LEHMAN HIRES SECURITY CHIEF

NYC DOE tries to stem poor behaviour

BY MADELINE ANTHONY

Following a string of thuggish behavior on the Lehman Campuses, the NYC Department of Education has hired an assistant principal of Security to oversee the six schools.

The permanent position provides a point person to specifically address safety and discipline concerns within the schools.

As previously reported by the Bronx Times, Lehman Educational Campus experienced a week-long spree of false fire alarms from Monday, November 30 to Thursday, December 3, that were pulled to advance pre-planned street brawls.

Thousands of students flooded into the streets around the school. Few students returned to class on those days. Social media and cell phones were used to alert the student body to the rowdy activity in Westchester Square.

The new security chief appointment is just one part of a greater plan to enhance a sense of community among the campuses and end discord.

To stem the student violence Lehman immediately changed its policy on cell phone use. No phones are allowed in the school.

“The phones were being Continued on Page 71

Mayor’s zoning passes City Council

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Two zoning initiatives championed by the de Blasio administration, designed to encourage the creation of affordable and senior housing, cleared the City Council after several modifications.

In its final form, the two zoning initiatives known as Zoning for Quality and Affordability and Mandatory Inclusionary Zoning ended up garnering widespread, though sometimes tepid support, among many of the borough’s elected officials after some had initially expressed skepticism and opposition.

Both bills passed the City Council on Tuesday, March 22.

Some borough city council members were able to modify the way the plans affected their districts.

Others voted for the plans after changes were made that raised the probability for more affordable housing if rezonings or zoning variances are made in communities that are vulnerable to gentrification.

These changes lowered the Area Median Income threshold for affordable housing under MIH, creating opportunities for apartments on lower rungs of the income ladder if a re-zoning is done or a project is

Continued on Page 71

Remembering Happy Land

Last Friday, March 25, Community Board 6 joined relatives and friends of the victims of the Happy Land Social Club fire in commemorating the 26th anniversary of this horrific arson which claimed 87 lives. Jessica Nunez holds rosaries for her father, Juan Jose Nunez and her cousins, Aida Margarita Martinez and Marisol Martinez who she lost in the inferno. More photos on page 38.

Photo by Laura Stone
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Coffee shop set to open in Mott Haven

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

A new coffee shop is set to open in an up and coming area of the borough.

‘Filtered’, a coffee shop and eatery located at 2430 3rd Avenue, between East 134th Street and 3rd Avenue, is ready to officially open its doors to the public on Saturday, April 2.

Along with coffee, of course, the shop will serve different types of tea and hot chocolate, as well as danishes and pastries, including bagels and yogurt.

Sandwiches will be offered in the near future. Free WiFi is also in the plan.

Filtered focus on open mic and spoken word performances to bring arts and culture to the area.

The coffee shop is owned by Aaron Baird and Karen Paul, who also own three other coffee shop locations in Manhattan, including another Filtered, located at 1616 Amsterdam Avenue near City College.

“It’s all about providing coffee and great service to our customers,” said Baird, a former barista who has specialized in opening coffee shops in Manhattan with Paul for the last five years.

“Karen and I have had a great working relationship and we know that this is an interesting location that will bring us success and satisfy our customers.”

Baird is familiar with the area, as, over the years, he has made friends and connections with residents who live in the Clocktower Building on 20 Bruckner Boulevard.

He said that this Bronx location will provide the business with more space than any of the other three locations in Manhattan.

One of the Filtered’s biggest supporters is Keith Rubenstein, founder of Somerset Partners, which, along with the Chetrit Group, purchased two Harlem River waterfront properties located just a few blocks away from the coffee shop, where both groups intend to build the Piano District high risers.

Filtered’s soft grand opening will take place on Friday, April 1, followed by the official grand opening on Saturday, April 2, which will include free coffee, mug decorating workshops, photographers and live music.
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FOR THOSE WITH A PASSION TO GET AHEAD

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Police are in a race against time to keep joggers feeling safe.

A 29-year old male jogging alone through Van Cortlandt Park was attacked by two men last Tuesday on March 22.

One man distracted the victim so the other could punch him in the face with an unknown object which caused a deep cut on the victims right cheek, according to DCPI.

The incident took place at about 7:15 p.m as the jogger ran along the Putnam Trail in Van Cortlandt Park.

After the suspects attacked the victim they ran northward on the trail according to NYPD.

No arrests have been made at this time, and the investigation is ongoing according to DCPI.

The suspect who punched the victim is described as a man between 20 and 30 years old with a small afro and a slim build standing at approximately 6 foot 1.

He was last seen wearing a red hooded sweater according to officers.

The other suspect is also described as man between the ages of 20 and 30 wearing a hooded sweater.

Christina Taylor, executive director of Friends of Van Cortlandt Park, calls the incident a “very rare occurrence.”

She says after working in the park for 15 years this is the first act of violence she has heard of, aside from one or two muggings in which the victims were not hurt.

Even so, Taylor says she has had many people tell her they will no longer be running in the park after daylight hours.

Some runners have even told her they will only be exercising in large groups from now on.

“I want to let people know the park is extremely safe,” said Taylor, who doesn’t want to see runners giving up on the park.

“If you respond to an isolated act of violence that way you can’t go anywhere,” she said.

Although these incidents are rare, The Friends of Van Cortlandt Parks is pushing for NYPD to increase security in the area by having park enforcement patrol the park on a more regular basis.

“If they make their presence more known maybe it will deter these things from happening,” said Taylor, who says there is currently no set schedule for how many times per day the park is patrolled.

She says cops on patrol usually come if a disturbance is reported, but after 4 p.m. the number of police on patrol drops. “Most work the 8 to 4 shift,” said Taylor “I would like to have a more regular NYPD presence later in the day when more things like this are likely to happen.”

The executive director said that more lighting particular in the area that the incident happened would also be helpful.

There are over 20 miles of hiking trails throughout the park, and many of the trails are in the woods, but last Tuesday’s incident occurred on a path that is not set back, and that many runners use frequently.

Although the foot traffic is heavy, the area is not well-lit.

Despite these concerns Christina still advises people to enjoy the park.

“ It’s so beautiful, there’s so much to do,” said Christina. “I continue to walk by myself.”
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MetroCard Van schedules stop

Assemblyman Michael Benedetto announces that the MetroCard Mobile Van will be parked at the curb in front of his office located at 3602 E. Tremont Avenue, on Friday, April 8, between the hours of 1 to 3 p.m.

The MetroCard Mobile Van enables:
• Senior citizens 65 years of age or older to apply for Reduced-Fare MetroCard and receive a temporary card on the spot (Bring proof of age such as a Medicare card and valid photo identification);
• People with disabilities that qualify, and who present a Medicare card and valid photo ID such as a driver’s license to apply for Reduced-Fare MetroCard;
• Daily riders to add money to their Reduced-Fare MetroCard; and
• Everyone to get all MetroCard questions answered.

For more information (718) 892-2235
New veterans resource guide

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

A new guide for veterans offering information about a plethora of different services and resources was unveiled this week.

The kick-off ceremony for the Bronx Veteran & Military Resource Guide, which will be available both at local community boards and also online, was held at the Samuel Young American Legion Post 620 on Monday, March 28.

The guide includes information on a variety of topics including education, employment, entrepreneurship, housing, mental health and veterans discounts and organizations.

Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.’s Bronx Veterans Advisory Council developed it. The group is comprised of veterans from local communities. Its chairman is Joe Mondello.

Diaz addressed the gathering of our nation’s heroes to celebrate the book’s release, saying that he is proud to support veterans who have given so much for the safety and security of the nation.

“It is my hope that this guide will serve as a key resource for both veterans and service providers across the borough, and I encourage our service men and servicewomen to take advantage of the ‘Bronx Veteran & Military Resource Guide,’ said Diaz.

Diaz’s VAC performs a variety of things, said Mondello, including helping to create the Bronx Veterans Court, an initiative to help veterans charged with crimes get back on track; toy and turkey drives for veteran families around the holidays; and a breakfast honoring veterans during Bronx Week, said Mondello.

The creation of the guide was an effort to coordinate information that would be useful to veterans across the borough, he said, adding that the concept for a guide was first conceived in early 2015.

“Community boards are your first point of interaction when you move into the neighborhood,” said Mondello, adding “We felt it was our responsibility to provide veterans with resource information.”

“This is a great start,” said Salimbene of the final product, added that he suggested that child care services be included, as it can sometimes eliminate a barrier for veterans seeking employment.

Pat Devine, another veterans advocate with four decades of experience, received an award from the Bronx Veterans Advisory Council during the ceremony for his service.

Among the dignitaries attending the event who also addressed the veterans were Loree Sutton, commissioner of the Mayor’s Office of Veteran Affairs; Jamal Othman, Deputy Director at NYS Division of Veterans’ Affairs and Shawn Kingston, Bronx VA Medical Center.

On hand to learn more about the resource guide were representatives from community boards 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 12.

Elected officials who sent representatives to the meeting included Senator Gustavo Rivera, Assemblyman Marcos Crespo, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, Assemblyman Michael Blake and Councilman James Vacca.

To find the guide online, visit the borough president’s website at http://on.nyc.gov/1XY8nIr.
43 Precinct
Friday, February 26, 2016, 7:25 p.m. -- Cops learned of a purse-snatching incident aboard a Metropolitan Transportation Authority bus at the corner of Commonwealth Avenue and East Tremont Avenue. The male suspect grabbed the purse of a 53-year-old woman from around her arm while she was seated and holding her grandson. The woman’s purse contained an iPhone 5 and personal identification, which the alleged thief made off with as he fled on Commonwealth Avenue. Surveillance video and eyewitness descriptions point to a male teen, 130 pounds. He was last seen wearing a green jacket, black T-shirt, black pants and multi-colored book bag.

52 Precinct
Friday, February 7, 1:30 p.m. -- A crime of opportunity occurred when a 20-year-old woman left her purse in a dressing room at a clothing store at 271 E. Fordham Road. Another woman was caught on video surveillance leaving the store with the victim’s purse. Police have classified the crime as a grand larceny. They have arrested a 37-year-old woman who allegedly committed the crime.

44th Precinct
Tuesday, March 15, 12:20 a.m. -- A 20-year-old man was assaulted and knifed by a group of suspects in front of 233 E. 169th Street.

Friday, February 26, 12:05 p.m. -- A Hispanic man between 30- and 40-years-old tried to rob a woman inside an elevator at 3130 Grand Concourse. The suspect followed the 39-year-old victim into the lift and demanded her money. The victim managed to push her way past the suspect and out of the elevator into the building’s lobby. The suspect then fled the building on foot, running north on Grand Concourse. The suspect is about 180 pounds, and was last seen wearing a black jacket, gray hooded sweater, blue jeans and yellow work boots.
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Dear editor,

CenterLight health systems has been a cherished part of the Allerton/Pelham Parkway community for many years. Their generosity towards community efforts is something that all healthcare organizations, and all community members, should be proud of.

As you may know, CenterLight has sold their Beth Abraham building at 612 Al- lerton Avenue to a for-profit company which plans to complete its takeover in June. This sale was announced at the February 25 Community Board 11 full board meeting. To my understanding, CenterLight will continue to own their other nearby residences and buildings.

Since February 25 I have spoken to numerous community members and staff and they have expressed alarm at the atmosphere of uncertainty pervading Beth Abraham.

Beth Abraham, their parking lots and facilities employ, and have employed, many Bronx residents for the past several decades. Those employees should not have been kept in the dark concerning the takeover plans.

But more importantly, these employees need to be assured by CenterLight and the new company that their jobs, salaries and benefits will not be affected by this change of hands.

Thus, I urge all of the elected officials, who partner with Beth Abraham and represent this area, to help open up the lines of communication concerning this transition and ensure that this takeover no longer negatively impacts the lives of their dedicated staff.

I say lives because people are very worried. They have mortgages to pay and children to feed. Uncertainty leads to stress, and stress at the job doesn’t necessarily stay at the job.

Thank you to CenterLight for their continued service to Allerton Avenue and the Bronx. I thank you to the elected officials who are reading this for their continuing efforts advocating for the well-being of their constituents.

Raphael Schweiser

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Dear editor,

A recent announcement by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority that if Albany does not approve the proposed MTA $29 billion Five Year 2015-2019 by July 1, 2016, they will run out of money for initiation of new capital projects is not fully correct.

Governor Cuomo still owes the MTA $7.3 and de Blasio $2.5 billion. Federal support for transportation has remained consistent and growing over past decades. When a crises occurred, be it 9/11 in 2001 or Hurricane Sandy in 2012, Washington was there for us. Additional billions in assistance above and beyond yearly formula allocations from the United States Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration were provided.

In 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided billions more. Most federal transportation grants require a 20% hard cash local share. In many cases, US- DOT FTA accepted toll credits instead of hard cash for the local share. This saved the MTA one billion dollars in the previous 2010 - 2014 Five Year Capital Program. The same will be true with the 2015-2019 Five Year Capital Program. Washington has made available over $1 billion in 2016 for the MTA.

Larry Penner

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Dear editor,

I must call to my attention the recent announcement by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority that if Albany does not approve the proposed MTA $29 billion Five Year 2015-2019 by July 1, 2016, they will run out of money for initiation of new capital projects.

Will this change? Who will remove the garbage from the area? Who will clear the snow? What about the homeless contingency that lives at or near the area?

These ongoing issues need to be addressed. I think the price tag of $1.5 million to break some concrete and plant trees, etc is ridiculous. It is similar to the Pentagon spending $500 for a hammer and $200 for a toilet seat. It’s like spending $500,000 on an oversized fancy garbage can. I am all for beautification but at what cost??

Patty Justinianno

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Make voting process easier

Dear editor,

To be an engaged citizen is to exercise your right to vote. It is important that every citizen is given the opportunity to cast their ballot without impediments. I stand with the Vote Better NY campaign for election reform in New York State. This grassroots campaign supports a number of bills that will encourage greater voter participation: early voting, expanded electronic voter registration, enhanced voting access for individuals with disabilities, and ballots that are easy to read and understand.

I encourage you to become involved in this important campaign by signing the online petition at www.votetN.org. Take a moment today to urge Albany to bring our elections to the 21st century.

Mary Masillo

---

Beautification for $1.5 million

Dear editor,

I had to laugh when I read the piece about Amendola Plaza getting a much needed face-lift.

First of all let’s consider what is being done. Making three large “Green” areas (two of which are located right where many of the buses pick up and discharge passengers - no one took this into account as to where people will be able to stand or not), granite curbs, plant beds and steel picket fencing, is all sounds great. Except for a few key things. Who will maintain this and keep the plaza clean? One of the reasons it has been an eyesore is that no one seems to want to be responsible for the cleanliness of the Plaza or the train station.

He was in front of my house in five minutes and quickly brought me to the hospital. Unfortunately, Richard passed away before I arrived, but Eddie was my guardian angel that day. He refused to accept a fare and even offered to stay with me till my three daughters arrived. I will be forever grateful to Eddie for making a bad situation a little bit more bearable.

Mary Wilson

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BTR

Good bye Beth Abe

Dear editor,

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I say lives because people are very worried. They have mortgages to pay and children to feed. Uncertainty leads to stress, and stress at the job doesn’t necessarily stay at the job.

Thank you to CenterLight for their continued service to Allerton Avenue and the Bronx. I thank you to the elected officials who are reading this for their continuing efforts advocating for the well-being of their constituents.

Raphael Schweiser
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BY ROBERT WIRSIG

Parkchester South Condominium owners fighting a ‘draconian’ maintenance fee increase will have their day in court.

Assemblyman Luis Sepúlveda and Senator Ruben Diaz, Sr. filed a lawsuit in Bronx Supreme Court on Wednesday, March 23 against Parkchester South Condominium’s management regarding the recent imposition of a 15.19% maintenance fee increase for PSC owners.

Last Friday, March 25, Supreme Court Justice Ruben Franco ordered Parkchester South Management to take no steps in evicting unit owners for failing to pay the 15.19% from February 1 until or after April 4, pending a court hearing on that date.

Judge Elizabeth Taylor will preside over this Monday, April 4 court hearing at Bronx Supreme Court, according to Sepúlveda.

After collecting $15 each from condo owners to cover legal costs, the legislators filed the lawsuit in Bronx State Supreme Court this past Wednesday to block the increases and require an independent forensic audit of management’s books and expenses.

Further, the suit charges that management has failed to provide an accounting and backup documentation of the bidding process used, to select the contractor or contractors who performed the repairs, to demonstrate to individual unit owners that management used the most cost effective course for the repairs, to honor its fiduciary duty to give individual owners a way to readily review the condominium’s books, to provide an independently audited review of the relevant financial records, to provide a full explanation of and justification for the computations employed and their underlying methodology in determining the increases imposed on owners or to use an objective and independent accounting firm to ensure individual owners can review a proper audit for the last three years including revenues and expenditures relevant to these increases.

“We will be vigilant in defending the hardworking owners and residents from these astronomical monthly increases, ones they not only cannot afford, but which are mired in secrecy,” said Diaz, a PSC owner and lead plaintiff in the lawsuit.

The Sepulveda said Parkchester South’s management stated the increased maintenance fees are meant to offset the cost of PSC’s structural repairs.

He explained that the lawsuit is searching for any possible instances of mismanagement or unlawful dealings from PSC’s management.

“What we want to know is why exactly management sued such a large increase over such a short amount of time instead of doing this gradually,” he added.

As previously reported by the Bronx Times, PSC explained the 15.19% temporary maintenance fee hike was necessary to address wide-spread water infiltration and damage to the roof slab, which needed immediate attention.

If not, this would result in ceiling collapses resulting in potential injuries, owner displacement and leaving units in a state of disrepair rendering them unsellable.

Once work is finished in 2017, PSC’s board intends to revert the maintenance fee back to 2015 levels of 2.5%.

Due to the ongoing suit, a PSC spokesman could not comment further on the case, but insisted that management is being cooperative.

Parkchester’s north and south condominiums are home to a substantial South Asian population consisting of Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Indians. More than 20% of the population is comprised of African Americans and Latinos.
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PANCREATIC CANCER RESEARCH WALK

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Historically, these two precincts have been shortchanged when it comes to manpower. I think that it is a significant start of the right path. We have to do more but I think those allocations will address shortages that both precincts have.

Councilman James Vacca

One precinct council president, however, expressed his ambivalence about the assignments, and said that the complexities of how manpower is allocated throughout the department may still blunt the effect of the new cops in terms of community patrols.

Both precincts will receive 12 new officers in April, while the 45th Precinct will be assigned another six cops in June and the four-nine will receive another dozen, said Councilman James Vacca, whose district encompasses both precincts.

This comes in addition to the six new officers assigned to both houses in December 2015, he said.

The councilman lauded the allocation of human resources to the local stations, which he said were historically understaffed because they encompass low-crime communities compared to other places in the borough and city.

“Historically, these two precincts have been shortchanged when it comes to manpower,” said Vacca.

Vacca said he was one of two city councilmen who went to the council speaker last year with a plan that in its final version added an additional 1,200 new cops citywide and civilianized jobs of another 400, sending them back out on patrol.

“I think that it is a significant start of the right path,” the councilman said. “We have to do more but I think those allocations will address shortages that both precincts have.”

He said that both precincts where still short of ‘target numbers’ of officers set forth by the NYC Police Department.

John Marano, a community activist in Throggs Neck, praised the allocation, but would like to see more, pointing out that there are still thousands of fewer police officers throughout the city when compared to the period just before September 11, 2001.

“We are still short, but there is going to be more, and that is a good thing,” he said.

The communities the 45th Precinct serves are growing, and new shopping amenities like the Mall at Bay Plaza and a growing roster of restaurants on City Island can create seasonal crime concerns, taxing police resources, said John Doyle, a 45th Precinct Community Council board member.

The new assignments are a hopeful sign, said 49th Precinct Community Council president Joe Thompson.

However, Thompson also said that with special details like those dealing with homeland security and citywide crime patterns drawing cops out of the precincts to work all over the city, a more accurate gauge of the impact is the number of cops assigned to daily patrols.

“It is not how many people who are assigned to the precinct, but how many people work the precinct,” he said, adding that he is not complaining about police officers being taken out of the precinct to do other police work, but that he wants to draw attention to the need for more resources.

In addition, he said that the residents must become more active in helping the police keep their communities safe.
Learning to live on a fixed income

Difficult financial times have forced many people young and old to alter their lifestyles in order to stay afloat financially. Though unemployment has garnered most of the headlines as the economy has struggled the last several years, it’s not just men and women of working age who have felt the pinch.

In a 2010 study from the University of Michigan Law School, researchers found that people age 65 and older are the fastest-growing segment of the U.S. population seeking bankruptcy protection. While there’s no single culprit for the rise in bankruptcy filings among seniors, the state of Florida could offer valuable insight as to why the nation’s older citizens are increasingly filing for bankruptcy.

Many retirees call Florida home, and in the past such retirees could tap into their home equity whenever they began to struggle financially. However, like most of the country, Florida’s housing market is depressed, making it less viable for seniors to tap into their home equity to solve their financial problems. In fact, according to a study by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, bankruptcy filings increased by 118 percent in states where the home price index decreased.

For many seniors fearful of financial struggles, living on a fixed income can be a helpful way of ensuring their future does not involve filing for bankruptcy. Though living on a fixed income is a definite challenge and certainly offers no guarantee that bankruptcy can be avoided, it does provide a framework seniors can rely on to keep their heads above water during difficult economic times.

Make an honest assessment

Living on a fixed income involves being honest with yourself and admitting what your resources truly are. Write down any sources of income, including Social Security payments, pension payouts, investments, etc. Then write down how much money you have in savings or print out a statement of all savings accounts.

Once you have an accurate figure of both income and savings, write down all your monthly expenses, including all expenses, no matter how minute they may seem. From here you can determine just how much you can spend each month.

Prioritize spending habits

Some expenses, including medications and monthly utility bills, will always remain a top priority. However, those who must begin living on a...
Our Lady of Assumption Church is gearing up to open a new food pantry for locals.

Daniel Thaler, music director at OLA, approached Fr. John Knapp with the idea about a year ago.

Today, the pantry is just about ready to open its doors on Saturday, April 9.

Thaler says there is a great need for food pantries in the area, and that often times pantries are forced to turn away needy patrons because of the large volume of people they need to serve with only limited resources.

“It’s sobering to hear the statistics,” said Thaler, “Most of these people have two or three jobs, they are working families that need assistance.”

Thaler says the pantry will operate like a mini grocery store so that clients can pick out what they would like as they would in any marketplace.

He described this model as a dignified and respectful way for people to access food while at the same time eliminating waste so clients can choose what they really need and use on a regular basis.

The pantry will give three days of food for each person in the household each time a family visits.

“It’s about developing relationships and treating people with dignity, not just - here’s a bag of food,” said Thaler.

The philanthropist hopes the pantry will serve as a way to get to know needy families in the neighborhood so the church can help them access other services in the area with the eventual goal being self-sufficiency.

The church will require ID and proof of residency from each person as well as a letter from the school or birth certificate for each child.

This way the organization can keep track of how much food goes in and out of the pantry.

OLA has been in contact with Councilman James Vaccaro’s office, and plans on introducing the program to Community Board 10 at the next meeting.

Thaler says the best way people can help the pantry is to make monetary donations because the parish purchases the food wholesale.

Many stores will sell food to the charity at cost, due to their status as a food pantry.

“Giving money gives us more bang for the buck, but we also want to get people involved,” said Thaler. “We are thinking of different fundraisers, music evenings, and can drives for children to host.”

OLA says other parishes are anxious to come on board and help support the pantry.

To donate go online to Ola-helpinghands.org.

If you are in need of assistance visit Our Lady of the Assumption Church on the corner of Mahan and Roberts avenues between 2 and 4 p.m. to register with the pantry.

The entrance is on Mahan Avenue.
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Indian Village property prepared for demolition

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

Changes are occurring at an Indian Village property that was destroyed in a fire.

The property of 2061 Narragansett Avenue, located just off of Pelham Parkway, is currently being demolished.

Much of the property’s frontage is covered with wood and debris from the trees that were just cut down.

The 1,536 square foot house, which was built in 1930, may not be standing much longer.

According to the NYC Building Information System, there have been two applications placed to demolish the 2.5 story, one-family frame dwelling and a one-story frame garage.

Last year, the 85-year old home was the scene of an inferno. On the morning of January 4, the FDNY responded to a fire that started near the chimney and gutted a good portion of the second floor.

“That (the fire) was an unfortunate scenario,” said Frank Vignali, who lives a few blocks south of the property and whose son was a responder during the incident. “It looks like this property is being cleaned up, because this is an eyesore for our neighborhood.”

An application is expected shortly to construct one or two homes on the site.

For a second year in a row, Councilman Ritchie Torres is bringing participatory budgeting to Council District 15, which encompasses the neighborhoods of Belmont, Fordham, Tremont and Van Nest.

Participatory budgeting allows Bronxites to vote on how $1 million is spent on projects to improve their neighborhoods. All the projects that are on the ballot came directly from proposals from residents, and voting will last until Friday, April 1.

“Participatory budgeting is democracy in action and a great way for residents to have a direct say in how their tax dollars are spent. I’m delighted to bring participatory budgeting to Council District 15 for a second year and give residents the opportunity to choose the improvement projects for their communities. Voting is powerful, and the participatory budgeting process gives everyone the chance to put that power into action. Friday is the last day to vote for the projects you want, so make sure to cast a ballot,” said Torres.

Voting is taking place at the following locations: Jonas Bronck Academy, 400 E. Fordham Road; P.S. 54, 2703 Webster Avenue; TAPCO, 2225 Webster Avenue, and the office of Councilman Ritchie Torres, 573 E. Fordham Road.

Residents will be allowed to vote up to five projects total from the following list:

- Bus Countdown Clocks ($40,000): Two clocks which will help riders know when the next bus will be arriving.
- Bronx Park East Physical Exercise Equipment ($400,000): Construct physical exercise equipment in Bronx Park between Waring Avenue and Rosewood Street.
- Zimmerman Playground Basketball Court ($500,000): Resurface basketball court in Zimmerman Playground.
- NYPD Security Cameras ($350,000): Install 10 NYPD security cameras throughout District 15.
- Jonas Bronck Academy Science Cart ($62,000): Purchase a mobile science cart with lab materials for the students of Jonas Bronck Academy.
- Mobile Laptop Carts and Smart Boards ($305,000): Purchase seven carts with 30 laptops each, and 10 interactive whiteboards to be used by students.
- Jungle Gym at P.S. 54 ($150,000): Construct a jungle gym at P.S. 54.
- P.S. 23 Playground Renovation ($400,000): Renovate the playground of P.S. 23, including a new jungle gym.
- TAPCO Lockers ($200,000): Install 80 lockers to create a girls’ locker room for Theater Arts Production Company School.
- Murphy Houses Grounds Renovation ($300,000): Renovate benches and resurface concrete.

For more information visit: http://labs.council.nyc/districts/15/
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BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

A ‘zombie house’ in Throggs Neck is back - but actually, it never left.

The abandoned home located at 3011 Schley Avenue, has plagued the community for years.

The below-street grade house is filled with garbage and debris that reaches up to two feet high and provides a nesting place for raccoons, skunks, squirrels, rats and mice.

The property has been neglected for years and is not secured.

Children, many from I.S. 192, have been spotted entering the house.

Neighbors say that kids who enter the home are using drugs, among other illicit activities.

The green ‘X’ above the open front door has not deterred youngsters from entering.

The back of the property is flooded with water at least a foot deep.

During the spring and summer months, mosquitoes breed in the stagnant water. The water situation is a particular concern for neighbors, who worry about the growing Zika virus and the upcoming West Nile virus season.

“The house is in limbo - it’s horrible,” said Angela Salamone, a longtime resident of Logan Avenue who has been fighting this problem since 2007. “This situation has lasted far too long and I’m losing faith in our community leaders, because nobody has done anything about this.”

“This is not just an eyesore - this is a safety issue,” said Margaret Alvarez, who also lives on Logan Avenue. “What has to happen? Does a child need to get hurt or killed for somebody to wake up and do something about this?”

“Nothing ever happens with this property - where is the action?” said Louis Ragusa, a next door neighbor on Hollywood Avenue who has lived there since 1986. “Here’s a quick and easy solution - give us a Caterpillar and bulldoze the property, it would be the best thing for it.”

Ragusa added that I.S. 192, located just a block away at 650 Hollywood Avenue between Randall and Phillip avenues, should notify its parents so they can make sure their children stay away from the property.

“Just watch - it’s going to take a kid getting hurt or even worse, killed, for somebody who has power over the situation to do something,” Ragusa added.

Lynn Gerbino, president of the Throggs Neck Homeowners Association, said, “I have done and will continue to do everything I can to assist the situation at hand - because this is just terrible. How can residents sell their homes with a house like that in the neighborhood?”

“Every few years, this zombie property seems to rise from the dead yet again,” said Senator Jeff Klein, who has worked extensively to clean up this abandoned property over the last seven years.

“Unfortunately, this is yet another example of why my zombie property legislation is necessary - as it will go a long way towards helping neighborhoods such as this one.”

Klein’s bill would require banks or loan servicing agents to maintain abandoned properties from the point they become vacant, as well as create a statewide registry of vacant properties and establish a toll-free hotline for residents to report properties.

J.P. Morgan Chase, who currently owns the property, could not be reached for comment.

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Bronx Pizzeria offers a variety of options

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

A new pizzeria that specializes in customer service recently opened up on East Tremont Avenue, replacing another pizzeria at the same location.

Last month, Bronx Pizzeria, at 3579 E. Tremont Avenue, officially opened its doors to the community, taking over Vito’s Pizzeria, which was in business for just over a year.

Bronx Pizzeria offers a variety of soups, salads, appetizers, pastas, sandwiches and calzones, aside from their pizza selection, of course.

Popular entrees include chicken parmigiana and chicken francese.

The pizza selection seems endless. The variety of different types of pizza includes plain pizza pies, either 18 inches (large) or 16 inches (small), as well as gourmet pizza, which includes buffalo chicken, barbecue chicken, grandma, Sicilian, salad, veggie, eggplant, sausage and peppers as well as white pizza, among other delicious choices.

Single slices and personal pies are also available for customers. Sicilians are served both square and round.

Pizza toppings include spinach, broccoli, bacon, ham, eggplant, Ricotta cheese, pepperoni, sausage, peppers, mushrooms, onions, anchovies and extra cheese, of course!

Bronx Pizzeria uses Grande Cheese in much of its cuisine, an ingredient considered by many as ‘top of the line.’

Beginning in the late spring or early summer, the pizzeria will also begin selling Breyer’s ice cream and Marino’s Italian ices.

Beginning in the late spring or early summer, the pizzeria will also begin selling Breyer’s ice cream and Marino’s Italian ices.

Bronx Pizzeria offers free deliveries, with a $15 minimum.

The pizzeria will also provide curbside deliveries, where an order will be brought out to your car. This service would eliminate double parking.

Along with cash, Bronx Pizzeria takes Visa, MasterCard and Discover, as well as debit cards. The previous pizzeria, Vito’s, was a cash-only establishment.

Bronx Pizzeria has not yet had an official grand opening, but during the Throggs Neck St. Patrick’s Day Parade they distributed ‘Bronx Pizzeria’ T-shirts, provided face painting, a clown, a magician and other festivities for children.

They even offer deals to local schools, who will not be charged for two-liter sodas or paper goods with their purchases. Schools will also receive discounts on pies.

Four of Bronx Pizzeria’s current employees have previous experience working at Filomeni’s Pizza & Pasta, a pizzeria located on City Island.

“I started this establishment in this area because I felt like it could do well here - and so far, so good,” said Chris Schialaz, a long-time Country Club resident who previously worked for the NYC Department of Environmental Protection for 30 years and has owned a Bronx-based construction company for the last 20 years.

“I started this establishment in this area because I felt like it could do well here - and so far, so good,” said Chris Schialaz, a long-time Country Club resident who previously worked for the NYC Department of Environmental Protection for 30 years and has owned a Bronx-based construction company for the last 20 years.

I’m a people person - I love to see my customers happy and that is what has happened here since we’ve opened.”

Bronx Pizzeria’s hours are Mondays through Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and on Sundays from noon to 9 p.m.
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**Dr. Rock Positano, DPM, MSc, MPH**, Director
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BY MADELINE ANTHONY

The New York Landmarks Conservancy recently announced the winners of the 2016 Lucy G. Moses Preservation Awards.

The iconic High Bridge connecting the Bronx to Manhattan will be recognized at a Thursday, April 28 ceremony as an outstanding restoration project.

This award is one of Landmarks most prestigious honors.

The High Bridge connects the two boroughs at Amsterdam Avenue and 173rd Street in Manhattan and at University Avenue and 170th Street in the Bronx.

The historic bridge was erected between 1839 and 1848, making it the oldest bridge in New York City.

Despite its historic significance the structure was closed off to the public for about 50 years.

Today, the enormous bridge spanning 1,450 feet has been restored and reopened to pedestrians and bicyclists thanks to the preservation efforts of the city.

The bridge officially reopened to the public in early June of last year, but will be recognized as a preservation achievement at the upcoming ceremony in April.

The restoration process included the removal of excess vegetation and the cleaning of the entire structure.

Mortar to fill the original stones was similar in appearance to the original cement mortar.

Pavers were installed to match existing ones on the deck.

While the bridge as a whole underwent vast improvements, the character of the structure was preserved.

For example, the steel arch of the bridge was painted to match the historic 1928 color, and four 1935 light poles were revamped for reuse at the two gatehouses.

Overgrown shrubbery on both sides of the bridge was pruned to improve views from the bridge. The area was also landscaped to include trees and wildflowers, welcoming walkers, joggers and cyclists.

Andrea Goldwyn of the New York Landmarks Conservancy said the organization received nominations from restoration projects across the city that have made great gains over the past year.

To determine which projects merit awards, the conservancy looks at the preservation work specifically and what the projects bring to communities.

According to Goldwyn, the High Bridge was deserving of the Lucy G. Moses Preservation Award because of what it brings to surrounding neighborhoods.

“The bridge has reconnected communities (from the Bronx and Manhattan) that have been missing that connection for decades,” said Goldwyn, “This was a promise the city made and now it has been fulfilled.”
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BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

About 300 students who were eligible to vote this year were encouraged to register during a recent registration drive at a local high school.

Students in the senior class at Lehman High School were urged to sign up and exercise their right to vote during Student Voter Registration Day on Friday, March 16.

The registration drive was held in conjunction with the Latino Leadership Institute and Councilman James Vacca, and was part of a larger city-wide voter registration initiative of March 16 that sought to sign up 17- and 18-year-olds in schools across the five boroughs.

This is the second year that students at the high school, located on the Lehman campus, were involved in the effort, said James Rodriguez, a retired teacher who coordinates enrichments events at Lehman High School.

The most common barrier to voting among Lehman students usually center on language, said Rodriguez, adding that many students speak English as a second language.

“The obstacles are basically access and awareness, and within that would be language,” he said, adding that one of the overall goals of the state curriculum is to educate young people about the importance of their participation in the democratic process.

For the second consecutive year, Vacca has spoken to the students about the importance of voting and about civics in general during the drive.

Zuaira Khan, a student who is Vacca’s appointee to the NYC Youth Council, also spoke during the assembly held in the school’s auditorium, said Rodriguez.

In a year when students could potentially vote in the November presidential election, explained Vacca, it could be an especially good time to get 17-year-olds involved in government and civics.

If they turn 18-years-old on or before Election Day, and they register, they can vote for president, and the same holds true for the upcoming congressional primary in June and a primary for New York State elected officials in September.

He hopes that these youngsters get interested now.

“Registration is only half the battle, we have got to get our young people involved in government and civics and get them to vote,” said Vacca. “They are our future.”

In addition to the upcoming presidential election, students should also be encouraged to learn more about their local representatives in the U.S. Congress, NYS Senate, the NYS Assembly and NYC City Council, said the councilman.

“I think many people don’t realize that their votes are also very important in local races too,” said Vacca.

In addition to stressing voting on the local level, the councilman said that he cited some classic examples of times when a handful of votes made a difference, including in the 2000 presidential race where 537 votes in Florida made the difference out of millions of votes cast.

Last year’s Student Voter Registration Day registered over 2,000 students to vote city-wide.

———

(1-7) Ricardo Concepcion of The Latino Leadership Institute; James Rodriguez, Lehman High School Councilman James Vacca; John Powers, Lehman High School principal; Zuaira Khan, Councilman James Vacca’s appointee to the NYC Youth Council and Augusto Alarcon of The Latino Leadership Institute during Lehman’s voter registration drive. Photo courtesy of Councilman Vacca’s office
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BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Hollywood glamour is coming to the borough again as a grassroots film festival is now accepting submissions.

The second annual Reel Bronx International Film Festival, co-ordinated and founded by Locust Point filmmaker Jerry Landi, is scheduled to have multiple screenings of local films taking place from Friday, June 3 to Sunday, June 5.

This year’s festival will take place at the Mott Haven Bar and Grill, and is currently accepting submissions from local filmmakers who are its target audience, said Landi.

Last year, we learned about a lot of people right in our neighborhoods that are making films that we did not know were filmmakers,” he said. “We got a lot of good press and people really liked the festival.”

The goal of this festival is for filmmakers, actors, producers, editors, photography directors to network and make connections with each other and people in the industry. “The Bronx has a lot of talented filmmakers, and we really want to get exposure for these artists so the public can see what is going on in our borough,” said Landi. “Last year, about 90% of the films that we screened came from the Bronx.”

The coordinator said he was excited about having this year’s event at the Mott Haven Bar and Grill, which is a venue that has a great performance and meeting space, he said.

This festival will also be an opportunity for filmmakers who may be on very limited budgets to meet other people who may be able to help them complete their projects, he said.

Landi now operates his own film studio, Fiona Studios, in Locust Point, and will be screening one of that studio’s latest films called ‘Bronx Bigfoot,’ he said.

Submission fees will be kept to a minimum, and will only be used to cover the costs of the festival, he said. “There will be no profit at all,” said Landi, who added that awards for the best films would be given in several categories, along with ‘laurels’ that can help promote a film.

The cost of the non-refundable entry fee for a short film under 40 minutes is $25, while the fee for a longer film is $35.

Submission formats are two DVDs or two Blu-rays or online Screeners via Vimeo.

A panel of three people will screen and judge the submissions, said Landi.

The deadline for submissions is Monday, April 18. For more information, please visit The Reel Bronx International Film Festival 2016 on Facebook and message the film festival.

This year, a co-coordinator, local actor and artist Sal Amore, joins Landi, to expand the festival annually.

(Left) Reel Bronx Festival coming in June. (Right) Bronx Bigfoot: A film by Jerry Landi will be one of the movie’s screened at this year’s festival.

Photo courtesy of Jerry Landi

Philanthropist, Martin O’Grady, passes at 85

BY MADELINE ANTHONY

Last Wednesday, March 23, the Bronx community lost a loving husband, father, and philanthropist.

He grew up with nothing. He had wanted to take music and dance lessons as a kid but wasn’t allowed, there was no money, and I think that inspired the music house. One of the things he always said to us was to make hay while the sun was shining. He was right about that...and where he came from it probably rains 350 days a year.

Josephine O’Grady

Martin O’Grady, who operated a respectable plumbing company, leaves behind a legacy of generosity and selflessness through the Woodlawn School of Music, which he opened in 2004.

The school was created as a space for children to access music and dance lessons regardless of their financial situation.

O’Grady purchased a two-story home in Woodlawn at East 236th Street and converted the space to be used for low-cost dance instruction. Josephine, O’Grady’s daughter, said the school was a product of her father’s upbringing back in Ireland. “He grew up with nothing,” said Josephine. “He had wanted to take music and dance lessons as a kid but wasn’t allowed, there was no money, and I think that inspired the music house.”

She remembers her father taking her then 3-year-old daughter to eurhythmics classes in Mount Vernon.

To take her daughter to accordion classes, the duo drove all the way to Rockland County every Tuesday.

Today the music house provides kids easy access to every imaginable musical instrument or dance they desire.

The non-profit is open seven days a week and serves about 500 local children.

“One of the things he always said to us was to make hay while the sun was shining,” said Josephine. “He was right about that...and where he came from it probably rains 350 days a year.”

His funeral, held at Farenga Funeral Home in Yonkers, was attended by family, friends, students and parents of students who attend the music house.

Josephine described the wake as a celebration of her father’s life, full of music, love, and Irish dancers.

“He touched a lot of lives,” said an emotional Josephine, “It was evident by how many people were there.”

The Music House is set to stay afloat with the help of Josephine and her family including her mother and brother Paul.

They are currently working to find donors to sponsor the non-profit, so they can continue Martin’s passion.

“It would be a shame not to keep it open, it’s a great thing for the community,” said Josephine, “My father’s ultimate goal was to keep kids off the streets.”

Martin O’Grady passed at the age of 85 at his home in Yonkers. He was born in the South Bronx and his funeral was held at Farenga Funeral Home in Yonkers. He was laid to rest at Farenga Funeral Home in Yonkers. He was laid to rest at The Bronx Times Reporter, April 1-7, 2016.
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Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. toured the United Parcel Service facility at 545 Brush Avenue last Wednesday, March 16. He addressed the hundreds of UPS employees working at the Throggs Neck site.

Community Board 7 honored Yankees Youth Leadership Awards recipients during their Tuesday, March 15 general board meeting at St. Nicholas of Tolentine Church. The high school senior honorees were each awarded citations and $750 scholarship checks for their service to the community.

(l-r) Yankees Youth Leadership Awards recipients, Peter Cruz and Shubarna Ahhter; Adaline Walker-Santiago, CB 7 chairwoman, award recipients Michael Torres and Stephanie Urena and 52nd Precinct Explorers corporal Vushaj.

Councilman Andrew Cohen and the League of Women Voters brought Student Voter Registration Day, a day of non-partisan civic education and voter registration, to Riverdale Kingsbridge Academy students on Friday, March 18. Students who registered will be able to vote in New York’s presidential primaries on Tuesday, April 19.

Councilman Cohen is joined by Riverdale Kingsbridge Academy students who registered to vote during last Friday’s assembly.

Senator Jeff Klein hosted a Saturday, March 19 edition of the Fundamentals of Gardening at the New York Botanical Garden’s Ross Hall. Last Saturday’s session featured guest presenter, Annie Novak, Growing Chefs, founder and director, discussing and offering advice on establishing an edible garden in every available space.
Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. joined Deputy Commissioner Calvin Drayton, Community Emergency Response Teams leaders and M.S. 80 students and faculty to discuss CERT volunteers' work and experiences in the field.

Borough President Diaz (c) met with CERT volunteers last week at M.S. 80.

The Bronx Chamber of Commerce held its yearly Irish Heritage Luncheon on Wednesday, March 9 at Rambling House to formally recognize local Irish Americans' accomplishments. This year’s honorees included Joseph Murphy, Country Bank CEO; James Slattery Original Energy president; Daniel McVeigh, KZA Realty Group, Inc. associate broker; NYPD assistant chief Brian Conroy, James Coleman, Houlihan-Parnes Realtors managing member and 49th Precinct police officer John Quigley.

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The Balkan beauty made three attempts for the Miss NY title before being crowned this past January. Bucaj will go on to compete in this June’s Miss United States competition.

In the spirit of International Women’s Day this past Tuesday, March 8, St. Helena’s School honored two inspirational teachers, Laura Carpiniello (l) and Stephanie Seabrook who consistently motivate their students to learn and become leaders.

(1-r) Honorees Joseph Murphy; Daniel McVeigh; NYPD associate Brian Conroy; police officer John Quigley; Joseph Kelleher, Bronx Chamber chairman; honorees James Coleman and James Slattery; Nunzio Del Greco, Bronx Chamber president and Bob Nolan, Order of the Ancient Hibernians Bronx County president.

Photo courtesy of St. Helena’s School
Luck has nothing to do with these exemplary Irish Americans’ success. Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. hosted his annual Irish Heritage Month Celebration Wednesday, March 16 at the Rambling House to pay tribute to a select group of Irish Americans. This year’s illustrious honorees were Shane Cahill, Consulate General of Ireland in New York vice consul general; James Quent, Statewide Public Affairs partner and Keith Klain, Doran Jones co-CEO. PIX11 news reporter, Mary Murphy served as mistress of ceremonies for the prestigious event recognizing Irish American contributions to our borough.

(Right) (l-r) The NY Ceili Band’s Fiona Staunton, John Redmond, Anya Disslvo and Erin Loughran provide a melodic soundtrack for the ceremony.
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Remembering Happy Land 26 Years Later

BY ROBERT WIRSING

Relatives and friends of the victims joined Community Board 6 on Friday, March 25 to commemorate the 26th anniversary of the Happy Land Social Club fire, a devastating inferno which tore through an illegal two-story night club at 1959 Southern Boulevard and claimed the lives of 87 party goers.

The fire was caused when Julio Gonzalez, an unemployed Cuban immigrant who emigrated to America on the Mariel boatlift in 1980, poured gasoline through the club’s only entrance and stairwell before igniting the combustible after getting into an allocation with his ex-girlfriend, Lydia Feliciano, a Happy Land employee, and from being removed from the club.

Feliciano was one of five survivors of the tragedy.

Gonzalez was arrested the next day and in September 1991 he was sentenced to 174 twenty-five year sentences, a total of 4,350 years. He is serving time at Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora, NY.

As fate would have it, this year’s somber anniversary fell on Good Friday and commenced with an evening Mass dedicated to the victims at St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

Following the service, a procession traveled to the Plaza of the Eighty-Seven, a memorial dedicated to the 87 victims located just across the street from the former night club for a rosary and candlelight vigil to mourn the loss of loved ones.

Flowers, wreaths and mementos were placed at the obelisk-like monument’s base and the names of the deceased were read aloud.

Nelia Nunez takes a moment to remember her father, Juan Jose Nunez and cousins, Aida Margarite Martinez and Marisol Martinez.

Bereaved relatives and friends remember the fallen.

A mourner reflects on the somber 26th anniversary of the Happy Land Social Club fire which fell on Good Friday this year.

Hundreds of mourners assemble at the Plaza of the Eighty Seven last Friday evening to pay their respects.

Fr. Librado Godinez (c) and other members of St. Thomas Aquinas Church make their way down Crotona Parkway.

Photo by Laura Stone
Bronx low-wealth families and individuals received free tax preparation from the non-profit Bronx based organization, Ariva, www.ariva.org. The free tax preparation was recently held at the Ridgewood Savings Bank's Allerton Avenue Branch. The bank branch is located at 711 Allerton Avenue in the Bronx.

Ariva representatives, who are volunteers from New York Cares, www.newyorkcares.org, assisted financially-strapped families and individuals in preparing their taxes for the 2015 tax year. During the 2014 tax year Ariva representatives helped their clients to average $1900 in refunds. The NY Cares volunteers are VITA Certified, Volunteer Income Tax Assistants, a program of the Internal Revenue Service.

"This is just one of several free financial services Ridgewood Savings Bank provides to the residents in our branch areas," said Christopher F. Smith, Ridgewood Savings Bank's Vice President & CRA Officer (pictured at far right)

Ariva helps low-wealth Bronx families and individuals access their refunds and save on commercial fees so they can put food on the table, make ends meet and build savings for their families. In previous years, Ariva has filed more than 51,000 free tax returns, returning more than $82,000,000 in total refunds to struggling neighborhoods such as the South Bronx. and Ridgewood has been a partner since 2008.

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BY TONY SALIMBENE

Ok, our next post meeting will be the 3rd Sunday in April at 11 a.m. sharp at American Turners NY, the Turner Club. Chow and cash bar at noon.

We hope our 2VC Gene had a successful (and patriotic, thanks to our Color Guard) event, trying to keep the Allerton business area strong and prosperous. Year three awardee was our member, Jeremy Warneke of Community Board 11 fame. I forgot his veteran’s writers project, but you can always contact the Morris Park Library for days/times.

Think nominations and elections please.

Until next time: Hopefully some more good news about veteran’s services via NYC MOVA, the borough president and CB 10 special meeting. I will attend. Fingers crossed....
Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj commemorated the accomplishments of five distinguished Bronx women during his annual Women of Distinction Breakfast. Held on Saturday, March 12 at the Pelham Bay Diner, this year’s ceremony recognized such exemplarity female leaders as Marissa Soto, Esq., general counsel to Bronx Democratic Committee and solo practitioner; Diane Cerino, former state committee woman; Andrea Siegel, Pelham Parkway Neighborhood Association president; Avril Francis, Community Relations Radio host and Barbara Stronzer, Bedford Mosholu Community Association president. Judge Nelida Malave-Gonzalez, Bronx County Surrogate’s Court, delivered the keynote address for the prestigious event.

Above, (l-r) Honorees Barbara Stronzer and Avril Francis; Roberta Gjonaj; Assemblyman Gjonaj; honorees Marissa Soto, Diane Cerino, Andrea Siegel and keynote speaker Judge Nelida Malave-Gonzalez. Photo by Edwin Soto

(Right) (back, l-r) Thomas Messina, representing Congressman Joseph Crowley; honoree Avril Francis; Aleksander Nilaj, Albanian American Open Hand Association director; Bharati Kemraj, BHARATI founder; (front, l-r) honorees Andrea Siegel and Diane Cerino. Photo by Edwin Soto

Hostos Community College hosted the 32nd Annual GrowTogether Conference this past Saturday, March 19 which featured more than 70 exciting workshops for gardeners of all ages. With GrowTogether’s largest crowd to date at more than 1,600 attendees, Tanya Fields, BLK Projek founder and executive director, served as the event’s keynote speaker and discussed such topics as composting, vegetable growing techniques, methods to increase garden membership and children’s gardening activities.

GreenThumb staff members applaud keynote speaker, Tanya Fields during last Saturday’s conference. Photo by Walter Pofeldt

St. Barnabas Hospital celebrated their recognition as a LGBT Healthcare Equality leader by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, the educational arm of America’s largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights organization on Friday, March 18. The findings were part of the HRC Foundation’s Healthcare Equality Index 2015-2016, a unique annual survey encouraging equal care for LGBT Americans.

Members of SBH Health System’s diversity committee celebrated the hospital’s recognition as a LGBT Healthcare Equality leader last Friday. Photo courtesy of St. Barnabas Hospital
BY MICHAEL P. MCNERNEY

As we bid farewell to this Easter season, may we once again pray for the members of the United States armed forces. Let us especially remember those who are deployed in combat zones, and/or away from their families. Let us also remember the innocent victims of the tragic terrorist attacks that took place in Brussels last week. Our war against global terrorism has been a long one, and has the potential to be much longer. We must never forget those wonderful American service men and women, who so proudly defend our rights, liberties, and freedoms.

As an association we are proud of our veteran and active duty population. At our most recent meeting, I had the audience for a show hands regarding those who had served our great nation in a military capacity. It was a proud moment to see men of various generations raise their hands throughout the room. Also in attendance was Cathy (Aunt Cathy) Praino. Cathy is the aunt of Army Staff Sergeant Chris Engeldrum, who was killed in action on November 29th, 2004, in Baghdad, Iraq. Chris, a Bronx resident, was assigned to the Army National Guards 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, and was only 39-years-old at the time of his death. The life of this hero Army National Guard Member, active NYC firefighter, and former NYPD police officer, was tragically taken from us as he served in Operation Iraqi Freedom. His soul will forever be remembered.

Since then, Cathy has made it her life’s mission to send care packages to our troops overseas. Her home now serves as a distribution center for all sorts of supplies that our young men and women may need and want. I know first hand what it is like to get one of these packages. I will never forget when I served on active duty in the United States Marine Corps, and I had not seen my family or returned home in almost a year.

Although I was not serving in a combat capacity, or in a hostile environment, my desire for home was long-lasting. That was until the day a cardboard box arrived from the Bronx. My loving and caring mother Rosalie had gone shopping on Arthur Avenue, and had sent me all the Italian cured meats, cheeses, and other goodies, one’s heart could desire. There was no trip to the chow hall that night for myself and several other Marines. Young men from all over the country, and from all different backgrounds, got a taste of the Bronx and its local delicacies on that day. This is just a single example of the lasting memories that can come from a simple care package.

These packages require money and donations though. Cathy has for years been sending these packages in conjunction with the Theodore Korony American Legion Post 253, and several other persons/organizations. The Country Club Civic Association is proud to make monthly monetary donations to this cause. For the second year in a row, our association has been honored with a Certificate of Appreciation from the sponsor (see enclosed photo). This worthwhile endeavor is something that we would encourage other groups and individuals to support into the future. If you would be interested in donating, please contact us at the number below.

Please attend our next meeting which is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, at 7:30 p.m. The meeting location is the Villa Maria Academy Cafeteria.

The association can be reached via mail at P.O. Box 211, Bronx, NY 10465, and via telephone at (718) 823-1814. Please remember, “Take pride in your community; your home extends beyond your property line!”

Vacca sponsors IDNYC pop-up enrollment

Councilman James Vacca will be sponsoring a pop-up enrollment center for the city’s new municipal ID card, IDNYC, at the Bronx Campus of Mercy College at 1200 Waters Place, 4th Floor Conference Room. The pop-up center will run from Monday, April 4 to Friday, April 22. The site will be open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., except for Thursdays when the hours will be noon to 6 p.m.

Signing up for a free municipal ID comes with numerous benefits, including free memberships/discounts to 33 cultural institutions around the city (including the Bronx Zoo and New York Botanical Garden), prescription drug discounts, and special benefits just for veterans! There are two ways to make an appointment.

You may either go to www.nyc.gov/idnyc or call 311. Appointments are preferred as walk-ins are not guaranteed.

Summer camp at Lehman

An Open House for the exciting summer day camp at Lehman College, SCPS, will be held on Saturday, April 16 at 10:30 a.m.

Meet with the camp director and learn all about the wonderful experience available to children ages 6-16 this summer. All camp activities are held on the college’s beautiful 37-acre, tree-lined campus.

Half-day and full-day (8 a.m. to 6 p.m.) options are available. Activities include swimming in an Olympic-size pool, basketball, martial arts, dance, computer technology, arts and crafts, academic enrichment, and much more. Free breakfast and lunch is provided. Children may be enrolled for a one-week program during the first week of July, a three-week July program and/or a three-week August program. Tuition is reasonable with discounts and payment plans available.

The camp is licensed by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Additional Open Houses will be held on May 7 and June 4. Early registration is advised as places fill quickly. Open Houses meet on the Lehman campus in Carman Hall, Room B08.

For additional information, call the camp director, Marleen Bustelo, at 718-960-8865, or email lehman.academy@lehman.cuny.edu.

Bronx House registration

Bronx House School for Performing Arts is currently accepting registration for their Saturday spring session of group music classes beginning Saturday, April 2. Classes run for ten weeks and include pre-school music appreciation, pre-school instrumental classes in piano and violin, and beginner piano, guitar or violin for ages 6 and up. Space is also available for weekday and Sunday classes – students can register until Sunday, April 10.

Ongoing registration is also available for private and semi-private instruction in piano, guitar, voice, violin, drums, and other instruments. All classes are held in a state-of-the-art 7,000 square foot wing that includes soundproof and sound enhanced music rooms and dance studios.

The school also offers scholarships to students who qualify for financial assistance as well as instrumental available for loan, free of charge, which students may take home during the course of their instruction.

Bronx House is located at 990 Pelham Parkway South. For more information or to register call (718) 792-1800 ext. 235, or check the website at www.bronxhouse.org.
Locust Point Civic’s Easter Breakfast

BY ROBERT WIRSING

The Easter Bunny hopped over to the Locust Point Civic Association Community Center this past Saturday, March 26 to pay a surprise visit to LPCA members, children and their families at the annual Easter breakfast celebration.

Embodying the spirit of the holiday, the Peter Cottontail spent time with the children and distributed delicious candy treats to the youngsters.

In addition, participants, young and old alike, were treated to mouth watering breakfast.

The Easter Hare lead the bright-eyed youngsters on a fun Easter egg hunt at the 3300 Tierney Place site.

Alejandro Wong spends some quality time with the Easter Bunny. Photo by Laura Stone

Samantha (l) and Alli Triano were hopping with excitement. Photo by Laura Stone

(l-r) Locust Point Civic Association’s Joann Coco, Sandi Justus, Carol Ligotino, Kathy Collins Ann Kelly and Ed Toth celebrate Easter with the Peter Cottontail. Photo by Laura Stone

Alejandro Wong, Patrick Schiano, Autumn Fuerst and Macaela Sedita assemble to greet the friendly bunny who distributed candy to the youngsters. Photo by Laura Stone

Peighton Schiano stands with her new furry friend. Photo by Laura Stone

Makayla Sessa discovered lots of eggs during the Easter egg hunt. Photo by Laura Stone
Vacca co-sponsors DEP rain barrel giveaway

Councilman James Vacca, along with Community Board 10, will be co-sponsoring a DEP Rain Barrel Giveaway at the I.S. 192 Campus, located at 650 Hollywood Avenue, on Saturday, April 9, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

DEP’s Rain Barrel Giveaway Program is part of New York City’s Green Infrastructure Plan that aims to capture stormwater before it can ever enter the sewer system and thereby reduce combined sewer overflows into local waterways.

The 60-gallon rain barrels are easy to install and connect directly to a property owner’s downspout to capture and store the stormwater that falls on the rooftop.

The water collected in the rain barrel can then be used to water lawns and gardens, or for other outdoor chores. Rain barrels should only be used for non-potable purposes, such as gardening, and must be disconnected from the downspout during the winter months to avoid freezing.

DEP will provide detailed instructions on how to attach and use your rain barrel at the giveaway.

There is a limited supply. You must reserve your rain barrel ahead of time by calling either Community Board 10 at (718) 892-1161 or Vacca’s office at (718) 931-1721.

BY RAPHAEL SCHWEISER
In March, we marched.

During the final week of February, gun shots were exchanged inside Bronx Park East at Waring Avenue. From that moment on, Bronx Park East Community Association decided to take a new direction and bring about a ‘New Day’ in our neighborhood.

Motivated by the slogan of WWE tag team champions ‘The New Day’, we decided to turn our community into a territory of positivity each Saturday in March.

For five straight weeks we held Block Parties under the title ‘The New Day’. We went out and promoted the power of positivity, self-love and every block of our community, chanting, “Stand up against violence, stand up for our community, chanting, “Stand up against violence, stand up for peace, stand up for our children.”


Special thank you to Wilton Casiano, Shabbir Gul and the Pakistani Bronx Community Council for providing coffee and refreshments for each march, as well as to 49th Precinct Community Affairs Police Officer David Lepore and his auxiliary for accompanying us each time.

In March we marched. In April we’ll march. In May we’ll march. Whenever bullet sounds off, so will we!

Summer Block Parties
Here is the complete list of block parties that B-PECA will be hosting to organize this summer. Contribute, volunteer, help out.

- Saturday June 25, noon to 8 p.m. - Grace Lovaglio, Alerton Barnes Block Association and the Allerton Library team up for the 2nd Annual ‘Hello Summer’ block party, on Barnes Avenue between Alerton and Arnow avenues.
- Saturday July 23, noon to 8 p.m. - Kenny Agosto, Kingston of the Bronx VA Medical Center all spoke about assisting vets with all forms of problems, needs, education and employment.

The program was well run. There will be more about this in upcoming columns as there are too many items to be covered, so stay tuned to this column.

The VA is again impedimenting the claims for assistance regarding Agent Orange particularly for the Blue Water Sailors of the Viet Nam War.

Donal Holway and Thwaites Place, where B-PECA began, salute the ‘5th Annual Thwaites Place Bash’, on Olinville Avenue between Thwaites Place and Pelham Parkway North.

- Saturday August 27, noon to 7 p.m. - Norma Lopez and Cruger Mace Block Association rock out for the ‘4th Annual Cruger Mace Block Party’, on Cruger Avenue between Mace Avenue and Boston Road.

See Something?
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Text B-PECA any time of day or night at (347) 654-7044 or email us at bxparkeast@gmail.com. We need to hear from you.

You can also be a part of the conversation on our Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/bxparkeast

Don’t have facebook? Visit our website at facebook.com/bxparkeast. No Facebook account needed.

We meet on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. - attend.

If someone is in danger, call 911. But if you have tips and information about crime, noise and other negativity activity in Pelham Parkway or Allerton, call 49th Community Affairs at (718) 918-2025.

Until next time, remember that every voice and every viewpoint matters. Let’s sound off, so will we!

Promote the power of positivity. Love trumps hate.

BY PAUL GOLLUSCIO
Hello all.

The Sam Young Post hosted the borough president’s Bronx Veterans Resource Meeting last Monday. Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. welcomed all the Bronx community boards. Joe Mondello of the Korony Post here in the Bronx chaired the meeting.

Commissioner Loree O’Toole of the NYC Mayor’s Office of Veteran Affairs, Jamal Othman of the NYS Division of Veteran Affairs and Shawn Othman of the NYS Division of Veteran Affairs and Shawn

BY AL BELFOIRE
We all had such a great time at our annual breakfast with The Easter Bunny on Saturday, March 26 from 10 a.m. to noon amid a full house.

Great food with great neighbors including visit from the Easter Bunny herself. Our special thanks go out to Marquerite, Jo Ann, Carol, Ed, Kathy, Maureen, Marie, Ann and Mary Ellen for all their hard work in making this event possible.

Our next event will be Italian Night on Friday, April 1 at 7 p.m. at the civic center. It will include an antipasto and salad, pasta and meatballs, coffee and dessert plus a comedy show, all for a low donation of $25 in advance or $30 at the door. Call Kathy at (718) 518-8779 or drop off your payments at 3239 Giegerich Place.

Our next general meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 5. All Locust Pointers are invited.

We have a full agenda planned for that night, so please make every effort to attend.

Thanks for reading.

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Elder care: Where is the risk?

Why do grandparents and their grandchildren get along so well? They share a common enemy. Okay, Old joke. But the truth is, they share another common enemy that is not a relative. It is risk. When it comes to kids and seniors alike, society’s goal seems to be creating a zero-risk existence. This is as pointless and insulting for the older generation as it is for the younger.

“Surplus safety” is what Bill Thomas calls the consetting that goes beyond being helpful and actually dampens the joy of human existence. Thomas is a Harvard-trained doctor who has always been shocked by the way we treat elders (a term he much prefers to “seniors”). So he’s the guy behind the Eden Alternative, which promotes deeper changes, also brings plants and animals into nursing homes so there’s something for folks to care for that grows and changes. He is also the author of “What are Old People For? How Elders Will Save the World.” And he founded the Green House Project — a kind of confusing name, since it has nothing to do with greenhouses.

First piloted in Tupelo, Mississippi, but now coming to Manhattan, the project replaces nursing homes with “green houses.” The residents all live on one floor, with a big, country kitchen in the center. The day revolves around making dinner, with everyone pitching in any way they can, and then eating the meal together, staff and residents. Everyone has a purpose, the day has meaning. It’s so simple, it makes me think of elders wheeled into institutional cafeterias with no one asking anything of them, because they’re not people anymore. They’re more like packages.

Which brings us back to surplus safety — the kind that treats old people like antiques to be preserved against climate-controlled comfort where nothing ever changes. Maybe that does lengthen one days on earth. But old people remain humans, and humans crave novelty. Even if it involves a little risk. “Risk is just the probability that things will turn out differently than expected,” Thomas explained over breakfast near Grand Central the other day, when he was down from his home in Ithaca. “Now we use it mainly to mean downside risk — your car might burst into flames.” But the upside of risk is that even when something bad happens (maybe not quite as bad as your car burning into flames), you are now faced with something new that you have to adjust to. For instance: You got lost? Now you have to find your way home. To do this, you may have to steel yourself to ask a stranger for directions. Once you do, you realize, “Hey — that wasn’t so hard!”

For kids as well as elders, says Thomas, “You need to be exposed to risk to grow. You have to be put in a situation where things can turn out differently than you expect. When we make a fetish of the downside of risk, we also get rid of the upside of risk.”

Helicopter parents try to remove all risk from their kids’ lives, because “What if?” looms so large: “What if my child gets abducted on the two-block walk to school?” Less recognized is the way we do the same thing to our elders, denying the joy of life later on, because … what if? “Don’t go to Europe, dad. What if you get sick and you’re away from your doctor?”

It isn’t that we deliberately want to stunt our elders. It is that we don’t realize how vital novelty is to the soul at any age. “From a neurological point of view, the nervous system craves novelty,” says Thomas. “It needs novelty. Without novelty, the nervous system can’t make new connections.”

So how can we give novelty back to our elders, if only to make sure that when we grow old no one is saving us from new experiences? The answer is simple: We have to start believing in our elders, the same way helicopter parents have to start believing in their kids. We have to trust our loved ones to roll with some punches.

These days Thomas travels around the country hosting a multi-media extravaganza called “The Age of Disruption Tour.” On stage singing (a skill he only mastered a few years ago) and playing guitar (ditto), and sometimes striding on stilts (major ditto), Thomas asks us to see growing into elderhood as just another stage of life, not that different from when they grew into adulthood from adolescence. It can be a time of growth, but it’s not without risk. Or at least, it shouldn’t be.

Lenore Skenazy is a keynote speaker author and founder of the book and blog Free-Range Kids.

Tom walks tall, with a big stick

When I was a college student at Cornell University more than three decades ago I decided to major in American history because I felt it would allow me to understand the roots of so many 20th century riddles that plagued me.

How did the Holocaust happen? Couldn’t America have prevented it if it intervened earlier? Why did we care so much about a small Communist country in Southeast Asia that we were willing to send tens of thousands of our young men to die in those killing fields? Why didn’t the countries of Europe decimated by World War I learn from their tragic mistake just two decades earlier before they rushed headlong into another period of bloodshed and devastation?

Studying history would at least allow me to dive into these troubling questions, particularly the first two that affected me directly as the son of Holocaust survivors. When it came to choose a concentration of study in the history department, I opted for American Foreign Policy. I thought it would be an interesting prism through which to study world events and also because of Professor Walter LaFeber, whose scholarship and teaching about the Cold War and the history of American foreign policy made him a legend on the Cornell campus.

But then one day at dinner, a cynical graduate student I lived with mocked my major decision.

“There is no history of American foreign policy,” he proclaimed to my horror. “It changes every four or eight years when there is a new president who changes course.”

I’ve been thinking a lot about that conversation as this year’s presidential primaries confront chaotic and ever-changing global issues. Our next president will need to tackle very complicated problems and must learn from the mistakes of the past.

In addition to recalling my college studies on foreign policy, I have also been remembering another period: When I was 11 years old, my family moved to Munich, Germany from the Upper West Side. It was 1973, and the world seemed as chaotic as it is now. But then the perceived enemy was Russia, not radical Islamic terrorism, which only hit our shores in 2001.

I attended the American Military School, which was situated on a large military base, one of many that America placed all around Germany in the wake of World War II. I remember traveling to other military bases to play basketball against other pre-teen American ex-pats whose fathers were in the military. It was a fascinating subculture — Americans who moved around the world from military base to military base in order to keep the peace.

I’ll never forget one ominous day in October of 1973, when my best friend Scott, whose father was head of American military intelligence in Germany, told me that American troops had been put on “alert.” This meant, he whispered to me, there might be another World War brewing in the aftermath of the tense “October War” in the Middle East. America and Russia rattled sabers in this conflict and the American troops in Germany and throughout Europe provided a bulwark against any further Soviet aggression in the region or in the Middle East.

Today, more than four decades later, America has very few military outposts in Europe, and virtually none in Germany. In a few weeks I will be visiting some relatives there, and I am curious what became of that military base that really stood for America’s “soft power” in the world.

As Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, Donald Trump, and Ted Cruz talk tough about ISIS, I wonder whether it is time for America to try to wield this kind of “soft power” again. America’s presence in Europe in the second half of the 20th century not only assured Germans would not militarize again, it also contained the Soviets and allowed America to be powerful without ever going to war.

In the post-Vietnam era — with the exception of George W. Bush’s tragically misguided military intervention in Iraq, the costly conflagration in Afghanistan, and the failed mission in Libya a few years ago — America has had a peaceful 50-year period. One major factor is because America asserted its position in the world through its omnipresence, not its military escapades.

As we enter a post-Obama foreign policy world in the next year, I would like to hear a candidate who echoes Theodor Roosevelt’s famous slogan about American power: “Walk softly and carry a big stick.”

In this extremely loud and sometimes embarrassing primary season, a candidate who does so will be a welcome addition to the political scene.

Tom Allon, president of City & State NY, was a Republican and Liberal Party-backed mayoral candidate in 2013 before he left to return to the private sector: Reach him at talton@cityandsatstateny.com.
First Anniversary In Heaven
Mom
Always In Our Hearts

If roses grow in Heaven, Lord
Then pick a bunch for us.
Place them in our Mother’s arms
and tell her they’re from us.
Tell her that we love and miss her,
and when she turns to smile,
Place a kiss upon her cheek,
and hold her for a while.
Because remembering her is easy,
We do it every day.
But there is an ache within our
hearts that will never go away.

Love and Miss You Forever!
Your Children Donna and Frankie
When it comes to science in the classroom, are American schools educating or indoctrinating?

In 2010, MRC TV reported that a middle school near San Bernardino, CA produced a science fair poster project addressed as members of an ‘environmental police agency’ arresting ‘non-environmentalists.’

Art Horn, an independent meteorologist writing in PJ Media, gave a presentation to an elementary school which included some skepticism towards global warming theo-

dies. “At several of the elementary schools,” he wrote, “this was actually met with approval. Some teachers approached me at the end of my talk and thanked me for giving the kids a different point of view — since all they hear otherwise is that the future will be a climate calamity.”

However, in response to his pointing out that polar bears were not dwindling and that their numbers have been increasing, and that nature has changed climate in the past and would likely continue to do so in the future, complaints were lodged.

One teacher who invited him actually had to do a special project about global warming to set the parents minds at ease.

To Kwong, writing for the Acton Institute, presents a similar report: “A growing number of people are disturbed by the methods and strategies used by the environmental special interest movement, particularly in the realm of environmental education... Educators have embraced environmental extremism, fully accepting the anti-human and anti-capitalism (and economic growth positions. School systems across the nation, often at the requirement of government mandates, are incorporating environmental education into traditional subjects such as mathematics, history, languages, and civics.”

Her review of environmental education teachings revealed a number of unsettling trends and strategies. She notes: “…it is apparent that 1) children are being scared into becoming environmental activists, 2) there is widespread misinformation in materials aimed at children, 3) children are being taught what to think, rather than how to think, 4) children are taught that man is evil, and 5) environmental education is being used to undermine the simple joys of childhood. These findings raise an important question: Are we raising critically-thinking parents, or are we merely raising automatons that can recite the latest environmental dogma?”

The National Association of Scholars (NAS) focused on the issue at the college level. In a recent report on “sustainability,” (which uses the theory of manmade global warming as a reason to impose substantial and costly regulations that are often little more than old big-government mantras,) it found: “Sustainability has become a discipline in its own right. We identified 1,438 degree programs at 475 colleges and universities in 65 states and provinces focused on or relating to sustainability studies. In the U.S. alone, there are 1,274 programs, with at least one program in each of the 50 states...The sustainability movement – a major force on college campuses in the United States and the rest of the Western world – has largely escaped serious critical scrutiny, until now...”

The sustainability movement: a major force on college campuses in the United States and the rest of the Western world – has largely escaped serious critical scrutiny, until now...on campuses across the United States, where sustainability has become dogma, honest investigation of global warming is nearly impossible...Sustainability activists blur the line between pragmatic environmental protection and their utopian dreams – dreams of a carbon-free economy and dreams of a new social order that imposes redistribution of wealth and their own version of ‘equality.’ We support good stewardship of natural resources and agree common sense conservation measures should be encouraged. The sustainability movement works against those goals by

**Community Action Civic Association**

**Allerton International Merchants Association**

**RAIN Senior Center flea market**

R.A.I.N. Middletown Senior Center, 3035 Middletown Road, will hold a flea market on Thursday, April 7.

There will be something for everyone, including lots of art and crafts. The flea market will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
P.S. 83 fifth graders held an ambitious fundraiser seeking to preserve Costa Rican wildlife last Thursday, March 17. Getting into the St. Patrick’s Day holiday spirit and symbolizing their commitment toward preserving the rainforest, students wore festive green outfits and sold delicious baked goods to aid in their mission.

Brandon Muccino (c), P.S. 83 principal, joined students and teachers in helping to raise money to save exotic wildlife.

Aryana Hezam (l) and Laura Lazri raised funds to save Costa Rican wildlife by selling tasty baked goods. Photo by Silvio Pacifico

M.S. 331 HONORED AT PASS CELEBRATION

The Partnership for Advancing Scholastic Success Celebration held Monday, March 14 recognized local students from three New York City schools including M.S. 331 Bronx School of Young Leaders. Three $4,000 checks were presented to the schools courtesy of CleanWell at well-attended ceremony hosted at the Theater at Madison Square Garden.

The PASS celebration recognizes the accomplishments of local students participating in the Future Goals program which is designed to inspire them about key science, technology, engineering and math topics and the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

Kevin Weekes (c) presents three $4,000 checks, courtesy of CleanWell, to three NYC schools involved in the Future Goals program at the Partnership for Advancing Scholastic Success Celebration.

Temple Hatikva’s faithful enjoyed a delicious bagel breakfast complete with hamantaschen at their Sunday, March 20 adult education session. The hamantaschen, traditional triangle shaped fruit-filled cookies served during the Purim holiday, were generously donated by the Jewish Community Council of Pelham Parkway for Temple Hatikva’s adult education session and their Friday, March 18 Shabbat service.

Temple Hatikva congregants dined on a delicious bagel breakfast complete with hamantaschen, during their Sunday, March 20 adult education session.
**National Taxpayer Advocate Nina Olson and Congressman Jose Serrano convened a public forum at Hostos Community College to discuss tax issues last Friday, March 18. Together, Olson and Serrano discussed what taxpayers want and need from the IRS to comply with their tax obligations.**

**(l-r) Congressman Serrano speaks before the National Taxpayer Advocate Forum panel consisting of Nina Olson, Elliot Quinones, Erik Schryver, German Jejeda and James Hurst. Photo by Silvio Pacifico**

**CONG. SERRANO HOSTS TAXPAYER FORUM**

**Theodore Korony American Legion Post 253 and the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary traveled to the James J. Peters VA Medical Center last Tuesday, March 22 to host a fun evening of bingo and burgers. The patients enjoyed the night’s festivities and received canteen books as treasured keepsakes to commemorate the occasion.**

**(l-r) Anthony Ferrara, post member and American Legion adjutant; Dolores Stoltze, Ladies Auxiliary sergeant at arms; Judy Lanci, Ladies Auxiliary president; Colleen McCarthy, post member and auxiliary first vice chairwoman and Christopher DiCostanzo, post member, visited veterans at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center. Photo courtesy of Theodore Korony American Legion Post 253**

**KORONY’S BELLY BOMBER BINGO AT VA**

**In honor of April being ‘Child Abuse Prevention Month’, the New York Foundling launched a campaign to support its award-winning Child Abuse Prevention Program which conducts workshops at New York City schools to teach children how to recognize, resist and report abuse and neglect. P.S. 195 students were treated to one such informative workshop on Thursday, March 24.**

*CAPP Prevention specialists Kylie Brock (l) and Kerry Egger perform an informative puppet show for P.S. 195 students. Photo by Edwin Soto*

**CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION WORKSHOP**

**Our Lady of the Assumption School faculty and students came together last Wednesday, March 23 with former OLA gym teacher, Gus Cozzi’s family to dedicate a plaque commemorating the late educator’s life. The beloved gym teacher and mentor to all OLA students, lost his battle with cancer last month. He was honored with massive gym class celebration involving students of every grade, teachers and families.**

**(l-r) Gus Cozzi’s family: (front, l-r) gym teacher Brian Reilly; Cozzi’s sons, Domenic and Matthew with Cozzi’s brother, Tommy. Photo by Silvio Pacifico**

**OLA CELEBRATES GUS COZZI DAY**

**Sponsored by Guns Down, Life Up, Saturday, March 26’s ‘Da Battle of the School Starz’ was held at Charles R Drew Campus and featured music by DJ Ace of Spades in addition to a talent showcase and competition. The anti-bullying and self-awareness event hosted by GDLU, featured local high school and junior high schoolers competing in a talent showcase of singers, dancers, rappers and other performers.**

**(l-r) The Leap Academy Dancers put on a show-stopping performance. Photo by Silvio Pacifico**

**DA BATTLE OF THE SCHOOL STARZ**

**OLA School staff joins Cozzi’s family beneath the plaque dedicated to him: (back, l-r) principal John-Paul Barnaba; Stefanie Cozzi with her youngest son, Joseph; OLA gym teacher Angelique Irizarey; (front, l-r) gym teacher Brian Reilly; Cozzi’s sons, Domenic and Matthew with Cozzi’s brother, Tommy. Photo by Silvio Pacifico**

**OLA CELEBRATES GUS COZZI DAY**
ICE HOUSE CAFE HOSTS EASTER BUNNY VISIT FOR THE KIDS

The Easter Bunny made a surprise visit to children and their families dining at the Ice House Cafe last Saturday, March 26. The fabled holiday hare made a grand entrance arriving by boat, bringing Easter tidings. The children enjoyed a fun Easter egg hunt.

(R-l) Country Club’s Jace, Ella, Lauren and Vivian were excited to meet the Easter Bunny last Saturday. Photo by Jehovys Santiago

Trinston was delighted to see the Easter Bunny visiting the Ice House Cafe. Photo by Jehovys Santiago

Congressman Serrano, Assemblyman Blake and Councilwoman Gibson with the day’s honorees. Photo by Silvio Pacifico

ASSEMBLYMAN BLAKE’S WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

Assemblyman Michael Blake celebrated Women’s History Month at last Saturday, March 26’s awards ceremony at Harriet Tubman Charter School by honoring several distinguished community members with citations recognizing their important contributions toward empowering women. This year’s honorees making ‘herstory’ were Hajia Ramatu Ahmed, African Life Center founder; Karen Ames, superintendent District 8; Elisa Alvarez, superintendent District 7; Stephanie Arthur, African Leaders Project founder; Ivy Brown, New York Metropolitan Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolence ATTAIN Lab instructional technology coordinator; Fatima Cambane-Quissico, First Lady of Epworth United Methodist Church; Miriam Clavas-quin, Casa Boricua Senior Center program director; Cynthia Cortijo-Rodriguez, Community Education Council 12; Antoinette Crawford, first lady of Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church; Diana Delgado, Neighborhood Self-Help by Older Persons Project director of senior center programs; Rafaela Espinal Pacheco, superintendent District 12; Ivin Galarza, Community Board 6 district manager; Meredith Gotlin, P.S./M.S. 29 principal; Dr. Evelyn Laureano, SHOPP executive director; Annie Minguez, Good Shepherd director of government and community relations; Claudia Nesbitt, New York Metropolitan Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolence ATTAIN Lab; Carmen Rivera, VIP Community Services; Leticia Rodriguez-Rosario, superintendent District 9; Darlene Serrano, SHOPP activity coordinator and Elizabeth Thompson, Kingsbridge Heights Neighborhood Improvement Association Leadership Council representative.

EASTER BUNNY VISITS THE SANZ

The Allerton International Merchants Association hosted their yearly Easter Bunny visit last Saturday, March 26 at The Sanz. The children met the holiday figure and decorated Easter eggs together.

(Left) Isabel Carrion and Anthony Garcia get creative while coloring their Easter eggs. Photo by Walter Pofeldt

(Right) A beaming Sophia Berisha with her new friend, the Easter Bunny. Photo by Walter Pofeldt
Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Dion DiMucci was a guest on the Dennis Dion Nardone “Rock n Roll” Doo-Wop/Oldies Music Radio Show heard every Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m. and Sundays 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on 1460AM on the radio dial and “world wide” on the Internet streaming to: www.wvox.com.

Dion introduced his newly released album, “New York is my Home.” The title song, which he wrote, is about New York and the Bronx. Legendary singer/writer/performer Paul Simon’s voice can be heard on the song as well.

All songs on the album are original songs written by Dion that cultivates his background talents of rock and roll, his guitar playing along with his love for the blues.

The interview will be replayed the next few weeks on the Sunday show. Besides the interview you can always hear the great songs of Dion as well as music from Johnny Maestro, the Earls, the Duprees and many more hits of the ‘50s and ‘60s.

On the same show Vic Sabetini and Al Belfiore, of the popular Bronx band “Just Nuts,” were invited to speak about the passing and life of Lee Andrews, who recorded great hits like “Tear drops,” “Long Lonely Nightsm,” and “Try the Impossible.”

Vic and Al were traveling musicians with Lee Andrews’s band for many years, backing up the legendary singer on all his concerts in the ‘80s and ‘90s.

They spoke about their experiences with Lee and the kind of guy he was as a person and talented performer.
The Bronx Chamber of Commerce and Joe’s Crab Shack will host a Business2Business networking event on Wednesday, April 6, from 6 to 8 p.m., at Joe’s Crab Shack at Bay Plaza. Bring business cards. Shake hands. Share ideas. Meet your business peers. Walk away with potential new business and new business associates. Joe’s Crab Shack is located in the Mall at Bay Plaza at 200 Baychester Avenue.

Admission is $10 per Bronx Chamber member and $20 for non-members.

Some reasons to attend business networking events:
- Increase your visibility by making sure your face and your message get in front of the same people on an ongoing basis.
- Build relationships that will lead to new alliance and referrals and make sure to follow-up to deepen those relationships.
- Offer and receive referrals. The best way to fill a need is with someone who has already proven him/herself with someone you know.
- Networking events are great for this kind of referral exchange.
- And, then you get to share information about your industry with new information you can gather at these events.
- Become and stay connected to key influencers in your industry and within your target market.
- Find solutions to your problems. Add to the list of problems that has had and solved your current situation. You, in turn, can offer solutions to others.
- Learn and become motivated. Leave with new ideas, inspirations and a regenerated sense of motivation.
- The Bronx Chamber of Commerce sponsors a variety of programs and services to businesses ranging from large corporations, cultural institutions, universities and colleges, hospitals and medical centers, and mid-sized to small companies.
- To RSVP or for more information call (718) 628-3900 or phil@bronxchamber.org.
- Visit www.bronxchamber.org for information on upcoming networking events as well as other Bronx Chamber of Commerce events in your area.
- Funding for these programs and services, in conjunction with Senator Jeffrey Klein, Council members Andrew Cohen and Andy King, is made possible with support from NYC Small Business Services, BRONX H.I.R.E., and the U.S. Small Business Association.

Chamber networking event

UniverSoul Circus is a Tour de Force of circus artistry

A big top spectacle of global proportions, the 2016 production of UniverSoul Circus takes fans of all ages on an unforgettable journey of light, sound and soul. Get ready for electrifying, edge-of-your-seat performances, including extreme motorsports, back-flipping canines, twirling bicycles, disco-dancing pachyderms, free-flying aerialists and much, much more. Hailed as the most interactive circus in the world, UniverSoul Circus opens in the Bronx, March 30-April 10 at 50 E. 150th Street (across from Bronx Terminal Market at 149th Street and Exte- rior Street next to the bridge).

Tickets are on sale now via Ticketmaster.com or 1-800-745-3000.

As has been the case since it opened 23 years ago, UniverSoul Circus will present a multicultural/multinational cast of rock-star performers in 2016. Only under the UniverSoul Circus one ring big top will you be lucky enough to witness Olate Dogs from Chile (winners of America’s Got Talent), Ethiopian Pole Act from Ethiopia, Aerial Duet from Colombia, Bicycle Tricks from China, Airshows from California, Caribbean Dance and Limbo from Trinidad and Tobago, Russian Bar from Cuba and dancing Elephants from the United States.

“Just like the circular ring in which it sits, UniverSoul celebrates cultures from around the world and brings them together under the big top,” said Founder and CEO Cedric Walker. “At this time in our history we need to come together, to embrace and learn from each other. I believe the circus naturally brings people together. In 23 years of searching for talent, I have journeyed to every continent to find a multicultural, multinational mix of talent to showcase.”

Leading the charge this year as Ringmaster for UniverSoul Circus is the multi-talented Lucky Malati of Johannesburg, South Africa. Lucky, 27, has been performing in front of an audience for 23 years. In 1999, while performing in South Africa, Lucky caught the eye of Cedric Walker. By 2000, at the age of 10, he was performing a popular duo contortionist act for UniverSoul. Married with two young kids growing up in the back lot, Lucky brings new meaning to the term, multi-talented. He has been an acrobatic hip hop dancer, acrobat, contortionist, trapeze artist, teeterboard flyer, trampoliner and a regenerated sense of motivation.
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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Foreclosure of 1343 Elder Llc, a Domestic or Foreign Limited Liability Company (LLC). Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State on 02/01/2016. NY Office Location: BRONX COUNTY. Secretary of State is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon Gloria Velaz, 1326 Elder Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11242. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Brok Avenue Management I, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State on 10/18/2015. NY Office Location: BROOKLYN COUNTY. Secretary of State is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon Gloria Velaz, 1326 Elder Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11242. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Brook Avenue Management I, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State on 09/18/2015. NY Office Location: BROOKLYN COUNTY. Secretary of State is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon 3024 Park Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11210. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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Notice of Formation of Integrity LLC, a Domestic or Foreign Limited Liability Company (LLC). Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State on 01/01/2015. NY Office Location: BRONX COUNTY. Secretary of State is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon 3490 Fort Independence Avenue, Apt. #10, Bronx, NY 10463. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Nutrimatic LLC, a Domestic or Foreign Limited Liability Company (LLC). Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State on 09/01/2015. NY Office Location: BRONX COUNTY. Secretary of State is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon Glenwood Ave., Bronx, NY 10462. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Brook Avenue Management I, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State on 09/18/2015. NY Office Location: BROOKLYN COUNTY. Secretary of State is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon 1001 Grand Concourse, Apt Bx14t, Bronx, NY 10452. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Completion of 1225 Elder Ave., a Domestic or Foreign Limited Liability Company (LLC). Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State on 02/22/2016. NY Office Location: BRONX COUNTY. Secretary of State is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon Gloria Velaz, 1326 Elder Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11242. Purpose: Any lawful activity.
Construction of the Grand Concourse started in 1902

The Grand Concourse was designed by Louis Aloys Risse who studied drawing and art in Paris as a teenager. It should come as no surprise, therefore, that when designing the Grand Concourse, he chose to pattern it after the Champs Elysées in Paris. He was the chief engineer for the 23rd and 24th wards when he conceived the idea for the Grand Boulevard and Concourse circa 1890 but it would be another five years before the needed properties could be acquired. Construction began in 1902 and it was its huge width of 182 feet that made it a grand route for parades and an attractive option for architects.

Real development, however, would have to wait for the arrival of rapid transit. The nearby Jerome Avenue overhead IRT line was introduced in 1917 opening up that section of our borough to development. The opening of Yankee Stadium and the Concourse Plaza Hotel in 1923 drew the attention of some families who looked at the area and saw an alternative to the congestion of Manhattan. The real boon to the Concourse, however, would have to await the arrival of the IND line in 1933.

The Grand Concourse was ideally suited to development since no demolition was required. Builders could save money when working with vacant land and no time was lost when it came to developing the Grand Concourse. Architects and builders soon began filling the vacant land with five and six story apartment houses, many in the Art Deco style. They built about three hundred by the mid-1930’s and they were rented almost as fast as they were constructed.

The masses from Manhattan saw an opportunity to move into a bright airy apartment with elevators and doormen on the spacious boulevard close to public transportation and parks. It was like a dream come true for many.

Today the Art Deco designs attract quite a bit of attention and some buildings are identified by their design. The six-story Fish Building at 1150 Grand Concourse off McClellan Street, designed by Jacob Felson, is so called from the fancy mosaics of fish and marine life adorning its facade. The lobby contains murals of dreamy sea maidens, frogs and swans and the floor is ornamented terrazzo. It’s the wrap-around windows and tawny brickwork with brown banding, however, that really define the building as Art Deco. It has 117 apartments and can be found on the east side of the concourse.

Another noted Art Deco building by Felson is nearby at 1188 Grand Concourse. This six-story buff brick building has 101 apartments and was built between 1936 and 1938. The dark orange brick ornamentation and saw tooth pattern arrest your attention.

The entrance has pink marble framework and the lobby features four nature scene murals and a terrazzo floor of varied colored concentric circles. It’s well worth a visit when checking out the Art Deco glories of the Grand Concourse.

The National Register of Historic Places created the Grand Concourse Historic District in 1987. It stretches from 153rd Street to 167th Street and includes 78 buildings most of which are on the famed boulevard. Should you visit this historic site, bring along a camera.
LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT - BRONX COUNTY

CHASE FINANCE LLC, as Trustee, for mortgage (s) held by the holder of the following mortgage:

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.
1001 California Plaza, Suite 730
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Pursuant to the judgment of foreclosure and sale granted to the holders of the above mortgage(s) on August 19, 2014, the undersigned Trustee will sell at public auction the property described as follows:

1. Lot 1: 1001 California Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90017
2. Lot 2: 1000 California Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90017
3. Lot 3: 999 California Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90017

Pursuant to law, the Trustee will sell at public auction the property described above on September 9, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. at the Clerk's Office of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Bronx, at 250 East 177th Street, Bronx, NY 10457.

Any person aggrieved by the sale may file an action to set aside the sale or to confirm the sale in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Bronx, within six months from the date of the sale.

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LEGAL NOTICES

ATTORNEY

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LEGAL NOTICES
Assemblyman Michael Benedetto joined the Bronx Chamber of Commerce in officially welcoming a new Advance Auto Parts to 691 Co-op City Boulevard at a Friday, March 25 ribbon-cutting ceremony.

ADVANCE AUTO PARTS GRAND OPENING

(In-r) Ramon Garcia, assistant manager; Nunzio Del Greco, Bronx Chamber of Commerce president; Daniel Barry, manager; Assemblyman Michael Benedetto and Pedro Guerrero cut to the chase last Friday morning. Photo by Jehovy Santiago

In honor of National Nutrition Month, Kings Harbor Multicare Center celebrated its first annual Nutrition and Wellness Fair last Wednesday, March 23 at their 2000 E. Gun Hill Road site. Kings Harbor staff members and the center’s Nutrition Department shared good nutritional health ideas around this year’s theme of ‘Savor the Flavor of Eating Right.’ The fair featured informational tables, food samples, recipes, games, freebies, blood pressure testing, BMI, nutritional counseling and even a Nutrition IQ quiz in which participants competed to earn prizes.

Kings Harbor Multicare Center’s dieticians were on-site to offer advice for healthier living. Photo courtesy of Kings Harbor Multicare Center

KINGS HARBOR’S ANNUAL NUTRITION FAIR

In observance of Good Friday, St. Philip Neri Church re-enacted the Passion of Jesus Christ last Friday, March 25. The annual event saw participants dressed as Roman centurions leading a man portraying Jesus walking through the neighborhood as he carried the cross to St. Philip Neri Church were a re-enactment of the crucifixion unfolded.

GOOD FRIDAY PASSION PLAY

Bedford Park participants re-enacted the Passion of Jesus Christ last week in observance of Good Friday. Photo by Miriam Quin

Community Board 7’s Long Term Planning and Community Relations Committee, NYC Small Business Services and the Municipal Art Society hosted a Bedford Park Livable Neighborhoods Program on Saturday, March 26 at P.S. 54. Residents, stakeholders, businesses and community leaders joined forces to learn how city Government and Participatory Budgeting work, what urban planning and community boards are all about and economic development strategies to improve our commercial corridors.

LIVABLE NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM HELD

(In-r) Nancy Fernandez, Kingsbridge Road Merchants Association president; Samelys Lopez, CB 7 2nd vice chairwoman; Marques Payne; Andrew Sandler, CB 7 district manager and Christian Ramos, Kingsbridge Road Merchants Association vice president. Photo by Miriam Quin

Residents gather outside of St. Philip Neri Church to watch the re-enactment of Jesus’ crucifixion at Golgotha. Photo by Miriam Quin
LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT OF COUNTY OF BRONX
PHH Mortgage Corporation, Plaintiff
AGAINST
Catherine Perez, individually and as Co-Administrator of the Estate of Roberto Perez; Ravir DeLeon, as Co-Administrator of the Estate of Roberto Perez; et al., Defendants.
Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated February 2, 2016, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Bronx County Courthouse, 851 Grand Concourse, Room 600, Bronx, NY on April 11, 2016 at 2:00PM, premises known as 1458 East 169th Street, Apartment A1, Bronx, NY 10467.

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT OF COUNTY OF BRONX
PNC Bank, National Association, successor in interest to National City Real Estate Services, LLC, successor in interest to New York Mortgage Finance, Inc., formerly known as National City Mortgage Co., Plaintiff
AGAINST
Maria Ormeda, et al., Defendants.
Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated December 21, 2015, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Bronx County Courthouse, 851 Grand Concourse, Room 600, Bronx, NY on April 11, 2016 at 2:00PM, premises known as 2678 Bailey Avenue, Bronx, NY 10453.

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT OF COUNTY OF BRONX
US BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, as Trustee for ASCOTT ASSOCIATES, Plaintiff
AGAINST
DEBORAH BERNARD and CAROLYN WATSON, et al., Defendants.
Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale dated January 12, 2015, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Bronx County Courthouse, 851 Grand Concourse, Room 600, Bronx, New York on April 11, 2016 at 2:00PM, premises known as 1515 BARKER AVENUE, BRONX, NY 10467. All that certain plot or piece of parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Bronx, State of New York.

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT OF COUNTY OF BRONX
DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY as TRUSTEE FOR AMRO MORTGAGE COMPANY, Plaintiff
AGAINST
ANDEUR F. DILLIMON, JR., et al., Defendants.
Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated April 24, 2015, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Bronx County Courthouse, 851 Grand Concourse, Room 600, Bronx, New York on April 11, 2016, 2:00 PM, premises known as 26 Pennylvania Ave., Unit C1, Bronx, NY 10465.

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT OF COUNTY OF BRONX
US BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, as Trustee for ASCOTT ASSOCIATES, Plaintiff
AGAINST
LISA DJADIN, Esq. REFEREE
McCabe, Weinberg & Conway, P.C.
Attorney for Plaintiff
1775 Wehre Drive, Suite 210 New Rochelle, New York 10801

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT OF COUNTY OF BRONX
HSBC BANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, as Trustee for

THE HOLDERS OF NOMURA HOME EQUITY LOAN, INC. HOME EQUITY LOAN TRUST, SERIES 2007-1, Plaintiff
AGAINST
THERESA NORWOOD, et al., Defendants.
Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale dated January 26, 2016, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Bronx County Courthouse, 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York on April 18, 2016 at 2:00 PM, premises known as 2919 Holland Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467.

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT OF COUNTY OF BRONX
FIRST FRANKLIN FINANCIAL CORPORATION, 150 Allegheny Alliance Mall, Pittsburgh, PA 15212, Plaintiff
AGAINST
JOSEF FOSTER, et al., Defendants.
Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on August 2, 2010, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Bronx County Courthouse, 851 Grand Concourse, Room 600, Bronx, NY on the 11th day of April, 2016, at 2:00 PM, premises known as 833 East 224th Street, Bronx, NY 10466.

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT OF COUNTY OF BRONX
CONCESSION OF BRONX/WESTCHESTER, Plaintiff, vs. ANTONIO MORENO, et al., Defendants.
Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale filed on January 29, 2016, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Bronx County Courthouse, 851 Grand Concourse, Room 600, Bronx, New York on April 11, 2016 at 2:00PM, premises known as 260 Underhill Avenue, Bronx, NY.

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PROBATE
SUPREME COURT OF THE BRONX COUNTY, NEW YORK
PROBATE COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

PROBATE CASE
PROBATE COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
The People Of The State Of New York

By the Grace of God Free and Independent
TO: John Desanto; Marie Schicht; Attorney for the Estate of Home State, Public Administrator of Bronx County; and to the unknown heirs at law, and next of kin of John Desanto, deceased, if he be dead, or to his Executors, Administrators, Creditors, and lienors, their husbands or wives or successors in interest,

A petition having been duly filed by Rita Langer, who is domiciled at 5438 Henry Avenue, New York, NY 10451, praying that your Petition be heard, and that your Petition is hereby cited to SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, Bronx County, at 851 Grand Concourse, Room 600, Bronx, NY 10451, Room 406, on April 19, 2016, at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of JOSÉP DESANTO, deceased, who is domiciled at 3103 Arlington Avenue, Bronx, New York 10463 admitting to probate a will dated April 25, 2013, a copy of which is attached, as the will of JOSÉP DESANTO, deceased, relating to and personal property, and directing that Letters Testamentary issue to Rita Langer.

Dated, Affixed and Sealed
March 1, 2016

(Signed) Hon. Nelda Maiase-Gonzalez
Surrogate
Michael F. Hausler
Chief Clerk
Name of Attorney: Frank J. Gbes, Esq.
DeBello Donnellan Wein Garten & Weidenreich, LLP

P.O. Box 59, Rochester, NY 14602

THE END
Councilman Andy King and the Campaign Finance Board brought Student Voter Registration Day, a day of non-partisan civic education and voter registration, to over 650 Harry S. Truman High School seniors on Friday, March 18. Students who registered on SVRD will be able to vote in New York’s Tuesday, April 19 presidential primaries.

St. Catharine Academy celebrated International Women’s Day with a Wednesday, March 16 panel that consisted of five alumnae who are all trailblazers in their career fields or ethnic and cultural communities. The panel was moderated by students who founded the school’s Women’s Empowerment Club and featured discussions by attorneys Marjorie Cadogan and Wanda Borges, retired lieutenant colonel Nan-Etta Watson Mack, pediatrician Patricia McQuade-Koors and Dr. Kristina Dabovic.

Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. and Riverbay Corporation hosted a Wednesday, March 23 ‘Advanced Cardiovascular Diagnostics’ health screening in Co-op City. The event included life-saving tests for heart attacks, stroke and aneurysms, tasty treats and raffle prizes.

Primavera Italian Language Class of 2016 students present a certificate of sponsorship to Senator Klein. Photo courtesy of Senator Jeff Klein’s Office

The Primavera Italian Language Program celebrated its Class of 2016 graduation last Saturday, March 19 at St. Benedict School. Approximately 40 children are enrolled in this free 12-week interactive program lead by Loretta Ziano, Primavera Italian Language director, emphasizing the Italian language and culture. Senator Jeff Klein celebrated the graduates’ success by conferring them with certificates of achievement. In addition, Ziano thanked Councilman James Vacca and Assemblyman Michael Benedetto for their continued support of the educational program.
LEGAL NOTICE

CITATION: File No. 2014-18453
SURROGATE’S COURT, Bronx County

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,
By the Grace of God Free and Independent,

TO: Victor Michael Dunbar, Michelle Elizabeth Dunbar, Enarit Deloris Thompson Williams

To: Michael Dunbar whose whereabouts are unknown and after due diligence cannot be ascertained, if they are living or if they are dead, to their heirs, legatees, creditors, inquirers, their husbands or wives or successors in interest and to the unknown heirs at law and next of kin of Elizabeth Thompson, deceased, if they are living or if they are dead, to their Executors, Administrators, Creditors, and Lienors, their husbands, or wives or successors in interest.

A petition having been duly filed by Denise A. DeShane who is or are domiciled at 30 Lincoln Plaza Apt. 24D, New York, New York 10023

YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate’s Court of the County of Bronx, at 451 Grand Concourse, Room 406, Bronx, New York, on April 21, 2016 at 9:30 o’clock in the forenoon of that day, why a decree or decrees providing for the distribution of the estate of Elizabeth Thompson, deceased, should not be made in the manner and form as required by the Surrogate’s Office, as directed by that Letter Testamentary issue to Denise A. DeShane.

Dated: Attested and Sealed, March 10, 2016
Hen, Nedila Malave-Gonzalez
Surrogate
Michael P. Hauser
Chief Clerk
Steven W. Wolfe
(Notary of Affidavits)
Eaton & Van Winkle LLP

ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANTS:

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF BRONX
CONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC,
Plaintiff against
SFAZAR JAMALUDDIN; SHAMEEZA JAMALUDDIN, et al Defendants

JUDGMENT OF FORFEITURE and Sale entered on December 28, 2015.

The undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Bronx County Courthouse, 451 Grand Concourse, Room 600, Bronx, N.Y. on the 18th day of April, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

The premises are described as: 33rd Street and 3245 Westchester Avenue, Bronx, NY 10458.

A Notice of Sale was duly filed with the Clerk of the Surrogate’s Court of the County of New York, New York County, on January 26, 2015.

If you wish to have this property vacated, you must be present at the sale and make your objection at the time of the sale.

LEGAL NOTICE

ACCOUNTING CITATION: File No. 2014-2179A
SURROGATE’S COURT - BRONX COUNTY

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

By the Grace of God Free and Independent,

CITATION:

TO: Attorney General of the State of New York; NYC Department of Social Services;

Hermin Noble whose whereabouts are unknown, if living or dead, to their respective heirs, legatees, creditors in interest whose names are unknown or cannot be ascertained after due diligence; and

The unknown distributors, next of kin, at law of MELBOURNE BARRETT, deceased, if living or if dead, to their respective distributors, next of kin, at law at 87-33 156th Street, Jamaica Estates, N.Y. 11435; and assignees, creditors or other successors in interest, whose names and post office addresses are unknown and cannot be ascertained after due diligence.

A Petition having been duly filed by the Public Administrator of the County of Bronx, housing offices at 851 Grand Concourse Room 336, Bronx, New York 10451

YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate’s Court of the County of Bronx, at 851 Grand Concourse, Room 406, Bronx, New York 10451 on April

LEGAL NOTICE

CITATION: File No. 2014-18453
SURROGATE’S COURT, Bronx County

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,
By the Grace of God Free and Independent,

TO: Victor Michael Dunbar, Michelle Elizabeth Dunbar, Enarit Deloris Thompson Williams

To: Michael Dunbar whose whereabouts are unknown and after due diligence cannot be ascertained, if they are living or if they are dead, to their heirs, legatees, creditors, inquirers, their husbands or wives or successors in interest and to the unknown heirs at law and next of kin of Elizabeth Thompson, deceased, if they are living or if they are dead, to their Executors, Administrators, Creditors, and Lienors, their husbands, or wives or successors in interest.

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Surrogate
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Eaton & Van Winkle LLP

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By the Grace of God Free and Independent,

CITATION:

TO: Attorney General of the State of New York; NYC Department of Social Services;

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The unknown distributors, next of kin, at law of MELBOURNE BARRETT, deceased, if living or if dead, to their respective distributors, next of kin, at law at 87-33 156th Street, Jamaica Estates, N.Y. 11435; and assignees, creditors or other successors in interest, whose names and post office addresses are unknown and cannot be ascertained after due diligence.

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YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate’s Court of the County of Bronx, at 851 Grand Concourse, Room 406, Bronx, New York 10451 on April
More than 15 young adult New York City Housing Authority residents joined Councilman Ritchie Torres Tuesday, March 8 in painting murals on Castle Hill Community Center’s vacant walls. Led by Groundswell and supported by council funds, this imaginative project is part of the new ‘Public Art/Public Housing Initiative’ which aims to create murals providing inspirational messages and public housing experiences at public housing developments throughout the five boroughs.

CASTLE HILL HOUSES GETS NEW MURAL

(i-r) Michael Kelly (c) aids young NYCHA residents in painting the expansive mural. Photo by Edwin Soto

PRESTON OPTIMIZES CHECK PRESENTATION

Councilman James Vacca attended a Thursday, March 17 check presentation at Preston High School. Students were presented with a $1,000 check for participating in Optimum Community’s seventh annual Charity Champions program which promotes volunteerism while encouraging local students to raise funds for a charity of their choosing. The check was donated to Miracle Hands.

SUCCESS ACADEMY EARNS TOP SCORES

Six Success Academy Bronx 1 Middle School Band musicians received top scores at the New York State School Music Association’s Solo Festival on Saturday, March 12 held at the Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music. Angelo Esteverez, D’anwill Velez, Geremiah Ballesteros, Martin Arrington, Trista Montenegro and Wuraola Adetola all ranked in the highest ‘Outstanding’ category after performing instrumental solos, sight-reading and scales.

Above, Young maestros (i-r) Geremiah Ballesteros, D’anwill Velez, Angelo Estevez and Trista Montenegro.

Photo courtesy of Success Academy

PRESTON H.S. MASQUERADE CARD PARTY

Preston High School held its annual card party on Saturday, March 19 in the school’s auditorium. This year’s theme was a masquerade celebration.

SUCCESS ACADEMY BRONX 1 MIDDLE SCHOOL

Jamie Scotto, Success Academy Bronx 1 music teacher, stands proudly with her pupil, saxophonist Martin Arrington.

Photo courtesy of Success Academy Bronx 1 Middle School

Principal Jane Grendell (2nd from left) with card party committee members (l) Kimberly Branach, Amy-Ann Vohnout and Maryann Kildoyle.

Photo by Silvio Pacifico
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**HELP WANTED**


**HELP WANTED**

**HELP WANTED**

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**HELP WANTED**

The Arc of Delaware County seeks dynamic professional to lead our nationally recognized organization in supporting people with IDD in living personally fulfilling lives. Positions include: Chief Services Officer Speech Pathologist/Supervisor/Life Coach 10 Assistant Director of Residential Services House Manager Apply: www.delarc.org

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LEGAL NOTICE

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YOUNG EAGLES READY TO SPREAD WINGS

By Sean Connolly

Maybe it me but, when I look at the NCAA Conference the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) looks like the Big East. Seems all the teams that left the Big East for the ACC are doing well in the big dance.

The ACC is the best in the NCAA Tournament’s history. The conference will earn $39.9 million from the NCAA Tournament’s television deal, which is a record. The ACC will win at least 19 games in the tournament, breaking a record held by the Big East in 1983. The league had already set a record by putting six teams in the Sweet 16, and four in the Elite Eight; a record set by the Big East in 2009. They broke the Big East records with ex-Big East Teams.

Last year Syracuse took themselves out of all tournament play in response to an ongoing NCAA investigation into potential past infractions by the team. The school initiated the case, which includes academics, when it self-reported potential athletic department violations to the NCAA in 2007. What a difference a year makes. The Orange are a 10 seed going into the tournament. They have been playing their hearts out. During the regular season Virginia beat the Orange 73-65. Now the rematch, Syracuse knocked the Cavaliers off of the dance floor 68-62. Vice President Joe Biden a Syracuse law floor 68-62. Vice President Joe Biden is a very nice guy. It have that connection, too. Joe Biden graduated from his family about the tournament, breaking a record held by the Big East in 1983. The league had already set a record by putting six teams in the Sweet 16, and four in the Elite Eight; a record set by the Big East in 2009. They broke the Big East records with ex-Big East Teams.

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$12,995

CERTIFIED

2007 TOYOTA TUNDRA LIMITED AUTO, AC, PS/PB, PW, PDL, CC, TILT, AM/FM, CD, 49K MILES #23110T
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2012 TOYOTA RAV4 AUTO, AC, PS/PB, PW, PDL, CC, TILT, AM/FM, CD, 20K MILES #23129
$16,995

2008 TOYOTA CAMRY AUTO, AC, PS/PB, PW, PDL, CC, TILT, AM/FM, CD, 58K MILES #23195T
$12,995

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$21,995

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2013 TOYOTA COROLLA S AUTO, AC, PS/PB, PW, PDL, CC, TILT, AM/FM, CD, #22675T
$16,995

2014 TOYOTA 4RUNNER SPORT AUTO, AC, PS/PB, PW, PDL, CC, TILT, AM/FM, CD, 98K MILES #22606T
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2014 SCION TC AUTO, AC, PS/PB, PW, PDL, CC, TILT, AM/FM, CD, 12K MILES #22845T
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$16,995

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$21,995

2015 TOYOTA 4RUNNER LTD AUTO, AC, PS/PB, PW, PDL, CC, TILT, AM/FM, CD, 277 MILES #22793
$16,995

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56K MILES #22502T
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50K MILES #22502T
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AUTO, AC, PS/PB, PW, PDL, CC, TILT, AM/FM, CD,
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20K MILES #22396
$10,995

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AUTO, AC, PS/PB, PW, PDL, CC, TILT, AM/FM, CD,
34K MILES #22550T
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2011 TOYOTA COROLLA
AUTO, AC, PS/PB, PW, PDL, CC, TILT, AM/FM, CD,
33K MILES #22396
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2013 TOYOTA COROLLA
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Saturday, April 9
Sunday, April 10
BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Winter and the basketball season are in our rearview mirror. The sun is out. The weather is warming up and baseball and softball games are finally upon us.

The Bronx has consistently big a hotbed for both sports and Bronx Times sports editor Joseph Staszewski is here to give his guide to the players to watch this spring on the diamond.

Ava Cutler, Bronx Science softball

The super sophomore played a major role in one of the best seasons in program’s history. She went 7-0 with a 3.00 ERA and helped lead the Wolverines to its first quarterfinal. Cutler also hit .434 with 30 RBI and nine extra base hits.

The All-Bronx First Team selection allowed just two earned runs, while scattering seven hits and striking out eight over five innings against a powerful Bayside lineup in the post season. A year older, a year wiser, Cutler will try to help the Wolverines to a deeper playoff run.

Gregory Dominguez, Lehman baseball

The fireballer was responsible for 60 percent of the Lions league wins last year as a junior. He posted a 6-3 record during the regular season with a sparkling 0.24 ERA and also won two complete games and a playoff contest.

The All-Bronx First Team selection struck out 81 batters in 67 innings and contributed seven RBI with his bat. If Lehman is going to challenge Monroe for the division title, it is going to do so behind Dominguez’s arm. It will need more performances like a two-hit, 10-strikeout day against Mott Haven last season.

Francisco Justo, James Monroe baseball

The rocket-arm senior is ready to build off a breakout junior campaign. He was a All-Bronx First Team selection by the Bronx Times after helping the Eagles earn the top-seed in the PSAL Class AAA baseball players and earn a berth in the semifinals.

Justo went 5-1 with a razor thin 0.01 ERA. He allowed just three earned runs, tossed four complete game shutouts and 69 batters win 38 innings. One of his best performance came in a regular season win over rival George Washington. Justo threw 6 2/3 innings and struck out eight hitters. He almost pitched a complete game, but he couldn’t since he would exceed the PSAL pitch count limit of 104 pitches. The Eagles run at another city title starts with his arm.

Temma Levis Fieldston Softball

Her arrival three years ago has built off a breakout junior campaign. He was a All-Bronx First Team selection by the Bronx Times after helping the Eagles claim three straight NYSAISA state titles and the Eagles will be in the running for a fourth. No team in the league has a player who can impact game in both aspects like Levis.

At the plate as a junior she hit a blistering .534 with 25 run scored 16 KBI and 12 extra base hits. The All-Bronx First Team selection’s power and placement allowed her to dominate opposing lineups. Levis scattered six hits, struck out eight and did not walk a batter in a win over rival Poly Prep in the state title game.

Bianca Mastropietro, Preston Softball

The Panthers lost a ton of talented senior who carried the team to unprecedented levels of success in recent year; but return its best hitter in Mastropietro. As a junior, she hit a team-leading .508, blasted eight home runs and 14 doubles to help drive in 39 runs as the Panthers’ cleanup hitter.

The All-Bronx First Team selection is also adept at throwing out runners from behind the plate and will be asked to be even more of a leader while handling a young pitching staff.

Connor McNamara, Fordham Pee Wee baseball

The tall right-hander became nearly an automatic win each time he took the mound for the Rams last season. He dominated the CHSAA and helped his club earn the third seed in the playoffs by tossing six solid innings in a 1-0 win over rival Iona Prep in the seeding round.

McNamara, who is also Fordham’s cleanup hitter and a first baseman, is even better when the pressure was on. His unflappable demeanor often leaves opponents wondering what it will take to get to him.

Fieldston ace Temma Levis is one of the players to watch this spring in the Bronx. Photo by Steven Schnibbe

Bronx Spring Players to Watch

Fieldston ace Temma Levis is one of the players to watch this spring in the Bronx. By Steven Schnibbe

Warrior Football League Registration

Chief Jerry Demers and director Joe DeSimone announce that registration for the 2016 season of the Warrior Football League will be held at Rice Stadium in Pelham Bay Park from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the following Saturdays, May 7, May 14 and May 21.

There will be three intramural divisions and one travel team. Flag, 5 to 7 year olds, no weight limit; Tackle, Jr. Pee Wee, 7 to 9 year olds, 115 lbs. or less; Tackle Jr. Pee Wee, 10 year olds, 95 lbs. or less; Tackle, Pee Wee, 10 to 12 year olds, 135 lbs. or less; Tackle, Pee Wee, 13 year olds, 115 lbs. or less; Tackle, Travel Team, 14 and under, no weight limit.

Ages for the intramural divisions are determined as of January 1. Ages for the Travel Team are determined as of August 1.

Registrants should be accompanied by an adult and should bring a copy of their birth certificate.

The Warrior Football program is in its 64th year of operation and provides over 125 hours of combined instruction and competition aimed at helping boys or girls develop self-confidence, respect for others, and discipline.

For more information call Joe at (347) 242-1423 or Jerry at (718) 829-7574.

All registration information is also available on website www.bronxwarriorsfootball.org.

Warrior Football League Speed and Agility Program

Chief Jerry Demers and director Joe DeSimone announce that the second ann-ual speed and agility program will start on Tuesday, April 5, and will be held every Tuesday and Thursday until the end of June.

Activities will be held at Rice Stadium in Pelham Bay Park from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. All boys and girls are welcome to attend, regardless of their participation in the Warriors Football League. Participants will be given a T-shirt and should wear clothing appropriate to the weather.

The program is provided free and con ducted by volunteer coaches of the Warrior Football League. Come out and get in shape, have some fun, and meet some new friends. All is free. Boys and girls aged 6 to 14 are eligible to attend. Must be 6 years old by April 5.

For more information call Joe at (347) 242-1423 or Jerry at (718) 829-7574.
Pipe Dreams (cont.)

Last week I asked who did Denis Potvin hit to ruin the New Rangers bid to win the Stanley Cup (1979)? On February 25, 1979 Islander’s Denis Potvin hit Ulf Nilsson of the Rangers. It would become the “Hit Heard Round New York”.

This week in sports in 1876 the 1st official NL baseball game was played (Boston-6, Phila-5). 1936 NY Yankee Joe DiMaggio mad his major-league debut and gets 3 hits. 1964 Cassius Clay converts to Islam, and he chose the name Muhammad Ali.

New York Yankees President Randy Levine was complaining and say how un-fair the baseball’s revenue-sharing system works. “What is very burdensome to us -- and is unfair -- is the amount of money we have to pay in revenue sharing compared, for example, to teams in our market that pay 10 times less than us.” Levine told Fox Sports. “Hopefully that is something that will get looked at in the next labor agreement.” The Yankees’ estimated payroll in 2015 was $211.75 million -- the second highest in the majors behind the Los Angeles Dodgers, while the National League champion Mets had MLB’s 10th-lowest payroll at $94.76 million. What a difference. In payrolls. It was reported that Randy Levine told Fox Sports that the Yankees paid approximately $90 million in revenue sharing for the 2015 season. The Yankees also paid $26.1 million in luxury taxes because their payroll was above baseball’s $189 million threshold, raising their total of the order.

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Just like his veterans are so pleased with the young kids around them. Puig said the group is meshing well together and the underclassmen are absorbing everything behind taught to the well. It’s left them all confident that this group can keep the Panthers among the elite in the CHSAA Bronx/Westchester division and give them the opportunity to make another run at a diocesan title. “It feels different, but the new girls on the team have really stepped up,” Rodriguez said. “I’m pretty confident. They look good. I’m not worried for this season.”

Preston's Nicolette McPartland takes over in the circle for the graduated Julianna Orrico. Photo by Joseph Staszewski

PRESTON

Preston’s veterans refuse to see last season’s heartbreaking loss as the end to their quest for the elusive title.

The five seniors -- including ace pitcher Julianna Orrico -- who were the catalysts to three straight finals appearances have graduated. But that doesn’t mean the Panthers championship aspirations have gone with them. Rodriguez, senior shortstop Ashley Puig will provide stellar defense, strong leadership and make up a dangerous middle of the order.

“I depend on my older girls,” said Panthers coach Frank Toscano.

Mastropietro is coming off a breakout junior season where she hit a team-leading, .508, blasted eight home runs and 14 doubles to help drive in 39 runs as the Panthers cleanup hitter. In front of her, she will have slapper Ashley Soto, who plays second and left field, leading off and fresh-

man Rebecca Del Torro batting second. Mastropietro has proven she can deliver if you set the table for her.

“We have a really good pitcher. She’s a very good third baseman. She’s a good pitcher. She doesn’t have all the pitches. She is learning, but I’m very happy with her.”

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Time to get those poles ready. Warmer weather is coming fast. April 1st flounder season opens. You can only keep two fish and they have to be minimum 12 inches. If you did not know by now don’t forget to register for a fishing permit with the Department of Environmental Conservation. It is free. You can find it online at https://decals.dec.ny.gov/DECALSCitizenWeb or by phone: 1-866-933-2257. Last year the Coast Guard was checking and giving out warnings. This year might be different. It’s free so what can it hurt. Better safe than sorry. Coach John Wooden said that “if you fail to plan, then plan to fail.”

The New York Knicks win the Championship, St. John’s wins the NCAA Tournament, and the Brooklyn Islanders win Lord Stanley. April Fools. There are so many different dates this day had its origins. One that I saw was from Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales, the “Nun’s Priest’s Tale”, 1392. Be careful of the pranksters.

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YANKEES BASEBALL CAMPS TO RETURN TO THE TRI-STATE AREA IN 2016
American Dairy Association and Dairy Council’s “REFUEL with Chocolate Milk” Initiative to again Sponsor Yankees Baseball Camp Attendance for 85 Children

The New York Yankees today announced that New York Yankees Baseball Camps presented by REFUEL with Chocolate Milk will take place in the New York tri-state area beginning the week of June 20, 2016. Enrollment forms are now available at www.yankees.com/camps.

Yankees Baseball Camps are available to boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 13, with each camper receiving a full Yankees uniform. In addition to on-field skill development and professional instruction, campers also get the opportunity to take an exclusive guided tour of Yankee Stadium and much more.

Sessions are currently being offered in two different packages: the World Series Experience includes four days of baseball instruction with an additional day-long visit to Yankee Stadium culminating in a “meet and greet” with a player on the Yankees’ 25-man roster, while the Pinstripe Package includes five days of baseball curriculum. Camps are located in select areas of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Further details and availability for each package can be viewed at www.yankees.com/camps.

In addition, campers will receive a voucher good for two (2) complimentary tickets to a 2016 Yankees regular season home game.*

“Each week, our Yankees Campers will work hard with our coaches to learn proper baseball mechanics, engage with teammates, and begin a journey toward accomplishing their own personal goals,” said Brendan Sullivan, President of Yankees Baseball Camps. “We wrap this development into an unforgettable week-long Major League Experience, which includes a behind-the-scenes tour of Yankee Stadium, a full Yankees uniform and opportunity to meet a player on the current roster. There’s no better way to get closer to our favorite team.”

As part of the American Dairy Association and Dairy Council’s “REFUEL with Chocolate Milk” initiative, 85 children from local families will receive full scholarships to attend Yankees Baseball Camp at Heritage Field – which is located on the site of the original Yankee Stadium and administered by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation – during the week of July 5-7.

“Milk plays an important role in children’s diets because it’s a source of so many essential nutrients like calcium, Vitamin D and protein needed for a healthy body. Drinking low fat chocolate milk after sports is a great way for athletes to replenish nutrients and rebuild muscle,” said Rick Naczi, CEO of the American Dairy Association. “Teaming up with the Yankees to sponsor summer baseball camps gives us an opportunity to educate kids about the connection between good nutrition and athletic performance.”

Locations and dates of 2016 New York Yankees Baseball Camps

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEW YORK</td>
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<td>Archbishop Stepinac H.S. (White Plains)</td>
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<td>Hackley School (Tarrytown)</td>
<td>7/11-15</td>
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<td>Hackley School (Tarrytown)</td>
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<td>Mitchel Athletic Complex (Garden City)</td>
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<td>Green Vale School (Old Brookville, L.I.)</td>
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<td>NEW JERSEY</td>
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<td>Saint John Vianney (Holmdel)</td>
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<td>Westvale Park (Westwood)</td>
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<td>Denville Parks-Gardner Field</td>
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<td>River Dell H.S. (Oradell)</td>
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<td>New Providence H.S.</td>
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<td>Princeton Day School</td>
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<td>CONNECTICUT</td>
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<td>Brien McMahon H.S. (Norwalk)</td>
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*This voucher is valid for two (2) complimentary tickets in select areas of the general, non-premium Main or Terrace level for select, non-premium 2016 Regular Season Home Games in April, May, June or July. Campers must be registered on or before June 1, 2016. Offer is subject to availability and must be redeemed on or before July 21, 2016. An original voucher must be presented at the Yankee Stadium Ticket Office for redemption. No photocopies will be accepted. This voucher has no cash value and will not be replaced if lost or stolen.
used to organize fights” said Councilman James Vacca “Now that this has been addressed and the new hire has been completed it shows that the DOE is serious.”

Other new changes include the development of a parent welcome center, a newly formed Student Advisory Council, and the launch of a campus-wide newsletter.

Marvin Elliot, the AP of security, comes into the new post with more than 10 years of experience in education. He previously served as Dean at the Frederick Douglass Academy, and most recently served as the student support manager at the Urban Assembly School for Law and Justice. Councilman James Vacca feels the new hire was extremely necessary to coordinate efforts between all the campuses.

“I thought it was a no brainer,” said Vacca, “There shouldn’t be a question of who is in charge.”

Vacca will be the point person on all security measures and will work closely with the six principals from the various schools within the campus.

The councilman thinks that having six different heads created confusion, because the authorities didn’t know who to reach out to when trouble ensued.

“Having a point person was something I insisted upon,” said the councilman, “I’m glad the Chancellor (of the DOE) followed up.”

Vacca has visited the schools since the changes were implemented and already sees improvement in the school’s tone. He said the entranceway to Lehman is much more organized, and officers have been repainted.

“Security issues are being addressed, but we still have some work to do,” said Vacca.

**Mayor’s zoning passes City Council; met with tepid reaction**

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is not as-of-right.

Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. stated that the way the plans were first presented to local community boards was flawed, and that he felt that community, many of whom had opposed ZQA and MIH, should have been given a chance to voice their opinions on the revised plans before the council voted.

Nevertheless, the borough president stated that he was pleased to see the progress that had been made on the affordability spectrum.

“While the housing deal does not go as far to assist the low-income community as many of us had hoped, it is an encouraging step in the right direction,” stated Diaz, who commended the City Council for addressing some of the borough president stated he still remains concerned that the changes to what is considered affordable housing may do “nothing to encourage developers to create units that would maintain our professionals and foster socio-economic diversity.”

Councilman Rafael Salamanca, whose district encompasses Hunts Point and neighboring communities, said that the plan will allow the city council member who represents the district increased latitude in setting income requirements for affordable housing that may be part of future developments.

They just have to average to 60 percent of AMI, and some could be 40 percent or lower, he said. A 40 percent AMI for a family of four is currently around $86,000 per year.

“This plan allows residents in the community to have access to apartments and afford them,” he said, adding that in if the plan were not passed, developers could build housing without consideration to the affordability needs of people already in that community.

The plan could have the effect of mitigating the impact of gentrification, he said.

Councilman James Vacca said that he was able to ensure that height requirements were left in place in the Lower Density Growth Management Area in Community Board 10.

He added that he was also able to negotiate the removal of a number of transit zones from CB 11 that would have allowed for greater larger scale development, as well as requiring a Uniform Land Use Review Procedure for new nursing home facilities in that community board.

“I made it clear that that unless changes like this were made, I was not going to be for it,” said Vacca.

In general ZQA and MIH allows for waivers when it comes to parking and height limits on new senior developments and nursing homes. It also encourages higher-density building along subway lines.

However, Vacca said that most of his district is R-5 or lower, and those waivers to height and parking are geared towards R-6 zones or higher, and some areas also are not available in CB 10 because of LDGMA.

“What a lot of people don’t understand is that this does not mean that they are going to build low-income housing,” said Vacca. “A set aside of a certain number of units have to be affordable if there is a rezoning, but my entire district was rezoned neighborhood by neighborhood since 2003.”

It might take decades before the full effects of the plans are seen, said George Torres, CB 12 district manager, who added that he does not believe that it will foster enough economic diversity in individual communities.

It would have been better for the community boards to be given more time to review the plan, but now that it is law, the hope is that it works out for communities and the city, said Adaline Walker-Santiago, CB 7 chairwoman.

**BY AL D’ANGELO**

The executive board of the Morris Park Community Association met last week and decided that unless there is a strong commitment by a majority of the businesses the Morris Park the Association would not take the responsibility for the Christmas lights next year.

For the second year in a row it cost the association over $3,000 to pay for the lights because we couldn’t raise enough money. We felt the community would appreciate the festive spirit and the store owners would readily donate to thank the community for their patronage. We were mistaken. Each year it gets harder and harder.

Many shopkeepers are eager to get your business, but not too quick to give back. They’re not the only ones to blame, we are also to blame. Each store that donated had a sign in the window. If there was no sign it meant that store did not contribute. We as consumers should have shopped elsewhere if we did not see a sign. The same mentality the shop owners have “why should we give when we’re going to have lights anyway” the consumer has “what’s the difference where I shop, the lights will go up anyway”.

The executive board would like to thank the members who volunteered to go from store to store soliciting for the lights - it’s a thankless job. We also wish to thank all those stores who did contribute. We listed their names in the Bronx Times Reporter; I wonder how many of us thanked them for their contribution to the community.

To keep a community alive and viable it takes a commitment from the residence and business working together. The letting the other guy worry about it attitude will destroy our community. Only by caring about each other and our community will we guaranteed Morris Park will continue to be the special place it is.
We have been a local lumber yard & hardware store for over 50 years, serving our community, with a wide variety of building materials that have been available & that are now available. This provides us a lot of experience to assist you in selecting the proper products for your repair or renovation job. Whether you are a contractor or a do-it-yourselfer, we have the supplies for you.

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