

New life for hep A restaurant

BY DAVID CRUZ

Aloha, New Hawaii Sea Restaurant.

Owners for the Westchester Square eatery behind September's hepatitis A outbreak intend to open under a new name and management.

No opening timetable is set for the restaurant, once frequented by many diners in and around the busy retail corridor.

The doors at the Williamsbridge Road eatery will remain shuttered indefinitely, as renovation work slowly gets underway, according to Larry Hockert, the owner's attorney.

News of its impending reopening comes as health officials confirmed New Hawaii Sea exposed three other people with hep A, upping the original number of infected to nine. A total of eight patrons and one food handler suffered from the food-borne illness, commonly found in restaurants.

The health scare drove thousands of customers to Lehman High School for a free hep A vaccine shots by the city Department of Health.

The agency set up a clinic for three days, administering shots to anxious customers who ate at the Asian-fusion joint from September 7th to the 19th, the window of exposure, according to the DOH.

The outbreak soon drove lawyers to consider lawsuits against the restaurant owners, though Hockert maintained the first class action suit was an empty threat since no one has filed a claim.

"The first case as far as I know hasn't been filed," said Hockert. "It's just not a big case."

"The papers are prepared, I
Continued on Page 11



Photo by Aracelis Batista

Halloween in Pelham Bay

Starr Martinez is not in Kansas anymore, but at the first-ever Pelham Bay Halloween Parade. Check out pics from this Halloween soiree and those from other neighborhoods on pages 36-37.

SANDY, A YEAR LATER

Still rebuilding from storm

BY DAVID CRUZ

A year later, Superstorm Sandy's scars still remain fresh in pockets of the Bronx.

For some, it's too early to call it "back to normal." Indeed, for many residents such

as Nick Virello of Locust Point, or Judy Bonnanno in Harding Park, it feels like just yesterday that a 13-foot surge battered the borough's shorelines.

Continued on Page 4

Where's our borough's wheels?

BY BEN KOCHMAN

In just a few months, those stout electric blue bikes have zigzagged their way into the fabric of our city.

Now Bronx's bikers are gearing up to find those shiny new Citibikes a home in the Boogie Down borough.

"Whenever a new station pops up, I think 'Where's ours?'" said Jill Guidera, Field Organizer at Transportation Alternatives, a

bike activist group.

Bronx's would-be bike sharers will need to prove that the city's poorest borough is worth the investment. Citibike launched on May 27 with a fleet of just below 6,000 bikes spread across the dense areas deemed most likely to use them: Manhattan south of 59th street and downtown Brooklyn.

The bikes have done big business. Citibike is privately owned and its orga-

nizers have declared the program a smash success, with hundreds of thousands of registered subscriptions to date. An annual membership costs \$95, a weekly pass \$25 and a 24-hour membership \$9.95.

Citibike has since expanded to Williamsburg and there are concrete plans in the works for additional bikes in Long Island City, Greenpoint and part of Bed-

Continued on Page 11



Citibikes have already proved popular in areas of lower Manhattan and downtown Brooklyn. But would the bikes be welcome here in the Bronx?

Photo by Ben Kochman

Setback for City Island living facility

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

It looks like it's back to the drawing board again for a group that wants to build a controversial assisted living facility on City Island.

The Italian Hospital Society's attorney and representatives have been fighting it out with a lawyer hired by the City Island Civic Association before the city Board of Standards and Appeals for months.

The Society is seeking a variance to skirt local zoning, on land at 222/32 City Island Avenue, currently an M-1 manufacturing zone.

As both sides had another go round at the BSA on Monday, Oct. 28 and Tuesday, Oct. 29, the BSA asked the Society for more information after IHS reduced the size of the project from 212-beds to 150-beds. The BSA then gave the IHS until Jan. 7, 2014 for

more information. The City Island civic group still opposed the re-design, arguing the plan is out of character with of the mostly low-rise, low-density island.

CICA board member Barbara Dolensek said the IHS attorney at the Oct. 29 meeting "pleaded" for some more time to provide additional information.

She said that the Society, whose president is obstetrician Dr. Domenico Mignone, had witnesses there saying that Italian-Americans need such a facility, but without making arguments about the site.

"City Island would welcome elderly Italian-Americans; in fact, many already live here," she said. "Our problem is simply with the scale of the project."

She pointed out that City Island is vulnerable during major storms,

and that the facility would put seniors at risk during mandated evacuations, such as one during Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

Community Board 10 district manager Kenneth Kearns, also at the hearings, said "As far as Bronx Community Board 10 is concerned, we have been completely supportive of City Island's Civic Association's position on the subject and we will continue to do so."

Still unanswered, according to the Society's filings with the BSA and obtained by the Bronx Times Reporter, was a question about a statement from a real estate planning firm that "the project is still not viable due solely to the sub-surface conditions, and the constructions premiums devoted to solving them." This presumably refers to the soil requiring environmental remedia-

tion. The location was home to a former boat builder.

No clear answers have been given to questions about two tests in 2009 and 2011 that found groundwater at the site 7 to 8 feet below the surface either.

Also unanswered was the Floor Area Ratio (essentially the density) of the 150-bed building hav-

ing a FAR of 1.35, more than two and half times the typical area of residential buildings.

Another question was how supporters of the plan have referred to the City Island community as economically distressed both in an early interview and online. In the one full interview Dr. Mignone gave to this newspaper before the

litigation, he cited vacant storefronts and said the project would bring construction jobs and more foot traffic for local stores.

E-mails requesting comment on documents from BSA filings reviewed by the newspaper were not answered, nor was a message left at Dr. Mignone's medical practice.

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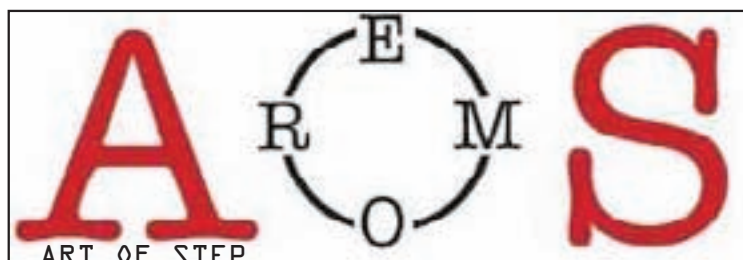
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Sandy, A year later

From Page 1

Areas formerly known as Zone A territories, are now designated Zone 1 on new hurricane flood maps.

An infamous deluge struck hundreds of waterfront homes, shaking foundations, knocking out power and ripping out piers many believed were invulnerable.

At the height of the storm, City Island was aglow in a fiery mess as firefighters battled a six-alarm blaze that engulfed Tony's Pier, a popular eatery.

Since then, government assistance has trickled in, though incomparable to Queens, Manhattan or Brooklyn, which all bore the brunt of Sandy's path given the exposure to the Atlantic Ocean.

The Bronx, insulated by the city, was largely spared, with landlocked communities mainly experiencing 65 MPH winds.

But it doesn't erase the fact that the storm left thousands of homeowners in the dark for days, weeks of gas lines and several months of removing downed trees, repairing basements and wrangling with insurance companies.

The pain of rebuilding continues, with many slowly intending to come back piecemeal, and on their own. With several setbacks hindering the rebuilding process, a sense of abandonment has crept in for many folks in the outlying area.

Harding Park

"We are forgotten about. Nobody's done

anything for us," said Bonnano, whose low-lying Harding Park community bore the brunt of storm damage.

A remote village abutting Eastchester Bay, the neighborhood was nearly drowned by the infamous 13-foot surge.

Joanne Pache's bungalow could not withstand the pressure. She survived even as the storm took out all her belongings she amassed over the past 44 years.

Even more tragic was the fallout – she passed away. Her home was later bulldozed on orders by the city Department of Buildings deeming the house as unlivable, replaced by wooden boards.

Across the street, Charlie Vaiciunas' one-story home was hard hit.

He was already distraught, having lost his mother and brother the year before Sandy's rampage. But as Federal Emergency Management Agency assessed the damage, Vaiciunas was already lost. He hung himself shortly after the recuperation money was taken back, according to neighbors.

"FEMA should be held accountable," said longtime neighbor Jimmy Ziegler. "They take care of everyone else," said Ziegler. "But they don't take care of anyone here."

The area once known as "Little Puerto Rico" has not been the same since, as Judy Bonnano sees it. She wishes the city could elevate the stone that did little to stop the rising floods.

"Who wants to be

worried about water after putting thousands of thousands of dollars into it?" she asked.

Locust Point

Locust Point stands among the hard hit waterfront nabes, with locals pressing insurance firms to help cover costs for homes and damaged docks. In some cases, homeowners have simply walked away.

On Tierney Place, homeowner Tony Macchia spent months fixing his two-story home that boasts a scenic view of the shore. He's since repaired his roof, knocked around by Sandy's heavy winds and rains.

"I haven't stopped working since the day of the storm," said Macchia, who's lived in the same house since he was born 60 years back. Since Sandy, he's struggled to get his insurer Narragansett Bay Insurance Company to foot the damage.

These days Tony's learned to "read the fine print" to any insurance policy, and is looking for another insurer.

A few doors down, contractor Nick Virello has restored his private dock, spending roughly \$90,000 of his own money and no federal assistance. He's built smarter now, though he's vowed never to re-build again. "I'll be done."

It's already happened to several siblings who've posted "For Sale" signs at their seaside property.

But there were shimmers of a silver lining, as Chrys Napolitano of the Locust Point Civic Association pointed out.



A look at Edgewater Park when Sandy's tide surges. Food and gas shortages.

File Photos

She recently toured the city-owned LPCA house, newly-built after getting pummeled by Sandy.

Country Club

The Interclub, comprised of six seasoned local recreation clubs – the Manhem, Askov Hall, D.A. Beach, White Cross Fishing, American Turners, and Westchester Country clubs – is still primed for a comeback, though much of the delays stem from lagging insurance payments, with the Manhem Club still awaiting brokers to process claims.

"I have not received a dime of insurance money..." said Watson. "The clubs who put in claims are going through the same thing."

Though he's haggling with his insurance company, he was able to corral volunteers to restore the club's damaged pier.

Elsewhere, the track and field at Villa Maria Academy, torn by Sandy's punishing surge,

was restored recently thanks to parent contributions. It had faced damage a year before when Hurricane Irene blasted through.

Michael Bernard, VMA's physical education teacher, said the contractor admitted not much can be done with a storm the insurance companies are billing as an "act of God."

Looking Ahead

With Superstorm Sandy now recorded as the second costliest storm in history, city officials have taken preventive steps to keep a catastrophe like this from happening again.

Locally, Community Board 10, covering the hard-hit areas of the Bronx, has devised a survey that determines which city-owned seawalls are in need of an upgrade.

District Manager Ken Kearns has also drafted an initial report that provides storm-pre-

vention recommendations to the city, which include heightening the seawalls to keep waters at bay.

Their outline would come months after the city's own 500-page storm resiliency plan, that offered some suggestions for the Bronx such as ensuring the Hunts Point Food Center is safeguarded.

This comes as scientists predict storms will intensify in the next few years.

But Napolitano with LPCA has since pored over the city's storm resiliency outline, recommending seawalls for Locust Point, though she was surprised to see the Bronx barely mentioned.

"At the very end of it, the report mentions what initiatives are being done borough by borough," she said. "But it's only broken down to four boroughs. The Bronx is not even mentioned."



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Foodies: The Bronx is Up!

Savor the Bronx Restaurant Week Kicks Off Nov. 4

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Foodies may find a new capital in the Bronx.

There are so many dishes representing tastes and flavors from different corners of the world for Bronxites and visitors that it deserves celebration.

That was the message of boosters at a kick-off at Jake's Steakhouse on Friday, Oct. 25 for the Third Annual Savor The Bronx Restaurant Week.

Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr, Bronx Tourism Council executive director Olga Luz Tirado, Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz, civic leaders and restaurant owners all were thrilled to be at the Riverdale steakhouse to kick-off the celebration of Bronx food, which will run from Monday, Nov. 4 to Friday, Nov. 15.

For more information about more than 30 participating restaurants and

discounts during the celebration, patrons can visit savorthebronx.com.

"Once again I would like to invite all New Yorkers and visitors with open arms to our beautiful borough to 'Savor the Bronx,'" said Diaz. "During our official restaurant week I strongly encourage both visitors and residents alike to try a new restaurant or return to a favorite. I am sure Bronxites and visitors from across the region will enjoy from a wide selection of restaurants that are sure to leave their taste buds craving for more."

Borough restaurants participating cover a wide range of gastronomic delights, including American, Caribbean, Chino-Latino, Peruvian, French, Healthy Alternative, Italian, Japanese, Latin-American and Mexican cuisine, as well as seafood.

Among them, the Bronx



Borough President Diaz, Bronx Tourism Council executive director Olga Luz Tirado, Bronx Chamber of Commerce CEO and president Lenny Caro, Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz taste steak at Jack's Steakhouse at 6031 Broadway during the kickoff celebration.

by Patrick Rocchio

Ale House, The Hardrock Cafe at Yankee Stadium, Spoto's, Tosca Cafe, Havana Cafe, and the Latin Kitchen.

Also present at the kick-off event was Damian

Brown, co-owner of Bronx Brewery, which produces Bronx Pale Ale year-round and seasonally flavored beers. He said the company plans to open a brewery and tasting room in Port Morris

early in 2014.

The week is a showcase of the borough's eateries.

"In the Bronx we have so many great restaurants, we really don't want our Bronxites to go outside of the bor-

ough to eat when we have the best here," said Bronx Chamber of Commerce president/CEO Lenny Caro, himself a restaurateur.

"As a restaurateur, I feel that it's always important for our people to come and enjoy all the different cultures that are represented in our restaurants," said Caro.

BronxNet executive director Michael Max Knobbe, whose public-access network produced the extremely successful Culinary Adventures of Baron Ambrosia, called restaurant week a "clarion call" for people outside of the borough to come and experience the culinary delights of the borough.

"The message is the Bronx is a destination for our neighbors here who know that this is a beautiful place, but also people from outside of the Bronx," said Knobbe.



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"As of now, we know there is no available match for Owen," says Tim, "but we remain hopeful that in spreading the word, the registry will continue to grow, and a match for Owen will be found."

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Gjonaj delivers searing speech

Calls out do-nothing pols for lack of leadership

BY DAVID CRUZ

Elected officials aren't exactly known for their candor.

But it was a different case with Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj speaking to a Morris Park group.

In a rare move, the freshman pol unleashed an unrestrained, off-the-cuff manifesto that railed against do-nothing Bronx legislators who commonly attend functions yet balk at leading.

His sobering speech was met with a round of applause at the Oct. 16 meeting of the Morris Park Community Association.

"You're not holding us accountable or responsible," said Gjonaj, captivating a socially-conservative blue collar crowd.

"We attend your dinner and you praise us like we're the best thing since milk," he noted. "We buy a jour-

nal, we don't even use our money, we use your money to buy a journal at your event and you guys rave about the elected officials."

Gjonaj veered from the talking points script at the 15-minute mark after highlighting some of his accomplishments under his Gjonaj CARES program, which he privately funds. But after highlighting the International Food Festival he sponsored, Gjonaj blasted nameless Bronx legislators for creating a territorial divide within the Bronx Democratic machine.

"They don't realize that these boundaries we put up hurt us," said Gjonaj. "Because once you remove them you realize that your backyard is my front yard we have more in common."

Uniting Against Issues

The Bronx's larger issues transcend state Assem-



ASSEMBLYMAN MARK GJONAJ

bly, Senate and Congressional precincts, according to Gjonaj. Many of them include the nagging un-

employment rate, rampant poverty and the city's policy to cram the most homeless shelters into the borough than any other part of the city.

Gjonaj was quick, however, to praise specific local electeds.

"This borough's never had it better than it has today from a political standpoint," said Gjonaj. "You have Jeff Klein, the co-leader of the State Senate. We have the potential to put Jimmy Vacca as the next Speaker of the City Council."

Gjonaj also included Congressman Joe Crowley in the pool of positive pols.

While Gjonaj's candor surprised some MPCA members, he was later thanked for delivering a refreshing speech that hasn't been heard in quite a while.

"He's at home in Morris Park," said Al D'Angelo, a

member of MPCA's executive board. "He wasn't trying to impress anyone. He was telling it like it is."

Marking His Territory

His speech came just over a year after Gjonaj won the Democratic primary in the 80th Assembly District covering Morris Park, Pelham Gardens, Pelham Parkway, Van Nest, Allerton, Bedford Park, Mosholu Parkway, and Norwood.

Gjonaj, a successful Realtor, ousted veteran Assemblywoman Naomi Rivera, who hails from a powerful borough political dynasty.

The incumbent Rivera ran into trouble during her re-election bid, with city and state investigators looking into reports of nepotism at her district office. She was also considered aloof, showing only obligatory brief appearances at community functions.

29th Annual Vet Parade Nov. 10th

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

It's time to pick up your American flag and wave it proudly!

The 29th Annual Bronx Veterans Day Parade in Throggs Neck will step off at noon from E. Tremont Avenue and Lafayette Avenue on Sunday, November 10.

The parade route will turn at Randall Avenue and then make another turn onto Throggs Neck Expressway, with a reviewing stand at Bicentennial Veterans Memorial Park.

The grand marshals for this year's parade will be veterans advocate and author Johnnie Williams; Jim Connell, director of communications and government relations for the James J. Peters Veterans Affairs Hospital, and Gene Lynch, founder of The Never Forget Foundation.

Gene Lynch.

Williams helps fellow Bronx veterans with every-

thing from navigating the federal bureaucracy for benefits to helping them start a business.

"I love it because this is what I really love to do, and even if they did not honor me, I would still do it, because that is what I love to do," he said, adding "I still think veterans should be treated better than they are."

Gene Lynch, a Throggs Neck native who is not a veteran, founded the Never Forget Foundation to help wounded vets and also remember 9/11 first responders. He created a portable Wall of Honor listing the names of service members who paid the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He urged the public to come out to the parade "to acknowledge the veterans for what they have done and continue to do for us."

This year's honorary grand marshals - deceased

service members - are Ted Hansen, Ken Champlin, Bobby Hoyt, Nick Mileo, and Charlie Baasch.

"We are confident that turnout will be strong and we hope that it continues to increase," the parade committee said in a statement. "The support from the people of the Bronx makes us proud."

As he does every year, Senator Jeff Klein will host a pre-parade breakfast for those marching and will be conferring additional honors on veterans.



JOHNNIE WILLIAMS



GENE LYNCH



JIM CONNELL

Veteran's Day at Peace Memorial Plaza

The annual Veterans Day remembrance at Peace Memorial Plaza will take place at 11 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 11.

The event, at Williamsbridge Road, Esplanade and Pelham Parkway North, is hosted by the

Knights of Columbus Mary Queen of Peace Council, Morris Park Community Association, and Morris Park Kiwanis International.

Among events at the plaza, also known as Rudy Macina Memorial Plaza, will be a wreath lay-

ing for fallen soldiers, raising of the colors by members of veterans organizations, playing of taps, and a dedication of honor for past organizer of the event, Al Corcillo, followed by remarks by local dignitaries.

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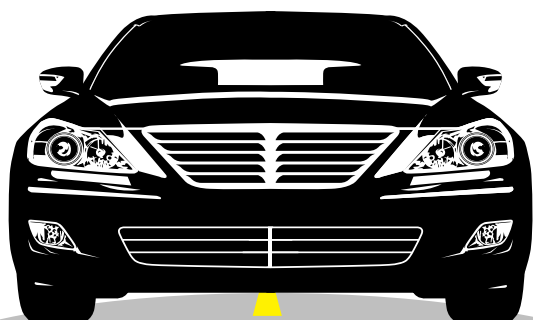
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Clean slate

With mayoral candidate **Bill de Blasio** leagues ahead in the polls over GOP challenger (and Bronx native son) **Joe Lhota**, it might not bode well for some big borough projects being rushed through before Mayuh Mike leaves.

Given the Bronx Democratic machine's all-out push for **Bill Thompson**, DeBlasio's tsunami primary win in the Bronx and across the city, certainly embarrassed the party and Borough Prez **Ruben Diaz Jr.**, who practically joined themselves at the hip with Thompson.

DeBlasio even clobbered Thompson in Dem Party Boss **Carl Heastie's** mostly black north-east Bronx assembly district.

And while Ruben and Carl were quick to do a fast 180-degree turn and throw their arms around De Blasio, folks are saying the new City Hall heir-apparent owes no favors.

"He was doing his own thing campaigning in the Bronx," a local political insider said of de Blasio's borough stealth campaign. "He doesn't owe anybody in the

Bronx."

"The organizations didn't support him, and with the projects like the Kingsbridge Armory and Fresh Direct, if they can't push them through before he takes over, they'll all be subject to his review," added political consultant **George Arzt**.

A Boro Hall insider added that a number of "smaller" Requests for Proposals could also wind up yanked by a Mayor de Blasio.

De Blasio has previously blasted using tons of taxpayer buck to subsidize moving Fresh Direct into the borough. Not known yet where he stands on turning the white elephant armory into a big ice skating rink.

WINNERS

While other pols and Party Boss Heastie had to make fast friends with de Blasio, three prescient Bronx electeds were early out of the gate with their support: Assemblyman **Luis Sepulveda**, Senator **Ruth Hassell-Thompson** and City Councilman **Andy King**. To the victor's supporters, so to speak,

go the spoils.... We'll see just what they are down the road.

ELECTION RESULTS

We're going to go out on real limb here and predict - drum roll please - the winners in Tuesday, Nov. 5's general elections in the Bronx.

And the answer is - another drum roll, please - with an 11-1 Democrat vs. Republican Bronx enrollment, the winners in the Sept. 10 Democratic primary. We doubt the bookies are even taking bets on this one.

DIAZ STEPPING DOWN

Bet that headline got your attention.

But not THAT big a deal.

Seems state Senator **Ruben Diaz Sr.** is resigning as district leader in the 87th Assembly District, to make way for local State Committeeman **William (Willie) Rivera** taking the job.

It means The Rev renting out the Parkchester South condo he bought to establish residence for the district leader post, and now listing his Soundview home of Glebe Avenue within his senatorial district as his

official residence.

The Rev said he "made a mistake in not supporting Willie for City Council" to replace term-limited **Joel Rivera**. He supported the Rev. **Joel Bauza**, Willie dropped out midway, and **Richie Torres** won the seat.

"I think if I had supported Willie, we would have won that," Diaz told us. "I'm doing for Willie what I was supposed to do before."

The Dem Party made it official Wednesday night at a nominating convention.

Rivera is strongly backed by 87th A.D. Assemblyman **Luis Sepulveda**, which should dispel some rumors that Luis and The Rev have been a bit on the outs since Luis' election, heavily backed by The Rev.

TIX BLITZ

With 4-9 Precinct cops swarming all over those auto repair shops along Morris Park's Stillwell Ave. in a parking ticket rampage, kinda embarrassing that they missed five cars being broken into in the early morning hours Oct. 26. We hear cops're giving a local baking plant

only five minutes to load and unload their trucks. DOH!

DEPARTING

Vito Signorile, Councilman Jimmy Vacca's spokesman for the past two years and former Bronx Times reporter/editor, departing to be a spokesman for the Rent Stabilization Association. Good luck!

CONGRATZ to KATZ

Norwood News editor **Alex Kratz** leaving to run a writing center at a South Bronx high school. A loss of a fine community journalist.

COP CORNER

Congrats. To new 5-2 C.O. **Nilda Hofmann**, promoted to full Inspector rank. And to Riverdale's new 5-0 C.O. **Paul Rasa**, upped to deputy inspector.

Welcome back. To Inspector Ray Rooney, number two guy at Bronx Detective command, after a lengthy medical leave. Joking about a tall stack of paperwork waiting.

Gathering. A fun lunch crowd of retired cops at the Liberty Donuts & Coffee Shop in Morris Park Wednesday, Oct. 23, assembled by retired Bronx Borough No-Star Chief **John Wohlberg**,

with **George Powell**, **John Young**, **Bobby McGee**, former 4-9 C.O. **Ben DiGregorio**, **Vito Calamito**, **Mike McCarroll**, **Jimmy Pascalicchio** and **Dennis Milone**. And NO, I'm not picking up the tab!

DIAPER DUTY

For former Bronx Boro Hall and current Senate Democratic Conference spokesman **Mike Murphy** and wife **Laura** on birth of their son **Bryson Daniel Christopher Murphy**.

BRONX BIRTHDAYS

Catching up:

Oct. 24 - Congressman **Jose Serrano**

Oct. 24 - City Council Majority Leader **Joel Rivera**

Oct. 29 - East Bronx community leader **Bob Bieder**

Coming up:

Nov. 3 - Highbridge 77th Assembly District Leader **Venancio (Benny) Catala**

Nov. 4 - Former Senator Jeff Klein staffer and current Jacobi Med Center spokesman **John Doyle**.

New life for hep A restaurant

From Page 1

will file them at any moment," said Steve Kaufman, the local attorney seeking punitive damages on grounds staffers could have knowingly served hep A-tainted food despite warnings from DOH.

The eatery had already left a bad taste with the DOH, which slapped New Hawaii Sea with a B letter grade early this year, citing violations that included the potential for vermin to worm its way into the kitchen area.

Cleanliness Lesson

The restaurant fell in the jurisdiction of the Westchester Square Business Improvement Dis-

trict, with officials seeing the New Hawaii Sea's troubles as a teachable moment. Officials partnered with Community Board 10 for a forum on food safety on Monday, Oct. 28, with a handful of restaurateurs present.

DOH representatives debunked myths about hep A while doling out advice often overlooked by restaurant owners, including the importance of washing hands for over 20 seconds.

"Educate your employees to wash their hands because it can affect your business," said DOH rep Faina Stavinsky.

Ken Kearns, district manager at CB10, sug-

gested the DOH should invite food handlers to similar workshops.

The impact of the hep A scare hasn't deterred businesses in Westchester Square.

"There's absolutely no indication that anything of a negative, commerce-type situation has happened on Westchester Square because of the closing of one restaurant," said John Bonizio, chairman of the BID. "I challenge anyone to come up with stuff."

Bonizio, owner of Metro Optics, blasted a report that linked New Hawaii Sea's mishap to the drop in business at a deli and pizzeria.

Where's our borough's wheels?

From Page 1

ford-Stuyvesant, according to an interactive station map on the Department of Transportation (DOT) website.

But the bikes have yet to come anywhere near the Bronx. Cyclists here needn't hold their breath: Citibike does "wish to expand" the bike share program to the Boogie-Down borough but would require additional sponsorship funding, a spokesman for the Department of Transportation (DOT) said in an email.

Citibank has already shelled out \$41 million for the project's naming rights, with Mastercard sponsoring the payment sites for an additional \$6.5 million.

The borough's cycling advocates are distributing surveys in an effort to show demand for the bikes.

"There are folks here that would use it as a public transit choice. We would love for it to be here," she said.

Guidera imagines bike-sharing racks dotting the borough's major public transportation hubs and being installed near landmarks like Yankee Stadium. She also pictures cyclists pedaling into Manhattan over the 3rd Avenue Bridge.

Since Citibike's May kickoff, elected officials in brownstone Brooklyn and areas of western Queens have started petitions to get in on the action.

The reaction in the Bronx has been more lukewarm, though Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. said he'd love to see the bike share in the area because of the health benefits of exercise and lower air pollution.

Olga Luz Tirado, the executive director of the Bronx Tourism Council, said that she'd like to see the bike share as well but hedged on whether the program would be popular.

"In principle I think it's a good idea, but we need more data," she said.

Bronx's bike lovers will have plenty of time to make their case. Citibank's licensing deal with the bikes is slated for at least six years. Until then, Bronxites will have to make do with local bike shops, at least one of which is in no rush to see Citibike expand here.

"I don't see it working out here. It'll take away from the mom and pops," said Joseph Maldoneo, who runs Castle Hills Bikes in Throgs Neck.

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