



NORWOOD NEWS

Vol 33, No 14 • PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION • OCTOBER 22-NOVEMBER 4, 2020

TENANTS GO WITHOUT GAS FOR ALMOST ONE YEAR



Photo by JOSÉ A. GIRALT

TENANTS AT 2558 Grand Concourse have taken Stellar Management to court because they have had no gas for almost a year. They have also complained about infestation and unfinished maintenance.

By JOSÉ A. GIRALT

Last November, residents living at 2558 Grand Concourse were unable to cook a Thanksgiving dinner on their stoves because the gas service was cut off by Con Edison. Stellar Management,

the company that manages the property, provided the Fordham Manor tenants with portable hot plates, but it was an unsatisfactory solution for some.

Daneiry Gonzalez is one of the affected tenants. "How am

I supposed to cook a Thanksgiving dinner on a hot plate with two coils [burners]?" she said, when asked how she coped with the situation last year.

Speaking in Spanish to the *Norwood News*, Gonzalez ex-

pressed her frustration with the slow pace at which Stellar Management was addressing the gas service restoration, along with other unresolved issues related to infestation and maintenance. She shared
(continued on page 19)



2020 Election
Local Lens:
Health | pg 2



New Elevator at Bedford Park Blvd Subway | pg 6



Elections 2021:
Abigail Martin
Profile | pg 12

RASKIN & KREMIN, LLP

Over 75 Years Of Combined Personal Injury Law Experience • Over \$100 Million Dollars Recovered for Our Clients

www.raskrem.com

160 Broadway (4th Fl.) New York, NY
Bronx Office - by appointment only

2 3 4 5 A C J Z TO FULTON STREET

718-878-4858
212-587-3434

N R W TO CORTLANDT STREET

NORWOOD NEWS

Vol. 33, No. 14

Norwood News is published bi-weekly on Thursdays by Moshulu Preservation Corporation (MPC)
3400 Reservoir Oval East
Bronx, New York 10467
Phone: 718 324 4998
Fax: 718 324 2917
E-mail: norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org
Web: www.norwoodnews.org

Publisher
Moshulu Preservation Corporation
Executive Director of MPC
Jennifer Tausig
Interim Editor-In-Chief, Norwood News
Sile Moloney
smoloney@norwoodnews.org

Interns
Auréole Ribes, Isaiah Mathewson
Regular Contributors
David Greene, José A. Giralt,
Miriam Quinones, Adi Talwar
Contributors
Nora Thomas, Eliot Schiaparelli,
Augustina Kwafo-Baidoo

For Display Advertising
Call Janet Geller at
(646) 581-0399

Support Your Community Newspaper!

The Norwood News is a not-for-profit publication and relies upon the support of its advertisers and readers to produce a quality community newspaper. To support your paper, become a member and receive a subscription for one year.

Simply mail check or money order for \$40 to: Norwood News, 3400 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467.

Norwood News is not responsible for typographical errors. Opinions expressed in signed letters and bylined columns represent the sole opinion of the author and are not necessarily those of Moshulu Preservation Corporation or Montefiore Medical Center. Editorials represent the views of the editor only. The newspaper reserves the right to limit or refuse advertising it deems objectionable. Advertisements appearing in this paper cannot be used without the written permission of the Norwood News. Letters to the editor are subject to condensation and editing. Writers should include their affiliation or special interest if any. Anonymous letters are not published but your name can be withheld upon request.

Moshulu Preservation Corporation is a non-profit support corporation of Montefiore Medical Center.



2020 Election Local Lens: Health

By ELIOT SCHIAPARELLI

Norwood News, in partnership with WFUV radio and BronxNet Television, presents a five-part series on national issues affecting voters in the lead up to the 2020 presidential election, seen through the local lens of Bronx neighborhood communities. Part 3 looks at health.

Health and healthcare were always going to be pivotal to the 2020 presidential election, even before the COVID-19 pandemic catapulted them to the top of the political agenda. According to a recent Pew research poll, 68 percent of voters said healthcare was a "very important" issue to them, second only to the economy.

People are rightfully concerned. In a September 2018 University of Washington study, out of 195 countries surveyed from 1990 to 2016, the United States ranked 27th in the world for healthcare.

Since 2009, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's county health ranking report has ranked the Bronx as the unhealthiest county in the state. The pre-pandemic healthcare situation in the Bronx has, for years, been tied to high rates of diabetes, asthma, hypertension and other illnesses.

Then, COVID hit. To date, the State health department has reported 3,394 COVID-19 related fatalities in six months in a borough where, according to Data USA, the median age is 34.4, the pre-pandemic poverty rate was 29.1 percent, and the pre-pandemic, annual, household income was \$38,467.

As a collective, the Bronx had the worst death rate per 100,000 people of all five boroughs. Unsurprisingly, the City health department reported that most deaths occurred in the poorest zip codes, and among communities of color.

Why is healthcare such a contentious issue? One possible answer is cost. U.S. drug prices are nearly four times higher than the combined average price for 11 other similar countries, according to a Sept. 2019 report by the U.S. Congress Ways and Means Committee.

"With one exception, we found that individual drug prices in the U.S. ranged from 70% (Lantus Solostar – a type of insulin) to 4,833% (Dulera – a prescription asthma medication) higher than the combined mean price in the other 11 countries," the report read.

In a heated exchange at the first presidential debate, President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden laid out their differing plans to change the current system of healthcare.

Since he took office, Trump has worked to not only dismantle The Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, but he has not come up with any alternative to it.

Were he to succeed in dismantling it, women, in particular, would be deeply affected given that under Obamacare, at least one form of birth control for women must be covered without cost-sharing. Given Trump's pro-life stance, as well as that of many of his supporters, this is another reason why the



Photo by JEFF REED

COUNCIL MEMBER VANESSA Gibson speaks during a tribute event in honor of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in the Bronx on Sept 21, 2020.

healthcare debate is never settled.

When it comes to costs, Trump says a free market system would help drive down drug prices, an assertion that has been countered by some who say it is government intervention in other countries that often determines the cost of drugs, and not the free market.

"There's nothing symbolic," said Trump. "I'm cutting drug prices. I'm going with favored nations which no president has the courage to do because you're going against big pharma. Drug prices will be coming down 80 or 90 percent."

His theory is that favored nations, which would give the United States and Medicare access to the lowest drug prices, would help lower-income Americans manage their healthcare costs more than Biden's plan of expanding the Affordable Care Act.

In September, the president signed an executive order adopting this favored nation approach, after failing to reach agreement with industry groups. While big pharma called the order in part, "irresponsible and unworkable," policy experts say it's too early to tell.

They predict that while some patients with chronic conditions and high drug costs will benefit, other patients will absorb the cost through higher premiums.

For his part, if elected, Biden wants to not only stick to the health insurance marketplace created by the Obama administration, but also create a public health insurance option for the lowest-income Americans. Responding to criticism of his plan from the right, Biden explained that the public health insurance option he wants to create would not end private insurance.

"It's only for those people who are so poor, they qualify for Medicaid," said Biden. "They can get that free in most states, except governors who want to deny people who are poor, Medicaid.

Anyone who qualifies for Medicaid would automatically be enrolled in the public option. The vast majority of the American people would still not be in the option."

Following the first debate, the president tested positive for COVID-19, and the next day was admitted to Walter Reed military hospital. Upon his release, he thanked his medical team, and said he learned a lot about the virus. "One thing that's for certain - don't let it dominate you!" he said. "Don't be afraid of it. You're going to beat it! We have the best medical equipment. We have the best medicines."

Bronx City Councilwoman Vanessa Gibson, who is running for the borough presidency in 2021, finds the president's messaging insulting, given the disparity in care between his treatment for COVID-19 and that available to her constituents.

"We all know that he has access to the highest level of health experts so no matter what he's affected by, he will be taken care of," said Gibson. "Not my average grandmother who lives in Highbridge, who has no healthcare, that lives in a building with no elevator, who has to walk up the stairs every day, or my mother of three, struggling to survive and take care of her kids, struggling with asthma and diabetes. That's our reality in the Bronx," she said.

Gibson wants to see her constituents get access to primary care. "Many individuals are uninsured. They are uninsured. They have no access to a primary care doctor," she said. "So, what you have are many families that use emergency rooms as their form of primary care, which is not acceptable. We need to have a consistent pattern of sustainable healthcare that reaches all families."

Gibson also worries about undocumented and immigrant families' access to quality care. She said many such residents are fearful of seeking medical attention for fear of getting deported.

Gibson also said most Bronx residents are affected by preventable pre-existing conditions such as asthma, high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity and heart disease, but making matters worse is limited access to healthy food. For every supermarket, there are 29 bodegas in the Bronx.

The councilwoman is working toward addressing this. Recently, she held press conferences advertising health bucks which give people additional money to spend on food when they buy fresh fruits and vegetables.

Meanwhile, throughout the pandemic, maintaining social distancing and encouraging mask wearing has been central to public health messaging by elected officials and health experts.

"Masks matter," said Biden holding up his own mask at a recent town hall event shortly after Trump returned to the White House from Walter Reed. "It saves lives. It prevents the spread of the disease, social distancing." He added

(continued on page 18)



Protect the Ones You Love

You start a family ... and learn what it really means to love. But, have you considered what would happen if you were no longer there to take care of your loved ones?

While nothing can replace you, having life insurance means that if something happened to you, your loved ones would be OK financially.

Protect the ones you love with life insurance.



Hugo A. Puya
Licensed Agent
Senior Benefits Advisor
New York Life Insurance Company (NY, NY)
520 Broad Hollow Road
Melville, New York 11708
1-917-886-5945
hpuya@ft.newyorklife.com



INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE

This week, we asked readers for their thoughts on the Supreme Court justice nomination process.



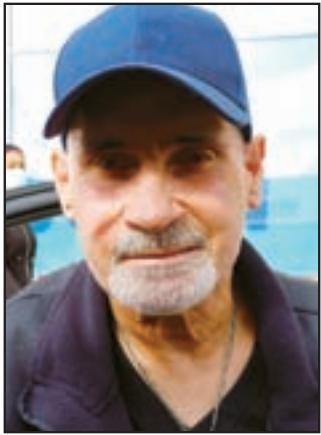
"I believe the Supreme Court should be expanded, especially if we get too many conservatives on the Supreme Court and not enough moderates. I think there needs to be a balance. Even though justices swear to be neutral, I believe people are swayed by their opinions, how they are raised. You have Catholic judges who've had strict Catholic upbringings as being pro-life, and that's a big worry for women that they will repeal Roe vs. Wade. It shouldn't even be happening at this point because of COVID."

Isabel Bardina,
Bedford Park



"My feeling is that (Judge Amy Coney Barrett) is apart of a religious cult, because people don't know what 'People of Paradise' means. They don't understand that she's a handmaiden, and that she gives all respect to her husband, which is very biblical. I think a person on the Supreme Court shouldn't be submissive to the man and her religion, so how can she advocate for other people, especially with LGB, because you know she's not for that. Due to the breakdown of the judicial system, and the quid pro quo you have in parliamentary rules, and the chaos with the rules, I'm very worried about totalitarianism in the future."

Michael Acton,
Norwood



"The Supreme Court is going to become a mess because I heard that if [former Vice President Joe] Biden wins, he's going to put in, like, 15 Supreme Court judges, but why don't they leave it like it is? Let me tell you this - the entire government is about money right now. They sent all the kids to school and what happened? Some kids came out with coronavirus. When they asked Barrett what she thought about abortion, she tried to avoid the question. I do think they should put a limit on the number of judges a president can appoint. It's going to be a big mess."

Wilfredo Fraguada,
Mt. Hope



"I believe that [President Donald] Trump is putting in this woman because of the election, that she might rule in favor of him, and it's really a terrible thing that they're doing to this country. They should wait for the next president to make the appointment - either her or somebody else. I do believe the Supreme Court may have to be expanded. F.D.R. tried to do that when the right-wing Republicans tried to oppose the New Deal, but now it may be needed for a more stable society. If Trump wins, we might have to get the hell out of here. This is the first president who doesn't care about the Constitution. He just wants to be a dictator."

Rafael Martinez-Equin,
Jerome Park



"As far as the nomination? I love it! I'm with it. She's a beautiful person. She has a multi-cultural family. She's American. She's pro-life. I love everything about her. Of course, the left is going to say negative things about her. Of course, the Democrats are going to stack the court but they won't admit it. They'll wait and tell us after the election. I think if she gets in to hear a case on the presidential election, that would be a conflict of interest. It's going to be weird. I kind of agree that she may have to recuse herself. 2020 is a crazy year."

Melvin Pagan,
Fordham



REGEIS CARE CENTER

A five star facility providing excellent care in the Bronx and Westchester areas



Personalized care - Skilled rehabilitation - Professional staff

3200 Baychester Avenue, Bronx, NY 10475 • T: 718-320-3700 • F: 718-671-2554
www.regeiscarecenter.com



FREE *

Transportation For your medical appointment Through your insurance

***Ask your medical insurance for
AGAPE to be your preferred transportation provider**



(718) 585-2222

361 E. Gun Hill Rd. Bronx, NY. 10467
560 Southern Blvd. Bronx, NY 10455
Info@agapetransportation.com
www.Agapetransportation.com



NEWS BRIEFS

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Mino Lora Joins 11th City Council Race

Maria del Camino Lora, who goes by Mino Lora, has joined the 11th City Council race. Born and raised in the Dominican Republic, Lora moved to the U.S. at 19 after receiving an academic scholarship to attend Manhattanville College, where she earned a B.A. in English Literature & Theatre. She said that after graduating, she waited tables at night and worked as a theatre educator during the day. She later earned an M.A. in Peace Studies & Conflict Transformation from The Graduate Institute, and she founded what is now the People's Theatre Project as part of her thesis. At 34, a year after her first child was born, she became a U.S. citizen. She is committed to progressive legislative and budget priorities that reflect the resilience and values of District 11.

Bronx DA Hires 61 Assistants

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark announced the appointment of 61 new assistant district attorneys to her office on Oct. 20. Clark said the diverse group will undergo intensive training consisting of lectures on criminal court practice and professional responsibility, as well as observation of court proceedings, workshops and more. Out of the 61 new assistant DAs, 31 are people of color, and the class is made up of 32 females and 29 males who come from law schools across the country. Since January, the office has lost 68 assistant DAs through attrition (retirement and resignations).

Bedford Moshulu Community Park Clean Up

Bedford Moshulu Community Association organized a park clean-up event on Saturday, Oct. 17. The group met at Webster House, at Moshulu Parkway South and Webster Avenue, and worked their way along the south side of the Parkway from Webster Ave-

New elevator finally installed at Bedford Park Blvd Subway Station

By SÍLE MOLONEY

The grand opening of a long-awaited ADA compliant elevator at Bedford Park Boulevard subway station took place on the Grand Concourse on Thursday, Oct. 15. MTA Construction & Development President, Janno Lieber, launched the opening alongside a group of MTA colleagues, and was also joined by elected officials, Congressman Adriano Espaillat and State Assemblyman José Rivera.

The elevator was quickly seen in use by elderly commuters shortly after its opening. The subway station serves the busy Grand Concourse corridor along the B and D lines.

In addition to the new elevators, MTA crews also refurbished the station and platform areas to make the station fully ADA compliant.

Responding to a question from the *Norwood News* in terms of how high accessibility ranked on the MTA's list of priorities, Lieber said accessibility for commuters featured as one of MTA's top priorities.

The following list includes details of the ongoing and future ADA compliant projects



Photo by SÍLE MOLONEY

(l to r front row) State Assemblyman José Rivera, MTA Construction & Development President, Janno Lieber, and Congressman Adriano Espaillat mark the opening of a new elevator at Bedford Park Blvd subway station on the Grand Concourse in the Bronx on Thursday, Oct. 15, flanked by workers who completed the project and other MTA personnel.

scheduled to take place in the coming months at various Bronx subway stations:

Gun Hill Rd / Dyre (5) is scheduled to reach substantial completion next month (November 2020)

ADA projects - 4 stations in the Bronx have been awarded a contract in the past year: Tremont Ave / Concourse (B, D), 170 St / Jerome (4), 149 St - Grand Concourse / Jerome (4), and 149 St - Grand Concourse /

White Plains Rd (2, 5)

ADA projects at two stations in the Bronx are forecast for the awarding of a contract by the end of 2020: Westchester Sq / Pelham (6) and East 149 St / Pelham (6)

These projects/contracts consist of either elevator installations or other enhancements to the stations to make them more accessible such as ramps, platform alignment or safety improvements to surfaces.

ADA compliant projects listed in the MTA 2020-2024 Capital Plan include the following Bronx stations:

Wakefield-241 St
Kingsbridge Rd
167 St

Burnside Av
3 Av-138 St
Van Cortlandt Park-242 St
Tremont Av
Parkchester
E 149 St
Brook Av
Moshulu Pkwy

due to Bainbridge Avenue.

With a reported \$84 million cut from the City's Parks' department budget, even as large numbers of people continue to use the parks to socialize, and a \$106 million cut from the City's sanitation department budget, trash pick-up and overall park maintenance has been acutely impacted, prompting various community groups to organize regular park clean-up events across the borough.

According to the site, waste360.com, with so many residents working from home and disposing of more trash than usual,

it has caused a trash build up in the outer boroughs, prompting concerns over rodents. At a recent CB7 Parks' meeting, one resident described seeing a rat in Williamsbridge Oval Park playground while children were playing.

NYPD Chief Nilda Hofmann Retiring

The 52nd Precinct Community Council is inviting the community to join in the celebration of retiring NYPD Chief Nilda Hofmann, on Oct. 29, after 30 years of service. Hofmann grew up on 196th Street and Decatur Avenue. She was promoted to Chief of

Community Affairs in January 2018, making her the first Hispanic woman in the NYPD to be promoted to a three-star chief. On June 24, 2020, NYPD Commissioner Dermot Shea assigned Hofmann the role of Chief of Transportation. Chief Jeffrey J. Maddrey was appointed as the new Chief of Community Affairs. Following the recent announcement of the resignation of NYPD Chief of Patrol, Fausto Pichardo, amid an alleged dispute with NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio, Councilman Fernando Cabrera warned against the depletion of upper level Hispanic leadership in the NYPD.

Bailey to Lead Bronx Dems

State Sen. Jamaal T. Bailey is taking up the reins of the Bronx Democratic Party.

Bailey was elected as the new county chairperson of the party at Monroe College on Sept. 30. Accepting the position, he thanked his colleagues in government, said he was excited for his new role, and for the future of the Bronx. "We are a place where people come to, instead of leaving," he said, while also encouraging people to vote in the upcoming presidential election. Bailey replaces Assemblyman Marcos Crespo, in the role.

Van Nest Assembly of God

A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS • A CARING CONGREGATION

WHERE WILL YOU BE ON SUNDAY...AND OTHER WORSHIP DAYS?

WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY!

PRAYER-FILLED, PRAYER GUIDED • SPECIAL MINISTRIES FOR ALL AGES
A VIBRANT, SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY!

A multi-cultural, multi-generational evangelistic church with five services every Sunday, and various ministry programs and activities throughout the week. Several churches have been planted in the Bronx from Van Nest, including the African Assemblies of God Fellowship, which is now a network of African AG churches throughout the USA.

Rev. David Hernquist, Pastor
T. 718-824-4067 • F. 718-904-8193 • davidhernquist@aol.com

Rev. Rosemarie Brown, Assistant Pastor • Jesus Goyco, Youth Pastor
www.vannestassembly.org

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Van Nest Assembly of God is a body of Believers empowered by the Holy Spirit, called to worship God in Spirit and Truth, to walk in the light of the Word of God in all aspects of life, and to be witnesses of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, through word and deed, to the ends of the earth.

The Holy Spirit has clearly shown us that we are called to be a church led not by a program or a personality, but by the presence of the Lord. This is really why God's hand of blessing and increase has been upon us all these years. As we look to the future, we know that His presence will lead us in a continuous increase of souls and expansion of facilities; for our true desire is to glorify Jesus Christ.

VAN NEST ASSEMBLY OF GOD
755 Rhinelander Avenue
Bronx, NY 10462
Corner of Holland
2 blocks from White Plains Road

SERVICE TIMES

SUNDAY:
8:30am Morning Service
10:00am Morning Service
11:30am Morning Service
4:00pm Afternoon Service

SUNDAY NIGHT:
7:00pm Evening Service

TUESDAY:
12:00pm Prayer Meeting

WEDNESDAY NIGHT:
7:30pm Prayer Meeting

FRIDAY NIGHT:
8:00pm Family Night
(Groups for all ages)

11:00pm Prayer Meeting

...plus special services for high holy days — and other celebrations.

MANY KINDS OF GROUPS AND MINISTRIES THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

MINISTRIES

- Children
- Youth Group
- Young Adult Ministries
- Adult Ministries
- Outreach
- NY District School of Ministry
- Berean School Of The Bible
- Vacation Bible School
- Music Ministry

WEBSTER CAFE & DINER

2873 Webster Ave • 718-733-9634
Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner



PANCAKES, WAFFLES, FRENCH TOAST,
BURGERS, WRAPS, SALADS, TACOS & MORE

15% OFF COUPON
VALID IN STORE ONLY

grubHub®

seamless

POSTMATES

Uber Eats

CARRYOUT - DINE IN - DELIVERY

NEW HEIGHTS CONSTRUCTION LLC

FALL SPECIALS

KITCHEN & BATH

Complete Renovation
And Remodeling,
Expert Tile, Granite
And Quartz

SIDING, ROOFING

& WINDOWS

Waterproofing • Gutters
Soffit & Fascia Repair, and more!

MASONRY WORK

Concrete Sidewalk Violations
Porches • Brick and Granite Steps
Paver Stones • Brick Pointing
Stucco, etc.

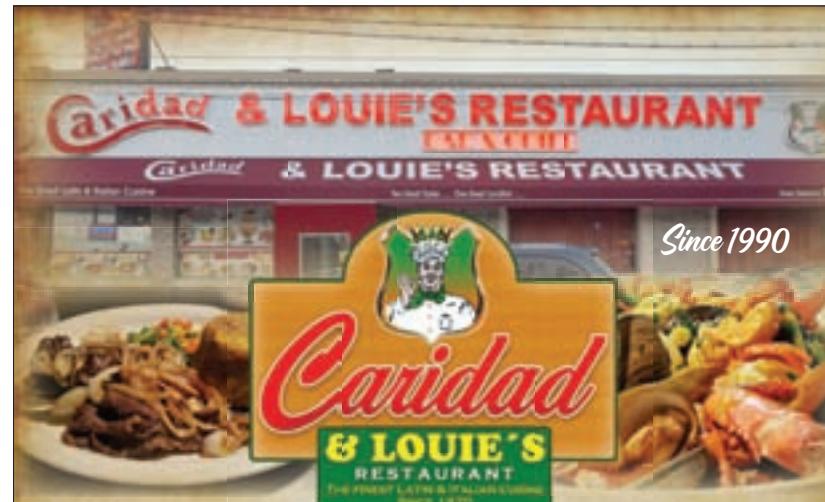
INTERIOR FLOORING & PAINTING

CALL NOW FOR FREE ESTIMATES

John Miller 917-642-0195

800-525-5102 • 718-767-0044

NEWHEIGHTSCONSTRUCTIONLLC.com



The Finest Latin & Italian Cuisine

Catering For All Occasions • Salon Par Eventos Especiales



Bronx

Caridad & Louie's
Restaurant
1660 E. Gun Hill Rd.
Bronx, NY. 10469
Phone: 718-862-3939



Yonkers

Caridad & Louie's
Restaurant
187 S. Broadway,
Yonkers, NY 10701
Phone: 914-375-9777



New Rochelle

Caridad & Louie's
Restaurant
241 North Ave.
New Rochelle, NY, 10801
Phone: 914-336-2776

Delivery Available • Free Parking

Racial Disparities Revealed in Fordham Student Survey

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Fordham Anti-Racist Alumni Collective (FAAC), an alumni group committed to amplifying the demands of Black students at Fordham University, recently announced the results of a survey conducted with more than 2,000 Fordham alumni about their experiences at the university's undergraduate and graduate schools, covering both its Lincoln Center and Rose Hill campuses.

The survey results reveal troubling disparities among the Black and white student experiences at the university, both in and outside of the classroom. According to the results, more than half (53 percent) of Black respondents said they experienced discrimination by faculty at Fordham, compared to 20 percent of white respondents. Meanwhile, less than half (45 percent) of Black respondents said they felt safer with Fordham public safety personnel present, compared to more than 75 percent of white respondents.

Compared to ten percent of white respondents, 42 percent of Black respondents said they experienced discrimination in their interactions with Fordham public safety personnel. Meanwhile, white respondents said they were twice as likely (48 percent) as Black respondents

(24 percent) to feel comfortable calling the Fordham public safety personnel for assistance.

To address these negative experiences, which the affected students said are ongoing, ASILI, Fordham University's Black student alliance, and Black students for transformational change at Fordham University, compiled a list of demands which they have shared with the university and are requesting be addressed.

Among others, the demands include training on matters pertaining to cultural diversity, education on the culture and history of the Bronx, having the university's public safety team cut ties with the NYPD, the appointment of more Black and queer people in administrative positions, and lifting restrictions/punishments relating to off-site protest participation by students.

In the context of the survey findings, and further to various interactions with the university administration, a representative from the Black Student Alliance, provided a written statement to *Norwood News*. An extract from the statement reads as follows, "During my last three years at Fordham, I felt increasing tension with administration and their disregard for the needs of Black students

on campus. This frustration came to a tipping point over the summer when Fordham's administration only acknowledged the murders of Ahmed Arbery, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Tony McDade after pressure was applied on them. Adding more fuel to the fire, they did not acknowledge that the issue of police brutality impacts Black Americans specifically, but simply used the broad term of "people of color" to address the issue."

Norwood News reached out to Fordham University administration for comment. Extracts from their response read as follows, "Although we don't all like to admit it, people of color — and let's be frank, especially Black people — live lives of relentlessly hostile scrutiny, and they have been telling us so since the ink on the Thirteenth Amendment was barely dry."

"We have not succeeded in creating a country and a culture in which all of our citizens are truly equal, a nation in which each citizen is treated with dignity, respect, reverence, and supportive affection, rather than with brutality, disrespect, and exclusion."

"I want to speak directly to the Black people and other people of color in the Fordham community. I know this has been a difficult year for you in many ways. The killing of Black people by police, the disproportionate harm that communities of color have suffered during the pandemic, and the upswelling of racism



Photo courtesy of Fordham University
KEATING HALL, FORDHAM University

across the country have burdened you uniquely."

"We have referred to racism, and anti-Blackness specifically, as the second pandemic under which we're living. Of course, there will always be some gap between the ideal that we and students desire, and what the University can do at any given time, especially given the severe financial stress under which we're operating."

"Fordham is addressing racism, More actions, and communications regarding them [the actions] are forthcoming this semester."

Though, the response from the administration was not optimal according to ASILI, *Norwood News* understands that discussions between the parties are ongoing.



SPECI
WEBI
• Admissior
Process
• Academic Pr
• Student L
• Finance

WHY PRESTON?

- State-of-the-art science labs and new Engineering Tomorrow lab • AP classes and dual college credit classes with \$
- Faith centered, values-based community • Extensive co-curricular and sports programs
- Abundant opportunities for academic scholarships—95% of Preston's Class of 2019 were awarded scholarships and grants



PRESTON HIGH SCHOOL

Hate Crime Investigations Continue in Norwood

by DAVID GREENE

A month after a series of hate crimes against the LGBTQ community were reported in Norwood, police are likely looking for a burly, shadowy figure caught on surveillance video as a suspect. Meanwhile, at least one of the remaining hateful messages is still visible on the front of a Decatur Avenue building.

In response to an enquiry by *Norwood News*, on Friday, Oct. 16, NYPD detective and spokeswoman Sergeant Jessica McRorie said, "There are four anti-sexual incidents involving graffiti that occurred along 204th Street, reported on Sept. 18, that are currently being investigated as possible hate crimes."

McRorie said the four locations were the area opposite 296 East 204th Street, the area in front of 320 East 204th Street, the area in front of 314 East 204th Street and the area in front of 300 East 204th Street. She added, "There are no arrests and the investigation is ongoing."

According to the NYPD, 296 East 204th Street is the location for Jerry's Hardware, where a Black Lives Matter / LGBTQ mural was defaced with red paint last month. Opposite the hardware store's side entrance is McDonald's, which is also the location of the fourth hate crime incident listed by the NYPD, at 300 East 204th Street.

As to the other two locations, there is a newly constructed building at 320 East 204th Street, and at 314 East 204th Street is Leroy's Pharmacy, whose owner denied any graffiti attack took place at his business.

In addition to the four recent, hate crime incidents which were reported to the NYPD in September, local residents also saw other property defaced with hate messages along Perry, Hull and Decatur Avenues between Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, though these incidents were not reported to police.

Now, one month later, residents walking past 3105 Decatur Avenue can still see at least one remaining, hateful message written by the burly, shadowy figure and caught on the building's surveillance video. The man wrote, "Die of AIDS [expletive]." A second message that was almost completely removed with a power washer read, "Make NY straight again."

One resident of 3105 Decatur Avenue recalled the day he first saw the hate message, saying, "I came out here,



Photo by DAVID GREENE

A JULY 26 photo of the Black Lives Matter / LGBTQ mural on the side of Jerry's Hardware at East 204th Street and Perry Avenue.

and the first thing I saw was the police. Then I saw it [the message] and watched as police questioned some people in front of the grocery store." Looking at a second spray-painted message on the building, the resident continued, "I didn't even read *that*, but I saw *this*. I was so disgusted with this. This is America and you can live your life whatever way you want to live."

The resident continued, "They're not only attacking the homosexual population. You're also attacking all of the tenants here who pay good rent, and this is a pretty fair neighborhood, that has all different nationalities, and everyone pretty much comes and goes and minds their business, so for someone to do that is crazy."

The resident concluded, "The ironic thing was I had a lady friend come see me and she actually commented - she's from the rough projects of the Lower East Side - she was talking about how the neighborhood is so diverse and it's pretty quiet, and nobody bothers you, and everyone does their own thing, and then a week later, to see this; it was crazy."

The Super of the Decatur Avenue building said the NYPD was given a copy of the surveillance video, even though the address isn't one of the locations listed under the four incidents being investigated. "I have the video, but you can't see anything to be honest," the Super said. "But they did the whole block though, not just my building," he said of the NYPD's investigation. "Yeah, they hit a lot of buildings."

A rally and repainting of the mural

at Jerry's Hardware was held on Saturday, Sept. 19, and was attended by Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez as well as at least three candidates currently running in the 15th City Council District race, Ischia Bravo, Elisa Crespo and Kenny Agosto, each of whom aim to replace Councilman Ritchie Torres.

A person with knowledge of the painting of the Black Lives Matter / LGBTQ mural in July, spoke to *Norwood News* on August 21. Referring to a business located in the vicinity of the mural, the person said, "The customers have been saying, 'What's up with that mural? That's not for this block,' and that they didn't want it here."

Recalling the period during which the mural was originally painted in July, the person said, "When they put it up, a lot of people didn't want it here, and some threats were made against the mural."

When volunteers later repainted the mural on Sept. 19, covering over the hate messages, Sasha, (they/she/he) the founder and co-director of Black Trans Media, said, "We got support from the family that owns this store," referring to Jerry's Hardware store. "They're in solidarity with Black trans people who have been experiencing a lot of violence."

Sasha said the trans community were not surprised by the vandalism, adding, "We put this up three months ago and we were surprised it took that long for someone to come deface it, because people are very hateful."

In reference to the NYPD's general

approach to investigating hate crimes, Sasha said, "Even in this case, they said they wanted to investigate and check if it's a hate crime," adding, "We know that they haven't been here to keep our folks safe." They then confirmed that the NYPD told them that the agency was indeed investigating the incident as a hate crime.

Meanwhile, Agosto, district leader of the 80th assembly district and the first openly gay elected official in the Bronx, spoke to *Norwood News* on Saturday, Oct. 3 about the incidents last month and the subsequent show of solidarity displayed following the attacks, referencing the anti-hate rally held on Saturday, Sept 19 in Norwood.

"We are united," he said. "On that day [Sept. 19], all of the candidates for office who are running, the LGBTQIA-plus community was united against violence. There's no place [for it] in our neighborhood, and we're going to continue. When someone does something, we're going to paint it over."

Agosto added, "We're going to march for our communities' rights and we're going to do what we need to do. We're also here to support our institutions, so we have Montefiore that runs a HIV prevention program and pantry. We need to support those things as well as Denays House and Destination Tomorrow that services our many trans people of color in our community."

To report a hate crime in progress or any emergency, call 911. Non-emergencies should be reported to the local precinct.

CRIME FILE

By SÍLE MOLONEY



Norwood: 29-Year-Old Man Stabbed in Chest, Dies

On Friday, Oct. 9, at around 8 p.m., police responded to a 911 call regarding a man who had been stabbed at the corner of Jerome Avenue and East Gun Hill Road, in the 52nd precinct. Upon arrival, officers observed a 29-year-old man who had sustained a stab wound to his chest. EMS responded to the location and transported the victim to Jacobi Medical Center, where he was pronounced deceased. He has since been identified as Marvin Duchenne, 29, of 3310 Kossuth Avenue, The Bronx. The investigation remains ongoing.

Man Wanted for Forced Entry

The NYPD is asking for the public's assistance in identifying an individual wanted in connection with a burglary which took place in the 52nd precinct. On Monday Sept. 14, 2020, at

around 8 a.m., at a residence in the vicinity of Briggs Avenue and East 199th Street in the Bedford Park section of the Bronx, an unknown individual gained entry into a 35-year-old female victim's home by unknown means. Once inside, that individual took the victim's wallet and a hair clippers.

Individuals Wanted in Connection with Mailbox Robbery

The NYPD is asking the public's assistance in identifying the individuals who are wanted in connection with a burglary that occurred in the 52nd precinct. On Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2020 at around 5:14 a.m., inside of 325 East 201st Street, two unknown individuals forcibly gained access to the building through a secured front entrance. Once inside, the individuals forcibly opened the mailboxes and removed several packages containing unknown items.

Woman Found Dead in Norwood Motel

A 33-year-old woman was found dead in a 5th floor bedroom at the Roadway Motel located at 3070 Webster Avenue in Norwood. Officials were called at 10:12 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 20, to the motel, which is located between East 202nd and East 203rd Street, following a report of a person in cardiac arrest. The woman was pronounced dead at the scene by EMS. The woman's unidentified husband was observed being questioned by an official from the Chief Medical Examiner's office before walking out of the hotel with two uniformed police officers. No criminality is suspected, and the cause of death will be determined by the medical examiner.

Soundview: Missing 73-Year-old Woman

The NYPD is seeking the public's assistance in locating Doris Cato, 73, of 1770

Story Avenue, who was reported missing in the 43rd precinct, in the Soundview section of the Bronx. Cato was last seen at her home on Thursday, Oct. 15, 2020 at around 8 a.m. She is described as female, Black, 5 feet, 8 inches tall, weighs 140 pounds, has brown eyes and gray hair. She was last seen wearing a gray shirt, green pants, and blue slippers.

19-Year-Old Woman Shot Dead in Nite Club

Police responded to a 911 call on Monday, Oct. 19, at around 7 a.m. regarding three people who were shot inside the Mix-Tec Club at 2647 Jerome Avenue in the Fordham Manor section of the Bronx. Upon

arrival, they discovered three victims. The first was a 19-year-old woman who had a gunshot wound to the torso, the second was a 28-year-old man with a gunshot wound to the right arm, and the third was a 30-year-old man with three gunshot wounds to the body. EMS responded to the incident and transported the victims to Saint Barnabas Hospital where the young woman was pronounced deceased. The other two male victims are both in a stable condition at this time. There are no arrests and the investigation is on-going.

Photo and video in most cases is available at the NYPD.

Follow the Norwood News on Facebook and @norwoodnews on Twitter



LIVE "DJ" • BAR ON SITE • WWW.JOLLYTINKERS.COM

Jolly Tinker

BAR & RESTAURANT
2875 Webster Ave Bronx, New York 10458 | Open from 11am to 4am

Jolly Tinker is celebrating over 50 years of service to the Bedford Park Community. Come and enjoy our updated atmosphere, renovated restaurant, and daily food & drink specials. Check out our full menu and specials at www.jollytinkers.com Jolly Tinker is a place where everyone is welcome. The only requirement is that you remain Jolly!

JOLLY TINKER SPECIALS 4-8PM (DINE-IN ONLY)

JOLLY MONDAYS
6 Beers for \$20, \$3/\$5 Drink Specials

\$2 TACO TUESDAY
(w/\$8 min purchase)

\$5 WING WEDNESDAYS

ZOO THURSDAYS
\$5/\$7/\$9 Special Concoction Drinks
10% Discount Botanical Garden/Bronx Zoo Staff

HELLO WEEKEND
Free Dessert w/\$50 Food Purchase (Fri-Sun)

\$6 LUNCH SPECIALS 12-3PM

**HAPPY
birthday
TO YOU**
CELEBRATE YOUR
BIRTHDAY FOR FREE

LIVE "DJ" • BAR ON SITE • SECURITY

WE CATER FOR ALL EVENTS & OCCASIONS

RESTAURANT OPEN MON-SAT 11AM-2AM SUN 4PM-2AM

BAR HOURS: MON-SAT 11AM-4AM SUN 1PM-4AM

347-726-5644



(718) 841-0059

◆
GCCTransportation.org

Medicaid transport to

- Dialysis
- Physical Therapy
- Cancer treatments
- Elderly Services
- Ophthalmology
- Drug Rehabilitation
- OPWDD Services
- Mental Health Treatment
- Hospital Discharges
- Orthopedic Rehabilitation

Medicaid recipients

should request GCC Transportation as their preferred transportation provider at

www.medanswering.com



(718) 841-0059

GCCTransportation.org



Elections 2021: Abigail Martin on Housing, Schools & a Living Wage

By SILE MOLONEY

An educator and social worker, Abigail Martin, candidate for City Council in the 11th District points to equality in education as being key to breaking the cycle of generational poverty. As a student advisor and adjunct professor at Columbia University's school of social work, she helps train the City's next generation of social workers.

"I mentor them throughout their first year of social work school, and work with them in their placements," she said. "All my students are usually placed in the Bronx so, I've been in a lot of public schools in the Bronx, meeting with my students there and really seeing a lot of agencies that serve the elderly in the Bronx, and seeing how the people of the Bronx are served by the agencies that are here."

Martin said her own children attend public school in the borough at P.S. 81 and as such, she has a rounded view of the disparities that exist within the City's public education system. She believes struggling schools should be provided with additional resources to ensure all children have the ability to thrive.

"I think what's happened as a result of COVID has highlighted how dysfunctional the Department of Education is, and when we have 1.3 million public school children in New York City that need a good and fair access to education and are clearly not getting it, we need to figure out how to make that happen," she said.

How does she plan to achieve this? Martin said the education budget needs to be looked at to see where it can be trimmed. "Within the Department of Education, I think there's a lot of fat at the top, and we need to take a look at that and figure out how to redistribute the budget so that we are putting resources into underperforming schools, we're helping teachers have smaller classrooms, and so, it's just reallocating the money that we have," she said.

A self-described public-school parent, albeit in Riverdale, Martin said her own family has felt the brunt of what she calls "this poorly laid out plan," referring to the saga that is public-school reopening amid COVID-19. "I think teachers

are rightfully fearful for their health," she said. "I think parents are fearful for their children's health."

Asked if she trusted the Department of Education's assurances regarding the safety measures taken in schools to prevent COVID, Martin said five, six or seven-year-olds don't know how to socially distance. "It's just - if you know about kids - they forget so easily, the masks are down below their noses, and children are elbowing each-other or children want to hug each other," she said. "I am certain that the teachers and the principals are doing the absolute best they can, but I think that they're being tasked with an impossible task."

As an example of further dysfunction within the system, Martin recounted a story of her teacher friend who was asked to work in one school, then got asked to do part hybrid, and then suddenly got moved to another school.

"At this point, my children had already started with their teachers," she said, referring to the period after the public schools reopened. "So, I said to her, 'What about your new class? Who have they been meeting with?' She said, 'They haven't been meeting with anybody.' So, those kids in the South Bronx - it was a school in the South Bronx - hadn't even met with their teacher, whereas my kids had already met with their teacher twice," she said.

"That's unacceptable - things like that, that increase the disparity between resourced schools in resourced areas, and those that have fewer resources is really unacceptable."

Affordable housing is one of Martin's other top three issues. She believes people's homes are critical to their mental health and physical well-being and that all New Yorkers have a right to fair and affordable housing. She worked for seven years at Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), an organization that advocates for children in foster care, managing CASA's office at the Bronx Family Court.

Her work included securing housing for children aging out of foster care, making sure foster families had the financial support they were owed, and ensuring that families were eventually reunited. Martin said



Photo courtesy of ABIGAIL MARTIN
ABIGAIL MARTIN

many working families who own their homes pay more than they should in property taxes, with little benefit in return, and at every turn, hardworking families are getting squeezed out of the City.

She said property taxes and regressive taxes disproportionately impact working families, those on fixed incomes and poor New Yorkers. Asked how she would address this, given the City's current budget deficit, she says, "We can't bring money from nowhere, so, we definitely have to get creative and just, look at what's working, put the money towards programs that are working, and be willing to move money from things that are not."

Another top issue for Martin is ensuring a decent living wage for ordinary New Yorkers and generally moving towards a more equitable society. She is supportive, for example, of prioritizing services for people with disabilities and the elderly, especially when it comes to transportation. "I think of a lot of ways in which the accessorized system can be looked at and streamlined to meet the needs of people who are accessing that service," she said. "There's certainly room for improvement there. It's when we think about making New York more equitable for all New Yorkers, transportation for seniors, and for those with disabilities needs to be at the forefront."

In terms of the ongoing debate on how best the City can adapt the budget to finance these initiatives, we asked Martin if she would have signed off on

the City's June budget revision. "No, I would not have signed off on it. There were still agencies that had more fat that could have been trimmed, so, I would not have signed off," she said.

On the issue of defunding the police, and the simultaneous uptick in crime, Martin acknowledges that this is a real concern for voters. She said what is needed, however, is to look at programs that work and put money into those that have evidence-based models, that are proven to have a positive impact on the community.

"We need to be mindful of funding programs that reduce crime," she said. "A perfect example would be the summer youth employment program. That program took a hit this year, and that program has proven to have such a positive impact on the young people of our city."

Martin said that another way to address affordability for working families is to reduce the burden of childcare costs. She said those who cannot afford private childcare must rely on family members, or choose unsafe, unvetted childcare options. Having seen first-hand, as a social worker, the devastating impact on families of having to choose unsafe childcare services, Martin is adamant that every working parent and guardian in the city should have access to affordable and safe childcare.

When it comes to gathering tax revenues in order to fund such programs, Martin said she is convinced New York will bounce back economically, and that the rumors of people leaving the city en masse are overblown. "While there are definitely people that have left, there are people that have only left temporarily," she said. "They're still paying their rent. They're still paying their property taxes for homes, and in co-ops and apartments that they own, and New York has a history of rebuilding every time there is a crisis. New York always comes back, and people love New York City."

She said people are dedicated to New York City, and people that are in the wealthier brackets who have businesses here want New York City to succeed because their businesses are here. "They need

the city to succeed," she said. "I think that if we use this current climate as an opportunity to rebuild this city in a way that is more equitable, more accessible, and just works better for all, I am positive that New York will rebuild better than ever before."

Martin worked previously at Montefiore Hospital's Child Advocacy Center, where she coordinated the joint efforts of the Administration of Children's Services, the NYPD's special victims' division, the Bronx District Attorney's Office, and forensic doctors to minimize any additional trauma to child survivors of abuse.

She said this background and experience makes her well-placed for the role of City Councilmember in the district, and she is not concerned that she has not served at community board level, for example, as a precursor to City Council like some of her running mates have.

"I have as much experience as the current city council member had coming into it," she said. She touts her extensive experience advocating for those in need, and her work with government agencies to get results for her clients. She said constituents need someone who will go the extra mile to make sure community members have the support they need, especially to increase access to critical programs and services.

She also sees herself as being a candidate who can appeal to a wide spectrum of voters. "In the last couple of weeks, I spent a lot of time speaking with people all throughout the district," she said. "And I've had conversations with people that fall on both sides of the national presidential campaigns, and I think that that really speaks to my ability to bring people together. I think that also sets me apart as a candidate."

Martin also said people need to be less polarized and figure out how to have conversations. "We need to come together to create a better New York. Elected officials work for the people. I will come in with a clean slate with my agenda of creating a city that works better for all New Yorkers, and I think that it could be seen as a strength that I don't owe anyone any favors."



Free Personal Planning Guide with answers to your Pre-Planning Questions

Families in our community have turned to Woodlawn Cemetery with their cremation and burial needs for over 150 years - and continue to count on us today. We are here to help you be prepared for any situation. An important part of this preparation is completing a Personal Planning Organizer. It allows you to gather all the information needed for final arrangements in one place, making the process easier for loved ones.

We can answer your questions by phone or virtually.
Hablamos Español

Benefits of planning ahead:

- Document your wishes in writing
- Secures today's payment rate
- Provides peace of mind



WOODLAWN
CEMETERY • CREMATORIUM • CONSERVANCY

Call today to receive your FREE Personal Planning Organizer:

718-920-0500

**4199 Webster Ave
Bronx, NY 10470
www.Woodlawn.org**

Out & About

Compiled by SILE MOLONEY

Food

The Bronx Night Market series celebrates culture and cuisine, represents the city's diverse offerings, and supports up-and-coming food concepts, all the while encouraging visitors from the greater New York area and beyond to explore our borough. Entrance is free and the market will be every Saturday and Sunday through November. Link to the ongoing event here: <https://www.facebook.com/BronxNightMarket/>.

Events

The 23rd annual **Diwali Festival of Lights** celebration takes place on Saturday, Oct. 26, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at 1216 Noble Avenue, at the corner of Westchester Avenue and Gleason Avenue in Soundview. Join Vishnu Mandir for an evening of culture and community festivities, with Bollywood dancing, singing, lighting of lamps and a special street co-naming.

Friday Night Live, hosted by Zambo Aroma, is an open mic platform for singers, dancers, poets, comics, live painters, etc.

Doors open at 8 p.m. Open Mic Starts from 9-11 p.m. at 3848 White Plains Road. More info here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/friday-night-live-tickets-122484355003?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>.

The New York Botanical Garden has an ongoing event called "Hello Harvest" where guests can explore the Edible Academy's fall bounty with a scavenger hunt and learn how to prepare the garden for the winter season. Schedule: Tuesday to Friday, 1:30-5:30 p.m., and Saturday & Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Find out more here: <https://www.nybg.org/event/hello-harvest/>.

Join a plethora of **New York Public Library** events online, from craft circles to book discussions. Find out more here: <https://www.nypl.org/events/calendar/online>.

The Bronx Toastmasters Club of Riverdale will hold their next meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom Video Conferencing. Please RSVP to BronxToastmastersClub@gmail.com. To learn more, go to: <https://www.bronxtoastmastersclub.org>.

Exhibits

Changing Landscapes zooms into a diverse array of landscapes: some are literal and embedded with rich history and memories, while others are made out of the people that inhabit them, their resilience and everyday lives. Bronx resident, Puerto Rican photographer and DJ, Ignacio Soltero, uses drone technology to share bird's eye views of recognizable recreational spaces in NY where people gather, but from the angle they are taken, become abstractions of grass and man-made structures - where the human presence is both present and absent. Learn more here: <http://www.bronxartspace.com/>.

and will be on mostly on-street bike paths. The ride is open to riders of all ages and abilities. Participants may bring their own bike or borrow a Citi Bike at no cost with advance registration. Riders must be 16 years or older to borrow a Citi Bike. The ride is limited to 25 people and all participants must follow safety protocols including wearing a mask and a helmet. Learn more on Eventbrite.com by searching for "Biketober Bronx Ride."

Every Wednesday at 9 a.m., there are free **Vinyasa Yoga** classes at Bronx Works, 1130 Grand Concourse. Yoga mats are provided. More info here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/free-vinyasa-yoga-class-every-wednesday-2nd-floor-gymnasium-tickets-86803458481?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>.

A Lake Paddle will take place on Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Meet at Bronx Zoo Mitsubishi Riverwalk, Bronx River Parkway & Boston Road. This will be a small paddle within the calmest area of the river. Paddle up through areas surrounded by the Bronx Zoo and NYBG. Learn more on Eventbrite.com by searching for "Lake Paddle 10/24/20."

Sports and Movement

Ride this "Biketober" on a socially-distant, guided ride through the Bronx on Wednesday, Oct. 28, at 3:30 p.m., led by NYC DOT. Tour the latest protected bike lanes in Harlem and the South Bronx and pass through new bike share stations in the neighborhood. This family friendly ride will be approximately 6 miles long, lasts an hour

Correcton

In this year's 13th edition of the *Norwood News*, dated Oct. 8-21, in the article entitled, Elections 2021: Dan Padernacht, Party and People, we incorrectly wrote that Dan Padernacht said that Efrain Gonzalez Jr. had courted the support of the Republican Party in 2010. In fact, he said that it was Pedro Espada who had courted the support of the Republican Party at that time. We apologize for this error.



KJ TRANSPORTATION C SERVICE INC.
9 East 213 Street, Bronx, NY 10467 • B02688
Email: Kjtransportation254@gmail.com

MEDICAL TRANSPORT



Phone: 718-933-3333 • 718-515-2600 • 718-798-8888 • 718-345-5555

KJ Transportation Services Inc offers FREE MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

to and from your appointments. We have over 150 clean, reliable and ontime TLC vehicles. KJ has been providing Car Service to the Norwood Community as well as the 5 boroughs for many years. We are located in the Bronx with a 24-hour Bilingual Staff & Open 7 days a week.



AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION



CORPORATE



HOURLY TRANSPORTATION

WE ACCEPT ALL MEDICAL INSURANCE



BAINBRIDGE NURSING & REHABILITATION CENTER

NEWLY
RENOVATED
REHAB
DEPARTMENT



Bainbridge Nursing & Rehabilitation Center is pleased to offer the following services:

- Tracheostomy Care • Short-Term Rehabilitation PT/OT/Speech 6 days
- Joint replacement/Trauma Injury Recovery Program
- Specialized Stroke Rehabilitation Program • IV Therapy • Hospice and Palliative Care
- Specialized Wound Care Program • Alzheimer's & Memory Care
- Therapeutic Activity Program • Social Work Services • Long-Term Skilled Care Services
- Psychological Services • Sub-Acute Skilled Services

3518 Bainbridge Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467 • Tel: 718-655-1991 • www.BainbridgeCares.com





HEALTH CHECK



How Oral Health Affects Your Overall Health

By AUGUSTINA
KWAFO-BAIDOO

October is National Dental Hygiene Month, a perfect time to remember to take care of our oral health. When people think about a healthy lifestyle, eating more fruits and vegetables, increasing physical activity, limiting alcohol, getting more sleep and making time for self-care often top the list.

But, taking care of our oral health is also an important part of a healthy lifestyle, and the health of our mouth, teeth and gums affects the way we talk, smile, eat and present ourselves to the world.

Just like the rest of our body, the mouth is full of good and bad bacteria. By practicing good oral

health every day, we can keep the bad bacteria in our mouths under control and avoid infections like gum disease and tooth decay.

The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research recommends the following to help you keep your mouth, teeth and gums healthy:

- Brush your teeth at least twice a day with fluoride toothpaste
- Floss daily
- Eat a healthy diet and limit foods with added sugars (like sugary drinks, baked goods and processed foods)
- Change your toothbrush every three months or sooner if bristles are worn out
- Avoid using tobacco

• Visit your dentist for regular check-ups and cleaning at least once a year

While good oral health is important for everyone, it's especially important for people with chronic diseases or weakened immune systems. Bacteria that builds up in the mouth can travel to other parts of the body, like the lungs or heart, and cause respiratory diseases like pneumonia.

According to the CDC, chronic diseases and other existing health conditions can increase the risk of poor oral health. Chronic diseases for which oral health is especially important include:

- Arthritis
- Alzheimer's
- Diabetes
- Heart disease
- Hepatitis C
- HIV/AIDS
- Osteoporosis

Oral health is also especially

important for people taking certain medications that cause dry mouth, as saliva is important for oral health in that it naturally washes away food and acids made by bacteria in the mouth. Medications that can cause dry mouth include:

- Decongestants
- Antihistamines
- Painkillers
- Diuretics
- Antidepressants

For more information on maintaining your oral health, visit the websites for the American Dental Association at <https://www.mouthhealthy.org> and the National Institutes of Dental and Craniofacial Research at <https://www.nidcr.nih.gov/health-info/oral-hygiene/more-info>

Augustina Kwafo-Baidoo is Health Educator for Community and Population Health at Montefiore Health System



Letters To The Editor

Third Party Ballot

I'm no fan of voter shaming. So, my letter today isn't meant to bully how anyone uses their mandate on Nov. 3. Instead, I write to raise awareness on a few important points we all should know before voting, on issues like Medicare for All, the Green New Deal, a Federal Job Guarantee (which means jobs for anyone who wants one), a Living Wage, Education for All, Quality Affordable Housing, Criminal Justice Reform, and more.

These issues are passionately championed by the Greens and presidential candidate, Howie Hawkins, much more than by the "Rs" or "Ds". As much as they impact our Bronx lives, such issues can't be ignored, right? And yet, during the recent COVID-19 lockdown, NY Governor Cuomo quietly changed the 1935 law for third parties, making it more difficult to qualify for ballot access.

The result? If the Greens don't get at least 200,000 NYS votes in the upcoming election, future candidates who run as Greens on any level in NY will be blocked from ballots. We, as New Yorkers will be

given considerably less choice, and less voice. Suppressing democracy is something we should ALL oppose.

Are you worried about Trump vs. Biden? I know all too well that battle is as heated as it gets. In this election, most voters are passionate that at least one of those two NOT win. But here's terrific news! In New York, there's no such thing as a "spoiler vote." For better or worse, the electoral college tallies our state votes as winner-take-all. New York is solid Blue (Dem), which means third party votes can do nothing to "sway" the end result.

But what NY third party votes do in 2020 is protect ballot access for 2022, 2024 and beyond. And they represent the ONLY chance many of us have to send a message to politicians about what we want for us, our children and the world, not just during elections, but every day we live and love here in the Bronx. In New York, there's no reason not to embrace your values on Election Day.

**Janet Goodman-Clarke
The Bronx**

Blue Peacock esthetic * spa

(347) 708-7584
Fax. (347) 708-7979



Changing Lifestyles - Cambiando Estilos de Vida



BEFORE
ANTES



AFTER
DESPUES

ANTI-AGING TREATMENT
TRATAMIENTO
ANTIENVEJECIMIENTO



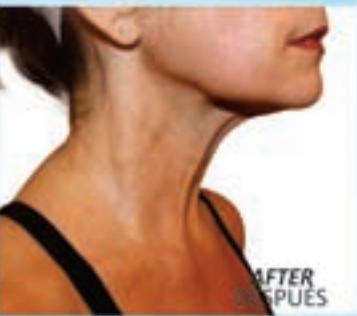
BEFORE
ANTES



AFTER
DESPUES



BEFORE
ANTES



AFTER
DESPUES

VENUSFREEZE^{Plus}



Body Treatment
Tratamiento del cuerpo

Skin Treatment
Tratamiento de la Piel



Waxing
Depilación

We are highly trained and ready to fulfill your needs following strict safety measures.



Estamos altamente entrenados y listos para atender sus necesidades siguiendo estrictas medidas de seguridad.

210 Bedford Park Blvd.
Bronx, NY 10458

Email: info@bluepeacockestheticspa.com • Website: www.bluepeacockestheticspa.com

@bluepeacockestheticspa

Blue Peacock Esthetic Spa

WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS
ACEPTAMOS LAS PRINCIPALES TARJETAS DE CRÉDITO





jeromegunhillbid.org
BID hotline 718-324-4946

Shop local and Save !

Small businesses and big savings await at the Jerome Gun Hill BID.

@jeromegunhillbid
 @jghbid



Classifieds

Professional Directory

COMPUTER SERVICES

Computer Repair

Computer Repair Upgrade, troubleshooting, lap-top overheats, cracked screen, broken power jack, virus removal, data recovery. Call James (646) 281-4475, (718) 324-4332.

Public and Community Meetings

Since the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the **52nd PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meetings have been held via ZOOM. The next meeting is on **Oct. 22, at 6 p.m.** Call the 52nd Precinct Community Affairs office at 718-220-5824 for further details.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March, **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7** committee meetings have been held via ZOOM. The next full Board meeting will be held on **Tuesday, Oct. 27**. Zoom details will be circulated ahead of the meeting. Contact miroslario@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March, **Bedford Moshulu Community Association** meetings have been held via ZOOM. The next meeting will be held virtually in November. For further details, contact bedfordmosholu@verizon.net

2020 Election Local Lens: Health

(continued from page 2)

that by contrast all he heard from the president was him telling people not to be concerned about the virus. "There's a lot to be concerned about," Biden said.

Margaret Aldrich is an immunologist at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx. She's also encouraging her patients to wear masks. Her other advice - get a flu shot!

"We worry that the influenza virus will present itself at the same time that we still have coronavirus circulating and we actually don't know what that would look like," said Aldrich. "We believe that people can get both infections at the same time and we worry that one infection could make the other worse, so for now, we really only have a vaccine available for influenza."

Emblem Health is a nonprofit health insurance company that covers many Bronx residents. According to Beth Leonard, chief marketing & communications officer, part of the group's mission is to help residents manage all the preventable conditions that Gibson listed, from diabetes to heart disease.

"New York is so diverse. We're excited that most of our associates live and work right here so we're able to

speak your languages, make sure that we understand the nuances of the cultural differences that different groups within New York City might have," she said.

Leonard said, as an example, they're working on a diabetes prevention program whereby, instead of promoting the typical food pyramid seen in health pamphlets, they're adjusting it to make sure it's culturally competent, and includes foods that culturally diverse groups eat.

In addition, she and her colleagues attend greenmarkets and other community events to encourage people to get insurance. The group aims to give residents access to the tools they need to care for themselves. They also operate neighborhood care locations and other places where residents can find information and healthcare.

It's clear that health and healthcare are some of the most complex and important issues facing voters this election cycle with subjects ranging from the pandemic to mental health, and contraception to insurance for long-term illnesses. Whoever wins the presidency on Nov. 3, these issues will, no doubt, continue to dominate the national conversation for a long time to come.

*Sile Moloney contributed additional reporting to this story.



APARTMENTS FOR RENT

LANGSAM PROPERTY SERVICES CORP., AMO®
A COMPREHENSIVE REAL ESTATE SERVICE ORGANIZATION

1601 Bronxdale Avenue • Bronx, NY 10462 • T 718 518 8000 • F 718 518 8585
www.langsampropertyservices.com

Tenants Go Without Gas for Almost One Year

(continued from page 1)

a video clip with the Norwood News of a mouse in the lobby of the building, and said she had others of roaches.

The gas service problems started on Nov. 22, 2019 when Con Ed filed a complaint with the Department of Buildings (DOB), after their inspectors discovered “illegal plumbing work and theft of service issues.” This usually refers to a situation where unauthorized pipework is installed to steal gas.

The gas was immediately shut off for the entire building including the gas for Millie Peartree Fish Fry & Soul Food, an eatery located on the ground floor of the building which opened in 2017.

According to news reports at the time the gas was shut off, Peartree was told the repairs could take six to eight months. Without any assurance that the situation would be resolved in the foreseeable future, Peartree went back to working as a private chef in the catering world, eventually launching Full Heart Full Bellies, a catering service providing prepared meals to school-aged children and nursing homes across the Bronx. To achieve this, she partnered with other entities, including Audi, her delivery partner, and Amazon which donated kitchen space.

The sign for Peartree’s Fish Fry & Soul Food business is still displayed at 2558 Grand Concourse but the metal gate is pulled down, and there is no indication as to whether the restaurant has been closed temporarily, permanently or if it has been sold. *Norwood News* reached out to Peartree for comment. We did not receive an immedi-

ate response.

Meanwhile, a group of tenants living in the building have tried to organize to get the landlord to address a growing number of complaints beyond the lack of gas supply. Alvaro Franco is an organizer with the Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition (NWBCCC) and has been helping the tenants resolve the gas situation, among other issues.

He said the process has seen many setbacks, both on site and in the courts. “Both parties are [currently] in court, with the tenants represented by The Legal Aid Society,” he said. *Norwood News* reached out to The Legal Aid Society for a status update, and Benjamin Seibel said the tenants filed a case in early June, but the landlord never showed up to court.

In the meantime, a judge issued an order instructing Stellar Management to correct, by specific dates, all of the conditions and violations raised, depending on their severity. The landlord has since “lawyered up,” and that’s where things stand right now.

In fact, it was not until NWBCCC and the Legal Aid Society got involved that the tenants realized the other issues like the unfinished repair work and the infestation, which pre-dated the gas cut-off, were already valid reasons for taking the landlord to Housing Court.

“Restoring gas and addressing the other outstanding conditions in the building are the landlord’s responsibility and we intend to use all available legal avenues to hold the landlord to their obligations,” said Seibel.

“This particular landlord is a sophisticated actor

that owns/manages properties throughout the city and it is unacceptable that these tenants have been forced to live without cooking gas for eleven months and counting. These tenants deserve better.”

Meanwhile, Franco said, “Repairs are happening but in a haphazard way.” He added that some tenants, however, have not complained even when they’ve had repair issues. He said they have felt intimidated and harassed by certain responses they received from the building’s Super. According to both Franco and Gonzalez, the Super told some of the residents, “If you don’t like it here, you can move.”

A tenants’ meeting was held inside the building on Sept. 3, during which organizing efforts were discussed. The Super was not present. In the days that followed, Gonzalez alleges the Super confronted some of those in attendance and reminded them that he was watching them organize through surveillance cameras and said there would be reprisals.

Franco and Gonzalez said they feel the Super’s attitude has hampered and delayed their efforts at organizing the tenants. *Norwood News* reached out to the Super for comment and did not receive an immediate response.

Compounding the stress of having to cook without a stove are the monthly electric bills which have ballooned. In contrast to the stoves, which run on a gas service, the hot plates are electrical devices that need to be plugged into a wall socket.

Gonzalez said her electric bill is four times what she used to pay. “I can show [monthly] statements where they say I owe \$700, and one of \$900,” she said.

She disputed some of the amounts initially but has since spread her payments

out over the course of the year. Nonetheless, she said the constant disputes over bills have left her stressed and exhausted.

Franco became aware of the tenants’ complaints primarily because of the gas cut-off. The restoration of the gas service appeared to evolve into a frustrating blame game among the various parties involved. Gonzalez said the landlord told her it was a Con Ed issue, while Con Ed said they needed the work inspected by DOB. Meanwhile, DOB said the landlord needed to fix the issue.

When contacted for comment by *Norwood News*, a spokeswoman for Stellar Management said in a written statement, “2558 Grand Concourse just underwent a full gas inspection and has passed. It is now in the hands of Con Edison to restore the property’s gas. We apologize for any inconvenience to our valued residents, as we await their final determination.”

Norwood News checked the status with Con Ed. On Oct. 20, Jamie McShane said Con Ed did have an open case on the issue in April. However, after several unsuccessful attempts to address it with the customer, the case was closed.

McShane added that “the customer” later contacted Con Ed on Oct. 19, and so, they opened a new case.

In response to this update, the Stellar Management representative said on Oct. 20, “2558 Grand Concourse just underwent a full gas inspection and has passed. This is a matter that we have been awaiting a response on from Con Edison for several months. We’ve made all efforts possible to remedy the situation.”

Meanwhile, McShane said, “Once the necessary repairs are safely completed and approved by the

New York City Department of Buildings, and our inspectors, we will restore the gas service.” McShane added that his colleagues told him that the repair work needed in the building was not light.

Norwood News, therefore, contacted DOB for an update and was told that Stellar Management currently has active plumbing permits to repair the gas plumbing system in the building and restore cooking gas to the building’s residential units.

Andrew Rudansky from DOB added that the most recent DOB inspection of the gas repair work was on Oct. 14. During this inspection, he said the plumber was unable to provide DOB with access to all of the apartments in the building to check the gas cooking appliance hook-ups, which is required as part of DOB’s inspection.

It is our understanding that the plumber is hired by Stellar Management. Rudansky added that on Oct. 19, the plumber reached back out to DOB and requested a new inspection of the remaining apartments on Thursday, Oct. 22.

“Once the inspection is passed, the plumber can request ‘Gas Authorization’ from the Department,” Rudansky said. “Gas Authorization is the final approval from DOB for gas plumbing jobs, and it is what Con Edison requires from a plumber before they will turn the gas service back on.”

Meanwhile, Gonzalez and her fellow tenants said they expect yet another visit from Con Ed before they will be able to cook a Thanksgiving dinner next month on their own stoves. “All we want is healthy living conditions, but we just don’t know what progress is being made,” she said.

*Sile Moloney contributed additional reporting to this story.

Injured Construction Workers & All Other Accident Victims

*We Fight for the Money You Deserve
Regardless of Your Immigration Status*

- Construction & Workplace Accidents
- Car & Truck Accidents
- Negligent Building Security
- Slip, Trip & Falls
- Elevator / Escalator Accidents

- Medical Malpractice
- Nursing Home Negligence
- Police Brutality
- Civil Rights Violations
- Victims of Sexual Abuse



Our GUARANTEE
There is NO FEE Unless We Win

Our firm has recovered over

One Hundred Million Dollars

in verdicts and settlements
for our satisfied clients

FREE COUNSULTATION
Call 24 Hours • 7 days a Week

Some Recent Verdicts & Recoveries for Clients

Construction Accident - \$5,000,000 • Truck Accident - \$10,000,000
Police Misconduct - \$28,000,000 • Elevator Accident - \$1,400,000
Car Accident - \$1,100,000 • Slip & Fall Accident - \$2,650,000

If You Can't Come to Us...We'll Come to You

Expenses payable upon conclusion of case. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome

RASKIN & KREMIN, LLP

Over 75 Years Of Combined Personal Injury Law Experience

www.raskrem.com

160 Broadway (4th Fl.) New York, NY
Bronx Office - by appointment only

718-878-4858
212-587-3434