



NORWOOD NEWS

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AUGUST PRIMARIES SEE GHOSTLY POLL SITES



Photo by Sile Moloney

STATE SEN. GUSTAVO Rivera (S.D. 33) dressed in a burgundy-colored shirt, joins supporters and tenant organizers for a group photo during a tenants rally held at 3150 Rochambeau Avenue in Norwood on Saturday, July 16, 2022, in support of his campaign to win the Democratic primary for redrawn Senate District 33 on Aug. 23, 2022.

By **SILE MOLONEY,**
JOSÉ A. GIRALT,
EMILY SAWAKED,
DAVID GREENE &
MIRIAM QUINONES

After the polls closed on Tuesday, Aug. 23, on the second of two separate Primary Election Days held in 2022, due to redistricting, New York City

Board of Elections released the initial, unofficial results in the congressional and State senate races, based on the majority of poll site reported scanners which cover both early votes and election day votes.

The following are the results of some of the various Bronx races, following a voter

turnout described by one *Norwood News* reporter as “anemic.” Indeed, the situation raises questions not only about voter fatigue, but also about the overall cost to taxpayers of holding two separate primary elections within the space of a few months.

As of 6 p.m. on Election Day,

18,125 voters had checked in at Bronx polling sites, compared to 102,493 in Manhattan, 79,304 in Brooklyn, 17,996 in Queens and 19,970 on Staten Island.

The remaining scanners, as well as absentee and overseas ballots, still have to be counted, but some candidates

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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

Editor-In-Chief, Norwood News

Sile Moloney
smoloney@norwoodnews.org

Intern

Emily Sawaked

Regular Contributors

David Greene, José A. Giralt,
Miriam Quiñones

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Harm Reduction Forum Addresses Drug Use in Poe Park

By JOSÉ A. GIRALT

Some complaints were vehemently expressed in raised voices, and the level of frustration was palpable among Fordham Manor residents at the increasing levels of drug use and criminal activity observed in the neighborhood encompassing Poe Park. A flyer announcing an Aug. 8th community meeting was billed as a forum “to discuss solutions and resources to address neighborhood concerns about syringe litter and people gathering near the Kingsbridge overpass and Poe Park.”

Held inside Monroe College's Mintz Auditorium, the well-attended event was moderated by State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33). The senator made a noble effort at keeping tempers subdued and comments respectful, though attendees were forceful in letting the panel know just how fed up they were with the neighborhood's drug use situation.

Joining Rivera on the panel were Nelson Gonzalez, an outreach leader at Bronx Móvil, Pedro J. Briones, assistant director of Harm Reduction Services at Boom!Health, and Krystal Montalvo, co-director of programming at St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction, each of whom worked in the area of outreach.

Other panelists were Brenda Caldwell-Paris, president of the 52nd Precinct Community Council and Jeremy Scheublin, deputy inspector of the 52nd Precinct. Polite applause welcomed the panel. However, as Rivera read questions submitted by the audience prior to the event, it was apparent residents were unhappy with some of the efforts by the harm reduction groups working in the area.

Some residents, for example, highlighted that Boom!Health had been providing syringe kits in the area, and the group was specifically asked why they chose to drop off the kits at Poe Park, across from a church and public school, and right next to one of the neighborhood's most active drug dealing corners. The group was also asked if they helped drug-users *not* to use drugs?

“We do not target schools, we don't target public areas,” Briones responded. “We target where they [drug users] convene, and if they happen to convene in that area...” He went on to explain that the distribution of clean syringes was a way to reduce the spread of infectious diseases like hepatitis C and HIV. “That's the goal. We do not want the spread of those diseases,” he said.

As for the group's efforts at helping those with a drug addiction to get clean, Briones said, “We provide resources at detox and rehabilitation centers as we encounter and provide individual counseling to these individuals.” He also acknowledged they had challenges with their work, saying, “Is it easier said than done? Yes. Many of the individuals that we speak to are dealing with a lot of underlying trauma.”

In the short-term, Briones implored the community to see those affected by addiction as fellow human beings, worthy of respect and consideration. “[The community needs to avoid] vilifying these individuals,”



Photo by José A. Giralt

ATTENDEES AT A community forum on harm reduction held in Monroe College's Mintz Auditorium in Fordham Manor, listen to a panel of officials and outreach experts on Monday, Aug. 8, 2022.

he said. “They are also part of the community. They are somebody's father, they are somebody's son, somebody's daughter, somebody's mother. It takes time [to stop using drugs]... it's a very long process.”

His sentiments were echoed by the other two outreach panelists working in harm reduction. However, the non-drug-using residents living around Poe Park were more concerned with making the area safer, and as quickly as possible. One attendee spoke with *Norwood News* after the event and requested anonymity for fear of being identified [and targeted] by neighborhood drug dealers.

Self-described as “a long-time Bronx resident,” the person lives on Grand Concourse near Poe Park, and noted the forum was not the first time the open drug use issue had been brought up locally. Indeed, similar discussions have taken place at prior 52nd Precinct Community Council meetings.

“What we started here in terms of the conversation was a continuation of previous conversations,” the resident said. “I hope to continue the conversation, especially with Gustavo [Rivera] because there seems to be some fundamental disagreement.” The disagreement stemmed from the senator's remarks, expressed during the forum, on his being potentially open to the possibility of decriminalizing other drugs beyond cannabis.

Rivera's comments were in response to a very direct question raised during the forum as to whether his ultimate legislative goal was to decriminalize heroin. Rivera answered indirectly, saying, “We want to get away from the idea of drug use as a moral failing.” He added that the goal, in the immediate term, was to open up more harm reduction centers and to meet people where they were.

In the short-term, the Fordham Manor resident requested those working in outreach to, at least, move the needle distribution location to some place beyond Poe Park. The resident said they felt this was one improvement that could be implemented immediately. The person added, in

part, “Move the needle program away from the park because the needles are given out right at the park entrance. It's not the way to do things, in my opinion. I have school-age kids. The kids play at that park [and they're] handing out needles at that park. Please do not hand out those needles at the park.”

Though Rivera's apparent openness to further reforming State drug laws may put him at odds with some of the views shared by law enforcement unions, Scheublin shared his respect for the senator's work in the area of addiction. “I respect the senator because he's somebody who sticks by what he believes, and he comes, and he's willing to have an open conversation,” the deputy inspector said. “Whether or not every one of us agrees with everything said, you have to respect somebody who's upfront and honest about their opinions.”

Scheublin also sought to reassure attendees that his interest in improving public safety went beyond his role as deputy inspector of the 52. “I just made 20 years as a uniformed member of the NYPD a couple of weeks ago,” he said. He said part of his career was spent as an undercover officer in the narcotics division of the agency, and he wanted people to know that he was also concerned about the neighborhoods under his command, from a personal standpoint.

“My entire career ... here in The Bronx, the only borough I wanted to work in, it's also the borough I reside in, just outside of this community,” he said. “My children also attended school actually within this community. I share that with you to let you know that I'm just as invested as each and every one of you.”

As for any residents wishing to work with the 52nd Precinct to improve the quality-of-life of the neighborhood, the deputy inspector issued a clear invitation. “I hope that we continue these conversations,” he said. “We're open to suggestions. I think this [was] a very productive meeting. We'll work with anyone and everyone who shares our mission to decrease crime and increase quality of life in this neighborhood.”

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What Happens After You Submit an Application?

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INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



This week, we asked readers their thoughts on the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 which supporters say will help reduce inflation and invest in clean energy.



"I doubt it will be a good thing, because they're picking and choosing who they want to help with lowering prescription drugs; they want to only help the people on Medicaid or Medicare. What about the people who don't have Medicaid? If they have no benefits, no health insurance, no nothing, what about them? Yes, absolutely, it will help the seniors. I'm not really into all the politics; it's like they want us to know what they want us to know, and basically only tell us what they want to tell us, and they think we're going to believe everything. No, I don't believe it, and the news doesn't tell you everything either. Absolutely, I will vote this week."

Angel Rivera,
Kingsbridge



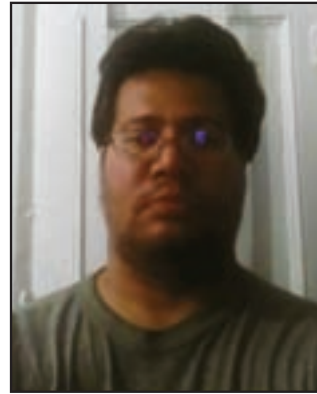
"As far as hiring additional IRS agents.....what they need to do is hire more police officers. They should use that money to add more police to combat crime. Forget about the IRS; that's my opinion on that. Now on this other thing with this green deal.....people have to spend money to save money? That doesn't make any sense. In order to make your house green, you've got to spend thousands of dollars on these solar panels, and later on you're going to get a savings? That's no savings because you're spending money. I don't see anyone saving any money on that. I have Medicare, that I agree with! I agree with that. That's the only thing I see that's helpful to everyone that's on Medicare, like senior citizens, but as far as this other stuff, a lot of it is going to be pork."

Johnny N.,
Westchester Square



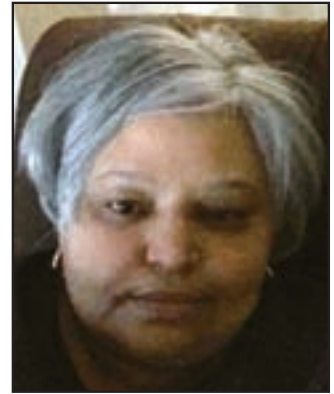
"I don't know much about it, but I did hear about them negotiating the cost of prescription drugs. I'll use my father as an example, but every year it's harder for him, and he has to pay for his medication. So, let's say Social Security gets a 2 percent raise; it's a joke. The cost of Medicare, let's say, goes up 5 percent, but he only got a 2 percent raise, and Medicare alone went up 5 percent. So, his 2 percent went towards the 5 percent, and it's still 3 percent higher. And what about everything else in his life that went up? Now here's what gets me: all of these drugs are created in the United States, but it's cheaper to buy them in another country. How is that possible?"

Michael Labarbera,
Brooklyn



so it doesn't matter. So, I can get an electric vehicle and charge it in one of the two spots they have? I'm just saying immediately, right now, this week, it's not going to help anybody, but maybe by the end of the year it might make a difference, but we'll see. The system is always fixed against the little guys. I was always wonder if a building like mine can get solar panels. I see some of the newer buildings have them."

Chris Perkins,
Norwood



"I don't believe it will help very much now; it may help several months from now. I think if they had prepared for things better, it would not have been so bad after COVID and everything else, including the invasion of Ukraine. I support the negotiation on the cost of medicine because I was denied some drugs, because my insurance wouldn't pay for it. As far as the rich and their taxes, I believe rich people should pay their taxes, whatever it's supposed to be. I pay my taxes, even if I don't work very much, so they should pay their taxes too."

Thania Rodriguez,
Norwood

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NEWS BRIEFS

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Armed Robbery at Popeyes

Police said a female employee working at a branch of Popeyes fast-food chain, located at 3411 Jerome Avenue in Norwood, was robbed at gunpoint on Tuesday, Aug. 16, at around 9 p.m. The employee said a young man entered the location, when there were no other customers and just one other employee in the back aside from the female employee who was stationed at the check-out.

She said he tried to steal her phone which was sitting inside the counter area by the cash register, and when she tried to grab it back from him, the youth displayed a gun and told her to hand over the cash from the register. She screamed, let go her phone, and ran to the back of the kitchen area, at which point, she said the young male left, taking her phone with him. No cash was removed following the incident and there were no physical injuries.

Adams Announces Youth Program at BCC

Mayor Eric Adams paid a visit to Bronx Community College in University Heights on Monday, Aug. 15, along with several other city officials and business leaders to announce the launch of the New York City Pathways to Industrial and Construction Careers (PINCC) program, a new talent development initiative that City officials say will help place nearly 2,300 low-income New Yorkers on the trajectory to careers in two high-growth sectors of the city's economy over the next three years. Formalized via executive order 22, city officials said the program will be funded with an \$18.6 million grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration in response to New York City's winning proposal to the Good Jobs Challenge created under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. It is targeted to serve cash assistance recipients and public housing residents.



Photo by Síle Moloney

POLICE INVESTIGATE A shooting at E 194th Street and Briggs Avenue in the Fordham Manor section of The Bronx that occurred on Thursday, Aug. 11, 2022.

Fordham Manor: Boy, 14, Arrested after 2nd Boy, 14, Fatally Shot

By SÍLE MOLONEY & DAVID GREENE

Police said they arrested a 14-year-old boy following the fatal shooting of a second 14-year-old boy in the lobby of a Fordham Manor residential building.

An NYPD spokesperson said on Thursday, Aug. 11, at around 1.06 a.m. police were alerted to a report of a man who had been shot at East 194th Street and Briggs Avenue. The spokesperson said that upon arrival, "Police observed an unidentified male teenager with a gunshot wound to his chest,"

The spokesperson added, "EMS also responded and transported the male to St. Barnabas Hospital, where he was

pronounced deceased." The victim was later identified as Jacob Borbin, 14, of Radcliff Avenue in the Allerton section of The Bronx.

Police officials said a preliminary investigation had determined that the victim was shot inside the lobby of a building on East 194th Street, but there were no initial arrests.

Norwood News spoke to local residents at around 8.15 a.m. on the morning of the incident in the vicinity of the Fordham Manor building in which the victim was shot. Most did not know what had happened.

One man voiced his concerns for the

youth of the neighborhood, while another, upon hearing the victim's name and age, said he recognized the boy and added that he had reportedly looked much older than 14.

The investigation continued and on Saturday evening, Aug. 13, police announced that pursuant to an ongoing investigation, an unnamed 14-year-old boy had been arrested and charged with murder, manslaughter and two counts of criminal possession of a weapon.

After meeting with youth coordination officers from the 44th, 46th, 48th, 50th and 52nd Precincts, and some

(continued on page 8)

Fire in Norwood

FDNY officials received a call regarding a fire at 7.10 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 20, on the 5th floor of a residential multiple dwelling located at 3060 Decatur Avenue in Norwood on Saturday, Aug. 20. Twelve fire units, comprising 60 firefighters were deployed to the location to contain the blaze which saw severe damage to the apartment where the fire started and damage to at least one adjacent apartment, where one of the female occupants told *Norwood News* fled to the balcony holding a young baby to avoid the smoke inhalation. The fire was placed under control at 7.50 p.m. FDNY officials said and there were no injuries.



Photo by Síle Moloney

A fifth-floor apartment at 3060 Decatur Avenue in Norwood is destroyed after a fire broke out on Saturday, Aug. 20, 2022.

NCB Sister Takes on New Role Supporting Women & Children

By **SÍLE MOLONEY & EMILY SAWAKED**

After 22 years of service working in emergency medicine, a dedicated nursing nun has retired to take up a new leadership position within her religious order. A staple in her community, both inside and outside NYC Health + Hospitals/North Central Bronx (NCB), Sr. Mary Catherine Redmond, 60, left a void when she retired from her position at the hospital in September 2021.

Now leading over 200 of the faithful in her chosen Catholic religious order, The Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, she has likened the job of leading her fellow sisters to, “being CEO of a multimillion-dollar corporation.”

“It involves the care of the sisters, but also the promotion of the mission of who we are as Presentation sisters,” she said. “We’re looking at the issue of women and children as it relates to economic, ecological and racial inequities,” she added.

As for her time at NCB, she said, “The beauty of emergency medicine is that no day was like any other day, and I always said that to my friends. I always went to work with a really good attitude, because I never knew when I was going to have a bad day. It was handling whatever came in the door.”

Redmond said the biggest part of her role was advocating for her patients. “We are from the Norwood section, we serve primarily the uninsured,” she said. “Medicaid populations are underserved and so, we did a lot of advocacy for them, and along with their physical needs were social needs, and emotional needs.”

She continued, “So, it was really a multi-faceted approach, which was one of the reasons I was always proud to be at North Central, because I felt that we were able to provide a real well-rounded care of our patients.”

Her time at the hospital was initially inspired by a trip to Guyana during her religious training, where she said there was a disparity in healthcare. “I was previously an audiologist at NYU Medical Center in Manhattan, and I asked the congregation to go back to school to become a physician assistant (PA), so that I could provide medical care to the underserved,” Redmond said.

She said what she loved the most about being a physician assistant was working with patients. “So much can be learned,” she said. “I always used to say to the PA students, you listen with your heart to the heart of another person. It was hearing what people were telling you, but it was also hearing what they weren’t telling you and asking the right questions to get the information that you needed.”

On the topic of State health insurance,



Photo courtesy of Sr. Mary Catherine Redmond / NCB

SR. MARY CATHERINE Redmond

available to low-income New Yorkers, the sister noted that the biggest issue with it was that people didn’t know such insurance was available to them.

She said because of this, and coupled with their fears over their immigration status, many patients would arrive at the hospital much later than was necessary with illnesses or injuries, even when insurance was not an issue at the hospital. Redmond said, regardless of immigration status, care for patients was the number one priority.

The sister recalled that at the height of the pandemic, like in most hospitals, the uptick in COVID cases sent large numbers of people to seek hospital care. At NCB, as previously reported, the fifteenth and sixteenth floors were renovated to specifically handle the COVID surge.

Though language was often a barrier for some patients, Redmond said hospital staff worked hard to overcome it. “We have language lines in the emergency department where people can speak in whatever language it is that they speak, and we have a program called ‘I CARE,’” she said.

According to Redmond, the program seeks to treat patients in a way the patient wants to be treated [culturally tailored], while still caring for them in the best way possible. “Talking in their own language would be important to the staff, as well as the patient,” the sister explained.

Most of the patients Redmond saw in recent years at NCB were COVID patients, and she said the most surprising facet of the pandemic for her was the lack of preparedness. “Providers who were used to knowing the latest treatments, treatment regimens, and techniques were left with nothing, and that was hard,” she said.

“It was really a lot of very quick learning, and the virus presented itself in so many different ways that it was really hard to even know what...there wasn’t a pattern. After a while, it was like, whether it was a stomach flu or respiratory illness, whether it was like the sense of smell and taste, it was COVID.”

One she was nominated for the leadership of her congregation, Redmond said she had much to think about, especially in terms of the pandemic and whether she was ready to retire from the hospital. She described the community there as one she held close to her heart but eventually, she did retire.

“I don’t know if I had the ability to fight a third wave [of the pandemic],” she said. “I really don’t, because I will tell you, very honestly, I poured myself out during the first wave.” She added, “I said to my friends when I left, I wanted to leave respected for who I was, as a physician as-

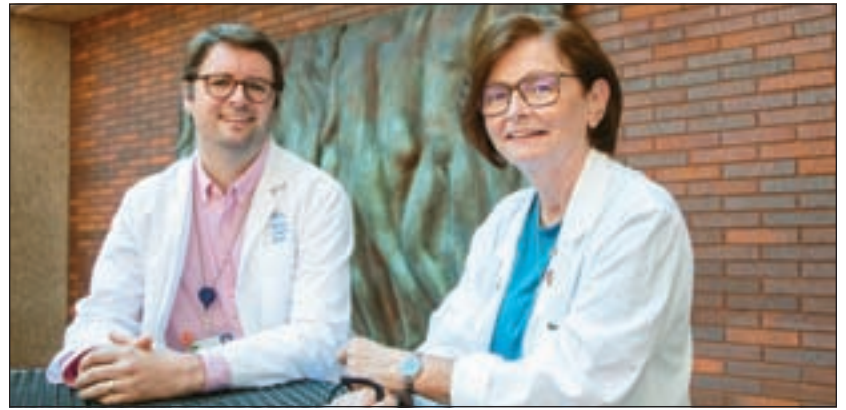


Photo courtesy of Sr. Mary Catherine Redmond / NCB

SR. MARY CATHERINE Redmond and a colleague at North Central Bronx Hospital

sistant, but more importantly, respected for who I was as a religious woman.”

As she reflected on her career, we asked the sister if she had noticed, prior to retiring, an uptick in people wanting to change professions in light of the pandemic and train to become nurses, in the way that others decided to train to become firefighters or police officers after 9/11.

Redmond said she had had a lot of contact with PA students, and that the PA programs were full, and had a waiting list of people who “really wanted to serve.” She added, “Those are people that are much younger, who could choose to do anything, I guess. They’re choosing to be physician assistants and so, I would say, yeah, people see a need and they’re

not afraid of what that need might call them to.”

She concluded, “I just think that whatever you can do in your article to allow the people in Norwood to know the wonderful services that are provided [at NCB] would be really helpful.”

Highlighting the ongoing needs of the local community, she recounted that a woman who was experiencing homelessness, who she had gotten to know over time, had called her recently and told her that she had been hesitant to go to NCB, knowing Redmond was no longer there. “I was like, ‘Do go to North Central! North Central are people just like me. You need to go to North Central because they care. That’s what I would like people to know.’”

Van Nest

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755 Rhinelander Avenue
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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

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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.

Fordham Manor: Boy, 14, Arrested after 2nd Boy, 14, Fatally Shot

(continued from page 6)

NYPD Explorers during a “Street Meet” held in memory of the Bronx teen at Poe Park on Thursday, Aug. 18, NYPD assistant commissioner of youth strategies, Kevin O’Connor, said, “So, we just had a 14-year-old boy shot in the head; it looks like it’s accidental.”

O’Connor added, “They were playing with a gun; he died [inaudible] the chest. I’m sorry but he passed away.”

State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33), who has since declared victory in the Democratic primary for redrawn Senate District 33, said of the incident, “My heart is heavy today. We’ve lost a 14-year-old boy to gun violence. Yet another family will grieve a senseless murder and our community will mourn again. Something’s got to give. We need these guns off our streets and our City needs to come together to take care of our youth.”

He added, “My heart is with my neighbors and those who loved this young soul. In the Bronx, we take care of each other. I’m committed to making sure that our borough gets

everything we need to keep our children safe. My team and I are monitoring the situation to assist in any way we can.”

A female resident of the block where Jacob lived in Allerton later told *Norwood News* she had seen the teen just days before his death. “I saw him on 194 Street and said to him, ‘Don’t you live on Radcliff?’ and he said ‘yeah,’ that he lived over there too,” she said, without commenting further.

Meanwhile, a message on a card that accompanied some flowers seen outside the teen’s home, read, “We are deeply sorry for your loss. Please know that we are thinking of you in this difficult time. The Earl Monroe New Renaissance Basketball School Family.”

Anyone with information regarding this incident 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 WWW.NYPDCRIMESTOPPERS.COM, or on Twitter @NYPDTips.

All calls are strictly confidential.



Photo by David Greene

A PHOTO OF a photo of Jacob Borbin, 14, is displayed at a memorial site in memory of the late teenager outside a building on East 194th Street in Fordham Manor on Thursday, August 18, 2022.

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Out & About

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

EVENTS

Join Bronx Fashion Week in an all-inclusive, **Diverse Fashion Celebration of Unity** at the Mall at Bay Plaza, 200 Baychester Avenue, Bronx NY 10475, on Sept. 10. Enter and experience the wonderment of the New York Fashion Week world, powered by Bronx Fashion NYC! **The Bronx Native Festival** will take place on Sunday, Sept. 25, at Pelham Bay Park from noon to 4 p.m., with free admission. Performers include The Thunderbird American Indian Dancers, Tchin and Higuayagua. The MC for the event is Bobby Gonzalez.

ART

On Saturday, Aug. 27, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. a **Family Day – Discover and Create** will be held at Andrew Freedman Home, located at 1125 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY

10452, across the street from The Bronx Museum of the Arts. Come along and enjoy free art activities and artist projects.

NYC Parks presents the **“Everything Hip-Hop Art Showcase”** a showcase of artwork and photography created by talented community artists, at Poe Park Visitor Center, 2640 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY from Aug. 2 to 27, from Tuesday to Saturday, between 10 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Call (718) 365 5516 for more information.

MUSIC

Bronx Arts Ensemble presents **Caribbean Music and More** at Van Cortlandt House Museum on Sat, Aug. 27 at 2 p.m. From Jamaican and Haitian folk songs to Florence Price’s monumental *Five Folksongs in*

Counterpoint, the Bronx Arts Ensemble String Quartet celebrates the works of Black composers and musicians in the Americas and more. Bring a blanket or chair to enjoy this free concert on the lawn of the Van Cortlandt House Museum.

Eddie Palmeri & his Salsa Orchestra will perform with Del Caribe Latin Jazz All Stars and special invited guest, Lucrecia, at the Lehman Center for Performing Arts, located at Bedford Park Blvd West Bronx, New York 10468, on Sept. 17, at 8 p.m.

Downtown Jazz takes place uptown in the Church of the Mediator 888, 260 W 231st St., in The Bronx on Aug. 20, at 7 p.m., featuring the music of the Befo’ Qoutet. Tickets are \$30.

The Riverdale Choral Society invites singers of all levels to join open rehearsals for its autumn season which will be held on Sept. 7 and Sept. 14, at 7 p.m. at Christ Church Riverdale, West 252nd St. and Henry Hudson Parkway East, where there is on-street parking and easy access to public transportation. The group welcomes all voice ranges: soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. New singers will be asked to take part in a brief informal audition. Singers who join the Choral Society

will be preparing for a concert on Sunday, Dec. 4. Additional information can be obtained at the RCS web site: www.riverdalechoral.org or by calling 718-543-2219.

MOVEMENT

NYC Parks is hosting an **Annual Family Day** in the Williamsbridge Oval, 3225 Reservoir Oval East in Norwood on Friday, Aug. 26, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. See attached flier below for more information.

Twin Parks West Older Adult Center, 355 East 183rd Street, Bronx, NY 10458, invites residents to join for Bingo, Zumba, Yoga classes and more, Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call (917) 841 6541 for more information.

Come and enjoy some **Outdoor Fun and Fitness** at St. James Park, 2530 Jerome Avenue at East 192 Street, Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., from June 1 to Sept. 30. This program includes spin classes, stretching, sports activities and games. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, visit: nyc.gov/parks. **NYC Parks** outdoor, public pools reopened on June 28. Free summer breakfast and lunch is also available at public pools from June 28 to Sept. 2. Visit: <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/food/summer-meals> for more information.

SYEP Interns Volunteer to Help School Kids

By **EMILY SAWAKED & SÍLE MOLONEY**

A group of Summer Youth Employment Program interns volunteered their time, over the course of a week at the end of their internship, to help with the coordination of several back-to-school giveaways held around The Bronx in recent weeks.

The group of interns had been volun-

teering all summer long with Friends of Mosholu Parkland (FOMP), under the guidance of executive director, Elizabeth Quaranta, both in the community garden, located beside the Keepers House at 3400 Reservoir Oval East in Norwood, and around the local parks and neighborhoods.

As the school year recommences, several back-to-school drives were be-

ing organized by local elected officials in conjunction with Montefiore Medical Center and other partners and necessitated the coordination, delivery, labeling and transporting tons of boxes containing school kits for the various giveaways.

The young interns heard about the project, and the work involved, and decided to volunteer their time, carrying, labeling and storing the school supplies in and around the Keeper’s House, a Montefiore location, in preparation for

the various giveaways, ensuring that hundreds of kids are equipped with the supplies they need for their next semester.

As for the interns’ time spent gardening and learning about environmental sustainability these last few months, Tony, told *Norwood News* of his experience, “This is like, for me, mindfulness, picking up litter, you’re watching the plants slowly grow. I feel like it kind of helped me relieve stress. So, I feel like definitely I will do this again.”



Photo by Síle Moloney

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT Program interns join Friends of Mosholu Parkland in the community garden at the Keeper’s House at 3400 Reservoir Oval East in Norwood on Thursday, Aug. 18, 2022.

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CRIME FILE

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



Bedford Park. The NYPD is appealing for help identifying the people seen in the accompanying photos who are sought in connection with a robbery and assault in Bedford Park Boulevard subway station.

Police said on Friday, Aug. 12, at around 11.50 p.m., a 36-year-old man was exiting the northbound 4 subway at the station when he was approached by four people unknown to him. The group allegedly proceeded to punch and kick the man, causing abrasions to his face and a broken nose, according to police. Police said they stole some of his property before fleeing to parts unknown. The victim was removed to Jacobi Hospital in stable condition, police said.



Bedford Park: Four Sought for Gang Assault

Four people are being sought by police following a gang assault on a 36-year-old man in

vate means, in stable condition to Montefiore Hospital.



Fordham Heights: Man Arrested for Attempted Murder

The NYPD said a 55-year-old man has been arrested following an assault outside a restaurant in Fordham Heights. Police said on Friday, Aug. 12, at around 10.45 p.m., cops responded to a 911 call regarding a man who had been assaulted in front of the "Fuego Tipico Restaurant" located at 163 East 188th Street.

Police said on arrival, responding officers discovered a 52-year-old male victim unconscious and unresponsive on the ground with trauma to his head. They said upon further investigation, it was found that the victim exited the restaurant, stopped and observed a group of people talking, at which point an unidentified person exited the restaurant, put on a pair of gloves, and positioned himself behind the victim.

According to police, without prior conversation or any altercation, the assailant punched the victim in the face and then returned to the restaurant, later leaving the location to parts unknown. "The victim sustained a skull fracture, broken cheek bone and bleeding on his brain," a police spokesperson said.

EMS were alerted and transported the victim to Jacobi Medical Center, where he is listed in critical but stable condition, police said. The assailant was described as an adult male with a medium complexion and a medium build, who was partially bald. He was last seen wearing a black pants, a black T-shirt, and gloves.

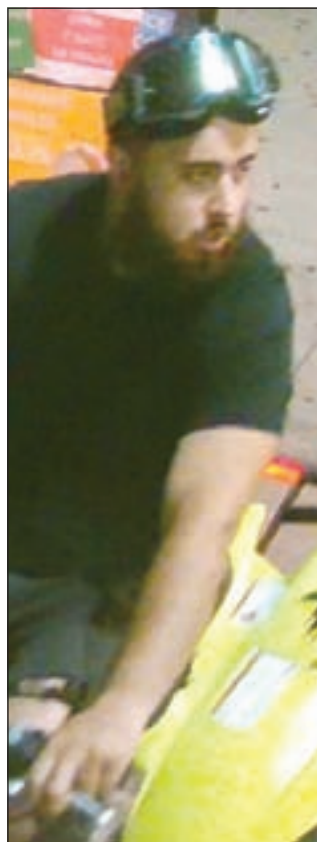
A photo of the assailant, taken at the incident location, is attached. Pursuant to an ongoing investigation, police later confirmed that Bui Van Phu, 55, of Creston Avenue in Fordham Manor was arrested in connection with the incident, and has been charged with attempted murder.

Fordham Manor Subway Stabbing

A 25-year-old man is recovering in hospital after being stabbed in the chest in Fordham Manor. The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the person seen in the accompanying photo who is sought in connection to the assault, which occurred in Fordham Road subway station.

Police said on Sunday, Aug. 14, at around 9 p.m., a 25-year-old male victim was on the southbound platform serving the 4 subway line of Fordham Road subway station when, after a verbal dispute, an unidentified man took out a knife and stabbed the victim once in the abdomen. He then fled top-side on foot to parts unknown, police said. The victim was removed to St. Barnabas Hospital in stable condition.

Police said the person sought is described as male, 30 to 40 years of age, has a medium build, a dark complexion, and was last seen wearing a white tank top, black shorts, blue socks, sandals, and a baseball hat. Police said the photo was obtained from the MTA.



Van Cortlandt Park: Gunman Sought for Double Shooting

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the person seen in the accompanying photo who is sought for questioning in connection to an assault that occurred in Van Cortlandt Park. Police said that on Saturday, July 30, in the vicinity of Jerome Avenue and East 233rd Street, at around 4 a.m., an unidentified male fired multiple shots, striking a 21-year-old male victim and a 19-year-old female victim in the legs. Both were taken, by pri-

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark issued a statement on Aug. 19 after the defendant was reportedly released from custody without bail, explaining the legal reasons why this had happened. It was reportedly linked to matters relating to the timing of the investigation and his parole teams under a prior charge.

Van Phu has since been re-arrested, reportedly at a shelter. The NY Daily News reported that he, himself, had contacted his parole officers to report the Fordham Height assault.

A person arrested and charged with a crime is deemed innocent unless and until convicted

Bedford Park Man Arrested on Murder Charges

Police said a 25-year-old man from Bedford Park has been arrested in connection with the murder of a 20-year-old man in Belmont on July 27. Police said on Wednesday, July 27, at around 4.09 a.m., officers responded to a report of a man who had been shot in front of 717 East 187th Street in Belmont.

Upon arrival, they observed a 20-year-old man, unconscious and unresponsive, with two gunshot wounds to the head, and one gunshot wound to his hip." Police said EMS responded to the scene and transported the victim to St. Barnabas Hospital, where he was pronounced deceased. There were no initial arrests, and the investigation remained ongoing.

The deceased was later identified as Jayshua Nivar, 20, of The Bronx. On Aug. 12, police said Aro Matos, 25, of Bedford Park was arrested in connection to the incident. He has been charged with murder, manslaughter, and two counts of criminal possession of a weapon. A person arrested and charged with a crime is deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

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 anonymously by logging onto the CrimeStoppers website at <https://crimestoppers.nypdonline.org/> or on Twitter @NYPDTips. All calls are strictly confidential.

Fordham Manor: 4-Year-Old Mario Rosario Dies in Two-Vehicle Scooter Accident

By **SÍLE MOLONEY & DAVID GREENE**

Four-year-old Bronx resident, Mario Rosario, died following a scooter collision in Fordham Manor, police announced on Monday, Aug. 15.

Mario or “MJAY” was described in his obituary as “a happy little boy who loved swimming, riding his scooter super-fast, motorbikes, and collecting flowers for his mom.” Born on June 28, 2018, in Poughkeepsie, Mario or “MJAY” was the loving son of Najera Roberts and Mario Rosario. “He was smart and outgoing, and truly adventurous – nothing scared him,” his obituary continued.

On Sunday, Aug. 14, at approximately 9.20 p.m., police responded to a 911 call regarding a vehicle collision in the vicinity of 193rd Street and Bailey Avenue, located in the 52nd Precinct.

An NYPD spokesperson said, “A preliminary investigation determined that a two-wheeled motorized scooter, operated by a 24-year-old male (father), and his 4-year-old male passenger (son), were traveling southbound on Bailey Avenue when they struck a 2022 Toyota sedan operated by a 51-year-old male.” The driver of the Toyota was also traveling southbound on Bailey Avenue and was turning onto 193rd Street.

“After making contact with the sedan, the scooter struck a curb with both individuals coming to rest on the ground,” the spokesperson said. “The 4-year-old male passenger (no helmet) sustained severe head trauma. EMS responded to the scene and transported the victim to St. Barnabas Hospital where he was pronounced deceased.”

Police said both vehicle drivers remained at the scene and the investigation remains ongoing by the NYPD Highway District’s Collision Investigation Squad.

Mario’s name was later released by police. He lived at Heath Avenue in Kingsbridge Heights. Police later said two people were arrested and charged in connection with the incident. Mario Rosario, 24, the boy’s father, of Heath Avenue in Kingsbridge Heights was charged with endangering the welfare of a child and criminal possession of stolen property, while William Baez, 52, of West 193rd Street in Fordham Manor was charged as an “aggravated unlicensed operator” (driver).

News of the fatality follows the introduction of 24/7 speed cameras in early August across the City, which were supposed to help deter speeding as well as capturing necessary footage, particularly in school zones, in the event of

other crimes, as previously reported by *Norwood News*.

On May 8, *Norwood News* reported on an incident in Bedford Park in which a young child was also injured, though not fatally, in a single-vehicle crash when the driver of a car said he was distracted by a bee inside the vehicle and crashed into a tree. A passerby rushed the two occupants of the crashed vehicle, the driver and his child, to hospital before it burst into flames.

The latest scooter incident also follows an Aug. 2nd announcement made at the 52nd Precinct by NYPD Chief of Patrol Jeffrey Maddrey and Deputy Inspector Jeremy Scheublin of a major crackdown and seizure of almost 200 illegal scooters, dirt bikes and ATVs from Bronx streets, as reported.

At the scene of the Fordham Manor accident, which had been cordoned off with police tape, some candles were seen on the sidewalk in tribute to the little boy, one with the words, “RIP Mario Rosario.” What looked like parts of a shattered bike and some blood stains were also observed on the sidewalk, which was next to a Citibike station.

Norwood News spoke to Juan Carlos Ramos, a local resident who was nearby the scene on Monday, Aug. 15. Ramos said he had seen the crash scene and the police when he was coming back home at around 1.35 a.m. on the morning after the incident. “I don’t understand. The people – crazy,” he said. “They want to die very quickly. Relax...”

In reference to general tragedies in the City, Ramos referenced a recent group assault and murder of a yellow cab driver in Queens, adding regretfully, “He working. He looking for the money. He looking for the family... four children.” The resident added that he had not known MJAY or his father. Asked if he had seen many people riding scooters in the area, he said, “No, only this one, white car... crash.”

Another resident of the area who spoke to us on condition of anonymity said there had been a similar accident at the same location about a year earlier involving a double-parked car. *Norwood News* did not locate any incident but the resident did not have an exact date. We are checking with NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) and the NYPD.

Meanwhile, as reported, a 75-year-old senior was critically injured while waiting to cross the street when he was run down by a 29-year-old motorist, who had been wearing slippers, at West Kingsbridge Road and Bailey Avenue in



Photo via social media

MARIO “MJAY” ROSARIO, 4, DIED following a scooter accident on Sunday night, Aug. 14, 2022, in Fordham Manor.

nearby Kingsbridge Heights on Saturday, July 9.

In 2015, *Norwood News* had also reported how local residents had said Bai-

ley Avenue was a stretch of road that was too chaotic for their liking. In May 2022, we reported that there was a serious

(continued on page 14)

Bronx Rises Against Gun Violence Continues Summer BBQ Series

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

Bronx Rises Against Gun Violence (B.R.A.G.), a cure violence program created by nonprofit, Good Shepherd Services, hosted a “B.R.A.G. Northwest Peace BBQ” on Saturday, July 16, in Fordham Manor, one of a series of summer peace barbecues held at various locations within the boundaries of The Bronx’s 46th, 47th and 52nd Precincts. The events aim to uplift local communities and are part of a wider effort to curb the ongoing gun violence epidemic prevalent throughout the borough. Though the numbers have dropped since

July, The Bronx has seen 84 murders (265 citywide), 333 shooting victims, and 285 shooting incidents so far this year as of Aug. 20.

From noon to 5 p.m., kids and adults were seen enjoying themselves along the East 193rd Street block between Jerome Avenue and Morris Avenue, adjacent to St. James Park, in Fordham Manor, as the group brought together elected officials and community members for an afternoon of free food, games, face-painting, and music to celebrate unity and non-violence in the local community.



Photo by Sile Moloney

DAVID CABA (LEFT) of Bronx Rises Against Gun Violence (B.R.A.G.) and a colleague attend the B.R.A.G. Northwest Peace BBQ at East 193rd Street between Jerome Avenue and Morris Avenue, adjacent to St. James Park in Fordham Manor on Saturday, July 16, 2022.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY



Norwood News Hiatus & Partnership with WNYC

Norwood News is usually on hiatus for a few weeks in August. However, due to the second Primary Election Day falling on Aug. 23, we will continue to publish throughout August, and our last print edition will be on Aug. 25. The next print edition after that will be on Sept. 22.

Ahead of the November mid-terms elections, *Norwood News* is partnering with *WNYC Public Radio* as part of a larger effort to amplify the voices of voters in communities throughout the city. For more information on how to get involved, call (929) 318 6595 or email smoloney@norwoodnews.org.

Women Veterans Event

The James J. Peters VA Medical Center will host a Women Veterans Tour & Lunch on Friday, Sept. 9, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Bissel Gardens, 4525 Barnes Ave., Bronx, NY 10466. Come out and learn about horticulture and gardening at the first community garden in the Northeast Bronx. Email Jade Williams, LCSW at Jade.Williams@va.gov. This event is exclusively for woman veterans.

Laborer Apprenticeship Drive

The Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (JATC) for Construction and General Building Laborers, Local Union 79 will hold a limited recruitment drive for 200 skilled construction craft laborer apprentices, through Local Union 79. Applications should be made online during the recruitment period, from Sept. 23 through Oct. 6, Friday through Thursday, excluding legal holidays, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.,

The recruitment will be offered for 10 business days or until 2,000 applications have been issued, *whichever comes first*. Applicants who do not have internet access may visit their local library or visit local New York State Department of Labor Career Center (visit: dol.ny.gov/career-centers). The deadline to apply is **Oct. 7**. Go to <http://www.mttf.org> for more information on how to apply.

Back-to-School Events

A back-to-school giveaway will take place on Friday, Aug. 26, from 2 to 6 p.m. at Williamsbridge Oval Park, 3225 Reservoir Oval East, in Norwood, sponsored by various elected officials, Bronx Connect, Help USA, NYC Parks and Lehman College.

2022 Community Needs Assessment

Do you have ideas about what your local community needs? Take a few minutes and fill out a survey to help inform how future funding is spent across the city. Visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2022CNANYC>.

Monkey Pox Updates

As of Aug. 23, 2,794 city residents had tested positive for monkeypox. Officials emphasize that anyone can get and spread monkeypox and added that current cases are primarily spreading among social networks of gay, bisexual, and other men who have multiple sexual partners. Therefore, this community subset is currently at greater risk of exposure. If you have a new or unexpected rash or other symptoms of monkeypox, contact a health care provider.

A two-dose vaccination is available for those eligible, but supplies are scarce, and appointments are necessary. Health officials recommend signing up for at least one-dose for now. Mass vaccination

sites are open at Bronx High School of Science, 75, W 205th Street, and at Lincoln Hospital, 234 E 149th Street. Book an appointment by calling 877-VAX-4NYC or 877-829-4692. For more information, visit: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/monkeypox.page>.

Polio Vaccine

The City's health department officials say 13.8 percent of children between the ages of 6 months and 5 years in New York City have not been vaccinated against polio and the agency is urging parents to ensure their children get vaccinated against what officials say is a highly contagious viral infection, adding that hundreds of people may be infected with the polio virus, once regarded as a contained illness.

GoFundMe Page for Bedford Congregational Church

Residents are being kindly asked to donate to support the upgrading of the heating system at Bedford Congregational Church, located at 309 East 201st Street in Bedford Park. Founded in 1889, it is a 501c3 charity and provides space for local support groups battling addictions, as well as other congregations. A designated landmark since 2000, a replacement oil tank is needed before the weather turns cold or before the water pipes freeze and burst. The cost must be paid within the next two months. To donate, visit: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/warm-hearts-cold-church>.

Job Fair Preparation Class

VIP Community Services and local elected officials are hosting a job fair preparation class on Sept. 9 at 10 a.m. at 764 East 176th Street, Bronx, NY 10460. Help will be offered on resume preparation and mock interviews. Dress for success! Call (718) 583 5150 for more information.

COVID-19 Updates

An NYC COVID-19 hotline provides residents with COVID-19 updates, including testing sites, advice from medical staff, quarantine information and mental health support. Call 212-COVID19 or (212) 268-4319.

A free 24/7 hotline run by the State health department is available for those who test positive for COVID-19 but don't have a health care provider. The hotline, 888-TREAT-NY, was launched after reaching an agreement to utilize the Virtual ExpressCare platform, operated by NYC Health + Hospitals, and allows residents to receive virtual care from an NYC Health + Hospitals provider.

Telemedicine visits include a clinical assessment by medical providers to identify the appropriate COVID-19 treatment plan, which may include a prescription of oral antiviral medication proven to decrease hospitalization for those at risk of severe disease. When given soon after a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, the antivirals also help fight infection and shorten recovery time.

As all treatments require a prescription, those who test positive for COVID-19 should talk to their provider or call 888-TREAT-NY to determine what treatment is best for them. Insured patients will pay a co-pay amount based on their plan and the State health department will cover the costs for those without health care coverage.

The City also runs mobile-based Test to Treat Corps clinics, where free COVID-19 testing and anti-

viral pills are available. They provide no-cost instant access to antiviral medication for eligible New Yorkers who test positive at the sites. Each site is equipped with a clinician screens and prescribes the medication for anyone who tests positive on a rapid test at the site. To check for Bronx mobile Test & Treat locations, visit: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/get-tested/covid-19-testing.page>.

Additionally, residents can pick-up free at-home test kits at any participating site. To find a testing or at-home kit pick-up site near you, visit nyc.gov/covidtest or call 311.

NYC Test & Treat Corps has expanded its COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation Guidance Tool, <https://on.nyc.gov/3cHqPbs>, which provides New Yorkers direct access to order care packages to help isolate safely, as well as guidance to those who are exposed to, tested positive for, or have symptoms consistent with COVID-19. For more information, go to <https://covid19.nychealthandhospitals.org/COVID19help> or call the NYC Test & Trace Corps COVID Hotline at 212-COVID19.

Transportation Updates

Effective Aug. 1, tickets will be issued to those who breach the 25mph citywide speed limit if they exceed the speed limit by more than 10 mph. Speed cameras are now in operation 24/7/365.

NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC) has advised residents that the replacement of the trunk and distribution water mains and a rehabilitation of the sewers continues to take place in Norwood and Woodlawn Heights during the third quarter of 2022.

There will also be a temporary, bee line bus stop relocation on Jerome Avenue in effect 24/7 from June 13 until Aug. 31, 2022, and a temporary reroute of the southbound Bx16, Bx34 and BxM4 buses from Gun Hill Road to 210th, 24/7, until Nov. 2, 2022. In addition, there will be a temporary closure of the west-bound Bx10 bus stop on East Gun Hill Road at Bainbridge Avenue, 24/7 until Nov. 2, 2022.

DDC also announced a temporary rerouting of the northbound Bx16, Bx34 and BxM4 buses from Gun Hill Road to Jerome Avenue, 24/7 until Nov. 2, 2022.

The MTA advises that ongoing repairs on the D subway line from July 2022 through 2023 means local service will replace express service during rush hour and there will be partial suspensions on weeknights and weekends, when riders are asked to use the 4 subway line instead.

Throughout August, NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) will begin safety improvements on White Plains Road from East 226th Street to East 241st Street in Wakefield. This work will add protected bike lanes, shorten pedestrian crossings, improve accessibility, and upgrade corridor markings.

The Bronx bus redesign plan went live on June 26. More details can be found at <https://new.mta.info/project/bronx-local-bus-network-redesign>.

Citizen Training to Reduce Overdose Deaths

Opioid overdose is now the leading cause of accidental death in New York City and in the United States, surpassing even motor vehicle accidents. Overdose deaths are preventable and with naloxone, you can save a life. The City has announced new measures to train citizens on how to reduce overdose deaths. Find out where you can get a naloxone kit at <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/naloxone.page>. For questions about naloxone, email naloxone@health.nyc.gov.

52nd Precinct Community Council Fellowship Recognition Breakfast Held



Photo courtesy of the NYPD via Twitter

POLICE OFFICERS SALUTE the United States flag during the 52nd Precinct Community Council Fellowship Recognition Breakfast held at Fordham Manor's Monroe College, located at 2501 Jerome Avenue, on July 26, 2022.



Photo courtesy of the NYPD via Twitter

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JEREMEY Scheublin is presented with a proclamation for his 20 years of service to the NYPD in the presence of 52nd Precinct Community Council president, Brenda Caldwell-Paris, an NYPD colleague, and various elected and community leaders during an event at Fordham Manor's Monroe College, located at 2501 Jerome Avenue, on July 26, 2022.



Photo courtesy of the NYPD via Twitter

ATTENDEES STAND TO attention during the 52nd Precinct Community Council Fellowship Recognition Breakfast held at Fordham Manor's Monroe College, located at 2501 Jerome Avenue, on July 26, 2022.

By SÍLE MOLONEY

The bravery and commitment of police officers, along with the contributions made by other volunteer and community leaders and elected officials to protecting and uplifting the community were formally recognized on July 26 during the 52nd Precinct Community Council Fellowship Recognition Breakfast held at Fordham Manor's Monroe College, located at 2501 Jerome Avenue.

In attendance at the large gathering were Brenda Caldwell-Paris, president of the 52nd Precinct Community Council, commanding officer of the 52nd Precinct, Deputy Inspector Jeremey Scheublin, council members, Joy Syeeda LaFountaine and Jerry Landron, Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark, Bronx Community Board 7 (CB7), David Caba of Bronx Rises Against Gun Violence (B.R.A.G.), a cure violence program operated through nonprofit, Good Shepherd Services, District Manager Ischia Bravo, president of Bedford Mosholu Community Association and CB7 board member, Barbara Stronczer.

Also present were Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, Rep. Adriano Espaillat (NY-13), Assembly Member Nathalia Fernandez (A.D. 80), District 11 City Council Member Eric Dinowitz, District 15 City Council Member Oswald Feliz, District 14 City Council Member Pierina Sanchez, Jennifer Tausig, former executive director of Jerome Gun Hill BID and Mosholu Preservation Corporation (MPC), MPC board member, Sallie Caldwell, Melissa Cebollero from the Office of Community Relations at Montefiore Health System, and Jaslynne Medina, associate executive director for NYC Health +Hospitals/North Central Bronx.



Photo courtesy of the NYPD via Twitter

ATTENDEES ENJOY THE 52nd Precinct Community Council Fellowship Recognition Breakfast held at Fordham Manor's Monroe College, located at 2501 Jerome Avenue, on July 26, 2022.

Various "Cop of the Month" awards, going back to July 2021, were formally presented on the day. The honorees for 2021 were Police Officers Jonathan Garcia (July), Solanyi Paredes (Aug), Lytzaira Lopez and Victor Lizardi (Sept.), Matthew Guerrido (Oct.), Daniel Rivera and Ron Castro (Nov.) and Brendan Latimer (Dec.).

For 2022, the honorees were Police Officers Jarren Smalls (Jan.), Christopher Matiatos (Feb.) Felice Martino (March), Roy Valentin (April), Bryan Scheblein (May), and Omar Carrascotatis (June). The Executive Officer Award was presented to Captain Asif Iqbal and the Neighborhood Coordination Officer Awards were presented to Police Officers Jose Cepeda and Jose Fernandez.

The Neighborhood Coordination Officer Sgt. Award was presented to Sgt. James O'Brien, the Auxiliary Award was presented to Lt. Eugenio Abreu and the

Law Enforcement Explorers Award

was presented to Corporal Jamie Hernandez. In addition, the School Crossing Guard Award was presented to Lutchmin Harripersad.

Caldwell-Paris told *Norwood News*, "The Mahoney/Shankman Award is named after two dedicated members of the Council and [of] the Norwood community, Kathy Mahoney and Edward Shankman."

She added, "So, for our 1st fellowship breakfast, the award was presented to a community person recognizing their outstanding services, achievements to the community and the precinct." The award was presented by Caldwell-Paris, LaFountaine and Landron, to both LaFountaine, secretary of the council, and to Stronczer.

Wrapping up the civilian honorees, the Special Elected Official Service Award was presented to Fernandez, who later said she was "incredibly honored," to have been recognized. "It has been a pleasure to work with you

for the last 10 years. Thank you for your partnership and everything you do for the Northwest Bronx."

Gibson later said of the occasion, "Proud to have joined the 52nd Precinct for their Council Breakfast to celebrate the work of our brave men and women in law enforcement. Thank you for all that you do."

The borough president's message was echoed by Dinowitz who said, "I'd like to take this time to send a big thank you to @NYPD52Pct for the work they do to keep our communities safe. Had a great time celebrating them at the Community Council Fellowship Recognition breakfast. Congrats to the honorees!"

Feliz's comments were similarly complimentary. "Police officers work every day, at all hours, to help keep our neighborhoods safe. Proud to have joined the

@NYPD52Pct fellowship breakfast to thank them, and to present a proclamation to Deputy Inspector Jeremy Scheublin, who recently completed 20 years serving the Bronx!"

Scheublin later took time to give special thanks to all who had attended the event, while a separate tweet from NYPD Bronx read, Today's 'Fellowship Breakfast' hosted by @monroe_college honored the hard work and sacrifice made each day by the officers of the @NYPD52Pct in keeping you safe. We thank you each and every day for your continued support. #BronxStrong"

The 52nd Precinct Community Council comprises president, Brenda Caldwell-Paris, vice-president, Gerald (Jerry) Landron, treasurer, Grace Seiner, recording secretary, Joy (Syeeda) LaFountaine, sgt-at-arms, Doug Condition, and Jamie Hernandez, law enforcement explorer for the youth council.



Letters To The Editor

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

With so many Republicans still blindly supporting a man who tried to overthrow the government rather than accept that he lost an election, Richard Marias has the gall to push the Republican Party as being for law and order. There are many awful politicians in both major parties. But at least we have the option of voting them out.

Donald Trump tried to take that away from us. While there are many reasons that no one should support him, that is the most obvious one. Marias uses

Saudi Arabia as a model for law and order. This is a country whose Prince ordered the murder of a journalist for the "crime" of criticizing the government.

Marias does not appear to have a problem with crimes committed by the powerful. In these times, he claims to worship Jesus Christ. But if he was around over 2,000 years ago, would he have objected to the crucifixion of the good rabbi, or would he have praised the enforcement of the "law and order" carried out with harsh punishment by the Roman Empire?

As for Nat Weiner's complaint about Larry Penner's letter on the 70th anniversary of TV dinners not being important enough to print, there is a simple solution. If the *Norwood News* receives more letters on more important issues, I'm sure the editor will give them priority, so perhaps Weiner will write more. He

could apply the philosophy to letters that Pete Townshend applied to television, "I'm so sick of dud TV/Next time you switch on/You might see me."

**Richard Warren,
Van Cortlandt Village**

Editor's Note: To ensure sufficient time for review of all letters to the editor, please send them to norwood-news@norwoodnews.org or by mail to Norwood News, 3400 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467, by the Friday before each publication day. If sent by email, please mark them as "Letter to the Editor" in the subject line. Letter writers should aim to write letters no more than 300 words in length and in response to published articles. Thank you.

UPDATE Fordham Manor: 4-Year-Old Mario Rosario Dies in Two-Vehicle Scooter Accident

(continued from page 11)

road accident at 2300 Sedgwick Avenue in University Heights on May 19, in which two people were transported to hospital.

One resident of Fordham Hill housing cooperative, located in University Heights, had complained about road safety in the vicinity of Fordham Road and Sedgwick Avenue.

The same resident later called for a red-light camera to be installed at the intersection of Bailey Avenue and Sedgwick Avenue. *Norwood News* followed up with DOT on the request. On Aug. 16, DOT officials said State law currently limits red light cameras to 150 intersections across the State, and that DOT officials are continuing to advocate to lift this cap so that the use of red-light cameras can be expanded across New York City.

In reference to the latest fatal scooter collision, Mona Bruno, DOT deputy press secretary, added, "As with every fatal collision, DOT will review street design for possible safety improvements."

It was reconfirmed by DOT that the Aug. 14th collision at Bailey Avenue and 193rd Street involved "an unlicensed driver, riding an unregistered, stolen motorcycle who was struck by a driver with a suspended license."

Norwood News asked if DOT could provide a list of the 150

intersections where red-light cameras are currently in place. We were informed DOT does not disclose the locations of such automated enforcement cameras to protect the integrity of the program. DOT officials added that the most recent report on the red-light camera program can be read at: <https://www1.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/nyc-red-light-camera-program.pdf>.

Meanwhile, an extract from a City government website on red-light cameras reads, "Red-light camera tickets do not result in any points on your driving record. If you fail to stop, you *may* be sent a notice of liability in the mail with the picture of your car driving through the red light. You can view the evidence against you by logging on to the website printed on the notice of liability."

Norwood News asked DOT what purpose the red-light cameras serve if there are no sure consequences for drivers who incur red-light camera violations [in terms of the impact on their license].

DOT officials said red-light cameras improve street safety for all road users, and the results of the program speak for themselves. They added that the average daily number of red-light running violations issued at camera locations has declined by over 84 percent, as per a 2021 DOT report.

Officials said there "absolutely" consequences for those who incur red-light camera violations, saying vehicle owners are required to pay a \$50 fine for such violations, while repeat red-light camera offenders, with five or more violations during a 12-month period, *may* be required to take the safe vehicle operation course offered by DOT through the Dangerous Vehicle Abatement Program (DVAP).

They went on to say that if a vehicle owner contacted through the program failed to take the course, their vehicle *could* be eligible for impoundment and added that regulation S1190 would suspend the registration of a vehicle with five or more red-light camera violations within a twelve-month period.

Meanwhile, Rep. Adriano Espaillat (NY-13), who represents parts of the Fordham Manor neighborhood in which the Aug. 14 accident occurred, later reacted to the tragedy, saying, "My heart breaks for the Rosario Family and all involved in this tragic accident. Mario Rosario should still be alive. I will continue to advocate for safer street infrastructure, and support local law enforcement to prevent similar future tragedies."

NYPD cameras were seen affixed to a pole at the junction of Bailey Avenue and West 193rd

Street, where the accident occurred. When asked, DOT confirmed that such cameras were not red-light cameras.

Another woman, who spoke to *Norwood News* at a later date, said of the Fordham Manor incident that it had been a "terrible accident." She added that she "sees two people [in the area] riding scooters all the time."

Meanwhile, acknowledging the recent implementation of the 24/7 speed camera law which came into effect earlier this month, *Norwood News* asked Mayor Eric Adams during a press conference held at Bronx Community College on Monday, Aug. 15, if he had any comment on how safety could be further enhanced to mitigate against any potential similar tragedies.

The mayor asked if the driver had been driving an illegal bike and we said to our knowledge, at that stage, the point was still to be confirmed. In the meantime, when contacted, the NYPD confirmed that the scooter driver's "criminal possession of stolen property" charge pertained to the scooter that was being driven by Rosario [father] at the time the accident occurred.

Adams said, according to his understanding of what had happened, the scooter driver had been driving an illegal bike. "As you know, we have been doing a series of initiatives to remove the illegal bikes off our roads, taking hundreds off; this is why we are doing it," he said.

Later on Monday, the NYPD sent out a tweet, confirming that an additional 200 illegal bikes, ATVs and scooters had

been seized the previous day across the five boroughs. "Officers will continue to address [of] quality-of-life and public safety concerns impacting NYC residents," the agency wrote.

Adams added of the young victim, "To lose that 4-year-old baby that way is horrific. I saw the video. It really tore my heart to see that baby die in that fashion. That is why the commissioner [Keechant Sewell] and Chief [Jeffrey] Maddrey; they have been so aggressive to remove these illegal bikes off our roads, and it's just really unfortunate that something like this had to happen to a child."

According to MJAY's obituary, the 4-year-old was "very talkative and curious, always asking 'Why?' and 'Where are you?'" His favorite colors were blue, green, red and white, and he loved the songs "City of God" and "Sky Full of Stars" from Sing 2. He also loved watching Sonic, Dyno Dana, the Hulk and Sing 2.

In addition to his parents, according to his obituary, MJAY is also survived by his grandparents, Jennifer and Jason Adorno, Angelica Lovado, Tito Rosario and Julia Mosquera; his great-grandparents, Yvonne Falcon, Sandra Martinez, Ruben Adorno and Mario Rosario; and many aunts, uncles and cousins, especially his aunt/best friend/go-to person, Julia.

His funeral was held upstate. Attendees were asked to wear bright colors.

A person arrested and charged with a crime is deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

**Miriam Quiñones contributed to this story.*

Bedford Park: Man Shot Dead, Woman Shot in Foot

By SÍLE MOLONEY

A 30-year-old man is dead following an apparent double shooting in Bedford Park, police said. A 31-year-old woman was also shot but survived. Police have not confirmed what led to the shooting, and the investigation remains ongoing.

An NYPD spokesperson said officers responded to a 911 call regarding a person who had been shot at 2830 Marion Avenue at 2.25 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 13. Upon arrival, they discovered a 31-year-old woman with a gunshot wound to the right foot and a 30-year-old man with a gunshot wound to the head.

The spokesperson said the woman was transported, in stable condition, to St. Barnabas hospital and the man, 30, was pronounced dead at the scene. Asked if the shooting stemmed from a domestic violence incident, a police spokesperson told *Norwood News*, "Still trying to determine the particulars at this time."

Norwood News spoke to some residents of the building which overlooks the home of the victims on Monday, Aug. 15. One male resident, whose name we are not disclosing, was asked if he had seen the incident unfold and he said, "no."

He said another resident had told him that he, [the second resident] looked out of his upstairs window on the morning of the shooting, after he heard a second gunshot but couldn't see outside very well.

The same resident shared what he had heard about the incident from his neighbors. He [the male victim] ended up... he [allegedly] was being mean to her, and then he [allegedly] shot her in the foot, and then he [allegedly] shot himself in the head," the resident said. "They both went out in the ambulance, but he didn't make it. But thank God he didn't hurt the girl, fatally," he added.

The resident added that the female victim used to have a baby carriage with her and said he reckoned her child was under 3 years old. A second male resident spoke to us on condition of anonymity.

He said his neighbors told him there had been two shots, and after the second shot, the female victim came out of her home, screaming in Spanish,



2830 MARION AVENUE, shown above, was the location of a fatal shooting at 2.25 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 13 of a 30-year-old man. A 31-year-old woman was also shot in the foot during the incident, which is still under investigation, according to police.



Photos by David Greene

(PHOTO RIGHT) A POOL OF blood was seen on the steps of 2830 Marion Avenue in Fordham Manor, the location of a fatal shooting of a 30-year-old man at 2.25 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022. A 31-year-old woman was also shot during the incident.

"Help, help, help, help, help! My husband just committed suicide." The second male resident added that a neighbor had said the female victim had reportedly thought someone had called the police, and that they were coming.

Asked if he knew if there had been a history of domestic violence between the couple, the same resident said, "They actually just moved here." Asked if they had children, the resident said, "Yeah, I think they had a kid. I think they had a baby." The same resident said he didn't really know the couple but used to just see them always coming in and out of their car.

The first male resident then said the couple lived one level up from the street. Based on what his neighbors told him, and pointing in the direction of the house where the couple lived, he said, "But the skirmish was on the garbage pails on this [adjacent] property. It ended up over there, in that little alleyway, where the garbage is," he said. He added, "Maybe she was trying to get away from him?"

The first male resident added, "I think he was a bit of a trouble-maker. I mean, what the [expletive] was he doing [at 2 in the morning], you know?" Referring to the neighborhood atmosphere in general, the resident added, "Most people are pretty cool. There's really no trouble, but I do remember about a week or two ago, I saw maybe like six or eight or ten people coming and going [from the victim's house]."

He continued, "I saw the baby carriage, but I never saw the woman's face or any of that. I just thought maybe they were going to some park somewhere or whatever. They are pretty new."

When we mentioned that the couple's home seemed like a very nice house and potentially an expensive one, the first male resident said, "Yeah, most of those go for like \$1,000,000. I guess they're all probably pre-World War I." Asked if he knew if the couple owned the whole building, he did not reply.

Instead, he said, "There's one house there but it's huge, and then there's another

house next to that and again, it's huge. I think they've been there since the 1800s. I think they're carriage houses."

Another female resident of the same adjacent building to the victims' home, and who also spoke on condition of anonymity, corroborated what the two male residents had said about the female victim coming out of the house, screaming "Help me, Help me. My husband shot himself."

The female resident continued, "It was so loud [the gunshot] that people, people all over the neighborhood, this neighborhood, some people were screaming at her, but we couldn't hear because it was far away."

Asked what time that was, she said it was almost 2 a.m., and added that the woman was screaming for about 4 minutes before the police and ambulance arrived. "As soon as I heard the screams, I went to the window and I saw her," the female resident said. "I saw her and her baby." Asked if she was holding the child, she said, "Yeah." We asked if she could see the woman's foot

bleeding. She replied, "We [the resident and a family member] couldn't really see."

Asked if she saw the male victim, she said, "No, we didn't." We then asked how she felt about the incident. She replied, "I mean I couldn't believe it. I've lived here for like 15 years, but I've never seen anything like that in this neighborhood." Asked if she knew the couple, she said, "No, because I rarely go outside, and they're also....like I just don't see them."

She added regarding the time of the incident, "I could tell it happened at one something, and the police were still there at two. They hadn't brought up the ambulance thing [stretcher], I mean, to the bed to take him, so I just knew that he died."

The female resident continued, "I heard a shot, like a loud noise, but I didn't know if it was a gunshot or not." She said she went to ask a family member and the family member didn't think it sounded like a gunshot either. She said 20 to 30 minutes later, the female victim came out of the house, screaming."

The female resident added, "I heard her say that...she said that he was going to kill her, like while she was holding the baby." The female neighbor added that she heard the female victim say the only reason he didn't kill her was because of the baby. Asked if she had heard the couple argue in the past, the neighbor said, "no."

When contacted again on Monday, Aug. 15, for any updates on the case, an NYPD spokesperson said there were none, and said neither could the agency corroborate the nature of the relationship between the couple.

Anyone with information regarding this incident 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/>, on Twitter @NYPDTips.

All calls are strictly confidential.

**David Greene contributed to this story.*

Bronx Monkeypox Townhall Held as Cases Rise

By EMILY SAWAKED

The Office of the Bronx Borough President, Destination Tomorrow, and NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (DOH) recently hosted a Bronx Town Hall on the Monkeypox epidemic, as case numbers continued to rise across the borough and city.

Livestreamed on Monday, Aug. 15, from New Settlement Community Center in the Mt. Eden section, the event was moderated by BronxNet's Gary Axelbank, and saw representatives from all three host groups answer questions from concerned citizens about vaccination sites, testing, outreach for populations at-risk and preventative measures.

Deputy Bronx Borough President Janet Peguero kicked off the event, saying, "We've seen that the cases in NYC are increasing, and although anyone can contract [the disease], the current outbreak has primarily affected networks of gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men, predominantly in the Hispanic community...again, emphasis on equity."

Peguero continued, "What does this mean for the City? It means that we need governments at all levels to help not only slow the spread, but expand efforts to test, educate, and vaccinate." She said the borough's greatest priority was getting more shots in arms and ensuring an equitable distribution of vaccines for all low-income New Yorkers in communities of color.

"Those most at risk suffer most from our delay in responding to our public healthcare crises," Peguero added. "There is a lot we have to do. We have to learn, and we must learn from the mistakes that we made early on with the COVID-19 response. We cannot repeat those mistakes today. It is up to us to protect the most vulnerable in our communities," she said, in part.

Sage Rivera, chief development and program officer at Destination Tomorrow, a Bronx-based, nonprofit organization and center dedicated to uplifting and aiding at-risk members of

the LGBTQIA+ community, began by saying the LGBTQIA+ community had been left out of the conversation far too many times.

He said this was especially so even amid an epidemic that primarily targeted some members of this community. The stigma perpetuated about the community, similar to rhetoric seen amid the AIDS crisis, was also discussed, and the need to combat such stigma was emphasized.

"Education is essential, and messaging must be consistent," Rivera said. "Although this may be an issue prevalent to men that have sex with men, and people of trans experience, this is a skin-to-skin contact disease, and outreach and education should reflect that, and not contribute to stigmas that are very dangerous, and lead to mistakes that have been made in the past."

Indeed, at least one Bronx resident posted in recent weeks on social media how he was insulted by how the transmission of the virus was being described, writing on Aug. 5, "The language that has been used for Monkeypox is disgusting. 'Men who have sex with other men' are getting it, instead of saying, 'people who have multiple sex partners,' and also including the other multiple ways this thing is spread."

The resident continued, "Some of y'all fell right into the narrative, stigmatizing the gay community like it was 1981 all over again... like all gay men are sexual deviants who just [expletive]. Do better! Do better with your research, do better with your words!"

Meanwhile, Rivera said Destination Tomorrow had entered its second week of vaccination coordination efforts and he encouraged members of the LGBTQIA+ community to continue to call the nonprofit for assistance with vaccinations. "We'll make an appointment right there, live



Screenshot courtesy of BronxNet via Facebook
SAGE RIVERA, CHIEF development and program officer at Bronx-based LGBTQIA+ nonprofit, Destination Tomorrow, addresses the crowd during a Bronx Monkeypox Town Hall on Aug. 15, 2022.

and in person," he said.

Before the keynote speaker from DOHMH spoke, Axelbank shared a few words on the department's work on Monkeypox to date. "In some cases, it's very difficult to get the City of New York and agencies in the City to be responsive to some of the most difficult problems," he said.

"I won't list what they might be but what I have found, especially through the last few years of COVID, is that [DOH] has made an incredible effort to do outreach to provide us with information, and certainly through COVID, we really needed a lot of information."

He added that every time he had asked for a guest on his show to talk about a particular angle of the COVID pandemic, the agency had provided "topnotch experts." Axelbank added, "We have all these wonderful resources and it's time to continue to coordinate them."

Dr. Madhury Ray from DOH later explained how there is now an emergence of Monkeypox variants and she urged Bronxites to be diligent in keeping themselves, their neighbors and their loved ones safe.

"New York City is again the epicenter of an infectious disease, she said. "We have about 2,400 confirmed cases of this disease. We have 310 confirmed cases in the Bronx." This com-

pared to 472 cases in Brooklyn, 917 in Manhattan, 276 in Queens, 13 on Staten Island, and 2 unknown as of Aug. 15.

Ray continued, "When we report these healthcare numbers, I can only report to you what we've measured. So, if people don't access healthcare, if they don't get a test, we're not going to be able to measure whether they turn positive or not. That's something that we're going to be working on."

She then explained what the monkeypox virus looked like when people contracted it, saying it could initially present as a bad cold, fever, and chills, but doesn't always present like that. "The characteristic of monkeypox is that it involves spots, like a rash with little discrete spots on it," said Ray.

She explained how "prolonged" skin-to-skin contact is the manner in which the disease spreads, and to look for lesions either on one's own body or on the body of one's partner. She said sex was the most common form of transmission, and that New Yorkers should worry less about contracting it, sitting next to someone on the subway, for example.

She said those who were over 18 and part of the group considered to be at highest risk of catching the disease were eligible for the vaccine and that vaccine appointments were being offered through both Destination Tomorrow and DOH.

It was noted that vaccine supplies could be short, but Ray lauded the efficacy of the vaccine once received, adding that because of its proximity to the smallpox vaccine, which has existed for decades, there was more recorded data and therefore, more was known about the vaccine. She said the Monkeypox vaccine could also be administered following exposure to the virus, and that this would

lessen symptoms and offer better protection.

According to Ray, there are also mobile vaccine units available to help cater to those marginalized communities, most affected by the virus. Ray added that according to prevailing data, a person who has contracted Monkeypox will not be asymptomatic. It was also noted that animals and pets can also contract the virus.

As for how long it took to get better, Ray said, "The incubation period can be up to three weeks. It's when every one of your lesions [heals]. So, you have to wait until your skin heals up. That can take several weeks."

Her message to the public was for everyone to take the disease seriously and to limit the number of anonymous sexual partners they had. She also asked everyone to be conscientious and compassionate towards others who are at risk or who have gotten the disease.

Following the event, Gibson issued a statement, saying, "We are deeply alarmed by the recent data released from [DOH] revealing the stark disparities in the administering of Monkeypox vaccines to Black New Yorkers, and vaccine-eligible residents in our borough. Vaccine equity has and will continue to be a priority for our administration, and today's data is a clear indication that more must be done around outreach and education to vulnerable populations."

She added, "We need to understand the root causes reasons behind these disparities and will continue to work with [DOH], our LGBTQIA+ Task Force, healthcare advocates, and other pertinent stakeholders to identify credible messengers that can help us ensure our residents receive the equitable access to care that they deserve."

To make a Monkeypox vaccination appointment, call (877) 829-4692 or

visit: <https://vax4nyc.nyc.gov/patient/s/monkeypox>.

**Sile Moloney contributed to this story.*

A SUBJECT THAT IS OFTEN TOO DIFFICULT TO TALK ABOUT MAKES FOR GOOD READING.

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Public and Community Meetings

The 52nd **PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meetings usually take place on the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m., sometimes physically and sometimes virtually. 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.

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 in September (date TBC) after the summer hiatus and is targeted to be held physically but this is to be confirmed. Contact KCabreraCarrera@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March, **BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** meetings have been held via ZOOM. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 7, at 8 p.m. For further details, contact bedfordmosholu@verizon.net.

CORRECTIONS

In our front story of the *Norwood News* [August 11-August 24, 2022] entitled, "Football Meets Fire Safety in the Oval," two of the names of the people pictured in the photo were misspelled. The front row list of names should have read as follows: (L to R) Cristian Alleyne, Oliver Alleyne, and Tanisha Hunter. We apologize for this error.

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August Primaries See Ghostly Poll Sites

(continued from page 1)

have already declared victory based on voting projections.

In the Democratic primary 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, Sen. Gustavo Rivera, who represents current S.D. 33, led on Election Night with 52.06 percent of vote.

By Wednesday morning, Aug. 24, with 98.73 percent of scanners returned, the senator had maintained his lead and had declared victory over rival, Miguelina Camilo, though his lead had dropped to 51.9 percent, against Camilo's 47.3.

In terms of the assembly districts which make up redrawn S.D. 33, Rivera fared better than Camilo in A.D. 77, A.D. 78, A.D. 86 and A.D. 87., while Camilo came out ahead, albeit by slim margins in some cases, in A.D. 80, A.D. 81, and A.D. 82.

In the Democratic primary for redrawn Senate District 31, which will cover a large swath of Manhattan, as well as some or part of the Bronx neighborhoods of Morris Heights, University Heights, Kingsbridge Heights, Kingsbridge, and Marble Hill, Sen. Robert Jackson (S.D. 31) led with 55.11 percent of the vote on Election Night.

By Wednesday morning, Jackson's lead had increased to 57 percent, surprising some who believed his Bronx Democratic Party-backed opponent and closest rival in the race, Angel Vasquez, might have stood a chance at victory. Vasquez won around 32 percent of the vote, while Francesca Castellanos won around 4 percent and Ruben Dario Vargas won 3.96 percent.

Vasquez had also been endorsed by the congressman who represents much of the same district, Rep. Adriano Espallat (NY-13). In terms of the Bronx assembly district vote breakdown in S.D. 31, Jackson fared better in A.D. 77, A.D. 78, and A.D. 81, while Vasquez came out on top in A.D. 86.

Jackson was succinct in his reaction to the initial results, shared in the early hours of Aug. 24, writing sim-

ply, "Thank you!!!! We won together!!!" One supporter of the senator, Kaliris Salas-Ramirez, PhD, wrote, "And finally, my hero, @RJackson_NYC, has been a mentor, a cheerleader, a supporter and literally one of the most honest human beings I have ever met"

She continued, "This ability to organize communities while still seeing the bigger picture and navigating nuance is extraordinary. #TeamJackson is one of the finest around."

In the Democratic primary for redrawn Senate District 34, which will cover the neighborhoods of Westchester Square, City Island, Ferry Point, Pelham Bay, Parkchester, Clason Point, Throggs Neck, Country Club, Castle Hill, Soundview and parts of Morris Park, Pelham Parkway and Eastchester, Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez (A.D. 80) led with 62.62 percent of the vote on Election Night.

By Wednesday morning, the assemblywoman's lead had increased to 62.96 percent of the vote share with 96.5 percent of voting scanners returned, and she had declared victory. Amato won around 26 percent of the vote and Perez around 8 percent.

Fernandez released a statement following the release of the initial results as of 9.33 p.m. on Election Night, saying, "Tonight, we celebrate a victory for the people of the Bronx and Westchester. I'm proud of the campaign we have run and the coalition we built together – and to my future constituents, I hope this victory makes you feel heard, represented, and understood."

In terms of the breakdown of the vote, Fernandez beat her opponents in A.D. 80, A.D. 82, A.D. 85 and A.D. 87. There were no votes recorded in A.D. 83 for any candidate.

Fernandez added in part, "From here, I will work tirelessly to bring resilient climate infrastructure, accessible and affordable public transportation and better job opportunities to the 34th district. Our campaign presented solutions for some of the biggest issues facing The Bronx and Westchester, from climate resilience and transportation to small business and quality of life."

In New York's redrawn 16th congressional district Democratic primary, which largely covers Westchester but incorporates the Bronx neighborhood of Wakefield, Rep. Jamaal



Photo by David Greene

P.S. / M.S. 498 POLL SITE, located at 1640 Bronxdale Avenue saw a sparse showing of voters on Primary Election Day, Aug. 23, 2022.

Bowman, who represents current NY-16, led with 91.53 percent of the vote on Election Night. He tweeted shortly after the polls closed, "What an incredible election day! Thanks for all the love and support across the district, so honored to represent each and every one of you."

By Wednesday morning, Aug. 24, Bowman had maintained his lead with 91.51 percent of the vote share based on 93.94 percent of scanners returned and had declared victory. His closest rival was Vedat Gashi who won around 4.68 percent of the vote. The majority of Bowman's support came from A.D. 83, but he also came out on top in A.D. 81.

In New York's redrawn 13th congressional district Democratic primary, which covers a large strip of Manhattan, including Washington Heights and Inwood, and parts or all of the Bronx neighborhoods of University Heights, Morris Heights, Marble Hill, Fordham Manor, Bedford Park, Kingsbridge and Kingsbridge Heights, Espallat led with 80.31 percent of the vote on Election Night.

By Wednesday morning, he had maintained his lead, though it had dropped to 79.92 percent of the vote based on 98.56 percent of returned voting scanners. He beat his rivals Francisco Spies and Michael Hano, in both The Bronx and Manhattan, and performed strongest in A.D. 78 and A.D. 86. He also beat his rivals in A.D. 77, 80 and 81.

In the Republican Primary in New York's 14th congressional district, which covers parts of Queens and some or all of the Bronx neighborhoods of Hunts Point, Clason

Point, Castle Hill, Pelham Parkway, Baychester, Country Club, Unionport, Schuylerville, Throggs Neck, City Island, Parkchester, Co-Op City and Eastchester, Tina Forte led with 66.91 percent of the vote on Election Night.

By Wednesday morning, Aug. 24, she continued to lead with 67.13 percent of the vote based on 97.98 of returned voting scanners. Her rival, Desi Joseph Cuellar, won 31.68 percent of the vote. She beat her opponent in both Queens and in The Bronx, as well as in all of the assembly districts 79, 80, 82, 83, 84, 85, and 87, performing best in A.D. 82.

If she wins, Forte will go up against incumbent Democratic congresswoman, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (NY-14), who Republicans have long sought to oust from office, in the general election.

We reached out to the other main candidates in each race for a comment on Election Night. As of press time, we had not received an immediate response.

At P.S. 105 poll site, located at 725 Brady Avenue in Assembly District 80, while some voters who spoke to *Norwood News* said they had voted, many others told us they had not been aware of the election.

One supporter of Rivera, Elizabeth Tavaréz, from 1199 SEIU Home Care union, told *Norwood News* she believed the senator was the best person for the job in redrawn Senate District 33.

Meanwhile, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson voted at P.S. 105, having released a statement on Monday, encouraging Bronxites to ensure to vote on Election Day, amid reports by that stage

from NYC Board of Elections (BOE) that the borough had the lowest voter turn-out in terms of early voting.

"With so many of our long-fought gains being called into question, it is important now more than ever for us to exercise our right to vote," Gibson said on Monday.

According to BOE tallies as of poll closure on Monday, Aug. 22, just 4,558 Bronxites had hit the polls, compared to 36,852 in Manhattan, 23,602 in Brooklyn, 6,423 on Staten Island, and 4,900 in Queens.

P.S. / M.S. 498 poll site, located at 1640 Bronxdale Avenue, also saw a sparse showing of voters on Primary Day.

The BOE has since released the final results of the June primaries. In the Democratic Primary for A.D. 81, Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz won with 6,311 (60.72 percent) of the votes to Jessica Altagracia-Woolford's 3,797 (36.53 percent).

In the Democratic Primary for A.D. 78, George Alvarez won with 1,923 votes (44.61 percent) to Assemblyman José Rivera's 1,147 (26.61 percent), and Emmanuel Martinez's 988 (22.92 percent).

In the Democratic Primary for A.D. 82, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto won with 4,933 votes (54.93 percent) to Jonathan Soto's 3,167 (35.26 percent) and Al Quattlebaum's 661 (7.3 percent).

In the Democratic Primary for A.D. 86, Assemblywoman Yudelka Tapia won with 2,299 votes (77.01 percent) to Pooi Stewart's 495 (16.58 percent).

Meanwhile, Rivera's campaign later released a statement after declaring victory, saying, "Tonight, the people of The Bronx chose to send Gustavo Rivera back to Albany to represent them in the State Senate."

The statement continued, "Sen. Rivera faced over a million dollars in outside spending from corporate interests, including the real estate lobby and the charter school lobby, and despite being heavily outspent, he won the primary election with the support of labor, elected officials like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Jamaal Bowman, Nydia Velázquez, U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, and progressive groups like the New York Working Families Party."

Rivera reportedly later said at his Election Night victory party, "When you come for the king, you best not miss."

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