



NORWOOD NEWS

Vol 34, No 17 • PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION • SEPTEMBER 9-22, 2021

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE WWW.NORWOODNEWS.ORG

FOR THE LATEST COMMUNITY NEWS AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH, BENGALI, SPANISH, ARABIC, FRENCH AND CHINESE.



Photo by Miriam Quinoñes

STORM IDA RAVAGES THE BRONX

By DAVID GREENE & SÍLE MOLONEY

The relative and literal “calm before the storm” on the afternoon and early evening of Wednesday, Sept. 1, perhaps lured many Bronxites into a fall sense of security that then-impending Storm Ida would not be as extreme as forecast. The consequences of such nonchalance proved to be devastating.

Between noon and 6 p.m., the day was overcast, humidity was at 82 percent, temperatures ranged from 68 to 72 degrees F, southwesterly winds were traveling at 11.8 mph but there was no rain. However, at 6.18 p.m., the National Weather Service (NWS) tweeted that tornado warnings had been issued for New York, Connecticut and New Jersey and the next three hours saw a deluge of rainfall which continued through the night.

By 9 p.m., NWS had issued a

flash flood warning to all New Yorkers via their cell phones. Residents were instructed not to travel unless they were fleeing a flooded area. “This is a dangerous and life-threatening situation,” the warning read. A half an hour later, NWS tweeted that a flash flood emergency warning had been issued for Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens.

NWS officials later clarified that Flash Flood Emergency alerts are only issued when an area experiences 6 to 10 inches of rainfall over several hours. “A flash flood emergency is issued for exceedingly rare situations when a severe threat to human life and catastrophic damage from a flash flood is happening or will happen soon,” a tweet from the service read.

In the Bronx, Breaking News Network (BNN) began to report *(continued on page 27)*



Bronx Legislators, Advocates Push to End Solitary Confinement | pg 2



B.R.A.G. & St Barnabas Run Boxing Program | pg 6



Alumni Proposal at Lehman College pg 16

CARS WERE SEEN almost submerged in water on the Major Deegan Expressway in the Bronx on Thursday morning, Sept. 2, 2021 at around 8.45 a.m.

KRAMER & POLLACK LLP
INJURY ATTORNEYS



Larry J. Kramer



Joshua Pollack

**DOWNLOAD
THE FREE APP**



Keep us with you wherever you go

No Fee Unless You Win
Hablamos Español
Free Consultation

**(212) ANSWERS
(212) 267-9377**

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AND VIEW OUR TESTMONIALS

WWW.212ANSWERS.COM



NORWOOD NEWS

Vol. 34, No. 17

Norwood News is published
bi-weekly on Thursdays by

Mosholu 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

Mosholu Preservation Corporation

Executive Director of MPC

Jennifer Tausig

Editor-In-Chief, Norwood News

Sile Moloney
smoloney@norwoodnews.org

Interns

Shania DeGroot

Regular Contributors

David Greene, José A. Giralt,
Miriam Quiñones, Dawn Clancy,
Sarah Huffman,

Contributors

Adi Talwar,

**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 Mosholu 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.

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



Bronx Legislators, Activists Call Out City Plan to End “Solitary Confinement”

By DAWN CLANCY

When Melania Brown, 33, heard that New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio had publicly vowed in June 2020 to end solitary confinement, Brown hoped she might finally make good on a promise she, herself, had made to her deceased sister.

Brown's younger sister, Layleen Xtravaganza Cubilette-Polanco, 27, died a preventable death following an epileptic seizure on June 7, 2019, while she was held in segregated confinement on Rikers Island.

NBC News reported that Polanco was arrested in April 2019 on misdemeanor assault charges, was held at Rikers on \$500 bail, and that records indicated she had been placed in segregated confinement for assaulting a corrections officer.

The Bronx District Attorney's Office found that staff had left Polanco alone for up to 47 minutes around the time of her death. However, people placed in segregated confinement were required to be checked every 15 minutes, especially those who were vulnerable. Time magazine reported that Polanco's period in segregated confinement followed a stay in hospital where she had received psychiatric care.

In August 2020, the City news publication reported that Polanco's family agreed to a landmark lawsuit settlement against New York City of \$5.9 million.

De Blasio's pledge last year to end solitary was no doubt spurred on by the high-profile case and it gave Brown

hope, at the time. “I made my sister a promise to close down the place where she took her last breath. I thought my sister was going to get that justice,” she said. However, Brown is now doubtful this will ever happen.

The new punitive model set to replace solitary confinement in city jails is called the Risk Management and Accountability System (RMAS). It was voted on by the New York City Board of Correction (BOC) in June 2021 and is due to go into effect on Nov. 1, 2021.

However, activists like Brown, along with 74 New York City and State lawmakers, including State Sen. Alessandra Biaggi (S.D. 34), and Assembly Members Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81) and Nathalia Fernández (A.D. 80) have criticized RMAS, saying it is just solitary by another name.

Indeed, restricted housing, segregated confinement, special housing units (SHU) and punitive confinement are just some of the terms used by some parties when discussing punitive measures for people held in custody, while others continue to use the blanket term, solitary confinement.

Adopted by the United Nations, the Nelson Mandela Rules define “segregated confinement for more than 15 days” as torture. Segregated or solitary confinement typically means people are locked in their cells for 20 to 24 hours a day, with no out-of-cell time and no physical interaction with other inmates.

To add to the confusion, jails generally refer to a place for those await-

ing trial or held for minor crimes, whereas prison generally refers to a place for convicted criminals of serious crimes. Jails, like Rikers Island, tend to use the term, punitive confinement, and prisons tend to use the term, special housing units.

Brown said the mayor made a promise to end solitary but all he did was change the name. “It’s devastating,” she said. “It’s a slap in the face.” For his part, the mayor said New York City is going further than any jail system in America to ban solitary. “Through our work with our BOC, we have found a plan that will provide a safe and humane environment for those who are incarcerated and officers alike,” he said.

RMAS was crafted by BOC and the City's Department of Correction (DOC) officials. They say it replaces solitary with a new, two-tier, disciplinary model that fundamentally changes the way DOC responds to violence committed by people in custody, while also ensuring accountability and safety in a more humane and effective manner.

According to City officials, RMAS includes the following features:

- attorney representation at the infraction hearing and throughout the process;
- minimum 10 hours out-of-cell time, socializing with at least one other person;
- a strong presumption of progression from Level 1 to Level 2 over the 15-day duration, and release from Level 2 in 15 days;
- precludes the extension of RMAS punitive measures, except when necessary, requiring documentation that demonstrates a clear threat to safety, and allows the inmate to appeal the extension with attorney representation;
- individualized behavioral support plans;

(continued on page 8)

Madame P's Beauty World

**Specializing in Basic Haircare, Press n Curl,
Relaxer and Silk Press**

- Haircutting
- Wave Nouveau
- Carefree Curl
- Hair Coloring
- Afros Welcome

**20% OFF
FOR SENIORS**

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

**15% OFF
COLLEGE STUDENTS**
Must bring ad

617 East Fordham Rd

Bronx, N Y 10458 • 347 284 3834



**TO REPORT A
STORY TO THE
NORWOOD NEWS,
CALL US AT
718-324-4998**

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

Three 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 - \$19,500,000 • Truck Accident - \$10,000,000
Police Misconduct - \$28,000,000 • Elevator Accident - \$1,400,000
Car Accident - \$1,600,000 • 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 & KREMINS, 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

2 3 4 5 A C J Z TO FULTON STREET

N R W TO CORTLANDT STREET

INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



This week, we asked readers their thoughts on U.S. President Joe Biden's decision to end America's longest war in Afghanistan.



"I think it's about time they did this. I am so happy to hear that they're doing this. They've been in Afghanistan for such a long time, I think it's about time they do pull them out. No, it wasn't done the right way. I don't believe so, but few wars end peacefully. I don't believe this world learned anything from the occupation. I think it's gotten worse. We've gotten very stupid."

Kendall Levine,
Hunts Point



"It was a horrible ending, leaving all of our stuff and leaving Americans behind. The killing of our 13 men and women was a disgrace and Biden is a coward. He should have gotten all of our men and women out first, with all of our equipment, but instead they killed 13 of our people and he let them walk. He should have gone back in, took our stuff back, and killed them all. This wouldn't fly with Donald Trump. Kill them all like they wouldn't hesitate to kill all of us. Don't forget 9/11. I believe in an eye for an eye."

Barbara Cafaro Jusino,
Yorktown Heights, Westchester



"We, as a nation, must realize that democracy in the United States has been in great peril for some time now. As a Muslim American, in my opinion, what unfolded on Jan. 6, just made us more aware of the evil tyranny of those who oppose a civilized society, still exists within our ranks of government, and until true leaders understand, and actually take all the necessary measures of our justice system to deter such actions that occurred on Jan. 6, we will still be a country with insecurities and unrest. President Biden's decision to leave Afghanistan and abandon military hardware has great concerns to me, especially not knowing who's going to be in the country's new cabinet."

Aldo Rafael Perez,
Bedford Park



"In my opinion, we should have withdrawn from Afghanistan, but more responsibly. We left so much military equipment behind in the hands of the Taliban fighters. We also left many Americans stranded and that's what I mean about responsibility. Would Al-Qaeda attack us again? That depends on the president. He must demonstrate force!"

Rev. Oswald Denis,
Morrisania



Our mission in Afghanistan was to take out Osama bin Laden and his organization, which we did. Unfortunately, we did not foresee a war among different terrorist organizations. The transition of power from the U.S. to the Taliban was not peaceful as ISIS-K instigated the violence, but like the saying goes, 'The enemy of our enemy is our friend.' The Taliban is our enemy, but a lesser evil of the two. I believe we should have [had] SOCOM (U.S. Special Operations Command) stay until every American was safely evacuated. I feel that President Biden showed a lot of weakness and another 9/11 will eventually occur."

Joseph Ronda,
Throgs Neck

DOT: Expand Speed Camera Use in School Zones

By SÍLE MOLONEY

NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) Commissioner Hank Gutman is calling for the expanded use of cameras in school zones, following two fatal crashes which occurred over the weekend of Aug. 27, one on East Fordham Road in the Bronx, and one in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn.

Under prevailing State legisla-

tion, cameras in school zones can only legally operate between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m., Monday to Friday. "This weekend saw two high-speed, fatal crashes on our streets, both of which occurred within school zones, near speed cameras we aren't legally allowed to operate," said Gutman. "Once again, we urge the state legislature to allow our cameras to operate 24/7. There must be consequences

for dangerous drivers, no matter what time of the week they break the law. Speed cameras are an efficient, equitable way to reduce speeding, and we must do everything in our power to stop violence on our streets before it happens," he added.

On Aug. 28, at 8.42 p.m., two pedestrians were struck by a vehicle at East Fordham Road and Morris Avenue in Fordham Manor. Both female victims, a 44 and a 53-year-old suffered trauma throughout the body and were transported to St. Barnabas Hospital, where the 44-year-old was pronounced deceased, and the 53-year-old was listed in stable condition.

A preliminary investigation determined that an unidentified vehicle was traveling eastbound on East Fordham Road when the driver failed to properly navigate the roadway and struck the 44-year-old woman. The vehicle also collided with some metal items that were on the sidewalk, causing them to injure the 53-year-old. The driver fled the scene and NYPD

is investigating the incident.

The deceased was identified as Murielle Gousse, 44, of Prospect Avenue in the Bronx. The Brooklyn crash occurred at Halsey Street and Marcus Garvey Boulevard, causing a 45-year-old man severe trauma to the head and he was pronounced deceased later at Interfaith Hospital. A preliminary investigation determined the man had been driving a Suzuki motorcycle and collided with an unidentified, dark-colored sedan.

The driver fled the scene, and the NYPD is investigating the incident. The deceased was identified as Donnell, L Oakes, 45, of Charlotte, NC.

According to DOT, one-third of fatal crashes on City streets last year happened in school speed zones during overnight and weekend hours when cameras were not active. DOT officials are urging the State legislature to pass S5602/A6681, a bill sponsored by State Sen. Andrew Gounardes and Assembly Member Deborah Glick, which would allow DOT's cameras to operate 24/7.

PERFECT POSE Hair Design

We Specialize In

Hair care • Hair weaving • Relaxer
Up-Doos • Finger wave • Corn Rows /Braids
Dread /Twist • Dry Curls • Color



Now Operating L.L.C.

Open Monday to Sunday 930 AM

Last person come at 6PM Mon.to Thurs
CLOSE SATURDAY

323 E Gunhill Bronx N.Y 10467

718-515-1683

Instagram: perfectposehair



TRANSPORTATION

FOR YOUR MEDICAL APPOINTMENT

AT NO COST TO YOU*



718.585.2222

361 E GUN HILL RD. BRONX, NY 10467 • 560 SOUTHERN BLVD. BRONX, NY 10455

WWW.AGAPETRANSPORTATION.COM • INFO@AGAPETRANSPORTATION.COM

PLEASE PRACTICE

SOCIAL DISTANCING

PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS AGAINST INFECTIONS



← MAINTAIN **6 FEET**
DISTANCE FROM OTHERS
→
MANTENER UNA DISTANCIA DE 6 PIES DE LAS DEMAS PERSONAS



PORFAVOR PRACTICA LA DISTANCIA SOCIAL
PROTÉJASE USTED Y A LOS DEMÁS CONTRA LAS INFECCIONES

NEWS BRIEFS

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Community Salutes Beloved Neighbor

Beloved friend and 52nd precinct community council treasurer, Edward Siemer, husband of Grace Siemer, passed away peacefully at his home on Aug. 8. Council president, Brenda Caldwell-Paris, said Siemer had been in the hospital since July 29. On behalf of the council, she extended her condolences and prayers of comfort and strength to Mrs Siemer and her family. "We will deeply miss Mr. Edward Siemer," the statement read. Edward Siemer's funeral mass was held on Aug. 13, at the Church of St. Philip Neri. R.I.P.

Bronx Zoo Helps Coordinate Transfer of Pet Cougar

An 11-month-old, approximately 80-pound, pet female cougar was removed from a New York City home on Thursday, Aug. 26. In coordination with the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NY-DEC), New York City Police Department (NYPD) and the Bronx Zoo.

The HSUS was on scene with the owner who surrendered the cougar to the authorities. The NYSDC and NYPD worked to coordinate the safe removal of the big cat from the home and transported her to the Bronx Zoo where she was cared for by veterinarians and animal care staff over the weekend until her transport to an Arkansas animal sanctuary on Aug. 30. The cougar is now on her way to Turpentine Creek, an accredited sanctuary where she will receive lifelong care.

If passed at federal level, The Big Cat Public Safety Act would strengthen existing laws to prohibit the breeding and possession of big cat species such as lions, tigers, cheetahs and jaguars, except by qualified entities.

Subway Power Outage Investigation Ongoing

The MTA shared preliminary findings, on Sept. 1, of its investigation into the Aug. 29 power outage which impacted half the subway network, including subways lines 1 through 7, the LIRR, and caused two organized evacuations.

B.R.A.G. & St. Barnabas Partner for New Youth Boxing Program

By SARAH HUFFMAN

Since the second week of July, a group of four young Bronxites have been meeting at St. Barnabas Hospital's Healthplex in Little Italy on Thursday and Friday evenings for hour-long fitness and boxing classes. The classes are the latest initiative by St. Barnabas Hospital and the Bronx Rises Against Gun Violence (B.R.A.G.) cure violence program.

The classes are part of a B.R.A.G., 12-week, pilot program which will end in October. *Norwood News* spoke to David Caba, senior program director at B.R.A.G., on July 29 about the new initiative. He said it's just one of B.R.A.G.'s many programs which helps young people stay away from high-risk activities and grew out of B.R.A.G.'s long-time partnership and hospital response program with St. Barnabas.

"It's really designed for the young people that come into the emergency room of St. Barnabas hospital, recover from their injuries, and now it's time for them to get physically fit and strong again and learn the art of self-defense, which is boxing," he said. "It teaches things like discipline and accountability, responsibility, and an overall sense of well-being, mental and physical health."

According to Caba, the program is designed so that participants meet on Thursdays and Fridays at 6 p.m., because it's at these times when young people are most likely to get involved with high-risk activities.

"They're with us in the evenings on Thursdays and Fridays, the next 12 weeks," he told the *Norwood News*. "That gives us a huge opportunity to turn them, push them, nudge them in the right direction, and try to keep them there when it's all said and done," said Caba.

MTA officials said Con Edison experienced "a power anomaly" at 8:25 p.m. which temporarily interrupted certain subway signals and communications. A default, battery-powered, back-up system was engaged to keep the subway system fully operational. Two back-up emergency generators, designed to kick in automatically when they sense a loss of power across the system should have activated and taken over from the temporary battery power source but didn't.

An alert system that

should have informed subway management of the power outage failed to trigger alerts, which meant the management team believed the systems were operating properly, when in fact the temporary battery power source only continued to power the system for approximately 45 minutes. At 9:14 p.m. the batteries, which are not designed to provide long-term power, ran out causing the major service interruption. Two engineering firms will conduct an independent review of the incident.

New Director for Unit on Bias-Based Policing and Racial Profiling

New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) will announce its newly appointed director for the pioneering Racial Profiling and Bias Based Policing Unit on Thursday, Sept. 9.

On April 25, 2021, the City Council passed a bill, expanding the CCRB's jurisdiction to investigate allegations that members of the NYPD engaged in racial profiling and bias-based policing. The CCRB may also

investigate the past five years of professional conduct of any NYPD service member found to have engaged in either activity in order to determine whether a pattern of such practices and misconduct is present.

"The CCRB is proud to lead the charge for accountability for civilians against bias-based policing and racial profiling," said CCRB chair, Fred Davie. "This new unit will finally provide New Yorkers with an independent and thorough investigation of their allegation of bias-based policing."



Photo by Sarah Huffman.

DANIEL BONILLA, CLINICAL integration director at St. Barnabas Healthplex Fitness Center, spars with his boxing student during a boxing class organized by B.R.A.G. and St. Barnabas at the hospital's healthplex in the Belmont section of The Bronx in early August, 2021.

Daniel Bonilla, clinical integration director at St. Barnabas Healthplex Fitness Center, is one of the program's instructors. He reiterated Caba's point, saying that gun violence is most prevalent in the Bronx on Thursday and Friday evenings. He said youth are less likely to get into trouble if they're in class with him, and when they leave class, they are hopefully too exhausted to engage in violent activities.

For the week ending Aug. 30, murders in the Bronx were up 40 percent compared to the same period last year, the number of shootings had increased by 36.4 percent compared to the same period last year, and the number of shooting victims was also up by 33.4 percent compared to the same period last year. In the 48th precinct, which covers Little Italy, murder is down compared to the same period last year as of Aug. 30, but shooting incidents are up by 21.2 percent and the number of shooting victims has

also increased compared to last year by 2.3 percent.

Bonilla said the program organizers chose to provide boxing classes because a lot of kids and youth are into that sport right now. However, he said that if they learn what the body is capable of doing to another person, they are less likely to fight in the streets.

"As counterintuitive as it sounds, if you know how to fight, you don't really want to fight," he said.

Joel Castillo, BRAG hospital responder supervisor, who happens to be a former professional boxer, said boxing helped him leave behind a life of violence. He said he wants to help show kids in a similar situation that they, too, can do something positive with their lives.

"As long as they're staying occupied, right? [It] is what's important but most important is what they can learn from this program, the discipline, their

(continued on page 17)

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 • Mark and Kaylee Alicia, Youth Pastor

www.vannestassembly.org

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

TUESDAY:
 12:00pm Prayer Meeting

WEDNESDAY NIGHT:
 7:30pm Prayer Meeting

FRIDAY NIGHT:
 7:30pm 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

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.



Saint Gabriel School

590 West 235th Street
Bronx, New York 10463



Saint Gabriel School is now accepting applications for admission to Kindergarten and grades 1 through 7. We are looking forward to safely returning to five full days of in person instruction for all students. We are excited to welcome new families to our vibrant Saint Gabriel Catholic School Community.

Children of all faiths are welcome.




Please visit our website at www.saintGabrielSchoolBronx.org to view our virtual tour and learn more about our school. Applications for admission may be filed at www.ApplyCatholicSchoolsNY.Org. Scholarships and financial aid packages are available to families who qualify.

Please call us at 718 548-0444 for further information.

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @ StGabrielBX.





NEW HEIGHTS CONSTRUCTION LLC

FALL SPECIALS





KITCHEN & BATH
 Complete Renovation
 And Remodeling,
 Expert Tile, Grant
 And Quartz

**SIDING, ROOFING
& WINDOWS**
 Waterproofing • Gutters
 Sot & 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



Galaxy

Coffee Shop, Inc.



FREE DELIVERY - OPEN 7 DAYS - MIN. \$8
MONDAY - SATURDAY 6AM - 5PM
SUNDAYS 7AM - 4PM

3150 Bainbridge & 206 St., Bx., NY 10467

Tel. 718-231-1700

FREE
1.5 LITER OF SODA
 WITH A \$25
 PURCHASE

Bronx Legislators, Activists Call Out City Plan to End “Solitary Confinement”

(continued from page 2)

- steady, experienced case managers;
- hours of daily programming, including required therapeutic programming in space outside the facility’s dayroom space and
- daily rounding by health and mental health staff.

Other conditions and programming are stipulated for the period post-RMAS.

RMAS follows the signing, on April 1, 2021, by former NYS Gov. Andrew Cuomo of a new State law, the Humane Alternatives to Long-Term Solitary Confinement Act (HALT), set to take effect next year on April 1.

HALT was also designed to end solitary confinement in both New York State prisons and in New York City jails by minimizing the isolation of inmates, providing them with opportunities for human engagement and access to rehabilitative programming.

The law aimed to bring New York into compliance with international standards and save the State tens of millions of dollars over the next several years (presumably in lawsuit pay-outs).

HALT defines solitary confinement as a situation where an inmate is locked up alone for more than 17 hours a day for a specific duration, meaning no physical interaction with other inmates or any out-of-cell time. Punitive confinement is allowed under HALT but not beyond 15 consecutive days.

In addition, under HALT, vulnerable inmates are precluded from spending any time in solitary and the act also mandates that inmates who are placed in punitive confinement have at least four hours of out-of-cell, congregate programming every day.

Critics of RMAS say people in City jails would be locked up in their cells for 23 hours a day and, potentially, could be held in solitary, indefinitely.

In addition, they say inmates’ out-of-cell time would

be confined to fenced-in cages which extend out from their cells, keeping inmates physically segregated and making it impossible to implement any congregate, rehabilitative programming.

“It seems outrageous to me that a city that claims to be as progressive as New York would continue to use solitary confinement,” said Jennifer J. Powers, the director of criminal justice advocacy at the Urban Justice Center. “We know that isolating people in this way not only causes harm to them at the moment but has long term consequences as well.”

A study in *The Lancet*, a British medical journal, found that even a few days of solitary confinement can significantly increase an inmate’s risk of death, once released. The study included roughly 14,000 formerly incarcerated people at a Danish prison. Researchers found that 5 percent of the inmates, most of whom had spent less than a week in solitary, died within five years of release. This compared to 3 percent of former inmates who died following release, who had spent no time in solitary.

Candie Hailey, 37, spent three years in solitary at Rikers for allegedly assaulting a staff member while in protective custody. She told *Norwood News* she tried to commit suicide 188 times while in solitary and that, occasionally, she struggles with the same urges, post-incarceration. “Sometimes I’ll be sitting down, watching television and I’ll think this is a dream and I’m going to wake up and be back in solitary,” she said.

Today, Hailey lives in South Carolina, and although she’s thousands of miles away from Rikers, there are certain smells and even foods that can send her back to her days in solitary. “I don’t like chicken,” she said. “Like, I like fried chicken, but I don’t like baked chicken. I hate when I go to a restaurant, and I see it because it reminds me of the bloody,

undercooked chicken they used to cook at Rikers.”

Hailey, who was acquitted of her charges after going to trial, said, “Solitary is torture. It’s just torturous. It’s inhumane and it’s evil.”

Meanwhile, Chris Moreau, the Mid-Hudson regional vice president for the New York State Correction Officers Police Benevolent Association (NYSCOPA), the union representing the State’s correction officers, contends that currently, solitary confinement doesn’t exist in New York or anywhere else in the United States.

“It’s, you know, a buzz word that everybody clings to,” he said. According to Moreau, what advocates call solitary confinement is a necessary disciplinary tool that correction officers use to keep staff and inmates safe from those inmates who get violent.

Moreau said inmates who commit crimes are pulled out of the general population, are held in secure housing units, and cannot move about the facility unattended. “Even if they’re in the SHUs, inmates have access to recreation. They have access to programming. They have access to counselors and their attorneys,” Moreau said. “They’re seen by medical, and this is all time spent out of the cell. They’re given tablets, and some even have television and radios, depending on the facility.”

After the HALT Act was signed into law in April 2021, the New York State Council of Probation Administrators (NYSCOPA) filed a federal lawsuit against the State and NYS DOC to overturn the legislation. They say, if implemented, it would expose officers to a level of inmate violence that would put their



Photo credit: NYC Department of Correction

RENDERING OF THE caged cell extensions proposed under the city’s Risk Management and Accountability System (RMAS).

lives at even greater risk.

NYSCOPA analyzed data provided by the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) and found that from 2012 to 2020, inmate-on-staff attacks in NYS prisons increased by 100 percent, and inmate-on-inmate attacks increased by 85 percent, despite a 37 percent decrease in the total inmate population.

Jeff Dumas, 54, a retired sergeant who worked at DOCCS for 25 years, said, “These politicians lose sense of the fact that they are condemning what we do to keep ourselves safe from murderers, rapists, child molesters, gang bangers, thieves, and drug peddlers,” he said. “What about the normal person who’s just going to work to earn a wage, and go home to his family? They’ve done nothing wrong, but yet the politicians are going to step on the security procedures that keep officers safe.”

Norwood News attempted to contact two correction officers who were recently hospitalized following an inmate attack. However, to maintain their privacy, both declined to comment.

Currently, activists who seek an end to solitary are working with NYC Council Members Danny Dromm and Keith Powers. They aim to create and pass legislation at City Council level that would amend RMAS and bring it into compliance with HALT.

Norwood News reached out to Dromm’s office to ask if the proposed amended RMAS legislation is expected to pass before Nov. 1. We did not receive an immediate response.

Meanwhile, Jason Kersten, DOC’s press secretary, provided the following statement to *Norwood News*, on the alleged gaps between HALT and RMAS.

“Not only are we confident that RMAS complies with HALT when it comes to eliminating solitary, we believe it goes much further. It mandates more programming, eliminates the use of routine restraints, and allows people to communicate with the people next to them for a minimum of 10 hours a day. We don’t claim that it’s perfect, and we will keep refining it after the initial implementation in November.”

**Sile Moloney contributed to this story*

Eviction Moratorium Extension follows Bronx Rally



Photo by Sarah Huffman.

CONGRESSMAN RITCHIE TORRES (NY-15) hosts a press conference on Aug. 3, 2021, in the Hunts Point section of the Bronx, to call for an extension of the New York State eviction moratorium.

By SARAH HUFFMAN

A housing rally organized by Congressman Ritchie Torres (NY-15) in Hunts Point on Aug. 3 achieved the desired result: an extension of the State eviction moratorium. In addition, the State moratorium offers greater protections than its federal counterpart, which is also fortunate as in the meantime, the federal moratorium extension has been struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Torres was joined at the Aug. 3 rally, held at 1231 Lafayette Avenue, by New York City Council Member Vanessa Gibson (C.D. 16) and advocates from Community Action for Safe Apartments (CASA), the Supportive Housing Network of New York, the New York Housing Conference, and the Legal Aid Society. Together,

they called for the extension of the eviction moratorium at both State and federal levels, as the country and State continued to battle the effects of the Delta variant amid sluggish COVID-19 vaccination rates.

A previous federal eviction moratorium expired on July 31, and New York State's moratorium was set to expire one month later, on Aug. 31. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) announced on Aug. 3 that the federal moratorium would be extended until Oct. 3 for areas experiencing substantial or high levels of COVID-19 community transmission.

In response to the CDC announcement, Torres said, "Although the CDC extended the eviction moratorium, we need New York State government to act. New

York must expedite rental assistance to tenants in crisis and extend the State moratorium." He added, "We cannot allow a single New Yorker

to go homeless during the current pandemic and public health emergency."

The congressman said letting the federal

housing moratorium expire in the first place had been a failure on the part of all parties and branches of government. He specifically called

out New York State officials for, in his view, a lack of action during the pandemic, citing the fact that New York was one
(continued on page 24)



PEOPLES PHARMACY
And Food Mart

3176 Bainbridge Ave., Bronx, NY 10467
Ph: 347-346-7600
Fax: 347-346-7599
peoples3176@gmail.com

E-Prescription • Specialty • Surgical Supply

- Fast and Friendly Service
- Compounding
- HIV Consulting
- Free Patient Counseling
- Free Medication Review And Consultation
- Free Blood Pressure & Sugar Checkup

- Free Blood Pressure & Sugar Checkup
- **10% Senior Discount**
- **Free Delivery**

We now offer both
COVID-19 Testing & COVID-19 Vaccinations
(Moderna and Johnson & Johnson).



Specialty & Surgicals



Vacuna Contra La Influenza Gripe



GRATIS Rx De Recogida Y Entrega



Medicare Aceptado



Copias, Fax, Sellos, Tarjetas Metro



Adheren A La Medicacion Programa

FLU, PNEUMONIA and SHINGLE SHOTS

We Accept Most Insurance Including CVS Cardmark, Medicaid, Medicare, Workers Compensation and All Union Plans



CRIME FILE

BY SÍLE MOLONEY & DAVID GREENE

**Police-Involved Shooting Protest Turns Violent**

A Fordham Heights protest on Sept. 3, at 10.32 p.m. turned violent when protesters knocked over metal barricades and a police vehicle was doused with gasoline. The protest, held outside the 46th precinct, was held in response to the Aug. 29 police-involved shooting of Mike Rosado, 24, of East 150th Street in the Bronx. In a video shared by the NYPD, one person is seen dousing the police van, which police say was occupied, apparently with gasoline. An investigation is underway. The person who poured the gasoline could face State and / or federal charges for his actions. An initial protest was held on Aug. 30.

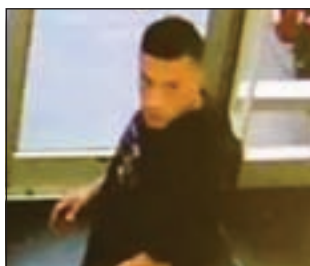
Rosado was killed and his

father is in custody following an Aug. 29 corner dispute which broke out at 4.15 a.m. among a group of men outside Los Polmaritos Deli & Grocery at 2080 Valentine Avenue, located at the corner of East 180th Street in Fordham Heights. It led to a shoot-out with a pair of off-duty police officers. The NYPD said Rosado pointed his gun and fired several times at the officers, who returned fire, fatally striking the man in the chest. The department typically releases "bodycam" footage at some stage following the conclusion of the investigation into such shootings. It has not yet released the bodycam footage of the Aug. 29 incident.

An apparent extract of other video footage of the shooting has been posted to YouTube by the group, Cop Watch, and appears to show the victim, unarmed, with his arms raised before the fatal shooting. Norwood News is unable to confirm the source of the video.

Bedford Park Carjacking

The NYPD is seeking to identify the person seen in the attached photo, wanted for questioning in connection with



a gunpoint robbery/carjacking that occurred in Bedford Park. On Friday, July 16, at approximately 5.30 p.m., opposite 300 East 201st Street in the 52nd precinct, a 23-year-old man was parked and sitting inside his vehicle, a 2014 black Lexus, when an unidentified man approached the driver side window, pointing a black firearm as he did so.

The suspect demanded the victim get out of his vehicle and walk away, which he did. The suspect then got into the car and drove off to parts unknown. The car is valued at approximately \$16,000, and contained electronics, a cell phone and clothing. There were no injuries reported following the incident. The suspect is described as a man in his 20s with a thin build, medium-skinned, and was last seen wearing a white T-shirt,

black jeans, black sneakers, a black ski mask covering half of his face, a white and black hat and carrying a black bag around his neck.

**Fordham Manor Robbery**

The NYPD is seeking the whereabouts of the man seen in the attached photo who is sought in connection with a robbery which took place in Fordham Manor. On Thursday, Aug. 19, at 9.15 a.m. inside a Burlington Coat Factory located at 2543 Webster Avenue in the 52nd precinct, the man attempted to exit the store with merchandise that he didn't pay for.

A 47-year-old female store security guard recovered the merchandise and attempted to stop the suspect, who produced a knife and threatened the security guard with it. He then threw a garbage pail at her

before fleeing on foot. She was not stabbed, was not struck with the garbage pail, and was not injured.

Man Dies in Norwood

The NYPD confirmed a 41-year-old man died in a Norwood apartment. Officers from the 52nd precinct were called to 333 East 209th Street at 2 p.m. on Saturday, August 21. Upon arrival, they discovered the man unconscious, lying in the hallway of the location. EMS responded and pronounced the man deceased.

His name was not immediately released as it was pending proper family notification. The Office of the City's Medical Examiner will determine the cause of death.

Anyone with information with regard to these incidents is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1-800-577-TIPS (8477) or for Spanish, 1-888-57-PISTA (74782). The public can also submit their tips by logging onto the CrimeStoppers website at <https://crimestoppers.nypdonline.org/> or on Twitter @NYPDTips.

All calls are strictly confidential.

St. Patrick's Home

Rehabilitation & Health Care Center

***"Where it all began"***

- Short-Term Rehabilitation and
- Long-Term Care
- Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapy
- Daily Mass in our Chapel
- Restorative Nursing
- Wound Care
- Therapeutic Recreation
- Memory Program
- Palliative Care
- Pastoral Care
- Psychological Services
- Gift Shop & Coffee Shop
- And many other services...



66 Van Cortlandt Park South, Bronx, NY 10463

Tel: 718-519-2800

Fax: 718-304-1817

www.stpatrickshome.org

Carmelite Sisters Serving the Aged Since 1929



FACEBOOK.COM/STPATRICKSHOME

State-of-the-art rehab in the heart of the Bronx

Wayne's new brand is part of our multi-million dollar remodeling, bringing state-of-the-art living and cutting-edge amenities to one of the area's most respected five-star facilities for nursing and rehabilitation.

World-Class Rehab
On-Site Dialysis
Inspire Vent Unit

LVAD Therapies

Hospice Care

Palliative Care

On-Site Specialists

Fulfilling Long Term Care Program

Pulmonary Rehab

Stroke Recovery

OT, PT & Speech

Tracheostomy Care

Five-Star Amenities



CENTER FOR REHABILITATION & NURSING



3530 Wayne Ave, The Bronx, NY 10467

(718) 655-1700 | info@TheWayneCenter.com

www.TheWayneCenter.com

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY



COVID-19 Updates

On June 24, 2021, New York State ended the State disaster emergency (PAUSE order) declared on March 7, 2020, to fight COVID-19.

NYS Department of Health (NYS DOH) requires all teachers, administrators, and other school employees to submit weekly COVID-19 testing, unless they show proof of vaccination.

NYS DOH has released official guidance for classroom instruction for the 2021-2022 school year. This can be found on:

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/09/school-guidance.pdf>

Gov. Kathy Hochul recently signed into law a new moratorium on COVID-19 related residential and commercial evictions, which is in effect until Jan. 15, 2022. To apply, go to: <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/emergency-rental-assistance/>.

The distribution of COVID-19 booster shots will be supported by \$65 million in funding to local health departments across the State.

The open enrollment period for uninsured New Yorkers has been extended through Dec. 31, 2021. New Yorkers can apply for coverage through NY State of Health, at <https://nystateofhealth.ny.gov/> or directly through insurers.

Health care workers can text

NYFRONTLINE to 741-741 to access 24/7 emotional support services.

Any New Yorker can call the COVID-19 Emotional Support Hotline at 1-844-863-9314 for mental health counseling.

New COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements

As of August 17, people 12 and older are required to show proof they have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine to obtain access to indoor dining, indoor fitness, and indoor entertainment. Learn more at <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-vaccines-keytonyc.page>.

Proof of Vaccination

According to NYC DOH, when proof of vaccination is required, New Yorkers can choose from the following options:

- a CDC vaccination card, or photo or photocopy of this card;

- an NYC vaccination record or other official immunization record from within or outside the U.S., including from a health care provider or a photo or photocopy of this card;

- the NYC COVID Safe App, on Android or iOS, where residents can upload a photo of their CDC vaccination card or other official record, along with a photo ID;

- the Excelsior Pass or Excelsior Plus Pass, where New Yorkers will need the phone number or email address associated with their

NYC vaccination record. More information is available at <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-vaccines-keytonyc.page>.

Data Shows Vaccination Works

NYC DOH said data collected to date shows how the COVID-19 vaccines are protecting New Yorkers against infection and illness. Since mid-January, the vast majority of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths in NYC are occurring in unvaccinated people. Between January 17 and August 17, people who are unvaccinated in NYC accounted for:

- 96.1% of all COVID-19 cases
- 96.9% of COVID-19 hospitalizations
- 97.3% of COVID-19 deaths

Resources & Help following Storm Ida

Service centers have opened citywide to support individuals and families affected by the flash flood emergency that occurred on Sept. 1 following Storm Ida. Services are available to all visitors, and visitors to the sites will not be asked about their immigration status. The Bronx center is located at 2365 Waterbury Avenue, Bronx, NY 10462 (P.S. /M.S. 194). Bronxites can also call 311, or access city services online by visiting nyc.gov/ida.

The office of Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernández (A.D. 80) is offering support in filing claims for damages. Residents can stop

by the assemblywoman's office any time until Sept. 10 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. for assistance. Call (718) 409 0109 or email district80@nyassembly.gov.

State Sen. Alessandra Biaggi has said The Bronx will receive funding for emergency protective measures, debris removal and repairs to public buildings and infrastructure, as well as direct support for individuals and homeowners. Eligible New Yorkers can receive funds for uninsured or under-insured disaster-caused expenses, such as repair or replacement of personal property or funds for moving and storage, or medical, dental, and childcare. The link to apply for FEMA financial assistance can be found here: www.disasterassistance.gov. The senator is offering assistance with filing FEMA claims. Contact her office at biaggi@ny-senate.gov or call 718-822-2049.

False Rumors of Illegal Conversion Inspections

DOB officials said rumors on social media that DOB inspectors are going door-to-door, unannounced, asking for access to homes to conduct illegal conversion inspections, ARE FALSE. The City received over 2,700 self-reported notifications of storm-damaged property across the five boroughs. These notifications have been self-reported by property owners and tenants living in these properties.

In the interest of protecting New Yorkers, DOB said it is conducting safety inspections of these 2,700+ properties to check for structural damage and other immediately hazardous conditions. DOB is triaging these storm damage notifications as they come in, and inspectors are checking the affected properties are safe to occupy.

If storm-related damage is found during these inspections, the property owners are being notified, and are being provided with guidance on repairs. Vacate Orders are only being issued as a last resort, when building occupancy poses an immediate life safety threat. To date, the inspection teams have not issued any Vacate Orders for illegal conversion conditions.

Back-to-School Events

City Council Member Eric Dinowitz and Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz are hosting a back-to-school at Mosholu Montefiore Community Center at 3450 DeKalb Avenue, on Sept. 9 at 4 p.m. until supplies last. The National Black Leadership Commission will also host a similar giveaway on Sept. 10 at 3 p.m. at 2975 Bainbridge Avenue, The Bronx. Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center in Norwood is also hosting a back-to-school event on Saturday, Sept. 11, from noon to 2 p.m., with games, read-along sessions, arts & crafts and more.

SHOP SMALL FOR ALL OF YOUR BACK TO SCHOOL NEEDS IN THE JEROME GUN HILL BID!

SHOP SMALL AND SAVE AT LOCAL STORES THIS YEAR!

@jeromegunhillbid
jeromegunhillbid.org

JEROME GUN HILL BID



BAINBRIDGE

NURSING & REHABILITATION CENTER

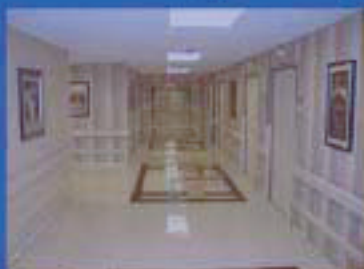
**NEWLY
RENOVATED
REHAB
DEPARTMENT**



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





Bronx Community Board No. 7

229-A East 204th Street

Bronx, NY 10458

CITY OF NEW YORK

Bronx Community Board 7

JOB VACANCY NOTICE

Civil Service Title: Community Coordinator (Full-Time)

Title Code: 56058

Number of Positions: One

Salary Range: \$54,100 to \$83,981

Bronx Community Board No. 7 is a New York City agency established to identify the needs of our community and advocate through city government to meet those requirements. The 59 community boards are independent City agencies that advise on land use, the City budget, municipal service delivery, and other matters on a geographically exclusive basis. Bronx Community Board 7 serves the neighborhoods Bedford Park, Fordham, Jerome Park, Kingsbridge Heights, Mosholu, Norwood, & University Heights of the Bronx.

Duties and Responsibilities

The Community Coordinator, under supervision and direction of the District Manager, assists in resolving community issues and is responsible for various administrative tasks.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following:

- Participate at meetings/events to represent the District Manager (DM) as assigned
- Assist in organizing monthly meetings of the board and its committees, participating in all full Board meetings and in committee meetings, including evening and weekend meetings as assigned by the DM
- Ensure all meeting notices and minutes are received, distributed and posted on time, coordinating with staff and IT (DoITT)
- Prepare and update board member attendance reports and other reports as assigned
- Assist the District Manager to process complaints from residents of the community district relating to services provided by municipalities or assisting to attain services from CBO's and reporting the problems and actions taken
- Assists in the day-to-day operations of the office including internal budget, processes constituent complaints, provides accurate information to the public and maintains files, service request log and records both paper and electronic
- Review invoices and input and/or approve purchase orders and entries in the city Financial Management System (FMS) for further approval and assist in maintaining financial records
- Assists in policy and strategy recommendations including but not limited to, CB7 Capital and Expense budgets of NYC, and executes board policies
- Establishes and maintains a working relationship with local stakeholders with outreach and database building

- Assist in maintaining and updating the Community Board 7 social media platforms to increase community engagement
- Assist in responding and preparing correspondence from the Board and the public, conducting research as necessary and tracking key data
- Perform other tasks as assigned to support the mission and work of the Board and District Manager

Qualification Requirements

1. Must be able to travel locally and attend evening and weekend meetings/events
2. Education and/or experience which is equivalent to “a”, “b” or “c” below:
 - a) A baccalaureate degree from an accredited college and two years of experience in community work or community centered activities in an area related to the duties described above; or
 - b) High school graduation or equivalent and six years of experience in community work or community centered activities in an area related to the duties described above; or
 - c) Education and/or experience which is equivalent to “a” or “b” above. However, all candidates must have at least one year of experience as described in “a” above.
3. New York City residency is generally required

Important Skills

- Cultural sensitivity and competency for a diverse population
- Bilingual (English/Spanish) a plus
- Interest, familiarity and experience with community boards and/or NYC government
- Takes initiative, uses sound judgement and demonstrates service orientation
- Excellent oral and written communications skills a must
- Computer proficiency including mastery in MS Office, Google Drive, social media
- Ability to adapt to change in a fast-paced environment
- Must be a team player and enjoy interacting with people on a daily basis
- Superior organizational skills and keen attention to details, including the ability to effectively juggle multiple projects and meet strict deadlines

(*) Salary Note (2019): for employees with two or more years of continuous city service, the minimum starting salary is \$60,403

To Apply

EMAIL your cover letter and résumé to: ibravo@cb.nyc.gov no later than Thursday, September 30th, 2021. Please type Community Coordinator in the subject line. *Do not call or visit the Community Board office regarding your application*

- Residents of Bronx Community Board 7 are encouraged to apply
- This position is classified in the Non-Competitive Class
- For Fair Labor Standards Act purposes, this position is Exempt
- This position offers a New York City comprehensive fringe benefits package

The City of New York and Bronx Community Board 7 are Equal Opportunity Employers

"I Do!" Lehman College Becomes Backdrop for Surprise Engagement of Two Former Students

BY LEHMAN COLLEGE
COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

As Lehman students head back to campus for the Fall '21 semester, the community has one extra reason to celebrate. Two former students recently got engaged in a surprise proposal outside the campus building where they once attended class together.

Giancarlo Paternoster, 27, proposed to girlfriend, Julia Djokic, 26, in front of Davis Hall on Aug. 19. The two had bonded while taking an organic chemistry course the College offers to post-baccalaureate students preparing for careers in various health professions. Paternoster is now a first-year medical student at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, while Djokic is a first-year student at NYU College of Dentistry.

With help from their former instructor, Sharif Elhakem, Lehman's chief college laboratory technician, Paternoster tricked Djokic into thinking she'd been asked to return to campus to speak to a pre-dental student

group. Instead, Elhakem led her to Davis Hall, where she found Paternoster with a bouquet of roses, a sparkling diamond ring, and a life-changing question. Their big moment came roughly two years after they took their final exams and completed their organic chemistry class.

Standing outside Davis Hall, Paternoster said, "We fell in love here, in this building... This is really where we laid the foundation for our relationship." Paternoster and Djokic initially met in February 2018 while taking a biology course at Purchase College, SUNY. As the end of the semester neared, they discovered that they needed to take organic chemistry as a prerequisite for dental and medical school and discussed possible options. Each decided to take the summer class at Lehman, Djokic said.

However, Djokic hails from Somers, New York, about 35 miles from the Bronx, and initially, she had doubts that she could make the trek from her home to the Bronx campus. Paternoster, who lives in Scarsdale, stepped in



Photo courtesy of Lehman College

FORMER STUDENT OF Lehman College, Giancarlo Paternoster, 27, proposed to girlfriend, Julia Djokic, 26, also a former student at Lehman, in front of Davis Hall on the college campus on Aug. 19, 2021. The two had bonded while taking an organic chemistry course the College offers to Post-Baccalaureate students preparing for careers in health professions.

with a fix. "As he usually does, Giancarlo came up with a solution to make my life easier, which was to drive to his house each morning where we would then take his car and drive the final 20 minutes to Lehman together," Djokic said.

The two initially considered themselves good friends, but after a summer of teaming up to prepare for exams and lab assignments, they realized there was something special about their relationship and started dating that fall.

To others, however, their personal chemistry was apparent, both inside and outside the lab. "I could see the spark there three years ago," Elhakem said. "They were becoming closer in their friendship and studying together and helping each other out in the course.... I knew, with time, something might happen."

Djokic concurred. "I think everybody saw it before we did," she said.

With their engagement taking place at Davis Hall, the couple now has a new reason to come back and visit the campus. Both had already felt a strong connection to the college. "I absolutely loved my experience at Lehman," Djokic said. "The staff I met were incredibly kind, the students were all hard-working, and there was a warm feeling of camaraderie amongst them. Even though I was only at Lehman for a short time, I felt very at home there."

Paternoster agreed. "I found the learning environment to be kind, yet rigorous, and I found my fellow students to be both challenging and supportive," he said. "I'm grateful for the guidance I received while I was enrolled as a student, and I look forward to being able to pass my blessings on to others when I am a physician."

Editor's Note: Norwood News extends our best wishes to the happy couple!

Immediate Hiring



"Agents of Change"



Immediate Work PCA & HHA

- Sick Days
- Vacation Days
- Bonus after 3 months (\$300)
- Rate increase after 4 months
- Health Insurance
- Shift: Friday, Saturday and Sunday 9-7 p.m.

Referral of a Friend
Collects \$500 after
3 month employment

Receive up
to
\$16.00
Per Hour

718-255-5946
BRONX - BROOKLYN
MANHATTAN - QUEENS

1650 Eastern Parkway, Suite 400-403 Brooklyn, NY 11233

260 E. 138th Street, 4FI Bronx, NY 10451

75 Clinton Street, Staten Island, NY 10304

B.R.A.G. & St. Barnabas Partner for New Youth Boxing Program

(continued from page 6)

health, the self-care, and how to control emotions, because sometimes it's not all about fighting," Castillo said. "Sometimes, knowing what you can do to somebody and how lethal your hands are or whatever it is, you avoid the fight. Sometimes, you just walk away because you know what you can do. It's a big responsibility," he added.

The classes are broken up into strength and conditioning sessions and boxing technique sessions. Albert Jovel, general manager at St Barnabas Healthplex Fitness Center, usually teaches the participants strength and conditioning on Thursdays and Bonilla teaches boxing skills on Fridays.

Jovel said the idea is to provide the classes in a way that teaches the participants not only about boxing, but also how to move better, and how to deal with their bodies better. He said it's a place where they "just have an outlet for themselves, and a place to come, other than the streets."

He said he would also like to see the youth take the knowledge they acquire

about health and fitness with them throughout the rest of their lives.

BRAG purchased boxing equipment for each of the participants to make sure that they each had everything they needed to be successful in the program.

"When you're working with youth and you're trying to keep them engaged, you want to make sure that you have everything that's necessary for them to see that we're taking this seriously," Caba said. "We want to invest in them, and we want them to maintain this long after the 12-week curriculum is over."

Bonilla said that after working with the youth for a few weeks, he's learned that they are open to learning, and are also willing to work hard to learn more. He said they are respectful of the staff, the equipment, and the environment they're in when they come to class.

"They're really good kids," Bonilla said. "That's the thing that strikes me the most. They're actually really good kids when you talk to them. So, the goal is to keep them off the streets, give them something they really enjoy and

make sure they're too tired to do anything bad."

While B.R.A.G. usually targets young people aged 16 to 25 for its other programs, the participants chosen for the boxing program are between 14 and 18. Castillo picked the kids for this particular program based on the progress he had seen them make in other B.R.A.G. youth programs. He said they are teens from the local neighborhood, and he has known them since they were young.

One of the class participants we spoke to in early August said he'd never boxed before but joined the class after his uncle pitched the idea to him. "I've been fighting all my life, like, just regular street fighting and stuff like that," he said. "So, getting into this, it's a good thing because instead of fighting outside, I get properly trained and stuff like that."

After the pilot program ends, Jovel said the organizers hope to operationalize and expand the program over time, eventually expanding to more than just boxing. He said he would like to see the program fully operational with a constant flow of kids and dedicated facilities.

"So, the idea is that if the first pilot goes well, it will go into the second iteration of it... into, you know, more

advanced skills leading to an eventual sparring. So, the carrot, if you will, is like an actual sparring session and learning how to, you know, not fight but box and if that works, then identifying other cohorts of kids and making more of a program," he said.

Caba reiterated the ideas behind Jovel's vision for the future, saying he wants the program to become a standard programming initiative under BRAG and St. Barnabas.

Castillo said the process of getting the program going has been long, but he's excited to see how it's growing. "I'm very happy and I can't even tell you how I feel about how happy I am [to be] working with these kids and knowing that they are actually pursuing something that they've been asking me since they were kids, when they were younger kids," he said. "I'm just looking forward to keep working and for this program to keep growing," he said.

B.R.A.G. operates under the non-profit, Good Shepherd Services, in conjunction with New York City's crisis management system and the Mayor's Office to Prevent Gun Violence and runs a range of other programs in the Fordham, Belmont, and Wakefield sections of the Bronx.

**Sile Moloney contributed to this story.*





**new settlement
community center**

Registration is open from today until July 9th!

Call Today at (718) 758- 5901
1501 Jerome Avenue (On the corner of 172nd St.)
Bronx, NY 10452



- **Gymnastics**
- **Space for Rent**
- **Blue Seals Swim Team**
- **Marlins Adult Swim Team**
- **Art**
- **Tech Crew (STEAM)**

- **Music**
- **Soccer**
- **Swimming**
- **Dance**
- **Yoga**
- **Samba**
- **Fitness Classes**
- **Run Club**
- **ESL Classes**





**Shop local
and Save !**

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

jeromegunhillbid.org
BID hotline 718-324-4946

@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

The 52nd **PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meetings are usually held on the **third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.** at the precinct at 3100 Webster Avenue. Masks and social distancing are required at the meeting. 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** meetings have been held via ZOOM. The next full Board meeting will be held on **Tuesday, Sept. 28 at 6.30 p.m.** Contact ibravo@cb.nyc.gov and mirosario@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list. Join the meeting online at <https://zoom.us/j/83066035540> or by phone on (646) 558-8656. Meeting ID: 830 6603 5540.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March, **BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** meetings have been held via ZOOM. The meetings are usually held on the **first Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m.** The last meeting was held on Sept. 1. For further details, contact bedfordmosholu@verizon.net.

Ridgewood Savings Bank Sedgwick Avenue Branch to Remain Open Finally

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

Ridgewood Savings Bank (“Ridgewood”) announced Wednesday, Sept. 1, that its Sedgwick Avenue branch, located at 3899 Sedgwick Avenue in the Van Cortlandt Village section of the Bronx, will finally remain open. In May, the bank had announced the branch was expected to close, as reported, much to the disappointment of residents.

“We are very pleased to make this announcement,” said Leonard Stekol, Ridgewood Savings Bank chairman, president and CEO. “It’s truly exciting to remain a part of this great community and to continue to provide the award-winning banking services and community programming to which our customers are accustomed.”

Bank officials said that in addition to discussions with the office of New York State Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz of the 81st A.D., over the past several weeks the bank has worked closely with numerous other

partners including the New York State Department of Financial Services, University Neighborhood Housing Program, Van Cortlandt Jewish Center, Bronx Community Board 8, Association for Neighborhood & Housing Development, and the Bronx Borough President’s Office to pursue a Banking Development District (BDD) program designation to help Ridgewood Savings Bank continue to serve the financial needs of the community from its Sedgwick Avenue branch location.

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. said the bank had provided services to an underbanked community for many years, and the Northwest Bronx would benefit greatly as a result of the Sedgwick Avenue branch staying open. “The potential closure of this branch would have severely limited the availability of banking services to this topographically isolated section of the borough, and I am thrilled residents in the area will

(continued on page 26)



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

START THE PLANNING CONVERSATION

What You Need to Know

ABOUT CREMATION & BURIAL OPTIONS

FREE TROLLEY TOURS



If you've ever been part of the end-of-life planning process for a loved one who has died, you know how stressful it can become. So many decisions, so many options...and it's rare for the family to agree on what's best.

This is why many individuals and families come to us to put their own cremation or burial preferences in writing. You can express your wishes while preventing your loved ones from experiencing the financial and emotional stress of making decisions on your behalf.

NOW, YOU CAN EVEN JOIN US FOR A FREE INFORMATIONAL TROLLEY TOUR TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PLANNING AHEAD:

- How to start the conversation with your loved ones
- The differences between planning at the funeral home and the cemetery
- Understanding your options and asking any questions you may have

As a complimentary gift, you'll also receive a Living Will Kit and Personal Planning Organizer, easy-to-use resources for gathering information and putting your wishes in writing in one place.

These trolley tours are our no-obligation service to the community. We want to help you, however we can, to make a difficult time a little easier! Won't you join us?



CHECK OUR SCHEDULE FOR THESE TOURS AND REGISTER ONLINE BY VISITING
WWW.WOODLAWNPREPLAN.ORG

(718) 920-0500 • WWW.WOODLAWN.ORG • EMAIL: INFO@WOODLAWN.ORG

Pelham Parkway Residents Protest City's E-Scooter Program

By SHANIA DEGROOT

A heavy downpour of rain reduced the impact of a rally organized by Friends of Pelham Parkway (FPP) on Thursday, Aug. 12., near the e-scooter roadbed on Pelham Parkway North and Holland Avenue. Only about five people remained to protest the arrival of new e-scooter corrals in Pelham Parkway North.

Roxanne Delgado, founder of the group, wrote a recent op-ed in the *Norwood News*, in which she voiced her opposition to the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT)'s e-scooter program. She alleges DOT did little to communicate with residents about the important changes impacting their community, referring to the launch on Aug. 17 of the new e-scooter program in the area.

"Unfortunately, I had to find out from the media, in this case, the *Norwood News* about this information update because DOT refused to engage with us, and resolve questions to keep us in the loop," she said.

Earlier the same day, DOT had announced the program's launch in Pelham Parkway in the East Bronx. City Council passed a bill in June 2020 to establish the pilot program for the operation of shared, e-scooters for no less than one year and no more than two.

DOT confirmed that Bird, Lime and



Photo by Shania DeGroot

(L TO R) Roxanne Delgado, Kevin Arnold, and Sal Foreman hold signs during a rally opposing e-scooters on the corner of Pelham Parkway North and Holland Avenue near the e-scooter roadbed corral on Aug. 12, 2021.

Veo, the three companies participating in the pilot, were set to bring up to 3,000 e-scooters to the East Bronx during Phase 1, starting Aug. 17, with an increase to as many as 6,000 scooters during the program's second phase, next year.

The launch provoked safety concerns among some residents, along with calls for environmental justice and a preference for more Citi Bikes over e-scooters. Phase I of the project spans areas from Eastchester to Morris Park, while Phase II, in 2022, will encompass Throgs Neck and Soundview. Pelham Parkway covers an area of 18 square-miles and is home to a diverse

population of 570,000 people, including 25,000 NYCHA residents.

According to DOT officials, both the department and each e-scooter company underwent "an extensive community engagement process" to locate sites for the parking corrals and to educate the public about the program, including its safety, equity, and accessibility components. A DOT spokesperson said, "These included dozens of meetings with community boards, local BIDs, nearby medical facilities, and more."

Norwood News reported on the e-scooter program in May 2021, providing the DOT link: <https://nycdot-projects.info/project-feedback-map/suggest-scooter-parking>, where residents were asked to provide input on where they wanted to see the scooter corrals located. DOT officials said the corrals would be placed in busy areas to keep sidewalks clear and create predictability for riders.

However, Delgado said when she reached out to DOT officials with her concerns they did not respond. "DOT made a statement in their release today that they have engaged with community boards (CBs) and Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), and as well as made us more equitable, said Delgado. "In fact, that's quite the opposite. The CB is not the community. We have

no representation in CB 11 nor do they advocate for this part of the parkway."

Norwood News reached out to Bronx CB 11 and were advised by its district manager, Jeremy Warneke, that there are at least seven of its 48 members who both live in and/or represent the Pelham Parkway area. He added that DOT officials also had come to two meetings in May and June to discuss the project.

Delgado continued, "Second, BIDs? We don't have a BID in Pelham Parkway, [and] the BID represents the business corridor, not the residents where the corrals are located. They are not in the physical [business] corridor but actually in the residential corridor as you can see in front of you."

White Plains Road BID covers business conditions in a four-block area that extends from Bolton Street, east along Pelham Parkway South to White Plains Road, and south for three blocks to Brady Avenue. However, Delgado said it doesn't cover Pelham Parkway North, and reiterated that it doesn't represent the residents. *Norwood News* reached out to the BID for comment and will update this story upon receipt of any feedback we receive.

Meanwhile, Delgado said FPP have been cleaning and maintaining the parkway for at least five years, and

(continued on page 22)

Achieve Your Real Estate Goal

Are you interested in selling or renting your property now or in the near future?

Are you interested in buying your first or investment property now or in the near future?

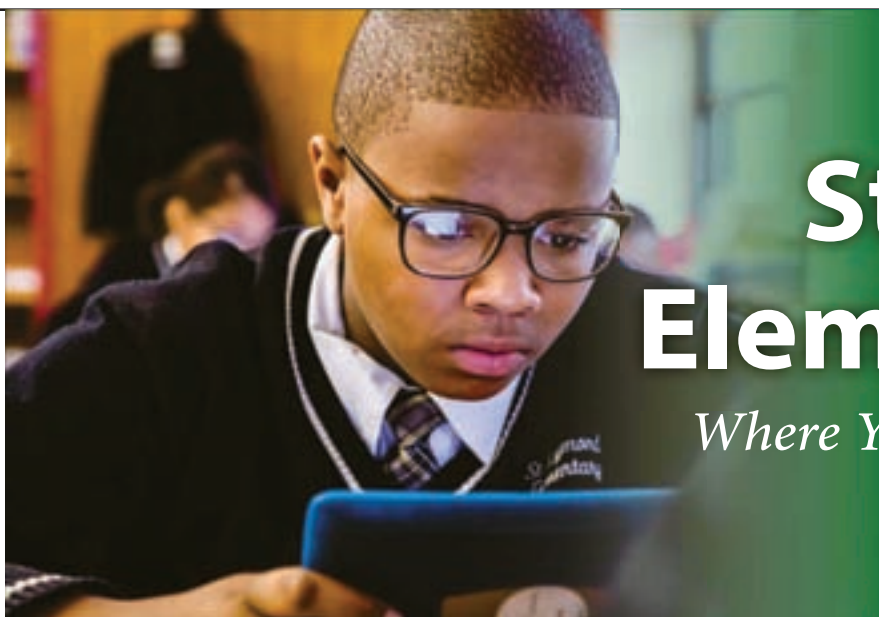
My team can help you achieve all of your real estate needs and answer all of your questions!

Feel free to call for more information

CENTURY 21

Galvez

<p>Ana Matos 646.303.2850 matosana1974@gmail.com</p>	<p>Janet Bingham 917.517.4004 janetbinghamok@gmail.com</p>
<p>1644 Mayflower Ave Bronx, NY 10461</p>	



St. Raymond Elementary School

Where Your Child Is Part of Our Family

We offer full-day academic programs for Pre-K3 through Grade 8, advanced level math and science, honors and remediation programs, computer and science labs, sports, a fitness center, and a broad array of extracurricular activities.



**Now accepting online applications
for the 2021-2022 school year!**

Visit
www.straymondelementary.org/online-application
to apply online!

AFFORDABLE TUITION

FREE EARLY DROP-OFF

FREE BREAKFAST PROGRAM

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM



St. Raymond Elementary School

Fr. James Cruz, Pastor | Eugene Scanlon, Principal

2380 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY 10462

718-597-3232 • www.straymondelementary.org

Out & About

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

Events

The Bronx Democratic Party is hosting a **Summer BBQ & Softball Game** on Sunday, Sept. 12, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Co-op City Little League Field, located on Co Op City Boulevard (between Bellamy Loop & Carver Loop), Bronx, NY 10475. To register, go to: <https://www.bronxdems.org/events/bbq>

Check out the **Fordham Flea Market** and support hundreds of amazing local artists, creators, and merchants, selling their wares at Fordham Plaza, NY 10458, on Sunday, Sept. 26, from noon to 7 p.m. Small-batch specialized garments, accessories, packaged goods, gifts, jewelry, self-care products, unusual arts & crafts items, and more are available. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/fordhamflea/>.

MASC Hospitality Group hosts the **Bronx Night Market** every Saturday at Fordham Plaza from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. Get ready to celebrate culture, cuisine, and community. For more information, go to <https://www.thebronxnightmarket.com/>.

Following a successful launch in 2019, the Bronx Night Market, in partnership with Sam Adams, is celebrating a **Bronx-styled Oktoberfest** on Saturdays from Sept. 18 to Oct. 9, from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m., with prized stein-hoisting contests, Oktoberfest lager tasting, delectable food pairing, live music, and a ton of giveaways. Guests will also enjoy the Nissan Pathfinder-sponsored art installation dedicated to Hispanic Heritage Month, featuring incredible Latino creators.

Brew at the Zoo is back at the

Bronx Zoo! The Beer and Wine Tasting Festival returns Friday, Sept. 17 from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., Sample beers from 100+ breweries. There will also be food trucks, live music, DJs, dancing, a retro arcade, games and MORE. Go to <https://bronxzoo.com/brew> for tickets and more information.

Music & Dance

The **Lehman Center for the Performing Arts** has received a major boost ahead of its planned and much anticipated Oct. 2 reopening, having secured more than \$1.1 million in public and nonprofit funding for fiscal year 2021-2022, which marks the center's first season since the pandemic dimmed its lights. For more on upcoming 2021-22 events, visit <https://www.lehmancenter.org/>.

One of the most famous and dynamic modern dance ensembles of our time, the **Paul Taylor Dance Company** has been innovating and transforming the art form of modern dance since 1954. Check out upcoming shows at the **New York Botanical Garden** by the Paul Taylor Dance Company on September 18, 19, 25, & 26. For more information, visit www.nybg.org.

Movement

It's that time of year again! **Williamsbridge Oval** need male and female quarterbacks, running backs, receivers and a defensive line for the upcoming **Flag Football Season**. Flag Football practice will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Games will be on Saturdays. This program is geared toward all youth from 9 to 14 years of age. The venue is the Williamsbridge Oval, 3225 Reservoir Oval, Bronx, New York 10467. Call (718) 543-8672 for more details.

The New York Peace Officers, American Warpipes and Benevolent Association is inviting one and all to join members on Saturday, Sept. 11, for a **9/11 Memorial March** to the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan, to honor the country's 9/11 fallen heroes in NYC, D.C. and PA and also to remember the troops killed in action in Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran over the last 20 years, the Benghazi 6 and the Kabul 13. The meeting point is at Spring Street and Broadway in lower Manhattan between 5.45 a.m. and 6 a.m., with the march setting off between 7 and 7.15 a.m. Participants are encouraged to bring American flags and spirits.

Pelham Parkway Residents Protest City's E-Scooter Program

(continued from page 20)

often conduct such events to keep residents active, knowing the Bronx is the unhealthiest county in the State, making Bronxites more susceptible to catching COVID-19.

"We want people to be active. That is why this pedestrian path and greenway is used by runners, joggers, parents, dog walkers, disabled seniors who stroll through the parkway, which is a one to a two-mile stretch," she said. "But what the DOT wants to do [is] to displace these people with 3,000 scooters the first year, and another 3,000 scooters the second year: 6,000 scooters in total, displace people who are actively using the greenway for e-scooters that would not help us, health-wise."

She continued, "We are upset. This is called environmental justice, where we have people who don't live in this community, who don't care about this community, making decisions that will impact us in a negative manner. We have

been overburdened. None of our concerns and needs have ever been addressed."

As someone who pays taxes, and rents property in Pelham Parkway, Kevin Arnold, who also attended the rally, agrees that DOT should have engaged more with residents before removing vehicle parking space and replacing it with a scooter corral. He said it could have been used for disability parking rather than for e-scooters.

Arnold said DOT has also failed to address potholes and poor street-lighting that makes it hard to see parking signs at night. Sal Foreman of Pelham Parkway also attended the rally and said he received a parking ticket for \$115 two weeks prior, after parking on Cruger Avenue in an e-scooter parking space. He said poor street lighting meant he didn't see the e-scooter parking sign at night.

Arnold said scooter riders ride down the street in the opposite direction of regular traffic flow and ride reck-

lessly on the sidewalk, without wearing safety helmets. He added that e-scooter riders are dangerous to drivers of other vehicles since other drivers can be sued if they hit an e-scooter rider, but e-scooter riders do not face the same consequences.

According to DOT, e-scooters have handlebars and a floorboard or seat and may be powered by electric and/or human power. They must not be ridden at speeds in excess of 15 mph. *Norwood News* asked DOT to clarify where the 15 mph-speed limit applies because DOT officials said e-scooters may be ridden in bike lanes and on streets with a speed limit of no greater than 30 mph, but they cannot be ridden on sidewalks.

Meanwhile, Delgado concurred that safety is a real concern, and that over the last year, the community has been burdened with illegal mopeds, ATVs, dirt-bikes, and e-bikes driving recklessly on the streets and greenways. "Does DOT address this to make it

more safe for us?" she asked. "No, they add more fuel to the fire by putting 6,000 more scooters onto our streets." According to DOT, helmets are recommended for all e-scooter riders and are required for 16 and 17-year-olds.

For Delgado, the DOT plan is also discriminatory. She said even though Pelham Parkway is one whole community, there is a difference between Pelham Parkway North and Pelham Parkway South, not only in terms of the zip code but also in income.

She said a significant number of NYCHA residents and a large immigrant community from Latin America live on the north side, while the south side encompasses more of the business corridor. She alleged that non-negotiable scooter corral installations targeted for South Pelham Parkway did not go ahead finally while they did in the North.

In conclusion, Delgado said she had two demands for DOT. Firstly, she wants all

Pelham Parkway residents to be treated equally, meaning if there are no e-scooter corrals in the southern part of the neighborhood, it should be the same in the North. Her second demand is community engagement. She said the e-scooter program should not have been launched before DOT met with the community and addressed their concerns.

"At least give us the respect that you heard us first before you decide to go ahead with a program no one wants or asks for," she said. "In fact, we need to make our streets safer and fix all these potholes. None of our requests have ever been heard or addressed by DOT."

A follow-up rally was held at the same location on Saturday, Aug. 14. *Norwood News* reached out to DOT for further comment, providing copies of Delgado's requests. The agency had already responded to some but is preparing a summary response to all points raised.

NOW OPEN IN NORWOOD

JOIN THE CELEBRATION!

We're thrilled to bring Ridgewood's award-winning banking to our new location at 320 East 204th St. in Norwood.



Enjoy a FREE GIFT when you open a new checking or savings account.*



Stop by the branch to enter our \$500 Grand Opening Sweepstakes.**



SCAN TO FIND OUT ABOUT
UPCOMING EVENTS!

Visit www.ridgewoodbank.com/norwood today!



www.ridgewoodbank.com



VISIT US | (718) 822-6752
320 East 204th St., Bronx, NY 10467

Member
FDIC

*While supplies last. See branch team for details.

**No purchase necessary. See branch for official sweepstakes rules.

Eviction Moratorium Extension follows Bronx Rally

(continued from page 9)

of only two states which had failed to deliver rental assistance by the end of June.

Torres also highlighted the fact that less than 1 percent of available [federal] rental assistance had been distributed by the end of July. "New York State has been the most incompetent in administering the rental assistance program," he said, adding that 24 percent of households in the Bronx owed back-rent, and half a million New Yorkers were in danger of facing eviction.

"Do not evict people from their homes," he warned. "Give them the opportunity to pay their rent and hold on to their homes with the emergency rental assistance. Families who are in danger of losing their homes should not be faulted for the incompetence of the federal and state government," he added.

Gibson, who is on track to become The Bronx's next borough president if she wins the general election in November, reiterated Torres' message, pointing to thousands of Bronxites who were struggling with rent and possibly facing eviction. "We know that there

are many families that remain behind in their rent," she said.

The councilwoman said expanding the eviction moratorium would provide families with the stability they needed. "Everyone deserves to have a solid roof over their heads, because the rippling effect of an eviction not only affects that head of household, but their children, and the entire community, who is predominantly immigrant New Yorkers and New Yorkers of color," she said.

For their part, representatives from CASA said The Bronx continues to be greatly impacted by the pandemic because it is one of the poorest parts of the City. They said CASA had seen, firsthand, how the COVID-19 pandemic had affected Bronx residents and that they knew people who were not getting the money they needed.

Laura Mascuch, executive director of Supportive Housing Network in New York, said 74 percent of people in the homeless system were people of color, even though they make up only 24 percent of the population. She added that the eviction moratorium had helped reduce homelessness by over 25 percent since March 2020.

"We need an extended eviction moratorium to ensure that housing court isn't flooded with eviction proceedings, and the shelter system and streets with what can be thousands of people. The human and economic costs are far too high," she said.

Meanwhile, Jessica Bellinder, a supervising attorney with the Legal Aid Society in the Bronx, told *Norwood News* she worried that without the moratorium extension, there would be a wave of evictions because many people were not aware of their rights or the resources available to them to prevent such evictions.

"It's reprehensible that we would, in the midst of this enormous health crisis, place this additional stress and anxiety on people that they might lose their homes because that is the kind of stress that ripples through the entire family and it causes an untold number of consequences," said Bellinder.

Torres stressed that, ultimately, an eviction moratorium was not a permanent solution to the housing crisis. Citing the "Ending the Homelessness Act," a proposed federal bill of which he is a sponsor, as a systemic solution to the housing problem, explaining that it would establish a universal voucher program to ensure all eligible households could receive rental assistance.

The congressman said that even before the pandemic, more than 580,000 people were experiencing homelessness on any given night, and 10.5 million households were paying more than 50 percent of their income on rent.

Bellinder agreed with Torres, saying a long-term solution would be rents that are in line with people's incomes.

On Aug. 27, CNN reported that in an unsigned, eight-page opinion, the U.S. Supreme Court had challenged the CDC's authority to further extend the federal eviction moratorium to Oct. 3, insisting that Congress had been on notice that a further extension would almost surely require new legislation and highlighting that Congress had failed to act during the weeks leading up to the federal moratorium's expiration date.

The Supreme Court also struck down one part of New York's eviction moratorium, the fact that the tenant hardship declaration form did not provide a way for landlords to challenge it.

On Sept. 2, New York State Gov.

Kathy Hochul signed a new State eviction moratorium on COVID-related residential and commercial evictions into law, effective through Jan. 15, 2022. The new law also expands the State's rental assistance program and accompanying eviction protections to localities that had previously opted out of the program.

Hochul said the pandemic had created unimaginable anxiety for families and business owners who have lost income and are struggling to pay the rent every month. "To help remedy the Supreme Court's heartless decisions, striking down the New York and the Biden administration's moratoriums on evictions, we are enacting a new moratorium on residential and commercial evictions and extending the protections of New York's Safe Harbor Act to Jan. 15. These steps will alleviate the crisis facing vulnerable New Yorkers who are suffering through no fault of their own."

The law also enacts foreclosure protections for landlords and homeowners. New York now boasts the strongest eviction protections in the nation for those facing hardship due to COVID-19.

The new governor urged New Yorkers to apply to the State's emergency rental assistance program (ERAP). State officials confirmed that applicants to the program are automatically protected from eviction while their applications are pending and they will receive a year of eviction protections if they qualify for assistance. To apply, go to: <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/emergency-rental-assistance/>.

State officials also confirmed that as of August 31, more than \$1.2 billion in funding has either been obligated or distributed through ERAP, including more than \$300 million in direct payments to more than 23,000 landlords.

Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81) said the new State eviction moratorium was as much health policy as it was economic policy. "We must do everything we possibly can to keep New Yorkers safe amidst a surge in the Delta variant," he said. "This law will help thousands of families keep a roof over their heads and doors open for small businesses as the State works to improve and streamline the ERAP program and we all work together on a recovery from this deadly pandemic."

**Sile Moloney contributed to this story.*

**STORMVILLE AIRPORT'S
ULTIMATE
FAMILY
YARD SALE, INC.**

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 11

Visit www.stormvilleairportleamarket.com
9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Rain or Shine

428 Rt. 216, Stormville, NY

**A BARGAIN
HUNTER'S
PARADISE**

**Come
see what
over 200
families
have
to sell!**

**NO
PETS**

**Booth space & table
rentals available**

Call 845-226-1660

**Food Concessions
Free Admission
& Parking**

- Clothing • Toys • Books •
- Bikes • Furniture • Tools •
- Baby Items • Household
Items • Sporting Goods •
- Exercise Equipment •
- & Much, Much More! •

BEAT THE BACK TO SCHOOL RUSH WITH UCHC'S STUDENT ESSENTIALS

CHECKLIST:

- ☐ SANITIZER
- ☐ WELL VISIT
- ☐ IMMUNIZATIONS
- ☐ EYE EXAM
- ☐ COVID-19 TEST
- ☒ COVID-19 VACCINE

AVAILABLE AT



**CALL 718.220.2020 TO SCHEDULE YOUR CHILD'S
BACK TO SCHOOL CHECK-UPS TODAY!**

**PRIMARY CARE • SPEECH & LANGUAGE • AUDIOLOGY • OPTOMETRY
DENTAL • PHYSICAL & OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY • BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

**KINDERGARTEN, ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL
& COLLEGE STUDENTS WELCOME!**

MOST INSURANCE PLANS ACCEPTED, ASSISTANCE IN APPLYING FOR INSURANCE COVERAGE AND ENROLLMENT IN SELF-PAY, SLIDING SCALE PROGRAM

• 260 East 188th Street • 2021 Grand Concourse

• 4487 Third Avenue • 2101 Quarry Road • 2016 Bronxdale Avenue | Suite 301



718-220-2020

| www.uchcbroxx.org

Ridgewood Savings Bank Sedgwick Avenue Branch to Remain Open Finally

(continued from page 18)

have an easily accessible community bank close to home,” Diaz Jr. said. “I want to thank the team at Ridgewood Savings Bank for being good neighbors, hearing our concerns, and taking action.”

Jim Buckley, executive director of the University Neighborhood Housing Program, said the news of the Sedgwick branch remaining open and receiving Banking Development District designation came as a huge relief to UNHP, especially during a time of multiple, consecutive bank closures and economic uncertainty in The Bronx, as reported.

“This is a win for The Bronx as a whole!” Buckley said. “UNHP applauds the work of Ridgewood Savings to find a way to keep their Sedgwick Avenue branch open. The bank reached out to us and others in the community as it considered closing the branch. After several conversations, it is really good to know that they heard our feedback, and because of their commitment to serving their customers, as they say, they’ve found a solution.”

Jack Kleinfeld is chair of the Board of Trustees of Van Cortlandt



Jewish Center (VCJC). He said as a key factor in the social and religious life of the Van Cortlandt Village com-

munity, the Van Cortlandt Jewish Center recognized the need and benefit of having the branch and Ridgewood, which he described as a “partner,” remain in the neighborhood. “It allows them to continue to serve as a financial anchor for the area, just as VCJC serves in other ways,” said Kleinfeld. “VCJC was pleased to be able to support their efforts to stay and is even more pleased at their effort’s success.”

Meanwhile, Laura Spalter, chair of Bronx Community Board 8, said the board members were strong advocates for Ridgewood because it provided essential services for local residents and small businesses. “There is no other bank branch within the vicinity of Van Cortlandt Village, and the branch’s closure would have been extremely detrimental to the quality of life of our residents and the overall commercial ecosystem,” she said.

For his part, Dinowitz echoed the sentiments of others involved in the negotiations, saying it was an incredible benefit to the community that Ridgewood was able to keep open the branch. “This particular neighborhood has a dearth of accessible banks to serve local residents and businesses, and I am very pleased that people will not have to travel extensive distances over significant

Image via Google Maps

RIDGEWOOD SAVINGS BANK branch, located at 3899 Sedgwick Avenue in Van Cortlandt Village in the North Bronx is set to remain open. The bank had announced in May 2021 that it would close.

elevation changes in order to access their money,” he said.

“Thank you to the leadership team at Ridgewood Savings Bank for being responsive to our community concerns, and let this be an example for all banks that want to understand how to be good community partners to Bronxites.”

Ridgewood had notified its Sedgwick Avenue and Jerome Avenue branch customers that in order to better serve the community’s banking needs, a new state-of-the-art branch, located at 320 E. 204th Street in the Norwood section of the borough, would open in August.

Bank officials said, like the Sedgwick Avenue branch, the new Norwood branch will offer all the usual banking services, products, and community-based programming, “along with the same, trusted and friendly personnel customers have come to know so well.” They added that existing customers will not need to take any action on their account(s) at the Sedgwick branch.

Apply for a 14-Week PAID INTERNSHIP!

Register Now - Program begins Sept 2021!

OPPORTUNITY YOUTH is a 14-week **PAID INTERNSHIP** program for young adults **ages 18-24**, who are not enrolled in school and not employed. You’ll receive **job readiness training**, take part in weekly educational **workshops**, and get **paid** work experience! Referrals for **HSE prep classes** to get your **High School Equivalency diploma (GED)**, if needed. **Bronx residents only!**

For more information:
CALL (718) 644-3682 today!

Educational Counseling Center
Mosholu Montefiore Community Center
3512 Dekalb Avenue, Bronx, New York 10467
718-652-0282 | www.mmcc.org



Storm Ida Rips Through The Bronx

(continued from page 1)

road flooding on the I-95 (New England Thruway Interchange) at Bartow Avenue in Co-op City at around 10 p.m., citing reports by emergency service units that numerous people in cars were stranded in the water. A half an hour later, similar reports were received at the Bronx River Parkway and Westchester Avenue in Soundview.

Between 11 p.m. and 11.45 p.m., BNN issued a traffic alert at the Cross Bronx Expressway and Jerome Avenue at the Mt Eden/Morris Heights border. Emergency units reported that both eastbound and westbound lanes of the expressway were shut down due to flooding.

At 11.20 p.m., BNN reported an officer-assist request, received by Yonkers police department, for two officers seemingly in the Bronx's 47th precinct who were reportedly standing on the roof of a police vehicle which was under water on the Bronx River Parkway at the City/County border in Woodlawn.

Citizen's App users posted at around 9.50 p.m. that several people were reportedly trapped inside Bedford Park Boulevard subway station, which serves the D and the B lines, and that emergency personnel were responding to the situation.

A separate Citizen's App post that night showed a video of severe flooding in the South Bronx at Crotona Avenue and Claremont Parkway with motorists also trapped in cars due to the severe conditions.

Janno Lieber, acting MTA chair and CEO, had, at that stage, instructed New Yorkers not to attempt to travel until further notice, and at around midnight, both New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio and Gov. Kathy Hochul had issued a state of emergency.

At 12.24 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 2, the 52nd precinct sent a tweet which read, "The following intersections are closed due to flooding, avoid these areas. Bedford Park Blvd and Webster Ave. Parkside Place and Webster Avenue. Mosholu Parkway from Van Cortlandt Ave to Jerome Avenue."

A photo shared on Twitter at 3.41 a.m. on Sept. 2 by former City Limits editor-in-chief, Jarrett Murphy, showed a flood-lit and flooded Williamsbridge Oval in Norwood, with the message, "The Williamsbridge Oval was once a reservoir. It is now a shallow lake."

At 5.26 a.m. on Sept. 2, Citizen users said firefighters were reportedly rescuing around 50 people from an estimated 80 out-of-service vehicles at the Major Deegan Expressway at 230th Street in Kingsbridge. Firefighters were reportedly requesting an additional boat to help search for vehicles along the highway.

On Thursday morning, Lieber pro-

vided a statement on the impact of the storm on the subway system, urging residents to stay home while water was being pumped from stations.

Images captured by *Norwood News* at around 8.45 a.m. on Thursday morning showed some vehicles almost submerged on the Major Deegan Expressway, while at Kingsbridge Road and Bailey Avenue in Kingsbridge Heights, large fallen trees were seen on top of two abandoned cars. On seeing the downed trees, people passing the scene were heard saying, "Oh my God, oh my God!" and expressed their hopes that the occupants got out alive.

Between 5.16 a.m. and 5.47 a.m. on Sept. 2, according to BNN, emergency units reported standstill traffic from Yonkers on the Major Deegan Expressway in Van Cortlandt Park, with the NYPD reporting major flood conditions and warning of a potential impact to a retaining wall at the location.

Later that morning, at 8.56 a.m., BNN reported on a partial roof collapse at 2980 Third Avenue in Woodstock. Assistance was requested from NYC Department of Buildings (DOB).

At 8.58 a.m., Citizen App users said police allegedly received a report of a ceiling collapse on a fourth-floor building at 1704 Seddon Street in Westchester Heights. They said that FDNY reportedly responded and there were no injuries.

At 11.20 a.m., BNN reported that highway units were requesting aviation units to perform a flyover to check for occupants in any cars which remained in the flood water on the Major Deegan Expressway.

At 1.15 p.m., it published reports of an apparent sink hole opening in the middle of the street at Van Nest Avenue and Radcliff Avenue in Morris Park and at 2.30 p.m., there were reports of a water rescue of two people allegedly stuck in the mud at Pelham Bay Bridge. They allegedly refused medical attention.

On Sept. 4 at 12.43 p.m., BNN reported that a retaining wall collapsed following Storm Ida at 1107 Boynton Avenue in Soundview and that assistance from DOB had been requested.

A source at the U-Haul company told the *Norwood News* that all floors at the U-Haul storage facility on W. 230th Street in Kingsbridge had been flooded, but not all customers suffered damage.

Norwood News attempted to corroborate the details of the various unconfirmed, reported incidents with EMS/FDNY, MTA, DOB, and the NYPD. We did not receive an immediate response. We also asked the FDNY for details of any injuries in the Bronx but did not receive an immediate response.

The New York Times reported that 13

people were killed in the City, following the storm, mostly in Queens and Brooklyn. Many lived in basement apartments. The Times also reported that at least 500 abandoned cars were towed from New York City streets, over the course of the storm and its aftermath.

On Friday, Sept. 3, Van Cortlandt Park Alliance shared storm-damaged photos of their flooded swimming pool which they said would be closed for a few days. On Sept. 4, officials confirmed the Park's resident goats were safe although their hay got wet. Because they are located on higher ground, it didn't flood. "We want [to] assure everyone they were just fine. They rode out the storm in their 'goatel' and Van Cortlandt House Museum kept a close eye on them," officials said.

In the wake of the storm, Bronx Council for Environmental Quality (BCEQ) have called for funding and construction to speed up the proposed "daylighting" of Tibbetts Brook in Kingsbridge. Daylighting rivers or streams like Tibbetts Brook, which has been partially rerouted underground and covered over, is the process of removing obstructions like concrete or pavement which cover rivers and drainage ways and restores them to their previous condition.

On Sunday, Sept. 5, *Norwood News* spoke to residents at the newly opened Bronx Service Center set up by the New York Public Engagement Unit to provide assistance with relief efforts following the floods. It is located at P.S. / M.S. 194 at 2365 Waterbury Avenue in Westchester Square.

An official who greeted us at the front desk explained the type of services being offered. "They get your contact information in case anyone needs to contact you, and we have, like, the Red Cross, the Department of Buildings, as well as for rental assistance, COVID testing, vaccines, but it's really the Red Cross and the Department of Buildings," the official said.

A female resident of a basement apartment at 2147 Starling Avenue in Castle Hill, said of the damage she incurred, "Beds, clothes, everything, food... Oh my God! I had just gone grocery shopping and \$500 down the drain." Asked where the water came from, she said, "from the street, from the walls, because it seemed like, on the other side, they have the sewer or whatever room... and everything came up and flooded."

She said she assumed the sewage had not been properly cleaned out and that caused the problem. "It came out from the toilet, the bathtub. I have so many bad videos. It's depressing."

Fred Valentin of Throgs Neck Boulevard lives near the Marina Del Rey and

said he would be thankful to get some help in his neighborhood if it comes. "If we do, then it's a big help because I got flooded in my basement and I had my son down there and he lost the computer, the bed, everything downstairs."

Asked how much water he took in, he said about two feet. "Even my boiler and the hot water tank, I couldn't even start it," Valentin said. "We went without (hot) water for three-days. I called to see what they could do to start the hot water. They said, 'It's bad.' I have a contractor and even these people are so busy. They were saying it's going to take a week to get to me. Imagine something like that happening in the winter! What's going to happen?"

Asked about two other recent storms that produced over 7 inches of rain, Valentin said, "Yeah, I had a flood, but not as bad as this one. It wasn't that bad because I had like an inch or an inch-and-a-half, but this..."

He said this time the water was in his backyard and came through the back door. "I thought it was Niagara Falls back there. It was coming to the side of the door and the wall where I have my boiler. Water was gushing out of the wall and that had to be repaired and it had to be sealed. I had to have a contractor come in." Valentin added that he had a heart problem and had to go for a knee replacement.

Asked if he thinks the City will see another 7 inches of rainfall, he said, "I hope not because right now, I cleaned up downstairs. We had to throw out clothing, appliances, but most of it was my son's computer. That's how he does his work for school and all that and it's a headache."

Randy Au from Schuylerville said the entire block at Codington Avenue and Crosby Avenue got flooded. "We had backyard flooding that flooded our basement, about a foot, up to my knees in water," he said. "The basement flooded so the water heater... a bunch of walls... it took a lot of stuff."

Au said water bubbled out of the sewer line, there was a giant pool in the center of the block and all his neighbors got flooded. He wasn't sure what the Service Center staff could do. "We don't know. We'll see what they say," he said. "I have no idea." Asked if he had experienced flooding during previous storms, Au said he had not, but that it had gotten close a couple of times. "This was the time that it, finally, like, went over and got in."

Asked if he thought such extensive flooding would become the new normal, he said, "Probably it's going to happen more and more. That's what I'm guessing. Yes, if not, it's going to get worse, so... probably."

Visit Our Website
WWW.212ANSWERS.COM
And Watch Our Client Testimonials

KRAMER & POLLACK^{LLP}

INJURY ATTORNEYS



Larry J. Kramer



Joshua Pollack

Free Consultation
(212) ANSWERS
(212) 267-9377

No Fee Unless You Win
Hablamos Español

KRAMER & POLLACK, LLP
25 ROSLYN ROAD, 2ND FLOOR
MINEOLA, NY 11501
(516) 742-8897

KRAMER & POLLACK, LLP
15 MAIDEN LANE, SUITE 1400
NEW YORK, NY 10038
(212) 267-9377

DOWNLOAD THE APP

Have us with you wherever you go.
It's like having us on retainer for FREE.

The app walks you through what to do if you are in an accident. The sooner we are involved the better. It's a direct line to our help.



Kramer & Pollack, LLP is a team of tough, dedicated lawyers committed to obtaining the best settlements for our clients. We serve as trial counsel to the profession by whom we are highly esteemed. We PERSONALLY handle each and every case unlike others you may see advertising on TV.

Verdicts/Settlements

\$28,500,000.00 **\$16,687,615.91** **\$16,000,000.00** **\$15,000,000.00** **\$4,000,000.00** **\$3,700,000.00**

Placental Abruption

Brain-Damage Baby

Pedestrian Hit By Bus

Construction Accident

Construction Accident

Construction Accident

PAST RESULTS ARE NOT A GUARANTEE OF FUTURE RESULTS

Kramer & Pollack, LLP Practice Areas:

- Accidents
- Animal & Dog Bites
- Automobile Accidents
- Aviation Accidents
- Bicycle Accidents
- Birth Injuries
- Boating Accidents
- Brain Injuries
- Burn Injuries
- Bus Accidents
- Construction Accidents
- Injuries to Minors & Children
- Medical Malpractice
- Motorcycle Accidents
- Nursing Home & Assisted Living Abuse
- Pedestrian Accidents
- Premises Liability
- Product Liability
- Slip, Trip & Fall Accidents
- Spinal Cord Injuries
- Truck Accidents
- Wrongful Death

