Voters of Races Beyond 34th Senate District

By DAVID CRUZ

As the focus continues on the 34th Senate District race between incumbent Sen. Jeff Klein and challenger Alessandra Biaggi, the Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition (NWBCCC) organized an issues-based forum that saw Biaggi but also candidates for the 33rd and 36th Senate District races.

State Senators Gustavo Rivera and Jamaal Bailey, representing the 33rd and 36th Senate Districts respectively, are on the ballot. Bailey and Rivera, both Democrats, face a September primary against respective Republicans Steven Stern and Nicole Torres of the 33rd Senate District, and Robert Diamond of the 36th Senate District. Biaggi and Klein face Antonio Vitiello of the 34th Senate District. Bailey's district covers Norwood, Bedford Park, Co-Op City, Edenwald, Wakefield, and Mt. Vernon in neighboring Westchester County. Rivera represents Kingsbridge, Fordham, the West Bronx, and Van Nest.

The Republican challengers were absent from the forum, as was Klein. Organizers spent a month trying to get the candidates to accept the invitation. Their absence allowed their



Photo by David Cruz

**ALESSANDRA BIAGGI (LEFT)** answers a question at a candidates forum hosted by Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition.

rivals to present their platforms that were favorable to NWBCCC without counterpoints present. It also allowed Democrats to reemphasize their need to retake control of the State Legislature. Democrats control the Assembly while the Republicans control the Senate.

The candidates mostly approached solutions to issues on the same page, outlining a largely progres-

sive agenda that focused on housing, healthcare, business, transportation, and education. While Biaggi stood as a hardline reformist on housing issues, Rivera and Bailey stood cautiously supportive on issues involving proposed bills lobbied by rent reform groups. Among them was legislation to remove rent increases following Major Capital Improvements (MCI) in rent stabilized apartment buildings. Bailey and Rivera support the concept of the bill but were not ready to fully support it until they saw the bill's language.

Rivera stood in favor of repealing the Urstadt Law, which gives control of a municipality's rent stabilization laws to the state instead of a municipality. Rivera blamed the continuation of the law on Senate Republicans who control the housing committee.

"The people who have led the [Senate] housing committee are folks who have in some instances, literally, more cows than people in their districts," said Rivera.

The issues also turned to the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), particularly the issue of high lead levels at the agency's buildings.

The candidates heard from Tiesha Jones, the tenant president of Bailey Houses who served as the inspiration for a bill sponsored by Rivera dubbed Dakota's Law. The bill package would increase the age of lead testing for children from age 6 to 18, mandates insurers to cover lead testing screenings, and create a reporting hotline for lead exposure to doctors.

Bailey blamed the issues on NYCHA and its lack of attention on the

federal government, which he says has disinvested from the public housing authority.

Biaggi said a solution to fixing NYCHA requires strength in numbers. "It requires each and every one of us not only to participate but to come to the table and to make sure that the issues are heard. One voice is very strong, but many voices allow these things to rise up to the surface."

Turning to issues of education, the candidates agreed over more school funding they believed is owed by the state through the Campaign for Fiscal Equity.

"You have teachers in Castle Hill that are coming in on the weekends for free to teach things like coding because they can't fund it during the school year. Right now, we have an unemployment that is very low, but we have a skills gap and that starts in the classrooms," said Biaggi. "So being able to actually compete not only on a state level but on a national level and an international level really requires that we are fully funding our public schools."

Turning to issues on healthcare, the candidates promoted universal healthcare, a measure that's been approved by the Assembly but voted down by the Senate. Rivera is the author of the New York Health Act bill, which would create a universal healthcare system.

"It would cover everybody regardless of your gender, regardless of your age, regardless of your immigration status," said Rivera. "For any human being that resides here, if you get sick, we make sure you get coverage."

While the event largely involved an echo chamber of progressive thoughts and ideas, with rounds of applause ringing throughout, Janice Hackney, a registered nurse at Montefiore, arrived with an open mind. A registered Independent who votes Democrat, Hackney was impressed by the candidates.

"Anytime there's a candidate or campaign season candidates have a tendency [to] speak and say what the community wants to hear. The real test will be after they get into office. Will they fulfill the promise?" asked Hackney. "There has to be a monitoring system in place."

Following the event, Hackney said she'll vote for Biaggi, Rivera, and Bailey.

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## Feeling Pumped



Photo by Miriam Quinones

**52ND PRECINCT COMMUNITY** Affairs Officer Crystal Reveron is revved up at National Night Out Against Crime, a countrywide event that promotes stronger bonds between communities and police departments. She shares her enthusiasm with this child at Poe Park on Aug. 7. More pictures of this fun-filled event can be found on the Norwood News' Facebook page.

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NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

## Celebrating Eid Al Adha



Photo by David Cruz

**EID AL ADHA** once again saw scores of Bronx residents of the Muslim faith pray toward Mecca at Williamsbridge Oval Park. The holiday is considered the second most important of the Eid holidays, marking the end of Ramadan. It's capped with a bounty full of food and thankfulness. While there we were also told that the long-awaited Muslim center, at 206th Street and Rochambeau Avenue, will finally open in a few months.



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# Hosting a Basketball Tournament in Memory Of a Lost Family

By **MARIYA MOSELEY**

Eight of the best teams across the East Coast battled it out on the court during the 13th annual Gardiner Memorial Basketball Classic Tournament at St. James Park.

But this event isn't just about hooping. To the community, it's about giving back while bringing together the youth for a series of activities with scholarships and giveaways.

The tournament is organized by non-profit organization Gardiner Foundation, which teamed up with Manhattan law firm Gersowitz Libo and Korek. Dexter Gardiner, founder of the Gardiner Foundation, created the organization after losing several family members more than a decade ago. One of those tragedies includes six of his relatives dying from a crash on the Bronx River Parkway in 2006.

"2006 was very rough for me and my family but through that I started this foundation," Gardiner said.

Gardiner, who grew up in the



Photo by Mariya Moseley

**DEXTER GARDINER, FOUNDER** of the Gardiner Foundation, has hosted the Gardiner Basketball Tournament for the last 13 years.

Bronx alongside his twin brother, said his goal for the organization is to be a positive figure for youth. "When I was 10 years old I needed a mentor ...so that's what we're trying to do is guide them."

The two-day event on Aug. 18 and 19 hosted semi-finals and finals games along with a youth all-star game.

During the event, eight college-bound Bronx high school seniors received \$1,000 scholarships. Additionally, more than 20 tablets and 750 backpacks full of school supplies were distributed.

Bryce Branch, 18, is a tournament volunteer who is one of this year's scholarship recipients. Branch, who will head to Old Westbury College in the fall, described the tournament as "a family event" that he takes joy in being a part of.

Despite the rain on Sunday, the free event was packed with hundreds of community members with music, raffles and food.

Hopli James, a Bronx resident originally from Jamaica, attended the event for a second year in a row. She said that she enjoys watching the tournament. "I came last year with my granddaughter...it's very nice to



Photo by Mariya Moseley

**BASKETBALL PLAYERS HOOP** in the Bronx during the 13th annual Gardiner Basketball Tournament.

watch," James said.

Sherri Gardiner, co-founder of the organization, said the group's motto is to be "our brother's keeper."

"It is a tragedy when we see our young people going down the wrong path...our goal is to steer them in the right direction and give them the resources they need to be the best they can be," Sherri said.





**Alvin Ailey**

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Capoeira Registration starts:  
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Wednesday, August 1st for Non-Members  
Classes are 2x week for 8 weeks  
Pricing Starts at \$112 for members

## Capoeira



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Classes are 1x week for 8 weeks  
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## Yoga



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# Back to School in Norwood

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

The moans and groans are coming louder by the minute as the first day of school approaches. Students will once again be hitting the books on Sept. 5, receiving their schedules, meeting new friends, greeting old friends and wondering when the first test is scheduled.

In Norwood, thousands of students are bracing themselves to attend one of the 11 schools in the neighborhood. The schools fall under District 10, which still remains heavily populated. Lack of seats are the issue, a point Mayor Bill de Blasio has previously said will not be fixed overnight.

For parents unfamiliar with their child's school, the Norwood News compiled this profile list of the neighborhood schools, boiling it down to graduation rates and whether school lunch is served. The numbers were taken from the National Center for Education Statistics and the New York City Department of Education.

Lunch is now on the house, courtesy of the city. But the city needs help getting kids signed up. Parents must fill out an online form at <http://ny6c.apply-forlunch.com>.

For any school-related issues, Marvin Shelton can handle complaints. He's the Education Council President, a kind of council that serves as a liaison between parents and the school district. He can be reached at (718) 741-5837.

## PS 94

### **Kings College Public School**

Address: 3530 Kings College Pl.  
Grades: K-5  
Admissions Process: Zoned School  
Student Body: 1,271  
Principal: Diane Daprocida-Sesin  
Parent Coordinator: Miriam Seminario  
Main office phone number: (718) 405-6345

## PS 280

Address: 3202 Steuben Ave.  
Grades: K-8, Special Education  
Admissions Process: Zoned School  
Student Body: 901  
Principal: James Weeks  
Parent Coordinator: Nyesvann Rodriguez  
Afterschool Activities: Music, visual arts, chess, dance, and more  
Main office phone number: (718) 405-6360

## **Bronx Dance Academy School**

Address: 3617 Bainbridge Ave.  
Grades: 6-8  
Admissions Process: Zoned School  
Student Body: 259  
Principal: Sandra Sanchez  
Parent Coordinator: Gabriel Santago  
Afterschool activities: Hip-Hop Dancing, LEGO Robotics, ELA Lab, and more  
Main office phone number: (718) 515-0410

## **DeWitt Clinton High School**

Address: 100 W. Mosholu Pkwy S.  
Grades: 9-12  
Student Body: 1,476  
Principal: Pierre Orbe  
Parent Coordinator: Ines Carino  
School Specialization: Small Learning Communities (SLCs) or personalized education  
Graduation Rate (within 4 years): 50%  
Main office phone number: (718) 543-1000

## JHS 80

### **Isabel Rooney School**

Address: 149 E. Mosholu Pkwy. N.  
Grades: 6-8  
Admissions Process: Zoned School  
Student Body: 671  
Principal: Emmanuel Polanco  
Afterschool activities: Drama, screenwriting, spoken word, and field trips  
Main office phone number: (718) 405-6300

## **Bronx School for Continuous Learners**

Address: 3177 Webster Ave.  
Grades: K-4, Special Education  
Admissions Process: District 75 School  
Student Body: 327  
Principal: Janine Tubiolo  
Parent Coordinator: Sugeiry Hernandez  
Main office phone number: (718) 696-6440

## PS/MS 20 P.O.

### **George J. Werdann, III**

Address: 3050 Webster Ave.  
Grades: K-8  
Admissions Process: Zoned School  
Student Body: 1,076  
Principal: Carla Ling  
Parent Coordinator: Jael Jones  
School Specialization: Professional Development  
Main office phone number: (718) 515-9370

## PS 56

### **Norwood Heights**

Address: 341 E. 207th St.  
Grades: K-5  
Admissions Process: Zoned School  
Student Body: 699  
Principal: M. O'Neill  
Parent Coordinator: Carmen Garcia  
Main office phone number: (718) 920-1100

## **Bronx Community Charter School**

Address: 3170 Webster Ave.  
Grades: K-8  
Admissions Process: Charter lottery  
Student Body: 510  
Principals: Jeannine King, Martha Andrews, Sasha Wilson  
Main office phone number: (718) 696-6440

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### Bedford Park Elementary School

Address:  
3177 Webster Ave.  
Grades: Pre-K through 4  
Student Body: 344  
Principal: Carolyn Heredia  
Main office  
phone number:  
(718) 696-6440

### PS 169

Address:  
3050 Webster Ave.  
Grades: Pre-K through 12  
Principal:  
Maureen Fullerton  
Main office  
phone number:  
(718) 585-2100

*Sources: The National Center for Education Statistics, the New York City Department of Education, and Great Schools.*

# Mosholu Library Gets \$15,000 State Grant, a Rarity

By JONATHAN CUSTODIO

You can bookmark Aug. 21 as a special day for Mosholu Library, which received a novel \$15,000 in state funds.

“Our libraries are community hubs and places of resources and comfort,” said Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez,” said at a news conference at the library on Aug. 21. “We can all relate in our passion for reading and looking for education, and really finding an escape.”

The source of the newly distributed funds comes from discretionary funding of \$60,000. The funds were evenly distributed to Allerton, Pelham Parkway-Van Nest and Morris Park libraries.

Jane Addison-Amoyaw has managed the Mosholu library for the past 15 years. This is the first grant that the library has received during her tenure and Addison-Amoyaw notes that the investment means a “great deal” to her as it will support “educational programs.”

Community Board 7 Chairperson Jean Hill was expressive in her approval of the financial support for the library, “Reading really is fundamental. There’s such a large world in books that you don’t necessarily get exposed to in your daily

life. You can visit the planet just by walking into the library.”

Assemblywoman Fernandez hopes the funds provided for the library will be spent by the end of the year.

About \$1.25 million remains in the discretionary budget, specifically for capital requests. Potential projects have yet to be confirmed.

A library patron and retired community resident who only went by Zack said he “picked up a new life with computer technology field.

I pass the time of day in here.” That time includes reading newspapers, participating in coloring and computer classes, as well as arts and crafts.

Located on 205th Street and Perry Avenue, the library is next to Whalen Park, which was recently reopened after undergoing a year-long \$1.8 million reconstruction project.

A specific budget allocation for how the \$15,000 will be used has yet to be determined.



Photo by David Cruz

**ASSEMBLYWOMAN NATHALIA FERNANDEZ** (at podium in the Mosholu Library) announces a total of \$60,000 allocated to her district’s four library branches. Standing second from left is Mosholu branch manager, Jane Addison-Amoyaw.

# “The Great Equalizer”: Jury Duty With Mayor Bill de Blasio

(continued from page 2)

stayed behind, though I ultimately was told to head back up as well. I ran into him again, asking him if he’s still here. De Blasio looked up from his phone, grinning, “Oh yeah.”

An hour later, the jury officer dis-

missed the remaining members of the jury pool, including de Blasio. It was a relief for me as now I officially start my vacation. Not so much for de Blasio. Amid requests for selfies was a question about education. “When are the state test scores supposed to come

out?” asked a dismissed prospective juror. For de Blasio, it was back to work running this complex city.

I’m still processing over where this coincidence up with the Mayor fits into my career. It’s certainly awkward. But certainly unique.

I may be the only reporter to have served prospective jury duty alongside the Mayor, whom I am also supposed to report on.

*David Cruz is editor-in-chief of the Norwood News.*

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# Back to School in the Bronx

Weeks before the start of public school, parents got their kids ready for back to school, taking them to several events around the north Bronx for some free school supply giveaways. Check out these photos by José A. Giralt.



**CHRISTINA BARCLAY, 4**, checks out the free water bottles at the Back-to-School Event held at La Roose Catering Hall in Wakefield on Aug. 18. State Senator Jamaal T. Bailey sponsored the event.



**CHILDREN PLAY A** game of chess at the appropriately named Back-to-School Event sponsored by state Senator Jamaal Bailey.

**GLORIA BENT, A** registered dietician at North Central Bronx Hospital, explains how to substitute sugary drinks with healthier alternatives at the annual Back-to-School Healthfest.



**A NEW YORK CITY** park ranger teaches children about some of the borough's wildlife at the third annual Back-to-School Campaign held at Williamsbridge Oval Park on Aug. 18.



**CHILDREN PLAY WITH** wooden blocks as one of the activities at the third annual Back-to-School Campaign at Williamsbridge Oval Park.



**KENYA MIGHTY (L)**, a music instructor at the Nest Music Conservatory, leads a sing-along at the third annual Back-to-School Campaign at Williamsbridge Oval Park.



**FESTIVAL VISITORS WAIT** in line for refreshments at the annual Back-to-School Healthfest, Aug. 22, on Kossuth Avenue between 208th and 210th streets, which was closed off to traffic. The event was sponsored by North Central Bronx Hospital.





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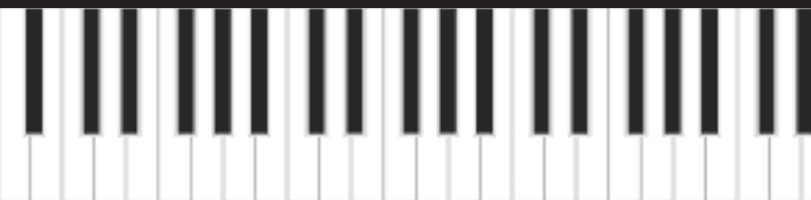
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Free air conditioners are available to Bronx residents who either receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, Temporary Assistance (TA), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and did not receive an air conditioner by the Home Energy Assistance Program. Income-eligibility requirements also apply. For more information, call (212) 331-3126, or visit the Department of Human Resources Administration at 1932 Arthur Ave., Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### 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.

### Riverdale Choral Society Rehearsals

Open rehearsals for the Riverdale Choral Society will be held Wednesdays, Sept. 5 and 12, at 7:30 p.m. at Christ Church Riverdale, 252nd Street and Henry Hudson Parkway East. All voice ranges, including soprano, alto, tenor, and bass, are welcome. For more information, call (718) 543-2219.

### Free Prep for H.S. Equivalency

SUNY Bronx Educational Opportunity Center, 1666 Bathgate Ave., offers tuition-free programs for ages 18 and over preparing for the high school equivalency exam, including instruction in writing, grammar, math, science, and social studies. In-person registration is on Mondays and Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m. with required documents. For more information on required documents, call (718) 530-7000 or visit [bronxeoc.org/register](http://bronxeoc.org/register).

### IDNYC Expansion

Children as young as age 10 can now apply for an IDNYC, which grants them free one-year memberships at museums, zoos, and theatres, along with discounts on movie tickets, entertainment options, and more. For more information on eligibility criteria, benefits, enrollment centers,

and more, visit [NYC.gov/IDNYC](http://NYC.gov/IDNYC) or call 311.

### Parking Meter Fee Increase

Public parking meter rates are expected to increase in the Bronx starting Dec. 3, going from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per hour in some parts of the Bronx and from \$1.00 to \$1.25 an hour in other parts, for passenger cars.

### Lehman College Chorus Rehearsals

Rehearsals for the Lehman College Chorus and Lehman College Community Chorus will begin Sept. 4 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. and on Sept. 5 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. respectively at the Lehman College Music Building, room 330, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W. For more information on how to participate, contact Professor Diana Mittler-Battaglia at (718) 960-7795 or email [Diana.Battaglia@lehman.cuny.edu](mailto:Diana.Battaglia@lehman.cuny.edu).

### Register for School

Parents of new students to the New York City public school system or those looking to change schools for their children can visit the New York City Department of Education's Family Welcome Center at 1 Fordham Plaza, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday. The center will be closed Sept. 3, 10, 11 and 19 in observance of national and religious holidays. For more information, call the center at (718) 329-8050 or visit <https://on.nyc.gov/2AQFvS8>.

### Personal Finance Workshop

University Neighborhood Housing Program is hosting a personal finance class dubbed "Getting Ahead Financial Education Workshop" on Sept. 20 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Concourse House, 2751 Grand Concourse. The workshop meets three Thursdays thereafter—Sept. 27, Oct. 4 and 11. Topics include wage garnishment, debt collectors, credit cards, student loans, banking products, retirement, savings and more. For more information and to RSVP, call (718) 933-2359.

### Job Fair

A job fair hosted by VIP Community Services is scheduled for Sept. 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parking lot at 716 Fairmount Place (176th Street adjacent to 1870 Crotona Ave.). For more information, call Donnette Duncan at (718) 731-3500 ext. 7925. Appropriate dress is recommended.

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# Bronx Officials Break Ground on Edenwald YMCA

By MARTIKA ORNELLA

Speaking in front of a crowd of community leaders, lawmakers, and youth activists at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Edenwald YMCA, Mayor Bill de Blasio explained why the new facility will progress his goal of making New York the “fairest big city in America.”

“For all of us who have spent a lot of our lives at Ys, we know the passion that people bring to the work,” de Blasio said at the ceremony on Aug. 20. “The fact that so many Bronxites are about to benefit because of what will be built here is truly, truly inspiring.”

The 50,000 square-foot facility, which will be the Bronx’s second YMCA after the one in Castle Hill, will be located at 1250 E. 229th St., nearby the heavily populated Edenwald and Baychester housing projects. The hope, according to officials, is to create a recreational space for potentially wayward Bronx youth.

The Edenwald YMCA will have two swimming pools, basketball courts, a rooftop garden, an afterschool program, a diabetes center, and GED services.

Former teacher and longtime advo-



Photo by Martika Ornela

**LAWMAKERS BREAK GROUND:** (l-r) Public Advocate Letitia James, Comptroller Scott Stringer, Congressman Eliot Engel, community activists Shirley Fearon and Al de Castro, Council Member Andy King, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Senator Jamaal Bailey, and YMCA President & CEO Sharon Greenberger.

cate for the Y, Shirley Fearon, told attendees at the ceremony that having the Y offer GED training for local residents was one of her main stipulations during the planning process.

“The GED program, we gotta get the people together,” Fearon said. “We tried to get them together in high school, but where that fails—There’s so much in-

volved in this.” Along with community activist Al de Castro, Fearon co-chairs the North East Bronx Community Coalition, which has been petitioning local politicians for a community center in the northeast Bronx since 2009.

The \$60 million project, which received \$24 million in funding from the YMCA, was spearheaded by Assembly



Photo by Martika Ornela

**MAYOR BILL DE BLASIO** speaks at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Edenwald YMCA.

Speaker Carl Heastie, who also represents the neighborhood. Heastie called it his “proudest achievement.”

“I was a teenager when we first started talking about this,” Heastie said. “I’ll be 51 next month. This is a long time coming.” Heastie credited de Blasio for taking the reins of the project, following lukewarm support from his predecessor, Michael Bloomberg.

“Every time we thought it was coming, it would kind of drift off again,” Heastie said of the preliminary stages of the project. “We’re finally here.”

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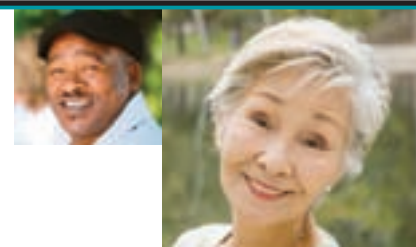


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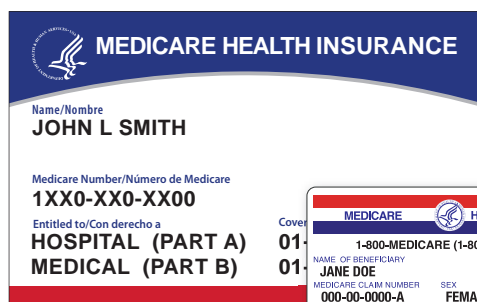

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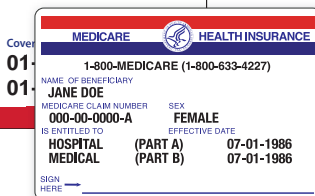


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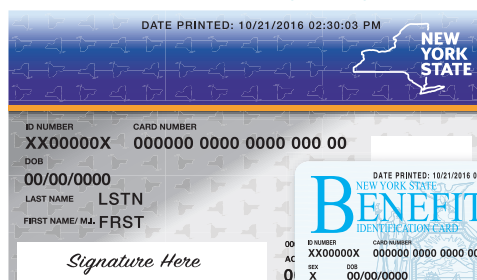
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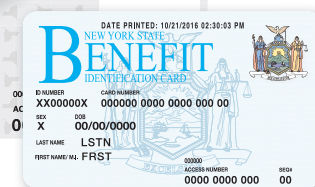
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# Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

## EDITOR'S PICK

The public is invited to a street renaming in honor of Mary Vallati, to take place at Mosholu Parkway South and Perry Avenue on Sept. 9 at 1 p.m. In addition to being a Bedford Park community activist, she was a member of the Bedford Mosholu Community Association (BMCA) and an organizer for the Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition (NBCCC). Vallati died on Sept. 13 at the age of 102. For more information, email [bedfordmosholu@verizon.net](mailto:bedfordmosholu@verizon.net).

## Onstage

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. presents the final free **Bronx Summer Concert**, Sept. 2, 1 to 5 p.m. on Orchard Beach's main stage at Section 9. Music includes salsa, calypso, reggae, bachata, merengue, R&B, and pop. For more information, call (718) 590-3500.

## Events

Bainbridge Adult Day Health Care Center, 3529 Wayne Ave., invites the public to the following free events: Aug. 30 - **August Babies Birthday Celebration** featuring entertainment and refreshments; Sept. 3 - **Labor Day Party**; Sept. 6 - **Zumba Party**; Sept. 9 - **Grandparent Day Party**; and Sept. 13 - **Welcome New Registrants Party**. All events are held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call in advance to arrange transportation. For more information, call (718) 653-2273 ext. 5608.

Tracey Towers will hold a **Rock the Block** event, Sept. 1 at noon in its park aka "Step Stadium," located on the roof. Movie night under the stars will begin at sundown. Bring a chair or blanket. Refreshments and snacks will be served. For more information, call (908) 377-7513.

The Bronx County Historical Society presents **Bronx Breweries Legacy Trolley Tour**, Sept. 8 from noon to 5 p.m. Meet at Woodlawn Cemetery's Jerome and Bainbridge avenues gate at 11:45 a.m. (rain or shine) where tour starts and ends. Cost of lunch in Little Italy is not included. No refunds. For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

The 52nd Precinct will host a **Back to School Movie Night** with a free screening of the film "Black Panther" on Sept. 6 at 7 p.m. at Frisch Field, at the corner of Webster Avenue and Botanical Square South. For more information, call (718) 220-5824.



File photo

**THE PUBLIC IS** invited to a street renaming ceremony honoring Mary Vallati (pictured), who passed away last year at the age of 102 (see Editor's Pick for more information).



Photo courtesy Wave Hill

**JAZZMAN RAY MARTINEZ** (pictured) will play several musical numbers in early September (see Events for details).

**Wave Hill**, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Art Projects**: Painting Outdoors, to paint for an outdoor project using watercolors and pencils, Sept. 1 and 2; and Plant Morphology, to draw plants, fruits and flowers, Sept. 8 and 9; both in the WH House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also scheduled is **Ray Martinez Performs: Legacy**, featuring jazz musician and his band, Sept. 3 at 2 p.m. on the grounds (rain or shine). 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.

State Senator Gustavo Rivera presents **Back-to-School Celebration** on Aug. 31 from 3 to 5 p.m. at Tremont Park at Arthur Avenue (rain date Sept. 3). Featured are free backpacks (while supplies last), free health screenings for kids, and fun activities. Backpacks will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis (kids ages 5 to 13 must be accompanied; ages 13 to 18, no parent required). For more information, call (718) 933-2034.

## Exhibits

Lehman College Art Gallery, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **20th Century Mexican Painting Masterpieces**, through Sept. 22. For more information, call (718) 960-8710.

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.

Derfner Judaica Museum at Hebrew Home at Riverdale, 5901 Palisade Ave., presents **Swords Into**

**Ploughshares**, free sculpture exhibit by Jay Moss, through Oct. 7, in the Pauline and William Goldfine Pavilion Lobby Gallery. For more information and to RSVP, call (718) 581-1596 or visit [art@hebrewhome.org](mailto:art@hebrewhome.org). Photo ID required for admission.

Bronx River Art Center (BRAC), 1087 E. Tremont Ave., presents **River Rising**, through June 30, 2019, featuring an exposition of science, art and technology, located in Starlight Park; and **Bronx Now**, through Sept. 8, featuring Bronx-based artists' works including sculpture, photography, painting, and live performance. For more information, call (718) 589-5819.

## Library Events

Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents for adults: **film**: "A Wrinkle in Time," Sept. 8 at 2:30 p.m.; **Microsoft Word for Beginners**: Sept. 10 at 2 p.m.; and **Computer Basics**: Sept. 13 at 2 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org).

Mosholu Library, 285 E. 205th St., offers for children ages 5 to 12: **Crafty Fridays**: Crafts, Aug. 31 at 3 p.m. Teens/young adults can enjoy **film**: "I Feel Pretty," Sept. 8 at 1:30 p.m. 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 adults: **Computer Basics at noon**: Aug. 30, Sept. 8 and 14. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

**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 Sept. 3 for the next publication date of Sept 13.



# Bainbridge Projects to Snarl Traffic

(continued from page 1)

Cost estimates for the project stand at \$45 million. It is slated to be completed by June 2019 but traffic tie-ups were expected to be alleviated as of July this year once Bainbridge Avenue reopened to two-way traffic between East 210th Street and Jerome Avenue.

The bumper-to-bumper traffic hasn't completely caused accidents, though the number of fender benders went from 18 in 2017 to 21 in 2018 on Bainbridge Avenue in the construction areas, according to publicly available figures reviewed by the *Norwood News*.

As has been the case, the Bx16, Bx34, and BxM4 buses, which usually headed north on Bainbridge Avenue and East Gun Hill Road, have been rerouted to Jerome Avenue after turning left from East Gun Hill Road and Bainbridge Avenue. The single lane on Jerome Avenue under the No. 4 subway train has created major delays during the summer, where traffic is usually lighter. A drive that would normally take 10 minutes on Jerome Avenue between East Gun Hill Road and the Woodlawn No. 4 station can take upwards of a half hour.

Despite the delays, Rosa, a resident waiting for the northbound Bx10 bus on Bainbridge Avenue and East Gun Hill Road just across from the Children's Hospital at Montefiore, had no complaints. "It doesn't bother me. It will make people's lives easier."

The project appears to be halfway completed, with much of the action currently focused on East 213th Street and Bainbridge Avenue.

Janet Nappi, who works at the Bainbridge Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center, feels dissatisfied with how long construction has taken. "It was supposed to be done in July; we're in August. What happened? I feel sorry for the people who live here because they can't even park and get their groceries up without getting a ticket."

A nurse from Montefiore Health System's nearby Moses Campus seconded that line of thinking, saying, "I hope they hurry up and finish. It's been a while."

Other employees of the hospital, such as, Carlos May, felt differently. "Sometimes to achieve certain things in life, you have to give and take. What they're doing here is important. It's

making this place much safer than before."

A spokesperson for the DDC says the agency "will continue to work with the local stakeholders and partner agencies to minimize the traffic impacts as we upgrade the neighborhood's vital infrastructure. We expect the work near the school to be completed within the next few months."

## New Project

On the other end of Bainbridge Avenue, Con Edison is currently replacing gas mains between East 205th and East 206th streets while tearing up asphalt to replace gas lines by Perry Avenue.

The work will continue through the end of September and has been accompanied by parking restrictions in a neighborhood where parking is at a premium, as well as loud noise, traffic obstructions and temporary sidewalk closure, according to a work notice provided by Con Edison. Parking has been made temporarily unavailable to drivers on both sides of the street that's home to a variety of small businesses throughout the avenue.

The raucous construction is a pop-

ular complaint among those who live or work in the area. "I'm freaking going deaf. It's noisy, but they've been working fast. People complain but they know it has to get done," noted a resident of the neighborhood who chose to remain anonymous.

Maria Jazmine Lizarro, a hostess at Nicky's Coffee Shop, located on the same street as the Con Edison project, had a few words while on her way out of work. "[Construction workers] are doing their job but with all that noise, you don't hear the people when they order."

Local resident Jonathan Flores admitted the dissonance to be a bit irritating but is still pleased with the construction. "The noise is a little annoying. But if they're trying to fix or replace the whole pipeline, that's really great," he said. Ironically, the loud beeping from an excavator in the background made it difficult for a reporter to hear Flores while he was speaking.

Occurring during peak travel hours, construction takes place weekdays from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., breaking into the morning and evening rush hours.

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