



The Bronx Times Reporter Hosts Its 7th Annual 25 Bronx Influential Women Celebration

The Bronx Times Reporter sang the praises of 25 unsung community leaders at its 7th annual 25 Bronx Influential Women Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, June 28 at Scavello's on the Island. Jennifer Goodstein (back, c), Community News Group president, with the 2016 25 Bronx Influential Women honorees (front, l-r) Marjorie Velasquez-Lynch; Joyce A. Rivera; Andrea Siegel; Cathy Praino; Joyce Higginson Davis; Pamela Hamilton-Johnson; Giselle Melendez-Susca; Zelideth Diaz Hatch; Lynne Greco; Hetty Fox; Peggy Robles Alvarado; Gianna Dell'Olio; (back, l-r) Meiling Viera Delgado; Avril Francis; Effie Ardizzzone; Chrys Napolitano; Debra Arles; Nicole Perrino; Linda Cunningham; Olga Luz Tirado; Evren Gillard-Randolph; Jessica Zufall; Leenda Bonilla and Maria Aponte. More photos next week Photo by Silvio Pacifico

Espailat wins primary 13th Congressional race

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

It looks like the third time was a charm.

Senator Adriano Espailat clung to a 1,000 vote lead in the widely contested primary race to replace Congressman Charles Rangel, who has been in office for 46 years. It was his third attempt at the seat.

Espailat appears to have out-run his closest challenger, and is said to be in place to become the first Dominican-American elected to the U.S. Congress, as well as the first who came to the United States as an undocumented immigrant.

If the trend holds, Espailat will have prevailed over his strongest challenger, Assemblyman Keith Wright, in a field

of nine candidates in the Democratic primary for the New York's 13th Congressional District on Tuesday, June 28.

He faces a clear path to victory in November in the heavily Democratic district.

According to published reports and a spokesman, Espailat told supporters at his victory celebration in Manhattan that his election made history, while Wright told supporters that every vote must be counted. Wright did not concede as of press time.

Espailat will represent Kingsbridge, Van Cortlandt Village, University Heights, Fordham, Bedford Park and Norwood, which are parts of

Continued on Page 4

AMID TURMOIL KEARNS QUILTS

Embattled CB 10 DM 'throws in the towel'

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Kenneth Kearns, the longtime Community Board 10 district manager, has resigned. He replaced James Vacca.

The embattled but affable district manager, who served for over a decade, resigned amid what board members described as an increasingly contentious climate among the members and the community.

Martin Prince, CB 10 chairman, read a resignation letter

from Kearns at a hearing on Monday, June 27.

The brief letter had a conciliatory tone and expressed thanks, according to CB 10 members present.

The chairman and the district manager had met earlier that day to discuss options for the future, said Prince.

"I think for the board we need to make some changes and go in another direction in terms of interaction with the community and

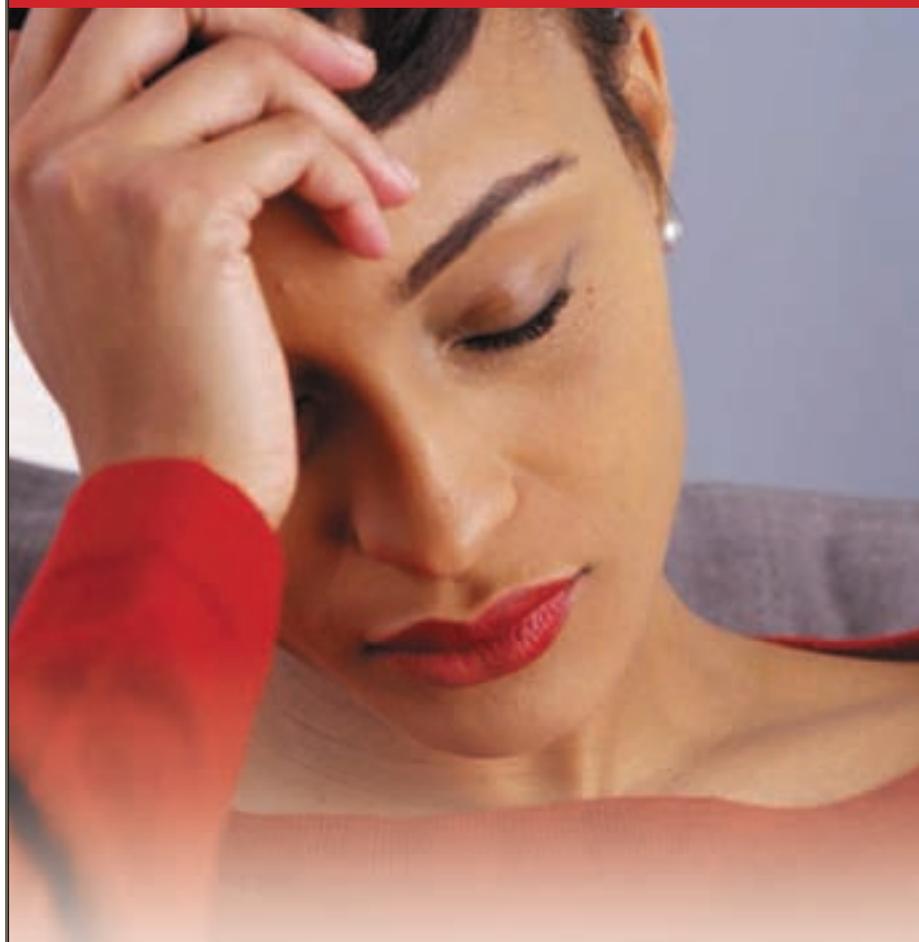
the way we run our office," said Prince, adding that he believes criticism from the board contributed to Kearns' decision.

Kearns will remain on the job until Saturday, September 3, he said. The vacancy period will stretch into the spring of 2017 because of Kearns' accrued vacation time.

Prince said he appreciates the service Kearns has given to the board, and praised the outgoing

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This building on the corner of Third Ave and Brook Ave will house the new BOOM! Wellness Center for LGBTQ youth expected to open this fall

Community News Group/Robert Christie

Bronx LGBT Center opening in fall

BY ROBERT CHRISTIE

A new LGBTQ wellness center could be opening as early as this fall.

Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. announced on June 22 the closing on BOOM!Health's new wellness center dedicated to the well-being of LGBTQ youth.

"The acquisition and development of 3144 Third Ave for our Wellness Center will have enormous impact on BOOM!Health's expansion of services through its nationally recognized model of integrated care for marginalized populations in the Bronx and beyond," Jose M Davila, president of BOOM!Health said. "We are extremely thankful to Enterprise, Chase and their partners who selected us to receive this capital allocation that will change forever the financial well-being of our community-based organization and will help us leverage more resources for the important work that we do."

The 5-story 35,000 square foot facility will serve as a community center for LGBTQ youth and provide private rooms for HIV/AIDS prevention services, healthy coordination and legal help.

Councilman Ritchie Torres expressed appreciation for the new center.

"This new Wellness Center will continue to expand the LGBT infrastructure that is being built in the Bronx and provide necessary resources that are out of reach to many," said Torres. "It is a welcomed addition to borough and shows that many organizational partners in the Bronx are ramping up their attention to the needs of the LGBT community."

BOOM!'s facility will also include a community health clinic, pharmacy and a café which will also be a community space

and workforce training center.

According to Enterprise, BOOM! first leased the building in 2014 and construction has already begun. Floor's 2 and 3 of the former furniture store are already completed.

Callen-Lorde, an organization known for helping LGBTQ members in New York City, will - on the already completed first floor - run a health center and pharmacy.

Enterprise, Chase, and BOOM financed the \$9.9 million center through a \$10 million New York Market Tax Credit - \$5.1 million of which was provided from the Enterprise Community Loan Fund.

"At Enterprise, we believe that having access to opportunity—affordable housing, quality schools, healthcare, and more—is vital to leading healthy and successful lives," Judi Kende, vice president and New York market leader at Enterprise said in the press release.

"With LGBTQ youth comprising nearly 40 percent of the homeless youth population in New York City, BOOM!Health will provide one of the city's most vulnerable populations with the quality healthcare, job training, and support system they need in order to succeed," he added.

Also, JP Morgan Chase partnered with BOOM! and Enterprise to provide equity as an investor in the project.

"We are proud to support BOOM!Health's mission in bringing an integrated and holistic approach to serving its community with access to care, health and human services, and employment," En Jung Kim, vice president of Chase Community Development Banking's New Markets Tax Credit group said.

Drop off center for mentally ill to close

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

A residence used as a drop off center for mentally ill patients will soon close.

A two-story home located at 1023 Clarence Avenue, which is owned by former Bronx Psychiatric Center Family Care providers and has housed mentally ill patients for the last few months, will be officially shuttered, after neighbors on the block complained.

According to many of the block's residents, 1023 Clarence Avenue started housing three individuals who suffered from mental illness around the beginning of spring.

The neighbors began to notice these individuals wandering the streets at various times of the day and even late at night.

In one incident, one of the patients was seen urinating on the side of the house. In a separate occurrence, another patient was spotted walking to a corner store on Layton Avenue in his underwear.

There were also reports of a patient walking in circles in the middle of the street while he smokes a cigarette. In addition, ambulances and other medical vehicles have been dropping the patients off late at night, which also caused a disruptive situation.

"No one in the neighborhood was informed that mentally ill patients would be living here," said one resident who has lived on Clarence Avenue for the last five

These patients have not been very well supervised, considering the kind of behavior they have exhibited since they've lived here.

Bruce Weinstein

years. "They have been a disturbance to this quiet neighborhood to say the least - and it's not fair to the community."

"These patients have not been very well supervised, considering the kind of behavior they have exhibited since they've lived here," said Bruce Weinstein, another Clarence Avenue resident. "I empathize with them and their situation, but on a block where children live in almost every house, the owners really need to keep an eye on these patients, especially when they are outdoors."

"I haven't seen anything like this in all the years I have lived on this block," said another resident who has lived on Clarence Avenue for nearly 25 years. "It's pretty alarming, considering the fact



The new library will replace the main building of the Huntington Free Library, while the red building adjacent to it will be preserved. Community News Group / Steven Goodstein

Proposed Square Library public hearing held

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

A public hearing was recently held to discuss the plan for a brand new library for Westchester Square.

On Monday, June 27, at the Hutchinson Metro Center, where Community Board 10, Councilman James Vacca's office, the Westchester Square Business Improvement District and the Westchester Square Merchants Association discussed the progress of a plan that will result in a brand new, state-of-the-art library for the area.

The proposed two-story, glass structure, 12,000 square foot library will replace one of the two buildings that currently make up the Huntington Free Library at 9 Westchester Square, after the property is acquired by the city following the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure process.

As a part of the plan, the smaller of the two buildings on the property, a two-story red building that currently houses archives, will remain on the property to preserve the history of the Huntington Free Library, which dates back to 1892, intact.

It has also been said that the red building, which is adjacent to the library's main building, will obtain landmark status so it will be properly preserved.

The new library will also include accommodations that neither of the area's libraries currently provide.

Unlike the Huntington Free Library as well as the New York Public Library - Westchester Branch at 2521 Glebe Avenue, the new library will provide wheelchair accessibility for the senior population, among other improvements.

At Monday's meeting, the vote was unanimously approved, after Community Board 10 expressed their interest and voted in favor of the project.

"This new library will be a unique but unquestionably positive addition to the community when it is built," said Martin Prince, chairman of CB 10.

"I am very pleased to see that the approval process of this project is moving in the right direction," said Councilman James Vacca, who allocated over \$11 million to the project.

"This state-of-the-art library will bring a new kind of attention to this neighborhood and this district," said Lisa Sorin, executive director of the Westchester Square BID.

"Everybody in the area will benefit from this project - seniors, high school students and businesses. This is definitely a win-win-win."

"The fact that a brand new library is coming to Westchester Square is fabulous," said Sandi Lusk of the Westchester Square Zerega Improvement Organization

Although the community's overall opinion of the new library seems to be overwhelmingly positive, there are some who are not in support, stating that the proposed glass structure doesn't conform to the area's identity of cement and brick-style buildings.

Some want the library at another location. A brand new, six-story building on 1550 St. Peter's Avenue was suggested as an alternate site.

"I am definitely in support of this project, but I don't see why the building on St. Peter's Avenue wasn't considered as a potential site - it even looks like a library," said Lou Rocco, Westchester Square Civic Association president and a resident of the area for nearly 40 years.

The new library is expected to open in 2020.



1023 Clarence Avenue. Community News Group / Steven Goodstein

that most residents on this block have families and children. I just hope there's never a situation where a child is walking alone and meets face-to-face in the street with one of these patients."

When Community Board 10 learned of these incidents they asked that the program cease operation.

According to a spokesperson from the public information office of the NYS Office of Mental Health, the property owners of 1023 Clarence Avenue have voluntarily ended their involvement with the Bronx Psychiatric Center Family Care program.

All three patients at the location have been assigned housing with other Family Care providers.

According to Community Board 10, the drop off center is expected to close sometime within the next two or three weeks.

Embattled CB 10 district manager 'throws in the towel'

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district manager.

Kearns' replacement should be proactive in heading off potentially confrontational situations, technologically savvy and a strong communicator who can get out into the community with energy.

"Lack of communication is a real issue for the board," said the chairman.

Lewis Goldstein, a CB 10 member who resigned after 46 years of service on community boards, said that over recent months bickering and disputes among the members has become more evident through text, social media and email postings.

Goldstein sees Kearns as a someone who tried to bring people together and whom he believes was forced out of his position.

"I am not optimistic as to what is going to happen with this community board,"

said Goldstein, adding that a sense of cohesion is lacking and the current situation is the worst he has encountered in all his years of community board service.

Outgoing CB 10 member Annie Boller said that during her two years on the board Kearns had been helpful and that she found him extremely intelligent.

"Any time I had a question he was always quick to answer," she said. Other board members had told her that they had difficulty obtaining documents from Kearns.

There was also a miscommunication about CB 10's intentions regarding a liquor license for an East Tremont Avenue restaurant called Casa, said Boller, which some board members felt Kearns handled poorly.

According to a document supplied to the Bronx Times, a March 4, 2015 letter written by Kearns to the State Liquor Authority on CB 10 letterhead, Kearns stated that the

board lacked a quorum and was unable to vote on the liquor license for the establishment at its February 2015 full board meeting.

According to Boller and other board members, the board had voted to disapprove the liquor license for this particular establishment.

Boller said that during a subsequent board meeting Kearns acknowledged his mistake and apologized.

At a recent meeting, a board member requested that a clarification be sent to the SLA about the mistake made in the March 4, 2015 letter signed by Kearns.

Kearns was not available for comment before this story went to press.

(Right) Ken Kerns, District Manager, Community Board 10
Silvio J. Pacifico



Espaillet wins primary congressional race

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the district first included when it was redrawn after the 2010 U.S. Census.

The redistricting and demographic changes have made Rangel's district more Hispanic in recent years.

On, Wednesday, June 29, with 97.9% of the precincts reporting in unofficial results, Espaillet had garnered 36.74% of the 42,833 votes counted. Wright had taken 33.85% of the tally in the federal primary.

Other top finishers included former national Democratic Party official Clyde Williams with 10.9%, former Assemblyman Adam Clayton Powell IV at 6.2%, Assemblyman Guillermo Linares with 5.5% and Rev. Suzan Johnson-Cook with 4.9%.

Wright had the endorsement of much of the borough's political establishment, including the Benjamin Franklin Democratic Club, and a coalition of borough elected officials including Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Congressman Eliot Engel, Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. and Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz, according to a source.

Dinowitz also endorsed Espaillet's previous two runs against Rangel and said he thinks highly of both Wright and Espail-

lat.

Espaillet enjoyed the endorsements of City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Senator Jeff Klein, Councilman Ritchie Torres, Assemblyman Victor Pichardo and

All of us succeed when every community has representation in the halls of Congress.

Adriano Espaillet

Assemblyman Luis Sepulveda.

The borough's elected officials who backed Espaillet believe the senator will be a strong advocate for public housing, educational opportunity and immigrant and tenant rights.

Rivera said that he supported Espaillet in his 2012 and 2014 runs against Rangel.

"In this particular election, the Bronx made the difference," said Rivera, adding that Espaillet, the Democratic nominee, would be opening an office in the Bronx af-

ter being elected.

Klein stated that he had endorsed Espaillet because he had always found him a partner in helping working- and middle-class residents.

"Last year, when we brought state funds and accountability back to NYCHA, Adriano stepped up, working tirelessly with Councilman Ritchie Torres and me to help get it done," stated Klein. "But this is really only the latest example: from stronger rent laws that better protect tenants to increasing the minimum wage, Adriano is always there, fighting."

Klein and Espaillet are legislators that Torres looks to for guidance on how to advance the interests of public housing residents on the state level.

"With Senator Espaillet I am confident that that partnership will extend to Congress where most of the decision making happens and most of the funding comes from," said Torres.

The councilman said that he celebrates the larger symbolism of Espaillet milestone as a Dominican- American in Congress.

"All of us succeed when every community has representation in the halls of Congress," said Espaillet. "It is a victory for America's greatest strength, which is its diversity."



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U.S. Congressman-elect Senator Adriano Espaillet appears to have outrun his closest challenger, Assemblyman Keith Wright.
Photo courtesy of Espaillet for Congress
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IDNYC pop-up enrollment site at Spring Bank

The Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, Department of Consumer Affairs, and Spring Bank have launched an IDNYC pop-up enrollment site open Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. through July 8. Spring Bank is located at 69 East 167th Street.

IDNYC is a free form of identification available to all City residents 14 and older, and broadly accepted to access many City services and benefits. IDNYC is accepted as the primary form of identification at 12 financial institutions, including at Spring Bank branches in the South Bronx and Harlem.

To learn more about IDNYC, or to set up an enrollment appointment, New Yorkers can call 311 or visit www.nyc.gov/idnyc. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Spring Bank is a Bronx-based Community Development Financial Institution with a commitment to increasing access to financial services for the unbanked and underbanked. Spring Bank was recently certified as a B-Corp in recognition of its socially responsible business practices.

On Thursday, June 9, **Houlihan-Parnes Realtors** celebrated its 125th anniversary.

Founded in 1891 by Daniel J. Houlihan, an Irish immigrant, the company has always been family owned and operated and is proudly celebrating its 125th year of continuous operation. Since the late 1800's, the firm originally was founded as a carpentry and construction business which has evolved into a multifaceted organization featuring property ownership and development and many related commercial service businesses.

The firm is currently managed by James J. Houlihan, who joined the firm in 1973 and became managing partner in 1987. The other partner, James G. Houlihan is inactive due to health considerations at this time and Howard Parnes recently passed away.

Several members of the fifth generation of the Houlihan family have worked at Houlihan-Parnes Realtors for over the last few years. Bryan Houlihan, son of James J. Houlihan, has been with the firm and Jim's other son, Michael McEvoy has joined the firm as a summer intern. In addition, Jim's brother-in-law, James K. Coleman and cousin, Jeremiah Houlihan and Howard Parnes' nephews, Fred and Sheldon Stahl and their mother, Barbara have been with the company for

many years.

Proclamations honoring the historic event were presented by Bronx elected officials Senator, Jeff Klein and Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., and from the Bronx Chamber of Commerce, chairman, Joseph Kelleher and president and CEO, Nunzio Del Greco. In addition, Houlihan-Parnes received a New York City Council Citation from Councilman James Vacca from the great City of New York.

Greg O'Donovan announces the opening of his **Kripalu-inspired yoga** studio located in the Webster Avenue Wash & Fold Super Laundromat at 3150 Webster Avenue.

O'Donovan is teaching classes to beginners and advanced yoga students alike on Saturdays at noon and Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in hopes of inspiring, empowering, and healing the underserved communities of Norwood and Bedford Park.

People pay whatever they want for tuition. For more information, call (718) 515-0755.

O'Donovan earned his yogi master certification at the Kripalu Yoga Center in Lenox, MA. Over the past 10 years, he has taught yoga in prisons while supporting the treatment of anger management and in various community centers while helping recovering addicts. O'Donovan has also starred in numerous TV shows such as "Ghost Stories," "Law & Order," and several Australian soap operas. He has also directed off-Broadway productions while residing in the Norwood area of the Bronx for past 18 years.

Carmine Testa, owner of Webster Avenue Wash & Fold Super Laundromat, helped create a scared space for yoga and meditation. The yoga studio is extremely clean and warm while creating an accessible environment for all to experience quality yoga classes.

Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. has announced that Geneal Chacon has been appointed as the borough's representative to the **Panel for Educational Policy** (PEP), which holds approval power over the actions of the New York City Department of Education.

A native of Trinidad and resident of the West Bronx, Ms. Chacon is a parent of three public school students and a parent association president at P.S. 277. Ms. Chacon is also a former president of the Presidents' Council of District #7 and a

former member of the district leadership team. Chacon replaces Robert Powell, who resigned from the Panel for Educational Policy in February 2016.

Each year, the President of the United States recognizes volunteers throughout the country with the **President's Volunteer Service Awards**. Bronxites Yasmilka Clase and Qian Cheng are among this year's silver level honorees. They are volunteer Citizen Teachers, who play a critical role in introducing students to engaging opportunities and diverse careers through 10-week apprenticeship programs. During the 2015-2016 school year, over 2,300 Citizen Teachers taught more than 1,000 apprenticeships, impacting over 5,300 students across our network.

Gold and silver award level honorees show a significant commitment to service. Gold level recipients taught 4 of the past 4 semesters, and silver level honorees taught 3 of the past 4 semesters.

Across the country, 67 Citizen Teachers were recognized at the gold level and 83 at the silver level.

Karina Rivera, a senior majoring in journalism at **Lehman College**, is the recipient of the 2016 Elaine Rivera Scholarship Fund in Journalism. The fund honors the memory of the celebrated reporter and educator who died in 2013.

Rivera has her sights set on becoming a news reporter and eventually an anchor. Since transferring to Lehman in 2014, she has obtained several internships with various broadcasting networks, including BronxNet Community Television, where she began as a production intern before working as a freelance news correspondent. Last summer, she was an editorial intern at News12 The Bronx. In the fall, Rivera landed a coveted internship in NBC Telemundo's newsroom, where she now works as a news production assistant.

As the recipient of the Elaine Rivera Scholarship, Rivera will receive a \$1500 award. She will graduate in Spring 2017.

Before joining the Lehman faculty in 2009, Elaine Rivera was a highly regarded print journalist with a thirty-year career in the news business. New York Newsday, El Diario/La Prensa, Time magazine, The Washington Post, and New York's WNYC-FM are among some of the top news organizations for which she worked. Friends and colleagues of Rivera

remember her integrity as a reporter and her determination to tell the story of the underserved and marginalized.

One year after joining Lehman, Rivera was promoted to the rank of Distinguished Professor. She took on teaching with the same passion as she did reporting. She molded her students, teaching them everything she knew, and then helped them find career opportunities.

The scholarship is awarded to students who have declared their major in journalism and who hold a 3.0 GPA. For more information on the scholarship, call 718-96-8382.

The **New York City Department of Sanitation** announced the launch of donateNYC, a program designed to make finding and giving second-hand goods easier for New Yorkers.

donateNYC provides residents with a website and mobile app to help them search by material and location to find the most convenient place to give or find reusable goods. For local nonprofit organizations in need of donated goods, or businesses looking to donate, donateNYC offers an online materials exchange where they can connect, donate and receive reusable goods.

In addition to these services, DSNY continues its support of New York City's nonprofit reuse sector through its donateNYC partnership program. Partner organizations include thrift stores, clothing banks, social service providers, creative arts programs, and community-based reuse programs. Formerly known as ReuseNYC, this partnership is designed as a trade network for local nonprofit donation and reuse programs that accept and locally distribute second-hand items.

As the city continues towards its goal of sending zero waste to landfills by 2030, donateNYC partners will help the City reach its goal by providing verifiable data needed to assess progress.

In 2015, partner organizations diverted more than 40 million pounds of material from landfills — creating a reduction of over 60,000 tons of carbon emissions. Partner organizations also served more than 1.3 million New Yorkers last year through family services, housing/sheltering, healthcare, workforce development and food bank programs.

The app is available in iOS and android; search "donateNYC." The donateNYC website is nyc.gov/donate.

'Fair At The Square' Brings Early Summer Fun



Hosted by the Westchester Square Business Improvement District, the eighth annual 'Fair At The Square' brought together local merchants, business owners, residents, families, children and friends in celebration on Saturday, June 18 at East Tremont Avenue between Silver Street and Lane Avenue. This year's festivities included season two of 'Bronx Idol', a live singing competition for Bronx teens; an all-day concert series on two stages hosted by Dennis 'Dion' Nardone of WVOX 1460 AM Radio, Valerie Smaldone and Artie Rodriguez of the Diamante Show as well as musical performances by Platinum selling Salsa musician Frankie Negron, Elvis impersonator Gene DiNapoli, FDR Drive and Just Nuts

Several business owners received awards in recognition of the quality service they provide their customers.

Photo by Miriam Quin



Havana Café's Yima Blanco (l) and Diana Divero offered samples of their restaurant's trademark dishes.

Photo by Miriam Quin



Salsa musician Frankie Negron sang his heart out before the concert crowd.

Photo by Miriam Quin



(l-r) John Denizard, Whoopies Miniature Dessert Company owner; hip-hop legends Grandmaster Caz and Grandmaster Melle Mel and Mel's wife, Mrs. Glover.

Photo by Miriam Quin



(l-r) John Bonizio, WSBD chairman; Image Marketing, Inc.'s Jacqueline Pina, Harry Santiago, Yasmin Cruz and Adam Otero with Latin superstar Frankie Negron; Lisa Sorin, WSBD executive director and Emanuel Silva.

Photo by Miriam Quin



Elite Stars Dance Academy's (back, l-r) Jay-lee, Arron, (middle, l-r) Ana, Jaibay, (front, l-r) Rosemarie and Yashielys put on quite a show at this year's fair. Photo by Miriam Quin

Zoodohos Peghe hosts Greek Festival



The annual Zoodohos Peghe Greek Festival had Bronxites cheering 'opa' from Wednesday, June 15 to Sunday, June 19 as the Pelham community celebrated Greek food, music, dancing and culture. The Greek American Institute's parking lot was filled to the brim with carnival rides, games and food vendors for everyone, young and old, to enjoy.



(Top left) (l-r) John, Jim, Leni, Taso, Dennis and James Souvlakia celebrated with Victor DiPiero.

All Photos by Laura Stone

(Top right) (l-r) Vaso Sioanas, Suzy Rubas, Helen Kalasakalides, Ftkia Nikopolos, Tina Katekas and Minoeta Lagakis served many different Greek delicacies to guests.



(Above right) (l-r) Rev. Sylvester, Frederica Pertsenidis and Bishop Anthony enjoyed the festival.

(Right middle) John Korres (l) of the community parish board and Teddy Gernanakos of the youth ministry had a great time at the festival.

(Right) (l-r) Friends Zeni Perez, Alexandria Ivanov and Samantha Sanzaro won a goldfish at the festival.



(Below) Dylan Sanchez shot some hoops at one of the many carnival game stations.



(Above) Friends Lyla Jacobson and Teagan Casey went for a wild ride on the back of a mechanical dragon.

(Below) Siblings Emanuel and Maria Presals embarked on a fun ferris wheel ride



'Slumlord' of 1663 Garfield Street arrested

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

The number one 'slumlord' in Van Nest was placed in handcuffs.

According to reports, 39-year old Erik Clayton, the former landlord of 1663 Garfield Street, was arrested on Tuesday, June 14 for harassing tenants, neglecting maintenance and continuing to collect rent from tenants despite numerous building violations.

Clayton, who took over the six-unit building after purchasing the property in 2010, originally had intentions of correcting the building's many pressing violations, including drug dealing, drug usage and inadequate building amenities desperately in need of repairs.

The building's landlord received \$245,000 in city loans for emergency repairs and renovations, including improvements to the building's roof and stairways, along with other deficiencies in each unit, after the building had been in NYS Department of Housing Preservation and Development's Alternative Enforcement Program.

However, Clayton began to show up on the 'slumlord' radar after he allegedly failed to reim-

burse the city for its funding and many of the requested repairs weren't completed.

"The situation was horrible here when (Clayton) was the landlord - nothing ever got done and the building suffered greatly," said a resident who wished to remain anonymous to avoid further conflict with Clayton.

"(Councilman) Ritchie Torres and HPD, have been awesome in assisting us and turning this situation around," he said.

The resident claims her toe was broken when a previously reported dangerous kitchen wall cabinet fell apart and landed on her foot.

The tenants said Clayton would text tenants for his rent check but would never respond to their requests for repairs.

"Many of the residents in this building come from the shelter system and don't ever want to go back - and Clayton used this as leverage to treat us however he wanted to," a tenant charged.

In 2014, Councilman Ritchie Torres, who had been on the landlord's case even before he was elected to city council that year, ordered an HPD-led public inspection of the building after tenants

complained that Clayton was harassing them for his monthly rent payments.

Later that year, a court-appointed administrator was selected to run the building, following an Article 7A of the Real Property Actions and Proceedings Law action, which allows at least 33 percent of the building's tenants or HPD to ask the court to appoint an administrator to run a building instead of its owner.

Undeterred, Clayton continued to collect rent from the building's tenants, which led to his arrest.

"This building was in a league of its own in terms of building neglect and has caused as many problems, if not more, than any residential building in Van Nest," said Torres. "It's ironic, but also accurate, that (one of) the smallest buildings in this neighborhood presented (one of) the community's biggest problems. The arrest brings this man to justice but also sets an example for other landlords and building owners around the city that there will be consequences for these types of actions."

Clayton was sentenced to repaying \$12,000 to the court-appointed administrator for collect-



1663 Garfield Street

Community News Group / Steven Goodstein

ing rent under a false pretense or serve 60 days in the slammer.

Clayton, who turned himself in after an arrest warrant was

issued, is currently being held at the NYC Department of Corrections' Manhattan Detention Complex, according to HPD.

Sixty-two high-end litter baskets installed

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Several east Bronx communities now have street litter receptacles that discourage the dumping of household waste.

One of the 62 new bins, now dotting street corners in a host of neighborhoods, was ceremoniously unveiled on Friday, June 24 at Randall and East Tremont avenues.



The new bins can be found at many more locations around the borough.

Community News Group / Patrick Rocchio

The taller and heavier baskets are the result of a NYC budget allocation of \$33,921.

They can be found at busy intersections across the borough through the efforts of local councilmembers.

Last Friday Councilman James Vacca and Kathryn Garcia, NYC Department of Sanitation commissioner, celebrated the new trash receptacles already placed throughout Morris Park, Throggs Neck, Westchester Square, City Island and Pelham Parkway.

"They have been well-received...I just thought they were perfect for my district," said Vacca.

The litter baskets are much more decorative than typical ones, said Vacca.

"It is important that my district looked dressed up," he said, adding "I think they look great on the street."

The councilman said his district has many streets that are consistently ranked as highly clean by DSNY, but recently he has noticed that the more ubiquitous wire receptacles were being stuffed with household refuse. This causes the

receptacles to overflow Garcia said.

"I honestly don't understand, because we are going to pick it up," said Garcia of the people who dump household waste into street receptacles instead of at home.

The city's sanitation commissioner said that thousands of such high-end litter baskets are now in place throughout the city as a result of the council allocation.

According to DSNY spokeswoman 44 high-end litter baskets were installed in the borough in Fiscal Year 2015 and another 108 were placed in the budget year ending June 30 as part of council member allocations in the NYC Cleanup Initiative.

"Efforts between elected officials and the department - as well as our ongoing work with local merchants and residents - demonstrates how close partnerships can make a difference in our neighborhoods," the spokeswoman stated.

The litter baskets are also much heavier and harder for unauthorized people to remove, said the councilman.

"We have some issues here



Kathryn Garcia, NYC Sanitation commissioner and Councilman James Vacca with the new covered high-end litter basket on East Tremont Avenue. Community News Group / Patrick Rocchio

with baskets being stolen for many years," said Vacca.

The councilman said that in his time in office and as Community Board 10 district manager, it would never cease to amaze him to have baskets placed at a location only to see them stolen shortly thereafter.

Passersby on East Tremont Avenue lauded the new additions to the

commercial shopping strip.

Walter Fuller of Throggs Neck, said that the typical wire baskets quickly full up with litter, and they are prone to being rifled through by people who are looking for deposit bottles.

Anna Vincenty lauded Vacca's efforts, saying that the litter baskets are needed along the street.

KING ATTENDS READING BLOCK PARTY

Councilman Andy King, Subcommittee on Libraries chairman, greeted several book readers at the New York Public Library Summer Reading Block Party on Saturday, June 11 near the Pelham Parkway-Van Nest Branch.



Stephannia Cleaton; Councilman King (2nd on l) and David Nochimson (r), branch manager joined residents in celebrating the 'fun'damentals of reading.

Photo courtesy of Councilman Andy King's Office

COMMUNITY RALLIES AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

Local elected officials, council and clergy members, community leaders and residents united with Jacobi Medical Center's violence interruption program Stand Up to Violence to rally against gun violence on Friday, June 17 at Magenta Street and White Plains Road. The community rally was held in response to a 25-year-old man who was shot and injured on Saturday, June 11 in that area.



Residents joined Stand Up to Violence in condemning the latest instance of gun violence.

Photo by Aracelis Batista

KING HOSTS 'OPERATION CLEANER STREETS'

Councilman Andy King, Freckle's Juice business owners and staff and Three Angels Seventh-Day Adventist Church conducted a spring cleaning along Dyre Avenue starting at East 233rd Street to Boston Road on Sunday, June 12. More than 50 people took part in the '12th District Operation Cleaner Streets' with shovels, rakes, brooms, trash bags and work gloves provided by NYC Department of Sanitation.

Councilman King, (front, 4th on l) joined many community members in revitalizing a section of the northeast Bronx.

Photo courtesy of Councilman Andy King's Office



TRAVESIAS HOSTS ALS FUNDRAISER

Throggs Neck's Travesias Cafe hosted a Fundraising Happy Honor in Memory of Elsa Maria Espinal on Thursday, June 16. The fundraiser honored Danny and Elisa Taveras' mother who passed away from ALS and raised well over its goal of \$2,500.

Travesias staff were excited to help raise awareness and funds for ALS research.

Photo by Aracelis Batista



(front, l-r) Elisa, Daniel and Jose Taveras braved the cold as they took part in the Ice Bucket Challenge.

Photo by Aracelis Batista

COMMUNITY REMEMBERS GUN VICTIMS



Councilman Rafael Salamanca, the Adams Houses Tenant Association and residents united to remember the victims of gun violence in the Bronx, Orlando and across the country on Wednesday, June 15 at the Adams Houses Playground. The vigil was held where Jessica White, a young mother of three, was tragically gunned down on the evening of Saturday, June 11.

Councilman Salamanca (front, c) spoke out against gun violence at the site of Jessica White's murder.

Photo courtesy of Councilman Rafael Salamanca's Office

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NOTICE TO Lynn Ferguson, whose last known residence was in the town of Bronx, NY
John Doe, whose last known residence was in the town of Bronx, NY.
Pursuant to an order of Hon. Matthew J. Jalowiec, Judge, a hearing will be held at Central Connecticut Regional Children's Probate Court, 1501 East Main Street, Suite 203, Meriden, CT 06450 on July 6, 2016 at 11:30 AM on an application for Temporary Custody Pending Removal

of Guardian concerning a certain minor child born on February 17, 2016. The Court's decision will affect your interest, if any, as in said application on file more fully appears.
RIGHT TO COUNSEL: If the above-named person wishes to have an attorney, but is unable to pay for one, the Court will provide an attorney upon proof of inability to pay. Any such request should be made immediately by contacting the court office where the hearing is to be held.
By Order of the Court

Philip A. Wright, Jr.,
Administrative Judge

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Jacobi Medical Pulmonary team introduces a first

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Jacobi Medical Center is pioneering a new method for treating pulmonary embolisms that is a first for the borough.

The hospitals' Pulmonary Embolism Response Team, established over six months ago, makes Jacobi the first borough hospital to incorporate a new team-based method for treating pulmonary embolisms.

The method was first piloted in 2012 at Massachusetts General Hospital.

PERT utilizes teamwork among doctors in dealing with pulmonary embolisms, which are blockages of lung arteries that can lead to organ damage. The goal is to bring about earlier diagnosis and treatment, said team members.

"It is a multi-disciplinary approach that happens in real time," said a Jacobi spokesman, adding the hospital's was the first PERT in the borough.

The Jacobi PERT team includes a vascular surgeon, an interventional cardiologist, a pulmonologist, and emergency medicine and critical care personnel, according to team members.

Dr. Seth Sokol, chief of cardiology said that once a patient is identified as having a pulmonary embolism, PERT members review the data on the patient 24-hours-a-day and seven-days-a-week, wherever the team members are.

"One of the team members from the critical care department is always in the hospital," said Dr. Matthew Langston, director of the medical and intensive care unit and a team member.

When a patient is identified and recommended to the PERT team, the members of the group have a conference call or a meeting no matter the hour and review data, said Sokol. A course of treatment is then planned.

PERT is designed to identify patients that rapidly that need stepped up treatment, explained team members.

"The purpose of PERT is to evaluate every patient that comes in and decide whether they are a patient that is at high risk for bad outcomes," said Sokol. "To do that, it really takes a multi-disciplinary team."

In the past, patients were given blood thinners, and different medical departments and disciplines



Jacobi's PERT Team (l-r) Dr. Seth Sokol, Dr. Aksim Rivera, Dr. Amit Kakkar and Dr. Matthew Langston

Photo courtesy of Jacobi Medical Center

were consulted as needed, but patient outcomes could vary, according to the doctors.

So far, PERT has helped over 20 patients in terms of identifying and treating pulmonary embolus using new protocols developed in the Jacobi Department of Cardiology that more effectively treat

the potentially fatal condition, according to a hospital spokesman.

One of the patients who has benefitted from PERT is Ingrid Morrision of Williamsbridge, who said that the team was able to quickly find two large blood clots so that she could be treated quickly.

"The doctors did not leave me alone – they were constantly there in my room," said Morrision, adding "they monitored me 24/7."

Morrision said that the PERT and the cardiac unit at Jacobi left no stone unturned, and are the reason she came through the ordeal.

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DROWSY DRIVING CAN BE AS DANGEROUS AS DRIVING IMPAIRED

The public is well educated about the dangers of driving while impaired by medication, alcohol or illegal drugs. But drivers may not be aware that driving while tired can be just as dangerous.

Driving when tired can be a fatal mistake. Just as alcohol or drugs can slow down reaction time, impair judgment and increase the risk of accident, so, too, can being tired behind the wheel. Drowsy driving is reportedly what caused the fatal crash in June 2014 between a limousine and a Walmart truck that ended the life of comic

James McNair and seriously injured fellow comedian Tracy Morgan. The driver, Kevin Roper, was going 20 miles over the speed limit and was almost at his drive time limit, according to preliminary reports by the National Transportation Safety Board.

According to the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, about 100,000 car crashes in the United States each year occur as the result of an overly tired driver. Various studies demonstrate that drivers who have remained awake for 18 hours prior to driving

mimic the driving performance of intoxicated motorists. In fact, drowsy driving can be confused with driving with a high blood alcohol content.

Sleepiness can arise relatively quickly, and according to Thomas Balkin, PhD, director of the behavioral biology program at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and a leading expert on sleep and fatigue, it's difficult for drivers to assess just how sleepy they are.

"Sleepiness affects the part of the brain responsible for judgment and self-awareness,"

he says. "When you've reached the stage where you are fighting sleep, the effect of any method of reviving yourself can be very short-lived."

Furthermore, people do not have to be in a deep sleep to actually be asleep behind the wheel. Micro-sleeps occur when certain brain cells temporarily shut down for a few seconds. A person is not completely asleep but in a sort of fog as if they are asleep.

When sleepiness sets in, the best course of action is to pull off the road. Opening the window, turning on the radio

or blasting cold air is, at best, only a temporary solution. If driving with passengers and feelings of sleepiness appear, hand the keys over to a passenger and have them take over driving, if possible. Otherwise, a short nap and a cup of coffee can be used in combination to increase alertness.

It's also a good idea to avoid beginning a long road trip in mid-afternoon around the hours of two or three o'clock. While alertness generally dips in the evening hours, due to the circadian rhythm, alertness also dips in the late after-

noon, prompting drowsiness. A 2010 study by the American Automobile Association Foundation for Traffic Safety found that as many drivers reported falling asleep at the wheel in the afternoon hours as reported falling asleep late at night. Driving in a warm, quiet car also may spur drowsiness, as would driving after a heavy meal.

Driving tired is just as dangerous as other impaired driving. Slow reaction times and unawareness of surroundings can contribute to accidents that are otherwise avoidable..

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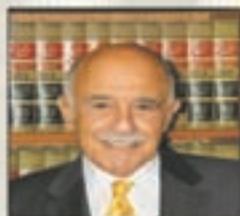
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