

## Only 6 candidates make CD 17 ballot

BY MADELINE ANTHONY

Only six candidates remain for the District 17 City Council special election.

The vacancy was created when Maria del Carmen Arroyo took a high-paying job at a not-for-profit.

Over the past few weeks the list of candidates has dwindled from 11 to the following: Rafael Salamanca, Julio Pabon, George Alvarez, Marlon Molina, Rev. Loren Russell, and Joann Otero.

Amanda Septimo, who is the district director for Congressman Jose Serrano, saw her hopes to win the seat vanish due to a designating petition error.

Septimo circulated petitions with the name of her independent party as 'Democratic Values'.

According to state election law, the use of a name that can be confused with an existing political party is prohibited.

Helen Foreman-Hines, a retired 1199 SEIU advocate and organizer, who vowed to bring her many years of experience to the table, was eliminated from the race for failing to file a certificate of acceptance on time.

Carlton Curry, an activist, was kicked off the ballot for the same reason - in his case he filed the certificate one day too late.

Army veteran John Perez and Elliot Quinones, a businessman, were ruled off for not filing an adequate number of petition signatures. The required amount is 450.

The remaining candidates all feel sure of their chances to gain the seat - but Salamanca still ap-

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# YOUNG WOMAN SLASHED IN VN

## Attacked while talking on cell phone

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

A young woman on her way home after a night out with friends was slashed across her face during a mugging.

The horrific incident took place on Holland Avenue near Morris Park Avenue at about 12:15 a.m. on the morning of Friday, February 12, after 20-year-old Paula Delos Santos had just gotten off of the IRT #2 train and was walking home alone while talking to a friend on her cell phone.

About four blocks away from her home Delos Santos felt that she was being followed by a man, who

was described as 5'5" or 5'6" and Hispanic.

In an instant, the man snuck up behind her and grabbed for her cell phone.

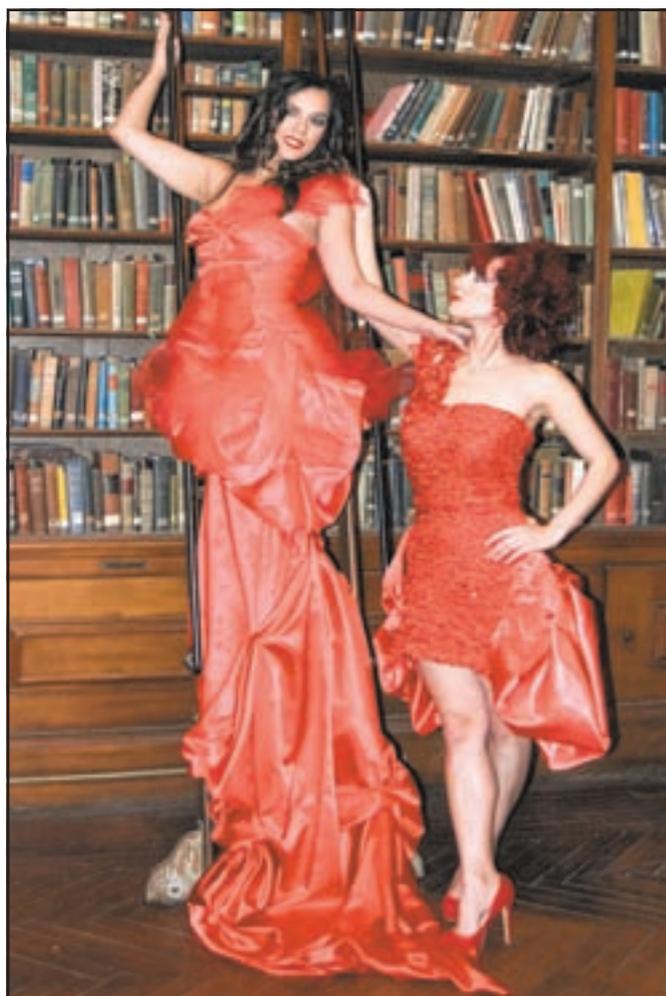
When Delos Santos resisted, the man slashed her on her left cheek with a cutting instrument, believed to be some sort of blade.

After being slashed, Delos Santos was shoved to the ground and kicked.

The assailant then fled with her pocketbook, keys and credit cards.

Delos Santos was treated at Jacobi Medical Center, where the

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## Strike A Pose At Freedman

The Dollhouse 'Emancipation' was held on Friday, February 12, at Andrew Freedman Manor, 1125 Grand Concourse, where Aval & Company presented its first Annual Fashion Show, an event that included art, networking, spoken word and high fashion. Models Marly Lotus (l) and Dira Ve strike poses during the fashion show.

Photo by Miriam Quin

## Parkchester South protests hefty monthly charge hike

BY ROBERT WIRSING

Parkchester South Condominium owners and elected officials voiced their displeasure with the recently announced common charge increase.

On Wednesday, February 10, Senator Ruben Diaz, Sr., Assemblyman Luis Sepulveda and Parkchester South Condominium owners and tenants converged in front of Parkchester Preservation Management's office to protest the 'draconian' hike.

The group rallied at 2000 E.

Tremont Avenue office to express their opposition to management's plan in impose a 15.19% monthly common charges increase on the Parkchester South Condominium owners.

In addition, the senator and assemblyman announced plans to file an injunction to block imposition of the monthly hike. Owners were asked to contribute \$15 for legal costs.

"Fifteen percent is abusive for people working two or three jobs

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# Former Bronx boy scout becomes leader

BY MADELINE ANTHONY

Twenty-six-year-old Manuel Piedra enrolled in boy scouts as a young child living near the Grand Concourse.

After a few years, the two volunteers who ran his troop, Troop 300, needed to to work more hours, had to quit scouting and consequently the troop disintegrated, ending Manuel's scouting days.

Boy scouting had become a huge part of his life, and in it's absence, Piedra continued to stay true to scout law - a list of 12 moral codes that scouts are sworn to abide by.

"I thought to myself 'maybe I can steer myself back onto the right path,'" explained Piedra, who said his neighborhood choices often complicated his life at that young age.

Problems like this arise fairly often in areas where parents work multiple jobs to keep families afloat, leaving them little extra time to volunteer for programs like the boy scouts.

This serious lack of volunteers was identified by the Greater New York Council of Boys Scouts lead-



Bronx boy scouts enjoy a fall outing at Van Cortlandt Park.

Courtesy of Boy Scouts of America

ing to the concept of hiring paid leaders for troops in underserved areas. The program was called 'Scoutreach'.

Piedra, by age 11, was able to begin scouting again through Scoutreach.

"My journey was full of experiences and memories, it definitely steered me in the right direction," he said, reminiscing about when he discovered he would be able to scout again.

Today, as a specialist and a scout leader himself, Piedra pro-

vides the same training and mentorship that he once received as a young man.

He works at different schools throughout the borough each day of the week, and believes his work brings to kids the same effect that being a boy scout had on him at an early age.

"I walk into schools and people say 'hey Mr. Manny can't wait till program'" said Piedra, "I think being relatable helps these kids."

Piedra is currently working

on a early childhood education degree at Boricua College.

"A lot of people take it as an outdoors program, yes it is, but it's big on character development, and mentorship" said Piedra.

Adrian Kennedrew of Fordham is a 16-year-old Scoutreach beneficiary who began scouting at six-years-old. Now, after having stuck with scouting for more than ten years, he looks back at his experience as a scout.

"It's hard to explain, but they

want you to succeed... and it gives you a very nice feeling you really don't get anywhere else," said Adrian, who feels proud of what he is doing, especially when he observes his peers getting caught up in the streets.

"A lot of important people are Eagle Scouts and it got them to where they are today," Adrian continued, "and many people don't know that."

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Joann Oteroed.

Courtesy of Joann Otero



Rafael Salamanca

Courtesy of Rafael Salamanca

## Only 6 candidates make CD 17 ballot

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three-inch laceration to her left cheek required 26 stitches to close.

According to multiple reports and sources, Delos Santos was more than likely distracted and unaware of the impending dangerous situation before it unfolded because she was on her cell phone.

As a result, many community leaders are recommending that children and young adults traveling alone, especially women, take the proper precautions when encountering a similar situation to this one or the one where a 23-year-old victim who was sexually assaulted in daylight by 21-year-old Brandon Gonzalez in Morris Park earlier this month. The victim was also on her cell phone when the incident took place.

"When an individual is walking alone, especially at night, it is important that their head is not buried in their cell phone or electronic device so they can be aware of their surroundings at all times," said Captain Keith Walton, commanding officer of the 49th Precinct.

"We (the 49th and NYPD) suggest, in fact encourage,

that pedestrians travel with additional people, and, if they are indeed traveling alone, they should carry a whistle, scream, or anything that can send an alert out in case they find themselves in a similar scenario - and most, importantly, be aware."

"Having said that, we are not blaming the victim - we would just like individuals to take the proper precautions if a similar situation is about to take place," added Walton, who is planning on holding a Pre-National Night Out Against Crime within the next few months to get feedback from the community. "We also want people to know that this is not a case of a serial slasher in the Bronx - this seemed to just be a crime of opportunity."

"When walking home alone, it is important to always stay vigilant - and that can't be stressed enough," said Jeremy Warneke, district manager for Community Board 11. "Electronic devices can easily distract a pedestrian and make them unaware, which can lead to unfortunate instances like this. It is vital for individuals to always be aware and conscious of their surroundings."

"If somebody on the street is walking by themselves and is distracted by their electronic device, especially late at night, they automatically become a potential target," said Al D'Angelo, vice president of the Morris Park Community Association. "As neighbors in this community, we have to protect and take care of each other - so if you see something suspicious, don't hesitate to report it to the authorities and hopefully this man will be caught soon."

One local resident who works in Times Square and frequently walks from the Bronx Park East IRT station to her home in Van Nest at 1 or 2 a.m., said that this incident is an odd occurrence for the neighborhood, but that it is never surprising when these incidents occur, regardless of the time and location.

"These incidents (referring to the slashing) can happen anywhere in the city, so it's not surprising - but for this area, it's pretty unusual," she said.

As of press time, no arrests had been made.

**Additional reporting contributed by Madeline Anthony.**

# Young woman slashed in Van Nest

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pears to be the frontrunner.

Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. recently endorsed Salamanca on February 12, at the candidate's campaign headquarters.

At the event Diaz said Salamanca "has a vision on how to move the Bronx forward," and praised the candidate's work as district manager of Community Board 2.

The United Federation of Teachers, representing 200,000 members also advocated for Salamanca on February 8, followed by the Transport Workers Union Local 100, who publically announced support for him two days later.

Congressman Jose Serrano showed his support for Salamanca on February 11, shortly after Septimo lost her ballot spot.

Joann Otero, Arroyo's former chief of staff, and now the only female in the race, says she is fighting for more women in the city's legislative body.

"I'm running to fight for more affordable housing, to advocate for working families, and to help our school system...electing me will help address the lack of female representation," said Otero.

She said that Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito previously called on women to make the city's legislature more reflective of reality. Women make up a large percentage of the district.

"I am accepting the Speaker's challenge," said Otero.

Julio Pabon, co-founder of the South Bronx Community Congress, is a community activist that has worked for decades in various positions to assist the people of the south



Delos Santos was walking along Holland Avenue near Morris Park Avenue when the incident occurred.

Community News Group / Steven Goodstein

Bronx.

As a result, he has garnered vast support in Mott Haven and Grand Concourse areas.

Pabon thinks the current political system of the borough is unjust, with partyheads picking candidates well before election time, and he calls for reform.

Bronxnet hosted a debate on BronxTalk last Friday, in which the remaining six candidates debated the issues and

answered questions posed by moderator Gary Axelbank.

This Friday, February 19 at 4 p.m., NY1 will host a final debate at their Chelsea studio.

Council District 17 includes Morrisania, Crotona Park East, Melrose, Longwood, Hunts Point, East Tremont, Mott Haven, and Soundview.

Voting for the special election will be held next Tuesday, February 23 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.



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Rendering of the projected new 40th Precinct stationhouse on East 149th Street and St. Anns Avenue in Melrose. Courtesy of NYC Department of Design and Construction

# \$70 mil makeover for the 40th Pct.

BY MADELINE ANTHONY

The police precinct serving Melrose is about to get a new \$68.9 million home.

In June 2014, Mayor 1 de Blasio earmarked this sizeable chunk of change for the construction of a new 40th Precinct stationhouse in the south Bronx as part of his 2015 Executive Budget.

Recently, the funds have been put into action, and preliminary designs of the project have been made public- Bronxites can expect to see a new police headquarters by 2020.

The Bjarke Ingels Group, a Copenhagen and New York-based architecture and building firm, was commissioned by the NYC Department of Construction and Design to build the precinct from the ground up, on a vacant lot owned by the city at the corner of East 149th Street and St. Anns Avenue.

The new building, which some may confuse as an art museum rather than a police precinct, will stand in stark contrast to the current station which sits one mile away in the Mott Haven Historic District at Alexander Avenue and East 138th Street, a building erected in 1923.

From the street, the new building will resemble a stack of bricks criss crossed atop each other,

which according to the designer references the rusticated bases of early NYC Police Stations.

Each rectangular block will contain specific elements of the development, and all blocks, program areas, and entrances will be stacked around a central atrium.

The Copenhagen firm's modern design includes an energy-efficient green roof - a first for any NYPD station - which will be built using non-reflective materials like sandblasted concrete.

The 43,500 square foot structure (over 30,000 s.f. larger than the current building) is set to surpass requirements for LEED Silver certification.

Amenities for officers will include an exercise courtyard, a training area, a climbing wall, and relaxation areas.

Despite all this, the new station isn't just meant to be innovative - a major goal of the new precinct is to strengthen community policing in an area where the relationship between the community and the police has been strained at best.

The new station will include additions meant to enhance dialogue between the two, including the first ever community meeting room inside a precinct.

The multipurpose room

will have it's own street level entrance and will contain informational kiosks and areas to hold classes and events.

This initiative goes hand-in-hand with the new Neighborhood Community Officer program that the 40th recently began participating in this January, in an effort to bring down high crime rates.

The Neighborhood Officer program assigns two trained community officers to each section of Mott Haven and Melrose, to open a direct line of communication between residents and the local police.

Unfortunately, according to some members of the community, altering the look of the precinct only does so much.

"You can change the appearance of the precinct, but if you don't change the policing policies nothing will change," said Ramon Jimenez, of the South Bronx Community Congress. "It's good to see money being spent for a new precinct, but it's not just the facade, it's the type of community policing...you have to change the whole package."

However, Jimenez feels that there have been positive changes made lately, specifically under NYC

*Continued on next page*

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# \$70 mil makeover for the 40th Pct.

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Police Commissioner William Bratton.

"I think the door has been pushed open a little bit, and I think there may be some more changes coming," he said.

Will the new community pro-

gram and precinct really bring residents and police together? "With extraordinary effort," said Jimenez.

City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, who represents the eighth district including Melrose, supports the project, saying

it will "support critical enforcement strategies".

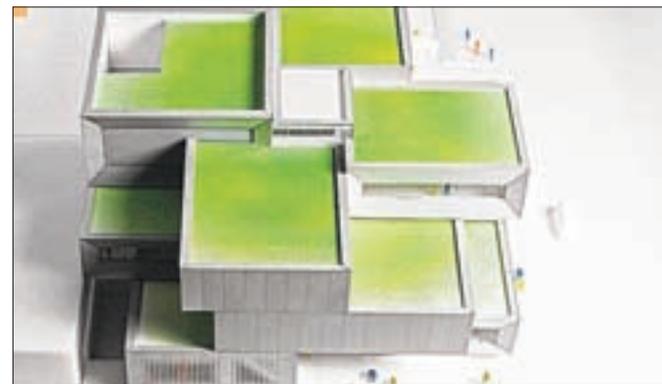
The 40th Precinct command consists of Port Morris, Melrose and Mott Haven.

The future use of the current precinct station have not yet been decided.



The new precinct will have a private first floor entrance for the community room, to enhance community-police relations

Courtesy of NYC Department of Design and Construction



This will be the first NYPD precinct to feature a green, energy-efficient roof.

Courtesy of NYC Department of Design and Construction



The building will resemble bricks, in a reference to the rusticated bases of early NYC police stations.

Courtesy of NYC Department of Design and Construction



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# TN Parade honors Irish pride

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

No one is as psyched up for the upcoming Throggs Neck St. Patrick's Day Parade as the grand marshals and honored clergy.

The cherished parade in Throggs Neck celebrating the patron saint of Ireland and all things Irish will step off at noon on Sunday, March 13 at Lafayette and East Tremont avenues.

When it does, it will pay high honors to three grand marshals and an honored clergy member.

The all-volunteer parade committee chose community leaders Noreen and David Kilkenny as its grand marshals and Father Christopher Devron, a Jesuit priest who is Fordham Prep's president, as honored clergy.

The Kilkennys, who live in Waterbury-LaSalle, are very involved in the St. Raymond's Gaelic Football

Club, where they celebrate Irish heritage and sports at the youth league. They march under the club's banner every year.

Noreen Kilkenny said that it's great to see children of all nationalities play Gaelic football and march in the parade.

David added that the parade serves as a way to reunite all of the children prior to the start of the season in April.

"Our kids deserve our time and deserve our attention, he said. "They should be out in the sun and having fun."

David Kilkenny said that he has fond memories of growing up in Ireland in County Sligo, and that his heritage plays an important role in his everyday life.

The Kilkenny's are also very involved in St. Theresa Parish and the Chipewa Democratic Club.



Noreen and David Kilkenny

Photo courtesy of St. Patrick's Parade Committee

Noreen Kilkenny called the parade the heralding of spring, and said that she hopes that the religious aspect of the parade, which

will include a Mass for the marchers before they line up, is truly remembered.

Father Devron, who started his teaching ca-

reer at Cardinal Spellman High School, said that this would be his first year attending the parade.

"I feel honored not only for me but for Fordham Prep, which has a 175-year-old tradition of scholarship in the Bronx," said Devron. "It is a place where many Irish-American immigrants in the Bronx have come to see their lives transformed."

His participation in the parade comes with all of Fordham Prep's tradition and history in the community, he said.

"I had heard about this parade but never had the opportunity to attend," said Devron. "I think for me personally just given my own love for the Bronx and what it represents in my own formation as a teacher and educator, I am very happy to be a part of it."

The parade committee also selected more than a dozen honorary grand marshals, notable people from the community who passed away during the past year, according to the committee.

Honorary grand marshals include: Margaret Babcock, Carol Boyle, Monica Burns, John Byrne, Charlie Capezuti, Robert Connolly, Dan Cotter, Ann Devany, Elizabeth Kelleher, Thomas Laughlin, Michael 'Mickey' Martz, John Mullins, Joseph Murphy, Teresa O'Hara, Daniel O'Shea, George Peragine, Benny Randazzo and Anthony Riccardella.

As is the case every year, a reviewing stand will be located towards the end of the parade route, at Harding and East Tremont avenues.

Thousands are expected to line the parade route.

## Superfan pushes idol for Walk of Fame

BY MADELINE ANTHONY

One Bronxite is taking his devotion to his favorite artist to the next level.

Seventeen-year-old superfan Ruben Germosen of Fordham, is working tirelessly to get his idol, singer-songwriter 'Prince Royce' inducted into the Bronx Walk of Fame.

The Bronx is the only borough to have a walk of fame.

Today, 90 Bronxites who have made it big grace the walk, including Rita Moreno, Fat Joe, Regis Philbin and Tony Orlando.

Young Germosen sees Royce, a Bronx born-and-bred self-made star as the perfect addition.

Geoffrey Royce Rojas, now known as 'Prince Royce', has topped the US Billboard Latin Albums and Tropical Albums charts.

Royce Rojas also received three awards at the Billboard Latin Mu-

sic Awards in 2011, and is currently signed with Sony Music Entertainment.

The Dominican, Spanish-speaking crooner, recently told his story and gave some words of wisdom to kids who are in the same position he was in as a kid, at the Urban Assembly Bronx Academy of Letters on Morris Avenue in Grand Concourse.

"He always comes back to the Bronx, he loves his borough," said Germosen with tangible excitement, "He comes to the Bronx for his albums, he comes back and gives advice... we [fans] need to find a way to help him get this award and show him we appreciate it."

Ruben has written letters to Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. and has assembled social media accounts to gain momentum for the Walk of Fame movement.

He has also started a petition in support of

Royce.

"He reps the Bronx and really cares about his people," said Germosen, recalling that the last time Royce was in the Bronx to visit his family, he took the bus and train to get around, rather than take a car like most celebrities.

In contrast with many other Bronx-bred celebrities, like J.Lo, who got out of the Bronx as soon as she gained fame, the singer continues to stay true to his roots.

Royce may get his humble ways from his mother, who hasn't changed her lifestyle due to her son's success.

She still lives in the Bronx and owns a west Harlem beauty salon, where she intends to keep working.

For now, young Geoffrey awaits this year's Bronx Walk of Fame nomination list, keeping his fingers crossed for his role model.



Ruben Germosen (r) with his idol, singer Prince Royce.

Courtesy of Ruben Germosen

# Lettuce Eat doesn't stop at salads

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

Its name may sound limiting, but its menu tells quite a different story.

Lettuce Eat, a food establishment located at 1633 Crosby Avenue, is quickly proving that the business is more than just an everyday salad bar.

The eatery held its grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, February 6, when the Lettuce Eat staff created a wide



Marino finally has her own eating establishment on Crosby Avenue after a previous deal five years ago fell through.

Community News Group / Steven Goodstein

selection of dishes for its eager first-day customers.

Included on its menu are burgers, wraps, hot dogs and even breakfast options such as egg platters, omelettes and pancakes.

And don't forget the selection of over 20 milkshake flavors and different choices of iced and hot coffee, tea and other soft drinks.

The journey to starting a successful business in Pelham Bay wasn't easy for owner Wendy Marino, who tried to purchase a property on the same block and transform it into a restaurant in early 2011.

The deal eventually fell through, however, before Marino was presented with the opportunity to purchase 1633 Crosby Avenue.

After purchasing the property in August of last year, Marino renovated the vacant storefront.

"The best part of this experience has been seeing the smile on my customers' faces and making them happy when I make their favorite dish," said Marino, originally a native of Charlotte, NC, who moved to the Bronx in 1989 and has lived here ever since.

"It's not about the money for me - it's about providing for the customers as well as the neighborhood and satisfying them," Marino said. "This makes me so happy - I love connecting with others and I just hope I'm able to continue to serve this community."



(l-r) Daniel Marino, Alexis Diaz, Ana Kay, Wendy Marino, Jerry Kontonaris and Tommy Novellino in front of Lettuce Eat during their grand opening.

Photo by Robert Benimoff

Marino, whose son Daniel is "her right-hand man" behind the counter and in the kitchen, has worked previous restaurant jobs as a waitress in Manhattan, as well as the

Paulding Restaurant (now Doyle's Pub).

She also has experience in catering. She worked for her cousin's Connecticut-based catering company.

## 'Billions' filmed at City Island's Artie's

BY ROBERT WIRSING

A renowned City Island restaurant served as host to a Golden Globe winning actor starring in a new television cable series.

Artie's Steak and Seafood located at 394 City Island Avenue, will be featured in an upcoming episode of the television series, 'Billions' which filmed a scene featuring co-star, Damian Lewis dining at the eatery.

This new Showtime series follows actor Paul Giamatti as U.S. Attorney Chuck Rhoades pursuing Lewis' hedge fund king character, Bobby 'Axe' Axelrod, in a battle between two powerful figures.

Spiros Chagares, Artie's owner, said the scene sees Lewis' character enjoying shrimp and scallop over glazed tomatoes with a glass of red wine as he listens to a musician performing a humorous Italian song.

Artie's owner said the scene will appear in the series' seventh episode titled 'The Punch' slated to air on Sunday, February 28 at 10 p.m. on Showtime.

He added an additional scene was shot outside in the restaurant's parking lot, but it does not contain any exterior shots of the eatery.

Previously, two episodes of the VH1 reality television series, 'Basketball Wives' were filmed at this restaurant.

Producers from 'Billions' reached out to

Chagares to ask for his permission to film there.

The restaurant owner said he heard of 'Billions' prior to the producer's call because he is a fan of both Giamatti and Lewis' work.

The film shoot, which took place on a Tuesday last November, began at 7 a.m. with the crew entering Artie's to prep it for the shoot.

Chagares explained the crew altered the restaurant's appearance to fit what they envisioned for the scene.

The crew removed booths, placed checked table clothes over every table, changed mirrors and lighting and replaced the Artie's artwork and vases with their own for the scene.

"It was a little nerve racking to see them come in and moving everything, but they were very careful and did an excellent job," said Chagares.

Once the restaurant was fully prepared, the crew called in a bus filled with extras dressed as waiters, waitresses and guests to appear in the scene.

"There were over 200 people here just to shoot a few minutes of the show," said Chagares. "We were all very excited to be a part of this and enjoyed every minute."

The scene featuring Lewis was filmed in-



'Billions' co-star Damian Lewis (r) takes a break from filming to pose with Artie's owner Spiros Chagares and Artie's general manager Laura Vandenberg.

Photo courtesy of Morris Gut Reactions

side Artie's main dining hall and took four hours to shoot, he added.

Artie's chefs were on-site preparing meals for the cast and crew during the film shoot.

"Both the crew and Lewis really enjoyed dining on our shrimp and scallops over glazed tomatoes," he noted.

The filming lasted all day.

After wrapping up, Chagares, Laura

Vandenberg, Artie's general manager and restaurant staff had the opportunity to meet the 'Billions' co-star.

"We met Damian Lewis afterwards and he was very gracious to all of us," said Chagares. "He spoke about the show and took photos with everyone."

This episode of 'Billions' will also be viewable on Showtime's website, [www.sho.com/sho/billions/home](http://www.sho.com/sho/billions/home).

# Baychester principal in recruitment ad

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

A principal who helped found a Baychester public school in 2011 has dedicated himself to attracting new talent to the teaching profession.

Shawn Mangar, the young administrator at Baychester Middle School at John Philip Sousa recently appeared in a subway advertisement for New York City Teaching Fellows, part of an ongoing effort to recruit new qualified teachers to the profession.

NYCTF, which launched Mangar's career in education, seeks to attract potential teachers who may have had successful careers in other fields and who now looking to give back in a different way.

The advertisements featuring principal Mangar can be found around the mass transit system, and include mention of the fact that he was a legislative

aide prior to becoming a teacher and a principal.

He had interned for an elected official and a political organization in Connecticut and Washington D.C., respectively, he said.

Mangar, a Williamsbridge native who grew up near East 233th Street and White Plains Road, endorsed NYCTF, but also supports the idea of getting new teachers with fresh perspectives into the classroom through a variety of different strategies.

"I think that there a lot of good teaching programs, but I think (NYCTF) is... always striving to get better," he said. "It is very reflective in terms of accepting feedback and always looking to become better every single year."

In addition to being a NYCTF graduate, Mangar has also served as a mentor for other new teachers, helping to prepare new educators for the classroom, he said.



Shawn Mangar, the founding principal of Baychester Middle School, recently appeared in a subway recruitment advertisement for New York City Teaching Fellows.

Photo courtesy of Shawn Mangar

He got his start at Truman High School in Cop City in 2004, where he learned a lot from his principal and was successful in having a high percentage of students achieve proficiency on standardized tests.

After a three-year stint as a special education lead teacher at a Brook-

lyn school and at another in Wisconsin, he said that he began to aspire to be a part of an educational start up.

After a couple of years of planning with others, he became founding principal of BMS, he said, stressing what sets the school apart is its holistic approach to education.

Shawn represents the diversity of teaching fellows, having become a teacher after working in nonprofit, government and business sectors.

Shauna Hart

"(Our committee) would meet, plan and think about what would be a great school for students, parents and teachers," said Mangar about the BMS founding.

Founding the school in the northeast Bronx afforded Mangar the opportunity to come back and work with students from communities near where he grew up.

BMS focuses on col-

laboration among adults, and providing a safe and secure environment that makes students want to be in school, he said.

The school also features an advisory program at the start of every day where adults 'check in' with children before educational instruction occurs, he said.

Shauna Hart, NYCTF program director, stated that the program was excited to feature Mangar in its subway advertisements and celebrate his contributions to excellent teaching. "Shawn, as a special education teacher and founding principal of Baychester Middle School, has dedicated his career to educating the students of the Bronx," stated Hart. "Shawn represents the diversity of teaching fellows, having become a teacher after working in nonprofit, government and business sectors."

## 45th Precinct CC to honor 5 leaders

BY ROBERT WIRSING

Five unsung community leaders will be honored at an upcoming 45th Precinct Community Council tradition.

On Thursday, February 4, the council announced five local leaders who will be honored at their fifth annual community breakfast.

This year's honorees include Church of God's Children Archbishop Angel Rosario, Bronx Clergy Task Force CEO; Lynn Gerbino Throggs Neck Homeowners Association president; Hannah Acompora, Westchester Square Civic Association secretary; Fr. Robert Grippo, former St. Theresa Church pastor now serving on the Archdiocese of New York's Making All Things New advisory council; Brenda Prohaska, City Island Community Center president and Al Carena, Spencer Estate Civic As-

sociation president.

"Every year the council goes to great lengths to find people who really exemplify the community and work closely with local law enforcement," said John Doyle, council board member.

Bob Beider, 45th Precinct Community Council president, further elaborated that each honoree represents their community which they have selflessly aided throughout the years.

In addition, these leaders have worked hand in hand with the 45th Precinct to help keep their neighborhoods safe.

"These folks are the best of the best that their respective communities have to offer and they do so much without receiving anything in return," said Beider.

Beider noted the cultural diversity of the 45th Precinct's service



Brenda Prohaska, City Island Community Center president, will be recognized for her various contributions to the community. Photo by Ron Turner

area and how this annual breakfast serves to connect everyone.

"This breakfast is a great opportunity for everyone from different neighborhoods within our precinct to come together, break bread and honor the many men and women who give so much



Lynn Gerbino, Throggs Neck Homeowners Association president, is one of five honorees nominated by the 45th Precinct Community Council for their service to the community. Photo courtesy of Lynn Gerbino

of themselves to help," he shared.

A Throggs Neck resident for nearly 41 years, Gerbino said her extensive resume includes serving as the Bronx Times editor-in-chief from the late 1980s to early 1990s,

a coach for Throggs Neck Girls Softball League, a Fort Schuyler House committee board member, a girl scout leader for St. Frances de Chantal, acting chief of staff for the late Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano and chief of staff for former Assemblyman Stephen Kaufman.

Gerbino added she served as an organizer for Throggs Neck's St. Patrick's Day Parade for the last 18 years and was part of a committee that were instrumental in getting a September 11, 2001 memorial constructed near Engine 72.

Born and raised in City Island, Prohaska said her work includes PTA fundraising for P.S. 175, fundraising for CICC, working as a Part of the Solution family club coordinator, participating in beach clean up days around the island and Orchard Beach

in addition to participating in the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Bronx Walk with her group, 'Team Rose'.

For 33 years, Carena protected the Bronx as an officer in the 41st and 42nd precincts and as an officer in the Police Benevolent Association.

In addition to his role as SECA president, he is president of Morris Park Kiwanis Club which provides food to local families in need and is an adjunct criminal justice professor at John Jay College.

The 45th Precinct Community Council's breakfast is slated for Wednesday, May 11 from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at Villa Barone Manor.

The event will feature a \$15 donation fee to pay for the breakfast's expenses.

For tickets and more information, contact Beider at (718) 828-4400.

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# Sedgwick Ave. is now 'Hip Hop Boulevard'

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

An historic moment in the borough's contribution to urban music will soon be recognized.

The NYC City Council recently approved the street co-naming of a portion of Sedgwick Avenue as Hip Hop Boulevard, permanently establishing its role as the birthplace of hip hop.

The co-naming would cover the stretch of Sedgwick Avenue, which runs parallel, north and south, to the Major Deegan Expressway and the Harlem River, from Depot Place to 1520 Sedgwick Avenue, an apartment building that is considered the birthplace of hip hop, located less than a mile away from the River Park Towers.

The Sedgwick Avenue high rise was dubbed the birthplace of hip hop after

resident Clive Campbell, later known as DJ Kool Herc, held a house concert and a back-to-school party in the building's recreation center for his sister, Cindy, on August 11, 1973.

The ceremony will include a sign reading 'Hip Hop Boulevard' being placed in front of 1520 Sedgwick Avenue, making passersby aware of the building's significance.

The Hip Hop Boulevard designation has received support from Windows of Hip Hop, a non-profit, Bronx-based economic development project which promotes the educational and historical perspective of hip hop.

The organization's goal is to create a state of the art, fully interactive, educational institution dedicated to hip hop in the borough.

Along with the street co-

naming, WOHH hopes to open either a hip hop museum or a hip hop educational campus in the near future.

Earlier this month, WOHH was honored by Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. during the inaugural Elements Awards for their hip hop activism at 1779 Webster Avenue.

Other hip hop pioneers from the area, including Grandmaster Caz, Melle Mel and DJ Grand Wizard Theodore, as well as members from the hip hop awareness group Zulu Nation, are all supporting the renaming.

"This is a great way to acknowledge the Bronx as the birthplace of hip hop and highlight the building where the genre is believed to have originated," said Councilwoman Vanessa Gibson, referring to 1520 Sedgwick



Councilwoman Gibson stands in front of 1520 Sedgwick Avenue, which is believed by many to be the birthplace of hip hop. Photo courtesy of Councilwoman Vanessa Gibson's office

Avenue. "The Bronx is resilient and this showed in the hip hop music that was being created during that time."

"It is important that we recognize the borough, hip hop and its pioneers - and what better way to spread awareness on this history by renaming this stretch of

Sedgwick Avenue in honor of this movement," she added.

According to Councilwoman Gibson, Mayor de Blasio is expected to hold a public hearing on Thursday, February 25 in the Blue Room of City Hall, where he will officially sign the street co-naming legislation.

"There is no Drake, there

is no Kanye, there is no Kendrick Lamar without the hard work of those on Sedgwick Avenue in the 1970s. Hip hop was born in the Bronx, on Sedgwick Avenue, and the street being recognized as 'Hip Hop Boulevard' is a great way to honor the genre's pioneers," Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. said.

## Parkchester South protests hefty monthly charge hike

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to support their families to pay," said Senator Diaz. "I own an apartment at Parkchester South Condominium and I've seen first hand how many of the condos' senior citizens struggle to afford living there."

Senator Diaz said they are in the process of hiring an attorney to take the case to court.

Last Wednesday's rally drew over 100 Parkchester participants.

Among the protestors was Dr. Mazeda Uddin, South Asian Fund for Education Scholarship Training president, who is representing over 2,000 PSC owners who signed a petition against the increase.

Uddin noted every year Parkchester management has increased PSC's maintenance fee by 3% to 4%, but this year's raise is a 'record breaking amount'.

"The Parkchester South Condominium Board, after carefully reviewing all options, acted in the

best interests of our fellow owners by temporarily increasing common charges to address critical repairs that could potentially lead to safety issues for our residents," said Abu Shakoor, PSC president. "These repairs are necessary and critical to the structural integrity of the Parkchester South buildings, the safety of our community, and the security of our investments," he added.

Shakoor explained the 15.19% temporary common charge increase will pay for critically needed repair after management discovered wide-spread water infiltration and roof slab damage which must be handled immediately.

If not addressed, Shakoor said this could lead to a possible ceiling collapse resulting in potential injuries, owner displacement and leaving units in a state of disrepair rendering them unsellable.

He said while PSC understands this increase



(l-r) Iftekar Siraj; Raymond Maldonado; Joanne Savino; Dr. Mazeda Uddin, SAFEST president and founder and Senator Diaz were among the many concerned people protesting the Parkchester Management's proposed 15% monthly increase in common charges at last Wednesday's rally.

Photo by Miriam Quin

will be difficult for many residents, he said it will be a short-term sacrifice.

Once work is completed in 2017, PSC's board intends to revert the com-

mon charges back to 2015 levels.

The board will review the budget needs of 2018 and may increase common charges only to cover

increases in non-discretionary expenses such as heating fuel and other utilities, union contract wages and unforeseen capital needs.

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