



NORWOOD NEWS

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FAREWELL TO A COMMUNITY ACTIVIST

Heidi Hynes leaves legacy of community service in the Bronx



Photo by José A. Giralt

PHOTOS OF HEIDI Hynes are on display at a memorial service for the community activist at the Mary Mitchell Center in the Crotona section of the Bronx on Nov. 26. Hynes, 51, died on Nov. 24 from cancer.

By **JOSÉ A. GIRALT**

Heidi Marie Schloegel Hynes, 51, executive director of the Mary Mitchell Family and Youth Center in Crotona, died on Nov. 24 after a battle with cancer. She lived in Bedford Park with her husband Brian and daughter Frieda, leaving

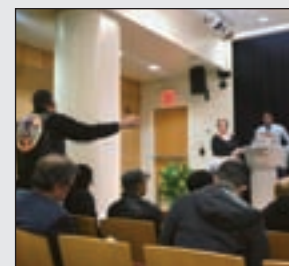
behind a legacy of community service that inspired many activists across the Bronx.

Heidi was born on Jan. 19, 1968 in Kansas City, MO. She married Brian in 1995 and lived in and around Bedford Park since then. "I think the key to understanding Heidi and her

commitment to activism came from the realization that there was nothing wrong with the people of the Bronx. She saw the bigger picture of how institutional forces like redlining from the financial and banking sectors created a sense of hopelessness," Brian said.

"Sometimes the fight with institutions caused some bitterness in Heidi but for her there was also a sweetness in working for the people of the Bronx. She truly believed that committing to the community would bring about the best out-

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Unveiled at NCBH
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IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

Questions, Some Answered, on MTA's Proposed Bus Route Revamp in NW Bronx

By DAVID CRUZ

There were more jeers than cheers from northwest Bronx residents over the MTA's proposed bus network redesign plan, calling out modifications they say can hurt their commuting experience at a town hall-style meeting.

Those feelings were backed by Community Board 7, which approved a motion calling on the MTA to modify its overhaul plan.

At the latest Community Board 7 general board meeting that doubled as a seemingly rushed town hall-style meeting on the proposed changes, where some service changes to buses that run through the northwest Bronx were glossed over (another meeting is scheduled for Dec. 5), MTA officials focused on modifications to the Bx28, Bx30, Bx34 buses, and BxM4 express bus, in which three of the four buses run through Norwood.

Such a network setup has never been modified in decades. In some cases, the routes are convoluted, which compelled the MTA to introduce a more streamlined bus system. Their findings were published in a final draft report that the agency said is still subject to change, depending on the input it gets from commuters over the next few months.

For worried residents, especially the elderly, the proposed changes represent major inconveniences that include longer walks to rerouted stops. In some cases, it also involves boarding a new bus altogether.

Residents weren't having it.

Jean Hill, a CB7 member and former chair, wasn't too thrilled over changes to the Bx28 crosstown bus that cuts through Norwood and terminates at Co-Op City. Among the current stops is West Mosholu Parkway South and Jerome Avenue that abuts Tracey Towers, where Hill is among some 3,000 residents living there. Under the plan, that stop will be discontinued.

"If you're not going to go down Mo-



Photo by David Cruz

SIRIO GUERINO, A Norwood resident (L), offers remarks on the MTA's bus network redesign plan at a town hall-style meeting that took place during Community Board 7's general board meeting on Nov. 27. Standing at the podium are Cate Contino and Rashid Dolor from the MTA.

sholu Parkway ... how are you going to redesign that?" asked Hill.

Rashid Dolor, an MTA planner for the Bronx bus network redesign plan, responded by saying residents can take the Bx10.

"The Bx10 doesn't go to Co-Op City, so explain that," said Hill.

"You'll transfer from the [Bx10] to the [Bx28]," said Dolor.

"Transfer from the [Bx10] to the [Bx28], where?" asked Hill.

Dolor's suggestion would add another five minutes to Hill's commute since she'll have to walk to catch the Bx10.

Lowell Green, another CB7 member, finds the rerouting of the Bx34 bus to be problematic for seniors living at Serviam Gardens in Bedford Park. MTA officials argued the street is too congested resulting in slow travel times. Green, however, said the MTA should look at the congestion that begins at East Gun Hill Road and Bainbridge Avenue in Norwood, well before the bus makes its way to Serviam Gardens.

"Double-parked cars, UPS trucks, ambulances, delivery trucks ... [N]obody is making a move to get the Police Department out to enforce the flow of traffic, and if they don't do it at a major place like that (East Gun Hill Road) why do people on the [Bx34] get penalized with absolutely no service at all?" said Green.

Green's impassioned statement was enough for Dolor to emphasize the plan is still in the data-gathering stage.

The speed of such a meeting, roughly 45 minutes, left notifications on other bus routes running through the northwest Bronx to be ignored.

But Myrna Calderon, a CB7 member and shareholder of Fordham Hill Oval Corporation, raised concerns over the proposed Bx3 bus route that currently has a stop next to the nine-building cooperative. She presented a petition filled with 350 signatures to officials urging the MTA to reconsider its proposed removal of the Bx3 bus, which be-

(continued on page 16)

Public and Community Meetings

COMMUNITY BOARD 7 will hold its general board meeting on Dec. 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sister Annunziata Senior Center, 243 E. 204th St. CB7 committee meetings are held at the board office, 229A E. 204th St., at the following dates and times: Traffic & Transportation meets on Dec. 5; and Environment & Sanitation and Housing, Land Use and Zoning committees will meet jointly on Dec. 10. For more information, call the board office at (718) 933-5650.

The **52ND PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meets on Dec. 19 at North Central Bronx Hospital, 3424 Kossuth Ave., 17th floor, at 6 p.m. For more information, call (718) 220-5849.

The **BUILD-A-BLOCK-MEETING** for residents living within the neighborhoods of Fordham and University Heights meets on Dec. 12 at 2628 Davidson Ave. at 6 p.m. For more information, call (718) 220-5849.

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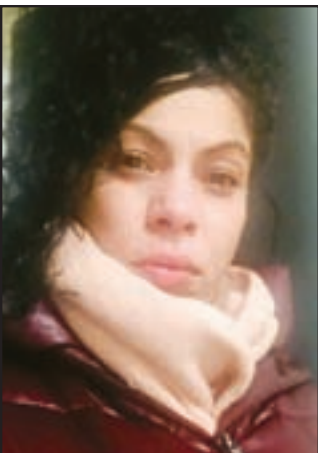
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INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



This week we asked readers if former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg has a chance at securing the Democratic nomination for President of the United States.



Yes, I do think he'll get the nomination because he's a billionaire and he knows politics; he's been involved; he was a good mayor. But the stop and frisk policy for the NYPD was very questionable. The only thing he's good at is being a businessman, which would help with jobs and help developers. There wouldn't be much difference between him and [President] Donald Trump.
Shirley Velasquez
 Mount Eden



I think he can win the Democratic nomination because he has lots of money and a lot of people like him. I like him. I thought he was a good mayor and I think he would be a good president. I think he truly cares about people.
Lilly Dam
 Kingsbridge



I would like to see Michael Bloomberg be president. He could win the nomination if he took Michelle Obama with him as vice president. No, there's other ways he can win and other people, but we have to see who he picks. He'd be a good president because he's a businessman and this country needs a businessman, not an idiot like Trump.
Jim Velez
 Bedford Park



Mike Bloomberg is a proven humble leader. He was good for New York City. He surrounded himself with intelligent staff that put the interest of New Yorkers first and demonstrated sincere concern for the city's problems and brought forth positive solutions to meet those challenges. He stumbled a little with stop and frisk, but overall he was a good mayor and he would be good for the country. Yes, I think he can win.
Spencer Burnett
 Melrose



I don't think Michael Bloomberg has a chance to win the Democratic primary. His decision to jump into the race late and spend millions of campaign ads sends the wrong message in the era of Trump. We have seen this time and again as our current president appoints unqualified individuals to higher office positions, due to their large campaign contributions and other elitist tendencies. Bloomberg, a billionaire himself, does not humble this observation.
Angel Hernandez
 Van Cortlandt Village



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NEWS BRIEFS

By MICHAEL TURAY

NYAG Sues Juul

New York Attorney General Letitia James has filed a lawsuit against electronic cigarette company Juul Labs, Inc., claiming the company uses deceptive and misleading marketing strategies similar to the tobacco industry that contributes to the ongoing youth vaping epidemic in New York State. The suit also alleges that Juul falsely promoted their product as a safer alternative to regular cigarettes and failed to warn users nicotine was used in their product. "By glamorizing vaping, while at the same time downplaying the nicotine found in vaping products, Juul is putting countless New Yorkers at risk," said James in a statement. A Juul spokesman said, "[W]e remain focused on resetting the vapor category in the US and earning the trust of society by working cooperatively with attorneys general, regulators, public health officials, and other stakeholders to combat underage use and convert adult smokers from combustible cigarettes."

Lower HIV Cases in NYC

An annual report from the city Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shows the number of New Yorkers newly diagnosed with HIV is down to historic lows. The report found that the 1,917 cases recorded in 2018 is the lowest number of documented cases since reporting began in 2001. There is also an 11 percent decrease from the 2,157 cases recorded in 2017 and a 67 percent decrease in the number of cases from 2001. Decreases in HIV were seen in both men and women as well, according to the report. "New York City can end the epidemic if we continue to fight against the stigma, bias, and discrimination that continue to be significant drivers of HIV, particularly among Black and

Stabbing Outside DeWitt Clinton Campus Sparks Worries on Safety

By DAVID CRUZ

Police have arrested one person involved in the stabbing of a 16-year-old student from Bronx Collaborative High School outside the DeWitt Clinton Campus.

Deputy Inspector Thomas Alps, commanding officer of the 52nd Precinct who was at the scene of the stabbing when it happened, broke the news to attendees at the latest precinct council meeting on Nov. 21. The arrest came a little over a day after the incident occurred steps from the campus.

Police say the stabbing happened just after school, with the victim stabbed in the leg. It's unclear what prompted the stabbing. Students told the *Norwood News* fights are known to happen inside or outside the campus that's shared among DeWitt Clinton High School, Bronx Collaborative High School, World View High School, and a D75 school. DeWitt Clinton High School has recently made strides in turning the school around, with the four-year graduation now at 78 percent, surpassing the Bronx rate and lining up with New York City's rate.

Barbot Miranda, a spokesperson for the New



Photo by Khalil Reddick

POLICE OUTSIDE DEWITT CLINTON Campus shortly after an incident where one teen was stabbed.



Photo by David Cruz

THERE'S A HEAVIER police presence near DeWitt Clinton Campus following a stabbing on Nov. 20.

York City Department of Education, said, "The student is in stable condition. School staff accompanied the student to the hospital and we will provide any needed additional support."

Bronx Collaborative High School PTA President Sirio Guerino expressed concerns for students' safety at Community Board 7's general board meeting on Nov. 26. "I'm here to request to

the board that due to the slashing and stabbing at DeWitt Clinton Campus, I'm asking the two committees of schools and quality of life to have a joint meeting to meet and solve the problem about students hurting each other at campuses and in high schools. We need to approach this," said Guerino.

Guerino is now planning a meeting of his own on Dec. 5.

Meantime, the school saw a heavier police presence with patrol cars parked outside the campus on East Mosholu Parkway. Local residents took note of the heightened NYPD presence and the overall safety of the area.

"I don't feel safe, especially when I go out with my mom who is an older person," said Gabriel Madero as he waited outside

of a fruit market at 3488 Jerome Ave.

Two students told the *Norwood News* that many of these incidents are handled outside the school, often trickling to the corner pizza shop at Jerome Avenue and East Mosholu Parkway North. The last incident happened a week ago, according to another student.

"They need to do something about this," said the student.

A Bronx Collaborative High School student—who was in the area when the stabbing happened, having witnessed a crush of students running toward the fight—said that fights happen in the common areas of the campus. "I think Bronx Collaborative—there's not a lot of fights—but DeWitt Clinton [High School] there's always a fight," said the student.

While some feel alarmed, others like Cheryl Moore have seen little to no violence around the school's campus. "Now that's something I don't see. I been up here for years, I don't see too many fights up here. Not physical no, not gunshots nothing like that," said Moore.

Jonathan Custodio, Michael Turay, and Khalil Reddick contributed to this report.

Latino men who have sex with men," said Health Commissioner Dr. Oxiris Barbot.

CAMBA Gets Cuomo Grant

The provider for a housing complex in Bedford Park is getting a boost from Gov. Andrew Cuomo. CAMBA Inc., which is slated to build two high-rise buildings in Bedford Park, received funding from Cuomo as part of a \$30 million award grant that'll see 1,200 units of affordable housing built across the state. This is the fourth installment of the Governor's Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI), a vital component of a \$20 billion, five-year plan to create or preserve more than 100,000 affordable and

at least 6,000 supportive housing units. A spokesperson for CAMBA did not return a request for comment.

Report: 1 in 4 Hungry in the Bx.

An annual report by Hunger Free America shows 23 percent of Bronx residents have little to no food to eat each day, declaring the borough being the city's hungriest. The report showed that 263,550 Bronx resident did not have enough to eat during the 2016-2018 time period. Strides have been made across the city as there are fewer people living in food insecure households, going from 1.42 million people in 2013-2015 to 1.04 million in 2016-2018. Meantime, the report found 33 percent of Bronx food pantries and soup kitchens cannot

keep up with demand for services.

Action Picking Up at Kingsbridge Armory

The much anticipated Kingsbridge National Ice Center (KNIC) is finally picking up some activity. Emmanuel MAartinez, chair of Community Board 7 who also serves on the Kingsbridge Armory Community Advisory Council, confirmed that action has picked up on the \$355 million project. In July, Kevin Parker, owner of the KNIC, provided an update on the project. "I'm very confident we're gonna get there, it's just not a straight line, nothing ever is in life," said Parker, in a phone interview with the *Norwood News* back in July.

Norwood Local Goes on Awareness Campaign on Mailbox Fishing

By MICHAEL TURAY

With the holiday season in full swing, loved ones are looking forward to sending and receiving some gifts in the mail.

But mailbox fishing—where thieves steal checks and potentially someone's identity by using an adhesive to "fish" out mail from mailboxes—can lead some victims to seeing their bank accounts dry up. The holidays are usually heightened mail fishing season and those in Norwood are on high alert for any suspicious activity.

Mailbox fishers usually work to steal mail filled with money orders,

checks, credit cards, debit cards, and gift cards. In some cases, a check can be found, tampered by a solution used to wipe out any text on a check or money order, and eventually rerouted to a new person, resulting in it being cashed out at the expense of the original mailer.

Hinge doors found in mailboxes have been replaced with slit covers to prevent such a scheme from happening. But Joanne DePerrie, a Norwood resident for the last 47 years, told the *Norwood News* that the problem continues. "The [mail] slits, the ones they have now, they all have sticky sub-



Photo courtesy NYPD

MAILBOX FISHERS COMMONLY use shoestring and glue traps like this one pictured to reel in mail holding checks.

stance. You're not going to be pulling out a pile [of mail] but you can bring out one at a time easily or even like three on a glue trap," said DePerrie, who's now waging a one-woman crusade in spreading awareness on mailbox fishing.

Although she has not been the victim of mail fishing, DePerrie is aware of a booby-trapped mailbox located outside of the Decatur Avenue post office on 3102 Decatur Ave. DePerrie fears that many innocent people will have their holidays ruined because of thieves targeting this location.

For DePerrie it strikes her that even after so many warnings from the local Police Department on mailbox fishing, elderly residents still continue the practice of using the public mailboxes.

"I'm afraid that the elderly people are feeling secure because it's the

[new] slit and thinking now they invented this magical mailbox that can't be tampered with, but it's just simply not true," said DePerrie said of the mailboxes. DePerrie is referring to the new mailbox models that were introduced to the Bronx in 2016.

The NYPD's Crime Prevention Division has offered tips to make sure mail is protected. That includes dropping off mail as close to the scheduled pickup time as possible, or handing it directly to a mail carrier. On a blank check, permanent ink is recommended to use to prohibit any altering. A copy of a check or money order is also recommended.

The 52nd Precinct has also warned the public to check any public mailbox used for remnants of glue. For those who use mail service daily, it might seem unconventional to check for sticky substances but it can help in the long run.

For DePerrie, its common practice. "They're doing what they're accustomed to doing," said DePerrie. "They go to the supermarket; they drop their mail off at the mailbox. People are set in their ways, it's not easy to flip like that or it's not going to happen to me is the other thought."

The public is highly encouraged to drop off all mail inside their local post office.

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Street Naming for Late Tuskegee Airman



Photo courtesy NYC Parks/Malcolm Pinckney

THE MARTIN LUTHER King Plaza was renamed the Captain Roscoe Brown, Ph.D. Plaza after a member of the famed all-black Tuskegee Airmen who went on to become president of Bronx Community College. The plaza, which sits fittingly across the school Brown oversaw from 1977 to 1993, was reopened after a \$2.9 million facelift via capital funds that's part of the Aqueduct Walk Plaza Reconstruction project. New paths and seating were installed and intended for community gatherings. The plaza's reopening coincided with the street co-naming of University Avenue from Hall of Fame Terrace to West 180th Street after Brown. Pictured are members of Brown's family holding replicas of the plaza and street signs.



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Part 3 of 5

The Norwood News, in partnership with WFUV radio and BronxNet Television, presents a five-part series on the impact gun violence has had on Bronx neighborhoods and the people who live in them.

The Multi-Prong Approach to Reducing Gun Violence in the 41st Precinct

By ELIOT SCHIAPARELLI of



Since the 1990s, gun violence in New York City, including the Bronx, has been on the decline. Its drop over the past two decades has contributed to Mayor Bill de Blasio's declaration of the Big Apple being America's safest big city.

City officials and experts attribute the recent drop in crime to neighborhood policing, an approach to law enforcement where officers are assigned to a very specific area in hopes of getting to know a community to prevent crime rather than to simply respond to it. The hope, according to the NYPD, is to strengthen bonds between those who live there and those who patrol there. Neighborhood Coordination Officers (NCOs) act as liaisons between the local police precinct and the community.

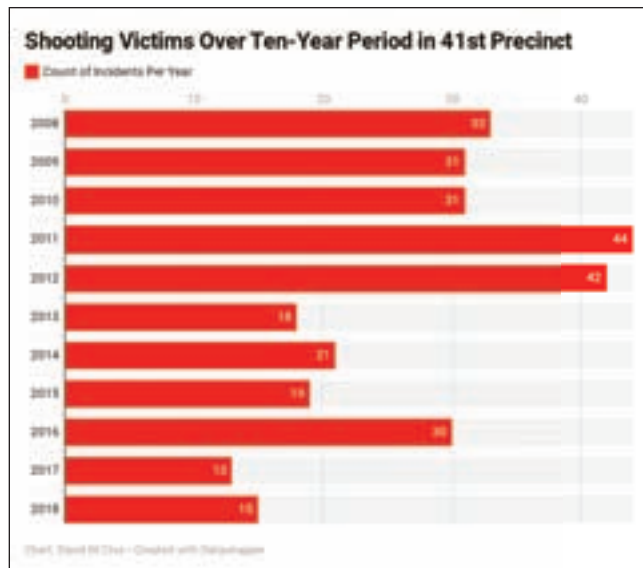
In announcing record lows for crime in 2018, de Blasio once again referred to New York City as the safest big city in Amer-

ica and attributed the drop in crime to neighborhood policing. "Neighborhood policing in New York City has defied the naysayers to become the model for 21st-century American law enforcement," said de Blasio in a statement related to record-low crime across the five boroughs.

In Hunts Point, the number of shooting victims has dropped by more than 50 percent between 2008, when there were 33 total victims, and 2018, when there were 15 total victims. The decrease in Hunts Point aligns with a city-wide decrease in gun violence that saw a roughly 50 percent drop in victims from 1,634 to 815 between 2008 and 2018. Hunts Point is patrolled by officers from the 41st Precinct.

And while Community Board 2 district manager Rafael Acevedo attributed the drop in gun violence to the 41st Precinct's neighborhood policing program, residents of Hunts Point see neighborhood policing as another tool that's brought community together and lowering crime.

Jarett Adorno sees it, not-



ing that the quality of life has been improving in Hunts Point. He works for a non-profit called Rocking the Boat that focuses on youth development through boat building, sailing and environmental science on the Bronx River.

"In a community like this, it's a great outlet for people to do and learn skills that they wouldn't learn elsewhere," said Adorno. "It's a real outlet to make a difference instead of going out and

doing bad stuff. You're working toward a greater goal."

Non-profit groups and government services like food stamps that residents can use at a local farmers market stand among other quality of life improvements to the area. Adorno did acknowledge that there has been an increased police presence around where he lives and works. "Me personally, I don't like cops, but I do have to say they're doing a good job in this community. They're keeping the crime levels down and that's all I can really ask for," said Adorno.

Chantelle Heredia lived in Hunts Point until she moved to Manhattan five years ago. She was passing through her old neighborhood on her way to the number 6 train and said the area has improved since she moved away. Heredia said she hoped that everyone in the community, including the police, could work together to set a good example for the young people around them. "I feel like nowadays the reason kids fall into the same type of habits is because they don't know any better or don't have people to teach them any better," said Heredia. "And a lot of time in this type of area parents are working all the time so they

don't have the time to give kids the attention that they need."

Acevedo also referenced programs like the NYPD Explorers—where young people are introduced to careers in law enforcements that help form relationships between younger community members and the NYPD. "We have developed a great relationship that has trickled down to the residents in the community," said Acevedo. "Everyone is made aware that both black lives and blue lives matter here in this district, and the officers know if you treat people with dignity and respect you'll get that in return."

Acevedo said to achieve neighborhood policing in Hunts Point there are almost always members of the NYPD present at community board meetings and public events.

Despite the new programs and changes, some residents believe more can be done. Jazmine Cruz said she's noticed more crime in the area recently and she doesn't always feel safe walking home from school at night. "Not too long ago there was a car around here that was on fire, and around where I live someone got shot," said Cruz.

Looking ahead, while Acevedo said he believes the district is the perfect example of neighborhood policing, they will build on the relationship they have already established with the 41st Precinct.

"Our numbers have been great. They've been decreasing a lot. And we take a lot of pride knowing that we're in the South Bronx," said Acevedo. "Knowing that at one point there's always talk about police abusing their privileges and corruption. We can honestly say with pride that we don't have that here in the 41st Precinct and part of it is because of the transparency with the community and the police."

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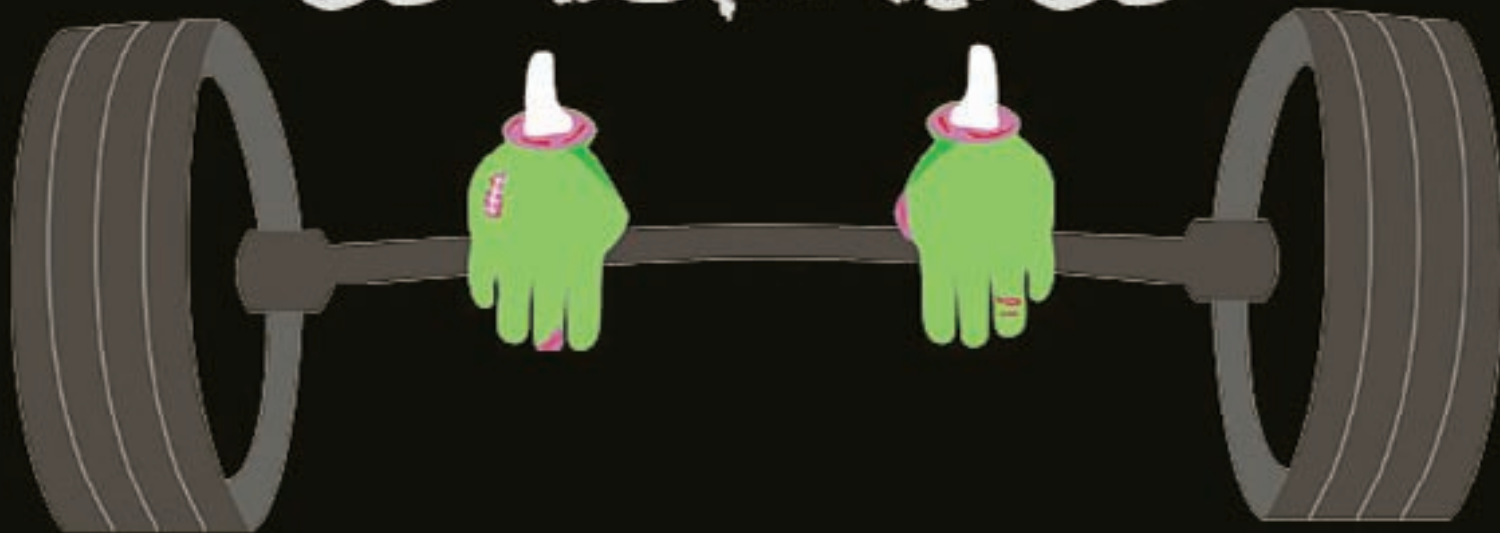
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Photo courtesy of NCBH

A BRIGHTLY DRESSED community painter swipes her brush just under two large eyes with yellow eyelashes which represent having a vision.

An Added De-Stresser, NCBH Unveils “Cycle of Caring” Mural

By JONATHAN CUSTODIO

Patients, staff, and community residents crowded near a triad of first floor elevators inside North Central Bronx Hospital (NCBH) as they awaited the unveiling of a collaborative mural dubbed “The Cycle of Caring” on Nov. 25.

A component of the New York City Health + Hospitals’ Arts in Medicine program, the project was funded by the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund, a 12-year-old organization that offers supportive grants to tackle long-term issues in the city.

“[NCBH] is a wonderful place to work but inherently working in a hospital is stressful,” says Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund executive director Rick Luftglass, who notes the power behind artworks inside hospitals as a means of handling a hospital’s daily rigors. “Art has the opportunity to relieve that stress and to create bonds that often are hard in sort of, regular day-to-day work.”

About 100 artists among eight city hospitals applied for the grant. NCBH believed artist Carla Torres was the best fit for illustrating their vision and the Tisch Illumination Fund decided the partnership should be the first of many in the city’s Arts in Medicine program. A second round of applications are on the way, according to Luftglass.

The mural is a collection of figurative metaphors, including a sand clock that embodies how the hospital nurtures patients from infancy to the

elderly, a rooted tree growing from a concrete floor representing NCBH’s resiliency, and vegetables promoting health and wellness. All images are centered around a heart “because without love, no caring is possible,” says Torres. “I love doing this kind of work because it is where I can feel like art in action; the power of art in action where the power transcends the image.”

First promoted with an awareness day in early October, the project was conceptualized through multiple focus groups. After listening to community input on the mural, Torres presented her designs for approval. Kicked off with a paint party, Torres shepherded about 50 people through a tight deadline of one week to complete the painting, first beginning on several panels of paper before transferring to the final canvas.

“I felt a little bit like a plastic surgeon,” Torres says with playful laughter. She enjoyed easing amateur painters’ apprehensions about ruining the mural. “There were some that were like talented; there were some that were like a disaster.”

Born in Ecuador and based in Washington Heights, Torres’ specialty as an artist lies in illustration. This is her second mural in the Bronx, the first being a 7,500-foot project at P.S. 69 Journey Prep School in Soundview.

“Everything that was in the mural was exactly how people felt,” says NCBH executive director Cristina Contreras. “This is going to be here forever and the staff can see it and appreciate it, and the community and the patients.”

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Two Arrested in Hostage Situation in Bedford Park. That Includes the Hostage

By DAVID GREENE

Police have charged both a man and woman, believed to be the man's hostage, involved in a dramatic standoff with police that only ended after heavily armed officers stormed an apartment.

According to a police source, officers from the 52nd Precinct were called to a second-floor apartment at 3180 Villa Ave., at just after 2 p.m. on Nov. 30.

"Upon arrival, the occupants refused to come out of the apartment and officers suspected someone was being held against their will inside of the location," said the source.

Responding officers reported hearing a single gunshot from inside the apartment, touching off the standoff that involved a small army of police from the NYPD's heavily armed Emergency Services Unit (ESU), the Hostage Negotiating Team (HNT) and the Tactical Assistance Response Unit (TARU) that kept watch

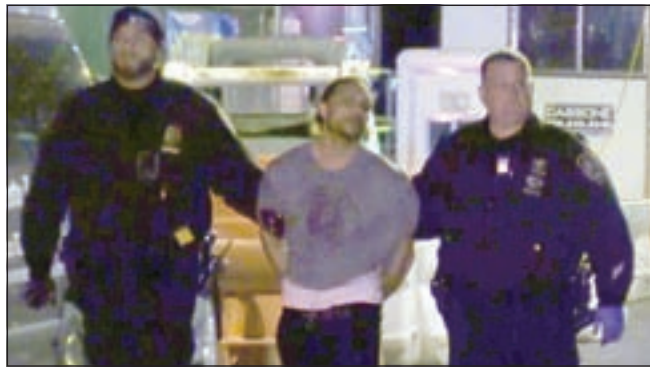


Photo by David Greene

POLICE ARREST ANTHONY Ditta, 41 (c), ending a three-hour standoff with police in Bedford Park.

on the suspects during much of the standoff, until officers eventually stormed the apartment.

The street was quickly locked down as a crowd of angry residents began to gather at the corner of Villa Avenue and Van Cortlandt Avenue South, behind the crime scene tape. One Villa Avenue resident fumed, "I went out to the store for 10 minutes and now I've been stuck out here for two



Photo by David Greene

POLICE AND PARAMEDICS remove the alleged hostage, Yelitza Garcia, 37, who was subsequently given a psychological evaluation.

hours."

TARU officers used fiber optic cameras to monitor the suspect from an apartment next door and watched him in the

final moments of the standoff, as he smoked a cigarette and separated some dogs inside the apartment. Moments later an officer was heard over the police radio saying, "We're in the room, we're in the room."

Minutes later police brought out suspect Anthony Ditta, 41, in handcuffs. Ditta—who was spotted joking with cops after

Minutes after, police and paramedics wheeled out the alleged hostage and girlfriend of Ditta, who was strapped down to a gurney as she screamed at officers. She was transported to St. Barnabas Hospital for a psychological evaluation.

Police later identified her as Yelitza Garcia, 37, and she was later arrested and also charged with criminal possession of a firearm and assault.

Watching as Garcia, the apparent "hostage" was screaming at police, neighbor Elizabeth Perez, said, "You know, sometimes it's hard to understand the human being. You don't know what goes on inside their heads."

Once the siege ended, NYPD's Chief of Detectives Terence Monahan tweeted, "Tonight in the 52nd Precinct, officers responded to a domestic call on Villa Avenue that quickly escalated to a barricaded situation. Hats off to all involved that safely resolved the situation."

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Thanksgiving

Bronx organizations and elected officials were in the giving spirit this Thanksgiving, hosting a number of events leading up to turkey day. The *Norwood News* dispatched photographers Miriam Quinones and José A. Giralt to capture some of the events happening in Norwood ahead of the national holiday.



Photo by Miriam Quinones

NCBH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Cristina Contreras (c), stands between two staffers from Councilman Andrew Cohen's office, each holding up a turkey.



Photo by Miriam Quinones

CHEERS FROM THOSE who receive a bird!



Photo by Miriam Quinones

A VOLUNTEER FROM the New York City District Council of Carpenters (l) gives out a turkey to one grateful recipient.



Photo by Miriam Quinones

THIS ATTENDEE (L) gets a turkey personally handed over by state Sen. Jamaal Bailey (r), as Councilman Andrew Cohen (3rd from r) and Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez (2nd from r) looking on.

Photo by José A. Giralt

VOLUNTEERS, INCLUDING ELECTED officials and members of the NYC District Council of Carpenters (below) were on hand to help distribute the donated turkeys

ASSEMBLYWOMAN NATHALIA FERNANDEZ (below) speaks at the Thanksgiving Community Dinner held at the Lexa Bar & Garden in the Norwood section of the Bronx on Nov. 25. State Sen. Jamaal T. Bailey (wearing suit and tie) is at her right.



In The Bronx



Photo by Miriam Quinones

THIS NCBH STAFFER shows a humble smile as she holds up her turkey.



Photo by José A. Giralt

(L-R) ARIANA CIPRIANI, program manager, and Jennifer Tausig, executive director, both of the Mosholu Preservation Corporation, are joined by Lilliam Perez (far right), vice president of government and community relations at Montefiore Medical Center and members of the New York City Council of Carpenters during a turkey giveaway event outside the Keeper's House, home of the Norwood News in Norwood on Nov. 26.



Photo by José A. Giralt

STATE SEN. JAMAAL T. Bailey gives remarks at the Thanksgiving Community Dinner held at the Lexa Bar & Garden. Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez (clapping) is at his right.



Photo by José A. Giralt

ARIANA CIPRIANI (L), program manager at Mosholu Preservation Corporation, prepares to give out water bottles during a turkey giveaway event outside the Keeper's House.



Photo by José A. Giralt

VOLUNTEERS FROM THE International Alliance of Chaplains and Law Enforcement (wearing white uniform shirts) serve food at the Thanksgiving Community Dinner held at the Lexa Bar & Garden in Norwood.



Photo by José A. Giralt

DANIELA BEASLEY, PROGRAM manager with Mosholu Preservation Corporation, helps with the turkey giveaway event held outside the Keeper's House.



MTA Answers Some Proposed Bus Route Questions

(continued from page 2)

gins at West 238th Street and Broadway and terminates at West 179th Street and Broadway in Manhattan.

“We have a lot of seniors that rely on that bus. That is their sole means of transportation to get to the city, to doctors. We have people that rely on that bus to get to work every morning and back, and it’s really upsetting that they have to find out by a notice that is put at the bus stop. We have a community board. We have a transportation committee—[and the proposed changes were] never brought to them until after you made these decisions,” said Calderon.

Calderon argued that ahead of congestion pricing, a measure that passed in the State Legislature that charges drivers a fee if they drive south of 59th Street in Manhattan while serving as a

motive to use mass transit, it’s nonsensical to discontinue Bx3.

The MTA did issue a caveat: Bronx residents still have a chance to air their concerns.

With the changes not taking effect for another year following a litany of more scheduled meetings and town hall discussions scheduled for the upcoming year, residents can offer even greater input to the plan.

One suggestion was taking their complaints to its website to further explain why the bus plan doesn’t work.

The bus redesign plan would be implemented sometime in the latter part of 2020, aligning with the New York City Department of Transportation’s plans to tailor portions of the city’s roadways to streamline bus service.

Even after hearing the presen-



tation, CB7 was still unhappy with changes, passing a motion to send a letter to the MTA asking for further modifications to the Bx34, BxM3 express bus, and BxM4 express bus service.

Editor’s Note: Visit https://mta-nyc.custhelp.com/app/comments_

bronxbus to voice your position about the proposed changes. There is also a tool to map out your route by going to <https://otp-mta-proto.camsys-apps.com/>. Community Board 7’s Traffic & Transportation Committee plans to hold a larger meeting on the MTA’s bus network redesign plan on Dec. 5 at the board office, 229A E. 204th St.



Map images courtesy MTA

A LOOK AT the Bx34 bus route (left column), where a solid blue line shows the existing service and the proposed added service in light blue.

A LOOK AT the Bx30 bus route (above), where a solid blue line shows the existing service and the proposed discontinued route as a dotted line.

A LOOK AT the Bx28 bus route (top), where a solid blue line shows the existing service and the proposed added service in light blue.

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Dinowitz Gets Dem Club Backing, Faces Continued Anti-Vaxxer Backlash

It didn't come as a surprise as the Benjamin Franklin Reform Democratic Club (BFRDC) came in support of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz in his primary bout against George Diaz for the 81st Assembly District seat, but there was some heckling he did receive from non-members.

As Dinowitz and Diaz laid out their platforms to the club on Nov. 20, in which Dinowitz was unanimously voted as the preferred candidate, Dinowitz was criticized by anti-vaxxer protesters whose chants could be heard from inside the packed room at Tibbets Towers.

The protestors voiced their displeasure with the Assembly-

man since he was a prime sponsor of a June bill that banned vaccine exemptions on religious grounds, which was signed into law. A Facebook video showed a woman donning a "we spread truth not disease" T-shirt joined by five other protesters in the lobby of Tibbets Towers where the club held the meeting.

In conflicting fashion, non-members of the BFRDC made numerous attempts to walk into the meeting, but were not allowed. This along with an active police presence, led to shouting matches between the officers and protesters. Six anti-vaxxers in total were escorted off the premises at the request of building management.

- Michael Turay

Cohen Ends Participatory Budgeting

When it came to the New York City Council's Participatory Budgeting initiative—which lets constituents decide how \$1 million in capital monies is spent—one couldn't find a stauncher advocate than Councilman Andrew Cohen.

But after six years on the Council, and two more years to go as the representative for the 11th Council District, Cohen is no longer running the months-long, bureaucratic program. "It doesn't feel fresh anymore," Cohen told the *Norwood News* in a phone interview.

The process begins in October, lasting through May following meeting upon meeting of what exactly the needs were for the communities Cohen reaches, which include Norwood.

But he kept seeing the same faces repeatedly, wanting a broader group of participants to be involved in the process. Even so, Cohen isn't completely eradicating from the process' basic tenets of gauging residents to determine community needs.

"I'm taking the parts that I find really useful, and really of value, and I'm trying not to get caught up in the things that didn't really work," said Cohen, of the grassroots input that help guide Cohen's decision-making toward capital projects.

Just what exactly that looks like remains to be seen, though Cohen has suggested community gatherings to solicit ideas from residents in his district, which covers Norwood and Bedford Park.

Past Participatory Budgeting projects included bus countdown clocks, improvements to local libraries, and resurfacing projects. All of the projects underwent vetting by city agencies to determine their feasibility.

Cohen's colleague in the Council, Ritchie Torres of the 15th Council District, is continuing on with the program that was introduced by former Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito during her tenure in the Council.

-David Cruz

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Opinion

Shop Small (Not the Online Mall)

By GREGG BISHOP

The holiday season is upon us and we all know the temptation of online shopping. The ease of getting the things we want at the click of a button might seem harmless, but it has major consequences for local small businesses. Shopping online takes away from the livelihood of local residents and strips the community of its extraordinary businesses. E-commerce also means you don't have the ability to inspect your purchases before receipt, you have to go through the hassle of repackaging

and returning your item and you're depriving yourself of getting to know the business owners on your block.

Shopping small means you're supporting your community. Small businesses are the backbone of New York's local economy, with over 230,000 businesses, employing 3.69 million people. Besides contributing to the workforce, small businesses connect communities and help create unique, energetic neighborhoods throughout our city. During this holiday shopping season I'm encouraging all New Yorkers to show some

love to our small businesses. Here are some ways you can help your local small businesses that extends beyond your purchasing power:

Pledge Your Shopping List to Your Community

This holiday season make a commitment to buy half of the items on your shopping list from local small businesses. Jewelry, clothing, pottery and books are all great gifts that can be found in your neighborhood. Consider gifting a "made in New York" basket with your favorite local items.

Share Small Business Content On Social Media

A great way to support your local business is to share their content on social media. It can be as simple as posting a picture on Instagram or checking in on Facebook.

Leave Positive Reviews

While word-of-mouth recommendations are always good for small businesses, it doesn't hurt to leave positive reviews on Yelp and Google. Leave an online review for small businesses to get more traction and visibility.

Join the fun! Participate in seasonal fun on your block and in your neighborhood. From tree lighting events to local gift guides, get involved and shop small.

While you're preparing for this busy season, remember to continue supporting the diverse, independent, small businesses that enrich neighborhoods across New York City. As we enter this busy holiday season, don't forget to shop small!

Gregg Bishop is commissioner for New York City Department of Small Business Services.



Letters To The Editor

MTA Bus Buyer's Remorse

"Bronx Residents Air Out Grievances on Proposed Express Bus Cuts" (José A. Giralt – *Norwood News*, Nov. 21-Dec. 3, 2019 edition) may have buyer's remorse. Remember all the promises made 14 years ago in 2005, when the City of New York completed the purchase of seven remaining private bus operator franchises including Liberty Lines Bronx Express and New York Bus Service? The MTA created a new operating agency, MTA Bus, to continue service previously provided by the private bus operators. Subsequently, they entered into 50-year lease agreements to utilize and operate all of their garages. The deal was supposed to benefit riders and taxpayers.

Prior to 2005, the New York City Department of Transportation, using a combination of city, state and federal funding, provided both capital and operating assistance to all seven private bus operators. Virtually all of the capital funding was provided by grants from the Federal Transit Administration. For 35 years, these grant funds paid for replacement buses, radios, fare boxes, bus washers and facility improvements. With insufficient income, they counted on the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) starting in the 1970s to begin purchasing replacement buses, fare

boxes, radios, and other support equipment for their respective aging bus fleets. In many cases, bus operators had to operate and maintain buses beyond the industry standard useful life of 12 years and/or 500,000 miles. Too many buses in revenue service were between 12 and 27 years old with excess mileage. The DOT took too many years to complete bus procurements before operators received and could provide customers with new modern buses. MTA Bus deserves credit for purchasing hundreds of new buses and investments to upgrade antiquated bus garages far more quickly than the DOT did.

The operational savings for taxpayers never appeared. Instead, the \$100 million per year New York City subsidy formerly provided to the private bus operators has grown to over \$200 million for MTA Bus. The private bus company owners earn millions of dollars per year from MTA Bus for leasing their facilities. Operational savings by consolidation of duplicative routes between New York City Transit Bus and MTA Bus never happened. The same was true for reducing deadheading costs by reassigning bus routes between MTA Bus and New York City Transit Bus to closer garages for reduction of operating costs. Work rules and contracts between different

labor unions at New York City Transit Bus and MTA Bus prevented changes to the status quo.

We have gone full circle from private to public operators over 60 years. Was it worth it for riders of the original routes operated by the old Liberty Lines Bronx Express and New York Bus Service?

Larry Penner
Transportation Historian

Presidential Campaign Clarification

I will start by apologizing for mistakenly writing [in the *Norwood News*, Nov. 7-20, 2019 edition] that as a Senator, Joe Biden voted for Supreme Court judges Clarence Thomas, John Roberts and Samuel Alito. In his May 3 "Roaming Charges" column, *CounterPunch* publisher Jeffrey St. Clair wrote, "Clarence Thomas, John Roberts and Samuel Alito have their seats largely thanks to Biden, who was one

of the ranking members of the Senate Judiciary Committee."

St. Clair apparently felt that Biden's actions during those confirmation hearings helped get those judges approved. But he left out that Biden actually voted against them and I did not fact check that.

But after I sent that letter, I emailed an additional sentence that I requested to be put at the end. After criticizing Democrats for nominating Republican-minded candidates, I wanted to add the following: If they do that again in 2020, I'll vote for the Green Party again.

So how come there was space to keep the one inaccurate sentence in my letter and put in a correction at the end but not to add my closing sentence? Certainly it would have made more sense to delete my one flawed sentence. Then you would not have had any need for the correction.

Richard Warren
Van Cortlandt Village

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Workplace Stress? Try These Tips

By **JASMINE DAVILA**

The administrative role, sometimes called an assistant or secretary, is demanding! This role is at the heart of any organization and is the problem solver for many things, small and large. Examples include when the copier breaks, the printer runs out of paper, and the all-time favorite, the paper jam. This role requires the ability to complete assigned tasks and support everyone else's as well.

Working to manage these things can feel overwhelming. Called the "Admin Blues," this feeling is very common for those who support others. Unmanaged, it can lead to high levels of stress and even burnout. But do not despair; workplace stress doesn't have to ruin your day. Here are a few tips that can help anyone

manage many of the day-to-day stresses at work.

Email: The central location of most support staff makes their area the center of office interactions. To decrease distractions, ask co-workers to send requests via email. Receiving requests through email can help prioritize responsibilities and reduce the number of distractions received throughout the day. Email makes it easier for people to reach out at any time, and, when used properly, can be very helpful.

Take a break: Taking a break is an effective way to improve your mood. Even the American Psychological Association recommends taking multiple breaks during the day. Find time to take a walk, or find a place to eat lunch away from the desk. It's worth the peace of

mind.

Communicate: Understanding different work and communication styles is important. Some people are more detail-oriented, others prefer following a plan, and some are easily able to adapt to changes. Simple communication can make working together easier. Asking questions and communicating your needs can help solve many problems before they arise.

Feeling stress at work is always possible, but these simple tips may help to reduce some of the stress. Avoid the Admin Blues. For more information, please visit the American Society of Administrative Professionals website at www.asaporg.com.

Jasmine Davila is an administrative supervisor for Montefiore Health System's Office of Community and Population Health.

Serving Veterans



Photo courtesy Office of the Bronx Borough President

BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT Ruben Diaz Jr. (r) fixes up a plate alongside an administrator from the James J. Peters VA Medical Center in Kingsbridge Heights on Nov. 26. Diaz visited the extended care/community living center at the hospital to help serve and enjoy a Thanksgiving luncheon with Bronx military veterans.



Ailey Arts in Education in NSCC

Monday, January 6 for Members
Wednesday, January 8 for Non-Members
Classes are 1x Weeks for 14 Weeks
Members: \$176; Non-Members: \$256



Music

Monday, January 6 for Members
Wednesday, January 8 for Non-Members
Classes are 1x Week for 14 Weeks
Members: \$300; Non-Members: \$350

New Settlement Community Center Register For Fall Programs

1501 Jerome Ave. (Corner of W 172nd St.) Bronx NY 10452
718.758.5901 | www.NewSettlementCommunityCenter.org

Visit our Website for Schedules & Pricing



Mixed Martial Arts

Tuesday, November 5 for Members
Thursday, November 7 for Non-Members
Classes are 1x or 2x Week for 8 Weeks
Pricing starting at \$65 for Members



Group Swim

Tuesday, November 5 for Members
Thursday, November 7 for Non-Members
Classes are 1x Week for 8 Weeks
Members: \$80; Non-Members: \$120



Youth Technology

Tuesday, November 5 for Members
Thursday, November 7 for Non-Members
Classes are 1x Week for 8 Weeks
Members: \$300; Non-Members: \$350

Hot Deals Wait for You This Holiday Season at the JGHBID

By the JEROME GUN HILL BID

Holiday shopping season has begun at the Jerome Gun Hill BID, and we won't want you to miss it! Stores across the district are offering great deals on everything from sneakers and clothing to electronics and home appliances. Just under one mile from end to end, the BID is home to 230 small businesses on Jerome Avenue and East Gun Hill Road. With national retailers like Children's Place and GameStop, as well as small mom and pop shops like Evita USA and BX Sports, there is something for everyone in the Jerome Gun Hill BID this season.

If you are in the market for some new shoes, we recommend checking out \$5 Shoe Warehouse at 3420 Jerome Ave. Saida, the owner, has been in business for over 25 years and has the lowest prices on hundreds of styles. For the men in your life, try Portabella Menswear on Jerome for suits, shoes, and dress clothes, or Jallowat364 E. Gun Hill Rd. for the biggest selection of hats and streetwear at the best prices.



Photos by the Jerome Gun Hill BID

\$5 SHOE WAREHOUSE owner Saida (l), and Sylvia, a cashier at Drug Rite—both within the Jerome Gun Hill BID—show their support for Small Business Saturday, a national campaign that encourages shoppers to frequent small businesses.

Shopping for toys for your little ones? Drug Rite at 3432 Jerome Ave. has a huge selection of toys for all ages at prices that cannot be beat.

When it comes time for holiday celebrations like New Year's Eve, the best spot in the BID for the last night of the year is Evita USA. The friendly staff will help you find the perfect dress and accessories for

your big night out, and most importantly it won't break the bank. Also, if you have a teenage son or daughter you can't miss BX Sports at 3476 Jerome Ave. BX Sports is a family-owned business that carries sneakers, casual clothing, and accessories for the most stylish ones on your list. And don't forget if you need to make sure your gifts are

all wrapped nicely and that your holiday decor is on point, stop by Mosholu Discount for holiday decorations, gift bags, cards, and wrapping paper.

This holiday season instead of heading to Manhattan or to an online store, support the local businesses in your community. Shopping small helps you save money while supporting the local businesses that help communities thrive. Happy holidays from the Jerome Gun Hill BID, shop small and save.

The BID is currently hosting a raffle from now until Dec. 24 where shoppers can submit photos of their receipts and enter to win a bundle of gift cards to local stores. To enter, please submit a photo of a receipt from a BID business to the BID's Instagram or email jeromegunhillbid@gmail.com. A winner will be randomly drawn on Dec. 25!

Follow the Jerome Gun Hill BID on Instagram @jeromegunhillbid or Facebook @jghbid to stay up to date on more holiday shopping deals.

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FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID
SERVICES



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<https://www.medicare.gov/nursinghomecompare/search.html>

HEALTH INSPECTIONS

This rating is based on how well the facility meets Medicare's minimum quality requirements. Each facility is reviewed annually. The results of the last three years' worth of inspections comprise the score. The most recent inspection carries the greatest weight.

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This rating looks at the number of hours of care provided to each resident each day. This information is "acuity based", meaning it considered the care needs of the resident when looking at the number of staff available. This measure looks at both RN staff and total nursing staff.

QUALITY MEASURES

Medicare assigns the star rating based on data from a select set of clinical data measures and compares the facility performance to national norms. The measure looks at how well the facility is caring for the residents' physical and clinical needs. More stars means better quality of care.

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CHRISTMAS EVENT

Come celebrate the Christmas season with the Bedford Park Congregational Church, 201st Street and Bainbridge Avenue. Join us for worship on Dec. 15 at 11 a.m., followed by our festive Christmas dinner at 12:30 p.m. The donation for the dinner is \$10. All are welcome. Info: (718)-733-3199

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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NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

USPS Holiday Hours

The following United States Postal Service locations will be operating on Sundays, Dec. 8 and 15 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Williamsbridge Station, 711 E. Gun Hill Rd.; and Parkchester Station, 1449 West Ave. For more information, call (800) 275-8777.

Heating Assistance

Applications for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) for older adults and low- and middle-income New Yorkers will be accepted by local departments of social services. Eligibility is based on income, household size and how the home is heated. Residents can apply online at <https://on.ny.gov/2Fn062M> or mail to NYC DSS/HRA/HEAP, P.O. Box 1401, Church Street Station, New York, NY 10008. For more information, call (212) 331-3126.

STEM Teacher Award

Nominations are now being accepted for NBC 4 New York and Telemundo 47's Weather Kids Star Teacher award recognition program honoring science, technology, engineering or math teachers. A portion of the application includes a section that asks what makes the nominated teacher deserving of the honor by listing reasons or a story relating to the teacher and the work they do in the classroom. Schools of each winning teacher will receive a \$1,000 award the benefits the learning needs of the winning teacher's students. To nominate a teacher, go to nbcnewyork.com/weatherkids.

Community Grants

Applications for community improvement grants of up to \$3,000 to community-based groups are being accepted by the Citizens Committee for New York City. Grants will be awarded for neighborhood improvement projects planned and executed by local residents. The application deadline is Jan. 20. To apply, visit www.citizensnyc.org/grants. For more information, call Arif Ullah, program director, at (212) 822-9580.

Social Security

Scam Awareness Tool

Report suspicious scams involving Social Security through the Social Security Administra-

tion's online tool used to detect patterns involving schemes related to the entitlement program. The data is then used to aid in their investigations involving fraud. An online form has been set up at <https://oig.ssa.gov>.

Trail Volunteer

Sign up to join the Van Cortlandt Park Alliance's Volunteer Trails Restoration Crew for Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The service helps train volunteers to work alongside trails professionals to develop skills in various areas of trail construction while improving the trails in Van Cortlandt Park. For more information, and to sign up, contact john@vancortlandt.org. Must be 18 years of age to join.

Civics Workshop

Community Board 6 hosts a workshop on voting, the U.S. Census, and organizing around it on Dec. 14 from 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Murphy Cornerstone Center, 601 Crotona Park N., between Arthur Avenue and Crotona Avenue East. Space is limited. RSVP at bronxcb6@bronxcb6.org or call (718) 579-6990.

Canned Food Donation

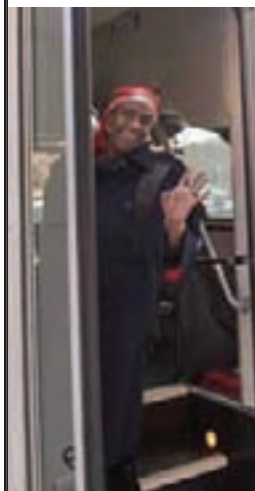
The office of Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz is hosting a canned food drive through Dec. 11 to support two local food pantries for the holiday season: Kingsbridge Heights Community Center and St. Frances of Rome Food Pantry. Canned fruits and vegetables, cereals, dried beans, rice, tuna, coffee, teas, canned juices, powdered milk, Jell-O, and soups will be accepted. Donate food at 3107 Kingsbridge Ave. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 796-5345.

Crib Bumper Exchange

Parents and caregivers can dispose of their crib bumper pads—known to cause injury to infants or possibly death—in exchange for a baby sleep sack at the Administration for Children's Services' (ACS) Bronx office at 2501 Grand Concourse, fourth floor. It's recommended to call the Bronx ACS office at (718) 933-1212 ahead of receiving the sleep sack. For more information, go to www.nyc.gov/safesleep.

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Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

EDITOR'S PICK

Holiday Events

The public is invited to the following free events:

Tree Lighting – Dec. 5 at 5:30 p.m. at Lou Gehrig Plaza, East 161st Street and the Grand Concourse, featuring Christmas carols with Santa and Mrs. Claus, hot chocolate, cookies and a special treat from Santa while supplies last.

Tree Lighting – Dec. 12 at 6 p.m. at the center mall at the intersection of Mosholu Parkway and Bainbridge Avenue, featuring hot chocolate, carolers, small gifts while supplies last, and a visit from Santa Claus. Info: (718) 933-5650.

Winter Wonderland – Dec. 14 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Williamsbridge Oval, featuring holiday arts & crafts, games, and music. Info: (718) 543-8672 or (718) 515-2495.

Celebrate St. Nicholas – Dec. 14 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., to learn about the history of this day, with activities, at the Van Cortlandt House Museum, 6036 Bdw., VC Park. Info: (718) 543-3344.

Holiday Concert – Dec. 15 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. featuring the Bronx Arts Ensemble at Woodlawn Cemetery's Woolworth Chapel. Preregistration is required at www.WoodlawnTours.org.

Onstage

Bronx Library Center, 310 E.

Kingsbridge Rd., presents for adults:

Chamber Music Concert: Dec. 7 at 2:30 p.m. featuring the Celia Cruz H.S. Orchestra; and for teens/young adults:

Carnegie Hall: Youth Ensemble

Concert: Dec. 14 at 2:30 p.m. Info:

(718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

Events

Williamsbridge Oval presents **Storytime and Blessing Bags**, Dec. 8 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. featuring free books. Prepare bags to be given out to the homeless. Please bring adult hats or gloves for donations. Info and RSVP: text (347) 974-1105.

The Van Cortlandt Jewish Center, 3880 Sedgwick Ave., holds **bazaar/carnival** on Dec. 8 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Info: (718) 884-6105.

Lehman College, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., W., presents **Fact Check: The Census in the Age of Trump**, Dec. 9 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Studio Theatre. Event includes a discussion with civil rights advocates and activists on the citizenship question, digital security and misinformation campaigns surrounding the 2020 census. Info: (718) 960-8013.

The Riverdale-Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture, 4450 Fieldston Rd., presents the following events at the Society Meeting House: **Riverdale Art Association Exhibit:** through Jan. 2, (artist reception: Dec. 7 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. featuring Argentinian-style refreshments); **Reverence and Awe: Ethical Practice:** Dec. 8 at 11 a.m., to reflect on the humanist meanings; **Ethics for Children:** Dec. 8 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., to teach children to be kind and fair through stories, games, art, discussions, and free play. The Society is also holding a **Coat Drive**, daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. until Dec. 17, at the Broadway Family Plaza, 5731 Broadway. Donations can be dropped off at the Plaza security desk. Accepted are clean gently used coats, scarves, hats and gloves of all sizes. Info: (718) 548-4445.

Christ Church Riverdale, 5040 Henry Hudson Pkwy. at West 252nd Street, presents **Riverdale Choral Society Concert**, Dec. 8 at 3 p.m. followed by a reception (\$25). Info: (718) 543-2219.

The Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center offers free art in painting, collage, sculpture or drawing as follows: **Studio Art:** Dec. 10 from 5 to 6 p.m.; and **Toddler Studio Art:** Dec. 12 from 11 a.m. to noon. Also scheduled free is **Literacy Day:** Stories and snacks for ages 1 to 13 (books will be distributed to take home), Dec. 6 from 4:30 to 6 p.m.; and **Winter**



File photo by David Cruz

SANTA CLAUS IS expected to make an appearance at Community Board 7's holiday tree lighting on Dec. 12 (see Editor's Pick for more information).

Wonderland: Dec. 14 from 12:30 to 2:30 featuring holiday arts & crafts, games, and music. Info: (718) 543-8672 or (718) 515-2495.

and a schedule of events including tours and walks: (718) 549-3200.

Library Events

Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents for ages 5 to 12: **STEM Fridays at 4 p.m.:** Dec. 6 – Crystal Experiment; Dec. 13 – Maker Space; Dec. 20 – Insta-Snow. Adults can attend: **Computer Basics:** Dec. 18 at 1 p.m. Info: (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

Mosholu Library, 285 E. 205th St., offers for kids: **Crafty Fridays at 3 p.m.:** (ages 5 to 12): crafts, Dec. 6 and 12; **Toddler Storytime at 11 a.m.:** (ages 18 to 36 months): stories, songs, fingerplays and crafts, Dec. 9, 12, 16 and 19; and **STEM: Kids Science at 3 p.m.:** (ages 5 to 12): Dec. 10 and 17 (Building). Families can attend **film:** "Spider-Man: Far From Home," Dec. 14 at 1:30 p.m. Adults can join: **Knitting:** Thursdays at 3 p.m. Info: (718) 882-8239.

Jerome Park Library, 118 Eames Pl. (near Kingsbridge Road), offers for children ages 5 to 12: **film:** "Wonder," Dec. 21 at 2 p.m. Adults can attend: **Computer Basics at noon:** Dec. 12, 19 and 26. Info: (718) 549-5200.

NOTE: Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org, and should be received by Dec. 9 for the next publication date of Dec. 19.

The Bronx Zoo features the **Return of Holiday Lights**, through Jan. 5, Sundays to Thursdays from 5 to 9 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 5 to 10 p.m. Included are carolers, costume characters, train rides (fee), lantern safari, animated sculptures, light show in Astor Court every 20 minutes, and nightly ice carving demonstrations. Tickets: \$29.95/adults; \$22.95/children; \$28.95/seniors. There will be an Ice Jubilee featuring an ice bar, ice throne, ice slide from Dec. 21 to 31 excluding Dec. 24 and 25, and an ice carving competition on Dec. 28 from 6 to 9 p.m. For ticketing and a full schedule of activities, visit bronxzoo.com/holiday-lights. Info: (718) 220-5100.

St. James Recreation Center, 2530 Jerome Ave., offers a variety of **adult and senior programs** through Dec. 21. Info or a detailed listing: (718) 367-3657.

Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Art Projects:** Transformational Terrariums, to make a terrarium using natural material, Dec. 7 and 8; and Self Portraits: Follow My Track, to make a self portrait using natural and food materials, Dec. 14 and 15; both in the WH House 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Grounds admission is free until noon Tuesdays and Saturdays all year. Info

Farewell to Heidi Hynes

(continued from page 1)

come. In fact, her magic was to commit to the people of a place," Brian said.

After graduating from Fordham University in 1990 with a degree in philosophy, Hynes worked with Astin Jacobo, a Bronx community organizer who established the Mary Mitchell Center [MMC] in 1997. Hynes was eventually promoted to serve as executive director.

At a memorial service on Nov. 26, Astrid Jacobo, Astin's daughter, remembered all the work her father put into founding the MMC, which provides after school enrichment programs like tutoring, help with homework, fitness and arts activities, and healthy eating education. Her voice cracked with emotion as she said, "Very few people do the talk and the walk like my father did. But Heidi and all the other people at the center continue to do the job that needs to be done."

Jacobco spoke about the sacrifices that family members of an activist have to endure for a greater cause. But she told the audience that the results were worth the effort. "[My father] came to this world and left his footprint. And just like him, Heidi, a young woman who left us so early in our lives ... she definitely not only left her footprints but a passport and a map for us to go to the next level," Jacobco said.

That passport and map included holding elected officials accountable as Hynes was a common fixture before politicians that she thought held the keys to improving her neighbors' lives.

The wake was attended by Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., who recalled how Hynes carried out "God's work" in the Bronx. "When you look at individuals like Astin Jacobo and the Jacobo family, Heidi embodied the energy, the commitment, the dedication to the Boogie Down Bronx," Diaz said. "Heidi, every single day, did God's work here."

Hynes was not averse to asserting herself when an issue needed more attention from elected officials. "As borough president she agitated me on affordable housing. [She] made sure we did all that we could to invest in our green spaces and public parks. To invest in things like the Bronx River, to save our community gardens," Diaz recalled. "What I loved about Heidi the most is that she defended our leadership behind our backs, but boy did she give us hell to our faces. That is a true friend."

Hynes was such a vocal force at the borough president's office in her efforts to improve the Bronx that Diaz joked, "Before I met Heidi, I had a full head of hair."

Sandra Lobo, the executive director of the Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition (NWBCCC), met Hynes more than 20 years ago while attending

Fordham University. At the time Hynes worked as a community organizer for NWBCCC and was a keynote speaker at an event at the school. "It was incredibly empowering to hear Heidi talk about how ordinary people can come together, build power, and transform the world. That was my first introduction to Heidi," Lobo said.

Lobo considers Hynes a friend and comrade in community activism for over two decades. "She talked about her Bronx family very, very intentionally," Lobo said. "She had a very powerful spirit that made you pay attention."

Hynes' concern for the well-being of others also went far beyond the issues facing her Bronx neighbors. She knew that besides the immediate problems of poverty, housing, and hunger, global issues impacted local residents. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, for instance, she helped organize Bronx Action for Justice and Peace, an anti-war group. Hynes worried that young people would join the military because they would not be aware of peaceful options to fight hate and terror.

"She also cared about peace and love all around the world," Jordan Moss, former editor of the Norwood News, and a close personal friend of Hynes, said. Moss first met Hynes in 1995 while she worked for NWBCCC. "She was wonderful human being and though she's gone, she's not fully gone because she influenced and empowered all the folks here in some way, especially the teens and young adults," Moss said.

State Sen. Gustavo Rivera, also in attendance, wants Hynes' memory to live beyond one night of remembrance. "If we want to really honor her legacy, let's all continue with her body of work," Rivera said.

Hynes is survived by her husband Brian, daughter Frieda, parents Frank and Michelle Schloegel, and several nieces and nephews. She was buried in the Rosendale Plains Cemetery in Tillson, New York.

The 181 mourners in attendance at the memorial event also caught a glimpse of Hynes' legacy of community outreach in a new generation she helped shape. Many of the center's young people spoke about Hynes' impact on them.

One of them, Brandon Hadley, first met Hynes at MMC when he was seven. Hadley remembers her as giving him the push he needed to start realizing his dreams. "She really motivated me to do things I wasn't capable of doing, but I did them," Hadley said shortly after the service. Hadley, now 19, has worked at MMC for two years and credits Hynes with helping him push himself to be his best. "Heidi helped me [reach my goals], and that's why she's an important person to me," Hadley said.

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