

AT A GLANCE

BRONX — Bronx bus and subway riders will have a chance to speak out tonight at an MTA public hearing on proposed fare hikes and elimination of several bus routes and student MetroCards.

The hearing is scheduled for 6 p.m. at the Paradise Theater, 2403 Grand Concourse, at E. 187th St.

The MTA hopes to plug an \$800 million budget gap. The Bx14, Bx18, Bx25, BxM4A and BxM7B buses, as well as the Barretto Park Pool shuttle, are in danger. More routes are slated for reduced service.

Registration for speakers will remain open at the hearing until 9 p.m. To register in advance, visit www.mta.info or contact MTA community affairs director Douglas Sussman at (212) 878-7483.

PARKCHESTER — Family and friends will honor a fallen Iraq war hero at noon Saturday when the corner of Unionport Road and Metropolitan Oval is renamed "Pvt. Isaac T. Cortes Way."

Cortes, 26, an infantry squad leader with the 10th Mountain Division, died on patrol in Iraq in November 2007 when his Humvee was hit by a roadside bomb.

Raised in Parkchester, Cortes attended Christopher Columbus High School and worked security at Yankee Stadium. He was awarded a Purple Heart.

FIELDSTON — Go green to make some green. Goodwill Industries and Manhattan-based EcoVentions will host a Bronx Green Business Summit at the Ethical Culture Fieldston School, 3901 Fieldston Road, on Tuesday, March 23.

The free summit will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will include breakout sessions on green-collar jobs and green roofs. Attendees will also tour Fieldston's newly renovated and green campus.

Sustainable South Bronx Executive Director Miquela Craytor will deliver a keynote luncheon speech.

Tickets to the luncheon, via bronxgreenbusiness.org, are \$25 per person. Call Angela Boston at EcoVentions for more information at (212) 289-8506.

Bureau Staff

SEND US YOUR NEWS TIPS

Bronx Bureau (718) 822-1174
bronxbornews@NYDailyNews.com

Brooklyn (718) 875-4455
brooklynnews@NYDailyNews.com

Queens (718) 793-3328
queensnews@NYDailyNews.com

Ex-HHC boarder fined for ethics abuse during his tenure

BY KATHLEEN LUCADAMO
DAILY NEWS CITY HALL BUREAU

A FORMER Health and Hospital Corp. honcho was slapped with a \$13,500 fine for abusing his post to help foreign medical students get jobs at city hospitals, ethics bosses said yesterday.

Daniel Ricciardi, an HHC board member from 2000 to 2008, made calls and met with officials at five city hospitals about getting clerkships for students at St. George's University School of Medicine in Grenada, where he was working, according to the city's Conflict of Interest Board.

Although his HHC post is unpaid, public servants are barred from using their position for private interests under city ethics law.

Ricciardi, in a signed disposition, admitted he violated the law by "advocating the school's interests to HHC while serving as an HHC board member." He agreed to pay the fine.

In 2004, Ricciardi was appointed associate dean at St. George's. He was given a deanship a week before the school signed a contract for placing students in clerkships at HHC hospitals.

His job was to "take the clinical program to all five boroughs in New York," according to a statement St. George's released at the time.

"I am looking to expand the program and offer St. George's students the opportunity to do their rotations in almost any hospital in New York, including in Manhattan," Ricciardi said in that statement.

A call to his Brooklyn office for comment yesterday was not immediately returned.

During his HHC tenure, Ricciardi took steps on at least eight occasions to steer clerkships at HHC hospitals to the medical school, records show.

Ricciardi resigned in 2008. In 2007, he was awarded HHC's Excellence in Public Service award.
klucadamo@nydailynews.com



A pending deal for the aging Indian Point nuclear power plant could end up costing customers via a hike on their electric bills. Photo by Bloomberg News

NUKE DEAL FALLOUT

BY ABBY LUBY
SPECIAL TO THE DAILY NEWS

MILLIONS OF Westchester County and New York City residents could face electric bill rate hikes if the Indian Point nuclear plant winds up with a new cash-challenged owner.

Current owner Entergy wants to spin off the Westchester-based nuke plant to the newly formed Enexus, which will start off with \$4.5 billion in debt.

And that's a red flag for the state Public Service Commission and Attorney General Andrew Cuomo.

A statement issued from Cuomo's office said Enexus would be "be heavily indebted" and noted that its "only assets would be the plants themselves."

The PSC is scheduled to rule tomorrow on Entergy's proposed plan to spin off its plants to Enexus. The \$3.5 billion deal has already been approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

As a limited liability company, Enexus won't be responsible for many costs needed to run an aging nuclear power plant. Built to last 35 years, Indian Point is almost 40 years old.

Westchester County is concerned that Enexus would not be legally responsible to decontaminate some 1.63 million cubic feet of radioactive soil when the plant is shut, potentially costing taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

Enexus also must honor the revenue-sharing agreement with the New York Power Authority to

the tune of \$432 million, made in annual payments of \$72 million.

The agreement was made with Entergy when it purchased one of the plant's three reactors from the NYPA. The new company would have only two sources of income — the power generated by the plants and fees for their operation and management.

Opponents charge the spin-off would create more layers of corporate protection, letting Entergy off the hook if emergency funds are needed for accidental leaks or radioactive spills.

Entergy declared bankruptcy after it was hit with \$475 million in damages from Hurricane Katrina in August 2006.

Enexus would also include four other reactors: FitzPatrick in Oswego; Pilgrim in Massachusetts;

Palisades in Michigan, and Vermont Yankee in Vermont.

Entergy is now being investigated by the NRC for allegedly lying to the State of Vermont about radioactive leaks from underground piping.

NRC Chairman Gregory Jaczko said last week that he was sending a new crew of inspectors to Vermont to help find out if the leaks were actually coming from 1,000 feet of underground piping.

Vermont legislators last week dealt Entergy a blow by voting to close the plant by 2012.

Entergy spokesman Larry Smith said that the utility company will continue to fight to keep the Vermont plant open. Smith also said plant engineers were still trying to figure out the source of the leaks.