

Metro-North service ok'd for borough

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

UPDATED

The push for Metro-North service to the east Bronx just picked up an important passenger.

Governor Cuomo, his State of the State speech Wednesday, Jan. 8 committed his office to bringing four much anticipated new Metro-North stations to the borough.

The proposed stations are part of an MTA plan to expand Metro-North service into Penn Station.

"We will open a new spur for the Metro-North Railroad to provide more resiliency and direct access to Penn Station," the governor said, "which will also at the same time build four new stations to bring transit options to the Bronx."

The news was cheered by local east Bronx electeds, business and civic leaders looking to see stations built at Co-op City, Morris Park, Parkchester, and Hunts Point.

Early interest in the proposal for new stations came at a "Transportation Summit" held by Congressman Joseph Crowley with constituents in Co-op City in May 2006, and he has been a consistent advocate of the plan with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, said a spokesman. His office will now advocate for a firm timetable from the MTA, he said.

Crowley was gratified by the development:

"I am thrilled Governor Cuomo has included the Penn Station Access project as part of his agenda for 2014," he said. "I have long championed the plan to bring Metro-North service to the east Bronx because improved access to transit is vital to the welfare of our communities. Not only does the project promise improved resiliency against natural disasters such as Hurricane Sandy, but the expansion

Continued on Page 4



By Silvio Pacifico

Sweets Sent From Heaven

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan celebrated Mass on Wednesday, January 8, at Santa Maria Parish on Zerega Avenue. Following Mass, Dolan met with students, faculty members and parishioners, including toddler Reagan Thomas.

NABE NAME CHANGE

CB 11: Update neighborhood names

BY BEN KOCHMAN

Where do you live?

Locals in a large swath of the East Bronx —north of Pelham Parkway, east of Bronx Park East and south of East Gun Hill Road — have been unsure how to answer that simple question for generations.

Community Board 11 hopes to straighten the issue out by working with the City Department of

Planning to ax the outdated names "Bronxdale" and "Laconia" from the city map. In their place would be a new neighborhood: "Allerton," bordered by approximately Waring Avenue, Bronx Park East and East Gun Hill Road.

Outdated names

City Planning's current community map labels a small slice of the area above Pelham Parkway

Continued on Page 4

Little League coach a murder vic?

BY BOB KAPPSTATTER
AND PATRICK ROCCHIO

A vicious assault on a manager at an east Bronx supermarket could now become a murder.

Detectives are awaiting a city Medical Examiner's report to determine if the victim died almost a month later as a result of his beating.

Salvatore Zambuto, 40, was initially charged with felony assault after punching out Michael Cavallari, 32, an assistant manager at the Super Foodtown on

Bruckner Blvd. and Crosby Avenue in Waterbury-LaSalle on Dec. 17.

On Sunday, Jan. 5, Cavallari, who coached at the Throgs Neck Little League, was found dead in his Howard Beach, Queens home.

Police are now awaiting the results of an autopsy and further tests by the Medical Examiner's Office.

Medical Examiner's spokeswoman Julie Bolcer said a ruling on the cause of death was "still

pending further studies."

A police source said a final determination on whether Cavallari's death will be ruled a homicide "could take anywhere from eight to nine weeks. We've been checking every week."

Police charged Zambuto punched Cavallari, 32, in the face, causing a broken right eye socket and broken right cheek bone.

The victim had to undergo surgery that put "plates" in his face, according to Captain James

Continued on Page 11



The assault occurred inside Super Foodtown at Bruckner Blvd. and Crosby Avenue on December 17, 2013.

Serrano blocking FreshDirect \$

Congressman vows to nix \$3.5 million aid

BY BEN KOCHMAN

FreshDirect's plans to open on the Port Morris waterfront are being stymied by the local congressman blocking a major chunk of taxpayer funding.

South Bronx Congressman Jose Serrano is vowing to use his decisive vote to block a \$3 million loan and \$500,000 cash grant the grocer was set to receive from the local federal Empowerment Zone.

"I don't support it, I didn't support it and I won't support it," Serrano vowed. "I'm sure they have all the money they needed to put it together. That was the impression they gave the world."

HOLDOUT VOTE

FreshDirect has already

accepted around \$127 million in subsidies, most in the form of exemptions from real estate taxes on their new headquarters planned for the Harlem River Yards.

The company was set to net \$3.5 million more in EZ funding, set aside to spur job growth in distressed neighborhoods. Serrano's congressional district is the poorest in the nation, and, and Fresh Direct has promised to bring 1,000 jobs and 644 construction jobs to the area over the next decade.

But the Long Island City-based company pulled its \$3.5 million request from the EZ's December agenda after Serrano made his opposition clear at the Dec. 18 meeting of the group's Board of Directors.

Though the other voices on the Board —the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation (BOEDC), the city's Economic Development Corp., and the state's Empire Development Agency — have long supported incentivizing FreshDirect's move, EZ money can only be allocated in a unanimous vote.

AN AGREEMENT STYMIED

Serrano's opposition now means that the borough is unable to hold up its end of the bargain outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement FreshDirect signed with the borough president's office in February 2012.

So far, FreshDirect has held up its end, expanding delivery to every Bronx zip



FreshDirect's move to the Bronx is running into a \$3.5 million snag.

Photo courtesy FreshDirect

code and accepting EBT food stamps. But the MOU called for the company to receive the \$3.5 million EZ money Serrano vows to block.

Serrano expressed skepticism that the company would follow through on its promises as only one reason why he opposes the funding.

"One of the things you are going to see is a lot of scrutiny about how pub-

lic funds are used in the future," Serrano said. "There's a lot of doubt about these so-called thousand jobs."

MOVING FORWARD

A spokesman for the company confirmed that FreshDirect is moving forward despite the funding snag, and hopes to be operational at its new location by 2015.

Marlene Cintron, president of the BOEDC, said

she was confident that the company would follow through on its promise to employ hundreds of locals, even if Serrano continues to block the EZ funding.

"The only reason they are moving is because they are bursting at the seams," she said. "I'm confident that a thousand more people will be hired. The people out there in the street need these jobs."

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City to fix historic murals

BY BEN KOCHMAN

Step right up, and restore an iconic borough mural!

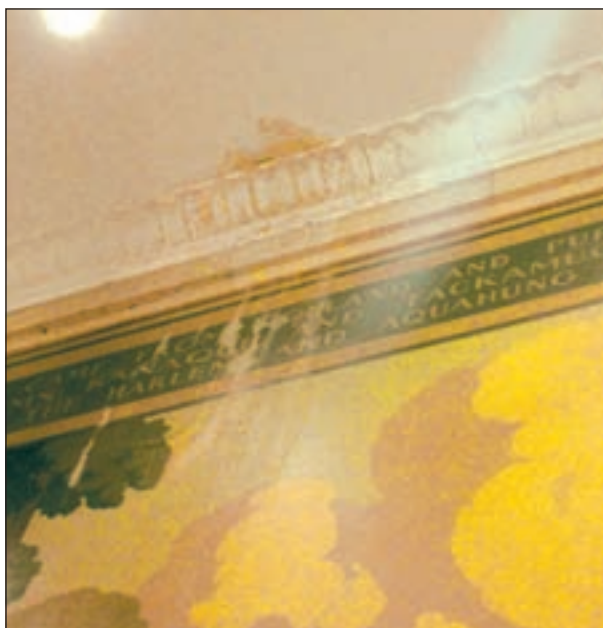
That's the memo the city will soon send out to contractors bidding to repair the historic but rotting wall-length paintings in the rotunda of the borough's County Courthouse.

Chief on the agenda is fixing the painting depicting Jonas Bronck, the borough's namesake, who settled here in 1639. The Bronck mural has sustained extensive water damage from a leaky roof.

Beyond the bubbling paint, flakes from the ceiling have fallen onto the mural, and its canvas is cracked.

BEEP SLAMS CITY

The Bronck mural was one of four paintings in the rotunda crafted by American muralist James Monroe Hewlett in 1932. All four murals depict key historical scenes in the area's history, and are among the most recognizable art in the borough, said Borough



Not a pretty sight.

President Ruben Diaz Jr.

But an outside contractor working with the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) damaged the paintings in 2010, charged Diaz

Jr. in a letter sent to City Hall in November.

The BEEP's letter claimed that over three years later, DCAS had yet to make progress on repairing the paintings, whose condi-

tion had only gotten worse over that time.

"Action must be taken to stabilize the condition of this mural right away," Diaz Jr. wrote.

MOVEMENT GAINS

STEAM

Public pressure to revive the iconic murals came to a head when a local beer brewer, Steve Nallen, started an online petition to fix the historic paintings. Nallen designed his Jonas Bronck's Beer Co. after the borough namesake, and his petition quickly netted over 100 signatures, as well as a story in the New York Daily News.

MISSED DEADLINE

Diaz Jr. hoped to have the murals fixed by the start of 2014—a key milestone in the borough's history. Besides the 100th anniversary of the Bronx's formal separation from New York County, this year marks the 375th anniversary of Bronck's arrival.

But the city missed that deadline, and the damaged



This Jonas Bronck mural is still marred over three years after damage from the ceiling caused discoloration and bubbling.

Photos courtesy Borough President's Office

murals remained on display in the Veterans Memorial Hall at the centennial kickoff event the BEEP hosted on Thursday, Jan. 9.

Bronx's history buffs will have to wait just a bit longer to see the borough namesake's picture re-

stored to its former glory. But the BEEP's office says the process is well underway.

"We're happy that they continue to move forward, and look forward to an official request for proposal," said John DeSio, a spokesman for Diaz Jr.

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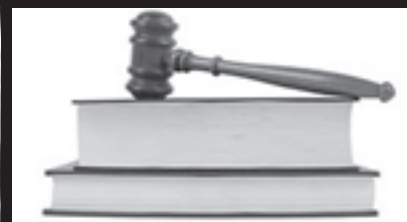


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CB 11: Update neighborhood names

From Page 1

and west of Pelham Gardens as “Bronxdale,” and an area north of that “Laconia.”

But locals say they have never heard anyone use those nabe names to describe where they live.

“There’s no question that those names are not accurate,” said Jeremy Warneke, CB11’s district manager. “No one calls that area Bronxdale. Find me one person who calls that area Bronxdale.”

It’s hard to find anyone with a clear idea of where “Bronxdale” or “Laconia” began or end.

“You tell people you’re from Bronxdale and they have no idea where you are from,” said Joe Thompson, president of the 49th Precinct Community Council, who has lived in what he calls the “Allerton Avenue area” for nearly 50 years.

URBANIZED OVERNIGHT

The nabe naming problem stems from the borough’s rapid transformation from farmland to urban sprawl in the early part of the 20th century, said official Borough Historian Lloyd Ultan.

Early maps label a village of Bronxdale on the west bank of the Bronx River at Boston Road —today a parking lot for the Bronx Zoo.

What is now Bronxdale Avenue was originally called “Bear Swamp Road” because it ran northwest from what is today Morris Park to the Bronxdale village, according to documents from the East Bronx History Forum.

Labeling anything above Pelham Parkway “Bronxdale” has no historical basis, and was probably a mistake, Ultan said.

Laconia on the other hand was a real-estate development built in the 1880s, and named after an area in Greece whose capital is Sparta.

With the building of train lines and highways, the east Bronx’s character fundamentally changed —so quickly that developers did not have time to create solid neighborhood lines.

Today, Allerton Avenue —named after Mayflower passenger Issac Allerton, — is the area’s main commercial strip, used to help define the nabe.

“You say I live near Allerton Avenue,” said Thompson, “and people can identify it and know where it is.”

NABE IDENTITY

But just labeling an area by its street name does not build the sense of identity that Allerton locals want.

Fluid boundaries also can cause confusion in the real estate business. Sonny Vitaj of Exit Realty Power says he solves this problem by calling the entire area the “Allerton Avenue corridor.”

SOLUTIONS

City Planning is open to the name change, since the neighborhood boundaries on its map are already unofficial, said a department spokesman.

Historian Ultan cautioned that re-naming any neighborhood would be “creating a fiction, something that does not exist and never has existed.”

But locals say drawing arbitrary boundaries is a worthwhile price to pay to boost nabe pride.

“People would like to see where they live properly identified,” said Thompson.



Bronxdale in 1868, as mapped out by atlas maker TW Beers.

Photo courtesy East Bronx History Forum

Metro-North services ok’d for boro

From Page 1

of the region’s connectivity to Manhattan will further advance economic growth in the area.”

Interest in building new Metro-North stations for those communities again surfaced publicly in November 2011 after a meeting in Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.’s office with MTA officials, community leaders, and elected officials.

Diaz said he was “thrilled” over the governor’s push for the stations.

“Governor Cuomo understands that new Metro-North options in Co-op City, Parkchester, Morris Park and Hunts Point will not only make our region’s transportation system stronger, it will also open

up our borough and its residents to new economic opportunities,” said Diaz. “The East Bronx Metro North Expansion proposal is a transformative plan, and I commend Governor Cuomo for moving this plan forward as part of his own agenda. On behalf of the 1.4 million people of my borough, we thank Governor Cuomo for his support of this much needed transportation plan.”

Diaz and Senator Jeff Klein both pushed for an analysis of the proposed new stations, which the MTA could open by 2019. The economic “white paper” showed that the new stations would create 5,400 new jobs, increase home values by over \$140,000, and increase business activity

in the Bronx by more than \$1 billion.

“Expanding Metro North stations into the east Bronx would open up a fast, easy and direct link to Manhattan and would continue to build towards a very bright future for our borough,” said Klein. “I commend Governor Cuomo for recognizing this and for outlining his support for the expansion in his State of the State. As my joint report with Borough President Diaz outlines, the benefits to local homeowners, businesses and the economy are clear. That’s why I have long made approving plans for this expansion a top priority.”

Councilman Jimmy Vacca also applauded Cuomo.

“No resident should have to suffer through a two-hour commute just to get to work in Manhattan,” said Vacca, chair of the council’s transportation committee. “These new Metro-North stations are a great first step to alleviating the transportation issues in the Bronx, and I want to thank the Governor for allocating the funds to construct them. For the first time, I see more than light at the end of the tunnel.”

The Bronx Chamber of Commerce also lauded the news.

“The Bronx Chamber of Commerce is thrilled that NYS Governor Cuomo affirmed his office’s commitment to bringing four new Metro North stations to the



Borough President Diaz and Senator Jeff Klein shake hands at a press conference held at the site of a proposed Metro-North station in Morris Park. Diaz and Klein commissioned a white paper study that showed the east Bronx Metro-North expansion would have a major positive impact on the economic life of the east Bronx.

Bronx in his ‘State of the State’ Address,” said Lenny Caro, CEO of the Chamber.

Community Board 10 chairman John Marano

said: “We are very happy that the Governor is supporting New York City, and even more importantly, The Bronx.”



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Borough kicks off Centennial

Year-long celebration of becoming a county

BY BOB KAPPSTATTER
Happy mini-Birthday to us.

While the Bronx is actually a geriatric 275 years old, big plans are afoot to celebrate a major milestone for the borough – its centennial anniversary of officially joining the city of New York as a county, including the honor of being the first borough to sit on the mainland.

Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. officially launched the Centennial celebration at Borough Hall (alternately called the Bronx County Building, or Bronx Supreme Court Building) on Thursday, Jan. 9 as part of the inauguration ceremonies for himself and the Bronx City Council delegation.

The year-long celebration will pretty much dovetail with on-going and planned events involv-

ing healthcare, education, tourism and other promotions, with a historic theme woven in, officials said.

The event also marked the return of a former Bronx official in a new official role: former Borough President Fernando (Freddy) Ferrer, who will serve as chairman of the centennial commission.

He joked with the audience that he's keeping his calendar clear, Mr. Borough President, in case one of our successors is kind enough to invite me to the 125th birthday of Bronx County."

The swearing-in ceremony was noted as a historical nod to the first swearing-in that took place when Bronx County was created in 1914. Those attending were also encouraged to use the hashtag #bronx100 to discuss the event on social media, a nod to the

technology of today.

"Today is a historic day," Diaz told the packed Veterans Hall at the County Building. "Not only is it the ceremonial start of my second term as Borough President of this great borough I love, but we are also marking a major milestone as we celebrate the first 100 years of Bronx County.

"It is our time to shine and let the world know that the Bronx is rich in history, culture and diversity and this is what we are going to showcase in our yearlong celebration."

Official Bronx Historian Lloyd Ultan told the audience that "The centennial affords us an opportunity to look two ways. We look back 100 years to the origin of the Bronx County and the progress we have made since then. We look forward to using our past advance as a springboard

to the future."

During the ceremony, Borough President Diaz and the Bronx Chamber of Commerce also unveiled a commemorative plaque celebrating the centennial.

While the Borough Hall ceremony was underway that night, the Empire State Building was lit in the colors of the Bronx flag – orange, white and blue – to honor the 100th anniversary celebration of the creation of Bronx County.

In addition to Ferrer, centennial commission members include Angel Hernandez, Bobby Sanabria, Brian Andersson, Kathy Zamechansky, Lenny Caro, Lloyd Ultan, Majora Carter, Michael Max Knobbe, Robert Castellante, Robert Nolan, Paul Ramirez, the Hon. Nelida Malave-Gonzalez and Howard Teich.

See more photos on page 7.



Borough Historian Lloyd Ultan addressing crowd at Borough Hall at kick off of Bronx Centennial - the year the borough officially became a county.
Photo by Victor Chu

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CHESTNUT HOLDINGS AND BCA PROGRAM

The Bronx Reading Team, a small group of youth in the Bedford Park/Fordham community, led by storyteller Orlando Ferrand, capped-off a month long reading and writing program with a recent celebration. The celebration was held on the fifth week of Saturday afternoon gatherings in a Chestnut Holdings building at 2700 Grand Concourse. The free workshops were led by the Bronx Council on the Arts and sponsored by Chestnut Holdings as part of a commitment to bring the arts, culture and literacy closer to home for local youth.



Yilmary Espinal and brother Yonathan Espinal read during the celebration. Photo by Aracelis Batista



The group of children celebrate achievement and dedication in reading and writing. A key part of the celebration is Maria Romano (far right), who represented BCA, and is the outgoing leader of the Bronx Writers Center.

Photo by Aracelis Batista



Andrea Clinton, a mime, performs with a raven in the visitor's center. Poe Cottage is in the background. Photo by Alexander Belisle

CELEBRATING EDGAR ALLAN POE'S BIRTHDAY



The Parks Department celebrated writer Edgar Allan Poe's birthday at the Poe Park Visitors Center at Poe Park in Fordham with live readings and performances of his best known short stories and poems on Saturday, Jan. 11. Non-profit performance group Staten Island OutLOUD lead readings, but all attending were free to join in. The event celebrated the 205th anniversary of Poe's birth. Poe Park is named for Edgar Allan Poe, a writer best known for his horror fiction who lived for three years in a white farmhouse on the property. The farmhouse, called Poe Cottage, is next to the Visitor Center.

Mime Andrea Clinton, with her accompanist Constance Cooper on piano, performs an interpretation on "The Raven," a poem by Edgar Allan Poe.

Photo by Alexander Belisle

NEW YORK CARES COAT GIVEAWAY



New York Cares helped warm up those in need Saturday Jan. 11, when it handed out 571 winter coats at the Bronxworks Innovative Senior Center in Tremont. The organization doled out 230 women's coats, 220 children's coats and 121 men's coats in a five-hour span. The drive was so successful that Bronxworks plans to continue giving out winter coats until March, with New York Cares replenishing the supply. To donate, drop off a coat at your local NYPD Precinct, or find a coat collection site at www.newyorkcares.org.

OWEN DOLEN REC CENTER THREE KINGS



There was a Three Kings Day Celebration at the Owen Dolen Recreation Center on Westchester Square on Friday, Jan. 10. The event included a presentation by children from the Rec Center in costume, depicting the kings on their way to Bethlehem. There were also musical performances. Three Kings is also called the Feast of the Epiphany.

Photo by Walter Pofeldt



Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. Inauguration



1



2



3



4



5



6

1

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. takes oath of office with wife Hilda holding historic bible
Photo by Victor Chu

2

Former Borough President Freddy Ferrer, back in his old haunt as chairman of the new Bronx Centennial Commission, addresses crowd.
Photo by Victor Chu

3

Hands to hearts for national anthem – with one exception.
Photo by Victor Chu

4

Bronx City Council delegation joins Diaz and Deputy Borough President Aurelia Greene.
Photo by Walter Pofeldt

5

Audience at Veterans Memorial Hall in Bronx County Building raise a cheer.
Photo by Walter Pofeldt

6

Diaz has some warm words for new mayor Bill de Blasio.
Photo by Victor Chu

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Governor Cuomo signs Benedetto's veteran bill

Will create database for temp state jobs

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

A local assemblyman has scored a legislative victory with a new law designed to help veterans find jobs.

Governor Cuomo signed a bill championed by East Bronx Assemblyman Michael Benedetto that will create a database of unemployed veterans to fill part-time positions in various state agencies within six months. The state spends about \$80 million a year to hire part-time people, said the assemblyman, chair of the assembly veterans affairs committee.

The bill, called the Veterans Unemployment Act, was passed by the Assembly and Senate about six months ago, and was signed into law by Cuomo on Friday, Jan. 10.

Benedetto said he was "ecstatic" when he heard the news.

"I want to thank Gov. Cuomo for signing my bill and for helping all of the unemployed veterans in the state of New York," said Benedetto. "The governor has seen the wisdom of my legislation and the benefits that it will provide for the many veterans who have been looking for too long a time for meaningful employment."

The temp jobs could be anything from accounting work, janitorial services, and secretarial work.

The Cuomo administration initially took issue with the hiring program going into effect immediately, with the six-month compromise finally worked out, said Benedetto.

Details on the specific workings of the program still need to be worked out, he added.

Local veterans advocate Patrick Devine said the new law will help with a critical need of jobs for a deserving population.

"I think it is a great first step," said Devine. "I know Michael championed this legislation in the Assembly...it is quite an exciting



Assemblyman Benedetto scored a legislative win with the Veterans Unemployment Act
courtesy of Michael Benedetto

time for the unemployed veteran."

Devine said that based on his understanding, many of the positions are those where a state employee has left or retired, with budgetary constraints barring a

at least some of those temporary jobs would eventually lead to full-time positions.

"I thought it was a common-sense approach to solve a problem that we have with our veterans, that's why the bill was crafted, and I believe the governor saw the logic in that approach," he said. "I hope the [legislation] is fully executed as soon as possible so that our deserving vets can reap the benefits."

A memorandum filed by Cuomo upon signing the bill stated that New York State is home to more than 900,000 veterans, including almost 90,000 veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Nationwide, post-9/11 veterans have an unemployment rate of 10 percent," Cuomo stated. "This bill advances the important goal of creating new employment opportunities for veterans in New York State, and joins existing programs making New York a welcoming home for veterans."

I hope the legislation is fully executed as soon as possible so that our deserving vets can reap the benefits.

Michael Benedetto
Assemblyman

new full-time replacement.

Devine recalled how he had a difficult time finding a job when he got back from Vietnam.

Benedetto said he hopes

Push to allow visits to Potters Field site

Hart Island Project backing Council bill

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO
Potter's field a park?

A well-established grassroots organization is advocating just that for Hart Island just off City Island.

The Hart Island Project's Melinda Hunt made a presentation before Community Board 10's Parks and Recreation committee on Monday, Jan. 13 asking the board's support for for a bill to be re-introduced by Queens Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley to amend the city's administrative code, turning over jurisdiction of the island from the Department of Corrections to the Parks Department.

The city has buried indigent New Yorkers there since just after the Civil War, with close to one million burials, including infants and children.

The idea, Hunt explained, is to allow the

families of the deceased a chance to visit the potter's field grave sites without having to go through Corrections' rigorous screening processes.

Prisoners from Rikers Island dig the graves. They are ferried to and from the island from the eastern end of Fordham Street on City Island, she said. The DOC strictly limits access, with any visitors permitted no further than a gazebo near the dock on Hart Island, far from the actual burial sites, she said.

She said that while she and Project have a cordial relationship with the DOC, that "they are just the wrong city agency to manage public visitation of a cemetery."

"A mother should not have to go through Rikers Island procedures to visit her child," she said.

She added: "DOC offi-

cers are paid to do a dangerous job, and I think the City Council needs to update the administrative code and assign it to an appropriate agency."

Crowley spokesman Eric Yun said the councilwoman believes Hart Island is a place to which the public deserves greater access and that the matter should be explored.

CB 10's Parks Committee urged Hunt to visit the City Island Civic Association to speak about her ideas and logistical issues that would bring more visitors to Hart Island, because it could affect City Island.

"The one main objection that I have is how much are you going to overtax the Parks Department," said committee member James McQuade, adding that Parks is limited by budgetary con-



These are infant corpses about to be buried on Hart Island in 1992. This photograph was provided by the Hart Island Project and is copyrighted by photographer Joel Sternfeld.

Photo by Joel Sternfeld/courtesy Hart Island Project

straints, and that they cannot even get something as simple as Parks Enforcement Police officers for Ferry Point Park.

McQuade called Hart Island "one of the most beautiful sites on earth," echoing Hunt's comments that the burial site is "a glorious location."

Parks Department spokesman Nathan Arnosti stated in an e-mail that "Hart Island remains an active burial site, NYC Parks has refused jurisdiction."

Hunt, a graphic artist, said she first became interested in Hart Island when she visited it in 1991

to photograph sites that late-19th and early-20th century journalist and photographer Jacob Riis cataloged 100 years earlier.

"I was surprised on how beautiful a place it was," she said, adding "it was a sad place, but not a dark place."

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JOB OPENING

Available: Open seat in the 79th Assembly District covering Morrisania and East Tremont.

Previous occupant: Eric Stevenson, convicted of bribe receiving on Monday, Jan. 13. Next assignment to be determined on sentencing May 20.

Responsibilities: Providing constituent services, enacting laws and avoiding indictment and conviction.

Hiring process: To be determined by Gov. Cuomo, with candidates either required to run in special election with date yet to be set (Bronx Democratic Party backing a definite plus), or in a possible June (pending) or regular Sept. open primary.

JOB MARKET

After a bitter fight for City Council Speaker, we'll be seeing who gets the plums and who gets the pits at the next City Council meeting Wednesday, Jan. 22.

We'd expect Brooklyn Dem Boss **Frank (Judas) Seddio** to get some prime committee chairmanships and other jobs for his delegation after betraying Bronx Boss **Carl (The Lesser) Heastie** and Queens Boss **Joe Crowley** in a triumvirate backing Manhattan's Dan Garodnick.

South Bronx/East Harlem winner **Melissa (Still thinking of nickname)**

Mark-Viverito will likely also take care of that august body's progressive wing and others that backed her (*We hear James Van Bramer* of Queens may be in line to chair the powerful finance committee, while **David Greenfield** of Brooklyn will get land use).

Still, as veteran political consultant **George Arzt** put it, "There'll be a lot of fence mending. There's a lot of committees there. I'm sure neither the Bronx or Queens are going to get shut out on this, though the Bronx will get some crumbs."

JOB BOOSTERS

Add to the list of early supporters of Council Speaker winner **Melissa VV South** Bronx Congressman **Jose Serrano**, and 80th Assembly District district leader **Kenny Agosto**.

JOB MOVES

Dirk McCall, former communications director for the Gay Men's Health Crisis and ex-exec director of the defunct Bronx Community Pride Center, now director of external affairs for BP **Ruben Diaz Jr.**, replacing **Prisca Salazar-Rodriguez**, upped to deputy chief of staff.

JOB FIX

Eric Soufer, Senator **Jeff Klein's** communications director for his Independent Democratic Conference, cor-

rects us. Former NY Post investigative reporter **Candice Giove** came on board as DEPUTY director (and potential hatchet welder, we'd guess), while **Anna Durrett** remain's Jeff's district press secretary.

INAUGURATION

That was some lovefest at the County Building Thursday evening, Jan. 9 as Judge Douglas McKeon swore in Boro Prez **Ruben Diaz Jr.** and the council delegation, including newbies **Vanessa Gibson**, **Andy Cohen** and **Ritchie Torres** into office.

Scenes:

•Mayor **Bill de Blasio** giving a shoutout to the 40th anniversary last year of the birthplace of Hip Hop at 1520 Sedgewick Avenue – "one of the great moments in American history."

•**Sartorial pride.** Northeast Bronx Councilman **Andy King**, who showed up at City Hall for the Speaker's vote wearing a bright burnt orange jacket, at the inauguration wearing the borough's official colors with a blue jacket, orange vest and shoes and white shirt. Sunglasses, please.

•**Civics 101.** "Progressive" **Melissa Mark-Viverito** taking a pass on holding her hand to her heart during the singing of the

national anthem, definitely leaving Senator **Ruben Diaz Sr.** none to happy.

•**Freddy Ferrer**, new head of the borough's Centennial Commission, sans his long gone soup-strainer mustache, now sporting some gray face fuzz.

•Former city Commissioner of Records **Brian Andersson**, now a member of the Centennial Commission (and extra extraordinaire on TV's "Empire Boardwalk") jawing with us about boosting a "sister city" push for old Jonas Bronck's home town in Sweden.

VINNY GORGEOUS

It's not looking too promising for jailed-for-life East Bronx mobster **Vinny (Vinny Gorgeous) Basciano's** three sons, **Joseph**, **Vincent Jr.** and **Stephen**, awaiting federal trial in a major pot smuggling and retail weed delivery service case.

Co-conspirator and Genovese mobster **Salvatore Larca**, 45, was recently sentenced to 9 1/2 years for smuggling the pot from California, despite his lawyer arguing public's views on pot rapidly changing. The judge blew that argument up in smoke.

EXCUUSE ME!

Bernadette Ferrara over the Van Nest Homeowners Association griping over those plans for four Metro-North

stations for the Bronx mention a stop at Parkchester.

"The name of the Parkchester Station is incorrect. It is in Community Board 11 on the exact location of the historic Van Nest Train station. Van Nest will share its name with Parkchester being named: Van Nest/Parkchester Train Station.

MOVIN' IN

After some early controversy over renting an open market (but cheap) studio apartment in a building with a number of rent-subsidized units, new City Councilman **Ritchie Torres** tells us he's moved into new digs on Olinville Ave. in the Pelham Parkway North stretch of his central Bronx 15th Council District, thanks to that \$112G annual Council paycheck.

He also reminded us – after all these months yet! – that his first name takes a T, as in **Ritchie**.

"My mom named me after singer **Ritchie Valens**," sayeth **Ritchie** with a t.

BRONX BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 9 - Borough President **Ruben Diaz Jr.**'s press secretary **Dayana Perez**

Jan. 12 - Bronx County Clerk **Luis Diaz**.

Little league coach a murder vic?

From Page 1

McGeown of the 45th Precinct, speaking at the 45th Precinct Community Council Meeting on Thursday, Jan. 9.

According to the criminal complaint, the 6-foot-10, 225 pound **Zambuto** "with a very large physique" was caught on video surveillance entering the store while placing black gloves on his hands, then seen punching the 5-foot-6, 140 pound **Cavallari** in the face.

Zambuto was arraigned on January 10 in Bronx Criminal Court and released in his own custody. His next court appearance date is set for February 24.

The cause of the attack is unclear.

According to one source, **Zambuto** just walked into the store

and blind-sided the dairy dept. manager, reportedly because of **Zambuto's** girlfriend being recently fired from the store.

Another version goes that it was a case of mistaken identity.

According to that source, **Zambuto's** wife and child were in the store when a manager escorted them out for allegedly attempting to steal merchandise.

Zambuto supposedly went to the market and asked to see the manager. He was supposedly misdirected to **Cavallari**, who was not the manager who escorted the pair out of the store.

Local resident **Kenneth Reynolds**, who does most of his shopping at **Super Foodtown**, said that he remembers **Cavallari** as an

nice guy who would often discuss baseball with him while he shopped.

"We all get into disagreements and arguments, but to do something like this is just sick," said **Reynolds**.

Another local resident who asked not to be identified, said that **Cavallari** was a "real sweetheart" who had worked at **Super Foodtown** for about three years.

Even though he was not from **Throggs Neck** or the Bronx, he nevertheless volunteered his time as a coach for the **Throgs Neck Little League** for three years, and also coached the **TNLL All-Stars**.

"He tried to get involved with the community," said the resident, "and that is what counts."

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