

\$275 million for Rodman's Neck upgrades

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

A proposal that is part of the mayor's preliminary budget would allocate \$275 million for a renovation of the NYPD facility at Rodman's Neck.

The total funds will be allocated over a 10-year period.

The bomb detonation noise would not be mitigated under the mayor's budget plan.

Community leaders expressed hopefulness after learning that part of Mayor de Blasio's plan to upgrade Rodman's Neck's range and training facilities, made public on Tuesday, January 24, included \$73 million for 'six fully (sound) baffled outdoor ranges.'

Sound barriers to block noise from gunfire at the range have been a request for shoreline communities, particularly City Island and Country Club, for a generation.

Councilman James Vacca, who said he spoke with the mayor on the matter directly, said that he is now confident that the some funds will be in the final city budget for next fiscal year, taking effect on Saturday, July 1.

"It is very rare that the mayor suggests something in the preliminary budget that is not included in the final budget," said Vacca, who believes that the matter has been high on the mayor's agenda and that the project recognizes what police officers mean to the community.

The councilman said key future steps would be to get timetables for the construction and ensuring that the community has input in the design.

Vacca called the news a "fantastic first step."

The proposal will create "a modern training environment that better prepares officers," according to information from the mayor's office.

Continued on Page 4

CB 10 REJECTS CITY'S FP PLAN



SCA STEM Lab Takes Root

St. Catharine Academy celebrated the grand opening of its new state-of-the-art STEM Lab on Saturday, January 21. The new lab has taken root inside the school thanks to the Class of 1966's generosity. Sr. Ann Welsh, St. Catharine Academy principal, blessed the new STEM Lab during the dedication ceremony.

Photo by Silvio Pacifico

Leaves Trump golf course parcel in limbo

BY ARTHUR CUSANO

Community Board 10 voted at its Thursday, January 19 meeting to reject a controversial plan put forward by the NYC Parks and Recreation Department to create a passive park area adjacent to the Trump Links Golf Course.

Board members voted 20-7 against the proposal, with two members abstaining.

The city's plan calls for an open passive park on the 19.5 acres of land that sits along the waterfront just north of the Whitestone Bridge and Ferry

Point park.

The proposed parkland would include a tidal marsh and provide scenic views for the public.

It would also eventually connect to the western part of the park that was also slated for a facelift.

The \$10.7 million plan was recently presented to the board at a November special board meeting by Bronx Parks and Recreation Commissioner Iris Rodriguez Rosa.

"What the response will be

Continued on Page 4

Construction set for I.S. 192 campus schoolyard

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

An asphalt schoolyard in Throggs Neck is set to undergo a transformation.

A ceremonial groundbreaking was held on Friday, January 20 for the renovation of the Piagentini and Jones Educational Campus' schoolyard.

It will see a 1.96 acre asphalt yard transformed into a recreational juggernaut for students.

Joining schoolchildren at the groundbreaking, as work crews

began preliminary construction, were Councilman James Vacca and representatives for the Trust for Public Land and New York Road Runners.

TPL helped design the playground with student input using financial support for their work coming from a NYRR donation of approximately \$330,000.

The councilman allocated \$800,000 for the project, and said he is confident it will be completed

Continued on Page 15

Report: Parkchester, west Bronx have worst roads

BY ARTHUR CUSANO

Parkchester and the northwest Bronx have the worst streets in the Bronx, according to a study just released by the NYC Independent Budget Office.

Parkchester earned the lowest rating in the borough, 30.31 percent, meaning just over 30 percent of the roads were considered to be in good shape by the NYC Department of Transportation as of the end of 2015.

Other areas with streets earning a score below 60 percent were Mount Hope (59 percent), Kingsbridge Heights (58.74 percent), University Heights-Morris Heights (55.1 percent), Soundview-Bruckner (55.01 percent), Spuyten Duyvil-Kingsbridge (49.54 percent) and Riverdale-Fieldston (38.71 percent).

The IBO is a tax-funded organization that is independent of the mayor's office.

The northwest Bronx's Councilman Andrew Cohen and Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz also called for the DOT to step up its road repair schedule.

"While I understand that the Department of Transportation has a limited budget to repave and

maintain roads, it is unacceptable that these neighborhoods are rated so poorly," stated Cohen. "Riverdale and Kingsbridge neighborhoods must be given prioritization once DOT commences the repaving process this spring."

"Our roads are like a war zone," added Dinowitz. "Drivers in Riverdale and surrounding neighborhoods should not have to spend their entire commute dodging potholes and cracks in the road. This creates urgent safety concerns and causes untold costs to the city and its residents. The DOT needs to step up and make improvements to our streets before they do any more damage."

The assemblyman, who was recently named chair of a committee tasked with oversight of the MTA, also voiced concern over possible damage to the city's bus fleet and that poor road conditions would cost the city money due to tort claims by motorists who experience damage to their cars.

Councilman Fernando Cabrera chose to see the positive in the report - that 70 percent of Bronx streets were in good condition.



The streets of Parkchester are the worst in the Bronx, according to a report put together by the Independent Budget Office using NYC DOT data

Community News Group/Arthur Cusano

"As progress continues in the Bronx, I will be working with DOT to advance transportation infrastructure in our neighborhoods," Cabrera said.

Citywide, just over 70 percent of streets are in good condition, while 29 percent are fair and 0.6 percent are in poor condition, according to the report.

Street conditions have trended downwards since 2012, according to the Mayor's Management Report.

The best roads in the borough, according to the report, can be found in the Williamsbridge-Olinville area, where 81.46 percent of roads are good, followed by Alerton-Pelham Gardens (80.7 per-

cent) and Fordham South (80.25 percent).

The report was put together after the Mayor's Management Report in September stated street qualities have deteriorated in the past three years, said Giovanna Quintanilla, the person who put together the report. She stressed that the report includes 2014 and 2015 data, but does not include 2016 figures.

"The DOT said they have already paved some of those roads," she said.

DOT officials said progress had been made since 2015.

"This fiscal year we've repaved 110 lane miles so far in the borough," a DOT spokesperson said. "This is crucial for the borough street resurfacing is a comprehensive treatment that addresses a host of issues, including reducing the amount of potholes that can form on city streets."

The DOT resurfaced nearly 167 lane miles in the Bronx in 2016, and 159 lane miles in the last fiscal year.

That roadwork in recent years had led to major improvements on some major Bronx thoroughfares, including Grand Concourse and East Tremont Avenue, they added.



At Providence Rest we provide the following services:

Adult Day Health Care, Child Day Care Program
Long Term Skilled Nursing Care, Respite Program
Outpatient Rehab Services, Transitional Care,
and Short Term Rehabilitation

We are Joint Commission accredited



"Exceptional health care in an environment that honors the human spirit, focuses on the needs of the individual and fosters vitality."

3304 Waterbury Avenue · Bronx, NY 10465

718.931.3000 · www.providencerest.org

**HOUSE
CALLS**

**SERVING BRONX
AND THE ENTIRE
TRI-STATE AREA**

**SAME DAY
SERVICE
AVAILABLE**

**TOP \$ PAID
FOR JUDAICA
COLLECTIBLES**

ANTIQUES & ESTATE BUYERS

We Pay **\$CASH\$** For

*Paintings, Clocks, Watches,
Estate Jewelry & Fine China,
From Single Items
to Entire Estates!*

- Coin & Stamp Collections
- Costume Jewelry
- Antique Furniture • Lamps
- Bronzes • Paintings • Prints
- Chinese & Japanese Artwork & Porcelain
- Sports Collectibles
- Comic Books • Old Toys • Records
- Cameras • Sterling Flatware Sets

HUMMELS & LLADROS



**MOVING or
DOWNSIZING?
CALL
US!**

**Military
Collections
Wanted**
Swords,
Knives,
Helmets, etc.

**Top \$ Paid
for Antique
Sterling!**

SEE OUR AD EVERY SUNDAY IN THE POST

516-974-6528

ASK FOR CHRISTOPHER



ANTIQUA & ESTATE BUYERS

We buy anything old. One piece or house full.

**WILL TRAVEL
ENTIRE
TRI-STATE!**

**WILL TRAVEL. WE MAKE HOUSE CALLS.
1029 WEST JERICHO TURNPIKE, SMITHTOWN, L.I.**

**FREE
Estimates!**

\$275 million for Rodman's Neck police firing range upgrades

from Page 1

In addition to the six ranges, there is \$51 million for a new tactical village as well as \$54 million for a facility for gun services, ammunition storage, classrooms, lockers and administrative space.

Barbara Dolensek, City Island Civic Association vice president, said that based on her knowledge, the sound remediation part of the project which the community desires will likely not happen for at least another three to four years.

"First they need to design it, then they will do infrastructure, and then

the ranges," said Dolensek, "(and) at that point, they can do the baffling."

She said she'd like to see inexpensive temporary sound baffles installed at the facility while this process takes place to muffle noise of gunfire, which travels easily over the water to places like City Island or nearby Spencer Estate.

Another CICA board member, John Doyle, who recently started a petition calling for noise abatement at Rodman's Neck said that he is waiting for the "shovel to be in the ground" on the project before he starts celebrating.

"At the end of the day, we

all want the same thing: we all want sound remediation in that area and we want it as soon as possible," said Doyle.

Dolensek feels that the range, which she has visited and toured with police personnel, should be upgraded to better serve the police and correction officers who use it.

She indicated that aside from the noise issue, the range is fine where it is.

Meanwhile, local police advocate and activist John Marano, said that he hopes to see mechanisms for the control not just of noise but also of pollution emissions from Rodman's Neck.



Community Board 10 members voted against a NYC Parks plan for city land adjacent to the Trump Links golf course. The Trump Organization had their proposal for the property rejected by the city last fall. Community News Group/Arthur Cusano

CB10 rejects city's FP plan; leaves Trump golf course parcel in limbo

from Page 1

from parks, or the city, I can't say," said CB 10 chairperson Martin Prince.

Funding for the project had already been put aside by the parks department.

The shovel-ready plans can be implemented by the city even without the board's blessing, or could be abandoned altogether, Prince said.

"We might just be in a position where that \$10.7 million that was slated for the project will wind up leaving our community and go somewhere else," he said.

The city recently rejected a proposal by the Trump Organization, operators of the Trump Links Golf Course at Ferry Point, to lease the city-owned land to expand and improve the golf course and use the remaining land for a passive recreation facility.

Deputy Mayor Alicia Glen submitted the city's decision to Eric Trump, in

a letter dated Monday, October 17, in which she said the land would provide the east Bronx with a crucial recreational amenity, waterfront access, and a protected wetland.

Prince said despite some misunderstanding by the public, the Trump Links proposal was never put before his board, but was instead rejected by the city.

"There was some conversation that the board would like parks to renegotiate with the (Trump) Links, but that was out of the scope of what we were talking about," Prince said. "It was generally understood that Trump Links was the tenant of the parks department and they would be negotiating on the issue no matter what."

The Trump Organization wants the waterfront land to enhance the 17th and 18th holes so it can vie for tournament play.

Its company was also

willing to rehabilitate other areas of the park in exchange for a lease extension for the golf course.

Much of the apprehension to the Parks Department plan was rooted in past problems, most prominently a lack of maintenance and supervision of the western portion of Ferry Point Park and the years it took to get a new comfort station (restroom) built there, Prince said.

"They said, we've trusted them before and it took them so many years to do such-and-such," he recalled. "We're under a new administration and different parks commissioner, and now would be a good time to work on some things we couldn't work on before. But some folks feel it's always going to be the same."

Calls to the Mayor's office and the Trump Organization for comment were not returned by press time.



Rodman's Neck, the off-limits to the public NYPD shooting range, is slated to receive \$275 million in the mayor's preliminary budget for restoration.

Community News Group / Photo by Patrick Rocchio



SHOP OUR CLASSIFIED PAGES EVERY WEEK AND SAVE MONEY



CEO: Les Goodstein

PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER:
Jennifer Goodstein

General Phone: (718) 260-4595

By Mail: Bronx Times Reporter
3604 B E. Tremont Avenue
Bronx, NY 10465

NEWS

Fax: (718) 518-0038

E-Mail: bronxtimes@cnglocal.com

DISPLAY ADVERTISING

Phone: (718) 260-4593

Fax: (718) 518-0038

E-Mail: lguerrero@cnglocal.com

CLASSIFIED

Phone: (718) 260-2555

Fax: (718) 260-2549

E-Mail: classified@cnglocal.com

BXTimes.com

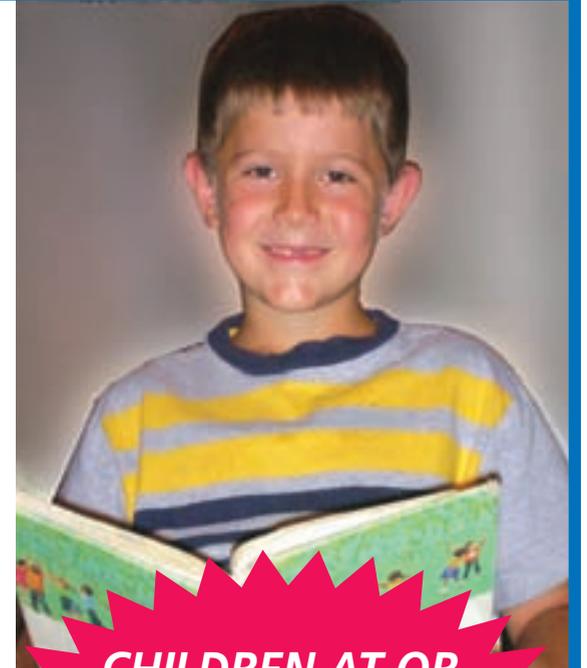
MEMBER:

NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION
NYPA

This newspaper is not responsible for typographical errors in ads beyond the cost of the space occupied by the error. All rights reserved. Copyright © 2017 by Bronx Times Reporter, Inc., a subsidiary of News Community Newspaper Holdings, Inc. The content of this newspaper is protected by Federal copyright law. This newspaper, its advertisements, articles and photographs may not be reproduced, either in whole or part, without permission in writing from the publisher except brief portions for purposes of review or commentary consistent with the law. Postmaster, send address changes to Bronx Times Reporter, 3604 B E. Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY 10465

SOLVE YOUR CHILD'S READING PROBLEM

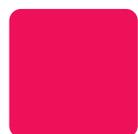
ACHIEVE 3 TO 6 YEARS OF READING IMPROVEMENT IN ONE YEAR!!!



“A Miracle In The Making!” - CBS TV

- One on One Tutoring for K - 12th grade
- Below, At or Above Grade Level Students
- LD - ADD - ADHD - Dyslexia - Special Needs
- Your child will read better, faster with greater fluency and comprehension advancing one year every 4-8 weeks
- Grades, confidence and self esteem will soar as they learn to love reading and school
- Your 3, 4 & 5 year old will learn 15-30 words in the 1st session
- No contracts – Open 7 days a week
- **FREE** Consultation – 35 Years Certified Experience

**CHILDREN AT OR
BELOW GRADE LEVEL
WILL BECOME THE
BEST READERS IN
THEIR CLASS**



WATCH THIS VIDEO NOW:

www.nymetroparents.com/listing/Dicker-reading



Dicker Reading Method

75 Brook Street, Scarsdale | 914.472.0600 | www.DickerReading.com

THE NEW SOUND OF BROOKLYN

The Community News Group is proud to introduce **BROOKLYN PAPER RADIO**. Join Brooklyn Paper Editor-in-Chief **Vince DiMiceli** and the New York Daily News' **Gersh Kuntzman** every Tuesday at 2:00 for an hour of talk on topics Brooklynites hold dear.

Each show will feature in-studio guests and call-out segments, and can be listened to live or played anytime at your convenience.

SPONSORED BY



JOSEPH LICHTER, D.D.S.



VINCE DIMICELI

GERSH KUNTZMAN

LISTEN EVERY TUESDAY AT 2:00PM ON
BrooklynPaper.com/radio



The PSAL champions with Greg Fuchek (back, l), Bronx River High School principal; Assemblyman Gjonaj (back, 3rd from l); Councilman King (front, 2nd from r) and PTA members Augustine Tapia (front, 3rd from r) and Christine Bonilla (front, r).
Photo by Laura Stone

Lehman Lions need funds to seal PSAL championship

BY ROBERT CHRISTIE

The Lehman High School Lions football team did something in December for the first time in four decades - and there's a chance they won't be able to celebrate it the usual fashion.

The Lions won the Public School Athletic League Bowl Championship on Saturday, December 3 but did not receive championship rings, trophies or a victory luncheon due to a lack of funds at Lehman High School.

On Friday, January 20, Assemblymember Mark Gjonaj and Councilman Andy King met with the team at a fundraiser in the school's gym to celebrate their feat.

"Congratulations to Lehman High School on winning their first championship in 46 years," Gjonaj, who contributed \$500 to help the team buy championship rings and trophies, said to the team. "Not only have you made your school proud, but you've made the Bronx proud."

"As a former youth athlete who played basketball, I remember the great feelings I would have when the team won championship games," said King who played varsity basketball at Evander High School. "When the team was celebrated at a luncheon and everyone received trophies

it was one of the greatest feelings in the world.

King, who plans to give approximately \$3,000 to help the boys celebrate in style, hopes to have the party in the near future.

The Lions are currently attempting to raise \$30,000 for the rings and trophies through a GoFundMe page. As of this article they had raised \$3,120.

The championship was Lehman's first division title in 46 years.

The Lions road to the top included victories over rivals such as the Truman Mustangs and the Mckee Vo-Tech/Staten Island Tech Seagulls.

Lehman's only loss in the regular season came at the hands of the Seagulls who they later beat in the semi-finals 34-28 on their way to the bowl's final game.

A 30-0 shutout of the Mustangs in the last round clinched the championship.

"It feels amazing," said head coach Chris DiTullio of being the last team standing. "We're the only one of about 20 teams in the division that go to do this and I'm very proud of them."

DiTullio said many of the juniors and seniors recalled the 2015 season in which the team lost in the quarterfinals.

Therefore the Lions came ready to play this season.

"In the offseason from about February to August they had really, really good work ethic," DiTullio said.

He praised the team for paying attention to detail in their workouts, working hard at their craft and especially making sure they kept their grades up.

Coming into the season the team also addressed their weaknesses.

DiTullio said the Lions made sure to work on their strength, speed and conditioning.

Since many of the kids were sophomores and junior's the year before, they needed to get bigger for the 2016 season.

In addition, DiTullio said some of the losses the team suffered within the previous two seasons came after the team relinquished fourth quarter leads because the team was young and tired.

Training camp for the 2017 season begins in two weeks for the Lions and DiTullio hopes to witness another championship.

"We can't be satisfied," he said. "The players, the coaches, we have to build and continue to get better."

If you are interested in donating to the Lions GoFundMe page visit <https://www.gofundme.com/lehman-lions-hs-football-team-2tv2f5g>.

TOP BRONX NEWS STORIES

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD - YOUR NEWS®



The Bronx Times On-Line
Your world is **24/7... NOW** so are we.

www.bxtimes.com



FOOD • HEALTH • TECHNOLOGY

THE LATEST BRONX SPORTS SCORES

CLASSIFIEDS FOR THE BRONX

Food Bank For NYC, Bright Temple AME Church Create Soup Kitchen

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy, nearly 150 Food Bank for NYC volunteers from different backgrounds rolled up their sleeves on Monday, January 16 to create Hunts Point's first food pantry. The volunteers were hard at work transforming an unfinished kitchen at Bright Temple AME Church into a soup kitchen and dining room equipped to serve thousands of families whose nearest hot meal may be a half hour walk away. Food Bank for NYC partnered with Bright Temple AME Church in 2015 to reopen the church's food pantry to serve as the neighborhood's only local food pantry.

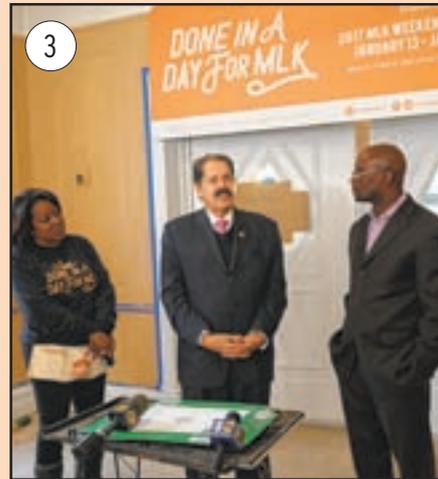
Photos by Aracelis Batista



1



2



3



4



5



6



7

(1) Pastor Sherwyn James from Bright Temple AME Church (back, 2nd from l), Reginald Jones, Jessie James and Sabrina Johnson with volunteers.

(2) (l-r) Charles Martinez, Dana Cordy, Russell Gordon, Zac Hall and Sayed Christopher worked together to build shelves for the soup kitchen.

(3) (l-r) Margarette Purvis, Food Bank for NYC president; Congressman José Serrano and pastor Sherwyn James from Bright Temple AME Church attended the massive renovation project.

(4) (l-r) Volunteers Lacrai Mitchell, Keila Simons and Kimberly Reveil gave the soup kitchen a fresh coat of paint.

(5) A volunteer's shirt says it all.

(6) Many volunteers were instrumental in creating Hunts Point's first soup kitchen

(7) Volunteers worked diligently transforming Bright Temple AME Church's unfinished kitchen into a much needed local soup kitchen and dining room.

Check Out These
Stores In The
Throggs Neck Mall!

THE THROGGS

groom a doggie

TAILS ARE WAGGIN' AND PETS ARE BRAGGIN'



INTRODUCING
**COLORS CREME
CHALK PEN**

*The safe and easy way
to add temporary color
to your pet.
Easy to remove*



SWEET

\$3⁰⁰ OFF
WITH COUPON ONLY

COOL

3604 A E.Tremont Ave.

347-680-5921 347-680-5929

ALL SERVICES BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

COMING SOON



A2Z CONSTRUCTION GROUP

Inc.

- Home Construction
- Carpentry • Foundations
- Basement Remodeling
- Bathroom Remodeling
- Flooring • Handyman
- Tree Service • Remodeling
- Fire Protection • Spas
- Roofing • Demolition
- Commercial Contracting
- General Contracting
- Home Inspections



347-287-1593

AMSTERDAM AIR COOLING

- Air Conditioner Repairs
- Installation & Winter Storage
- Ductless & Central A/C Units
- Restaurant Refrigeration
- Walk-in Boxes, Deli Cases
- We are Licensed & Insured
- Ice Machines
- Refrigeration Repairs
Commercial \$ Residential
- Washers, Dryers, Dishwashers
and Store Repairs
- Certificate of Insurance
upon request



212-787-7700

3602/3604 East Tremont Avenue

NECK MALL

See what the Throggs Neck Mall is all about!
You can sit and dine in our cozy courtyard.
Order from the best smokehouse in the
Bronx at the Alley Cat Smokehouse.

Want to play an instrument? Just Nuts Music School

Lessons on all Instruments
Beginners & Intermediate
Repairs, Recordings, Video

Live Bands
Disc Jockeys Available
Call 646-261-0170
or 646-331-9707

for free consultation or
www.justrnutsmusic.net

(2nd Floor) Suite 204

RE/MAX



840 Dean Avenue

Magnificent 3800 Sq. Ft. Two Family Waterfront Home On An 8600 Sq. Ft. Lot Looking Over The Long Island Sound. Private Beach With 25x30 Ft. Deck With Gazebo. The Home Consists Of Four Floors Of Indoor Living And Entertaining Space. Five Bathrooms In The Main Home. Garage And Unlimited Storage Space. This Gorgeous Home Consists Of Top End Heating And Central Air. Stainless Steel Appliances And Granite Counter Tops. Hardwood Floors With Dark Borders. Magnificent Views From Every Part Of This Home Which Consists Of Oversized Patio Doors And Windows. The Second Apartment Is A Beautiful Duplex With Terrace and 1.5 Baths. On Street Side Of Property. **\$1,588,888**

APARTMENTS / HOUSES FOR RENT

Throggs Neck. 3+ bedroom spacious duplex. Laundry in unit. **\$2650**
Bedford Pk Area. 1 bedroom. **\$1425**

COMMERCIAL SPACE

Morris Park Avenue. 1390 Sq. Ft. Whitebox, perfect for Office or Medical.
Throggs Neck Mall. E Tremont Ave. Offices available. 400-1200 Sq Ft.



Larry "Large" Weinstein
Top Producer

**GOOD RENTERS SEEKING ONE BEDROOM, TWO BEDROOM AND
THREE BEDROOM APARTMENTS. LIST YOUR APARTMENT WITH US.**
Free Home Evaluation. Get Top Dollar For Your House.

Let Us Sell Your Home

Distinguished Homes & Properties
Phone: 718-684-1411 Cell: 917-957-6800
3602 E Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY 10465

Back to School

Uniform Sale

Blank
Polos
STARTING AT
\$12.50

Khakis
and
Navy
\$15.99

METRO
Custom Printing
3602b TREMONT AVE. BRONX, NY 10465

718-684-1422
sales@metrocustomprinting.com
MetroCustomPrinting.com

75 MO SALON

Eyebrow * Waxing * Threading * Eyelash * Tinting *

347-455-0198

Eyebrow Threading

Only \$5



Open 7 Days
9:30am - 7:30pm



Extensions • Haircut
Make-up • Color
Botox • Hi-Lites
Juvéderm • Balyage
Eyelash Extensions
Brazilian Blowout
Hair Extensions

718-684-1191

Sun-Mon: Appointment Only • Tues-Wed: 7am-7pm

Thurs-Sat: 9am-7pm

WOMEN

Stylist: Jen Barber: Jay

MEN

50% OFF
First Color Service

Chair Rental

Looking for stylist, barbers and/or nail tech with a following

Office/Retail Space Available in the Mall Call 917-232-2375



(l-r) Luis Fermin, contractor from Fermin Construction; Mike Nisthalal, developer, and Andy Nisthalal stand in front of the stalled worksite at 3113 Westchester Avenue.

Community News Group / Patrick Rocchio

Westchester Avenue laundromat building stalled

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Construction of a new laundromat and strip-mall in Pelham Bay is stalled due to a NYC Department of Buildings audit.

The DOB issued a stop work order recently on a new 150-machine laundromat and two additional stores being constructed at 3113 Westchester Avenue.

According to builder Mike Nisthalal, the one-story building will offer just over 6,000 square feet of retail space and four parking spaces.

It will be a modern building in keeping with others along the Westchester Avenue block, said the developer.

The building will be set back from the street on a 8,660-square foot parcel.

Each of the additional retail stores will be approximately 1,000 square feet.

The community can expect a state-of-the-art laundromat, along the lines of ones he has built in every borough except Manhattan over a 25-year career, he said.

The DOB audited its own approved plans after Councilman James Vacca, who periodically reviews new construction applications in his district, noticed certain features of the project that raised red flags, including possible technical issues with basement egress, handicap accessibility, curb cuts and parking.

The DOB ordered that some changes be made, according to the developer.

Nisthalal said he set the front of the building back further from the sidewalk to comply with the audit.

Because the project was DOB certified and construction permits were pulled on Wednesday, December 14, the builder feels he has been unfairly singled out.

"I am bringing business to his district; I am bringing employment to his district; I am bringing money to his district," said the developer, expressing frustration over Vacca's involvement, adding "(The devel-

opment) enhances the value of everyone's property; there is more convenience, more work for people."

Vacca said he is not going to stop looking into construction projects he feels may be questionable.

The councilman believes that either the project complies with the zoning, or it does not.

The real reason for Vacca's objections to this project may be found in his objections to large-scale laundromats, period.

He also fought the opening of a laundromat on East Tremont Avenue in Throggs Neck to no avail.

He believes the new laundromat will create traffic and parking problems.

"He proposed four parking spaces, so where will people park?" said Vacca. "They would either double park or park on side streets in the community."

The councilman would like to see the owner consult with the community while explaining his thoughts and being sensitive to the parking concerns in Pelham Bay.

The zoning only requires four on-site parking spaces.

Michelle Torrioni, Pelham Bay Taxpayer Association president, said that if the developer could create more off-street parking, she believes it would be more attractive to potential customers since it is often difficult to find parking along Westchester Avenue.

Residential neighbors of the project seemed mildly inconvenienced.

One renter of an apartment on Edison Avenue which backs up against the project, Maritza Rodriguez, lamented that she had lost use of her backyard because the construction work fence was temporarily located on the property.

The retail center is being built on the rear property line, necessitating the safety fence.

Throgs Neck, Whitestone bridges to get LED lighting

BY ARTHUR CUSANO

Bronx residents will soon see the MTA bridges in a new light - literally - as plans to install new LED lighting on all of New York City's MTA bridges are underway.

Governor Cuomo has included plans to illuminate the bridges, first discussed in a transportation proposal presentation in October of last year, in his proposed 2017 budget discussed Tuesday, January 17.

The lighting will be funded as part of a \$500 million MTA project aimed at installing electronic tollbooths.

In addition to the Throgs Neck and Whitestone bridges in the Bronx, the Verazano Narrows, Henry Hudson, Cross Bay, Marine Parkway and all three spans of the Robert F. Kennedy will also be illuminated under the new initiative.

Cuomo has also said he hoped to add LED lighting to the George Washington Bridge, which is managed by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Under the proposal, LED lighting, which uses 40 to 80 percent less power and lasts six times longer than other types of lighting, will be adopted on all MTA bridges and tunnels.

Construction is expected to begin this month, according to the New York Power Authority.

The NYPA will be overseeing the project and the vendors hired to implement it.

"The design for the project and the associated cost estimate are being finalized with the MTA," said NYPA spokesman Paul DeMichele. "Once that is complete, we will have a cost estimate for the project. NYPA will utilize its low-cost financing to assist MTA with the upfront costs, and MTA will repay NYPA through its utility bills."

In addition to saving money by using less electricity, LED lights can be programmed into different colors and patterns

or set to music.

The lighting of the Bay Bridge in San Francisco, is estimated to have generated over \$100 million in economic activity, Cuomo said.

"Well, if that's what they can do in those other places, then imagine what we can do in New York because our bridges are some of the most beautiful on the globe, just structurally," he said.

Other cities have used the colored lighting to great effect.

For instance, lights on the Ben Franklin Bridge were switched to purple in honor of the musician Prince after he died last year and were red, white and blue when the Democratic Convention was held in the city last summer.

Cuomo said the bridge lighting could be in unison with the lighting of the Empire State Building and Freedom Tower.

The Empire State Building is often lit with different colors to celebrate holidays or the local sports teams.

Elected officials who represent the area near the Throgs Neck and Whitestone bridges said they were optimistic about the new look.

"I'm excited for the installation of new LED lights on MTA-operated bridges across the city, including a pair of crossings in my home district," said Senator Jeff Klein. "The planned synchronized light shows will offer spectacular views, which many of my constituents will be able to enjoy on a nightly basis."

Assemblyman Michael Bendetto said that while he didn't always see eye-to-eye with the governor, he did support the bridge initiative.

"It brightens up the bridges, and the LED lights will use less energy and be more efficient, which saves us all money," Bendetto said. "It's a win-win all around."



The Ben Franklin Bridge in Philadelphia lit up in red, white and blue for the Democratic National Convention last summer. The MTA will begin installing the colorful LED lights on New York City bridges starting this month.

Photo courtesy of Delaware River Port Authority

West Farms shooting sparks safety measures

BY ROBERT WIRSING

A mother of four's shooting death has many West Farms residents demanding change.

On Wednesday, January 11, Councilman Ritchie Torres; Assemblyman Luis Sepulveda and Senator Ruben Diaz, Sr. held a press conference outside the West Farms Convenience Store, where the incident occurred, announcing new safety measures and resources to prevent future senseless violent acts in the neighborhood.

According to police, Cindy Diaz, 48, was walking home on Friday, January 6 around 5 p.m. after picking up dinner at McDonald's for her sons when she was fatally shot in front of the convenience store on 2012 Boston Road.

Diaz, a Lambert Houses resident, was struck in her arm and torso by two stray bullets after an argument between two nearby men turned violent.

She was rushed to St. Barnabas Hospital where she was pronounced deceased.

Police believe the gunman's intended target was a young man standing near Diaz.

The young man's right bicep was grazed by a bullet which he

sought treatment for at Jacobi Medical Center.

He has refused to cooperate with the police investigation.

The gunman has not been identified.

Councilman Torres has allocated \$350,000 to the NYPD and will contribute an additional \$175,000 for NYPD security cameras and safety improvements in his district which encompasses Bathgate, Belmont, Crotona, Fordham, East Tremont, Van Nest and West Farms.

Torres has requested the NYC Department of Transportation conduct a lighting study in order to install new community-wide lighting fixtures.

"This horrific tragedy has our entire community speechless and we must act now to prevent future acts of violence," he expressed. "My condolences and prayers are with the Diaz family and we will remain vigilant in capturing the suspect and ensuring the family receives justice."

Assemblyman Sepulveda has allocated \$500,000 for NYPD cameras and security measures in West Farms.

The NYPD is in the process of



Senator Diaz (3rd from l), Assemblyman Sepulveda (c) and Councilman Torres (2nd from r) held a press conference in front of the West Farms Convenience Store where Cindy Diaz was fatally shot.

Photo by Bob Kappstatter

installing these cameras.

The project's total funding from Torres and Sepulveda is \$1.025 million.

"Unlike most areas of NYC, the funding for safety and capital improvements here at Lambert Houses and in the West Farms neighborhood is long overdue," stated Senator Diaz. "I am hopeful that through funding from the city and state that has finally been allocated to be used in our com-

munity, crime will decrease and our senior citizens and families will be safe."

Diaz is survived by her former longtime boyfriend Angel Rosario and their four sons Liam, Takis, Reino and Giovanni.

The St. Raymond school community has created a GoFundMe page to help the Rosario family cover their education expenses.

If interested in donating, visit www.gofundme.com/rosario

family-fund.

Donations can also be sent to St. Raymond Elementary School, attention: Rosario Education Fund, 2380 E. Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY 10462.

A \$10,000 reward is offered for the gunman's arrest and conviction.

Anyone with information is asked to call Crime Stoppers at (800) 577-TIPS. All calls are kept strictly confidential.

Throggs Neck merchants elect new board

BY ROBERT CHRISTIE

The Throggs Neck Merchants Association swore in its new president Bob Jean on Wednesday, January 25.

The other new officers are Richard Rosario, vice president; Angela Molinini, secretary; Hussein Nouri, technology director; Patrick Caruso, government liaison; John Marano, resident advisor; Steven Kaufman, legal counsel and Lilyana Pekic, event coordinator.

"It feels really good," said Jean who added he is excited to get to work with the community.

Jean, who has served on the TMNA executive board for three years, felt he "always wanted to do more" for his community ever since his days as a union rep for the Communication Workers of America Local 1101.

During his time with the union - a time in which Jean had been working as a repairman for Verizon - he said he saw the work union members did for the community which inspired him.

Since leaving Verizon in 2002 he has worked to give back to the Throggs Neck and Pelham Bay

communities.

He owned Health Unlimited on Hobart Avenue in Pelham Bay for seven years and has owned a florist, Anthony's Flower Farm, on East Tremont Avenue for six and a half years.

Each fall from October 1st to 9 p.m. on Halloween, Jean hosts a pumpkin patch for children at Anthony's Flower farm.

Children and their families are invited to paint and carve pumpkins.

The proceeds from the pumpkin patch go towards toys for needy children around the holidays.

Jean said he isn't looking for a pat on the back with his work and believes his new position will give him and the TNMA a chance to continue that work.

"It might sound a little cliché," said Jean, "but I truly believe you can move mountains with people if you treat them the right way."

In addition to community outreach, Jean and the local business owners have also been working on establishing a Throggs Neck Business Improvement District.



The Throggs Neck Merchants Association swore in new president Bobby Jean, owner of Anthony's Flower Farm, on Wednesday, January 25.

Photo Courtesy of Robert Christie

"The BID process is going well," he said.

While acknowledging the process was moving forward, Jean said he couldn't offer too much info on the BID's formation since the parties involved are still in the initial stages.

"We're still trying to get all our ducks in a row," he said.

John Cerini, the first president of the TNMA, and its founder in 2006, believes with Jean at the helm, the TMNA is in good hands.

"I'm confident Bobby can do this," said Cerini. "From the few meetings we've already had you can see his enthusiasm and I'm really excited about what he can

do."

Cerini said Jean has already discussed implementing better networking and communication between merchants.

In addition, the TMNA could even be considering a community discount card which would mean discounts for residents of the Throggs Neck community at Throggs Neck stores.

Cerini said he is also looking forward to the creation of a Throggs Neck BID.

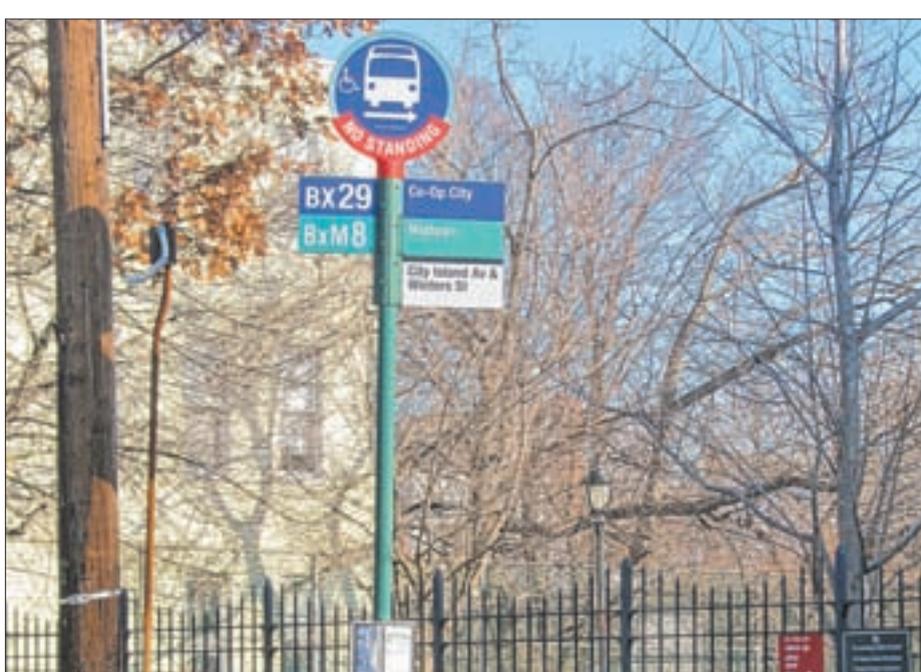
He said he understands the skepticism that may come from having to pay fees associated with the BID but he believes it will be an investment in the community.

"We need to invest in our community and invest in ourselves," he said.

Cerini added that a BID will help the Throggs Neck business community compete with nearby malls and chain stores outside of the area.

He also said he is hoping the BID will attract an anchor store to draw more shoppers to the Throggs Neck shopping area.

Kaufman, who is a local attorney, held the president's post for the past four years.



The service on the Bx29 bus to and from City Island is a subject of much interest for the City Island Civic Association.
Community News Group / Patrick Rocchio

City Island civic group requests dedicated bus line

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

A local civic group is proposing changes to the Bx 29 bus route that it believes will provide riders better service.

The City Island Civic Association wrote the Metropolitan Transportation Authority on Tuesday, January 24 regarding service problems on the Bx 29 route.

These include long-standing concerns like lack of early morning bus service that strands some commuters and buses bound for City Island that are misidentified with Co-op City signage.

The civic group is now calling for the agency to examine splitting the route into two separate lines: one servicing Co-op City and Bay Plaza, the other the island.

Currently the bus runs between both communities.

"We believe that doing so would allow regular and more consistent service for both neighborhoods, reduce delays for City Islanders, and alleviate the chances of buses arriving with incorrect bus signage," stated the CICA letter.

Splitting the route in two would help commuters to City Island avoid delays when more people take the bus to do holiday shopping at Co-op City malls, said John Doyle, a CICA board member.

He added, conversely, having separate routes would help straphangers traveling to Co-op City avoid delays on the Bx 29 caused by summer traffic snarls on City Island.

Many of the riders have a sense of frustration about the quality of service, said Doyle.

Approximately 523 Bx 29 riders have signed a change.org petition calling for expanding service hours on the bus, which currently does not run from 1 to 5 a.m., and

for better reliability.

There was a public meeting between Bx 29 riders and MTA at the City Island Nautical Museum in July 2015, but the CICA is still waiting for release of the collected data concerning the bus lines and to learn what changes MTA could make, according to CICA board members.

"People have been very patient with the MTA for over a year, waiting for them to get back to us on expanding the service," said Doyle. "While we have an ongoing dialogue with MTA employees, we have not seen an improvement in service or in extending the times of the route."

A Bx 29 rider stated that buses in the morning are frequently two to three minutes late, which sometimes causes her to miss a connecting express bus to Manhattan.

The evening commute is even worse, the rider said, with the Bx 29 to City Island often showing up early at Amendola Plaza and leaving before the scheduled time.

"The afternoon (and) evening bus from Pelham Bay to City Island is so inconsistent," she stated, adding when the bus is missed she sometimes spends between \$10 to \$15 for a cab to the island.

The timing along the route is terrible based on reports that Barbara Dolensek, another CICA board member, has received.

In addition, she said, she has received several reliable reports that in some cases bus drivers are telling riders that the "trip is on them" or that the MetroCard swipe machine that collects fares on the bus is broken.

An MTA representative was not immediately available for comment as of press time.

Bronx Narratives puts borough's life online

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

An up and coming online publication has found, and continues to find new ways to express the life experiences of a Bronx-ite.

Bronx Narratives is doing just that - while encouraging the borough's local residents to remain active in their community.

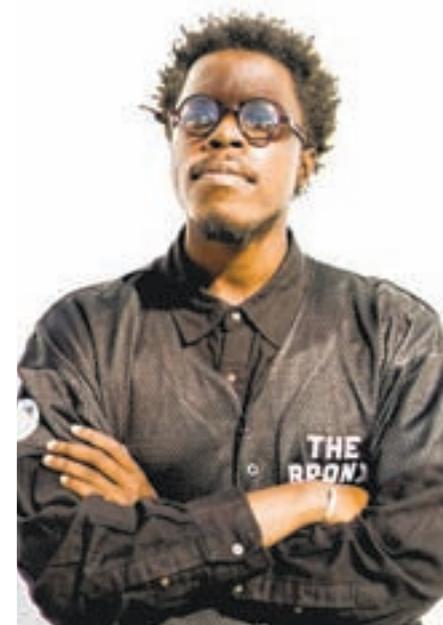
Bronx Narratives was started in 2014 by lifelong Bronxites Dondre Green, Decota Letman and Hoay Smith, whose goal was to describe the experiences of those who currently live and/or have lived in the Bronx, as well as encourage residents to explore and support various initiatives within the borough, to fill a void they believed was missing in media.

Topics usually covered on Bronx Narratives include arts and culture, food, events, history and neighborhood tales.

Although most of the Bronx Narratives team is based in the north Bronx, the on-line publication covers stories from all around the Bronx.

"We see ourselves as a platform for the community - and we want to share the true voices from the people who reside here," said Dondre Green, co-founder and creative director. "There's a lot of great things happening here that we'd like for others, especially those who live in the borough, to be aware of."

Green, currently a Pelham Gardens resident and a graduate of Riverdale Kingsbridge Academy, said that the Bronx Narratives team has connected with its readers through photowalks, where they explore local neighborhoods and parks, as well as creating monthly podcasts (available on



Green, co-founder and creative director for Bronx Narratives.

Photo courtesy of Bronx Narratives

their website) and hosting events at Bronx businesses.

"We are continuing to find new ways for people to interact and identify with a place that we all call home," Green added. "There are many stories to tell about this borough and I'm fully committed to sharing all of them."

Bronx native Decota Letman, the publication's co-founder, lead editor and logistics coordinator who specializes in public relations, writing and event coordination, graduated from John F. Kennedy High School and currently resides in Bronxwood.

Co-founder lifelong Bronxite Hoay Smith, a Wakefield resident, graduated from Mount St. Michael Academy and Mercy College, and fills the role of Bronx Narrative's art director, primarily focusing on aesthetics for his illustrations and curations.

Bronx Narratives will be hosting an event from 4 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, January 28, at the newly opened brewery Gun Hill Tavern, located at 780 E. 133rd Street, where they will be debuting their first ever Limited Edition Print Magazine, which will include live art by Bronx based artists Andre Trenier and Annie Leginni, an in-depth keynote presentation on the magazine and a chance for those in attendance to purchase a copy.

A series of round-table styled discussions on community-based issues and topics will follow.

Don't miss out - it may be your only chance to purchase a limited edition print version of this magazine!

For more information on the publication, visit www.bronxnarratives.com. To RSVP to Saturday's event, visit bronxnarratives.splashthat.com.



Flyer for Bronx Narratives event on Saturday, January 28. Photo courtesy of Bronx Narratives

CB7: 'Wait' on Mosholu Pkwy. downzoning

BY ROBERT CHRISTIE

Residents pushing for the downzoning of Mosholu Parkway may have to wait a little bit longer following a Wednesday, January 18 Community Board 7 meeting.

Adaline Walker, chair of CB 7, said she appreciated the many residents who came out to the meeting to call for the downzoning.

However, she said, the board is currently focusing on downzoning a portion of Bedford Park.

Walker said the board has already hired a consultant to conduct a study on how they can downzone that area.

The board then plans to meet with the NYC Planning Commission on the matter.

Walker added that the board tried to see if they could add the entire Mosholu Parkway to the study but it was not possible.

Instead, the board encouraged residents who support the Mosholu Parkway downzo-

ning to meet with elected officials and community members to garner support.

Supporters of the downzoning believe keeping the current zone will destroy the aesthetic of the neighborhoods along Mosholu Parkway, allowing developers to build taller buildings.

They are hoping to convince city planning to downzone Mosholu, which is currently an R7/R8, to an R5 which allows buildings no taller than six stories.

Anthony Rivieccio, president of the Northwest Bronx Democrats, has been adamant that city planning is looking at Mosholu Parkway the wrong way.

"City planning sees Mosholu Parkway as a north/south corridor," he said.

Therefore, said Rivieccio, it would make sense to zone the southern half of the parkway differently from the northern half of the parkway.

Currently, the southern half of Mosholu

Woman's body parts found at Metropolitan Transfer Station

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

A horrifying discovery was recently made in a Bronx waste transfer station last week.

On the morning of Tuesday, January 17, between 4 to 4:30 a.m., a worker operating a bulldozer at the Metropolitan Transfer Station, located at 287 Halleck Street, came across a torso and a leg of an adult female.

Police responded to the scene at about 4:42 a.m. on Tuesday, after receiving a 911 call for possible human remains found in a pile of garbage inside of the waste transfer station.

No arrests were made immediately following the body part findings. However, on Sunday, January 22, 40-year old Somorie Moses was arrested, believed to be connected to the dismembered person in Hunts Point.

Moses, a Erasmus Street resident in East Flatbush, Brooklyn, was charged with concealment of a human corpse, after police officers found other body parts, including a head, hands and feet inside his apartment on Sunday.

A registered sex offender, Moses was convicted for attempted promotion of and profiting from prostitution in 2006 and served three years in prison.

As of press time, the NYC of Chief Medical Examiner's office was able to confirm that the first set of body part findings in Hunts Point were indeed connected to the other body parts in Moses' apartment.

They also confirmed that the cause of the woman's death is multiple blunt force injuries, including skull fractures.



Body parts of an unidentified woman were found at the Metropolitan Transfer Station at 287 Halleck Street.

Community News Group / Steven Goodstein

The manner of death was ruled as a homicide, after investigation.

The chief medical examiner's office was also able to identify the woman, but referred the request to the police, who did not yet have the authority to release the name of the individual.

Workers at Metropolitan Transfer Station in Hunts Point declined to comment on the incident.



Community members pushing for the downzoning of Mosholu Parkway may have to wait a little bit longer following a Wednesday, January 18 Community Board 7 meeting. Photo Courtesy of Robert Christie

Parkway is at an R8 - which allows buildings as high as 10 stories.

The northern half of the parkways is zoned R7.

This zoning encourages smaller apartment buildings on smaller lots and - if a building is on a larger lot - taller apartment buildings with less lot coverage.

Rivieccio is hoping to get city planning to view Mosholu Parkway from an east to west development perspective.

He believes if they do, they will see it as one stretch of land that can be designated as one zone.

"I have lived off Mosholu for over 30 years," said Rivieccio. "One of the things that keeps me here today is the same reason I fell in love with this neighborhood four decades ago - it has an almost country-type atmosphere."

"Mosholu Parkway was known as 'The Gateway to the Botanical Garden,'" he added. "I would love to keep that preserved."

At the meeting, residents also discussed specific projects they feel could impact the "country-type atmosphere" of the parkway.

For example, Rivieccio said, the meeting's attendees expressed concern about the new 13-story, 163 unit building by Stagg Development that is coming to Van Cortlandt Avenue.

Despite the board's decision, Walker said the board is not opposed to downzoning Mosholu.

"We live here, we eat here, we sleep here," Walker said of the community board. "We are volunteers in this community."

However, she said the board must see how the study on Bedford Park goes before they can focus on Mosholu Parkway.

► **EMPLOYMENT, REAL ESTATE, LEGALS**

To Place Your Ad
Call 718-260-2555

► **MEDICAL HELP WANTED**

► **MEDICAL HELP WANTED**

► **LEGAL**

► **LEGAL**

► **LEGAL**

► **LEGAL**

► **BROOKLYN APTS UNFURN**

To Advertise Here
Call 718-260-2555
OR
Fax 718-260-2549

CNA, LPN & RN JOB FAIR

FIVE STAR NURSING NOW HIRING CNA's, LPN's & RN's NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED! IMMEDIATE PLACEMENT!

WEEK LONG JOB FAIR JANUARY 30TH - FEBRUARY 3RD 10AM-4PM DAILY IN OUR BRONX OFFICE 349 EAST 149TH STREET, BRONX NY 10451

For rapid processing & immediate job placement please bring
Resume, picture ID, SS card, proof of citizenship, proof of medicals (Physical exam, MMR, PPD)

!!!! SURPRISE GIFTS TO ALL APPLICANTS !!!!

For more information
call 718-534-7400 ext 135
Or email Stephany@fsnursing.com

Hoja Informativa de una Notificación Pública

El Departamento de Conservación Ambiental del Estado de Nueva York (DEC) a recibido una aplicación para un programa de limpieza en un Brownfield (BCP) y un plan de obra preliminar para una investigación remediadora dado por Wilfrid East Properties LLC, Wilfrid East LIHTC LLC y Wilfrid West Properties LLC para un sitio conocido como 1888 Bathgate Avenue Redevelopment, ID de sitio #C203088. El sitio esta localizado en el Bronx en 4181 y 3a Avenida. Los comentarios sobre esta aplicación deben ser sometidos antes del 3 de Marzo del 2017. Una copia de la aplicación, del plan de obra preliminar para una investigación remediadora y otros documentos importantes están disponibles en el depositario de documentos localizado en La Biblioteca de Tremont, 1866 Washington Avenue, Bronx, NY 10457 y en el Bronx Community Board District 6, 1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 709, Bronx, NY 10457.

Información sobre el sitio y como someter comentarios pueden encontrarse en <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/60058.html> y también se pueden mandar comentarios a Nigel Crawford, Gerente de Proyectos, NYSDEC-Region 2, 47-40 21st Street, Long Island City, NY 11101; nigel.crawford@dec.ny.gov o llamando al 718-482-4995.

Para obtener más información sobre esta hoja informativa por correo electrónico, registre en su municipio por listservs disponible en www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html.

Public Notice Fact Sheet

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has received a Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) application and Draft Supplemental Remedial Investigation Work Plan from Wilfrid East Properties LLC, Wilfrid East LIHTC LLC and Wilfrid West Properties LLC for a site known as 1888 Bathgate Avenue Redevelopment, site ID #C203088. This site is located in the Borough of Bronx, within the County of Bronx, and is located at 4181 3 rd Avenue. Comments regarding this application must be submitted no later than March 3, 2017. A copy of the application, Draft Supplemental Remedial Investigation Work Plan and other relevant documents are available at the document repositories located at Tremont Library, 1866 Washington Avenue, Bronx, NY 10457 and Bronx Community Board District 6, 1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 709, Bronx, NY 10457. Information regarding the site and how to submit comments can be found at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/60058.html> or send comments to Nigel Crawford, Project Manager, NYSDEC-Region 2, 47-40 21st Street, Long Island City, NY 11101; niel.crawford@dec.riv.ciov or call 718-482-4995.

To have information such as this notice sent right to your email, sign up with county email listservs available at www.dec.nysiovicchemical/61092.html.

Windsor Terrace
4bed 2bath gut renov d/w
w/d pets ok \$3475 Neg no
fee 2 mon rent free.New
Spirit realty 718-921-1200

Call
718-260-2555
To Advertise Here
Turn Unwanted Items into



► **HELP WANTED**

► **HELP WANTED**

► **HELP WANTED**

► **HELP WANTED**



Start Your Career
With A Job That's Right For You!

Try Real-Time Job Matching™ & get hired fast.

www.DreamJobsNYC.com

SAVE MONEY



BY SHOPPING IN OUR CLASSIFIEDS

NYCHA plans upgrades to 991 Bronx apartments

BY ROBERT CHRISTIE

An expansion of the New York City Housing Authority's Permanent Affordability Commitment Together program could mean much needed repairs for approximately 1,000 apartments in the Bronx.

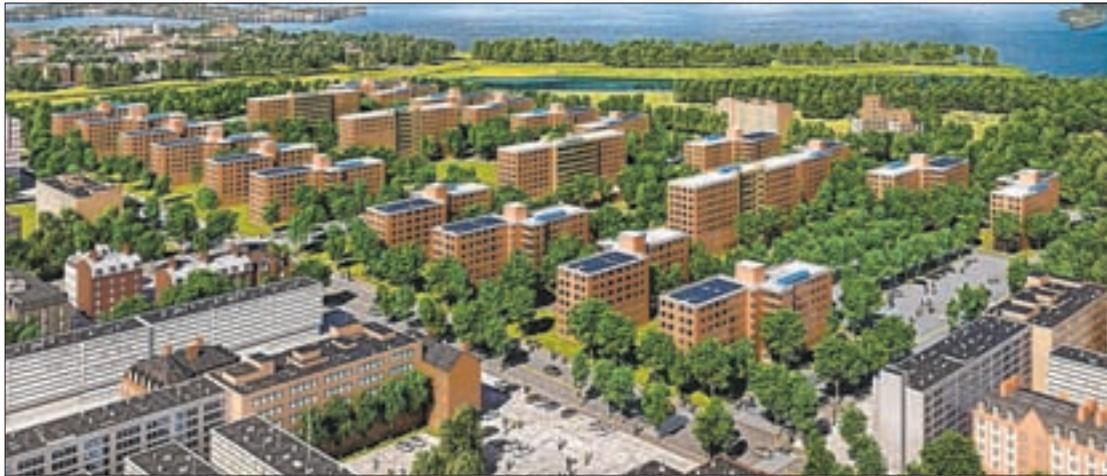
According to a January 18 press release from NYCHA, the Department of Housing and Urban Development granted the expansion which will bring an additional \$300 million dollars in funding for a total of 1,700 units throughout the Bronx and Brooklyn.

Through PACT, NYCHA can shift funding for their units from Section 9, or public housing, to project-based Section 8 which will allow for the partnerships with private developers.

However, even though a developer will manage the buildings, NYCHA remains the landlord and is able to make sure units stay affordable and tenants' rights stay intact.

The PACT expansion will benefit 991 units in the borough.

Those units include apartments at Twin Parks West, the Franklin



NYCHA apartments in the Bronx will be getting their own repairs and renovations thanks to the PACT program.

Photo Courtesy of Robert Christie

Avenue conventional apartments, the Betances apartments and the Highbridge Rehab.

"For many low-income families in the Bronx this means a significant improvement in their quality of life—and for that, I commend the department," said Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito.

According to Councilmember Ritchie Torres, PACT is "the best opportunity to save public housing for future generations."

"NYCHA is at a crossroads and it must either adapt to the changing federal landscape and funding streams, or risk losing buildings to decay," he said. "The Rental Assistance Demonstration Program provides much-needed investments while allowing NYCHA to retain ownership of land and buildings."

The repairs on these apartments won't come right away.

NYCHA expects to first meet

with the community to discuss what repairs they need and answer any questions residents have.

"The PACT process centers around community engagement because at its core this new public-private partnership is about improving residents' quality of life," said a NYCHA spokesperson.

The spokesperson also stressed the maintenance of tenant rights through NYCHA during the pri-

ivate/public partnership.

Many times in these types of partnerships, residents are fair-ful that a new developer means a new landlord that can hike up the rent or take advantage of tenants.

In addition to the Rockaways' Ocean Bay, NYCHA has also done other private/public partnerships outside of the PACT program.

In August 2016, NYCHA completed repairs to the Bronxchester Houses on E. 156th Street through a partnership with L+M Development.

The building received new paint, new pipes, central air for residents, and a new basketball court and play area.

"The developments in this PACT include some of NYCHA's most challenging buildings and the authority had no way to address their needs with the limited capital funding received and over \$17 billion in capital needs throughout the portfolio," said the spokesperson. "Through the RAD program, residents in these developments will see their buildings transformed and fully rehabbed with over \$300 million being invested back into these buildings".

Construction set for I.S. 192 campus schoolyard

from Page 1

by the project target date of December.

"This is turning black-top into a useful play space for our kids," said Vacca.

Vacca said that he worked to address concerns of neighbors and homeowners on Hollywood Avenue and he had several meetings to collaborate with them on the project.

Some changes to the design resulted from these meetings, he said.

"(The neighbors) were a very integral part of the process," said Vacca. "They made suggestions and we worked to accommodate them."

Vacca said that he believes the campus will eventually house students from grads K through 8, and that this adds urgency to the push to improve the space.

As of now, in keeping with regulations, only children in school or programming at 650 Hollywood Avenue, the former I.S. 192

campus, will be using the facility once it is complete, according to sources.

P.S. 392, I.S. 467 and I.S. 371, as well as a Phipps afterschool program will use it.

The project is the largest playground TPL has built of its 189 playground projects in the city, said Mary Alice Lee, TPL director of New York City Playgrounds.

"We are doing this in two phases because the school(s) wanted to be able to use the yard during the construction," said Lee. "We will start the second phase in the next few weeks."

One of the interesting features of this particular playground, that came from student feedback, was the creation of girls' basketball stations that are painted with pink lines because many girls at the campus schools said the boys monopolized the courts, said Lee.

The newly designed playground which plans to

add green to the gray space, includes basketball courts, a running track, tennis courts and volleyball, multiple kinds of green space including planting areas and a kickball area.

Michael Schnall, NYRR vice-president, stated that the playground is part is one of three in the city that NYRR plans on constructing with TPL that are slated to be completed by the end of 2017.

The shared campuses on will have school-wide participation in NYRR's free youth running programs, stated Schnall.

According to a previously published Bronx Times article, Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. allocated \$750,000 for playground restoration to a particular school on the campus, P.S. 392, the Delta School, in the FY 2016 city budget.

A Diaz spokesman could not comment further on this allocation as of press time.



Councilman James Vacca joined school children from the campus as well as representatives from the Trust From Public Land and Michael Schnall (c) of New York Road Runners at a ceremonial ground-breaking for the 1.96 acre playground at the former I.S. 192 campus.

Community News Group / Patrick Rocchio

TOP DRIVER DISTRACTIONS

Using mobile phones

Leading the list of the top distractions behind the wheel are mobile phones. Phones now do more than just place calls, and drivers often cannot pull away from their phones, even when driving. According to the California Department of Motor Vehicles, studies have shown that driving performance is lowered and the level of distraction is higher for drivers who are heavily engaged in cell

phone conversations. The use of a hands-free device does not lower distraction levels. The percentage of vehicle crashes and near-crashes attributed to dialing is nearly identical to the number associated with talking or listening.

Daydreaming

Many people will admit to daydreaming behind the wheel or looking at a person or object outside of the car for too long. Per-

haps they're checking out a house in a new neighborhood or thought they saw someone they knew on the street corner. It can be easy to veer into the direction your eyes are focused, causing an accident. In addition to trying to stay focused on the road, some drivers prefer the help of lane departure warning systems.

Eating

Those who haven't quite mastered walking and

chewing gum at the same time may want to avoid eating while driving. The majority of foods require a person's hands to be taken off of the wheel and their eyes to be diverted from the road. Reaching in the back seat to share some French fries with the kids is also distracting.

Try to eat meals before getting in the car. For those who must snack while en route, take a moment to pull over at

a rest area and spend 10 minutes snacking there before resuming the trip.

Reading

Glancing at an advertisement, updating a Facebook status or reading a book are all activities that should be avoided when driving. Even pouring over a traffic map or consulting the digital display of a GPS system can be distracting.

INJURED? WE WIN YOU \$\$!

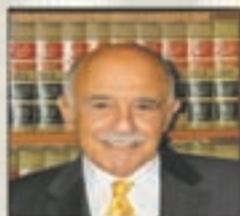
Have you been seriously injured through the fault of another party?



- Car accident?
- Injured at work?
- Unsafe sidewalk?
- Medical malpractice?
- Police misconduct?
- Construction accident?
- Slip and Fall?

Serving All Boros Hablamos Espanol
Office is handicapped accessible
No fee unless we recover Free consultation

Did You Know?



"It is your RIGHT to recover damages for injuries that are not your fault."



OYEZ!

We recently won a blind client a substantial

6 figure settlement

for injuries from an unrepaired sidewalk. The owner and insurance company fought us, but our persistence, and justice, prevailed!

"We have been helping injured people get compensated for wrongful injuries since 1967."

HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS RECOVERED FOR OUR CLIENTS

Piergrossi & Peterman
wewinyoucash.com

844-300-6648

Call our **TOLL FREE** hotline for your complimentary consultation!