

Edgewater Pk. prepares for floods

BY ROBERT WIRSING

A Throggs Neck waterfront neighborhood is the subject of a report addressing ways to fortify such communities against Mother Nature's fury.

The Department of City Planning released its Resilient Neighborhoods initiative report for Edgewater Park on Thursday, October 29 which is the outcome of two years of study in partnership with local stakeholders and recommends ways to address the dangers facing waterfront neighborhoods.

Resilient Neighborhoods is a place-specific planning initiative led by DCP in collaboration with communities to identify locally-based strategies supporting the continued vitality and resiliency of ten communities located in the city's floodplain, one of which includes Edgewater Park.

DCP said Edgewater Park was selected due to the high flood risk it faces for its unique building typology and vulnerable location on the Long Island Sound.

The neighborhood's location and elevation makes it susceptible to flooding not only during hurricanes or major storms, but also during typical storms.

The city's work in Edgewater Park has three major goals such as reducing flood risk by enabling buildings to withstand flooding and other hazards while minimizing disruption to residents by updating the Edgewater co-op bylaws to allow for flood resilient construction and investment, planning for adaptation over time by updating the community on current and future climate risk and providing a menu of targeted resiliency measures for residents to protect property and life safety and ensuring that resilient devel-

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THUMBS UP FOR MTA ELEVATORS

Community celebrates hard-fought victory

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

Thanks to local activists and a \$45 million grant, one of the busiest subway stations in the Bronx will soon receive two new elevators.

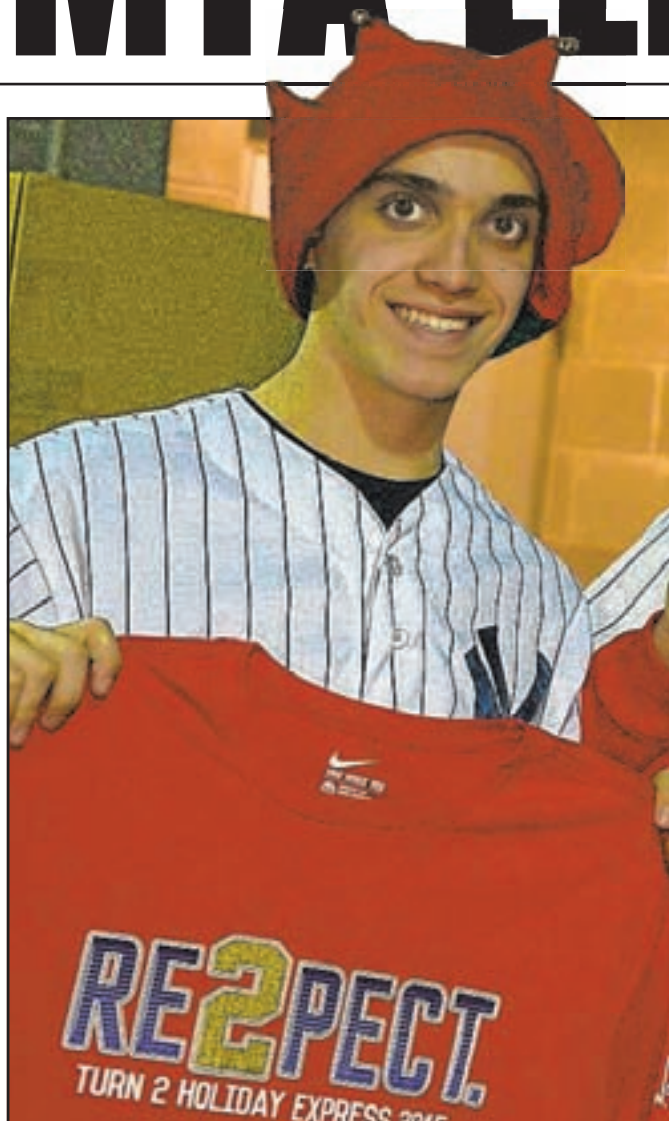
On Tuesday, December 1, the South Bronx Community Congress held a press conference to celebrate their victory after the MTA included the funding of \$45 million for the construction of two new elevators at the 149th Street / Grand Concourse subway station to accommodate those, particu-

larly seniors and the disabled, who use the commercial hub on a regular basis.

The funding, which is part of the MTA 2015-2019 Capital Budget, will result in an elevator replacement on the east side and the installation of a new elevator on the west side of the subway station, a project that SBCC has fought for since 2012.

SBCC, an activist group made of local residents, school teachers and laborers, many of whom at-

Continued on Page 4



Jeter's Turn 2 Helps Needy

Patrick Harten, one of Jeter's Leaders in former NY Yankees all-star shortstop Derek Jeter's Turn 2 Foundation, holds up a shirt he received during a gift-wrapping party at Yankee Stadium on Tuesday, November 17. Dozens of youth assembled gift bags for children in the Turn 2 programs. More photos on page 7.

Jacobi Medical Center celebrates 60th year

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Jacobi Medical Center, a fixture in the northeast Bronx and beyond, celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2015.

Dr. Morris Stampher's career as a cardiologist at the hospital nearly spans Jacobi's entire history.

When he first began as a medical student in 1959, Jacobi was a community and teaching hospital.

It gradually evolved into a regional medical center known for

treating serious trauma.

Speaking about how things were when he began, Dr. Stampher said the medical floors had separate dedicated areas for men and women, each hospital room accommodated six patients, there was just one bathroom per floor and air conditioning was not an option.

When he began working in the hospital in 1961 as part of his medical training, it was the hottest sum-

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Shuttle service delivers CI-bound tourists

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

A new shuttle service is delivering tourists to City Island.

Thanks to the City Island Chamber of Commerce, the new trolley service will bring individuals who visit the Bronx out to City Island to enjoy all its amenities.

The service, named the City Island Land Ferry, was started after Skip Giacco, president of the CACC, along with his wife Louise, visited Sanford, FL in 2012 when they noticed a car train transporting vehicles.

This gave them the idea to start a shuttle service to connect the mainland of the Bronx to City Island, giving residents an opportunity to enjoy City Island's many restaurants, shops and other attractions.

The project started with the chamber's acquisition of an 18-passenger school bus, which was donated by a local school bus company.

The bus was then customized to resemble an old-fashioned trolley. Oak wood trim was added to the exterior of the bus to resemble the feel of wooden ships, which were



The 18-passenger shuttle, which was originally a school bus, was customized and transformed to resemble an old-fashioned trolley after it was donated by a local school bus company. Photo courtesy of the City Island Chamber of Commerce

constructed on City Island during an earlier time.

Currently, the trolley service, which began three weeks ago, is picking up passengers from the Marriott Residence Inn at the

Metro Center Atrium on Tuesdays at 5 p.m.

The shuttle service runs until about 10 p.m., taking the visitors back and forth to an area of the Bronx that would be extremely

difficult to travel to otherwise, allowing them to enjoy some of City Island's well known restaurants, including Sammy's, Artie's Steak & Seafood, The Original Crab Shanty and Seashore.

Many of the passengers are from out of state.

"This is a great opportunity for those who are visiting in the Bronx and have always wanted to visit and explore City Island," said Giacco, president of the City Island Chamber of Commerce and founder of the City Island Land Ferry. "City Island is rather isolated compared to the rest of the borough, so this shuttle service is a chance for visitors to enjoy its restaurants as well as its shops. This is very exciting - because it's a service that is just starting and has huge potential."

Giacco, wants to extend the shuttle's schedule beyond Tuesdays nights, and is in discussions with other hotels as well, and with Jacobi Hospital, hoping to have the shuttle service pick up from those areas.

He lauded praise on Maria Caruso, a CICC board member and co-owner of SK Bistro, a French restaurant located on City Island, who helped with the bus donation.

"Maria was truly instrumental in assisting us," said Giacco. "She was a really big help in getting this project off of the ground."

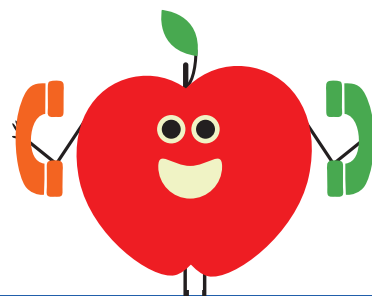
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Edgewater Park Cooperative prepares for future floods

from Page 1

opment coincides with the community's unique character.

According to DCP, this report is consistent with the citywide OneNYC commitment to creating a more resilient city.

The Edgewater Park Cooperative previously mandated the maximum height of any house could be no higher than 25 feet above the Bronx Datum or 27 feet above grade which did not allow for the elevation of structures to FEMA-compliant levels.

Ronald Rauch, Edgewater Park Cooperative second vice president and licensed engineer, said presentations and workshops with FEMA, DCP and the Mayor's Office of Resilience and Recovery about flood risk and resilient design standards saw the co-op vote to amend its bylaws allowing for building height to be measured

from the design flood elevation while maintaining its 25 foot height limit and enabling homes to elevate to the new standards.

"DCP is very knowledgeable and they were opened to listening to our community's unique issues and willing to come up with solutions to best address them," said Rauch. "DCP spent a considerable amount of time reviewing our co-op bylaws and took them into serious consideration when working on these amendments. They weren't trying to force a square peg into a round hole."

DCP collaborated with residents in the amendment of their co-op bylaws to allow for the elevation of homes and required streetscape mitigation strategies which preserve the neighborhood's character.

Rauch said flood resilient construction is currently

underway on a few Edgewater Park homes and said Edgewater Cooperative will continue working with DCP.

DCP explained approximately 111 Edgewater Park homes are situated in the flood zone.

The land Edgewater Park sits on was initially built as an estate where lots were rented as summer campgrounds, however in the 1920s these lots became home to summer bungalows which were transformed into year round residences.

Established in 1988, the Edgewater Park Cooperative spans 55 acres including 675 single-family homes on uniform lots typically measuring 30 by 50 feet.

The community is built out to the water's edge with a small concrete promenade separating the first row of homes from the Long Island Sound.



SBCC president Julio Munoz speaks at the press conference, stating that, "this is a victory for all south Bronx residents."
Photo courtesy of the South Bronx Community Congress

Thumbs up for MTA elevators

from Page 1

tended nearby Hostos Community College, hounded the MTA and held various petition drives and protests.

They also talked to residents and received signatures from residents living at Michelangelo Apartments, located at 225 E. 149th Street, who agreed that new elevators needed to be in the nearby subway station.

Additionally, SBCC received support from Congressman Jose Serrano as well as Councilwoman Maria del Carmen Arroyo.

During the press conference, the audience, some of whom were SBCC members, chanted uplifting phrases

such as "Victory For The South Bronx", "Power To The People", and "Si, Se Puede", meaning "Yes, It Is Possible" in Spanish.

According to the MTA, the 2015-2019 capital program currently awaits approval by the Capital Program Review Board in Albany.

Once approved, the MTA will be able to move forward with the design and construction of the elevators at the station to make it ADA accessible.

If approved, the elevator replacement and installation project, which took nearly half a decade to receive funding for, will begin in 2016 and is expected to be completed in 2018, and

stands as the perfect example of individuals coming together to make a powerful and impactful change in their community.

"After a number of years petitioning, protesting and lobbying, we have finally achieved this victory for the community," said Julio Munoz, president of the South Bronx Community Congress, who has been a part of six protests and has testified at MTA hearings to get this project in the works.

"We want to thank all of our members, organizations and individuals who assisted in the campaign. This is a victory for all south Bronx residents," he concluded.



This map depicts the study area and the extent of the floodplain within Edgewater Park.

Photo courtesy of New York City Department of City Planning



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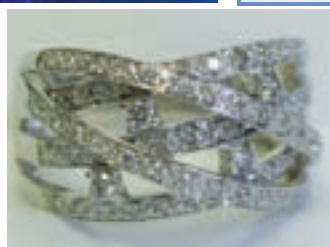
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Displaced Queens auto shops make Bronx home

BY MEDINA TOURE

Queens businesses being displaced by an upcoming project will soon find a new home here in the Bronx.

Construction of a new south Bronx space for the displaced businesses of the Sunrise Cooperative, a group of Willets Point, Queens auto shop owners, is halfway complete as the city looks to evict the remaining businesses that stand in the way of the first phase of a sprawling Queens redevelopment project.

This past July, an appellate court ruled the Willets West mega-mall, part of the Queens Development Group's \$3 billion redevelopment of Willets Point, could not proceed without state legislative approval since it would be partially constructed on public parkland.

The project is designed to transform the area into a neighborhood with commercial, retail and residential space.

Due to a court-ordered agreement, the city Economic Development Corporation was to pay \$4.8 million and the Queens Development Group \$960,000 for the group's relocation and renovation of Sunrise Coop's new facility.

Sunrise Coop was originally expected to contribute \$143,000 and leave the site by June 1, 2015.

However, construction on the group's new space at 1080 Leggett Avenue in Hunts

Point, which will have 45 shops, was delayed because the group had not filed the necessary permit.

Marco Neira, Sunrise Coop's president, said more than 20 shops have now been constructed in the new location and the ramps are ready, with construction due to be complete by December or the end of February at the latest.

"We have a lot of things done," he said.

Most of the Sunrise Coop auto shop owners are still working in the Willets Point area with some taking customers in Corona, Queens, Neira said.

A spokesman for the Department of Buildings said the Bronx space has four active work permits involving plumbing, the installation of 14 new ceiling mounted gas furnaces and three new gas meters, interior renovation of erected two concrete block walls, new fencing and gates.

Marlene Cintron, Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation president, said the corporation met with Sunrise Coop more than a year ago and again last summer but she has not heard from the group recently.

"I can't say that we've had a lot of dealings with them. They've basically been dealing with this with their consultants and attorneys."

She said Sunrise may not feel the need to be in contact with her organization.

"I don't know if they

consider themselves Bronx stakeholders at this point," she said.

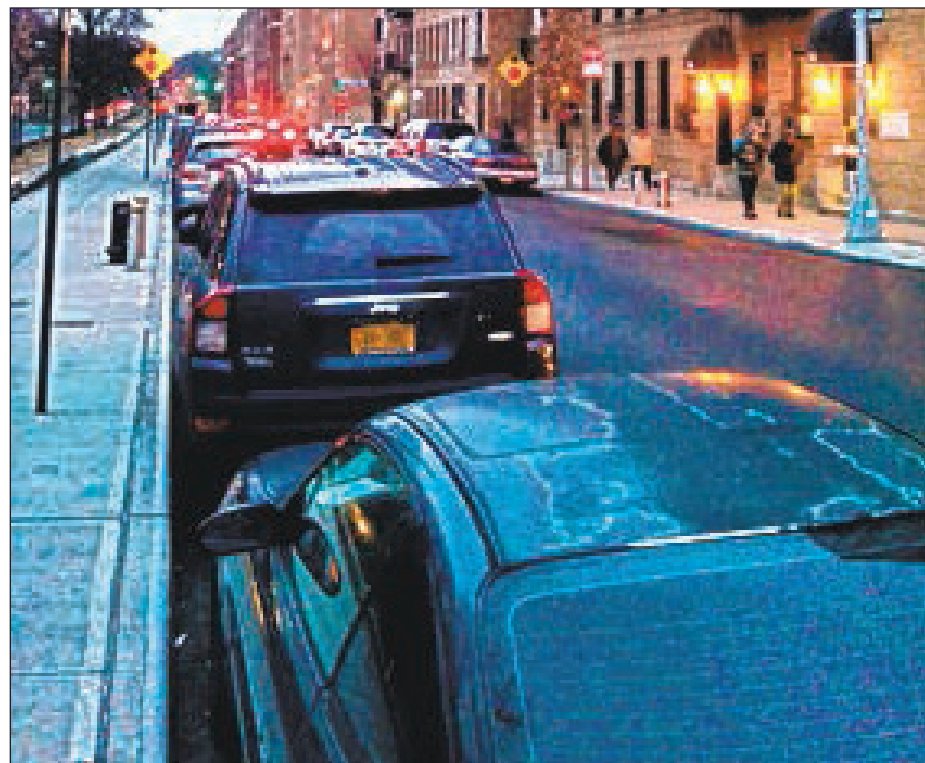
A spokeswoman for the city Department of Housing Preservation and Development said the court decision does not affect the Sunrise Cooperative, noting that the auto shops already had left the phase one site.

There are several businesses left that belong in phase one of the development that are not part of the Sunrise Cooperative are facing eviction by the city.

"The hope is that this project will compliment the growth our district is experiencing," said Dr. Ian Amritt, Community Board 2 chairman. "Initially, our concerns about this project were in regards to individuals' health and safety, pollution and traffic. Going beyond those concerns was that these new businesses would take work away from our local businesses, however, we realized these new businesses already have established reputations and loyal customers which will bring in more business to the Bronx. We are a very welcoming community, but also a very alert one."

Dr. Amritt added CB 2's Environmental Committee is closely monitoring this project and will continue working with Sunrise who has been very receptive.

Additional reporting contributed by Robert Wirsing.



Last year, many street lights on Pelham Parkway South from Williamsbridge Road to White Plains Road were out of order, similar to the situation now occurring on White Plains Road between Maran Place and Pelham Parkway South. Community News Group / Steven Goodstein

Street light outages hinder White Plains Road sales

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

White Plains Road continues to be plagued by street light outages as the evening darkness increases.

As of Tuesday night, multiple street lights along White Plains Road are out of order, which is creating a difficult and uncomfortable scenario for pedestrians and shoppers who use the strip on a daily basis.

The commercial corridor currently has at least seven street lights that are out of order, including the light at the northwest and southeast corners of White Plains Road and Maran Place, lights in front of 2158, 2180, 2181 and 2186 White Plains Roads as well as the light at the southeast corner of Lydig and Cruger avenues.

Six of these seven street lights are within a two block radius.

The street light in front of 2181 White Plains Road, the location of BX Sports, a sports accessory store, has been out for three months, according to White Plains Road BID executive director Joe Thompson, who also mentioned that all of

the street lights on White Plains Road from Maran Place to Pelham Parkway South service road are dim at best.

"This is a horrendous issue that has not been properly addressed," Thompson said. "This is a commercial strip - and these street lights not working hurts the businesses in the area, especially during the holidays when shopping is at an annual high."

"This is a safe neighborhood, probably one of the safest neighborhoods in the Bronx - and we need to keep it that way by having working lights, especially since it's getting darker earlier and earlier, so that residents can travel safely while not having to worry about potential interactions in the dark with the homeless and panhandlers. We want to keep this area vibrant, and we can't do so without proper street lighting."

This isn't the first time that the stretch of White Plains Road has seen this issue occur. Last year, two lights broke on Lydig and Brady avenues - both of which were eventually

fixed.

In addition, many of the streets lights on Pelham Parkway North and South between White Plains and Williamsbridge roads had issues at the end of 2014 and beginning of 2015.

Around that time, many residents emailed Community Board 11 reporting Pelham Parkway as pitch black as early as 5 p.m.

According to Pelham Parkway Neighborhood Association president Edith Blitzer, however, the street lights on both sides of the Parkway have been working for at least the past three weeks, after the DOT conducted a study last month.

Thompson also touched on the situation on White Plains Road regarding broken and limited muni meters.

"Some of them (the parking meters) don't work, and some of them only take credit cards," Thompson said. "I've had individuals tell me they don't feel completely comfortable with using their credit card on these machines because of security reasons, and I don't blame them."



1080 Leggett Avenue will undergo construction for a project that will house displaced businesses of the Sunrise Cooperative, a group of Willets Point, Queens auto shop owners. Photo by Silvio Pacifico

Turn 2's Jeter's Leaders host gift wrapping party



On Tuesday, November 17, more than three dozen NYC high school students from Turn 2 Foundation's Jeter's Leaders program hosted a gift wrapping party at Yankee Stadium. Jeter's Leaders assembled 1,100 gift bags to benefit children from Turn 2 programs in NYC, West Michigan and Tampa, and were treated to a private pre-holiday party in Yankee Stadium's Legends Suite afterwards.

(Top) The Jeter's Leaders roster gathers after the gift wrapping party.

Photo courtesy of the Turn 2 Foundation

Jeter's Leaders' gift bags included Derek Jeter's newest book, 'Hit & Miss'.

Photo courtesy of the Turn 2 Foundation

Jeter's Leaders (l-r) Patrick Harten, Alexander Pena, Heaven Jeffries and Keanna Toppin hold Derek Jeter T-shirts during the gift wrapping party.

Photo courtesy of the Turn 2 Foundation

Jeter's Leaders Yermarin Nunez and Christopher Maldonado hold up New York Yankee pins that were included in the gift bags.

Photo courtesy of the Turn 2 Foundation

Jeter's Leaders get on line to begin filling the gift bags.

Photo courtesy of the Turn 2 Foundation

OLA parish installs new pastor

BY ROBERT WIRSING

The new pastor of the recently merged Our Lady of the Assumption-St. Mary Star of the Sea Church is ready, willing and more than able for the challenges ahead.

In September 2015, Fr. Knapp was officially named as Our Lady of the Assumption-St. Mary Star of the Sea Church new pastor, succeeding Monsignor Anthony Marchitelli who had served there since 2011.

Msgr. Marchitelli presently serves as pastor for St. James the Apostle and Our Lady of the Lake Mount Carmel Parish in Carmel, NY.

To formally welcome Fr. Knapp as the parish's new pastor, a Sunday, November 29 Installation Mass was held at OLA Church in which St. Raymond Church's pastor, Monsignor John Graham, installed Fr. Knapp at the very beginning of the service.

Following his installation, Fr. Knapp proceeded to celebrate the Mass with the congregation.

"It's a honor and a privilege to serve the people here and on City Island and I'm looking forward to working together with everyone," said Fr. Knapp adding. "It's coming full circle and it's great to be back in the neighborhood. Whether it's baptizing babies, comforting families experiencing the loss of a loved one, celebrating Mass or working together with Our Lady of the Assumption School, I'm looking forward to helping any way I can."

A Bronx native, Fr. Knapp grew up in Locust Point and graduated from St. Frances de Chantal School in 1974.

His days at St. Frances de Chantal Church played a pivotal role in inspiring his pursuit of the priesthood.

"It was something that I wanted to do since the 4th grade and the parish priests there were very good men who inspired me to pursue this field," he said.

Fr. Knapp, a Class of 1978 St. Raymonds High School for Boys alum, attended Iona College where he earned his

Bachelor's Degree in History with a minor in Philosophy in 1982.

Next, Fr. Knapp attended St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, for four years where he studied theology.

Fr. Knapp was ordained in 1986 and began his first assignment as parochial vicar for the Bronx's Our Lady of Refuge Church in November of that same year.

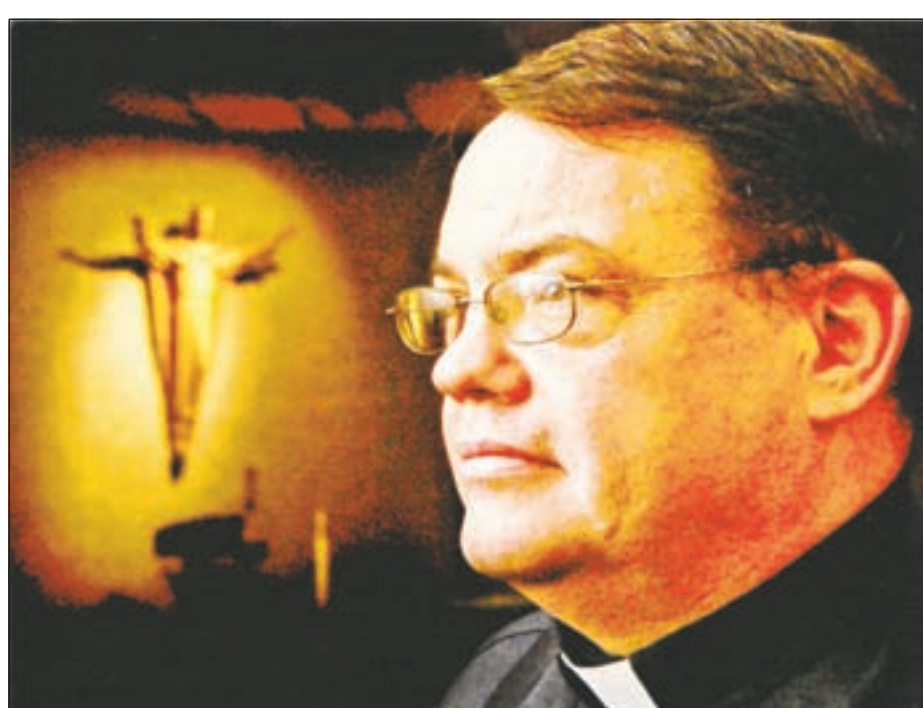
Three years later, Fr. Knapp was assigned as an administrator of St. Denis-St. Columba Church in Hopewell Junction, NY.

In July 1993, the Bronx native returned to his roots when he was named an administrator for Our Lady of Solace Church for two years.

Fr. Knapp served in the role of pastor for a dozen years at Our Lady of Solace until it merged with St. Dominic Church in 2007.

From there, Fr. Knapp served as pastor at St. Gabriel Church.

In August 2015, Pelham Bay-based OLA and the City Island-based St. Mary Star



Fr. John Knapp was recently appointed as pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption Church/St. Mary Star of the Sea Church.

Photo courtesy of Our Lady of the Assumption/St. Mary Star of the Sea Church

of the Sea merged as part of the Archdiocese of New York's 'Making All Things New' pastoral planning initiative seeking to best match the religious, spiritual and pastoral needs of several Catholic parishes.

His prior experience at

OLS and St. Dominic prepared him for the challenge of joining the two congregations into one.

Fr. Knapp explained Our Lady of the Assumption-St. Mary Star of the Sea will undergo an incorporation merger in September 2016

which will result in a new name.

He added there are plans to hold town hall meetings in the new year at OLA and St. Mary Star of the Sea to disseminate information on the upcoming parish merger.

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Councilwoman Maria del Carmen Arroyo set to resign

BY MADELINE ANTHONY

After 10 years in office, Councilwoman Maria del Carmen Arroyo has announced her resignation.

Arroyo will finish out the remainder of the year and officially leave her post on December 31, one year before the end of her term.

Arroyo has attributed her abrupt decision to familial obligations.

"I must now dedicate my time and efforts to address pressing family needs," read the councilwoman's statement explaining her resignation.

In her statement Arroyo also described what a privilege it was to serve the people of the Bronx. "It is an experience I will always cherish and I am proud to say we've made the Bronx a better place," she said.

The South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation, with whom Arroyo has supported many years, released a statement commending the councilwoman on her service to New York City, calling her a "tireless advocate" and a "hard working representative for her district."

"She has been a bedrock in the community", the SoBro statement continued, "and is sure to continue serving the Bronx for many years to come."

Born in Puerto Rico, her parents relocated to the south Bronx when Arroyo was seven-years-old, where she began her education at P.S. 154 elementary school.

Arroyo went on to graduate from Hostos Community College with an Associate in Arts degree and Lehman College with a Bachelor's Degree in Health Service Administration.

Arroyo completed her education with a Masters of Public Administration from New



COUNCILWOMAN
MARIA DEL CARMEN ARROYO

"I heard that she got a very good offer and wanted to move on to the private industry," said Josephine Infante, president of the Hunts Point Economic Development Corporation who went on to say nothing but good things about the councilwoman's time in office. "She was always there in meetings. Some council members are 'there' but absent, she was always there. I have seen her in action in council and I admire her dedication. She was very responsible and dedicated to local issues, es-

I heard that she [Councilwoman Maria del Carmen Arroyo] got a very good offer and wanted to move on to the private industry.

Josephine Infante

York University Robert Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.

The councilwoman was elected to represent District 17 in 2005 after years of working in administration and management, including positions as executive director at Segundo Ruiz Belvis D & TC, senior director of Operations at Narco Freedom, Inc., Division of Health Care Services and executive director of the South Bronx Community Corporation.

In 2013 three of Arroyo's campaign workers were charged with forging signatures on primary ballots, yet Arroyo was not charged.

Of the incident Arroyo stated that her only crime was "trusting too much". In the election that followed, she won her seat again.

While the politician's next move has not yet been announced, it is rumored that Arroyo decided to leave her post to try her hand in the private sector.

pecially senior citizens. I wish her well."

When an unexpired term becomes available, it is required by the City Charter that the Mayor call a special election to fill the vacancy.

A special election to fill her seat will most likely take place in February, as it must occur within 45 days of the vacancy. The mayor will set the election date.

The winner will serve out the remainder of Arroyo's term.

While her office has declined to comment on who may be taking her position, Arroyo's chief of staff Joann Otero is said to have her eye on the position.

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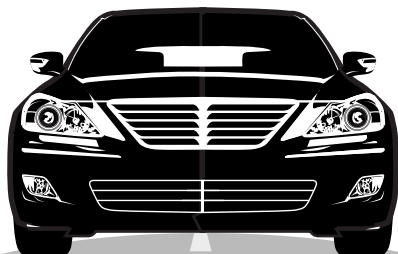
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Co-op files lawsuit against board, management

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

One of the oldest residential co-ops in the Bronx is in disarray, leaving the shareholders searching for answers.

According to many residents, the Matthews Building containing 124 co-op apartments, located at 2925 Matthew's Avenue, as well as 2922 Barnes Avenue, is in dire straits due to an expired 'provisional board'.

Both buildings, which have been self-owned and self-managed since the mid-1920s, are experiencing numerous issues and difficulties.

Among them is an issue concerning three individuals who are acting as members of the buildings' provisional board, all of whom were either not elected into the position or continue to hold the position after their term expired, according to certain a lawsuit filed last July.

Duncan Campbell, who is currently acting as the provisional board's president, saw his term expire six months ago, according to the lawsuit. Besides Duncan the suit also includes the two other board members, Catherine Rogan and Efrain Salinas.

Over the past year and a half, the three acting members of the provisional board, which according to the co-op by-laws should consist of nine members, have made numerous decisions without the approval of the other shareholders, the court document alleges.

According to residents in both buildings, the members of the provisional board have not held any board meetings or elections.

The lawsuit further alleges that there have been no recorded meeting minutes.

In addition, social services organization Farband Housing Corporation, which should provide shareholders with financial files and records, have not done so, according to some residents.

"Both of these buildings are experiencing absolute chaos," said Lynn Narvaez, a shareholder at the Matthews Building. "These buildings don't have a (permanent) board - we have three individuals controlling everything that takes place in the buildings without taking the shareholders' needs into consideration, without any votes, nothing. It's corruption."



(l-r) Shareholders Sely Baron, Nancy Bolin and Lynn Narvaez are searching for answers on how to fix the problems currently taking place at their co-op.

Community News Group / Steven Goodstein

ing. It's corruption."

Other issues have arose in the Matthews Building, including broken lights, locked garbage chutes, resulting in gar-

bage overflowing and spilling out into the hallways and mice in the elevator fan duct, among other unexplained incidents.

Nearly a half million dollars from HPD, acquired to address various building improvements, was spent by the board for unknown expenses, they claim.

Shareholders have tried to contact various agencies for assistance, such as the State Authority General's Office and the Bronx District Attorney's Office, to no avail, as many agencies won't investigate fraud in a co-op.

According to some residents, Stillman Management and Farband Housing Corporation are aware of the co-op's issues, including the three-person provisional board.

When Stillman Management was questioned, they said that they are doing everything in their power to handle these issues.

However, they blamed part of the problem on the co-op's financial difficulties due to some residents not paying common charges.

The co-op now finds itself

\$300,000 in debt, from the carrying charge shortfall and previous board mismanagement, Stillman claims.

"We can only do the best we can," said Roy Stillman, president of Stillman Management. "Not everything that is going wrong in this co-op is in our control, but we are doing everything possible to help this building move forward in a positive way."

The lawsuit that was filed five months ago names the acting provisional board, Stillman Management and Farband Housing Corporation.

"My attempt in this lawsuit is to get this co-op to operate correctly," said attorney Karen Takash, representing the co-op's shareholders. "This co-op needs a real board, by-laws, board meetings, minutes, regulations on selling co-ops, etc. There is no structure - the acting board won't even let the shareholders host a meeting."

Farband Housing Corporation and acting provisional board president Duncan Campbell were not able to be reached for comment.

Jacobi Medical Center celebrates 60th year

from Page 1

mer on record at that point, and everyone was sweating it out, he said.

"The patients were the community, the neighborhood," he said of when he started. "This was really the community hospital for Morris Park and Pelham Parkway."

Dr. Stampher recalls it being very busy during his internship, and during that time he said he would see at least five new patients in a shift, and would follow them through the hospital as they received care.

He graduated from medical school in 1963, and went to work at Jacobi for about three decades before starting a private practice in New Rochelle, NY. He returned to Jacobi in 2006.

During that time, Jacobi Medical Center blossomed

into the regional medical center it is today, as part of the city's sprawling Health and Hospitals Corporation.

The doctor said that while the practice of medicine at Jacobi has changed over the years, it remains a teaching hospital, in conjunction with Montefiore.

"What we do today is a little different than what we did then," said Dr. Stampher. "The technology has vastly improved; the physical facilities are incredibly advanced compared to what we lived with at that time."

But one thing has not changed, he said.

"I think that the Jacobi spirit is still here," said the doctor. "I think we have a very strong team here... who work together to take care of the patients, take care of their families and to have a presence in this com-

munity."

The doctor said that his mentor, Dr. Milford Fulop, who practiced at Jacobi his entire career from 1955 until he retired earlier this year, was the faculty member that brought him back to the college and the medical center about ten years ago.

Originally Jacobi was established to provide a tertiary care facility and a teaching hospital on a tree-lined campus away from urban congestion, according to a written history provided by a Jacobi spokesman.

The 64-acre parcel was purchased by the Department of Hospitals, a forerunner of the Health and Hospital Corp. in 1949.

The property was occupied at the time by a large truck farm and several



Dr. Morris Stampher, a cardiologist, recalled his time at Jacobi, starting from his medical school days to the present. Jacobi is 60-years old this year.

Photo courtesy of Jacobi Medical Center

homes.

The site's existing streets were demapped and the homes were either moved or demolished to make way for the hospital.

When Jacobi was fully opened in 1955, it included an 898-bed facility for acute care, called Jacobi Hospital,

A year later a 500-bed

hospital for chronic tuberculosis care at Van Etten Hospital was added.

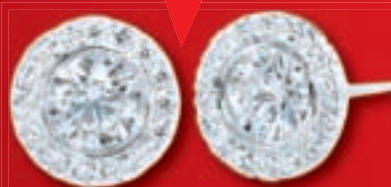
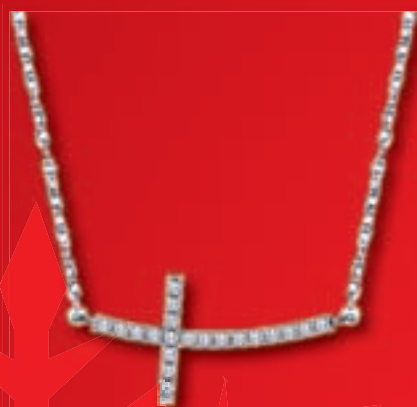
Today, Jacobi Medical Center's campus encompasses six buildings, plus three Einstein facilities, and an Emergency Medical Services garage run by the Fire Department, a spokesman said.

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