

Settlement for Parkchester S. Condo owners

BY ROBERT WIRSING

A potential settlement with Parkchester South Condominium management over its 'draconian' maintenance fee increase is in the works.

On Tuesday, August 2, Senator Ruben Diaz, Sr. and Assemblyman Luis Sepulveda announced a proposed settlement with PSC's management regarding its efforts to impose a 15.19% maintenance increase for PSC unit owners at a town hall meeting at St. Paul's Church gymnasium on 1891 McGraw Avenue.

The proposed settlement states unit owners who meet documented financial hardship requirements or 30 to 40% income levels would pay the maintenance increase over four years.

Sepulveda, an attorney for the condo owners, and Diaz, a PSC unit owner and lead plaintiff, filed a lawsuit last March 23 in Bronx Supreme Court against PSC's management over the hike which it claims is needed to make structural repairs.

The court barred management from evicting any of the 8,286 unit owners for failing to pay the increase until the outcome of the court case.

Sepulveda said the proposal is

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Mayor at Town Hall Meeting

Mayor de Blasio will participate in a Q&A Town Hall Meeting at the Villa Barone Manor, 737 Throgs Neck Expressway, on Wednesday, August 10, 7 to 9:30 p.m. Doors will open at 6 p.m..

MP MEETING TO RECLAIM STREETS

Vow to expose drug dealers

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

The Morris Park Community Association, along with 49th Precinct, hosted a town hall meeting to address neighborhood concerns.

On Wednesday, July 27, the organizations hosted 'It's Time To Take Our Neighborhood Back' town hall meeting at 1824 Bronxdale Avenue, where community activists, police officers, elected officials and local residents talked about the recent issues that have occurred in their neighborhood, including drug overdoses and distribution.

"It's time to take our neighborhood back," said Tony Signo-

rile, president of the Morris Park Community Association, at the meeting.

The town hall meeting began with discussions on crimes that have recently occurred in the area, including felony assaults and grand larceny.

More specifically, these incidents have resulted in individuals who have had chains and cell phones stolen, either from their cars or while walking on the street late at night.

In addition, businesses have reported stolen laptops, iPads and wallets.

In response to these incidents,
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SUMMER FUN ON FAIRFAX AVE.

Fairfax Avenue residents enjoyed some much needed summertime fun at their annual summer block party on Saturday, July 30 at Fairfax Avenue between Waterbury and Bailsey avenues. The family friendly event featured delicious food and an inflatable water slide for everyone's amusement. Daniella went for a wild ride on the water slide. Photo by Silvio Pacifico

Cat hoarding a problem on Paulding Avenue

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

A 'cat hoarder' problem in Morris Park has residents angry.

The situation involves animal rescuer Diane Jungk, a long-time resident on Paulding Avenue, who takes care of a number of stray cats, which has generated numerous complaints among homeowners who live on the block.

The complaints stem from many issues. Neighbors said that Jungk feeds the cats in front of her house which results in a 'free for all' sce-

nario among the cats.

One of her neighbors also added that she had been leaving the bowls of cat food and water in an alleyway that the homeowners both share.

Another issue that residents have complained about is the odor from her house, which is surrounded by a wall of debris including cat cages and boxes.

Much of the garbage towards the front of the house is covered by waterproof sheets, tents and umbrel-

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Belden Point greenspace dedicated on CI

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

It took more than a decade, but a long-awaited new park on City Island was officially unveiled.

Civic leaders and elected officials dedicated the \$390,000 plaza at the southern end of City Island Avenue, at Belden Point, on Thursday, July 28.

The park, situated between two restaurants that agreed to help maintain the space, promises increased waterfront access for the community. It also redefines an area that was once prone to dumping into a more appealing site.

Previously, only a chain-link fence, blacktop and a concrete wall separated City Island Avenue traffic from the shores of Long Island Sound.

Belden Point's Park features a new traffic turn-around with 18-inch wide safety posts, two New York World's Fair replica benches, decorative pavement and railings and two landscaped areas with plantings, according to NYC Parks.

Its construction was made possible with \$170,000 in funding each from both Senator Jeff Klein and Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., as well as additional



Iris Rodriguez-Rosa, Bronx NYC Parks commissioner; Senator Jeff Klein; Deputy Borough President Aurelia Greene; Virginia Gallagher, Community Board 10 Parks Committee chairwoman; John Mehlfeld, Leonard Hawkins American Legion Post 156 commander; Robert Salerno, Leonard Hawkins American Legion Post 156 sergeant-at-arms and Parks personnel celebrate the opening of Belden Point Park on Thursday, July 28.

Photo by Miriam Quin

funding from the mayor's office, according to speakers at the dedication.

Funding had originally been allocated more than a decade ago in some cases. Work was completed in the spring.

Representing the borough president at the ribbon cutting was Deputy Borough President Aurelia Greene.

"We can now say that City Island has its own Greenstreet," said Greene at the ceremony, adding that the project represents a collaboration of city and state officials. "I commend City Island residents for staying on this issue and making sure we have another highlight in the Bronx."

Diaz issued a statement calling City Island one of the jewels of the

communities in the borough, adding that he is excited by the completion of the street-end plaza that will link to the Belden Point waterfront.

Klein called the creation of the park a ten-year fight. He called the new pocket park truly a gem on the island.

"I am happy that my constituents can relax on the new benches

and enjoy the waterfront views," said the senator, adding it has transformed the southern tip of the island.

Virginia Gallagher, Community Board 10 Parks Committee chairwoman, was acknowledged for her role in the park's creation.

Gallagher said she had been recommended by then-Senator Guy Veleva and the NYC Planning Commission to sit on a panel studying historical waterfront sites, and as part of their findings, the restoration got rolling.

She explained the historical significance of Belden Point as a recruiting location during World War II.

The City Island Civic Association advocated for the creation of the park.

John Doyle, CICA board member, said that the civic organization had been concerned that funding allocated for the project was in jeopardy due to the long period of time it took to finalize the plans.

"It shows what positive things can happen when the residential (and) business communities come together with our elected officials and stay vigilant in holding government accountable," said Doyle.

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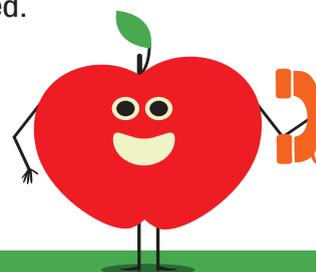


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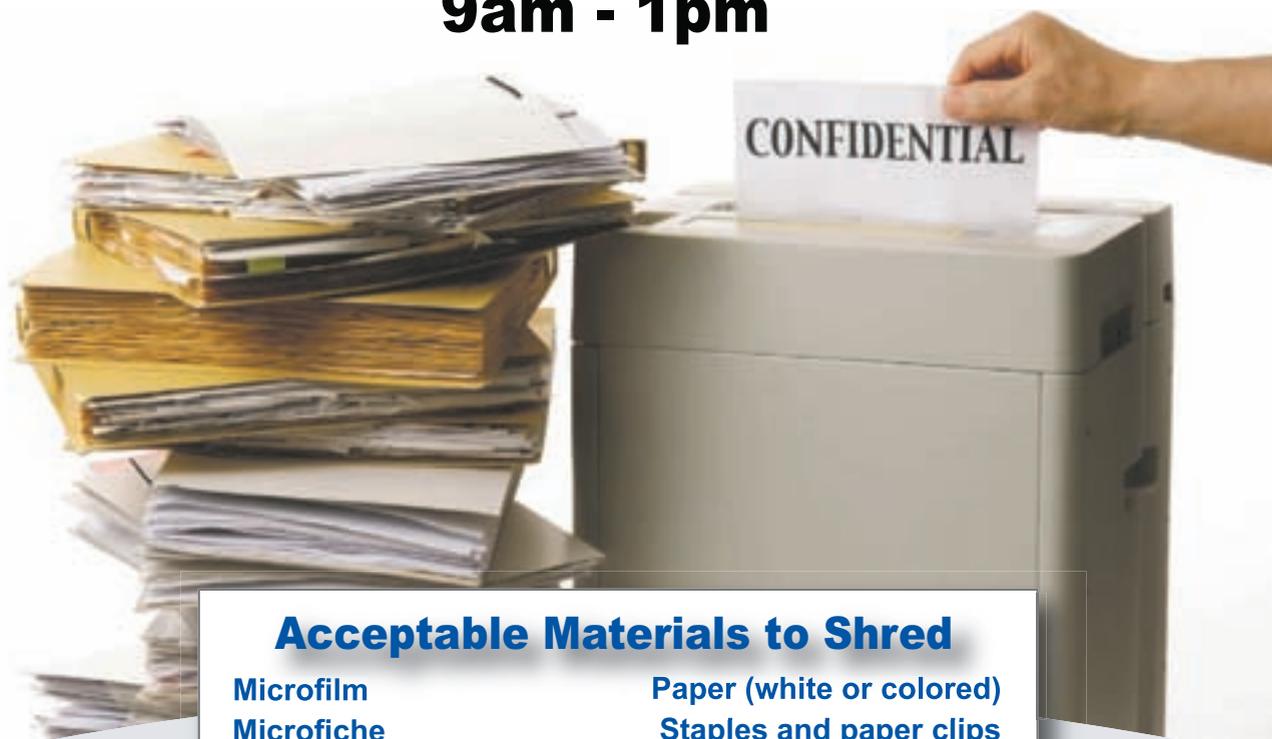
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MP meeting to reclaim streets; vow to expose drug dealers

from Page 1

the 49th Precinct suggested that residents take proper precautions to avoid these instances, including locking all car doors and windows as well as installing cameras if they have the budget to do so.

Members of Community Board 11 were also attended the meeting.

“Captain (Keith) Walton and the 49th Precinct made a great point - don't make it easily accessible for your belongings to be stolen,” said Jeremy Warneke, district manager of CB 11. “This is New York City - and all doors and windows, whether it's your home, your car or your business, should not be left unlocked when you aren't present.”

Amidst many issues that have occurred, the meeting also addressed the three overdose deaths that occurred in Loreto Park within a two-week period, two of which have been confirmed as being connected to heroin. The third death is still under investigation.

“Heroin and opioid addictions ruin lives, as we



Captain Walton of the 49th Precinct led last week's town hall meeting.

Photo courtesy of the 49th Precinct

have seen in every corner of this state,” said Senator Jeff Klein.

“I am committed to working to combat this scourge, and will be hosting a town hall at the Morris Park Community Association to ensure that this community receives the tools and resources they need to help end this epidemic,” Klein added.

The three incidents have caused the community to become proactive in finding the drug distributors involved.

“It's about catching the little fish - and hopefully that will lead to us catching the big fish,” Signorile said, referring to the drug dealers. “We think this is a good plan - and we are almost certain that these (dealers) live in these neighborhoods.”

The 49th Precinct has been doing everything in its power to acknowledge these incidents but also help the community move past these recent tragedies.

Last month, the 49th Precinct hosted a BMX bike tournament in Loreto Park, less than a week after one of the overdoses, and will host a Video Game Tournament sometime this month.

“We put together these events to show kids that there are other options besides drugs - and these events are something that keeps youth active, safe and out of trouble,” said Captain Walton.

The two heroin-related overdoses claimed the lives of 21-year old Morris Park resident Chris 'Hood' Morello and Michael Coscia last month.



Assemblyman Sepulveda (l) and Senator Diaz lead demonstration last December across from Parkchester South Condominium offices to protest the 15.19% maintenance fee increase.

Photo by Bob Kappstatter

Settlement for Parkchester S. Condo owners

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based on owners' income and what percentage of it goes toward their mortgage, maintenance and other expenses.

Diaz is grateful for every effort trying to resolve this matter for PSC's families, senior citizens and disabled residents, but is concerned that 2015's budget and 2016's projected budget have not yet been shared with owners and residents.

“Transparency remains a key factor,” he said. “We all need to be able to review those documents to see where and how the money was spent and will be spent.”

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

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

When work is completed

in 2017, PSC's board intends to revert the maintenance fees back to 2015 levels of 2.5%.

According to PSC, last year, 56 buildings underwent 15 full roof replacements, 12 Local Law II Façade Inspection Safety Program repairs, ten emergency leak repairs and 21 temporary leak repairs.

Nearly \$9 million from the 2015 budget, \$4.8 million from PSC's capital reserves and \$1.5 million from operations savings covered the \$15.3 million cost.

This year's repairs for 21 buildings include permanent leak repairs in all buildings, full roof replacement in 14 buildings, partial roof replacement in five buildings and FISP repairs in all buildings.

The total cost is projected at \$10.8 million including sidewalk bridging, permits and engineer fees.

In addition, structural slab repairs are needed for 173 apartments in 59 buildings.

This year's budget is \$2.8 million for slab and ceiling repairs for approximately 50 units.

Estimated 2017 repairs include water infiltration repairs in 40 buildings, ten full roof replacements, ceiling and slab repairs in 60 apartments, ongoing leak investigations and FISP repairs.

Management chose contractors APA Restoration for eight buildings, Cercone Exterior Restoration for four buildings and Skyline Restoration for nine buildings.

Sepulveda noted PSC agreed to provide financial documents on various issues including the bidding process and selection of contractors to deduce if management used the most cost effective measures.

“We have an accountant who has been reviewing the information to see if there are any problematic issues financially,” said the assemblyman. “We haven't uncovered anything yet and we hope that we don't. We intend to remain vigilant throughout this process.”

Sepulveda said Judge Elizabeth Taylor will preside over a follow-up court hearing this September in Bronx Supreme Court.

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Poster from last week's town hall meeting.

Photo courtesy of the Morris Park Community Association



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Klein continues 'Cease and Desist' zoning efforts

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

Efforts to rein in the Bronx real estate business' practice of solicitation is moving forward.

After three meetings, Senator Jeff Klein is closing in on real estate solicitation in community boards 10 and 11.

At the third Cease and Desist Zone meeting held on Thursday, July 27 at Villa Barone Manor, those in attendance were again given the opportunity to submit testimony, along with other evidence, that proves that they have been subjected to excessive solicitations.

The establishment of a Cease and Desist zone would allow residents within the zone to place their addresses on a Cease and Desist list, which would prohibit real estate salespeople from contacting them.

Those that violated the list would be subject to hefty fines.

"Intense real estate solicitations is not something that Bronx homeowners should be subjected to, although they have greatly increased over the past few months," said Klein.

"I hope that my series of

hearings helped to provide sufficient evidence to reinstate the 'cease and desist zone' in Community Board 10 (and 11) and determine the perimeters where these unwanted realtors cannot intrude on our quality of life."

The senator added that there is a 30-day commentary period, where residents can send submissions of these repeated real estate solicitations to Klein's office, before the NYS Department of State renders their decision on the Cease and Desist zone.

The 30-day commentary period will end on Saturday, August 27.

In a separate interview with Klein, he said that a Cease and Desist Zone was in place in sections of community boards 10 and 11 before the law expired in 2014.

Klein also said he is looking to extend the boundary of the zone to neighborhoods in Community Board 9.

The Bronx real estate industry opposes the creation of Cease and Desist zoning.

"Legislation to reauthorize and expand Cease and Desist zones will unfairly

hurt the livelihood of real estate professionals," said Eliezer Rodriguez, executive officer of the Bronx-Manhattan North Association of Realtors. "This will hurt the ability of real estate professionals to do their job and consequently have a negative impact on the state and local economy."

Rodriguez said that according to the Department of State, only nine violations were reported pertaining to the Cease and Desist law between 2009 and 2011.

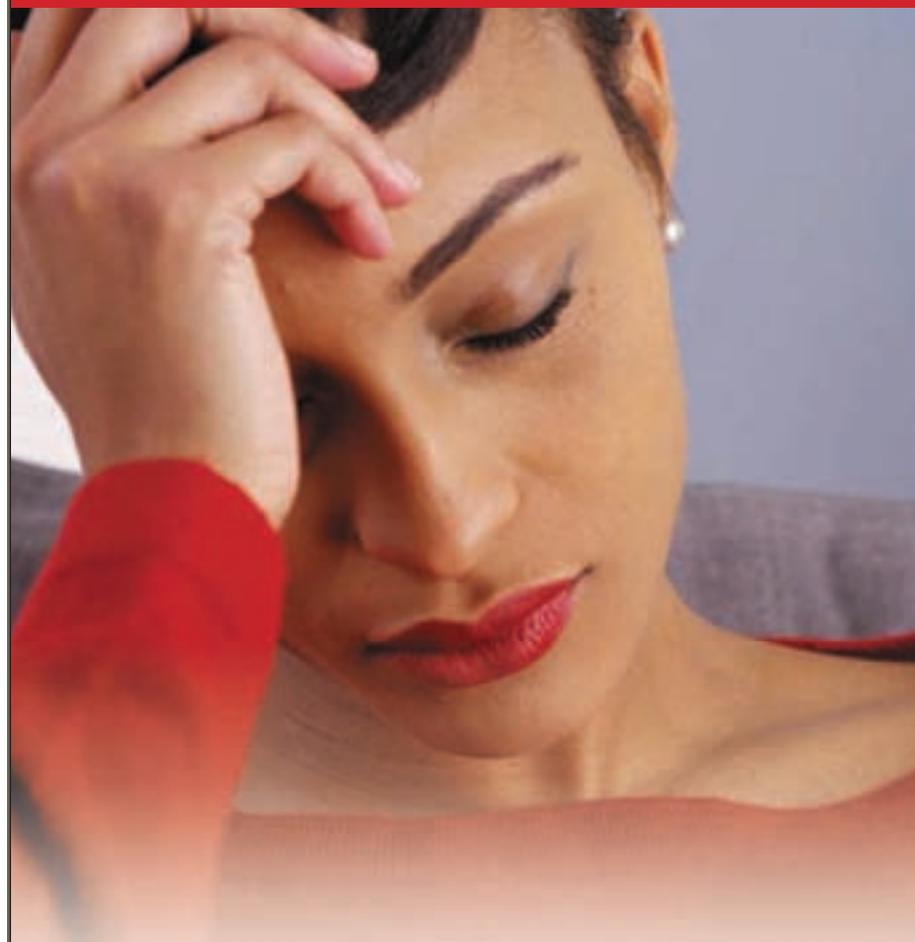
"This is not an appropriate solution to the problem, although we do empathize with the community. However, before a Cease and Desist is imposed, I ask that lawmakers and state regulators fairly weigh the evidence presented in determining the need for the imposition of a new Cease and Desist zone," Rodriguez added.

Homeowners and residents who have been exposed to repeat real estate solicitations can send submissions and other evidence to Senator Jeff Klein, 1250 Waters Place, Suite 1202, Bronx, NY, 10461.



(l-r) Andrew Chirico, Tom Colacioppi, Arlene Grauer, Cathy Praino and John Marano at last week's Cease and Desist meeting. Photo courtesy of Senator Jeff Klein's office

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Torres assists in stopping Medicare fraud

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

A Bronx councilman recently played a major role in shutting down a Bronx medical office for participating in a Medicaid fraud scheme.

Assistance by Improv II, a non-profit organization whose mission was to provide quality of life services to displaced individuals, was shuttered last week, after the organization's CEO, Joseph Wright, was arrested for allegedly stealing over \$5 million from Medicaid, thanks in large part to the involvement of Councilman Ritchie Torres.

According to a press release from attorney general Eric Schneiderman's office, the 52-year old Wright, a resident of Middletown, NY, was arrested in June, after he and Assistance by Improv II allegedly submitted over 125,000 claims to Medicaid in an eight-month span. As a result, Medicaid paid Wright \$5 million.

Wright's arrest was also the result of allegedly 'giving out Section 8 vouchers and apartments', according to



Torres, along with the attorney general's office, was instrumental in the shutting down of the Assistance by Improv office.

Photo courtesy of Councilman Ritchie Torres' office

Torres' office.

Torres explained that his office first became aware of Access by Improv II in 2014, when the 48th Precinct complained about the long lines of clients waiting outside for assistance at its first location at 471 E. Tremont Avenue.

Assistance by Improv II contacted Torres' office,

claiming that they were being harassed by the 48th Precinct, requesting the councilman's support.

Assistance by Improv II then moved to another Bronx location, 953 Southern Boulevard, to avoid further confrontation with the 48th Precinct.

When Torres' office

checked with the NYC Human Resources Administration, it found out that Assistance by Improv II had no contracts with the city and never made any referrals to Medicaid, which caused Torres to refer the concern to Governor Cuomo's office, who eventually launched an investigation.

According to Torres' office,

the office that Assistance by Improv II was operating out of (953 Southern Boulevard) has now been shut down.

Schneiderman's office confiscated the firms documents when they closed the office.

The AG's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit also executed a search warrant at 953 Southern Boulevard after the arrest

of the owner.

The AG's investigation has not received any evidence that any of Assistance by Improv II's patients ever received housing, although they participated in various and unnecessary medical examinations and medical tests.

"I suspected that this organization was not as it seemed, and we began to look into its practices," said Torres. "I am relieved that Joseph Wright has been arrested. This arrest will prevent Bronx residents from future abuse and hopefully return taxpayer dollars to the Medicaid system."

Wright was charged with grand larceny in the first degree, health care fraud in the first degree (both class B felonies) and insurance fraud in the second degree.

Wright's case is currently ongoing in the Bronx Supreme Court, after he was arrested in June.

Assistance by Improv II could not be reached for comment.

Morris Park native nabs teaching fellowship

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

A local teacher was recently selected to take part in a prestigious multi-year program for math and science educators.

Rebecca Guarino, who is going to enter her second year as a mathematics teacher at South Bronx Preparatory, was selected as one of 35 teachers nationwide to be part of the Knowles Science Teaching Foundation 2016 cohort of fellows.

The fellowship provides grants for teaching materials, mentoring from experienced educators, support for teaching leadership activities, funding for professional development and membership in a community of more than 300 peers like-minded peers. The program takes five years.

Guarino, who grew up in Morris Park, said she applied when she attended a mandatory job fair for students as undergraduate at the University of Delaware.

Most of the teaching jobs at the fair were in Delaware and she was looking for a job in New York, she said. She applied at the Knowles because it is a national program.

At the time, she didn't realize what it would lead to and was somewhat surprised and thrilled by her acceptance into the program, she said.

It was confirmation that she is doing what she was meant to do professionally, said Guarino.

"It is just a really humbling experience to know that something so incredible is going to develop me as a teacher," said Guarino, adding that Knowles believes in teachers' mission and the impact they can have on the communities they serve.

She said that she hopes being a Knowles fellow can help her teach students to see the beauty of math and help her grow in the profession.

"I just believe that as teachers we should be continually be growing and developing, and I don't think at any point in my career am I going to be a perfect teacher," said Guarino. "I hope the teaching fellowship will help me strive to be the better than I can be today."

While she said that she does not yet have a complete picture of the improvements she will make over the next five years as part of the fellowship program, she already has some solid ideas.

She said she would soon present a grant proposal for funds to purchase a document projector, which she believes can help students to better see their mistakes and work together as a class in solving mathematics problems.

The second-year teacher said she looks forward collaborating with fellows from both rural and urban areas across the country, and believes the experience can add more rigor and content to her teaching.

"I am so excited to see where it takes me," said Guarino.

Knowles provides support and professional development math and science teachers who are early on in their careers, according to the organization.

Teachers supported by Knowles are improving science, technology, engineering and math education.

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Rebecca Guarino has been chosen as a 2016 Knowles Science Teaching Foundation Fellow. She will be starting her second year teaching at South Bronx Preparatory in the

Photo courtesy of Knowles Science Teaching Foundation

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Airbnb looks to improve service amid battle

BY ROBERT CHRISTIE

Airbnb, a popular home-sharing service, is looking to improve service for both its hosts and its customers in the Bronx.

The company has begun supporting Bronx home sharing clubs in an effort to bring hosts together while bettering the service.

Home sharing clubs are groups of hosts who come together to discuss better ways to serve guests, discuss ideas for community outreach and notify Airbnb representatives how they can aid their hosts.

According to Airbnb, there are approximately 500 Bronxites using Airbnb to share their homes.

On July 28, seven hosts in the Bronx held the Bronx's second home sharing club meeting to share their hosting experiences and encourage hosts who are little newer to home sharing.

Eric Smith, a 41-year resident of the Bronx, has been

home sharing for about seven years.

Smith had always recommended Airbnb to others but had been using other home sharing services.

He finally began using Airbnb this year.

Smith said he had previously tried other methods of additional income such as renting out apartments.

He said at one point he was renting to 30 people at once and was having issues collecting rent.

"It's a heck of a feeling when you come home and there's thirty people ducking you," he said with a chuckle.

Smith explained home sharing is another way to get additional income without having to chase people down for rent.

Through the Airbnb app, customers can view a space at which they want to stay and must pay in full before booking the space.

Smith acknowledged

that he uses the service for the extra income but he also said he enjoys the feeling of home sharing.

He said he currently has a family from Holland staying at his apartment and "by the second day everybody's family."

Like Eric, other Airbnb users are thankful for the extra income, claiming it helps them stay in New York City.

According to Airbnb, as of June 1 the median annual earnings for a Bronx host is \$4,280. In addition, Airbnb said that as of June 1 there are 175 Bronx residents renting their entire home through the company and 354 residents renting a private room or shared space.

Airbnb has been in the news lately as New York legislators are moving to put stricter regulations on home sharing.

Currently, it is illegal to rent multi-unit buildings without a present tenant for



Airbnb logo. Photo Courtesy of Airbnb

circumvent housing laws.

Rosenthal said when apartment owners rent space through Airbnb that is set aside as affordable housing, it causes an apartment shortage, while at the same time increasing prices of rentals on the market.

According to Josh Meltzer, New York Head of Public Policy for Airbnb, the company feels the bill hurts people who are only sharing the homes they live in and trying to make extra money to afford the NYC cost of living.

"It's plain and simple - this bill is an attack on tens of thousands of hardworking, middle class New Yorkers - including hundreds of Bronx residents - who share their homes to make ends meet," said Meltzer. "It is impossible to take seriously arguments to the contrary when it would have been very easy to draft the bill in a way that differentiated

between middle class people sharing their permanent home and the commercial operators who run illegal hotels."

Airbnb representatives say they are working to take down listings which violate New York state law.

Rosenthal acknowledged the effort but said Airbnb could do take down the listings in a more faster and more efficient manner.

She also said the bill is not meant to attack homeowners who are trying to make a little extra cash but it is meant to go after commercial entities who are trying to cheat the affordable housing market.

The assemblywoman's bill is currently before Governor Cuomo. It was sent to him approximately 20 days ago.

According to New York State law, if the governor does not sign or veto a bill within 30 days, it becomes law.

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Basketball tournament raises \$\$ for leukemia patient

BY ROBERT CHRISTIE

St. Raymond's High School held its second annual St. Raymond's Alumni and Friends Basketball Tournament to raise money for people suffering from cancer.

The tournament was a two-day tournament - July 23 and 24 - complete with referees, refreshments and music. The cost per team to join the tournament was \$300 and it was \$5 to watch.

Proceeds from the tournament amounted to approximately \$3,000.

A portion of the proceeds went to 15-year old Cristian Tobar, a St. Raymond student, who is suffering from leukemia. The rest of the proceeds went to the Changing Youth Basketball Program and the No Battle Should Be Fought Alone Chartiy.

"I felt honored," said Tobar.

Tobar was diagnosed with leukemia, a blood cancer, on July 22, 2014. Since then the cancer has left and returned three times.

Tobar said having cancer has taught him to "just enjoy the present moment because at any time you could have been here one moment and gone the next."

He adds that he's also learned to "keep a positive mentality" and the importance of staying close with his family.

Tobar, who was born in Guatemala and came to Bronx when he was one-years-old,



Triston Dillon (r), founder of No Battle Should Be Fought Alone, stands with friends and founders of the St. Raymond's Alumni and Friends Basketball Tournament Steven Saint Pierre (c) and Daryl De Guire (l)

Photo Courtesy of Triston Dillon

said has had to be strong for his parents at times.

"It was hard for me when I saw my parents upset," he said. He added he had to 'man up' and be positive for them.

The St. Raymond's tournament began last year and was dedicated to supporting Bronx resident Tristan Dillon.

Dillon said his two best friends, Steven Pierre Saint and Daryl De Guire, originally started the tournament to earn some extra cash.

However, they changed their minds once they learned of his diagnosis.

Dillon was diagnosed with stage-4 colon cancer on May 5, 2015.

He said at first he was

extremely sad and kept to himself.

One day he walked around he walked around the hospital and realized there were many cancer patients who were alone.

Dillon said this experience encouraged him to start his charity No Battle Should be Fought Alone which helps encourage those battling cancer.

"Cancer definitely gave me clearer view of life, a different understanding of life and an admiration of life," said Dillon.

Dillon met Tobar through the charity and said he was impressed with Tobar's selflessness.

He appreciated how Tobar asked not only for something for himself but also something for his parents.

Tobar said choosing something was a "tough decision."

However, he settled on a locket that held two pictures of his family for his mother. For his father he got a chain on the end of which were praying hands.

Tobar said he wanted to get something they could "remember the experience." He also got a high-powered laptop for himself.

Tobar provided some advice for people who may also be fighting cancer.

"Support from family is important and I can't express it enough," he said.



Family members of longtime YMCA director Ralph Jallouk (left) and borough businessman and philanthropist Elias Karmon (far right) during the dedication of a plaque at the Y's swimming pool in 1997. A new plaque will be dedicated to Jallouk during the Bronx Y.M.C.A.'s 10th annual Bon Appetit fundraiser on Thursday, September 8.

Photo courtesy of the Jallouk family

Annual Bronx 'Y' Bon Appetit fundraiser set

BY PAIRICK KUCCHIO

The Bronx YMCA's only fundraising event this year will include a tribute to a past executive director and former honorees.

The 10th Anniversary Bon Appetit at the Bronx YMCA, a food-tasting fundraising event on Thursday, September 8, features a re-dedication of a plaque to Ralph Jallouk, a former executive director of the Bronx Y and who worked there from 1940s to the 1980s.

The re-dedication of the lost plaque is just part of a larger outdoor shindig that will feature food from many of the borough's best restaurants, said Geri Scioritino, Bronx YMCA board of managers chairwoman.

The funds are raised for a worthy cause, she said.

"It is our only fundraiser of the year, and all the money that we raise that night goes towards our scholarship fund for children and families who need the resources and services of the YMCA, but who cannot

afford it," said Scioritino, adding that organization never turns anyone who needs help away if they cannot pay.

Some of the services the scholarship funds are after-school, learn to swim and summer camp programming, she said.

The event is held at the Bronx YMCA's picturesque waterfront campus, and includes unlimited food and wine for \$100 per ticket.

Some of the participating restaurants include Havana Café, Good to Go Restaurant, Golden Glow Cookies, Gangsta Granies, Levia Croskey, Coffee Distributors, Thai No. 1, Stephanie Culinary Studio, Sabrosura 2 Restaurant and Escape Latino, with many more to be announced.

The event usually includes food from 20 to 25 restaurants, said Sharlene Brown. It will feature a tribute to 29 honorees from previous Bon Appetit events, she said.

"We are inviting them back as honored guests (because of) their continued support, not just to Bon Appetit, but to

the Bronx community," she said. "We wanted to say 'thank you.'"

The rededication of the plaque to Jallouk, first dedicated in 1997 at the facility's outdoor pool house area, is important to remembering the past history of the organization, she said.

The plaque was removed during a renovation and then lost during Hurricane Sandy, said Brown, according to the best information available.

"If something was lost it needs to be put back. It is something that we want to do because we have to be grateful to the people who paved the way to where we are today," she said.

Jallouk's son Richard recalled that his father helped raise funds to purchase the YMCA's facility at 2 Castle Hill Avenue.

"In the Bronx, so many people knew my dad," said Jallouk. "He was a real asset."

For more information about Bon Appetit, contact the Bronx YMCA at (212) 912-2490.



Triston Dillon (r) founder of No Battle Should Be Fought Alone and 15-year old leukemia patient Cristian Tobar (l)

Photo Courtesy of No Battle Should Be Fought Alone

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'Painting party' held in Westchester Square

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Bringing the arts to Westchester Square has been a goal of the area's business improvement district, and its 'artist in residence' is certainly helping.

Lenward Snead of the non-profit Westchester Square Arts Center at 2616 E. Tremont Avenue is a welcome addition to the Westchester Square BID's



Artist and proprietor of the Westchester Square Arts Center Lenward Snead views two of the paintings used in the class.

Photo courtesy of The Birthday Club

street fairs and outdoor events, said Lisa Sorin, WS-BID executive director.

Snead has brought a high level of artistic expression – with paints, palettes, easels and canvasses – items that are not regularly seen at outdoor community events in the area, she said.

"We love having him here in the district," said Sorin, adding "He is bringing a new twist on art that is really something different to this part of the Bronx."

Aside from the classes Snead holds in his studio, and those held at street fairs and movie nights, he recently held his first paint party on Friday, July 29.

Snead hosted a group of six women, a 'birthday club' who gather together to celebrate each other's birthdays.

"There are one or two bars in the area that (have painting parties), but this was in an art studio," said Sorin of the event.

The birthday group cel-



(l-r) Laura Guerriero, Lisa Sorin, Elizabeth Figueroa, artist Lenward Snead, Geri Sciortino and Rosemary DeLuca.
Photo courtesy of The Birthday Club

ebrated one of their own, Elizabeth Figueroa, and each member painted their own versions of a somewhat erotic abstract painting, said partygoers.

The artist had been looking forward to hosting a painting party at his studio for a couple of months, he

said.

"Hosting in this particular instance means providing the space and directing the painting," said Snead. "The painting was displayed and I painted along and gave instructions on how to approach it."

The group followed along

and each of the women painted their own version, said Snead, adding that there was a lot of laughter and critiquing of each other's work.

The artist and center director said that the party was not all that different from the work he does at out-

door events, except for the wine.

Attendees said they enjoyed the paint party.

"It is a different kind of event, and it was a lot of fun," said participant Geri Sciortino, who said that she found it very relaxing and ended up loving it.

She believes the studio promotes business in the area because it keeps people in the shopping district by providing another activity.

The painting party event was just another example of how the arts center is part of a new direction for the Westchester Square community, said Snead.

"What we did was to try to bring art into the neighborhood by putting ourselves right into the center of the community and build a following so that people could come to our exhibitions and appreciate the arts," said Snead.

For more information on the Westchester Square Arts Center, call (718) 684-4589 or visit online at w2ac.org.

Cat hoarding a problem on Paulding Avenue

from Page 1

las. Debris also runs up and down the alleyway.

These items, along with cat feces on the property, have contributed to a foul smell for neighbors, especially in this summer's extreme heat.

The smell attracts flies, which has resulted in neighbors, many of whom have children, being unable to open their windows or use their porches.

The cats have also been seen in garbage cans, either looking for food or doing their 'personal business'.

Despite years of complaints, the situation has gotten worse, according to residents, who say nothing has been done to solve the problem.

"This has been a problem for four or five years and nothing has changed in the least bit," said one resident, who lives next door to the property. "We (my husband and I) have offered to help her clean up the garbage but she refuses. She thinks we have a personal vendetta against her but we just want

her property and this block to be clean."

"It's too much - there are cats climbing trees, there are cats climbing onto windows," another nearby resident said. "I know she's doing something good for the cats, but it's a hoarding party."

Another Paulding Avenue resident added, "I'm afraid of cats now, even when I turn on the television!"

Residents also expressed annoyance about the increased population of possums, skunks and raccoons as a result of the public cat feedings.

Residents believe she may have more than 20 cats living in the house.

"I've really had it with this woman," said Victor Blancato, the landlord at 1951 Paulding Avenue, located right next door to the property. "It's so frustrating that as long as this mess has been here, nothing has ever been done to get this property cleaned up. It's horrible for the homeowners on this block."



Garbage fills the alleyway of the cat rescuer on Paulding Avenue.

Steven Goodstein

"She single handedly devalued everybody's home on this block," said the landlord of 1955 Paulding Avenue.

"My office has received numerous complaints on this issue and I encourage them to continue reporting these complaints to 311," said Jeremy Warneke, district manager of Community Board 11. "This issue will also be addressed



A wall of debris lines the front yard.

Community News Group / Steven Goodstein

at the board's monthly District Service Cabinet Meeting."

According to the NYC Department of Health, the residence is scheduled for an inspection. DOH conducted three health inspec-

tions of the residence in 2015.

Jungk, a longtime Paulding Avenue resident described as an active, friendly woman in her 50s or 60s, could not be reached for comment.

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