



NORWOOD NEWS

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FATAL POLICE-INVOLVED SHOOTING IN THE 5-2

Traffic stop in Norwood turns deadly with Yonkers resident shot dead



Photo by José A. Giralt

(L-R) DEPUTY INSPECTOR Thomas Alps, commanding officer of the 52nd Precinct; Bronx Borough Assistant Chief Larry W. Nikunen; NYPD Chief of Police Terence Monahan (at podium), and NYPD Chief of Patrol Rodney Harrison hold a press briefing after a police officer's fatal shooting of a driver in Norwood on Oct. 17.

By DAVID CRUZ

The family of the man killed by an NYPD sergeant assigned to the 52nd Precinct following a traffic stop in Norwood is slated to sue the Police Department arguing the shooting was unjustified. The daytime inci-

dent stunned residents in the relatively quiet neighborhood, who can't recall ever remembering an incident like this happening in Norwood.

"They're really seeking justice, and they're seeking an independent investigation," said

Robert Vilensky, the attorney for the family of Allan Feliz, who was killed by a single bullet.

Feliz, a Yonkers resident and father of a five-year-old, was fatally shot after he was stopped by police officers for

not wearing his seatbelt while driving on Bainbridge Avenue toward East 211th Street on Oct. 17 at around 3 p.m. He was pulled over by two officers—partners for the 52nd Precinct's Neighborhood Coor-
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IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

Public Charge Ruling: What You Should Know

By JONATHAN CUSTODIO

Immigrants can breathe a sigh of relief for now after the city won a case that delays the controversial “public charge” rule championed by the Trump Administration from taking effect.

The ruling holds off a policy that could prevent some immigrants, including those seeking to extend or change their temporary visas, from public entitlements or acquiring lawful permanent resident status if they use public benefits or are deemed likely to use them. It was brought to the public discourse after a draft of the legislation was leaked in 2017.

The city, along with New York State Attorney General Letitia James, filed litigation to prevent the implementation of the rule based on legal grounds in August, resulting in a preliminary court injunction by the Southern District of New York that has a nationwide effect.

“This was a critical step in much of the work that we’ve done,” says Bitta Mostofi, commissioner of the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs at a forum hosted by the Center for Community & Ethnic Media on Oct. 16. “This has been, in particular, one of the many issues that have been deeply confusing and complicating in terms of how we can best understand what it is, what the impact is, and how to effectively communicate to our communities without needlessly elevating fear or concern, but ensuring that people are empowered to make good decisions for themselves and their families.”

The federal government has 60 days from Oct. 11, the date the injunction was filed, to appeal it. If the administration moved ahead, then the case would move on to the second judicial circuit. “Because there are slightly different decisions or because there are multiple circuits who’ve issued decisions, it could be something that would eventually go to the Supreme Court for determination. Our intention is to continue to fight if they do appeal it. We feel confident on the law,” says Mostofi.

She also notes that the current im-



Photo courtesy Jennifer Chung

(L-R) THE PANELISTS at a forum discussing the status of the Trump Administration’s “public charge” policy include Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs commissioner Bitta Mostofi, Department of Social Services commissioner Steven Banks, NYC Health + Hospitals senior director for Legal Affairs and Labor Relations Chris Keeley, and supervising attorney for LegalHealth at the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) Sarah Nolan.

migration application is made to be intentionally narrow. The “public charge” rule would expand that, potentially excluding immigrants who benefit from housing assistance, Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), as well as “a broader look at varying factors like English proficiency, health, disabilities, and other factors to exclude individuals through these processes.”

“This is a policy that is really grounded in fear,” says Steven Banks, commissioner of the city’s Department of Social Services (DSS). “The ‘public charge’ change was aimed at dissuading people from seeking benefits they’re entitled to, let alone excluding people from receiving benefits.” He also notes an increase in the city’s legal services budget, now at \$30 million, increased from \$3 million when President Donald Trump went into office.

According to Banks, citing public records, 15 percent of non-US citizens took themselves off the SNAP program between 2017 and 2019, correlating with an increased fear among immigrants over the proposed public charge rule, increased raids by Immigration and

Customs Enforcement (ICE) and anti-undocumented immigrant rhetoric by the current administration. Only one percent of citizens dropped off SNAP during the same time period.

Based on US Census data, DSS estimates the rule would impact 12 million residents.

“We started to hear patients saying ‘no, thank you’ for applying for insurance coverage. We started to hear patients saying ‘no, thank you’ to continue receiving health care,” says Chris Keeley, senior director for Legal Affairs and Labor Relations at NYC Health + Hospitals, the city’s public hospital system. Keeley urges immigrants to consult with someone before dis-enrolling from health benefits if the policy takes effect and emphasizes that many types of health insurance coverage would still be available to them.

The public charge rule can be neither retroactively applied nor can it go into effect until a final determination is made.

Editor’s Note: *Immigrants can call the Action NYC hotline for counseling and legal assistance at 1-800-354-0365.*

Public and Community Meetings

The **BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** meets Nov. 6 at 8 p.m. at 400 E. Moshulu Pkwy. S. For more information, email bedfordmosh@verizon.net.

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INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE

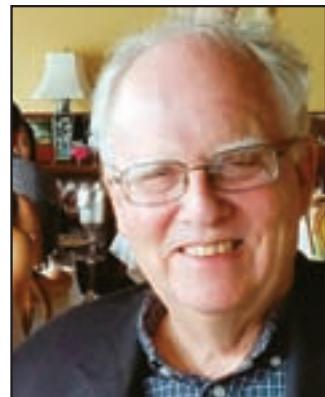


This week we asked readers their thoughts on the most recent Democratic presidential debate and whether the current format with 12 candidates is the most effective.



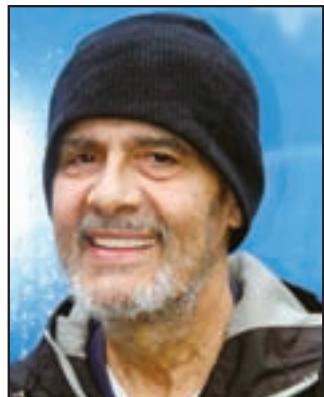
Well, in my opinion, none of them have a chance against Donald Trump. I feel that they're coming up with things that are going to be so expensive for the government, it will bankrupt the country. And now they're coming up with this inquiry about impeachment ... There's never going to be an impeachment, it'll never happen and he's going to win in 2020.

**Tony Apospolos
Bedford Park**



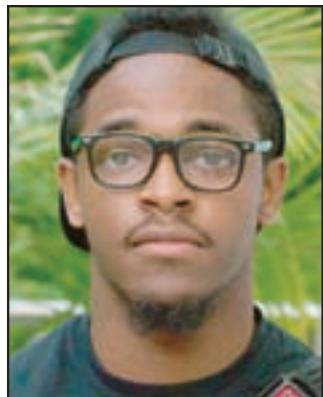
It's too soon to assess all of the candidates. That's why I haven't been paying attention. It's overwhelming to think of 12 candidates and none of them are particularly impressive, but I'd vote for any of them over Donald Trump. I don't have to pay that much attention, because they're all better than Trump. No one has emerged as a great candidate. [Joe] Biden is too much in the past; Elizabeth Warren is too far to the left. I guess I like Beto O'Rourke better than most of the others and Pete Buttigieg is not bad, but he has no experience. Bernie Sanders isn't practical and I don't understand what's going on between Hillary Clinton and Congresswoman [Tulsi] Gabbard, but I'm not concerned, because she has no chance of getting the nomination.

**Michael Horowitz
Riverdale**



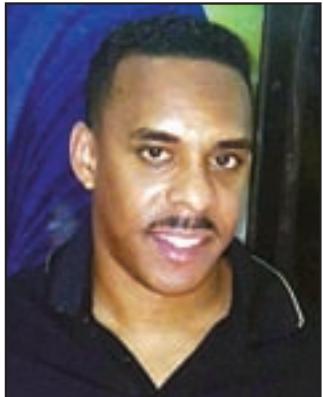
To be honest, I came away with the feeling that the only one who should be running is [Joe] Biden; I think he should become President of the United States and I don't feel that the other candidates are qualified. Absolutely, I feel there are too many candidates. There should be no more than five candidates from the Democratic Party. I think it should have been broken up into two nights; that would be more appropriate because you get more of a chance to absorb a couple of candidates at a time. With so many together on one stage, you come away with nothing. I think that would have been better.

**Luis Figueroa
Bedford Park**



I missed the most recent debate, but honestly it should be a collective thing where everyone is in on it. But at the same time it should only be focused on one or two people. Everyone should stand back so it doesn't look like a room full of animals. If there's so many people, there should be some uniting of the candidates on the issues. With fewer people they should be getting into the issues more in depth. It's still too early and a lot has been happening in the local contests.

**Alex Rivera
Hunts Point**



I think that there should be more debates and less people on the panel, almost like a tournament style or randomly select groups of 10. Ten is even a lot because you only get to hear a candidate for two minutes and they don't get to go into the issues in depth. There's just too much on the screen. It's kind of hard to focus on one particular person. I think many of them are just looking for their five minutes of fame, like when Mayor [Bill] de Blasio was on the Presidential campaign. I thought it was silly as he had absolutely no chance of winning. What was the purpose of him even being on the panel?

**Socrates Palmer Jr.
Pelham Bay**



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NEWS BRIEFS

Rikers Island Faces Closure

The New York City Council voted to close Rikers Island, the notorious prison, in favor of smaller, borough-based jails aimed at rehabilitation over punishment. All nine New York City Council members representing the Bronx were on hand for the vote, with Council Members Andrew Cohen, Ritchie Torres, Vanessa Gibson, and Mark Gjonaj siding with Councilwoman Diana Ayala, whose district will be taking in the borough-based jail in Mott Haven. Meantime, Council Members Rev. Ruben Diaz Jr., Andy King, Fernando Cabrera, and Rafael Salamanca Jr. voted against the plan. Rikers Island is expected to be closed in 2026.

—David Cruz

Law Passed to Address “Double Jeopardy” Loophole

A new state law allows prosecutors to pursue justice against those who have been pardoned by the President of the United States if the crime was committed in New York State. The loophole restricted the state from pursuing prosecution in cases involving the President and corruption due to presidential pardons. Under the legislation, New York's criminal laws can be applied to those receiving presidential pardons or who have a close relationship with the President.

—Jonathan Custodio

Flu Shots for Bronxites

NYC Health + Hospitals announced this month it will begin offering flu shots for New Yorkers. The cost of it is usually free or with a small co-pay. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) urges patients to get vaccinated during flu season. The vaccine itself is not effective until two weeks after receiving it, which makes patients more likely to contract influenza dur-

By JOSÉ A. GIRALT

With all the attention the 2020 Presidential Election is getting, some New Yorkers may not be aware that there is a local election on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

And registered voters can start casting their ballots from Oct. 26. to Nov. 3, thanks to early voting.

At an information meeting held in Co-Op City, Councilman Andy King was joined by members of the Board of Elections and New York City Charter Revision Commission 2019 to explain some of the local issues on the ballot. The New York City Charter is the city's official constitution. The issues to be decided include changes to the election process and the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB), extending prohibitions on lobbying from former elected officials, and city budget matters.

One of the changes to the charter is “ranked choice voting,” an election process that eliminates the runoff system in primaries and special elections. Under ranked choice voting rules voters rank the candidates in an order of preference rather than just one favorite. If no candidate receives more than 50 percent of first-choice votes, then an elimination process begins by instantly removing the candidate with the least number of votes.

For example, if ranked choice voting were in place now for the special election of the next public advocate, instead of casting a ballot for one candidate, voters would rank their preferences from one to three. If none were to receive more than 50 percent, the third-place candidate would be eliminated and rather than have the two-top vote-getters run again, the Board



Photo by José A. Giralt

BRONX COUNCILMAN ANDY King (standing at podium) moderates a Voter Education Meeting in Co-Op City on Oct. 16, 10 days ahead of when early voting kicks in.

of Elections would simply tally how many first place votes each remaining candidate received to determine a winner.

At the meeting King expressed reservations about ranked choice voting but encourages voters to look at the pros and cons before making a decision. “I’m not sure that rank[ed] choice voting is the way to go, but once you learn about it here tonight, you’ll be able to make a decision that works good for you,” King said.

Perhaps the biggest challenge facing the 2019 election cycle is getting people to vote. Jerome Rice, president of the Co-Op City branch of the NAACP, organizes outreach programs to help register new voters. “One of the struggles that we’re going through at the NAACP is that we got to get people registered and then we got to remind them that they also got to come out and vote,” Rice said.

ing flu season. High-risk patients for flu complications include children under five years old, pregnant women, people with chronic medical conditions such as diabetes and heart or lung disease and those over 65 years. New Yorkers can call (844) NYC-4NYC to schedule an appointment and to find their closest NYC Health + Hospital.

—Jonathan Custodio

Mental Health Bill

Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez, who represents Norwood, is proposing students look after their mental health more by introducing a bill that would allocate mental and

behavior days for students during the school year. “We have seen how some students can act out because of the balance of school, home life, and maybe bullying within the school. This is just to give them that time that is needed,” Fernandez told the Norwood News. Fernandez introduced the bill on Aug. 23. The change would involve the state Department of Education, which would carve out the days.

—Sha-Nia Alston

Student Loan Rules

New student loan regulations require companies that service student loans held by New Yorkers to meet

new standards addressing problems that have troubled the student loan servicing industry. The state Department of Financial Services issued the final regulation following a 60-day comment period. Student loan servicers are now required to provide clear and complete information concerning fees, payments due and terms and conditions of loans, apply payments in borrowers' best interest, rather than in ways that maximize servicer fees, inform borrowers of income-based repayment and loan forgiveness options, and maintain and provide to consumers a detailed history of their account.

—David Cruz



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Councilman Fernando Cabrera Looks to Unseat AOC

By DAVID CRUZ

From serving the 14th Council District to running in the 14th Congressional District.

Councilman Fernando Cabrera, whose council district covers Kingsbridge Heights, announced he's running for the 14th Congressional District, becoming the 11th candidate to enter the race against Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC), a race that's widely comprised of Republican challengers.

Speaking to the *Norwood News*, Cabrera, who's known for his moderate conservative stances that have earned him scorn over the years, blasted Ocasio-Cortez for her neo-progressive views hostile towards big corporations.

"My first concern was the Amazon deal," said Cabrera, referring to the online giant's backpedaling of its plan to build its headquarters in Long Island City. "AOC raised the flag to have Amazon out of New York City," says Cabrera, who represents the 14th Council District. "That affected all of us."

Amazon had negotiated a deal with Governor Andrew Cuomo and Mayor Bill de Blasio that would have created an estimated 25,000 jobs in Long Island City, Queens in exchange for \$3 billion in tax incentives. Ocasio-Cortez, among many of the city's lawmakers and a chorus of progressive activists, denounced the agreement.

"I cannot go to sleep and cannot, in good conscience, just stand by and allow AOC to continue this rhetoric of socialism," explains Cabrera, who proudly identifies as a centrist democrat and believes in the balanced intersection of business and government. "Government does not do nearly a good job as the business community does. The reason why we give good social services, and I have witnessed that, part of that, through City Council, is because of the business community. It is because of the free enterprise system that we have set up."

Cabrera also blasted Ocasio-Cortez's record, saying she has not passed one bill. A review of her legislative record shows six of her co-sponsored bills have become law. "She's never going to pass a bill because she has been so contentious with the rest of the elected officials in New York State, let alone the rest of the nation," he says.

When asked what ties he had to the Queens area of the congressional dis-



Photo courtesy John McCarten/NYC Council
COUNCILMAN FERNANDO CABRERA
(pictured) has served as Councilman for
the 14th Council District since 2009.

trict, Cabrera says his team has a grassroots operation.

Ocasio-Cortez's popularity and national recognition have boosted her political fortunes, amassing a near \$2 million campaign war chest (\$1.4 million of which she has on hand) from donors from around the country. She'll likely receive the endorsement of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), as she did in her victory over her predecessor, Joe Crowley.

Jose Velazquez is the other Democratic opponent who already entered the fray to unseat Ocasio-Cortez.

Cabrera, meantime, is not worried over raising campaign funds. "I have no worries about that in light of the fact that there's literally millions and millions of people that want her out," says Cabrera.

The news came as a surprise to some political insiders in the Bronx who told the *Norwood News* his congressional run is believed to be a ploy to boost his familiarity to a conservative base for 2021 when he runs for Bronx Borough President.

Cabrera told the *Norwood News* he has no plans on running for BP. "No. Absolutely not," he says. "Right now, that's not even in my radar at all."

Ocasio-Cortez didn't respond to direct reports of Cabrera's announcement, though her campaign did email a fundraising plea that read, "Ever since we defeated Joe Crowley, corporate Democrats have been waiting for their chance to strike back. Our opponent doesn't play by the same rulebook we do." The email did not explicitly mention Cabrera's name.



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Grand Concourse Building Doubles as Shooting Gallery, Say Tenants

By MICHAEL TURAY

The destination for those doing drugs in the Kingsbridge Heights area has been "The Tunnel," a notorious underpass running parallel to the entrance for the Kingsbridge Road B/D subway station. Located in between Creston Avenue and the Grand Concourse near Valentine Avenue, the underpass has become a drug domain for opioid users who camp out in the space. Food scraps, empty bottles, plastic bags, and other types of trash fill the walkway frequently. To make matters worse, drug use is also spreading to the inside of nearby apartment buildings.

Marisa Estrella, a resident at 2720 Grand Concourse, located a few blocks east from the tunnel by the corner of East 196th Street, told the *Norwood News* that its deplorable conditions are coming from people who aren't tenants.

"Right now the problem is the people who are not living in the building. They're putting the injections [drugs] in the hallway, everywhere. It's very scary because sometimes they follow you inside, then they [threaten] to stab you with a needle," said Estrella.

The drug use stands among the other grievances impacting tenants, who've also endured frequent elevator issues, a string of burglaries, broken security cameras, inadequate



Photo by Michael Turay

THIS BUILDING AT 2720 Grand Concourse (pictured) at the corner of East 196th Street in Kingsbridge Heights has become a place for opioid users, adding to a list of issues the building has accumulated over the years.

lighting in the hallways, and sex acts in the stairwells.

"I told [the landlord] that they're having sex in the hallway and he told me, 'Oh that's nice. When we put the camera in there I can call you and I can enjoy watching them have sex,' Estrella recalled.

"We have like 72 seniors and disabled people who live in the building. The elevators are almost always broken down so sometimes they have to stop going to their appointments because the elevator is not working," said Estrella.

Those complaints were filed with the city Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) agency, which monitors quality of life conditions.

The 112-unit building has had 10 complaints filed with the city Department of Buildings (DOB) since the new year. DOB issued a violation to building management after they found three additional apartments without authorization from the Environmental Control Board (ECB). The violation, a class 1, is classified as immediately hazard-

ous and is served to properties that fail to comply with the New York City Construction Codes and/or Zoning Resolution. Sovereign Servicing System LLC, the building management company for the property, was not available to comment following a phone call.

The shoddy building conditions have the tenants assembling to look out for one another. Several group chats have been established and they also accompany each other in a buddy system while making trips to the laundromat in the basement. "They've been neglecting this building for the last couple years, outsiders come and shoot up in our building. Needles and heroin bags were [found] on the roof," said a 41-year tenant who only went by Marisol.

The use of drugs in areas like The Tunnel led to an increase in overdoses, according to the Bedford Mosholu Community Association, reading stats it received from the local 52nd Precinct. The precinct, which serves Bedford Park, Fordham, Kingsbridge, and Norwood told

residents at its last precinct council meeting that 72 overdoses have occurred this year, resulting in 13 fatal overdoses, adding to the troubling Bronx opioid crisis.

Help could soon be on the way. A city Department of Transportation (DOT) spokesperson confirmed, "In coordination with our sister agencies, we are researching potential enhancements to the Kingsbridge Road underpass walkway that will help limit access for unauthorized activities."

Ischia Bravo, district manager of Community Board 7 told members during its Executive Committee gathering on Oct. 17 that she met with DOT officials in an October meeting. "One of the things we've asked them to explore is something similar that was done to 167th Street underpass, which was [to] close the wider side and leave access to the smaller side for pedestrians. This would be a temporary closure up to a year, two years," said Bravo.

Other suggestions include closing the tunnel for good and increasing cleaning efforts.

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MTA Announces Final Redesign of Bronx Bus Routes

By JOSÉ A. GIRALT

Senior leadership from the MTA and Bronx elected officials announced today that final plans have been approved for a redesign of bus routes in the Bronx. Officially known as the Bronx Bus Network Plan, it is the most significant change in bus transportation in decades.

Although the 323-page report, titled "The Bronx Bus Network Redesign" includes the words "Final Plan" on the cover, transit officials are encouraging continued feedback from community boards, elected officials, and commuters.

The MTA estimates that 490,000 Bronxites ride the 57 bus routes in the borough every day and every route will be affected in some way.

During a press conference announcing the final plans, MTA President Andy Byford reminded everyone that he has been personally involved in the changes about to go into effect in the Bronx. "I do remember going up to Co-Op City and speaking to around a thousand people about why we're doing this, the redesign, and why it's important," Byford said.

Bronx Borough President Ruben



Photo by José A. Giralt

MTA PRESIDENT ANDY Byford (at mic) is joined by local Bronx government officials at a press conference in Lou Gehrig Plaza on Oct. 22 announcing the Bronx Bus Network Redesign.

Diaz, Jr. echoed earlier words from Byford in describing the importance of these changes. "When you look at all the bus routes, in fact so many of them have been around for so long, since the days of trolleys 50 or 100 years ago. Well the Bronx has changed considerably in the last 10 years alone."

All the elected officials present praised the MTA administration for listening to the concerns of their districts. From State Senator Jamaal

T. Bailey to Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez to Councilman Mark Gjonaj, all expressed gratitude for the MTA's willingness to listen to their constituents' concerns. "In Co-Op City we saw something, we said something, you [the MTA] did something. Doing something is the most important part of what this is," said Bailey.

One change impacting the north Bronx is the proposal for a new cross-town bus, the Bx25, that will run be-

tween Bedford Park and Co-op City along Allerton Avenue.

The MTA also hopes to speed up the travel time of buses by eliminating 400 bus stops in the borough. The agency has concluded that one of the reasons for congested bus routes is the relatively close spacing between stops—on average 882 feet, the equivalent of over three city blocks. By extending the spacing to an average of 1,092 feet, the MTA hopes to improve the speed of buses between stops.

Danny Pearlstein, policy and communications director for Riders Alliance, applauds the change in bus stop spacing but believes that the governor and MTA can do more for the Bronx. "The state needs to invest much more in the 650,000 Bronxites who depend on buses to get to work, school, and other appointments," Pearlstein said in a written response to today's announcement.

Pearlstein is hoping that the governor will continue to listen to riders' concerns for even more improvements. "Riders need the governor's strong leadership to make major improvements to Bronx buses now," Pearlstein said.



Ailey Arts in Education in NSCC

Monday, January 6 for Members
Wednesday, January 8 for Non-Members
Classes are 1x Weeks for 14 Weeks
Members: \$176; Non-Members: \$256



Music

Monday, January 6 for Members
Wednesday, January 8 for Non-Members
Classes are 1x Week for 14 Weeks
Members: \$300; Non-Members: \$350

New Settlement Community Center Register For Fall Programs

1501 Jerome Ave. (Corner of W 172nd St.) Bronx NY 10452
718.758.5901 | www.NewSettlementCommunityCenter.org

Visit our Website for Schedules & Pricing



Mixed Martial Arts

Tuesday, November 5 for Members
Thursday, November 7 for Non-Members
Classes are 1x or 2x Week for 8 Weeks
Pricing starting at \$65 for Members



Group Swim

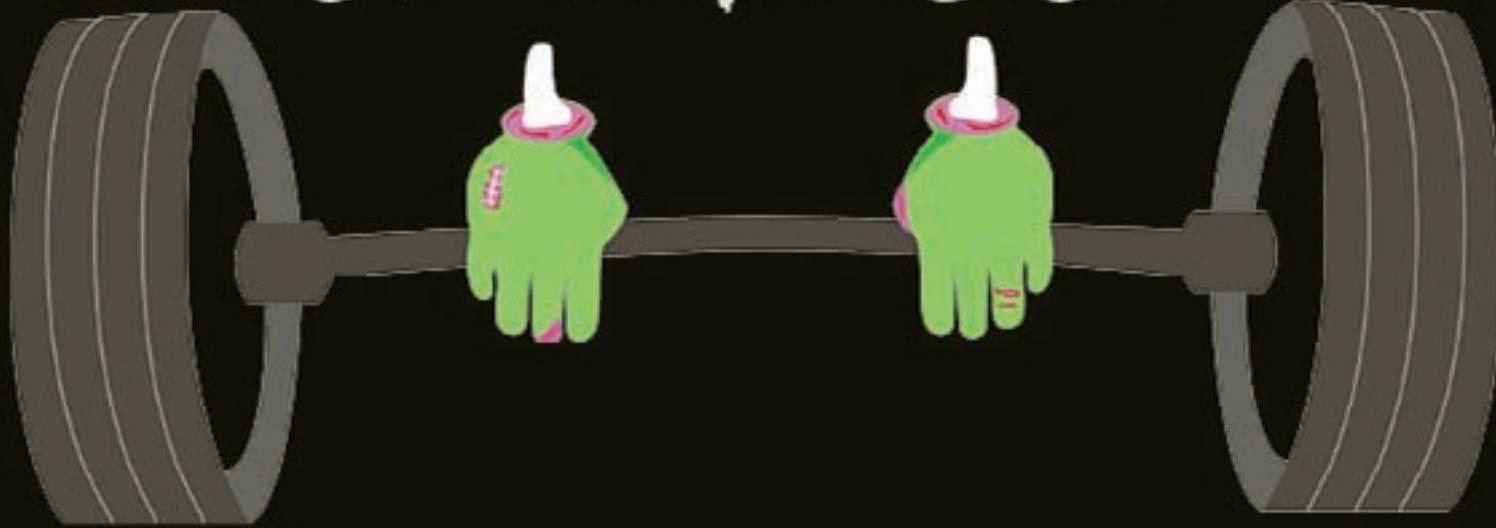
Tuesday, November 5 for Members
Thursday, November 7 for Non-Members
Classes are 1x Week for 8 Weeks
Members: \$80; Non-Members: \$120



Youth Technology

Tuesday, November 5 for Members
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Classes are 1x Week for 8 Weeks
Members: \$300; Non-Members: \$350

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FALL FESTIVAL

The Jerome Gun Hill Business Improvement District held its annual Fall Festival on Oct. 12, a daylong event loaded with music, food, and vendors selling their wares. Sponsors for the festival were Montefiore Health System, HealthFirst, Agape Transportation, Paradise Pawn Brokers, MetroPlus, Con Edison, Oscar Health Plan, Ridgewood Savings Bank, and Bronx Design Group. Check out these photos by Miriam Quinones.



MEMBERS OF THE NYPD Explorers club lend a hand during the Jerome Gun Hill Business Improvement District Fall Festival.



THIS SINGER FROM Alive N Kickin belts out some tunes at the Jerome Gun Hill Business Improvement District Fall Festival.



MUSIC WITH A Message performed at the Jerome Gun Hill Business Improvement District's Fall Festival with a tribute to the Queen of Soul, the late Aretha Franklin.



GLORIA BENT, A registered dietitian for North Central Bronx Hospital, gives away thirst-quenching water with a dash of cucumber during the annual Jerome Gun Hill Business Improvement District Fall Festival.



ELIZABETH QUARANTA, PRESIDENT of the Friends of Moshulu Parkland (r) accepts her Community Service award she received from Jennifer Tausig, executive director of the Jerome Gun Hill Business Improvement District (l) during its annual Fall Festival.



THIS MOM HELPS her daughter show off some paint skills at the pumpkin painting station at the Jerome Gun Hill Business Improvement District Fall Festival.



THESE GRILL MEN pose for a shot during the annual Jerome Gun Hill Business Improvement District's Fall Festival celebration.

NCBH TALENT SHOW

Recognizing Breast Cancer Awareness Month, North Central Bronx Hospital hosted the first ever Team Rising Hope Making Strides Talent Show on Oct. 11 at the Norwood hospital. Singers, models, and dancers showed off their skills for a good cause. Photos by Miriam Quinones.



(R-L) RESIDENT SHANEQUA CHARLES, Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez, and Charles' daughter Miracle smile for the camera.



THIS QUARTET OF dancers shows off its skills at the talent show.



THIS PARTICIPANT STRIKES a pose as she walks down the runway.



THIS BAND SINGER belts out some tunes at the talent show.



THESE DANCERS FLY mid-air, one of their many dance skills on display at the talent show.



THIS MODEL CLAD in an evening dress walks confidently down the aisle.



BRONX
CONNECTIONS



Part 1 of 5
**FACES OF GUN
VIOLENCE**

The Norwood News, in partnership with WFUV radio and BronxNet Television, presents a five-part series on the impact gun violence has had on Bronx neighborhoods and the people who live in them.

When Gun Violence Becomes Personal

By NATALIE MIGLIORE of



Shootings across the Bronx have increased so far this year, with 156 reported cases where a gun went off versus 148 shootings at the same time last year, according to NYPD statistics. The alarm on gun violence has sounded, and advocates have heard it, working toward the common goal of reducing gun violence. Some have never met, yet their lives have been changed by the ring of bullets and the damage it's wrought upon their families.

The message is clear from these advocates: Enough.

Lorraine Padilla

Lorraine Padilla, a Bronx activist, works to make a safer community, especially for children. Padilla has been no stranger to gun violence, recalling family, friends, and neighborhood kids who've died from it.

Her push for state legislation came in 2013 when her three-year-old grandson was shot in front of Vidalia Park in West Farms. The bullet grazed his stomach, piercing his elbow. He survived, but six years later the family still feels the trauma.

"If you shoot that gun and someone under 12 gets hurt or maimed, you should be punished," said Padilla, who has been advocating for "Luisito's Law" which would sentence those found to have shot a child under age 10 from five to 25 years in prison. "You need to go to prison. And it'll send a message to all these other knuckleheads out there just shooting a gun because they think it's cute."

The allure of guns has surrounded Padilla, who was born in Spanish Harlem and joined a gang at the age of 10. By age 13, she held a gun for the first time, a small-size Derringer that belonged to her mother's friend.

Her life has since veered away from gang culture. In 1992, she started working as a social worker, becoming a kind of calling. "There was no other place for me to go but becoming a so-



Image stills courtesy BronxNet

(CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT) Lorraine Padilla, Nathalie Arzu, and Darnell Macon are among those impacted by gun violence.

cial worker because it's all about helping the fellow man, woman."

Nathalie Arzu

Nathalie Arzu's brother, Jose Webster, was shot and killed on Sept. 15, 2011, 10 days after his 16th birthday, and four blocks away from their Morris Park home. Arzu said her brother was in the wrong place at the wrong time when he was walking home after a date with his girlfriend.

Two men shot Jose 15 times.

Arzu was attending college when her 10-year-old brother called with the news. "When he was taken away, it felt like I took a hit because as the older sister it's like you had one job," Arzu said. "And I couldn't do that job, because someone decided to take him away from me."

Arzu withdrew from college and came home to care for her family, falling into a deep, months-long depression until she finally had enough.

Months after her brother died, she was walking outside one day after someone had just gotten shot.

"And I remember someone vividly saying, 'This is the community we live in. This is just what it is.' And that's the moment I realized no it's not. We shouldn't have to accept this as our norm, we shouldn't have to accept this as what we have to deal with," Arzu, now 27, said.

Arzu returned to school and worked toward becoming a community activist. She works as a domestic violence coordinator addressing how gun violence affects the home. Through Everytown Against Gun Violence and Mothers Demand Action, Arzu works with people who have been directly affected by gun violence. "I don't want anyone else in my shoes," Arzu, who actively works toward making the community safer, said. "I don't want people to wait until they're personally impacted to say this is wrong, we should do something, we

should change something. So I advocate and I share my story."

Darnell Macon

Darnell Macon spent 16 years behind bars for alleged gun fights before he took to the Bronx streets to relate to kids who could possibly face the same fate he did.

Macon grew up in Baychester and was familiar with the streets. From a young age, he banded together with the neighborhood boys and they became like family to him.

Macon was 15 the first time he held a gun. It was the first time he shot one as well. "I shot it in the air and I couldn't believe the feeling," Macon said. "From there I just took off with it."

It was a year later when he said he got his own gun.

Macon was 23 years old when he was sentenced to 18 years at a prison in upstate New York. He was accused in two cases that involved shootings, but maintains innocence on one. "When I first got incarcerated, I couldn't believe it. I thought this couldn't happen to me," he said.

Macon had a three-year-old son at the time he was sent to an upstate New York prison and he was emotionally wrought over the news of not being able to see his son grow up. He recalled sitting in the visiting room watching a girl with her father, who couldn't read a book to her. "He didn't know how to read," Macon said. "When I saw that, I was like I cannot be put in that position when my son asks me to read a book or something to him. So, that's when I really started educating myself and turning everything around."

Macon eventually started learning the electrical trade, briefly working in the industry after his release. Now he works with Court Innovation's Save Our Streets as an outreach worker, something he finds more meaningful. "I love it because it's redemption for me. I shed blood in these streets, I poisoned peoples' family from selling drugs and hurt people," Macon said. "I owe these streets my time and my dedication and I owe the youth that because I see me in a lot of them."



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HEALTH CHECK

Protect Yourself and Your Loved Ones During Flu Season

By CAROLINE HELLER

Influenza (Flu) season is upon us once again, which means it's time to get your annual flu vaccine as soon as possible. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone ages six months and older (with rare exceptions) get a flu vaccine.

It takes two weeks after the vaccination for antibodies to develop in the body and provide protection against flu making early fall the best time. Getting vaccinated later, however, can still be beneficial and vaccinations will continue to be offered throughout the flu season, even into January or later.

Some people are undecided about getting a flu shot. For those who are still deciding what to do, here are a few answers to the most common myths about the flu.

Myth: The flu is just a bad cold.

The flu is a virus that may cause symptoms that are similar to a cold, like coughing, sore throat, sneezing and a runny nose. However, the flu is more severe than the common cold and symptoms often come on suddenly and someone with the flu is contagious for up to seven days. Every year more 2,000 New Yorkers die from their body's immune response to the flu virus. Many also die from pneumonia, which is a serious respiratory complication that can develop when infected with the flu virus. In 2016, the flu and pneumonia together were the fourth leading cause of death in the Bronx.

Myth: I do not have insurance and I cannot afford the flu shot.

death.

Myth: I'm healthy. I can handle the flu if I get it.

The flu shot protects you and the people around you. Some people are at higher risk for complications from the flu. They can have symptoms that are more severe and can lead to hospitalization, and the period where they catch the flu may last even longer. Some groups at higher risk for the flu include, but are not limited to:

- Children under the age of 5
- Adults 65 and older
- Pregnant women
- Health care workers
- People living in nursing homes or other care facilities
- People with weakened immune systems, from illness or medication
- People with chronic conditions (including diabetes, HIV/AIDS, asthma, cancer, chronic lung disease, kidney or liver disorders, or heart disease/stroke)

Myth: I do not have insurance and I cannot afford the flu shot.

There are many free and low-cost options available for the flu vaccine. Most insurance plans including Medicaid and Medicare pay for the vaccine. Some workplaces offer the flu vaccine at no cost. You can also visit your nearest pharmacy or your doctor's office. Below are local community spots that offer free or low-cost flu vaccines:

Oct. 26: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Saint Jerome Church at 230 Alexander Ave.

Nov. 3: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Mount Carmel at 627 E. 187th St.

Nov. 14: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Mexican Coalition at 389 E. 150th St.

Keep yourself, your family and your community healthy – get a flu shot!

Caroline Heller is a data analyst with Montefiore Health System's Office of Community and Population Health.


Teens for Food Justice

Fresh Food Box



Pickup Every Thursday 4 - 6 pm at DeWitt Clinton HS (100 W Mosholu Pkwy South, Bronx).

Sign up at <https://buff.ly/2YleX2h>

Teens for Food Justice's Fresh Food Box Program enables you to purchase fresh, healthy produce that was grown by students using SNAP/EBT, all major credit/debit cards, and cash.

Each Fresh Food Box contains enough produce for two people for an entire week and will always include a unique mix of seasonal fruits and vegetables for \$14.

Contact: Foodbox@teensforfoodjustice.org



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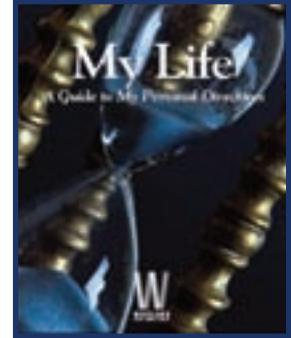
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The Bronx's best kept secret, St. Patrick's Home was recently honored to be on Newsweek's 2020 list of Best Nursing Homes. The Home also has achieved a five-star rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Every year, Medicare rates nursing homes according to their quality measures, health inspections, and staffing to determine the star rating.

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ting, assures that all residents of all denominations, are treated with love, respect and dignity in order to make their later years joyous, safe, and wholesome. Always being reminded, "The Difference is Love."

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NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES



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Free Dance Workshop

The Ailey Arts in Education is hosting a series of free dance workshops at New Settlement Community Center, 1501 Jerome Ave. for caregivers and people diagnosed with dementia on Oct. 29 and Nov. 12 from 2 to 3 p.m. A free dance workshop for caregivers is scheduled for Nov. 5 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the New Settlement Community Center. To register, call the CaringKids' 24-hour helpline at (646) 744-2900.

Free Flu Shots

Free flu shots will be available at Amalgamated Housing, Vladeck Hall, 74 Van Cortlandt Park S., on Oct. 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call the office of Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz at (718) 796-5345 or email DinowitzJ@nyassembly.gov.

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: 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 informa-

tion, contact hesteban@pots-bronx.org and (718) 220-4892 ext. 135.

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 include from short stories, dramas, fiction, horror, kids' books, and more. For more information, call (718) 584-0515.

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.

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.

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.

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Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

EDITOR'S PICK

Halloween at the Oval

Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center presents the following free holiday events (info: (718) 543-8672 ext. 307):

Haunted House - Oct. 25, 7 to 9 p.m., for ages 12+ to travel through rooms and be spooked by ghosts, zombies, clowns and monsters.

Toddler Halloween - Oct. 28, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., for ages to 5. Includes pumpkin hunt, songs, carnival games and arts & crafts.

Pumpkin Party - Oct. 31, 4 to 6 p.m., for ages to 11. Includes pumpkin basket giveaways, carnival games, arts & crafts, holiday trick or treat, and more.

Onstage

Lehman College's Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **La Sonora Ponceña**, band performing salsa, Nov. 2 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$45 to \$65; \$100/VIP. VIP fee includes preconcert wine and hors d'oeuvres reception at 6:30 p.m. and best seats. For more information and tickets, call (718) 960-8833.

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. Included is free **Halloween Event**, Oct. 26 at 8 p.m., to come in drag (open mic, karaoke, costume contest and dance party). For more information and a detailed schedule including cost, call (718) 918-2110.

Events

Williamsbridge Oval presents **Learn to Ride: Kids**, Oct. 26 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., a free on-bike class for first-time riders taught by

experienced instructors. Kids must bring their own bike and helmet and must be accompanied by legal guardian. Reserve in advance. For more information and to RSVP, call (212) 870-2080.

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 presents the following tours at Woodlawn Cemetery: **Illuminated Mausoleums Moonlight Tour** - Oct. 25, 26 and 27 from 7:30 to 11 p.m.; **Greats of Jazz and Vaudeville: A Victrola Trolley Tour** - Nov. 2 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. (3-hour tour visiting gravesites of famous performers including George M. Cohan, Duke Ellington, Irving Berlin, and more); and **Grave Trippers Trolley Tour** - Nov. 3 at 1 p.m. For more information, visit www.WoodlawnTours.org.

The free **Tour de Bronx** will be held Oct. 27 with bicyclists having the option of a 25- or 40-mile course throughout neighborhoods in the Bronx culminating at the NY Botanical Garden for refreshments and a music festival.



File photo by Miriam Quinones

NORWOOD'S WILLIAMSBRIDGE OVAL Recreation Center (pictured) is in the Halloween spirit with several scheduled events leading up to and including the big day. A full listing can be found in our Editor's Pick.



File photo by David Greene

THOUSANDS ARE EXPECTED to bike the borough for the annual **Tour de Bronx** on Oct. 27 (see Events section for details).

For more information and to register, visit www.tourdebronx.com.

St. James Recreation Center, 2530 Jerome Ave., holds **Free Friday Spin Classes**, Oct. 25 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.

NY Botanical Garden presents **Meet Creepy Creatures**, Oct. 26 and 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: Preserving Past and Future Fossils**, to explore ways animals and plants have evolved from prehistoric times to the present and how they are affected by changing environments and adaption to climate change, using clay, Oct. 26 and 27; in the WH House 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 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.

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 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.

Library Events

Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents for children: **Dress Up Parade**: (ages 3 to 12), Oct. 29 at 4 p.m., to join parade dressed as your favorite character; and **STEM Fridays at 4 p.m.**: (ages 5 to 12), Nov. 1 (Hour of Code); and Nov. 8 (Maker Space Crafting). Teens/young adults can enjoy: **film**: Oct. 26 at 3 p.m. Adults can attend **films**: "Get Out," Oct. 26 at 2:30 p.m.; "Beetlejuice," Oct. 28, "Happy Death Day," Oct. 29, "Tyler Perry's Boot," Oct. 30, and "Happy Death Day 2U," Oct. 31, all at 2 p.m.; and "Six Degrees of Separation," Nov. 2 at 2:30 p.m.; and **Computer Basics**: Oct. 30 at 4:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

Moshulu Library, 285 E. 205th St., offers for kids: **Crafty Fridays at 3 p.m.**: (ages 5 to 12): crafts, Oct. 25 and Nov. 1; **Halloween Party**: (ages 5 to 12), Oct. 31 at 5:30 p.m. (music, games, activities); **Toddler Storytime at 11 a.m.**: (ages 18 to 36 months): stories, songs, fingerplays and crafts, Oct. 28 and 31; and **STEM: Kids Science**: (ages 5 to 12): Oct. 29 (Light) at 3 p.m. All ages can enjoy: **film**: "Pokémon Detective Pikachu," Oct. 26 at 1:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

Jerome Park Library, 118 Eames Pl. (near Kingsbridge Road), offers for ages 5 to 12: **Science Friday**: Nov. 1 at 2:45 p.m., to make experiments; **film**: "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," Nov. 2 at 2 p.m.; and **Thankful Celebration**: Arts & crafts, short Thanksgiving movie, snacks, Nov. 5 at 1 p.m. Adults can attend **Computer Basics at noon**: Oct. 31 and Nov. 7. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

Public Service Announcement

Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, Nov. 3 at 2 a.m. Turn clocks back one hour.

NOTE: Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org, and should be received by Oct. 28 for the next publication date of Nov. 7.

Police-Involved Shooting in the 5-2

(continued from page 1)

dination (NCO) program, which places officers in sectors as a means of improving police relations—at the corner of East 211th Street and Bainbridge Avenue near Woodlawn Cemetery.

Present was their sergeant, supervisor for the precinct's NCO program. After using their NYPD-issued smartphones to run Feliz's records, the officers learned the driver had three open warrants for minor infractions, giving officers reason to arrest him. But Feliz resisted, according to NYPD Chief of Police Terence Monahan at a news conference three hours following the shooting, adding that a struggle ensued.

"During the struggle, the man shifted the car into drive, moving the car forward and backwards, with the sergeant still inside the vehicle. When the car was put in reverse, the officer on the driver's side had to release his grip on the male and jump out of the way to avoid getting struck by the car. The driver's door then quickly closed. This violent struggle between [Feliz] and the officers lasted approximately one and a half minutes before the shot was fired. At this time the sergeant fired one round from his service weapon striking the male in the chest. The officers then began to render aid," said Monahan, flanked by 52nd Precinct Commanding Officer Thomas Alps, Chief of Patrol Rodney Harrison at the news conference three blocks from where the shooting occurred.

The incident was captured on video by several bystanders that mostly corroborates what Monahan said during the news conference. One of the officers is seen dragging Feliz out of the car. Another video taken by Bryant Lopez, a Norwood resident, shows a bloodied Feliz seen on the ground, his pants pulled down after he was dragged out of his car, as the sergeant presses down on his chest in hopes of resuscitating him.

Feliz was not armed. He was taken to St. Barnabas Hospital where he died. Monahan said police recovered what they considered to be a "substantial amount" of what appeared to be cocaine, heroin and Ecstasy. Monahan did not elaborate over how many drugs were found.

Though video capturing the shooting largely corroborates Monahan's account, Vilensky said the shooting could have been entirely avoided.

"If you look at the video that's out there, you will see the car stops after going in reverse. The police officer that's on the left-hand side of the vehicle runs back to the driver's side window. At that point the car is stopped and there is at least two to three seconds from the car being stopped until the shot is fired by

the sergeant who is on the right side of the vehicle, actually in the vehicle at the time," said Vilensky. "So if the theory from the Police Department is that this officer had to shoot in order to protect the life of the police officer who was outside, the police officer who was outside was already back to the driver's side window, and in no apparent harm, and the car was at a standstill. So why did that officer shoot in those conditions? To us it seems to be [a] poor shooting, an unjustifiable shooting."

Vilkensky—who is filing motions to preserve the evidence, which includes the bullet casing, witness statements, and body cameras—also wants the Bronx District Attorney or New York State Attorney General to launch an independent investigation.

Current state laws give officers discretion to use their service weapon to fire at a suspect when a vehicle poses "an imminent threat of deadly physical force," as referenced in the NYPD's annual force report. Vilenksy, however, argued the vehicle was not used as a weapon. "There's no police officer in front of the car; there's no police officer in the back of a car. So where is it [used] as a weapon?" said Vilensky.

The chaotic scene was the talk of Norwood, where crowds had formed along the yellow tape a block and a half from where the shooting occurred. Shortly after the shooting, the precinct's Community Affairs Unit alerted stakeholders to the shooting, offering preliminary information.

Several blocks from Bainbridge Avenue, Lopez, the resident who took the video, was hanging out with his friend Jelani F. on Tryon Avenue as they discussed the shooting, believing that it had been a knee-jerk reaction.

"That was senseless," said Jelani. "Being put in that position where guns are drawn and people pressing you, 'get out the car, get out the car, get out the car'"

Major crime within the Five-Two has risen this year compared to the same time last year at 10 percent, with murder, rape, robbery, felony assault, and grand larcenies up.

This had been the third police-involved shooting in the Bronx in less than a month. On Sept. 29, Det. Brian Mulkeen was killed in a case of friendly fire as they attempted to arrest a suspect at Edenwald Houses. The latest happened on Oct. 16, when police shot a suspect at the 225th Street Station in Wakefield.

Meantime, the sergeant remains on active duty as the NYPD's Force Investigation Division investigates.

Additional reporting by Michael Turay.

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