

Funeral homes stiffed by city

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO
AND ROBERT WIRSING

Some funeral directors are having issue with the closure of the borough's only medical examiner's office.

Since the Office of Chief Medical Examiner consolidated operations and closed the Bronx office at Jacobi Medical Center in June, problems have emerged in Queens and Manhattan, where the borough's deceased are now taken, said Robert Ruggiero, executive director of the Metropolitan Funeral Directors Association.

According to the association, a trade group representing independent funeral directors, some bodies have been misidentified and released to the wrong funeral directors, and the chapels are facing longer wait times since the consolidation.

"We are trying to be supportive of the medical examiners...but consolidation is failing miserably," said Ruggiero. "Management cannot control their people is what it boils down to."

The trade group thought the new OCME system was going to work and that improvements would soon be seen, but three weeks into the new arrangement, nothing's changed, he said.

According to MFDA, before OCME announced its closure of the Bronx and Staten Island morgues with little prior notification, OCME cancelled two meetings with MFDA, saying there were no pressing or imminent issues to discuss.

In previous meetings with MFDA, OCME assured the group it planned to construct a new \$24 million mortuary investigative facility on the existing Jacobi campus only to later announce they scrapped the plan over a year ago and eliminated it from their budget, the MFDA stated.

The Bronx and Staten Island
Continued on Page 4

1ST BRONX UPSCALE HOTEL OPENS DOOR

BY JAIME WILLIAMS

Business leaders and elected officials gathered to celebrate the opening of the Marriott Residence Inn at the Hutch Metro Center atrium on Wednesday.

The 125-room hotel, which began hosting guests in May, is touted as the Bronx's first upscale, brand-name hotel.

The event was an important milestone for the Hutch Metro Center complex, said Joseph Simone, president of Simone Development.

"It is also a landmark event for the Bronx, and an example of all the excitement happening across the borough," said Simone.

The borough president extolled the accomplishment at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

"This is a big deal," said Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.

The hotel is a significant item in a long list of recent developments in the Bronx, he said, citing the Mall at Bay Plaza, the Trump Golf Links, and the upcoming Kingsbridge National Ice Center.

He thanked Simone Development for their contribution in the

Continued on Page 4



Do-It-Yourself Disaster

A rental truck, towing an automobile and hauling a family's household belongings slammed into the Westchester Avenue overpass while traveling southbound on the Hutchinson River Parkway, tearing the truck into pieces and scattering furniture, appliances and boxes of clothing along the righthand lane of the highway. The accident occurred around 8 a.m. on Tuesday, June 23, and required a massive cleanup.

Photo by Walter Pofeldt

Traffic forum addresses future concerns

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

The East Bronx Traffic Coalition brought together residents to discuss their concerns about traffic with unprecedented retail development taking place in the borough's eastern corner.

The coalition, a consortium of civic organizations, held their first

public forum at Providence Rest in Country Club on Tuesday, June 24.

Members of the community testified as to their concerns about traffic growing pains in the region.

The public got a chance to look over the findings of the group's volunteers who have researched a number of locations along I-95 and

the Hutchinson River Parkway between Co-op City and Ferry Point that are already or may see an increase in traffic volume.

The group has been studying the issues for over a year.

Topics that the coalition members presented findings on were:

- an over view of how the traffic

situation got to be a major concern - Frank Vernuccio

- Ferry Point, presented by Dotti Poggi

- Bruckner Interchange and an idea for a slip ramp onto I-95 north at St. Joseph's Way - John Marano

- a proposal to change traffic
Continued on Page 11

HOUSE CALLS **SERVING BRONX AND THE ENTIRE TRI-STATE AREA** **SAME DAY SERVICE AVAILABLE** **TOP \$ PAID FOR JUDAICA COLLECTIBLES**

ANTIQUES & ESTATE BUYERS

We Pay \$CASH\$ For
Paintings, Clocks, Watches,
Estate Jewelry & Fine China,
From Single Items
to Entire Estates!

- Coin & Stamp Collections
- Costume Jewelry
- Antique Furniture • Lamps
- Bronzes • Paintings • Prints
- Chinese & Japanese Artwork & Porcelain
- Sports Collectibles
- Comic Books • Old Toys • Records
- Cameras • Sterling Flatware Sets

HUMMELS & LLADROS

Top \$ Paid for Antique Sterling!

SEE OUR AD EVERY SUNDAY IN THE POST
516-974-6528
ASK FOR CHRISTOPHER

MOVING or DOWNSIZING? CALL US!

Military Collections Wanted
 Swords, Knives, Helmets, etc.

WILL TRAVEL ENTIRE TRI-STATE! **We buy anything old. One piece or house full.** **WILL TRAVEL. WE MAKE HOUSE CALLS. 173 N. WELLWOOD AVENUE, LINDENHURST, N.Y.** **FREE Estimates!**



Provetto at his first Community Board 10 meeting on Thursday, June 18.

Community News Group / Patrick Rocchio

Sixteen-, seventeen-year olds can now join CBs

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

The average age of NYC community board membership just got lowered with the addition of 16 and 17-year-old members.

A bill, primarily sponsored by Councilman Ben Kallos, was adopted by the City Council on June 11, and will give the boards a younger voice on local issues.

"As a young member of my community, all I really felt that I could do was sit on the sidelines," said Jon-Michael Provetto, who was appointed to Community Board 10 in April and sat in on his first meeting on Thursday, June 18. "As I got older, I began to realize all of the changes were being made throughout the neighborhood. That's when I asked myself, 'how can I get involved and help the community?'"

Provetto, who also joined the Youth and Education Committee and is also considering joining Parks and Recreation, will now make recommendations on such matters as the approval or denial of liquor licenses, urban planning matters, recreation and budgeting.

He will also be playing close attention to the neighborhood's housing and zoning laws.

Since his appointment in April, he has been mentored by board chairman Martin Prince.

"The passing of this bill is a very positive step - because it realizes that young individuals like myself are making a difference in their communities," said Provetto.

"It paves the way for new political members and instills confidence in them that they can be the future of community boards."

"We welcome these young members and we need youth on our community boards again," said Ivine Galarza, district manager at Community Board 6, who recalled when community boards in the Bronx boosted older teens during Fernando Ferrer's tenure as borough president from 1987 to 2001.

"Since government is not taught in high school, it is imperative that the high school students of our community have the opportunity to start young," she said.

Galarza also said that she looks forward to the training orientation on Monday, July 20 and that come September, this change among New York City community boards will be in full force.

Councilman Ritchie Torres, who was elected to office in November 2013 as the youngest member of the City Council, sponsored the resolution and was thrilled about the bill's passing.

"I am elated to see teenagers joining their local community boards," said Torres. "The recent change in state law, supported by a City Council resolution, has allowed for a new group of teens to not only learn about local government from hands-on experience, but take an active role in decision-making in their neighborhoods. I look forward to seeing more high school students join their local community boards in coming years."



An everlasting symbol of getting by until your next paycheck.

Jewelry often comes to you in the best of times. But it can also help you get through all the times in between. Provident Loan is a safe, discreet alternative to your average pawnshop.

And our interest rates will sweep you off your feet.



**PROVIDENT
LOAN SOCIETY
OF NEW YORK**

Pawning, redefined.

718-367-2850

2573 DECATUR AVE. (OFF FORDHAM RD.) BRONX, NY 10458

WWW.PROVIDENTLOAN.COM

Scavello's On The Island

— RESTARUANT & LOUNGE —



“SIP, SNACK, SOCIALIZE...”

Come and experience the genuine flavors of Italy with our authentic wood fired pizza and menu showcasing the flare of Calabrese cuisine.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR...

Live entertainment

Original cocktails

Chef select dinner special

\$5 drink specials after 9pm

Complimentary wood fired pizzetta

(w/ the purchase of 2 entrees Expires 8/31)

101 CITY ISLAND AVENUE | BRONX, NY 10464 | TELEPHONE: 347-680-3865 | EMAIL: SCAVELLOP@AOL.COM

Funeral homes stiffed by city



Patrick McNulty, Jr. is concerned about families he believes might suffer because of consolidation of Medical Examiner's Office .

Photo by Walter Pofeldt

will be minimal.

Regarding the pickup process, the OCME spokeswoman said that the Queens and Manhattan morgues had each added a check out station.

She also added that a review of response times from borough detectives from the precincts with the highest homicide rates show an overall decrease in travel time when comparing the Manhattan facility to the facility at Jacobi Medical Center.

Despite these assurances, local funeral directors still have concerns.

"The transfer was done overnight and it's had a large negative impact, not just for us, but for the families suffering a loss," Patrick McNulty, Jr., McNulty Funeral Home director said.

"Everything's at a standstill and we really don't know what's happening now; it's chaos," James McQuade, Schuyler Hill Funeral Home director said. "You can ask any funeral director in the Bronx, none of them are in favor of this transfer."

"We have had to go to Queens in the past few months for removals, but one of the bigger issue with this transfer is how it will affect police investigations," Sal Farenga, Jr., Farenga Brothers, Inc. Funeral Home director shared. "This decision was made without discussing it with the Metropolitan Funeral Directors Association or the borough president and it's very disheartening as it seems the Bronx is last on everyone's list."

Farenga added the transfer should have taken families' religious beliefs into consideration and the clergy he has spoken to share in this opinion.

A spokesperson for Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. said his office takes these concerns seriously and is investigating.

month, OCME announced north Bronx decedents would be transferred to Queens for mortuary services whereas south Bronx deceased would be sent to Manhattan.

OCME only announced these changes on May 7, saying they would be transferring Bronx and Staten Island mortuary services to neighboring boroughs.

An OCME spokeswoman stated in response to travel time concerns that a number of Bronx deceased have been transferred to Queens for the last several years without imposing undue burden on funeral directors and families and estimated that cost of added tolls, fuel and times

from Page 1

mortuary closures subject the public to extended wait times for OCME removal teams to arrive and take a loved one for examination, as well as extended wait times for funeral homes to pick up decedents from the OCME for funerals and burials, MFDA contends.

MFDA claims this decision results in more traffic, wasted fuel, parking issues and other service bottlenecks at the three remaining morgues and causes more suffering from families anxiously waiting for the removal of their loved one for burial or cremation.

Beginning earlier this



The Marriott Resident Inn at the Hutch Metro Center Atrium on ribbon cutting day.

Community News Group / Jaime Williams



Simone Development owners cut the ribbon on the borough's first Marriot, along with Bronx elected officials and business leaders.

Community News Group / Jaime Williams

Bronx welcomes Marriott Residence Inn

From Page 1

form of the Hutch Metro Center, among other developments.

"They've invested, they've bet on the Bronx," said Diaz.

The Hutch Metro Center is a 42-acre, multi-building campus with tenants that include medical offices and city agencies.

The campus will almost double in size when the additional property, formerly used by Bronx Sate Hospital, is developed.

"This is only half of

what the Simone organization is going to do," said Diaz.

The campus, and specifically the hotel, is adjacent to the site earmarked for the future Morris Park Metro North train station, which promises future development in the area.

"I remember when nothing existed here," said Councilman James Vacca about the site.

Now the center is an economic engine in his district and in the Bronx.

"The services, the jobs,

it's all been phenomenal," said Vacca. "It speaks to the future of the Bronx."

The hotel also has the potential to facilitate tourism in the Bronx, with easy access to the Bronx Zoo, New York Botanical Garden and Yankee Stadium, said Marlene Cintron, the director of the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation.

"This is a game changer for the Bronx," said Cintron. "We want this to be the first of many more."



CEO: Les Goodstein

PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER:
Jennifer Goodstein

General Phone: (718) 260-4595
By Mail: Bronx Times Reporter
3604 B E. Tremont Avenue
Bronx, NY 10465

NEWS
Fax: (718) 518-0038
E-Mail: bronxtimes@cnglocal.com

DISPLAY ADVERTISING
Phone: (718) 260-4593
Fax: (718) 518-0038
E-Mail: lguerrero@cnglocal.com

CLASSIFIED
Phone: (718) 260-2555
Fax: (718) 260-2549
E-Mail: classified@cnglocal.com

BXTimes.com

MEMBER:
NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION
NYPA

This newspaper is not responsible for typographical errors in ads beyond the cost of the space occupied by the error. All rights reserved. Copyright © 2015 by Bronx Times Reporter, Inc., a subsidiary of News Community Newspaper Holdings, Inc. The content of this newspaper is protected by Federal copyright law. This newspaper, its advertisements, articles and photographs may not be reproduced, either in whole or part, without permission in writing from the publisher except brief portions for purposes of review or commentary consistent with the law. Postmaster, send address changes to Bronx Times Reporter, 3604 B E. Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY 10465



Volunteer organizers of the South Bronx Farmers Market at their second season's opening day. (l-r) director Lily Kesselman, Jake Thomas, Rosanne Placencia-Knepper and Linda Ortiz. Photo by Edwin Soto

South Bronx Farmers Market starts Season 2

BY JAIME WILLIAMS

The South Bronx Farmers Market is back for round two after a successful first season bringing fresh food to Mott Haven.

The market, recently incorporated as a non-profit, was founded in 2014 when a group of local residents came together to found the volunteer-run project. They opened for the 2015 season on Saturday, June 20.

The weekly market grew from a desire to bring greater access to fresh and locally-sourced food to the Bronx, said director Lily Kesselman.

Compared to other neighborhoods in the city, Mott Haven didn't have the same types of food shopping experiences and opportunity, said board member Rosanne Placencia-Knepper.

"It was important for me that people where I live have access to this kind of opportunity without getting on a train," said Placencia-Knepper.

The market also wanted to provide support for local and sustainable farms, which are all within about 100 miles from the city. Two of those farms, the Urban Rebuilding Initiative and La Finca Del Sur, are in the Bronx.

Fresh produce offered include items such as tomatoes, peppers, sweet potatoes, collard greens, swiss chard, spinach, okra and herbs, among other things. Local vendors such as the Port Morris Distillery and Zaro's Bakery also sell goods.

Each week the farmers market also hosts a cooking demonstration by representatives from the Department of Health, the organization Just Foods or from community chefs.

The demonstrations teach shoppers tasty ways to use their healthy produce.

"They're showing that anybody can be a cook," said Kesselman.

The market hopes to inspire kids to get interested in cooking and eating healthy, she said, and the market recently received a grant to distribute coupons to local school kids each month, in the hopes their families will become regulars at the markets.

They are also part of the 'Health Bucks' program which provides \$2 coupon for every \$5 spent with SNAP and other benefits, increasing purchasing power by 40 percent.

"A big part of our mission is increasing options for healthy eating for people on benefits," said Kesselman.

The organizers have a vision to expand to satellite locations, possibly including farm stands in nearby housing projects, to bring fresh food directly to residents there.

Their ambitious goals come on the heels of what Kesselman said was a successful first season in 2014, thanks to volunteers, partners such as the St. Jerome Church and all the attendees who welcomed the market with open arms.

"We feel very supported in the community," she said.

For the organizers, the community aspect was an important element of the project, and they took pains to find out what local residents wanted from a farmers market.

"I thought it would be a great opportunity to create a space for people to come together, for neighbors to get to know each other," said Rosanne

And come they did, flocking to the market as the tables were still setting up.

"It quickly became a hub," said Kesselman.

The South Bronx Farmers Market is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays through November 21 on 138th Street between Willis and Alexander avenues.



Don't Get Scammed!

Get mortgage help from the New York State Attorney General.

MORTGAGE SCAM HELP
NYS ATTORNEY GENERAL



1-855-HOME-456



AGHomeHelp.com



TOP BRONX NEWS STORIES

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD - YOUR NEWS®



The Bronx Times On-Line
Your world is **24/7... NOW** so are we.

www.bxtimes.com



FOOD • HEALTH • TECHNOLOGY

THE LATEST BRONX SPORTS SCORES

CLASSIFIEDS FOR THE BRONX

Browder's death renews call for trial reform

BY JAIME WILLIAMS

Discovery for Justice is fighting for change.

The Bronx-based advocacy group joined Councilman Andy King to call on lawmakers to pass open discovery laws in response to the death of Kalief Brodwer.

Browder was 16 when he was arrested on an alleged robbery charge in the Bronx in 2010. He spent three years at Rikers Island awaiting trial before the case was eventually dismissed, about two of those years in solitary confinement.

Browder struggled with mental illness during and after his confinement and recently killed himself at his Belmont home, prompting renewed calls to examine the criminal justice system in New York.

"Kalief Browder's story is tragic, but not unavoidable," said Councilman Andy King at a press conference in front of the Bronx District Attorney's office on June 18 with Discovery for Justice.

In court proceedings, the term 'discovery' is used to refer to the exchange of information between the prosecution and the defense.

When defendants are not privy to the prosecutor's evidence, they don't know what kind of case will be brought against them and can be pressured into pleading guilty to a lesser charge, said Browder's lawyer Paul Prestia.

"Too often, prosecutors don't turn over discovery until the day of trial" said Prestia



Councilman Andy King in front of the Bronx District Attorney's office with members of Discovery for Justice, calling for open discovery laws in the wake of Kalief Browder's death.

Community News Group / Jaime Williams

"It doesn't leave an even playing field."

The current criminal procedure laws are antiquated, said King, as open discovery laws are found in all but 14 states, New York falling into the latter group, and were recently implemented in Texas.

"We're calling on legislators to pass a law mandating early, open and pretrial automatic discovery," he said. "I ask my colleagues in the state, let's do right by the people of New York."

King asked Bronxites to call on their state representatives to get behind repealing the corresponding criminal procedure law, 420 and enacting 425.

Members of Discovery for Justice want trial information to be shared early in the process, so it's clear to all parties involved whether the prosecution has a viable case.

"We're interested in the truth" said member and retired NYPD Carlton Berkley.

The changes could be part of a process

to start holding prosecutors responsible for a defendant's right to a speedy trial, which loopholes in the criminal procedure laws prevent.

"Kalief Browder languished in jail for three years while prosecutors delayed his case with out any accountability," said Prestia.

Prestia also called for reforms in the jails, and praised Mayor de Blasio's decision to abolish solitary confinement for juveniles last year, although he'd like to see the age raised to 21 because it can take a psychological toll on young adults.

"Solitary confinement is archaic, and frowned upon in much of the world," said Prestia.

While in jail, Browder was at the mercy of the guards, he said, and experienced documented abuse.

Reforms to the criminal justice system could have saved Browder's life, said Prestia, although now it's too little, too late for him.

"But it's not too little, too late for other young men and women that need to go through that system," he said.

Policies at Rikers Island have been under scrutiny this year, and on Monday, the Manhattan U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara announced his office had reached an agreement with city officials to implement reforms including the appointment of an independent monitor, additional training and changes to use of force policy.

CHBA continues to fight Days Inn

BY JAIME WILLIAMS

Even as the walls continue to rise, residents of Castle Hill are trying to find ways to stop the construction of a Days Inn in their back yard.

Concerns over the impact the 60-plus unit project at 2338 Bruckner Boulevard could have on the quiet residential neighborhood has a local civic group pleading with the Department of Building to stop construction due to the developer allegedly not following the zoning laws.

Last fall, the Castle Hill Neighborhood Betterment Associations formed to fight the hotel, which local residents feel could bring a host of problems ranging from prostitution, parking issues and declining property values, said CNBA president Hector Soto.

"We're concerned about how its going to impact us," said Soto. "We just don't see anything positive this will bring here."

After a push from the community and elected officials to look

into zoning violations for the 'as of right' project, the DOB issued a temporary stop work order, which was celebrated by electeds, but lifted soon after.

An April letter from Senator Jeff Klein, Assemblyman Luis Selpulveda and Soto called for a new stop work order regarding procedures followed by the developer as well as discrepancies between the approved plans and zoning resolutions.

"These issues led us then and lead us now to believe that the applicant's plans have been approved in error," it reads.

The DOB has not communicated with the CNBA any satisfactory reason for lifting the stop work order, according to the letter.

"The continuing lack of tangible evidence and/or explanation to demonstrate the project is in compliance with all applicable zoning resolution, code and Multiple Dwelling Law requirements is counter-intuitive to your agency's important role



The ongoing construction of a Days Inn Hotel at 2338 Bruckner Boulevard has residents of Castle Hill concerned.

Photo by Walter Pofeldt

in ensuring compliant, responsible development in NYC."

The CNBA will bring its request for answers directly to the DOB commissioner's office with a demonstration from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, June 30, outside 280 Broadway. The group will depart from Holy Family church at 10 a.m.

Meanwhile, the association's board is looking for legal avenues to pursue to halt the construction. They are also encouraging residents to be on the lookout for violations at the construction site to

report to 311, to continue to hold the developer's feet to the fire, said Soto.

They're frustrated with the DOB commissioner's lack of communication with the group and unwillingness to respond to what they feel are legitimate concerns.

"Everybody depends on the DOB," said CNBA board member Nancy Rodriguez, but she feels the agency has failed the community.

"They're allowing these people to come and build and ruin our neighborhood."

Following concerns from local residents, the DPB conducted a full audit of this project, a spokesperson for the department said in a statement. After the applicant resolved objections related to the audit, the plans were determined to be in full compliance with all applicable Construction Codes and the NYC Zoning Resolution, and the job permitted to move forward.

"The Department will continue to work with the community should safety or compliance concerns arise at this work site," they said.

Senator, tenants: stop Goldfarb's harassment

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

A group of outraged tenants and two elected officials are calling on the state attorney general to investigate tenant harassment.

Tenant leaders in four buildings in Pelham Parkway, part of the Goldfarb Properties' portfolio, are the victims of harassment, said Senator Jeff Klein, to encourage rent-controlled and rent-stabilized tenants to leave so that higher rents may be charged.

A rally was held in front of one of the buildings, 1135 Pelham Parkway North, on Monday, June 22, with Klein, Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj and tenant leaders calling on State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman to investigate their allegations through the recently created the Tenant Harassment Prevention Task Force.

Senator Klein said at the press conference that no tenant should be the victim of systemic harassment or discrimination when they are trying to make a decent home for themselves and their families.

"New York state law currently provides landlords with numerous incentives to evict tenants and raise rents," said Klein, referring to "dishonest, scamming landlords." "Let me be clear: this type of profit motive has no place in state law."

The senator called for an investigation of Goldfarb, and also Amro Management, which runs another building with dissatisfied tenants at 3555 Bruckner Boulevard.



Senator Klein speaks during a press conference on Monday, June 22 flanked by tenants who believe that their landlord is making conditions unbearable.

Community News Group / Patrick Rocchio

Gjonaj said that the Goldfarb has to be more cooperative and sit down with his tenants.

"The tenants in these buildings have endured months of harassment, reduction of services and disruptions that have negatively impacted their lives," said Gjonaj.

Joining tenants from 3555 Bruckner Boulevard and 1135 Pelham Parkway North were tenants at Goldfarb properties at 1130

Pelham Parkway South, 1540 Pelham Parkway South and 2160-2166 Matthews Avenue.

Klein said, and several tenant leaders confirmed, that the four buildings in the Pelham Parkway portfolio were acquired in early 2014 by Goldfarb from the Putter family.

Since then, tenants leaders said, they have been subject to numerous appearances in housing court on frivolous claims made

by the landlord.

While the alleged infractions are usually dismissed, the time and disruption are causing many in what were once stable buildings to leave, they charged.

"There are moving trucks outside every week," said tenant Jerome Maidenber of 1130 Pelham Parkway South, adding that in 2014 the elevator in his building did not work for four and a half months seriously inconveniencing the senior who lives on the sixth floor.

"The landlord is making conditions unbearable so that people move out," Maidenber said.

Tenant leader Andrew Goebel, who lives at 1135 Pelham Parkway North, said that in his building the biggest issues are frivolous lawsuits against tenants, rodent infestation, lack of gas service in some apartments and wheelchair accessibility that is not in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act.

"I decided to form a tenant association with the purpose of keeping myself and my tenants free from harassment by Goldfarb Properties," said Goebel. "Unfortunately, Goldfarb prefers to run its property management company using intimidation, harassment and frivolous lawsuits filed against tenants with the hopes of evicting us from our rent-controlled apartments."

P.O. Byrnes scholarships awarded at M.S. 101

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

On Monday, June 22, NYPD deputy commissioner of legal matters Larry Byrne awarded grants to three students as a part of the Edward R. Byrne Scholarship Awards, which took place just after M.S. 101's graduation at Lehman High School.

The grants were presented to graduating students Thias Flores, Joshua Rivera and Cashonee Wimbush. They each received \$250 towards their high school education.

Their winning essays reflected on the tragedy of Larry's brother Edward Byrne, a police officer who was murdered while on the job in Queens on February, 26, 1988.

At around 3:30 a.m. that morning, Byrne was sitting in his marked patrol car in front of a house that had repeatedly called the NYPD to report illegal activities taking place on the same street.

Byrne, who was assigned to this location alone, was sitting in his car when another car pulled up alongside him.

Two men in the car exited - one of the men broke the passenger side window of the police cruiser while the second man crept up on the driver's side and shot Byrne five times in the head with a .38 caliber pistol, while two other men acted as lookouts.

Shortly after, Byrne was pronounced dead at a local hospital, just five days after his 22nd birthday.

In dedication and honor of the fallen police officer, 91st Avenue in Queens was renamed P.O. Edward R. Byrne Avenue and P.O. Edward Byrne Park was dedicated, both in 1995.

The next year, the city changed the name of M.S. 101 from the Henry Bruckner Junior High School to the Edward R. Byrne Middle School - where the student body remains knowledgeable of the



(l-r) Byrne, awardee Wimbush, awardee Flores, awardee Rivera and Larry Nikunen, assistant chief of borough patrol pose after the three graduating students each received a \$250 grant.

Photo courtesy of Kinhang Tong (NYPD)

events that occurred that sad day in NYC history.

Despite the tragic death of his brother over 25 years ago, Larry says that these to-be graduates at M.S. 101 benefit from writing these essays.

"The winners presented us with three excellent essays and they each deserved to be awarded with this grant," said

Larry, who started the annual scholarship awards program when the school was renamed in his brother's honor.

"These essays may reflect the sad, unfortunate history of my brother's passing, but it also teaches students about the dangerous history in New York City, from violence to drug use and other unlawful and unfortunate scenarios," he added.

Scanlan leases space to charter school

BY ROBERT WIRSING

The upcoming school year for students at Grand Concourse Academy Charter School will mean moving to a new campus.

Presently located between the Grand Concourse and Walton Avenue, GCACS was established in 2004 to serve kindergarten through fifth grade and sees their students exceed others in the common core curriculum.

This charter school was recently given the green light to expand services to eight grade, but needed a space to accommodate these additional students.

Monsignor Scanlan High School, on the Hutchinson River Parkway, will lease its under utilized St. Helena Hall and Nat Silverberg Gym to GCACS in the upcoming school year.

"We've been a 'grade A charter school' for over 11 years," Michael Simonetti, GCACS senior business associate informed. "The current school doesn't offer enough space for our expansion and this is a great opportunity for urban students to attend school in a safe, gated community where they can learn and grow as indi-

viduals."

He added GCACS will move up a grade each year and by 2017, the school will provide educational services for grades kindergarten through eighth.

GCACS student's first day at MSHS's campus is slated for Friday, September 11 at 8:30 a.m.

According to Simonetti, parents interested in enrolling their children into the charter school should apply online at www.gcacs.org.

He said that candidates from Bronx District 8 will be considered a priority on the wait list.

Given different schedules and calenders, MSHS and GCACS students will not have any interaction.

In 1949, MSHS was founded as two schools known then as St. Helena's High School of Boys and St. Helena's School for Girls.

The schools were established by Monsignor Arthur Scanlan, St. Helena Church's founding pastor, each occupying its own separate building.

Both schools were renamed after Scanlan in 1972 and merged into one coeducational institu-



Monsignor Scanlan High School's St. Helena Hall will be leased to Grand Concourse Academy Charter School in the coming school year.

Photo courtesy of Monsignor Scanlan High School

tion four years later, leaving St. Helena Hall empty for decades.

The five-story high St. Helena Hall can house 600 to 700 students and will be used as the main facil-

ity for 450 GCACS students.

Renovations for this building are now underway and include a fresh coat of paint, polished floors, installation of a new first floor

rest room and new furniture.

Simonetti explained St. Helena Hall will house technology and science labs as well as art and music rooms.

In addition, GCACS will utilize the Nat Silverberg Gym's top floor as four kindergarten classrooms that will house 25 to 26 students each and have two teachers per classroom and the bottom floor for physical education and athletic activities.

MSHS students will now utilize the Gallagher Gym for their sports events and gym classes.

Simonetti said Nat Silverberg Gym will also provide GCACS students an opportunity to participate in theater and other cultural activities.

He added GCACS is hoping to have track, soccer, and basketball teams at their new homestead.

GCACS will offer an extended after-school program at Nat Silverberg Gym.

At a Monday, June 22 board meeting, school officials discussed the relocation project's progress and said renovations are set for completion before September.

DCP presents Ferry Point findings

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Community Board 10 hosted the Department of City Planning in Ferry Point recently to discuss ideas for improving traffic flow in the community.

DCP presented a raft of proposals for Ferry Point – a community that has a mixture of commercial, industrial and residential uses.

Items on the agenda ranged from changing the location of the ramps to access the Hutchinson River Parkway to moving bus stops.

The dialogue took place during the CB 10 Municipal Services Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 9 at Monsignor Scanlan High School.

John Marano, a member of the East Bronx Traffic Coalition, a consortium of civic groups studying local traffic issues, said that members of the coalition distributed flyers to the approximately 30 homes in Ferry Point, advising them of the meeting.

"We wanted the community board to host the Department of City Planning regarding Ferry Point roads and the Hutchinson River Parkway study," said Marano, who also sits on CB 10. "We wanted to hear from more people from Ferry Point; we don't get over there enough...and we want the residents to know that they have an avenue to speak their minds."

During the meeting, Marano, in his ca-

capacity as a board member, introduced a representative from the DCP who spoke about the agency's Hutchinson River Parkway Corridor Study, which was recently completed.

Among the ideas for Ferry Point that might warrant further review are:

- swapping out an on-ramp to the Hutchinson River Parkway near the Whitestone Bridge for an off-ramp, to allow trucks to have better access to facilities in the community. DCP has already reached out to the state Department of Transportation on this, a spokesman stated.
- a ramp of some sort either at St. Joseph's Way or nearby that would allow direct access to I-95 northbound.
- building another bridge over Westchester Creek to complement the Unionport Bridge
- improvements to Ring Road, located in Ferry Point Park, under the Whitestone Bridge, that will allow Pepsi trucks to leave the plant and access delivery routes to the north
- adding a greenstreet under the Bruckner Expressway at a traffic triangle, and making the area more attractive for bicyclists, and pedestrians, in light of the new development.

During the meeting, the DCP representative said that short-term components of the ideas could be handled by city agencies, but that larger recommendations might require



Dorothea Poggi (far l) speaks to (l-r) John Marano, CB 10 vice-chairman; Martin Prince, CB 10 chairman; Bob Bieder, CB 10 board member; and Juton Horstman, Department of City Planning. She is showing them a chart she made on traffic flow in Ferry Point at the community board's meeting at Monsignor Scanlan High School on Tuesday, June 9.

Community News Group / Patrick Rocchio

collaboration with state agencies.

Some solutions proposed by DCP that do not require major capital expenditures are:

- improve signage to facilitate traffic circulation for trucks that need to utilize the local streets
- increase police presence in the areas south of East Tremont Avenue along the Hutchinson River Parkway corridor, including in Ferry Point.

While the meeting only included propos-

als and further study is necessary, attendee Dotti Poggi, of the Ferry Point Community Advocates, said that she was pleased by DCP study.

"I think in my case, in my area DCP did a good job," said Poggi, who added that the agency looked into the areas of concern that she had, and considered changes.

Marano said he was pleased to see new faces from the Ferry Point community that he has not seen at previous meetings.

Caribbean Life

*Caribbean Life, the largest publication
reaching New York's Caribbean community,
would like to thank the sponsors of the*

2015

Caribbean American Healthcare Awards

The Aetna logo, featuring the word "aetna" in a lowercase, blue, sans-serif font.

Maimonides
Medical Center



New York State
NURSES
ASSOCIATION

► EMPLOYMENT

To Place Your Ad
Call 718-260-2555

► MEDICAL HELP WANTED

► MEDICAL HELP WANTED

► SECURITY HELP WANTED

► HELP WANTED

► HELP WANTED

► HELP WANTED

► HELP WANTED

ABLE HEALTH CARE **HOME HEALTH AIDES!**

EXCELLENT PAY

FREE Training Classes

Classes start July 6 in White Plains & Islandia

June 20 in Hempstead

Call for schedule in other areas

NEW HIGHER PAY RATES

HHA's with Certificates

Immediate Work in All Areas

+ Special Bonus Program*

GREAT BENEFITS

Health Insurance
Vacation Pay, Sick Pay,
Personal Pay

Full Time • Part Time
Weekends
All Shifts - All Locations



ABLE
Certified Home Health Agency

* Call us for
complete details
about our
Bonus program

Bronx/Westchester 914-470-9927

Brooklyn 718-947-3691

Queens 718-947-3671

Nassau 516-634-2115

Suffolk 631-729-2383

www.ablehealthcare.com

**SECURITY
OFFICERS NEEDED**
VALID S/O LICENSE
ALL SHIFTS AVAILABLE
NIGHTS/ DAYS:
FULL TIME/ PART TIME
SALARY VARIES
APPLY ONLINE - www.ussecurityassociates.com
CLICK: BROADWAY NY
CALL: 212-391-6957
WALK-INS WELCOME:
U.S. Security
Associates, Inc.
1560 Broadway, Suite
1209, NY, NY 10036

► HELP WANTED

DRIVERS WANTED

For busy limo co.
in LIC, Queens for
buses, sprinters,
stretch limos.
TLC a Must
CDL a Plus

718-433-2333 x7
bill@benslimo.com

► SALES HELP WANTED

► SALES HELP WANTED

► SALES HELP WANTED

Classified Advertising Sales Account Executive

We are looking to hire an individual with a proven track record in advertising sales to sell print and digital advertising campaigns in a wide range of categories including recruitment, real estate, service and more.

You will have the opportunity to sell into the largest group of community newspapers, specialty magazines and local websites in New York City.

Responsibilities

- Identify client needs, communicate the benefits of our audience-based marketing solutions as they relate to each need and then sell the appropriate campaign.
- Negotiate contracts.
- Manage day-to-day activities using a CRM system.
- Meet or exceed revenue expectations.

Qualifications

- Sales experience.
- Proficient in sales calling including upselling, appointment setting and cold calling.
- Ability to work through objections/concerns regarding costs, budgets and selling strategies.

POSITION OFFERS

Base salary plus commission, 401K, Paid Vacation and medical

Please send your resume and cover letter to: epechenaya@cnglocal.com



CNG/NYCCM IS AN EOE

DreamJobsNYC

Start Your Career
With A Job That's Right For You!

Try Real-Time Job Matching™ & get hired fast.

www.DreamJobsNYC.com

Call
718.260.2555

..to advertise
your business in our
Classified Section
and get..

Real Results!



SAVE MONEY



BY SHOPPING IN OUR CLASSIFIEDS

Maritime, Manhattan rank high nationally

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

Two Bronx institutions of higher education are tops in the nation in terms of providing affordable tuition costs and comfortable salaries.

The recently updated Brookings Report, an analysis conducted by the Brookings Institution that measures a college's graduates earned income, the occupations in which they work and loan employment rates, ranked both SUNY Maritime and Manhattan College among the top institutions in the nation.

The report also recognizes colleges and universities that provide the highest value-added in mid-career earnings.

This particular study showed that SUNY Maritime graduates earn more than graduates at Ivy League schools such as Harvard and Yale.

It also found that SUNY Maritime graduates earned over \$121,000 per year as mid-career salary, or ten years after graduating, on average.

With a comfortable starting career salary of just under \$60,000 on average according to Pay Scale, Maritime graduates only have to work about two years to earn their tuition money back.

Because of these statistics, Maritime was ranked as the top public college in the nation in graduate earnings and for providing the highest-value-added in mid-career earnings - at 42% value-added. In the report,



Last month's commencement at SUNY Maritime.

Photo courtesy of SUNY Maritime

Maritime was ranked in the top 20 overall.

"We offer tuition at a great price and 100% of our graduates not only find employment - they find employment in their field of study," said Terrence Kelly, director of communications at SUNY Maritime. "We are very pleased and proud that third parties like the Brookings Institution see value in our education program."

Meanwhile, the study predicted that graduates of Manhattan College, another Bronx-based school, earn an average annual salary of just over \$70,000, whereas the actual average salary for Manhattan graduates is over \$110,000 - accounting for a 42% salary boost.

Manhattan received a score of 99 out of 100 in value-added with respect to mid-career earnings, while also scoring 98 in value added with respect to occupation earnings power of a typical graduate.

As a result, the report ranked Manhattan College in the top ten, just ahead of Stanford, also noting that many graduates are placed into top international and Fortune 500 companies like IBM, Google, JP Morgan and Wells Fargo, landing jobs alongside Ivy Leaguers - where they earn, on average, just over \$55,000 for a starting and about \$110,000 for a mid career salary, meaning that they have to work about four years to earn back tuition.

Ivy League schools in New York such as Columbia and Cornell are both more expensive in tuition and lead to a less rewarding income. On average, Ivy League graduates will have to work at least one more year than Maritime and Manhattan graduates to earn back their four-year tuition.

"Our graduates are very successful in both a professional and a personal sense, which both go hand in hand," said Bill Clyde, executive vice president and provost at Manhattan College. "The Brookings Report applied a new methodology how students develop, grow and learn - basically measuring their college experience. Our institution strongly prioritizes community engagement and service to others - because we understand that great personal growth leads to relationships and eventually expanded career choices."

By reading this report, it is clear that the Bronx possesses two hidden gems of higher education.

"We have always been known as 'the borough of universities', and you can get a top-flight education here in the Bronx," said Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. "While it's not as simple as attending one of our university to save money and make a great salary, the fact still remains that the Bronx is producing quality talent that can compete in the job market with graduates from any high-end higher learning institute in the county, regardless of one's major."

Traffic forum addresses future concerns

from Page 1

lanes and signage near Amendola Plaza in Pelham Bay presented by Michele Torrioni

- the proposed development of a mall and possibly a senior residence along East Gun Hill Road, across I-95 from the Mall at Bay Plaza - Arlene Grauer

- Co-op City and the area around Bay Plaza by John Doyle

- recent developments along the Hutchinson River Parkway, with a focus on the Hutchinson Metro Center are - Robert Barbarelli

- possible future uses and concerns related to the former Whitestone Multiplex Cinema and proposed Paragon site, which now faces an unclear future by Al Belifiore

Public participation after the slide presentations drew varied comments and suggestions, from using highway shoulders for truck through-traffic to filling potholes on the Cross Bronx Expressway.

Grauer said the old roads are not suited for the new develop-

ment.

"We are not going to accept new development in an area of old infrastructure," she said. "The old infrastructure will not support the new development."

Marano said that having all of the community associations together in one room was helpful because of the efficiency.

"I think we work a little more efficiently as one group," he said, adding that it helped when meeting with elected officials because the community could speak in unison, and the electeds could speak to one group of citizens rather than meeting individually with each association in the coalition.

The focus of the meeting was more on constructive solutions, and the community seems truly interested in new approaches to traffic issues, said Barbarelli.

"There was more optimism here and less complaining," he said, adding that EBTC wanted to encourage the community to come to them in the future with new pro-



The meeting on traffic issues drew an interested group of citizens to Providence Rest on Tuesday, June 23. Community News Group/Patrick Rocchio

posals, ideas and solutions.

One of the more striking proposals of the evening came when Belifiore suggested in his presentation that legislation be created that would require developers to consider local road conditions before development and contribute to infrastructure improvements.

Joining concerned community members at the town hall-style meeting were representatives of elected officials: Congressman Joseph Crowley, Senator Jeff Klein, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto,

Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj and Councilman James Vacca.

The coalition is made up of members of the Throggs Neck Home Owners Association, Country Club Civic Association, Throggs Neck Merchants, Ferry Point Community Advocates, Locust Point Civic Association, Spencer Estate Civic Association, Waterbury LaSalle Community Association, City Island Civic Association, and Morris Park Community Association. Community Board 10 has a liaison on the committee.

Call

718.260.2555

..to advertise
your business in our
Classified Section
and get..

Real Results!



For you or a loved one:

LET'S TALK ABOUT LIVING WITH RELAPSING MS



Join us for an **MS LIVING EVENT.**

Hear from MS experts and others who are living with MS. Plus, get some answers about dealing with MS and information on **an oral treatment.**

When:

Tuesday, June 30, 2015
6:30PM Eastern

Where:

Zuppa Restaurant and Lounge
59 Main Street
Yonkers, NY 10701

Expert Speakers

Rene Elkin, MD
MS Clinic Ryebrook
MC Clinic Bronx Lebanon Hospital

A MEAL WILL BE PROVIDED. FREE PARKING

**Call 1-866-703-6293 to reserve your space.
or register at mslivingevents.com**

EVENT ID: **TR297138**

US.MS.MSX.14.03.014