



NORWOOD NEWS

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BX. OPIOID CRISIS GETS SENATE'S ATTENTION

Forums aim to determine solutions to ongoing drug epidemic



Photo by Adi Talwar

THE UNDERPASS LEADING to the entrance of the Kingsbridge Road B/D subway station doubles as a common drug use spot dubbed "The Tunnel." There have been 391 reported heroin overdoses in the Bronx in 2018, according to newly released statistics.

By JOSÉ A. GIRALT

Officials from the New York City Health Department announced a three percent decrease in overdose deaths from 2017 to 2018. But of the 1,444 overdose deaths citywide, the Bronx saw an increase with 391 in 2018, an eight percent increase, designating it as the only borough with more than 300 overdose deaths in 2018, continuing the unbreakable trend of opioid-related fatalities.

In the written announcement, Dr. Oxiris Barbot, commissioner of the Health Department, said, "The decrease in drug overdose deaths is promising, but far too many New Yorkers are still dying."

The news came three weeks after state senators held a public hearing at St. Barnabas Hospital on Aug. 8, featuring a variety of experts tackling the responsive rate of opioid overdoses and

reduce the rate of addiction to drugs.

Sen. Gustavo Rivera is one of the co-chairs of the task force. "It's not just a problem in Staten Island. It's not just a problem in the Bronx. It's a problem everywhere," Rivera said in his opening remarks.

Rivera represents the 33rd Senate District, covering Fordham, an area that consistently ranks among the top neighborhoods for fen-

tanyl use. The district also covers Kingsbridge Heights, home to a known drug use spot referred to as "The Tunnel," a gloomy underpass that leads to the Kingsbridge Road subway station on the B/D line. Directly across the entrance, used hypodermic needles can be spotted along the pathway, cordoned off by construction barricades. Several homeless men and women were found sleep-

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Publisher
Mosholu Preservation Corporation

Senior Director of MPC
Melissa Cebollero

Executive Director of MPC
Jennifer Tausig

Editor-in-Chief, Norwood News
David Cruz, dcruz@norwoodnews.org

Proofreader
Judy Noy

Interns
Sha-Nia Alston, Michael Turay

Regular Contributors
David Greene, Adi Talwar

Contributors
Miriam Quinones, José A. Giralt,
Joseph Konig

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IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

With Dems Nominating Three to Bronx Supreme Court Bench, Cohen Stays Put

By JOSEPH KONIG

There will not be a special election for the 11th Council District. At least, not this year.

The Bronx Democratic Party nominated three candidates to the Bronx Supreme Court at a judicial convention on Aug. 8. None of the nominees were Councilman Andrew Cohen, delaying the long-anticipated campaign to succeed the term-limited councilman for at least another year and theories of party orchestration.

Instead, Bronx Democrats nominated Bahaati Pitt and John Higgit to two open seats and re-nominated Wilma Guzman to the seat she's held since 2006. Gov. Andrew Cuomo appointed Higgit to the New York State Court of Claims in 2018, but he was moved to the Bronx Supreme Court shortly after to serve on an interim basis. Pitt was first appointed a judge by Mayor Bill de Blasio in 2016, serving on the city's civil and criminal courts.

A former court attorney for the Bronx Supreme Court and a professor at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Cohen long made it known publicly he hopes to become a judge. An apparent play to make Cohen a judge last year was scuttled after media reports indicated the Bronx Democratic Party planned to put former state Sen. Jeff Klein on the court after his primary loss. Party boss Marcos Crespo and other county officials vehemently denied any plan was in the works at the time.

"Trying to put together the slate of judges to represent the Democratic Party in Bronx County is an art form," Cohen told the Norwood News ahead of this year's convention. "There are a lot of constituencies that want to be represented on the bench. It's just not as simple as 'you, you, and you.' It doesn't always come together that way."

The Norwood News and other outlets previously reported there was a plan afoot to nominate Cohen for a judgeship so Eric Dinowitz, a candidate to replace him and son of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, would have an easier path to victory in a special election. The Bronx Democrat County Party wanted to avoid the "appearance of impropriety" in the



File photo by Jose A. Giralt

IT'S LIKELY COUNCILMAN Andrew Cohen (pictured) will finish out his term after the Bronx Democratic Party did not nominate him for a judgeship.

eyes of reformers, one Bronx politico suggested.

Speculation the swap might happen this year instead triggered increased activity from the candidates for the 11th Council District, which includes Norwood, parts of Bedford Park, Kingsbridge, Riverdale, Fieldston, and Woodlawn. Daniel Padernacht and Eric Dinowitz revved up their campaigns despite the nearly two years left until the Democratic primary in June 2021.

"If it comes this year, I'm going to be ready; if it comes next year that would be good," Cohen told the Norwood News in July 2018. That same month, Padernacht and Dinowitz launched their campaigns.

The belief inside Padernacht's camp was the increased activity of the Dinowitz campaign indicated the special election was coming. Dinowitz's father Jeffrey Dinowitz, is one of the top officials in the Bronx Democratic Party and plays a role in selecting judicial nominees.

Another candidate, Dio Then, announced in recent weeks. Then currently

works in the mayor's community affairs office, according to his LinkedIn page. He also spent time in Manhattan Councilman Keith Powers' office and as a tour guide at the Museum of Sex.

Cohen told the Norwood News in April 2019 he was considering a run for Bronx Borough President in 2021. Fellow term-limited council members Vanessa Gibson and Fernando Cabrera are reportedly considering a run for the seat. The current occupant of the borough president's office, Ruben Diaz Jr., is term-limited himself and launched a run for mayor. Padernacht is a lawyer and a former chair for Community Board 8, where he currently serves as chair of the transportation committee. In 2010, Padernacht challenged infamous state Sen. Pedro Espada Jr. in the Democratic primary. He backed out in the days before the election and threw his support behind Gustavo Rivera, who ultimately won.

The younger Dinowitz also serves on CB8 as the board's aging committee chair, the position Cohen held before he ran for City Council in 2013. Dinowitz is also the Male Democratic District Leader for the 81st Assembly District, which is represented by his father. By day, Dinowitz is a special education teacher in Kingsbridge.

Though the campaign to succeed Cohen will continue, the candidates will have to wait until their regularly scheduled 2021 election to find out who will emerge victorious.

"There is no guarantee the planets are going to line up perfectly that I can work my last day as a city council member and then go to the courthouse," Cohen said recently. "It may work out that it's a year earlier, it may work out it's a year later. I don't know."

Judicial Convention

The convention saw the nomination of two candidates for two open seats on the Bronx Supreme Court and Guzman renominated to a second stint on the bench, further reflecting the demographics of the borough. On primary day, each Assembly district votes on judicial dele-

(continued on page 18)

Public and Community Meetings

COMMUNITY BOARD 7 committee meetings are held on the following dates at 6:30 p.m. at 243 E. 204th St.: Environment & Sanitation Committee meets on Sept. 3; Education, Youth & Libraries meets on Sept. 4; Traffic & Transportation Committee meets on Sept. 5; Housing, Land Use & Zoning Committee meets on Sept. 10; Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs Committee meets on Sept. 11; and Public Safety & Quality of Life Committee meets on Sept. 12. For more information, call (718) 933-5650.

The **BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** meets on Sept. 4 at 8 p.m. at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. S., Apt. B1. For more information, email bedfordmosholu@verizon.net.

The 52nd Precinct's next **BUILD A BLOCK** meeting, specifically for residents living in Fordham or University Heights, takes place Sept. 5 at 6 p.m. at Fordham Hill Oval, Kensington Building, 2455 Sedgwick Ave.

Opinion

Housing, Legal & Financial Resources at Your Doorstep!

Inquilinos de Norwood - Propietarios de Casas - Personas De la Tercera Edad - Recursos Legales y de Inmigración

বরুডে টাউন - বাড়ির মালিক - জিভির
-আবাসন - আইডি এবং ইমিগ্রেশন

By UNHP

Have you heard about services that might help when applying for that new apartment in a building being built down the street, reducing your property taxes, or helping you save on bus fare? It's hard to keep up with available programs – even if they might help you deal with important housing or financial struggles.

Maybe you think you don't qualify or you don't have time to wait on hold or go downtown or you just need more information in your language? On Tuesday, Sept. 17, many of those programs are coming to your neighborhood. The free Norwood Community Resource Fair will be held in the community space of Holy Nativity Church located at 3061 Bainbridge Ave. from 2 to 7 p.m. Bangla & Spanish speakers will be onsite. Hablarán español.

What Can You Do at the Norwood Community Resource Fair?

- Seniors and people with disabilities can freeze their rent if they qualify (that's right, no future rent increases)
- Homeowners can find out and enroll in one of the many reduced real estate tax programs
- Seniors citizens can apply for a reduced fare MetroCard
- Get your blood pressure checked and find out about low-cost health insurance
- Find out about programs serving the Bangladeshi community in Norwood
- Get screened for SNAP (food stamps)

and enroll in a local food pantry
Attend a workshop about the New York City online affordable housing lottery

- Enroll in the New York City affordable housing lottery
- Complain about or praise local city services to Community Board 7
- Meet with an eviction prevention specialist
- Talk with a legal advisor about your tenant, homeowner, or immigration issues
- Learn how to lower your energy costs
- Learn how pregnant women and new mothers can enroll in WIC – a mother/child food and health program

Co-sponsored by University Neighborhood Housing Program (UNHP), a community-based group and the Legal Aid Society, the event will host counselors and staff from New York City Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), NYC Finance, Part of the Solution (POTS), West Bronx Housing, NYC Tenant Support Unit, Legal Aid

homeowner, tenant and immigration advisors, Norwood News, Bronx Community Health Network, Montefiore Women Infant and Children (WIC) Nutritional Program, Community Board 7, Laal, Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition (NWBCCC), local banks and other groups. Hablamos Español! অতলাইত বাংলা বা ইংরেজি!

We hope you will attend the fair to find out about programs that might be of benefit to you, your neighborhood and your family – no excuses – city agencies, non-profits and local organizations will be in your neighborhood on Sept. 17! Call UNHP at (718) 933-2539 to let us know you're coming, find out how to partner with us or for more information. Follow University Neighborhood on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram to get information about additional partners and this event.

This op-ed was jointly submitted by Catherine Clarke, Jumelia Abrahamson, UNHP senior staff, and Oda Friedheim, a Norwood resident and senior staff attorney at Legal Aid Society.



Letters To The Editor

Political & Civic Retirement

Well, your last "letter to the editor" ("Keep Parkway Pristine"; *Norwood News*, Vol. 32 No. 16 Aug 1-28) made my mind up.

In the last 10 years, we have had a lot go wrong in our old neighborhoods of Bedford Park, Norwood, or as I knew it, five decades ago, Bainbridge.

We have had new residential and commercial rezoning on Webster Avenue, which now has, in 10 years, at least eight new buildings, more than 650 new units, over 1300 residents, and only three pieces of commercial businesses.

We now have a new Norwood merchant strip in place of the one origi-

nally established in 1956, the East 204th Street/Bainbridge Merchants Association.

We now have homes all over our side streets that are gone and 11-story buildings taking their place, standing next to the six-story buildings, many of them there since the 1920s.

But maybe most importantly, like it was stated in the last Letter to the Editor, these are not old neighbors, generational neighbors, but new neighbors, many from other parts of other boroughs; many just moving in within the last five to 10 years.

Old neighbors around here have always said, "Don't move. Improve!" Our new neighbors say, "Hey, there's grass.

Let's have a barbecue and let the Parks Department clean up afterwards."

But when law enforcement has one hand tied (by the new decriminalization of the quality of life laws), and thus the other hand having tunnel vision, we have the potential to have what I moved away from on Tremont Avenue in 1974: the burning fires, the dirty streets, the lack of government resources or services.

The new Norwood, run by its new young leaders and neighbors, do not believe in quality of life. They don't even know what it is. As they move into the new hood they see bigger buildings, dirt in the streets, barbecuing in every available piece of grass. They think it's normal.

And today's new young leaders, despite trying hard, do not know the old hood. They weren't born yet! They think it's good to have beer, music, and smoky-smoke parties in Van Cortlandt [Park] until 4 a.m. Or has Coun-

cilman Andrew Cohen (as per your last issue) taken care of that five-year problem yet?

I am proud to have lived in the northwest Bronx for close to 40 years. I am very proud to own a financial planning practice in the hood (for 23 years) and teach business and finance in local institutions for close to 10 years.

I am even more humbled to have been a community, political, and appointed leader in our hood as a former merchant president, former Community Board 7 member, and founder of a local political nucleus.

Which is the reason for this letter. Thank you Bedford Park/Mosholu/Norwood. Its beautiful greenery, its wonderful old neighbors, its beautiful eat-off-the-floor streets were amazing. But it's all gone now.

It's now over. And I will be community and politically retired.

Anthony Riveccio
Bedford Park

Have a story for the Norwood News?

Reach out us at (718) 324-4998

INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



This week we asked readers their thoughts on the Child Victims Act that became law in New York State, allowing victims to file civil cases against abusers upwards of 50 years from the time the abuse occurred.



For 15 or 16 years I have been fighting to amend case law. The legal system, when it comes to victims, they're more concerned with defending the rights of the accused, who most of the time have actually perpetrated acts of violence against an animal or an individual or a group of individuals. I feel the laws have been too lax. Enough already. The laws have to have teeth.

Kay Cardona
Pelham Gardens



Of course it's a good thing. If you think about it, if you get molested, you need to seek justice. I don't really care how long it's been. Twenty years, 30 years? Justice needs to be served. Money is not the only way to complete total compensation, but at least you get something for what happened to you and what you went through. You can never restore someone's dignity for what you did to them, but they need to be compensated either way.

Jonathan Martey
Bedford Park



Of course it's a terrible thing when someone is really assaulted. True victims need to be compensated. They can go for therapy; they can have some extra money. And if one day you can forgive those who wronged you, that could be good too.

John Palacio
Norwood



I think it's good that they passed it because there's a lot of child molesters out here that people don't know about. And the way they do it is [by getting jobs at] the Board of Education, through our churches, it happens every day. I'm a witness to things like that, so I love this law because it helps people who couldn't do anything about it after a long time, and now they can actually speak up and come out and talk about it. But what happens when the accuser has passed away. Like Jeffrey Epstein?

William Roman
Fordham Heights



I think it just opens up a Pandora's box. I think it keeps women, or anyone that has been sexually assaulted or abused as a child or as an adult, in victim mode. I'm not a victim. I don't dwell on it. It happened and it's over and done with. People have been brainwashed into thinking they're owed something. They need to seek help to get them to a place of forgiveness and acceptance.

Grace Lovaglio
Allerton



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NEWS BRIEFS

BY DAVID CRUZ

Public Charge Suit

Attorney General Letitia James is suing the Trump Administration's Public Charge Rule that potentially denies immigrants a green card or visa if the federal government determines they will be taking advantage of government entitlement programs such as food stamps. James argues the rule not only would have short- and long-term impacts on public health and the economy, but underhandedly targets immigrants of color. "Quite simply, under this rule, more children will go hungry, more families will go without medical care, and more people will be living in the shadows and on the streets," said James.

Sexual Harass Law Takes Effect

Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed a bill that increases penalties against workplace sexual harassment and discrimination. The bill will hold New York employers and its agencies accountable for all forms of sexual harassment and discrimination. This comes after many advocates have been fighting for a change for over a decade. In a statement, state Sen. Alessandra Biaggi said, "Finally New Yorkers will not have to suffer the horrific, severe, or pervasive" standard which allowed workers to be abused for too long."

Poe Cottage Gets \$450K

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. allocated \$450,000 in capital funds for improvements to Edgar Allan Poe Cottage. The funds will be earmarked for the installation of a roof and exterior woodwork to the Poe Cottage in Fordham. Poe Cottage was once the home of famed scribe Edgar Allan Poe, who lived in the Bronx during the 1840s.

Sealed Pot Convictions

Several New Yorkers will not

Finally Here

Skateboard park formally opens at Williamsbridge Oval, ending a 15-year Endeavor

By DAVID CRUZ and MICHAEL TURAY

Skaters rejoiced at the opening of the much-anticipated skateboard park in Norwood's Williamsbridge Oval Park, a project many agreed had been a long time coming.

Mitchell Silver, Commissioner for the New York City Department of Parks, led a ribbon cutting ceremony that included skaters who had advocated for the park from its very beginning.

Even before the park was ceremoniously opened on Aug. 27, skaters were already found zipping and speeding along the park's concrete slabs. Silver, reading off a list, said the park includes quarter pipes, half bowls, and a manual pad.

"I have no idea what I just described, but I'm sure it's here in this park," joked Silver, in his opening remarks.

The completion of the skateboard park ends years of false starts and delays for a project valued at close to \$1 million. Eusebio Baez, 29, a skateboarder who saw the project through from the beginning, remembered heading to Councilman Andrew Cohen's office to finally get the project off the ground. Cohen earmarked \$750,000 towards the project in July 2014 with Mayor Bill de Blasio throwing in another \$227,000.

The genesis of the project began even before Cohen's tenure, dating back to 2004 when skateboarders had attended a Community Board 7's Parks Committee meeting demanding such an amenity be built.

"This is more than a dream come true," said Baez, who eventually helped advise in the design phase of the project.

The plan was initially pitched to Cohen's

have to worry about previous marijuana convictions after a Manhattan Supreme Court Justice ordered the sealing of the records. Sealing the convictions will make it easier for those convicted to apply for housing, employment, and restore other rights.

Daniel Pantaleo Fired

The officer involved in the fatal chokehold death of Eric Garner in 2014 was fired. NYPD Commissioner Jim O'Neill ended the career of Daniel Pantaleo, the officer who had placed Garner in a chokehold after Garner



Photo by Sha-Nia Alston

NEW YORK CITY Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver (standing foreground left) holds up a skateboard shortly after the ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly opened skateboard park at Williamsbridge Oval Park. He's flanked by skateboarders eager to work on their skills, Councilman Andrew Cohen (seated center, with sunglasses) who allocated funds for the project, Bronx Parks Commissioner Iris Rodriguez-Rosa (seated next to Cohen), and Norwood Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (r). Doug Condit, a community activist (seated foreground center) helped spearhead the project's revival.

predecessor, Oliver Koppell, but when interest for the skateboard park fell in favor of a dog run, the project stalled.

"I'm sure those youngsters today are parents," said Barbara Stronczer, chair of Community Board 7's Parks Committee. "We heard nothing more about it for years."

Doug Condit, a community activist, would reignite the project once again, bringing a contingent of skateboarders to Cohen's office. It eventually became the first project Cohen would allocate funds toward. Condit, who was present at the ribbon cutting, was praised by Friends of Williamsbridge Oval Park activist, Betty Diana Arce, for serving as a mentor to the persistent skateboarders.

"You ask, why a skateboard park in the Oval? Well, we're out here in the Bronx, which I'm not sure whether you people know it or not, it's the least healthy county in the entire state of New York," said Condit in his remarks. "The kids need activity. Young people need activity, and there's no people to get it, in my opinion, than right here in the Oval."

But the project stalled significantly, particularly during the procurement phase where the first contractor chosen bowed out

of the project, causing the Parks Department to re-start that phase.

Towards the tail end of construction, another snag: an unreliable concrete job. Crews with L C Construction Consulting Corp. were forced to dig up a portion of the skateboard park to fix it, pushing the completion date from winter to summer this year.

"It's rare that we now have a project delayed," said Silver, adding that the agency has learned from its past mistakes. "So, a lot of our skate parks, if you check our website, they're all on time, on budget moving forward."

Cohen had previously knocked the process. This time, he reserved criticism of the process, thanking the community for their advocacy instead.

"The community was involved every step of the way in making this project happen, and it's really just when things really come together that we get an amenity that the community really wants, designed by the community, advocated for by the community, and I'm very thrilled and gratified that I [had] an opportunity to bring this to fruition," said Cohen.

refused to be arrested for allegedly selling untaxed cigarettes. The firing came after an NYPD trial judge recommended Pantaleo be fired following a weeks-long administrative trial. "In carrying out the court's verdict in this case, I take no pleasure," said O'Neill. Pat Lynch, president of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, criticized O'Neill's decision to carry out the court's recommendation, stating "O'Neill chose politics over the police officers he claims to lead."

IDNYC Change Proposals

The city is considering a rule

change to the IDNYC program, which would allow its users to renew their cards online instead of in person. Bitta Mostofi, who runs the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, which processes IDNYC cards, said the rollout would happen in December if the rule is adopted. IDNYC is the city's official identification card for New Yorkers and available to users as young as 10 years old. The card also offers discounted memberships to cultural institutions across the city. Another rule under consideration is allowing users as young as 10 years old to apply for a card at school.

Worker Dies After Being Crushed in Norwood Building Collapse

By MICHAEL TURAY

A building under construction at 94 E. 208th St. near Steuben Avenue partially collapsed, leaving one worker dead and two injured. Police and fire crews flocked to the scene within minutes.

The incident took place just before noon on Aug. 27. Multiple eyewitnesses recalled hearing a loud noise, but assumed it was a normal construction protocol. However, cries for help from the workers confirmed otherwise.

“Three of them [workers] ran out. The initial person who told us to call 911, he had lacerations to the head, a lot of blood leaking down on his face. I think he was trying to assist whoever was trapped inside, to help him get out,” said Anika James, an employee at Montefiore Hospital located several blocks up from the scene.

Two other workers were taken to local hospitals for non-life-threatening injuries.

It took FDNY firefighters about an hour to dig and find the body of the trapped worker, who was found dead under the rubble from severe injuries. Prior to it collapsing, neighbors could overhear workers complaining about the durability of the scaffold.

“It’s not safe, it’s really not safe. It’s too small of a space to try to cram everything. When walking past, you could hear them this morning, they were struggling to keep things in control. I think they couldn’t,” said Dr. Violet Wallace, director of a nearby church.

“We were kind of scared because we saw the bricks, they were crashing down,” added Wallace who was walking past the building with two co-workers as it collapsed.

The workers had been about three to four months in on the project, as permits for the property were issued in May by the city’s Department of Buildings (DOB). Building permits show that workers were building a new four-story residential building with eight units.

A preliminary investigation by the DOB determined that the third floor of the building was overloaded with concrete ma-



Photos by David Cruz

A VIEW OF the partial collapse pictured above, that occurred at 94 E. 208th St. in Norwood where one worker at the building died.



THE DISTRAUGHT FAMILY, left, of the deceased worker following news of the partial building collapse.

sonry blocks, causing it to collapse onto the second floor below, ultimately trapping the worker who died. They also revealed that prior to today, no violations were reported to this construction site.

The DOB has issued a full stop-work order for the project and ordered the building owner to secure the site overnight. Pioneer General Construction group is listed as the current general contractor for the property. Residents were left wondering whether the site was safe enough for workers, given what they saw

and the speed at which the building had gone up.

“I call it negligence. They didn’t have the required equipment for the job, you could see the metal was bent,” said Elisa Luna, a Norwood resident familiar with the construction site, often visiting her mom who lives in a building directly across the street. “It’s hurtful. Somebody is dead because you couldn’t get the proper tools, because you couldn’t create a safer environment for these people to work in,” said Luna.

Additional reporting by Shania Alston and David Cruz.

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CRIME FILE

By DAVID CRUZ



Suspect Arrested in Jerome Ave. Crash

A Morrisania man faces a litany of charges, including driving while intoxicated, vehicular assault, and reckless endangerment, related to the death of a Brooklyn woman who was near a bus stop when she was hit. Police say Francisco Rosario drove his Nissan minivan southbound along Jerome Avenue on Aug. 11 at around 10 p.m., mounted a sidewalk at the corner of Bainbridge Avenue and struck two people at the bus stop by the Woodlawn train station. One of them, Natasha Mar, was struck. She was later transported to St. Barnabas Hospital where she died. Rosario was also charged with assault, failure to take a breath test, and reckless driving.

Chokehold Robbery

The NYPD needs help identifying a man (pictured) seen

putting a 46-year-old victim in a chokehold and then robbing him. The victim had finished cashing a \$200.00 check at the Pay-O-Matic check cashing business at 11 E. Gun Hill Rd., and was then followed and robbed in front of 3578 Jerome Ave. on July 24 just before 10:30 p.m., according to police. The perpetrator came from behind, placed the victim in a chokehold, took the money, and drove off in a vehicle. The suspect is described as Hispanic, in his 20s, and last seen wearing a white T-shirt



Cell Phone Theft

The NYPD needs help identifying a man (pictured below) wanted for questioning in connection to a stolen cell phone that happened at the Mosholu station on board a #4 subway train heading downtown on Aug. 5 after midnight. The victim, a 46-year-old woman, said a man simply snatched the phone from her hand and took off.



Missing Man

Police within the 52nd Precinct have reported the disappearance of Musa Camara,

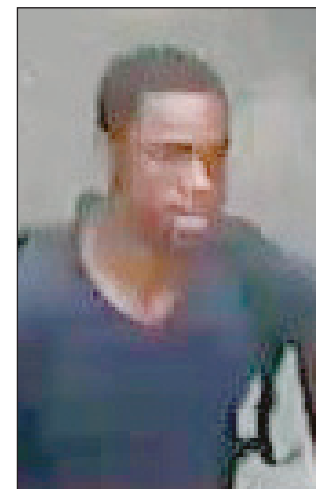
28 (pictured below), of Norwood. He was last seen near Montefiore Hospital's Moses Campus at East 210th Street on Aug. 11. He is described as black, standing at six feet, and about 160 pounds. He was last seen wearing an orange T-shirt and black pants.



Wallet Stolen

Police seek a man (pictured at right) wanted for questioning in the theft of a woman's wallet stolen in front of C&N Liquor at 6 E. Gun Hill Rd. in Norwood a month ago. He is described as black and last

seen wearing a dark T-shirt and a backpack. Police say the woman's wallet contained \$250 and several credit cards and was stolen on July 11 just before 1 a.m.



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Norwood Man Fatally Shot, Marking Sixth Homicide Within 52nd Precinct for 2019

By DAVID GREENE

Police are looking for two gunmen wanted in a pair of unrelated killings along Bainbridge Avenue, taking place just nine days apart, marking the 5th and 6th homicides of the year for the 52nd Precinct.

In the latest incident, police say that officers responded to a 911 call, reporting a male shot at 3:21 a.m. at Bainbridge and Rochambeau avenues, near the entrance to Williamsbridge Oval Park, on Aug. 25.

EMS transported a man with one gunshot wound to the back. He was rushed to Montefiore Medical Center, where he died a short time later.

Police would identify the victim as Edgar Perez, 46, of Decatur Avenue. Friends say he had attended a baptism celebration at the Holy Nativity Episcopal Church and had lived in the area for many years. The church apparently rents out a banquet hall for late night parties.

Fatal shootings have happened along the stretch before. Across East 204th Street by Bainbridge Avenue, Michael Vermong was shot and killed, allegedly by his friend Jamel Burney, who was charged in his March 29, 2017 slaying. A decade ago, a store owner next to the church was shot and killed.

Nine days before the most recent shooting, about a half mile south on Bainbridge Avenue, police say Isael "Izzy" Lagares, 27, of Bedford Park, was shot outside of 2734 Bainbridge Ave. by East 196th Street in the Fordham Manor section at 10:27 p.m. on Aug. 16.

One witness confirmed Lagares crossed East 196th Street and collapsed at the Bx34 bus stop.

Lagares is believed to have been shot two times in the chest and once in the abdomen. He was rushed to St. Barnabas Hospital, where he was also declared deceased on arrival.

Several residents claim the block is influenced by several gangs who control the local drug trade. As officers from the 52nd Precinct responded to Lagares' shooting, sources reported that several men refused to leave the crime scene. Moments later officers were pelted



Photo by David Greene

A CANDLIGHT VIGIL is set up for Edgar Perez, who was fatally shot in Norwood in the early morning of Aug. 25.

by garbage from windows and rooftops and needed additional officers from the 48th and 50th precincts as well as at least one helicopter, before order on the block was restored.

Officers from the 52nd Precinct quickly hung two wanted posters, one featuring the victim and the other a surveillance photo of a dark Dodge Charger, the apparent getaway vehicle used by the gunman. All of the posters disappeared from the block within a day.

With Lagares' death, the one block stretch of East 196th Street, between Bainbridge and Briggs avenues have now recorded three homicides in the last 12 months.

On Dec. 10, Angel Reyes-Godoy, 17, was beaten and pushed in front of a passing ambulance along East 196th Street. Angel coincidentally lived in the building where Lagares was shot.

Police would later charge Mario Almonte, 21, and Obey Adames, 19, in Angel's death. Police said at the time that both men were members of the dreaded Trinitarios gang.

On Aug. 17, 2018 Eric Shaw, 55, a resident on Briggs Avenue, was slashed in the neck in broad daylight. The following day police arrested Travis Mason, 18, who lived in the same building as Shaw. Mason is currently facing murder and manslaughter charges.

Perez's death marks the sixth homicide within the 52nd Precinct and current statistics now exceed last year's homicide rate, as there were just five killings during the same time period last year.

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NCBH HOSTS ANNUAL BACK-TO-SCHOOL HEALTH FAIR

Norwood residents came out on Aug. 21 for the annual Back-to-School Health Fair courtesy of NCBH. And it wasn't just health- or school-related giveaways handed out at this event. Stakeholders were honored and there were numerous raffles! Check out these photos by Miriam Quinones.



TEN-YEAR-OLD Miriam Cruz shows off the new bike she won in the raffle at NCBH's Back-to-School Health Fair.



(L-R) COMMUNITY BOARD 7 member Betty Diana Arce, North Central Bronx Hospital executive director Cristina Contre-ras, Councilman Andrew Cohen, newly appointed Community Board 7 chair Emmanuel Martinez, state Sen. Gustavo Rivera, Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz, Deputy Borough President Mar-ricka Scott-McFadden, and Community Board 7 district man-ager Ischia Bravo pose for a shot at the annual Back-to-School Health Fair hosted by North Central Bronx Hospital.



THESE KIDS SHOW off their new bikes and bookbags courtesy of NCBH's Back-to-School Health Fair.



IT'S NEVER TOO early to learn CPR as this young girl demon-strates at NCBH's Back-to-School Health Fair.



THESE KIDS ARE all smiles as they show off their bookbags they received at NCBH's Back-to-School Health Fair.



IT'S NOT JUST about staying healthy. It's also about staying safe, and these kids pick up some of those pointers from (left to right) 52nd Pre-cinct anti-crime Officer Frank Pacella, and Community Affairs officers Stephen Echevarria and Crystal Reveron.

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Back to School in Norwood

By **MICHAEL TURAY**

The onslaught of homework and pop quizzes will soon be on the agenda for young people as the first day of school approaches. Students are scheduled to return to the classroom on Sept. 5, which means parents should double-check their school supply lists and preferred bookbag requests.

Thousands of students in the Norwood area are preparing to attend one of the 11 local schools in School District 10. School officials have taken baby steps to chip away at its overcrowding issue. A 2016 capital projects report by the School Construction Authority (SCA), a city construction entity tasked to build more seats, stated 5,692 seats are needed to fix it. The city has allocated some of the funds needed for more seats and construction for more space is under way for several campuses in the district.

The *Norwood News* has assembled a list of schools in the area for any readers who might be unfamiliar with their child's school. Contact information, student population, graduation rates, and other facts about the schools can be found in this compilation. The numbers were obtained from the National Center for Education Statistics and the New York City Department of Education.

Thanks to the Free Meals for All initiative launched in 2017, all New York City public school students are eligible for free breakfast and lunch. An application must be filled out here <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application>.

PS 94

Kings College Public School

Address:
3530 Kings College Pl.
Grades: K-5
Admissions Process:
Zoned School
Student Body: 1,210
Principal: Diane Daprocida-Sesin
Parent Coordinator:
Miriam Seminario
Main office phone number:
(718) 405-6345

PS 280

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

Bronx Dance Academy School

Address:
3617 Bainbridge Ave.
Grades: 6-8
Admissions Process:
Zoned School
Student Body: 276
Principal: Sandra Sanchez
Parent Coordinator:
Gabriel Santiago
Afterschool activities:
Hip-Hop Dancing, LEGO Robotics, ELA Lab, and more
Main office phone number:
(718) 515-0410

DeWitt Clinton High School

Address:
100 W. Mosholu Pkwy, S.
Grades: 9-12
Student Body: 1,666
Principal: Pierre Obre
Parent Coordinator:
Ines Carino
School Specialization:
Small Learning Communities (SLCs) or personalized education
Graduation Rate (within 4 years): 46%
Main office phone number:
(718) 543-1000

JHS 80

Isabel Rooney School

Address:
149 E. Mosholu Pkwy. N.
Grades: 6-8
Admissions Process:
Zoned School
Student Body: 624
Principal: Emmanuel Polanco
Afterschool activities:
Drama, screenwriting, spoken word, and field trips
Main office phone number:
(718) 405-6300

Bronx School for Continuous Learners

Address:
3177 Webster Ave.
Grades: K-4, Special Education
Admissions Process:
District 75 School
Student Body: 351
Principal: Janine Tubiolo
Main office phone number:
(718) 696-6640

PS/MS 20 P.O.

George J. Werdann, III

Address:
3050 Webster Ave.
Grades: Pre-K through 8
Admissions Process:
Zoned School
Student Body: 1,098
Principal: Carla Ling
Parent Coordinator:
Jael Ravenell, Izabela Kaczmarek
School Specialization:
Professional Development
Main office phone number: (718) 515-9370

PS 56

Norwood Heights

Address:
341 E. 207th St.
Grades: K-5
Admissions Process:
Zoned School
Student Body: 693
Principal: Maureen O'Neill
Parent Coordinator:
Carmen Garcia
Main office phone number:
(718) 920-1100

Bronx Community Charter School

Address:
3170 Webster Ave.
Grades: K-8
Admissions Process:
Charter lottery
Student Body: 410
Principals: Martha Andrews, Sasha Wilson
Main office phone number:
(718) 696-6440

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\$46M Annex in the Works for Kingsbridge Heights School

By MICHAEL TURAY

An 18-wheeler truck beeps as it slowly backs into a construction lot at 2751 Jerome Ave. “Danger zone, hard hat area,” reads one sign as two men with bright orange helmets urge pedestrians to stay put as the truck moves onto the grounds of P.S. 340. Above, a Woodlawn-bound #4 train rumbles past to its next destination. Across the street a noisy retaining wall job is also underway.

This project however, is strictly for the kids, as a Kingsbridge Heights elementary school is set to expand.

P.S. 340 will get more space, as a new four-story annex equipped with a so-called gymnasium is set to be built by September 2021. The move to extend its current campus is a product of the Universal Physical Education Initiative first introduced by Mayor Bill De Blasio in June 2017.

The city’s School Construction Authority (SCA) and city



Photo by Michael Turay

AN 18-WHEEL truck backs into the construction site for a new annex at PS 340.

Department of Education (DOE) are working together to accommodate approximately 200 schools that lack “adequate physical education space” through the initiative. The goal of the initiative looks to “ensure all students have access to appropriate physical education space by 2021,” according to the New York City Council’s management report.

The \$46 million annex will include 17 new classrooms, a reading room, a project room, a new gymnasium, an exercise room, a new library, a medical suite, additional staff rooms, a community room, and a new cafeteria with a kitchen for the Kindergarten through fifth grade school. The school had an enrollment of 628 students for the 2018-19 school year.

The new annex will be a change of scenery for locals, who have seen their fair share of construction at this location on Jerome Avenue between E. 196th Street and Morris Avenue. “I used to take my nephews here all the time to play basketball way back when they had hoops set up,” said Marilyn Phillips, a passerby who stopped to take a look at the demolition site. “I’m glad they are expanding these schools for more students to enroll in this area,” she said.

Community District 10 elementary schools are notoriously overcrowded classrooms. Kevin Ortiz, manager of external affairs for the SCA, mapped out how the city has been working on this issue.

“As you know District 10 is an overcrowded district especially when it comes to elementary school seats. This is part of what we’re doing to address overcrowding in the district and to provide more seats,” said Ortiz in a phone interview with Norwood News. “We just wrapped up the 2015-2019 Capital Plan and the SCA funded 2,948 new seats for District 10 during the FY’s 2015-2019 period,” said Ortiz.

Along with the annex at P.S. 340, an annex will also be built for the Tim Dwight School (P.S. 33) at 2424 Jerome Ave. for September 2021 and a brand new 478 seat elementary school is anticipated to be built at 2355 Morris Ave. for September 2023.

“We just started the fiscal years 2020-2024 capital plan. We have allocated funds for an additional 3,036 seats across District 10. Anytime that we provide space and new seats and provide a good learning environment for our students, it’s a win-win for everyone,” said Ortiz.

Bedford Park Elementary School

Address:

3177 Webster Ave.

Grades: Pre-K through 4

Student Body: 463

Principal: Carolyn Heredia

Main office phone

number: (718) 696-6440

PS 168

Address:

3050 Webster Ave.

Grades: Pre-K through 12

Student Body: 515

Principal: Maureen

Fullerton

Parent Coordinator: Cesar Vasquez

Main office phone

number: (718) 585-2100

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

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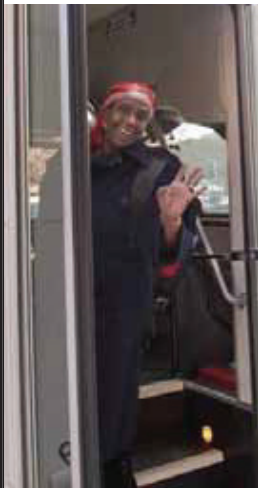
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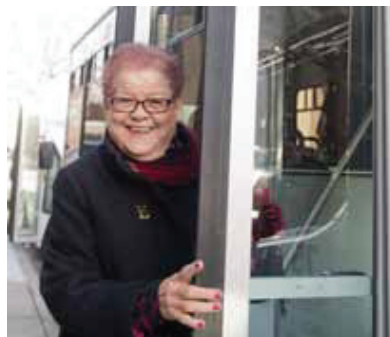
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BMCA Receives \$10K Grant, Post-Dated 2020

By **DAVID CRUZ**
And **MICHAEL TURAY**

The Bedford Mosholu Community Association (BMCA) received quite the financial bump from their local assemblywoman.

Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez, whose 80th Assembly District partially covers Bedford Park, gave BMCA a \$10,000 allocation. The group was one of three organizations—including the Pelham Parkway Neighborhood Association and the Allerton Avenue Homeowners & Tenants Association—falling within Fernandez’s district to receive a separate grant in the same amount.

“These organizations have brought service and attention to our neighborhood for collectively over 40 years,” said Fernandez. “They have given us different programs and events such as neighborhood beautification, civic engagement, and programs for our seniors.”

Barbara Stronczer, BMCA’s fifth and longest-serving president, was thrilled to receive the state funds, a rarity for the group.

“The Bedford Mosholu Community Association has been in existence for over 40 years, we cover the Bedford Park area and some of Norwood, and meet once a month. I want to thank [Nathalia] Fernandez for this grant,” said Stronczer, flanked by other group representatives and Fernandez inside the assemblywoman’s office on Aug. 20.

BMCA was founded in 1975 as a

group of volunteers committed to sustaining a quality standard of living for the Bedford Park community. Residents and volunteers who serve on an executive board gather the first Monday of every month (except during the summer) to assess the current state of the northwest Bronx neighborhood. Although the funding won’t be available until 2020, Stronczer and her team are already anticipating what can be done with the endowment.

“We’re excited and we definitely will have to sit down as an executive committee to exercise a few options. We certainly hope to use it for neighborhood beautification. We have Mosholu Parkway running right through our area, we have plenty of trees that need tree guards and want to put some plantings around,” said Stronczer. “Right now we’re being hit in that area by overdevelopment, we’re losing many of our private homes to developers and we’re fighting that as an association,” added Stronczer.

Fighting off major redevelopment projects, due to Webster Avenue rezoning, will always remain an emphasis of BMCA as well as reshaping of Mosholu Parkway. However, with some new allocated funds on the horizon, the year 2020 is promising for the civic association.

“Thank you again for all your dedicated service to your neighborhood and this community, I look forward to seeing what better projects, and just in general good things to come,” said Fer-



Photo by Michael Turay

ASSEMBLYWOMAN NATHALIA FERNANDEZ (at podium) announces a \$10,000 allocation for the Bedford Mosholu Community Association, represented by Barbara Stronczer (2nd from right, holding check).

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With Dems Nominating Three to Bronx Supreme Court Bench, Cohen Stays Put

(continued from page 2)

gates, who are then sent to the convention to vote on nominees for the court. There were no contested judicial delegate elections in the Bronx this year, according to the state board of elections.

Guzman was first elected to the city's civil court in 1998 before winning her seat on the Bronx Supreme Court in 2006. She served as president of the Puerto Rican Bar Association, the Latino Judges Association, and president of the Supreme Court Justices Association of the City of New York. Pitt, one of the two newcomers to the court, served as a law clerk for the Supreme Court and the chairperson of the Black Bar Association of Bronx County. She also chaired Community Board 10's Youth Services Committee and worked for the Legal Aid Society's Criminal Defense Division for seven years. Pitt came to the Bronx from Guyana as a child and told Caribbean Life in 2017, "Being Guyanese is one of the most important parts of my identity."

Before being appointed an acting justice last year, Higgit worked as the chief court attorney for the Bronx Supreme Court and has worked for the New York court system since 2002. New York's Supreme Court judges serve 14-year terms and are constitutionally prohibited from serving past the age of 70.

Four civil court judge candidates also ran unopposed in the June primary. They will be on the Democratic ballot in November, and are likely to win given the dominance of the Democratic party in the Bronx. The candidates are Michael Frishman, Matthew Raso, John A. Howard-Algarin, and Jessica I. Bourbon.

Frishman is a court attorney for Guzman and received his law degree from University of Miami School of Law. He's heavily involved in the Thurgood Marshall Junior Mock Trial Competition, coaching P.S. 71 to three straight championships. Frishman is also a member of the Ben Franklin Democratic Reform Club, the northwest Bronx political club closely associated with the elder Dinowitz.

Raso is a principal law clerk for Judge Mitchell Danziger, a Bronx civil court justice. He also previously served on Community Board 11 and is a prominent LGBTQ member of the Bronx Democratic Party.

A longtime chair of Community Board 4's Parks Committee, Howard-Algarin is an associate counsel for Con Edison. Previously he worked for the Manhattan law firm Bamundo, Zwal & Shemerhorn, LLP.

Bourbon is an assistant district attorney at the Bronx District Attorney's office. While Frishman and Raso will be running countywide, Bourbon and Howard-Algarin will be running in each of the Bronx's two municipal court districts. Bourbon will be running in District 1, which extends from Riverdale to Mott Haven and includes Norwood. District 2, where Howard-Algarin will be running, encompasses the eastern half of the borough from Wakefield to Soundview.

Women Candidates Look to Make History At 15th Congressional District Race

By DAVID CRUZ
And JOSEPH KONIG

It was only recently that the Bronx began to see a gender shift in representation on the legislative front, with more women representing districts at all levels of government.

Last year, the borough elected state Sen. Alessandra Biaggi to replace Jeff Klein while Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez became the first woman to represent the Bronx/Queens 14th Congressional District. Nathalia Fernandez and Karines Reyes were also elected to represent their Assembly districts in 2018, doubling the number of women in the Bronx Assembly Delegation.

Melissa Mark-Viverito, the former Speaker of the New York City Council, and Marlene Cintron, president of the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation, look to continue that trend as each vies for the 15th Congressional District seat. It's a race that's now seen eight other Democrats open a campaign committee.

Despite residing in Manhattan's El Barrio, Mark-Viverito hopes to differentiate herself from the pack by emphasizing her "track record of success" and showing that she will be a fighter for the district in Washington, D.C. From 2006 to 2017, Mark-Viverito represented the 8th Council District, which was geographically split between her home turf in East Harlem and the South Bronx.

"We're living in a very fragile moment in our democracy," Mark-Viverito told the *Norwood News*. "The constituents of this district, of the Bronx, of this city are really under attack under this administration. And really, our very existence is under threat."

For Cintron, deciding to explore a run was easy: she believes none of the declared candidates are suited to represent the district.

"We have to get this right. Whoever becomes our member is going to be our member for a bit of time," said Cintron in a telephone interview with the *Norwood News*. "We can't afford to send to Congress someone who has no intent to stay there and do the hard work. We have to send somebody there that is really and truly looking to be a Congress person."

Cintron is a lifelong resident of the district, which remains the country's poorest congressional district after the current seat holder, Jose Serrano, was

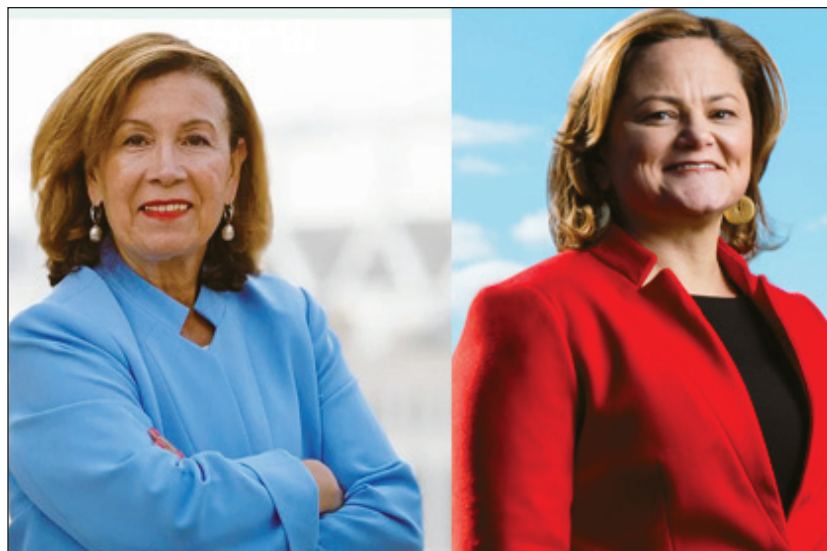


Photo courtesy Marlene for the Bronx campaign website/Melissa Mark-Viverito Facebook Page
(L-R) **MARLENE CINTRON**, president of the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation, and former New York City Council Speaker **Melissa Mark-Viverito** are vying for the 15th Congressional District seat.

elected nearly 30 years ago. For a time, Serrano and Cintron lived in the same Grand Concourse apartment building.

With more women living in the Bronx than men, Cintron believes a female voice is certainly needed in the nation's capital where the future of female reproductive rights has taken center stage.

"It's important that we be represented by somebody who's going to move the women's agenda forward and not bring them back to the dark ages," said Cintron.

Mark-Viverito feels similarly. One of Cintron and Mark-Viverito's opponents, Councilman Rev. Ruben Diaz Sr., is a strong opponent of abortion. Bronx Democratic Party boss and Assemblyman Marcos Crespo has voted against bills protecting women's reproductive rights, including a bill that codified Roe v. Wade in New York earlier this year.

"Why should men be telling me what to do with my body? It defies logic," Mark-Viverito said when asked about Crespo and Diaz Sr. "To have anyone running in a Democratic primary that does not support [women's reproductive rights] should be dismissed outright. It's not within the core values of the Democratic Party. It's a real concern. Its highly offensive to me, as a woman."

Supporting women for public office is something of a sticking point for Mark-Viverito and Bronx Democrats. Party leaders, sans Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., backed Assemblyman Robert Rodriguez over Mark-Viverito's preferred successor, former aide Diana Ay-

ala, in the 2017 race for 8th Council District. Ayala won.

She also encouraged Bronx Democratic leadership to back a female candidate in the special election to replace Maria del Carmen Arroyo after the 17th Council District representative retired in 2015. Instead, they backed eventual victor Rafael Salamanca.

"I told [Crespo] the count of women in the Council was diminishing and that they should really work hard to identify a woman to replace" Arroyo, Mark-Viverito said. "It all falls on deaf ears." Despite Mark-Viverito's protestations on the party doing little for women, it did back Fernandez and Reyes.

Cintron was appointed to her latest post by Diaz Jr. The borough president's father, Diaz Sr., is himself a candidate for the 15th Congressional District seat and has a serious shot at winning. On Aug. 14, Diaz Sr. took partial credit for landing Cintron her current gig.

"I have the unique skill of having people working for me, such as Marlene Cintron, [state senator] Luis Sepulveda, and Marcos Crespo coming out of my office with my recommendation" for their current positions, Diaz Sr. tweeted. "Not too bad for a black Puerto Rican with a kinky hair and a broken English!"

Cintron shot back with a tweet reading, "Why does it seem that behind every successful woman, there's a man trying to take credit for her accomplishments?"

"I'll be sure to send you a thank you card from DC!" Cintron added.

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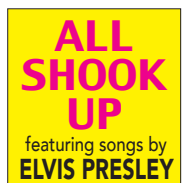
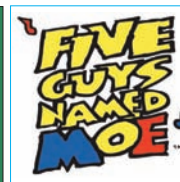
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HEALTH CHECK

Eye Health: Tips to Remember

By **PAULETTE GIAMBALVO, MPH, CHES**

We don't always think about our eyes when we think about health, but the months highlighting eye health awareness, such as Low Vision Awareness Month in February, Contact Lens Health Week in August, and Diabetic Eye Disease Awareness Month in November, reminds us to also focus on the organ that helps us see the world.

The National Eye Institute (NEI), part of the National Institutes of Health, says there are many things one can do for their eye health. First, a full eye exam each year can look for both vision problems and eye diseases. These exams are also important to find eye conditions that develop with age. In addition, healthy habits, such as eating right and not smoking, are key. Also, allowing eyes to rest from the phone and computer every day, as well as washing hands often, are good tips to follow.

Good care of contact lens and glasses is also important for eye health. There are many different types of contact lenses, such as soft and hard lenses, disposable lenses, and extended wear lenses. An eye

doctor can help a patient determine if contact lenses is right for them. If wearing contact lenses, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the following habits:

- Wash hands with soap and water and dry them with a clean cloth before touching lenses
- Don't sleep with lenses in, unless a doctor prescribes them to be worn during sleep
- Keep water away from contact lenses by not showering or swimming with them inserted
- Replace contact lens cases at least once every three months, and rinse cases with contact lens solution, not water, for storage

In addition, the CDC recommends carrying a back-up pair of glasses with a current prescription.

For more information about eye health, visit the NEI website at <http://nei.nih.gov> or call (301) 496-5248.

Paulette Giambalvo is director of Associate Wellness at Montefiore Health System.

Proclamation for Monte's Women's Health Institute



Photo courtesy Montefiore Health System

NURSES, DOCTORS, AND breastfeeding advocates at the Montefiore Institute for Women's Health received a proclamation from Bronx Borough Deputy President Marricka Scott-McFadden during Breastfeeding Awareness Month on Aug. 13. Congrats!

Woodlawn's Latest Addition to: The Knollwood Mausoleum

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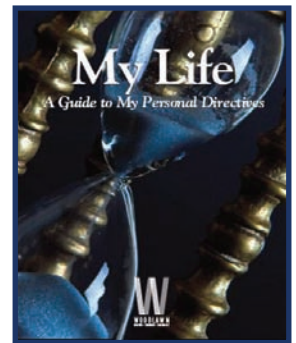
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NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

Back-to-School Health Fair

A free back-to-school health fair is scheduled on Sept. 4 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at NYC Health + Hospitals/Jacobi, 1400 Pelham Pkwy. S., at the Pirate Ship Playground at Building 8 Courtyard. Free back-to-school supplies, music, and giveaways will be on hand. Anyone interested in signing up for affordable health insurance can do so. For more information, call Pitrina Moseley at (646) 335-8645.

Free Paper Shredding

Shred sensitive paperwork at a free shredding event happening on Sept. 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Office of Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz at 3107 Kingsbridge Ave. For more information, call Dinowitz's office at (718) 796-5345 or email dinowitzj@nyassembly.gov.

Census Jobs

The U.S. Census is hiring individuals for join its 2020 Census Team to help with the Census' official count. To apply, visit 2020census.gov/jobs or call (855) 562-2020.

Community Resource Fair

Norwood seniors, tenants and homeowners are invited to this free event co-sponsored by University Neighborhood Housing Program (UNHP) and Legal Aid Society on Sept. 17 from 2 to 7 p.m. at Holy Nativity Episcopal Church, 3061 Bainbridge Ave. Free housing, financial, legal and health services and information from eight non-profits and two city agencies. There will be a workshop by New York City Housing Preservation and Development about the affordable housing lottery. Contact UNHP at (718) 933-2539 to RSVP/partner, or for more information. Resources will be available in English, Spanish, and Bangla. *অবলাহিত বাংলা বা হবত!* ¡Hablarán español!

Chorus Rehearsals

Open rehearsals for The Riverdale Choral Society are scheduled for Sept. 4 at 7:30 p.m. at Christ Church Riverdale, 5040 Henry Hudson Pkwy. at West 252nd Street. Attendees will be practicing Aaron Copland's "In the Beginning," and Ralph Vaughan Williams' "Fantasia on Christmas Carols."

Youth-led Farmer's Market

The Norwood Youthmarket is open Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the corner of East Gun Hill Road and DeKalb Avenue through Nov. 11. Cash, SNAP/EBT, debit/credit, FMNP checks, and Health Bucks are accepted.

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.

Constituent Services

State Sen. Alessandra Biaggi provides constituent services at Community Board 7, 229-A E. 204th St., every second Thursday of the month from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call Community Board 7 at (718) 933-5650 or Biaggi's office at (718) 822-2049.

Accompanying the Elderly

Volunteer to visit the elderly once a week through the city Department of Aging's Friendly Visiting Program of Neighborhood SHOPP. Volunteers donate their time to accompany the elderly once a week for an hour as a means of improving their mental health. Volunteers will need to undergo a background check and commit six months to the program. For more information, call 311.

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.



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ANNIVERSARY EVENT

The Bedford Park Congregational Church invites you to its 130th anniversary concert and dinner on Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019. Back by popular demand: Sergey Pobedinski (guitar and vocals) and Ludmila Fesenko (vocals). The concert will be at 3:30 p.m., followed by a delicious catered dinner in our hall. Tickets \$40. Please contact Reverend Dr. Christopher Ponnuraj for tickets (718) 367-8996.

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Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

EDITOR'S PICK

Freebies at the Oval

Williamsbridge Oval (info: (718) 543-8672) presents the following free events:

Aug. 30 from 11 a.m. to noon - **Puppet Show** – Bessie's Big Shot

Aug. 31 at 8:30 p.m. - **Outdoor film** – "Uncle Drew"

Onstage

Woodlawn Cemetery holds free outdoor **concert** featuring Boricua Legends performing the music of Queen of Salsa, Celia Cruz and other Latin American artists, Sept. 15 from 3 to 5 p.m., rain or shine. Bring chair or blanket; chairs will not be provided. Bags are subject to search. The Celia Cruz and Pedro Knight mausoleum will be open for viewing from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the Woodlawn Conservancy Trolley will escort passengers to and from the concert. Registration is required. For more information and tickets, call (718) 920-1470 or visit www.WoodlawnEvents.org.

Events

Bronx NYC Parks Department presents free **Flag Football** for kids ages 9 to 17. Instructional Series through Sept. 7; League from Aug. 31 through Sept. 19; Citywide Championships, Nov 2; and Girls Invitational Tournament, Nov. 11. For more information, locations, and details, call (718) 430-1824.

Back-to-School Tournament, sponsored by NYCCAL and New Life of NYC takes place Aug. 31 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Devoe Park, West 188th Street. Events include 3 on 3 basketball tournament, 3 point shootout, skills competition and more. Free school



File photo by Miriam Quinones

YOUR LAST HURRAH before the summer unofficially ends could be a movie night at Williamsbridge Oval. Check out what's playing in our Editor's Pick.

supplies while supplies last. For more information, call (914) 309-8494 or visit www.nyccall.org.

Run for a Cause, Woodlawn's 13th annual 5k, takes place on Sept. 14 at 10 a.m. Registration is at Healy Field at 8:30 a.m. (Van Cortlandt Park East and Kepler Avenue). Proceeds will support Yonkers Partners in Education Foundation and National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Entry fees: \$25/pre race until Sept. 13; \$30/day of. For more information and to register, visit www.woodlawnrunforacause.org.

Council Member Andrew Cohen, Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz, State Senator Alessandra Biaggi, and AARP present free **Paper Shredding Event**, to safely shred personal and confidential documents, Sept. 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the office of Dinowitz, 3107 Kingsbridge Ave. For more information, call (718) 796-5345.

Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Art Projects**: Shadow Play, to create art, Sept. 1; and Herds, Schools and Bevys, to explore how animals exist and work together and to create animal puppets, Sept. 7 and 8; both 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

NY Botanical Garden presents its largest exhibition ever, **Brazilian Modern: The Living Art of Roberto Burle Marx**, 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. Musical performances take place Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m. and dance on Sundays from

1 to 4 p.m. including Monday, Sept. 2. For more information and a detailed schedule, 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.

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 teens/young adults: **film**: Aug. 30 at 4 p.m. Adults can attend: **Computer Basics at 1 p.m.**: Aug. 29 and Sept. 5; **Microsoft Word for Beginners**: Sept. 12 at 1 p.m.; and **film**: "The Boy in the Striped Pajamas," Sept. 7 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nysl.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, Sept. 5, 9 and 12; and for ages 5 to 12: **Crafty Fridays at 3 p.m.**: crafts, Aug. 30 and Sept. 6; and **STEM: Kids Science at 3 p.m.**: Reaction, Sept. 3 and 10. Adults can enjoy: **Knitting Circle**: Thursdays at 3 p.m. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

Jerome Park Library, 118 Eames Pl. (near Kingsbridge Road), offers for adults: **Computer Basics at noon**: Aug. 29, Sept. 5 and 12. 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 Sept. 2 for the next publication date of Sept. 12.

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Bronx Opioid Crisis Gets Senate's Attention

(continued from page 1)

ing on makeshift beds, with garbage strewn about.

In 2017, the Bronx overtook Staten Island with the highest rate of overdose deaths in New York City. The latest published figures show that four of the six neighborhoods with the highest rates of overdose deaths are in the Crotona and Mott Haven sections of the Bronx.

In response to the alarming number of overdose deaths in the borough, Mayor Bill de Blasio pledged \$8 million last November for drug treatment programs in the Bronx. The funds are part of the Bronx Action Plan, which creates teams of first responders that include a social worker and peer advocate to accompany the emergency medical technicians.

Additionally, \$1 million is designated for more naloxone kits, support groups, and ad campaigns warning residents about the dangers of fentanyl, the drug commonly mixed with heroin to pack an even greater and potentially lethal high.

Joining Rivera as co-chairs during the day-long hearing were senators Pete Harckman representing parts of Dutchess, Putnam, and Westchester counties, and David Carlucci representing most of Rockland County and parts of Westchester County.

The panel also included five other senators—John Liu, Patrick Gallivan, George Amedore, Jr., Diane Savino, and Shelley Mayer.

“The goal is to produce a report ... which is comprehensive, and which will very likely produce a policy agenda for next year,” said Rivera.

Among those invited to appear before the panel was Debbian Fletcher-Blake, a family nurse practitioner and CEO of VIP Community Services. Founded in 1974 as the Vocational Instruction Program, the organization uses an integrative approach to treating addiction by including services such as education, job training, and life skills in addition to specific rehabilitation treatments.

Fletcher-Blake sees a complex regulatory system as an obstacle to offering addicts a more permanent solution. Some doctors may see addicts for a physical ailment but cannot implement addiction treatment on the same day.

“For example, Medicaid laws prevent same day billing for patients that seek physical health treatments and behavioral health care,” Fletcher-Blake said. “Requiring patients to come back another day leads to

missed opportunities.”

Savino represents parts of Staten Island that have been ravaged by the opioid crisis. She said that the epidemic has to be seen in a different light and that no family is immune from the addiction crises.

Thirty years ago, Savino started as a case worker during the height of the crack epidemic.

“We’ve come a long way in our understanding since then. Addiction is a disease, not a character defect,” Savino said.

A better understanding of addiction is also promoted by Fletcher-Blake. She sees a lack of compassion towards patients as creating unnecessary hardships. “We ask people whose brain chemistries are twisted to sit with us to develop treatment goals that we use to determine success or failure,” Fletcher-Blake said.

On the law enforcement front, Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark joined the rest of her counterparts across the city in urging state lawmakers to take action against the unregulated distribution of all fentanyl analogs. In a joint statement released on Aug. 26, the DAs pointed to the “dangerously potent synthetic opioid fentanyl and its variants, known as fentanyl analogs, [as] largely responsible for the spike in drug-related deaths in recent years. In New York City in 2018, fentanyl analogs were involved in 60 percent of all overdose deaths.”

The DAs hope to increase law enforcement tools such as search warrants, wiretaps and arrests in their effort to remove fentanyl analogs from the streets. “By improving our ability to link overdoses and deaths to fentanyl analogs in autopsies and drug evidence, we can better protect the public and focus strategies on saving lives in our communities,” the DAs said in the statement.

During the task force hearing, senators also pointed to a lack of action from Washington as a contributing factor to the overdose epidemic.

“We do not have faith in the federal government,” Carlucci said referring to the lack of funds and services needed by the state to effectively combat the opioid abuse epidemic.

Not all of the suggestions, however, revolved around governmental and medical interventions.

Carlucci described the community residents as valuable assets in the fight against addiction and overdoses. “We have to get more regular people involved,” Carlucci said.



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- 24-Hour Skilled Nursing Care
- Physician Services
- Neurology, physiatry, cardiology, pulmonology, dermatology, podiatry, orthopedics, vascular, ENT, dentistry, psychology, psychiatry, ophthalmology
- Long and Short-Term Rehabilitation
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Respiratory Therapy
- Pre- and Post-Operative Care

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)