

Throggs Neck Clipper on final voyage

BY ARTHUR CUSANO

The news that Throggs Neck Clipper Bar and Restaurant, an East Tremont establishment for two full decades, will be closing soon, was met with disbelief by its many faithful patrons.

Peadar and Eileen Tierney, the owners of the popular packed Irish pub announced the bad news on its Facebook page on Wednesday, June 21, citing a dispute with their landlord.

"The Throggs Neck Clipper will be closing her doors on July 29th for the last time, due to the fact that we could not come to an amicable arrangement with the landlord. We have no other option," the post stated.

It went on to thank their patrons and their staff for their 20 years of business.

The site manager for the limited liability corporation that owns the corner property at 3599 - 3607 E. Tremont Avenue, J.A.S. Holdings Corporation, said the decision to boot the popular tenant was purely a financial one. He asked not to be identified, citing threats that he's received.

"They haven't paid their bills since October 2015 and they are being evicted," the property's rep said.

His family was involved a lengthy court battle with the Clipper until a judge ordered the restaurant to vacate the premises by the end of next month, he added.

"They decided they could stay for free, which is clearly not an option," he said. There's nothing personal about it, it's just business - they decided not to pay their rent and their bills and that's why they're getting out."

Continued on Page 4

SNEAKY MAYOR PULLS FAST ONE

Shooting range sound barrier not a certainty

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

The installation of sound barriers during the reconstruction of the Rodman's Neck NYPD shooting ranges has been demanded for over a generation - and now it doesn't appear to be a certainty.

The mayor's recent letter to local state elected officials about the shooting range project mentioned the sound barriers in ambiguous terms, alluding to the need for further feasibility,

The letter dated Monday, June 19 stated that the "NYPD is cur-

rently studying the feasibility of utilizing sound proof construction fencing in and around existing and planned firearms ranges."

A determination on the feasibility and potential effectiveness of this fencing is planned for the end of summer 2017, the mayor stated.

When news broke earlier this year that the \$275 million renovation of the NYPD range planned over the next decade included \$73 million for 'six fully (sound) baf-

Continued on Page 4



NYBG Farmers Market

Offering a diverse array of fresh, locally grown and produced vegetables, fruits, baked goods and specialty foods, the New York Botanical Garden's Farmers Market opened for the season on Wednesday, June 21 inside the Garden's Mosholu Gate. Rachael Whittemore (l) and Jessica Okrongly sold delicious cakes and pastries. See more photos on page 50.

Photo by
Silvio Pacifico

CB7 seeks input on curbing large-scale buildings

BY ARTHUR CUSANO

Community Board 7 will be reaching out to residents in Kingsbridge Heights and Bedford Park in the coming weeks and asking them to weigh in on plans to rezone those areas to restrict larger-scale development projects.

Residents are concerned that new development under the current R8 high-density zoning in Bedford Park and R6 and R8 zoning in Kingsbridge Heights may

lead to the replacement of low-scale housing with taller structures.

"We want to try to keep the character of the neighborhood," said Bedford Mosholu Community Association president Barbara Stronczer. "It is a mixture of rental apartments, co-ops and private homes. We are very quickly losing the private homes to the developers."

Stronczer said the area started

Continued on Page 15

Arson charges follow 5-alarm Olmstead Ave. fire

BY ARTHUR CUSANO

Three men were arrested last week in connection with illegal firework use that led to a five-alarm fire in Unionport that left almost two dozen residents homeless.

FDNY Fire Marshalls arrested the trio following a lengthy investigation at the scene.

Nabindranauth Nandalall, 23, and Shivnarine Lauchman, 23, both of the Bronx, were charged with fourth-degree arson, a class E felony, reckless endangerment and fourth-degree criminal mischief, both class A misdemeanors, and unlawful dealing with fireworks, a class E felony.

The men admitted to having what they called a “fireworks fight” using illegal fireworks they purchased from an unnamed Westchester retailer.

The third defendant, Alexander Soler, 27, also of the Bronx, was charged with illegal possession of fireworks.

“This fire is a reminder that fireworks are illegal in New York City – and as witnessed in this fire, can be dangerous to both firefighters and civilians alike,” said FDNY Commissioner Daniel Nigro.



Firefighters combated a five-alarm fire which injured nine people and damaged six homes.

Photo by Aracelis Batista

The blaze started at 1136 Olmstead Avenue on Thursday at around 3:40 p.m. when two of the defendants, allegedly began shooting fireworks at each other behind the home.

The fireworks caused the wood frame house to catch fire.

The fire then spread to six other homes and several parked vehicles in the area between Haviland Avenue and the Cross Bronx Expressway.

Both 1136 and 1136 Olmstead

were a total loss.

A total of 44 FDNY units responded to the fire, and managed to bring it under control at around 6:30 p.m.

Seven firefighters were injured with non life-threatening injuries, while another suffered serious injuries and was transported to Jacobi Medical Center where he was later released.

One resident also sustained a non life-threatening injury.

The American Red Cross pro-

viding emergency assistance to nine households - 20 adults and five children, according to a Red Cross spokesman.

Community Board 9 chairman Nicholas Himidian Jr. said illegal fireworks use is a problem that rears its head every summer as Independence Day approaches.

While the city runs public service announcements about illegal fireworks, he said they do little to deter the problem.

“It’s sad. Now we’re talking

about 20 people being displaced and firefighters who are injured,” he said. “Now you have families that are struggling to put their lives back together. And it could have been a lot worse.”

CB 9 district manager William Rivera, a former FDNY EMT, lives in the neighborhood where the fire occurred but was away on vacation when it happened.

He said the toll such a fire can take on a family can be staggering, since in addition to irreplaceable personal belongings they also lose identification records.

“It’s tough to start all over again because you have to get a Social Security card again and a birth certificate. To get a new driver’s license you need a certain amount of (identification) points,” he said.

Rivera cautions residents to make sure their home insurance policy includes nights in a hotel in event of a fire, and urged them to make sure smoke detectors are installed and working.

He reminded residents the FDNY and American Red Cross distribute and install free smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

‘Adult Behavior’ pilot filmed at Bronx landmark

BY ROBERT WIRSING

A historic Bronx landmark served as the setting for a potential television series.

Through the Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment and Brooklyn College’s Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema’s city-wide scriptwriting competition, a pilot for Robin Rose Singer’s winning script, ‘Adult Behavior’ was filmed from Monday, June 12 to Friday, June 16 at Andrew Freedman Home.

The half hour comedy follows Midwesterner nurse Jessica Applegate, portrayed by Kristin Parker, working at the fictional Bronx-based Shady Breeze senior housing facility.

Her tough-as-nails 76-year-old supervisor Lynnetta, portrayed by Mugga who’s best known for her role as Reema Pell on ‘Orange is the New Black,’ seems to be the only person Jessica can connect with as the other senior residents are not above a little good-hearted hazing.

Struggling to adjust to life in the Boogie Down Bronx, Jessica starts to realize the life she imagined for herself might be an impos-

sible dream in the modern world.

The pilot features a crew of 15 women and a cast of six women.

It embodies Feirstein’s commitment to alter the film school model and the TV and film industries by evaluating the diverse voices of women, people of color, immigrants and other marginalized groups.

The Rose Haag-directed pilot will air either November or December 2017 on NYC Media, the city’s official broadcast network reaching 18 million households.

Singer will post the exact air date on her Instagram @robinrosesinger and Twitter @robin_singer.

Connecticut native Singer is the owner of Black 26 Pictures, a company she founded to make stand-out narrative and documentary film work.

The NYU alum was inspired to write Adult Behavior after visiting her grandmother who had suffered a minor stroke.

Singer’s grandmother fully recovered and she learned more about her energetic elder’s many interesting life experiences such as residing in Batista-era Cuba.

“I wrote the show to help

bridge the generational gap between younger and older people,” explained Singer. “I hope everyone who watches it will become inspired to learn more about the older generation much like how I did with my grandmother.”

The full-time New York-based actress, writer and producer enjoyed returning to her favorite borough to film Adult Behavior.

Singer initially visited the Bronx two years ago while working on an untitled Spanish film.

“The Bronx is a very inspirational place for me because it has such a specific vibe and diverse culture unlike anywhere else,” she shared.

Location manager Paul Hamill said 80% of Adult Behavior was filmed on Andrew Freedman Home’s first floor while additional scenes were filmed inside the landmark’s second floor office, Joyce Kilmer Park and on East 167th Street.

Hamill discovered Andrew Freedman Home while working on Netflix’s ‘Seven Seconds’ which filmed at Bronx County Courthouse and utilized the historic mansion as a supporting space.



“The Bronx is a very inspirational place for me because it has such a specific vibe and diverse culture unlike anywhere else,” - Robin Rose Singer, Adult Behavior creator.

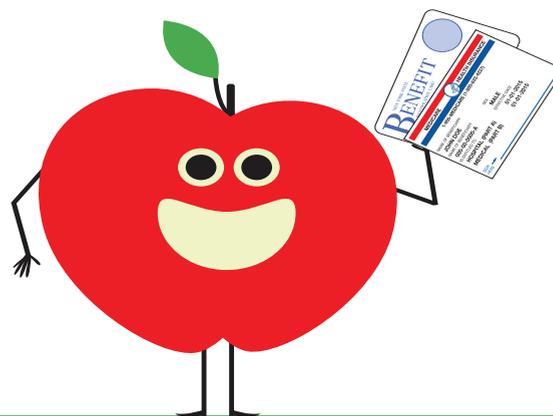
Photo by Alexandra Turshen/Prospect Photography

The villa was built by its namesake financier who left part of his fortune to establish a home for formerly wealthy elderly people.

Adult Behavior will compete against ‘Half-Life’ written by

Patty Carey-Perazzo and the winner will receive four additional episodes to air on NYC Media next summer.

For more information, visit www.robinrosesinger.com.



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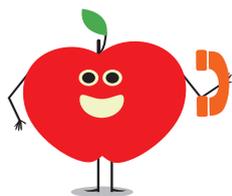
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Sneaky mayor pulls fast one; shooting range sound barrier not a certainty

from Page 1

fled outdoor ranges,' community leaders in nearby shoreline communities expressed cautious optimism.

It appeared that if the renovation went forward, the sound baffles would be a certainty.

Now, elected officials said the letter from the mayor sent to Senator Jeff Klein, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto and Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj in response to their request for more information on the project indicates the sound barriers are not guaranteed.

All three elected officials responded to the mayor's comments.

"It's discerning to learn that the feasibility of such sound mitigation measures are still being studied by the NYPD, and that the city is only hopeful that sound proof construction fencing will be utilized," said Klein, adding that going back to January, the sound barriers seemed a certainty.

The senator urged the

administration, on behalf of people on City Island and the surrounding communities plagued with noise pollution from Rodman's Neck, to ensure that sound barriers, or fencing, become a reality.

"The negative impacts of the firearms and controlled detonations at the outdated facility have been the number one complaint of City Island residents for years," said Gjonaj. "The city should be more than 'hopeful' that the use of soundproof construction fencing will improve the quality of life for the surrounding communities."

The assemblyman believes that communities have struggled with ongoing noise pollution for so long, and that "the city must impose soundproof measures" to alleviate concerns.

Benedetto said that the NYPD should have stuck to an earlier plan, announced in 2007 and later abandoned, to move the range at Rodman's Neck to

the NYPD Police Academy that was then under construction at College Point, Queens.

It couldn't cost much more than keeping it at Rodman's Neck and performing \$275 million worth of renovations, said Benedetto.

"It greatly concerns me, because frankly my position has always been that the police shooting range should not be in Rodman's Neck in the first place," said Benedetto.

The 45th Precinct Community Council plans to hold information meetings regarding the Rodman's Neck reconstruction for the duration of the project, according to the council.

The mayor, who stated he was optimistic that fencing being studied would swiftly mitigate noise, also stated that he heard directly from the community on the sound issues during a November 2016 town hall hosted by Councilman James Vacca.

Throggs Neck Clipper on final voyage; judge's order ends its run

from Page 1

On Facebook, Clipper management confirmed that a financial matter was settled in court with a stipulation that they close by the end of July 2017.

However, the restaurant post added that they were served with an illegal 30-day eviction notice even though their obligations to the landlord were up to date.

They also stated that the requested rent increase for 3699 E. Tremont Avenue was too steep to stay in business.

The landlord said he has been advised by his attorney not to respond to any of the Clipper's Facebook comments.

The spot on the corner of East Tremont Avenue and Sullivan Place is highly coveted, and is already drawing interest, he said.

"We recently had Burger King call us," he said.

Several medical firms expressed interest in the location for an MRI facility, and another for a dialysis center.

"It's been 20 years since that spot has been available so we're going to look for the best available tenant. We'd like to put something there the community would love to have," he said.

The building has two other tenants: Classic Hair and Nail Salon and Casa Restaurant and Lounge which leases an additional spot on the Sullivan Place side for party rentals.

Both of these tenants replaced earlier tenants the landlord forced out.

Longtime neighborhood resident Joe Vento said he was heartbroken that his favorite neighborhood eatery that he had frequented since it opened would be closing.

"You always knew you

would get a solid meal there," Vento said. "Now the staff is going to be out of work and that's terrible. They have a nice business, and it's just sad they couldn't come to some kind of agreement."

Throggs Neck Merchant's Association president Bobby Jean said he had heard conflicting stories and did not want to speculate on the cause of the closing.

He said the restaurant's shuttering was a loss for the community, and that he had fond memories of taking his father there regularly to eat before he passed away last year.

"The Clipper is a place where families go to eat and drink and talk with their friends," Jean said. "The owners have been good to the neighborhood for a long time."

Jean said he was con-

cerned that while there was only one vacant storefront on East Tremont 10 years ago, there are now more than 25.

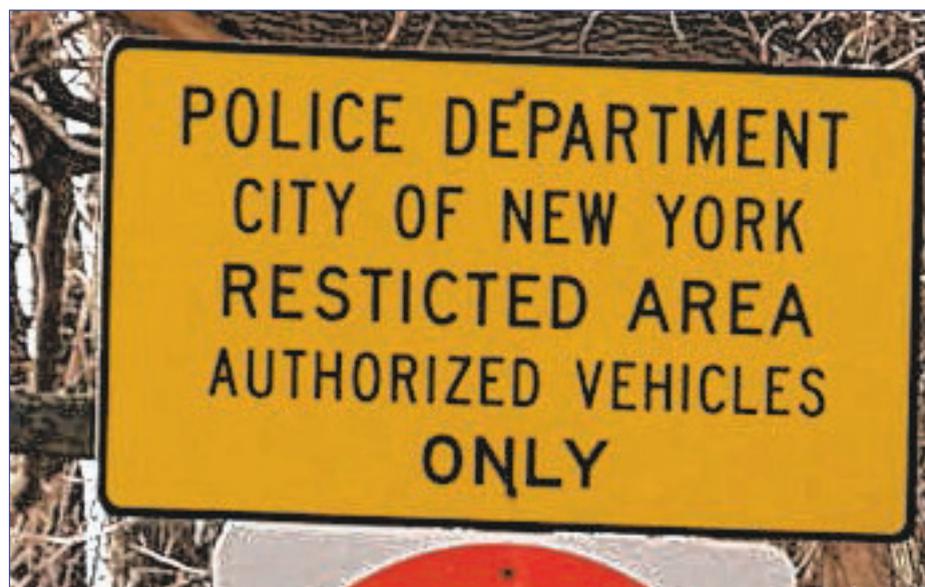
"We need to figure out why that's happening," he said.

Incoming Community Board 10 chairman Peter Sullivan also lamented the loss of the popular eatery.

"The Tierneys are great people and they are going to be greatly missed," he said.

Several other restaurants have occupied that corner since WW 2, including Tom's Villa Bianca, New Paradise Island Chinese Restaurant and Don Filipo's Mexican Restaurant.

Calls to Clipper manager Eileen Tierney for comment were not returned by press time.



Access to Rodman's Neck is kept strictly off-limits.

Community News Group / Patrick Rocchio



The Throggs Neck Clipper will close at the end of July after 20 years of serving the neighborhood. Management cited disputes with the landlord for the closing.

Arthur Cusano



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(l-r) Bre Scullark, Model and yoga instructor; Marquis Martin, director/producer and Harry Montas, director of photography collaborated on the 35 minute film.

Photo courtesy of Martin Marquis

Bronx Haven teacher, former student film documentary

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

A Melrose high school teacher and his former student created a documentary film together.

Teacher Marquis Martin directed and produced a 35-minute film about the healing qualities of yoga through the eyes of Brittany 'Bre' Scullark, a professional model who teaches yoga to inmates and trauma victims.

Martin made the film with his mentee, Harry Montas of Williambridge, who was Martin's student at Bronx Haven High School at the Alfred E. Smith Educational Campus for two years.

Montas was the director of photography on the film, called 'A Girl Can Dream... Bre Scullark.'

Scullark was on America's Next Top Model television program, where she placed third in the show's Cycle 5.

The Bronx Documentary Center held a screening on Wednesday, June 28, and the film was an entrant in the 2017 Harlem International Film Festival, said the director.

The idea for the documentary came about when Martin was filming his college-friend Scullark's east coast yoga tour, said Mar-

tin.

They decided to expand the scope of the project to include information about her work teaching yoga to youth, trauma victims and prisoners at Rikers Island and Manhattan Detention Complex.

"In documenting Bre's journey, we were coming across situations where people were not afforded the opportunity to be healed from traumatic experiences," said Martin, adding "She is doing her part to bring awareness and do healing through yoga."

Scullark, who placed third on America's Top Model, Cycle 5, said she is a yoga instructor who has obtained a 200-hour certification.

The film chronicles her work using yoga to help heal people from depression, anxiety and other trauma, she said.

The yoga is a bit different from standard yoga, with less commands and student directed movement, she explained.

Martin said that as a visual arts teacher, he has seen how art programs appeal to students who may or may not excel in core academic subjects.

Martin taught Montas in an after-school program, said Martin.

"We had a lot of other students, but Harry shined bright," said Martin, adding "He saw how powerful it is to have a camera and tell your own story; he got that really quick and early on."

Montas, now 19, said he aspires to attend the Fashion Institute of Technology.

He said that he first got interested in photography while taking stills as part of Martin's class.

He then expanded into filmmaking, and began reading all he could about both subjects, said Montas.

Montas said that aside from his mentor, he used videos on YouTube to learn film technique.

When they began work on 'A Girl Can Dream... Bre Scullark,' Montas wasn't aware of how large the project would become.

"We started shooting for fun," said Montas.

Being director of photography on the film didn't feel like a job, said Montas.

"It was fun because I was working with my friends on it," said Montas, adding "We did not have a storyboard... it was pretty much on the fly, on the go."

Martin is the founder of Blakhaus, a lifestyle brand focused on film, fashion, and music.

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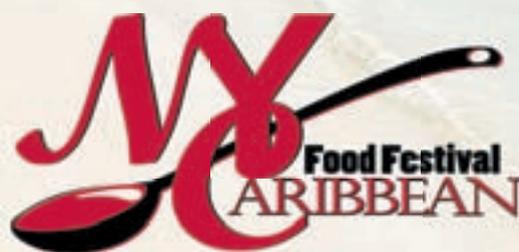
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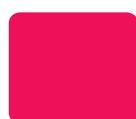
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E. 176th Street tenants call out abusive landlord

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

On Wednesday, June 28, tenants of the rent-stabilized 124 E. 176th Street held a rally outside of their residence in response to the deplorable conditions and scenarios, persistency of harassment and violated rights that have endured for years.

In May, tenants of the seven-story, 72-unit building, collectively sent a letter to its manager, David David, asking him to meet with them so they could address their complaints, which includes harassment, shoddy repairs and lack of security, which allows homeless people and other unwanted visitors to enter the property.

The letter also discussed the building's serious health concerns caused by mold and mouse/rat infestations.

It has been more than a month since the tenant association reached out to David David and they still haven't received a response back.

"He (David David) has been very inconsiderate of us (the tenants) - and doesn't think he should be held accountable for his actions," said Corine Ombongo-Golden, who has lived in the

building for nearly 10 years and whose husband Craig suffered from lung cancer, a condition that she said worsened because of the leaks in their bedroom while he was going through chemotherapy. We (the tenants association) will speak up and stand together until we can meet with him or receive a response from him."

Corine explained that David David takes the tenants to court on a regular basis, falsely claiming that they are behind on their rent. She was taken to court by David David, and even though she won the case she was incredibly stressed by the action because it occurred at the same time she was taking care of her ailing husband.

Ombongo-Golden compared her landlord to Dracula, because of the draining effect he has on her and her neighbors efforts. She also described him as a "master of strategic harassment."

Corine's husband eventually passed away in the early 2010s before the repairs were made, even after the couple had moved into the guest bedroom to sleep because it had less leaks and was warmer than their bedroom. She also covered the apartment unit's



Ombonga Golden and Ramon Mendez helped organize tenants at 124 E. 176th Street. Photo by Silvio Pacifico

mold with towels.

Following the rally, residents from the building, which consists of one- and two-bedroom apartments, opened their units to the

public to reveal the conditions they have been dealing with for years.

"It is unacceptable that these residents (of 124 E. 176th Street)

continue to be subjected to inhumane living conditions, including the lack of basic repairs, a worsening exposure to mold and vermin, as well as continuous harassment and neglect by their landlord," said Senator Gustavo Rivera.

Rivera is currently working with the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition to hold the landlord, as well as other landlords, accountable for housing violations which seriously impact residents' financial stability and health.

David David, who owns at least five buildings in the city and is responsible for nearly 800 violations citywide, was named #11 on the 100 Worst Landlords in New York City list last year. Previously, he was also named to another list citing the city's 100 worst landlords under an alias, David Green.

The Coalition of Tenant Harassment is currently pushing the city to pass the Certificate of No Harassment bill, which would protect tenants from harassment and other illegal tactics of landlords.

Community Board 5 did not return request for comment.

David David could not be reached for comment.

Work begins on Westchester Avenue bridge

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

A clearer picture is emerging of a major east Bronx bridge rehabilitation project.

The NYC Department of Transportation is beginning outreach, some of it required through the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure, on a project to reconstruct the span over the Hutchinson River Parkway at Westchester Avenue.

Active construction on a project will begin in July, according to DOT's Division of Bridges.

Division representatives attended a public ULURP hearing at Community Board 10 on Tuesday, June 13.

The ULURP was required because of city map changes that are part of the five-year project to raise the current clearance from 10 feet, two inches to 12 feet, six inches, the legal minimum established by federal standards, according to DOT officials.

CB 10 voted unanimously to support the measure at the hearing, but only after raising questions about how much traffic on Waters Place and Westchester Avenue and subway service on the IRT 6 line, which



A bridge that carries vehicular and train traffic on Westchester Avenue over the Hutchinson River Parkway will be rehabilitated and raised in a project that officially starts in July. Community News Group / Patrick Rocchio

is carried over the same bridge, would be affected.

Peter Sullivan, CB 10 Housing and Zoning Committee chairman and chairman-elect, said that in light of current construction on the Bronx-Whitestone and Throgs Neck bridges, he has traffic concerns in the short-term.

"(It's) an issue because (the city) is doing everything at once," said Sullivan referring to the other nearby projects, adding that re-

placement is nevertheless needed.

According to DOT, work on rehabilitation of the Westchester Avenue bridge is scheduled to continue through spring 2022, with construction scheduled for Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Occasional weekend and night work will also be required to remove and replace steel, according to a DOT presentation.

Matthew Cruz, CB 10 district manager, said that members of the

board were concerned with the length of the project, which will last years.

"The board is concerned with overall congestion in the area," he added, saying that they did not want the project to harm quality-of-life in the community.

John Marano, board member, said the fact that the bridge has been struck numerous times by oversized commercial vehicles that should not have been travelling on

Hutchinson River Parkway, is telling.

Indeed, the primary reason for raising the bridge, and for the planned installation of a steel beam across the top of the southbound lane of the parkway that's part of the project, are these frequent collisions, according previously published Bronx Times articles.

"Trucks don't belong on the parkway; it is the law," said Marano, adding "There is a law in place (and) it needs to be enforced."

Marano believes that the penalty for driving commercial vehicles on parkways should be increased, and said frequent offenders should have their trucks "vouchered," or impounded.

DOT has already removed parking from the bridge, and representatives at the June 13 hearing said that subway service would only be interrupted at night.

Water service may also be interrupted as the project calls for a water main addition.

Community Board 11 also held a hearing on the project, said district manager Jeremy Warneke, because it borders CB 10.

Korony Post 253 Salutes Scholars, Officers



Former Korony Post 253 commander McNerney (front, c) was honored by (back, l-r) adjutant Colleen McCarthy, third vice commander Ed McGee, commander Guy Richardson, first vice commander Kevin Devine and second vice commander Gene DeFrancis.

Photo by Laura Stone

Post 253 Ladies Auxiliary president Judy Lanci accepted YMCA International Judo Club scholarship on behalf of George Pasiuk.

Photo by Laura Stone

The Theodore Korony American Legion Post 253 saluted several honorees at its annual installation of post officers and scholarship awards ceremony on Sunday, June 25 at Throggs Neck Memorial Post 1456's clubhouse. The veterans post presented \$300 August R. Messerschmitt Memorial scholarships and award plaques to four students. Post 253 formally recognized former Post 253 commander Michael McNerney, Samuel Young American Legion Post 620 commander Owen Mangan, YMCA International Judo Club and local residents who honorably fly and properly tend to their American flags.



Commander Richardson (r) congratulated Post 620 commander Mangan and adjutant McCarthy.

Photo by Laura Stone



Joseph Mondello presented award certificates to residents who fly the American flag.

Photo by Laura Stone



(front, l-r) Scholarship awardees Nicholas Musachio, Marisa Musachio Ana Salveggi, and Joseph Mondello with (back, l-r) adjutant McCarthy, third vice commander McGee, commander Richardson, first vice commander Devine, second vice commander DeFrancis and award organizer Mondello.

Photo by Laura Stone

Parkchester resident to host dinner for late wife

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

Next month, a Bronx man will be holding a dinner for his late wife whom passed away last year.

On Thursday, July 15, long-time Parkchester resident Alexander Rutherford will host a dinner for, Leslie, who passed away in August after a long battle with scleroderma.

Scleroderma is a disease which affects mostly women and causes human heart, muscles, organs and skin to harden, while attacking healthy tissue in the body's immune system.

The dinner will take place from 7 p.m. to midnight at the Kismet Catering Hall, 1995 Westchester Avenue and raise money for and spread awareness about the disease, which his wife battled for so long, as well to commemorate her life.

Leslie was born in Trinidad and Tobago before moving to New York in 1987. The two were married in 2000, and settled in Parkchester.

Alexander, originally from St. Albans, Queens, moved to Parkchester in the 1980s, which



Parents and children who have been diagnosed annual with BOS gather every year at a Bohring-Opitz Syndrome Foundation event.

Photo courtesy of BOS Foundation

was where his father worked. He resettled in Parkchester in the mid-1990s before meeting Leslie.

In the mid-2000s, Leslie began to show symptoms of scleroderma. She eventually passed away as a result of the disease on August 19.

The dinner will include keynote speeches, as well as a DJ and

a dance floor - so the night can also be a celebratory atmosphere for Leslie.

"She was very lighthearted and always in good spirits," Alexander said. "She wanted to help everybody - it was like she was an angel on earth. We were all touched by having her in our lives."

"I am so privileged for the time I was able to spend with her and the lessons she was able to provide to me. She was the best person I ever came in contact with," he added.

Alexander further explained that the disease is both under exposed and unrecognized.

"Other diseases and illnesses,

such as cancer, diabetes and AIDS have received so much attention - and it's time that people become aware of this horrifying illness as well."

Bob Saget's sister Gay passed away in 1993 at age 42 as a result of the disease. Queen Latifah's mother Rita has also suffered with the disease for over ten years.

"Leslie passed away last August after a lengthy, 10-year battle with scleroderma," said Bruce Cowan, executive director of the Scleroderma Foundation's tri-state chapter. "It's comforting to know that Alexander is putting on an event in honor of his late wife to shed light, raise awareness and put this disease on the radar. Hopefully the proceeds from the event can be donated to future scleroderma research."

For those who are looking to purchase tickets to the dinner, send the donation to Alexander Rutherford, P.O. Box 495, Parkchester Station, Bronx, NY 10462.

To donate funds towards the cause, please visit gofundme.com/a-dinner-for-leslie

Throggs Neck McDonald's site to be refurbished

BY ARTHUR CUSANO

Users of the McDonald's drive-thru in Throggs Neck have choked off Philip Avenue traffic for years, and neighborhood residents are 'not loving it'.

On any given day, cars full of hungry McD customers line up on both sides of Philip Avenue to access the drive-thru at lunch and dinner time, making the narrow street from East Tremont to Revere Avenue practically impassable.

However, a solution to the problem may be just months away.

The fast-food fueled headache may soon end, as preliminary plans have been submitted to demolish the current restaurant building and build a new one, sporting an entirely different look.

The plan calls for relocating the Philip Avenue driveway to the far-west side of the property to take drive-thru vehicles off that street, the creation of a new, dedicated drive-thru exit onto East Tremont and a separate entrance to the parking area that also leads to the drive-thru lane.

The plan was presented to Community Board 10 at its Tuesday, June 13 meeting.

"We are working closely with members of the community board



Newly proposed plans to demolish and rebuild the McDonald's restaurant on East Tremont Avenue will also look to address Philip Avenue traffic issues caused by the drive-thru.

Arthur Cusano

to address our proposal to upgrade the restaurant at 3360 E. Tremont Avenue, and we look forward to developing a site plan that best serves our community," stated franchise owner Sam DeLuca in request for comment.

Eileen Welsh, the project manager overseeing the proposal for the law firm K.L. Gates L.L.C., said

the McDonalds Corporation is looking to renovate some of their older stores.

The 3,907-square-foot McDonald's was built in 1975.

"In connection with that update, they also want to rework the layout to alleviate the traffic issues there," she said.

The new layout would move the

building further south along East Tremont, closer to the parking lot of the adjacent Fine Fare Supermarket.

"The community board wanted us to try alternative layouts because they are still concerned it would still cause queuing onto Philip and East Tremont," she said.

Board feedback is expected at the CB 10 September meeting, she added.

Throggs Neck Merchant Association president Bobby Jean said that while it was unfortunate the store would be closed for an undetermined amount of time he was happy to hear that changes were planned for the drive-thru at the busy intersection that is also impacted by double parked U.S. Postal Service trucks from the post office across the street.

"Sometimes people don't use common sense - they see the line of cars and instead of waiting on the side of the road so that the motorists can pass, they stop right in back of the person on line and next thing you know you have a traffic jam," Jean said. "Thank God we haven't had any bad accidents there, but I've seen many arguments."

Once the plans are finalized, the current square-shaped building will be demolished.

Welsh said she did not know what the duration of time would be between the closing of the current store and the opening of the new rectangular one.

The property is leased to the McDonald's Corporation by 3680 Tremont Realty LLC.



(l-r) Principal Jared Rosoff, Byrne, award winner Savitz, award winner Serrano and Delatorre. Photo courtesy of chief Ed Delatorre

P.O. Edward R. Bryne scholarships honor fallen hero

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

On Tuesday, June 27, as part of M.S. 101's graduation, NYPD deputy commissioner of legal matters Larry Byrne and Staten Island borough commander Chief Ed Delatorre awarded grants to two students as a part of the Edward R. Byrne Scholarship Awards, which once again took place at Lehman High School.

This year, two middle school-graduating students, Tyler Savitz and Raymond Serrano, received awards and scholarships after writing essays about Larry's brother, police officer Edward Byrne, who was murdered while on duty in Queens on February 26, 1988.

Police officer Byrne had been sitting alone in a marked patrol car in the early hours of the morning, after being assigned to a location where illegal activities had been previously reported.

While Byrne was sitting in his car, another vehicle pulled up alongside him.

Two men exited the vehicle - one broke the passenger side window while

the other man snuck up on the driver's side of the car and shot Byrne in the head five times with a .38 caliber pistol.

He was later pronounced dead at a local hospital less than a week after his 22nd birthday.

Each year, students submit essays that reflect on the life and tragedy of Edward Byrne. The winners of the Edward R. Byrne Scholarship Awards receive a \$250 scholarship towards their high school education.

"The students who have won this award and are given this scholarship have each shown a tremendous level of writing talent and display a bright future," said Byrne, who is also the head trustee of the scholarship fund. "Although the story is unfortunate, it's a great opportunity for these graduating students to learn more about this incident and these type of scenarios, while we can assist them in preparation for the next chapter of their lives."

"He (Edward) would be very proud to know that these scholarships have been given out in his name,"

Larry added.

"We are keeping his (Edward Byrne) memory alive with this award year after year," said Delatorre, who Byrne says was instrumental in getting M.S. 101 co-named as the Edward R. Byrne School in 1996. "I am happy knowing that these students who have worked so hard on these essays are carrying on this great tradition of previous scholarship winners, and of course, Larry's brother (Edward)."

Larry and his siblings, who went to school at Plainedge High School in North Massapequa, were raised in Highbridge before moving to Wakefield.

His family has had a connection in the Bronx since the 1950s. Larry's father, Matthew, was previously the head trustee of the scholarship fund before passing away in the mid-2000s.

In Queens, the community conamed 91st Avenue, where Byrne was shot, as P.O. Edward R. Byrne Avenue in 1995, in dedication and honor of the fallen police officer.



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Peter Sullivan new CB 10 chairman

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Community Board 10 has a new chairman whose heart is into volunteering for his community.

Peter Sullivan was elected CB 10 chairman in a 19 to 11 vote on Thursday, June 15 after a decade of volunteer board service.

He replaces Martin Prince, the chairman for past three years on July 1.

Sullivan, who has chaired CB 10's Housing and Zoning Committee for nine years, has lived in or just outside the boundaries of the current board service area his entire life.

He grew up on Frisby Avenue and lived on Silver Street, before moving to Waterbury-LaSalle three decades ago and raising three daughters there with Helena, his wife of 31 years.

He is the equivalent of a foreman with Local 3 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and said he has done volunteer work with his union, much of it in the local community.

The new chairman said he is delighted to be working with the new district manager, Matthew Cruz, because he has experience working at the NYC Department of Buildings and is getting a graduate degree in City Planning.

"I am excited we have a new district manager to work with," said Sullivan. "He has a lot of ideas and I have a lot of ideas."

He will be seriously exploring



Peter Sullivan, the new Community Board 10 chairman, with his wife Helena. Peter is a dedicated family man and a long-time volunteer.
Photo courtesy of Community Board 10

planning and zoning issues, he said.

One of the most serious zoning related issues facing CB 10, said Sullivan, is the need to push the city to expand parking requirements for new construction in R-6 and R-7 zones.

"Jimmy Vacca did a great job

on lower density downzoning but we still have more work to do," said Sullivan, adding that parking issues in the community is a top priority, and lack of parking affects commercial corridors.

"If the customers cannot park and go into the stores, the merchants cannot work," said Sulli-

van, adding that in many places elsewhere in the borough, people have to hunt for up to an hour to park near their homes, affecting their quality-of-life.

Another concern is the need to develop better communication between civic associations, business groups and CB 10, said Sullivan.

Still another area of focus for Sullivan is the development of waterfront parks in Co-op City along the banks of the Hutchinson River and a new Metro North station being planned for the community.

Storm resiliency is also high on the new chairman's mind, who said he is taking a look at resiliency efforts.

He said he has learned that some recommended repairs still have not been made on certain structures years after Superstorm Sandy, including the lifting of houses in flood-prone areas.

With Local 3, Sullivan said he has donated his time to building the Throggs Neck 9/11 memorial, a similar one in Yonkers and helped distribute food around the holidays in St. Joan of Arc church's parish.

Sullivan said he is proud of his daughters who are very active with him in volunteering, and who helped him install two pole lights at the Throggs Neck 9/11 Memorial.

Sullivan said his children continued to volunteer in high school in college, both locally and internationally.

"I am a lifetime member of this community," he said. "If you are not part of the community and putting in the effort to improve it, you cannot be on the sidelines complaining about everything."

CB7 seeks input on curbing large-scale buildings

from Page 1

changing approximately a decade ago, most notably with the rezoning of Webster Avenue in 2009 that was followed by changes in other areas.

"Due to the fact that other areas became too expensive we've seen small lots occupied by a 1- or 2-family house being taken over by developers and we are losing a lot of parking lots," she said. "The feeling is we have to stop what's happening or at least keep it under control."

The CB 7 Land Use, Zoning and Housing Committee reached out to Collective for Community Culture and Environment to conduct a study of the development and land use patterns in the areas of Bedford Park and Kingsbridge heights, specifically the Kingsbridge Road commercial

district and the residential area just south of the former Kingsbridge Armory.

The study, which was released Wednesday, June 21 recommended changing the zoning in portions of both areas to curb overdevelopment, with residential areas south of Kingsbridge Road rezoned from R6 to R5D and West Kingsbridge Road between University Heights and Jerome Avenue near the Armory from R6/C1-3 to C4-4A. The area of East Kingsbridge Road between Jerome and Creston avenues would be downzoned from R8/C1-3 and R8/C2-3 to C4-2F.

The study recommended getting community feedback from the Kingsbridge Heights area before the full board takes any further action, said CB 7 chairwoman Adaline Walker-Santi-

ago.

"It's been sent out to all our board members and our constituents, stakeholders and elected officials to review it, because it's going to take a while for them to go through it," she said. "This is a community advisory board - we want their feedback, because they asked for us to do this and the board approved the study."

Feedback is due by September, when it will be reviewed by the full board, she said.

Once the board decides on its recommendations, the proposal will then go to the NYC Planning Commission for its review and approval.

Residents interviewed for a 2016 Visioning said they wanted to preserve their community's character, and wanted to maintain the mix of lower and higher-



Community Board 7 is looking for input on rezoning Kingsbridge Heights and Bedford Park neighborhood in hope of curbing development of large-scale apartment projects.
Arthur Cusano

scale housing in the area, and feared an influx of higher-density apartment buildings and possible gentrification.

Those interviewed also said they wanted to see a wider range of stores and services in commer-

cial areas, more parking facilities and green spaces for people to gather and more cultural programs and services for youth and seniors.



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