



# NORWOOD NEWS

Vol 32, No 20 • PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION • OCTOBER 10-23, 2019

## NORWOOD'S TRAFFIC NIGHTMARE, AGAIN

*City resumes congestion-inducing sewer construction rehab work*



Photo by Adi Talwar

**TRAFFIC AT THE** intersection of East Gun Hill Road and Bainbridge Avenue the afternoon of Oct. 8. Traffic is already heavy at that intersection and could get even heavier once the city moves ahead with the last phase of a massive sewer project.

By DAVID CRUZ

Those living or traveling through Norwood will once again have to brace for another round of patience-challenging congestion and temporary bus route changes as the city fi-

nally resumes completion of a massive sewer replacement project in the neighborhood.

The project would've been completed a lot sooner, with the city placing the holdup on the state's largest utility,

while also pointing to the contractors' ongoing talks with the MTA over the temporary bus stops.

The epicenter of the project will once again happen along Bainbridge Avenue, a busy

arterial roadway that virtually cuts through the neighborhood, serving as a nexus for travelers in and around Norwood. There, at the intersection of East Gun Hill Road

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# NORWOOD NEWS

Vol. 32, No. 20

Norwood News is published bi-weekly on Thursdays by

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# IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

## Samelys Lopez, Hardline Progressive Democrat, Enters 15th Congressional District Race

By DAVID CRUZ

Another progressive Democrat has announced a run for the 15th Congressional District seat, by far the most crowded political contest in the city. And she stands among the pack in grabbing a marquee endorsement from a prominent congressional Democrat.

Samelys Lopez (pictured above), a grassroots community activist who helped propel Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to victory last year, became the 13th candidate to announce a run for the South Bronx seat.

"I just feel like it's a time for something different, a fresh perspective; someone who is connected to the grassroots, the progressive community; someone who has an independent voice that can challenge and have the courage to raise issues and to advocate for issues that need to be advocated for," said Lopez in an interview with the *Norwood News*. She announced her run in the Mt. Eden section of the Bronx, where she grew up, on Sept. 28.

Lopez, a former Community Board 7 member and co-founder of the Bronx Progressives who ran unsuccessfully for District Leader in the 78th Assembly District in 2016, was long considered a potential candidate in the race jumpstarted after the district's 30-year congressional seat-holder, Jose Serrano, announced he would not seek re-election next year.

The 15th Congressional District covers the South Bronx and serves as the only congressional district landlocked to the borough. It also continues to earn the unfortunate distinction as the poorest congressional district in the country.

"I grew up in the homeless shelter system with my family and I, and we moved around a lot throughout the city. And the South Bronx, this congressional district,



Photo courtesy Samelys Lopez Facebook Page

really invited us into the community, and it was our version of the American Dream and I'm grateful to this community for everything that it's given me and for setting me on the right path," said Lopez, who eventually left the shelter system for Mt. Eden. Lopez now lives in Bedford Park.

Lopez's brand of politics largely mirrors Ocasio-Cortez's, given her endorsements on Medicare for All, the Green New Deal plan, and Universal Childcare. Lopez, who identifies herself as a democratic socialist, also hopes her platform for rooting out environmental racism, improving the housing stock, and creating living wage jobs will shift the district away from being the most impoverished to "a community that's resilient." She also wants locals to play a heavier role in the decision-making process, and a "seat at the table."

"It's really important for people in the working class to feel like they have a voice," said Lopez, who is cobbling donations already through Act Blue. Like Ocasio-Cortez, Lopez will turn down corporate and real estate donations.

In jumping into the race, Lopez now joins Assemblyman Michael Blake, Phipps Neighborhood Financial Empowerment Center director Jonathan Ortiz, Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation executive director Marlene Cintron, former New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, and Councilman Ritchie Torres, among others, in the field of progressive candidates vying for the seat.

But their candidacies could cancel each other out, propelling social conservative Councilman Rev. Ruben Diaz Sr., another candidate deemed the frontrun-

ner, to victory. Torres, however, leads with the most campaign cash, which stands at more than \$500,000.

Given her animus with the Bronx Democratic Party, which she's long criticized as being exclusive of hardline progressives while attempting to reform the party's county committee, it's unlikely she will be wanting or even securing their endorsement. Lopez, however, could benefit in getting the "Ocasio-Cortez bump" thanks to the Congresswoman's national prominence. Ocasio-Cortez benefitted from the Bronx Progressives' campaign volunteer apparatus last year when she was an unknown taking on her 14th Congressional District predecessor, Joe Crowley. The district covers the Bronx and Queens, and while she won by a large margin in Queens, she squeaked toward a victory in the Bronx.

The relationship between the two extended beyond the campaign. At Ocasio-Cortez's inauguration, Lopez offered brief remarks congratulating her.

Ocasio-Cortez has rarely thrown her support to progressive candidates in local races save for the Queens district attorney race, where she backed Democratic candidate Tiffany Cabán, leading to a deluge of donations. Cabán ultimately lost in a very contentious race.

Ocasio-Cortez is currently lending her support in the race for Illinois' 3rd Congressional District, where challenger Marie Newman, a progressive candidate, looks to unseat incumbent Congressman Daniel Lipinski, a conservative Democrat. It's a race being viewed as a referendum on conservative Democrats.

For Lopez, securing her endorsement would be a big honor, though she told the *Norwood News* it's too early to ask. She has admired Ocasio-Cortez utilizing her national prominence to put progressive proposals to the center.

"I think that as a community, as a country, we need to keep going in that direction because that's the future of the Democratic party. We need to be bold, and the changes that we want to make, we need to be transformative, we need to have a transformative vision, we need to lead with our imagination and our heart and our soul, and we cannot afford to settle for crumbs anymore," said Lopez.

# Public and Community Meetings

**COMMUNITY BOARD 7** will hold its monthly general board meeting on Oct. 22 at 6:30 p.m. at North Central Bronx Hospital, 3424 Kossuth Ave. CB7 committee meetings are held on the following dates at 6:30 p.m. at the board office, 229A E. 204th St., or unless otherwise noted: Housing, Land Use & Zoning Committee meets on Oct. 10; Health & Human Services Committee meets on Oct. 15; Executive Committee meets on Oct. 17; Veterans Affairs Committee meets on Oct. 23; and Economic Development & Long-Term Planning Committee meets on Oct. 23 at 7 p.m. For more information, call (718) 933-5650.

The **52ND PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meets on Oct. 24 at 3100 Webster Ave. at 7 p.m. For more information, call (718) 220-5824.

A **VISIONING SESSION** to improve Devoe Park will be held Oct. 17 at Kensington Building, Community Room, 2455 Sedgwick Ave. from 6 to 8:30 p.m. For more information, contact Pilar Maschi at (646) 647-6397.



# LEGIONNAIRES' DISEASE

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## INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



**This week we asked readers whether it's necessary or premature for the Democrats to launch an impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump.**



I really think they're doing the right thing because the guy is causing a lot of chaos for a lot of people now. He shouldn't even be there because he cheated on the votes against Hillary [Clinton] and she should have been president, and I think it was wrong. I think it is time for a woman president. He's two-faced and China can turn around and do something else. We have to be careful because China is very sneaky. He really doesn't care, he just wants the rich to come here and spend their money, he doesn't care about us.

**Robert Bronson**  
Norwood



Oh no, it's rightfully so. The Democrats are absolutely right; I commend them because they're absolutely right. He was caught asking for help from China and the Ukraine, he made comments to Ukraine's president to do something to [Joe] Biden because he knows Biden is very powerful and positive. Trump likes to rig things to win and he's wrong; he's asking for help from other countries. Separating kids from their parents. His wife is an immigrant, but he treats other people like garbage. Like, we're all immigrants.

**Stephania Chadwick**  
Pelham Parkway



When it comes to impeachment of a sitting president, history has taught us that it depends on the willingness of the president's party to go against him. House Democrats are playing their part, but they need to take their time and not rush the process. In Trump's case, I honestly don't know how I feel. I guess it depends on what kind of evidence they find.

**Georgina Boadu**  
Pelham Parkway



The impeachment process should have begun during the Obama presidency, with action taken against that administration. Had that happened, we would not even be discussing the impeachment of President Trump. I don't think the Democrats jumped the gun, they loaded it!

**Andrew Perretti**  
Throggs Neck



No, it's very justified. They should have started formal proceedings much sooner. He was guilty of crimes and misdemeanors and he's abused the office of the presidency, and it goes on and on and on.

**Bob Peterson**  
Dallas, TX



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# NEWS BRIEFS

## Kingsbridge Hts. Subway Heroes Hailed by Bx. Elected Officials

By MICHAEL TURAY  
And DAVID CRUZ

Vaping-Related Death in Bx. A Bronx teen has died from a vaping-related illness, marking the first such death in the state, according to Gov. Andrew Cuomo. Cuomo, who has taken up the issue of vaping, announced the death at a news conference. "This vaping is a public health crisis. It is affecting our young people. It has been marketed to young people," Cuomo told reporters. The teen was rushed to Montefiore Medical Center after he became ill, according to published reports. More than 100 people across the state have become ill from vaping, with 21 across the city. The teen is now the 19th person across the country to have died from a vaping-related illness. Authorities believe the teen was made sick from vaping cartridges where the key ingredient causes the high in marijuana, according to the New York Post. "And all of this is illegal. All the sale to minors, this is all illegal, but it is everywhere. And these companies know exactly what they're doing because they market to young people. When you are selling bubble gum and Scooby Doo flavor, you know exactly what you're doing. You are targeting young people, which is illegal for cigarette manufacturers by the way, and some of these vaping companies are owned by tobacco companies," said Cuomo. The State Department of Health is now investigating the death. The news comes as the state banned the sale of e-flavored cigarettes.

—David Cruz

### Bx. Households Most Unbanked

Bronx households are more likely not to have a bank account or relying on check-cashing businesses than other New York City boroughs, according to a research brief released by the city Department of Consumer and Worker Protection that used 2017 data. Six of the

The Bronx version of Batman and Robin received plaudits by elected officials for rescuing a five-year-old who was trapped beneath a subway train. Jairo Torres and Antonio Love, both from Kingsbridge Heights, jumped onto the tracks of the Kingsbridge Road #4 subway station to rescue five-year-old Ferni Balbuena, who was trapped underneath a southbound subway car on Sept. 23. Her father had jumped onto the tracks on purpose as a train was approaching, taking the child with him. Although Ferni and her dad were both struck by the train, her father died instantly, but she miraculously survived, remaining pinned.

"On behalf of the 1.4 million Bronx New Yorkers, I want to say thank you. It is the true meaning of being a hero. They're not asking for this attention. They don't want the spotlight," Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., addressing reporters at a ceremony in Borough Hall on Sept. 25, said. "Being a hero is someone who shows an act of bravery and courage. That is exactly what Jairo did. That is exactly what Antonio did in assisting Jairo."

As most bystanders stood in shock on the platform, Torres noticed the little girl was still alive and sprang into action. Ferni was about four to five feet into the track, beneath nearly half of an entire subway car length, until Torres jumped down and guided her to crawl toward him to safety.

"People [were] screaming and crying. Between the train and people screaming, I jumped in right away. In my heart I felt the baby [was] still alive," said Torres. "I [saw] the baby move her hands. When I got her attention I told her to 'come to me, come like a puppy.' She started [crawling] like a puppy underneath the train. I am so

10 neighborhoods that account for approximately 35 percent of unbanked households call the Bronx home, including Bedford Park, Fordham North, and Norwood, all three counted as one neighborhood. An estimated 11.2 percent of city households are unbanked while 21.8 percent are underbanked.

—Jonathan Custodio

### Lion Lady at Bronx Zoo

Police are looking for Myah Autry, the woman caught on camera inside the lion's den at the Bronx Zoo and attempting to draw a lion's attention. Autry posted the encounter on Instagram on Sept. 28. The Bronx Zoo was last trespassed in when a tiger mauled an intruder in 2012. Autry is wanted by police at the 52nd Precinct for trespassing



Photo courtesy Office of Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.

(L-R) JAIRO TORRES, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. and Antonio Love have a moment at a ceremony honoring Torres and Love for their brave efforts in rescuing a little girl nearly crushed by a train.

happy she is good; she is still alive. Thank you God for that," he added.

Torres, a construction worker, went straight to work following the incident, seemingly unfazed by what had happened. His boss had to call him and tell him, "Jairo, you are a hero, you have to go back home. Take the whole week off," Torres recalled. Since then, Torres gets stopped by strangers near his home simply wanting to embrace him. "They say, 'Thank you; thank you. God bless you. You are the real hero for the neighborhood,'" said Torres, who lives near the station.

Love, a Tennessee native, was practically at the right place at the right time. He was taking a daily walk along Jerome Avenue when he overheard the commotion from the subway station up above and ran upstairs to see what was taking place.

"I owe this man everything. I'm just at a loss for words right now for what I saw, anyways. I suffer from PTSD, so there's a lot on me right now. I don't know. I owe it

all to him. He's the hero. I was just there to accompany him, to help him out," said Love of Torres.

The setting wasn't as intimate compared to the next proclamation Torres and Love received two days after Diaz Jr.'s event, this time at a ceremony hosted by Councilman Fernando Cabrera, whose district covers Kingsbridge Heights.

"Most people would have frozen. Some took out their cameras. He took out literally his heart out especially when he started hearing the little girl crying out, 'Papi! Papi! Daddy! Daddy!'" said Cabrera of Torres.

Toward the end of the presentation, Councilman Andrew Cohen—whose 11th Council District abuts Cabrera's 14th Council District—offered Torres a proclamation, later hugging him.

"Your actions are an act of faith," said Cohen, "in the face of something so horrific what happened on that platform, and the darkness that that man must've felt to the world."

and was previously given a citation for disruptive behavior at an Iowa bus depot in January.

—Jonathan Custodio

### Empty Retail Space Has Doubled

Between 2007 and 2017, the rate of empty and vacant storefronts in the city has increased by nearly 50 percent, according to an analysis released by city Comptroller Scott Stringer. Online shopping and rising commercial rents have been contributing factors, combined with service-oriented businesses replacing traditional brick-and-mortar stores. Mott Haven and the East Bronx have the highest vacancy rates, at nearly 10 percent and 15 percent, respectively.

—Jonathan Custodio

### Trump Impeachment Forum

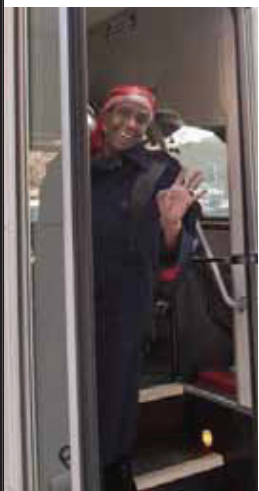
Congressman Adriano Espaillat, a Democrat who represents Norwood, plans to host a forum on Oct. 24 at Amalgamated Houses' Vladeck Hall outlining the impeachment inquiry process into President Donald Trump. This is Espaillat's second forum on the impeachment process, having already held his first one in the Manhattan side of his district on Oct. 7. The Democratically controlled House of Representatives launched an impeachment inquiry last month after a whistleblower reported Trump had used the power of the presidency to have the president of Ukraine dig up dirt on potential Democratic presidential rival and former vice president Joe Biden, and his son, Hunter.

—David Cruz



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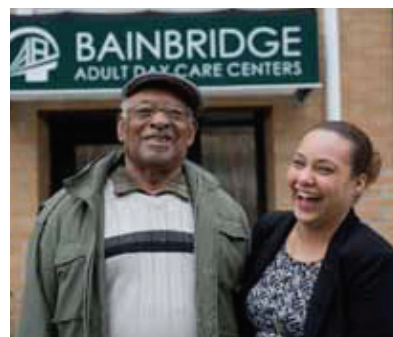
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# Cleanup of Legionnaires' Under Way at Tracey Towers, Could Take Weeks

By JOSÉ A. GIRALT

At a community meeting held by the city Department of Health (DOH), residents of 20 W. Mosholu Pkwy. S. were told that the water supply system in their building has tested positive for the Legionella bacteria.

Although the findings by DOH were announced late last week, this meeting was the first time since then that residents were able to ask questions in person to Ricky Wong, director of Community Affairs with DOH, about actual remediation steps. “The management has submitted a short-term plan to disinfect the water supply. And it’s been approved,” Wong said.

RY Management handles the maintenance at Tracey Towers and after consulting with environmental experts decided to implement a method known as copper-silver ionization to clean their water system.

The water purification equipment is scheduled to be installed later this week. Testing by DOH starts seven days after the treatment process begins and is retested at the 30-day mark. In a best-case scenario, residents will be rid of the building’s bacteria in 45 days. Wong, however, warned residents that it could take longer.

This purification process works by sending the water supply through bars of copper and silver and then using an electrical charge to disperse the copper and silver ions into the water, eradicating the Legionella bacteria. The copper-silver ionization method has been used for over 25 years and is considered by some as the gold standard.

“We [DOH] are prevented from endorsing against or for any specific product, service, or methodology,” said Wong. “But copper and silver, the metals, actually have natural disinfectant properties.”

Once the purification process is running, samples will be taken from inside the tenants’ apartment. Tenants will receive notice

“It’s imperative that everybody is home or makes arrangements for us to get in [and do the testing]. The cooperation of everybody here is going to help us move through this a lot faster.”

-- Daniel V. Durante, property manager at RY Management.

in advance of the need to enter their apartments by management. Daniel V. Durante is the property manager at RY Management and is asking for cooperation as the testing continues throughout the 30-day period.

“It’s imperative that everybody is home or makes arrangements for us to get in [and do the testing],” Durante said. “The cooperation of everybody here is going to help us move through this a lot faster.”

Durante also announced that the remediation process will stay in place after the building has been deemed clean from the Legionella bacteria. This step goes beyond DOH regulations in keeping the water supply clean at the building. “That’s the building’s prerogative, that’s not at our [DOH] direction,” said Wong.

The remediation steps are welcomed by some tenants, but others have organized to hire a lawyer and look into possible legal action against RY Management.

As for the four cases of Legionnaires’ disease, it was announced that they have been discharged from the hospital.

**Editor’s Note:** Tenants with any further concerns can call the DOH Community Affairs Unit at (347) 396-4161.





# Son of Murder Victim to Killer: "Turn Yourself In"



Photo provided by the Perez Family  
**EDGAR PEREZ (PICTURED)** holding one of his grandchildren, was fatally shot near Bainbridge and Rochambeau avenues on Aug. 25.

The son of a man killed outside of a Norwood church is speaking out for the first time--as police continue to hunt for the suspect, five weeks after the homicide.

Edgar Perez, 46, was hosting a late-night baptism party on Aug. 25 around 3:20 a.m. in the basement of Holy Nativity Episcopal Church on Bainbridge Avenue when a man who had attempted to crash the party earlier in the evening shot Perez outside the church.

Edgar Perez, Jr., 22, said his family moved out of their home in the days after the killing, but still reside in Norwood. "They haven't called me or anything. We call them and ask if they caught him or if they knew anything new about the guy and they just say that they're on his trail," said Perez, Jr., of the investigation.

Perez, Jr. claimed that investigators had identified the gunman two days after the killing, adding, "Because we already knew who the guy was. We weren't familiar with the guy like family, but he was a friend of a friend." He confirmed that the shooter attempted to gain entry into the party after learning his ex-girlfriend had crashed it. When he was denied, he later returned, trying to force his way in, when he shot the elder Perez.

Perez, Jr. said his father was a dog lover and would often be seen walking through the neighborhood with his own beloved dog named Lucky. The

younger Perez said of his father, "He was a family man, he never got into problems."

"I hope he turns himself in," Perez, Jr. remarked, referring to the shooter, as he stood down the block from his former home. He continued, "He's already looking at 25 to life; it's over for his life. The more he hides, the worse it will be for him when the cops finally catch him."

Perez, Sr. and his wife celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in February. He is also survived by his 18-year-old son and 22-year-old daughter.

An NYPD spokeswoman said the investigation continues.

## Police Officer Shot Dead



Photo courtesy NYPD

**DETECTIVE BRIAN MULKEEN** (pictured) was posthumously promoted after he was killed in the line of duty in a case of friendly fire.

## In Edenwald

A plainclothes police officer was fatally shot on Sept. 29 in a tragic case of friendly fire. This happened after the officer was attempting to apprehend a suspect after he refused to stop for questioning inside Edenwald Houses. The suspect, who was carrying a 32-caliber pistol, was later shot dead by police.

According to officials, officers from Patrol Borough Bronx's anti-

crime unit were patrolling at the NYCHA development, following a recent shooting and reports of gang activity within the 47th Precinct.

The officer identified as Detective Brian Mulkeen, 33, of Yorktown Heights, attempted to stop the man for questioning, when a foot chase began resulting in a struggle. Backup police officers arrived, with multiple shots accidentally fired at Mulkeen at 12:30 a.m. on Sept. 29 behind 1129 E. 229th St. near Laconia Avenue. He was hit three times.

Two partners from his unit and two additional officers arriving at the scene all opened fire, also hitting and killing the suspect identified as Lavance Williams, 27, of Binghamton, N.Y. Officials say Williams was on probation for drug possession and was to face harassment charges in Binghamton on Oct. 4. Williams had previously served two years in prison for a burglary conviction in Rockland County in 2012.

"Brian was a great cop. Dedicated

to keeping this city safe," NYPD Chief of Police Terence Monahan said of the young officer, at a news conference the night of Mulkeen's death. "In fact, just last night he arrested a man in possession of a gun in the very same precinct." He added, "Tonight is a vivid example of the dangers New York City cops face every day. And, there's never a doubt that our officers will continue to put it all on the line to keep people safe."

Mulkeen—who was posthumously promoted to Detective First Grade—is the second police officer killed in the line of duty in 2019, while nine other officers have lost their lives to suicide, sparking a campaign by the NYPD to encourage officers to reach out for help if they feel despondent.

Mulkeen, a graduate of Fordham University's Gabelli School of Business in Manhattan, joined the NYPD in January 2013 and had racked up 260 arrests, more than half of which were felony charges. His funeral was held in his hometown of Monroe, NY on Oct. 4.

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# Lift Off! Mosholu Parkway Train Station Approved in MTA Budget

By JONATHAN CUSTODIO

After over a year of petitioning, commuters who rely on the #4 train at Mosholu Parkway can finally expect an elevator to be installed.

But just how long the process or even when that installation will take place is up in the air.

Under the persistent roar of uptown and downtown service, elected officials gathered under the train station on Sept. 25 to announce the plan, which is to be funded by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (MTA) \$51.5 billion capital budget for 2020-2024.

A total of 70 stations in the city are expected to receive accessibility improvements. Though plans are nowhere near drafted for the Mosholu Parkway elevator, the station could receive upwards of three elevators.

Dustin Jones, an advocate for the Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York (CIDNY) who relies on a wheelchair to get around, says that he sometimes must hail a pricey taxi ride because subway stations lack elevator access. "On a personal level, I am happy. We've been fighting for this for a year," he notes, while also maintaining that pressure on the MTA must be maintained because of their past history in fumbling on capital projects. "We need to push that the MTA has a legal binding statement."

Spearheaded by Eric Dinowitz, who spearheaded with Jones in advocating for the renovation, elected officials present at the



Photo by Jonathan Custodio

**(L-R) NORTH CENTRAL** Bronx Hospital (NCBH) Executive Director Cristina Contreras, State Sen. Jamaal Bailey, Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez, District Leader Eric Dinowitz, Tracey Towers Tenants Association president Jean Hill, Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz, and Center for Independence of the Disabled New York advocate Dustin Jones at a news conference announcing the MTA's inclusion of an elevator for the Mosholu Parkway #4 subway station.

news conference included Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz, Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez, and State Sen. Jamaal Bailey. North Central Bronx Hospital executive director Cristina Contreras also shared her excitement for the planned project.

Only 24 percent of stations in all five boroughs are American Disabilities Act-compliant.

"We are so happy that we are included

in this list of recipients," says Jean Hill, president of the Tracey Towers Tenants Association. "A lot of us have been in this area for more than 40 years."

Wen Williams, one of those 40-year residents, is dubious of the project's completion. "They've been saying that for years. I hate to say it but if we were in downtown or in Riverdale, it would have been done," says the retired senior as she returns home

from a doctor's appointment.

The station sits in a hub of commerce, transit, and community resources that include Montefiore Medical Center Moses Campus, North Central Bronx Hospital, Tracey Towers, and transfers to multiple bus lines.

Not only is the elevator expected to provide access for the disabled, but it will also make commuting easier for those who struggle walking up stairs, including parents carrying strollers.

There is no timeline on when the project will begin or how long the design and construction process will take. Fernandez believes the elevator should be placed on the side of the street in front of Tracey Towers, which sits below the southbound side of the train.

The Coalition for Accessible Subways at Mosholu Parkway, comprised of elected officials, community institutions and local activists, collected 2,000 signatures and presented them to the MTA board last year.

"God forbid that public transportation be actually accessible to the entire public," says Bailey, who echoed Fernandez's call for more accessibility to be increased at more subway stations in the Bronx, spotlighting the 2 and 5 lines on Allerton Avenue. "But for today we will celebrate a job well done."

The MTA has submitted the Capital Program to the Capital Program Review Board by in early October.



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# Cohen: Prospective Five-Two Annex No More

By **MICHAEL TURAY**

The proposal to convert the old Sam's Carpeting on Webster Avenue into an annex for the local 52nd Precinct has been scrapped, with speculation the property will be converted to some type of housing.

The news comes after Councilman Andrew Cohen committed \$40 million to repair the 52nd Precinct and have the NYPD possibly lease the former carpet store that lies diagonally across from the precinct to serve as an annex. The three-story precinct currently houses over 200 police officers, and is overcapacity.

At the latest Community Board 7 meeting on Sep. 25, Cohen confirmed that the annex idea will not happen.

In a phone interview with the *Norwood News*, Cohen shed light on why the owner of the former carpeting store decided to go in another direction. "I recently spoke to the owner about talking to the city. The owner was discouraged by how long it would take. It's a lengthy project and I think he was under some pressure, because it was vacant, to come up with some development so he said he was no longer interested in pursuing negotiations with the city," he said.

The two-story building was once a proposed site for a homeless shelter until protests from concerned parents of nearby PS/MS 20 back in 2017 helped terminate those plans.

Hopes of being an annex for the precinct's Italian Renaissance-style building was on the radar for many, including Bedford Mosholu Community Association's (BMCA) president, Barbara Stronczer. "The 52nd Precinct

is a landmark building, which is extremely overcrowded and has over 200 police men and women there. When I first moved into this neighborhood there were 100, so you know what it must feel like in there when they have a whole shift," she said at BMCA's monthly meeting on Oct. 2. Many in attendance were frustrated with the idea of yet another housing unit possibly going up at the site.

Construction for affordable housing along Webster Avenue has become the norm since the city approved a massive rezoning for the artery in 2011. In April 2015, a 122-unit housing property, Bedford Park Manor, located at 2985 Webster Ave. was the first to appear on the avenue as a result of a 2011 rezoning. Just a few buildings away at 3084 Webster Ave. lies an 11-story affordable residence that holds 119 units. Despite its early struggles, the building was completed in October 2018. Both properties were engineered by the Stagg Group.

The annex was also intended to solve the ongoing problem of vehicles illegally parked on Mosholu Parkway near the precinct. Despite the annex not panning out, Cohen confirmed some good news for those who have struggled to park in the area. "I have received over the years a number of complaints about parking in the Five-Two ... on the sidewalk near Mosholu Parkway. I made a deal with the Police Department for about \$400,000 to redo the parking lot, which will add maybe as many as 30 spots in that parking lot. Hopefully it'll get the cars along the parkway more space to park," he said at the Community Board meeting.



Image courtesy Google Maps

**THE FORMER SITE** of Sam's Carpeting at 3041 Webster Ave. is no longer a prospective site for a 52nd Precinct annex, according to Councilman Andrew Cohen.



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# Renaissance

# Festival

Kossuth Playground in Norwood was blasted to the Middle Ages as the Friends of Mosholu Parkland (FOMP) hosted the first-ever Renaissance Festival on Oct. 5. Participants were clad in medieval wear for the family-friendly festival that included games, music, and some arts and crafts. FOMP also got some assists from the 52nd Precinct NYPD Explorers, BuildON, Cardinal Spelman High School, and local military veterans through the Mission Continues group. Photos by Miriam Quinones.



(top left) **HEARD OF BOBBING** for donuts? It was one of the many games featured at the Renaissance Festival throughout the afternoon.



(top right) **(L-R) FRIENDS OF Mosholu Parkland (FOMP) president Elizabeth Quaranta, FOMP member Aesha Valencia, and FOMP education director Lorita Wilson** dress for the occasion as they pause for a picture at the Renaissance Festival.



(left) **LEXI THE LADYBUG** checks out this decorative Pumpkin-themed vehicle at the Renaissance Festival that's perfect for the occasion.



(right) **A HAYSTACK SERVES** as an ideal sitting place for these attendees at the Renaissance Festival.

(below) **ORGANIZERS JOIN PARTICIPANTS** of the Renaissance Festival, with some decked in medieval wear and some simply dressed come-as-you-are.



(below) **IT'S A WRAP!** These participants get wrapped up in tissue paper for a mummy-wrapping contest featured at the festival.





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# Demand Already High for Norwood's Newly Opened Islamic Center

By JOSÉ A. GIRALT

Twenty-five years ago, Mohammed Iqbal Hussaine, 71, moved to Norwood from Queens and was surprised by the number of Irish neighbors he met. "They treated me very well," Hussaine recalls. After spending two years traveling to Parkchester for the closest mosque, Hussaine, his friend Syed Jamin Ali and a few others founded the North Bronx Islamic Center (NBIC) inside the basement of a private house at 3156 Perry Ave.

Today, as the neighborhood continues to undergo a cultural transformation, Hussaine, now retired, volunteers as the secretary of the NBIC with a new four-story building serving as the mosque, or Masjid, located at 261 E. 206th St. at the corner of Rochambeau Avenue. The house of worship opened its doors in May after years of incremental fundraising towards construction on the property the center has owned since 2000. In 2010, the city approved construction of the center where a three-story home once stood.

Together with NBIC's president, Syed Jamin Ali, they have seen their mosque and Sunni congregation grow, lining up with an increasing Middle Eastern population planting roots in Norwood. "I remember being with Ali back then and maybe we [Bangladeshi] had six to seven houses, just a few families," Hussaine said.

From those humble beginnings, Hussaine estimates Bangladeshi immigrants currently account for the ownership of 120 to 125 houses and businesses in Norwood.

The growth in Norwood's Bangladeshi population has been accompanied with an increase in the Muslim community, which hails from other countries as well.

Although the NBIC does not keep



Photo by José A. Giralt

**MUSLIMS PRAY DURING** Jumu'ah, the Friday prayer, inside the mosque of the North Bronx Islamic Center located at 261 E. 206th St. in Norwood on Oct. 4.

records on the worshippers' country of origin, Hussaine, who is originally from Bangladesh, describes the makeup of the congregation as being predominately Bangladeshi followed by Yemeni, Pakistani, and Albanian Muslims. "And we have from other countries, too. I don't want to leave anyone out," said Hussaine.

When religious services were still being held solely at the house on Perry Avenue, hundreds of worshippers would oftentimes pour out onto the sidewalk.

Jakaria Saha, 42, assistant secretary at NBIC, estimates that at-

tendance at Perry Avenue peaked somewhere between 600 to 700 worshippers. "We are so happy to have a new [Masjid]. We can now have up to 1,000 [worshippers] here," Saha said.

The first service at the new location was held last May at the start of Ramadan, the holiest month of the year for Muslims, which starts a 30-day period of fasting during daylight hours.

From the outside, the mosque could be mistaken for a small residential building, though the pointed arch windows frames foreshadow what's inside. Upon entering the first interior doorway it becomes evident that it is an Islamic space for worship. A banner over the door announces that "There is no God besides Allah and Muhammad," two mosaics on the left wall depict the holy city of Mecca, and at the far end is the distinctive niche in the wall known as the mihrab, which points in the direction of Mecca. When offering prayers, Muslims are expected to face the city of Mecca no matter where in the world they are located.

There is now discussion of requesting the city to increase the occupancy limit from 1,000 to 1,200 which would include the basement level.

"We are seeing so much growth that we will need other mosques [buildings] to help us," said Hussaine.

A recent Friday prayer inside the mosque—the Islamic holy day, with Muslims expected to pray at least once inside a mosque—is a standing room only occasion, with congregants jammed into the first floor with the rest of the congregants assembling on the upper three floors for Friday prayers, also known as Jumu'ah. The Iman occasionally spoke in limited English to remind the worshippers on the importance of raising their children in Islam as a way to give them guidance in life.

Rather than create apprehension over the changing face of Norwood, Saha hopes people will remember the real meaning of Islam. "In one word, peace," said Saha.

Both Saha and Hussaine hope longtime residents of Norwood will see the transformation in a positive light as a new wave of immigrants move into the neighborhood.

"You can see that we have opened businesses, doctors' offices, pharmacies and home care stores. We like Norwood and want to be good neighbors with everyone," said Hussaine.

## CELIA CRUZ

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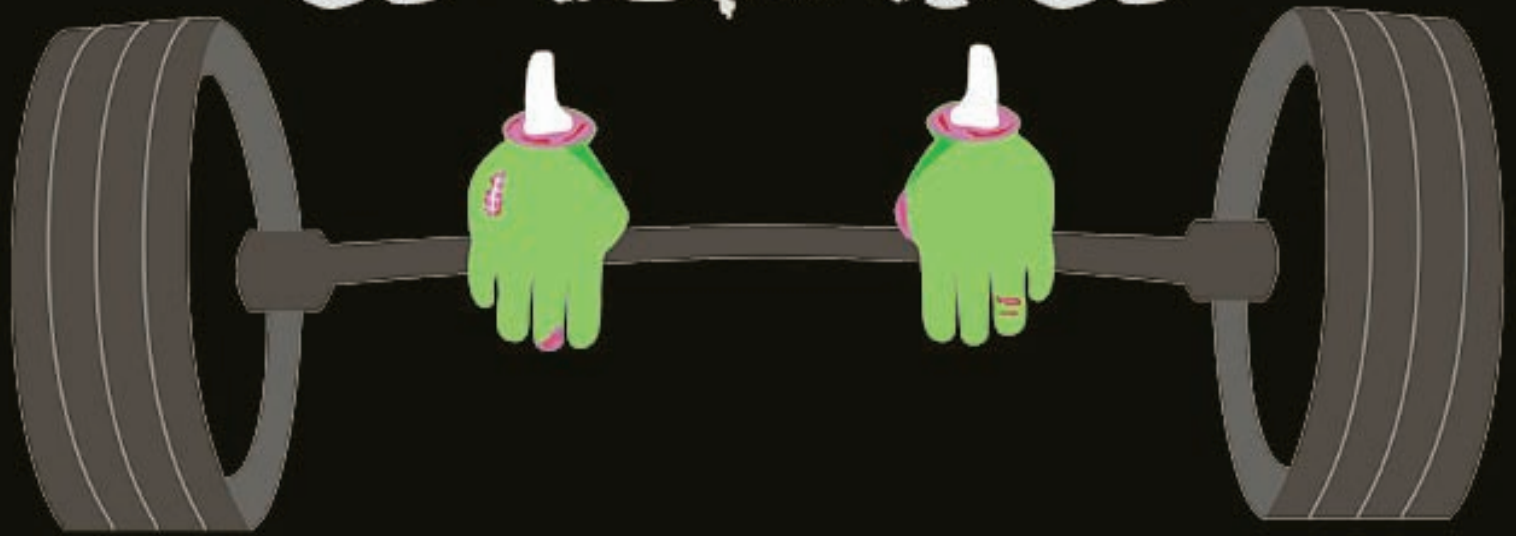
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# Letters To The Editor

(This issue's letters are responding to a letter to the editor published in the Sept. 26-Oct. 9, 2019 edition entitled "Gambling in My Establishment?")

## Whalen Park Rebuttal

Mr. Dennis Walker should read again the article about Whalen Park, and learn the meaning of words before using them. I certainly wasn't in shock. Anyone who knows me would know that after 17 years of community activism I don't get shocked, I get mad. The reporter chose a different word; "shocked" was not the word he used.

People drinking in the park isn't new. What is new is the playground, and there are rules regulating the presence of adults without children in playgrounds and is maddening to see inebriated males where children are running or playing, sometimes without any supervision, and cer-

tainly never was as flagrant as today seeing adults misbehaving or plainly breaking the law at Whalen Park.

And Mr. Walker, if you want to criticize the city politics or the politicians or their liberal agendas use someone else's name. I don't expect an apology from you; but if you do it again I will take legal action.

**Sheila Sanchez, Norwood**  
**Community activist**  
**President of the Northwest Bronx Democrats**  
**President of Friends of the Williamsbridge Oval Park**  
**Security Director, Friends of Mosholu Parkland**

## Blame the Right People

When I think of socialism, I think of the Scandinavian countries that have the world's happiest populations because they have job security, well-paying jobs, plenty of time off,

secure pensions, quality education, and complete health care.

Norwood's Dennis Walker (Sept. 26-Oct. 9 letter to the editor) thinks of New York City politicians who he believes are not doing their jobs. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is a Congress member, so she doesn't directly govern over New York City.

I don't think City Council Speaker Corey Johnson's reforms to avoid sending people back to prison for minor parole violations translates into allowing people to drink in the park. Though when that law was enforced, it was done so selectively. White people drinking wine at a free classical music concert in the park were never bothered.

I think that police being given discretion on how to enforce that law would be best. Are the people drinking harassing people?

As for Johnson's predecessor, Me-

lissa Mark-Viverito, she currently holds no public office.

My letter in the same issue deals with the dichotomy between the ideals preached by Mayor Bill de Blasio and his actual record. Ironically, Walker doesn't even mention the mayor or his predecessor, Michael Bloomberg.

His hero mayor is Rudolph Giuliani. The cops who did the work of actually reducing crime went from being among the best paid to among the worst paid during his eight-year reign. All rank-and-file city workers lost ground to inflation under Giuliani.

As for quality-of-life crime enforcement, there is a large middle ground between zealous enforcement of all laws and the total neglect Walker complained about

**Richard Warren**  
**Van Cortlandt Village**

# Opinion

## Specialized High Schools and STEM Spaces

By **DIONEL J. THEN**

With the hotly contested dissolution of the high school specialized entrance exam for New York City's public school system's most coveted seats now waning on the minds of some elected officials, the need to provide our students with an entryway to properly prepare them for the jobs of tomorrow are now more pressing than ever.

While the New York City Tech to Talent Pipeline, an initiative started back in late

2014, which aims at delivering training and education opportunities to equip New Yorkers with the skills to succeed in the 21st century job market and build a talented and diverse workforce to empower our communities and strengthen our businesses is well under way, representation of our entire community in the larger tech ecosystem throughout New York City, especially from the Bronx, is still lagging behind.

With the Bronx High School

of Science and In-Tech Academy among the many public schools throughout our district specializing in technology, training and access to programs that teach young people and career changers the essentials of technology are still needed in our district.

A Workforce1 center and a tech incubator space that will hire Bronx students and help encourage innovation and tech entrepreneurship is not only feasible but needed to make career success and satis-

faction more equitable.

These spaces will help to ensure full digital literacy is not only achieved by the next generation, but will create a more equitable pipeline for students who are not accepted into the well-known specialized high schools.

Without the vision and perspective of the working class that makes up most of our district and the Bronx community at large, income inequality will continue to grow. All the while legislation and funding passed by the City Council will continue to fall short of meeting the needs of our community.

There are further efforts to enhance the pipeline such as the city's CUNY 2x Tech campaign, which aims at bringing new technology professors, career advisers and internships to six CUNY campuses, giv-

ing an estimated total of 7,000 undergraduate students the means to launch innovative careers.

However, the need to get our high school students involved and become digitally fluent is a cause that cannot be understated. High school is a time filled with anxiety and worries of college admissions, bringing these issues to the forefront is vital to our community's sustainability. So in strong solidarity I ask for support from those who share these ideals, as together we can deliver on progressive and inclusive enhancement of the next generation of innovators who will hail from our neighborhoods.

*Dionel J. Then is a candidate for the 11th Council District, which covers Norwood, Bedford Park, Riverdale, Fieldston, and Woodlawn.*



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# Getting the Perfect Do at Perfect Pose Hair Design

By JEROME GUN HILL BID

For the last 28 years, Dawn Param-Knight has been in the business of making people feel beautiful. She opened her salon, Perfect Pose Hair Design at 323 E. Gun Hill Rd. in 1992, shortly after arriving in New York City from Jamaica. Ever since then she has been hard at work, honing her craft to ensure that her customers feel more confident after they leave her chair.

Param-Knight first became interested in doing hair when she was just nine years old. "I grew up as an only child. I had no one else to play with but my doll. So every day I would make sure my doll looked pretty and I would do her hair," she said.

Her favorite activity soon became styling her doll's hair, experimenting with different ways to make her doll look beautiful.

As she grew older her interest in hairstyling stuck and she received her state cosmetology license in Jamaica. At 26, when she came to the United States Param-Knight got to work right away on her New York State cosmetology license, the first step towards her dream of opening up her own salon.



Photo by Jerome Gun Hill BID

**DAWN PARAM-KNIGHT HAS** owned Perfect Pose Hair Salon since 1992.

At first she rented a chair in another hair salon on Webster Avenue. During this time, she was also studying for her nurse's aide certification license. For Param-Knight, taking care of a client in her salon and taking caring of a patient in the hospital brings her joy. "It makes me feel happy

when I know I make a difference to a person," she said.

After a short stint on Webster Avenue, Param-Knight opened the doors to Perfect Pose Hair Design in April 1992. Now, almost 30 years later, many of her clients have been with her since the very beginning. She has custom-

ers who have grown up in her chair that now bring their children to Perfect Pose. "All my customers, they don't feel like customers. They feel like family," she said.

Each day Param-Knight sees anywhere from 5 to 25 clients, taking care of a range of needs for women and men of all ages. She specializes in cuts, color, weaves, updos, relaxers, and more. Whatever you need, she can make it happen. "Making people feel pretty, making people feel happy-I know I'm doing what I was born to do," she said.

To make an appointment, walk in or call (718) 515-1683. For new hair stylists looking to gain experience, there is a chair for rent at Perfect Pose Hair Design. Speak to Param-Knight for more information on this opportunity to learn from the best!

As part of our small business support work, the Jerome Gun Hill BID will be running a Merchant Spotlight once a month to shine a light on the small businesses in our corridor that help make our community special. For more information, find us at [jeromegunhillbid.org](http://jeromegunhillbid.org) or on Instagram @jeromegunhillbid.

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## Honors for MPC Executive Director



Photo by Miriam Quinones

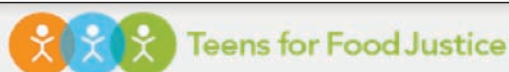
**JENNIFER TAUSIG (L)**, executive director for Mosholu Preservation Corporation (MPC, publishers of the Norwood News), speaks at a ceremony just moments after receiving an honor from North Central Bronx Hospital. Tausig was among seven honorees singled out for their commitment to Norwood, which is home to NCBH. Tausig, who has been at the helm at MPC since July 2016, triples as the executive director for the Jerome Gun Hill Business Improvement District and economic development director for Montefiore Health System. Tausig stands with Cristina Contreras, NCBH executive director.

## Bx. Puerto Rican Queen



Photo by Miriam Quinones

**CIARA AVILES, THE 2017** Queens of the Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade, carries out her royal duties, transporting a statue of the Virgin Mary and a flower bouquet as she's driven up the Grand Concourse by East 167th Street for the annual Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade on Sept. 22. Around 270,000 Puerto Ricans call the Bronx home.



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# He Once Interned at Serrano's Office. Now He Wants to Succeed Him

By DAVID CRUZ

When Frangell Basora learned that Congressman Jose Serrano would not seek re-election, the news struck a nerve for him. After all, Serrano's not only been Basora's Congressman his entire life, he was also his boss.

Now Basora, 27, is among the least known candidates launching a run to succeed Serrano as the next representative for the 15th Congressional District in a field that includes established lawmakers, community activists, and city employees. But Basora is familiar to the world of politics, getting closer than most candidates by experiencing Congress firsthand.

It happened five years ago when he received a competitive internship through the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI), giving him his first taste of Congress that included attending hearings and briefings. Basora was assigned to Serrano's office.

Despite his exposure to Congress, Basora ranks as a kind of underdog candidate promulgated by the crowded field of candidates. Still, it hasn't stopped Basora from running, underscoring the struggles of the 15th Con-



Photo courtesy Frangell Basora Campaign

**FRANGELL BASORA (C) DECLARED** a run for Congress in May. He had once interned for outgoing Congressman Jose Serrano.

gressional District — subpar housing, poor health outcomes, a wealth gap — which he noted are those he's personally familiar with. And solving those problems prompted him to run, sensing an electorate that's continually let down by all levels of government.

"I'm tired of our people being forgotten about," Basora told the *Norwood News*. "A lot of what we're trying to achieve is making it so that New

York [Congressional District]15 takes the lead over ourselves and over the rest of our beautiful country."

The placement seemed to come full circle for Basora, who was born in the district to parents from the Dominican Republic. He was raised in Mt. Hope by his single mother, where the two currently live. He grew up working poor, living under Section 8 housing. After graduating from Cardinal

Hayes High School, Basora was later accepted to Columbia University, majoring in Political Science. Since his high-profile internship, Basora worked in city government, interning at the New York City Campaign Finance Board and later working full-time at the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office.

Politically, Basora's campaign apparatus is almost non-existent since it did not report any contributions in the July filing. The next filing is due out on Oct. 15.

Basora's Democratic platform includes lifting the district out of poverty by addressing it holistically, though not at the expense of displacement, a nascent theme taking shape in the race.

"If we're going to address the poverty crisis that's existed in our neighborhoods for a very, very long time, it needs to be addressed at the same time. You can't have our people progressing through education, we can't have our people progressing through real job opportunity without addressing healthcare, without addressing housing, without making sure that we all have a viable chance at surviving."

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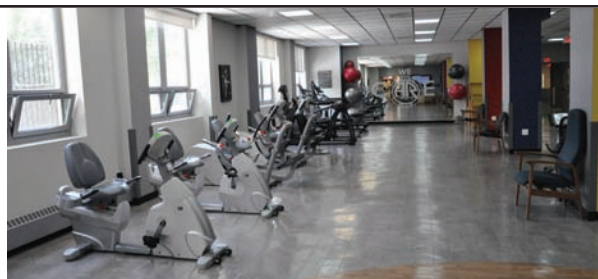
Medicare assigns the star rating based on data from a select set of clinical data measures and compares the facility performance to national norms. The measure looks at how well the facility is caring for the residents' physical and clinical needs. More stars means better quality of care.

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### TRIPS

Trips to Atlantic City "Bally Casino." "Columbus Day weekend" on Saturday, October 12, 2019. From East 163rd Street and Southern Boulevard. \$47.00 per person. For more information, please contact Eddie Rosa, (718) 757-5485; Justo Cancela (347) 405-2017; Millie Alas (347) 338-7750.

### FLEA MARKET

SAVE THE DATE! Annual Fun Fair and Flea Market; Saturday, Oct. 26, 2019, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Household goods, jewelry, electronics, toys, books, and more. Bargains, bargains, bargains!!! Raffles. Plants. Come for lunch—homemade soup, sandwiches, desserts. Bedford Park Congregational Church, East 201st Street and Bainbridge Avenue.

### LEGAL NOTICE

Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 05/17/2017. Location: Bronx. SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: Carl Leach, 2975 White Plains Rd., 7A, Bronx, NY 10467.

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## NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

### Early Voting

Early voting is now in effect for the Nov. 5 election, allowing voters to cast their ballots from Oct. 26 through Nov. 3. Voters must already be registered to vote. A full list of locations can be found at <https://www.vote.nyc.ny.us/html/voters/early-voting.shtml>. For more information, call 311.

### Financial Empowerment

Part of the Solution (POTS) will host a series of personal finance workshops at 2759 Webster Ave., second floor, at 2 p.m. on the following dates: starting a budget workshop on Oct. 11; dealing with debt workshop on Oct. 25; how credit works on Nov. 8; and banking on emergency savings and connecting food and finances workshop on Nov. 15. Sessions include free drinks and snacks. For more information, contact [hesteban@potsbronx.org](mailto:hesteban@potsbronx.org) and (718) 220-4892 ext. 135.

### Mayor's Public Engagement Unit

The Tenant Support Unit, offering tenant protection help, will be available in the Bronx at various dates and times: the Office of State Senator Gustavo Rivera at 2432 Grand Concourse from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Oct. 15, 22, and 29; Office of Assemblyman Michael Blake, 780 Concourse Village West, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Oct. 15, 22, and 29; and University Neighborhood Housing Program at 2715 Bainbridge Ave. from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Oct. 17. For more information, call 311.

### Book Sale

Sistas & Brothas United and Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition host a book sale at 103 E. 196th St. on the following days: Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays from 12 to 4 p.m. Book genres will range from short stories, dramas, fiction, horror, kids' books, and more. For more information, call (718) 584-0515.

### Bronxtober Resource Fest!

Free resources in housing and financial services will be held on Oct. 19 for University Neighborhood Housing Program's annual "Bronxtober" Resource Fest at 2751 Grand Concourse from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Other re-

sources include Housing Preservation and Development-led workshops, housing lottery enrollment, homeowner help, eviction prevention, SNAP and NYC Rent Freeze services. For more information, and to RSVP, call (718) 933-2539.

### Love Your Block

Applications for neighborhood improvement grants through Citizens Committee for New York City and New York City Service are now open to New York City resident-led groups that have a membership roster of 20 or more. Projects that could be funded include tree stewardship training, tree planting or removal, graffiti removal, bicycle rack installation, or a speed bump installation. The deadline to apply is Nov. 12. To learn more and to apply, visit [nyc.gov/loveyourblock](http://nyc.gov/loveyourblock).

### Cleanup Volunteers Wanted

The Bedford Moshulu Community Association seeks volunteers for its park cleanup and beautification event on Oct. 26 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Volunteers are asked to meet at the Webster Avenue Comfort Station on Webster Avenue between East Moshulu Parkway North and South. For more information, contact the association at [bedfordmosh@verizon.net](mailto:bedfordmosh@verizon.net).

### Crib Bumper Exchange

Parents and caregivers can dispose of their crib bumper pads—known to cause injury to infants or possibly death—in exchange for a baby sleep sack at the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) Bronx office at 2501 Grand Concourse, fourth floor. It's recommended to call the Bronx ACS office at (718) 933-1212 ahead of receiving the sleep sack. For more information, go to [www.nyc.gov/safesleep](http://www.nyc.gov/safesleep).

### Pre-apprenticeship Training Course

A free pre-apprenticeship training course for those interested in the construction trade will be held exclusively for those identifying as women ages 18 to 24 from Oct. 21-25. To apply and for more information, email Alessandra Eraifej of Nontraditional Employment for Women, at [aeraifej@new-nyc.org](mailto:aeraifej@new-nyc.org).

## Have an Opinion On What You've Read in Our Paper?

The Norwood News loves, welcomes and encourages letters to the editor.



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*Letters should be 400 words max, and include writer's name. Anonymous letters will not be published, but names will be withheld upon reasonable request.*



# Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

## EDITOR'S PICK

### Fall Festival Fun

The public is invited to attend the Jerome Gun Hill BID's 18th annual Fall Festival, Oct. 12 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. along Jerome Avenue between East Mosholu Parkway North and East Gun Hill Road. Events include music, games, arts & crafts, face painting, pumpkin patch, vendors, food, and adoptable dogs. For more information, call (718) 324-4946.

## Onstage

Bronx Academy of Arts & Dance (BAAD), 2474 Westchester Ave., presents **2019 BlakTinX Performance Series**, a variety of performances through Nov. 2, featuring singers, dancers, musicians and actors. For more information and a detailed schedule including cost, call (718) 918-2110.

## Events

Holy Nativity Church, 3061 Bainbridge Ave. holds fundraiser **Flea Market**, Oct. 26 from 9 a.m. to noon or 1 p.m. Sale items include jewelry, books, clothing, toys and more. For more information, call (718) 652-5853.

Woodlawn Conservancy holds free **Trolley Tour**, Oct. 17 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Woodlawn Cemetery to visit historic gravesites including Sir Miles Davis, Duke Ellington, Celia Cruz and more. Also scheduled is **Italian Heritage Trolley Tour**: Oct. 12 from 2 to 4 p.m. to visit memorials created by Italian sculptors and carvers; and **Walking Tours**, Oct. 19 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. and 3 to 4 p.m. For more information, visit [www.WoodlawnTours.org](http://www.WoodlawnTours.org).

St. James Recreation Center, 2530 Jerome Ave., holds **Free Friday Spin Classes**, Fridays in October from 9 to 10 a.m. Bring a towel and bottle of water. The center also offers a variety of adult and senior programs through Dec. 21. For more information or a detailed listing, call (718) 367-3657.

Bronx NYC Parks Department presents free **Flag Football** for kids ages 9 to 17. Citywide Championships, Nov. 2; and Girls Invitational Tournament, Nov. 11. For more information, locations, and details, call (718) 430-1824.

NYPD offers **Police Officers Roll Call**, for kids ages 2 to 12, at the 52nd Precinct, Oct. 22 at 5 p.m. Report in your best police costume for full uniform inspection. Event includes light refreshments, safety tips, fun, and a special appearance by McGruff, the crime dog.

NY Botanical Garden presents **Honey & Harvest Weekend**, Oct. 12 to 14, to visit a beehive, try on a beekeeper's suit and tools, and sample honey; and **Dance Along to Live Music**, 12:30, 2 and 3:30 p.m., in the Susan P. and Coley Burke



Photo courtesy Jerome Gun Hill Business Improvement District

**IT'S THAT TIME** of year again! The Jerome Gun Hill Business Improvement District's Fall Festival promises a day of dancing, music, and fun! See Editor's Pick for more information. Pictured is a couple dancing at the 2017 Fall Festival.

Amphitheatre, featuring The Doc Wallace Trio performing fiddling and swing. Also scheduled is **Spooky Pumpkin Garden**, through Oct. 21 in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden, including scarecrows and fun activities; and **Meet Creepy Creatures**, weekends through Oct. 27 at noon and 2 p.m., at the Clay Family Picnic Pavilions. For more information, call (718) 817-8700.

Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Art Projects**: Compost Herbaria, to create a backyard herbarium with flowers and leaves, Oct. 12 and 13; and The Walking Snag, to outfit yourself as a snag (a dead tree) and cover yourself with fungus and other decomposers, followed by a parade, Oct. 19 and 20, both in the WH House 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also scheduled is **Vulture Culture: A Live Bird Presentation**, to observe birds of prey, Oct. 19 at 2 p.m. in the WH House. Grounds admission is free until noon Tuesdays and Saturdays all year. For more information and a schedule of events including tours and walks, call (718) 549-3200.

## Exhibits

The Museum of Bronx History, 3266 Bainbridge Ave. (208th Street), presents **A History of the Bronx Latino**, ongoing. Hours: Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m. For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

Ave. between Fordham Road and East 193rd Street. Event includes music, face painting, healthy treats, on site screenings, surprises, raffles, and more. For more information, visit [www.missabbieskids.com](http://www.missabbieskids.com).

## Library Events

Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents for ages 5 to 12: **STEM Fridays at 4 p.m.**: Oct. 11 and 18. Teens/young adults can enjoy: **film**: Oct. 12 at 3 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org).

Mosholu Library, 285 E. 205th St., offers for kids: **Crafty Fridays at 3 p.m.**: (ages 5 to 12): crafts, Oct. 11 and 18; **Toddler Storytime**: (ages 18 to 36 months): stories, songs, fingerplays and crafts, Oct. 17 at 11 a.m.; and **STEM: Kids Science at 3 p.m.**: (ages 5 to 12): Oct. 15 and 22 (Light). All ages can enjoy: **film**: "Godzilla: King of the Monsters," Oct. 12 at 1:30 p.m. Adults can enjoy: **Knitting Circle**: Thursdays at 3 p.m. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

Jerome Park Library, 118 Eames Pl. (near Kingsbridge Road), offers for ages 5 to 12: **film**: "Coraline," Oct. 12 at 2 p.m. Adults can attend **Computer Basics at noon**: Oct. 17 and 24. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

## Halloween Event

Abbie's **Halloween Extravaganza Street Fair & Block Event** will take place Oct. 31 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 2553 Decatur

**NOTE:** Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to [norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org](mailto:norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org), and should be received by Oct. 14 for the next publication date of Oct. 24.



Photo courtesy New York Botanical Garden

**SAMPLE SOME HONEY** and other recipes at the New York Botanical Garden's Honey & Harvest Weekend, a sweet event (more details can be found in the Events section).



# Norwood's Traffic Nightmare (Again)

(continued from page 1)

and Jerome Avenue by the Woodlawn #4 station (Jerome and Bainbridge avenues intersect at that point), the city will temporarily convert the two-way street into a one-way as crews with the city Department of Design and Construction (DDC) will replace old trunk water mains, a project that's extended toward north toward the Major Deegan Expressway junction.

Work on this project would've been completed in November, but construction crews with EIC Associates, Inc., a New Jersey-based contractor, were hamstrung by Con Edison, which took a lot longer to remove its utilities.

Allan Drury, a spokesman for Con Edison, said the holdup stemmed from the city not releasing permits to relocate the utility's electrical equipment found below the area under construction. "The permits to perform that work were previously held by the city's contractor. That contractor stopped work in the area in question in late 2017," said Drury. "The contractor later returned to the area referenced, but only to work on the city's underground equipment, not Con Edison electrical equipment."

This new disruption also includes the temporary removal of two bus stops and dozens of parking spots. Work on the project was expected to begin Oct. 7, according to a traffic message board at the foot of the Bainbridge and Jerome avenue intersection, but no construction was visible.

A spokesperson for DDC said the agency is still "coordinating with DOT and MTA to reroute buses before any lane closures go into effect. We will resume work on Bainbridge Avenue between East Gun Hill Road and Jerome Avenue in late October/early November."

A crossing guard, meantime, admitted getting around is "going to be tough." "This area has a lot of hospitals and those transporting the elderly/disabled will also be affected. If you come here around 4:30 to 5 p.m., you'll see how bad it gets. I live on Steuben Avenue and I can hear the traffic build up. All I hear are the cars honking and beeping at one another in frustration," said the crossing guard, a Norwood resident, who asked not to be named.

Samantha, another resident, has noticed the ongoing construction on Bainbridge Avenue, which she feels has been going on "forever." "I hope the roads are repaved as well because

they are in terrible conditions. This is going to be bad for my commute and those around the area," she said.

One resident reading a newspaper just across from Children's Hospital at Montefiore at the intersection of Bainbridge Avenue and East Gun Hill Road who took the upcoming construction in stride, said, "Something needs to be done" on the construction. "Let it be done," he said.

The first phase of the project resulted in a commuting nightmare for drivers as they were forced to take the left onto East Gun Hill Road from Bainbridge Avenue if they were looking to head north towards the Major Deegan Expressway. They were diverted to a single lane on Jerome Avenue, where getting to the expressway from there would often take about 30 minutes given the number of buses that stopped in front of the Woodlawn #4 subway station, impeding traffic.

Community Board 7, which covers Norwood, was alerted to the changes and told once again that the eastbound Bx16, northbound Bx34, northbound Bx10, and BxM4 buses will also be rerouted to East Gun Hill Road instead of heading north on Bainbridge Avenue from East Gun Hill Road. Temporary bus stops will be set up on Jerome Avenue and East 212th Street and Jerome and Bainbridge avenues while work gets underway.

DDC has overseen the estimated \$45 million project since it began in 2016 as a way of replacing century-old sewer pipes connected to the Croton Water Filtration Plan, which reentered service in 2015. EIC Associates, Inc. was chosen for the contract that was executed in 2015.

The project is expected to be completed by late summer 2020.

CB7 members were at least satisfied with the advance warnings, having received them as early as June. At the latest Community Board 7 Traffic & Transportation Committee, which holds oversight over matters relating to roads, streets, and modes of transit, Edgar Ramos, the chair, sympathized with the impending project. "They really don't have a choice in the situation, because there aren't many options as far as modes of travel for that area. You got Bainbridge [Avenue] and then you got Jerome [Avenue] so it's going to be a nightmare for the community, I know that," said Ramos.



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