

## Bx. worker shocked the nation

BY DAVID CRUZ

Pelham Parkway dentist Dr. Steven Oken never expected his employee, Miriam Carey, would snap.

It's been over a week since Oken learned Carey was fatally shot by police during a Washington D.C. car chase that shocked the nation.

But Oken's reserved judgment on Carey, a hygienist for the past eight years at his Bronx Dental Implants and Periodontics office.

"This was totally out of character from what we knew of her here," said Oken, an oral surgeon, recalling the moment ABC News called his office explaining Carey led police in a wild chase around landmarks in the nation's capital.

"I was like 'There's no way she was involved. Someone must've stolen her car,'" he said.

Oken's office has received dozens of calls from patients since then, asking if the same woman who cleaned their teeth was behind the chaotic mess that put the nation's capital on high alert, with the Capitol building on lock-down.

But Oken would rather remember a woman who reveled with co-workers at a cruise getaway several months before, who laughed, delivered problem-free service and shared pictures of her new baby girl Erica to staffers.

Before her violent episode, Carey was part of a pool of hygienists, performing oral maintenance on hundreds of patients from the borough and beyond since 2005. The 34-year-old shared dreams of becoming

*Continued on Page 4*



Photo by Aracelis Batista

## Boo At The Zoo Festivities

The Halloween spirit courses through Lauren Leoni and brother Jack, dressed up for the Bronx Zoo's Boo at the Zoo festivities. Check out pics on the inaugural day on page 37.

# PELHAM GRAND HOUSING

## Possible home to veterans

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

A former Pelham Parkway hospital could soon be housing for America's heroes, but it's not yet clear if it will be welcome by neighbors.

The former Pelham Bay Hospital building at 1870 Pelham Parkway South, now known as the Pelham Grand, would be converted to housing for veterans, but local Community Board 10 is concerned it would be for homeless veterans with various problems.

The building was most recently used as temporary housing for a group of mentally challenged people displaced by Hurricane Sandy from their Rockaways home, but is now vacant.

Its landlord, telecommunications mogul Moujan Vadhat, has entered into discussions to lease the building to Harlem-based housing group Development Outreach, Inc., for 57-units of veterans housing.

*Continued on Page 4*

## Bx Pk East: We need a stop light!

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Protestors gathered at an accident prone intersection in Allerton to call for a traffic light that they said is badly needed to protect children and the elderly.

Members of the Bronx Park East Community Association rallied near an entrance to Bronx Park on Wednesday, Oct. 9. to call on the city Department of Transportation to install a traffic light or calming devices at the corner

of Waring Avenue and Bronx Park East.

After a three-car accident on Wednesday, Oct. 2, coming on the heels of another accident in the summer, BPCA president Raphael Schweizer said that local residents were increasingly concerned about the safety of people crossing the street as they enter and exit Bronx Park, or go to their cars.

"This is a main entrance to the park, there is a school

nearby [P.S.96], and there is no crosswalk," he said.

The city Department of Transportation has recently conducted a traffic study, he added, and did not find any need for traffic controls at that location.

He said that he believes that DOT sincerely cares about the pedestrian safety, and have pledged to put crosswalk markings on the street at one point, but that the agency is "relying

*Continued on Page 11*



Community members rally for traffic light at Waring Avenue.

Photo by Patrick Rocchio

# C.I. living facility downsized

## Klein yanks \$1mil state funding from project

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

A controversial proposed assisted living facility on City Island has been downsized, but it still may not be enough to satisfy the community.

The City Island Civic Association has vowed to continue its legal challenge to a developer who is seeking a zoning variance before the city Board of Standards and Appeals to build an assisted living facility at the corner of Scho-

field Street and City Island Avenue, said CICA president Bill Stanton.

The BSA had asked the developer, the Italian Hospital Society led Dr. Domenico Mignone, this past spring to go back to the drawing board with what was then a proposed 212-bed facility.

A new proposal, currently under review by Community Board 10 and a CICA lawyer, involves design changes that re-

duce the number of beds by roughly 30% and sets the building back from the street, said CICA board member Barbara Dolensek, who has seen the plans.

"The FAR (Floor to Area Ratio) is still much greater than other City Island buildings," she said, adding that the community is concerned that if a zoning variance is granted, the developer could use that variance to build some-



Future potential site of assisted living facility.

Photo by Patrick Rocchio



Dr. Domenico Mignone (c.) attended a town hall meeting on City Island in November.

Photo by Patrick Rocchio

thing besides an assisted living facility, as long as it is of the same size.

Whenever the Italian Hospital Society was offered alternate locations, the developer remained "fixated" on the Schofield Street location, said Stanton.

At the Community Board 10 housing and zoning committee meeting at the board office on Wednesday, Oct. 9, board members said that they have not changed their position on the development.

That same position was

echoed by Community Board 10 district manager Kenneth Kearns.

"The attorneys for the Italian Hospital Society have forwarded a document containing responses to a series of questions posed by the BSA," said Kearns.

"In that document, currently under review, there is commentary about the plans. The Board's original stance against the project, is constant, consistent and is a matter of public record."

Before the public out-

cry by many City Islanders about the proposal, Senator Jeff Klein had agreed to provide \$1 million in state funding for the Italian Hospital Society project to build an assisted living facility.

But given the uproar over the plans, Klein has since pulled that state funding, and his support for the project.

"I do not support this project in any way, shape or form," said Klein.

Dr. Mignone did not return a phone call requesting comment.

# Columbus HS benefit nets \$16G

BY DAVID CRUZ

With help from a non-profit, Christopher Columbus High School has secured \$16,000 to restore resources removed from the school's budget as it settles in its final year.

The Partnership for Student Advocacy, a Manhattan-based non-profit that's served as the school's guardian angel, organized a Sept. 17th fundraiser to cobble funds on its own, with Senator Jeff Klein, an school alum, handing a \$14,000 check in state funds to cover CCHS's athletic and band program.

"That was a very pleasant surprise," said principal Lisa Maffei-Fuentes, adding a portion of the funds will go to a school trip to Washington D.C.

"The students at Christopher Columbus High School should not be shortchanged out of a well-rounded education

just because their school is in its final year," said Klein, who was swarmed by students in their team uniforms at the fundraiser.

He was one of over a hundred guests at the fundraiser, featuring other elected officials and retired NBA player John Starks, one of the stars at the benefit as he autographed hats while flanked by admirers.

"John Starks was a huge hit," said Partnership executive director Mary Conway-Spiegel, who urged Sen. Klein and other elected officials to help secure funds for the forsaken school.

CCHS has been forced to work with a shoestring budget as it graduates the final 200 students at the school.

Maffei-Fuentes no longer has Advanced Placement, language or other elective courses, given the lack of teachers quali-

fied to teach the subject.

Offering courses has been a crutch for Maffei-Fuentes, who's remained with the school for 29 years, seeing it once flourish as a school offering a wealth of courses to a student body of 3,500. These days the school's been reduced to virtually nothing.

Because of CCHS's poor academic performance, ranked a D in its latest report card, the city Department of Education sought to close the school in 2003, resulting in lawsuits by the teacher's union.

The city agency succeeded in ordering the school closed in 2009, no longer admitting any ninth grade students.

The Bloomberg administration, overseeing control of schools, added six smaller schools to the enormous campus in the interim, believing a more personalized



Before several young sports men and women, Sen. Jeff Klein, standing with principal Lisa Maffei-Fuentes (l) and Partnership for Student Advocacy executive director Mary Conway-Spiegel (r), donates \$14,000 to Christopher Columbus High School, now settled into its final year. The money's earmarked for resources that were left out in this year's budget. Photo by Alex Belisle

setting translates to better grades. But as part of its standard operating procedure, the DOE siphoned sources from failing schools and re-allocated them to newer schools.

Losing its war with the

DOE, CCHS continues to fight for the students till the end, even hosting a bake sale in Manhattan to cobble funds for its lofty goal of \$600,000 - the funding amount denied by the DOE.

"The sale will...raise

awareness/the profile of the tens of thousands of students who are affected/cheated by this damaging policy," said Conway-Spiegel, blasting the DOE's decision to re-distribute the school's former funds elsewhere.

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# Bx. worker in Washington, DC car chase that shocked the nation

From Page 1

Development Outreach president Ismail Shamsid-Deen told a Community Board 10 Housing and Zoning committee meeting Wednesday, Oct. 2 that the program would be funded mostly through use of Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program vouchers, similar to Section 8 vouchers.

"With respect to the presentation, I would say that the byword would be caution," CB 10 district manager Kenneth Kearns said after the meeting.

The vacant Pelham Bay building has been a concern for quite some time, he noted, undergoing several configurations, both as a hospital and later as a planned assisted living facility and senior housing site.

There was one possibility of a school going in

there, but Kearns said the "fair market value" asking price of \$20 million proved too much for the city's School Construction Authority.

"The major stumbling block is sale price for the building, which causes most potential tenants to withdraw the site from consideration," he said.

The preliminary plan as laid out by Shamsid-Deen calls for the building to be leased, but it remained unclear after about an hour and half of discussions if the veterans could include homeless veterans.

"If they truly want to help veterans, why doesn't the agency reach out to help single active service members, or those with families, who are about to get out of the service," asked CB 10 chairman John Marano, adding that there is money set aside out of the soldiers

pay for housing and education when they get out of the service.

Local activist Egidio Sementelli suggested that the plan was just another way to slip homeless housing - this time for veterans - into the community.

The community would likely not support the project if that was the case, said Marano, who also expressed concern about the plight of homeless vets.

For his part, Shamsid-Deen proposed having a group of community leaders screen prospective tenants.

He also said that if a prospective veteran could pay the market rate rent, his non-profit housing company, which has managed Manhattan apartment houses and been in the business since 1977, could accept them.

Joe Oddo, Pelham Bay



With guns drawn, Capitol Hill police surround 34-year-old Miriam Carey, who went on a wild police chase in Washington D.C. on Oct. 3rd.

Associated Press

Taxpayers president said he was going to research Development Outreach, and also be in touch with neighbors to gauge their reactions and concerns. He hopes to get a meeting with

Development Outreach.

"My concern is that anyway you cut it, twist it, and turn it, the absolute need is great," he said. "When you have two million veterans coming back from Iraq

and Afghanistan, you are going to have a very broad representation - from the very bad to the very good. I would like to get the very good, without discriminating or anything like that."

## Pelham Grand may become home to homeless veterans

From Page 1

a teacher and dentist.

Carey, a single mother with an infectious smile, came to work at 1550 Pelham Parkway South once a week, carrying out exceptional customer service the office strived for, according to Oken.

"The patients really loved her," he remembered. "At least in this office she had a good, upbeat personality."

Carey, residing in Connecticut, came to work every Tuesday. She did so on Oct. 1, bringing "a better attitude than usual," said Oken.

But two days later, for unexplained reasons,

Carey entered her black Infinity car with her 1-year-old baby, driving three and a half hours to Washington D.C. with no weapon. On a busy day loaded with tour buses and hundreds of visitors, Carey initially attempted to smash through two security gates at the White House.

Police soon cornered her, though she quickly sped off, forcing a high-speed pursuit. Officers caught up with her near Capitol Hill at Pennsylvania Avenue NW, where she attempted to drive through another security barricade. A team of officers soon opened fire,

with a barrage of bullets killing an unarmed Carey while Erica looked on.

While her motive remains sketchy, Carey was known to be mentally ill and on medication.

Along with suffering from postpartum psychosis, Carey was considered severely unbalanced, often believing President Obama had wiretapped her, authorities said. With Carey now dead, little Erica is left without a mother.

Oken has now organized a fund for the infant, hoping donors can look beyond the end of Carey's life and focus on her past.



Ismail Shamsid-Deen (c), president Development Outreach Inc., speaks to the group at the Community Board 10 housing and zoning meeting on Wednesday, October 2. Here he is addressing a question from Pelham Bay Taxpayers president Joe Oddo.

Photo by Patrick Rocchio



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# TN Merchants Dinner Dance Oct. 17

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

The Throggs Neck Merchants Association will pay tribute to four outstanding individuals who are making a difference.

The merchants are holding their 6th annual dinner dance this year at Villa Barone Manor on Thursday, October 17, with a cocktail hour starting at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$95 per person.

At the affair, TNMA will honor Billy Tsididis of Crosstown Diner as its Businessman of the Year, Dentist Robyn Burchman as Businesswoman of the Year, volunteer Gerri Colon with its Excellence Award, and Community Board 10 chairman John Marano as the winner of its Lifetime Achievement Award.

"We are going to have a phenomenal event, and I hope people will call me up and buy tickets to the affair because we always have a great evening," said Steve Kaufman, TNBA president.

"The four people we are honoring are wonderful," said Kaufman. "They exemplify the spirit of Throggs Neck, and they all have done tremendous work in the community."

Lifetime Achievement Award winner Marano gives a tremendous amount of time to help ensure that CB 10 runs smoothly, said Kaufman.

Marano said that he feels that the other volunteer board members of CB 10 are just as deserving of the honor, but he is nevertheless overjoyed to be recognized.

"It is a great feeling when the Throggs Neck Merchants sat me down and asked me to accept the award," he said. "It made me happy because

I felt that the work I am doing is getting noticed. I hope that the community appreciates what I do, because I do it for my family and anyone else who wants to stay in this community."

He said he is grateful that he has the time to do his volunteer work, adding "it is my turn" to be recognized.

Marano's parents ran a bakery on E. Tremont Avenue, Dom's Bakery at Miles and E. Tremont avenues for many years. He is a former NYPD narcotics officer, and a retired FDNY firefighter. He lives with his children and wife Luz in Throggs Neck.

Without Colon's efforts there would not have been a TNMA Street Fair last year, adding that she also volunteers at St. Frances de Chantal, said Kaufman. She is a longtime resident who does not have a business but who volunteers her time, said TNMA secretary Angela Molinini.

"Billy Tsididis is the most charitable person I know," said Kaufman. "Whenever we have an event he gives out much free food and runs a first rate diner."

He added that Dr. Burchman is a neighborhood dentist who does great work for the neighborhood.

The proceeds from the dinner dance go to fund TNMA events, like the annual Holiday celebration with Santa and toy giveaway to neighborhood children at DeRosa O'Boyle Triangle in December.

To purchase tickets, please call Kaufman at (718) 822-0500.



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# Tour De Bronx set for Oct. 27

## Thousands expected in tour promoting boro

BY DAVID CRUZ

In a borough still lagging in physical fitness and tourism, Bronx officials hope this year's 19th annual Tour de Bronx will continue to shatter that mold.

"This is a tour, not a race," emphasized Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., joining officials at The New York Botanical Garden, the finish line for the tour that'll take riders to an estimated sixty neighborhoods.

Thousands of cyclists will take part in this year's cyclist quest, slated for Oct. 27th at 9:30 a.m.

Though the name's inspired by the Tour de France, the event serves as a vehicle for out-of-town cyclists to familiarize themselves with a borough battling its once dystopian days.

"There's a lot that we

need to celebrate here," said Diaz, continuing his push to re-brand the Bronx as it goes through an economic boom. "This is a wonderful opportunity for those outside the borders and alike to participate and get a first-hand quality experience of the 'New Bronx.'"

Diaz, taking part in last year's race, will once again don a helmet to join the thousands of avid cyclists. But count him out on the more lengthier 40-mile route. He's already sticking to the 25-mile course that offers him the chance to dismount and view the eerily majestic Woodlawn Cemetery.

His push to show off the Bronx through the tour is helped by it's being a free event, a major incentive for cyclists who shell out registration fees that run from

\$20 to \$100 at other tours. It's no wonder the tour stands as the biggest in the state.

"The free attraction to the ride is huge, hopefully it stays free," said Caren Gallinari, a high-level manager and chair of the Bike Tour Club for Montefiore Medical Center, encouraging staffers to bike to work.

Gallinari is among the stronger advocates pushing for the tour, along with Transportation Alternatives, a special interest group promoting a more bike-friendly city.

"The tour attracts people from all over the borough to all over the state," said Gallinari, one of last year's 6,000 tour cyclists, which also drew folks from Italy, Poland and Tokyo.

Montefiore Medical Center is the lead sponsor for the event, once



Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. stands with officials at The New York Botanical Garden's Native Plant Garden as they give details on this year's Tour de Bronx

Photo courtesy of the Bronx Borough President's Office

again on par to shatter the borough's status as the city's unhealthiest.

"By getting them on bikes, we are starting little by little to change the ailments and situation of the Bronx," said

Roberto Garcia, Montefiore's senior director of community and governmental relations.

Interested riders can register at Borough Hall at 851 Grand Concourse at 9:30 a.m. on Oct. 27th.

Helmets will be provided by the city Transportation Department while supplies last, and children under 18 will be turned away unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.

## DOMINIC CASTORE WAY STREET NAMING



Dominic Castore's been immortalized. The late, great civic leader was honored with a street renaming (inset) on September 28th. The street sign rests at the corner of Morris Park and Colden avenues. Widow Pat Castore (center) was there, standing alongside officials and representatives, including Councilman Jimmy Vacca (center left), who worked with Castore during their days at Community Board 11. Castore was the longest-serving CB11 chair. He died last year at age 83, leaving behind a legacy many say will be hard to match.

Photo by Silvio Pacifico



## CITY ISLAND HONORS CAPTAIN ED SANDLER

The street that life-long City Islander Captain Ed Sadler grew up on now bears his name. Sadler was honored on October 5 when Councilman Jimmy Vacca and community members unveiled a new sign marking the corner of City Island Avenue and Schofield Street as "Ed Sadler Way." The former fireboat captain on New York Harbor passed away in November 2011 in the same house on Schofield Street where he lived for over 90 years, a house that his grandfather built, and that of course was next door to the firehouse.

# BOO AT THE ZOO

Call it the Bronx Haunted Zoo this October. Bronx families toured the spooky cultural institution for the annual Boo at the Zoo, a month-long venue loaded with plenty of Halloween-themed events and some scary creatures. Kids decked in colorful costumes christened Boo at the Zoo on October 5th, taking part in parades, pumpkin carvings while handing special "treats" to the animals. The event runs all October weekends and Nov. 2nd and 3rd.

(1) All aboard the Dinosaur Safari, one of the newest attractions at the animal kingdom.

Photo by Aracelis Batista

(2) Cleopatra comes to life this Halloween season thanks to Sabrina Diaz, hanging with mom Christine.

Photo by Aracelis Batista

(3) Little Ayden Chiu has a hoot of a good time, perched on mom Danielle during Boo at the Zoo.

Photo by Aracelis Batista

(4) A how to weave your web workshop gets underway, one of several Boo at the Zoo activities.

Photo by Aracelis Batista



## BOOK REVIEW by David Cruz

# The Girl From Long Guyland

BY LARA REZNIK

### BY DAVID CRUZ

First-person novels often beg the question—did the writer actually live through what's presented?

For Lara Reznik, author of the “The Girl from Long Guyland,” she's the first to tell you no, though she considers it a compliment.

“It's a fictive dream and the actual events are fictional,” said Reznik, a Pelham Parkway-born scribe talking from her Austin, Texas home about her first indie-published book. If you say the title out loud, the intonation will tell you where the protagonist is from.

The story focuses on Laila Levin, an I.T. manager who's lived in Texas for the past forty years. Laila, a Bronx-born Long Islander, gets a call from an old friend revealing their mutual col-

lege buddy, Denise Manelo, has committed suicide.

The incident opens the doors to Laila's past, namely her freshman year at The University of Bridgeport in 1969. It's there a 17-year-old Laila is introduced to sex, drugs and rock & roll by members of The Family, a pack of twenty-something hippies comprised of Doc, Ivy, along with Ben and Chris, a duo who serve as Laila's liberators and enslavers.

“Those Bridgeport townies had a power over me,” said Laila. “Especially Ben. I couldn't explain it.”

The battle for Laila's soul is soon tested as she's eventually embroiled in a love triangle between Ben and Chris, who convince her to reluctantly join the marijuana drug trade. Much like Reznik, Laila soon rebels

against middle-class Long Island, exchanging it for a psychedelic lifestyle. The exchange soon has ramifications after an incident on May 3, 1970 (the day before the infamous Kent State shootings) that forces Laila to make a secret pact with the devil, or devils in this case.

But the secret is soon out following Denise's suicide, testing Laila's present-day job and happy marriage.

The book, told in the first-person, alternates between time lines, jumping from 1969-70, including a tense scene at a drug-fueled Hollywood party, to present-day Texas where Laila juggles events at her job with her personal life.

Reznik structures her book to good effect, putting the reader in Laila's shoes

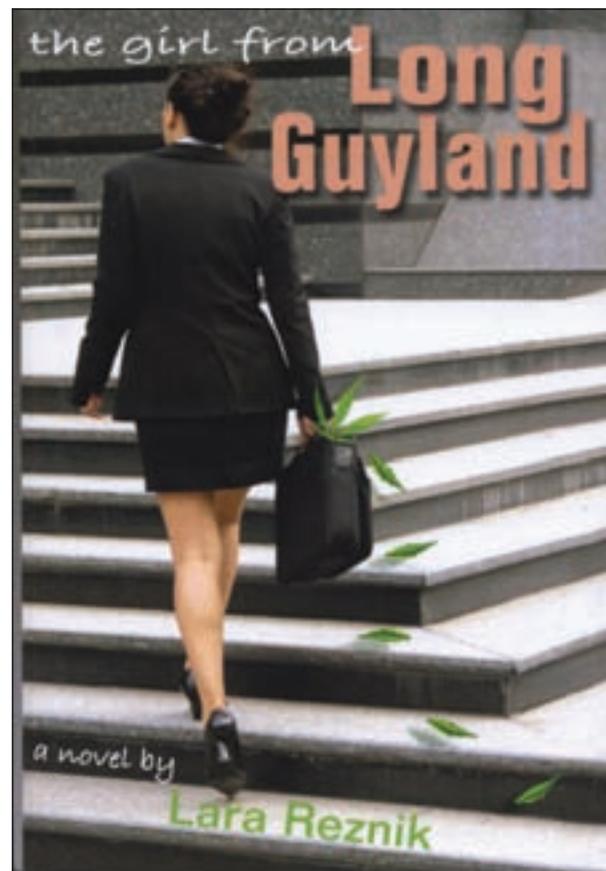
as she carefully peels layers off this psychologist thriller, leading to an unexpected finale.

“The Girl from Long Guyland” suggests a kind of condemnation to the hippie movement's dark side, which prefers “anything goes” over integrity. Chris values the former, followed by Ben and Ivy.

“Those three characters are all about themselves,” said Reznik.

It's also a coming-of-age story with themes of identity as newbie hipster Laila struggles to find a place she can call home despite reminders from the icy Ivy, aka Poison Ivy, that she'll always be “The Long Guyland Girl”.

The theme's also reinforced in the book's title, suggesting one's home can certainly shape values. For



Laila, it could be Long Island, or maybe the Bronx. The last line of the 341-page book will tell you where she's really from.

“The Girl from Long Guyland” is available on Amazon for \$12.99 for the published book and \$3.99 for the e-book.

## Van Nest woman hung up on sneakers

### BY BEN KOCHMAN

Sonia Pichardo has tried calling 311. She has harangued ConEd employees on their morning coffee break.

She has complained to local politicians and to the Fire Department.

But this Van Nest mother of two's effort to take down a single pair of strung-up sneakers drooping from power lines near her home on Holland Avenue is stuck in a knot.

“They are a black eye. It makes the whole neighborhood look bad, but no one will do anything about it,” Pichardo complained.

The silver Nike high-ankle sneakers have dangled by their laces for months from two wires snaking across Morris Park Avenue at Holland Avenue. The crossway will be on public display Sunday, Oct. 13 for the annual Bronx Columbus Day Parade.

“Everybody's talking about stopping violence, protecting our children,”



Sonia Pichardo sees these pesky sneakers every morning, yet feels powerless to remove them. Photos by Ben Kochman

she said. “But to have these sneakers hanging in such a public place shows that people can just do whatever they want.”

But other Bronxites aren't so sure what Pichardo is so strung out about.

The tradition of teenagers tossing their worn-down sneakers on power lines and

cable wires for fun dates back generations, said Joe McManus, a local civic leader and Democratic Party state committeeman in the 80th assembly district.

McManus used to twirl his own sneakers on the last day of the school year as a kid in Ridgewood, Brooklyn. He'd take his used-up Con-

verses, which back then cost \$2, and tie them together. The trick, he said, was crafting a tight enough knot while leaving the laces loose enough to give space to catch on the wire. Then his friends would compete to see who could land their sneakers first.

“At the end of the school year, you'd throw your shoes away,” he said. It's an innocent thing, a harmless game.”

Some urban myths suggest that sneakers on wires denote a drug hotspot or a gang's symbol, but there is no evidence to support this.

Still, Pichardo said that there were no sneakers on wires when she moved into Van Nest eight years ago and is concerned that the hanging Nikes signal a shift toward more crime and a lower standard of living.

“We wanted to move into a quiet neighborhood. We didn't used to have these. We don't have to start having them,” she said.

As tricky as it is to pin down the reasons behind



A Van Nest mother has vowed to remove these silver Nike Dunks.

the hanging sneakers, getting rid of them may be even trickier.

City agencies have no consensus for who is responsible for sneaker removal, said Jeremy Warneke, district manager of Community Board 11.

Warneke said that he's helped remove sneakers in the past by asking the Fire Department for a favor, and that he'd look into the hang-

ing Nikes on Morris Park and Holland.

Pichardo would be relieved to see the knotty sneakers gone.

“We can all agree on standards we want to have as a community,” she said.

But McManus said that expending any city effort to deal with the Nikes would be a waste of time.

“Who cares? This is nothing,” he said. “Get over it.”

# Oktoberfest comes to PB

## Merchants launch first annual fest

BY BEN KOCHMAN

This volksfest is fit for a Kaiser.

Pelham Bay is putting its own twist on Bavaria's favorite holiday, celebrated by both local folks and kings.

The Pelham Bay Merchants Association will host its first Oktoberfest Party on Saturday, October 26 in Keane Square.

The center of the Munich-inspired festivities will take place on the park under the el at Westchester and Buhre avenues.

Young kindergarteners to folks of schnapps-drinking age are invited to the fest, which kicks off in the early afternoon after a Halloween Parade rolls into the square from Crosby Avenue.

### Costumes encouraged

Don't worry if you don't own a tight-fitting dirndl or forgot your lederhosen at home. Costumes of any persuasion are encouraged, said Irene Guanill, Pelham

Bay Merchants Association President.

Halloween attire will do as well, while and local bars Jimmy Ryan's and Shamrock will be giving out special festive hats, Guanill said.

The fest is only loosely based on the annual epic Munich party that takes place in September and early October.

That means pizza and subs to go along with pretzels and sausages.

Local restaurants including Vito's Deli and Mangia Brick Open pizza will serve food on tables outside, Guanill said. Grilling is fine as long as the vendors do not use gas grills, she said.

Other vendors from the community, including those a couple blocks away from Keane Square, will set up as well for sidewalk sales. Participation is optional, but Guanill hopes that the sidewalks will be filled with tables offering deals.

### For all merchants

"My goal is to have all of the merchants in Pelham Bay feel like they are part of this, especially those from a bit away from the center," Guanill said.

Pop star wunderkinds can strut their stuff at a karaoke booth set up on a stage in Keane Square Park. The DJ plans to give out prizes for costume meisters, Guanill said.

Gift certificates for local businesses will be doled out in a raffle. Customers can enter by making any purchase of more than \$5, Guanill said.

The October 26 event will be the community's first attempt at an Oktoberfest, she said. The merchants are hoping for clear skies and full stomachs.

"It's a theme that we are really excited about," Guanill said. "We're hoping to see families and kids come out, and have a great time."



## PRESTON RAISES AWARENESS FOR HOMELESS

Preston High School students shacked up in makeshift cardboard boxes on October 6 in an attempt to raise awareness for the homeless. Here, Danela Menchaca, Gabriella Federowicz, Samantha Figueroa, Leslie Recinos, and Diana Perez are all smiles even though their cardboard home has no roof and it looks like rain. Photo by Silvio Pacifico

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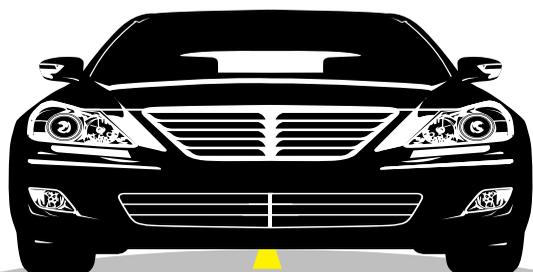
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## LEVERGATE

This is one of those 'He said, they said' tales.

If we can believe **Hector Ramirez**, who lost by 72 questionable votes to Dem Party Machine-backed **Victor Pichardo** in that dirty little race to fill disgraced west Bronx assemblyman **Nelson Castro's** seat, Hector's lawsuit against Pichardo and the city Board of Elections was bounced by a judge on a technicality because of some alleged sleight-of-hand by Dem Party *consigliere* and attorney **Stanley Schlein** and some hide-and-seek by Pichardo.

Hector claims Pichardo went into hiding to duck a process server before the court hearing to seek a ballot recount over dirty politics.

Hector claims Schlein said he *wasn't* repping Victor in court, so no need to slap legal papers on him.

Then Pichardo was nowhere to be found to slap the papers on *him*. But come the hearing, there was Stanley in court.

No legal service, no case, ruled the judge.

Schlein called Hector a "day late and dollar short," with his timing and facts, just squeaking into court a half-day short of the ten-day filing deadline for election appeals, and explaining he was called in at the last minute to rep Pichardo.

A Dem Party source - NOT Stanley - said Hector's folk could have easily found Pichardo, since he was a speaker at the party's judicial convention a few days before the court hearing.

Hector said he and his lawyer were ready with a sheaf of charges, ranging from levers missing on voting machines for all but Pichardo and a minor candidate, Pichardo's mom working as a poll worker at a key polling place - and reportedly steering voters away; different vote counts on the same machines, and other suspicious activity.

## EQUAL TIME

We've pretty much been beating up former Boro Prez **Adolfo Carrion** in ink over his mayoral

dream - by dropping his Dem Party ties and sliding on to the November ballot on the Independence Party line.

So in the interest of fair and balanced, as a certain quasi-news network says, check out this interview he did with Gotham Gazette's **David Howard King**, talking about the city housing authority ("The damn thing is broken"), education ("turn schools into community life and education centers 14 hours a day, seven days a week"), and on the new Yankee Stadium - after firing local board members opposing it and signing a weak community benefits agreement ("Yankee Stadium was a heavier lift. I took it on the chin on that but in the end the deliverable was a new neighborhood in the South Bronx, new parkland and a sense of pride of being a new destination.").

For the full interview, go to <http://gothamgazette.com>.

## WARM AND FUZZY

Going into her final term after a rather dicey primary that saw her petitions riddled with fraud (a

judge let her off the hook), we hear the often abrupt Mott Haven Councilwoman **Maria del Carmen Arroyo** is trying to get a little kinder/gentler with the media.

Could be she's looking for warm and fuzzy ink after her City Council job ends, with maybe a run for Assemblywoman **Carmen (Granny) Arroyo's** seat, should the aging doyenne of Mott Haven politics finally retire.

Of course, with the Bronx political clan succession plan, Granny could step down after a win in next year's assembly race, with her district county committee naming daughter Maria as the Democratic candidate in a special election.

Maria's seat would then be up for grabs in a non-partisan election. God Bless Bronx Politics!

In all fairness, Arroyo *does* rate respect in and out of the council as a hardworking, well-informed legislator.

As chair of the council's health committee, she's now working on restaurant owners' complaints that the city's grading system is picky, expensive and punitive.

She's pushing legislation to create an ombudsmen's office to deal with complaints before they become fines.

## SIGHTINGS

Councilman **Jimmy Vacca** handing out **Bill de Blasio** mayoral campaign literature in Westchester Square, and telling folks, "Oh, and vote for me too! I forgot my campaign literature..."

## COP CORNER

**Howie The Hump**. Long retired 4-2 Morrisania squad detective **Howard "Howie the Hump" Denton** back on the case recently, testifying in a 1988 murder case of a mother and young daughter, thanks to DNA evidence, and with a conviction with help from Howie's testimony. Howie told us his girlfriend says he has renewed energy since a recent heart valve replacement, and we'll leave it at that....

**Nameplate**. Oops. With a name like ours, we shoulda been extra careful checking spelling for new 52nd Precinct C.O. **Nilda Hofmann's** name. That's Hofmann, one f, two n's. Sorry.

## MAD MAX LAND

Boro Prez **Ruben Diaz Jr.** is okay with bikes, as in the annual Tour de Bronx bike-a-thon Oct. 27, but he's on the case against those illegal dirt bikes and All Terrain Vehicles.

He has Councilman **Jimmy Vacca** drafting a bill to outlaw service stations selling gas to riders.

Diaz told Bronx Times reporter **David Cruz** it's possible to lay down the law, even with a horde of intimidating cyclists ganging up on a lowly gas attendant.

If a pack of 18-year-olds can come to a bar and request a beer, does that mean the bartender has to serve them?, asketh the BP.

The Bronx, argued Ruben "isn't Max Max land."

## BRONX BIRTHDAYS

Oct. 15 - Carole Penny Marsciarelli, better known as actress, director Penny Marshall

Oct. 18 - Singer Laura Nyro

## TAKIN' A BREAK

We're taking a much deserved break for the next two weeks, so we should have lotsa good stuff stacked in a holding pattern by the time we get back. See ya!

## Bx Pk East: We need a stop light!

From Page 1

too much on engineering studies and not enough on common sense," he said.

"It is like a highway here, he added, gesturing towards the street. "What is there to stopping cars from just going through and treating the corner like this is not even a crossing?"

Local resident Donal Holway, 70, said the DOT was applying accident standards for what is fast and unsafe that are more designed for major arteries, like nearby White Plains Road.

Michael Yagoda, who has lived in the area for 60 years, said that Bronx Park East's traffic has descended into "anarchy" and there is no real traffic control on the wide street between Pelham Parkway North and Mace Avenue.

"I just watched this corner and it has become

so dangerous because there are more children in the neighborhood, more people in the neighborhood, walkers, wheelchairs, and of course, cars...there is really not enough traffic control at this point," he said.

Paula Diaz, who has lived in the neighborhood for 23 years and walks with a cane, said it sometimes takes several minutes to cross the wide thoroughfare, and feels that the time has come for a traffic light or something beyond a stop sign.

"The cars don't even stop, and I am handicapped and have a cane," she said. "You see the cars speed. And motorcycles? Forget it, they just go zoom! And no one is saying anything."

Many people in the area have children, and families have to cross the street to get to the community's playground, she said. It is also not the first

time that a traffic light has been requested, she added.

Senator Jeff Klein wrote a letter to the city DOT on Sept. 30 asking that they reassess the situation, calling for the "installation of a traffic light or other traffic control devices."

"Please note that this is a busy intersection, with hundreds of children and adults having to pass this crossing to enter the park at this location, in addition to the students going to and from Public School 96, which is located merely a block away," stated Klein.

Schweizer said that a stop sign will not be suitable to calm the traffic, and that he has heard that speed humps apparently are not feasible because of the width of the street, which is lined with the park on one side and mostly residential buildings on the other.

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