

New YMCA announced for Edenwald by 2018

BY ROBERT CHRISTIE

New York state Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie is partnering with Mayor de Blasio, Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., and the NYC Economic Development Corporation to bring a new YMCA facility to Edenwald.

The new facility's plans include a full-length basketball court, swimming pools, an indoor track, a wellness center, a child care facility and multipurpose rooms.

Diaz said "providing the Bronx with a high quality recreation center" has been one of his goal's since becoming borough president in 2009.

The \$48 million project will provide after-school education programs, a diabetes prevention program, senior adult programs and a teen center.

It will be located at 1250 E. 229th Street, not far from the Edenwald Houses, the Edenwald Community Center, neighborhood playgrounds and Seton Falls Park.

In addition, the facility will be convenient to the Boston Road commercial corridor and public transportation.

The YMCA is expected to serve residents of all income levels through the organization's Financial Assistance Program.

The goal, according to the Y, is to make sure "no one is turned away because of inability to pay."

The project also includes 200 on-site parking spaces.

Sharlene Brown, executive director for the YMCA on Castle Hill Ave, said residents in Edenwald along with officials

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ROBO-CALLS URGE ONE-LANE NIXING



VAN NEST FAMILY DAY

There was fun for the whole family at this year's 'Van Nest Family Day' on Saturday, August 6 at Van Nest Park. Hosted by assembly members Mark Gjonaj and Luis Sepulveda and the Van Nest Neighborhood Alliance, the family-friendly celebration featured live music and dancing, delicious food, face painting and balloon animals for everyone's amusement. Tiger cub Anthony Osario found the popsicles to be 'grrrreat!'. Photo by Miriam Quin

Vacca pursues road change despite opposition

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Planned changes to a Waterbury-LaSalle thoroughfare, part of the Vision Zero pedestrian safety initiative, continue to be a hot button issue.

A group of community activists continue to oppose the plan, which would reduce the number of travel lanes on part of East Tremont Avenue but add wider parking lanes and left turn bays for vehicles.

Those advocating for the changes believe it will make a stretch of the road between Wa-

terbury Avenue and Bruckner Boulevard, that has seen three fatal accidents since 2010 according to NYC Department of Transportation statistics, safer for pedestrians.

According to a DOT spokeswoman, road markings will reconfigure East Tremont Avenue in this area, and the agency will be adding a painted sidewalk extension at Whittemore Avenue and a left turn lane. DOT is still working with the community on the final changes.

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Tenants claim landlord falsified DOB application

BY ROBERT CHRISTIE

Residents of the Woodmansten, at 1541-51 Williamsbridge Road, at the corner of Sackett Avenue, believe their landlord falsified paperwork that will permit him to seek rent increases in the future.

The landlord, Mark Scharfman, owner of 1541 Williamsbridge Realty LLC, has been accused, by both the tenants and Councilman James Vacca, of misrepresentation on a NYC Department of Buildings application concerning renovations

currently taking place at the elevated pre-war building.

According to Paulette Sorg, president of the Williamsbridge Tenants Association, when applying for the rent increases Scharfman allegedly stated that the apartments in the building were not rent controlled.

However she claims they are.

By stating the apartments are not rent controlled, Scharfman would be permitted to raise rents

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Zerega community rocked by Glebe Avenue murder

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

A murder in Zerega has a community concerned.

A 40-year-old man was fatally shot on a quiet block of private homes, near 2231 Glebe Avenue.

The 45th Precinct received a call of an incident at 2:08 a.m. on Wednesday, August 3, according to the NYPD.

When they arrived, the victim, identified by police as Vivian Connell, a Parkchester resident, was found shot in the left shoulder. He later expired at Jacobi Medical Center, stated an official.

As of press time, the investigation was ongoing and there have been no arrests.

Cops flooded the street after the incident, and were on the scene for much of August 3, said resident Dorothy Krynicki.

She frequently walks her dog in the area, she said, where Glebe Avenue, Doris Street and Lyon Avenue converge.

"(In) the morning, the cops were swarming all over, going into yards and looking into everybody's bushes," said



Police investigate a murder on Glebe Avenue on Wednesday, August 3.

Photo by Miriam Quin

Krynicki. "They literally were going up and down every block, looking in front yards; they were out in full force."

Police secured the area and brought in its forensic team.

The incident comes on the heels of a shooting at nearby Pearly Gates Park on Sunday, June 12 where a teenager was shot in the head, she said.

"I am a little upset," said Krynicki

about the latest crime, "it was two in the morning (and) what were they up to?"

She said the location where the crime took place was an unusual one because it was not near a street with commercial activity, such as Zerega Avenue.

"I think this crime is horrific," said community activist Lou Rocco of the murder. "It is craziness; it is insanity."

Edward Perez, who lives in Zerega, said he was not entirely surprised by what happened.

He said that while it was a good community, he was looking to move into a different area to raise his family.

"It seems like the likelihood of something like this happening is a little bit higher," said Perez.

A nearby property owner, Hector Colon, said that the area is generally quiet.

"I have been here 31 years, and I feel pretty safe," said Colon.

Another source with knowledge of the investigation said that police believe that the victim and his murderer may have known one another, and that cops had a good idea who the perpetrator is.

In an unrelated incident, an assault was reported on nearby Overing Street just days later on Friday, August 5, according to the NYPD.

Four men assaulted a single 49-year-old victim as he was walking past the group at 10:34 a.m., with the four punching the victim repeatedly, according to the NYPD.

The victim, who suffered many non-life threatening injuries, was admitted to Jacobi Medical Center.



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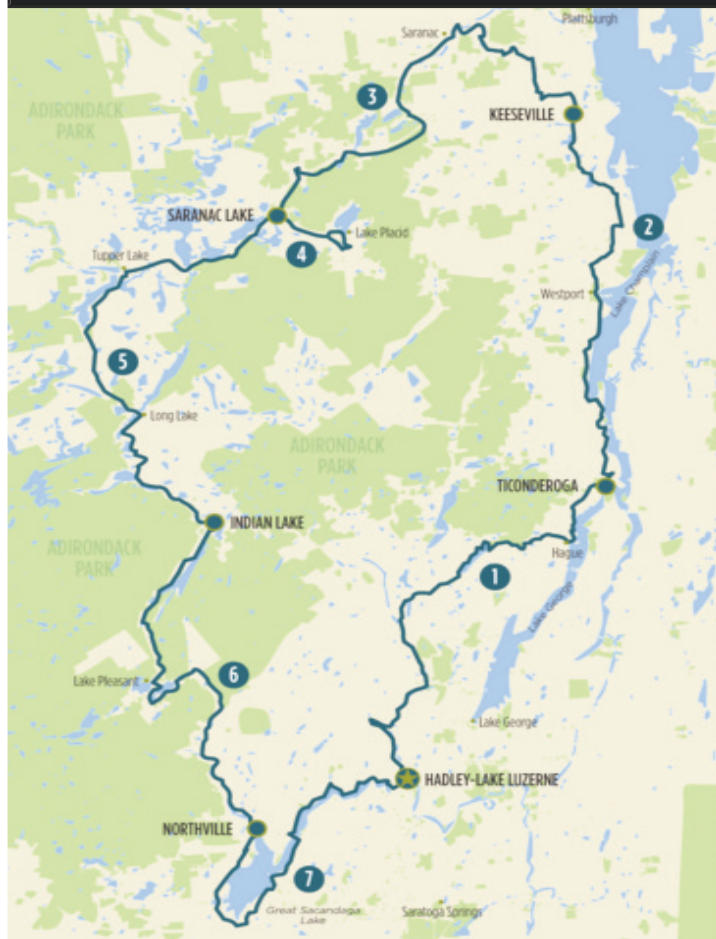
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Councilman Vacca pursues road changes despite opposition

from Page 1

Councilman James Vacca said he was advocating for the changes despite heavy community objections.

The DOT proposal was originally sent to Community Board 10 in 2015 but was rejected.

But Vacca has asked DOT to implement the proposal anyway.

"I am listening to my constituents," said the councilman, adding that speeding along that part of Esat Tremont Avenue is a major problem.

"There are already four traffic lights in place and we cannot install speed bumps because the street is a bus route. Therefore I want to take (this) action to protect my residents."

Martin Prince, CB 10 chairman, said that after hearing from DOT and studying the idea, he personally thought it had merit, but indicated that he would reverse course if the changes prove detrimental.

"It is well thought out," he said. "(The people opposing the plan are) being skeptical because we are used to something in a certain way."

Current road conditions on this portion of East Tremont Avenue includes lots of double parking, that cause cars to weave in and



A ghost bike memorial was placed near Whittemore Avenue to recognize the latest victim of a pedestrian-vehicular accident on a stretch of East Tremont Avenue.

Community News Group / Patrick Rocchio

out of the right hand lane, creating a condition where there is effectively one lane of travel anyway, he said.

The parking lanes will be widened, and the turning lane would be in the middle of the roadway, meaning that if double parking occurs, vehicles can still maneuver and emergency vehicles could get through, said the councilman.

Vacca acknowledged that there is community opposition to the plan.

A robo-call campaign was initiated by the plan's opponents this past weekend asking local residents to tell Vacca they oppose his effort.

The most controversial part of the plan is the 'road diet' that would narrow through-traffic to one lane in either direction, said John Cerini, Throggs Neck Merchant Association board member.

Cerini believes that this will increase congestion on East Tremont by slowing the flow of traffic, and that Vacca needs to better listen to his constituents.

Rocco Talarico, Throggs Neck Home Owners Association vice president, believes that the issue should be to go back to CB 10 for further review before it is implemented.

"The traffic on East Tremont is congested as it is, especially when school is in session, and north-bound traffic is already backing up to Lafayette Avenue," he said.

Speed cameras might be good for that location, he added.

Vacca said the area does not qualify for speed cameras because under state law they can only be used near schools.



Rendering of a new YMCA expected to come to the Edenwald neighborhood in 2020

Photo Courtesy of New York State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie's Office

New YMCA for Edenwald by 2018

from Page 1

in the community have wanted a recreational facility for several decades.

She said that during the discussions for the new facility, the community felt YMCA was the right choice.

Brown explained the community "felt it was an organization that could bring the services to the community that were needed."

The Bronx was the only borough in NYC that didn't have multiple YMCAs.

Other borough's have as much as five or six YMCAs, said Brown.

She credited Heastie

with pushing the project, calling him the "backbone" of the efforts to get the recreational facility established.

Heastie said a community center such as the YMCA has been "a dream" of his.

He added the center will create "a fun and safe environment" for children to learn and grow.

In addition he said the center will create jobs and be an investment "in the future of the Bronx."

According to the borough president's office, the construction of new YMCA will generate 101 construction job and 100 permanent jobs which will pay a living wage.

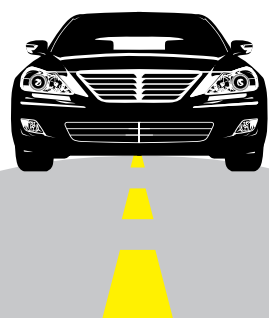
Heastie's office credited Jevonni Brooks and Jaamal Bailey - members of the speaker's office - with spearheading the project.

The YMCA will hire through NYC Economic Development Corporation's HireNYC program.

The program helps connect services that help people find work with projects that need workers.

Construction on the building is expected to begin in the fall of 2018 and be completed during early 2020.

The facility is expected to serve 25,000 New Yorkers by its fourth year of operations.



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Safety should be a top priority for everyone sharing the road, including cyclists, drivers and pedestrians. The following are a few tips each of those groups of travelers can employ to ensure the roads stay safe for everyone.

Cyclists

- Bicyclists must follow the same traffic rules as automobile drivers. Stop for red lights and stop signs, signal lane changes or turns, and

drive on the correct side of the road.

- Watch out for parked cars. Oftentimes, drivers exit their vehicles and do not check for oncoming traffic or cyclists. You can be hit by a swinging car door.
- Make yourself as noticeable as possible. This could include using a light or horn on the bike to signal your presence to drivers.
- Always wear a helmet and other applicable safety equipment.

- Maintain your bike so that it is safe to ride.

- Do not carry others on your bike (such as a friend or a child) if it is not designed to do so. Riding on the handlebars or behind the cyclist can be dangerous.
- Avoid the use of ear buds or headphones while cycling. You want all of your senses to be available to avoid accidents.
- Cycle out of the way of drivers' blind spots so you'll be more visible.

- Do not ride your bike on the sidewalk where you could injure pedestrians.

Pedestrians

- Always use sidewalks and crosswalks when available. If no sidewalk is present, be sure to walk against the direction of traffic.
- Use traffic signals as your guide. However, make sure all traffic has stopped before crossing the road or stepping off of the sidewalk.
- Keep control of pets when

walking on a leash, so you're not pulled out into traffic.

- Use caution at bus stops. Many injuries occur from pedestrians running to catch a bus or stepping out into traffic after exiting a bus. Remember, there will be another bus behind the one you're chasing and safety is more important.
- Wear brightly colored or reflective clothing if walking at night.
- Do not cross highways or interstates on foot.

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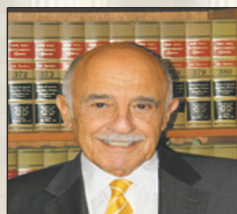
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TN Merchants to host 17-day 'restaurant week' promotion

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

The Throggs Neck Merchants Association is showcasing its eateries once again.

Foodies will have their hands full as a cavalcade of restaurants in the community and beyond have signed up to offer discounts during the Throggs Neck Summer 2016 Restaurant Week, which will kick off on Thursday, August 18 with a VIP party.

Discounts will be offered over two weeks, including three weekends, from Friday, August 19 to Sunday, September 4, according to the event coordinator, TNMA technology director Hussein Nouri.

Those interested in learning more about the restaurants which are offering \$25 or \$35 three course 'prix-fixe' dinners and \$15 lunch deals can visit throggsneckrestaurantweek.com.

The TNMA held its first restaurant week in January, said Nouri. The merchants are looking to repeat the last events sensational response, with 31 eateries participating this time, he said.

"Since it was such a great

success that people are still talking about, we decided to do restaurant week in the summer," said Nouri, who added that TNMA knew it was a hit because people were still signing up for information online well after the event was over.

The merchants timed the follow-up event in August because they wanted to hold the promotion when some of the eateries are typically not as busy, he said.

The late summer is perfect for the promotional event, he explained, because a lot of people are on vacation and business is sometimes not as brisk.

The majority of restaurants are in Throggs Neck; some are in Pelham Bay, Morris Park, Westchester Square and Castle Hill, he said.

"We wanted to get a really good mix of restaurants because we want to make the diners happy," said Nouri.

This time around the promotion will include restaurants offering Italian, Japanese, soul food, seafood and much more.

Participating restaurants will display a two-foot by four foot yellow banner

outside their establishment to inform patrons that they are participating in the promotion, he said.

The kickoff celebration on August 18 will be held at Rosy's Manor at 3677 E. Tremont Avenue, with a VIP party and a special event that will open to the public at 7 p.m.

The participating restaurants include Acri Café, Alley Cat Smokehouse, Brewskis Bar & Grill, CABO Restaurant, Casa, Crosstown Diner, DaFranco & Tony Ristorante, Escape Restaurant & Lounge, Estrellita Poblana IV, Havana Café, Honey's Thai Pavillion, Ice House Café, Jimmy's Grand Café, Jenavies Café, Louis Seafood Restaurant, Lucca Fine Italian Cuisine, Made In Puerto Rico Latin Cuisine, Mama Puebla Mexican Restaurant, Mamajuana Cafe, Outback Steakhouse, Paddys On the Bay, Patricia's of Tremont, Rino's Italian Restaurant, Riverview Grill at Trump Links in Ferry Point, Sapitos Sports Bar and Grill, Wicked Wolf, Throggs Neck Clipper, Tosca Cafe, Uncle Al's Soul Food and Yamada Japanese Restaurant.



The Throggs Neck Clipper is one of over 30 eateries participating in this summer's TNMA restaurant week festivities.

Community News Group / Patrick Rocchio



(l-r) Dr. Oxis Barbot, Dr. Thomas Isekengbe, Bronx Community College president and Dr. Jane Bedell hosted the informative session on the Zika Virus and the city's response to the Bronx's 149 confirmed cases of the disease.

Photo by Miriam Quin

Bronx has largest # of NYC Zika cases

BY ROBERT CHRISTIE

As of July 29, the Bronx has the highest number of Zika cases in the city with 156 reported cases, according to the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene website.

Manhattan has 86 cases, Brooklyn has 83 cases and Queens has 78 cases and Staten Island has three.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, symptoms of Zika include fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (commonly known as 'pink eye').

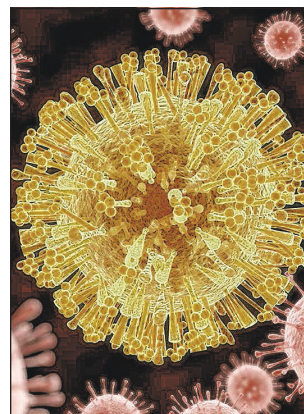
Other symptoms include muscle pain and headaches.

However, according to the DOH, 80 percent of people who contract Zika do not get sick. The virus can have the worst effect on pregnant women.

If Zika is contacted during pregnancy, it can cause birth defects of the fetus' brain.

The CDC reports other defects to infants and fetuses include hearing defects, eye defects or impaired growth.

According to the DOH, Zika is commonly contracted through mosquito bites. However, the department has found New York mosquitos do



The Zika Virus

Photo Courtesy of NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

not carry Zika.

Instead, NYC residents are more likely to contract Zika through travel.

The Department of Health cautions residents should be aware of Zika infested areas before traveling.

Zika is currently affecting, Central and South America, Mexico and parts of the Caribbean.

The agency said if someone is planning to travel to these areas they should try to delay the trip.

"As we enter the peak of mosquito season, we remind all New Yorkers especially pregnant women, and women and

men who are planning to conceive to postpone travel to regions where Zika is circulating," said DOH press secretary Chris Miller. "New Yorkers can do their part to stay safe by heeding travel guidance and taking preventive measures to avoid mosquito bites."

The DOH said if you cannot delay the trip, use insect repellent that has DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus.

In addition to contracting the virus through mosquito bites, Zika can also be transmitted sexually.

If someone thinks they've contracted Zika, they should get tested.

The DOH said there is no cure to Zika but the virus can be treated with medicine like acetaminophen.

People who have Zika can recover from the virus by resting and drinking fluids.

The Zika virus has been in the news lately as the 2016 Rio Olympics approaches.

Brazil is one of the countries with the largest number of Zika reports which caused some Olympic athletes to forgo the summer games



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'Roadmap from Displacement to Abundance' unveiled

BY ROBERT WIRSING

Knowledge is power for north-west Bronx residents looking to take ownership of their community.

On Sunday, July 31, the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition launched 'Our Bronx Roadmap from Displacement to Abundance' celebrating alternative models for real affordable housing, community ownership and restorative conflict resolutions while offering legal and community services.

The alternative roadmap highlights restorative justice principles offering an alternative to student punishment and the school-to-prison pipeline; guaranteeing residents a voice in how their local economy should work and healthy affordable homes promoting mental health, stability and positive growth for families.

Residents also expressed their need for living wage jobs through an economy allowing families to lead sustainable and healthy lives.

The roadmap was inspired by residents enduring decades of housing rent hikes, a public school system penalizing youth, local hospitals closures and low wage jobs.

Leah James, lead Kingsbridge



Councilman King (r) stopped by the NYC Small Business Services table and spoke with Camille Ortiz.

Photo by Silvio Pacifico

Armory Redevelopment Alliance and economic development organizer for NWBCCC, said residents learned about local and borough-wide issues such as tenant harassment and the local economy.

She explained most tenants and business owners do not understand their rights or leases which often leads to harassment from their landlord.

NWBCCC hosts monthly com-

mittee meetings to better educate tenants on their rights to dignified living.

James added residents learned about upcoming local projects such as the proposed Kingsbridge National Ice Center by speaking with representatives and picking up a copy of the Community Benefits Agreement detailing KNIC's services and how it will benefit the neighborhood.

"The roadmap is meant to engage the community to have a right to take ownership of where they live," she said. "The Bronx is changing and it will continue to change in the years to come."

NWBCCC invited Fundamental Business Services to the event and plans to have FBS attend their committee meetings.

NWBCCC expressed interest in having FBS' outreach team visit Kingsbridge Road businesses to offer their services to the local merchants.

"The Bronx roadmap recently launched by the NWBCCC did not only help shine a light on our city's current affordable housing crisis, but more importantly it served to inspire and include Bronxites in creating community oriented solutions to real affordability and



(l-r) North West Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition members Crystal Reyes, Evelyn Rodriguez, Fr. Thomas Lynch, Shamir Smith, Diamond Bryden, Geovanny Ayala, Edward Garcia, and Chris and Brad Hinze.

Photo by Silvio Pacifico

socio-economic development," he said.

NWBCCC is a member-led organization uniting people and institutions to strive for economic democracy and racial justice through intergenerational community organizing.

NWBCCC thanked local elected officials Senator Rivera, Assem-

blyman Victor Pichardo and council members Andy King and Ritchie Torres; Kingsbridge Merchants Association; KARA; Small Business Services NYC; Part of the Solution; NYS Nurses Association Union; Community Board 7; St. Nicholas Tolentine Church; Love Gospel Assembly; Fordham Manor and the Peace Poets.

Housing for vets with mental health issues started

BY ROBERT CHRISTIE

Construction has started on the 58-unit Melrose Commons Supportive Housing Project in Morrisiana.

The housing will be built to support adults with mental health issues, with a preference for veterans.

The facility will be run by The Bridge Mental Health and Housing Solutions.

"It's important to help people connect back to the community. That's what we do with all our housing and that's what we'll do here," said Susan Wiviott, from The Bridge.

Wiviott said for veterans, having no home can make it harder for them to focus on their more pressing problems.

"It's very, very difficult to deal with or work on their issues or get training or treatment with no place to live," she said. "That's obviously the most important thing."

Wiviott said the housing will give veterans a "sense of permanency."

The housing will include a shared kitchen, computer lab, laundry room and outdoor recreational space.



City and state representatives, funding partners and elected officials joined in breaking ground for Melrose Commons at 425 E. 161st Street.

Photo by Silvio Pacifico

In addition, there will be on-site management services for residents and round-the-clock front desk coverage.

Wiviott said the facility will also be able to link patients to "services in the community such as healthcare and other kinds of treatment programs."

According to the Wiviott, the process of getting approval for the

facility took approximately seven to eight years.

She said getting land use approval was a lengthy process since the property on which the facility will sit is part of a larger parcel of land.

Mayor de Blasio's office supported the new facility, according to a press release. The mayor said it's important that veterans

who protect our nation are not left homeless.

One million dollars for the project came from settlements reached by Attorney General Eric Schneiderman's office from developers who abused tax-incentive programs.

Schneiderman was delighted that these settlement funds were able to provide housing for a vul-

nerable population.

The entire project will cost \$16 million.

Other funding came from various departments including the NYC Housing Provision and Development Department, the NYC Housing Development Corporation and Borough President Ruben Diaz's office and NYS's Homeless Housing and Assistance Program.

The project will also participate in NYSEDA's Multifamily Performance Program.

The program provides solutions for saving money by using renewable energy and using energy more efficiently.

The Bridge has several facilities in the Bronx. Altogether it manages a total of 850 units of supportive housing throughout Brooklyn, the Bronx and Manhattan.

Wiviott said the community was supportive of this project and added Bronx communities have been "very supportive" of the work The Bridge does.

The Melrose Commons Supportive Housing Project will be The Bridge's second facility geared towards veterans in addition to The Bridge Gardens Veterans Residence, which opened in 2014.

Community Board 10 Summer Youth intern awards presentation

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Community Board 10 recognized its summer intern's exemplary work with an award presentation, and intends to employ more youth in the future.

CB 10 presented a framed Certificate of Merit on Tuesday, August 9 to 14-year-old Leini Ramos, the intern. She was wrapping up a six-week internship as part of the NYC Summer Youth Employment Program.

The jobs program is run by the Department of Youth and Community Development and is funded by the city. Young people from the ages of 14-years-old to 24-years-old are eligible.

Martin Prince, CB 10 chairman, said that Ramos and others in the program earn work experience, and some money toward their back-to-school budget if they are lucky enough to participate.

"In this particular situation, it gives youth the opportunity to get an idea about governmental and community service," said Prince when asked about internships like Ramos'. "This is an of-

fice setting and you are learning to assist people, interact, communicate and hear some of the challenges that people face every day."

Ramos, a student at University Prep Charter High School, is from Hunts Point. She was familiar with the community before she starting work at CB 10's Waterbury-LaSalle office.

Her favorite part of the job was the people that she worked with in the board office, she said

"The people here are open and kind, and they help you when you ask them about something," she said, adding "everything is a learning experience."

She would encourage other youth to participate in SYEP to experience a sense of independence.

"It also gives them a perspective on how their parents work: to see how much they do and how much perseverance they have to do this," she added.

The chairman of CB 10's Youth and Education Committee, Robert Bieder, said he and the committee would make



(L-r) Patrick Caruso, Community Board 10 constituent and business liaison; Leini Ramos, NYC Summer Youth Employment intern and Martin Prince, CB 10 chairman, during the presentation of a certificate of excellence for Ramos at the board office on Tuesday, August 9. Photo courtesy of Community Board 10

it a goal when the board reconvenes after summer recess to encouraging more youth internships.

The Youth Committee, along with CB 10's Economic Development Committee, plan to identify local merchants and schools that are willing to cooperate with the board's goal of more internships for youth, said Bieder, although ideas and

concepts are still forming.

"(We would) be reaching out to various merchants associations, and see if there is any way we can hook up any of the youth in the area with the merchants," he said.

Most of the young people he speaks to would welcome an opportunity to work and establish a work ethic, he said.

Seriously, choosing a health plan is not easy. We work hard to make it easier.

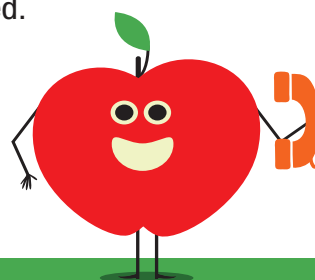
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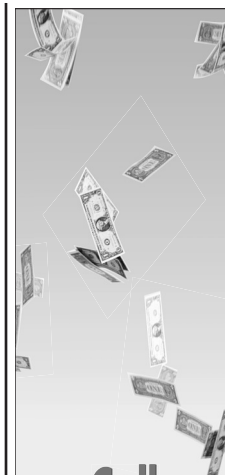
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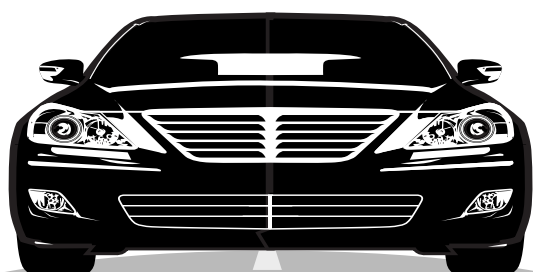


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Eat NYC Bronx Food and Wine Festival announced

BY ROBERT CHRISTIE

It's time to once again combine eating and charity as Eat nYc brings it's second annual festival to the Bronx.

Later this evening the 'Eat nYc the Bronx Food and Wine Festival' will give Bronxites the opportunity to enjoy good eats and wines while supporting the Food Bank for New York City.

The festival will take place at the Bronx Zoo's Dancing Crane Pavilion.

The food and drink will come from various restaurants, breweries, chefs, distilleries and bakeries.

Companies such Häagen-Dazs, Blue Moon, Heineken, and Goya will be giving away free items to attendees.

In addition, Pandora will be at the festival distributing 'swag bags' with free merchandise.

Festival goers will also be able to see live performances and even some cooking demos.

The festivities will also include presentations for 'Best Chef 2016 From the Bronx' and 'Best Restaurant 2016 in the Bronx'.

John Denizard, founder of Eat nYc, said the goal of the festival is to raise enough money to feed at least 25,000 hungry New Yorkers.

For every dollar raised, Food Bank for New York City is able to provide five meals.



The design for the upcoming 'Eat nYc: The Bronx Food and Wine Festival'

Photo Courtesy of John Denizard

Eat nYc's first major event was last year's festival.

Denizard said he realized there was a need to provide hungry New Yorkers with food and also provide healthier food options.

"Really our goal is to make health and nutritious food more accessible," he said.

Denizard, 36, pointed out the Bronx is

the borough most dependent on food banks and the borough with the highest obesity rate.

Denizard, a former chef, said it is easier and cheaper for Bronxites to eat fast food.

He said "since the beginning of time" people have had access to fresh produce, however today people have grown accustomed to paying more for these products.

In addition, he said the fresh produce at grocery stores and the food at fast food restaurants should cost around the same but they do not.

Denizard said farmers can now make more money working with Community Supported Agriculture in New York City.

CSA, according to it's website, "allows city residents to have direct access to high quality fresh produce grown locally by a regional farmer."

A individual pays in the range of \$450-\$650 upfront for a share of the farmer's produce.

Denizard said he hopes to make this type of produce more accessible to those who otherwise can't afford it.

In addition, using local CSA groups is better because it helps "cut out the middle man" so residents don't have to go to supermarkets.

Eat nYc has also worked, and hopes to continue working, with D.I.G. Farms which is an organization that plants edibles around the city.

By having these gardens, people who need fresh produce can have direct access to the produce.

In addition to helping feed hungry New Yorkers, the festival will also feature the launch of Eat nYc's new The Alchemist magazine.

Denizard said it will be the Bronx's first food and wine magazine.

Tenants claim landlord falsified DOB application

from Page 1

after the renovations were completed.

In addition, according to Sorg, the landlord stated on the application that the apartments undergoing renovation were vacant at the time.

Sorg, a 70-year resident of the 6-story, 125-unit building, said that all renovations were performed while the apartments were occupied.

She added that even though the construction workers wore masks to protect themselves from the dust associated with the work, the residents were left exposed the whole time.

Vacca said he is working with the tenants to rectify the situation and get to the bottom of their charges.

Vacca said the tenants deserve "greater cooperation and more transparency" from their landlord.

He also said he's available to mediate the matter between the landlord and the tenants, a process he has successfully conducted in the past.

The councilman acknowledged



The Woodmansten, 1541-51 Williamsbridge Road.

Photo Courtesy of Robert Christie

he has not personally met with Scharfman but would be open to meeting with him.

However, work in the building

must be halted first, he said.

Sorg said she is surprised that work is still going on even though Scharfman was hit with a viola-

tion for the misstatements on his DOB application.

As of Wednesday, August 10 work was still going on in the

building. Vacca said he plans to have an inspector visit the building.

Sorg and resident William Mojica are pursuing a class action lawsuit against Scharfman.

Mojica said he "doesn't like seeing (tenant) abuse."

He added Scharfman "can't just go (into apartments) and do whatever he wants."

Mojica said prior to the start of renovations, Scharfman's representatives spoke to the residents at a meeting held in the lobby.

Mojica said Scharfman's employees threatened lawsuits and eviction if residents did not provide access to their apartments for the renovations.

The renovations include plumbing, electrical and gas upgrades, roof repair, window replacements, along with other interior and exterior work.

They are currently awaiting word from an attorney on whether or not a class-action lawsuit against Scharfman is feasible.

The Bronx Times contacted Scharfman's office but he declined comment.



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