Dozens of friends and family members came together to mourn the loss of Kyle Styles Lovera Lockett, 21, at Granby’s Funeral Service, Inc. in Wakefield on Friday, Nov. 11. The young man was fatally shot when police intervened in an altercation between Lockett and a 29-year-old man, later named as Ajamu Demmerle, on the corner of Gun Hill Road and Hull Avenue in Norwood on Thursday, Nov. 3. 

A police vehicle was observed parked on the opposite side of 4021 White Plains Road, where the wake was being held. One mourner, who identified himself as Lockett’s uncle, told Norwood News that the family wished to keep the service private, and the service was soon closed to everyone waiting, after reaching capacity. 

According to police, who gave a press conference at the scene of the shooting on Thursday, Nov. 3, at 11.20 a.m., members of the Queens Warrant Squad were in an unmarked police vehicle in front of 330 Gun Hill Road, a bodega, grocery store. 

Police said, “They were investigating an unrelated incident. At 11.30 a.m. a 29-year-old male [later confirmed as Ajamu Demmerle] double-parked a white Lexus at the southeast corner of Hull Avenue and East Gun Hill Road. He entered the bodega where he engaged in a violent struggle with a 21-year-old male [Kyle Lockett] who was already in the deli.” 

Police continued, “This struggle is caught on surveillance video tape. It appears the 21-year-old who was in the deli prior had a gun, and the 29-year-old who entered is stabbing him with (continued on page 15)
Yahaira Arias Elected as New Bronx CB7 Chair

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Bronx Community Board 7 (CB7) secretary, Yahaira Arias, was elected as the board’s new chairperson at the November general meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 15. Arias succeeds Emmanuel Martinez, who stepped down last summer from the role. Parks chair, Barbara Stronczer, had been acting as interim board chair until the board’s election took place.

Arias told Norwood News that at age 5, her parents moved to The Bronx to 196th Street and Morris Avenue. She attended the P.S. 86 Annex, and later, P.S. 86. At 12, her family moved to the South Bronx where she lived until the age of 23. She later moved back north to 189th Street and Morris Avenue and later, to 192nd Street and Grand Concourse. She currently lives at Fordham Hill Cooperatives, in Fordham Manor.

Arias is an honors graduate of Fashion Industries High School, SUNY Fashion Institute of Technology, and of CUNY College of Technology. She earned degrees in applied sciences and holds a Bachelors in paralegal/law studies, which she said took her on the path to becoming a paralegal, a career she said she loves, and has worked in for the last 25 years.

“In 2017, I became a (CB7) board member, and in 2019, I was elected as the board’s secretary,” she said. “In this role, she said she came to learn, understand, and appreciate the daily work carried out by the staff, members, and elected officials to enhance and enrich the community. “As secretary, you are a part of every committee, and work with every chair to ensure accurate information is properly posted and shared,” she said.

Addressing those present at Tuesday night’s meeting, prior to the vote, Arias referred to a written vision of what she wanted the board to be, which she had sent to members beforehand. “I want to make sure that we keep building on the foundation that has already been established, and I want us to work as a team,” she said in part, later adding that she wanted the team to be strong and cohesive.

“I know that a lot of things have gone up and down, especially with COVID and with us, at some point, seeing each other personally in meetings,” she added. “So, my vision is to continue to create transparency in everything that we do. I want us to have great teamwork, and assure this board that we can do everything that we set out to do, and we can look to a better future, not just for ourselves, but for the generations that are coming after us.”

Describing herself as a team player, a paralegal, bilingual, and someone who was upfront about her views, Arias said she wanted the board to work hard at implementing goals, and to have good morale among members. “I can get around as good as anyone in this district,” she said. “I bring everything that I want forward.”

Later, directly addressing Chad Royer, chair of the Veterans committee and second vice chair of the board, who was ran for the position of chair, Arias said she would continue to work constructively with him whatever the outcome. “May the best-qualified person win here tonight. Win or lose, I am very proud to be a part of this board.”

In his pitch to members, Royer said he was a resident of the district for over 40 years, had children, and had been a board member since 2017. “I was the former health committee chair, the current veterans chair, and the second vice chair,” he said.

“I’m also a founding member of Bronx Parent Autism Support Circle, which is a parent support group going on strong for nine plus years,” he added. Royer said he was running to see how the board, which he described as the best in The Bronx, could get some of the items on the capital expense budget funded, in other ways, in addition to working with elected officials. He cited some successful advocacy that was carried out on the upgrading of basketball and handball courts in St. James Park, and how this renovation was later successfully funded.

“I also want to work with our committees and members to address the issues like quorum participation, engagement, and bringing content forward to the community so that we can tackle those issues at hand, together....a little bit of what I’ve done in the past,” he said, citing his work on an early inter-
Kingsbridge: 6th Annual Cranksgiving Part Bike Ride, Part Food Drive & Part Scavenger Hunt a Success

By SÍLE MOLONEY

The 6th Annual Bronx Cranksgiving brought together cyclists from all over the City to deliver packaged food and produce to families in need at Broadway Plaza in the Kingsbridge section of The Bronx, among other locations.

Jessica Alttagracia Woolford, Kingsbridge Unidos founder, and based on the results to date, likely runner-up candidate for the Working Families Party in the recent Nov. 8 general election for Assembly District 81, joined the event along with other colleagues.

Bronx Cranksgiving partnered with Kingsbridge Unidos and cyclists from across the city to deliver purchased food products to families experiencing homelessness in the Kingsbridge area.

The event consisted of a food drive on two wheels, part bike ride, part food drive, and part scavenger hunt, and kicked off at 11 a.m. at Brook Park Community Garden, located at 494 E 149th Street in Mott Haven.

Alttagracia Woolford said Cranksgiving has been held annually in New York City since 1999 and spin off events have since taken place in other cities around the globe. In 2016, it was held in The Bronx for the first time, and has reportedly supported numerous local organizations since then.

Bronx Cranksgiving goes beyond the traditional food drive by actively connecting cyclists with the community and borough. Participants ride through various neighborhoods in search of specific supermarkets, purchasing canned goods and produce listed on a manifesto.

This year, Bronx Cranksgiving organizers partnered with Kingsbridge Unidos which, according to its founders, is a volunteer-run mutual aid group rooted in service and care for the community, to deliver the purchased food items to the families at a transitional housing facility in Kingsbridge.

Alttagracia Woolford told Norwood News that food items went to Broadway Family Plaza, located at 5731 Broadway, in Kingsbridge. “Some of the generous donations from Whisps (a cheese crisps company) also went to the Friendly Fridge, located at 5977 Broadway (242nd Street and Broadway), RNH Fridge, and Mt St Vincent’s Fridge as well,” she said.

Kingsbridge Unidos recently organized a back-to-school supplies and food giveaway on Aug. 12, in conjunction with Cash Cow NYC.

Kingsbridge Heights Community Center (KHCC), located at 3101 Kingsbridge Terrace, Summit Place, Bronx 10463, operates a regular food pantry from 11 a.m. to noon for older adults, and from noon to 2:30 p.m. for the general public on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Margaret Della, chief executive officer, said, “The center fights for funding to address and eradicate long term food instability in The Bronx. Members of the public can visit info@khcc-nyc.org for general information.”

KHCC also collaborates with the Northwest Bronx Food Justice Project to share information with the public on where community members can access food as well as nutrition education. The Northwest Bronx Food Justice Project – Emergency Food Resources operates at KHCC weekly on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from noon to 2:30 p.m. For more information, go to: https://www.khcc-nyc.org/program/food-pantry, or email Will Littleton at willlittleton@khcc-nyc.org.

Other food options are Bailey Fridge at 3016 Bailey Avenue, and the Friendly Fridge at 5977 Broadway (242nd Street and Broadway). Contact: thefriendlyfridgebx@gmail.com. For more information on the NW Bronx Food Justice project, contact foodjusticebronx@gmail.com.

Norwood News previously reported on the concept of neighborhood fridges to help people experiencing homelessness, and which appeared to gain more traction amid the pandemic.

In recent months, we have also seen evidence of seemingly regular people leaving pre-packaged sandwiches on park benches for those who need them in the Bedford Park neighborhood.
With the recent judicial elections now over, this week, we asked readers what qualities they want to see in the judges recently appointed to the bench.

"I personally would like to see stricter enforcement, a more punitive enforcement of laws, which affect people who are battered on the subway, muggings and things like that. This whole thing with cashless bail...I know, statistically, they all tell us the data shows it’s not a problem, but perception-wise, we see on the television every night. We see a mugging, a mugging, a mugging, and then you hear the next day that the guy got off or something like that. So, I want to see judges take a much more proactive, a more punitive approach towards justice for the victims, as opposed to the criminals. We need less compassion for the criminals, more compassion for the victims."

Francis Leo Hogan, Fordham Manor

"They need to have fairness in their decisions; they shouldn’t have an ideology from the judges chair, and they need to be honest."

Paul Kittas, Bedford Park

"For the most part, judges need to be a little stern because you can’t play when you’re making these decisions with someone’s life. Crime is hectic now. It’s not good so judges have to be stern; they can’t be lenient, as the cops do their investigation. When it comes to the judge, and the judge has to judge you, they can’t be lenient. They can’t."

Shayna Freeman, Norwood

"When it comes to those who ignore our laws, who injure or kill any of our community members, our judges should provide both harsher sentences for those responsible, as well as greater support for those who’ve been victimized."

Jeff Conan Vargon, Belmont

"What we need is judges to be fair with respect to the bail reform laws, but they must also understand that it’s the victim who counts. Also, under the current laws, the victims are being neglected. We need judges that are going to fight to keep guns off the streets and out of the hands of repeat offenders, without being in fear of being criticized or labeled as being tough on crime when, in reality, what he or she is doing is protecting the residents of New York City."

Darney K. Born Rivers, Fordham
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By SÍLE MOLONEY

Bedford Mosholu Community Association (BMCA), the 52nd Precinct Community Council, neighbors and friends mourn the recent passing of Mrs. Grace Siemer, wife of the late Ed Siemer, both stalwarts in their local Bedford Park community. Brenda Caldwell-Paris, president of the council, said Grace was an active council member since the '90s and became treasurer in 2000, while Ed had been an active and honorary council member, helping out where necessary over the years.

Grace was also very active with BMCA. She died on Sunday, Nov. 6, her wake took place on Nov. 11 at John Fox & Son Funeral Home, 203 E. 21st St., and her funeral service was held on Nov. 12 at St. Philip Neri Church, 3021 Grand Concourse in Bedford Park.

An obituary posted to the John Fox & Son Funeral Home website, reads as follows:

“Grace (Graciana) Simoes Siemer died peacefully on Sunday, November 6, 2022, at United Hebrew of New Rochelle with family by her side. She was 92 years old. Born on October 23, 1930, in Ancio, Portugal, daughter of the late Teresa de Piedade Simoes and Mateus Simoes, Grace arrived in the United States, via Rhode Island, at six months old.

Grace lived in many different places as a young child. Her family finally settled in the Bronx, and she was a graduate of Walton High School. On February 2, 1952, she married the love of her life, Edward Siemer, at Christ the King Church, Bronx NY. She was sent to her EDDIE for sixty-nine and [a] half years.

Grace grew through many companies in the business world. She ran one-woman offices for Jewelry Street and Belltile, became a royalty clerk for ASCAP, then an assistant for Encyclopedica Britannica. She found her true calling employed by Avon Products. Grace started as a District Manager. She became known for her ability to successfully train people from all walks of life and for her colorful, inspiring, and fun-filled, monthly training classes.

NYC Celebrates 50 Years of Hip Hop

New York City Mayor Eric Adams announced on Mon., Nov. 14, that 2023 will mark the 50th anniversary of Hip Hop. To mark the occasion, he and deputy mayor for strategic initiatives, Sheena Wright, announced that 50 years of Hip Hop weekends celebrations will be held throughout 2023 across New York City in conjunction with the Universal Hip Hop Museum, which is still under construction in the South Bronx, part of the $249 million Bronx Science Campus.

At a ceremony in Long Island City, Mayor Adams and Gala co-founder Christina Ronald announced that 50 Years of Hip Hop will be held throughout 2023 across New York City in conjunction with the Universal Hip Hop Museum, which is still under construction in the South Bronx, part of the $249 million Bronx Science Campus.

“Looking forward to seeing you all at the Camera Center in the fall on “Hip Hop Celebration Day”,’’ Adams said.

“Hip Hop Celebration Day,” August 21, 2023 as “Hip Hop Celebration Month,” and November 2023 as “Hip Hop History Month.”
By SÍLE MOLONEY

Following an inquiry on Saturday evening, Nov. 12, by Norwood News on the status of previously reported missing person, Michelle Morales, 21, of Fordham Manor, after the 21-year-old woman had been reported missing earlier that week and later located on Nov. 9, the NYPD informed us the same day that Morales was reported missing for a second time.

We had, earlier, that evening been contacted by a member of the public and had been informed that Morales was missing for a second time, which was our reason for checking with the NYPD.

A police spokesperson responded to our request on Nov. 12, writing, “There is a missing report on file for 21-year-old Michelle Morales of 2605 Grand Concourse within the confines of the 52 Precinct.” The spokesperson added, “The missing was last seen inside of 111 East 210 Street, Montefiore Hospital on 11-10-2022, 1200 hours. She was reported missing on 11-11-2022.”

The police said Morales, of 2605 Grand Concourse, is described as a white, Hispanic female, 5 feet, 4 inches tall, weighs 170 pounds, and has blue eyes, and blonde hair. When we previously received Morales’ photo from the NYPD (attached), it showed her with dark eyes and dark hair, and therefore, we double-checked the latest description provided by the police. We were informed the description was accurate and to use the previous photos provided.

On Monday, Nov. 14, the NYPD issued a renewed appeal to find Morales once again, describing her in the latest alert as female, 5 feet, 4 inches tall, weighing 170 pounds, and last seen wearing a black jacket, black jeans, and Croc sandals. There was no mention this time of blonde hair or blue eyes. Norwood News therefore quered the point again with the NYPD. We did not receive a reply.

When Morales was first reported missing on Nov. 7, police officers from the 52nd Precinct said it was reported to them at that time that she had last been seen on Monday, Nov. 7, at 11.47 a.m. in the vicinity of 4422 Third Avenue in the Belmont section of the borough.

At that time, Morales was described as female, Hispanic, 5 feet, 4 inches tall, with brown hair and at that time, had last been seen wearing a purple tank top and gray and white striped pants.

Anyone with information regarding this missing person 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 Crime Stoppers website at https://crimestoppers.nypdonline.org/ or on Twitter @NYPD-Tips. All calls are strictly confidential.

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- DOE UPK and Family Child Care Programs
- Bilingual Programs

CONTACT US: Gilda Morales-Aleman & Alexander Martinez
Phone: 718-993-7700 ext. 915 & 924
Email: gmoralesaleman@cmcs.org & AlexanderMartinez@cmcs.org
**Letters To The Editor**

**Editor's Note: We reserve the right to edit letters for space, clarity, civility and accuracy.**

**Qatar Hosting the Soccer World Cup**

I am very impressed with the Saudi country of Qatar and their strict moral codes that they are not changing to fit the woke culture demands of today's world as they prepare to host the World Cup Soccer tournament beginning this November 21, 2022.

Under Sharia law, homosexuality is punishable by death, a fact that contributed to the spread of misinformation and exaggerated fears as the World Cup neared. In reality, there is no evidence that the punishment has ever been levied in Qatar. But the Qatari penal code does punish any extramarital sex, including gay sex, with up to seven years in prison; and “leading, instigating, or seducing a male to commit sodomy or dissipation” with 1-3 years.

The old saying - “if you give them an inch - they go for a yard” certainly applies to the gay community here in America. When we gave them the right to marry, we now have bakeries in trouble when they refuse to make a wedding cake for them. We now have to have human resource offices set up in companies to listen to any sissy complaints that they may have in the workplace. It’s out of control and what we need here in America is some of the common sense laws that we need in Qatar!

*Richard Marias*
Norwood

**Qatar!**

In the workplace. It's out of control and what we need is a perfect word for the headline.

Meanwhile, in assessing how she sees the officers' working at the current precinct, Stronczer was succinct, saying: "I'm not sure how they have to conduct business with the room they have right now."
Elections 2022:
Nov. 8 Unofficial Results & Reaction

By SILÉ MOLONEY

After the polls closed on Tuesday, Nov. 8, the New York City Board of Elections released the initial, unofficial results of the general elections, based on a percentage of returned poll site scanners. These initial results cover both early votes and election day votes. Absentee and overseas ballots still have to be counted, as do the remaining scanners.

Below is a summary of the unofficial results to date of some of the North Bronx races.

In the general election for redrawn Senate District 33, which will encompass, effective Jan. 1, 2023, some or all of the neighborhoods of Norwood, Bedford Park, Fordham Manor, Fordham Heights, Pelham Parkway, Belmont, Tremont, Morris Park, Van Nest, Allerton, Pelham Parkway, Spuyten Duyvil, Fieldston, Riverdale and North Riverdale, Woodlawn Cemetery and Van Cortlandt Park, Democratic Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33), who also ran on the Working Families Party ticket, ran unopposed, winning 90.4 percent of votes from Democrats, and 8.68 percent from Working Family Party voters as of poll closure on Election Night.

By 10:55 p.m. with the majority of scanners reported, Rivera had won 29,182 (69.19 percent) of all votes.

The senator had been campaigning for Gov. Kathy Hochul in the lead up to Election Day, despite not having received the formal backing of the Bronx Democratic Party during primary season, a factor that overshadowed much of the primary election season, writing in part, “Out with the fabulous Bronx @NYWFP (New York Working Families Party) reminding people to get out the vote in this critical election for @KathyHochul on Row D, and to voteWFP.”

As reported, Rivera has served in the current Senate District 33 for 11 years, since he beat former Sen. Pedro Espada, who was previously convicted of fraud. Rivera won his Democratic primary campaign over challenger, Miguelina Camilo.

In the general election for redrawn Senate District 34, which, effective Jan. 1, 2023, will cover the neighborhoods of Westchester Square, City Island, Ferry Point, Pelham Bay, Parkchester, Clason Point, Throgs Neck, Country Club, Castle Hill, Soundview and parts of Morris Park, Pelham Parkway and Eastchester, Democratic Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez (A.D. 80) led with 70.7 percent of the vote on Election Night after poll closure, and is poised to succeed incumbent, State Sen. Alessandra Biaggi, who will finish her term at the end of the year:

Republican Party and Conservative Party candidate, Samantha Zherka, won 27.10 percent as of poll closure on Election Night. By 10:55 p.m., with the majority of scanners reported, Fernandez’s lead had dropped to 64.74 percent of the vote to Zherka’s 35.16 percent. Fernandez later declared victory in the race.

“I’m proud to share this victory for the people of The Bronx and Westchester with our community,” she said. “I’m proud of the incredible work our campaign has accomplished to elevate the voices of the people of the 34th District, and I promise to keep the people of District 34 at the focus of everything I do in the State Senate.”

She went on to say that the victory was an achievement, not just for her, but for the Latino community of Westchester. “I’m proud to be the first Latina, and person of color, to represent State Senate District 34, and to lead in a way that reflects the incredibly diverse fabric of this district.”

Fernandez previously worked as the Bronx regional representative for former Gov. Andrew Cuomo, and with former assemblyman and city councilman, Mark Gjonaj.

A “farewell party” and protest was held outside the assemblywoman’s office on Williamsbridge Road in Morris Park on Monday, Nov. 7, the day before Election Day. It was attended by Republicans and other residents opposed to the building of a facility on the grounds of Jacobi Medical Center, located 1900 Seminole Avenue in Morris Park, with the aim of treating ill Rikers Island inmates.

Those in attendance, including Northwest Bronx Democrats founder, Anthony Rivieccio, who addressed the crowd during the rally, had wanted Fernandez to come out in opposition to the facility. She addressed the matter during an Aug. 8 debate before the Democratic primary, saying she stood with the community in terms of addressing the real concerns that residents had about the project, adding that it had drawn a lot of emotion.

Asked if, by not proceeding with the project, it would create worse problems for the community, Fernandez said, “Well, that’s the point of this project. There is a crisis in New York City with homelessness, with individuals that may be getting released from prison and do not have the stability of housing, of family, of seeking healthcare. Then they become the homeless individuals that we see on our streets.” She said the aim of the project was to help them on a path to stability and safety.

She continued, in part, saying, “Our campaign made fighting for climate resiliency, stronger local business, and improved transit access a priority.” Fernandez said that Election Night was about so much more than one campaign, or winning one seat. “It’s about keeping responsive leadership in Albany to fight for State Senate District 34. I’ve been proud to work towards that over the course of this year, and I will continue that transparent and responsive leadership as your next State Senator. This victory belongs to all of us.”

As reported, Fernandez decided to run for Senate when Biaggi announced her bid for New York’s 17th congressional district seat, running against Democrat, Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, who represents New York’s current 18th congressional district. Maloney won the Democratic congressional primary in NY-17 in August, and Biaggi later campaigned with him ahead of the general election.

The congressman has since conceded the general election race to his Republican opponent, Mike Lawlor, adding to Democrats’ woes over losing control of Congress. As of Nov. 16, the Associated Press reported that Republicans had reached the required 218 seats, while Democrats held 210, with some races still pending.

Biaggi has since launched a campaign to replace Jay S. Jacobs as the State Democratic Party chair, the inference being that he and others in senior positions within the party did not do enough from a leadership standpoint to prevent some of the losses incurred by NY Democrats in the latest general election.

In the general election for redrawn Senate District 31, which, effective Jan. 1, 2023, will encompass most of northern Manhattan, including Inwood, Hudson Heights, Fort George and Washington Heights, as well as the Bronx neighborhoods of Marble Hill, Kingsbridge, Kingsbridge Heights, and Morris Heights, Democratic Sen. Robert Jackson (S.D. 31) led on Election Night as of poll closure with 89.14 percent of the vote over Republican candidate, Donald Skinner’s 10.59 percent.

By 10:55 p.m. with the majority of scanners reported, Jackson’s lead had stretched to 85.04 percent of the vote to Skinner’s 14.77 percent.

Reacting to the results, Jackson said, “I am grateful to all those who came out to vote and helped deliver Democratic leadership to NYS. I am especially excited to represent a district that keeps Northern Manhattan and now includes parts of the west Bronx. Whether it’s constituent services or good policy, I plan to show up for all constituents in every pocket of the 31st Senate District.”

He added, “During the campaign, I heard about the many issues top of mind for New Yorkers: education, affordable housing, quality of life issues, access

(continued on page 13)
Norwood: Fentanyl/Heroin Seizure
A Bronx man was arrested in connection with the seizure of approximately 23 kilograms (50 pounds) of fentanyl/heroin, with an estimated street value of $7 million from a Norwood apartment located at 3535 Dekalb Avenue, Apt. 5B.

City, State, and federal law enforcement officials announced on Nov. 10 that Samuel Rojas-Camacho, 59, was arrested on Nov. 7, arraigned in Manhattan Criminal Court on Nov. 8, and was charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance in the first and third degrees, and criminally using drug paraphernalia in the second degree.

According to the prosecution, law enforcement officials stopped a green Jaguar sedan, in which Rojas-Camacho was a passenger, at the southwest corner of Jerome Avenue and East 235th Street in Van Cortlandt Park at around 9 p.m. on Nov. 7. The investigation revealed he had allegedly travelled out of state the same day and had been seen frequenting the 3535 Dekalb Avenue apartment before that.

At the arraignment, the judge set bail at $100,000 cash/$100,000 bond/$200,000 partially secured bond. A person arrested and charged with a crime is deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

University Heights: Woman, 70, Robbed at Home
The NYPD is searching for the man and woman seen in the accompanying photo who are sought for questioning about a robbery that occurred in University Heights. Police said that on Saturday, Oct. 29, at around 2:40 p.m., the couple approached a woman, 70, engaged her in conversation, walking with her for two blocks and later entering her apartment building and apartment, located in the vicinity of West 183rd Street and Lorimer Place North.

Once inside, the couple allegedly stole $30,000 in cash, as well as the victim’s purse, containing her cellphone and assorted credit/debit cards, police said. The two later fled the location on foot. No physical injuries were reported following the incident, police said. Both suspects were described as having a light complexion.

Bedford Park: Woman Sexually Assaulted
The NYPD is seeking the public’s help identifying a woman seen in the accompanying photo of the man at which she was approached by an assailant, who allegedly placed his hands down the victim’s pants, and grabbed the victim’s buttocks. He then fled the location on a Citi bike in an unknown direction, police said. No physical injuries were reported following the incident. The man is described as being in his 40s, has brown eyes, a medium complexion, a beard, short, dark hair and was last seen wearing a baseball cap, a camouflage jacket, blue jeans, black sneakers, and was carrying a black backpack.

Fordham Manor: Woman Sexually Assaulted on Subway
The NYPD is seeking the public’s help locating the person seen in the accompanying photo who is sought in connection to a sexual assault that occurred in Fordham Manor. Police said that on Wednesday, Oct. 26, at around 6.14 p.m., as a girl, 11, was traveling northbound on the 4 train, approaching the East 149th Street and Grand Concourse station, she was approached by a man who displayed a knife and, in Spanish, told the victim to “be quiet.”

Police said he caressed the victim’s leg, waist, and buttocks before exiting at 161st Street-Yankee Stadium, later fleeing to parts unknown. The victim did not sustain any physical injuries. The assailant is described as a male in his 40s, who is around 5 feet tall.

Fordham Manor Shooting
The NYPD is asking for the public’s help identifying a person sought in connection to a Fordham Manor shooting and seen in the accompanying photo taken from the incident location. Police said on Friday, Nov. 4, at around 9.28 p.m. at the corner of Valentine Avenue and East 194th Street, the male suspect fired several shots, striking two unoccupied, parked cars before fleeing the location. No injuries were reported, police said.

Kingsbridge Heights: Man Robbed
The NYPD is seeking the public’s help locating the people seen in the accompanying photo who are sought in connection to a robbery that occurred at Kingsbridge Road subway station in Kingsbridge Heights. Police said that on Thursday, Nov. 3, at around 9.20 p.m., inside the station, a man, 32, was riding on a northbound 4 train when he was approached by another person who grabbed his cellphone, while another two people approached him and threatened to stab him if he did not relinquish his property. The group allegedly stole the victim’s blue iPhone 12, before fleeing the location, police said. No physical injuries were reported following the incident.

Norwood: Fentanyl/Heroin Seizure
The NYPD is asking for the public’s help locating the person sought in the accompanying photo who is around 5 feet tall.

The victim took a cell phone photo of the man at which point he moved away from her and sat at the opposite end of the car. No physical injuries were reported following the incident. The man is described as being in his 40s, has brown eyes, a medium complexion, a beard, short, dark hair and was last seen wearing a baseball cap, a camouflage jacket, blue jeans, black sneakers, and was carrying a black backpack.

A woman, 59, was climbing the stairs of Bedford Park Boulevard subway station, serving the B and D lines, when a man approached her from behind and pressed his head against her buttocks.

He reportedly then fled on foot. No physical injuries were reported following the incident. The assailant is described as a man in his 20s who was last seen wearing a blue denim jacket, a black shirt with a hood, light colored pants, and black sneakers. He had black hair (Afro) and a dark complexion.

Kingsbridge/Fieldston: Man Flashes Girl, 17, on Subway
The NYPD is asking for the public’s help identifying the person seen in the accompanying photo who is sought for exposing himself to a teen on the subway at the Fieldston-Kingsbridge border. Police said that on Monday, Oct. 31, at around 7.55 p.m., inside the 242nd Street subway station, located at the corner of Broadway and West 242nd Street, the female victim, 17, was riding the northbound 1 train when a male passenger exposed his genitals to her.

Anyone with information regarding 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 Crime Stoppers website at https://crimestoppers.nypdonline.org/ or on Twitter @NYPDTip. All calls are strictly confidential.
Elections 2022: Bronxites Share their Top Voting Issues

By JOSÉ GIRALT & JULIAN ROBERTS-GRMELA
Norwood News caught up with voters on Election Day, Nov. 8, to get a feel for their top voting issues. We spoke to some voters and one poll site worker at P.S. 15, Institute for Environmental Learning poll site, located at 2195 Andrews Avenue North, in University Heights.

Evelin Bautista, 50, was at the same poll site and said she changed from voting Democrat to Republican due to crime. “The Bronx now is crazy,” she said, in part. “We need change. We need something new. I’ve been living here for 26 years. I’m Dominican. It’s the first time I saw a lot of problems in this community. This community is crazy, a lot of drugs, the teenagers use guns. They don’t want to go to the school. You know? Now the city is not safe.”

Meanwhile, poll site coordinator, Amelia Rose, said the center had been busy since 6 o’clock. “I’ve been at the site a long time, and I’ve never seen it this busy: old, young, Black, [inaudible], handicap, everyone’s coming out to vote,” she said.

According to the latest available vote count from NYC Board of Elections, voter turnout in The Bronx was at least 186,559, compared to 402,824 in Queens, 520,604 in Brooklyn, 136,409 on Staten Island, and 416,059 in Manhattan.

Rose added that early voting was also busy. “I’ve never seen people really come out to vote on early voting. You normally get maybe two, three people a day, but it’s like 50/60 a day,” she said.

We also spoke to voters inside Glad Tidings Assembly of God voting center, located at 2 Van Cortlandt Avenue East in Jerome Park. Gary Camus, 65, from Bedford Park said he registered to vote very early in life and has been voting since he was 18. “I feel voting is very important, and I do it every year, regardless of...it’s off-presidential election, and that’s why we’re here tonight,” he said.

Asked if there was one or multiple issues that brought him out to vote, he replied, “Multiple issues. I believe in what Kathy Hochul is doing and I believe in what she wants to do and the direction she wants to go to. So, I’m voting for that.”

We asked Ortiz what he saw as the biggest need for himself and his family. “I guess financial control, making sure that things are where they need to be,” he said. “Things are getting out of control. Things are (continued on page 13)
**Elections 2022: Bronxites Share their Top Voting Issues**

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getting very expensive. There’s also a lot of taxation going on. One of my biggest things is what our old president [Trump] did, what he did with the taxes. Basically, what he did really affects New Yorkers more than anybody else because we already have high taxes. Some of us pay taxes for our property, and the way he did things, we no longer can get back money for those taxes that we’re already paying. He made it so it’s hard for us to actually get something back from our taxes. I’m not sure how to explain that.

Asked if he meant he was not getting enough back for what he was paying in, tax-wise, he said, “Right, exactly.” Asked what he would say to those who don’t vote, he said, “I’d tell them to vote. Every vote does count. I had a friend today who actually said his [was] one versus, like, 54 other people or whatever, but if every other person says, ‘I’m not going to vote, because it’s not going to count,’ that’s a lot of people who don’t come out to vote.”

Ortiz added, “I think everybody just needs to have a positive view about it and expect that their vote does count, and to encourage other people who they might know that may not want to vote, to also vote because all of our voices together do count.”

Jeffrey Ewart, 63, said he votes in every election. “And definitely this election, you need to go and vote because we can’t lose the Senate or the House,” he said, clarifying that by “we” he meant Democrats. “We, America,” he said. “It’s crazy storming the Capitol, all kind of hate, all kind of Roe v. Wade gone, and even that Roe v. Wade, that’s important, but just general stuff…social security and Medicaid, all of that.”

He added that he was getting ready to retire soon. “Like anybody else, I’d like to have social security that I worked for. I’d like to have Medicaid, all of that stuff,” he said. “We, need to make sure that we control those two branches.” Asked if the voting process had been smooth, Ewart said, “I’ve been coming here 20 years, and it’s always great coming here, in and out.”

Asked what he would say to those who are on the fence about voting, he said, “It’s a commonsense issue to me. There’s no other way to go.” He added, “I mean, you want to go with crazy? And stuff that ain’t true? And the abortion rights and like I said, Social Security, and all those things, then you really have no choice. You got to come out here because it’s going to be a fight to the bitter end.”

Treat Sanders, 30, from Bedford Park, “on the Concourse” said he usually votes. “I’ve voted for the last five years but honestly, after 2016, I felt like I got a lot more politically involved, and I felt this would be a good time to make sure I stay involved,” he said. “Out of the options I have, I’d rather I have Kathy Hochul.”

Asked if there was one or several issues which were foremost in his mind when casting his ballot, Ewart said, “As far as the gubernatorial race, it was more about the bigger picture.”

Asked what local issues drove him to go out and vote, he said, “For Bedford Park, I’m more in favor of affordable housing, so [policies] that allow for more units that makes sense, but we do need more housing. It would alleviate many of the underlying problems we have in the city.”

We asked if he felt the candidates who he voted for could keep those priorities in mind, if elected, he said, “I feel they can at least give steps in the right direction because it’s a complicated issue. One thing leads into the other, so just building affordable housing won’t just automatically solve the problem. There are other issues involved. But I think that affordable housing will help with the homeless problem and the rent issue.”

We asked what he would say to those people who do not feel a need to come out and vote. “The way I see it, is, if you didn’t make an effort to change an outcome, then don’t complain about the outcome: simple as that.”
Elections 2022: Nov. 8 Unofficial Results & Reaction

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to health care, a healthy environment, and reliable and safe transportation. My office looks forward to hearing more when we kick off a series of listening tours in the Bronx in the very near future. I’m fired up and ready to go!”

In the general election for re-drawn Senate District 36, which will encompass, effective Jan. 1, 2023, Mount Vernon and the Bronx neighborhoods of Woodlawn, Wakefield, Eastchester, Co-op City, Williamsbridge and Baychester, Bronx Democratic Party chair and State Sen. Jamaal Bailey (D.S 36) ran unopposed and at poll closure on Election Night had received 99.59 percent (12,882 votes) of all votes. By 10:55 p.m., Bailey had won 54,308 votes (99.5 percent of total votes).

In New York’s redrawn 13th Congressional District, which covers a large strip of Northern Manhattan, including Washington Heights and Inwood, and parts or all of the Bronx neighborhoods of University Heights, Morris Heights, Marble Hill, Fortham Manor, Bedford Park, Kingsbridge and Kingsbridge Heights, incumbent Democrat, Rep. Adriano Espaillat (NY-13) ran unopposed, and as of poll closure on Election Night, had won 31,954 votes (98.82 percent of the total vote).

By 10:55 p.m. with the majority of scanners reported, Espaillat had won 108,290 votes (98.91 percent of the total votes).

In Assembly District 81, which includes much of the Northwest Bronx neighborhoods of Norwood, Bedford Park, Woodlawn, Wakefield, Riverdale, Fieldston, North Riverdale, Kingsbridge, and Van Cortlandt Village, Democratic incumbent, Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81), led over his nearest rival, Working Family Party candidate, Jessica Altgracia Wofford, who won 32,070 votes (98.91 percent of the total vote).

“Leaving no doubt that my priority is the health, safety, and well-being of our families and our community,” Dinowitz said.

“Assembly District 81 is a community that I love, and I am honored to serve both as your Assemblyman and as your Congressman. I promise to fight for the issues that matter to you, to stand up for our values, and to work hard for a better community. I ask for your vote on November 8th and I look forward to serving you in the House of Representatives.”

In the election for Judge of the Civil Court Bronx County, Democrats topped the polls. Based on unofficial results on Election Night, Michele Davila won 22.82 percent of the vote, Yadhira Gonzalez-Taylor won 23.30 percent, Sophia Hershman won 20.11 percent and Cynthia Isabes won 19.56 percent.

In the election for Judge of the Civil Court District 1st Municipal Court District Bronx, it was a similar outcome to Election Night with Democrat, Taisha Chambers winning 76.43 percent of the vote over Republican/Conservative, Lucianna Corotondo, who won 23.57 percent of the vote.

Regarding Ballot Proposal 1, an amendment to the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022, as of 10:50 p.m. on Election Night, 1,145,757 voters (the majority) had voted yes to the proposal.

Regarding Ballot Proposal 2, a question regarding the addition of a statement of values to guide government, as of 10:50 p.m. on Election Night, 996,288 voters (the majority) had voted yes to the proposal.

Regarding Ballot Proposal 3, a question regarding the establishment of a racial equity office, plan and commission, as of 10:50 p.m. on Election Night, 996,962 voters (the majority) had voted yes to the proposal.

Regarding Ballot Proposal 4, to measure the true cost of living, as of 10:50 p.m. on Election Night, 1,121,103 voters (the majority) had voted yes to the proposal.

In New York’s 14th congressional district, which covers parts of Queens and some or all of the Bronx neighborhoods of Hunts Point, Castle Hill, Pelham Parkway, Baychester, Country Club, Unionport, Schuylerville, Throggs Neck, City Island, Parkchester, Co-Op City and Eastchester, Democratic incumbent, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (NY-14) led with 76.4 percent of the vote on Election Night as of poll closure, over the 21.41 percent won by Republican, Tina Forte.

By 10:55 p.m. on Election Night, Ocasio-Cortez’s lead had dropped to 70.27 percent of the total vote over Forte’s 27.61 percent. NBC News declared the incumbent the projected winner on Election Night. On Wednesday, the congresswoman thanked her supporters, writing, “Thank you to all the campaign organizers, volunteers, staff, small dollar donors, grassroots candidates, and voters who worked so hard for a better future last night. Campaigning is relentless, all-encompassing work. None of this happens without you. You are so appreciated.”

In New York’s redrawn 16th Congressional District general election, which largely covers the Mount Vernon section of Westchester County but incorporates the Bronx neighborhood of Wakefield, Democratic incumbent, Rep. Jamaal Bowman (NY-16) led with 94.32 percent of the vote on Election Night as of poll closure, in terms of the Wakefield part of the district, over Republican opponent, Miriam Flisser, who won 5.65 percent of the vote.

By 10:55 p.m. on Election Night, Bowman’s lead had dropped to 92.26 percent of the vote to Flisser’s 7.69 percent. Meanwhile, in terms of the Westchester section of the district, the congressman won 61 percent of the vote over the 39 percent won by his opponent, Republican, Miriam Flisser. By Wednesday morning, Bowman’s lead had stretched to 65 percent and various media outlets began calling the race in his favor.

BEDFORD PARK RESIDENT, Trent Sanders, fills out his ballot at the Glad Tidings Assembly of God on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022.

Photo credit: José A. Giralt
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Public and Community Meetings

The next 52nd PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL meeting will take place on Thursday, Nov. 17, at 7 p.m. at Our Lady Refuge Church, 290 East 196th Street in Fordham Manor. Call the 52nd Precinct Community Affairs office at (718) 220-5824 to be added to the email list. Proof of vaccination is required for in-person meetings.

The date for the December BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7 general board meeting is to be announced. The last general board meeting was held on Tuesday, Nov. 15. Contact KCabreraCarrera@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list. All meetings are being held virtually, via Zoom, until further notice.

The BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION meetings are usually held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. The Nov. 2 meeting was held in person at 400 E Moshulu Pkwy S, #B1 (lobby floor), The Bronx, NY 10458. For details of future meetings, please contact bedfordmoshulu@verizon.net.

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Local Man Shot by Police Laid to Rest

(continued from page 1)

a knife.”

Police said Demmerle fled with the knife and was pursued by Lockett. “As he [Lockett] exists the bodega, he fires at the male [Demmerle] at point-blank range into the white Lexus. One sergeant and two detectives from the Queens Violence Detectives Squad, in plain clothes, confront the male with the gun [Lockett], and fire numerous times,” police said.

Police said Lockett, shot by police, was removed to Jacobi Medical Center and pronounced deceased. “The 29-year-old male fled the scene and was discovered a short time later with a graze wound to his head [in a barber shop],” police added. “He was removed to St. Barnabas Hospital and is in stable condition.”

A photo of the gun and the knife recovered at the scene was shared by police during the press conference. Police said a preliminary investigation found that neither civilian had any connection to the bodega. Shattered car window glass was seen beside the white Lexus in a video shot by a Citizens’ App user.

According to court records, Demmerle was charged over the summer with resisting arrest, and obstructing government administration, and was released on his own recognizance. He now faces additional charges of attempted murder, assault, and criminal possession of a weapon, police said, and is being held on a $500,000 bond. He was expected back in court on Wednesday, Nov. 16, and returns to court again on Friday, Nov. 18, to answer the resisting arrest charge.

Quoting an unnamed worker at the barber shop where Demmerle reportedly fled inside from police, The NY Daily News reported that the worker said Demmerle told him, “I don’t have no knife, no gun. I’m good. I just want to hide here. Don’t call the police. Don’t call the cops, please.” The worker added that Demmerle pleaded, “I have a baby, please.”

Referring to Lockett, Jessica Lugo from Norwood later told Norwood News by phone on Nov. 15, “His mom was a hard worker, and he was always a respectful kid.” She added, “I mean kids are going to be kids, but growing up he was always a good kid. He was well adjusted, playing in the park with his friends... They all grew up together.”

Lugo then recalled how one mourner at the wake, which she attended, had told her how Lockett helped out in the local Norwood community, and that another person at the wake also told her how Lockett had defended himself against a neighborhood bully.

“He was always a good kid,” Lugo said. “He was never cursing or disrespectful, hitting people, or getting into violence. He was just a typical kid.”

Asked if he had had any hobbies, Lugo said, “He was into music. I definitely know he was into music, writing music, and rhyming, and stuff like that. When we were younger...playing, riding his bike, playing outside.”

Lugo posted a video on Facebook that shows dozens of Lockett’s friends gathered after the wake along Decatur Avenue and East Gun Hill Road in Norwood recording a rap video in Lockett’s honor.

Lugo said, in reference to the video, “That was all of his friends. He was a young kid. Of the wake, she added that the service was huge. “It was packed with people,” she said.

She added that Lockett grew up on Hull Avenue and attended P.S. 94 and M.S. 20. More recently, she said he lived a short distance away from where he was shot in Norwood. She said friends attended the wake on White Plains Road and then later many had dinner at a nearby restaurant not far from where the tribute video was being filmed.

A GoFundMe page posted by Rose Bishop has, so far, raised $4,039 made up of 105 donations to cover the cost of Lockett’s funeral. The goal is to raise $10,000. The accompanying description read, “Kyle Lockett entered the gates of heaven and gained his wings too soon. He was a beloved son, brother, uncle, and friend. This has been a shock to the family as well as the community.”

It continued, “Kyle, only 21 years old, had his whole life ahead of him. Kyle is gone but, in our sadness, we rejoice his life by keeping his memory alive. Since there was no warning [meant] the cost for his burial has weighed heavily on the family.”

Bishop wrote that Lockett’s mother, in her grief, had asked the community to pull together and donate so that Kyle could be laid to rest properly.

On Nov. 10, the New York Attorney General’s Office of Special Investigation (OSI) announced it had opened an investigation into the death of Lockett, who, they said, died following the encounter with members of the NYPD, and

Officials said that pursuant to New York State executive law section 70-b, the Office of Special Investigations assesses every incident reported to it where a police officer or a peace officer, including a corrections officer, may have caused the death of a person, by an act or omission.

Under the law, the officer may be on-duty or off-duty, and the deceased may be armed or unarmed. Also, the deceased may or may not be in custody or incarcerated. They said, “If OSI’s assessment indicates an officer caused the death, the office will proceed to conduct a full investigation of the incident.”

OSI officials added that these were preliminary facts and subject to change. It was confirmed by police on the day of the shooting that the detectives involved were not wearing body-worn cameras.
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