

## Bronx still in the Amazon HQ2 race

BY BOB GUILIANO

While Amazon has not accepted any offers to locate its second headquarters in Bronx, another proposal has surfaced which may keep the Bronx in the game.

Meanwhile, New York City has submitted its own proposal to Amazon to consider four alternate sites, with two letters dated October 16, one from Mayor de Blasio and the other signed by 70 elected officials from all five boroughs.

Some 26 elected officials from the Bronx had signed on to a letter to Jeff Bezos, Amazon's founder and CEO, on Friday, September 15, offering the Bronx as the site of its next headquarters.

"Amazon just answered they got the letter and thanks for sending it," said John DeSio, director of communications for Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.

Companies from all over the world are taking a fresh look at the Bronx, and existing companies are expanding their presence in the borough, according to Diaz in the letter.

The other Bronx deal that's still floating around was submitted by Simone Metro Properties, according to Joseph Kelleher, president.

"We have a development team that's working on the Amazon project," Kelleher said. "We haven't been notified yet that we were not the selected site. As far as we're concerned, we're still in the running. We submitted a great proposal."

Kelleher said that the Bronx, and particularly the Hutchinson Metro Center, would be one of the

*Continued on Page 4*

# 10 NABBED IN DRUG RING BUST

## 'Operation Green Giant' ends \$22 million enterprise

BY BOB GUILIANO

Ten major drug-dealer suspects arrested in the Bronx, as part of a strike force investigation, had been under surveillance while allegedly selling about 6,600 pounds of marijuana worth about \$22 million from March 2016 to October 2017.

"As alleged, these defendants conspired to ship millions of dollars' worth of drugs across the country for eventual sale in New York City," said Acting Manhattan U.S. Attorney Joon H. Kim.

"Searches of apartments where the defendants allegedly resided uncovered guns and ammunition, multiple kilograms of cocaine, hun-

dreds of pounds of marijuana, and thousands of dollars in cash," Kim said.

Arrested on Wednesday, October 18, and Thursday, October 19, in multiple raids, the ten suspects then appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge Sarah Netburn in Manhattan federal court.

Special Agent-in-Charge James J. Hunt, with the Drug Enforcement Administration, said the arrests were part of "Operation Green Giant," targeting an organization that allegedly traversed the country with marijuana sent to New York City, with the profit then laundered

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## Touring The Bronx

Thousands of cyclists made tracks through our borough in celebration of the 23rd annual Tour de Bronx on Sunday, October 22. Amy Cole (l) and Patrina Feenan were eager to start their boroughwide journey. See more photos on page 9.

Photo by Silvio Pacifico

## 34th Throggs Neck Halloween Parade set for Sat., Oct. 28th

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

The Throggs Neck community is getting ready for another fun day of celebrating Halloween in an event that's been a community tradition for over three decades.

The 34th Annual Throggs Neck Halloween parade, carnival and costume contest will take place on Saturday, October 28 from noon to 4 p.m.

There will also be a separate parade and celebration in the Pelham Parkway community

on that same day.

In Throggs Neck, the parade will step off at noon and be followed by a carnival and costume contest adjacent to the Throggs Neck Little League Field on Throggs Neck Boulevard between Harding and Schurz avenues.

In addition to a costume contest with first, second and third place prizes for the best costume in different age categories, the carnival will include

*Continued on Page 15*



# KaBOOM converts empty lot into kids' play space

BY BOB GUILIANO

What was an empty lot at 4010 Dyre Avenue has been converted to a playground that will serve more than 1,300 children.

The children "now have a new opportunity to get the balanced and active play they need to thrive," said Celesta Parisi, M.Ed., interim principal at the Astor Services for Children & Families' Lawrence F. Hickey Center for Child Development.

The former lot was transformed into a kid-designed play space in less than eight hours on Thursday, October 5, with the help of more than 200 people from the center, Disney, area residents and organizers from KaBOOM!

"A playground offers children many learning opportunities," said Parisi, who along with ASCF's executive director James McGuirk, Ph.D., believes that play is integral to children's full development.

"Play builds mental capacity, enhances socialization skills and contributes to the development of coordination

and motor skills," Parisi said. "Play is the work of childhood and is the basis of all learning — social and academic."

The design of the playground was based on children's drawings created at a special event in August at Astor's Hickey Center in the Bronx, which were then incorporated into the final playground design.

Elected officials attending a ribbon-cutting ceremony included Councilman Andy King, Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., and Senator Jamaal Bailey.

Since 1996, KaBOOM! has been dedicated to the goal of ensuring that all children get the balanced and active play they need to thrive because #PlayMatters.

The new playground is one of many made possible with support from Disney as part of The Walt Disney Company Healthy Living Commitment, a long-standing commitment to create healthier generations by making healthy living fun and simple, according to the release.



Councilman Andy King (front, 5th from left), Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. (front, center) and Senator Jamaal Bailey (front, 3rd from right) with others prepare to cut the ribbon at a play space for children at 4010 Dyre Avenue in the Bronx, on Thursday, October 5.

Photo by Ray Maldonado

KaBOOM! works to accelerate efforts that move every child in America to play every day. Together, Disney and KaBOOM! have built more than 75 new play spaces across America giving nearly 100,000 kids access to healthier lifestyles and safe places to play and grow, according to the release.

Astor Services for Children & Families, as it has since 1953, promotes the well-being of children, adolescents and their families through a range of programs that prevent and treat emotional problems and facilitate healthy development.

Now serving more than 8,000 children and families annually, Astor's current range of services to families in the Mid-Hudson Valley and the Bronx include, residential treatment, therapeutic foster family care, early childhood programs, and community-based behavioral health and prevention services.

For additional information visit <http://astorservices.org/> or call (845) 871-1117.

"Our work with KaBOOM! promotes active and healthy lifestyles in the communities we serve," said Kevin Callahan, vice president of Community and Engagement, Corporate Citizenship at Disney.

"Ensuring the happiness of kids is at the heart of what we do, and through our work in more than 75 communities, we are proud to help give kids the childhood they deserve through play," Callahan said.

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# NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS FOR MAYOR

## FEARLESS:

From her dogged determination to expose the corrupt practices of disgraced Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, or taking the Port Authority to court over its lack of transparency and winning, Nicole Malliotakis has been **tireless** and **fearless** in her quest to protect the New York taxpayer from being **gouged** by tax and spend liberals.



## MEET NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS.

Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis is running to become Mayor of New York City to stop Bill de Blasio from his continued practice of protecting criminals at the expense of the New York City taxpayer.

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# 10 arrested in drug ring bust; ends \$22 million enterprise



Shown are firearms and drugs found at the Stephens Avenue and Fox Street residences in the Bronx, along with other guns and narcotics obtained with search warrants at other addresses in the Bronx.

Courtesy of US Attorney of the southern district of NY.

from Page 1

back to California.

"I commend the good work of the Strike Force, Southern District of New York and our law enforcement partners on these arrests and dismantlement," Hunt said.

The arrests occurred at 12 locations in the Bronx serving as 'stash houses' for drugs, weapons and cash, including sites at Harding Avenue in Throggs Neck, Stephens Avenue in Castle Hill and Fox Street in Hunts Point.

During the execution of search warrants, agents recovered three handguns, one sawed-off shotgun, ammunition, multiple kilograms of cocaine, hundreds of pounds of marijuana, and thousands of dollars in cash.

FedEx, the carrier of choice for the drug dealers, made about 330 overnight deliveries of packages from a San Francisco sender during the last eight months.

The packages containing marijuana were sent to residences and businesses in Manhattan, the Bronx and New Rochelle, according to

the indictment unsealed in Manhattan federal court.

After the drugs were shipped to New York, the defendants transferred multiple boxes of marijuana per week to several stash houses from which they further distributed the drugs to customers and dealers, according to the indictment.

- Charged with conspiracy to distribute narcotics, and facing a maximum penalty of life in prison, with a mandatory minimum of 10 years, were: Hallil Tabar, 29; Jairo Cienfuegos, 27; William Baez, 31; Henry Rodriguez, 41; Danny Hannah Jr., 48; Starly Hernandez, 30; and Lorne Victoria, 37 (also charged with use of firearms in furtherance of narcotics trafficking).

- Charged with conspiracy to distribute narcotics, and facing a maximum penalty of life in prison, with a mandatory minimum of five years, were: Asmin Hernandez, 27; John Munoz-Garcia, 30; and Kevin Umejei, 25.

With the exception of Starly Hernandez, of Cali-

fornia, all other suspects are from the Bronx.

This case is being handled by the U.S. Attorney Office's narcotics unit. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Catherine Geddes and Nicholas Folly are in charge of the prosecution.

The DEA's NY Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force comprises agents and officers of the DEA, the NYPD, Homeland Security Investigations, the NY State Police, IRS-Criminal Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Marshals Service, NY National Guard, the Clarkstown Police Department, U.S. Coast Guard, Port Washington Police Department, and NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision.

The strike force is partially funded by the New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, which is a federally funded crime fighting initiative and part of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force program.

# Bronx still in the Amazon HQ2 competition

from Page 1

most efficient and desirable sites for any corporation, including Amazon.

"We have the capacity to build over 2 million square feet here of office space," Kelleher said.

The Hutchinson Metro Center would be a great home for any company, but particularly Amazon would find it to be a wonderful location, according to Kelleher.

The site being proposed already has two existing former Bronx State Psychiatric buildings ready to be repurposed.

Hutchinson Metro Center has seen the creation of 7,500 new jobs, with 3,000 daily visitors, and almost 2 million square feet of office space here, according to Kelleher.

"We could certainly satisfy the needs of Amazon, as per the proposal we sent out," Kelleher said.

Meanwhile, the NYC Economic Development Corporation, the city's agency that promotes economic growth in the boroughs, submitted its Amazon HQ2 NYC Proposal that left the Bronx out al-



Joseph Kelleher, president of Simone Metro Properties, which made a pitch to Amazon to locate its second headquarters to the Hutchinson Metro Center. Courtesy photo

together: Midtown West, Long Island City, Brooklyn Tech Triangle, and Lower Manhattan.

Midtown West was promoted as the epicenter of the New York City region, according to the proposal, anchored by Penn Station, near Madison Square Garden, Chelsea art galleries and the High Line.

The potential at Midtown West is over 26 million square feet in a wide

range on building types, including modern office towers and historic gems.

- Long Island City was promoted as a creative, mixed-use neighborhood and industrial innovation center, with over 150 restaurants, bars and cafes, 40 arts and cultural institutions, museums and theaters.

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- The Brooklyn Tech Triangle was promoted as an innovation hub with 70 diverse arts and culture organizations, offering over 15 million square feet of space.

- Lower Manhattan was promoted as boasting over \$30 billion in public and private investment, with an increase of tech, advertising, media, information and professional service firms. It also offers cultural institutions, performance centers and historic sites, surrounded by water on three sides, with 83 acres of open space and over 8.5 million square feet of office space.



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Zottola (second from l.) will compete against runners from the other four boroughs of New York City in Foot Locker's Five Borough Challenge during the New York City Marathon.

Photo courtesy of Foot Locker

## Bronx represented in Foot Locker Challenge

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Many runners will represent the borough in the upcoming TCS New York City Marathon, but one has found a unique way to do so.

Katie Zottola, of Silver Beach, will be competing to make her hometown proud in a unique way: the Foot Locker Challenge, a contest that pits a runner from each borough in competition to see who can finish the 26.2 miles in the fastest time.

The challenge is within the larger TCS New York City Marathon, which takes place on Sunday, November 5 and runs through all five boroughs.

Challenge participants will have their own start time an hour before the rest of the runners, she said.

The group of five will run together for the first half of the marathon and then after the midway point start competing, said Zottola.

"I was born and raised in the Bronx, (and) it is a special place to me," said Zottola about representing the borough in the Foot Locker Challenge.

She is running for more than just bragging rights for her home borough.

The marathoner said she was encouraged by both her

sister and the memory of a friend to take up the Foot Locker Challenge.

Zottola, who has been running since she was in high school, said she is competing to remember her best friend and roommate Margaret, a frequent running partner, who passed away in a car accident in 2011.

She and Margaret always dreamed of running the New York City Marathon together, she said, adding that after her friend's passing, her "passion for running intensified and had a deeper meaning."

"It became a time for me to reflect on the valuable memories we shared, and a way to keep Margaret's memory alive," said Zottola.

Zottola added: "I hope that this opportunity empowers others to chose healthy alternative, such as running, to cope with tragedies and overcome obstacles in their lives."

The marathoner said running helps her cope with stress.

She believes running is a way to choose a healthy lifestyle at very little cost, noting that all the sport requires is decent sneakers.

Zottola is a neonatal Intensive Care Unit nurse at

Montefiore, and the mother of two small boys, a three-year-old and a 20 month old.

She said she finds time to run because her parents Kathy and Frank Martinnucci, who also live Silver Beach, are willing babysitters three or four times per week.

She would like to give her husband, Sal Zottola, credit for picking up responsibilities at home and with their children.

"Because of that, I am able to dedicate a couple of hours per day to training for the NYC marathon," stated Zottola. "Without his dedication and selflessness, I would not be as prepared for this race as I feel that I am."

In order to prepare, she is training with Bill Rueger, SUNY Maritime's cross country head coach.

Rueger said that the experience of working with Zottola is one of the most rewarding of his career.

"I am honored to be working with such a focused and dedicated runner," said Rueger, adding that she doesn't miss practice and balances being a marathoner with being an extraordinary wife and mother.



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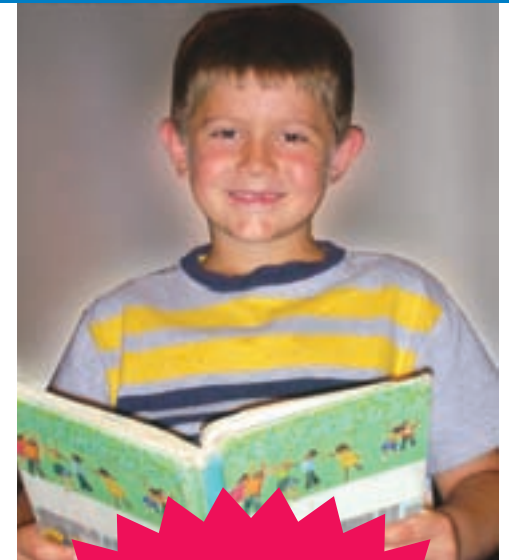
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# Live-in caretakers at senior housing sites

BY BOB GUILIANO

As part of the NYC Housing Authority's NextGeneration goal to become a more efficient and effective landlord and help residents enjoy a better quality of life, it recently added a live-in caretaker at two developments for senior residents in the Bronx — Boston Road Plaza and Middletown Plaza.

The live-in caretaker performs janitorial and maintenance work in the development during regular business hours 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., according to a news release.

As a resident on premises, the caretaker is available to respond to all emergency situations.

In the senior developments, where residents require more attention, having someone on the premises 24 hours a day, seven days a week is expected to make a difference.

"We know that we have seniors who are vulnerable, seniors who often need as-



Councilman James Vacca visits Boston Road Plaza to meet with senior residents on Thursday, October 19, about the addition of a live-in caretaker. Courtesy photo

sistance, seniors who have medical issues, so having someone on premises means that their needs can be addressed," said Councilman James Vacca.

Vacca visited Boston Road Plaza on Thursday, October 19, to let the seniors know that they have someone on site helping them.

"This is something that's going to be an invaluable resource for these tenants, so it's good news for the seniors," Vacca said.

The biggest complaint Vacca said he heard from the two senior residences is that nobody is there for them, but now someone is there to keep the building

nice, help them, and give them guidance, he said.

Antonio Cordero, the new live-in caretaker at Boston Road Plaza, said, "I started as a caretaker at Carver Houses (in Manhattan) and now I'm here as (the live-in) site caretaker."

The feedback that Cordero hears from residents is

that he's doing a good job.

"That's what I'm trying to do, because I was born and raised in the projects, so I know what the tenants want and what the residents need," Cordero said. "I try my best to get it done, and just keep doing it."

Cordero, born and raised in Brooklyn's Van

Dyke Houses, said as a live-in caretaker he hopes to keep the residents happy by keeping the building clean, and helping them with any problems.

Laurenne Talbert, vice president of the Boston Road Plaza Resident Association, said, "I have seen a big difference since we have our new live-in caretaker, Antonio. He is awesome. Our building has been kept immaculate. He does an awesome job, an excellent job."

Antonio has been working for NYCHA since 2010, and has been working at Boston Road Plaza as the live-in caretaker since Tuesday, September 5.

Talbert has been living at Boston Road Plaza for 25 years and thinks the new live-in caretaker is awesome.

"I noticed a difference within two days of him being here," Talbert said. "The floors, elevators and lobbies are cleaner and I'm hearing good things from neighbors, as well."

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# 23rd Annual Tour De Bronx Traverses The Borough

Cyclists from across the region and the globe made tracks throughout the borough at this year's 23rd annual Tour de Bronx. The largest free cycling event was co-hosted by Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.; the Bronx Tourism Council; Bronx Overall Economic Development; Montefiore Medical Center; Bronx Lebanon Hospital; St. Barnabas Medical Center and Mercy College on Sunday, October 22. Thousands of cyclists traversed the Grand Concourse, Mott Haven, Pelham Bay Park, City Island, Orchard Beach and the New York Botanical Garden.



(above) (front, l-r) Friends Jimmy Cabrera, Ivan Perez and Jonathan Bedarya rode together. Photo by Silvio Pacifico



(above middle) Borough President Diaz (3rd from r) and his family participated in the boroughwide ride. Photo by Silvio Pacifico



(above) Borough President Diaz (l) took a selfie with Luis Salazar. Photo by Silvio Pacifico

(left) Co-owner Sheepal Deo (c) and I Love Kickboxing members were ready to tour the Bronx. Photo by Silvio Pacifico







Collins (l) makes some final adjustments to a model's outfit he designed.

Photo courtesy of Chuks Collins

## Fashion designer Chuks Collins inspires success

BY ROBERT WIRSING

A local fashion designer with an unlikely start has fashioned himself into a success story.

Born in the United Kingdom and raised in Nigeria, Chuks Collins graduated Lagos State University in 2006 with a Bachelor's Degree in accounting and entered the corporate sector.

Ultimately, Collins' passion for design and styling made him consider entering the fashion and entertainment worlds.

In 2012, Collins was at the height of his career in Lagos, Nigeria.

His designs were sold in five local stores and he had clients in London, the U.S. and Milan.

Life seemed like a dream for then 28-year-old Collins who that same year received an invitation to showcase his designs at New York Fashion Week.

However, in September 2012, Collins was severely injured in a car accident sustaining wounds to his head and leg.

The worst came in January 2013 when Collins was re-admitted to the hospital with an infected leg and learned the complications had led to kidney disease.

Despite several agonizing months of expensive treatments and dialysis, Collins needed a kidney

transplant.

His fashion industry and parish friends provided financial support to send him to New York Presbyterian Hospital for treatment.

After being discharged, Collins knew he owed his life to those who came to his rescue and decided to 'pay it forward' by volunteering with Housing Works.

"I'm going to use my gift as a tool to give back to others," he said.

Collins, now a Crotona resident, draws inspiration from nature, the journey of the human experience and one's sense of identity to create his couture.

"From a very young age, I've always had this zeal to dress people in my own way," he shared.

The Art Institute of NYC Class of 2015 alum sketches and fabricates his designs inside his one-bedroom apartment.

Collins works with private clients through the entire design process from initial concept development to the finished garment.

His collection offers ready-to-wear fashions for men and women who appreciate sophisticated style.

Collins' designs appear on the runways of New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Atlanta International Fashion Week and Nigeria

Fashion Weeks.

He also produced a 70-piece collection of dresses displayed during the Miss Intercontinental Pageant in Germany.

Collins has styled for print and television and serves as a costume designer for Hollywood films.

This September, Collins' ensembles were showcased in the The Dream: Fall 2017 Benefit Fashion Show and Silent Auction for NYFW.

The charitable event raised \$43 million for the Oando Foundation's Adopt-A-School initiative helping Nigerian children.

Launched as Kholyns Couture in 2006, his brand was renamed Chuks Collins in 2015 to reflect his second chance at life.

In 2015, he founded Fashion Vie, a non-profit utilizing creative industry to support social justice and worldwide human justice issues and access to healthcare.

Collins said a private cocktail reception for buyers, reporters, boutique and fashion owners is planned for this November.

The venue is being finalized.

For more information, visit [www.chukscollins.com](http://www.chukscollins.com).

## Ground broken on first Bx. natural gas filling station

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Ground was broken in Hunts Point for the first Compressed Natural Gas filling station in the borough.

Promising a cleaner, greener way for owners of truck fleets in Hunts Point to get their energy, the Clean Energy CNG filling station will open in 2018 on Ryawa Avenue.

The groundbreaking ceremony was held at the future site of the station at 1361 Ryawa Avenue on Tuesday, October 17.

"The new station in the Bronx will allow more fleets, both public and private, to realize the economic and environmental benefits of fueling with natural gas," said Andrew Littlefair, Clean Energy Fuels president.

Mark Riley, a vice-president at Clean Energy, an approximately \$1 billion company operating throughout North America, said that the company envisions a stand-alone station with an attendant that will be open to fleet access for operators with contracts from local markets and businesses.

"The station is specifically for truck fueling," said Riley. "We will (fuel) vehicles that operate in and around the Hunts Point markets."

Additionally, waste haulers from the south Bronx such as Action Carting and

Waste Connections, as well as NYC Department of Sanitation vehicles currently fueling with CNG in Queens, may make use of the new facility, said Riley.

The company is also working with the NYC Fire Department to allow truck drivers to pump their own CNG, which would be first for New York City, he said.

Currently, the schedule for the opening of the station calls for it to open in late-February 2018, and they hope to begin fueling trucks by March, said Riley.

The NYC Department of Transportation for years has been supporting the cleaning and greening of fleets through the community via the Hunts Point Clean Vehicle program, which has funded natural gas, electric, and cleaner diesel trucks over the past five to six years, said the vice president.

Nivardo Lopez, DOT Bronx commissioner, said that his agency was proud to take part in the groundbreaking for the new CNG filling station, which will benefit the Hunts Point community and city as a whole.

"From our Clean Trucks program which reduces pollution to energy efficient goals laid out in our strategic plan, we look forward to participating in ways to make our city as green as

possible," said Lopez.

Companies in Hunts Point like Baldor Specialty Foods, Manhattan Beer and Anheuser-Busch already have CNG trucks, and have had to use creative ways to get them fueled, said Riley.

Steven Tufo, Baldor transportation manager, said that the company is committed to using alternative fuels to protect the environment and to control costs.

"Our headquarters are here in Hunts Point, our families live in Hunts Point, so we have a responsibility to keep our neighborhoods as clean as possible, and we do that with natural gas," said Tufo.

Hunts Point is one of the major hubs of truck traffic in the city, and there has been a movement underway for a couple of decades to bring cleaner transportation in part because of environmental justice issues, according to multiple sources.

"In a city the size of New York, we all must do our part to ensure we provide the services our residents need while doing so in a responsible manner," said Councilman Rafael Salzman, adding that this includes reducing emissions from vehicles.



(l-r) Spiro Kattan for the city's Sanitation Department, Andrew Littlefair, president and CEO Clean Energy Fuels, Mark Riley, vice president for east coast clean energy and Steve Tufo, transportation manager at Baldor Specialty Foods during the ground breaking for the new natural gas filling station.

Photo by Aracelis Batista



# Rivera, Crespo Host Hurricane Relief Benefit Concert

Assembly members Jose Rivera and Marcos Crespo co-hosted a Hurricane Relief Benefit Concert on Saturday, October 14 at Fordham Plaza to help hurricane-ravaged Puerto Ricans. Presented by Pedro Pocholo II, the concert featured Boricua legends and opportunities for Bronxites to contribute lifesaving donations to families recovering from Hurricane Maria.



Assemblyman Rivera (back, c) and SBK dancers raised awareness of what Puerto Ricans are currently experiencing on their hurricane-impacted island.  
Photo by Miriam Quin



Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj (r) congratulated fellow Assemblyman Rivera (c) on the concert's success.  
Photo by Miriam Quin



San Juan native Maritza Rivera lent her musical talent to the benefit concert.  
Photo by Miriam Quin



UPS took time to donate lifesaving items to affected Puerto Rican families and residents.  
Photo by Miriam Quin



A four-legged friend helped collect money for the worthy cause.  
Photo by Miriam Quin



(l-r) The Boricua Legends Angel Lebron, Rafael Morales, Henry Montalvo, Naybe LaGijana, David Forestier and Al Acosta had everyone singing and dancing to the beat.  
Photo by Miriam Quin



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# Jacobi Medical Center identifies growing cyber domestic abuse

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Jacobi Medical Center provided its healthcare providers with training about a growing problem: domestic abuse involving technology.

Members of the hospital's staff – including doctors, nurses, social workers and other front line personnel – received training to better understand how technology can enable domestic abuse and learned to identify warning signs.

On Tuesday, October 17, in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, medical center staff attended a presentation by Day One, an organization dedicated to ending dating abuse/domestic violence among young people.

Karen Cohen, Jacobi domestic violence coordinator, said that the workshop: "Understanding Tech Abuse in the Context of Intimate Partner Violence," educated staff on how technology is used in corrosive relationships.

"Tech abuse is certainly on the rise," said Cohen. "As technology in general grows, so have the ways that abusers have been using it against their victims."

"Sometimes an abuser will send a threat through the app Snapchat, which apparently disappears really quickly," she said, adding that if an abuser has access



Photo courtesy of Day One

Speaking to staff members at Jacobi Medical Center recently was Caitlin Prior, training supervisor and staff attorney at Day One.

to ride hailing apps, for example, they use them to track their victim's every move.

Having information about technology's use in domestic violence situations can be helpful in giving staff confidence if they are faced with a patient who complains that their partner can track them everywhere, for example.

"The whole goal is to create better patient care," she said, adding that trainings may help hospital workers ask the right questions.

A Jacobi spokesman said that in today's world, many people have their electronic wallets, cameras, calendars, as well as a log of phone calls

and text messages, all on a single device.

If a partner who is intent on abuse has access to this information, it can be used to intimidate their victim.

There are even apps that abusers can use to disguise their voices and the numbers they call from, said Cohen. These can be used to trick their victims into picking up the call.

Caitlin Prior, Day One training supervisor and staff attorney, who facilitated the training at Jacobi, said she believes that technology is just another "tool in the abuser's toolbox."

"What is important to me is making folks know that tech abuse is not always a 'spyware' infected phone," said Prior, adding that abuse could be constant texts asking the partner who they are with and what they are wearing, or posting compromising photos to Facebook or Instagram.

In some cases, the victim may even have their phone numbers or addresses placed on websites related to sex, she said.

If someone is a victim of abuse, the goal is not make him or her get a new phone and create a whole new on-line identity, but rather to work with "tech in a positive way to increase their security," said Prior.

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# Portrait honors late co-founder of Ensign Engineering

BY BOB GUILIANO

Ensign Engineering staff celebrated the unveiling of the portrait of their late vice president and company co-founder, Carl Cannizzaro, during a ceremony at their office, 1111 Calhoun Avenue, on Monday, October 23.

Cannizzaro, who co-founded Ensign Engineering with Regina Marengo in 1993, died in June, and the dedication of the painting was a belated way to say farewell.

While serving on the board of directors of the Bronx Chamber of Commerce, Cannizzaro was "very active, part of every activity they had," Marengo said.

While Cannizzaro wasn't born in the Bronx, he became a real Bronxite, according to Marengo.

Cannizzaro was also familiar to Bronx Times Reporter readers, where his letters to the editor stirred up commentary from other readers.

"I wanted it to be in the paper for those people to know that Carl's not just been quiet lately, he hap-



Ensign Engineering staff celebrate the unveiling of their late vice president and company co-founder Carl Cannizzaro's portrait.

Photo by Silvio J. Pacifico

pened to die," Marengo said. "Because he stopped writing in June and we never really had anything published that he had passed away."

Marengo said that since Cannizzaro didn't have a wake, it wasn't publicized that he had died.

"I think there's something very cathartic about the whole process and helps everyone come to terms," she said.

Marengo recalls that working with Cannizzaro was always a team effort, and one of their proudest accomplishments was working on restoring the World Trade Center site

with the Freedom Tower.

With Ensign Engineering just entering its 25th year, it's "been a long haul and a wonderful experience. That really was a proud experience for us," Marengo said.

As for the painting, Marengo said she wanted to make it special, so while "it's a watercolor painting, it's more of an impressionist type of rendering, but it captures his spirit."

The painting came about after Marengo met a woman at SUNY Maritime College during a retirement ceremony.

Marengo, a Navy Reserve captain, was offici-

ating the event.

"I met this woman who did watercolors and we got into a conversation," Marengo said. "It was just right after Carl passed away and as luck would have it, she said she would do a rendering. I couldn't have been happier with it."

The woman, Faye Knight, visiting from China, did the painting from a photo of Cannizzaro.

And with Knight's painting of Cannizzaro displayed in their office, the Ensign Engineering staff can finally bid a fond farewell to their boss.



Regina Gallagher Marengo raises a toast to the portrait of the late Carl Cannizzaro.

Photo by Silvio J. Pacifico

## 34th Throggs Neck Halloween Parade set for Sat., Oct. 28th

from Page 1

raffles, games, rides, bear building, spin art, music and food, including pop corn.

Assemblyman Michael Benedetto is taking the lead in coordinating the event, as he has done since he has been in office.

"First and foremost, it's about how happy (the kids are) and how much fun the kids have," Benedetto said about the Throggs Neck event.

The assemblyman said the Throggs Neck celebration was the first parade of its kind in the area, and he likes to believe it is the best.

Benedetto's predecessors, former Assemblyman John Dearie, started the event 34 years ago and it was continued by Assemblyman Stephen

Kaufman.

It became a community tradition that Benedetto said is "woven into the fabric of the community," just like other events like the upcoming Throggs Neck Veterans Day Parade on Sunday, November 12 or the community's annual St. Patrick's parade.

The parade, carnival and costume contest receives the support of local volunteers and area-based organizations like the Throggs Neck Merchants Association.

"It is quite gratifying to see everyone working together for the common good: to provide a fun day for the children," he said.

Congressman Joseph Crowley, Senator Jeff Klein and Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj are co-hosting the Throggs Neck Halloween event.

Klein stated the parade and carnival is a "staple in our community that brings together families."

Crowley said that he is always proud to partner with Benedetto and local elected officials to keep the community tradition for everyone to enjoy.

"The Throggs Neck Halloween Carnival and Costume Contest is a wonderful opportunity for Bronx families to come together, embrace the Halloween spirit, and let New Yorkers show just how creative they are," said the congressman in a statement.

Gjonaj said that the Throggs Neck Parade and Carnival is a celebration of creativity, community and family.

"For good reasons, it has become a tradition that both young and old

alike look forward to every year," said Gjonaj.

Gjonaj is joining Klein in hosting a separate parade and party on Saturday, October 28 in Pelham Parkway.

The event is co-hosted with the White Plains Road Business Improvement District, Pelham Parkway Neighborhood Association, and the Al-ler-ton International Merchants Association.

Organizers of the Pelham Parkway event are asking parents and children to assemble at 1:30 p.m. at the southeast corner of Pelham Parkway and White Plains Road.

A parade marching towards P.S. 105 will kick off at 2 p.m.

Once the group reaches the P.S. 105 schoolyard, there will be a Halloween party for the youth from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.



Assemblyman Michael Benedetto is sponsoring the parade.



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