

Parking dispute ends in a death

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

A homicide that took place on a Country Club street last week has left a neighborhood stunned and residents in shock.

On Monday, March 23, 50-year old Gjok Deda was arrested and arraigned, charged with first degree manslaughter after allegedly punching and killing 68-year old Ronald Antonucci on Thursday, March 19.

The incident began just after 7:30 a.m., when Antonucci, a grandpa and retired carpenter who had lived in the building complex for over a decade, was moving his car and backed up into a parking space outside his residence at 1110 Stadium Avenue, just off of Layton Avenue and Shore Drive.

Deda, who was also a resident at 1110 Stadium Avenue and lived three floors above Antonucci, was walking by with his two young daughters as Antonucci maneuvered his vehicle.

According to reports, Deda accused Antonucci of backing his car up too close to him and his children.

When the dispute escalated, Deda allegedly punched Antonucci in the eyes, face and head area numerous times.

After being struck, Antonucci fell to the sidewalk and never got up.

When cops arrived on the scene, he was being treated by EMS. He was taken to Jacobi Medical Center where he was pronounced dead.

The medical examiner's office confirmed the cause of death to be blunt impact to the head, and the death was ruled a homicide.

Deda fled the scene after the incident, but was arrested and arraigned four days later, on Monday, March 23.

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MANDEE SPOT AS NEW 45TH?

BY ROBERT WIRSING

The site of a former clothing store may soon be fashioning itself for a future in law enforcement.

On Monday, March 9, Community Board 10 wrote a letter to Mayor De Blasio suggesting the possible relocation of the 45th Precinct and Police Service Area #8 to the vacant building at 3860 E. Tremont Avenue, previously a Mande clothing store.

The Welco Realty property is situated near the Cross Bronx Expressway and contains approximately 15,000 square feet above ground, a loading dock and spacious parking, as well as a finished basement.

The 45th Precinct has served the northeast Bronx communi-

ties since the late 1920s, but its headquarters is considered outdated and needs serious renovations.

The precinct house's upper floor, locker areas and rest rooms are deteriorated.

Located at 2877 Barkley Avenue, the precinct inhabits a crowded neighborhood where parking is limited leading to poor work environment and community relation problems.

Conditions at Police Service Area #8, presently located inside Throggs Neck Houses, are crowded, lack available parking, and is prone to leaks.

John Marano, Community Board 10 first vice chairman explained the idea he shared

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Art On Display At St. Raymond's

Senior Gerardo Ramos with his piece 'Warrior Who Fights Nothing,' at the St. Raymond Parish Art Show on Sunday, March 22, where students in grades K-12 from the three parish schools showed off their hard work.

Photo by Laura Stone

Contract hearing on Capri homeless shelter

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

It appears that a homeless shelter at the former Capri Whitestone Motel near Ferry Point Park may be with us for a few more years.

Civicleaders, Community Board 10, and elected officials offered non supportive testimony at a hearing in Manhattan held by the Mayor's Office of Contract Services.

The city wants to extend the homeless shelter's contract to use the shuttered motel for another

four years.

The Thursday, March 19 hearing was about a potential contract that would make the Crystal Family Residence, which houses up to 91 families, permanent through June 30, 2019, said several attendees.

The city has, as of press time, not confirmed the specifics, or whether the contract has been approved.

The Department of Homeless Services facility opened on a tem-

Continued on Page 15

Carmen Rosa, respected CB 12 district manager, passes

BY JAIME WILLIAMS

The Bronx has lost a dedicated public servant.

Carmen Rosa, longtime district manager of Community Board 12, died on Friday, March 20.

Rosa was in her mid-60s, said community board chair Father Gorman, and had been battling cancer.

She is survived by two children, Linda and Alfredo Angueira.

Rosa served board 12 as district manager since 1995 until she retired earlier this year, prior to which she had served as assistant district manager for seven years.

Earlier in her career she worked for the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation, and for more than 20 years she was an adjunct professor at Monroe College.

"It's a tremendous loss for the board," said Fr. Gorman. "The knowledge and experience of more than 30 years of public service in the Bronx, you just can't replace that."

Fr. Gorman, who worked with

Rosa throughout her tenure as district manager, describes her first and foremost as extremely caring.

"She was a person of the utmost compassion," he said.

She was also 'honest as the day is long,' he said, as well as an incredibly hard worker.

"She was a tremendous fighter to bring city services to an area that historically was short-changed," said Fr. Gorman.

According to the community board, Rosa's accomplishments include ensuring the toxic site known as Hexagon Labs was cleaned by the Federal and State Department of Environmental Protection so that the contaminates at the site would no longer endanger the residents of the Bronx.

She also saw a need for her district's youth and submitted a proposal to the mayor identifying two sites for an all inclusive recreational facility to adequately service the needs of the community.

Presently, a committee of community residents are working the borough president and local

elected officials to secure the funding for this facility.

Additionally, Rosa worked with Senator Jeff Klein on advocating for increased police for the 47th Precinct and addressing transportation needs for seniors in Woodlawn, Klein said in a statement.

Fr. Gorman said she went out of her way to help board members in their efforts to better their neighborhoods, such as his initiative to close down adult establishments in the district.

"She was supportive of me personally and of the community board professionally," he said.

Over the years, Rosa developed many strong relationships with local groups, as well as with other district managers throughout the Bronx.

"I think this is a loss for the entire borough," Fr. Gorman said.

Bronx elected officials agree.

"Carmen was a leading voice for change in the Bronx, ensuring the borough received the resources and attention it deserved," said Senator Klein in a statement.



Carmen Rosa.

Photo courtesy of Community Board 12

"While Carmen often avoided the limelight, her voice was strong. Her advocacy, leadership and dedication will be sorely missed."

"Carmen was an invaluable advocate to the community board and neighborhoods which she

served," said Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. in a statement. "On behalf of all 1.4 million residents of the Bronx, I mourn her passing."

Services for Rosa were held on Friday, March 27 at the Woolworth Chapel at Woodlawn Cemetery.



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The E. Tremont Avenue property which once housed Mandee is being pushed by community leaders to become the next home to the 45th Precinct and Police Service Area #8. Photo by Patrick Rocchio

Mandee spot as new 45th?

From Page 1

with Martin Prince, CB 10 chairman and Kenneth Kearns, CB 10 district manager.

"When this property came up on the market, we felt it would be the perfect location for the 45th Precinct and Police Service Area #8 because it has ample parking and it's in closer proximity to the area's highways and bridges," Marano revealed.

"The 45th Precinct is a beautiful architectural marvel which unfortunately is presently in need of extensive interior repairs. We believe that if efforts are being made to help restore the current building, which does not have an elevator, these efforts could instead be better used toward creating a more state-of-the-art precinct at this vacant property," Kearns said.

Robert Bieder, 45th Precinct Community Council

president welcomes this possibility.

"With projects like this, it always comes down to budget. However, developing this site to accommodate the 45th Precinct and Police Service Area #8 would be a great capital project for the area. These police agencies are constantly working together and it would be perfect to have them in the same location. This site is large enough and doesn't require a ton of construction effort to make it work," Bieder explained.

He confirmed many of the issues expressed in the letter regarding the present states of both law enforcement agencies citing the precinct's detective offices and PSA #8's offices as being cramped.

CB 10 believes the 3860 E. Tremont Avenue property would provide both police agencies with modern, spacious quarters

which will lead to an improved work environment and better public service.

Marano added that moving the 45th Precinct to this new location would rectify parking issues the department has faced over the years as the area became fully developed.

In addition, Marano said should this idea become reality, vehicles involved in highway accidents currently parked along Tremont Avenue could be placed inside the property's perimeter.

Kearns revealed CB 10 has suggested re-purposing the existing precinct structure for community use such as office space, a recreational center or a public or charter school.

The idea was presented before members of the Throggs Neck community during this past Thursday, March 19's CB 10 meeting at Fort Schuyler House. No objections were raised.

Parking dispute ends in a death

From Page 1

He is currently being held without bail after it was denied, and is expected back in court on Friday, March 27.

According to reports, Deda has no previous criminal record.

Residents who knew both parties say that the two men were relatively quiet and kept to themselves, although they had more recollections of Antonucci, stating that he was noticeably friendly and was the type to say "hello", "good-bye" and "thank you" as well as hold the door open for people.

"I'm sure he (Deda) didn't wake up that morning with intentions of killing him (Antonucci)," said resident Michael Ingrassi, who frequently saw Antonucci before and after work during the week. "It's a shame though, especially considering that Antonucci seemed to be a genuinely nice person."

"You can read the signs if somebody is nice or not - and Antonucci was", he added.

Many residents are also in disbelief that an occurrence like this one would take place in their neighborhood.

"This neighborhood is shocked," a resident of eight years stated. "Usu-



Gjok Deda was arrested, arraigned and charged with first degree manslaughter on Thursday, March 19. Photo courtesy of Channel 2

ally, situations like these are rare for middle class/retired neighborhoods like Country Club to witness, and it has resulted in residents taking precaution by being more alert and aware of these instances."

"It's unfortunate that this type of incident took place in the neighborhood," said resident Bob Guiliano, who added that this situation is sad for the area and should have been avoided.

"He (Deda) overreacted. There was no reason for him to take matters into his own hands in that particular way."

This incident marks the second murder to take place within the confines of the 45th Precinct this year, after Brooklyn resident Erik Perez allegedly killed his grandmother Alice Durso at her home at 633 Hollywood Avenue on the morning of New Year's Day.



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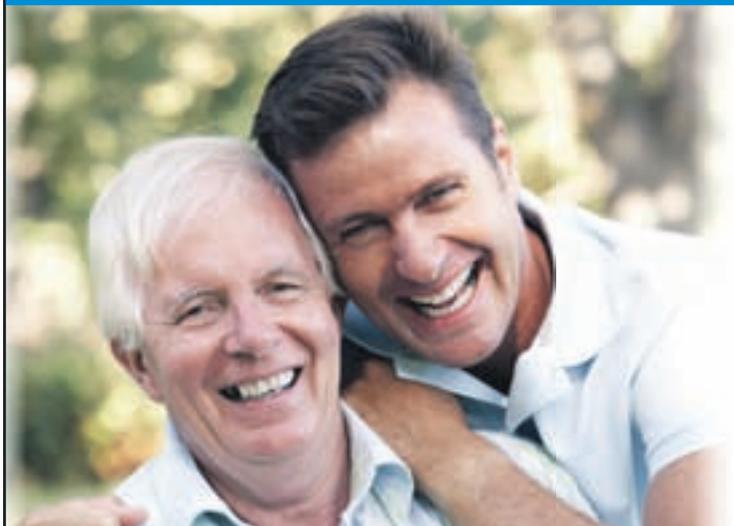
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Pelham Parkway is top priority for CB 11

BY JAIME WILLIAMS

Pelham Parkway is the top priority for Community Board 11.

The longstanding requests for the reconstruction of Pelham Parkway North and the rehabilitation of the park itself both remained in the top three of CB 11's fiscal year 2016 capital budget priorities and requests list, although the projects are already in progress.

A new request to rehabilitate the Peace Memorial Plaza on Pelham Parkway, number two on the list, was denied by the parks department because of insufficient funds.

Reconstruction

The request to reconstruct Pelham Parkway was first introduced in 1984, said assistant district manager John Fratta. It took many years to get the funding for the project and then through the design process, and the need for reconstruction persisted.

"The roadway's in very bad condition," said Fratta.

The project, split into two phases, is a major undertaking because while reconstructing the road, the city is updating under-



The reconstruction of Pelham Parkway North was the top priority on Community Board 11's list of budget priorities and requests.

Community News Group / Patrick Rocchio

lying infrastructure like water mains and sewers, said Fratta.

The project also involves the Department of Design and Construction coordinating with other departments, including parks, transportation and fire.

The reconstruction of Pelham Parkway South was eventually completed in 2013, but issues including an extra-wide sidewalk that

narrowed the service road and the loss of parking frustrated locals.

"The reconstruction of Pelham Parkway South was a sheer disaster," said Edith Blitzer of the Pelham Parkway Neighborhood Association.

She hopes the process for the north side goes more smoothly.

"It definitely needs reconstruction," said Blitzer.

The DDC is due to present a design plan for the project in April, and reconstruction is temporarily planned to occur in FY 2016.

Rehabilitation

For several years, the community board has had a vision of rehabilitating the entire length of the Pelham Parkway mall, said parks committee chair Joanne Rubino.

"Pelham Parkway is the jewel of

our area," she said.

While Rubino still feels the mall is beautiful, she thinks it looks somewhat neglected and could use a good sprucing up.

The rehabilitation requested by the board included rehabbing the bridle path and drainage, re-sodding and replanting foliage on greenways, rehabilitating cross paths and pedestrian walks, repairing and replacing benches, and installing sidewalks and curbs from the Bronx River Parkway to Stillwell Avenue.

The parks department responded that the single request included more than one project, but that work is underway on certain portions of the request.

The plans are currently in the design phase to reconstruct portions of the Pelham Parkway landscape, paths and bike lane between Boston Road and Wallace Avenue.

The plan presented to the board for the rehabilitated section looked promising, said Blitzer.

"We're hoping that improvements will encourage more people to use the parks," she said. "That's what parks are for."

Arlene Alda releases Bronx success stories

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

If you were born and raised in the Bronx, then this book is for you.

On Tuesday, March 3, Bronx-bred author Arlene Alda, through Henry Holt & Company, released her new book, 'Just Kids From the Bronx: Telling It the Way It Was', which includes over 60 interviews from different borough-born and raised Bronxites that found their influences in the Bronx.

The book's interviewees, which include New York Yankees' play-by-play broadcaster Michael Kay, J. Crew's CEO Millard 'Mickey' Drexler and Hip Hop pioneer Grandmaster Melle Mel, among others, recall their Bronx experiences growing up in the borough.

These success stories are sure to inspire many of its readers. They touch on Bronx-related topics such as food, music, politics, gangs and more.

In this book, the interviewees share their life experiences and successes in the Bronx with the critically acclaimed author, who also falls

into the category of an individual who was born in the borough and flourished in her career.

Alda was born in the Bronx in 1933 in present day Williamsbridge, back when neighborhood identification was by subway stops and street names.

She lived in a large apartment building located at the intersection of Barnes and Arnow avenues, just one block from the Allerton Avenue subway stop of the IRT line.

She attended Evander Childs High School and graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Hunter College, before receiving a Fulbright Scholarship to study clarinet in Germany, eventually becoming a clarinetist in the Houston Symphony. She married actor Alan Alda and moved from the Bronx in 1957.

Arlene is now the author of 17 books, including the best selling children's book, 'Sheep, Sheep Sheep, Help Me Fall Asleep', which she released in 1992.

She was inspired to write

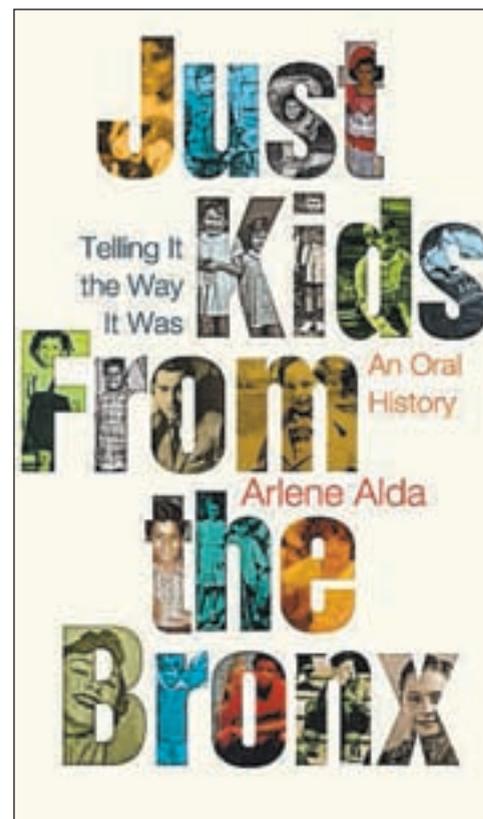
this book when she went back to her old building after many years with Millard 'Mikey' Drexler, who had also lived there growing up.

While they were there, Alda realized how many more wonderful, talented, successful people hailed from the Bronx.

She then became interested in interviewing people of all different ages to create a picture of the Bronx from the stories told to her by accomplished Bronxites.

Arlene is confident her book will end any lingering negative stereotypes of the Bronx, especially after readers learn about all of the successful personalities the borough has shaped in recent years.

"The Bronx has gotten a bad rap over the years," said Alda. "I'd like to change that picture and set the record straight with this new book. The Bronx is beautiful, interesting and is the place which nurtured and continues to nurture a lot of interesting, important and wonderful people."



'Just Kids From the Bronx: Telling It the Way It Was' by Arlene Alda Photo courtesy of Henry Holt & Company

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A Parks Department bird's eye view of the site where the park is going to be constructed is seen here. The park area is circled in red. Photo courtesy of the Parks Department

Belden Park work to begin this month

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Work may finally begin on a long-awaited pocket park at the end of City Island Avenue.

The Parks Department has confirmed that its contractor will begin work on Belden Point Park at the terminus of City Island Avenue by the end of March.

The pocket park, sandwiched between two seafood restaurants, should allow visitors a great view of Long Island Sound, supporters said.

It was first funded in 2005 by then Borough President Adolfo Carrion Jr. and by a New York State waterfront restoration panel, said City Island Civic Association president John Doyle.

Senator Jeff Klein stepped into the fray in 2010 to preserve the state funding, calling the Secretary of State after it looked like the allocation might be withdrawn because of inaction. The senator spoke highly of the latest development.

"As a long-standing priority for the City Island community, I'm pleased the Parks Department will start work on Belden Point Park this month," said Klein. "The new park will be a boon to the City Island community, both increasing access to the waterfront and beautifying the surrounding area."

Klein said he looks forward to seeing Belden Point Park become a valued destination for residents and their families, and local visitors and tourists.

Klein's office also helped broker a deal between two restaurants on either side of the new park, whose owners agreed to share in the maintenance costs of the new space once it was built, said Doyle, who worked on the project when he was a staff member of Klein's.

Based on his detailed knowledge of the decade-long path to construction, Doyle said he believes that start-dates that never materialized for the project may number seven.

"If it was not for Jeff, that money would have been taken away," said Doyle, adding "We hope we get lucky on the seventh try here."

Doyle said that the project's stall also could be because contractors pulled out of previous contracts.

The relatively small scope of the project, coupled with the fact that any contractor is required to pay their construction workers 'prevailing wage' leaves little interest in the Request for Proposals, he said.

According to the Parks Department, Carrion allocated a total of \$200,000 towards the project, with New York State providing \$170,000 and the Mayor de Blasio's office \$50,000.

Parks described the project as "a street-end plaza which will beautify and provide pedestrian access to the southern point of City Island."

"The project will add a planting bed and landscaped area, functional elements including a bike rack, and decorative pavement, railings and more," reads a Parks statement. "The park's functional design will also serve to define a vehicular turnaround with an 18-inch-wide curb with safety posts."

Parks stated that while a start date of May 2014 had been set, delays were caused by several factors.

These included the need to design storm resiliency upgrades, a longer than expected bid review and appeals process and a fire at one of the restaurants next to the site.



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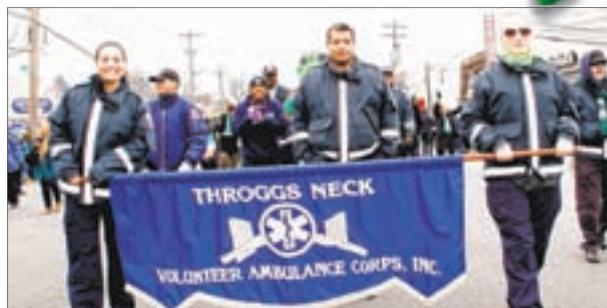




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THROGGS NECK St. Patrick's Day Parade

Photos by Patricio Robayo



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St. Patrick's Day Parade

Photos by Patricio Robayo



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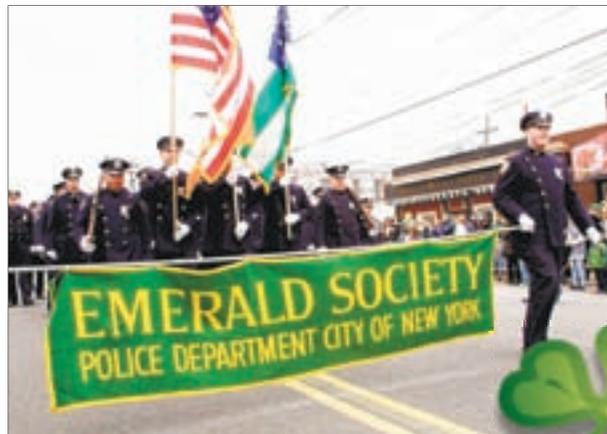
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Photos by Patricio Robayo



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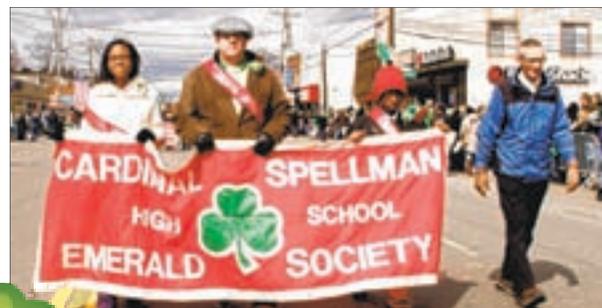
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CB 10 stymied by city's budget responses

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Community Board 10 received the same responses to many of its requests in the city budget for fiscal year 2016 that it has in previous years.

Now CB 10 has written a letter to Mayor de Blasio, expressing its frustration with those responses to its capital and expense budget requests in this year's Statement on the Preliminary Budget.

"For many of our projects, we are reportedly told year after year that 'further study is needed' or 'contact your elected officials,'" states CB 10's letter to the mayor, adding "Seeing the same responses repeated over and over again from the agencies fosters a belief on our part that our requests are not being taken seriously."

The board letter requests that the agencies re-visit the requests and provide the community with more substantive answers.

"There is frustration that we are always provided with off-the-cuff responses like 'ask your elected officials,' or that 'further study is needed'" said Martin Prince, CB 10 chairman, adding that this goes back to previous administrations. "It is never like anyone makes a serious review of what we ask for; they seem to just put it off."

At this point, the board may start to take a look at where its tax dollars are

going if its not funding community requests.

"We may start reviewing agency by agency to see what share of its budget is coming back to our community," he said.

Among the CB 10 requests where the response was 'further study is needed' was its top capital request of a dredging and upgrade of Hammond Cove, the site of a Parks Department marina concession.

"This is a place that can bring in revenue if it is properly maintained," said Prince of the cove. "Look at it as an investment."

Long a top request by CB10, the cove may see some dredging near a bottleneck in its waterway, but this may come from state money secured by Senator Jeff Klein, not from the city.

While a first step, it is not clear if the \$1 million state-funded upgrade will provide all the improvements needed at the cove, or even if it will be finalized in the state budget, though the latter looks likely, sources said.

Another long-standing request in the expense budget is that the Police Department reestablish a narcotics module for the 45th Precinct and increase its resources, or considers creating a merged one with the neighboring 49th Precinct.

The response CB 10 received was that



The dredging of Hammond Cove may not be a budget priority for city officials downtown, but Community Board 10 is still pressing for it. Community News Group / Photo by Patrick Rocchio

NYPD resources in fighting drug crime are deployed borough-wide, and that all precinct commanders can request this unit.

"The summonses and enforcement pa-

trols are certainly here," said John Marano, CB 10 vice-chair of conditions in the 45th Precinct, which share the same boundaries as CB 10. "Why should we have to fight for resources?"

UPK programs come to City Island, Woodlawn

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Universal pre-kindergarten is available for all Bronxites and all New Yorkers, and some parents in the borough's outlying areas are breathing a sigh of relief that seats are being included in their communities.

After expanding UPK again this year, Mayor de Blasio's office reported that 3,785 applications were available for borough kids who are four on the first day they were accepted.

Applications to the programs are being taken until Friday, April 24, and are not done on a first come, first serve basis.

The programs are run at locations borough-wide. In some of the borough's more remote corners, including Woodlawn, and especially on geographically isolated City Island, there was jubilation from local civic leaders after the list of available programs included those run in their community.

This development comes after advocacy from elected officials, including Senator Jeff Klein and Councilman James Vacca, for programs on City Island and Wood-



The former St. Mary Star of the Sea parish school will see its classrooms filled again with pre-k students. Community News Group / Photo by Patrick Rocchio

lawn.

In City Island's case, Councilman Vacca said that he has worked for the past one and a half years to get a public pre-k program on the island, and that this expansion was necessary for parents there for logistical purposes.

"I think many parents would have found it impossible (to transport their kids), and that would have meant that some children

would not have enjoyed the benefits of pre-k," he said, noting the geographic isolation of the island made alternatives more difficult.

On the island, recent Williamsburg, Brooklyn transplant Beverly Jones was thrilled that her three-year-old son would be able to go to school with children in his community for an extra year.

"One of the things that drew us to City Island was that it was

a close knit for community with great educational options," she said, adding "We are just happy that the opportunity to be part of a educational community is available for nine or ten years."

If a pre-k program was not available on the island, she would either have to go off the island or pay to send her son to day-care, which can be costly, she said.

The City Island Civic Association had advocated for a UPK program on the island. The organization's vice-president Barbara Dolensek said that the its corresponding secretary, John Doyle, led the civic's advocacy efforts. The island program will be known as the Holy Rosary Early Childhood at St. Mary Star of the Sea, and should contain about 30 seats, sources said.

Doyle said that he thought many people in the seaside community would appreciate the former school building being returned to its original use, whether or not they have children. For parents, the new seats can potentially save tens of thousands of dollars in child-care costs, he said.

"We are city residents like anyone else and we are entitled to the same services as any other city resident," said Doyle, adding that it was necessary to keep raising awareness on this because the island has a relatively low population and is sometimes overlooked.

On the legislative front, Senator Klein helped Mayor de Blasio pass the state law guaranteeing pre-k, a spokeswoman said. She added that Klein advocated to for both the City Island program and one at St. Barnabas in Woodlawn that got approval to operate as well.

"By ensuring our youngest students have access to a high-quality education, we are investing in a brighter future for all New Yorkers," said Klein, adding "I commend the City Island Civic Association, Archdiocese of New York, Women of Woodlawn, the Woodlawn Taxpayers and countless parents and teachers whose tireless advocacy efforts helped push this issue forward."

To register for UPK, visit that: <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/PreK/default.htm>.

Lifelong City Island resident dies after tragic transport crash

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

A lifelong City Island resident and restaurant manager passed away after a tragic accident.

On Monday, March 9, Janet Hickey, a 'clamdigger,' died after being removed from life support following an ambulance accident, one day short of her 61st birthday.

Hickey was born on March 10, 1955, and lived on Fordham Street for the first 11 years of her life before moving to Ditmars Street. She attended St. Mary Star of the Sea School and St. Helena's High School.

One of Janet's passions that began in her adolescence was caring for horses, which she fulfilled at the Pelham Bit Horse Riding Academy. At Pelham Bit Janet learned to become a professional equestrian.

Hickey also had a strong passion for her community that she had connected with and grown to love for so many years.

She was an active member of the City Island Civic Association and devoted many years at different restaurants on City Island, including working as manager for both the Lobster Box and Artie's Steak and Seafood.

On Wednesday, March 4, Hickey, who had just undergone successful brain surgery where 99% of a benign brain tumor behind her ear was removed, was being transported from New York-Presbyterian Hospital in Manhattan to Phelps Memorial Hospital in Sleepy Hollow.

There, she was scheduled to spend a week in rehabilitation to recover from the surgery and regain her

walking skills.

While being transported in a Senior Care Ambulance, driven by 19-year old Jamal Jackson, accompanied by 55-year old EMT Ronald Lewis, the vehicle crashed into a utility pole on Route 9 in Sleepy Hollow.

Hickey, who allegedly was not properly strapped to the stretcher inside the ambulance, according to sources, suffered life-threatening injuries, including severe head and neck trauma and spine fractures.

She was declared brain dead after the crash. Both Jackson and Lewis suffered minor injuries.

The accident remains under investigation by both the NYPD and Senior Care EMS, both of which could not be reached for comment.

"My staff was very saddened by this tragic news,"

said Spiros Chagares, owner of Artie's Steak & Seafood. "However, they are honoring her by continuing to work as diligently as they did before, just as she would have wanted them to."

Chagares added that Hickey always put her community and customers first, making sure they had the best possible service.

Many of her former customers came to Artie's on Friday, March 13 and Saturday, March 14 to lend their support and give their condolences during this extremely difficult time.

"These customers were and still are terribly upset over Hickey's passing," Spiros said. "This is a loss for the entire City Island community. She was taken way too soon."

A funeral Mass service for Hickey was held at the St.



Janet Hickey, known as a City Island 'Clamdigger', always put her community and customers first, according to her former co-workers. Photo courtesy of Ron Turner, owner of Focal Point Gallery

Mary Star of the Sea Church on Friday, March 20.

She will be laid to rest next to her parents in Pelham Cemetery on City Island at a later date. Hickey is survived by her husband,

John, her niece Jocelyn and her siblings.

Family members of Janet Hickey did not wish to be interviewed for this story.

Additional reporting contributed by Robert Wirsing.

Pel Bay leader asks for new traffic plan

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

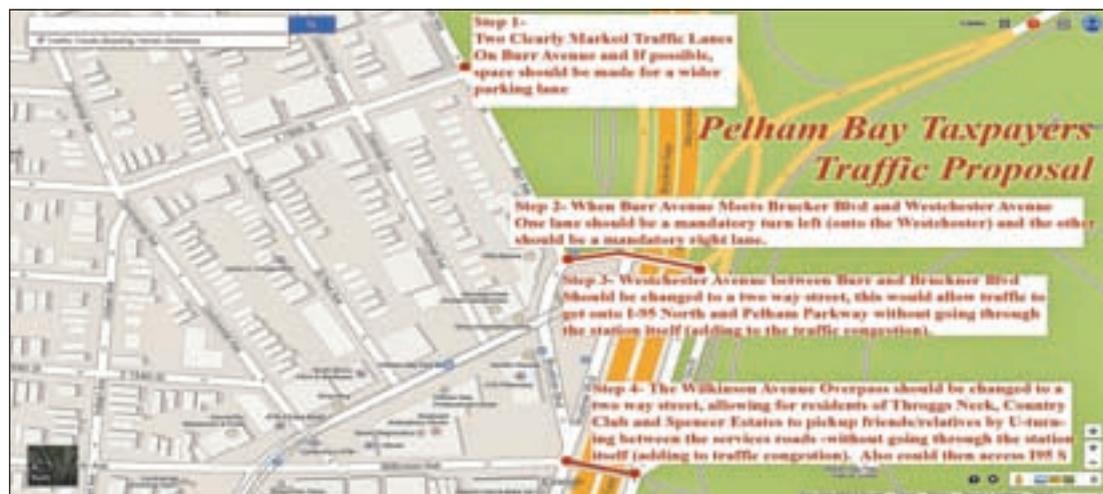
A strategy to reduce the number of highway-bound vehicles on Pelham Bay streets has been created.

The Pelham Bay Taxpayers and Community Association has developed a plan asking for the removal of signage near exit 3E on the north bound Hutchinson River Parkway that encourages drivers to use local residential streets to access Co-op City.

Additionally, the association's president feels a Bruckner Expressway overpass should become a two-way roadway to ease traffic flow around Pelham Bay Station's Amendola Plaza.

The organization's president Joe Oddo wrote a letter to the city Department of Transportation on Wednesday, March 18 stating that the present situation is "categorically unfair" to local residents.

"For years, motorists traveling along the Hutchinson River Parkway have been instructed, via DOT signage, to exit on Exit 3E and travel through our community as a pass-through to Co-op City," the letter states, adding "This arrangement leaves motorists confused, and our residents and their parked vehicles



This illustrated map highlights some of the traffic changes being proposed by the Pelham Bay Taxpayers.

Photo courtesy of John Doyle

are vulnerable to high-speed collisions."

All this traffic on our local streets erodes the neighborhood's quality of life and damages the local resident's health, he added.

The organization believes that an exit off the Hutchinson River Parkway directly into Co-op City might be a solution.

"Ideally, an exit should be created for Co-op City visitors and residents to directly access their community from the Hutchinson River Parkway," stated the letter. "However, we will defer to their residents about what is the best solution for their neighborhood."

Currently the most common way to directly access Co-op City from a

highway is via I-95 at the Bartow Avenue/Bay Plaza exit, or at a Palmer Avenue exit from an offramp to the Hutchinson River Parkway from I-95.

Because of this, said Oddo, traffic often spills onto Pelham Bay's residential streets during peak travel times, as motorists seek alternate routes around the perpetual traffic

jams that occur around the junction of I-95, Pelham Parkway, and Co-op City.

To address this, Oddo believes the direction of an overpass at the very end of Westchester Avenue should be made two-ways, in order to allow traffic that does pass through a more direct way to an I-95 onramp heading north.

By changing the Wilkinson Avenue-Bruckner Expressway overpass to two-way traffic, the traffic that intends on going southbound can avoid the Amendola Plaza bottleneck, he said.

Oddo added that municipal parking or new metered parking would address commuter parking needs.

Community Board 10 vice-chairman John Marano said that the change to two-way for the Wilkinson Avenue overpass would be useful for local residents seeking to access expressways and bridges. He said he will likely recommend that the board take up the issue of traffic in Pelham Bay.

A Department of Transportation spokesman did not offer a comment on the letter because he said that the agency had not yet received a copy of it, as of press time.

Veterans residences deployed to the Bronx

BY ROBERT WIRSING

For more than three decades, one non-profit organization has made its primary objective to build better lives for veterans returning from combat.

The Jericho Project Veterans Initiative provides secure housing and comprehensive services to New York City veterans through its seven residences in Harlem and the Bronx and its additional network of supportive apartments.

Jericho's trademark is comprehensive counseling which enables residents to gain employment, maintain their sobriety, and reunite with families.

The non-profit has two such residences located in our borough. They are known as Fordham Village and Kingsbridge Terrace.

Located at 355 E. 194th Street, Fordham Village opened in 2011 and features 56 studio units.

In 2012, Jericho completed Kingsbridge Terrace, the second of its LEED-certified veterans residences in the borough serving 165 former service men and women from all eras of combat.

Both aid in establishing a sense of community through exquisitely designed and furnished studio apartments, community and computer rooms, gyms and gardens.

These locations provide veterans access to specific counseling, education and employment as well as reuniting them with their relatives. Jericho's housing and extended services



Fordham Village Veterans Community.

Photo courtesy of Jericho Project

cost \$12,000 per person annually.

According to Tori Lyon, Jericho Project executive director and its Veterans Initiative 2006 architect, another Bronx veterans and young adults residence is planned for 2065 Walton Avenue and construction will begin this spring. She added Jericho has been working closely with the Walton Avenue community and believes the new 90-unit residence will benefit the area.

Last year, the Bank of America Charitable Foundation presented Jericho Project with the Bank of America Neighborhood Builders Award which provides \$200,000 in flexible funding supporting leadership training for high performing non-profits and their executives.

"New York City has made strong inroads reducing veteran homelessness over the past year," Jeff Barker, NYC Bank of America pres-

ident said. "With this funding and leadership training, Jericho Project is poised to make an even greater impact in its efforts to combat homelessness among veterans by assisting those at-risk before they lose their homes."

Through expert program specialists and case managers' support, 95% of Jericho Project residents sustain housing stability and 90% with substance abuse disorders have remained sober compared to 40 to 60% nationally.

"The earlier that we can reach at-risk veterans with the stability of housing and the tools to secure employment, the more promising their future will be," Lyon explained. "We are grateful to Bank of America for their invaluable leadership training and financial support. Together, we can end homelessness at its roots."

For 32 years, this nationally acclaimed organization has sought to end homelessness by establishing a goal-centric community motivating people to achieve their greatest potential.

Since then, Jericho Project has aided thousands of homeless and at-risk New Yorkers and today assists 1,600 adults and families including 550 veterans.

Jericho's Veterans Supportive Apartment program, in partnership with James J. Peters VA Medical Center, supplies housing placement and extensive care management services for veterans and their families in all five boroughs.

Temple Hatikvah mourns passing of Rabbi Hertzberg

BY JAN SCHWARTZ

Community advocate, Bronx attorney, and spiritual leader of Temple Hatikva, Rabbi Harry Hertzberg passed away on March 16, at the age of 62.

Hertzberg began his lifelong devotion to improving the lives of others in his teen years when he founded the Environment Action Committee of Cop City, successfully leading the fight to close the Pelham Bay landfill in 1978, serving as chair from 1969 to 1986. He also was one of the founders of Services for Youth, for which he was the executive director from 1970 through 1994. He served as chief-of-staff for Assemblyman Alan Hochberg throughout his terms, from 1970 to 1976. Subsequently he went to Brooklyn Law School, where he graduated in 1980.

He worked throughout his 20s as a youth services director in several synagogues, including the Community Center of Israel in the Pelham Parkway area and Howard Beach Jewish Center. In 1989 he began to practice as an attorney, and in

1993 he established his practice at 1526 Williamsbridge Road. At the same time, he was the pro bono attorney for ARC XVI Fort Washington Inc., keeping his hand in the non-profit world, this time supporting seniors. In 1998 he also became pro bono attorney for the Ranachqua Foundation, an organization supporting boy scouts of the Bronx. He joined its board of directors the following year, serving until the time of his death.

Producer, correspondent and chief restaurant critic for WVOX-AM and WRTN-FM radio stations from 1972 to 1983, he returned to the microphone at WVOX-AM, in 2012, as host of 'The Bronx Report,' a weekly half-hour interview show highlighting good things happening in the Bronx. He also reentered the political arena that year, becoming legal counsel to the Liberty Democratic Association of the 80th Assembly District.

A frequent visitor to Israel, Rabbi Harry made a special trip there in the summer of



RABBI HARRY HERTZBERG

2006. His purpose was to visit soldiers from the Israeli Defense Forces hospitalized after the second Lebanon War to thank the soldiers for their heroism and courage, bringing with him donated gifts he had solicited from local New York City businesses.

While continuing his law practice, he eventually pursued a life-long dream and

was ordained a rabbi in 2005. A strong believer in the importance of keeping a house of prayer to service the religious needs of disenfranchised and unaffiliated Jewish residents of the Pelham Parkway area and surrounding communities, Rabbi Hertzberg founded and led the development of Temple Hatikva, serving pro bono, when the Community Center of Israel closed its doors in 2010.

While originally holding services in the former CCI building, Temple Hatikva relocated last year. Its services, events and adult education sessions are now held in Bronx House, at 990 Pelham Parkway South. 'Rabbi Harry' stated on the temple's website "that Judaism is an all-inclusive religion" and Temple Hatikva "strives to service all those that desire a connection with Judaism."

His dedication to keeping 'Yiddishkeit' in the area was evidenced by his insistence that membership dues be kept low and that there would never be a charge for attending High Holiday services. His staunch

support of Israel, sense of humor, passionate sermons, flair for publicity, and unusual themes and varied activities attracted a growing congregation of which he was very proud.

Cantor Kyle Cherry said, "Rabbi Harry was a strong force in building our Temple Hatikva congregation from the ground up. He will be greatly missed. His dedication will inspire us to continue serving the community with monthly services and innovative programs, with the same spirit he showed us."

In 1980, he married Fern Goldstein. In 1990, they adopted Anna. Harry remarried in 2002, to Sandra Tenzer, adding a step-daughter, Alyssa Tucker, into his circle. That same year he was blessed with granddaughter, Lili Belle Hertzberg. It was always important to him that he be surrounded by his family at special occasions.

Hertzberg was also a proud graduate of the Bronx High School of Science and Queens College and a staunch supporter of Israel and Judaism.

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Stagg Group purchased this development site on 150 Van Cortlandt Avenue East for about \$7 million.
Community News Group / Steven Goodstein

Cushman & Wakefield sell W. Bronx housing site

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

A corner development site in the west Bronx has been sold.

On Wednesday, March 18, Cushman & Wakefield, formerly known as Massey Knakal, announced that the site is approximately 19,811 square feet, located at 150 Van Cortlandt Avenue East near St. George's Crescent, was sold in an all-cash transaction for \$6.8 million.

The property was purchased by Westchester-based developer Stagg Group, who are reportedly planning to build a residential building with 259 units.

About half of these units will be reserved for low-income residents whose income is below 57% of the area median income, which will create a Low Income Housing Tax Credit for the building's new owner.

There will also be 20,000 square feet of parking is proposed. A green roof, encouraging environmental growth, has also been proposed.

This site offers approximately 142,639 buildable square feet, with the price of the sale equating to about \$48 per buildable square foot. The site, currently an oper-

ating service station, was once a gasoline station. All underground gasoline tanks were removed in February 1997.

The property has also previously underwent both phases of environmental assessments and remediation.

The site is also located within a close proximity to main thoroughfares in the west Bronx, such as Mosholu Parkway and Grand Concourse, and is walking distance to Van Cortlandt Park, the Mosholu Parkway Greenway, Lehman College, Bronx High School of Science and DeWitt Clinton High School.

The property is also near public transportation as well - located just six blocks from the 4 and D trains at the Bedford Park station. The area is also serviced by several express and local bus lines.

"This site has it all - location, scale and great access to parks and transportation," said Karl Brumback, Cushman & Wakefield's executive director, who exclusively handled the transaction. "The Bronx development market continues to strengthen as market-rate developers take a close look at the borough while land values elsewhere are triple the cost."

Contract hearing on Capri homeless shelter

From Page 1

porary basis in September. Service provider Acacia Network runs it.

Senator Jeff Klein offered testimony that began by saying he understands that there is a homelessness crisis in the city, and that much needs to be done to help individuals avoid becoming homeless and to transition back to permanent housing quickly.

Nevertheless, he opposed the siting of the shelter on several grounds.

"The haphazard way the Capri was transformed into a temporary transitional homeless shelter and presented to the community has left a bad taste in the mouth of the community at large," stated Klein. "This resentment will further prevent an atmosphere where the needs of the families in crisis are met effectively."

Klein added that the location and operation of the site

so far raises issues about the delivery of services to the families.

With a new golf course opening near the homeless shelter, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto testified that he believes the city is missing an economic development opportunity with a new golf course nearby in Ferry Point Park's east side.

"I continue to believe that City Hall is missing out on a chance to create a showcase attraction in the Bronx by piggybacking on the presence of the Trump Links Golf Course," said Benedetto adding the city should develop "the western side of Ferry Point Park into a shoreline tourist attraction which can be served by a new top-tier hotel on the Capri site."

The assemblyman was also disappointed, according to his statement, that his efforts to find an alternative site in the 82nd Assembly

District were rebuffed by DHS, making him believe that the agency cared less about finding a better location and more about imposing their will upon the community.

Dotti Poggi, of the Ferry Point Community Advocates, was not able to attend the hearing because of a conflict, but said she has numerous concerns.

These include what she describes as a general sense of lawlessness in parts of Ferry Point Park's west side during previous summers, near the shelter.

She also said that the neighborhood is a small community of about 40 homes that has seen its population roughly doubled by the new homeless population, changing the neighborhood's profile almost overnight.

"We are now a neighborhood where the majority of people do not work," she said.



The former Capri Whitestone Motel has become a homeless shelter.

Community News Group / Photo by Patrick Rocchio

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