



NORWOOD NEWS

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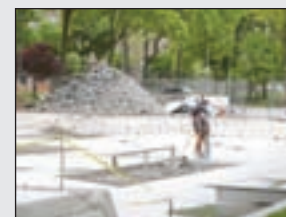
DEWITT CLINTON CAMPUS TO ADD ANOTHER SCHOOL

PEP unanimously approves D75 school at Clinton Campus



Photo by José A. Giralt

THE NINE MEMBERS in attendance at the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) (those with hands raised) unanimously approve co-locating a District 75 school into the DeWitt Clinton High School campus during a vote at the Taft High School Campus in Claremont on May 29.



**Holdups (Again) for
WBO Skateboard Park
pg 2**



**Norwood Bank
Robbery Foiled
pg 5**



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**Out & About
pg 18**

By JOSÉ A. GIRALT

When students show up for the start of the new school year in September at DeWitt Clinton High School, they can expect to find their building split up yet again.

By a unanimous vote of 9 to 0, the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) voted on May 29 to use some of the space deemed underutilized at DeWitt Clinton Campus (DWCC)

to co-locate the District 75 school known as PS X721 Stephen McSweeney within its walls.

The new school will move into the building already shared by Clinton, Bronx Collaborative H.S., World View H.S., and PS X168—serving students in grades 9 through 12 in an inclusion program. The decision by the NYC Department of Education (DOE)

has also worried current students and Clinton's alumni association, who see the co-location of another school inside the campus as a sign of an erosion of the school's history.

Before voting to approve the proposal, Schools Chancellor Richard A. Carranza, lauded the commitment and passion of Clinton's alumni, which launched a coordi-

nated, though unsuccessful campaign to get the DOE to reverse course. Seeming humble, Carranza considered the efforts valiant.

"I couldn't be more proud of a community," said Carranza. "As I have become familiar with the Clinton community, I have very rarely seen in my 30 years as an educator an alumni community

(continued on page 19)

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**IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST****Skateboard Project Hits Another Snag, Delayed for Several More Months**

By **DAVID CRUZ**

Just as crews were at the tail end of the long-anticipated skateboard park inside Williamsbridge Oval Park, the project hit a snag, delaying the project for several more months.

"We thought the skate park in the Oval was completed, however we found out that the surface, whatever they put down, cracked, and it all has to be ripped up again and redone," said Barbara Stronczer, chair of Community Board 7's Parks Committee, sharing the news to a surprised audience at the latest Community Board 7 general board meeting.

The delay, which was updated on the New York City Parks Department's Capital Tracker website on May 29, the day after CB7 alerted the public of the news, will likely push the project's completion toward the beginning of fall. The park, once completed, will feature ramps, mounds, and a quarter pipe surrounded by a chain link fence.

"I'm besides myself," said Councilman Andrew Cohen, who represents Norwood and allocated the \$750,000 needed for the project, of the delay. "The Parks Department is having such trouble delivering."

Over the last few weeks, crews with LC Construction brought back their jackhammers to tear through the concrete, creating a mound of broken concrete at the site. The problem, according to Parks Department spokesperson Anessa Hodgson, stems from the concrete work failing to meet "our quality standards."

"[T]he contractor is actively addressing these issues. Despite the contractor redoing some of the work, the overall budget for this project has not been affected and [New York City] Parks has not incurred any additional costs. While we understand the inconvenience of having this site offline, we want to be sure the final result is on par with our quality and safety standards. We look forward to completing this project this summer," said Hodgson through a statement.

Still, residents like Ayana Seed said



Photo by David Cruz

A CONSTRUCTION WORKER with LC Construction Consulting rips up the recently poured concrete at the pending skateboard park in Williamsbridge Oval Park.

she was disappointed over hearing about the delays. "It kind of sucks because everyone's anticipating it. No one wants to hear this noise, that's number one," she said.

Porsha Williams, a skateboarder who began taking up the sport a year ago, is anxiously awaiting the opening, but was disappointed to hear of the delay. "Construction always takes forever around here," said Williams. "It said it was supposed to be done by Winter 2019. I was hoping it would have been done months ago, but now it's still going. Now we're going to miss the whole summer not being able to use the skate park. That's ridiculous."

Jeremy Watson, meantime, didn't mind the holdup so long as "everything is done right." Watson did point out to the other side of the Bronx that's noisier.

News of the project's hiccup adds even greater pains to get the skateboard park section, which has been in the throes of delays for years. Cohen sought to honor a request for a skateboard park after allocating \$750,000 to see it through. Last check, the project's price tag climbed to \$888,000. The latest setback doesn't increase construction costs.

The vision for such a park goes back 15 years, when clergy members joined forces with neighborhood kids to lobby for such a park. But the project hit even

more delays when the two contractors pulled out of the project during the bidding phase after failing to adhere to procurement guidelines. It's the procurement process that Cohen takes issue with, saying it can take eight months for lawyers at multiple city agencies to review the contract.

"It's one little aspect of doing these capital projects," said Cohen, who funded the project in 2014, citing it as one of his first early capital projects he funded. "The amount of money that it requires is really ridiculous. It's really broken."

The news also irked Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, whose 81st Assembly District covers the Oval side of Norwood. "We know how long parks projects take as it is, let alone when there's a problem," said Dinowitz. "It means that the public, particularly kids are being denied the opportunity what for them is a very important resource. And secondly, usually that means more money. And you have to wonder how something so basic can happen."

For now, skateboarders will have to held elsewhere to practice their heel-flips, nollies, and ollies for practice.

"Who loses out but the kids who would be using the skateboard park," said Dinowitz.

Additional reporting by Sha-Nia Alston.

Public and Community Meetings

COMMUNITY BOARD committee meetings are held on the following dates at the board office, 229 E. 204th St., at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted: Traffic & Transportation Committee meets on June 6; Housing, Land Use & Zoning Committee meets on June 11; Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs Committee meets on June 12; Public Safety Committee meets on June 13; Health & Human Services Committee meets on June 18; and the Executive Committee meets on June 19. For more information, call the board office at (718) 933-5650.



Letters To The Editor

De Blasio's POTUS Run

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio for President belongs in the comics section [instead of the *Norwood News*' Inquiring Photographer April 25-May 8, 2019 edition].

Democrats Governor Andrew Cuomo and de Blasio have a lot in common with the late Republicans Governor Nelson Rockefeller (1959-1974) and Mayor John Lindsay (1966-1973) along with Governor George Pataki (1995-2006) and New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani (1994-2001).

The same is true for the late Democrat Governor Mario Cuomo (1983-1992) and NYC Mayor Ed Koch (1978-1988). Nelson Rockefeller, George Pataki, Mario Cuomo and son Andrew Cuomo deal with mayors who want equal billing on the political marque.

Lindsay's urban, Koch's Big Apple, Giuliani's safety/quality of life and de Blasio's progressive agenda is dependent upon both increased state and federal assistance. De Blasio envisions himself as the national spokesperson for progressive mayors from all cities.

This conflicts with governors who have to worry about all 62 counties making up New York State. It also creates problems for both Cuomo and de Blasio who harbor Presidential ambitions in 2020.

Cuomo like his father Mario, Rockefeller and Pataki, de Blasio like Lindsay and Giuliani will never come close to winning any primaries, let alone occupy the White House. Better to spend your time packing for moving back to your old Park Slope, Brooklyn home when your term ends in December 2021.

Larry Penner

Andrew Cuomo recently announced he is seeking a fourth term.

Norwood Construction Woes and Its Trees

With an already existing low-tree canopy volume across the

Bronx (the least "treed" of the five boroughs next to Manhattan), it is a fact that much of the new building construction for high density housing at sites of former old homes will impose other unexpected consequences to the neighborhood--large street tree losses.

At many of these properties it is the last of the large canopied veteran street trees adjacent to those construction sites that will be deliberately killed and destroyed by unmonitored and unchecked construction impacts, rather than their preservation and conservation. This has already been a trend for decades where the Bronx and Queens (and elsewhere) are losing large healthy shade trees and the benefits and services trees deliver occurring one tree at a time and unsuspectingly because of the developers.

How does this urban forest denuding happen and where is Parks Forestry that has jurisdiction over those street trees and their preservation? The absence of New York City Central Foresters in this scenario, whether unwilling or planned, is the driver of large numbers of street tree losses.

Rather than intervene when street tree damage is taking place, foresters sit and wait until damage is so extreme that the tree then needs condemnation and removal for concerns for public safety. With that, foresters then impose costly fines and restitution fees to the builder that fuels the New York City Parks general operating fund.

Yes, living public trees are the agency cash cow. And it is the public who forever loses their invaluable and irreplaceable veteran trees and their shade because no one spoke on their behalf.

"Dr. Gee"

This letter was originally placed in the comments section of the Norwood News website, responding to the "Wave of Construction Picks Up in Norwood & Bedford Park" story that ran on May 22, 2019.

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

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

INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



With the unofficial start of summer upon us, we asked readers their plans for the coming summer.



I expect to be working, but I will take one month off in July. I will go to the beach; I like to swim. I will spend time with the family, attend some cookouts. I love going to the beach in this weather, visit the different parks. It's going to be great.
Perla Abreau
Norwood



Actually, I'm going to visit family in Sicily, Italy, and I haven't been there in 10 years. I'm going to see my grandmother and grandfather, my aunts and my uncles. This is my first time going to Italy. I just moved to the Bronx; I'm originally from Brooklyn. I will check out the Botanical Garden, the Bronx Zoo and Orchard Beach because I've never been there. I will also shop on Fordham and East 149th Street because I heard there's good deals there.
Mya Mariani
Burnside



I'll be planning to go to the beach. I went to Orchard Beach on Memorial Day. I'll go again tomorrow. I'm planning on [getting] my kids to participate in an employment program so they will get to learn the Bronx a little better. We'll do some barbecuing in the backyard. I'm actually starting a master's program at Hunter College. We'll go to the Bronx Zoo and the Botanical Garden. We actually plan on doing a lot of stuff in the Bronx this summer.
Migdalia Guzman
Kingsbridge Heights



I plan on going up to the Catskills with my dad and my kids for a week; it's a tradition. Yes, walking in the woods, having barbecues. The 'Irish Alps' they used to call it, back in the day. Just hang out and have little cookouts in the backyard. Got to work too.
Danny Rice
Morris Park



This summer I will be attending the Brightpoint Health project and the BronxWorks project. These are substance abuse programs that help you to stop using drugs. They will help me in various ways. I will be going to Dorney Park upon my graduation. Also going to see the Mets play and chill out in the Bronx and have a great time.
Tony Ortiz
Williamsbridge



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NEWS BRIEFS

By ALONDRA VASQUEZ

Lehman College's Digital Diplomas

Lehman College degrees have gone digital. The CUNY institution is the first to confer the degree both in paper and digital format. The digital diploma is secured and stored in a sophisticated program dubbed "blockchain technology," keeping it from being altered. The degrees, 3670 of them, were handed out and placed in blockchain technology on graduation day, which happened May 30, setting a record over the most number of diplomas ever conferred in the school's history.

WBO Uptick in Crime

The 52nd Precinct has stepped up patrols at Williamsbridge Oval Park after receiving complaints over unsafe conditions at night. The precinct's Community Affairs Officer, Stephen Echevarria, broke the news at the latest Community Board 7 general board meeting on May 28. "People's purses [are] being taken. Some of the crews out there, late at night have made it dangerous for some people," said Echevarria, adding police are reminding residents to leave the park at dusk. Overall crime in the seven major categories has dropped 20 percent compared to the same time last year.

NCBH Maternity Ward Upgrades

North Central Bronx Hospital's Midwifery Unit has expanded, officials with the Norwood hospital announced. The ward has been relocated to a clinical area double the size, going from 2,300 to 4,800 square feet, offering a larger space for hospital staff and patients and including all the midwifery resources in one floor. NCBH was given \$50,000 to expand its ward.

Street Homeless Population Drops

The city Department of Homeless Services (DHS) said that the federally mandated Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE) Count found fewer street homeless individuals on Jan. 29, 2019 compared to 2018's HOPE Count that happened around the

Attempted Robbery at Jerome Avenue Chase Bank Foiled



Photo by David Greene

POLICE SURROUND THE CHASE Bank at 3408 Jerome Ave. on May 24.

By DAVID GREENE

A Brooklyn man is facing attempted bank robbery charges after cops grabbed him before he could catch a #4 subway train.

Police say officers from the 52nd Precinct were alerted to the attempted robbery at 3408 Jerome Ave., a Chase Bank, at just before 5 p.m. on May 24. NYPD spokesman, Sgt. Brendan Ryan said, "[A]n individual walked into the bank and attempted to rob it, passing a note to the teller. It appears he left with no funds."

Ryan continued, "However, a description was given out and he was apprehended," by patrol officers from the 52nd Precinct, with assistance from detectives and tran-



Photo by David Greene

POLICE ARRESTED AND CHARGED David DeLaurentif, 30, of Gerritsen Beach, Brooklyn, with attempted robbery of the Chase Bank branch at 3408 Jerome Ave.

sit officers. Police arrested and charged David DeLaurentif, 30, of Gerritsen Beach, Brooklyn. DeLaurentif was seen complaining to of-

ficers and even joked with cops as they led him away in handcuffs. He was charged with attempted bank robbery as well as possession of a weapon, a gravity knife and marijuana.

An employee of the Jerome Variety Shop two doors away from the bank, laughed as he remarked, "I think it's kind of odd that in this day and age, with all of the cameras around, that someone would try and rob a bank." When the worker learned that officers had grabbed the suspect, he replied, "That's pretty good."

Officers foiled the robbery the same day as the 52nd Precinct was holding its annual fellowship brunch.

JUMP Bike Expansion

JUMP Bikes—the rental bike service available in various parts of the Bronx—has an ally in Community Board 7 as it seeks to expand. The board passed a motion backing JUMP Bike's expansion beyond the west and northwest neighborhoods of the Bronx. The program, overseen by the city Department of Transportation, began as a pilot program in 2017 with the loaner bikes made available in the Fordham section of the Bronx only. Users pay \$2 via credit card for 30 minutes of travel.

Aqueduct Walk Visioning Session

With portions of Aqueduct Walk sorely in need of care, Partnerships for Parks is hosting a visioning session focusing on the park on June 10. The aim is to share, discuss, and reimagine the park, which stretches from Morris Heights to Kingsbridge Heights in intermittent walkways running north and south. Over the last few years, the park has been run-down, with drug use, robberies, and public urination now common there (more information on the visioning session can be found in our Neighborhood Notes section on page 17).

same time that year. The count saw a two percent drop in the number of unsheltered homeless, bringing the number down to 3,588 homeless who opt to stay in the streets instead of heading into a shelter. DHS credited outreach teams such as the Homeless Outreach & Mobile Engagement Street Action Teams (HOME-STAT) for contributing to the drop, given their constant interactions with street homeless the teams find each day. The HOPE Count happens in the middle of winter when New York City experiences some of the lowest temperatures of the year.



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Officials Usher In the Kingsbridge Heights Residence, A Model of Integrated Housing

By SHA-NIA ALSTON

City and state officials joined in celebrating the grand opening of Kingsbridge Apartments, a \$70 million supportive/affordable housing residence financed by both city and state agencies.

"This is a game changer because so many supportive housing developments have typically focused on homeless, singles, individuals, and those are very important homes to provide, but we also need to be providing housing for these children," Deputy Mayor Vicki Been, who manages the city's housing policies, said in her remarks on May 22.

The modernized residence—which includes a 24-hour attended lobby, a children's library, fitness room, laundry room, a children's playground and 17 parking spaces—serves as a model for so-called integrated housing, where low-income tenants live in the same building as supportive housing residents. In this case, 40 of the 135 units are reserved for formerly homeless families. B&B Urban and L+M Development are the developers behind the residence.

"Integration is a good thing and we should be doing more of it every-

where," said Tony Hannigan, CEO and president for the Center for Urban Community Services, a social services nonprofit.

This type of housing fits into what Community Board 7 chair Jean Hill wants to see. "We want a complete mix. Because the mix is what you have. You have your young professionals who are starting out in life. You have people who were formerly homeless, and they need to have a roof over their head. Then, you have your middle-income people, they still need a place to live too. Everyone needs to have decent housing today," said Hill.

The 13-story building is centrally located near Lehman College, Fordham University, several hospitals, and the Bronx Zoo, which heavily influenced the choice in deciding the location for the building, according to Molly Park who runs the development office for the city Department of Housing Preservation and Development. The complex is also directly across from the Kingsbridge Armory, which remains vacant.

Currently, New York State has a \$20 billion housing plan, which aims to combat the homeless crisis.



Photo by Sha-Nia Alston

RESIDENTS AT KINGSBRIDGE Heights Apartments join city and state officials, legislators and community stakeholders in welcoming the newly opened residence.

The five-year plan intends to create 100,000 affordable and 6,000 supportive housing units.

For new resident Maria Alvarez, the opportunity to live in the complex gives her a sense of optimism for her and her son, who suffers from muscular dystrophy. "I can happily say today that I made it. I have a place that I can call home, I am a fighter. I made through and

I look forward to the rest of my future," Alvarez said.

Hill, who once served as the Housing, Land Use & Zoning Committee chair, praised the look of the property, cautioning future developers that should they build in the neighborhood, they "come correct."

"We going to fight for the best that we can get. We're not going to cut any corners," said Hill.

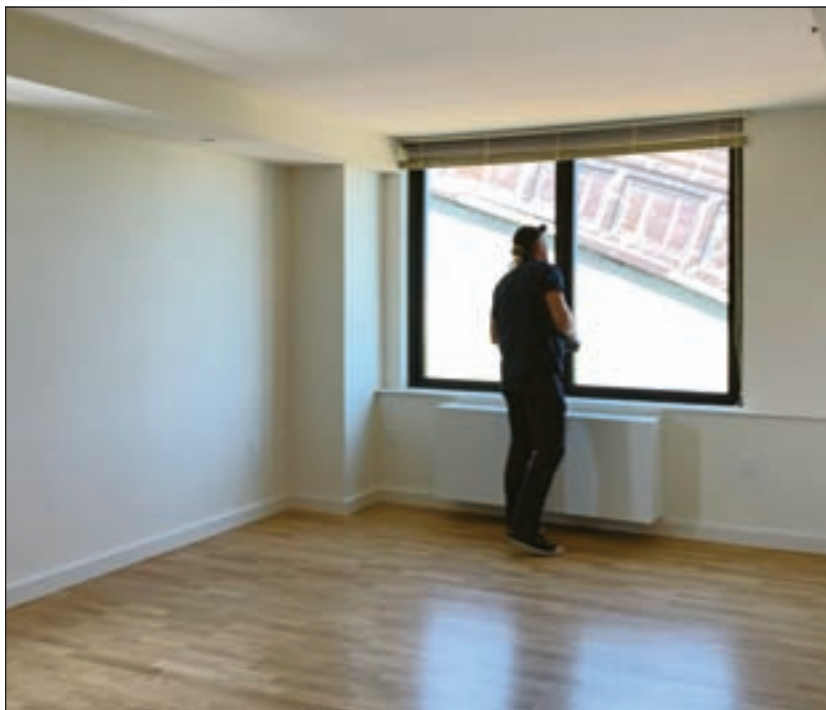


Photo by Sha-Nia Alston

A VISITOR INSIDE ONE of the 32 studio apartments at Kingsbridge Heights Apartments.

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A Tennis Court Gets a Major Facelift at St. James. Will it Be Used?

By DAVID CRUZ

At a ribbon-cutting ceremony IN ushering the completion of a rehabbed tennis court in St. James Park, Councilman Fernando Cabrera, who allocated funds for the court, posed a question to his special little guests: third grade students from PS 246.

“How many of you like tennis?” asked Cabrera.

Several perfunctorily answered with hands raised.

But just outside the fence facing the court, a heckler randomly shouted that he’s barely seen anyone use the court in his 35 years as a resident. The court, prior to its substantial upgrade, was severely cracked, barely suitable for a set. It was enough for Cabrera to entrust the young guests to take care of the court, also home to handball and basketball courts.

Contrary to the heckler’s shouts, supporters of the court said that demand can indeed be created with the rehabilitation of the court along with added support for tennis enthusiasts. Without a proper court, how can interest be tested?

“It’s a game and a sport you can play for a lifetime,” said Barbara Stron-



Photo by David Cruz

ALICIA ROSARIO, A tennis instructor, gives a tennis lesson to students from P.S. 246 at the newly minted St. James Park tennis court.

czek, chair of the Parks Committee for Community Board 7, which overlaps with the Fordham Park. Stronczek is an avid tennis player.

Andrew Turay, a school principal who plays tennis in his leisure time and teaches it, was slightly skeptical over the demand, though he hoped the

modernized court can generate interest.

“It’s a wonderful resource, but it *(continued on page 14)*

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52nd Precinct Community Council Hosts Annual Fellowship Brunch

The 52nd Precinct Community Council held its annual Fellowship Brunch, recognizing residents and police officers striving to make the neighborhoods of Norwood, Bedford Park, Kingsbridge Heights, Fordham, and University Heights decent, livable communities. The May 24 event at Monroe College also saw officers from the NYPD's other divisions—Explorers, Auxiliary, and School Safety—receive accolades. All photos are by Alondra Vasquez.



DEPUTY INSPECTOR THOMAS ALPS, commanding officer of the Five-Two, welcomes guests at the fellowship breakfast. This was Alps' first fellowship breakfast for the precinct.



NYPD AUXILIARY OFFICER Raul Lopez (third from left) is named Auxiliary Officer of the Year by the 52nd Precinct Community Council. Brenda Caldwell (third from right), president of the community council, stands alongside him.



ADRIANA ALCANTARA, a sergeant in the NYPD's Explorers program, shakes hands with community council member Gerry Landron en route to accepting the Explorer of the Year Award,



ELIZABETH QUARANTA, PRESIDENT of Friends of Mosholu Parkland (3rd from left), holds up the Mahoney-Shankman award she received for her community service and dedication to preserving the integrity of parks and Mosholu Parkway.



(L-R) NYPD OFFICERS Marvin Pinnock and Michael McDermott are honored as Cops of the Month for deescalating a potentially fatal domestic violence incident.



COUNCILMAN ANDREW COHEN is all smiles moments after accepting the precinct council's Elected Official-Community Service award for his efforts in pushing for an annex for the precinct.



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*“Bainbridge is a wonderful place,
I have many friends and I get to socialize.
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CRIME FILE



Would-Be Thief Wanted

The NYPD needs help identifying a man wanted for questioning in connection to a burglary that happened in Fordham. Police say a woman returned home and found her air conditioner unit had been pushed through her living room on May 2 at around 9:30 a.m. near West Fordham Road and Davidson Avenue. Investigators learned the man entered the residence and fled through the bedroom fire escape without any property.

The person (pictured above) wanted for questioning is described as black; last seen wearing a black du-rag, black long-sleeved shirt, and blue jeans.



Elderly Man Attacked

A suspect is wanted for beating a 66-year-old man in broad daylight. Police were called to the candy store at 330 E. Gun Hill Rd. near Hull Avenue on May 18 at around 11:45 a.m. for the assault. The victim suffered a cut to the face. It's unclear what provoked the attack. Police are still looking for the suspect.

The man (pictured bottom left) is black, sporting a beard and last seen wearing a red hat resembling a fez, dark jacket, white shorts, sneakers, and carrying a shoulder bag.

Legal Barbecues, Please

The New York Police Department is reminding residents that they can



File photo by David Greene

COOKOUTS ON MOSHOLU Parkway, like this one spotted a few summers ago, are forbidden under current law.

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• **Pelham Bay Park:** Hutchinson River, Long Island Sound between Bronx County Line and Middletown Road, Watt Avenue.

• **Crotona Park:** Crotona Park North to South, Fulton Avenue to Southern Boulevard and Crotona Park East.

• **St. Mary's Park:** St. Mary's Street between St. Ann's Avenue and Jackson Avenue.

• **Ferry Point Park:** Schley Avenue, Long Island Sound between Westchester Creek and Balcom Avenue.

• **Hunts Point Riverside Park:** Lafayette Avenue between Edgewater Road and the Bronx River.

• **Mill Pond Park:** Major Deegan Expressway between East 150th and 153rd streets.

Anyone with information on the above mentioned crimes is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at (800) 577-TIPS (8477).

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A Tennis Court Gets a Major Facelift at St. James. Will it Be Used?

(continued from page 8)

has to be utilized, it has to be maintained,” said Turay, holding a bag full of tennis rackets. “I don’t know a lot of people here who play tennis, but maybe this will draw them in.”

A 2015 study released by the Tennis Industry Participation, a tennis advocacy group, showed there were 17.9 million active tennis players in the U.S., an increase of one percent from the year before.

As a way of generating interest at the court, the New York Junior Tennis League plans on hosting several summer clinics free of charge. It hosted a mini session with the children shortly after the announcement.

Cabrera allocated the \$400,000 in capital monies for the courts, where crews applied a green and blue acrylic asphalt to flesh out a smooth turf. The upgrades end a seven-year, \$1.2 million project that restored the park’s soccer field, basketball and handball courts, which sit adjacent to the tennis court. The idea seeks to offer broader amenities throughout the park.

Iris Rodriguez, the city Department of Parks Bronx Commissioner, naturally supported the court’s completion, suggesting the next tennis star could very well be living in the neighborhood. “You never know if there’s another Serena Williams out here,” said Rodriguez.



Photo by David Cruz

COUNCILMAN FERNANDO CABRE (sixth from right) cuts the green ribbon for the upgraded tennis courts at St. James Park.



Photo by David Greene

ASSEMBLYWOMAN NATHALIA FERNANDEZ (at mic) representing Norwood, tells a group of pro-tenant rent reformers she’s in support of all nine rent reform bills being negotiated in the State Legislature as Bronx/Queens Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez looks on.

As Clock Ticks, Bronx Pols Rally Behind Rent Reform

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

In the cramped venue of The Sanz in Allerton on May 30, a feeling of optimism and empowerment infused the room. Passionate residents waved protest signs and chanted refrains of, “Fight, Fight, Fight! Housing Justice is a Right!” as they urged Norwood Assemblywoman, Nathalia Fernandez, and State Sens. Jamaal Bailey and Alessandra Biaggi, to pass all nine proposed bills on universal rent control when the state’s rent stabilization laws expire on June 15.

Housing activists, including Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition, the Met Council, and Neighborhood Initiatives Development Corporation, want to end landlord-friendly loopholes that cause tenant displacement. To illustrate the very real effects of the current housing crisis, four residents provided testimony of their past experiences.

One of these was Natasha Tosca, president of the tenants association at 851 E. 163rd St. She said that since moving into the building, she, and her neighbors, have faced extremely dangerous conditions, the most extreme of which was on July 3, 2017 when a fire from a faulty electrical system spread to two apartments, leaving 12 people injured, and nearly killing a 99-year-old

woman.

Tosca said that for one of the tenants, rent has more than doubled since 2013, increasing from \$577 to \$1,400. Tosca said she, herself, currently owes to her landlord, Hiram Colon, \$63,000 in overcharges. A similar plight is suffered by the city’s 5.5 million tenants who do not currently benefit from rent regulation.

Activists say if all nine bills are passed, it will address major housing issues faced by tenants like Tosca, such as the elimination of Major Capital Improvements, the highly contested rent increases for building-wide improvements for rent-regulated apartments. It would also keep preferential rents permanent and create eviction protections for tenants in smaller and newer buildings that don’t have rent regulation.

Fernandez said she, like Bailey and Biaggi, co-sponsored each of the nine bills on universal rent control. “Families are being displaced, homelessness is up the roof and lives are being ruined,” she said, adding that housing displacement has other consequences like potentially forcing kids to change schools, causing parents to incur a longer work commute, as well as the strain on mental health.

Biaggi echoed her colleague’s sentiments saying that housing was the

number one issue affecting her constituents. “We have an incredible opportunity to put, for the first time, in a very, very, very long time, New York tenants first over the developers,” she said, confirming that she had participated in a number of working groups all across the state to negotiate the bill proposals and noting that concerns with the bills were not the same across all geographic regions.

For his part, Bailey spoke of the importance of reading and understanding all legislation prior to making decisions. “You can say to me this is the best bill in the world. If I don’t read it, I am not doing my job as your legislator,” he said. “After I read the bills, what did I do? I signed on.”

Bailey also gave credit to those who he referred to as the good landlords. “I am a renter myself and I have an excellent landlord,” but he warned those landlords who are not responsive, “We are coming for you.”

Meanwhile, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, in attendance at the forum, assured guests of what it means to legislate for housing as a human right. “What it means is that our access and our ability and our guarantee to having a home comes before someone else’s privilege to make a profit.”

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TRIP

Trip to the New World Catskill Casino on Sunday, June 9 from East 163rd Street and Southern Boulevard at 8:45 a.m. Price: \$47. Bonus: \$25 + \$15 food coupon. For more information, please call Eddie at (718) 757-5485.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

Free Diabetes Workshop

Montefiore Health System hosts a free diabetes workshop at the Montefiore Medical Group, 2532 Grand Concourse, third floor conference room, on June 13 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information call (866) 996-6683.

Housing Resource Fair

State Sen. Alessandra Biaggi hosts a Housing Resource Fair on June 7 from 4 to 7:30 p.m. at 950 Rhineland Ave. Twenty agencies and service providers will be on hand offering support for tenants and homeowners. For more information, call (718) 822-2049.

Aqueduct Walk Visioning Session

The City Parks Foundation and Partnerships for Parks are hosting a visioning forum for Aqueduct Walk on June 10, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at University Heights Presbyte-

rian Church, 2167 University Ave. The forum allows guests to discuss the needs for Aqueduct Walk. Dinner will be served. For more information, contact Pilar Maschi at (646) 647-6397 or (212) 602-5347.

Community Resource Fair

University Neighborhood Housing Program (UNHP) hosts a Community Resource Fair on June 19 from 2 to 6 p.m. at 45 W. Tremont Ave. The workshop offers tips on housing-related matters, including the ability to freeze one's rent for senior citizens and disabled tenants. Residents can also learn about housing lotteries, obtaining a mortgage, and apply for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits. For more information, call UNHP at (718) 933-2539.

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

catholiccharitiesny.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

Family Fitness Festival

The public is invited to a Family Fitness Festival at the Williamsbridge Oval Park on June 22 from noon to 2:30 p.m. Events include games, yoga, Zumba, fun activities, health workshops, arts & crafts, gifts and prizes (while supplies last), and healthy foods and snacks. For more information, call (718) 881-8999.

Onstage

The NY Botanical Garden hosts a free **musical event**, June 21 from 1 to 3 p.m. featuring host Samba Timba and various artists performing Brazilian and Caribbean sounds. For more information, call (212) 843-9342.

JASA Van Cortlandt Senior Center, 3880 Sedgwick Ave. hosts **classical piano concert**, June 14, and **music program**, June 18, featuring Interactive Chinese Dance Performance and ethnic musicians, both at 1 p.m. For more information, call (718) 549-4700.

Riverdale Choral Society presents **Summer Sing**, June 19 at 7:30 p.m. at Christ Church Riverdale, 5040 Henry Hudson Pkwy. at 252nd Street. Event features choruses from the world's most popular operas (score will be provided). \$15/ticket. For more information, call (718) 543-2219.

Events

Bronx Fathers Taking Action & Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. present **Family Day Olympiad**, June 8 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Williamsbridge Oval. An adult and child age 6 to 16 play together in an Olympic style event for a chance to win the Bronx Gold Cup. For more information, call (718) 590-6012.

Bronx Outreach Division & 48th Precinct Community Council present a **My Father and Me Event**, June 6 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Grand Slam Banquet Hall, 478 E. Tremont Ave. Events include batting cages, games, food, and raffle. For more information, call P.O. Joseph at (729) 354-5591, P.O. Rojas at (917) 826-0249, or P.O. Maldonado at (646) 373-8928.

Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Art Project: Metamorphosis Mobiles**, to create mobiles using clay, recyclables and natural materials, and learn about



File photo José A. Giralt

THE WILLIAMSBRIDGE OVAL is hosting another family friendly event, this one on June 8 and hosted by Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. (see Events for more information).

frogs and toads, June 8 and 9; and Pollinator's Paper Lanterns, June 15 and 16, to learn about pollination, make lanterns with paper-maché and create a humming bird, bat or butterfly; both in the WH House, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also scheduled is **Nature Presentation: Fantastic Frogs and Terrific Toads**, June 9 at noon and 1:30 p.m.; and **Open Aviary**, to see and learn about a giant beehive, June 15 and 16 (meet in the WH House at 10 a.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

NY Botanical Garden presents its largest exhibition ever, **Brazilian Modern: The Living Art of Roberto Burle Marx**, June 8 through Sept. 29, featuring lush gardens with a curated gallery of his vibrant paintings, drawings and textiles. In addition, the sights and sounds of Brazil and its lively contributions to music and dance are included. For more information, call (718) 817-8700.

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.

Rd., presents for children ages 5 to 12: **Art Thursdays at 4 p.m.**: arts & crafts, June 6, 13 and 20; **STEM Explorers: Hands on activity**, June 7 at 4 p.m.; and **film**: (ages to 12 years), June 18 at 4 p.m. Teens/young adults can enjoy: **Stars & Moon Painting**: June 7 at 4 p.m.; and **film**: June 8 at 4 p.m. Adults can attend: **film documentary**: "Major!" June 20 at 6 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 at 11 a.m.**: (ages 18 months to 3 years), interactive stories, action songs, fingerplays, and crafts, June 10, 13, 17 and 20; **Crafty Fridays at 3 p.m.**: (ages 5 to 12), crafts, June 7 and 14; **STEM: Kids Science at 3 p.m.**: (ages 5 to 12), Gardening, June 11 and 18; and **Drummin' Into Summer - Latin American 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: **Film**: "The House With a Clock in Its Walls," June 15 at 1:30 p.m.; and **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 ages 5 to 12: **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.; and **Science Friday**: science experiments, June 7 at 2:45 p.m. Adults can attend: **Computer Basics at noon**: June 13 and 20. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL OUR DAD READERS!

NOTE: Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org, and should be received by June 10 for the next publication date of June 20.



File photo Adi Talwar

FAMILY FITNESS FESTIVAL is once again happening at the Williamsbridge Oval with fun activities for the entire family (see Editor's Pick for details).

Library Events

Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge

DeWitt Clinton Campus to Add Another School

(continued from page 1)

that is more committed to its school.”

District 75 is the designation given by the DOE to students diagnosed with special needs such as autism, intellectual, or multiple disabilities. The process includes an assessment to create an Individualized Education Program (IEP). When possible, the DOE integrates D75 students into existing classes with some of their special needs attended to by paraprofessionals or special education teachers.

With the number of D75 students growing in District 10, the DOE is acknowledging that it can no longer simply introduce a small number of special needs students into existing classes.

They argue that a separate, dedicated space is needed. Proponents of co-locating D75 students into DWCC identified 524 students residing in District 10 classified with IEPs back in April. DOE figures reveal a deficit of 435 seats at the high school level in the district.

As the population of D75 students grows beyond the capacity of individual schools to absorb them into existing classes, parents have voiced the difficulties they face in busing them into other districts as an alternative.

Amy Tsai, a parent advocate for the Citywide Council for District 75 (CCD75) and a D75 parent, has to send her 13-year-old son to Washington Heights because of the lack of space in District 10. “My son has to travel three and a half to four hours daily,” Tsai told PEP at the meeting prior to the vote. “Some parts of the district [10], like my neighborhood, Norwood, schools are overcrowded, extremely overcrowded. Regardless of [our children’s] abilities and how different they are, they should have equity [in education].”

All parties involved in D75 discussions agree about overcrowding but offer different solutions to the problem.

Sirio Guerino is the PTA president at Bronx Collaborative and a 1974 alum of Clinton. He suggests the PEP look at the former St. Ann’s School building on Bainbridge Avenue at East Gun Hill Road. The New York Archdiocese closed the school in 2017. “I hope you [PEP] will consider St. Ann’s or the ex-public library on Fordham Road [2556

Bainbridge Ave.] as a building for the District 75 students that need a place of their own,” Guerino said.

The three-story Fordham Library, formerly at 2556 Bainbridge Ave., closed in 2006 and has approximately 27,500 square feet.

The PEP was originally set to vote on the co-locating proposal on April 17. However, because of the large number of responses, the panel postponed the vote until May 29 in order to consider all the options.

At the final vote meeting, it was revealed that after the initial public meeting, concerns were raised by some PEP members about the physical space inside the DWCC building and the impact of introducing a D75 school there.

After a tour of the building by PEP mayoral appointee, Shannon R. Waite, school administrators, union staff, and members of the parent body, assurances were secured in writing from school officials that incorporating a D75 school into Clinton would not adversely affect current or future students. The group reported to PEP that “it was very, very, very pleased by what we saw in the walk-through.”

Sydney Valerio, vice president of the alumni association who currently lives in Norwood and was there for the vote, remains skeptical of the co-location process. She graduated in 1999 and has a daughter attending the school. “DeWitt Clinton is the last large public high school in the Bronx. In 2013, this very same panel decided that it wanted to close it down,” Valerio said. She describes the process of co-location as “oppression politics and Olympics with community members in stating that one part of the community is deserving of space over the other. That is implicitly biased and is not the way to move forward as a community.”

Carranza also expressed confidence that the students and staff at Clinton will continue to make academic progress while accepting the new D75 students into its campus. “I have seen the most enlightened instruction happening in co-locating D75 schools,” Carranza said. “I have seen innovative practices in D75 schools that are shared ubiquitously with the schools that they co-locate with.”

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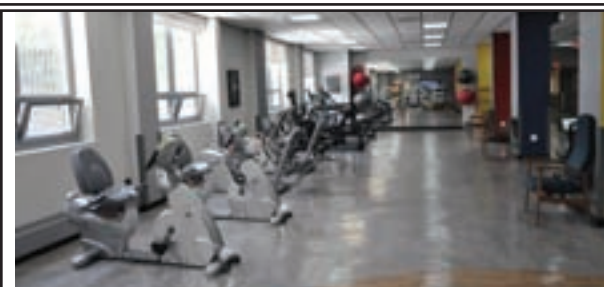
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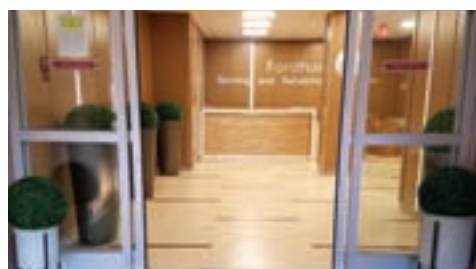
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Sub-Acute Care

- I.V. Therapy
- Tracheostomy Care
- Cardiac Rehabilitation
- Bariatric Services
- Pain Management
- Enteral Nutrition Therapy
- Wound Management

Other services

- Therapeutic Recreation
- Geriatric Care Management
- Age Well: Continuum of Care
- Beauty Parlor + Barber Shop
- Pet Visitation (Pet therapy)
- Religious Services for all
- Dining
- Outdoor Patio
- Family and Friends Transport Program
- Trips + Entertainment
- On-Ste Dialysis (Wormen's & Morningside)