Complicated future for odd MP parcel

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

A site in Morris Park that has often been the center of controversy in the past may finally be developed—with the community’s blessing.

The vacant parcel, 841A Morris Park Avenue, a paper street called Graham Place, was sold by the city several years ago.

Local developer, Morris Park Venture LLC, filed permits on Monday, April 11 to build an eight-unit residential building, with basement commercial space and medical office floors, according to the NYC Department of Buildings.

The plans have not been approved yet, but are as-of-right, according to sources.

Well over a decade ago when Diane Cerino owned one of the two residential properties facing Graham Place, she raised concerns that the houses would be landlocked if the property was developed.

But now, with those two houses now vacant and facing foreclosure according to neighbors, community sentiment has apparently shifted.

Graham Place runs north from Morris Park to the southern side of Matthews-Muliner Playground.

The Morris Park Community Association has received many complaints about the two boarded up properties.

According to a nearby business, squatters were found living in one of the vacant houses and stealing power from a neighboring house of worship.

“I know that neighbors have been complaining about homeless people and squatters,” said Tony Signorile, MPC Association president.

“Sometimes they see kids smoking ‘funny cigarettes’ (marijuana) there at nighttime.”

Signorile said he feels that

Crowning Achievement

The Bronx Puerto Rican Parade Reinado Infantil Pageant crowned Kayla Cordero as their pageant queen this past Sunday, April 17 at the United Federation of Teachers. Cordero will march in this June’s Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade.

Photo by Miriam Quinn

HP residents protest proposal for adult jail

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

The suggestion of another Hunts Point prison has residents and community leaders fuming.

This week, Senator Jeff Klein, Councilman Rafael Salamanca and local residents gathered at the Vernon C. Bain Center prison barge, located at 1 Halleck Street, to protest a proposal which would result in the development of a ‘mini Rikers’ at the southern edge of the peninsula.

The plan called for the construction of a 2,000-bed adult jail in Hunts Point, and the closing of the 800-inmate Vernon C. Bain Center.

Plans for the development of new jail facilities in the five boroughs surfaced two weeks ago, after Governor Cuomo and Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito supported the closing of the prison on Rikers Island, NYC’s main jail complex, which currently houses approximately 10,000 inmates on a daily basis, as the best solution to ending brutality and dysfunction.

Continued on Page 4

Crotona Park Bathhouse renovation project

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

The landmarked gateway into Crotona Park built during the Great Depression is going to be renovated.

The bathhouse building that serves as an entrance to the Crotona Play Area at Fulton Avenue and East 173rd Street will be rehabbed. The Landmarks Preservation Commission has approved the plans.

The project is currently out-to-bid and listed in the ‘procurement phase’ by the NYC Parks Department. It was unsuccessfully bid recently, according to the agency.

“Renovation to the Crotona Park entrance will include roof repair, relighting of the structure, pointing and other such phases of masonry, and restoring the function of the clock,” stated a Parks Department spokesman, adding “Because this is a landmarked structure, the work is more expensive and more difficult.”

The Landmarks Preservation Commission needs to approve the plans.

Continued on Page 11
BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

A private, commercial street in Parkchester is generating parking frustration.

The mix up is occurring on East Avenue, where drivers are confused by the street’s public/private parking regulations.

The two block stretch is tucked behind Metropolitan Avenue.

The commercial businesses along the street include Marshall’s, Subway, Sleepy’s and Santander Bank.

East Avenue’s 2-hour muni-meters operate from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. everyday except Sunday, according to its signage, however when not in operation the parking area is for Parkchester parking permit holders only.

A large sign posted by Parkchester Management warns after-hour parkers that the street is private and a tow away zone. It adds any illegally parked and unauthorized vehicles will be towed at the vehicle owner’s expense, 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

The contracted tow truck firm, Bear Transportation LLC, hired by Parkchester Condominiums, acknowledged that East Street generates an unusual situation because it mixes private and public parking at different times.

They claim that regular towing laws are in effect on this block just as they are for any other block in the city.

“It doesn’t matter if a street is private or public - if a car parks in a no standing zone, in front of a fire hydrant or in a pedestrian crosswalk, that car is getting towed.”

The latter of the three scenario’s took place earlier this month, when a local customer complained that his BMW was towed for parking in a pedestrian crosswalk. He argued that, because he had purchased a muni ticket, his car shouldn’t have been towed, according to Bear Transportation.

The customer, Muhammad Assi, said that he was not parked in a pedestrian crosswalk, but believes that he was towed because he had parked outside parking space’s lines.

Assi, a frequent Santander Bank customer, also charged that metered parking on East Avenue is a conflict of interest for the city.

“If a street is private, it’s supposed to be private, meaning that anybody who parks there is entitled to park freely,” Assi said.

“I’m not even saying this for me - it’s just not fair that the residents of this block have to pay for a separate permit to park at night while they are still being charged to park on this street on a daily basis while the city benefits.”

“I just hate to see people who might not have knowledge of a situation be taken advantage of,” he added. “If they (the city) is collecting money for parking on a private street, the least they can do is fix the street’s condition.”

According to the NYC Department of Transpotation, East Avenue is indeed a privately owned street that offers restricted use to the public.

DOT added that markings on this street have been provided for the benefit of the pedestrians and vehicles that use this private street in the same manner as other public streets or highways that are traveled or used.

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Hunts Point residents say “no” to proposed ‘mini Rikers’

from Page 1
inside of the city’s jails.

An 18-page document outlining the plans for the ‘mini Rikers’ in Hunts Point was exposed shortly after Mayor de Blasio’s administration denied any knowledge of the plan to locate new jail facilities in the city.

Along with Klein and Salamanca, the rally was also attended by members of Community Board 2, Mothers on the Move and Forward South Bronx Coalition.

“Hunts Point, as well as much of the south Bronx, has been a dumping ground for long enough,” said Cedric McClester, chairman of Forward South Bronx Coalition.

Mothers on the Move also attended by members of the city.

While I understand that we need to make strides in improving corrections infrastructure, primarily Rikers Island, the solution is not building a new facility in the South Bronx,” said Councilman Salamanca.“I’m incredibly concerned that it took a leaked document provided to a newspaper for this community to learn about a proposal to place a possible jail in Hunts Point.”

“The Hunts Point community has worked hard to develop this area and a ‘secretive’ plan to bring a ‘mini Rikers’ to Hunts Point is simply unacceptable,” said Senator Klein. “An exposed document is not how this community should learn about a proposal that will impact their day-to-day lives.”

“This community (of Hunts Point) has its own vision for business, housing and growth, and this proposal puts their vision behind bars,” Senator Klein added.

complicated future for odd Morris Park vacant parcel

from Page 1
something needs to be done at the location.

Cerini said when she owned the property she was forced to deal with a nightmare when an earlier owner of the lot fenced off the property, leaving her a narrow walkway to reach Morris Park Avenue.

She ultimately had to register her house with the FDNY as a landlocked property, she said, adding that while her next-door neighbor was able to construct a door onto neighboring Mulliner Avenue, she was not able to. She finally moved from the house in 2002.

Councilman Vacca said he is objecting to the recent plans filed for 841A Morris Park Avenue in their current form, adding that he had found some errors.

“I feel that parking is adequate according to the (R-5) zoning,” said Vacca, adding that he maintains that there should be two side yards instead of one in the application, and that a front-yard is also needed but not in the current application.

“I have made some objections to DOT, that I hope will cause the plans to be reconsidered and possibly redone,” said the councilman.

Hafeez Zahirudin, the manager of the neighboring D. Kingsbridge Upholstery at 845 Morris Park Avenue, said he reported the squatters who were stealing electricity in 2015 from the mosque next to the property.

“We are hoping that the lots can be sold as soon as possible and they could get someone in there,” he said of the vacant houses, added that he does not want the area to become blighted, with garbage dumping and graffiti.

Cerini said she believes that if a building is constructed at 841A Morris Park Avenue, it will make selling the landlocked properties at 191 and 189 Graham Place all but impossible.
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New Westchester Ave. Hutch overpass slated

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

It’s not the London Bridge, but it’s coming down non the less.

The NYC Department of Transportation is planning a permanent fix to an east Bronx overpass that has been the subject of many collisions.

DOT announced that in late 2016 it will begin the complete replacement of the superstructure of the Westchester Avenue overpass that crosses the Hutchinson River Parkway, raising the clearance on the parkway from 9 to 11 feet to at least 12 feet and six inches, according to an agency spokeswoman.

The project will feature the replacement of the bridge deck, as well as supporting girders.

“This is especially important because large trucks, that should not be on the parkway, have repeatedly struck the bottom portion of the overpass in the past several years,” said Councilman James Vacca.

Vacca said when the project starts motorists may be inconvenienced.

“We already have traffic problems there, and I think as construction proceeds DOT needs to be sensitive to the fact that this is one of most congested locations in my district,” said Vacca. “How we mitigate that going forth will be very important during the construction.”

The councilman said that he was happy to learn that the plan also calls for adding a right turn lane onto Waters Place at the southbound Westchester Avenue exit off the Hutch.

Traffic is building up in this area due to the ever-expanding Hutchinson Metro Center.

The $1 billion 911 call center is set to start ramping up operations soon, said Vacca.

“I think we can only expect more construction there in the future,” the councilman said of Waters Place, adding he is still advocating for a direct connection from the Hutchinson River Parkway into the Hutchinson Metro Center.

Members of the East Bronx Traffic Coalition, a consortium of civic groups concerned about escalating congestion, also said the news was a step in the right direction. They also offered suggestions.

EBTC member John Marano said that he would like to see NYPD traffic agents at that location during the reconstruction period.

He would like the new Westchester Avenue overpass to be widened to accommodate more vehicles.

The situation turning onto Westchester Avenue from Waters Place has become increasingly unbearable, said EBTC member John Doyle, and this has been made worse by current maintenance work on the bridge.

“Overall, this is definitely a step in the right direction,” said Doyle.

According to DOT, construction on the new overpass will take place at night.

“DOT will maintain the current number of travel lanes on Westchester Avenue during this construction,” stated the DOT spokeswoman. “On the Hutchinson River Parkway, single and double lane over-night closures will be required.”

Limited full closures of the parkway during late night and early morning hours should be expected for removal and installation of girders, according to DOT.

Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. and The Bronx Tourism Council announced that actor Vincent Pastore, animator and director Peter Sohn, author Arlene Alda and dance pioneer Eduardo Vilaro are the 2016 class of honorees for the Bronx Walk of Fame.

“Once again, we have put together a tremendous class of individuals that represent the best of our borough for induction into the Bronx Walk of Fame,” said Diaz Jr.

“These four individuals have seen considerable success in their chosen fields, and throughout it all they have highlighted their strong roots in The Bronx. I congratulate Vincent Pastore, Peter Sohn, Arlene Alda and Eduardo Vilaro on their induction to the Bronx Walk of Fame, and I look forward to celebrating their accomplishments during Bronx Week 2016.”

Vincent Pastore has been a star of screen and stage for decades, and is best known for his role in HBO’s hit series The Sopranos, for which he received a Screen Actors Guild Award for his work in 2001. A City Island resident, Mr. Pastore has appeared in films including Goodfellas, Carlito’s Way, Awakenings, State of Grace, The Godfather Part III and many more.

The first Asian-American to ever be inducted to the Bronx Walk of Fame, Peter Sohn is an award-winning animator and director with Pixar Studios, having worked on numerous hit films including Finding Nemo, The Incredibles and Up. Most recently, Sohn directed Pixar’s 2015 feature hit The Good Dinosaur.

Arlene Alda, who grew up in Williamsbridge and graduated from Evander Childs High School, is an award-winning photographer and author whose work has appeared in numerous books, newspapers, magazines and galleries. Mrs. Alda is the author of 19 books, most of them children’s books featuring her words and illustrations. Her latest book, Just Kids from The Bronx: Telling it the Way it Was, An Oral History, consists of stories about growing up in The Bronx based on interviews with over 60 accomplished and proud Bronxites.

First generation Cuban-American Eduardo Vilaro became artistic director of Ballet Hispanico, the nation’s first and oldest Latino dance organization, in 2009. He is only the second person to head the company since it was founded in 1970. In 2015, Mr. Vilaro took on the additional role of Chief Executive Officer of Ballet Hispanico. Mr. Vilaro has been part of the Ballet Hispanico family since 1985. As a dancer with the Ballet Hispanico company, he performed throughout the United States, Latin America, and Europe for an audience of nearly 3 million while assisting founder Tina Ramirez with the development of dance education residencies.

Bronx Week 2016 is a highly-anticipated 11-day event where the entire borough, including government, business, and the community-at-large, come together to celebrate “The Best of The Bronx” through festivals, concerts, health fairs, parades, performances, music and a host of other activities. It will take place from May 6th – May 15th.

At the end of the 11-day celebration, these four hometown heroes will be honored with induction into the Bronx Walk of Fame, where their names are emblazoned on a street sign to reside on the historic Grand Concourse forever.

For more information visit www.lovethetronx.com.
‘Worst Landlord’ sued by tenants

BY ROBERT WIRLING

Grand Concourse tenants are suing ‘the city’s number one worst landlord’.

Thirty-eight tenants from 750 Grand Concourse joined Community Action for Safe Apartments members in a rally outside Bronx Housing Court on the morning of Monday, April 4 as they prepared a court case against their landlord, Ved Parkash.

With support from the Community Development Project of the Urban Justice Center and CASA, the tenants filed a complaint against Parkash to pressure him into making vital repairs.

The property in question, 750 Grand Concourse, is a six-story 100-unit stabilized building a few blocks from Yankee Stadium.

The tenants claim that their building has fallen into disrepair since Parkash purchased it 20 years ago.

This past Saturday, March 12, a section of 750 Grand Concourse’s laundry room collapsed onto a gas pipe causing the NYC Department of Buildings to cut off gas service to the property. Many tenants are now without working stoves.

Last November, Parkash was ranked ‘number one’ on NYC Public Advocate Letitia James’ ‘100 Worst Landlords in New York City’ with a total of 2,369 violations in 11 buildings and 720 units in the Bronx.

These buildings include 2675 Creston Avenue, 2125 Cruger Avenue, 2487 Davidson Avenue, 180 E. 163rd Street, 58 E. 190th Street, 751 Gerard Avenue, 815 Gerard Avenue, 750 Grand Concourse, 2820 Sedgwick Avenue, 2454 Tiebout Avenue and 835 Walton Avenue.

Parkash owns nearly 40 buildings in the Bronx and many of them have mold, spotty heat and hot water, leaks, missing bathroom tiles, cracked walls and ceilings, faulty appliances, missing window guards and dirty common areas violations.

Some of the most severe violations at 750 Grand Concourse include lack of cooking gas, issues with their plumbing systems and peeling lead paint, said Kerriann Pauls, staff attorney at the Community Development Project at Urban Justice Center.

A CASA spokesman confirmed staff ers for Public Advocate James visited the property on Monday, November 16 and Monday, November 23 to investigate the open NYC Housing Preservation and Development and NYC Department of Buildings’ violations.

“We are here to send a message to Parkash,” said Yoselyn Gomez, tenant leader. “We need to live in the same conditions in which he lives because we pay rent.”

Councilman Rafael Salamanca joined the tenants on that rainy Monday to lend his support as the tenants filed their petition against Parkash.

“The conditions they have had to live in are absolutely outrageous and we need to hold their landlord accountable,” said Salamanca. “In the coming weeks, my office will be working with the city to identify all solutions to ensure he takes action to address their concerns and I thank CASA for their leadership on this fight.”

Salamanca showed solidarity with the tenants of 750 Grand Concourse as they filed their petition at Bronx County Housing Court.

Newly elected Councilman Salamanca showed solidarity with the tenants of 750 Grand Concourse as they filed their petition at Bronx County Housing Court.

Photo by Silvio Pacifico

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NYCHA elevator concerns continue

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

An investigation into a deadly elevator accident has brought disciplinary actions against several NYC Housing Authority employees, however elected officials are questioning if still more needs to be done.

According to a NYC Department of Investigation, the fatal elevator accident in a NYCHA building on Christmas Eve that claimed the life of Boston Road Plaza resident Olegario Pabon was the result of a communication breakdown within the agency.

A DOI report that dealt with the matter was released on Friday, April 15.

Pabon was riding in an elevator in the senior citizen complex at 2440 Boston Road on December 24, 2015 and died when it lurched and he suffered a fatal head injury, according to published reports.

Five NYCHA employees, some of whom had been informed of the elevator problems hours before the tragedy occurred, were reassigned.

Another employee who was head of the NYCHA elevator division has been relieved of his duties, according to the agency.

Councilman Ritchie Torres, chairman of the City Council Public Safety Committee, is planning hearing on the DOI findings and NYCHA's overall elevator safety.

"The DOI demonstrates the negligence of the New York City Housing Authority had a role in in a fatality of one of its residents," said Torres. "There is no greater responsibility that a landlord has than to protect its tenants, and NYCHA failed in that respect."

The councilman said information has emerged showing that the lift where the death happened had a disconnected brake monitor.

Had the brake monitor been maintained, said Torres, the tragedy would have never occurred.

He questioned the apparent lack of training and maintenance procedures when it comes to monitors.

The upcoming hearing will focus on systemic issues that need to be corrected, rather than on personnel changes, he said.

There was no on-site superintendent for the building when the tragedy occurred, and there still is not, said Councilman James Vacca.

Vacca visited the building and met with tenants when word came of the NYCHA personnel changes and findings.

"Tenants are pleased that NYCHA took this action, but tenants in this building have been complaining to NYCHA for years about constant elevator breakdowns," said Vacca, adding that he knew Pabon from when the councilman helped form a tenant association in the building.

The councilman said he is demanding superintendents be placed at 2440 Boston Road and at 3033 Middletown Road, another NYCHA senior complex in his district.

Boston Road Plaza tenant Carmen Taveras, who lives on the 14th floor, said many of her neighbors in the high-rise are still scared to take the elevator where the accident occurred, with some avoiding it altogether.

"Now NYCHA does not wait for us to call, and they come and check (the elevator), said Taveras. "But it is very sad that it had to happen because he was such a good person."

Church to sponsor affordable housing

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

A collaboration between a local church and two developers will result in a new development for the west Bronx.

Thessalonia Baptist Church, Urban Builders Collaborative and CMC Development LLC have joined forces to construct a new development on a vacant property located at 960 Prospect Avenue, also known as 961 Reverend James A. Polite Avenue.

The new housing project, which will consist of one building with two wings (one on Prospect and one on Reverend James A. Polite avenues), will create 120 to 130 affordable and market rate housing units.

One wing of the building will top out at eight stories while the other wing will reach seven floors. In total, the building will offer from anywhere between 130,000 and 160,000 square feet of residential space.

All units, which will range from studios to three-bedroom apartments, will be built for individuals or families with a combined annual income of up to 60% area median income.

The development plans include parking for future residents, as well as members of the Thessalonia Baptist Church, located at 941 Reverend James A. Polite Avenue.

"We are very excited to work with the church on this project - it’s an exciting opportunity," said Matthew Gross, director of Real Estate Development at Urban Builders Collaborative. "This project will help provide more financing for the church while we utilize the church’s land and make sure it is properly developed for the community."

According to Urban Builders Collaborative, the real estate development arm of Lettire Construction Corporation, the project will take approximately 24 months to completed, sometime in 2018. Construction financing for the project was closed in June.

"This is an opportunity to better utilize a property while creating long financial stability for all of the parties involved," said Shaun Belle, principal of CMC Development. "There is a lot of opportunity here, but the project model must be viable and it must be a win-win-win for the developers, the church, and most importantly, for the community as a whole."

Belle added that CMC Development, along with Urban Builders Collaborative, has plans to collaborate with two other churches in the Bronx, two churches in Brooklyn and one on the Upper West Side of Manhattan in similar projects.
Jerome Ave. rezoning demands released

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

The Bronx Coalition for a Community Vision recently sent a letter to the NYC Department of City Planning demanding a number of conditions be met before the Jerome Avenue rezoning is approved. The letter highlighted four principles that the coalition, along with residents living on and near the Jerome Avenue corridor, hope are the main focus of Jerome Avenue’s rezoning process - anti-displacement, local hire, deep affordability and, last but definitely not least, community engagement.

“This letter clearly lays out the recommendations that our coalition developed over the course of a year - for reaching deeper levels of affordability for any new housing that reflects the local need, strong anti-displacement policies that protect residential and commercial workers,” said Carmen Vega-Rivera, a leader of Community Action for Safe Apartments-New Settlement Apartments.

“The letter lays out the facts that all of these demands are non-negotiable and go hand in hand - we will not allow the city and its developer to come into our neighborhood that, we’ve built and sustained, to change the rules to benefit others.” Vega-Rivera added that 45% of Community Board 4 residents and some CB 5 residents have an area median income of 30% or lower, while proposed affordable housing units for Jerome Avenue are starting at 40% AMI.

She asked, “If this is the case, who is the city building these affordable housing units for?” Both community board’s AMI are nearly half of the city’s AMI of $51,000, with CB 4 at $27,000 and CB 5 at $21,000 AMI.

Both Vega-Rivera and Christian Maldonado both mentioned the gentrification that has taken place in Brooklyn neighborhoods, including Williamsbridge, Park Slope and especially East New York, where more than 50% of the area has been up-zoned.

The area proposed for rezoning focuses on a 73 block-corridor alongside Jerome Avenue, beginning just south of Mullaly Park and north to Woodlawn Cemetery and includes 15 west Bronx neighborhoods.

The Jerome Avenue Corridor includes more than 200 auto-related businesses and thousands of rent-stabilized apartments.

The current zoning dates back to the early 1960s, with land-use patterns that stem back from the 1930s and earlier.

In addition, 80 percent of housing development in the study area was built before 1950, considered by many to be inferior housing.

The Department of City Planning has been working with Housing Preservation and Development, Parks and Recreation, the NYC Economic Development Corporation and Small Business Services since this study began and has encouraged local residents, businesses and institutions to evaluate and identify opportunities in the area to ensure that economic development, housing units and jobs can come to fruition while existing housing, parks and schools, among other amenities, are improved.

CASA, along with other local organizations, has engaged the community by holding forums, visioning sessions and collecting surveys from residents.

Parkway recreation improvements started

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

A large swath of Pelham Parkway is being improved.

A $1.35 million capital improvement project is underway on the grassy Pelham Parkway mall from White Plains Road to Holland Avenue, on both the north and south sides.

The work to enhance the aesthetics of the park for recreation is part of a larger $8 million plan for the entire parkway. The project is phase one.

Funding for the project comes from the Croton Filtration Plant mitigation funds, a small slice from the $200 million earmarked for improving Bronx parks pledged by the Department of Environmental Protection when it gained approval in 2014 to build a water filtration plant under Van Cortlandt Park.

“The intent for this project is to reconstruct the malls, providing a safe, attractive recreational space for pedestrians, cyclists and runner,” stated a Parks Department spokesman.

According to a master plan submitted to Community Board 11 for the project, additional features of the reconstruction could include protecting mature trees, new plantings to give the mall areas more definition and the placement of new trees, as well as replacing asphalt walkways with pavers.

Additional seating will also be added at bus stops, the spokesman said, with the original design calling for the construction of circular seating areas near the transit connections. Additional seating will be placed elsewhere in the park too, stated the spokesman.

CB 11 approved the design in 2014.

District manager Jeremy Warneke said that the project is needed for many reasons, but expressed his dismay that work began without the board being notified.

“It needed to be done,” said Warneke. “It is long overdue and I am glad to see it come to fruition; but we would have liked to have been notified and I would like to see a timeline.”

He added: “The goal of this (work) is to make it more enjoyable to sit in the park.”

In the past, before the construction began, there were large holes that park-goers fell into and the large trees needed pruning, a source said.

The parkland is the only greenspace refuge for many residents along the parkway who live in apartment buildings, said Joe Menta, of the Pelham Parkway Preservation Alliance, a local conservation group.

While the PPPA is pleased with the project, he said it has raised safety concerns, as pedestrians who cannot use the walking paths in the area fenced off by the construction are detouring through the area along the side of the roadway.

In some cases they are even crossing over the guardrails onto the roadway area, said Menta, adding this is happening in both east- and west-bound lanes.

“The safety issues have me very concerned,” he said. “I am very happy about the project but I think (Parks) has to put some accident mitigation measures in place during the construction.”

Local Pelham Parkway resident Anthony Lentini said that the construction was impeding the pedestrian walking paths in the park.
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Brons, New York is hiring classroom assistants to work from 7:30 – 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. (9/28 & 11/5). There is also a 2-day mandatory orientation on Tuesday, 9/28 & Wednesday, 9/29 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Classroom assistants under the direction of professional staff will perform a variety of duties to contribute to the education and safety of children with disabilities ages 2-5. Assist children during play time, art and music and help them with activities of daily living.

Qualifications: High school diploma, at least 18 years of age and some experience working with young children. College students majoring in Special Education/Early Childhood Education are encouraged to apply.

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prove alterations to buildings that are protected by landmark status.

The building is used seasonally to support the park's sprawling swimming pool area.

The construction period is estimated at 12 to 18 months, but will be finalized at the end of the procurement process in June, according to the Parks.

Information supplied by the agency shows that the funding for the $2.6 million project has already been allocated by the mayor’s office and the city council.

Councilman Rafael Salamanca, who represents Crotona Park, said that the park already has undergone improvements to its pool a few years ago.

“Now, the work being done (at East 173 Street) will create additional safe and beautiful green space,” said Salamanca. “I’ll be working with my colleagues to ensure that we continue to see this type of positive investment in all of our parks.”

Councilwoman Vanessa Gibson, from the adjoining district, said, “Park maintenance is important to the health and wellness of our community as well maintained parks promote good health and provide our young people a safe and constructive place to spend the summer months.”

The brick bathhouse was intended to be eye-catching, said official borough historian Lloyd Ultan.

Infamous Parks Commissioner Robert Moses was instrumental in choosing the design of the bathhouse and park entranceway, which bears a slight resemblance architecturally to the Orchard Beach Pavilion, also built during the Depression-era jobs program called the Works Progress Administration, said Ultan.

“The entranceway was designed to make a statement that this is something grand,” said Ultan, adding “Moses’ idea of parks were different from the idea of parks that came before.”

Prior to Moses, recreation spaces in the city were primarily seen as passive areas where people could sit on benches and enjoy nature and natural beauty.

Moses broke with this tradition in the 1930s, and this entranceway into the park was designed to make a statement, said the borough historian.

“Moses was in favor for active uses for parks – playgrounds, tennis courts and swimming pools,” said Ultan.
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