

## Blizzard hits borough hard

BY MADELINE ANTHONY  
AND STEVEN GOODSTEIN

The blizzard that hit the Bronx this past weekend delivered the most snow the Bronx has seen in years - approximately 27.6 inches - but it didn't keep the borough down.

"People were adequately prepared for this historic storm," said Bronx borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. "People played it smart, staying home, staying off the streets, and just riding out the storm. The important thing is that Bronxites were safe and for that we are grateful."

During disaster-like situations, people sometimes turn to lawlessness, but the borough stayed safe during the storm according to DCPI, who reported that crime was down 40 percent on Saturday, January 23 and Sunday, January 24.

As a whole, Bronxites did their best to go ahead with regular programming - the Bronx Baptist Church on East 187th Street even held church services over the phone on Sunday.

The amount of snow and slush, however, posed a serious inconvenience to anyone in the area.

Jeremy Warnake, district manager of Community Board 11 said that side streets like Lurting Avenue weren't plowed until Sunday at 5 p.m., although this was an improvement as compared to last year's storm.

Last Saturday, during the storm's height, every restaurant in the Throggs Neck area had closed their doors on E. Tremont Avenue- except one.

The Throggs Neck Clipper on the corner of Sullivan and E. Tremont had decided to keep their lights on.

Kathleen McElroy, a 76-year old waitress who has been serving at the Clipper for 18 years, didn't let the snow stop her. She put her arm around the owner, Eileen Tierney, "We're the A-team right

*Continued on Page 4*

# NO MONEY TO RUN POTTER'S FIELD



## 2016 Snow Job

No one was immune to the blizzard, and not even a sanitation truck with a plow could avoid getting stuck in the snow on Edison Avenue between St. Theresa and Westchester avenues in Pelham Bay. The truck's crew went to work digging snow away from the tires after it was temporarily marooned on Sunday, January 24.

Photo by Edwin Soto

## Parks begs off Hart Island takeover

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

It appears that the agency asked to assume responsibility for the burial grounds of the city's indigent is as destitute as those buried there.

Local community leaders testified at a City Council committee hearing on Wednesday, January 20 mostly in favor of legislation that would transfer the 100-acre island, home to the city's 'Potter's Field,' from the Department of Correction to the Parks Department.

But testimony and a statement

from the Parks Department indicates that the agency does not have the funds to properly steward the land, which has been an active burial site for more than a century.

"Parks supports the efforts made by the New York City Department of Correction in keeping Hart Island in the best possible condition for friends and families of the deceased who visit to pay their respects," said Matt Drury, of the Parks Department, adding "We believe that the operation of

*Continued on Page 4*

## Jacobi creates its first 3D printed prosthesis

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

A young girl has received a new prosthetic hand using some of the latest in 3D printing technology.

Doctors at Jacobi Medical Center created the custom fitting hand.

Yujing He, 13, is now able to move the fingers on her left hand for basic functions after she was fitted with the prosthetic hand, a first for the sprawling city hospital in Morris Park.

He seemed very happy with

her new hand, saying she was now going through a period of adjustment.

"I feel more confident and happier to have this new hand," she said through a translator. "I think it is a miracle that I can try to do some things that I could not do without this hand."

3D Printing involves molding narrow pieces of plastic together to create a three dimensional image to the specifications created in a

*Continued on Page 11*



# Bx29 nighttime service may increase

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Community activism and the tragic death of woman on her way home from work may bring about more comprehensive bus service.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority has confirmed that it is studying additional early morning service to the Bx29 bus line between Pelham Bay's Amendola Plaza and City Island.

"We are considering the possibility in light of the request from members of the community and elected officials," said MTA spokeswoman Amanda Kwan of service beyond the current Bx29 schedule.

Currently, service to and from the plaza, through Pelham Bay Park, ends at midnight on weekdays and 1 a.m. on weekends.

Community activists at the City Island Civic Association have said this strands many people, including islanders returning home late at night and restaurant workers who sometimes don't have regular hours and may have to bicycle to their jobs or arrange for private vans to pick them up.

The City Island Civic Association started a petition in 2015 for improved Bx29 bus service that collected about



A roadside memorial to Gabriela Aguilar-Vallinos, who died in a traffic accident while riding a bicycle home from work at a City Island restaurant in September 2015. Some believe that expanding early morning Bx29 service could benefit employees at the island's roughly 20 restaurants.

Community News Group / Patrick Rocchio

430 signatures, said John Doyle, CICA board member.

The civic group is advocating for not

only late night service, but also more timely service, having submitted about 70 specific complaints about riders ex-

periencing untimely buses, he said.

"The fact that they are looking to expand the route is a very positive step," said Doyle. "At least the MTA is being compelled to review the situation."

The CICA's effort intensified after the death of Gabriela Aguilar-Vallinos, who commuted to work at an island restaurant by bicycle.

She was killed in an accident near the City Island Bridge in September when a motorist struck her bicycle.

Councilman James Vacca's chief of staff, Michael Rivadeneyra, said that the councilman has reached out to MTA.

"Jimmy has communicated with the MTA about the need for more bus service to City Island; no part of the city should be isolated," said Rivadeneyra, adding "It is an extremely unfortunate thing that someone had to lose their life for the MTA to really take a strong consideration here."

The CICA has been working with Senator Jeff Klein on improving and expanding Bx29 service, said Doyle.

In a statement, the senator said that the tragic passing of Aguilar-Vallinos illustrates the need to enhance public transportation for visitors, residents and workers.

## Co-op City residents demand FiOS

BY MADELINE ANTHONY

Verizon has refused to bring FiOS into Co-op City, and the north Bronx residents are restless. A recent poll conducted by the Communication Workers of America claims that 72 percent of Co-op City residents want the choice of Verizon FiOS so they can access high speed Internet, yet their calls are going ignored.

On Friday, January 22, residents rallied at the corner of Baychester Avenue and Aldrich Street along with Senator Ruth-Hassell-Thompson, Assemblymen Michael Benedetto, Councilman Andy King, and CWA union members to demand that Verizon start listening and install FiOS in the community of over 50,000 residents.

While Co-op City is certainly not the only location being ignored by Verizon, it's a perfect example of a residential area that could benefit from the service but is being overlooked by the company, the union claims.

"By denying Co-op City FiOs, Verizon is effectively red-lining residents of 21st century infrastructure and everything that comes along with that," said Pete Sikora, Communications Workers of America.

"It's incredibly important for eco-



Keith Purce, president of Local 1101, speaks at the rally.

Silvio J. Pacifico

nomie development, if you don't have access to high speed Internet your out of luck with job searches, homework, basic entertainment and communication," he said.

At this point residents can access Internet service through Cablevision, but the lack of FiOS's high speed Internet leaves people at the mercy of a cable monopoly, the CWA contends.

Other Internet options can only push through a certain amount of bandwidth but FiOS can push an unlimited amount, making it much faster, it is alleged.

Daryl Johnson, who is on the Co-op City Board of Directors says he regu-

larly receives calls from residents requesting FiOS service.

"It's been going on for a number of years," said Thompson, "And if [Co-op City] residents want it I think they should be able to get it legally."

FiOS advertises its network is unique in that it works with a fiber optic cable versus wire, and that's what makes it fast - but it also makes the service expensive to install and build.

However, this point becomes mute after reading Verizon's latest report showing the company's staggeringly profitable last quarter, with \$5.5 billion in profit.

Ray Morales, a Co-op City resident, says he wants FiOS because he wants competition for his dollar.

"I have no choice," said Morales. "They can charge you and treat you however they want when they know you have no choice."

Cablevision has a service agreement with Co-op City, but the housing development's board said it does not exclude other providers from offering competing services to its residents.

New York State offers a \$500 million New York Broadband fund, offering subsidies to companies who will build high speed Internet service in areas that are



Assemblyman Michael Benedetto (r) with picket line organizer Art Geld.

Silvio J. Pacifico

rural or underserved.

Verizon has an agreement with NYC - they can use city streets for FiOS, but in return the company must make the service available to every NYC resident - obviously including those in Co-op City.

A citywide audit released by the de Blasio administration in June 2015 found that Verizon failed to meet their obligations to deliver fiber optic technology to all New Yorkers.



# Redesign of new Fordham Plaza unveiled

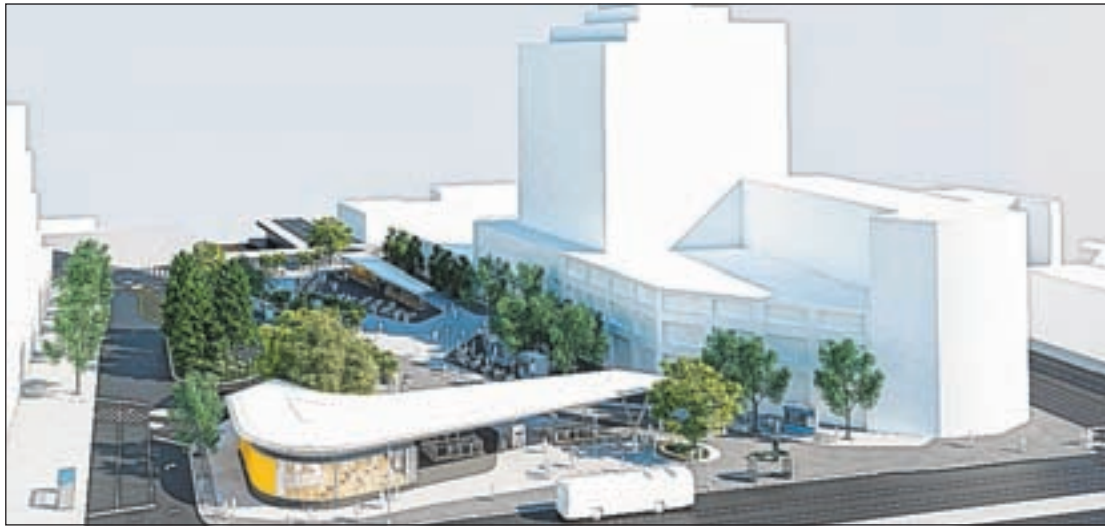
BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

The redesign of a major transit and commercial hub in the Bronx will soon take place.

On Wednesday, January 20, NYC Department of Transportation commissioner Polly Trottenberg, Federal Transit Administration administrator Therese McMillan and NYC Department of Design and Construction commissioner Dr. Feniosky Pena-Mora, among others, hosted the unveiling of a newly designed Fordham Plaza, which will result in the reconstruction of one of the borough's busiest transit and commercial areas.

The reconstructed hub, a \$34 million project, will include changes such as shortened pedestrian crosswalks and new direct crossings to deter and reduce jaywalking and will play an important role in reducing traffic-related deaths and injuries for passengers and pedestrians - the primary goal of the Vision Zero project.

Fordham Plaza, located at the intersection of the Bx12 and Bx41 bus lines, among other local and regional bus routes, Fordham Uni-



An ariel view from the north of the newly reconstruction and redesigned Fordham Plaza, which will result in a 25 percent expansion in pedestrian space.

Photo courtesy of NYC DOT

versity's Rose Hill Campus and Roosevelt Educational Campus as well as Fordham's Metro North station, is traveled by 80,000 pedestrians on a daily basis, including 6,800 elementary and high school students.

The most impactful change in the project, aside from its safety

enhancements, might be the 25 percent expansion in pedestrian space for farmer's markets, food concession stands, cultural activities and movie nights - which will only add to the hub's excitement.

"The reconstruction of Fordham Plaza is a transformative reconfiguration of a major public

space in the heart of the Bronx and the Fordham Road Shopping District," said Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. "The new design brings together an improved venue for pedestrians and public transit services, including shoppers, students and commuters.

"This new plaza will result in

better articulation of bus routes and vehicular activity as well as a more efficient, safer, and a more beautiful public venue for the community," he said.

"The completion of this project is vital to the future of the Bronx," said Congressman Jose E. Serrano, who advocated for a \$10 million federal grant by TIGER, a discretionary grant program administered by the US Department of Transportation to fund project with innovation around the county. "It makes one of our borough's economic hubs safer, improves transit services, and ensures a vibrant public space for all. This is a great example of how federal funding can prioritize and facilitate economic development in the Bronx."

"This is a exciting and happening area (Fordham Plaza) - an area that will become even more vibrant as a result of this upcoming project," said Daniel Bernstein, deputy director of the Fordham Road Business Improvement District. "It's a good proposal for bettering a great neighborhood - one that sees so much activity on a daily basis."

## Parkchester hate crime suspects cuffed

BY ROBERT WIRSING

Police arrested and charged two teens last week in connection to a heinous anti-Muslim hate crime.

According to a NYPD spokesman, two male teens, ages 14 and 15, were arrested on Friday, January 22 and charged with assaulting Bengali Mujibur Rahman on Friday, January 15 while allegedly yelling slurs at him.

Assemblyman Luis Sepulveda explained that the 14-year old suspect had expressed remorse to his mother for his involvement in the crime and turned himself into the 43rd Precinct.

The assemblyman added the teen, who was released to his mother, implicated his partner who was arrested and remains in custody.

Police said, the 14-year old faces charges of assault in the 3rd degree as a hate crime and harassment while his accomplice is charged with assault in the 3rd degree, reckless endangerment in the 2nd degree, aggravated harassment in the 2nd degree and harassment in the 1st degree as a hate crime.

As previously reported, Rahman, a 43-year old Parkchester

resident, was the victim of an anti-Muslim assault on Friday, January 15 at 5:25 p.m. after picking up his nine-year old niece from P.S. 119's after school program.

Ambushed from behind at 1075 Pugsley Avenue, Rahman who was dressed in traditional Muslim garb, was punched in the back of the head by one of the suspects before being knocked to the ground and punched in the face.

The teens reportedly shouted 'ISIS' while pummeling Rahman as his horrified niece, who was unharmed in the surprise attack, watched.

His assailants fled the scene leaving Rahman with a black eye, bruising to his face and a bruised rib before passing out.

The Bangladesh-born Rahman was rushed by EMS to Jacobi Medical Center where he was hospitalized overnight and released the next morning.

The juveniles' attack was labeled by police a hate crime and is being investigated by the NYPD's Hate Crime Task Force.

Following the arrests, Assemblyman Sepulveda has called for both "healing and praying for

these two kids."

"I hope that their parents impress upon them the seriousness of what they did and that they demonstrate remorse," said the assemblyman. "Let's continue to support the victim and show the world that our community will not allow religious intolerance."

Rahman is relieved his attackers were caught and wishes them the best and harbors no ill will.

On Tuesday, January 19, Rahman and Sepulveda joined local elected officials and community leaders at a rally held at the attack site to condemn the hate crime and recognized the NYPD's quick response.

In attendance at last week's rally, Mohammed Mujumder, Community Board 9 first vice chairman and CB 9 Land and Zoning chairman, expressed the community's response to the arrests.

"The community is very happy following these arrests," said Mujumder, adding. "We are very thankful to the 43rd Precinct, the NYPD Hate Crime Task Force, our local elected officials and our community mem-



Police arrested two teens last Friday, January 22 in with connection a Friday, January 15 anti-Muslim hate crime in Parkchester.

Photo courtesy of the NYPD

bers for doing a wonderful job in bringing an end to this case."

In light of recent events, Mujumder said a Sunday, January 31 at 2 p.m. town hall

meeting discussing this anti-Muslim hate crime will be held at Al-Imani Masjid and Community Center located at 2006 Westchester Avenue.





The Parks Department expressed skepticism about transferring it jurisdiction of Hart Island.

Community News Group / Patrick Rocchio

## No money to run Potter's Field; Parks begs off Hart Is. takeover

from Page 1

a public cemetery falls well outside of our agency's expertise and available resources."

According to a source, Parks already works with DOC to provide assistance on horticultural management issues for the island.

The source also stated that the agency believes they can continue to support DOC efforts to make the island more accessible to family members of those interned there without a jurisdiction transfer.

The City Island Civic Association has been advocating for the transfer of the island, in the Long Island Sound from the community, because the city has developed plans for its use over four decades that proved unpopular in the community, said John Doyle, CICA board member.

He said that he believes that the resistance by the Parks Department is motivated by financial concerns, because if the trans-

fer legislation becomes law, there may or may not be an accompanying increase in funding for the new park.

Doyle said that the CICA has lined up support from the borough's NYC Council delegation.

The CICA is not looking for the area to become a public park in the traditional sense, but rather is calling for a dignified public burial site, he said.

Barbara Dolensek, CICA vice president, testified before the committees about the historical significance of the Hart Island.

Dolensek said that when she first moved to the City Island in the 1970s, Hart Island was open to the public and people could go there to admire and take pictures of historic buildings dating back to the 1880s, a Civil War monument and a chapel.

By contrast, today people are threatened with arrest when they try to visit Hart Island without DOC approval, and visitors who do get per-

mission to visit are not allowed to take photographs.

Councilman James Vacca, who attended the joint Parks and Recreation and Fire and Criminal Justice committees' hearing, was disappointed that the agencies and mayoral administration did not come forward with a plan other than outright opposition to the legislation, said Michael Rivadeneyra, his chief of staff.

"This was the first hearing that the (transfer) legislation received, so it really started the conversation as to which would be the best agency to manage the property," said Rivadeneyra,

Rivadeneyra said that the city has a responsibility to ensure access for families and friends of people who are buried there, and that the dialogue about which agency should oversee Hart Island will continue.

The legislation has yet to be voted on, but the hearing is a first step towards a later vote, sources said.

# Blizzard hits borough hard

from Page 1

here," she said.

Tierney picked McElroy up from her residence and the pair kept the place open for what they both described as a day full of customers looking to get out of

the cold.

"We had a good crowd, the bar stayed open 'till 4 a.m." said Tierney, "People from other restaurants came by because their's had closed down."

Kathleen Saunders,

chairperson of Community Board 4, said that she didn't receive any calls for assistance from residents, and that aside from canceling their general board meeting. "Everything moved along just fine," she said.



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# Salamanca's Council race gathers \$\$, allies

BY MADELINE ANTHONY

Assemblywoman Carmen Arroyo has recently endorsed Rafael Salamanca for the upcoming special election to fill her daughter's Councilmanic District 17 seat.

"The leadership that Salamanca has already demonstrated as a community leader makes me confident he is the best choice," said Arroyo of her decision.

The assemblywoman is heading up a group of about 50 influential women in the Bronx who are throwing their support behind his candidacy, by forming 'Women for Salamanca'.

These women plan to boost Salamanca's woman's vote over the other nine candidates by going door to door to elicit support.

Ryan Monell, the spokesperson for the Salamanca campaign, said the idea for the group came through shared values and was a mutual idea between the campaign and the women who advocate for the candidate.

"Arroyo has always been a supporter of Rafael...it was a joint effort and joint idea, we have a number of women who are excited, and want to see him elected," said Monell.



Rafael Salamanca has secured key endorsements for his District 17 City Council run. Courtesy of Rafael Salamanca

Bronx County Democratic Party and on January 26, he received the endorsement of the entire NYC council delegation from the Bronx, including council members Jimmy Vacca, Fernando Cabrera, and Ritchie Torres.

Salamanca currently serves as district manager of Community Board 2.

candidate.

Amanda Septimo, the youngest candidate running, has raised \$28,000, making her a serious candidate.

A debate between all the candidates took place on Wednesday, January 27 at 5:30 p.m. at Pregones Theater and was streamed live

**T**he leadership that Salamanca has already demonstrated as a community leader makes me confident he is the best choice.

**Carmen Arroyo**

Jacqueline Acevedo, a business woman active in the group said she got involved because Salamanca cares about women-owned businesses like her own.

"I know firsthand what he has done so far, there's a track record, and he puts the women platform ahead," she said.

Salamanca has already received the backing of the

In the first filing which covers all funds raised up until January 11, Salamanca reported raising \$49,715.

In addition the campaign raised \$5,070 in small donations which qualify for the city's Matching Funds Program, leaving Salamanca with over 80 grand to launch his campaign - the largest warchest of any

online at Bronxnet.com.

The special election for Councilmanic District 17 will take place Tuesday, February 23.

The district includes Longwood, Hunts Point, Crotona Park, Concourse, Concourse Village, Melrose, Morrisania, Mott Haven, North Brother Island, Parkchester, Port Morris, and Soundview.



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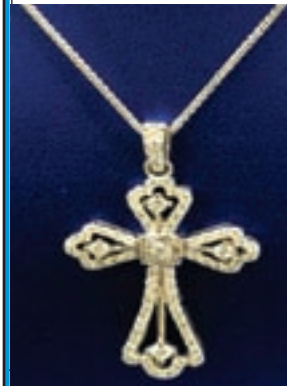
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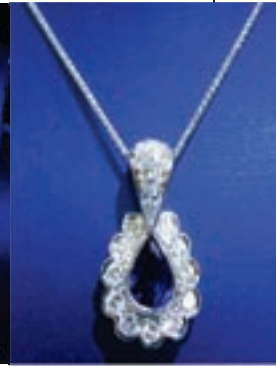
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# VN slaughterhouse causes a stink

BY ROBERT WIRSING

Community leaders are investigating a local slaughterhouse following new allegations.

Located at 603-605 Morris Park Avenue, Vivero Macca Live Poultry, a live market located in Van Nest, has raised concerns among some members of the community.

Robert Gerola, who lives next door to the market, alleges slaughterhouse workers can be seen every morning washing chicken cages on the curb, allowing blood, hay, feces and feathers to be washed into the street's sewers; installed two exhaust fans on the live market's roof which sends out a foul odor; has exposed propane tanks sitting on its roof and vehicles double parked in front of the store all day.

A Wednesday, January 27 visit to Vivero Macca Live Poultry workers were observed unloading pallets

from a truck and hosing the sidewalk clean.

Omar Thabat, the owner, stated his workers rinse out the poultry cages inside the market before they are taken outside.

Thabat insists that he and his workers labor seven days a week to keep their live market clean and haven't failed an inspection since 2014.

He added his establishment is inspected every three months by the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets as well as the United States Department of Agriculture and has passed every inspection since then.

"We're a live market offering organic food and a lot of the Muslim, African and Caribbean communities here in the neighborhood want this store," he said.

Vivero Macca Live Poultry provides the Bronx with fresh chicken, lamb and goat, he explained.



Propane tanks were seen sitting on top of Vivero Macca Live Poultry's roof.

Photo courtesy of Robert Gerola

"Last year, my office was contacted by community members concerned about an odor emanating from the Vivero Macca Live Poultry in Morris Park Avenue," said Senator

Gustavo Rivera. "After making our inquiries to the state and federal agencies that directly oversee and regulate this type of business, we were informed that the allegations against Vivero Macca were unfounded."

"Recently, we have been contacted with a series of new allegations against the slaughterhouse and we are working diligently to try to find a fair resolution for both the community and the small business," the senator added.

Jeremy Warneke, Community Board 11 district manager said he and members of Rivera's office will meet with Vivero Macca Live Poultry on Friday, January 29 to discuss these allegations.

Gerola provided photographs to CB 11 of exposed propane tanks located on top of the market's roof.

According to Warneke, CB 11 contacted the FDNY about the propane tanks and was

informed that these tanks should be stored inside a rooftop cage pictured next to them in Gerola's photograph.

Should the tanks not be properly stored, a violation can be issued, Warneke said.

"In my opinion, having a slaughterhouse on the main business corridor where thousands of people pass each day, going to and from the East 180th train station is disturbing to me personally," said Bernadette Ferrara, Van Nest Neighborhood Association president.

"As a long time resident of Van Nest, my statement comes from wanting to raise the bar on quality of life issues. The concept of a slaughterhouse just doesn't fit in to a residential neighborhood."

Ferrara said she worked with CB 11's John Fratta on possibly relocating the slaughterhouse to an industrial area, but it never panned out.

## Delivery scooters are a growing concern

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Delivery scooters are becoming part of the streetscape of the borough, but they may not be legal.

Concerns are growing among community leaders and city officials regarding scooters that are increasingly being used for making restaurant deliveries and for inexpensive travel.

Throggs Neck community activist John Marano said he is alarmed by the many scooter operators he has observed, some of whom he said are violating traffic laws by driving the wrong way on one way streets and blowing through stop signs.

"They are driving erratically," he said. "They are going the wrong way on one way streets, they are driving on the sidewalks and they are going through red lights."

The former police officer said that many of the scooters are hard to see at night or in low visibility conditions, like rain and fog, because they lack brake lights.

He said that he nearly had a collision with a scooter operator during a rainstorm because it was barely visible.

Liability issues abound for drivers who get into accidents with scooters and motorized bicycles, because they are not registered or insured and do not have motor vehicle tags, he warned.

"They need to be stopped and summonsed," he said.



Some feel that greater regulation is needed for the delivery motor scooters traversing city streets.

Photo by Silvio Pacifico

According to State Department of Motor Vehicle motorized scooters, minibikes, off-road motorcycles, and motor-as-

sisted bicycles cannot be operated on any street or highway in New York State. The operators may be arrested if they do.

In the past couple of years, the 45th Precinct engaged in an operation in which they confiscated scooters being operated on local streets, said Robert Barbarelli, a member of the East Bronx Traffic Coalition.

Elsewhere in the borough, in the Castle Hill, Parkchester and Soundview communities that comprise Community Board 9, they are also an issue.

In an e-mail, William Rivera, CB 9 district manager, stated that that board had received several complaints about motorized bicycles and scooters.

"We communicate with business owners to maintain safety," he stated.

"I do think the city (government) should reform and regulate this matter to increase safety," stated Rivera. "Some of these motorized bikes do not follow traffic laws."

Restaurants making deliveries, said Kenneth Kearns, Community Board 10 district manager, primarily operate the motorized bicycles and scooters.

He said he has not heard of any recent crackdown on them in the borough, but he has heard of operations to combat them recently in Manhattan.

When asked about scooters, Community Board 12's district manager George Torres said, "They are sort of a concern."



# Icahn Charter Schools gets speed bumps

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

A charter school on Pelham Parkway now has speed bumps to increase traffic safety.

Icahn Charter Schools, located at 1500 Pelham Parkway South and consisting of Icahn Charter schools 3, 4 and 5, was recently the recipient of three speed bumps on the Pelham Parkway South service road between Eastchester Road and Stillwell Avenue.

The NYC Department of Transportation installed the speed bumps in mid-November, according to a spokesperson.

The speed bumps, which were requested by Councilman James Vacca and advocated for by Community Board 11 district manager Jeremy Warneke as early as 2014 after the school reached out to them, were installed to reduce the speed of traffic on the service road.

Drivers often confuse the speed limit of Pelham Parkway's main road (35 miles per hour) for the service road.

Along with the speed bumps, the stretch between Eastchester Road and Stillwell Avenue has '15 MPH - Speed Bump' signs

posted to alert drivers of the need to slow down.

"Children's safety, especially at school locations, is among the biggest concerns and priorities in our community - and the implementation of these speed bumps has produced very successful results," said Vacca, "If the speed bumps hadn't been installed, drivers would still speed past the school - so it's good that we know have the tools to slow these drivers down."

Vacca added that the speed bumps were not installed in any MTA bus lanes.

"I am very glad, actually thrilled, that these speed bumps were installed, because in the past, motorists would fly and cruise past this school at 40 MPH," said Jeff Litt, superintendent for Icahn Charter Schools, who says that he intends to paint the speed bumps to generate more awareness if he gets approval from the city.

"It was an accident waiting to happen and somebody was going to get hurt sooner or later, so it's very positive that this situation was addressed and taken care of."

"James (Vacca) is a fixture in the community - and I want to thank him, as well



One of the three installed speed bumps located in front of Icahn Charter Schools between Eastchester Road and Stillwell Avenue.

Community News Group / Steven Goodstein

as Jeremy (Warneke) for being there for us (Icahn Charter Schools) during this process and making sure these speed bumps

were installed, and it has helped improve the safety of our residents, especially children and elders, significantly."

# Hip hop expo offers platform for artists

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

A new organization is presenting local independent artists with an opportunity to get their brands and products out into the public eye.

On Saturday, February 27, New Bronx City, Inc., along with Essentials 608 Events, will be hosting a hip hop expose at Essentials 608's location, 608 Fordham Road.

The event will provide independent artists in the Bronx with the opportunity and a platform to promote their brands and introduce their new products and services to an audience - in the 'Birthplace of Hip Hop', of course.

The expo will include the showcasing of nearly 100 businesses, along with exhibits, educational seminars, networking, sales by independent artists, from rappers and singers to video producers and filmmakers.

There will also be live performances and keynote speeches by notable artists and actors, including Havoc from hip hop duo Mobb Deep and Hasaan Johnson from The Wire, along with other speakers who will discuss the entertainment and business law industry.

The educational seminars will highlight the impact that social media can have on an independent business.

New Bronx City's overall goal in holding this expo is to provide a forum for exchanging education, information, inspiration and services regarding the music and film industries, teaching these independent artists how to present their brands and products on the right stage for the appropriate and proper audiences, while helping these individuals achieve success and



Linen co-founded New Bronx City, Inc. along with co-founder and creative director Jennifer Alvarez, help independent artists promote their brands and products. Photo courtesy of New Bronx City, Inc.

drive towards economic growth and opportunities from motivational training.

The hip hop expo has been organized and

powered by co-founder of New Bronx City Mysonne Linen, a hip hop artist and activist who was signed to Def Jam Records in 1998 and collabo-

rated with successful hip hop artists such as DMX, the LOX, Busta Rhymes, N.O.R.E. and Mobb Deep, among others.

Linen, however, never released an album under Def Jam Records due to being wrongfully jailed for two crimes he did not commit - which resulted in him being incarcerated for seven years before he was released in 2006.

In 2015, Linen, along with co-founder and creative director for Jennifer Alvarez, started New Bronx City, Inc., hoping to help independent artists who aren't fortunate enough to have an opportunity to work with established artists, as Linen did.

"This event is being held to help independent but talented artists with their careers while teaching them how to utilize their skills and market their products,"

said Linen, who was mentored by DMX and late Def Jam CEO Chris Lighty.

"However, talent is only a part of the journey on the road to success - artists also need to have enormous drive and they need to be hungry to succeed. Most of it is all about drive, hustle and motivation," he said.

"This expo is for anybody who has a dream and has the drive to be successful," said Alvarez. "There are many businesses and companies in the Bronx that have products that need to be seen - such as music, films or apparel, and the expo is intended to give them the chance to put their products out there and sell them to the right audience."

New Bronx City, Inc. will be relaunching their website, [www.newbronx-city.com](http://www.newbronx-city.com), on the day of the expo.



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# Vivienne's owner a perennial mom figure

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

A pub in Pelham Bay is more than just a neighborhood establishment - it's a place that locals can truly call their 'home away from home'.

Vivienne's Bar, located at 3044 Westchester Avenue, has provided the community with a place where they can drink, socialize and have a fun time with friends and neighbors in a safe, homey, close-knit setting.

For over 20 years, the bar has been the scene of countless events, including family gatherings and holiday parties, among other celebratory festivities, surely providing all of its customers with memories they will never forget and always carry with them.

The owner of the bar, Vivienne Hansen, is viewed by her customers not only as a business owner, but also as

a mother figure and a neighborhood guide for every individual who walks through her doors.

As the owner of the bar for the past 16 years, Vivienne has cared for everybody - from watching children who waited for their parents after they got home from school to letting customers charge their cell phones and even holding fundraisers for less fortunate people in the neighborhood, like one that was held during Breast Cancer Awareness Month last year for a young girl in her building who was diagnosed with cancer.

"One life lesson I've learned is that no matter how bad you're situation is or seems, there is always somebody out there who has it worse than you - and learning that made me realize that there is always somebody that can be helped," said Hansen, who has worked

**Any time somebody visits this place, they are always guaranteed an entertaining experience - regardless of what the experience is.**

**Tammi Hansen**

as a bartender for 40 years in total, including working at many locations in Throggs Neck like Bill's Portside Bar, formerly located at 3706 E. Tremont Avenue. "That's where my nature of giving comes from - I always like to make sure everybody in my place is happy and taken care of like they should be."

Every year, the bar holds various parties for annual events, holidays and occasions, includ-

ing New Year's Eve, the Superbowl, St. Patrick's Day, Christmas, as well as countless birthday parties and anniversary celebrations.

The bar even held an anti-Valentine's Day party, where customers shredded their old love letters and pictures of their exes.

"Any time somebody visits this place, they are always guaranteed an entertaining experience - regardless of what the experience is," said Tammi Hansen, Vivienne's daughter, a bartender for the last four years.

"Just like the neighborhood, this place is always very close-knit, and my mom has always gone above and beyond to make sure that everybody is enjoying themselves, having a good time, and most of all, a safe trip home at the end of the night."



Vivienne Hansen has continued to support her community while owning a successful bar for the past 16 years.

Community News Group / Steven Goodstein

## Jacobi creates its first 3D printed prosthesis

computer model, explained a hospital spokesman.

These kinds of prosthetics are ideal for patients who are still growing, because they can be adjusted with relative ease, her doctors said.

The recently completed operation was performed in collaboration with Montefiore's podiatry department, where one of He's doctors, Dr. Kyle Silva, works.

Jacobi plastic surgeon and Burn Fellow Dr. Cesar Colasante led that medical center's part of the effort, and he said he has been working with 3D printing for about 15 years.

Using 3D printing can reduce the cost of a prosthetic hand from thousands of dollars to as little as \$30, and adjustments can be made within a day, said Colasante. "She is going to continue growing and she is going

to outgrow her prosthesis within a year," he said, adding that the low cost for the hospital allows it to go ahead with operations much sooner than waiting months for Medicaid to approve a procedure.

"It makes for a more personalized experience," said Colasante, who also said that the possibilities for using the technology are potentially exponential.

Dr. Silva believes that 3D printing will continue to be important for developing models for pre-surgery planning to better understand the reaction of the body, for medical education or to map out in three dimensions a traumatic brain injury.

This type of printing is getting better and better, with new kinds of plastic becoming available.

"It is fascinating technology," he said, adding "The



Yujing He, 13, holds a water bottle with the prosthetic hand that was printed on a 3D printer.

Photo courtesy of Jacobi

technology keeps getting better every day."

He developed amniotic band syndrome, a condition that previously made

it impossible to move her fingers, when she was about three-years-old, her mother, Qiumin Lai, said.

According to her doc-

tors, she is able to fully use her left hand to grip things like water bottles, which was not possible before the surgery.

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