

Bronx Columbus Parade steps off on Sunday

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

The 41st Annual Bronx Columbus Parade will step off this Sunday.

The parade will make its way on Morris Park Avenue from White Plains Road to a reviewing stand at Williamsbridge Road. It steps off at noon on Sunday, October 8.

The parade has blossomed into the second largest Columbus parade in New York State, only eclipsed in size by Manhattan's parade, which takes place the next day, according to parade coordinator Tony Signorile.

This year's honorees include grand marshal Councilman James Vacca, honorary grand marshal and P.S. 72 teacher Lucia Mariani, who owns Lucca Restaurant, and Citizenship Award winners John Bonizio and Michael Ungaro of Metro Optics.

Jessica Morrone was recently selected as Miss Columbus. She is senior at Preston High School and is from Throggs Neck.

She will be receiving a college scholarship from the Generoso Pope Foundation, and was crowned at the parade's annual dinner dance on Friday, September 29.

Morrone told the Bronx Times that her Italian teacher at Preston encouraged her to apply to the contest, which selects from a pool of applicants from around the borough.

"My Italian teacher really pushed me to do it; she said I had a good shot at winning it," said Morrone. "My teacher ultimately nominated me and gave me the

Continued on Page 4

BUILDING'S USE A 'SIGNED DEAL'



Crowning Achievement

The Bronx Columbus Day Parade Committee honored several community leaders and crowned this year's Miss Columbus at its time honored Columbus Day Parade Dinner on Friday, September 29 at Maestro's Caterers. Miss Columbus Jessica Morrone with her proud mother Diana. See photos on page 12.

Photo by Laura Stone

New owners: We will not hurt the community

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

A coalition of community members and merchants are claiming victory after obtaining a non-binding, signed 'letter of intent' from a controversial new building operator in their community.

The Throggs Neck Strong coalition met with representatives from Steward Redevelopment on Tuesday, October 3 to sign the letter with certain stipulations that they believe will please the community concerning the future use of 2800 Bruckner Boulevard.

"It is a great day in Throggs Neck," said Bob Jaen, TNS co-chair,

after the letter was signed following several meetings with Steward Redevelopment's Michael Fernandes and Anthony Carbone and TNS' core members and elected officials.

Steven Kaufman, TNS chairman, said that he believes that the group was able to prevent the owner from putting anything in the building that would be a detriment to the community.

"This (signed letter) reflects their intentions," said Kaufman. "At least they have expressed them in writing."

Kaufman said that their original

Continued on Page 4

96-year-old veteran thrilled to see Yankees game

BY BOB GUILIANO

The New York Yankees made Sunday, October 1, a great day for 'Uncle Joey,' the 96-year-old baseball fan who attended his last Bombers game almost 80 years ago when Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig were in the lineup together.

Nephew Andrew Klampert was excited to bring his uncle, Joe Casaburi to see the Yankees play the Toronto Blue Jays, meet general manager Brian Cashman and visit Monument Park.

"The Yankees were amazing,

taking him on a private tour of the stadium, giving him a gift bag and more," Klampert said.

"Everything went fine, beautifully. I really enjoyed it, never expected such a thing to happen," said Casaburi.

He didn't stay for the end of the game, so he missed seeing Toronto edge out New York, 2-1.

Asked who his favorite player is today, Casaburi said, "Right now, I'm leaning toward yesterday, Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig," adding that

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Answering residents' concerns over the Pelham Parkway North Reconstruction Project at a meeting Monday, October 2, are, from left to right: John Fratta, Eric MacFarlane, Thomas Alexander, and Ahmed Ibrahim. The meeting was at the NY Institute for Special Education, 999 Pelham Parkway North. Community News Group/Bob Guiliano

Residents updated on Pelham Parkway northside reconstruction

BY BOB GUILIANO

Residents affected by the Pelham Parkway North Reconstruction Project heard city officials explain the project's details and asked questions during a meeting Monday, October 2.

The NYC Department of Design and Construction assigned Thomas Alexander as the on-site Community Construction Liaison, and he walked the attendees through a slide show in an auditorium at the New York Institute for Special Education, 999 Pelham Parkway.

Making the presentation along with Alexander were DDC Deputy Commissioner Eric MacFarlane and resident engineer Ahmed Ibrahim.

The event was moderated by John Fratta, Community Board 11's project liaison, who assured the audience that the community board is confident that a lot of the demands it made have been met.

Fratta said a big issue involves the preservation of trees, noting that there's an agreement that before any trees can be removed, the Pelham Parkway Preservation Task Force gets to meet with DDC.

So, before any trees are removed, the task force can let its own arborist examine them to determine

if they can be saved.

The project goal is to upgrade aging underground utilities and infrastructure and to address deficiencies within Pelham Parkway's westbound main road and service road, such as poor drainage, lane width and pavement deterioration, according to Alexander.

The project includes plans to replace water mains, including a new trunk water main; replace sewers, including new highway drains in the main road; reconstruct Pelham Parkway North from Bronx Park East to Eastchester Road and at Stillwell Avenue.

Utilities will be affected, and Con Edison will need to relocate its facilities to accommodate the proposed sewers and water mains.

There is about 10,000 linear feet of gas main on Pelham Parkway North between Boston Road and Stillwell Avenue that needs to be relocated in order to clear a path for the 48-inch trunk water main, according to Alexander.

There is also a transmission gas main relocation at the corner of Pelham Parkway North and Bronxwood Avenue.

A member of the audience complained about the anticipated project schedule running four years

from the summer of 2017 to summer of 2021.

She said the area is still suffering from the Pelham Parkway mall project, and questioned how the selected contractor was able to be the lowest bidder.

She also questioned the lack of work of work crews on many days that seemed to prolong the project.

MacFarlane responded that the project on this north side is going to take that long because of the large water main that has to be installed, requiring things like gas mains and electric lines to be relocated.

And he assured that the work schedule doesn't have big gaps in it.

Another resident questioned why the contractor on the previously completed eastbound roadway laid asphalt in the winter and didn't realize it would crumble.

MacFarlane took the blame for that, saying the city directed the contractor to finish laying the asphalt in the winter, and said that the contractor will go back and fix it.

If residents believe the project isn't moving along as well as anticipated, they are encouraged to contact Alexander at (347) 810-1386, and email address: pelhampkwycc@gmail.com. He can also be emailed photos of any problems.

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Bronx Columbus Parade steps off on this Sunday

from Page 1

application.”

A panel of three educators selects the finalists and winners, said Tony Signorile, the parade coordinator, in a previous Bronx Times article.

This year's essay topics asked applicants to describe an Italian-American who was influential in their lives, and to discuss how Italian-American heritage has shaped the young adult they've become.

Morrone said that she wrote about her grandmother, who emigrated from Sicily to the United States with her grandfather when she was 20-years-old.

She said that she wrote about her grandmother's experience as an immigrant, building a new life in the United States with her husband and eventually having three children. She has been especially influential in Morrone's life.

“I wrote about my grandma and how she continuously inspired me and how she instilled the values of family and education,” said Morrone.

Morrone explained that her grandmother always urged her mother to do well in school in order to have a better life that she had, and that was what both of her parents have urged her to do.

This year's Miss Columbus said that she attended the parade with her school's Italian Club and that she had always admired her predecessors in the role. Morrone said she is honored to be a part of the parade in this way.



Jessica Morrone is the 2017 Bronx Columbus Parade's Miss Columbus.

“It is an honor to me because I have been chosen to represent young Italian-American women in the community,” said Morrone.

Signorile said that despite some current controversy concerning the role of Christopher Columbus and what he represents, Columbus Day is an important holiday for the entire country and one that celebrates Italian-American heritage.

“He opened the gates

for all immigrants,” said Signorile of the parade's namesake.

Members of the Columbus Citizens Foundation will be marching, said Signorile.

John Fratta, former Community Board 11 district manager, will be marching and representing the Sons of Italy.

After the parade, at 5:30 p.m. in Loreto Park, there will be a doo-wop concert featuring the band Just Us, said Signorile.

TN building a signed deal; new owners: We'll not hurt the community

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intention had been to clear the entire building for some purpose, but now they appear to have backed away from that plan.

He said that both he and Jaen believe the new owners want to work with the community.

Jaen said that he believes that they caught the situation early, before evictions could be fully carried out and the situation could have been worse.

The building had become a lightning rod of controversy in the Throggs Neck community since the summer after Steward Redevelopment purchased the property's limited liability corporation from Michael D'Alessio.

When this happened, commercial tenants with leases received eviction notices and tenants noticed that beds were moved into the building's garage.

Now, with the non-legally binding letter of intent, the community at least has the word of Fernandes, Steward Redevelopment's managing partner, concerning the planned uses for the building.

According to the letter, these will primarily be services for “autistic children, veterans suffering from (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), vocational training and counseling for persons who have already completed rehabilitation programs.”

It will not be home to transitional housing or a detox center, according to the letter, and multiple sources confirmed that it's not zoned to be a homeless shelter or to have sleeping accommodations.

Steward Redevelopment is a for-profit company, said Carbone, and will maintain offices in the building.

Carbone said at least six original tenants remain on the building's top floor, where

the sensory gym for autistic youngsters will be located.

“We can turn a negative into a positive,” said Carbone, who called himself an assistant to Fernandes, acknowledging Steward's missteps and saying that they are still in the process of finalizing the staffing for the facility.

Carbone's ‘ballpark estimate’ of the space still being utilized by its current tenants is 45% to 50% of the building, though different estimates were offered from TNS and Senator Jeff Klein's office.

According to its website, Steward Redevelopment operates supportive housing at other locations, and offers real estate investment products offering to put investors “on the fast track to huge profits.”

Klein's staff analyzed two initial presentations that Steward Redevelopment made about their facility at 2800 Bruckner Boulevard, which they are calling Miracle City.

According to Klein's staff's research, they believe that one page from the initial presentation concerning internal medicine was copied, almost word for word, from the website of a wellness center in Portland, OR, actually mentioning Portland repeatedly in the presentation for Miracle City.

A second presentation on Miracle City appears to have information about a hyperbaric chamber taken from a website of another medical provider in Hilton Head, SC, according to Klein's office.

Doctors and insurance companies that were supposed to be part of the project, based on conversations with Steward Redevelopment, have also told Klein's office that they did not know of the company, said a Klein spokesman.

Representatives from Klein's office said recently that state licenses had not yet

been issued for some of the types of services the company has indicated would be offered at the building.

Carbone said the errors were made before he was handling marketing for Steward Redevelopment.

Fernandes and Carbone appeared in front of Community Board 10 on Thursday, September 28, when several board members pointed out inconsistencies in terms of what they were told and expressed skepticism.

One board member asked for a community board meeting with medical personnel who will oversee the programming, which as of press time, has not occurred.

Despite assurances, Klein said that Fernandes continues to be inconsistent in respect to the future uses of 2800 Bruckner Boulevard.

“His plans seem to change on a weekly basis, and have been repeatedly discredited by myself and my staff,” said Klein. “While Mr. Fernandes did appear in front of the community board, critical questions about the future use of the building remain unanswered.”

The senator said he couldn't support the Miracle City proposal without complete clarity about the services that will be provided in the building.

At the CB 10 meeting, members of Steward Redevelopment were invited to further meetings with the board.

The company's representatives promised greater transparency at the meeting.

Even so, Mary Jane Musano, a CB 10 member and Waterbury-LaSalle Community Association board member, expressed skepticism.

“I think the main problem is you cannot get (Fernandes) to be transparent, and when he does tell you something, it doesn't check out,” she said.



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Bronx school takes safety measures after fatal stabbing

BY BOB GUILIANO

The Bronx school where a student was fatally stabbed on Wednesday, September 27, took steps in response to the incident to further assure student safety going forward.

Accusations that slaying suspect Abel Cedeno, 18, had been bullied by the victim, Matthew McCree, 15, were under investigation, according to officials.

McCree died from his wounds, and Ariane Laboy, 16, was hospitalized in critical but stable condition, after the stabbing at Urban Assembly School for Wildlife Conservation.

Cedeno appeared in Bronx Criminal Court on Thursday, September 28, to face charges.

"We have additional safety measures and grief counselors in place and will continue to support the school community," said Carmen Farina, schools chancellor of the NYC Department of Education, in response to an inquiry from the Bronx Times Reporter.

"I have instructed my team to conduct a thorough investigation on all issues, and this is underway," Farina said in a statement from Toya Holness, press secretary for the Office of Communications and Media Relations.

Farina added that the DOE "takes reports of bullying extremely seriously and have explicit protocols and robust training programs in place to ensure harassment, discrimination or bullying of any kind is immediately reported, investigated and addressed."

The Urban Assembly School for Wildlife



Abel Cedeno in a selfie portrait from his Facebook page. Abel Cedeno/Facebook



Matthew McCree in a selfie portrait from his Facebook page. Matthew McCree/Facebook

Conservation was started in 2007 by Urban Assembly, a nonprofit organization that runs 21 small schools across the city, serving primarily low-income and academically struggling students.

Following the incident, several elected officials commented about their concerns.

Assemblyman Luis Sepulveda said he was "shocked and saddened at this violence that has taken the life of one student, left an-

other in serious condition and caused the arrest of another at a high school in my Assembly district. My heart goes out to the parents of the teens involved in today's incident. And my office stands ready to assist in any way we can."

Sepulveda addressed allegations of bullying leading to the stabbing, saying, "If this is in fact the case, then more needs to be done in our schools system to incorporate

classroom teaching on the subject, as well as vigilant early targeting of situations that may exist, with procedures in place to deal with them."

Sepulveda also noted that he has read of students across the nation committing suicide because they have been the victims of bullying, and said it's a "shame all around."

Sepulveda asked parents do their best to be aware if their own child may be experiencing bullying in school, and immediately take steps to contact the school to take aggressive action in dealing with the situation.

Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. observed that the incident shined a spotlight on two major problems that face our school system.

Diaz opposes age-inappropriate co-locations in schools, such as the Urban Assembly School for Wildlife Conservation co-existing with P.S. 67 Mohegan School.

"High school students should not be in the same building as kindergartners, period," Diaz said.

And he added that the "incident shows us that the scourge of bullying that faces our children must be addressed in a more meaningful and effective way."

"Today, our borough prays for the victims and their families — as well as the school communities at the Urban Assembly School for Wildlife and P.S. 67 — as they cope with the results of this horrible event," Diaz said.

VMA 'Trekking' fundraiser to buy cafeteria furniture

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

A local elementary and junior-high school held a week-long fundraiser to raise supplemental funds for their students.

For the seventh year, the entire school community at the Country Club school raised funds with their annual event: Trekking for Villa Maria Academy.

All grades at the school participated in the fundraiser, which has the students walking or jogging for fitness and facilities improvements during their Physical Education classes from Monday, October 2 to Friday, October 6.

The pledge-driven fundraiser promotes physical fitness while getting everyone from pre-k students to eight graders on the school's track to raise money. Parents sponsor the children's laps around the school's track.

This year's cause is an unglamorous but necessary improvement: new tables and chairs for the school's three buildings, said Michael Bernard, Villa Maria Academy physical education director.

The event has its origins in two earlier fundraisers netting upwards of \$20,000 to repair the running track after it was literally torn apart by Hur-



Members of the pre-K class were who took part in 'Trekking for Villa Maria Academy' were given medals for taking part in the fundraiser for the school. Photo courtesy of Michael Bernard / Villa Maria Academy

ricane Irene in 2011 and then again by Superstorm Sandy in 2012, said Bernard.

In more recent years, trekking funds were used to purchase a new jungle gym with a base that resists water pooling, and to purchase a John Deere tractor to maintain the school's eight-acre campus alongside Eastchester Bay, he said.

"It is not a glamorous thing like the track and the jungle gym, but it is a

necessity," said Bernard of the chairs and tables, explaining that they are badly needed because currently the ones the school does have need to be transported all over campus.

Chairs are needed in the schools Great Hall, a space on the fourth floor of the school's main building where liturgies are held, as well as in the gymnasium.

They are badly needed in the school's cafeteria, where students

are eating on tables that date back to when VMA was a high school in the 1960s.

"Our goal is replace all the tables in the cafeteria," said Bernard. "The kids right now are eating on the same tables they used 60 years ago."

The exercise focus of the event drives home a lesson that the young people should exercise their bodies throughout their entire lifetimes, he said.

Parents can donate whatever they wish for the cause, he said.

"Some of the parents give a flat amount; some of the parents have given \$40 and some turned in \$400," said Bernard, adding that the three top donors will receive prizes, which could include 'dress-down' days for the children or gift certificates to restaurants for the parents.

John Marano, a VMA parent who volunteered to assist with the event, said that Trekking for the Track is a fundraiser that makes a measurable difference in the quality of the facilities.

Marano said that fundraising is especially important at VMA because it is not a parish school.



Physical education teacher Michael Bernard congratulates some of the top pre-K trekkers.

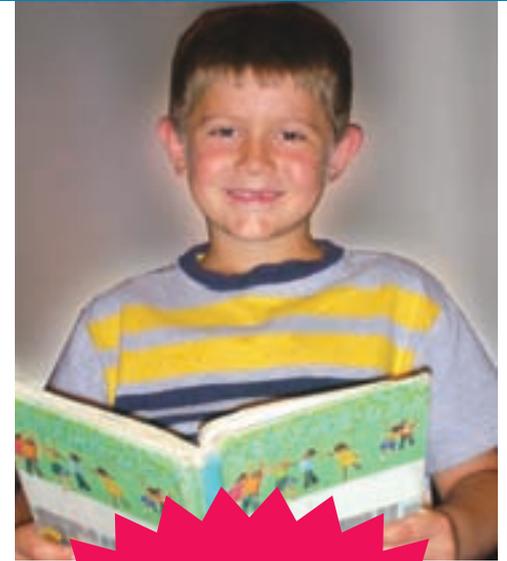
Photo courtesy of Michael Bernard / Villa Maria Academy

"Villa Maria doesn't have a parish affiliation, so we don't get funding from the archdiocese," said Marano, adding "This is a fundraiser for all of the things that make the school a better place."

Jean-Marie Piccininni, VMA's director of finance, came up with the term of 'trekking' for the event and the concept of parents pledging funds for the laps their children run or walk around the track, said Bernard.

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Bronx Chamber Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Leaders

The Bronx Chamber of Commerce toasted several distinguished Hispanic leaders at its eighth annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration on Thursday, September 28 at Tosca's Marquee. This year's Leadership Award honorees were Carmelo Alvarado, TD Bank relationship manager and vice president; 49th Precinct police officer Norkiss Andino; Nydia Edgecombe, Hostos Community College Development and Alumni Relations director; Joe Ithier, Red Apple Group consultant; Dulce Maria Nunez, A.S.A.P. Mortgage Corp. licensed mortgage originator and Luis Eladio Torres, C.S. 55 principal.



Captain Thomas Alps (back, 3rd from l), 49th Precinct commanding officer, honored police officer Norkiss Adino (back, 4th from l); lieutenant Jose Caraballo (back, c) and the 49th Precinct Police Explorers.

Photo by Silvio Pacifico



(l-r) Captain Alps; Joe Ramos, former NYC Correction Department commissioner; Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis and lieutenant Caraballo enjoyed the cultural celebration.

Photo by Silvio Pacifico



(l-r) Joe Ramos; Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj; lieutenant Caraballo; captain Alps; Geri Sciortino, Bronx Chamber vice president; Thomas Messina representing Congressman Joseph Crowley and Joseph Kelleher, Bronx Chamber chairman.

Photo by Silvio Pacifico



Mayor hopeful Assemblywoman Malliotakis with the Bronx Chamber's Nunzio Del Greco (l), president and Joseph Kelleher.

Photo by Silvio Pacifico



Honoree police officer Andino (front, 4th from l) graciously accepted her award.

Photo by Silvio Pacifico



Bronx Chamber's Joseph Kelleher (4th from l) and Nunzio Del Greco (c) congratulated honorees (l-r) Luis Eladio Torres, Nydia Edgecombe, police officer Andino, Joe Ithier, Carmelo Alvarado and Dulce Maria Nunez on their success.

Photo by Silvio Pacifico



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Phipps youth develop crime watch website

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Soundview youth are creating a website to improve the quality of life in their community.

Phipps Neighborhoods Sonia Sotomayor Bulldogs, a group of young people between the fifth and 12th grades, are in the process of developing a website called Community Watch.

It will allow residents to anonymously submit information concerning crime, land use and misuse, homelessness, poverty and violence.

The website is currently being coded and built by 24 youngsters in the program, said Yeremi Rosario, Phipps program coordinator for the youth group.

The Allstate Foundation provided a \$2,000 grant for the project, and three program members recently traveled to Chicago to represent Phipps and make a pitch to Peace First, a part of the foundation, Rosario said.

"This has been a way to show that kids can take initiative," said Rosario. "We've seen a rise in teens bettering and helping the community."

He said that he expects the coding to be done by early November,



Phipps Bulldogs members (l-r) Sydasia Stephens, Christopher Rhem, and Daniel Nunez attended an Allstate Foundation gala in Chicago. The Allstate Foundation is funding the website the youth group is creating.

Photo courtesy of Allstate Foundation

and after designing the site, which is likely to include an interactive map of Soundview, it should be operational by December.

Rosario stressed that the young people are doing all of the work.

"We did not want to create a website for the kids," he said. "We wanted this to be 100 percent the kids' website."

They are currently working on coding for the site using Google software, said Rosario.

The Sonia Sotomayor Bulldogs have a number of partners, including the 43rd Precinct and Community Board 9, he said.

The website sprang out of a successful effort by the Bulldogs where they created an anonymous

crime tip phone line that encourages callers to submit tips concerning possible criminal activity.

That effort, called the Community Watch Project, has an active hotline that receives as many as eight crime tips per day, according to Phipps.

The process of developing the site will help the children make

their own decisions, which aside from its practical use, is very valuable, said a Phipps spokesman.

Once complete, the Community Watch site will be updated every two days by the team as they get tips from the community, said Rosario.

He believes that the lessons they learn in this project will help them take initiative in all areas of their lives, said Rosario.

The Sonia Sotomayor Bulldogs are funded by the Department of Youth and Community Development's Young Men's Initiative, a mentoring program, said Rosario.

Laura Freveletti, senior program manager at The Allstate Foundation, said that the organization is committed "to empowering youth to step up as leaders in their communities and realize their full potential, while addressing pressing social issues."

"Young people, like the inspiring Phipps Neighborhoods Sonia Sotomayor Bulldogs, have the passion and vision to make a positive difference in society," she said. "As members of society, we need to listen to them and encourage them to keep reaching for the stars."

Beth Abe launches Call9 telemedicine system

BY ROBERT WIRSING

The future of emergency medicine has arrived in the Bronx.

Beth Abraham Center installed Call9, a new telemedicine technology, on Thursday, September 7.

The state-of-the-art technology delivers bedside emergency care to patients in nursing homes and rehabilitation centers, serving as a replacement for 911 by staffing on-site 24/7 emergency-trained clinic care specialists.

When a patient suffers a medical event, the facility nurse would have a CCS go to the patient's bedside with labs and diagnostics.

Serving as a first responder, the CCS taps the Call9 app and is immediately connected to an emergency physician.

Within minutes, the patient is seen by a remote doctor via a video screen who can diagnose and direct care to the patient via the CCS' hands.

The doctor can also view the patient's vitals which are

streamed to the doctor's laptop via Call9.

Bedside labs, EKG, telemetry and real-time ultrasound allow the CCS to perform more in-depth diagnostics while the Emergency Medicine physician's help ensures patients are only sent to the hospital if absolutely necessary.

Approximately 80% of patients Call9 sees are able to stay in their nursing home or rehab bed avoiding physically taxing and costly trips to the emergency department.

Since CCSs are in the facility around the clock, Call9 replaces emergency room visits and subsequent hospitalizations which are often extremely difficult on patients and burdensome on their families.

Beth Abraham Center is Call9's first and currently only facility in the Bronx.

Call9's model is to establish a flagship in each of the five boroughs and each county through-



Moshe Blackstein with Beth Abraham's new state-of-the-art Call9 telemedicine machine.

Photo courtesy of Beth Abraham Center

out lower NYS with plans of expansion to other areas of New York and other states.

Two weeks after launching at Beth Abraham, Call9 has since expanded into Centers Health Care's Northern Manor Multi-Care Center in Nanuet, NY.

Moshe Blackstein, licensed nursing home administrator at Beth Abraham, said the center's Call9 serves all 448 patients.

"Call9 has been very beneficial in that it gives us another level of medical care that we can provide our residents," expressed

Blackstein.

This past March, Centers Health Care acquired the 90-year-old Beth Abraham Health Services facility at 612 Allerton Avenue which it renamed Beth Abraham Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing.

With over 30 years of experience, geriatric medicine physician Dr. Anthony Vela expressed excitement over Call9's potential.

He explained that Call9's video screen allows physicians to see, speak and examine their patients in real-time with no technical interference.

"Call9 advances the medical field by serving as a buffer whenever the primary care physician is unsure of sending a patient to the hospital," stated Dr. Vela.

He added Call9 provides patients a rapid comprehensive assessment from doctors who may be out of state or out of the country during such medical emergencies.

Call9 allows for instant communication for any of Beth Abraham's seven emergency medicine providers to directly call or text primary care physicians.

For additional information, visit www.call9.com.



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Columbus Day Parade Committee Hosts Dinner Dance

The Bronx Columbus Day Parade Committee celebrated its annual Columbus Day Parade Dinner on Friday, September 29 at Maestro's Caterers. The dinner dance which raises money for the time honored parade featured Bronx Miss Columbus Jessica Morrone, grand marshal Councilman James Vacca, honorary grand marshal Lucia Mariani and Citizenship Award recipients John Bonizio and Michael Ungaro of Metro Optics.



Honorary grand marshal Lucia Mariani (front, c) with fellow teachers and UFT members and Public Advocate Letitia James (front, r).

Photo by Laura Stone



NYC Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli (l) presented a proclamation to Tony Signorile.

Photo by Laura Stone



Citizenship Award recipients John Bonizio (3rd from l) and Michael Ungaro (2nd from r) proudly accepted their awards from Morris Park Community Association members (l-r) Chris Alessandro, treasurer; Carmine Torchetti, second vice president and parade organizer Tony Signorile.

Photo by Laura Stone



Miss Columbus Jessica Morrone (2nd from r) celebrated with her parents Aurelio (l) and Diana and her brother Michael.

Photo by Laura Stone



Honorary grand marshal Lucia Mariani (r) received congratulations from Earl Menard, NYC Middle School Basketball League treasurer.

Photo by Laura Stone



Grand marshal Councilman Vacca (2nd from r) was honored by (l-r) NYC Comptroller DiNapoli; Public Advocate James and parade organizer Tony Signorile.

Photo by Laura Stone



(l-r) Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj; Christina Contrears, North Central Bronx Hospital chief operating officer; Gloria Bent; parade organizer Tony Signorile; Public Advocate James; Thomas Messina representing Congressman Crowley and NYC Comptroller DiNapoli.

Photo by Laura Stone

Terrace on the Park gets a face-lift

Popular wedding venue unveils \$9 million in smashing renovations that took five years

BY ANNABELLE BLAIR

Terrace on the Park, the 1964 World's Fair landmark that has become a top wedding venue in Flushing Meadows, unveiled a \$9-million renovation for the press and events planners Wednesday.

The five-year restoration and redesign project included 12,000 new roof pavers, 3,000 gallons of paint, 3,000 square feet of carpet, LED-lighting, architectural ceilings, granite floors and a rooftop patio cover.

Originally constructed by the MTA as a restaurant and heliport for the 1964 World's Fair, Terrace on the Park is notable for its signature T-shaped towers, 120 feet high, and its views of Flushing Meadows Park and beyond.

The venue has hosted high school proms, the Beatles, \$100,000 weddings and a host of New York mayors, according to a 2011 New York Times article. It was voted best 2017



Terrace on the Park General Manager Bruno Marques (r.) gives Janice Melnick, the new administrator of the Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Alliance, a tour of the new rooftop garden at an unveiling for the press and event planners of the tower's \$9-million makeover.

Photo by Michael Shain

wedding venue in New York by couples on the online site Wedding Spot.

"Many people in Queens are fond of it," Queens historian Jeffrey Kroessler told the New York Times in 2011. The structure symbolized the "optimism" of the mid-1960s, he said.

A new Promenade level was created near the top, just below the ballroom level. The new Lotus and Marquis Suites can accommodate 200 people each, officials said. Private entrances, custom bars, mosaic tile and LED lighting integrated into the architecture

are a few improvements.

Outside renovations include new gardens and an annual landscaping budget of more than \$100,000. Five locations are now available for ceremonies and events.

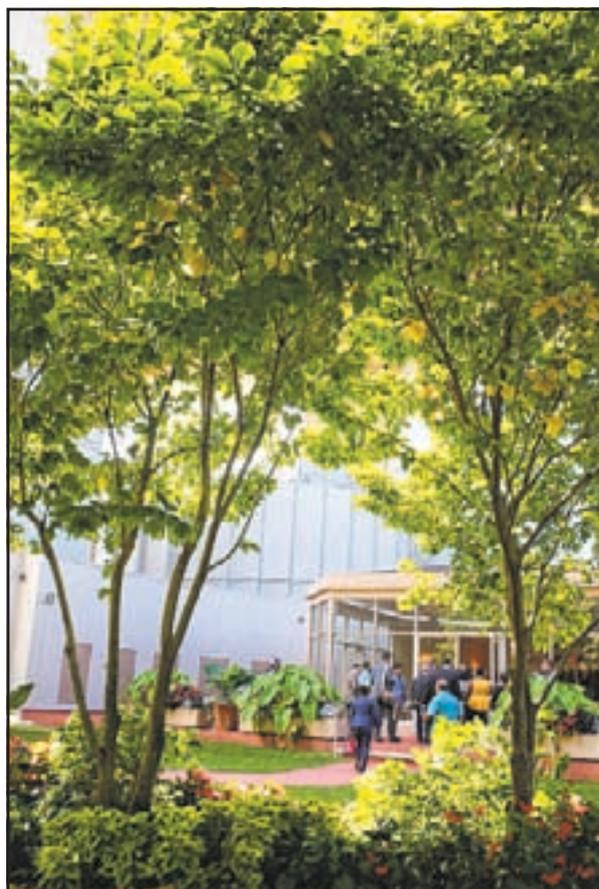
The indoor Wedding Chapel has been redesigned with

polished wood and a stone aisle to the altar. The ballroom sports custom lighting and new carpets and flooring, while retaining some of Terrace's signature inlaid wood dance floors. Optic Wi-Fi service and multimedia equipment allow for electronic media presentations during events or meetings.

Bruno Marques, Terrace's general manager, said the project included enhancements to nearly all of Terrace on the Park.

SEE PHOTOS BELOW

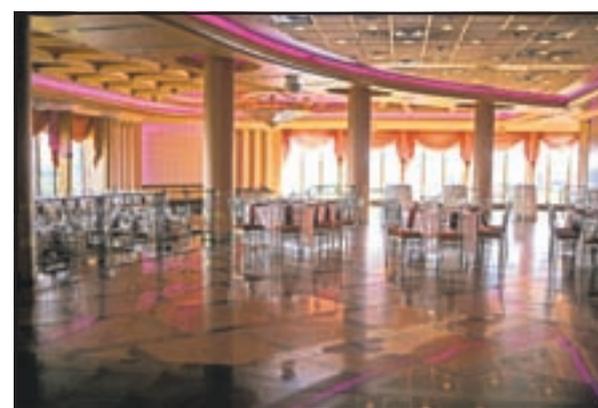
"We have undertaken this work to preserve the heritage of this incredible piece of New York's history," he said. "In doing so, we have made Terrace On The Park new again for new generations of New Yorkers, with a vision for the future that is just as big and breathtaking as our views."



Corporate barbecues and outdoor weddings are being



Walls and doors have all been redone as part of the \$9 million renovation.



The grand ballroom faces north and east and overlooks the tennis stadium and the old World's Fair landmarks.



The Manhattan skyline is the main feature of the newly



About 3,000 square feet of English broadloom has been

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL SHAIN

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New spa at City Island offers beauty treatments

BY BOB GUILIANO

A trio of Bronx health-care professionals pondering ways to beautify storefronts along City Island Avenue instead thought, "Let's make the people of the Bronx more beautiful!"

The three women who shared that thought are Mary Jo Byrne, Patrice Cashen and Joanne Rooney, co-owners of Complexions of City Island Laser Skin Spa, 403 City Island Avenue, which opened Saturday, September 9.

"The concept was to provide this type of service to City Island and surrounding communities," Byrne said. "There's no other business in the area like it."

Complexion's two aestheticians, Emerald Hansen and Kristen Ramos, licensed by the NYS Department of Education, are "highly qualified and certified aestheticians who provide clients with a specialized treatment plan for concerns of hair removal, acne, age spots, rosacea, fungal nails and facial veins," Byrne said.

And all five women are trained and certified to use the medical grade devices — Formatk laser and Viora — in the spa. The equipment used is FDA-approved and state-of-the art, according to



From left, Mary Jo Byrne, Joanne Rooney and Patrice Cashen, three Bronx women who co-own Complexions of City Island Laser Skin Spa, 403 City Island Avenue. Beauty enhancement treatments are offered at the spa. The website is <https://complexionsci.com>. Courtesy photo

Byrne.

"This is not a medical spa, so we are under the beauty enhancement license, but we're offering medical-grade quality treatments," Byrne said.

"While Byrne, a physician assistant, cannot independently practice medicine without a physician, Rooney as a nurse practitioner can practice independently. And Cashen is a registered nurse.

Byrne said that clients may come in for just one treatment, but the most effective results are derived from three to five treatments.

For example, regarding hair treatment, Byrne noted that hair grows in three cycles over a one-month period. So this requires one treatment a month for three months in order to see an effective reduction in hair growth in

the underarms, bikini area, lips, chin, back, or legs.

Men may have ear hair removed, but no one may have hairs removed from within their nostrils, Byrne stressed, because hair cannot be removed from areas with mucous membranes.

As far as microdermabrasion, clients experience an exfoliation treatment of the face and body utilizing Pristine, a medical grade device, according to Byrne.

It can reduce fine lines and result in a polished skin tone after even one treatment.

Body contouring and skin tightening is achieved by Reaction, which utilizes radio frequency waves that warm the deep tissue, along with vacuum suction that enhances the face, necklines, arms, abdomen, buttocks and saddle bags, according to Byrne.

"While you're lying there on the table, you'll feel a warm, massaging sensation," Byrne said. "Then, when you actually stand up after one treatment, you're going to see a reduction in the circumference and you're going to feel tighter almost as if you went to the gym and did sit-ups. We'll measure you before and after."

Byrne said they also weigh clients, not wanting them to think they can be treated and then can go out and eat excessive calories. They are also moving patients toward healthier diets to go along with their treatments.

The message that Complexions wants to get out to the community is that it wants to offer this level of treatment to City Island as well as Throggs Neck, Country Club and Co-op City.

The website is <https://complexionsci.com>.



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BRONX Times REPORTING

96-year-old veteran thrilled to see Yankees game

from Page 1

Lou Gehrig was his favorite player.

Casaburi recalled that he was 8-years-old at that time, attending the game with a class from school.

And afterward, when he couldn't afford to go to games during the Depression, he'd listen to them on the radio and hear his favorite announcer, Mel Allen, call the plays.

"Every game that Mel Allen narrated, he almost took the place of a baseball player," Casaburi said. "At that time he really narrated the game very well."

A highlight for Casaburi was being interviewed for TV at the game Sunday.

And regarding his first trip to the new stadium, Casaburi said, "It's a beautiful stadium. The old one was good too, but this one is terrific, the best of all the ballparks."

Klampert was even more excited about bringing his Uncle Joey to the game, and

inspiring people that when they get older, they can keep active.

Casaburi's family members who joined him at the game share longevity, with his sisters Emma at 90, Tina at 93, Jenny at 91, brothers Jimmy at 90 and Freddy at 85.

Their mother, Mary, lived to 99 and a half, and Grandma Concetta until 104, according to Klampert.

"The genetics are amazing as they are all alive with vitality," Klampert said. "Emma's an amazing 10-star cook, Uncle Joey survived recent open heart surgery and is running all over the Bronx."

Klampert had nothing but praise for how his Uncle Joey took care of his wife of over 50 years, with the last 20 years as her caretaker.

"He refused to put her in a home and for 20 years she had dementia and was unable to take care of herself," Klampert said. "He took her around to activities in a



Joe Casaburi, 96, front center, attends the NY Yankees game vs. the Toronto Blue Jays on Sunday, October 1. Here he is surrounded by part of his family at Monument Park at the stadium. Photo by Andrew Klampert

wheelchair, bathed her and did everything for her as she was unable to do so."

The family was raised in Harlem and settled in the Bronx in the 1950s.

Casaburi was a drummer in the 1st Infantry

Band, a WWII Purple Heart veteran who fought on the front lines and today still has shrapnel inside him, according to Klampert, adding that nowadays he's an amazing pool player and visits seniors.

"I am trying to pitch a show right now called 'Catching Up With The Casaburis,'" Klampert said. "How 90 is the new 70 and watch this family go non-stop from the minute they wake up."

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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.

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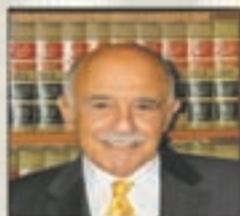
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