

NORWOOD NEWS

Vol 32, No 19 • Published By Mosholu Preservation Corporation • September 26-October 9, 2019

MORE LEGIONNAIRES' AT TRACEY TOWERS

Total of four cases triggers search for answers



Photo by José A. Giralt

THE TWIN BUILDINGS of Tracey Towers (pictured) in Bedford Park/Norwood during the early evening hours on Sept. 23. There are currently a total of four reported cases of Legionnaires' disease, for which health officials are attempting to discover the source.

By JOSÉ A. GIRALT

The discovery of two more cases of Legionnaires' disease at Tracey Towers is creating two opposing reactions at the sprawling apartment complex.

There are now four confirmed cases of the waterborne illness at 20 W. Mosholu Pkwy. S. but none

at its twin site, 40 W. Mosholu Pkwv. S.

Since the initial announcement more than two weeks ago of a second tenant being infected with Legionnaires' within a 12month period, some residents have attended multiple meetings organized by the city Department of Health (DOH) held at the building. DOH regulations mandate an investigation whenever a second case of Legionnaires' disease is discovered at the same address.

Some residents are taking the DOH warnings and recommendations seriously, such as substituting baths for showers and not

using the hot water supply for cooking.

But not all are cooperating with DOH guidelines.

At the last meeting of the Tracey Towers Tenants Association on Sept. 20, president Jean Hill updated residents with the

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NORWOOD NEWS

Vol. 32, No. 19

Norwood News is published bi-weekly on Thursdays by Mosholu Preservation Corporation (MPC) 3400 Reservoir Oval East Bronx, New York 10467 Phone: 718 324 4998 Fax: 718 324 2917

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IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

Talk By Bronx Community College Aims to Redefine American Greatness

By SILE MOLONEY

Nestled in the back of Bronx Community College (BCC) campus on one of the highest points in the borough with spectacular views of the city is a little-known secret fortress.

Since 1907, a semi-circular enclave of solid bronze busts depicting various American historical figures from the world of politics, the arts, science, and others line a classical-style stone-arched colonnade, presiding majestically over the bustling University Heights neighborhood and Harlem River.

The secluded area, known as the Hall of Fame for Great Americans, designed by American architect Stanford White, was the first of its kind in the country when it was built, but like other public places it has not been free from controversy. There are few women represented, for starters. And in 2017, the busts of overtly controversial historical figures such as confederate generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson, were removed two years ago as part of a national trend that condemned the history of the Confederacy in the United States, which came to the forefront in the aftermath of the 2015 fatal church shooting in Charleston, South Carolina and the fatal car attack at the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. Critics say confederate statues symbolize and glorify white supremacy.

In light of the controversial nature of the topic and the tragedies which have ensued, Bronx Community College is hosting a month-long exhibition from Sept. 21 through October 25 entitled *Diversity in Public Art: Empowering Community Voices at the Hall of Fame.* The aim is to open the discussion among staff,



Photo by Síle Moloney

THE HALL OF FAME for Great Americans (pictured) opened in 1907 on the campus of what is now Bronx Community College.

Bronx residents, faculty, students and the wider public as to what constitutes American greatness and who gets to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Cynthia Tobar, Head of Archives at BCC, explained that, historically, candidates considered for inclusion in the Hall of Fame had to have been U.S. citizens by birth or through naturalization and had to have died at least 25 years before their nomination.

Historically, elections were held every five years between 1907 and 1970 and were conducted by a committee of prominent representatives from the 50 states. The most recent bust installed there was that of Franklin Roosevelt in 1992, but in the early 1900s such public monuments were used to document the notoriety and accomplishments of military heroes.

"This school had been designed with that student body in mind - basically very white, very male-centric," said Tobar. The college was originally owned by NYU, but was sold to BCC in 1973 when NYU was undergoing financial difficulties.

"We want to celebrate American greatness," said Tobar. "And now, even the term - and people arguing and debating about what is it to be an American - how do we reframe that? How do we disrupt those structures and come from a place of inclusivity to broaden that definition?"

The exhibition will consist of paintings, sculptures, films, digital art, and various mixed media, while the exhibit seeks to re-examine the Hall of Fame and ultimately address the importance of cultural diversity in public monuments.

It is timely and appropriate such an event is hosted by BCC given nearly 100 percent of the student body hail from ethnic minorities and over one half, 55 percent are first-generation students. The majority come from the Bronx.

Eve Marrero is originally from Germany but has been a resident

(continued on page 20)

Public and Community Meetings

The **BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** meets Oct. 2 at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. S., Apt. B1, at 8 p.m. For more information, email bedfordmosholu@verizon.net.

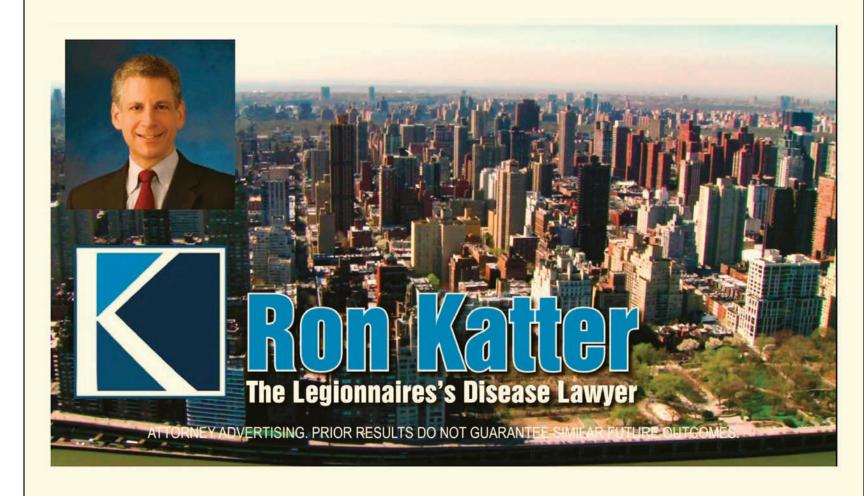
COMMUNITY BOARD 7 committee meetings are held on the following dates at 6:30 p.m. at 229A E. 204th St. unless otherwise noted: Environment & Sanitation Committee meets on Oct. 1; Education, Youth & Libraries meets on Oct. 2; Traffic & Transportation Committee meets on Oct. 3; Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs Committee meets on Oct. 9; and Public Safety & Quality of Life Committee meets on Oct. 10. For more information, call (718) 933-5650.

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INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



This week we asked readers their thoughts on the state's ban on flavored e-cigarettes and the trend vaping that's responsible for killing nine people across the country so far this year.



Another quick cash grab like the K-2 epidemic. The government reacts after research sees negative effects in the public. Meanwhile, owners made millions [of dollars] and promise to do better next

Dion Powell Claremont



I don't know, but I always thought it was a waste of time. Users of tobacco don't need to smoke less, they need to quit. No smoking at all. Never liked it and always thought smoking anything was bad. Manmade vapes? At least if it's a cigarette, I would think there would be less chemicals. I think vapes are the worst. I think they just wanted to make the money ... they don't actually care about who's going to get hurt. Elainer Marmolejos

I believe it's another way for our government, the tobacco companies, to regain control of something they lost. Basically, the tobacco companies have lost millions of dollars by people switching over to vaping. I did a little research myself. Over in Europe they have been vaping for years. Using different flavors with the same kind of technique with three milligrams or six milligrams of nicotine. They never have had a problem. Now, all of a sudden people are dropping dead. It started with the Blue Pen, but now it's trickling down to the vapes with the flavors. [I]t has nothing to do with flavors.

Antonio Sanders Parkchester



I feel like e-cigarettes are horrible because of the way it's accessible to the youth; it's a bit scary. I also feel the flavoring in them entices children. That's why there's so many of the younger generation picking them up. They also don't smell like tobacco; it doesn't leave a stain on your fingers. Because they don't smell like tobacco, the parents will never find out. Because it comes in strawberry and other flavors, they are targeting this generation. The fact that it's killing people is why they are taking it out. If it was just killing black and brown [people] it wouldn't be an issue, but because it's affecting a lot more people, I feel that's why they're taking it off the shelves. Kelli Crosby

Harlem, NY



They say vaping cigarettes are better for your health, but it's not. It's bad for your health. They didn't experiment with it enough. They just put it out there and started to give it flavor. Now they got the young kids out here, puffin', puffin' like they're crazy. The bubble gum flavor, the grape and they're doing that with the pipes too. They should take all of it off the market. If they are going to put it out, they need to experiment first, test it to see if it's safe for the public. Why put something out that's poison?

Gregory Jackson Norwood



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BY DAVID CRUZ

Would-Be Cop Killer Suspect Charged

A Fordham man is charged with attempted murder of a cop in an incident that began as an alleged car break-in. Prosecutors charged Ronnie Cole, 58, after prosecutors say he attempted to steal a BMW sedan within the confines of the 44th Precinct. but was confronted by Police Officers Diego Jimenez and Robert Knights. Cole told the officers the car was his, which they didn't buy. A struggle ensued and Cole whipped out a 9mm and attempted to shoot one of the officers before he was shot, according to prosecutors.

Ex-Student Sentenced

A judge sentenced a Belmont man to 14 years in prison for stabbing a student to death and severely wounding another at the Urban Assembly School for Wildlife Conservation in September 2017, marking the first death of a student to occur in a school since 1992. Abdel Cedeno was 18 years old when he stabbed two teen boys, killing one of them, after one of the boys threw a paper ball or pencil at Cedeno, leading to an argument, according to prosecutors. "[Cedeno's] explosion of rage has left so many lives in ruins, including his own," said Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark.

Bronx River Pkwy. Fatal Car Wreck

Police have identified the 22-year-old man killed in car crash that occured near Exit 8 on the Bronx River Parkway just near Norwood on Sept. 9. Police say Rohan Saunds of Baychester was in the back seat of a 2008 white Mercedes Benz S550 when the driver accelerated at a high rate of speed, losing control, and veering into the grass median, striking a guard rail. The car was soon engulfed in flames. Paramedics rushed Saunds and

Hailing Lehman Center's \$15 Million Facelift, a Striking Arts Venue

By DAVID CRUZ

Call this a glass act.

The newly-minted Lehman Center for the Performing Arts was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting that hailed the completion of the boxy, glass-exterior concert hall. The timing of the occasion came at the eve of the center's 40th concert season debut.

Dubbed the borough's Lincoln Center, the \$15.4 million redesign of the three-story venue adds another 5500 square feet of space that went towards a new lobby and rest rooms. Guests couldn't help but look up, admiring the grandiose look of the hall that was built in 1980

The building's prior state was somewhat obsolete since it was not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), keeping the disabled from enjoying the myriad of acts offered each season. The building is now equipped with walkway ramps and an elevator to the balcony.

"We had to do this construction because we had to make the building ADA compliant. Our architect took it beyond that," said Eva Bornstein, the center's long-serving executive director. "He went beyond his duties to make it really special."

The expanded site earned an endorsement from Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., an alum of Lehman College, where the center is located.

"If you're from the Boogie Down Bronx, you know that part of our flavor—if there's one, if not the first major ingredient that's part of our DNA, a major component—is music," said Diaz Jr. in his remarks before breaking into hip hop song.

Diaz Jr. allocated \$500,000 toward the project, with the Governor's Office, and city and state legislators representing the Bronx cobbling the rest of the

the three other passengers to Jacobi Medical Center. Saunds was pronounced dead a week later.

SCRIE/DRIE Benefit Expansion

Eligible senior citizens and disabled New Yorkers can have their preferential rents frozen following an expansion of the city's NYC Rent Freeze Program benefit. Mayor Bill de Blasio announced the expansion benefit, where the city covers the cost of a portion of a New Yorker's rent. The Mayor's Public Engagement Unit will fan across the city to spread word of the new policy change. To determine eligibility, and to apply, residents can go to www. nyc.gov/rentfreeze.



Photo by Adi Talwar

LEHMAN CENTER FOR the Performing Arts' 40th Anniversary Grand Re-Opening on Sept. 20 with Lehman officials joining legislators, both past and present, taking part in a ribbon cutting.

funds needed for the project. Talk of a major overhaul goes back to 2003, the year Bornstein started as the executive director, but was put on hold until all funds were secured. Renovations began in 2017. Monies for the project also went to refurbish the venue's existing amenities including the 2,278-seat auditorium.

The center's completion comes amid other gargantuan projects slated for Lehman College, including extensive renovations for the institution's Leonard Lief Library and a new \$75 million, 53,000-square-foot nurse training center. The college's president, Daniel Lemons, saw the upgrades aligned with the borough's moment of "significant renewal."

The center represents one of few concert halls in the Bronx, which attracts musical acts from around the world. It's

also drawn familiar headliners that are not from the music world, including comedian Jerry Seinfeld.

This year, the center attracted Thai Express from India's Bollywood scene, R&B singer Stephanie Mills, and famed salsero Eddie Palmieri to mark its four-decade milestone.

Finding the center proved tough for folks, which may be eased now that its namesake is emblazoned on the building's glass enclosure. This may likely ease the frequent question Bornstein's heard from patrons heading to the center over the years: where is Lehman Center?

"I had to tell them, 'just follow me,'" said Bornstein. "Now I don't have to escort them because, I mean, how can you miss it? You can't miss it."

Follow David Cruz on Twitter at @CWEBCRUZER. Follow the Norwood News on Twitter at @NorwoodNews.

Football Concussion Warnings

Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed legislation mandating tackle football programs for young people 18 years or younger provide free informational packets on the dangers of concussion, which could be the result of hard-hitting blows to the head. Doctors have long argued that continued blows to the head, particularly to young people, can cause long-term brain development effects. Bronx Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, the lead sponsor of the bill, said it's "imperative that families realize the danger to their children when playing high-contact sports."

"Ban the Baloney" Bill

Councilman Fernando Cabrera

scored a mini victory in having the New York City Council pass a resolution that would mandate the city Department of Education to ban processed meats from public school lunches. Cabrera's office, citing published science reports, said the salted-, cured-, and smoked-processed meats can lead to cancer. "My own borough of the Bronx ranks 62nd statewide in health outcomes—the unhealthiest county in the entire state," said Cabrera. "We know from research that kids who start eating a healthy diet high in fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, beans, nuts and seeds have improved test scores, attention spans, and energy levels. With so many kids getting most of their food in school. the solution seems obvious."

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\$10.7 Million Lottery Winner in Norwood a Kind of Mystery

By DAVID CRUZ

Inside a busy convenience store in Norwood stood a gold mine that someone's ready to collect.

And while it's still unclear who won the \$10.7 million lottery prize at TS Stationery at 3401 Jerome Ave., one thing's certain: the winner's a store regular.

News of the jackpot winner on Sept. 9 caused quite the buzz at the store that falls within the Jerome Gun Hill Business Improvement District, one of the few stores within the strip where customers can play the lottery. It's there where Ms. Lee, the owner, worked the lotto machine on Sept. 13. An employee with the New York State Gaming Commission was also on hand to give Lee a promotional sign boasting about the gigantic prize.

Ms. Lee, who's owned the store for the last 20 years, said she wasn't around when the winning numbers were punched. But Mohammed Tuhi, a four-year employee at the store, was. He didn't know the winner's name, but knows he's stopped by several times. Help from the store's surveillance cameras may be able to ID the customer, said Tuhi. The last notable winner occurred last December where one customer won \$100,000. That customer remains a regular, according to Tuhi.

Plenty of customers had lots of ideas for what should be done with that recent windfall. Irizarry Jose, a cus-

tomer waiting to put in his numbers, said he would "get as far away from New York City as possible." "I get a place to live--a house, a boat--and just stay over there for the rest of my days," said Jose, 63.

As a means of concealing their identity, one person said the winner would "hire a lawyer, create a limited liability partnership and no one knows who won."

That may not be so easy since New York State still mandates winners go public. The matter to bar the identities from coming forward was brought before the State Legislature last year, but vetoed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, arguing the the practice indicates to the public that the state hasn't siphoned any jackpots.

Steven Ortiz, a Norwood resident, had other plans. "I think the first thing that I would probably do is find a new place to live, find a temporary rental or something like that, maybe close my social media accounts," said Ortiz, who doesn't mind sharing some of it. "If anything, it shows that it's real. Sometimes I don't know anybody who won a super big prize like that."

Another customer, who went by Ms. Stokes, said the person who won "probably left town."

It's unclear whether the New York State Gaming Commission will host a celebration for the store and winner.



Photo by David Cruz

THE \$10.7 MILLION jackpot was drawn on Sept. 9, though TS Stationery didn't know there was a winner until Sept. 11.

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Man Kills Himself at Kingsbridge Rd. Subway, Tries to Take Daughter With Him

By MICHAEL TURAY and DAVID CRUZ

A little girl is miraculously alive after her father jumped onto the tracks of the Kingsbridge Road #4 train station, taking her with him before getting himself killed by an oncoming

The scene unfolded at around 8 a.m. on Sept. 23 when the five-year-old and her father, identified as 45-yearold Fernando Balbuena-Flores, were on the platform. Minutes later, after getting off his cell phone, he jumps to the tracks, picking up his daughter identified as Ferni Balbuena and taking her with him as a train pulls into

The man is hit while his daughter gets pinned underneath the train. Video captured from a cell phone shows two bystanders jumping on to the tracks, convincing Ferni to crawl out from beneath the train car before she's pulled out to safety and handed up to waiting hands on the platform. Amazingly, she is able to walk on the platform virtually unscathed. Balbuena-Flores died instantly underneath the train. The child was taken to Jacobi Medical Center and treated for minor injuries. The two bystanders who pulled her up were taken to St. Barna-



Image courtesy getfly_ny Instagram account

THIS IMAGE TAKEN from an Instagram account shows bystanders rescuing a little girl trapped underneath a train that killed her father. Witnesses say her father was holding her when he jumped.

bas Hospital where they were treated for minor injuries and released.

It's unclear why the dad jumped.

"I heard him telling the wife that you look out for the other two kids. I'm going to take her to school and then he said 'I love you'," said Pamela Ivy, an

eyewitness, telling television reporters at the scene. "The train just hit both of them. They didn't have time to move because the train was coming so quick. The train just ran both of them over."

Niurka Caraballo, Ferni's mother,

rushed from her home on the Grand Concourse in Fordham to the subway station following her conversation with Balbuena-Flores. She sensed something was off, but by the time she arrived, Balbuena-Flores had already jumped to his death.

The news caught the attention of Councilman Fernando Cabrera, whose council district covers Kingsbridge, who tied the suicide with high rates of suicide. "Today's incident and many others pinpoint the need for a dramatic increase in the availability of mental health treatment. Accompanying any increase in treatment, society must also eliminate the stigma, which is often associated with mental illness," said Cabrera in a statement.

Ferni was released from the hospital hours after the incident and was met with photographers and reporters outside her apartment building. A relative soon ushered her inside. Caraballo, severely distraught, later came outside her building, telling reporters that her daughter's in "perfect condition."

"Thanks to God and the angels that protected her," said Caraballo.

Additional reporting by Jonathan Custodio

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Pop-up Storytime in Norwood Looks to Boost Literacy Rates

By SHA-NIA ALSTON

Olga Baez is so worried over the Bronx's low literacy rates it compelled her to improve them. And she called on her local cell phone store for help.

"I know that the literacy rates in the Bronx are very low, so I wanted to start within my community a local storytime activity. Because I know the local library has a storytime, but they do it for toddlers; there's no reason that kids that are a little bit older cannot enjoy storytime, especially elementary-age kids," Baez said in a phone interview with the Norwood News.

Illiteracy rates in the Bronx stand somewhere between 24 to 28 percent, according to the latest findings.

Baez, through her nonprofit dubbed StriveHigher, partnered with the T-Mobile store on 306 E. 204th St. in Norwood to host monthly book readings. The store manager provides Baez with a section in the store for readings, going so far as to occasionally pay for the snacks.

StriveHigher is a non-profit that focuses on turning children into well-rounded individuals through financial literacy, education, career exploration, and wellness. Baez

makes the readings interactive with different subjects that range from swimming, back to school, to the concept of self-love.

For Baez, those activities are meaningful since she wants children see themselves in books. During "meet the author" events she collaborated with local authors of color as a way of creating a connection between the authors and children of color.

This month's upcoming storytime on Sept. 28 focuses on author Milteri Tucker Concepcion and guest reader Dr. Janira Vega, a pediatric psychologist at Montefiore Health System. Dr. Vega will speak on her path to becoming a pediatric psychologist.

"I think that I have been able to build a storytime community. A lot of our kids and parents are returners so they come back every month and it has become part of their activities they do on Saturday," Baez said.

Editor's Note: Parents can RSVP to this month's book reading at the T-Mobile store at the corner of East 204th Street and Perry Avenue from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. by emailing StriveHigherNY@gmail.com or texting (347)-974-1105 including your child's name and age.



Photo courtesy StriveHigher

OLGA BAEZ (C) reads to children during one of her reading sessions. Baez is the founder of StriveHigher.

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Bronx VA Medical Center/IRB Approval/ 6/6/19 to 6/5/20

Smoke Shop Adjusts in Wake of E-Cigarette Ban

By JONATHAN CUSTODIO

Smoke shops across the state are pulling flavored e-cigarettes off their store shelves after Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced an emergency ban of vaping products, considered to be heavily targeted towards youth.

A Norwood smoke shop on the corner of Bainbridge Avenue and East 207th Street is breathing easy on this. Mo, who works there, says that e-cigarettes don't make up a large percentage of the store's revenue. Among those is Juul, a vaping product he says sells.

"Juul is one section that sells. I sell other stuff. It's a big loss but it's not really gonna close me," notes Mo.

Juul is the leading e-cigarette manufacturer and customers only need to buy the vaping pen and refill it with a variety of cartridges. One Juul pod can contain as much nicotine as an entire pack of cigarettes, according to the CDC.

The ban, voted in favor by the state Public Health and Health Planning Council, went into effect on Sept. 15 and will be reviewed ev-



THIS SMOKE SHOP in Norwood on Bainbridge Avenue at 207th Street is adjusting to news that it will have to pull ecigarettes off its store shelves following a 90-day ban on the product health officials have linked to increased illnesses and death.

ery 90 days before renewal.

In 2018, 27 percent of high schoolers were active vapers, according to the state Department of Health. The state's legal age to buy tobacco is 21 years old. Mo says he's had to deny the product to customers under the age limit. Meantime, the city Health Department reports 1 in 15 middle school students and 1 in 6 high school students are actively vaping.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that 530 confirmed or probable causes of lung disease associated with ecigarettes had been identified in 38 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands, with nine confirmed deaths. Some of the deaths are linked to users putting marijuana vaping oils into vaping products. Marijuana contains tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the active psychoactive ingredient in marijuana.

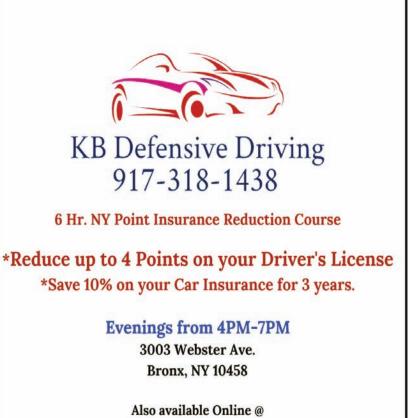
Dr. Juan Tapia Mendoza, a pediatrician who works with Mount Sinai Hospital and Montefiore Health System, among others in the city, says that though there is still more research to be done, vaping products are harmful largely because they contain nicotine, vitamin E acetate and other additives. "The speculation is that the oil of the vitamin E acetate creates a severe chemical reaction deep inside the lungs which prevents oxygen exchange between the lungs and circulation," says Dr. Mendoza, who has 20 years' experience.

Unlike other products containing nicotine, e-cigarettes and other vaping products are not regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Dr. Mendoza, who also works with SOMOS, a health network that caters mostly to the immigrant community, notes that many of his vaping patients consider the practice to be safe and non-addictive. Roughly 25 percent of his patients have the chronic disease of pulmonary function, which can become so severe that replacing a damaged lung with an artificial lung is inevitable.

Stores that sell flavored ecigarettes have until the end of this month to remove the banned product from shelves.

In a statement offered to the press, Juul emphasized its products do not "include THC, any compound derived from cannabis-related products, or vitamin E compounds like those found in cannabis-related products. We appreciate the work of the CDC, FDA, and other public health authorities, and are confident that they will get to the bottom of this



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DRWOOD NE



Photo by Sha-Nia Alston

REPRESENTATIVES FROM RIDGEWOOD Savings Bank work the table for their Jerome Avenue branch, handing out swag at the first-ever Norwood Resource Fair on Sept. 17 at Holy Nativity Episcopal Church at 3061 Bainbridge Ave. Ridgewood Savings Bank was one of a dozen or so agencies on tap for the event that made resources available to Norwood residents.



neighborhoods.

Photo by Miriam Quinones

(L-R) ACADEMY OF MT. St. Ursula students Analydia, Arianny, Nana, and Tyler doubled as tour guides to the Bedford Park all-girls Catholic school, which received \$844,085 in generous contributions towards capital projects. A tour of the 164-yearold school took place on Sept. 19 to show off its top-down improvements that included a brand new gym roof, windows/lights, and even new vending machines. Tours included the renovated computer lab the students are sitting in. Fire alarm systems are the next big project slated for renovations.



Photo courtesy Bronx Borough President's Office

BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT Ruben Diaz Jr. poses at a newly installed diving stand inside Bronx Community College's refurbished swimming pool, where a ceremonial ribbon cutting took place on Sept. 16. The five-lane competitive pool was funded through an allocation of \$5 million. An additional \$3 million was committed to renovate the school's gymnasium.



System

Photo by Sha-Nia Alston

on Sept. 17 sponsored by University Neigh-

borhood Housing Program, which made avail-

able the myriad of services available to their

from the Children's Hospital at Montefiore participated in a nationwide demonstration on Sept. 16 to recognize the gun violence epidemic in America. They joined doctors across the country affiliated with Scrubs Against the Firearm Epidemic (SAFE) who gathered outside their hospitals to raise awareness of firearm violence as a public health problem, and to call for an end to the epidemic.

> Photo courtesy Office of State Sen. Jamaal Bailey

STATE SEN. JAMAAL Bailey, (left) who represents Norwood, checks his blood pressure at an event his office hosted exclusively for seniors. The Senior Walk at Williamsbridge Oval Park generated several dozen seniors on Sept. 13. Organizers from New York Road Runners' Striders program were on hand to lead the walking sessions.





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EDITORIAL By DAVID CRUZ

The World is Getting Hotter. Tell Your Legislators to Reverse Course

Climate change—the concept that our world is getting so hot through global warming that it's having an enormous impact on everything from rising sea levels to sweltering summer months—has zipped to the list of real pressing concerns.

The Norwood News doesn't want to necessarily lecture you on the devastating effects rising emissions such as carbon dioxide—one of the leading culprits behind climate change (along with methane and nitrous oxide), which is found in the gas you pour into your car—but it will.

And rather than turn this into an ideological fight over whether left-leaning progressives are inflating the problem or right-leaning conservatives are simply looking the other way, we turned to NASA to give us a sense of the problem. Here goes:

NASA has been monitoring the effects of climate change for some time, compiling their findings in an easy-tounderstand website called "Global Climate Change: Vital Signs of the Planet," breaking down evidence that the world is heating up largely from the fact that more carbon dioxide is being released to the sky. The heavy use of elements like carbon dioxide-producing coal, typically used to power electric plants that supply power to homes, has now caused some of the coldest places in the world to melt. The same can be said of cars that produce carbon dioxide caused by the fuel that's put into them. That melted water, of course, has to go somewhere. It's trickling into the ocean.

And oceans have absorbed much of that hotter air, which has shown to produce some of the fiercest hurricanes we've seen. Wind speed is driven by how warm the ocean is, so the hotter the earth, the faster a hurricane could be. Hurricanes also carry a lot more rain water. So between the wind speed, more rainwater, and a greater storm surge caused by rising sea levels, hurricanes will likely kill more people in its path.

With carbon dioxide derived from energy-producing elements like fossil fuels and coal, the logical problem is to scale back. If someone is sick, and they realize it's because they're smoking cigarettes or eating junk food at an alarming rate, then the next logical step, for their sake, would be to cut back, right? The same premise holds for reversing climate change.

New York City has attempted to turn things around, introducing a food scrap program to reduce the amount of methane-producing foods in the city's landfills. Its most ambitious initiative dubbed the New York City Green New Deal mandates buildings with 25,000 or more square feet of space retrofit energy-efficient windows and insulation so that the requisite heat/cold air can be trapped more.

Climate change, unfortunately, can't be solved just by one person making small lifestyle changes (i.e. driving less, using electricity). There's wishful thinking in believing humans will change their daily conveniences for the greater good. It takes a major overhaul, and screaming into a microphone demanding it is just one

step in reversing climate change.

It's incumbent upon diplomats from around the world to convince world leaders to adopt policies and inspire innovation through massive tax credits that reverses climate change. This can include private-public partnerships that develop technology free of the elements that can kill you. There's work on this already under way, but until fossil fuels become the new alternative source of energy, the work will have to continue.

And since it's highly rare for the general public to get hold of our diplomats, it's incumbent on Representatives Adriano Espaillat, Eliot Engel, Jose Serrano, and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to get the word out to them.

Climate change is inescapable no matter what part of the world you travel, and our diplomats are perhaps our biggest advocates to countries such as China, India, Russia, and Germany. Otherwise the devastation will continue, and the threat will be inherited by the young.



Letters To The Editor

Gambling in My Establishment?

I laughed hard when I read the comments of the lady, Ms. Sheila Sanchez, who walked by Whalen Park and was shocked to see men drinking tequila at noon time (*Norwood News* Sept. 12-25, 2019). It reminded me of the scene from the classic movie "Casablanca" with Rick.

Rick: How can you close me up? On what grounds?

Inspector Renault: I'm shocked, shocked to find that gambling is going on in here!

[a croupier hands Renault a pile of

Croupier: Your winnings, sir.

Inspector Renault: Oh, thank you very much.

This classic scene from "Casablanca" perfectly describes this hypocrisy of politicians and neighborhood residents who feign blindness of what is standing directly in front of their eyes. It's the Democratic party

and their socialist leanings.

We won the City back during Mayor Rudy Guiliani's zero tolerance policy to quality of life offenses. People went to jail for urinating in public, jumping turnstiles, smoking on buses, drinking alcohol in public and our neighborhood and our lives improved. Now the Corey Johnson-, AOC- and Melissa Mark-Viverito-types ended those criminal sanctions and look at the results. Please let Ms. Sanchez know who saw what she saw in Whalen Park, that was mild compared to what is coming down the road with these socialist Democrats, and don't appear to be shocked like Inspector Renault in "Casablanca."

Dennis Walker Norwood

Backing Gabbard

Edgar Cisneros (Letters to the Editor in the Sept. 12-25, 2019 issue) thinks Andrew Yang would be

a good president because he wants to give every adult American \$1,000 a month. Really? Would this include Jeff Bezos and Bill Gates?

Robert Press (July 4-17, 2019 Inquiring Photographer) thinks a ticket of Rep. Kamala Harris and Mayor Bill de Blasio would be good. As a prosecutor, Harris tried to keep an innocent man in prison on a legal technicality, tried to suppress DNA evidence in the case of a man on death row, defended false confessions, perjury and withholding evidence. She also argued for keeping inmates in overcrowded prisons by saying the state needed their labor.

De Blasio claims to be a progressive. But his record of giving labor contracts that don't keep up with inflation and accelerating the decline of public housing and inner city public schools proves that claim to be a lie

Iraq war veteran, military reservist and U.S. Representative from Hawaii Tulsi Gabbard is the best candidate. Her domestic views are similar to U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders. But she's the only candidate strongly opposing interventionist U.S. foreign

policy.

She's the one who pointed out that Syrian leader Bashar Assad is not our enemy. Most of the U.S.-supported rebels, which include Al-Queda and ISIS, are. She's the one who spoke against U.S. attempts to overthrow the Venezuelan government. She's the only one who, during a Democratic debate, called out Harris on her record as a prosecutor. That, like Gabbard in general, was ignored by the mainstream media.

The Democratic National Committee (DNC) has bumped her from the next debate by claiming she has not reached the two percent support level in four "certified" polls. They don't consider most of the 26 polls that have her at that level to be "certified."

So the same mainstream media and DNC that rigged the 2016 campaign to favor the horrific Hillary Clinton are at it again. The last thing they want is a president whose economic policies would help most people and who would refuse to get people killed in wars the U.S. should not fight.

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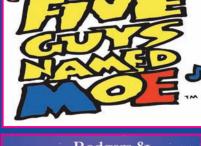
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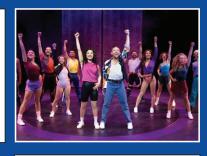
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Manhattan Councilman Latest Challenger in Crowded 15th Congressional District Race

By DAVID CRUZ

Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez, (right) a legislator who represents the 10th Council District in Upper Manhattan, opened a committee to enter the 15th Congressional District race. The move pits him in direct competition with fellow Council members Ritchie Torres and Rev. Ruben Diaz Sr., arguably the top two contenders in the race

It also puts him back in competition against former New York Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and Assemblyman Michael Blake, both of whom are also running for the seat several months after respectively losing in the New York City Public Advocate's race.

Rodriguez did nothing to draw attention to his candidacy, opening a campaign committee dubbed "Ydanis for Congress" with the Federal Election Commission on Sept. 20. His Twit-

ter account, usually a platform for such announcements, was instead loaded with photos of a march he led that brought attention to climate change, which took place on the same day as his candidacy. Rodriguez kicked off the march at Hostos Community College, a higher learning institution that is centered within the 15th Congressional District. Like his council district, the 15th Congressional District is heavily Hispanic, with Puerto Ricans and Dominicans making up twothirds of the South Bronx district.

Rodriguez would make his candidacy official in his downtown office, away from his district and the 15th Congressional District.

A progressive Democrat, Rodriguez was born in the Dominican Republic and immigrated to the United States in 1983, working as a taxi driver before becoming a schoolteacher for 13 years. He unsuccessfully ran for the New



York City Council in 2001 and 2003 before winning the Democratic primary for his district in 2009. He's represented the neighborhoods of Washington Heights, Inwood, and Marble Hill (a neighborhood once part of Manhattan that's now physically connected to the Bronx) since 2010. Some of the bills he helped pass include the Fair Fares Act, expanding Citi Bike, and allocating millions of dollars to the district's infrastructure.

Early this year, at the time of the Public Advocate's race, Rodriguez had abstained from a vote that ultimately saw the dissolution of the For-Hire Vehicle Committee as punishment towards its chair, Diaz Sr., for saying the gay community controls the New York City Council. The measure put Rodriguez in a tough spot since Diaz Sr. had endorsed Rodriguez for Public Advocate. All measures relating to the dissolved committee went to the Transportation Committee, which Rodriguez chairs. Rodriguez later said Diaz Sr. had done good work with the committee.

Rodriguez's candidacy likely splits the Hispanic vote that candidates such as Jonathan Ortiz, Marlene Cintron, and Mark-Viverito would try to covet as the campaign moves along. Rodriguez's progressive ties could further divide the progressive vote among the candidates, giving Diaz Sr., the only hardline social conservative Democrat, a competitive advantage over his opponents.

When he ran for New York City Public Advocate early this year, Rodriguez secured the second-most votes next to Blake (who ultimately won the Bronx) within the 15th Congressional District, even beating Jumane Williams, who went on to become Public Advocate.

Rodriguez is already making headlines, though not in the most flattering of ways, earning ridicule from Torres for purporting himself to be *Time* magazine's 2011 Person of the Year, and mentioning it on his official Council website.

"His efforts as one of the organizers of Occupy Wall Street were recognized by *Time* magazine by declaring him 'Person of the Year' in 2011," Rodriguez's bio reads on the website. The movement was recognized by *Time* magazine in December 2011 as a cover story that recognized "The Protester," with Rodriguez featured in a photo as part of the magazine's cover story. The competition is already having a field day with his claims.

"In the Council Member's defense, he is hardly the first public figure to present to be Person of the Year," said Torres. "[President] Donald Trump did the same several years ago. It is a Trumpian tradition."

Torres pointed to a story of a fake *Time* magazine cover featuring the President, which was hung in one of his golf clubhouses.

Rodriguez was unavailable for comment as of press time.

Norwood News Editor Makes the Cut



Photo by Jonathan Custodio

CITY & STATE MAGAZINE, a publication covering politics in New York, placed *Norwood News* editor-in-chief David Cruz on its annual "Bronx Power 100," dubbing him a "one-man reporting machine." Cruz placed 79th out of 100 in a list that included Montefiore Health System CEO/president Dr. Steven Safyer, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, and environmentalist Karen Argenti. "It's nice to be in the company of people who've used their powers for bettering the Bronx," said Cruz, who has helmed the Bronx paper since December 2013.



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Talk By Bronx Community College Aims to Redefine American Greatness



Photo by Síle Moloney

DEVIN WILLIAMS (R), current student at Bronx Community College and Quadir Martin, future student at Bronx Community College, pose at the Hall of Fame for Great Americans which is located on the college campus. The college is hosting a monthlong exhibition called Diversity in Public Art: Empowering Community Voices at the Hall of Fame which started on Sept. 21.

(continued from page 2)

of the Bronx for about 20 years and is eager to attend the exhibition launch on Sept. 21. "Oh absolutely, I think it's a good idea to get a new perspective on how to define what's today's worth and also for young people, what's important to you," she said. "What is it you're looking up to? What is it you admire? What is your role model and what is your values, you know, because we have to renew our values in a way. The vounger generation have different values than we do and I think it should be a beautiful, interesting discussion."

Devin Williams is a paralegal student at BCC and said it was important to keep a balance in terms of numbers. "I think you can't get rid of one side because General Grant is in the Hall of Fame too - that's the guy who was on the opposite side of the Confederate who was a Union General," he said. "It's like - it's all a part of history and that's what it's really about. We can all have an opinion on what's right or wrong about history but that's just all that is here today. If they inducted two people every year, it would have to be one person from this side [each year], one person from that side. That's it - simple."

Williams added, "I kind of think they should keep this stuff up because it's a part of history, you know. I just don't see how people should be offended by, you know, people who were doing stuff that was politically correct for their time or era."

Quadir Martin will commence his studies at BBC in January 2020. "That's history. Keep it up and put some more new people there," he said. "Like Rosa Parks - make it even. Put some statues of them up too - Martin Luther King, Malcolm X. Everybody get together and have a mutual discussion about it."

Anally Hernández has just started her biology studies at BBC and says entry should be based on the impact of the candidate's achievements, such as a person who stops a school shooter. "I think they should be in the Hall of Fame, because they risked themselves for other people and without them doing such a thing, then more people would've gotten hurt," she said. "Our campus is diverse so it wouldn't be able to equal out every aspect but even if some disagree or some agree, it's just based on how the outcome comes out so I think, like, it's good for everyone to vote on it."

Reggs Gyongecaj studies biology and chemistry at BCC and was unaware of the event, but wondered whether Dr. Martin Luther King is celebrated at the hall. "I think he should be there because the majority here of the students is black. I think he should be there."





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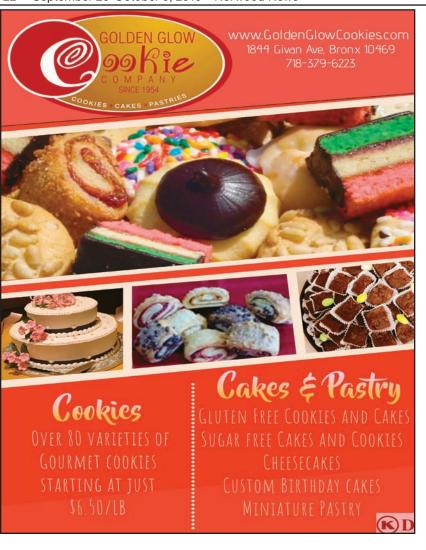
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Part of the Solution (POTS) will host a series of personal finance workshops at 2759 Webster Ave., second floor, at 2 p.m. on the following dates: managing your income and benefits workshop on Sept. 27; starting a budget workshop on Oct. 11; dealing with debt workshop on Oct. 25; how credit works on Nov. 8; and banking on emergency savings and connecting food and finances workshop on Nov. 15. Sessions include free drinks and snacks. For more information, contact hesteban@ potsbronx.org or call (718) 220-4892 ext. 135.

Filmmaking Training Program

Learn skills required for entry-level work in film and television production at a workshop hosted by Bronx Community College. The 15-week hands on training program teaches basic skills related to filmmaking and offers connections to the IATSE Local 52 union. Applicants must have a high school diploma or equivalent, be at least 18 years old, a New York City resident, and be eligible to work in the U.S. An enrollment fee of \$50 is required. For more information, contact Michael Brown at Michael.Brown05@bcc.cuny.edu with your full name and phone number, or call (718) 933-1836.

Breast and Cervical Cancer Screenings

Free breast and cervical screenings for those uninsured and underinsured (co-pays for those insured) will be offered on Oct. 5 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Tower at Montefiore Medical Park, Einstein Campus, 1695 Eastchester Rd., second floor. Registration is required to participate. To register, call (718) 405-8076. Walk-ins are welcome.

Overdose Responder Training

NYC Health + Hospitals/Lincoln Hospital will host an opioid overdose responder training session on Sept. 26 from 4 to 6 p.m. at 234 E. 149th St., first floor auditorium. Attendees will learn how to recognize an overdose to save a life, become a certified opioid overdose responder, and receive a free rescue kit with naloxone

(for those who seek to be certified). Light refreshments will be served. To RSVP, call (718) 579-5561.

Book Sale

Sistas & Brothas United and Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition host a book sale at 103 E. 196th St. on the following days: Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays from 12 to 4 p.m. Book genres will range from short stories, dramas, fiction, horror, kids' books, and more. For more information, call (718) 584-0515.

SAFE Disposal Event

Safely throw out harmful products such as old pesticides, strong cleaners, mercury-containing devices, paints, automotive fluids, and medications at the New York City Department of Sanitation's SAFE Disposal event on Oct. 5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Orchard Beach Parking Lot (follow Park Drive to the end). For more information, visit www.nyc.gov/safedisposal or call 311.

Youth-led Farmers 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.

Back-to-School Resource Fair

Learn about education-related services at a Back-to-School Resource Fair on Sept. 28 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sept. 28 at the Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd. No registration is required. For more information, call Community Board 7 at (718) 933-5650.









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Bronx Community Board 8 is seeking qualified candidates for two full-time staff positions. See www.nyc.gov/bronxcb8 for job descriptions, qualifications, and application instructions. No calls. Apply before Oct. 11, 2019. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

TRIPS

Trips to Atlantic City "Bally Casino." "Columbus Day weekend" on Saturday, October 12, 2019. From East 163rd Street and Southern Boulevard. \$47.00 per person. For more information, please contact Eddie Rosa, (718) 757-5485; Justo Cancela (347) 405-2017; Millie Alas (347) 338-7750.

FOR SALE

Time share; all-suite resort for sale in Atlantic City at Flagship Hotel. Amazing special price, \$5,000.00 for a fun destination for entire family. Within walking distance to casinos and beaches. For more information, please contact Eddie Rosa, (718) 757-5485; Justo Cancela (347) 405-2017.

LEGAL NOTICE

Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 05/17/2017. Location: Bronx. SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: Carl Leach, 2975 White Plains Rd., 7A, Bronx, NY 10467.

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EDITOR'S PICK

The public is invited to the Mosholu Parkway Renaissance Festival to be held at the Kossuth Playground at Kossuth Avenue and Mosholu Parkway North on Oct. 5 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Events include music, games and refreshments. Come in costume. For more information, visit mosholuparkland@gmail. com.

Onstage

Bronx Academy of Arts & Dance (BAAD), 2474 Westchester Ave., presents 2019 BlakTinX Performance Series, a variety of performances through Nov. 2, featuring singers, dancers, musicians and actors. For more information and a detailed schedule including cost, call (718) 918-2110.

Events

North Central Bronx Hospital, 3424 Kossuth Ave., 17th floor PDR, holds free Brunch & Activities Fair With Health Professionals, Sept. 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for middle and high school students, to participate in hands-on health and science activities, win prizes and learn about health and science careers. For more information and to register, visit https://hpbrunch92019.eventbrite.com.

Join StriveHigher for Latinx/ Hispanic History Month storytime free celebration on Sept. 28 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at T-Mobile store, 306 E. 204th St. Meet guest reader from Montefiore and author. Event includes free books for kids and raffles. For more information, text (347) 974-1105 with child's name and age or RSVP by emailing StriveHigherNY@gmail.com.

Saint James Park hosts free **Bronx Fit Fest** on Oct. 5 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., rain or shine. Events include free fitness and dance classes, wellness screenings, yoga, tennis, and more. For more information, call (212) 360-3338.

Pelham Bay Park hosts free **Bronx Native American Festival** on Sept. 29 from noon to 4 p.m. in the south picnic area (enter park at Bruckner Boulevard and Wilkinson Avenue). Events include music, storytelling, food, and dance. For more information, call (718) 430-1891.



Photo courtesy Wave Hill

TAKE IN THE Palisades at Wave Hill during the early part of autumn (see Events section for a rundown of things to do at Wave Hill).



THE MUSEUM OF Bronx History presents A History of the Bronx. Find out where and when in the Exhibits section.

Hip-hop Celebration Festival will take place on Sept. 28 from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with Kips Bay Boys Club at White Plains Road and Randall Avenue. For more information, call (646) 533-9248.

Bronx NYC Parks Department presents free **Flag Football** for kids ages 9 to 17. Citywide Championships, Nov 2; and Girls Invitational Tournament, Nov. 11. For more information, locations, and details, call (718) 430-1824.

Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers Family Art Projects: Forest Stories, to create spinning storytelling device that explores the unique stories that each forest layer tells, Sept. 28 and 29; and Cephalopod Prints, to create wearable octopus arms and squid tentacles, Oct 5 and 6; 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. 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 ages 5 to 12: **STEM Fridays:** Oct. 4 at 4 p.m. Adults can attend: **Computer Basics:** Sept. 27 at 2 p.m. and Oct. 8 at 1 p.m.; **film:** "I Am Legend," Sept. 28 at 2:30 p.m.; and **the Rafael Hernandez Festival 2019:** Sept. 29 at 2 p.m., a tribute to Puerto Rican soprano Eva de la O, featuring singers and musicians. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl. org.

Mosholu Library, 285 E. 205th St., offers for ages 5 to 12: **Crafty Fridays:** crafts, Sept. 27 at 3 p.m. All ages can enjoy: **film:** "How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World," Sept. 28 at 1:30 p.m. Adults can enjoy: **Knitting Circle:** Thursdays at 3 p.m. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

Jerome Park Library, 118 Eames Pl. (near Kingsbridge Road), offers for ages 5 to 12: **film:** "How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World," Oct. 5 at 2 p.m. Adults can attend **Computer Basics at noon:** Oct. 3 and 10. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

A HAPPY AND HEALTHY ROSH HASHANA TO ALL OUR JEWISH READERS!

NOTE: Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org, and should be received by Sept. 30 for the next publication date of Oct. 10.

More Legionnaires' at Tracey Towers

(continued from page 1)

latest developments in the ongoing investigation. The first water samples were taken from the 20 building on Sept. 13 to be tested for Legionella bacteria. Results from the samples can take between two to three weeks.

Although the buildings do not have cooling towers, which are often associated with Legionnaires' disease, the testing methods are similar. DOH inspectors collect samples from water fixtures all around the building and test them at their Public Health Laboratory. If the samples test positive for the bacteria, building management is ordered to sanitize the water system. The agency often monitors ongoing cleaning efforts and retests the water to determine if the bacteria was eradicated.

Hill also urged residents to follow the DOH recommendations even if they are not yet considered mandatory. "People have come up to me and said 'I take showers. I'm not paying any attention to that [DOH warnings]," Hill said.

While Hill admits to fighting property management firm RY Management over a variety of issues in the past, she acknowledges a more cooperative spirit at work in this instance.

"Management has worked hard to keep us updated. They've had two meetings with the Department of Health, and they've gone around changing the shower heads," Hill said.

Some of the residents interpreted the installation of new shower heads at the impacted location as a sign that it was now safe to shower. The replacement of those heads was meant to reduce the spraying effect of water which is known to significantly increase the spread the Legionella bacteria. Aerators, the attachment at the end of faucets, are also being replaced.

DOH describes these actions as "remediation steps" helping reduce the risk of spreading the waterborne bacteria while the source is still being investigated.

Daniel V. Durante, property manager at RY Management, has kept tenants informed on a near daily basis with emails and printed announcements delivered to tenants' front doors.

"The remediation steps we are taking are in line with [DOH] guidelines," Durante told tenants. "We didn't come up with these ideas. They [DOH] told us that this was the most proactive approach we could take at this early stage."

While Durante's email announcements are sent out consistently, it is the inefficient delivery of printed materials that has some residents concerned about who is getting the updates. For example, those tenants attending the meetings hear repeated warnings of not using hot or warm water. But, in the printed materials they also learn of the dangers of water mist, even when not warm, in spreading the disease.

One tenant who preferred not to give her name complained about the extra measures they need to take. "It's scary [to get a notice like this] with so many people in the building. They're telling us not to use any hot water, but we have so many elderly, we have a lot of people with children. This ain't right," she said.

To ensure all residents receive timely updates, regardless of whether they have an email account, the tenants association is seeking volunteers to become so-called floor captains who will knock on doors to make sure all the tenants are updated with the latest news on health issues at the apartment complex.

By the end of the tenants' meeting, 13 people had volunteered to help check in on homebound and elderly residents who are deemed the most vulnerable in getting

One tenant, who preferred not to give their name, saw the volunteering spirit as a positive first step. "This is good, but we need more. We have more than 800 apartments [within the two buildings] and we're going to need a lot more people to cooperate," they said.

At the first meeting with DOH at Tracey Towers, Ricky Wong, director of Community Affairs with DOH, cautioned tenants about reaching conclusions before the water there is tested. "There's a potential that people may have been exposed elsewhere. People are transient, which means people go everywhere," Wong said. "You go to work, you go to your community center, you go downtown to visit your cousin on the Lower East Side."

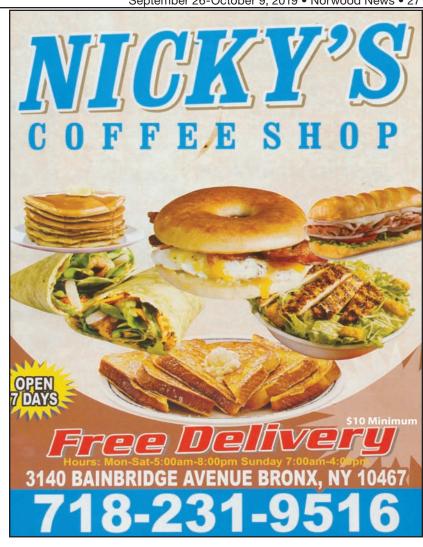
Many of the residents attending these meetings have expressed a desire to know the identity and updated condition of those who have been infected. New York state privacy laws bar the disclosure of patient information, continuing tenants' guessing game of who's in-

With so much uncertainty revolving around which tenants have been infected, the source of the bacteria, and, ultimately, how many tenants will cooperate with the safety measures, Hill maintains that more information is key to keeping residents calm.

"I know many of you are anxious," Hill told tenants. "But you must read the flyers that the Department of Health and management keep giving us. You cannot put your [head] in the sand and pretend like it's not happening."

DOH recommends people with health issues such as chronic lung disease, a weakened immune system, or if aged 50 and over, immediately seek medical attention if they develop a fever, chills, muscle aches and cough.

Editor's Note: If tenants have any further concerns, they can call the DOH Community Affairs Unit at (347) 396-4161.





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