

## 33rd Veterans Day Parade attracts new attention

BY SARAH VALENZUELA

One of the biggest goals the United Veterans Parade Committee of Greater New York had this year was to increase attendance at their annual Bronx Veterans Day Parade.

The committee engaged a different part of the community for its support: grade school students.

To get the attention of the different schools for the 33rd parade the committee sent formal invitations to dozens of schools in the borough.

These invitations included the option to participate in a \$250 prize writing contest.

Of the invitations sent, 15 schools signed up to 'sponsor a block' of the parade, an idea thought up by committee member Dana Carotenuto.

"I've lived in Throggs Neck my whole life... I go to the Veterans Day Parade every year. I went last year and it was disheartening to see the streets empty," Carotenuto said.

"There should be veterans walking down the street with people celebrating them."

While the parade overall has generally received a lot of community support, the part of the parade route that extends down Randall Avenue is where the crowd seemed most thin.

"Every school that signed up has been encouraged to adopt a block from Randall Avenue," Carotenuto continued.

One school, St. Theresa's Elementary, signed up to sponsor the block of Randall just off of East Tremont Avenue.

Principal of the school, Josephine Fanelli, said her school will have a bus ready to bring their students and their parents to and from the parade and Pelham Bay.

These schools also received ma-

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# 'BREAKING BAD' PASTOR GUILTY



## New South Bronx Parade

Everyone was in 'good spirits' at this year's 32nd Annual New South Bronx Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 28. Sally (l) and Jack Skellington enjoyed this year's parade. More photos on page 7. Photo by Aracelis Batista

## Fr. Miqueli ordered to reimburse \$22,000 to St. Frances de Chantal

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

The former pastor of a Throggs Neck church was found to have inappropriately used a parish account for personal expenses.

The Bronx district attorney's office found that Fr. Peter Miqueli, of St. Frances de Chantal Church, who became a tabloid sensation for alleged romps with a male bodybuilder in 2015, had improperly obtained parish funds for personal use.

Fr. Miqueli is effectively in the process of restitution, for which the Archdiocese of New York has already reimbursed the parish, according to a letter from Bishop

Gerald Walsh to the current pastor that was read at masses on Sunday, October 29.

No charges were preferred against the priest, who has not returned to active ministry since being ousted from St. Frances de Chantal.

"This investigation by the Economic Crimes Bureau found that Fr. Miqueli was improperly reimbursed for personal expenses," said Clark. "The archdiocese has reimbursed St. Frances de Chantal Church for the funds, \$22,450 of hard-earned money donated by parishioners for the betterment of

*Continued on Page 4*

## Bronx voters have choices On Election Day, Nov. 7th

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Voters in the borough will have choices on Election Day.

All three citywide major offices – mayor, public advocate and comptroller – are up for grabs on Tuesday, November 7.

In the borough, the most competitive race between major party candidates will likely be in the east Bronx's Council District 13 where Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj and local activist John Cerini are facing off against one another on

the Democratic and Republican lines.

The assemblyman, who already represents part of the 13th district, has made oversaturation of supportive housing and ensuring that the borough has ferry service central priorities in his campaign.

Gjonaj said in a statement that the city has to either be one city or not.

"We must have a City Hall that supports all New Yorkers equally

*Continued on Page 15*



# CB 8 marks cleanup of CSX Putnam South site

BY BOB GUILIANO

Community Board 8 held a press conference on Thursday, October 26, to mark the completion of a massive clean-up effort of CSX's 3/4-mile-long Putnam South property, adjacent to the Major Deegan Expressway from Van Cortlandt Park South to West 230th Street.

This project was performed by CSX Transportation at the request of the community board and involved months of intense garbage and debris clean up, path-clearing and graffiti removal for the length of the property.

The event was held on a portion of the Putnam South right-of-way property at the eastern end of Verveen Place between West 230th and 231st streets, just east of Broadway.

"I commend our Environment and Sanitation Committee chair Laura Spalter and her committee for pursuing the necessary clean-up of the CSX Putnam South property and the agreement by CSX to undertake this massive effort," said Rosemary Ginty, CB 8 chairwoman. "A true success story for our community."



A massive clean-up effort of CSX's 3/4-mile-long Putnam South property, adjacent to the Major Deegan Expressway, has been completed.  
Community News Group/Bob Guiliano

Spalter responded that the cleanup has removed a neighborhood blight and revealed the potential for a new Rails-to-Trails Greenway with tremendous environmental, recreational, and economic benefits to the community.

Senator Jeff Klein said that the abandoned CSX rail line "has been littered with debris for far too long and I'm glad to assist Community Board 8 in their push to get the land cleaned up. CSX has made progress

and I look forward to the completion of the cleanup."

Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz said, "I applaud CSX and Community Board 8, including Environmental and Sanitation Committee Laura Spalter and board chair Rosemary Ginty, for their work on this huge cleanup of the Putnam South Right-of-Way."

Dinowitz added that "a horrible eyesore has been transformed and an enormous amount of garbage has

been removed from our neighborhood. This is the kind of hard work and team work that makes ours the great community that it is."

Councilman Andrew Cohen applauded CSX and the community board for coming to an agreement on the cleanup of Putnam South.

"It's so important that community partners work together to keep the Bronx beautiful," Cohen said. "I'm thrilled that the cleanup has been agreed upon and that progress

has been made."

NYC Parks Bronx Commissioner Iris Rodriguez-Rosa complimented CB 8, saying its "unyielding advocacy has made this cleanup a reality. Now we are looking towards the future and are excited for this land to reach its full potential."

Rodney Oglesby, resident vice president for state government affairs for CSX, said, "CSX would be pleased to see this property repurposed for recreational uses by residents of the Van Cortlandt and Kingsbridge community. We look forward to continuing our dialog with the city in hopes of identifying a path forward in that process."

The CSX Putnam Railroad right-of-way, previously used for railroad traffic, was discontinued in the 1950s. The entire ROW stretched for 2.5 miles from West 230th Street to the Westchester County Line.

The 3/4 mile segment of Putnam South, varying in width from 25 to 50 feet, is vacant and not publicly accessible.

Over the many decades of non-use, it became overgrown with weeds, covered with graffiti and a dumping ground for refuse and debris.

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# 'Breaking bad' pastor guilty; Fr. Miqueli ordered to reimburse \$22,000 to St. Frances de Chantal

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the parish."

Clark's office also made recommendations to the Archdiocese of New York about fiscal controls that they have agreed to implement at St. Frances.

Among these recommendations are that parish undergo a complete audit and be audited every three years, that the parish have a single general purpose credit card with the pastor's and parish's name on it, and that there be a parish council, and that the Throggs Neck church have at least two lay trustees familiar with the finances.

According to the district attorney's office, evidence wasn't found to support accusations by some parishioners that the there could be as much as \$1 million in funds that were misappropriated.

A second letter from Bishop Walsh to the parishioners addressed concerns about Fr. Miqueli's future in the Catholic Church.

Walsh's letter to the parishioners stated that the archdiocese had attempted to investigate "accusations of morally abhorrent behavior" but as of yet the allegations haven't been substantiated.

"While the archdiocese is in discussions with Father Miqueli about his future, it is difficult to envision a circumstance that would allow him to return to the active priesthood," the letter stated.

Allegations against Fr.



"This investigation by the Economic Crimes Bureau found that Fr. Miqueli was improperly reimbursed for personal expenses." - Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark.

Photo courtesy of Bronx District Attorney's Office

Miqueli dealt with chronic absenteeism, which some parishioners and published reports speculated had to do with an affair with a male acquaintance, as well as general lack of spirituality and connection to his parish.

Jack McCarrick, a long-time parishioner who was active in a working group that sought to bring issues about Fr. Miqueli's stewardship of the parish to light, estimated that about 85% of the parishioners would be satisfied with the investigation's outcome.

McCarrick said the money wasn't his main concern.

He is not sure what was taken but believes the

amount was simply what the forensic accounting was able to find.

"It was some kind of a resolution, it is not the whole thing" said McCarrick. "The money was not the main thing that people were complaining about; it was about his demeanor, his absence and treatment of people."

Janit Bitner, another parishioner active in bring the issue with the pastor to light, believes that there are more misdeeds at Fr. Miqueli's previous assignment prior to St. Frances, at St. Frances Cabrini on Roosevelt Island in Manhattan.

"We are not all that happy, but you have to take what you can get," she said, adding "One thing that I thought was glaringly absent in the (archdiocese's comments) was that there was no thanks to the parishioners who stood their ground and made sure he is not longer a priest in the parish."

Another parishioner who questioned Fr. Miqueli's appropriateness for the parish said he believes that there is a cover-up going on.

He said parishioners saw open bags of cash from collections during services in the priest's room.

He added he was upset because he believes that the Manhattan district attorney did not substantively investigate Fr. Miqueli's actions at his previous Roosevelt Island assignment.



Christopher J. Devoy (I) and Ron Watson both served in the United States Marine Corps and encourage the community to learn more about the armed forces. Community News Group/Sarah Valenzuela

## Thirty-third Veterans Day Parade attracts new attention

from Page 1

materials about military veterans so teachers could educate students about the service of veterans within their community and abroad.

Inclusion of the schools, however, is not the only new aspect of the parade according to co-chair of the committee and retired United States Marine Corps lieutenant colonel, Ron Watson.

"This year we're establishing a color guard made up of teenagers who have not served yet in keeping with this year's theme: 'a salute to service and community patriotism,'" Watson said.

These initiatives also presented the opportunity to re-

vamp parade interest while also honoring its traditions, like naming noteworthy veterans and members of the community as grand marshals.

This year's grand marshal, 86-year-old retired USMC master sergeant Christopher J. Devoy from Edgewater, was chosen from a competitive pool of hometown hero military veterans.

"I was just taken aback," Devoy said when asked about being selected. He also remarked the parade was special because of "the pride of being allowed to serve (in the USMC)."

Along with Devoy, five

additional honorary grand marshals will be recognized posthumously as veterans for their service when the parade reaches Bicentennial Veterans Memorial Park.

The 33rd annual Bronx Veterans Day Parade will be held on Sunday, November 12 at noon from East Tremont and Lafayette avenues, to a reviewing stand at Bicentennial Veterans Memorial Park.

Senator Jeff Klein will host a Veteran's Day breakfast before the parade at Villa Barone Manor at 9 a.m. To RSVP for the breakfast contact Klein's office at (718) 822-2049.



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# New City Island Bridge opens to major fanfare

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

The long-awaited new City Island Bridge opened with fanfare.

The new span connecting City Island with the mainland was officially dedicated in a ceremony on Sunday, October 29 with a host of community leaders and city officials crossing the bridge on foot for the first time.

Despite significant rain, at least 200 people took part in the ceremony, according to attendees. It opened to vehicular traffic the same day.

The completion of the causeway-designed bridge was hailed as a victory for community activists on City Island who had disagreed with the Bloomberg administration on the original bridge design, but found a friendlier ear in the de Blasio administration.

Several officials at the City Island Civic Association and elected officials thanked Polly Trottenberg, NYC Department of Transportation commissioner, who worked with community leaders to come up with a suitable design after the earlier cable-stayed design with a tower won little community support.

Borough President Ruben Diaz



Polly Trottenberg, NYC Department of Transportation commission (c) cuts the ribbon on the new City Island Bridge with community members and dignitaries including Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., Senator Jeff Klein, Councilman James Vacca and Matt Cruz, Community Board 10 district manager.

Photo by Silvio Pacifico

Jr., Senator Jeff Klein, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, Councilman James Vacca and Matt Cruz, Community Board 10 district manager, joined community members in celebrating.

“The opening of this new bridge is a historic day that marks the end of a long-fought battle by the City Island community, myself and my

colleagues to preserve the distinct character and beauty of the area,” said Klein.

Diaz said that he believes the new bridge represents ongoing vitality that is part of City Island.

“This new bridge further opens up this great nautical village for tourists and local residents alike, giving them the opportunity to sit

down and enjoy great seafood, breathe in that fresh sea air, admire the waterfront view,” said the borough president.

The new bridge has a wider horizontal clearance than the previous City Island Bridge, a structure that was completed in 1901, which replaced an earlier wooden draw bridge.

While three lanes of traffic still cross the bridge, the wider roadway area will allow future repair work to be carried out while traffic continues to flow.

The new crossing also is friendlier to recreational vessels crossing under it because it offers a higher vertical clearance.

The bridge includes a pedestrian walkway and a bicycle lane.

Barbara Dolensek, CICA vice president, who took part in a lawsuit against the Bloomberg administration concerning the bridge

design and who personally worked with Trottenberg to come to agreement on a plan, said that a lot of community members wanted to attend the opening to be part of a historical moment.

Trottenberg personally reached out to Dolensek shortly after arriving at City Hall, calling her on the phone, according to Dolensek.

“It is getting good marks from everyone,” said Dolensek, adding of the DOT: “They really listened to us, and I think that is why we consider it a success.”

Access to and from the island had been routed over a temporary bridge since December 2015, when demolition began on the older structure.

Work still left to be done includes the reconstruction of a triangle at the foot of the bridge’s City Island side maintained by the American Legion, reconstruction of much of the Catherine Scott Promenade, and demolition of the temporary bridge.

Attendees at the opening were treated to coffee and donuts from contractor Tutor Perini and received ceremonial keychains marking the occasion, said CICA board members.

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# 32nd Annual New South Bronx Halloween Parade

The Boogie Down Bronx welcomed ghosts and ghouls of every age at its second largest Halloween parade in NYC. The 32nd annual New South Bronx Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 28 featured superheroes and other colorful characters marching under the theme of 'Celebrating our Superheroes' on Simpson Street. The parade served as a tribute to those who inspire, motivate, guide, sacrifice and led the borough to a better future.



(l-r) Richard, Mina and Marta Rivera got into their characters for Halloween. Photo by Aracelis Batista



PB National Puerto Rico Motorcycle Association NY marched in honor of Hurricane Maria victims. Photo by Aracelis Batista



(l-r) Leonardo Cruz, Nelly Arroyo and Ella Rose's costumes were a treat to behold. Photo by Aracelis Batista



Police Athletic League embodied the Halloween spirit. Photo by Aracelis Batista



St. Athanasius School marched under a DC and Marvel comics superhero-themed banner. Photo by Aracelis Batista



Manida Street Tenants Association honored the community's fallen heroes. Photo by Aracelis Batista



(l-r) Aidan Salamanca, Councilman Rafael Salamanca and Jose Cepeda enjoyed the festivities. Photo by Aracelis Batista



New South Bronx A Hero's Halloween led the way. Photo by Aracelis Batista

Children dressed up as their favorite superheroes in honor of the parade's heroic theme. Photo by Aracelis Batista





# Savor the Bronx on the menu from Nov. 6 to 17

BY ROBERT WIRSING

Food connoisseurs craving excitement should consider exploring the Bronx's diverse cuisine options.

Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. hosted a media preview of the seventh annual Savor the Bronx Restaurant Week on Monday, October 30 at Porto Salvo Bronx, a newly-opened nautical-themed Italian cookery and wine bar.

Produced by the Bronx Tourism Council and co-hosted by the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation, this year's edition is from Monday, November 6 through Friday, November 17.

The event showcases the borough's best eateries by offering special values and discounts.

"Our annual Savor the Bronx Restaurant Week event is a great opportunity for foodies from all over the

region to sample the epicurean delights our borough has to offer," expressed Diaz, adding. "If you love great food you'll love the Bronx and there's no better time to enjoy our many flavors."

"There are over 200 eateries in this great borough. Savor the Bronx Restaurant Week offers just a small sampling to help Bronxites and visitors discover their new favorites," noted Olga Luz Tirado Bronx Tourism Council executive director.

The 12-day extravaganza features over 30 participating restaurants including Bronx Alehouse, 216 W. 238th Street; Bronx Drafthouse, 884 Gerard Avenue; Bronx Public, 170 W. 231st Street; Jake's Steakhouse, 6031 Broadway; Madden's Uptown Bar and Grill, 5757 Broadway; Mott Haven Bar and Grill, 1 Bruckner Boulevard; Ceetay, 129 Alexan-



Borough President Diaz (l) and Assemblyman Blake sampled some of Porto Salvo's tastiest dishes. Photo by Aracelis Batista

der Avenue; Siam Square Thai Cuisine, 564 Kappock Street; Suy Gastrofusion, 5 W. 170th Street; Antonio's Trattoria, 2370 Belmont Avenue; Artie's Steak and Seafood, 394 City Island Av-

enue; Emilia's Restaurant, 2331 Arthur Avenue; Ice House Cafe, 140 Reynolds Avenue; Kingsbridge Social Club, 3625 Kingsbridge Avenue; Lucca Restaurant, 3019 Westchester Avenue;

Mike's Deli, 2344 Arthur Avenue; Porto Salvo, 424 E. 161st Street; Tosca Rooftop Garden Bar, 4034 E. Tremont Avenue; Bistro SK, 273 City Island Avenue; Cabo Mexican Cuisine, 3764 E. Tremont Avenue; Coconut Palm Bar and Grill, 2407 Westchester Avenue; Habanero Mexican Cuisine, 141 Lincoln Avenue; Mama Juana Cafe, 3233 E. Tremont Avenue; Mama Puebla, 3465 E. Tremont Avenue; Parrilla Latina Steakhouse, 614 Melrose Avenue; Travesias, 3834 E. Tremont Avenue; Xochimilco, 653 Melrose Avenue; Bronx Brewery, 856 E. 136th Street; Chelsea Craft Brewing Company, 463 E. 173rd Street; Gun Hill Brewing Company, 3227 Laconia Avenue and Lloyd's Carrot Cake, 6987 Broadway.

For further information, visit [www.savorthebronx.com](http://www.savorthebronx.com) or follow @SavorTh-

eBronx on Twitter and Facebook.

Guests sampled several top eateries and food producers including Porto Salvo, Chelsea Craft Brewing Company and Delicioso Coco Helado.

Porto Salvo co-owner Mark Lu said the restaurant opened this past June 15 and is the newest interpretation of old Italian-style cookery led by executive chef Luigi Ghidetti.

He added BronxNet produced two Savor the Bronx videos highlighting Porto Salvo and Mott Haven Bar and Grill.

To view Porto Salvo's video, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8soAZLC9iHE&feature=youtu.be>.

For Mott Haven Bar and Grill's video, visit [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJ-OHhC\\_iW8&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJ-OHhC_iW8&feature=youtu.be).

## 233 Landing Road meeting has residents angry

BY BOB GUILIANO

The sponsor of a homeless residence in University Heights was accused of being rude, arrogant and evasive by those who attended a town hall meeting.

The meeting was called to air concerns about the men moving into the city's landmark \$62.8 million homeless residence at 233 Landing Road in University Heights. It was held Wednesday, October 25, at St. Nicholas of Tolentine Church, in the Fr. Smith Center, 2345 University Center.

Organized by the NYC Department of Homeless Services and the Bowery Residents Committee, the meeting focused on the site's 200-bed transitional shelter and 135 permanent units due to be occupied this December.

"I think DHS and BRC didn't expect the big turnout," said Rachel Bradshaw, vice president, Fordham Hill Oval Owners Association. "They did all in their power not to promote the event. Our co-op had to canvass the neighborhood. Our

co-op is the reason the town hall happened in the first place. We were persistent."

The town hall attendees asked a lot of hard-hitting questions, according to Bradshaw, but were left lacking answers. Those questions included:

- Is Megan's Law applicable to the homeless population?
- Does BRC really have jobs for these men?
- Why didn't BRC and DHS engage the community?
- Why was 233 Landing Road selected — it has egress issues?
- How will the children that play sports near Landing Road Park be protected?

"There were many passionate speakers," Bradshaw said. The common theme was "200 men are too much for this community. The concern is safety, overpopulation and overburdening the already crowded Select Bx 12 bus."

Myrna Calderon, association president, was upset that "DHS commissioner David Banks was so disre-



Carlos Martin expresses his concerns over the planned opening of a homeless residence at 233 Landing Road, during a town hall meeting held Wednesday, October 25, at St. Nicholas of Tolentine Church. Photo by Aracelis Batista

spectful to our community that he only sent low level staffers to address our issues. They have not bothered to meet with the local precinct to insure adequate policing. They need to admit that the city does not abide by Megan's Law."

Chad Y. Royer, secretary on the association's board of directors, said that the BRC and DHS were not prepared.

Their spokespeople were "very dismissive in that they not only omitted issues, but lied as well," Royer said. "One of the sharehold-

ers asked about security outside the complex, and as I made a comment to suggest the question was not answered, one of the speakers got smart to say if the guy asking the question did not say anything, then meant my statement was wrong."

Also, in response to his question about Megan's Law, he was told that officials have "applied all of the laws," Royer said. "This was a blatant disregard of a specific point. What got me also was the fact that there is no on-site center for addressing mental health or offering mental health therapy. How could this be omitted on a compound serving two distinct demographics?"

Royer feels that "this is so wrong to set people up to fail, and then expect us to accept the fact that people will be moving in an area with many documented unresolved issues."

The residence will also offer 111 studios for single adults earning no more than \$21,175 annually; seven one-bedroom units for households of two earning no more than \$34,550 annually; 17 two-bedroom units for families of three earning no more than \$46,620 annually; and one superintendent unit.



# Throggs Neck Halloween Parade Brightens Spirits

Throggs Neck children and their families embraced the Halloween spirit at the 34th annual Throggs Neck Halloween Parade. The parade began on Harding and East Tremont avenues continuing to the Throggs Neck Expressway Service Road before concluding at Throggs Neck Boulevard where the annual Halloween street fair, carnival and costume contest were held. The neighborhood tradition was sponsored by assembly members Michael Benedetto and Mark Gjonaj, Senator Jeff Klein and Congressman Joseph Crowley.



(l-r) Richard and Angela Guarnieri; their sons Michael, Richie and Connor; Senator Klein and assembly members Gjonaj and Benedetto got into the Halloween spirit.

Photo by Silvio Pacifico



Benedetto (back, 2nd from r) presented trophies to this year's four-years-old and younger contest winners (l-r) third place honorees Nicholas, Jamie and Tara Souhrada; second place victors Isabella and Kaitlyn Akino and first place champions Trinidad Pimental and Melina and Mariarela Aponte.

Photo by Silvio Pacifico



Benedetto presented awards to 5 to 7-years-old costume contest winners (l-r) third place winner Aleksander Hauano; second place winner Angelina Di Nardo; and first place champion Brayden Correa.

Photo by Silvio Pacifico



This year's 11 to 13-years-old 3rd, 2nd, and 1st place contest winners were (l-r) Luke Riley, Jacob Perez and Star Moroch with Jill Morales, Chicklette Moroch, Corgero Morales and Julius Morales and Assemblyman Benedetto (back, l).

Photo by Silvio Pacifico



The assemblyman congratulated 8 to 10-years-old costume contest winners (l-r) second place victor Olivia Martell; third place honoree Hunter Carmody and first place champion Ryan Kiely on their amazing costumes.

Photo by Silvio Pacifico



(left) Sandy Lusk put the finishing touches on Princess Zoey Clemente's costume.

Photo by Silvio Pacifico



# Chancellor axes principal from Urban Wildlife school

BY BOB GUILIANO

Principal Astrid Jacobo has been removed from the Urban Assembly School for Wildlife Conservation a month after a student fatally stabbed another student during a classroom confrontation.

"After a careful review, I have decided to select a new principal to lead the school and ensure an inclusive learning environment for all students," NYC schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña said, according to Toya Holness, press secretary at the NYC Department of Education.

Farina said that she "visited Wildlife several times, meeting with staff and families, and will continue to closely monitor and support the community."

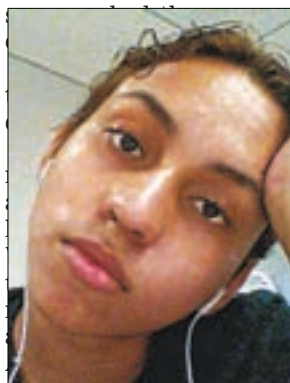
With Jacobo reassigned

elsewhere, Farina has requested Superintendent Fred Walsh to work with the school community to select a new principal and support the school during the transition.

Staff from the Field Support Center and the superintendent's office went to the school Monday, October 30, to provide additional support, according to Holness.

Abel Cedeno, 18, was indicted on manslaughter charges in the fatal stabbing of Matthew McCree, 15, on Wednesday, September 27, in front of a history class filled with students and two teachers.

Cedeno also stabbed a second classmate, Ariane Laboy, 16, who had allegedly joined McCree in assaulting Cedeno after Cedeno complained that



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

Up to 75 parent and youth members of the New Settlement Parent Action Committee, along with Bronx educators and community advocates, attended the meeting to advocate for more DOE-em-

ployed social workers in School District 9.

NSPAC organized the meeting to raise awareness about the lack of social, emotional, and mental health resources in their high-needs Bronx school

district, according to Eliana Machefsky, NSPAC's school safety organizer.

NSPAC is based in School District 9, which neighbors the Urban Assembly School's District 12 to the southwest.

District 9 saw a similar incident in June 2014, when one middle school student fatally stabbed his classmate on the sidewalk outside of their school building after enduring alleged bullying.

Members of NSPAC maintain that without adequate de-escalation training, positive discipline practices, and social workers, schools will not be able to guarantee student safety, according to Machefsky.

"Metal detectors might prevent knives from getting into the school build-

ing, but we know that they won't do anything to resolve conflict and actually make schools safe," said DeJohn Jones, a member of NSPAC with children in both District 9 and District 12 schools.

"The tragic stabbing in June 2014 proves that metal detectors at the school entrance are not going to protect our kids. We need social workers and we need to prevent bullying," Jones said.

According to the National Association of Social Workers, the recommended ratio of social workers to students in a high-needs district like District 9 is 1 to 50, according to Machefsky.

The current ratio of DOE-employed social workers to students in District 9 is 1 to 589.

## CB 7 votes in favor of Jerome Avenue rezoning plan

BY BOB GUILIANO

Community Board 7 voted in favor of the city's proposed Jerome Avenue rezoning during a meeting Thursday, October 27, despite residents and activists protesting with a march on Wednesday, October 4, opposing the plan.

"We voted in favor, with conditions," said CB 7 chairwoman Adaline Walker-Santiago. CB 7 had a quorum, with 23 present and 21 voting 'yes', two voting 'no'.

The preservation of affordable units in the Jerome Avenue Corridor of the Bronx is at its highest level in over 25 years, according to NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development Commissioner Maria Torres-Springer.

"We are fully committed to preserving affordability whenever and wherever possible, and in communities where families need it most, we go beyond preserving infrastructure and freezing rents," Torres-Springer said.

Council members Vanessa Gibson and Fernando Cabrera attended the meeting, along with officials from CB 5.

The list of conditions included requests for addi-

tional schools, since School District 10 is the most overcrowded in the Bronx, according to Walker-Santiago, with 2,700 seats unfunded by the city.

Over the next five years, seats are needed for the children who are coming into the community, in all grade levels from K3 to high school, according to Walker-Santiago.

Additional and expanded day care and after-school programs are needed to support the projected increase in population.

A new community center would provide additional resources for community programming directed toward youths, seniors and young adults.

Regarding transportation, additional capacities are needed at both the IRT 4 and IND D subway lines for the projected increase in population.

Renovation of subway stations along those lines should be scheduled, including making them handicapped accessible with elevators.

"This major transportation hub needs to be made handicapped accessible because it serves one of the



Bronx Coalition For A Community Vision march held on Wednesday, October 4, led to a meeting of community boards 4 and 5 for a hearing on the Jerome Avenue Neighborhood Plan. CBs 4, 5 and now 7 favor the rezoning plan, but only with their lists of conditions.

Photo by Robert Tiburzi

busiest commercial districts in the city," Walker-Santiago said.

The list includes restoring pre-2010 service levels to the Bronx on the BxM3 and BxM4 express bus lines.

And culturally, programs like art, music, theatre and

all forms of expression are needed to meet the growing population and community.

There's a growing immigration population from many parts of the world.

"We want the institutions to promote those new cultures," Walker-Santiago

said. "That would foster understanding of the new cultures, since we have so many different ones here."

Additional lighting, security cameras along Jerome Avenue would provide better security for the businesses as well as resi-

dents.

Local employment, well-paying union jobs would be available while new construction is underway.

Regarding veterans, more programs are needed for job training, literacy, health, and working with the veterans hospital, she said.

"We support what (community) boards four and five are advocating for us," said Walker-Santiago.

The next step is it goes before the borough president for a public hearing on Thursday, November 2 and eventually before the City Council.

And after that, HPD is partnering with Gibson and Cabrera to host a Property Owner Clinic on Tuesday, November 14.

Property owners will be able to speak with HPD finance specialists, as well as representatives from the NYC Department of Finance, NYC Department of Environmental Protection, and the NYC Department of Buildings for assistance.

The clinic will be hosted at Apple Bank's 101 E. 170th Street branch location from 4:30 to 7 p.m.



# St. Francis Xavier School Celebrates Halloween

St. Francis Xavier School's kindergarten through fourth grade students enjoyed celebrating Halloween on Friday, October 27. The students wore many unique costumes while spending time with family, friends and faculty.



Superheroes, sports stars and fairy tale characters had a scary good time at the party.

Photo courtesy of St. Francis Xavier School



Students dressed up as their favorite fairy tale and animated heroes for Halloween.

Photo courtesy of St. Francis Xavier School



Students dressed to impress as witches, warriors, video game and horror movie characters.

Photo courtesy of St. Francis Xavier School



Children wore creative costumes for their school's annual spooktacular.

Photo courtesy of St. Francis Xavier School



Students got into their characters at the party.

Photo courtesy of St. Francis Xavier School



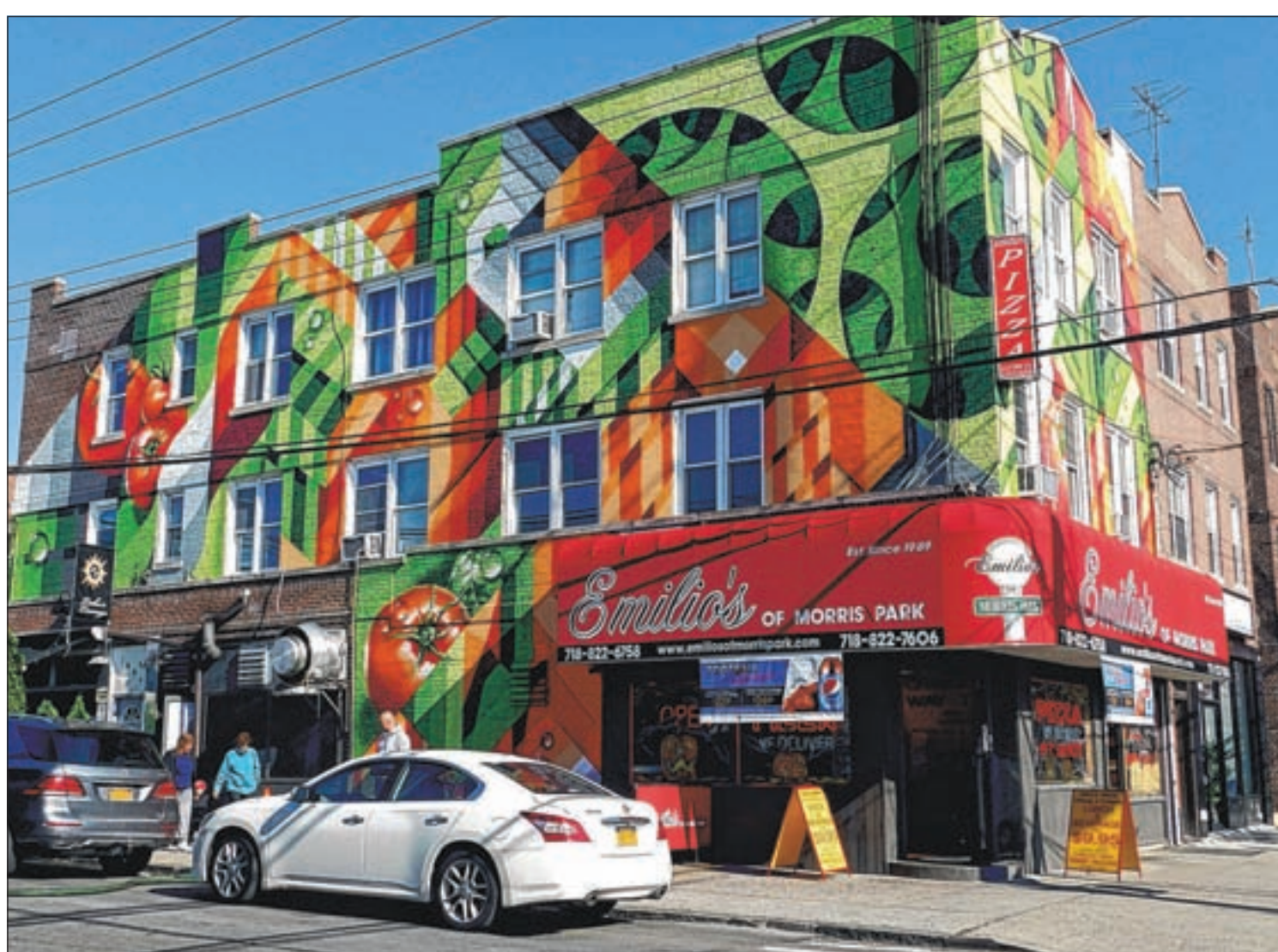
Students of all ages had a great time celebrating Halloween together.

Photo courtesy of St. Francis Xavier School

(l-r) Glinda the Good Witch, Tin Man and Scarecrow traveled all the way from Oz to celebrate Halloween at St. Francis Xavier School.

Photo courtesy of St. Francis Xavier School





A mural painted above Emilio's pizzeria on Morris Park and Hone avenues has drawn a variety of reactions.

Community News Group/Bob Guiliano



Artist David Louf creating art in his hometown of Rotterdam. Emilio's pizzeria hired Louf to paint the mural above its eatery in Morris Park. Courtesy photo



David Louf, artist from Rotterdam, Netherlands, painted the mural above Emilio's pizzeria. Courtesy photo

# Reactions mixed over mural at Emilio's pizzeria

BY BOB GUILIANO

Alerted to the mixed reactions to a mural painted above Emilio's pizzeria, 1051 Morris Park Avenue in Morris Park, via a comment on its Facebook page, the Bronx Times Reporter solicited readers' input.

The building and pizzeria owner, Richie Di Nardo, flew in artist David Louf from Rotterdam, Netherlands to paint the mural on the walls of the apartments above Emilio's.

It took Louf from Friday, October 20, to Thursday, October 26, to complete the project.

Ruth Papazian, an award-winning editor and writer, interviewed Louf while he was creating the mural.

She learned that his professional career included a stint as art director of Young & Rubicam's Amsterdam branch, which he left in 2000 to start his own graphic design studio, Out of Order.

Her full interview is available on her Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/ruth.papazian.3/posts/1455464881175403?pnref=story>.

Louf has painted murals on buildings throughout Europe — Helsinki, London, Stockholm; the U.S. — Denver, Miami; and New York City — Bronx, Brooklyn, and Manhattan.

Emilio's mural is Louf's second in the Bronx.

He also painted the facade of Arthur Avenue's Clinton Hall, a beer garden near Fordham University.

"We've been getting nothing but a great response," Di Nardo told the Bronx Times Reporter. "People love it. They've been coming in, calling, on Instagram, our Facebook page."

Di Nardo said there's nothing offensive about the mural, pointing out nice, ripe tomatoes, some basil, trying to make it as nice as possible without offending anybody.

He said he flew Louf in from Europe to paint the mural, which does not seem to appeal to a "more mature type of audience that lives around here, like my

mom. They don't like change."

Some feel that that colorful mural may be disturbing the neighborhood, but Di Nardo said he doesn't think so, and that there are other people who say they love it.

"I've been getting an overwhelming response that they love it," Di Nardo said.

In response to the Bronx Times Reporter's request on its Facebook page, asking readers to comment on the mural, all the responses can be seen at <https://www.facebook.com/Bronx-Times>.

Highlights of the responses include:

• Joanne Guglielmo Murphy: "Was their business doing so badly that they had to make a spectacle of themselves?"

• Kristina Myers Reed: "Love it! With all the changing of buildings to look so architecturally boring & boxy, this is a great way to bring some color & art into our daily lives. Be RADIANT!"

• Ellen Clancy: "Ugh, literal tomatoes sprinkled among angu-

lar, abstract graphics. As art, it doesn't know what it wants to be. I wouldn't want to live in — or directly across from — that building. And I like the food and staff at Emilio's."

• Miriam Quin: "I love it but they need to finish all the way on the left hand side :) it's a work of art, it's not graffiti and it would definitely bring people to the area because they are going to be talking about the colorful building :) now I really have to go there myself and see it in person lol."

• Virginia Gonzalez: "It looks beautiful and very full of life. I love the colors. In case people didn't know where Emilio's was located, now they know. Great job. Unique."

• Joe Barile: "I really like it, let's face it the Bronx is a really dull place and Morris Park Avenue is regarded as #2 to Arthur Avenue, so why not?"

• Derek Woods: "That is truly great! Bravo to everyone who made it happen. It would have been cheap to do nothing, but

they believed in the power of art! So well done."

• Ruth Papazian: "It's playful, and gives the 'main drag' of the Morris Park neighborhood a shot of liveliness and vibrancy."

• Frank Bevilacqua: "I think it looks hideous and very ghetto way too much."

• Annette Cornier: "It's different, but I like it! Breaks the monotony of the proverbial 'same old, same old!'"

• Deanna Govan: "I think it looks awesome! Brings character to the neighborhood."

• Joanne Russo Rubino: "Took me a while to get used to it, but now I really like it. I think it adds some panache and does not look ghetto at all, in my opinion."

• Robert Beatty: "Too loud for my taste. Might distract drivers going down MPA."

• Debra Ann Jaffee: "Love it. It brings the corner to life. Most of the area is drab."

• Sandi Markham: "Hideous!"

• Holly Erickson Cicalo: "Fabulous!"



# Parks Dept. issues RFEI for unused Tremont Park

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Ideas are being solicited to turn an under-utilized part of Tremont Park into a community asset.

A Request For Expressions of Interest has been issued for a corner of Tremont Park near East Tremont and Third avenues where the first Bronx Borough Hall, demolished in 1969, once stood.

Only the staircase leading to where the building stood remains, but the RFEI promises to be the first step in creating something new and useful at the site by soliciting input from civic and community groups, major non-profits and real estate developers.

Councilman Ritchie Torres and Community Board 6 held a joint press conference at the location on Friday, October 27, hoping to draw attention to the RFEI, which John Sanchez, CB 6 district manager said could eventually be the basis for a Parks Department Request for Proposal for a specific future project.

Torres said he sees Tremont Park as a "jewel in the crown of the central Bronx," and a place with a great deal of historical significance as the home of old Bronx Borough Hall, which was the center of political power in the Bronx in the early part of the 20th century.

"Since the 1960s, when old borough hall was demolished, there has been nothing that has emerged in its place," said Torres, "I had a vision for reimagining the site of the old borough hall."

The councilman said that at his request the Parks Department issued an RFEI soliciting proposals for reactivating this part of Tremont Park.

The possibilities are endless, said the councilman.



Councilman Ritchie Torres stands with a poster showing some of the possible improvements envisioned for Tremont Park. Photo by Silvio Pacifico

They could include, according to the RFEI, recreational facilities and programs, eating and drinking establishments, festivals and performances, amusements, markets and fairs, and public art.

"We have begun the process of transforming an idle part of Tremont Park into a center of programming and amenities for the local residents of the central Bronx," said Torres.

Community groups or other entities that are interested can submit the proposals up until 3 p.m. on Monday, November 13. They are normally delivered to Parks Department headquarters in Manhattan.

The RFEI was released on Monday, September 25.

Sanchez said that CB 6 has already helped spread the word of the RFEI to parties that may be interested.

A community center for the location has long

been a goal of CB 6, said Sanchez, adding that he has seen a document in the Bronx County Historical Society archives indicating that the board requested such a use as early as 1965.

"The number one wish or priority for the community is for there to be some kind of community center or recreation center at the space, and this is not a new idea," said Sanchez. "It would be a great story to finally get it done."

But the RFEI is wide open, he added, and would hopefully include ideas for an unused comfort station around the former building's footprint, he said.

A spokeswoman for NYC Parks Department stated that the agency is working closely with both the councilman and CB 6, adding that the department is looking to work with business interested in providing services, activities, program or concessions at the location.

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# Bronx Veterans Day Parade in Crotona kicks off Nov. 4th

BY SARAH VALENZUELA

Since its founding in 2013 The Bronx Veterans Parade Task Team has not slowed their march as their fourth annual Bronx Veterans Day Parade approaches.

Despite its small membership, the Task Team, otherwise known as TBVPTT, strives to better the lives of military veterans in the west and south Bronx, particularly within the Black and Latino communities.

The goal of their annual parade has been to spread the same message: make the community more aware of veteran needs while also educating veterans about their own benefits and letting them know they are not alone.

"Some veterans sit there... coming out of the Army disabled not knowing they can go to the VA for medical service," President of TBVPTT and retired United States Army staff sergeant, James L. Wilson said. "You do have someone you can call on, you do have somewhere you can go and we'll find housing, we'll find shelter, we'll find something for you."

To help spread this message TBVPTT reached out to other companies and organizations about setting up their own resource and screening tables during the parade to help promote healthier living for veterans, their families, and the neighborhoods they come from.

These resources will be available at the Vidalia Park section of the parade.

But spreading awareness between parents and grandparents is only part of TBVPTT's community outreach.

Passing the message and sharing the legacy of military veterans to the younger generations is also essential to the organization's progress according to Wilson and vice president of TBVPTT, Robert Walker.

"In our invitation was 'bring your children' because children don't know what a veteran is," Wilson added. "Because there's non-veteran families who never talked about a veteran and there are veteran families who never talked about their dad or mom who were in the Army."

"Part of it is the younger folks look up to the older folks and tend to emulate them so they go into the service," Walker, who is also an Army veteran, added. "Any other way they don't care about the service."

TBVPTT selected 56-year-old Kingsbridge resident and Army veteran LaTanga Blair as this year's grand marshal.

She will be recognized for her 11-year career in the armed forces along with honoree and fellow Army veteran Senator Ruben Diaz, Sr. during the parade.



President James L. Wilson (l) with vice president Robert Walker are two of the original members who helped start The Bronx Veterans Parade Task Team.  
Community News Group/Sarah Valenzuela

The organization also encourages the attendance and participation of elected officials to learn more about military veterans and

their neighborhoods.

The fourth annual Bronx Veterans Parade in Crotona is scheduled for Saturday, November 4 at

noon.

The parade will run along Crotona Parkway from East 175th and 180th streets.

## Bronx voters have choices on Election Day, Nov. 7th

from Page 1

- no matter what borough they happen to live in," said Gjonaj.

Gjonaj, a married father of two sons, has garnered the support of a number of labor unions, as well as most local elected officials and Governor Cuomo.

His opponent, Cerini, sees overdevelopment as the key issue in his own Pelham Bay community and elsewhere in the district.

He cited several construction projects in the community where former single-family properties are being converted into large apartment buildings by developers.

He believes that he would fight harder against overdevelopment than his opponent.

"I know the struggles of the homeowner, the parent, the small business owner,"

said Cerini, who is a father of four and business owner.

"I can relate to everything that people are struggling with and hopefully we can work together to resolve these issues."

Cerini has the support of the New York Post and Nicole Malliotakis, Republican mayoral candidate.

A number of third party candidates also are in the race, including Marjorie Velazquez on the Working Families line, John Doyle on the Liberal line, both of who ran against Gjonaj in the Democratic primary, and Alex Gomez on the New Bronx line.

Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. is up for reelection this year, and is facing opposition from Camella Price, running on the Reform line, as well as Republican Steven DeMartis and Conservative Antonio



"Too often it feels like the 'Tale of Two Boroughs.' We're either one city or we're not. We must have a City Hall that supports all New Yorkers equally - no matter what borough they happen to live in."-Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj..

Photo courtesy of Gjonaj campaign

Vitello.

Diaz has made it his priorities attracting positive development, creating educational equality and



"I know the struggles of the homeowner, the parent, the small business owner," -- John Cerini  
Photo courtesy of John Cerini

taking care of health disparities.

In the 14th Council District, Councilman Fernando Cabrera faces a challenge on the Working Families line from Randy Abreau, an attorney who was an official in the Obama administration.

Another Cabrera challenger is Justin Sanchez, who will be on the Liberal party line.

In the 18th Council District, Senator Ruben Diaz, Sr. is running to replace term-limited Councilwoman Annabel Palma, who will take a post in the second de Blasio administration, should the mayor win a second term.

Diaz said in statement that he was frustrated with trying to pass bills in the Republican-controlled New York State Senate.

"In the council, I can deliver both more funding for local programs, work on increasing the charter school cap, support more affordable housing and funding for senior programs - including housing, as well work to improve public safety," said Diaz.

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