

D.A. seeks Supreme Court

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

The borough's district attorney, in office for more than a quarter century, announced that he is interested in a New York Supreme Court seat.

District Attorney Robert Johnson announced on Friday, September 18 that he was requesting that Assemblyman Marcos Crespo, Bronx Democratic County Committee chairman, support his nomination in the party's Judicial Convention, slated to take place on Thursday, September 24.

He said in a statement that he understands that the decision rests solely with the judicial delegates, and that if he were not selected, he would run for another term as Bronx D.A. on the Democrat, Republican and Conservative party lines.

He stated that this is a way to for him to continue his public service in another capacity.

"I have gained tremendous satisfaction from working with this office and all its staff to provide justice and fairness for the people of the Bronx," stated Johnson. "However, after 42 years of public service, including the U.S. Navy, The Legal Aid Society, as a Bronx Assistant District Attorney, as a Criminal Court Judge, and as the D.A. for the past 27 years, after much inner reflection, I have concluded that I would like to serve in another capacity."

Johnson added: "It is time for change in my life; the judicial position will allow me to make a career move that provides the change that I seek without giving up public service."

The D.A. also sought to announce
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HIT AND RUN KILLS THROGGS NECK SENIOR



Never Too Big For Fun

Bronx House Community Center on Pelham Parkway held its annual Fun Day on Saturday, September 12. Participants were able to enjoy free activities, participate in program demonstrations and meet staff. Here, Brandon Gomez, 6, and Liah Sophia, 4, have an encounter with an 'elephant.'

Photo by Miriam Quin

Victim ran local AARP chapter

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

A well-known senior and community activist was killed last week in a daytime hit and run accident in Throggs Neck.

Angelo 'Jerry' Gerardi, an 89-year old Throggs Neck resident, passed away on Wednesday, September 16, from the injuries he sustained when he was struck at East Tremont Avenue and Roosevelt Avenue just two days earlier.

The incident took place on the morning of Monday, September 14, when Gerardi crossed the busy thoroughfare after parking his car.

He was hit by an 1987 Plymouth that was travelling northbound on East Tremont Avenue.

Following the incident, Gerardi, was taken to Jacobi Hospital, he was listed in serious condition with severe body trauma.

Just over 48 hours later, Gerardi was pronounced dead.

The investigation is ongoing, and no arrests have been made.

According to employees of Amalgamated Bank, which is located just steps away from where the incident occurred, Gerardi was on his way to the bank when the incident occurred.

"He was polite, respectful and just a wonderful person," Anna Candido, head teller at Amalgamated Bank said.

Gerardi was a regular at the bank for the past 15 years. "He was a true gentleman, he was loved by everybody who knew

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CB7's DM leaves for the Deutschland

*BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

The district manager of Community Board 7 recently announced his resignation from the board.

Dustin Engelken, CB7's district manager for the last year and a half, announced his resignation at the community board's last general board meeting on Tuesday, September 15.

Engelken, who was appointed to the position in May 2014, told the board his wife in-

formed him that she had a potential job opportunity to work as an operations manager for a multi-national company based in Frankfurt, Germany.

After consulting with Dustin, his wife took the job offer, and as a result, Dustin will officially leave the community board in mid-October to accompany his family to Germany. His last day as district manager is October 9.

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College-bound athlete selected Miss Columbus

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

A high school senior with a fancy for softball and all things Italian has been selected as Miss Columbus for the 2015 Bronx Columbus Day Parade.

Bianca Mastropietro, a senior at Preston High School, was selected from a field of three semifinalists after penning a winning essay about Italian cooking show host Giada de Laurentiis and how her television program mirrors her own experiences with Sunday family dinners and day-to-day life as an Italian American.

She will be officially crowned as the winner of the academic contest at the parade's dinner dance, on Sunday, September 27.

At the dance, she will be giving a speech in Italian that will include a thank you for the honor as well as information about herself and her hopes for the future, she said.

"Being Miss Columbus is meaningful to me because I am representing young girls and ev-

eryone with an Italian-American background," said Mastropietro.

The winning essay impressed an independent group of three judges who are educators explained parade coordinator Tony Signorile.

In the essay, Mastropietro wrote about much how her family, and especially a hard-working grandfather, has influenced her life and her desire to get a good education.

She explained that her grandfather was born in Naples, Italy and came to America as a teenager, missing out on a chance at an American education.

"He did not have opportunity to go to school; he worked at a young age and he is still working," said Mastropietro. "He has always said to me, my sisters and cousins...to work hard now so that we can do what we want to do later in life."

She believes that both education and the opportunity to get an education are extremely important, she said.

Miss Columbus 2015 is committed to playing Division 1 softball at Bryant University in Smithfield, RI, where she will be a student in the fall. She currently plays on Preston High School's team, where she is a catcher.

At Bryant, where she received an athletic scholarship, she will study Business Management with a concentration in Sports Studies.

As Miss Columbus, she will receive a scholarship for college from the Generoso Pope Foundation.

The Country Club native said she was encouraged to participate in the process by her Italian teacher at Preston.

"I applied at the end of last school year to be able to represent my culture and the people of my culture," she said.

Upon receiving the good news that she had won from Signorile, she literally jumped up and down with excitement, she said.

The parade steps off on Sunday,



Bianca Mastropietro

Photo courtesy of the Mastropietro family

October 11 at noon at White Plains Road and Morris Park Avenue, and marches along Morris Park Avenue to Williamsbridge Road.

This year's grand marshal is labor leader Mario Cilento,

president of the New York State AFL-CIO.

The honorary grand marshal is Josephine Fanelli, principal of St. Theresa School in Pelham Bay.



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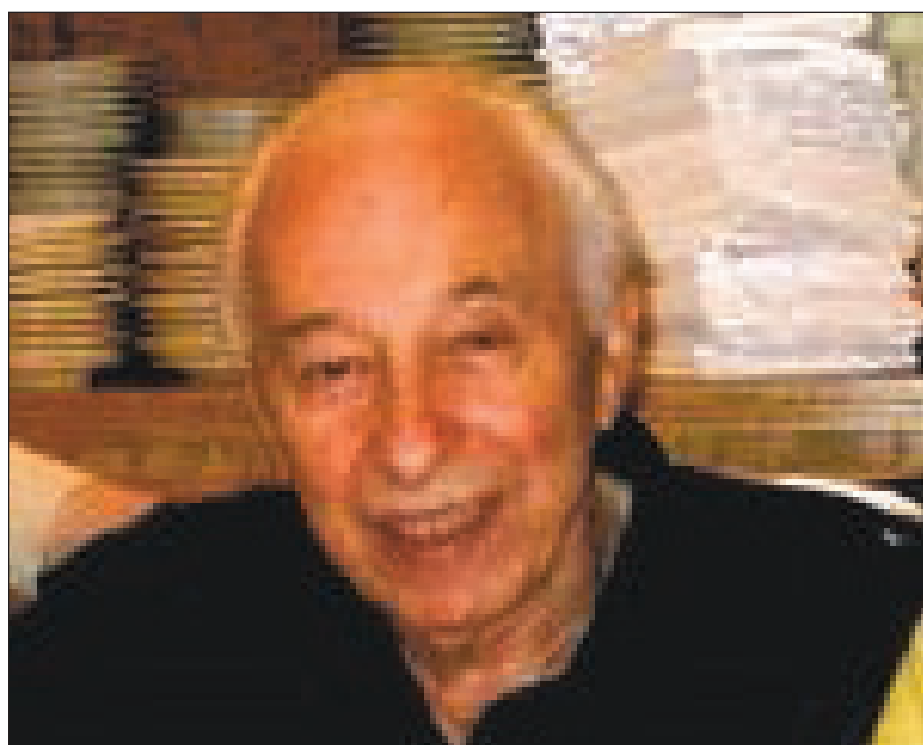


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(Above) Gerardi, 89, a long-time Throggs Neck resident, was a fourth degree past Grand Knight of the Mary, Queen of Peace, Knights of Columbus and the president of the AARP 603 Chapter.

Photo courtesy of Sisto Funeral Home

Hit and run kills local senior

from Page 1

him and he will be greatly missed," she concluded.

Known simply as 'Jerry', Gerardi was born in Brewster, NY on March 27, 1926 to Jane (Nole) and Daniel Gerardi.

As a child, Jerry worked in his father's Latticini store on 187th Street.

At age 12, he crafted a professional shoe shine box and set up his own personal business on the same corner. One day, he had the pleasure of shining shoes for a then-unknown skinny Hoboken kid named Frank Sinatra.

Jerry served his country in the Pacific during World War II as a combat-decorated infantryman.

After the war, Jerry married Rosemarie Piscitelli on June 25, 1949.

After attending diamond setting school, Jerry went on to establish himself on 47th Street's Diamond District in Manhattan as a diamond setter and jeweler, where he owned and operated his own successful business for over 50 years.

Additionally, Jerry was a fourth degree past Grand Knight of the Mary Queen of Peace, Knights of Co-

lumbus and was also the president of the AARP 603 Chapter.

He enjoyed organizing trips for his fellow seniors.

Jerry's funeral was on Monday, September 21 at St. Benedict's Church after services took place at Sisto Funeral Home on Saturday and Sunday.

He was buried in St. Raymond's Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife Rosemarie, sister Christine, three daughters Josephine, Marie and Diana, and two grandsons Steven and Matthew.

District Attorney Johnson seeks Supreme Court spot

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swer published reports that speculated that some sort of backroom deal was struck to move Johnson to another position.

"Contrary to what has been reported, no one, including anyone associated with the Bronx Democratic Party, has ever offered me another position, nor has anyone asked me to step down or retire as the district attorney," he stated.

Because the Judicial Convention comes after the Democratic Primary election on Thursday, September 10, critics at newspaper editorial boards have stated that this allows a small group of party delegates to select a candidate in the general election that is almost surely to win in the heavily Democratic Bronx county.

The Democratic County Committee had no comment on Johnson at all as of press time.

Among the possible candidates to replace Johnson, according to published reports, is Darcel Clark, currently an Associate Justice of the New York State Appellate Division.

Assemblyman Michael



Robert Johnson, the Bronx District Attorney since 1989, may soon seek a Supreme Court judgeship.

Photo courtesy of Bronx DA's office

Benedetto said that Johnson's tenure in the D.A.'s office brought marked change in that he did not pursue prosecution for publicly and took his responsibilities seriously, with a cautious approach.

"When he came into office he added an air of professionalism and dignity to that office," said Benedetto.

Before Johnson came

into the office, previous D.A.s would make high profile arrests designed to for media exposure, said Benedetto, contrasting this with Johnson's more restrained approach.

In particular case, prior to Johnson's tenure, Benedetto recalled how people who ran a childcare center in Castle Hill were accused of child molestation. They were paraded before cameras, had their reputations and lives destroyed, only to have it later determined that the charges against them were baseless, he said.

As of press time, the Bronx Republican Party has not indicated who it would support for district attorney in November if Johnson becomes a judge.

"The chairman is waiting to hear back from the Judicial Convention on Thursday night," said J.C. Polanco, a prominent member of the Bronx G.O.P., adding that should Johnson not be the D.A. candidate, the Republican party has alternatives.

"We have some exciting attorneys on our side... that would be great candidates," he said.



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(l-r) Alfredo Velazquez, Melsada Morrison and Hilda Velazquez stand on their block of Ellis Avenue, where they have advocated for better traffic controls for years.

Community News Group / Photo by Patrick Rocchio

Speed Hump resolves Ellis Avenue speeding

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Castle Hill residents concerned about speeding on their block are finally getting some relief.

A new speed hump has been approved for Ellis Avenue between Zerega and Havermeyer avenues after a seven-month traffic study by the city Department of Transportation.

Homeowners Alfredo Velazquez and Melsada Morrison reached out to Senator Jeff Klein, who's office was in touch with DOT.

The two neighbors have also in the past successfully advocated for a traffic light at the Zerega Avenue end of the block, and two years ago successfully made their block a one-way street.

Vehicular speeding, a concern for years, seemed to have intensified recently, said Velazquez, and he has been doing all he can to get a speed hump for roughly the past five years, he added.

"The speeding happens

every day," he said, adding "(It) has just gotten a little crazy lately, and I don't know why people are in such a rush to get where they have to go."

One of neighbor's primary concerns is the safety of children who may play near the street during summertime.

Morrison's own son Kemre was hit by a car more than a dozen years ago when he was eight-years old, she said, and she is particularly concerned about young people who are out enjoying the temperate weather.

"The speeding really scares me," she said, adding "You just watch and hope that a ball does not roll into the street."

Velazquez added: "We are trying to avoid kids or older people from getting hurt here."

He added that the situation is particularly acute because after the street direction was changed, cars

sometimes drove down the street the wrong way.

He indicated that it could lead to a high speed, head-on collision if speeding is not curbed.

Both neighbors also said that they have attended monthly meetings of the 43rd Precinct Community Council and Community Board 9 to affect change when it comes to traffic.

Senator Klein first learned of the issue with speeding on the block during a canvassing and door-knocking effort in fall 2014, said a spokeswoman.

He was presented with a petition signed by 44 neighbors, she said.

In a statement, Klein said that he hoped the speed hump will help slow down drivers tearing through the local community.

A DOT spokeswoman stated in e-mail that the agency anticipates that the speed bump will be installed during the fall.



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SoBRO celebrates Belmont Commons opening

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

The South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation recently held a grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new affordable housing development.

On Thursday, September 17, SoBRO celebrated Belmont Commons, a new residential building located at 499 E. 188th Street.

Belmont Commons, which will include 40 units, transformed two vacant lots into nearly 40,000 square feet for residents in need of affordable housing options.

Six of the 40 units will be reserved for previously homeless families.

The new, nine-story residential development will also include elevator service and is located within walking distance from Third and Webster avenues as well as East Fordham Road.

The \$14.3 million project, which was funded using 9% tax credits from New York State Homes and Community Renewal, the NYS Housing Trust Fund and New York City Housing



(l-r) Mohammed Aziz, project contractor, Gregory Watson, assistant commissioner of NYS Homes and Community Renewal, Phillip Morrow, president and CEO of SoBRO, and Shefali Sangihv of PM Architecture celebrate the opening of Belmont Commons

Photo by Silvio Pacifico

ing Preservation and Development, is an Enterprise Green building with NYS Energy Research & Development Authority approved energy conservation technologies, continuing SoBRO's missions of support-

ing the development of sustainable buildings that operate at peak efficiencies and building a better Bronx.

The Belmont Commons project also saw assistance from Chase Manhattan Bank,



The nine-story residential development will reserve six of its 40 units for previously homeless families.

Photo by Silvio Pacifico

who provided construction financing as the equity investor through Hudson Housing Capital, as well as provided financing from NYC Employees Retirement System and guarantees provided by the State of New

York Mortgage Agency. Councilman Ritchie Torres, Assemblywoman Vanessa Gibson and Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. have also showed their support towards the project.

The grand opening ceremony also awarded two honorees - Parag Mehta of PM Architecture, the project architect, and Mohammed Aziz, the project contractor.

Following the ribbon-cutting, those in attendance had an opportunity to take a walking tour of the new residence.

“(Governor) Andrew Cuomo says that everybody deserves a good place to live, and with this residence, we are one step closer towards achieving that goal,” said Gregory Watson, assistant commissioner of NYS Homes and Community Renewal.

“The significant support of our municipal and state leaders in shaping and completing this development has had a lasting effect on the community and builds upon our borough’s significant growth and development,” said Phillip Morrow, president and CEO of SoBRO.

Fundraiser aids fight against rare disorder

BY ROBERT WIRSING

A Bronx woman diagnosed with a rare brain abnormality is hoping to raise awareness of this medical condition at an upcoming fundraiser.

The AVM Awareness and Support Julie Event is set for Wednesday, September 30 from 7 to 10 p.m. at Jerome’s Rivington F+B at 155 Rivington Street, Manhattan, to start AVM Awareness Month in October.

This fundraiser will support Julie Nuccio, 31, who was diagnosed with a cranial arteriovenous malformation on July 28, the day before her 31st birthday.

A lifelong Pelham Bay resident, Nuccio said she began experiencing symptoms in early July when she would fall asleep watching television, eating dinner or working on the computer.

An MRI revealed these sleeping spells were actually ‘ambient seizures’ caused by AVM.

AVM refers to a ‘tangle’ of abnormal arteries and veins which

bypass the capillary system.

While many AVMs produce no noticeable symptoms, they cause intense pain or bleeding or can lead to serious medical issues such as neurological issues, seizures, aneurysms and strokes, Nuccio explained.

Hosted by Nuccio’s sister, Jennifer, the event will raise awareness and help fund some of her sister’s future treatments which may not be covered by insurance.

Tickets for this fundraiser are \$25 and include door prize raffle tickets, light snacks, cash bar and music.

Raffle and auction items include an autographed drum head from former Guns N’ Roses and Velvet Revolver drummer, Matt Sorum; items signed by the ‘Godmother of Punk’ Joan Jett; a Epiphone acoustic guitar signed by the grunge band, Candlebox and an ABCs ‘Castle’ script signed by the show’s cast among others.

To purchase tickets in advance, visit www.joeniecro-



A fundraising event is being held in support of Pelham Bay resident Julie Nuccio’s fight against AVM and to raise awareness of this condition.

Photo courtesy of Julie Nuccio

foundation.com/events/avm-awareness/.

All ticket donations and raf-

file money will cover Nuccio’s medical expenses in addition to raising funds for the Joe Niekro Foundation which endorsed this event.

Formed in 2008, the Scottsdale, Arizona foundation was created by Natalie Niekro after her father, Joe, a 22-year professional baseball veteran died from a cerebral brain aneurysm in October 2006.

It supports patients and families, research, treatment and awareness of brain aneurysms, AVMs and hemorrhagic strokes.

“People who will attend this event are there to support Julie and really understand what she is going through,” said Niekro. “Our foundation will be providing educational reading materials during the event to help raise awareness on this very rare condition.”

Dr. Allan Brook, professor of radiology and neurosurgery at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Montefiore’s interventional neuroradiology director,

said that Montefiore has treated hundreds of AVMs and added that the newest published reports explain that less than one percent of the population has this condition.

“High end imaging technology like MRIs are very helpful in capturing AVMs in its early stages and patients can receive treatment from a multidisciplinary team of neurosurgeons, interventional neuroradiologists and radiation oncologists to determine the best course of treatment,” he said.

Nuccio is undergoing treatment at New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center.

Nuccio said, her AVM is located on the left side of her brain’s “high real estate area” affecting her right side motor skills.

She is scheduled to have another angiogram performed on Tuesday, October 6.

If unable to attend, but wish to donate to this worthy cause, visit www.gofundme.com/getjuliebetter.

Bus kills man celebrating job promotion

BY ROBERT WIRSING

Friends and family spoke highly of an inspirational young Bronxite who died tragically last week after celebrating his job promotion.

According to a NYPD spokesman, police responded to a 911 call on Friday, September 18 at 2:36 a.m. of a 23-year old male pedestrian struck at the intersection of West 231st Street and Kingsbridge Avenue, within the confines of the 50th Precinct.

Upon arrival, officers observed Luis Inoa, 23, lying on the roadway with severe trauma to his body. EMS pronounced him dead at the scene, police said.

Further investigation by the NYPD's Highway District's Collision Investigation Squad determined Inoa was a passenger in a black livery cab which was traveling westbound on West 231st Street when he asked the driver to stop because he felt sick, the NYPD spokesman said.

Police said, Inoa exited the cab and attempted to cross West 231st Street as an MTA bus traveling westbound was making a turn.

The bus driver attempted to avoid Inoa, who was walking in an erratic manner, but the bus' right rear wheel struck Inoa, killing him instantly.

Police said both drivers remained at the scene until law enforcement arrived. No arrests were made and the investigation is still ongoing.

According to friends, family and published reports, Inoa was celebrating a job promotion he received at Nickelodeon where he had been employed as a Creative Promotions production assistant since May 2015 by partying at the 809 Lounge in Inwood and later caught a cab to take him home to Kingsbridge.

Inoa reportedly asked the driver to stop at the intersection which was only two blocks away from his home after he started feeling sick.

The cab pulled over near the bus stop to let Inoa out as a BX1 bus approached.

Inoa, a Cardinal Spellman High School graduate, attended Iona College where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Mass



Luis Inoa, a Cardinal Spellman High School and Iona College graduate, worked as a Creative Promotions production assistant for Nickelodeon before his tragic death last Friday.

Photo courtesy of Iona College

Communication in 2014 and was described by friends and family as someone who "inspired people to pursue their dreams and

never behaved in a reckless or dangerous manner."

"In his 23 years of life, Luis accomplished so much and he was such a 'beam of light,'" said Mariah Soto, Inoa's friend. "I'm so saddened by his loss, but I know his light will always burn bright despite this tragedy. I am honored to have had him as a friend."

"He was very passionate and accomplished many big dreams," said Lourisel Inoa, Luis' sister. "He dreamed of one day making his own TV show which he would direct, write and produce. He wasn't afraid to reach for his dreams even if it was at the risk of failure."

She added Inoa's passions included photography, writing, singing and interpreting hidden symbolism behind tv shows and movies they watched together.

Melinda Santa-Gladden said her friend loved media and communications and dreamed of becoming a TV producer, writing his own scripts, being a radio personality and singing R & B.

Santa-Gladden added Inoa

had interned at MTV, Z100, NBC and Nickelodeon and hosted a show on WICR Iona College Radio during his college career.

"Not only was Luis outgoing, but he was also very responsible and mature and not in any means an irresponsible drinker," said Ivan Ortiz, Inoa's friend.

"He devoted his time to his education and gaining experience in film and TV production until his hard work earned him a position at Nickelodeon which he was very excited about."

A Spellman spokeswoman said Inoa will be remembered with other late alumni at their annual Memorial Mass on Sunday, November 8 at 10 a.m. at the school.

An Iona spokeswoman said Inoa will be honored at their annual Homecoming Memorial Mass for deceased alumni on Sunday, October 18 at 10:30 a.m. at Arrigoni Center.

Soto created a Go Fund Me page to help Inoa's family pay for funeral expenses. If you would like to donate, visit www.gofundme.com/b74y936a.

Unionport Bridge work slated for 2017

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Now's your chance to add your two cents to a roadway improvement plan for a busy east Bronx traffic artery.

The comment period to solicit the public's input on a proposal to replace the Unionport Bridge, a heavily traveled bridge over Westchester Creek at the Bruckner Interchange, is currently underway and will continue until Saturday, October 10.

Wanted are comments regarding environmental, cultural and other concerns during the reconstruction, now expected to begin as early as spring 2017 and anticipated for completion in late 2020 or early 2021, according to a city Department of Transportation spokeswoman.

The plan is to replace the existing five-lane draw bridge along Bruckner Boulevard with a new

widened moveable bridge that will include bicycle and pedestrian paths and new access ramps, according to DOT.

What will happen during the project to the traffic that pulsates over the bridge every day has created concern with some in the community, said Bob Bieder, a prominent local activist and businessman in Zerega.

"The main concern is that there would be no full closure during the construction," said Bieder, adding

At one point, Bieder said that the community had been informed that several lanes would remain open during construction.

He said that 'patch work' repairs to the bridge are inadequate.

He noted that the bridge still has to be able to open and close during construction to facilitate

commerce.

He related a story about a shipment of bio-fuel, which can spoil, that was stuck at the crossing for more than 24 hours when the bridge could not be opened due to very hot weather.

He explained that this nearly resulted in the loss of millions of dollars worth of product.

Officials were concerned that the joints on the existing bridge had expanded due to the heat, and that the roadway would be impossible to close once it was opened.

The crossing has also attracted the attention of the East Bronx Traffic Coalition, a consortium of civic associations studying the traffic infrastructure needs in east Bronx communities.

The EBTC is concerned that increasing vehicular traffic because of new construction, like

the a new mall just blocks away from the bridge on Hutchinson River Parkway, and the likely development of the shuttered Whitestone Multiplex Cinemas site, could create a gridlock situation.

"The bridge project is, in and of itself, a 'Catch-22' (paradox)," said EBTC member John Doyle of traffic at the location. "Construction needs to be done because the bridge needs to be replaced, but the interchange is also one of the worst bottlenecks in the country."

The DOT spokeswoman stated that "a traffic mitigation plan is in the final design stage and will include the placement of a temporary bridge along each side of the existing bridge which will provide the same travel capacity the current bridge provides."

The spokeswoman also



The five-lane Unionport Bridge, which traverses the Westchester Creek, is set to be replaced. Community News Group / Patrick Rocchio

stated that presentations will be made before Community Board 9 and Community Board 10 when a plan is ready.

CB 9 has been receiving regular updates from DOT about its plans for the Unionport Bridge, said William Rivera, CB 9 district manager.

"The community board is just concerned about the (construction) time period that is almost four years," said Rivera, adding four years

could easily turn into five years.

Rivera said that the board would likely look into construction alternatives that could shorten the time.

To learn more about the potential environmental issues to be commented on related to the Unionport Bridge reconstruction, see a public notice on page 106 of the September 11-17 Bronx Times and Bronx Times Reporter.

Bronx hip hop legend KRS-One turns 50

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

KRS At 50! A legendary hip hop artist whose name is practically synonymous with the Bronx recently celebrated his half century milestone.

On Thursday, August 20, hip hop legend KRS-One celebrated his birthday, providing an opportunity for hip hop artists, activists and fans to look back at the long, illustrious and highly successful career of arguably the greatest hip hop artist to represent the Bronx.

Lawrence Parker, aka KRS, was born in Brooklyn in 1965 and left home as a teenager to pursue his dream as a hip hop artist.

To further his overall knowledge, he would read books about philosophy and religion when he wasn't practicing his rhymes.

As a teen growing up during the crack epidemic of the 1980s, he lived in various

group homes and homeless shelters in Brooklyn and the Bronx, where he was eventually dubbed 'Krisna' by other residents because of his interest in the Hare Krishna movement, a Gaudiya Vaishnava religious organization.

He would eventually change his name to KRS-One, an acronym standing for 'Knowledge Reigns Supreme Over Nearly Everyone', a name he would also use for street art.

One of the homeless shelters where KRS-One spent time included the Franklin Armony Shelter, where he met social worker Scott Sterling, also known as DJ Scott La Rock.

With Scott and DJ D-Nice, KRS-One formed the rap group Boogie Down Productions in 1987, and the trio soon released their debut album 'Criminal Minded' in the same year, containing vivid

descriptions of street life in the south Bronx.

At around the same time, Boogie Down Productions became involved in 'The Bridge Wars' conflict, after Queensbridge artist MC Shan's statements from his song 'The Bridge' were misunderstood, which made Boogie Down Productions believe that Shan and other Queens-based artists at the time thought that hip hop originated in Queens, not in the Bronx.

As a result, Boogie Down Productions fired back at Shan, his DJ, Marley Marl, Roxanne Shante and other Queens-based artists in the songs 'The Bridge Is Over' and 'South Bronx', among others, exposing the invalid facts that hip hop music began in Queens.

Just five months after Boogie Down Productions first release, DJ Scott La Rock was shot in the neck while



KRS-One (left) is one of the faces on a mural representing the Bronx and hip hop history at Westchester and Morrison avenues, painted by the TATS CRU, Wallworks Gallery and the FX Crew. File photo

trying to diffuse a situation with D-Nice at the Highbridge Homes.

After being critically wounded, Scott La Rock was taken to Lincoln Hospital, where he was pronounced dead within the hour at the age of 25.

In response to the incident, as well as violence in hip hop and African American communities, KRS-One started the Stop The Violence Movement to advance a vision of hip hop that would restore its original principles, where he reestablished close ties with artists and groups such as Public Enemy and the late Heavy D.

He, along with Boogie Down Productions, also geared their music more towards the genre of conscious hip hop as opposed to gangsta rap, which was the theme of their first release.

After five more releases, Boogie Down Productions disbanded, and KRS-One pursued a solo career.

Since his solo career began in 1993, 'The Teacha' and 'The Blastmaster' has released 13 studio albums, including 'Return of the Boom Bap' in 1993 and 'I Got Next' in 1997, making him one of the most influential artists in hip hop history and arguably the greatest hip hop artist to hail

from the Bronx.

"His (KRS's) story is a prime example that you can accomplish something if you follow your dreams," said Ronald 'Bee Stinger' Savage, fan and member of the Zulu Nation. "He was a great lyricist - he definitely put the Bronx and hip hop on the map, especially in the battles against Queens and it's unfortunate that he is not talked about as much in this day and age."

"Obviously, we know that Hip Hop started with artists like Afrika Bambaataa, Grandmaster Flash and DJ Kool Herc, but KRS-One took it to a whole 'nother level."

Mexican restaurant offers an exciting array of dishes

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

A new Mexican restaurant in Throggs Neck has a lot to offer its customers.

Cabo, located at 3764 E. Tremont Avenue, provides numerous options for those wanting to add some spice to their life.

Cabo, which opened during last year's July 4th weekend, offers an exciting and upscale atmosphere, proving to be the perfect spot to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries or other social event.

The restaurant itself offers brunch specials along with the whole menu from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, along with a Happy Hour from 3 to 7 p.m. from Monday to Friday and a Ladies Happy Hour on Saturday.

Additionally, the restaurant has teacher specials for the educators that work at the half dozen schools in the area. They also offer unlimited Sangria for \$8.

Cabo's menu offers ofers a variety of options, from the Tampiquena Steak with rice, beans and shrimp, to sizzling fajitas that literally leave trails of smoke.

Drink options include Mexican craft beers such as Ensenada, tequila cocktails and all types of margaritas.

Other restaurant amenities include pink lighting, which is lowered during dinner hours, island bars for standing and a refrigerated bar top, which keeps the drinks cold after



Bartender Joseph Reillo mixes a drink at the bar. Community News Group / Steven Goodstein

they have been served.

During Sunday NFL games they offer lunch specials from noon to 3 p.m.

"This is a great atmosphere - it's a great place to bring the family and the

food is fantastic," said customer David Santana, who lives in the south Bronx but works in the neighborhood, and often goes to the restaurant after his shift. "The service is excellent and I like how the owners interact with the customers."

"My philosophy is that we (the staff) have an audience (the customers) who are watching us perform everyday, similar to actors on Broadway," said Oscar Eena, one of the restaurant owners.

"What we are performing and providing is service to our community in a restaurant setting, a setting that we believe will be a great asset to the community and a great venue for all to enjoy," he added.



(l-r) Waiter Ryan Collado, accountant Yrma Polanco, owner Oscar Eena, waitress Christine Quinones and bartender Joseph Reillo gather under the restaurant logo.

Community News Group / Steven Goodstein

The 45-seat establishment was conceived by the owners and partners of Havana Cafe.

The Mexican-themed restaurant is based on the Havana Cafe model.

After just over a year of business, the owners are pleased with the reception and response the new restaurant has garnered from the community.

"Cabo provides a really

good mix of classic, modern, high level cuisine in an atmosphere that is perfect for any kind of party and gathering event," said Kevin Alicia, one of the owners of Havana Cafe, who was also one of the visionaries for Cabo. "The restaurant has a great design and layout, and provides a bright, colorful and upscale setting for any and every scenario."



The Bronx YMCA Board of Managers gather after the event.

Photo by Silvio Pacifico

Bronx YMCA hosts Bon Appetit Fundraiser

On Wednesday, September 16, the Bronx YMCA hosted its ninth annual Bon Appetit Fundraiser. The fundraiser event featured food tastings from some of the best restaurants in the Bronx. Honorees of the event included David Bilheimer, Brenda Prohaska, Mike Florio and Robert Taylor. The event raised money for the YMCA Annual Campaign, which raises money to help families and individuals who participate in YMCA's programs.



(Above) The event's honorees (l-r) David Bilheimer, Robert Taylor, Brenda Prohaska and Mike Florio pose with Bronx YMCA executive director Sharlene Brown and Eliezer Rodriguez, Esquire, after the event.

Photo by Silvio Pacifico

(Right) Brenda Prohaska receives the 'Unsung Hero' award.

Photo by Silvio Pacifico

(Left) Mike Florio, owner of Golden Glow Cookies, received the 'Friend of the Y' award.

Photo by Silvio Pacifico



(l-r) Gary Axelbank, emcee of the event and host of Bronx Talk, with Sharlene Brown, Bronx YMCA executive director.

Photo by Silvio Pacifico



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Drug Free Coalition elects leaders, sets priorities

BY ROBERT WIRSING

The Soundview Community Drug Free Coalition is revving up its efforts to educate people on the dangers of drug abuse.

During their Tuesday, September 15 meeting held at Community Board 9's office, the SCDFC elected officers Michelle Watt, LMSW, Odyssey House program director and Chaplain Kwame Thompson from Urban Youth Alliance to lead the organization in its mission.

Watt was elected to serve as the Coalition's chairwoman and described her election as "a honor topped with a challenge - a challenge to bring a community together to develop a community centered comprehensive plan for drug, alcohol and tobacco prevention."

As chair, Watt will serve the Coalition as a leader presiding over all meetings and will be responsible in appointing all subcommittee chairs.

Thompson was elected to serve as the Coalition's vice chairman and is very enthusiastic to help serve the Coalition and the community.

"I am very humbled being given this great responsibility as vice chair and I pray before God so that I can be effective in the position," he said.

"Being from Soundview, I have seen the need to help educate the youth and the community here about the dangers posed by drug and alcohol abuse."

SCDFC announced its three priorities for next year which include campaigns to educate people on drug abuse and ways of combating this ongoing issue.

SCDFC will initiate a campaign to block the sale of "loosies" referring to cigarettes sold individually from the pack at local grocery stores and bodegas.

The Coalition plans to establish an education and awareness program focus-



The Soundview Community Drug Free Coalition has elected Michelle Watt as chairwoman and Minister Swami Thompson as vice chairman.

Photo by Silvio Pacifico

ing on seniors and young people to educate them on prescription drug misuse.

The group is committed to wage war against 'K2' synthetic marijuana prod-

ucts which are created from herbs and spices sprayed with the chemical TCH, an active ingredient found in marijuana.

"While these priorities appear ambitious, the truth is that loosies and prescription drug abuse are plaguing our schools," said Thompson.

He added, "K2 is simply a war that must be fought now before it becomes ingrained in our community."

Led by the Soundview Resident Council, Inc., Soundview community leaders have formed a federally-sponsored Drug Free Coalition to address substance abuse among youth, particularly focusing on children in grades six to 12.

Under the Drug-Free Communities Support Program, communities can establish locally based strategies meant to reduce the use, abuse and sale of illegal drugs, alcohol and cigarettes.

"We wanted to do something to help our young peo-

ple resist the temptations associated with cigarette, alcohol and prescription drug use," said Anne Johnson, Soundview Resident Council president.

"Many of our public housing residents have no idea that 'pharm parties', where kids bring pills to a party, are getting these pills from their medicine chest at home," Johnson added.

SCDFC will file an application next March and if successful, the Coalition will receive a grant from the Federal Center for Substance Abuse Prevention in the amount of \$125,000 per year for five years.

Johnson explained if SCDFC receives this grant, the Coalition will devise a strategic plan emphasizing a thorough needs assessment and achievable goals and steps necessary in fulfilling their mission.

SCDFC will meet Tuesday, October 13 at 11 a.m. at the Bronx District Attorney's Office located at 198 E. 161st Street.

CB7's DM leaves for the Deutschland

from Page 1

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for him," said Adaline Walker-Santiago, chairwoman of CB7, who appointed Dustin as DM in 2014. "He has done so much for the communities within (CB7) and we at the community board are all very happy for him. We thank him for all of his hard work and truly wish him all the best."

Dustin, who hails from Kansas and is of German descent, is eager to get back to his ancestral roots while he enjoys a new experience.

"I am so excited," said Engelken, whose father's side of the family left Germany shortly after World War II. "This is a great opportunity for her, and for me, it's a great chance to experience life in a foreign country. This opportunity also provides me with more time to spend with my family than I had before."

Dustin said that he is currently unsure if he will look to take another district manager position or a similar role in the near future.

As of now, he plans for

his primary focuses in Germany to be supporting his wife with her job and taking care of their children.

"I truly have no idea what job position I will take in the future," said Engelken, who had previously lived in Bedford Park, Soundview, Riverdale and West Farms for a total of 10 years. "However, if there is an opportunity, and it's up to me, I would love to eventually move back to the Bronx."

When reflecting on his year and a half tenure as district manager, many thoughts came to mind.

"I learned a lot (as district manager) - I learned about community concerns, issues, needs and priorities, as well as

neighborhood development," said Engelken. "Then there was the other side of it - it was my first management position, which taught me what it took to run an office."

"As a whole, it was a great learning experience for me and I certainly wish the community board well. They taught me so much, and I want thank everybody from the community and political leaders to residents and board members for this opportunity."

When Engelken leaves the position in mid-October, it will be CB7's third district manager in four years.

Fernando Terrado held the position from 2008-12 and Socrates Caba was DM for six months in 2013. Previous chairman Paul Foster stepped down in 2013.

CB7 will not start the search for Dustin's replacement until after his final day at the board.



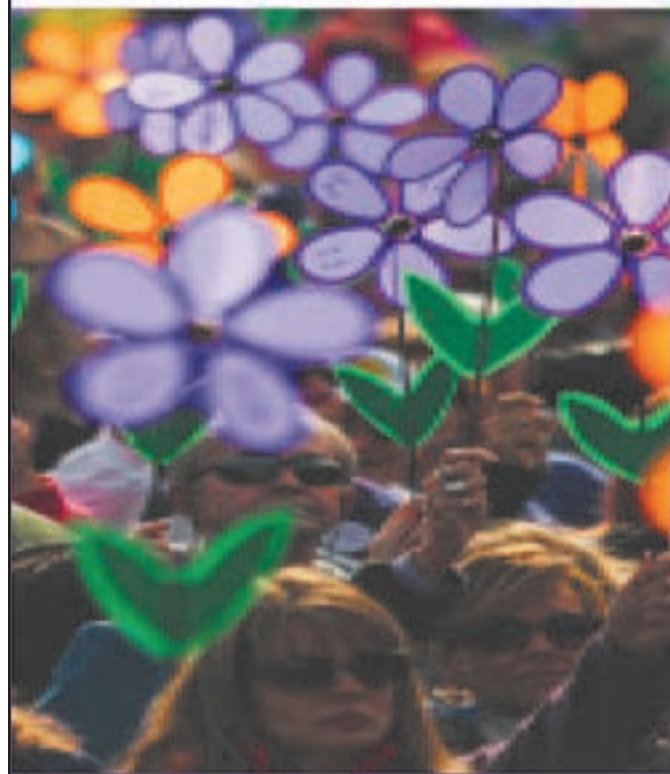
Engelken, who was appointed to the position of district manager in May 2014, leaves the board after holding the position for a year and a half.

Photo courtesy of Community Board 7

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