



NORWOOD NEWS

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Photo by David Greene

MOURNERS AT A 9/11 memorial event marking the 21st anniversary of the tragedy, held at Jacobi Hospital in Morris Park on Sept. 11, 2022, leave carnations at one of two markers dedicated to the more than 140 Bronxites who died in the September 11th attacks in 2001.

TRADITION CONTINUES AFTER TWO DECADES OF 9/11 REMEMBRANCE

By DAVID GREENE

Bronxites across the borough marked the beginning of a third decade of remembrance of the human toll suffered during the September 11th attacks on America in 2001, earlier this month as the 144 Bronxites who died the day the world changed forever were fondly recalled and honored.

Overseeing her first such event in her current role, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson joined dozens of police officers, firefighters, and court officers in recalling the fateful day and the loss most Americans still feel 21 years later.

Once again, a large crowd packed Lou Gehrig Plaza, across from Bronx County Courthouse, located on East 161st Street, for the borough president's annual 9/11 Day of Remembrance which, this year, was held on Wednesday, Sept. 14. Members of the New York State Court Pipes and Drums and the New York State Ceremonial Unit inspired the crowd in song, while local religious leaders led the crowd in prayer.

As the ceremony got underway, a young man in a multi-colored, hooded jacket yelled out, "[Expletive] this country!" He then walked away from the gathering in the direction of the Grand Concourse.

Later, Assistant Chief Phillip Rivera of Patrol
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Bedford Park: Construction Site Boom Truck Collapses on Occupied Car

By SÍLE MOLONEY

A construction site boom truck reportedly carrying poles collapsed on an occupied vehicle at Bedford Park Boulevard and Jerome Avenue in the Bedford Park section of The Bronx on Tuesday, Sept. 20, at around 10.38 a.m., injuring two people, City officials confirmed.

Eyewitnesses said one woman miraculously survived the collapse and was seen in a video exiting the vehicle apparently without serious injury. She was quickly rescued from her car by two people, José Santiago and his friend.

Her car was seen crushed under the weight of the falling crane. Witnesses said the driver of the boom truck supporting the crane also managed to escape. The windshield of the vehicle was seen smashed, and the roof was also crushed.

One local resident said the sound of the collapse was like a bomb, while another said as the crane broke and fell, metal poles, nuts and bolts went flying in all directions across the street and into the path of parked cars, which were later cleared from the area.

A local resident named Aaron said he was outside having a cigarette when he saw the crane collapsing and ran inside the barber shop behind him out of fear of being hit by the falling materials.

Speaking in Spanish, Santiago said he and his friend were able to open the driver-side door and help the female driver out. The shocking video of the incident was captured by local business, Bedford Convenience Market.

An FDNY official said the building under construction appeared to be undamaged. "FDNY evacuated approximately 29 workers from the site out of precaution pending a DOB evaluation," the spokesperson added.

The official said EMS treated and transported two patients to St. Barnabas Hospital. Some construction workers we spoke to said nobody fell from the building, but they were all shaken up.

Some workers were heard saying the crane should not have been used to hoist up poles used on the site beyond a certain floor level. *Norwood News* reached out to NYC Department of Buildings (DOB) for comment in this regard. Andrew Rudansky, press secretary for DOB, told us on Tuesday that the cause of the incident was under investigation and that DOB inspectors were at the scene of the incident, located at 33 Bedford Park Boulevard, and were investigating after the "partial collapse of the articulating boom truck next to the construction site."

"Our preliminary investigation has determined that the boom truck was making a delivery, lifting a load of rebar from a trailer and on to the roof of the construction project, when the arm of the boom failed and collapsed on to the adjacent roadway," Rudansky said.

"The lifting arm of the boom truck landed on top of the boom truck, and also onto a car," Rudansky said the general



Photo by Sile Moloney

A CONSTRUCTION SITE boom truck reportedly carrying poles collapsed on an occupied vehicle at Bedford Park Boulevard and Jerome Avenue in the Bedford Park section of The Bronx on Tuesday, Sept. 20, at around 10.30 a.m.

contractor for the permitted, 11-story, new residential building construction project is All State 12 General Contracting Corp.

Norwood News asked for details about the latest oversight and safety checks regarding the site and any possible violations. We were informed that prior to the incident, DOB was most recently at the site on Aug. 25.

"During that inspection, our inspectors found that the sidewalk shed in front of the work site was missing the required lighting, and that the contractors had installed the cross bracing underneath the shed too low (below 8 feet)," Rudansky said.

"The resulting violation issued on 8/25/22 for the missing lighting and too-low cross bracing on the shed, remains open," he added. "There are no other open violations at this location."

On a board affixed to the building site was the name of the company, New York Home Contractors LLC, a domestic liability company, apparently incorporated in 2016, and located at 251 Mill Rd., Medford on Long Island in Suffolk County, New York. *Norwood News* has contacted the company for comment on the incident. We did not receive an immediate response.

On Tuesday afternoon, Ryan Degan, deputy press secretary for DOB, provided a further update on the incident, saying, "After arriving on scene, DOB inspectors conducted an inspection of the entire new building project. During their inspection, they found several site safety violations, and summonses were issued for failure to safeguard the construction site, failure to have the hoist (construction elevator) in a state of readiness, and failure to obtain electrical permits for temporary lighting and a standpipe compressor used at the

site."

Degan added, "As a result, DOB has issued a Partial Stop Work Order at the site, preventing all materials deliveries at the location, and all work above 75 feet. In order to lift this Partial Stop Work Order, the contractor must resolve the unsafe conditions; bring the hoist (construction elevator) back into working service; and produce [a] means and methods plans for our review and approval, which details how they will resume delivery operations in [a] safe manner."

On Wednesday, Sept. 21, a further update on the cause of the accident was provided by Degan, who said DOB's preliminary investigation found that a series of decisions made by the boom truck operator, William Regaldo, contributed to the collapse.

"According to observations and evidence at the scene, our investigators determined that the operator extended the boom at a high angle to lift approximately 1,600-pound load of rebar, contrary to the manufacturer's instructions on how to safely use the equipment," Degan said.

The findings seemed to be in line with the comments made by construction workers the previous day, as above. "DOB will be issuing additional violations to the boom truck operator, Regaldo, and the general contractor, All State 12 General Contracting Corp, for the unsafe hoisting operations and for their failure to safeguard the construction site," Degan added.

Some residents of the area, who declined to be identified, told *Norwood News* that the female driver of the impacted car, Danielle Cruz, 22, told Pix 11 News that she was "shaken up" but "ok." The news outlet later reported

(continued on page 7)

Bedford Park: Stolen Car Crashes into Two Parked Vehicles

By DAVID GREENE

Police are looking for the driver of a stolen 2005 BMW who plowed into two parked cars on Jerome Avenue in the Bedford Park section of The Bronx. Witnesses told *Norwood News* the driver of the stolen car was observed exiting and walking away from the vehicle, before subsequently returning, calmly removing his belongings from its interior and from the trunk, and then disappearing once again before police arrived at the scene.

Upon further investigation, NYPD officials learned the same vehicle had been reported stolen in Pennsylvania. An NYPD official told *Norwood News* that the crash was reported to them at 5:14 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 9, outside Verizon Telecom, located on Jerome Avenue between Minerva Place and East 199th Street.

Meanwhile, FDNY officials placed the time of the crash at 4:29 p.m. and said no injuries had been reported. The site of the crash on Jerome Avenue is a stretch of road which begins to make a 90-degree turn before joining Minerva Place.

The unidentified NYPD official said of the incident, "Upon arrival, officers were informed [that] a 2005 BMW collided with two unoccupied vehicles." According to the same official, a parked

2011 Honda and a 2005 Ford were damaged in the crash, while the driver of the stolen BMW fled the scene, leaving the stolen vehicle behind.

Two fire trucks were sent to the scene and firefighters used "speedy dry," a sand-like substance that, according to department officials, helped mitigate the risk of a potential explosion from a fuel leak from one of the damaged vehicles.

The owner of one of the two damaged vehicles, which had Virginia license plates, was heard by *Norwood News* sharing aloud that he only had "liability" insurance, rather than full coverage, meaning he would likely not recover any compensation arising from the crash, and that any repairs would likely have to come out of his own pocket.

Shortly after 9 p.m., a tow truck, accompanied by the New York City Sheriff, removed the stolen car from the location. Police continue to hunt for the car-thief who fled the scene on foot.

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 CrimeStoppers website at <https://crimestoppers.nypdonline.org/>, or on Twitter @NYPDtips. All calls are strictly confidential.



Photo by David Greene

POLICE ARE LOOKING for the driver of a stolen 2005 BMW who plowed into two **PARKED CARS ON** Jerome Avenue in the Bedford Park section of The Bronx on Friday, Sept. 9, 2022.



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INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



With a U.S. government report implicating individuals in the Saudi Arabian government as having provided assistance to the 9/11 hijackers, this week we asked readers for their thoughts on Trump Golf Links, located in Ferry Point Park in Throggs Neck, hosting a Saudi-sponsored, female, golf tournament next month in The Bronx.



"It's so funny you mention that because I was just watching something on that. What took place was really different because what went down was the government is hiding something, because for us to do what we did, it had to be something else that was done to make them do what they did. I was down there when all that took place...I heard about that. I was, like, damn! How? With all the lives taken and all of the destruction that took place, how can they work with those people who committed devastation to America? How are you going to allow business to come in here? Russia and Saudi Arabia made good money in the U.K., but they didn't do that here and they were able to build their fortunes there and elsewhere. The golf tournament is a slap in the face to America and a slap in the face to all of the people who went to work, thinking they were coming back home to their loved ones, and never made it back home. It's a slap in the face to democracy. It should not even be held. How can [former President Donald] Trump even do something of this nature?"

Travis Eastman,
Parkchester



"I don't agree with this tournament he [former President Donald Trump] is going to host, because he should respect the American homeland, the nation, and he doesn't. He gave us trouble and now he disrespects us. He is doing it for money and for publicity. He did wrong to this nation and now he's trying to prove himself that he did right. He's looking for money too. I live in The Bronx, and I don't want this event to take place here."

Jorge Davila,
Kingsbridge



"I had heard about something with the Saudis and Trump before, but you've kind of verified it for me and you know, thinking about it honestly, I'm trying my best to have a critical standpoint. I'm trying to view it....from what you're telling me, and the information I've been told, and information I've looked up on my own, and if this is indeed true, and they're coming over here, that's a bit [expletive] up. C'mon now! We've lost people. Being African American, I'm American, nonetheless. If this is indeed the truth, it's [expletive] due to the fact that we were told a bunch of b-----t, and now, you have these people from another country coming here. They're behind something. We went to war over and lost, Lord knows, how many lives of our own, and destroyed two different countries over what? A lie? So, it's a bit upsetting, because I was 11 years old when that happened, and I was, like, George Bush's poster boy, saying we've got to go over there, and we've got to do this, so you kind of feel a bit foolish, knowing what I know now."

Bobby Lamonte Tolliver,
Soundview



"I know people personally that work at Trump Links. They just had a car show two weeks ago... I know people that work there, and I've spoken to them about it, Blacks and Latinos and beyond, and they say, 'Dion, this place is the best job I've had ever. These people that come here, not Trump, but people that frequent the establishment, over-tip, and they're so nice. If they're racist, then I don't know, but they pay me a \$50 tip for a \$12 drink, if I bring it in a timely fashion and make sure that the liquid does not hit the bottom of that glass.' So that's the testimonials I want people to know from the minority side, and I do want it to happen because of that one factor... I'd show up if I was invited."

Dion Powell,
Crotona Park



"Two things were particularly striking when I learned of the Saudi-backed women's tournament, hosted by [former President Donald] Trump. One, despite my own personal feelings, and [alleged] evidence of the American government's [alleged] involvement in the collapse of the Twin Towers in 2001, it is not in good taste that the former president is in bed on a deal like this. Two, given the history with dealings that have landed him in tremendous legal trouble, potential jail time, etc., I don't believe that he deserves to make millions of dollars off of an event of this magnitude when he has, unfortunately, proven time and time again that he cannot be trusted to act in the best interest of our country."

Shanequa Charles,
Fordham Manor

Editor's Note: Dion Powell is running for State senate in District 32 in the November 2022 general election on the Conservative Party ticket, while Shanequa Charles ran for State Assembly in District 78 in the June 2022 Democratic Primary.

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Norwood: 31-Year-Old Man Critical After Shooting

By SÍLE MOLONEY

A 31-year-old man is in critical condition following a multiple shooting incident in the Norwood section of The Bronx. A police spokesperson said the incident was reported at around 5.56 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 19, at Decatur Avenue and East 204th Street.

"I have a male shot one time in the chest," the spokeswoman said. "He was transported to St. Barnabas Hospital in critical condition. We are looking for a male, possibly in his 20s, who fled towards Webster Avenue in a gray Toyota," the spokesperson added. A helicopter could be seen and heard circling the area from around 6 a.m. on Monday morning, apparently searching for suspects.

The window of the check cashers on the corner of Decatur Avenue and East 204th Street was seen smashed, apparently from gunfire. A local resident said it had been intact before the shooting. Bloodstains were seen on the corner of the intersection, along with a cigarette lighter. Police said multiple shots were fired but the victim was struck only once.

In one video of the incident, obtained by **Norwood News**, though the shooting itself is difficult to see, a car can be seen departing the scene quickly in the direction of Webster Avenue, and separately, a person can also be seen running down the street also towards Webster Avenue. Meanwhile, one apparent passerby is seen crouching down to hide behind another car to protect himself, seemingly upon hearing the gunshots.

Speaking in Spanish, one woman who has worked in the area for five years and who declined to be identified, said even though the block was sometimes "a bit heated," shootings were rare, and she said it was the first time she had experienced a shooting so close to where she worked.

Asked if she felt fearful working in the area, she said, "Working at night, people have to take more precaution." She added, "The Bronx has become very

problematic, very violent." A man who also declined to be identified told us he saw the victim being placed in an ambulance and that he looked "Puerto Rican." Another person described the victim as chubby. When asked for a description of the victim, police could not confirm these details.

An Uber driver called "MD" who we spoke to in the vicinity of the crime scene and who lived nearby, said the incident made him worry for his family. "I was here [in the neighborhood] almost 10 years," he said. "It was really good, not that bad. But now, it's going to be very dangerous. Now, I'm very scared for my life about what's going on."

He said thinking about the bad things happening in the neighborhood made it very hard to sleep. "It's very stressful. It's a very dangerous neighborhood. Maybe I have to move from here," he added.

A younger man we spoke to alleged he had witnessed a warning shot being given the previous evening. He said it was sometime between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. in the vicinity of the crime scene. Referring to the morning shooting, he said, "I knew this would happen."

Referring to the apparent warning shot incident the previous evening, the young man said of the alleged shooter, "He had a hoodie on. His face was covered, and he came right here by the supermarket and shot all/off [inaudible], and then walked around here [East 204th Street and Decatur Avenue]," he said.

We asked the young man if he had told the police what he saw the previous evening, and he said, "no." Asked if he planned to tell them, he said, "no." However, we later witnessed him approach some of the officers present.

A residential building at 365 East 204th Street was cordoned off as part of the crime scene, as was the deli next door. Police were seen conducting their investigation inside both buildings.

One resident said there were frequently arguments and fights heard outside a nearby bar/restaurant further down the street on the corner of East 204th and Webster Avenue. Another man whose name we are not disclosing said he heard arguing earlier that morning.

The same man said when he went outside to see what was going on, he saw the victim injured on the street but did not see who shot him. He added that he saw paramedics placing the victim in an ambulance, and later saw a man being placed in a police car. He said the man being placed in the police car warned him, "You better not open your mouth."

The man added that cameras had recently been installed in the area, as it had become more dangerous. Lexa Bar, located on East 204th Street, a few doors down from the crime scene, has since closed and was seen boarded up. **Nor-**



Photo by Síle Moloney

POLICE INVESTIGATE THE shooting of a 31-year-old man at Decatur Avenue and E 204th Street in Norwood at around 5.56 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 19, 2022.

wood News previously reported that a man was stabbed, and a woman shot at the bar on March 27, 2021.

Another resident whose car had been parked on East 204th Street and was cordoned off as part of the crime scene was waiting around for the police to confirm he could retrieve it. Referring to the shooting, he said, "It's just getting worse and worse. It's the law. They got to come out with a new law – whoever do something, put them away. Throw them away for life, anybody, my son, anybody who does some [expletive], they got to be put away. It's the law. This is what is going to happen in a poor neighborhood."

Referring later to the police, the car owner said, "Why don't they drive around? Not every second but every 25 [minutes] or half an hour. You don't see them driving around. It's about the law. It's all about the law."

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.nypd-online.org/>, or on Twitter @NYPD-Tips. All calls are strictly confidential.



Photo by Síle Moloney

BLOODSTAINS AND A cigarette lighter are seen on the corner of Decatur Avenue and East 204th Street in Norwood where a 31-year-old man was shot at around 5.56 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 19, 2022.

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NEWS BRIEFS

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Law Firm Scholarship Contest

Sobo & Sobo LLP law firm, located at 1 Dolson Ave, Middletown, NY 10940, has launched an annual scholarship contest open to high-school seniors in The Bronx who are attending a two or four-year college after graduating in 2023. Students are invited to submit a 30 to 60-second video covering one of the following options: a commercial for Sobo & Sobo (a jingle/rap or song is optional), a video explaining how a personal injury has affected them or someone they know, or a short film related to personal injury law.

The deadline for submissions is Jan. 31, 2023, at 5.30 p.m. Three winners will be picked in Spring 2023 by a diverse panel of judges, with videos judged based on creativity, uniqueness, and heart. Winners must use the prize money towards college expenses. The first-place prize is \$3,000, second-place, \$2,000 and third-place, \$1,000. Visit Sobolaw.com/Scholarship or mail Scholarship@SoboLaw.com for more information.

Feds Tour Rikers amid More Custody Deaths

U.S. Attorney Damian Williams and a federal team toured Rikers Island with NYC Department of Correction (DOC) Commissioner, Luis A. Molina, on Sept. 12. In 2015, the U.S. signed a "Consent Judgment" agreement with the City and DOC to address what was described as excessive and unnecessary use of force on Rikers Island. Over the last 2 years, federal authorities said they have negotiated several remedial orders to address ongoing non-compliance with the Consent Judgment.

In June 2022, a court ordered the City and DOC to implement an action plan requiring a broad range of reforms and improvements to address ongoing violence and security failures on Rikers Island, and they said an independent federal monitor continues to assess such compliance. The visit

follows the death on Aug. 30 of detainee, Michael Nieves, who bled from a self-inflicted wound, as DOC officers failed to promptly intervene. Nieves was eventually taken off life-support, as reported by The New York Times, and the officers involved have been suspended.

On Sept. 15, detainee, Kevin Bryan, was found hanging from a pipe in a staff bathroom at the jail, according to the Urban Justice Center. The Queens Eagle reported that it followed an assault by other detainees. On Wednesday, Sept. 21, the group, Campaign Zero, reported that another detainee reportedly died after jumping off the floating jail on a barge near The Bronx. Activists have renewed calls for federal intervention into the situation.

New Dinowitz Bill on Traffic Safety

Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81) has introduced a new bill to counter legislative efforts in other U.S. states which seek to block the sharing, across states, of license plate and vehicle registration records of drivers aiming to avoid red-light camera and speed camera enforcement penalties.

The new bill was primarily motivated by a separate New Jersey bill that passed the State Senate earlier this year, which would "prohibit [the] State [of New Jersey] from disclosing New Jersey driver's license holders' personal information to other states seeking to issue speed camera or red-light camera citations." However, Dinowitz's new bill, if passed, would apply to any state that seeks to

implement a similar blocking measure. It is currently at the committee stage of the legislative process.

Accused Found Fit to Stand Trial for EMT Murder

Bronx District Attorney, Darcel D. Clark, announced on Sept. 21 that Jose Gonzalez has been found fit to stand trial for the alleged murder of EMT, Yadira Arroyo. Gonzalez had been found *unfit* for trial on May 26, 2022, to the dismay of Arroyo's family. In a statement referring to the latest update on the case, Clark said, "When Jose Gonzalez was deemed unfit for trial, we said this was by no means the end of this prosecution. Now, approximately four months later, health professionals at Mid-Hudson Forensic Psychiatric Center have determined him to be no longer an inca-

pacitated person."

She added, "Jose Gonzalez is due to appear in Bronx Supreme Court on Sept. 29. He faces charges of first and second-degree murder, first degree manslaughter, robbery, vehicular manslaughter and operating a motor vehicle under the influence, for allegedly running over Yadira Arroyo, an FDNY emergency medical technician, with her ambulance on March 16, 2017."

Arroyo was killed in the Unionport section of The Bronx in the line of duty on March 16, 2017, when she was struck and killed by the impact of her own ambulance while attempting to stop the vehicle's theft during an emergency response. A person arrested and accused of a crime is deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.



Bedford Park: No Injuries following Fire at 3184 Villa Avenue

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Twelve units, comprising 60 firefighters responded to a fire at 3184 Villa Avenue in Bedford Park on Monday evening, Sept. 19. The department issued a call for "all hands" to respond to a fire which broke out on the 3rd floor of the 4-story, multiple, residential dwelling at 6.17 p.m.

Norwood News contacted the department for details of any injuries as well as the cause of the fire. A spokesperson responded, providing the main details of the incident, and said the fire was brought under control at 6.39 p.m. No injuries were reported, and we understand the cause is still under investigation.

In a video posted to the Citizens' App, a few residents can be heard questioning whether air conditioning units protruding from some of the windows on the higher floors caused a hazard by blocking the escape route on the exterior fire escape. *Norwood News* posed the question to the FDNY and will share any feedback we receive on the matter.

A similar FDNY response team, comprising 12 units and 60 firefighters, was deployed to 3060 Decatur Avenue in Norwood on Saturday, Aug. 20, when a fire broke out on the 5th floor of a residential building, as reported. There were no injuries.

Screenshot courtesy of the Citizens' App.

THE FDNY RESPONDED to a fire at 3184 Villa Avenue in the Bedford Park section of The Bronx on Monday, Sept. 19, 2022.

Bedford Park: Construction Site Boom Truck Collapses on Occupied Car



Photo by Síle Moloney

A CONSTRUCTION SITE boom truck reportedly carrying poles collapsed on an occupied vehicle at Bedford Park Boulevard and Jerome Avenue in the Bedford Park section of The Bronx on Tuesday, Sept. 20, at around 10.30 a.m.

(continued from page 2)

that Cruz had a busted lip and that she plans to sue over the incident.

Other residents who also declined to be identified alleged that some of the workers at the construction site were non-union and shouldn't have been there. They also alleged that the building doesn't even look safe "because it does not look straight." We discussed this point with DOB officials who said the department has no input as to whether union or non-union workers are hired at building sites.

Other residents had complained that there were too many buildings being constructed in the area, that there is no parking, and that as a result, too many [bad] things were happening in the community.

Anthony Williamson, the Bronx representative of Local 79, Construction and General Building Laborers, previously spoke to *Norwood News* about the dangers faced by construction workers in the building industry, in general, saying in reference to another construction site accident in the South Bronx, "What's happening here, there's a mix/combination of skilled and unskilled, trained and untrained workers, and because of the untrained workers, working in this environment, that's created these things that have happened."

Norwood News asked DOB what the requirements are for drivers of such boom trucks in terms of skilled versus unskilled workers. Rudansky responded saying, "DOB does not make determinations on the skill level of drivers."

We also asked what DOB's requirements were, if any, in relation to such drivers. Rudansky replied, saying, "Boom truck[s] are considered a delivery vehicle, similar to a tractor trailer. They can only be used to drive in and deliver construction material to a work site. They are not allowed to be used to perform construction work."

He added, "Boom trucks and their operators, unlike construction cranes, are not subject to DOB licensing and permitting requirements. This has always been the case, and it is not a new development."

One person in the area said that it was a miracle that only one car was hit because the location is always congested with people walking through it to take the subway or walking to Lehman College which is located only a block away.

The crushed car was later towed away and the crane was removed in a large truck.

Coincidentally, just 6 days ago, on Sept. 15, DOB announced the launch of the "Adams Commission," a volunteer group of advocacy groups, industry experts and local leaders who are creating a blueprint for how DOB can improve its structural practices via the 90-day special

commission.

Mayor Eric Adams and DOB Commissioner Eric A. Ulrich announced what they described as major steps to refocus the DOB on providing improved customer service and supporting the city's economic recovery.

"Now is the time to change what it's like to do business with the Department of Buildings and make this agency run more efficiently," said Adams. "New Yorkers deserve an agency that prioritizes customer service and safety at the same time, all in service of moving our city forward. Our administration has been cutting red tape since day one, and we will keep going until we have a city that truly works for New Yorkers."

As part of the effort, two new customer service units were launched, the Small Business Support Team (SBST)

and the Major Projects Development Unit (MPDU). DOB officials said these new units will accelerate project timelines by providing dedicated services to ensure applications avoid unnecessary pitfalls.

Meanwhile, Ulrich said, "When Mayor Adams appointed me as commissioner, he told me to look under the hood of this agency and get to the bottom of what wasn't working." He added, "In the past several months, we have been hard at work implementing incremental repairs and tune-ups. With this new commission and these new customer service units, we are announcing the official start of a wholesale rebuild to the way we do business."

Over the 90 days, DOB officials said 64 industry *(continued on page 11)*



Cardinal McCloskey
COMMUNITY SERVICES

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Letters To The Editor

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

War in Ukraine

We have a war going on in the Ukraine by that disciple of the evil one, Vladimir Putin, with people being killed and driven out of their homes, but reading our local metro newspapers, all I see is pictures of Kim Kardashian's butt, as well as football and movie star news. What a sad commentary on our priorities.

Allow me to suggest to everyone to take a moment to say this below prayer to St. Michael who is the patron saint of Kiev, the Ukraine, and if you are not Christian and say it, trust me when I say the Good Lord will hear your request to St. Michael! Thank you.

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world, seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

**Richard Marias,
Norwood**

Celebrate Lennon's Post-Beatles Work

Oct. 9 is coming, and this will make 82 years since John Lennon was born. They'll be tributes to him, but I suspect they'll be like those in the past that emphasize his Beatles work and ignore the brilliance that came after. Now with all due respect to The Beatles, who are my all-time favorite group, Lennon's best solo work was comparable. While not knocking The Beatles' lyrics, I think that it was after the break-up that Lennon became a lyricist comparable to Bob Dylan, Bob Marley, Curtis Mayfield, Ray Davies, and Stevie Wonder.

Lennon would not have been able to create such classic albums as "Plastic Ono Band," "Imagine" and "Walls and Bridges" within The Beatles' framework. At one point, Lennon said, "We were holding each other back." George Harrison is a perfect example. He told Dick Cavett, "I was getting two songs an album. At that rate, it would have taken 100 years to get all my songs recorded." Instead, Harrison had numerous hit singles and albums. "All Things Must Pass" received a Grammy nomination for "Album of the Year" and his album, "The Concert for Bangladesh" won that award. His classic 1987 album, "Cloud 9" also did very well.

Paul McCartney has the most commercially successful post-Beatles career. He was one of the biggest sellers of the '70s and continued to do well in the '80s. Though he doesn't sell like he used to, he continues to create fine work. Ringo Starr had many top-ten hits between 1971 and 1975, as well as

some successful albums. Though he hasn't sold as well since, he still does some fine work.

The Lennon tributes that overlook his solo work date back to his death. The Daily News had a political comic that quoted from a Beatles masterpiece but one that was a McCartney-penned song, "Let it Be." It would have been more appropriate to quote from "Scared," by Lennon. "Hatred and jealousy/Gonna be the death of me/Guess I knew it right from the start/Sing out about love and peace/Don't wanna face the red raw meat/The green-eyed goddamn straight from your heart."

Maybe this year, one of the radio stations that plays older music will do a Lennon tribute that gives equal emphasis to the work he did after leaving The Beatles.

**Richard Warren,
Van Cortlandt Village**

Editor's Note: In terms of McCartney's later work, I concur. A few minutes pause of "FourFiveSeconds" has definitely carried me through some stressful Tuesdays..

To ensure sufficient time for review of all letters to the editor, please send them to norwoodnews@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 no more than 300 words and, ideally, in response to published articles. Thank you.

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Out & About

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

EVENTS

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.

Three years in the making, MASC Hospitality Group hosts **Octoberfest** at the Bronx Night Market on Fordham Plaza in partnership with Samuel Adams on Saturday, Sept. 24 from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. This special event will celebrate the cuisine, community, and culture of the Fordham neighborhood with more than 50 different vendors and merchants, including a traditional Bavarian Stein Hoisting competition, kids' area activities, special

performances, and tons of prizes and giveaways.

On Thursday, Sept. 22 at 10 a.m., Fernando Delgado will receive his **formal investiture** as Lehman College's fourth president at its annual convocation. This year's event is doubly significant as not only is it the occasion of Delgado's investiture, but it is also Lehman's first in-person convocation in two years. The event will include highlights of the previous academic year, recognition of faculty and staff achievements, and guest speakers. Delgado took the helm at Lehman in August 2021.

ART

Join BronxArtSpace, located at 700 Manida Street (entrance on Spofford Avenue), Bronx, NY 10474, where

admission is free, on Thursday, Sept. 22 at 6 p.m. for the fifth offering of **"Modes of Freedom,"** an evening of storytelling and reflection, curated by Caitlyn Campbell & Free State Projects (<https://www.freestrata.org/>). How do we use art and different forms of making as a tool for justice in the face of ever-unfolding injustices and inequalities? Can we explicate our individual and collective experiences with layered carceral systems and structures of control through creativity?

Can a story be art? Can art be a story? For more information, email art@bronxartspace.com.

MUSIC

Enjoy a performance of **Latin Jazz Guitar Music** at St. Paul's Church National Historic Site, 897 South Columbus Avenue, Mt. Vernon, NY 10550, on Saturday, Oct. 8, at 3 p.m., with Ricardo Gautreau and Doug Munro, including selections helping to explore the civil rights movement. For more information and for other listings, call (914) 667-4116 or visit www.nps.gov/sapa.

During **"Bales & Ales,"** The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG), located at 2900 Southern Blvd in

The Bronx, celebrates the fall season with unlimited samples of craft beers, ciders, and seltzers enjoyed from a souvenir sampling cup, as well as lawn games, live music, and festive food pairings for the perfect autumn afternoon outing. This is a ticketed event for adults 21 and over. Admission is \$25 for NYBG members or \$50 for non-members and includes a four-ounce sampling mug and all-garden pass access. The event takes place on Saturday, Sept. 24, from noon to 5 p.m. at NYBG. In the event of inclement weather, the rain date is Sunday, Sept. 25, from noon to 5 p.m.

MOVEMENT

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.

The Office of Bronx District Attorney, Darcel D. Clark, is hosting the **5th Annual Run/Walk/Roll to End Domestic Violence** on Saturday, Oct. 15, from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. This free event begins and ends at East 161st Street, between Grand Concourse and Walton Avenue.

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CRIME FILE

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



accompanying photo who was sought in connection to the incident.

On Thursday, Sept. 15, at around 9.50 a.m., the suspect approached an undomiciled female victim (of an unknown age) inside an apartment building, located at 2114 Aqueduct Avenue. He exposed himself to her, removed the victim's pants, and attempted to rape her, at which point a passerby caused the suspect to flee the scene. The victim also fled the location and did not report any physical injuries.

On Monday, Sept. 19, police said Justin Washington, 25, of Phelan Place in Morris Heights was arrested on Sept. 17 in the 41st Precinct. He was charged with attempted rape, burglary, attempted burglary, sex abuse, forcible touching, assault, and lewdness. A person arrested for a crime is deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.



Bedford Park Robbery at Knifepoint

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the two people seen in the accompanying photos above who are sought for questioning in connection to a robbery that occurred in Bedford Park.

It was reported to police that on Sunday, Aug. 7, at around 3.10 a.m. in the vicinity of East 204th Street and Grand Concourse in Bedford Park, a 51-year-old female victim and a 53-year-old male victim were approached by two unidentified men who displayed a knife and stole the victim's personal property before fleeing the location. No physical injuries were reported following the incident.



Bronx Police Officer Arrested on Sex Abuse Charges

A Bronx NYPD officer has been arrested on sex abuse charges, police said. On Sunday, Sept. 11, at 11 p.m., the off-duty officer was arrested and charged in the 44th Precinct, which covers the Grand Concourse, Bronx Terminal Market, and Yankee Stadium.

Julio Alcantara-Santiago, 38, assigned to Transit District 11, which covers 161st Street and Yankee Stadium subway station, and who is a police officer since 2013, was arrested on charges of forcible touching

and sex abuse. According to a police database, he has been recognized for "excellent police duty." A person arrested and charged with a crime is deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

Bronx Man Pleads Guilty to Attempting to Support ISIS

Damian Williams, U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced on Sept. 12 that James Bradley, 21, also known as "Abdullah" of The Bronx, and Arwa Muthana, 30, of Alabama each pled guilty in Manhattan federal court to one count of attempting to provide material support to ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham), a designated foreign terrorist organization.

Williams said the husband and wife admitted supporting ISIS, had collected and distributed jihadist propaganda, including videos of Usama Bin Laden, and had even chillingly expressed their desire to 'take out' American military cadets. They were arrested in March 2021 following an undercover operation.

According to the investigation, Bradley and Muthana attempted to travel to the Middle East to join and fight for the terrorist organization. Bradley allegedly expressed violent extremist views since at least 2019, including his desire to allegedly support ISIS by traveling overseas to join the group or committing a terrorist attack in the U.S.

The charge carries a *maximum sentence* of 20 years in prison, as prescribed by Congress. Any sentencing of the defendants will be determined by a judge. Bradley is scheduled to be sentenced on Feb. 2, 2023, and Muthana on Feb. 3, 2023.

University Heights: Female NYPD Employee Shot

The NYPD is seeking the public's help identifying several young men who are sought in connection with a shootout that left a female civilian employee of the NYPD wounded.

Police were called to 2226 Andrews Avenue North in University Heights at 8:20 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 2, when gunfire was reported after two unidentified men, part of a large group, engaged in a verbal dispute with another individual.

Multiple shots were fired. However, the 24-year-old NYPD civilian employee had been standing across the street, an unintended target, and was struck in the left leg in the crossfire. She was transported to St. Barnabas Hospital in stable condition, police said.

On Sept. 4, the NYPD released surveillance video that shows a dark sedan stopping in the street, and two men on a dirt bike pull up alongside the passenger side of the vehicle. At the same time, a third man walks up to engage the driver. The vehicle quickly pulls away as several men are seen running for cover. Police say one suspect fled southbound on University Avenue and the second fled southbound on Andrews Avenue North.

Fordham Heights: 21-Year-Old Man Fatally Shot

A 21-year-old man has died following a fatal shooting which took place on the border of Fordham Heights and Mt. Hope. On Thursday, Sept. 1, at around 4.05 p.m., police responded to a 911 call regarding a person who

had been shot inside an apartment at 2000 Valentine Avenue.

"Upon arrival, officers observed a 21-year-old male unconscious and unresponsive with a gunshot wound to the body," police said. "EMS transported the victim to St. Barnabas Hospital where he was pronounced deceased." There were no initial arrests. Pursuant to the ongoing investigation, police said on Sept. 2 that Cheick Diarra, 21, of Valentine Avenue, on the border of Fordham Heights and Mt. Hope, was arrested.

He was charged with murder, manslaughter and two counts of criminal possession of a weapon. The deceased was later identified as Sydi Bayo, a 21-year-old male from Webster Avenue in Fordham Heights. A person arrested in connection to 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.



Tradition Continues after Two Decades of 9/11 Remembrance

(continued from page 1)

Borough Bronx would reference the outburst, saying, "Earlier, as this ceremony started, there was an individual who walked across the plaza and expressed his displeasure with our country, and that's fine." He added, "You can do that here, but you can't do that in Afghanistan."

The Hon. Doris Gonzalez, an administrative judge at Bronx Supreme Court, later told the crowd, "In honor of all those who have lost their lives on that terrible day and those who have passed, or will pass, due to 9/11 illnesses, on Sept. 11th every year, we listen to each and every name, read aloud by loved ones who lost somebody on that day."

Recalling the attack, Gonzalez continued, "Court officers and other court personnel, working in the Manhattan courts and at the old Beaver Street Academy, heard two planes had flown into the World Trade Center and sprang into action." She said more than 20 court officers responded to the tragedy and three never returned home.

The judge also recalled the renovation of a playground at the Bronx River



Photo by David Greene

TOP OFFICIALS OF the NYPD participate in an event America at the Lou Gehrig Plaza on East 161st Street in The Bronx on Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2022, marking the 21st anniversary of 9/11.

Houses in the Soundview section of the borough that was later renamed for Captain William Harry Thompson, who had been assigned to New York State Office of Court Administration and was one of those killed, while attempting to rescue the victims trapped in the World Trade Center. Gonzalez added, "I hope and pray that there are more dedications to come, so those that were born after those events

will know who died and their families."

Gibson began her address by telling the crowd, "I am so grateful that each and every one of you are here today, because this is an important moment in the history of this country, and this is an important moment for our City and certainly for our great Borough of The Bronx."

Recalling the fateful day, the borough president continued, "We saw men and

women run into harm's way, run into the fire, the dangers, to save and protect others unknown to them but just a human being, a brother, a sister, a friend, a neighbor, and 21 years later, this country is much stronger and resilient. It was a moment of pain, a moment of darkness, but we have truly found the light in the lives of nearly 3,000 first responders and essential workers and every day New Yorkers that we lost."

Gibson concluded, "We will always remember their lives, their sacrifice, their service. Their memories will continue to be a blessing upon all of us, as a sign, as a beacon of hope for the next generation of leaders and first responders."

At the halfway point during the ceremony, volunteers read the names of the known 144 Bronxites killed in the World Trade Center on 9/11. Just then, an unidentified female court officer fainted, likely due in part to the unseasonably warm weather, but perhaps also due to the emotional stress the anniversary tends to induce in many.

Master of Ceremonies Derrick Woods of BronxNet later said, "As we continue

(continued on page 15)

Bedford Park: Construction Site Boom Truck Collapses on Occupied Car

(continued from page 7)

groups, trade organizations, ownership associations, advocacy groups and government agencies, with support from DOB experts, will meet and formulate recommendations to improve the DOB, culminating in a report to Adams and the City Council.

Recommendations will focus on eliminating unnecessarily complicated practices, onerous regulatory hurdles, and inefficient workflows. The report will be public once complete.

With the report as a blueprint, agency officials said DOB will begin implementing recommendations, as appropriate, in early 2023 through a combination of policy changes, operational modifications, and regulatory reforms. They added that the administration will work with the City Council to make changes requiring legislation.

They added that SBST and MPDU are fully staffed and now operational, and are helping to troubleshoot project issues, get small businesses up and running, and streamline the development process to help the city's largest building construction projects break ground.

We asked DOB officials if the focus on streamlining efficiency at DOB had the potential to perhaps rush procedures through, potentially impacting upon safety guidelines. Rudansky said that the efficiencies were more about centralizing the application process on large "tower" construction sites, rather than having an



Photo by Síle Moloney

BRONX RESIDENT AND hero, José Santiago, and his friend, assisted driver, Danielle Cruz, exit her vehicle after a construction site boom truck reportedly carrying poles collapsed on it at Bedford Park Boulevard and Jerome Avenue in the Bedford Park section of The Bronx on Tuesday, Sept. 20, at around 10.30 a.m.

impact on existing safety processes.

"The safety of our fellow New Yorkers will always be a top priority in any decision we make," he said. "Removing outdated internal processes and cutting onerous red tape does not change a construction contractor's responsi-

bility to comply with the safety regulations in our Codes. We have already started issuing enforcement actions to the parties responsible for yesterday's incident, and have stopped all deliveries at this site until the contractors correct the unsafe conditions and submit

a detailed plan on how they will safely perform these operations in the future."

Norwood News has contacted the impacted construction company, All State 12, for comment on the incident. We did not receive an immediate response.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

Alternate Side Parking Suspension

Alternate side parking rules will be suspended on Sept. 26 and 27 for Rosh Hashanah.

Norwood News Partnership with WNYC

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.

Language Teachers Needed

NYC Department of Education (DOE) is looking for those who are certified to teach Spanish or other world languages. Positions are open for immediate hire. To be eligible, you must have an application on file. The fall application closes Sept. 30. Apply at <http://ow.ly/gzEn50luoHJ>. For more information, email support@teachnyc.zendesk.com.

50th Anniversary Celebration

St. Mary's Orthodox Church of India, 360 Bedford Park Boulevard, Bronx, NY, is holding a Jubilee celebration, comprising a series of ceremonies and events from Saturday, Sept. 24, starting at 3 p.m., and on Sunday, Sept. 25, starting at 8 a.m. For more details, please email smbjubilee@gmail.com.

HPD in your District

District 11 City Council Eric Dinowitz and Bronx Community Board 8 are hosting an outreach event with NYC Department of Housing, Preservation & Development (HPD) on Thursday, Oct. 6, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at West 231st Street and Broadway, Bronx, NY 10463. Help will be provided on matters like affordable housing, housing rights, filing a housing complaint, finance improvements and repairs, reg-

istering a building, and remedying a violation.

Contact hpdoutreach@hpd.nyc.gov for more information.

Monkey Pox Updates

As of Sept. 18, there were 3,480 cases of Monkeypox in New York City, up from 2,794 cases in late August. Health officials have emphasized that anyone can get and spread monkeypox. They 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, and appointments are now open for second doses. 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

City health officials said in late August that 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. They added that hundreds of people may be infected with the polio virus, once regarded as a contained illness.

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>.

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>.

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. Find a vaccine or booster location today at ny.gov/vaxtoschool

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.



Finding Peace in a State of Violence

By NEREYDA FRANCO

Sept. 21 was recognized as the International Day of Peace, also known as "Peace Day." The International Day of Peace was created by the United Nations in 1981. This year, the theme is "End Racism. Build Peace." In our neighborhoods, across the City, and all around the world, we continue to see violence, especially gun violence, impact our lives and the lives of people we care about. Both peace and violence affect our health, and it is important for us to talk about them.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines violence as the "intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in, or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation."

Experiencing violence, whether as a witness or victim of a violent act, often has immediate emotional and physical harm which we now know can have long-lasting, negative impacts on health. Research has shown that interpersonal violence, or violence between individuals, increases the risk of social problems, premature mortality, early death, and affects our lifelong health.

Violence can lead to physical injury, and get in the

way of the body's internal process for maintaining balance, which can lead to mental and physical illness. The benefits of peace to our body, however, include balanced hormone levels, a healthier immune system, better heart health, and an overall longer life.

Peace is a powerful health determinant, like adequate housing, access to sustainable resources, healthy food, education, social justice, and equity. The World Health Organization (WHO) proposed, in their Statement of Health for Peace Global Initiative, that there cannot be health without peace nor peace without health.

Peace is seen as necessary to achieve and support the health of individuals and populations. Our social and individual ability to fully thrive depends on peace. Whether at a community or individual level, good health is not achieved unless there is peace.

Peace, like health, is affected by the individual choices and actions we take. You may wonder how a person finds peace in a social climate plagued by violence. Here are a few suggestions to help you start, or continue, to create peace in your life:

Resolve stressful issues early on. Take the time to deal with and prevent any issues that can create hostility to prevent violence. Talking through a problem with a friend can help to prepare for different outcomes.

Practice mindfulness. Mindfulness is when we pay attention to thoughts, feelings, and actions in the present moment. Practicing mindfulness includes being able to observe your thoughts and feelings without any judgement. Mindfulness allows us to let go of the past, accept that we cannot change past events, and to also let go of anxiety about things in the future that we cannot control either.

Practice self-care. Techniques such as breathing exercises, meditation, and positive thinking promote

relaxation and reduce mental stress. These are also great ways to practice mindfulness.

Find what inspires you. We all have one thing that makes us feel better about ourselves and leaves us feeling hopeful and energized. Take time to find out what inspires you.

Practice being grateful. Focus on the positive parts of your life. Each day, make a list of things for which you are grateful. Avoid comparing yourself to others.

Promoting peace, supporting the provision of services needed to maintain and support health safety are the first steps for addressing and resolving conflicts. Promoting conversations and more understanding about the issues that affect violence in our communities is important. As individuals, we can strive for good health and happiness by seeking peace and mental calmness for ourselves and for those around us.

For help on your journey to create more peace, you can access **Montefiore's Free Relaxation Hotline at (718) 920-CALM (2256)**, which is open to the community and provides guided relaxation activities in English and Spanish. Choose from different activities like breathing exercises, progressive muscle relaxation, and guided imagery.

Montefiore understands the important relationship between health, violence, and peace, and continues to support the health and wellbeing of the wider Bronx community. We do this through programs and initiatives with community partners to support green spaces, public art, gardening, community clean up events, and other activities to increase access to health-promoting resources that also support and encourage peace.

Nereyda Franco MPH, MCHES, CLC is health educator at the Office of Community and Population Health at Montefiore Health System.

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We've been receiving many calls asking about our services – including viewing available property online and scheduling “virtual meetings” – and we have answers. Our family service associates are here for you, ready to address your questions in both English and Spanish. We're also available to help you put your cemetery preferences in writing. This free service alleviates stress and provides peace of mind for you and your family.

Making these important decisions now is one of the most thoughtful gifts you can give to the people you love most.

Our family service associates are available to answer your questions by phone or virtually.

Hablamos Español

FREE LIVING WILL KIT

When families ask us how they can prepare during these unprecedented times, our first response is to talk about our free Living Will Kit. This contains all the information you need to help you understand and complete a Living Will, along with details about other health care advance directives.



Call or email to learn how to receive your Free Living Will Kit or to schedule a virtual meeting.

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Public and Community Meetings

The next **52nd PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meeting takes place in person on Thursday, Sept. 22, at 7 p.m. at Tracey Towers, 20 W Mosholu Parkway South, Community Room B, 1st Floor. Call the 52nd Precinct Community Affairs office at (718) 220-5824 to be added to the email list. Proof of vaccination is required for in-person meetings.

The next **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7** general board meeting takes place on Tuesday, Sept. 27, at 6 p.m. will be held at Montefiore Medical Center, 111 E 210th Street, Bronx, NY 10467, in the Cherkasky Auditorium. Contact KCabreraCarrera@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list. Proof of vaccination is required for in-person meetings.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March 2020, **BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** meetings have been held via ZOOM. The meetings are usually held on the first Wednesday of the month 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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Tradition Continues after Two Decades of 9/11 Remembrance

(continued from page 11)

our ceremony, I would ask you to give a round of applause for our tremendous court officer who's having a little trouble here today; we understand."

During her prepared remarks, Laura Kavanagh, acting FDNY commissioner, said, "One of the things I find so extraordinary about the department I am lucky enough to work for is that, despite all of their loss, the 343 [firefighters] and the 299 [firefighters] that we lost since due to their work in rescue and recovery; they were not taken down."

She added, "This is as much a story of resilience as it is one of grief and loss. Even in the days and weeks after, 911 calls were still responded to, despite everything that the department had gone through."

Kavanagh ended her comments, adding, "Even if we can never ever repair the hole that was left that day, we can lift one another up. We can carry on, and we can give what I think is the greatest testament to never forgetting, which is living our lives in their honor. You see that every day when you see the children of first responders lost that day, signing up an oath to serve the FDNY. So, despite everything they lost that day, they were so inspired by their parents that they are willing to put themselves in danger."

With a jetliner flying overhead, for his part, Rivera later recalled being a sergeant based at Manhattan's 30th Precinct on 9/11. "Me, like dozens of other members of the command, were glued to the television, watching images which are seared in [our] memory forever," he said. "While my tale is not one of running into burning buildings and rescuing people, it's important for all of us to remember where we were that day, so that we remember every year where we need to be, and that's right here."

Rivera added, "We say that we never forget, but I think there's one thing we've forgotten; the incredible sense of unity that happened after 9/11. We see today that we're more focused on what divides us, what separates us. We understand that nobody's perfect, except in the eyes of God, but we need to see that perfection in each other. We need to look at what unites us, instead of what divides us."

Standing across from Lou Gehrig Plaza in front of Joyce Kilmer Park, Mott Haven resident, Steve Fontanez, was observed with some other passersby on the day of commemoration, quietly watching the solemn ceremony. Unaware beforehand the event was taking place that day, Fontanez said, "I just happened to walk



Photo by David Greene

BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT Vanessa Gibson addresses a large crowd of mourners at a 9/11 remembrance event held at Lou Gehrig Plaza on East 161st Street in The Bronx on Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2022.

by and noticed this was going on. I felt I'd pay honor to them as well."

The resident later recalled being in school on 9/11, taking his KSAT exam when he got a call advising him that his brother, Victor Fontanez Jr., a Con Edison worker, had been seriously injured in the attacks. Fontanez said, "He was actually with Con Edison's Hazmat Division and he was one of the first ones called to turn off the gas in the Twin Towers."

According to Con Edison, the Hazmat Division is a team trained to protect first responders from potential utility hazards and exposure to hazardous materials in the event of a biological, chemical, nuclear, or radiological incident.

He added, "When he realized where the valve was to turn off the main gas while they were walking in, Tower Two started to come down." Fontanez said his brother later retired from the energy company after 38 years of service.

Earlier in the week, other similar commemorative events were held in The Bronx. At the 49th Precinct on East-

chester Road, officers had mobilized in the days after 9/11, to bring needed food and water to those working at Ground Zero and on the grounds of Jacobi Hospital, where doctors and nurses had been on stand-by to receive potentially hundreds of victims. However, tragically none arrived. A separate ceremony was also held at FDNY's Engine 72 in Throggs Neck.

University professor, Victor Mastro, of Indian Village had just walked to his job at Grace Dodge High School on Crotona Avenue in The Bronx on 9/11 when he was asked by colleagues, "Did you hear what happened?" He said teachers were crowded around a television set, watching the surreal images like scenes from a disaster film. Mastro recalled several of his students and one teacher with whom he shared a classroom who perished. Years later, he would express his feelings on the loss in several poems which were later published in several local papers.

In August this year, it was reported that a CIA drone strike killed Ayman al-

Zawahiri, the leader of al-Qaeda and a reported co-conspirator with Osama Bin Laden in the September 11th attacks.

At a separate Jacobi Hospital ceremony, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto (A.D. 82) was pressed on a government report that alleges that members of the Saudi Arabian government assisted some of the 9/11 hijackers. Benedetto replied, "I think the evidence clearly shows that there were people in Saudi Arabia who were conspiring along with the terrorists, and probably the government."

Asked about a proposed Saudi-sponsored women's golf tournament due to be held at Trump Golf Links in Ferry Point Park in Throggs Neck in October, Benedetto replied, "I think it's terrible, and I think it's indicative of the Trump Organization and the slap in the face to America to allow this to happen."

As previously reported by Norwood News, the City had previously called for NYC Parks' department to cancel the contract which allows Trump Golf Links to operate The Bronx golf course in the wake of the Jan. 6th insurrection at the Capitol building in Washington D.C. in 2021.

However, a judge later threw out the City's legal challenge which was led at the time by former New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio who, in 2020, had sought the Democratic nomination for president, in hopes of beating Trump in the general election.

The judge's decision centered around an absence of precise contractual language in the prevailing legal contract to support the City's claim regarding the Trump Organization's likely inability in the future [due to potential bad press] to fulfill its contractual obligations under the contract in terms of attracting prestigious and lucrative tournaments to the venue.

Repeated calls for comment on the upcoming golf tournament to Brian Crowell, director of golf at Trump Golf Links have gone unreturned. Norwood News has also reached out for comment via email.

As the 21st anniversary of the 9/11 attacks came and went, the FDNY announced three more deaths of city workers who have since perished from 9/11-related illnesses in the days leading up to the anniversary. They were retired firefighter William Hughes of Ladder 123, retired firefighter Gregg Lawrence of Engine 308, and retired Battalion Chief Joseph McKie of Battalion 41.

*Sile Moloney contributed to this story.

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