



NORWOOD NEWS

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ON MOSHOLU PKWY. | PG. 12

NORWOOD & BEDFORD PK. UNDER CONSTRUCTION

News breaks down the number of projects happening in neighborhoods



Photo by Adi Talwar

THE IMPENDING MOSHOLU Grand on Van Cortlandt Avenue between the Grand Concourse and Mosholu Parkway (background) represents a multitude of projects under way in Bedford Park.

**By DAVID CRUZ and
ALONDRA VASQUEZ**

Along the neighborhoods of Norwood and Bedford Park, jackhammers can be heard repeatedly jutting concrete. It's the sound many have heard before, though in the last few months, as warmer temperatures climb, it's become the norm. Yes, Norwood and Bedford Park are undergoing another wave

of construction.

And it's not just multi-story projects that have swept the neighborhoods, but smaller-scale projects that have either knocked out spots, forced residents to walk in the street, or pose the question, "What is happening?"

The projects add to the 1,020 residential construction or infrastructure projects

changing the overall landscape of Norwood and Bedford Park since 2000, according to a *Norwood News* analysis using data from the city Department of Buildings. It also follows the overall trend in residential construction citywide, which saw \$14 billion in spending in 2018, up from \$13.2 billion in 2017.

"You gonna take small

and quiet neighborhoods and 10 years from now it's going to look like Harlem," said Anthony Riveccio, a Bedford Park resident and activist, who seeks to keep the neighborhoods what they are.

Bedford Park is arguably the epicenter of construction, with developers building multi-story properties in the neighborhood.

(continued on page 23)



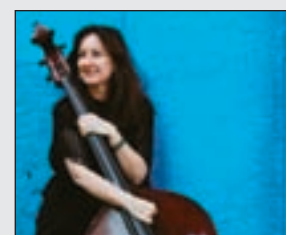
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**IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST**

Running for Congress, Jonathan Ortiz Channels Grassroots Campaign à la AOC

By DAVID CRUZ

For Jonathan Ortiz, the first Democratic candidate to officially enter the 15th Congressional District race, the hardcore campaigning starts at 5:01 p.m. on weekdays. On weekends, Ortiz is in full-blown campaign mode.

After leaving his day job as director of the Phipps Neighborhood Financial Empowerment Center, the South Bronx-bred Ortiz and his team can be spotted door-knocking and distributing literature across the district. Ortiz, a lover of media, also relies on various mediums to amplify his message for greater equity in the South Bronx.

Ortiz, 33, is running this grassroots campaign with zero support from the Bronx Democratic Party, and he likely won't get it. He's instead relying on shoe leather canvassing to get the word out to residents. He parallels his experience to be an unknown to Bronx Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who rose to political super stardom after defeating Joe Crowley in the congressional primary last year.

"When I knocked on the door of many Bronx Democrats, none of them opened the door to help me, and I'll say it straight out. No one said, 'Oh listen, I'll show you how this works.' None of them," said Ortiz in a telephone interview with the Norwood News, adding he's researching how to run a federal campaign online.

Ortiz is the first candidate to enter the contest well before the current seat-holder, Congressman José Serrano, announced he won't be running for re-election. He established a committee back in November 2018, well before Serrano announced his retirement, criticizing



Photo courtesy Ortiz for Congress

JONATHAN ORTIZ (RIGHT) is running for the 15th Congressional District seat, which will be vacated by 15-term Congressman Jose Serrano.

Serrano over his opting for street renaming events and "giving out free turkeys" over policymaking.

With Serrano having announced his retirement, a slew of candidates have already declared well before next year's June primary. They include Assemblyman Michael Blake and Councilman Ruben Diaz Sr., and likely Councilman Ritchie Torres (he's hinted at declaring a run soon), all seasoned legislators with a campaign apparatus (Ortiz pledges that "the money will be there" to aid his campaign) that has helped them win elections. Ortiz is still forging ahead, even as supporters for other candidates have urged him to drop out since it could split the Hispanic vote.

Ortiz frames his candidacy around reforming policies he be-

lieves contribute to the cycle of poverty. That includes reforming student loan debt and changing the standard to which people are charged rent, proposing the federal government "stop basing people's rent on their gross income," but on their net income.

Though he's started months before his rivals, Ortiz's candidacy may be overshadowed by the growing number of candidates. He's willing to drop out under one condition: "If they go ahead and they address every single thing on my agenda, I'm willing to drop out. If they're willing to do it. You know what I mean? But as long as they're not doing, or proposing, or supporting these things, I'm gonna be here for the long haul. I have nothing to lose."

Public and Community Meetings

COMMUNITY BOARD 7 will hold its general board meeting on May 28 at 6:30 p.m. at Kittay House, 2550 Webb Ave. For more information, call (718) 933-5650.

The **52ND PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** will host a brunch on May 24 in place of its regular monthly meeting (see Out & About on page 22 for more details).

Bring Back the Chinese Restaurant

While there are many Chinese take-out eateries in the Norwood area, there is no formal sit-down Chinese restaurant. Long-time residents may recall that years ago there was one which was in business for many years, located on Jerome Avenue off Gun Hill Road, a few doors down from Key Food supermarket, that went out of business long ago.

It would be great to see a replacement brought back to the neighborhood. Not everyone can travel distances to enjoy a sit-down Chinese meal with actual waiter service.

Judy Noy
Norwood resident

Who Can We Believe?

I don't know how anyone would say Mayor Bill de Blasio has done a lot for low-income housing, unless they're



Letters To The Editor

comparing them to President Donald Trump.

Got to page eight of the April 25-May 8 *Norwood News* issue and there's editor David Cruz' article on the plight of Bienvenido Martinez (also covered extensively in the *Daily News*). While Martinez was recovering at the Beth Abraham Center for Rehabilitation after a leg amputation, he was evicted from his NYCHA apartment for non-payment of rent. All personal property in his apartment was thrown in the trash.

Daily News columnist Harry Siegel wrote (3-31-19) of de Blasio's announcement that he would spend \$500 million

on affordable housing for seniors. De Blasio would later claim he was committing only \$100 million from the city, that the rest would come from the federal government and other sources.

According to de Blasio, who lies as shamelessly as Trump, Council Speaker Corey Johnson, Controller Scott Springer and Rev. David Brawley all misunderstood what he said.

According to Springer, combined city spending for the homeless has increased from \$1.3 billion in 2014 to \$2.9 billion in his current proposed city budget. Yet homelessness has increased from 51,770 to 58,759 (as reported in Errol Louis' April 18 *Daily*

News column).

Also in that same *Daily News* issue, Ben Chapman reported that while one in 10 city public school students is homeless, de Blasio's proposed budget calls for cutting \$13.9 million for 69 social workers who serve these pupils. He can't afford \$13.9 million in a \$93 billion budget? What if these students want to use the neighborhood library? De Blasio wants to cut \$16 million from libraries.

Then there's the thought of a de Blasio presidential run. A de Blasio-Trump race would be a hilarious comedy as a work of fiction. But it's been said that one person's tragedy is another person's comedy.

We certainly don't need two candidates who both, when confronted with truthful criticisms, reply "That's not true."

Richard Warren
Van Cortlandt Village

EDITORIAL

Tying the Aftermath of Neighborhood Construction With Our Absent Mayor

The genesis of this edition's cover story came about after editor David Cruz and reporter Alondra Vasquez drove around Norwood and Bedford Park, taking stock of the myriad of hard hats, construction equipment, and the oft rerouted traffic patterns that comprise typical ordinary construction. Yep, Norwood and Bedford Park have entered another wave of construction, the first happening after 2012, a year after the city authorized a massive rezoning effort along Webster Avenue.

This new wave of construction was evident in the intricate grid in Norwood, where crews clad in orange vests were spotted in front of the Capital Bank on East 204th Street and Bainbridge Avenue. A single bulldozer sitting atop a desolate hill on Webster Avenue between Pondfield Place and East 205th Street was found moving dirt around for a nascent project, while traffic drums cordoned off East 204th Street and Webster Avenue. Even St. Brendan's & St. Ann's Church is getting a touchup, with gas lines being replaced, according to building records.

Then there's Bedford Park, a neighborhood that, despite being built as a hamlet, is now seeing a slew of new residences slated for construction. Off Mosholu Parkway South, between

East 202nd and East 203rd streets, for instance, a Brooklyn-based operator is at odds with Community Board 7 over a project on a piece of tract where a quad of two-story homes once stood. Its height stands about as high as the impending 13-story Mosholu Grand, another project midway through construction on Van Cortlandt Avenue between Mosholu Parkway and the Grand Concourse.

Smaller public works projects have been sprinkled about the two neighborhoods, notably the ongoing sewer upgrade project that's knocked out parking along Bainbridge Avenue by the Major Deegan Expressway for well over a year, creating enormous strife for drivers hunting for a coveted public parking spot.

The blistering sounds of jackhammers have become a familiar aspect in this chapter in Norwood and Bedford Park's history, once described as sleepy sections of the Bronx. With warmer temperatures, the rise in construction activity has become noticeable, fitting in with the larger story of the Bronx, a borough once in the throes of arson and blight only to see billions of dollars in investments.

And in this chapter of ongoing construction, where is the urgency to meet the population demand? There

hasn't been talk of the creation of another school or added troops at the ever-busy 52nd Precinct. There's talk of expanding the stationhouse, with Councilman Andrew Cohen having recently presented the prospect to NYPD brass. It's commendable, and a wise move given the number of officers and personnel at the precinct, which stands somewhere around 280 officers. But if the city's history with construction projects is any indication, it will be years before an annex will be seen. Meantime, the construction boom continues. And there are no answers on how the city is meeting the demand.

It had this paper thinking of Mayor Bill de Blasio and his announcement to run for President, a decision that's earned him great derision by fellow lawmakers and a skeptical media that paradoxically wants him to stick around serving as mayor while beating him up for holding this position. How much attention is the mayor paying to a neighborhood bursting at

the seams with virtually no amenities to boot?

De Blasio should be aware that armchair managing thousands of miles from the city isn't the same as actually being in New York City. After all, nuance is lost when one is reviewing an issue from a screen or getting it secondhand. Those nuances can also be lost during the final budget dance between de Blasio and the New York City Council. At present, the Council has proposed a .04 percent increase of uniformed police officers, with zero to be stationed at police precincts.

It stands to reason the construction boom blanketing the Bronx may be too far removed for de Blasio. And it's time elected officials such as Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., who wants to succeed de Blasio, prioritize holistic building on his agenda, particularly for a borough that's under construction. There is no sense in putting the cart before the horse.



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INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



Five years after the death of Eric Garner at the hands of an NYPD officer, we asked readers their thoughts on current police-community relations.



I think it's a little better. The community is getting a little closer to the police as they are around a little bit more now. I think the time that passed has helped the healing, definitely. Things are much better now, of course. Crime is down and the police are doing their job.

Gilbert Rodriguez
Norwood



When it comes to the 52nd Precinct, I see they are definitely trying to make a difference. They are coming out here a lot more than they used to. They're always out here with the community, even up the block. Sometimes you'll see them hanging out with the kids, playing basketball, and stuff like that. So it's good to see them in the community and actually caring about the community instead of just policing it.

Sandy Carattini
Norwood



I believe the relationship is a little stronger, but I think the police need more sensitivity training because I feel they value their lives more than the people they're serving. So I think they need more training to control their anger and their aggressions. I think they should live in the same community they serve. Everybody works in the same community; why shouldn't the police? If you had a policeman living next door to you, that would be an extra person you could go to for help. The 52nd Precinct is very good; I have no complaints about them. They could look into some of the minor stuff like breaking into cars. This area really isn't very violent.

Kyle Smith
Norwood



In my opinion the relationship between the police and the community has gotten much worse over the years. It should gradually get better, but that's not something we have seen. I think it's a lack of training with certain officers. I think they should all go back for re-training on how they are supposed to conduct themselves and treat the public. I was violated by an officer from the [46th Precinct]. They violated my Miranda rights and in the end I did three days in Central Booking with two fractured ribs. Officers do not know how to react in some situations when it comes to the public.

Carlos Maria
Mt. Hope



Reflecting on this administration's performance when it comes to directives of equitable treatment between people of color and people of non-color and the NYPD, it remains clear that there is much work left to do. Police relations in black communities continue to create fear and hesitance among residents and visitors. As a criminal justice activist and organizer, it was most disheartening to experience violence at the hands of my own precinct in November 2018. Unfortunately, black bodies continue to be over criminalized for everyday occurrences. We need resources and funding in our communities, not more cages and state-sanctioned violence.

Shanequa M. Charles
Fordham



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NEWS BRIEFS

By ALONDRA VASQUEZ

De Blasio Announces POTUS Run

Mayor Bill de Blasio has declared a run for the White House. De Blasio made the announcement on "Good Morning America," framing his candidacy around helping the working class. "[I]t's time to finally put working people first," de Blasio wrote on Twitter. The announcement makes de Blasio the 23rd Democratic candidate presidential candidate to enter the 2020 presidential race.

MTA Accessibility Bill

Norwood Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz has coauthored a bill that sets targets for the MTA to make every train station in the system accessible for disabled riders. The bill would mandate the accessibility goals already established by New York City Transit President Andy Byford's "Fast Forward" plan to speed up accessibility improvements be set in stone. Dinowitz wants to see virtually the entire system accessible to disabled riders by 2034. State Sen. Andrew Gourardes is a sponsor. "I hope to move this bill quickly through the legislature before the end of session, especially as we approach the upcoming approval of the MTA's next capital plan for 2020-2024," said Dinowitz.

Weiner Released

Disgraced ex-Congressman Anthony Weiner was released from the Fordham halfway house. He was staying in since February after serving 18 months in a federal prison for sexting a 15-year-old girl. Weiner must now register as a sex offender until 2039.

Building Violations Bill

A bill by Councilman Fernando Cabrera is requiring landlord to provide tenants with copies of existing notice violations. Cabrera said tenants may sometimes be unaware that they can be involved in hearings involving the landlord should it receive a violation from the city Department of Buildings. If the bill passes, the violations would have to be posted in the lobby of a building so long as it's a violation that affects all residents. Cabrera said the bill is about "tenant protection and empowerment."



File photo by Adi Talwar

CAMBA LOOKS TO build two separate properties on this piece of vacant land on East 202nd and East 203rd streets by Moshulu Parkway South.

CAMBA Comes Back to CB7 With Small Revisions to Massive Project

By EMILY SUZANNE LEVER

Community Board 7 residents came out guns blazing on May 14 against two residential buildings slated to rise on East 202nd and East 203rd streets.

But despite acrimony over the projects, there's very little the community can do to halt the development since it complies with existing zoning laws. For now, residents simply heard from the Brooklyn-based developer, CAMBA, and most responded critically.

"This neighborhood has just been dumped on with housing, absolutely dumped on, with no regard for the residents that are here," said one resident in attendance at the Land Use Zoning & Housing Committee. "I think it's a nightmare."

The land the project will stand on is owned by a private landlord, Peter Fine. While the buildings are receiving subsidies from the city department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), meaning the community board has an advisory say on the project, there is no formal land use review process. In other words, the community has no veto power.

The affordable housing development, in which 30 percent of units will be set aside for homeless individuals and families, has raised Bedford Park residents' hackles since it will bring 323 units of housing to lots where 1-

to 4-family homes used to stand, said Community Board chair Jean Hill.

"The area where the project is going to be located is very densely populated already, and the school is already overcrowded," Hill said, referring to P.S. 8, which is at 156 percent of its capacity. "So it's always a concern when you have a lot of development coming into the area. How do you not overburden the community that's already here? And how do you not change it too much? How does it all fit in together?"

Despite the community opposition, CAMBA spokesperson Sheila Steinback said in a statement, the group is "excited to be working with the community" to complete the development. "The project focuses on affordability and sustainability, including healthy indoor air quality, reducing energy usage, and includes amenity spaces focused on healthy living," Steinback said.

Despite a proposal in December 2018 to scale back the project by 51 units, the two buildings are set to include 161 and 162 units respectively. But CAMBA has made a few concessions. The developer's representatives announced at the meeting a plan to include a driveway that will cut through the buildings, which is intended to ease any impending congestion on the narrow roadways, a major concern for

residents.

The majority of studio apartments in the development will rent for under \$843 per month and the majority of two-bedrooms will rent for under \$1,290, according to CAMBA.

In recent years, there has been a broader pattern of large-scale developments in Bedford Park, spurred by the 2011 Webster Avenue rezoning. Some feel the new developments are visually jarring and threaten to overload local services and infrastructure; there's currently an effort to landmark the neighborhood in a bid to halt development.

Bedford Park was built at the turn of the 20th century as a semi-rural suburb of New York City, not as an urban area. Historically, the neighborhood was not built to be this dense, said long-time resident Edgar Cisneros.

"It's not a knock on affordable housing, but a lot of the resources, the schools, the tiny streets that were designed to be tiny--because they were designed for single-family houses--are now being asked to submit monstrous, large-size buildings," Cisneros said.

"This particular project is going to be about 600 people where there used to be maybe 50 or 60. That changes the dynamic of the neighborhood."

Community Board 7 district man-

(continued on page 18)



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Norwood News Celebrates Silurians & New York Press Club Wins, Deadline Club Nod

By NORWOOD NEWS

The *Norwood News* continues its streak of awards this year, grabbing several this season.

The latest happened at the Society of Silurians Press Club, one of the oldest journalism clubs in the nation, which awarded the *Norwood News* a Merit Award for Feature Journalism. The award went to editor-in-chief David Cruz for his "Housing Matters," a 6,000-word series that explored the complexities of housing in New York City, the challenge to undo some of those complexities, and its impact on the New York City public school system. The series was set in the backdrop of the massive rezoning of Jerome Avenue, along Jerome Avenue between East 183rd and East 167th streets.

"I'm extremely proud of the work our paper has put out over the last year," said Cruz. "It's a testament to the work community journalism can achieve, notwithstanding its limited resources."

In their write-up of Cruz's work, the judges remarked the series boasted "strong investigative and research skills."

"With City Hall committed to expanding the stock of affordable housing, *Norwood News*, covering the northwest Bronx, asked a basic question: affordable for whom? The newspaper's well-researched "Housing Matters" series found that planned housing may be beyond the means of many Bronx residents struggling for the very soul of their neighborhoods," wrote the judges.

Cruz received the Merit Award on May 15 at the Silurians' annual dinner at the National Arts Club in Manhattan's Gramercy Park.

A total of 97 entries were submitted by various news organizations and freelancers in print, broadcast, and digital. Of the 97 applicants, 18 journalists were given medallions while 15 others received Merit Awards. There were 14 categories in all.

The *Norwood News* was also present in the highly competitive Deadline Club Awards, where the paper was named a Finalist for its "Housing Matters" series. The paper competed with the *Journal News*' Thomas Zambito, who wrote

"Metro-North Pays a Price for Past Mistakes," and *Asbury Park Press*' "Protecting the Shield" series, which won the top prize.

The "Housing Matters" series wasn't the only highly-regarded *Norwood News* piece in the journalism awards circuit this year. The New York Press Club, at which Cruz serves as a board member, awarded Cruz, former *Norwood News* intern reporter Joseph Konig, and photographer Adi Talwar, with the Community Coverage for their stories on conditions at Bailey Houses, a property belonging to the New York City Housing Authority that's in serious disrepair.

"We're thrilled and humbled to be receiving this award from such a storied organization such as the New York Press Club," said Cruz. "I'm proud of the team that put this story together, and even prouder this shed light into the debilitating conditions at a city-owned property."

This is the paper's second New York Press Club prize under the Community Coverage category, the first being in 2018 for its "Preserving Bedford Park" stories published in 2017.

The paper will receive the prize at the New York Press Club's annual journalism awards show on June 3 at the Water Club.

The New York Press Club event ends an awards season that began in April when the *Norwood News* grabbed eight prizes at the New York Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest. The paper won several awards for its investigative work, coverage of crime, spot news, and local government, and a photo award for Adi Talwar.

"Honors are great, and we hope they demonstrate the dedication the *Norwood News* has towards quality journalism and covering topics that matter to people in the Bronx," said Cruz.

The paper wishes to thank the following people who've helped make the paper's wins possible: Mosholu Preservation Corporation executive director Jennifer Tausig, proofreader Judy Noy, layout designer Mauro DeLuca, advertising sales executive

Janet Geller, freelancers Adi Talwar and David Greene, and 2018's interns who helped secure wins, including José A. Giralt, Martika Ornella, Christy Rae Ammons, Sophia Ebanks, Angel Mindanao, and Joseph Konig.

The *Norwood News* was established in 1988 by Mosholu Preservation Corporation to bring community news to Norwood residents. Today the paper's coverage includes Bedford Park, Kingsbridge Heights, Fordham and University Heights.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF DAVID CRUZ (l) holds his Merit Award alongside Society of Silurians President David A. Andelman.



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Third Arrest Made in Bedford Park Killing

Police have made another arrest in the stabbing death of a teen that happened in February and have charged 19-year-old Justin Flores with the murder of 17-year-old Pernell "Blizz" Pompey, which occurred on Feb. 13 near the area of East 193rd Street and Decatur Avenue, a known gang and narcotics sales area.

"Great job by all involved," wrote the Five-Two's official Twitter page of the arrest.

Officers found the victim with stab wounds to the body. EMS rushed him to St. Barnabas Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Flores is the third suspect charged in the death after authorities said surveillance video put him at the scene. Hector Calderone and Jason Ramirez, both 20 and both of 215 E. 197th St., were arrested a few days after the attack and charged with second degree murder, manslaughter, and criminal possession of a weapon.

The victim was killed two blocks from where another teen was killed two blocks away. That murder was gang-related, police said at the time.

The killing marked the precinct's first homicide for 2019.

—David Cruz

Bronx Private Industry Council Links Youth With Jobs

By SHA-NIA ALSTON

As part of Bronx Week, Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. joined business owners and students at an event at the Bronx Zoo in announcing a new organization that aims to reduce the Bronx's stubbornly high unemployment rate, which stands at six percent.

The Bronx Private Industry Council (PIC) is leading the fight. Founded by Here to Here, a Bronx non-profit that helps with economic development issues, PIC looks to create a pipeline between high school students and potential employers. It differs from the ordinary summer youth employment program, according to PIC executive director Eddie Summers. "They get special development opportunities throughout their experience, whether it's social skills, whether it's learning how to interact with different kinds of people and diverse backgrounds," Summers said.

Shamil Santos, a student intern from University Heights, was able to gain these lessons and learn about an industry she had very little knowledge of. Last summer she interned at Silvercup Studios, a film and television production studio, with locations in the Bronx and Long Island City. Interning at Silvercup was not only an eye-opening experience but a moneymaker. "I was able to buy my school clothes which helped my mom a lot, Shamil



Photo by Sha-Nia Alston

BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT Ruben Diaz Jr. (third from right) stands with stakeholders from the Bronx Private Industry Council and its participants.

said She was able to see the different roles that went in the movies and see the possibilities of other careers," said Shamil, who is now interning at the Bronx Zoo.

"I thought that in movies it's only the director and actors, but there are so many different roles," Shamil said.

Last summer, PIC had 257 paid student interns during their pilot program, with all participating employers saying they'd hire interns again. Currently, PIC has 22 partners that include Montefiore Health System, the Wildlife Conservation Society, FreshDirect, and Associated Supermarkets. They are hoping to add more businesses this year.

The event wrapped up with a video conference call with Assemblyman Marcos Crespo, congratulating PIC and also highlighting the \$50,000 in the New York State budget he earmarked to fund the initiative's initial year.

Crespo regaled the audience with his story on his finding an internship in state government that eventually led to a position at the office of then-Senator Ruben Diaz Sr.

Sometimes it's that first opportunity that

makes a difference. Diaz Jr.'s first job was packing bags at the local grocery store. For Diaz, this allowed him to buy movie tickets whenever he wanted. He even brought the most popular Adidas sneakers at the time.

Diaz Jr. highlighted the significance of having an organization like PIC. "Everybody wins. The youth will win, and you, as employers, will win. I am so ecstatic we were able to make this as part of Bronx Week," Diaz Jr. said.

Bronx Week is a 40-year-old tradition that celebrates the borough, through festivals, parade, live music, and an induction ceremony to honor-ees into the Bronx Walk of Fame.

Mayor Announces Healthcare Card for All New Yorkers

By JOSÉ A. GIRALT

The goal of guaranteeing healthcare for all New Yorkers advanced on May 7. Mayor Bill de Blasio announced at Lincoln Hospital the initial offering of the NYC Care card, guaranteeing all New Yorkers access to healthcare.

"Healthcare is a human right. It's as simple as that. . . It's a universal right. And we need, in this city, to prove that things can be done differently," de Blasio said, at a news conference on May 8.

The city estimates that 600,000 New Yorkers do not have insurance to receive healthcare, half of those are thought to be undocumented. As de Blasio held up a sample card, he said, "For so many people right now who have no coverage and no idea where to turn other than the emergency room, this card is going to change people's lives."

The Bronx will first benefit from the program starting Aug. 1. The mayor expects the other boroughs to be fully cov-

ered by the end of 2020.

Those who sign up will have to prove their New York City residency and show they cannot afford healthcare insurance. The mayor clarified that during the sign-up process some applicants may discover that they can pay for insurance in some form. "Some people may be eligible for insurance and we show them every conceivable option, and match what they can afford," de Blasio said.

The card will also include access to mental health treatment. First Lady Chirlane McCray announced that those suffering from anxiety, depression, and even addiction can also sign up. "This NYC Care card will be a key to all of our behavioral health services offered at our public hospitals and clinics. Primary care doctors will assess the whole person and work with patients to determine the best course of treatment," said McCray.



Photo by José A. Giral

MAYOR BILL DE BLASIO (center) unveils the NYC Care card, making health care available to New Yorkers who cannot afford or are ineligible for insurance, at the J. Cesar Galarce auditorium inside Lincoln Hospital on May 7.

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In Front of Bronx Housing Court, Advocates Bolster Benefits of Right to Counsel

By DAVID CRUZ

As rent reform continues to be debated in the Albany Legislature, housing groups across the Bronx are spreading word on the city's already established Right to Counsel law, which advocates say tenants may still be unaware of even as it's helped many stay inside their home.

The law, passed by the New York City Council in 2017 and fully implemented by 2022, offers tenants facing eviction with a free attorney to represent them in Bronx Housing Court. Still, families living within the Bronx zip codes of 10457, 10467, 10468, and 10462—where Right to Counsel has been activated—have still been evicted. The hope, according to housing advocates, is to spread word on Right to Counsel to stave off evictions at a time when a housing crunch has swept the city.

"The organizers in every borough are trying to get the message out," said Randy Dillard, a tenant leader and member with Community Action for Safe Apartments (CASA), saying 84



Photo by David Cruz

RANDY DILLARD (L), a tenant organizer with Community Action for Safe Apartments, leads a rally in front of Bronx Housing Court.

percent of tenants who've been taken to Bronx Housing Court where Right to Counsel is active have won.

Dillard recommends tenants facing eviction should get an attorney than go out on their own or even leave without a fight. "If you know that you're in the right, get your attorney to fight your case," said Dillard.

Tenants and advocates with CASA and Northwest Bronx Community &



Photo by David Cruz

TENANT ADVOCATES PIN "eviction notices" intended for landlords who've evicted the most tenants in the Bronx at a rally in front of Bronx Housing Court on May 9.

Clergy Coalition (NWBCCC) rallied in front of the ever-busy Bronx Housing Court on May 9 calling out landlords who've weaponized the court, according to Omar Owens, a fellow tenant leader and member with CASA.

The housing groups accuse landlords of abusing existing rent laws, including Major Capital Improvements (MCI)—a state program where landlords pass renovation costs to tenants in the form of a permanent charge—as a means of ultimately kicking out tenants.

Norwood resident Flor Morales is among those fighting to stay in her apartment at 3425 Gates Pl., a residence she's called home for 19 years. The property is owned and managed by the Morgan Group, which was approved to issue an MCI increase by the state Department of Homes and Community Renewal in 2017.

The MCI kicked in shortly after kitchen and bathroom renovations were completed, but Morales has refused to pay the extra \$81 per room, or a total of \$325, in MCI fees. Morales, who relies on her husband's disability to pay for rent, says she's still paying her rent, but is unsure whether she can stay in her apartment. So far, she has not received an eviction notice.

"Those things are falling apart already," said Morales, of the new appliances in her kitchen and bathroom, saying the tiles are starting to come down. Representatives from the Morgan Group plan to meet with tenants on May 22, she said.

Much of the fear over the existing rent laws is that they do little to stop apartments from no longer being rent-

stabilized. Estimates show there are somewhere around one million rent-stabilized apartments across the city.

Empty rent-stabilized apartments trigger a vacancy bonus charge that allows landlords to increase rent by as much as 20 percent to the next occupants. Vacancy bonuses stand as one of the rent laws Democrats in Albany look to undo, citing them as one of the key reasons why rent-stabilized units are being lost.

Housing groups have recently upped the ante in spreading word on landlords who have consistently taken their tenants to court by listing them on a so-called Right to Counsel Worst Evictors 2018 List, using data from the U.S. Marshal's Office which executes evictions. Among the landlords to have taken their tenants to court the most is Ved Parkash, who has taken 66 families to court in 2018, according to the list. Parkash has consistently been placed on the New York City Public Advocate's Worst Landlord Watch List.

Along with Parkash, E&M Associates, Finkelstein Timberger East Real Estate, and the Morgan Group were also placed on the list based on the number of evictions. Each of the landlords were accompanied by boos from demonstrators outside housing court as their names were announced.

As a symbolic gesture, tenants served "eviction notices" to landlords as a sign of no-confidence.

"The Bronx is under attack. [Landlords] are burning it with MCIs," said Owens, who's lived in his apartment for several years. "We're living through construction harassment."

Owens said the building landlord, Finkelstein Timberger East Real Estate, issued an MCI in 2015 after renovations for windows and boiler were made. The fees were passed on, Owens said, forcing some tenants to leave because they couldn't keep up with paying an extra \$51 per room.

"You find them moving in the middle of the night moving out because they don't want to go through the embarrassment of having to be evicted in broad daylight," said Owens.

The law will be fully implemented by 2022, when the city's entire housing courts system will have available attorneys.

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BRONX WEEK FESTIVITIES

The 46th annual Bronx Week celebration featured numerous activities and ended in Norwood with a parade that capped an 11-day extravaganza which answered why the Bronx is a special place to many. Before the parade, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. honored an accomplished boxer, musician, and planetary scientist for their contributions to their field and link to the borough.



Photo by Adi Talwar

ALEJANDRO GONZALES, WORKING at his family's catering business, Antojitos Mexican Don Goyo, serves hot-off-the-skewer tacos al pastor at the annual Bronx Week Festival on the Mosholu Parkway median near Van Cortlandt Avenue East.



Photo by Adi Talwar

SALSA SENSATION GEORGE LAMOND (foreground) graces the stage at the annual Bronx Week Festival, part of a music group that headlined the event.



Photo by Adi Talwar

WHAT WOULD A festival be without face painting? Here, a little girl sits for a purple butterfly design.



Photo by Adi Talwar

COMMUNITY BOARD 7 members take part in the Bronx Week Parade, marching with their large banner on Mosholu Parkway near Van Cortlandt Avenue East.



Photo by Adi Talwar

MEMBERS OF THE International Society for Krishna Consciousness show off their dance moves at the Bronx Week Parade.



Photo by David Greene
BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT Ruben Diaz Jr. (r) helps Bronx Walk of Fame honoree, planetary scientist Carolyn Porco, pull the drape off a street sign on the Grand Concourse by East 161st Street bearing her name during an unveiling ceremony before the parade.



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Photo courtesy Office of state Sen. Jamaal Bailey

A CROWD PACKS Lovinger Theater at Lehman College on May 17 for a forum focusing on the Specialized High School Admissions Test and the ongoing debate over reforms. The forum was hosted by state senators Jamaal Bailey, representing Norwood, and John Liu, representing portions of Queens.



Photo courtesy Office of the Bronx Borough President

THESE LADIES HAVE quite the time dancing at an appreciation celebration that featured a comedy show exclusively for senior citizens from the Bronx on May 16. The event was part of the 11-day Bronx Week celebration.



Photo courtesy Office of Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez

ASSEMBLYMAN NATHALIA FERNANDEZ (c) cuts the yellow ribbon ushering the grand opening of her new office at 2018 Williamsbridge Rd. in Morris Park on May 11. Residents, district leaders, and fellow lawmakers joined Fernandez.



Photo by José A. Giralt

GABRIELLE COOKE, 9, receives her gift bag as her dad, Damion, looks on at the 11th Annual Teddy Bear Hospital event at the Montefiore Wakefield Campus in the Bronx on May 18. The event aims to reduce some children's anxiety about visiting hospitals by having them tour a real ambulance, visit the Emergency Room, have an X-ray taken of their teddy bear, and receive safety tips from the NYPD and FDNY.



Photo by Alondra Vasquez

(L-R) COMMUNITY BOARD 7 Veterans Committee Chair Emmanuel Martinez, and deputy chief of staff for state Sen. Jamaal Bailey Kenny Agosto stand with Gerry Landron, one of five honorees to receive a recognition award for their service to their country. The five were honored by the board at its annual brunch for military veterans on May 17.



Photo by José A. Giralt

(L-R) AALIYAH CARRERA, 15, and Nya Salkey 14, show off their prom dresses during a fashion show at the Evita USA clothing store at 3466 Jerome Ave. in Norwood on May 10. The event was organized by the Jerome Gun Hill Business Improvement District to support local businesses in the week leading up to prom and graduation season.

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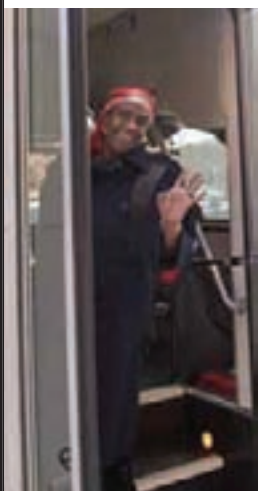
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Bx10 Could See Massive Changes Under Bus Route Revamp Plan

By DAVID CRUZ

Of all the bus complaints Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz's office receives, the ire is usually directed at the oft unreliable Bx10, which snakes virtually around Dinowitz's 80th Assembly District, ending and beginning in Norwood. The Norwood Assemblyman hears the usual about the beleaguered bus route: there are long waits, it's overcrowded, and the idea of "bus bunching," where two Bx10 buses arrive simultaneously, is the norm.

"It's such a long, convoluted route that has to be looked at," said Dinowitz, joining advocates from the Riders Alliance, a transit advocacy group, in calling for greater resources to the bus route.

Their calls are part of a broader plan by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to see a completely redesigned bus network, which hasn't seen a major overhaul for decades. The MTA's recently released report outlined the current state of the bus network in the Bronx, finding it's the second slowest in the city.

"All the routes in the city, and in the Bronx, haven't been evaluated in decades," said Stephanie Butgos-Veras. "They're not getting riders to where they need to be."

Ahead of several public workshops asking the public to weigh in on their report, the Riders Alliance had some suggestions of their own, based on interviews with Bronx riders. Some of their findings include faster, reliable bus service, crosstown buses, and

added bus lanes to improve speed and reliability. There were also calls from members for a dedicated bus from the Bronx to the city's airports, substantially cutting down travel times. Such a move was planned by the MTA in 2013, at least for commuters heading to LaGuardia Airport, but nothing's taken off.

A bus ride from the Bronx to JFK International Airport would be ideal for David McKenzie, a Baychester resident and Riders Alliance member who recently took his family more than three hours via train to bus to arrive at the southeastern Queens terminal.

"There's a saying in New York: 'If you're in the traffic, you're in the traffic,'" said McKenzie, who recalled feeling resigned to his traffic nightmare.

For the Bx10 bus, Dinowitz, who once chaired the Assembly's Corporations, Authorities, and Commissions Committee, thinks splitting the bus route in half—a route exclusive from Riverdale to Kingsbridge Heights, and another from Kingsbridge Heights to Norwood—can serve as a reasonable solution.

"By doing that there's a smaller likely to bus bunching because the longer the route is the more chance there is that they'll bunch," said Dinowitz.

A public open house where riders can weigh in on the draft plan is slated for release in June. A final plan will be drafted over the summer, slated to be released sometime in September or October.



Photo by David Cruz

STEPHANIE BUTGOS-VERAS, senior organizer with Riders Alliance (at podium), outlines some of the requests from the transit advocacy group concerning the MTA's bus redesign plan.



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Missing Youngster Latest Incident Linked to New Doe Fund Building

By DAVID GREENE

Police are looking for a missing youngster who was living at 3100 Webster Ave., the same building as another resident who committed suicide inside French Charley's Park.

Police say Ivan Rosado, 12, was last seen at his residence at 1 p.m. on May 16. He is described as a light-skinned male Hispanic, standing at 5' 1" and weighting 100

lbs. He was last seen wearing blue jeans, a blue button-down shirt with red stripes and black Reebok sneakers.

One resident, who asked not to be named, said the boy is troubled.

Meanwhile, the Office of the City's Medical Examiner has iden-

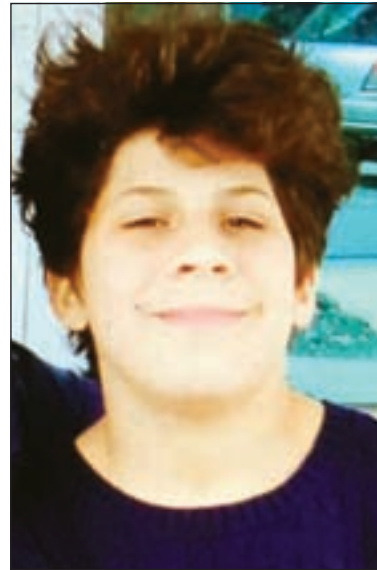


Image courtesy 52nd Precinct Twitter Account

POLICE RELEASED THIS photo of Ivan Rosado, who was last seen on May 16.

tified the person who hung himself inside French Charley Park on April 26 as Yester Canelas, 37. Canelas' death was ruled a suicide.

The property recently opened and is owned and operated by the Doe Fund, a social services non-profit. The residence is home to low-income residents along with those suffering from HIV/AIDS.

Alexander Horwitz of The Doe Fund, who oper-

ates the building at Webster Avenue and East 204th Street, said of Canelas' death, "This was a very sad situation for all of us at The Doe Fund. The loss of a resident is heartbreaking, especially because our organization's mission rests on supporting our clients' well-being, independence and safety."

CAMBA Comes Back to CB7 With Small Revisions to Massive Project

(continued from page 5)

ager Ischia Bravo thinks the situation is unfair, citing overdevelopment and the board's powerlessness in halting as-of-right projects despite local objections. Residents are bending CAMBA's ear at community

board meetings trying to get the most concessions within the realm of possibility.

"I'm against all the development work," Bravo said. "I personally hate the density of the project. But here we are, you know, trying to get the best."

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NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

Fair

Community Board 7's Education Committee hosts an Educational Resource Fair on June 1 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd. Events include health, education, and school readiness information, local community resources, along with free entertainment. For more information, call CB 7's office at (718) 933-5650 or email ibravo@cb.nyc.gov.

Beach Season Begins

Beach season officially begins on May 25, with operating hours for Orchard Beach from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily through Sept. 8. For more information, call 311.

UFT Bronx Fair

United Federation of Teachers and NYC Department of Education Bronx office hosts a fair at the UFT Learning Center, 2500 Halsey St., May 31 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., for students and families highlighting agencies, colleges, and vendors to as-

sist students with special services and options when going from high school to college or the world of work. Events include meeting with professionals and student workshops. For more information, call (866) 509-5921.

Free Workshops at NYPL

The West Farms Library, 2085 Honeywell Ave., holds a free workshop on Credit Scores and Loans on May 25 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information and for required RSVP, call (718) 579-6990.

Summer Youth Police Academy

Young people between the ages of 10 and 15 can sign up to train with police officers at the Summer Youth Police Academy. The program is free, runs five days a week for six weeks, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Classes include lectures, role playing, and demonstrations in the areas of law, behavioral science, drug prevention and gang resistance. Applications are

due May 31. For more information, call (718) 312-5079 or email communityaffairs@nypd.org.

Right to Counsel

Right to Counsel (RTC)—which assigns a free attorney to those sued for eviction in housing court and in NYCHA termination of tenancy hearings and who are income eligible—is available to tenants who live in Bronx zip codes 10457, 10467, and 10468. If a tenant is not income-eligible, they have the right to a one-off legal consultation or advice session. Tenants facing eviction or harassment from management can call Nova Lucero at the Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition for support at (917) 952-5494.

Become a Home Health Aide

Home Health Aide certification can be earned in one month (no high school diploma or equivalent is required) at the SUNY Bronx Educational Opportunity

Center, 1666 Bathgate Ave. Applicants must be able to pass a background check and a drug screening. Register Monday or Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at <http://bronxeoc.org/register> for tuition free training. For more information, call (718) 530-7000.

Business Courses for Immigrant Entrepreneurs

Department of Small Business Services offers business courses for new and established immigrant entrepreneurs, in multiple languages. For more information and to register, visit nyc.gov/businesscourses.

Free Legal Services For Immigrants

Low-income immigrants can receive free legal advice from volunteer attorneys through the New York State Liberty Defense Project and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York. For more information, visit CatholicCharitiesNYProBono.org or call (800) 566-

7636. If you are interested in volunteering, visit catholic-charitiesny.org.

Free Bird Walks

Free bird walks are offered every Saturday beginning at 9 a.m. through July 20 at the Van Cortlandt Nature Center. Bird watchers can look for various species of residents and migrants and discuss a wide range of avian topics. For more information, email Joseph McManus at mcmnaus638@aol.com. No registration necessary. No limit. Free, thanks to grant by Councilman Andrew Cohen.

Crime Victims Support

Crime Victims Support Services, a 501(c)3 group at 1138 Neill Ave., offers victims help in navigating the criminal justice system. Free confidential services include claim assistance, case follow-up, crisis counseling, and victim advocacy. The group accepts donations. For more information, call (718) 823-4925.

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Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

EDITOR'S PICK

Memorial Day Concert

The public is invited to bring a picnic and come to a free Memorial Day holiday concert presented by the Bronx Arts Ensemble, featuring all-American music, May 26 at 2 p.m. at Van Cortlandt Park. For more information, call (718) 601-7399.

Onstage

Lehman College's Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., W., presents **Invincible**, a tribute to Michael Jackson, featuring singers and dancers, May 25 (tickets: \$25 to \$45; \$75/VIP: \$10/ages to 12); and **Los Van Van**, 50th anniversary celebration, June 1 (tickets: \$50 to \$75; \$100/VIP); both at 8 p.m. VIP tickets include best seats and preconcert wine and hors d'oeuvres at 6:30 p.m. in the Havana Café. For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

Mind Builders presents **Matriarchs in Motion**, free, May 31 from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at the Hostos Longwood Art Gallery, 450 Grand Concourse, room C-190. For more information, call (718) 652-6256.

Events

St. Barnabas Hospital Health System presents a free **street fair**, June 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Crescent Avenue between Adams Place and Hughes Avenue. Events include healthy

activities such as blood pressure, BMI and mammography screenings, Zumba and yoga activities, as well as special events for seniors. Visitors can speak with doctors and nurses and take home samples of healthy snacks and health care materials, receive giveaways, and participate in raffles. For more information, call (718) 960-9000.

The 52nd Precinct holds **brunch** on May 24 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Monroe College, 2501 Jerome Ave. Tickets are \$15. For more information, call Community Affairs at (718) 220-5824.

Bronx Parent Health Network presents **Community Fair**, featuring goodies, music, refreshments, and more, May 30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Nazareth Baptist Church, 490 E. 165th St. For more information, call (917) 941-8865 or (347) 271-8257 ext. 4026.

Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Art Project: In the Flow**, to create artwork and play with textures, May 25 and 26; in the WH House, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Grounds admission is free until noon Tuesdays and Saturdays all year. For more information and a schedule of events including tours and walks, call (718) 549-3200.

Exhibits

The Museum of Bronx History, 3266 Bainbridge Ave., presents exhibition, **The Bronx Goes to the Movies**, through Oct. 6. For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

Bronx River Art Center (BRAC), 1087 E. Tremont Ave., presents **River Rising**, through June 30, featuring an exposition of science, art and technology, located in Starlight Park. For more information, call (718) 589-5819.

The Museum of Bronx History, 3266 Bainbridge Ave. (208th Street), presents **A History of the Bronx Latino**, ongoing. Hours: Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m. For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

Library Events

Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents for children: **Art Thursdays at 4 p.m.:** (ages 5 to 12), arts & crafts, May 23 and 30; and **film:** (ages to 12 years), May 28 at 4 p.m. Adults can attend: **Computer Basics:** May 28 at 1 p.m.; **Microsoft Word for Beginners:** May 29 at 1 p.m.; and **film:** "La La Land," June 1 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

Moshulu Library, 285 E. 205th St., offers for children: **Toddler Storytime:** (ages 18 months to 3 years), interactive stories, action songs, fingerplays, and crafts, May 30 at 11 a.m.; **STEM: Kids Science:** (ages 5 to 12), Air/Gravity, May 28 at 3 p.m.; and **Drummin' Into Summer - Latin American**



Photo courtesy Official Website of Mary Ann McSweeney

MARY ANN MCSWEENEY headlines a free Memorial Day holiday concert on May 26 (more details can be found in our Editor's Pick).

Drumming: (ages 3 to 12), interactive workshop including a conga line, June 6 at 3:30 p.m. Teens/young adults can attend: **Turtles, Frogs, Snakes and Toads:** Summer reading program; see live animals, June 7 at 2:30 p.m. Adults can enjoy: **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: **Birds of Prey:** (ages 5 to 12), summer reading program. Check out hawks, owls, falcons and more, up close, June 6 at 2 p.m. Adults can attend: **Computer Basics at noon:** May 30 and June 6. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

NOTE: Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org, and should be received by May 27 for the next publication date of June 6.

PRESENT

Dementia Reimagined

A conversation with Dr. Tia Powell, a leading psychiatrist and bioethicist, about turning our focus on dementia from cure to care.

DEMENTIA Reimagined

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Tia Powell, MD

Director of the Montefiore Einstein Center for Dementia Research

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Norwood & Bedford Park Under Construction

(continued from page 1)

Among them is the Mosholu Grand, a 13-story residence that's midway through construction. It rests across from the Pickwick Arms, a 100-year complex at the tip of Mosholu Parkway South. The new building is being built on property that was once a gas station.

On East 204th Street by Villa Avenue, crews are building another affordable housing property, this one dubbed Villa Gardens, while down at East 204th Street and Valentine Avenue, an eight-story building is primed for occupancy soon.

Victor Milian, a resident of Bedford Park, has noticed the construction and is still reserving judgment over whether the new housing is good for the neighborhood. "It all depends on what it's going to be for. If we are talking about housing, there is always a need for housing. In the community there should be a balance between the quality of living," said Milian.

At Mosholu Parkway, Brooklyn-based developer CAMBA is in the early stages of constructing two buildings on land where two- to four-family homes stood. It's an effort that's not wholly embraced by Community Board 7, which typically hears what new projects are making their way to the neighborhood. CB7 chair Jean Hill, who once served as chair to the board's Land Use, Zoning, & Housing Committee—the body that first learns about new construction projects—said interest in Bedford Park keeps coming. And speculators are eyeing the existing, though slowly dwindling, stock of single-family homes.

"They are enticing homeowners to sell their houses so we are losing the housing stock and people who make investments so now we are becoming a neighborhood of renters only. You have a lot of good renters but they don't have the same investments that a homeowner does and we need that combination as well," said Hill.

But Hill, or CB7, hasn't heard all of the projects. At a barren hill of bedrock on Webster Avenue, with Parkside Place hovering just above it, crews have blasted portions of the tract, smoothing it out as it preps it for construction. City records show Queens-based Propco Holdings is planning a seven-story, 98-unit residence the realty firm is pegging as

"an unforgettable experience to its residents." A review of the website shows amenities will include upscale finishes and a dedicated parking garage.

Such a property would align with what Community Board 7 envisioned in 2009 when it approved an 88-block rezoning of Webster Avenue, which would usher in properties for families.

Builders are also constructing on existing property. At the corner of East 204th Street and Webster Avenue, just across 3100 Webster Ave.—a supportive/affordable housing that opened nearly a year ago—a two-story property that housed La Estrella Restaurant has been converted to a six-story residence. The construction was too much for homeowner Darrell Burgess. Last year, Burgess moved out.

"That's like the worst building in the world," said Betty Diana Arce, a longtime Norwood resident and current Community Board 7 member, speaking of the add-ons to the corner building. "And right across the street they opened up a building right in 3100 Webster Ave., the Doe [Fund] building; and one block south is the Stagg Building on 203rd [Street]."

Coupled with construction are the ongoing street projects where crews have ripped up concrete for a variety of reasons, temporarily taking out parking with it. At the tip of Jerome Avenue by the Major Deegan Expressway, crews have spent nearly three years excavating the curb cuts along the avenue, extending toward Bainbridge Avenue and East Gun Hill Road. It's all part of a massive sewer pipe replacement project linked to the Croton Water Filtration Plant.

A mile down Bainbridge Avenue, residents have spotted orange-vested crews with the MTA upgrading ventilator gratings and walls by the East 205th/Norwood B/D station at East 206th Street. The project, lumped



1. Construction of the Mosholu Grand by The Stagg Group on Van Cortandt Avenue East between the Grand Concourse and Mosholu Parkway.

2. MTA work on ventilation gratings near the East 205th Street/Norwood D subway station.

3. Ongoing construction on Jerome Avenue, beginning at the tip of the Major Deegan Expressway down to Bainbridge Avenue and East Gun Hill Road.

4. Queens-based Propco Holdings is planning a seven-story, 98-unit residence on Webster Avenue near Parkside Place.

5. CAMBA looks to build a pair of affordable housing buildings near Mosholu Parkway between East 202nd and East 203rd streets.

6. Crews with Con Edison rip up concrete by East 204th Street and Bainbridge Avenue.

with a similar project at the East 143rd Street-St. Mary's number 6 subway station, has gone over budget.

On the northeast and southeast corners of Webster Avenue and East 204th Street, just near La Estrella restaurant, orange cones can be spotted protecting recently upgraded curb cuts. The projects are part of a massive MTA project on Webster Avenue between East 165th Street and East Gun Hill Road for improvements to the Bx41 bus line that runs through the corridor. The Webster Avenue and Bainbridge Avenue projects are overseen by the city Department of Design and Construction.

Jeannet Rodriguez, a Norwood resident walking along East 204th Street at Webster Avenue, thinks that work is at least going at a relatively fast pace. "From what I see, it is good. The construction is good. I don't think it will affect anything," she said.

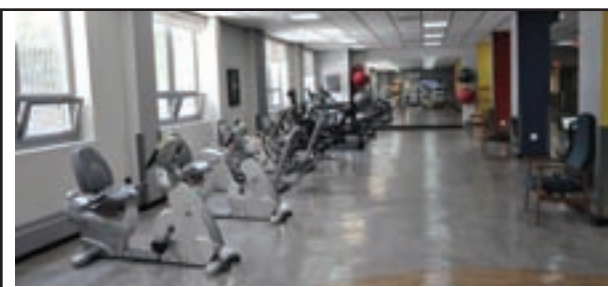
But not everyone believes the multiple construction projects in Norwood is a good thing. "These constructions are really bad for the

community because there are too many things going on. Sometimes you can't even cross through certain areas at all," said Mares Cobo.

Juan Solano, a local resident who is unsure of what is going on in the neighborhood said he believes the outcome will be positive. "It is a good thing because it is going to bring more people into the neighborhood it is going to make it more crowded. There is going to be more buildings and more stores. It will make the neighborhood more popular," said Solano.

Popularity in a neighborhood can serve as a cautionary tale—though it's what CB7 members had asked for back in 2009, construction has not been in lockstep to resources.

"They are overbuilding the neighborhood. I mean, they are really stressing out our neighborhood," said Hill. "They are overcrowding our infrastructure because where is the extra help with the schools and the police department and the sanitation department and everything? We know that it is really making the area overcongested."



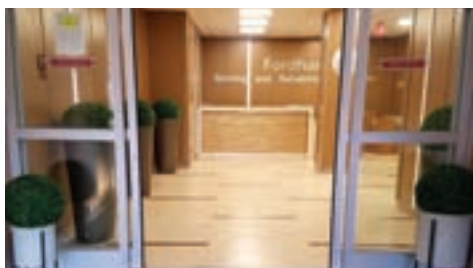
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- Religious Services for all
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- Trips + Entertainment
- On-Ste Dialysis (Wormen's & Morningside)