

# Pothole hell on Bx wheels

BY BEN KOCHMAN

Bronx motorists are having a *hole* bunch of trouble getting around this winter.

The season's crop of snowstorms have been tearing up the borough's roads as drivers tear out their hair over flat tires and bent tire rims from potholes.

The city's Department of Transportation said it has dispatched over 1,000 crews to patch up the potholes.

For frustrated drivers dodging the craters, it's been a bumpy ride.

"The infrastructure of the city right now is terrible," said Marvin Kamiel, who says his morning commute south on the Major Deegan Expressway from Van Cortland Park to Port Morris has ballooned from 15 minutes to 45 minutes this winter as drivers slow down and swerve to avoid holes in the highway.

### Motorist outrage

DOT says its crews are on the case. Since Jan. 1, the city agency has filled more than 75,000 potholes across the five boroughs, including 14,370 in the Bronx.

Its average response time to a pothole complaint—which can be made through 311 or at DOT's website The Daily Pothole—through January was a mere 1.72 days, said an agency spokesman.

But motorists whose vehicles have been battered by the potholes are still fuming.

"They come out of nowhere, and then BANG," said Amauri Peralta of West Farms, whose front right tire was bent out of shape by a gaping hole in the right hand lane of the northbound FDR just before the Willis Avenue Bridge.

"When you hit it, you know you hit it."

*Continued on Page 4*



Photo courtesy of Brenda Hernandez

## Crazy Hat Day At OLA

Fourth-grader Kevin Glenn goes all Teletubbie at Our Lady of the Assumption School's Crazy Hat and Sock Day on Wednesday, Jan. 29. Glenn got some assistance from lunch mother Erika Neri. Crazy Hat and Sock Day was part of the Pelham Bay elementary school's celebration of Catholic Schools Week.

# WEILER ER WAIT CRUNCH

Monte addresses community concerns

BY BEN KOCHMAN

The Bronx's biggest hospital is dealing with a major overcrowding problem.

Now Montefiore Medical Center and an east Bronx Community Board are hashing out a strategy to fix it.

Hospital brass met with Community Board 11 Tuesday Feb. 11 to brainstorm ways to ease what locals say are unbearable wait times for care in the emergency

room at Monte's Weiler Division on the Albert Einstein Campus.

Monte staff at the meeting admitted that they've had to deal with overcrowding at its in-patient units—meaning those with overnight beds—for years now.

"It's not an easy issue," said Beverly Michael, executive director at the Weiler Campus. "We've tackled this problem for a while."

*Continued on Page 4*

## Fight to save GPO getting sticky

BY BEN KOCHMAN

They should stuff their storage somewhere else.

That's what Bronx local leaders are demanding as they try to influence the ultimate fate of the borough's iconic General Post Office with its Depression-era murals.

"The building the way that it is now is ripe for, say, a storage company to come in," said Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. at a panel at New York Law School Friday Feb. 7. "And I will

Krazy Glue myself to the door before I will allow that to happen."

### Locals locked out?

But it is unclear at this point if Diaz, or any other community leader for that matter, will have any say over what will happen to the four-story 159,000 square foot building on the Grand Concourse and E. 149th Street.

The United States Postal Service already listed it for sale in January despite a years-long protest from local community

groups and elected officials.

USPS has said it needs to close a yawning \$20 billion budget gap by 2015.

After the agency sells the property, it plans to wash its hands of it entirely.

"Future uses of the facility are not within our decision-making equation," USPS spokesperson Connie Chirichello stated in an email.

Diaz may have to break out the Elmer's Glue-All.

*Continued on Page 11*



Local leaders hope that the interior of the landmarked General Post Office on the Grand Concourse won't become a storage site. Photo by Aracelis Batista

# 'Allerton' now on the map

BY BEN KOCHMAN

Goodbye Bronxdale — and hello Allerton.

East Bronx locals long confused about where exactly they live are cheering the City Planning Department's decision to change its maps to reflect what they actually call their neighborhood.

Where there once was "Bronxdale" —approximately bordered by north of Pelham Parkway, west of E. Gun Hill Road, east of Bronx Park East and south of Burke Avenue —there will soon be "Allerton."

"It is a sign of our community coming together and restoring common sense," said Gene DeFrancis, director of the Allerton International Merchants Association, a coalition of local businesses on Allerton Avenue.

Google Maps has already been altered to update City Planning's changes, while a 'Pelham Parkway' neighborhood

was drawn in south of what is now Allerton.

Since 2008, Google has allowed users to draw their own neighborhood lines with its "Mapmaker" feature. But the company reserves final edit over its maps.

Both City Planning and Google decided to change those maps after a local push that began at Community Board 11 gained steam, with local electeds jumping into the fray.

On Jan. 28, a team of pols including Rep. Joe Crowley, Councilmember Jimmy Vacca, Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj and State Sen. Jeff Klein urged City Planning to change the maps on its "Community Data Portal," among other resources.

Those pols claimed victory Monday, Feb. 10, after receiving a letter from City Planning confirming that the agency would update its unofficial maps to include Allerton.



Allerton Avenue, the main strip of the newly recognized neighborhood of Allerton.

Photo by Walter Pofeldt

The 'unofficial' part of that is key. City Planning can't draw official boundaries for Allerton, nor for any other neighborhood, because there are no offi-

cial neighborhood boundaries in New York City.

Areas now being called Allerton and Pelham Parkway are examples of how many headaches the city

has caused mapmakers over time.

"Bronxdale" refers to a cotton farming village settled in the 1880s and labeled on early maps on the west

bank of the Bronx River at Boston Road, an area that today holds a parking lot for the Bronx Zoo.

Back then there wasn't a Pelham Parkway or an Allerton.

Today most locals in Pelham Parkway and Allerton simply use the area's biggest street to describe what neighborhood they are in, whether it's Pelham Parkway North or South, or the Allerton Avenue commercial strip.

Bronx's resident expert on these things, Borough Historian Lloyd Ultan, cautioned in January that the push for Allerton is in essence "creating a fiction, something that does not exist and has never existed."

But the Allertoners—or is it Allertonians?—are far too excited to mind.

"These corrections will go a long way in putting us on the map!" boasted CB 11's district manager, Jeremy Warneke.

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# St. Pat's Parade honorees

## Grand marshals, honored clergy excited about March 16 parade

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

When a sea of green marchers roll down E. Tremont Ave. for the Bronx St. Patrick's Parade, these three honorees will be sitting pretty.

The parade committee has selected Denis and Noreen Donoghue, a married couple from Throggs Neck who have spent their retirement years volunteering at Calvary Hospital for more than a decade, as the 16th Annual Bronx St. Patrick's Day Parade's grand marshals.

Honored Clergy will be Mother Alice Mary McGowan, mother superior and CEO of Jeanne Jugan Residence on Schurz Avenue in Throggs Neck.

The parade kicks off at noon at E. Tremont and Lafayette avenues on Sunday, March 16, with a reviewing stand at Harding and E. Tremont avenues.

"I feel wonderful about being honored here," said



MOTHER ALICE MARY MCGOWAN

Denis Donoghue. "It is really nice to be recognized, and it's exciting for us."

Denis and Noreen met in Ireland when they were teenagers, with he hailing from County Kerry and she from County Cork.

They were married in 1958 in Throggs Neck at the Hideaway Inn on Pennyfield

Avenue, a few years after they immigrated to America, said Noreen Donoghue.

### Calvary volunteers

She worked in catering, and he in refrigeration and restaurants, and they have been volunteering at Calvary Hospital since their retirement in 2001.

He helps take patients to Mass and activities, and she brings patients ice and water and helps feed those who cannot feed themselves.

"When I was growing up, I always wanted to be a nurse," she said. "I like to help sick people and those who cannot help themselves."

Both Denis and Noreen are thrilled about being grand marshals, but they were also honored by the Kerymen's Patriotic & Benevolent Association.

They are the proud parents of Patrick (PJ), Noreen and Denis, and grandparents to seven.

Noreen expressed her

admiration for the Bronx and for the United States.

"The Bronx is just great," she said. "We like the people and the conveniences."

### Mother Alice

Mother Alice was born in the Bronx, and was baptized at St. Augustine Parish, attending St. Philip Neri School and Aquinas High School.

She professed her vows as a Little Sister of the Poor in France, as all members of that order do, and served her community in New Jersey, New York, and as well as in Baychester in the Bronx before landing in Throggs Neck.

"I think it is a privilege to represent the clergy, and also my Irish heritage," she said, adding that she could not get over the size of the parade.

She has been the administrator of the Jeanne Jugan Residence for three years.

The day of festivities



DENIS AND NOREEN DONOGHUE

will begin with a mass and breakfast for the marchers at St. Benedict's Church.

Every year after the parade, there are several parties and family get-to-

gethers, said Sheila Haney, parade committee member.

There is also a festive atmosphere in bars and restaurants on and around E. Tremont Ave.



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# Montefiore meets with Community Board 11 to discuss concerns

From Page 1

## Two-way street

The problem came into sharp focus in March 2013, when the healthcare titan took over the nearby bankrupt Westchester Square Medical Center. Among the many changes it made was to remove 140 overnight beds.

But it's not just the hospital's fault for the long bed wait, said Roberto Garcia, Montefiore's senior director of community and governmental relations.

The community needs to meet Montefiore in the middle to fix the problems, he said.

Many patients clogging the Einstein emergency room use Weiler as their primary healthcare facility —or are among the 269,000 Bronxites estimated to have no insurance at all.

Monte's been opening up Urgent Care Centers to deal with smaller issues such as ear infections and common colds, Garcia said. But locals need to use those sites to loosen up the jam at Weiler.

"Whether it's a heart attack or a toothache, we can't turn anyone away at Weiler," Garcia said. "If we can refer people to those urgent care sites, then a lot of the space can be freed up."

Another reason for the overcrowding is the massive number of Bronxites without health insurance, he noted. Those folks instead wait until a health issue is dire enough to require an ER visit.

Uninsured locals have until March 31 to sign up for insurance under the Affordable Care Act before a fee kicks in. Those confused by the process can swing by a Monte site and ask for a "Certified Application Counselor" to guide them.

## More honesty on space

Locals at the meeting suggested that Montefiore be more up front about the lack of bed space.

Nurses at Weiler have reported that even with the added 21 beds Einstein put in on its seventh floor in December 2013, some patients spend the night



Roberto Garcia, senior director of community and governmental relations at Montefiore Medical Center, and Beverly Michael, executive director at the Weiler Campus, strategize with Community Board 11 members on ways to decrease wait time at its Weiler Division in Morris Park.

Photo by Ben Kochman

in the hallway.

"You need to tell people that the hospital is full," said Pat Quaranta, a longtime community board member who serves on Einstein's advisory board. "When people are waiting there with their loved ones, and they don't know when they are going in, that makes it even

worse."

## Spreading out patients

Part of the problem at Weiler may stem from a misunderstanding about how the newly renovated Montefiore Westchester Square site works.

Though that site has no overnight beds on its premises, patients can be

quickly shuffled to one of Montefiore's other facilities—which together contain 1,512 beds—in the borough.

"The wait times at Westchester Square are actually lower a lot of the time," Garcia said.

Monte brass said they would continue to show up at community meet-

ings to work on the issue—and locals plan to ramp up the pressure until the issues are resolved.

"This is something that we've let go," said Marcy Gross, co-chair of the Board's health committee. "The Bronx has been No.1 in quality care since I've been born. We have to figure out a way to fix this."

## Potholes plague borough streets

From Page 1

"My rim is all bent," said Edward Kopelowitz of Manhattan's Upper East Side, who was behind Peralta in line at Gino's Tire Repair in Port Morris after striking the same FDR crater. "It's a disaster."

## Booming local biz

Both men were part of a line of damaged cars snaking around the block on St. Ann's Avenue and Bruckner Boulevard Thursday, Feb. 6. Busi-

ness was booming at the tire repair shop, where a bent rim repair costs a minimum of \$20.

"We've had a steady stream of customers all day," said Renato Lopez, while his father Francisco—an Ecuadorian immigrant who was a bodybuilder in his youth—used a miniature sledgehammer to beat Kopelowitz's bent rim back into place.

## Never-ending fight

The DOT's ongoing ef-

fects to patch the city's bruised streets will continue, especially with yet another power-packed snowstorm in the forecast.

In the Bronx, the agency's crews spent Sunday, Feb. 9 resurfacing portions of the northbound Bronx River Parkway between the Cross Bronx Expressway and Sagamore Street, closing two of the parkway's three lanes in the process.

On Monday, crews be-

gan to tackle the Sheridan Expressway. southbound service road between Westchester Ave. and Freeman St. and Exterior Street between E. 138th St. and Third Avenue.

Besides the cost of all that manpower, the potholes may end up costing the city cold hard cash. Motorists whose vehicles are damaged by potholes can file a claim with the City Comptroller's office to get reimbursed.

At press time, only 61



Maauri Peralta is not a happy customer after his front right tire was bent out of shape by a tire-eating pothole on the FDR Drive just short of the Willis Avenue Bridge.

Photos by Ben Kochman

motorists had filed with the Comptroller since Nov. 1. But an agency spokesman said more claims

were likely on the way.

Motorists have 90 days after an incident to file the proper paperwork.



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# The Alda's at the Bronx Museum

Actor and writer wife return to her home borough

BY JAIME WILLIAMS

The Aldas are putting on a show.

The Bronx Museum of the Arts will host Arlene Alda, musician, writer, photographer, and wife of actor Alan Alda, as part of its "Back in the Bronx" series February 22. At the event Alda will answer questions about growing up in the Bronx, as posed by her husband.

"I thought it would be fun if my husband got up and interviewed me," she said. "I have no idea what he's going to ask."

Alda also plans to read parts of her recently completed manuscript, which features interviews with other famous former Bronxites. The book, "Just Kids from the Bronx," will be published February 2015.

Alda said the idea for the book came from meeting Mickey Drexler, CEO of J. Crew, at a friend's house.



Alda at age 1 in front of her childhood apartment building near Allerton Avenue. She recalls photographers coming around the neighborhood with their ponies, hoping parents would pay for a photo.

Photo courtesy of Arlene Alda

They realized they had grown up in the same apartment building near Allerton

ton Avenue, and went back and visited their old home together. After that experience, Alda said she wanted to learn what other prominent Bronxites' stories and influences are.

"It became a project in my mind," she said.

Among those featured are: Regis Philbin, author Mary Higgins Clark, rapper Grandmaster Melle Mel, architect Daniel Libeskind, astrophysicist Neil de-Grasse Tyson, and borough historian Lloyd Ultan.

Alda said it was important to her to include both this wide range of subjects as well as a range of time in order to create a fuller picture of the Bronx.

Born in 1933, she described her childhood in the 1940s as a time when things were good. The daughter of Eastern European immigrants, Alda lived with her family of five in a one-bedroom apartment. But she said she spent her child-

hood outside playing street games such as marbles, handball and jump rope in her neighborhood, only heading home when it was time for dinner.

"It was a time of tremendous freedom for kids and tremendous optimism for the future."

Although Alda left the Bronx around 1957 to join the Houston Symphony and then moved to Manhattan, her father lived in her childhood home until he died in 1986, so she returned often.

"I kept going back, I always enjoyed going back," she said. "I always feel at home in the Bronx."

Alison Chernow, the museum's director of external affairs, said Alda was a natural choice for the series, which she hopes will make the museum a hub for former Bronxites. The museum plans to hold the events about every two months.

The event is noon, Satur-



Arlene and hubby Alan Alda share a laugh. Former Bronx girl and husband best known for his role as Hawkeye Piere on TV series M\*A\*S\*H will be a Bronx Museum of Arts Saturday, Feb. 22 to talk about her new book of interviews with famous former Bronxites.

Photo courtesy of Arlene Alda

day, Feb. 22, at the museum at 1040 Grand Concourse. Lunch will be provided.

Tickets are \$5 for museum members and \$10 for non-members.

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# Borough's oldest Irish pub feted

## The Jolly Tinker last pub standing

BY BEN KOCHMAN

The Bronx's last Irish pub standing hit a major milestone this month.

Though now Bedford Park's The Jolly Tinker—which turned 45 years old last week—stands in a neighborhood that hasn't been Irish for decades.

If 45 years doesn't sound like that long—well, it isn't, by New York City standards. Some Irish pubs in Manhattan date back to the mid-19th century.

But a quirk in the Bronx's unique history, in which Irish families have moved every few generations, taking their beloved pubs with them, means that the Jolly Tinker is the borough's elder statesman of local Irish pubs.

"We've figured out how to navigate through the decades," said Michael Prendergast Jr., the pub's current manager. "And I'm proud of that."

**Awash with green flags**

Prendergast's pub, on Webster Avenue at Bedford

Park Blvd., is a relic of an era when Bedford Park was packed with Irish immigrants. Back then, Webster Avenue was awash with the green flags that today hang from storefronts further north on Katonah Avenue in heavily Irish Woodlawn.

Many Irish families moved into the Bedford Park area with the extension of the Third Avenue elevated subway line, which from 1955 to 1973 ran from the 149th Street Hub to Gun Hill Road, said Borough Historian Lloyd Ultan.

Among those fresh off the boat was Prendergast's father, Michael Prendergast Sr., who opened the Jolly Tinker's doors on Feb. 8, 1969 after coming from Ireland's County Waterford.

**A meeting place**

As more and more Irish families came over in the 70's and 80's, the Jolly Tinker was an essential meeting place for those just putting roots down in a new city.

"People would come in still carrying their suit-

cases from the trip," said Prendergast Jr., who worked behind the bar while he was still in high school. "And all they had was a note with the Jolly Tinker's address on it."

But the days when the area was affectionately nicknamed "Little Belfast" are long gone. Many of the families that frequented the Jolly Tinker in the years after it has opened have since migrated to other areas of the Bronx or out of the borough entirely.

"A tavern would open up, and as the population aged, the kids moved someplace else," Ultan said.

The Jolly Tinker has stayed at its corner perch through that change, open 8 a.m. to 4 a.m. seven days a week.

Only once, in 1985 when a fire hit part of the pub's yellow brick exterior, did the bar close for a few hours.

But by later that night, the Prendergast clan got the place back up and running, serving up suds to its diehard customers.

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Owner Michael Prendergast outside of Bronx's last Irish Pub standing.

Photo by Ben Kochman

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# Winter Wonderland?

2

3

1 - While all of this winter snow may be miserable for some, there's always some beauty to be found in it, such as this peaceful scene at Silver Beach. Photo by Eugene Tighe

2 - And then again, there's always the aftermath.... Photo by Walter Pofeldt

3 - Intrepid businessman weathers the storm Photo by Walter Pofeldt

# SNUG welcomed into the Bronx

## Anti-gun and gun violence program to be based at Jacobi

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

A widely successful anti-violence program that has helped other cities around the state deal with the scourge of gun violence is coming to the Bronx.

The SNUG program, an acronym for 'guns' spelled backwards, brings violence mediators into the streets to help diffuse gun and gang situations that could turn violent.

The mediators, known as "violence interrupters," are former gang members and street-wise people not affiliated with law enforcement who can speak to gang and crew members one-on-one at street corners and locations identified as hot spots.

The program has proven widely successful in nearby Yonkers, and was brought to the Bronx through Senator Jeff Klein, who secured a \$300,000 grant from the state's Department of Crimi-

nal Justice Services to the Jacobi Medical Center Auxiliary, which will run the program.

Information is already gathered at Jacobi to help gun-shot victims. Jacobi will contribute another \$50,000 to the program, budgeted for two years.

"SNUG's aggressive and proven approach makes it clear to our young people that guns and gang violence do not need to be a way of life," said Klein. "Our violence interrupters can reach these kids in a way that no one else can," he added. "Their inspiring stories teach kids that gun violence is not worth the tragedy and jail time that too often tear apart our communities."

The violence interrupters are not affiliated with local law enforcement, and they will be identified by Rev. Joseph Gooding of Fellowship Tabernacle Ministries in



Senator Klein speaks during the announcement of the new program on Friday, Feb. 7.

Photo by Walter Pofeldt

Williamsbridge.

"This is a very significant program that we are bringing to The Bronx," Gooding said at the announcement at Jacobi on Friday, Feb. 7. "In my line of work I eulogize a lot of young men from street violence. I believe that this is a way that we can save

lives."

Basing the program at the hospital is a first. Similar programs are usually based at local community organizations, said Jacobi Associate Director Hannah Nelson.

Jacobi's resident gun violence prevention activist, Dr. Sheldon Teperman, a

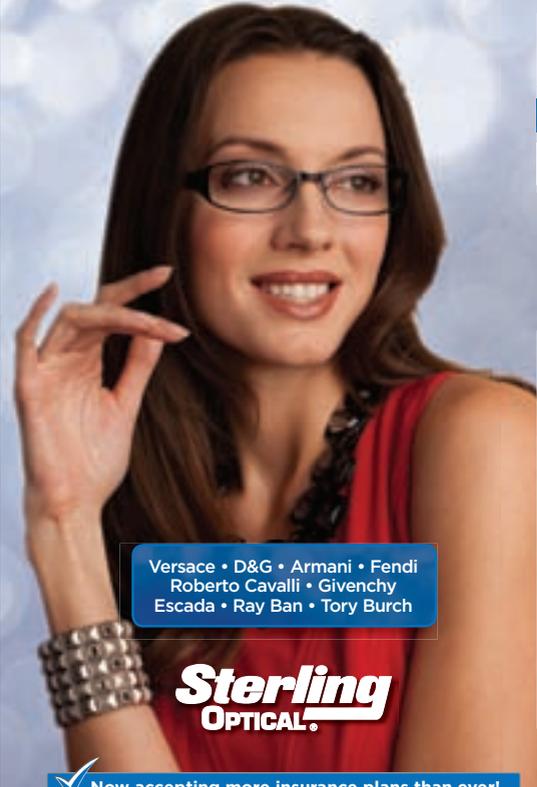
board member of New Yorkers Against Gun Violence, said at the news conference that the interrupters bring "street cred," meaning street credibility, to the program.

"Approaching the gun violence epidemic with a community-centered violence prevention program,"

he said, "is the most effective way of ensuring these kids never get injured or have to cross through the doors of our Emergency Room."

Joining Klein at the conference were Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson, Assemblyman Marcos Crespo, Assemblyman Luis Sepulveda and Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj, who all praised Klein for bringing the SNUG program to the borough.

Community leaders and hospital reps also expressed their support, including 49th Precinct Community Council President Joe Thompson; Community Board 10 Chairman John Marano; Jacobi's Dr. Stephen Blumberg; Elizabeth Thompson, a member of the North Central Bronx Hospital's Community Advisory Board who lost a 19-year-old son to gun violence; and Leah Barrett, executive director of New Yorkers Against Gun Violence.



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## LET'S GO RINGSIDE

A couple of nasty potential political challenges are brewing in the Bronx, and they're all about incumbents looking to take out incumbents.

City Councilman **Fernando Cabrera** will announce shortly that he is forming an exploratory committee to weigh challenging west Bronx state Senator **Gustavo Rivera**.

Meanwhile, Councilwoman **Annabel Palma** has been talking to various folks about her chances of taking out long-term South Bronx Congressman **Jose Serrano**. Other names floating in that potential dust-up include state Senator **Ruben Diaz Sr.** and Assemblyman **Marcos Crespo**.

But at this point, the only race we might take seriously is that potential Cabrera-Rivera brawl.

Cabrera could find some strong backing by candidates looking to fill his council seat in a wide-open special election.

As for Serrano, with nominating petition gathering due to kick off March 4 for the June 2 congress-

sional primary, any Serrano challengers would have to get into high gear mucho pronto.

Even so, Serrano has recently stirred himself from hibernation, suddenly cranking out a blizzard of press releases and jumping into a number of local community issues.

If you listen to some politicians, both Rivera and Serrano could be vulnerable, with neither having much of a political organization or funding to beat back a strong challenger.

Serrano, in fact, has rarely had a primary since he was first elected in 1990.

But even though County is ticked at Gustavo and Jose for various sins and annoyances, we're told Party Boss **Carl Heastie** will still offer the machine's services — such as they are these days without union help — to both Serrano and Rivera in gathering petitions.

The old rule about always backing your incumbents apparently still holds in the Bronx — unless they are patently indictable, i.e. former West Bronx state Senator

**Pedro Espada** who the party ignored, paving the way for Gustavo to topple.

## WE GOT IT RIGHT

When Soundview Councilwoman **Annabel Palma** wound up without a committee chairmanship under new Speaker **Melissa Mark-Viverito**, whom she had challenged for the post, we wrote that Annabel purposely took a pass. The day after the chairmanships were handed out — or not — she griped she was left out.

But Annabel now backs us up, saying "My main interest was in keeping chairmanship of the General Welfare committee, and when it wasn't on the table, I didn't want another chairmanship."

## MORRISANIA RUSH

With now ex-Morrisania Assemblyman **Eric Stevenson** convicted of bribe receiving, add a few more wannabes looking at the open seat.

We previously reported the Democratic machine favorite du jour is attorney **Marsha Michaels**, even as former Assem-

blyman **Michael Benjamin** has been going around trying to find some love.

We're told local 79th A.D. male and female district leaders **Wilbert Tee Lawton** and **Cynthia Cox** supposedly have their eyes on the prize in what could become a free-for-all primary race, given that some of the contenders for the recent local City Council seat won by County-backed ex-Assemblywoman **Vanessa Gibson** are also weighing runs.

## CANDIDATE KOPPELL

Former Riverdale City Councilman **Oliver Koppell** sounding like a candidate with press release taking aim at Senate co-leader **Jeff Klein** over report cohort Republican leader **Dean Skelos** will block Mayor de Blasio's pre-K plan from coming up for a vote.

"The only reason Senator Skelos is allowed to block this and other progressive legislation is because of his backroom deal with Senator Jeff Klein," sayeth Ollie, who most likely will face a Man of LaMancha uphill fight

to unseat Jeff, the entrenched leader of the Independent Democratic Conference. Ollie called upon Jeff to "immediately renounce his self-serving agreement with Senator Skelos and rejoin the Democratic Conference."

To which we would say FAT CHANCE.

## COP CORNER

**Canned.** Glad to hear that Beergate up at the Four-Seven detective squad in Edenwald has gone flat, thanks to new Commissioner **Bill Bratton** ordering shoofly cops to can it, veteran cop reporter **Murray Weiss** writes at [dnainfo.com](http://dnainfo.com).

Seems former Bronx, and now (soon-to-be-ex) citywide Chief of Detectives **Phil Pulaski** went all CIS when a shoofly captain out of Bronx Boro with no love for the squad boss there found four empty beer cans in the trash and a six-pack in the fridge in the bunk room. While booze in precincts is a no-no, this case was more a grudge match than a scandal.

**Second in command.**

Gotta hand it to PC Bill Bratton for political savvy. He's keeping former Bronx Boro commander **Rafael Pineiro** as his first deputy commissioner. Bratton scores on a couple of fronts. He makes points with the city's Hispanic electeds and population, and while former PC Ray Kelly was a micro-manager, not leaving that much to do for Pineiro, the new PC is known for giving commanders more free hands and responsibility, also not leaving that much for Pineiro to do.

## OOPS

Calm down you folks in Assemblyman **Mark Gjonaj's** district. After we ran a short item last column about Mark returning \$25,000 to the state in unspent office funding, a lotta local groups inundated his office with phone calls, griping those bux coulda helped them out. Relax. The money was strictly limited to his district office budget, not for community funding.

## BRONX BIRTHDAYS

Feb. 16 - Borough Historian **Lloyd Ultan**

## Fight to save GPO getting sticky

From Page 1

"The way it's traditionally gone, they pretty much decide who they want to sell it to," said Steve Hutchins, an NYU professor who tracks post office sales on his website [savethepostoffice.com](http://savethepostoffice.com), "and usually it's to the highest bidder."

### Marketplace on table

USPS has stayed mum on how many or what type of bids it has already received for the site, which has an estimated value of around \$14 million. Local leaders would like to see a developer build some sort of market facility that the community can use.

"I think the people here would be on board with the market proposal," said Jose Rodriguez, district manager of local Community Board 4.

Reports surfaced last week that Young Woo and Associates — whose idea of an eclectic marketplace was considered for the Kingsbridge Armory but eventually shot down — was among the bidders.

An official reached for comment at that company could not confirm that the developer had made a bid.

**Storage site concerns**  
Borough officials' fear that a landmarked space — a developer can-

not touch either the Post Office's edifice or its mural-lined interior — will become a storage facility doesn't come totally out of left field.

In November 2012, NYC storage titan Tuck-it-away expanded into the former H. W. Wilson bookmaking lighthouse in Highbridge.

But the specifics of the Post Office situation complicate any developer's plan. Any buyer would sign a "covenant" that among other requirements says that it must allow the public to enter once a month and view the 13 Depression-era murals.

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