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RUN-D.M.C. LEGEND VISITS STUDENTS AT P.S. 207



Photo by Ariel Pacheco

DARRYL 'DMC' MCDANIELS of rap group, RUN-D.M.C., poses for a photo with students of P.S. 207 in Kingsbridge on October 14, 2022, during an event organized in conjunction with Kingsbridge Heights Community Center (KHCC).

By **ARIEL PACHECO**

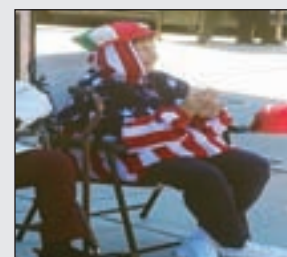
Grammy award-winning rapper and Hip-Hop pioneer,

Darryl "DMC" McDaniels, visited P.S. 207 in Kingsbridge on Friday, Oct. 14, to speak with

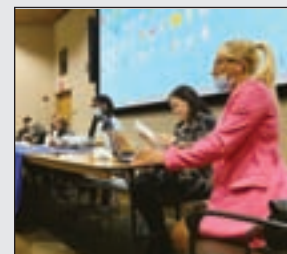
elementary school students about how to deal with bullies, believing in themselves, and to

discuss his new picture book, "Darryl's Dream."

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Columbus Day Celebrated In Morris Pk. | pg 8



Bravo, New Bronx County Clerk pg 11

CORRECTION

In the page 2 story of some print copies of the *Norwood News* edition Oct. 6-19, 2022, Phyllis Nastasio was *incorrectly* referenced as a Democratic candidate in the upcoming general election on Nov. 8 for A.D. 80, when, in fact, she is the Republican candidate. We apologize sincerely for this error.

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CAMBA Provides Update on Bedford Park Housing Development

By ARIEL PACHECO

Brooklyn-based nonprofit, CAMBA Housing Ventures (CHV), provided an update on the status of its 323-unit housing development, located on 202nd and 203rd Streets in Bedford Park, during the October meeting of Bronx Community Board 7's (CB7) Housing, Land Use & Economic Development committee.

Construction of the project is 70 percent complete and is expected to be ready for occupancy in the first quarter of 2023, according to CHV. The development comprises two buildings, one on 202nd Street, between Briggs Avenue and Valentine Avenue, made up of 163 housing units, and a second on 203rd Street, also between Briggs Avenue and Valentine Avenue, which will hold 160 units. Of the total 323 units, 25 percent will be made up of studios and 75 percent will comprise family units.

A sign for Manhattan-based Bolivar Development & Builders was seen outside the CAMBA-run construction site on 203rd Street on Oct. 18, raising the question of whether local Bronx hires were ever considered for the job. *Norwood News* later asked CHV but did not receive an immediate response.

In terms of occupancy, Francesca Brown of CHV said at the meeting, "We want to open up this opportunity to as many Community Board 7 members as possible." She added, "We want to make sure everyone in the neighborhood and surrounding neighborhoods know about this project first."

The units are all rent stabilized. According to the NYC Rent Guidelines Board, this means tenants are protected from sharp increases in rent and have the right to renew their leases. Housing is considered "affordable" if it costs about one-third or less of what the people living in that area earn. Both income eligibility and rent for City-financed affordable housing projects are based on a measure called Area Median Income (AMI).

The AMI for all cities across the country is defined each year by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The 2022 AMI for the New York City region is \$120,100 for a three-person family (100 percent AMI).

Sixty percent of units at the CAMBA development have been set aside for formerly homeless families who currently reside in shelters run by NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS). As for the rest, 10 percent will go to residents at 30 percent of the area mean income (AMI).

Another 10 percent will go to those at 40 percent of the AMI, and an additional 10 percent will go to those at 50 percent of the AMI. Meanwhile, those at 70 percent of the AMI will get 5 percent of the available units, as will those at 80 percent of the AMI.

"People can come at 30, 40, or 50 percent AMI, and as their job opportunities grow, their rent remains the same," said



Photo by Sile Moloney

A NEW MIXED housing development run by Brooklyn-based nonprofit, CAMBA Housing Ventures Inc, nears completion on East 203rd Street in Bedford Park on Monday, Oct. 18, 2022.

Sandra Erickson, a CB7 board member, owner of Sandra Erickson Real Estate, Inc and vice-president of Bronx Chamber of Commerce. "It is very, very stable housing," she added.

According to CHV, the buildings will have several amenities that include 24/7 front desk security, an on-site laundry room, a computer room, six parking spaces for tenants, a rear yard for recreation, a community kitchen, and indoor bicycle parking.

"We look forward to seeing it completed and get back the parking and the streets not being obstructed," said a smiling Erick Ascensio, chair of the CB7 housing committee. "I'm sure the community will be very happy about that."

A housing lottery for units in the development is expected to launch sometime in late October or early November according to CHV, and "NYC Housing Connect" tutorials will be made available via Zoom for those who need help applying.

NYC Housing Connect is NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development's (HPD) online portal which provides information on its various open housing lotteries. New Yorkers can usually apply either online, via the portal, or by requesting a mail-in application.

One concern raised by Yahaira Arias, secretary of CB7, was the limited number of languages through which training on the Housing Connect portal would be available.

"If we're going to have these trainings, I believe it would be prudent to have them in other languages because we're having an influx of people moving into our community and some of them don't know what they are getting themselves into because of the language barrier," she said.

A representative from HPD, present during the meeting, responded, saying the language point was something they were currently working on. Brown also said that as the project advances from the construction phase to a permanent phase, CHV will have job offerings for permanent positions within the complex.

"We will have job offerings for main-

tenance, for social services positions, and security," she said. "There will be a wide array of opportunities that will be available, and once those opportunities are posted, we will share the information with CB7."

According to a CHV press release, there were no major issues to report in terms of progress on the Bedford Park development, and graffiti, litter, and animal waste were being cleaned off the sidewalks and property on a daily basis.

After discussion on the CHV development concluded, the meeting continued with a discourse on capital budget items for 2023. Ascensio said among those items were requests for housing developments in the district using "Open Door Program" financing to provide residents with more ownership opportunities.

The open door program funds the new construction of cooperative and condominium buildings affordable to moderate and middle-income households. The chair said HPD were trying to accommodate the request "by using existing resources."

Other requests included the expansion of housing inspections to correct various building code violations, improving public housing cleanliness and maintenance, and providing or enhancing rental subsidies programs.

"HPD in your District" is an ongoing initiative by HPD whereby department officials visit local communities around the City in mobile units, providing outreach to residents to assist with ongoing housing related issues. Once advised of any upcoming visits by the mobile unit to the local area, which are usually arranged in conjunction with local city council members, *Norwood News* usually includes details of the scheduled dates in our Neighborhood Notes feature.

The next CB7 housing committee meeting is scheduled for Nov. 7, with Ascensio saying it will focus more on small businesses. For more information on the CHV housing developments, visit <https://camba.org/programs/supportive-housing-projects/>.

**Sile Moloney contributed to this story.*

New Unity Democratic Club Launches in The Bronx

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Recently elected Democratic district leaders for the 81st assembly district, Abigail Martin and Ramdat Singh, announced the formation of the “Unity Democratic Club” at a launch event held at The Bronx Public eatery on West 231st Street in Kingsbridge Heights on Oct. 3. The formation of the new club was announced at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Bronx Unity Coalition, when all in attendance were invited to join the new club.

The Bronx Unity Coalition have organized different events in the past, often in the Kingsbridge neighborhood and some in conjunction with Northwest Bronx Indivisible. They describe themselves as a grassroots alliance of voters, dedicated to transparency and accountability in Bronx politics.

Martin, who was a candidate for District 11 City Council in 2021, and Singh campaigned together for the same slate of candidates before the June 2022 primary, along with others including newly elected State committee woman, Morgan Evers. During the campaign, the three said they worked on “expanding the organizing efforts of grassroots activists in their assembly district,” and said this led to the creation of the formal Unity Democratic Party Club, with the aim of engaging other like-minded Democrats in the northwest Bronx.

“Throughout our campaign, voters told us that they wanted a Democratic Club where they felt welcome,” said Martin and Singh. “The Unity Democratic Club is a response to that need. We are excited to create a Democratic space in our corner of The Bronx that welcomes everyone and builds community through civic engagement.”

According to its founders, the Unity Democratic Club is based on the values of inclusivity, transparency, diversity, and accessibility. “Its mission is to recruit, engage and empower the electorate throughout the electoral process by promoting local civic engagement and understanding of the process, increasing voter turnout, and demonstrating the transparency of issues and processes of The Bronx Democratic Party,” the founders said.

The founders added that the new club will recruit and support candidates who are aligned with the club’s values and who are committed to bringing positive change to the communities of Bedford Park, Kingsbridge, Norwood, Riverdale, Spuyten Duyvil, Van Cortlandt Village, Wakefield, and Woodlawn.

The Unity Democrats will be led by acting president, Betsey Knapp of Riverdale, and acting vice president, Danielle Guggenheim, of Norwood. Local community activist, Knapp, co-founded the existing Northwest Bronx Indivisible group and has worked on many campaigns in the district. Guggenheim is a public-school teacher and serves on the board of the James Baldwin Outdoor Learning Center and The Bronx Zoo Teacher Advisory Council. Both are founding members of the Bronx Unity Coalition, which was formed in November 2021 by local grassroots activists interested in bringing new leadership to The Bronx.

Of the new party, Knapp said, “Promoting the Democratic Party, supporting candidates to run for office, and developing and bringing new leadership to The Bronx has long been a passion of mine, and work that I’ve been

involved with.” She added, “The Unity Democratic Club is the next stage of our work. I am honored to serve as acting president of a Democratic club that is committed to be the voice of its membership.”

For her part, Guggenheim said the new club was ushering in a post-COVID reconstruction of The Bronx. “The Bronx Unity Coalition identified gaps in current practices of engaging and educating the community and increasing residence participation and local policymaking across all of the northwest Bronx neighborhoods.”

The new club is one of several in the North Bronx, including the Riverdale-based Benjamin Franklin Reform

Democratic Club, long associated with what some see as the “Bronx Democratic political machine.” Despite its name, the club comprises a slate of legacy politicians some of whom have been tainted for their past membership of the now disbanded Independent Democratic Caucus, a group which worked with Republicans in the State legislature, even when Democrats first held a majority, blocking progressive legislation.

The club drew specific criticism in 2020/2021 when it was alleged it had not followed proper bylaws amid the pandemic in endorsing then-District 11 City Council

(continued on page 6)



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INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By **DAVID GREENE**



This week, we asked readers their thoughts on the City Council's new law to expand access to childcare services, and if the new law would allow them to return to work or potentially change to a better job.



"Oh yeah, that's a good idea! That could get people to work, but are you sure the daycare is safe? Of course, daycare is important. We are struggling more in The Bronx than people in the City. A lot of people don't have anyone to take care of their kids like a grandmother or someone related to a single mom. Yes, it's a good thing because I used it, but it was in a daycare, in a room around here. It helped me a lot."

Juanita Cruz,
Concourse



"In my personal opinion, even though I have a child that's 15, I think it's great because I know people who have children under 13 that, at the moment, can't find the adequate childcare, because they feel that where they go doesn't meet their expectations. So, I think it's a great thing if it can be expanded because now, parents will have more choices as to where their kids will be taken care of, as opposed to having to put them wherever the space is available. It restricted me at one point when my daughter was around 2. I was in college, and I was working and taking care of her, and because I couldn't find a free childcare service, like a Head Start or daycare, I ended up having to pay, and even they weren't up to my standards. Now, parents like me will have a choice."

Barbara Vargas,
Morrisania



"I think it's going to be beneficial because a lot of people come back from work late, so if the childcare is expanded, it's going to give them the opportunity to do other things, and it's going to make people's lives easier. They can work overtime, or on Saturday they can pick up some hours and right now, things are really going crazy financially so it's going to help them. It's going to have a positive impact on people's lives. I think it's a good thing; it's a win, win."

Augustine Ojarikre,
Fordham Manor



"Yeah, I think it would help. My daughter works for the immigration department and another daughter is working for Social Security. With my son-in-law, one week he works in the house and another week he goes to the office. It's a problem but I don't know...it's a lot of [expletive] problems, a lot of problems. My granddaughter doesn't have a key. Maybe another apartment could have daycare here. She needs it, but I'm working. Yes, maybe they should expand it."

Andy Sabino,
Fordham Manor



"Oh yes, definitely. Of course, it would give us childcare providers more jobs and opportunities. Yes, something like that I feel would be an excellent idea for the council people to open up more jobs. It's been very, very hard because the parents don't have the funds; they don't have the money to pay, and some have left their jobs due to the vaccine [mandate] and they don't want to get it."

Jessica Nunez,
Norwood

Photos 1 to 4 by David Greene. Photo 5 courtesy of Jessica Nunez.

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Hundreds Attend Peace Rally in Devoe Park

By DAVID GREENE

Youngsters were treated to an end-of-summer party as Friends of Devoe Park (FoDP) hosted their first 'Peace Rally and Back to School Giveaway,' in Devoe Park on Saturday, Sept. 10. Held inside the park, located along University Avenue between Father Zeiser Place and West Fordham Road in Fordham Manor, the event opened with a unity and protection prayer by FoDP core group member, Myrna Calderon.

FoDP were supported on the day by local elected officials and the NYPD who provided security for the event. It was organized by FoDP members, John Howard, Calderon, Rachel Miller-Bradshaw, Tobie Buford, Kenson Clarke, Erika Gonzalez and Juan Carlos Melgarejo, and hosted by Miller-Bradshaw.

Outgoing Assembly Member José Rivera (A.D. 78) provided COVID-19 home test kits and bookbags and his wife, Blanche Rivera, was also seen volunteering on the day distributing the bags, filled with supplies, some of which were donated by Fordham Hill Owners Corporation & Prestige Management.

There was also plenty of free food and a DJ, and the City Parks Foundation providing balloon artists, face-painters and ice cream, which all added to the fun-filled atmosphere. Rep. Adriano Espaillat (NY-13) spoke at the event and later mingled with attendees.

Darelyn Heckstall from the Postgraduate Center for Mental Health, located at 1775 Grand Concourse in Mt. Hope, spoke to park goers about the various services they provided to the community, while cure violence group, Bronx Rises Against Gun Violence (B.R.A.G.) addressed the crowd about their ongoing anti-violence mission.

United Federation of Teachers (UFT) members were also present, providing free books which were placed in many of the 500 backpacks that were given away on the day.

State Sen. Robert Jackson (S.D. 31) of Manhattan, the first Muslim to serve in the New York State senate, was also in attendance, supplying bookbags and school materials which he distributed at the event. The senator appeared confident he would commence serving as senator to Bronx residents, effective Jan. 1, 2023, in the Morris Heights, University Heights, Fordham Heights, Kingsbridge Heights neighborhoods, as well as in some parts of Riverdale, should he win the general election on Nov. 8.

"This is an event to promote peace and in fact, I've said my number one concern is the safety and security of the people I represent," Jackson said. "That's *numero uno*! I was talking to the police officers which are the community affairs people about it, and I've mentioned it to the people, when I spoke about primary issues and concerns."

Jackson added, "Besides that, education, education, education, affordable housing for everyone, [having] enough food to eat; these are basic necessities that we need to have just to sustain the family, and that's what I'm going to be



Photo by David Greene

CHILDREN HAVE AN old-fashioned duel with balloons in Devoe Park as part of the 'End of Summer Peace Rally' hosted by Friends of Devoe Park in Fordham Manor on Saturday, Sept. 10, 2022.

doing. I'm doing it now, and I will be doing it in January."

Also present was chief of staff for new mom, District 14 City Council Member Pierina Sanchez, Samantha Cardenas, who represented the councilwoman who, herself, was on maternity leave. Her office also provided book bags, face-masks and COVID-19 test kits, while Staples on Broadway donated other school supplies.

Miller-Bradshaw, who is also president of local political organization, Northwest Bronx Democrats for Change, and the newly elected Democratic State committeewoman for the 78th Assembly District, told *Norwood News* on the day, "We wanted to do something to promote peace, anti-gun violence, community, love for one another. So, what we've done is, we've kind of combined that with education." She added that education was the solution to the problem of "youth engaging in criminal activity."

Miller-Bradshaw later recalled the founding of FoDP when the park was listed as "a high-needs park." With the assistance of the City Parks Foundation, the group has sought funding, assistance from local officials and publicity since the group was founded in 2017.

"Since then, we've been very happy with the results; it's been a safer park," she said. "It's been cleaner. We're getting the attention that we need from our local legislators." Miller-Bradshaw added that this was important given there were few parks in the "densely populated" area of Fordham Manor.

52nd Precinct commanding officer, Deputy Inspector Jeremy Scheublin, explained his attendance on the day, saying, "I came here to say thank you to Friends of Devoe Park, Myrna Calderon, Rachel Miller-Bradshaw, not only for inviting us here today, but also for the continued partnership in our mission in and around Devoe Park and Fordham Hill Oval."

in efforts to continue to build a rapport with the community. "Much of what we've done here is because of the rapport that we have, and the partnership that we have, and we work with them [FoDP] on an ongoing basis."

Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson also stopped by to close out the event, telling the remaining crowd, "I look forward to building new partnerships with the friends' organization, with all of our tenant leaders and advocates."

She continued, "I wanted to stress, very important for the west side of The Bronx, we're going to reimagine the Kingsbridge Armory. We're going to do it with a community-oriented approach, with the community, with all of the different partners and organizations, and we're going to create good paying jobs that build sustainability and a pathway to the middle class, but we cannot do it without you."

Gibson concluded, "So, whether you live in the Kingsbridge community or not, I want you to know that the armory is going to transform the entire Bronx and it's going to be a model for the entire city of New York of how we work together."

For more information on FoDP or a listing of their upcoming events, visit their Facebook page at Friends of Devoe Park Community or email them at: Friendsofdevoep@gmail.com.

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NEWS BRIEFS

By SÍLE MOLONEY

New Law Covers Breast Cancer Survivors' Surgery

Gov. Kathy Hochul signed new legislation on Oct. 14 that will aid breast cancer survivors during their recovery. The new law will ensure that breast cancer survivors who choose to have chest reconstruction surgery after a mastectomy or partial mastectomy have proper insurance coverage. The governor signed the bill during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, observed in October.

Under the new law, both breast reconstruction and chest wall reconstruction will be covered by insurance, giving women a choice in how they want their post-mastectomy bodies to look. The law also will ensure doctors discuss the option of chest wall reconstruction with their patients so they can make an informed decision.

Public Loan Forgiveness Deadline Oct. 31

The Biden administration is reminding Americans that it's easier than ever for public servants, those working in public or private non-profit organizations, to get loan forgiveness under temporary changes to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program. Examples of those who qualify include nurses, teachers, faculty and school staff, doctors, U.S. military service members, peace corps, firefighters, police officers, non-profit employees, and government employees. Learn more at <http://PSLF.gov> and apply by Oct. 31.

Sukkot Celebration Held at City Hall

City Council Speaker Adrienne E. Adams and District 11 City Councilman and Jewish caucus chair, Eric Dinowitz, recently hosted a Sukkot Celebration at City Hall. The ceremony was attended by Council Members Lynn Schulman, Julie Menin, Ari Kagan, Linda Lee, Sandra Ung, Selvena Brooks Powers, Kevin Riley, Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, Rabbi Bob Kaplan, Rabbi Shmuel Butman and

New Unity Democratic Club Launches in The Bronx

(from page 3)

candidate, Eric Dinowitz, son of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81), both of whom are club members. The club denies the allegations.

There is also the Northwest Bronx Democrats, a political organization, which has endorsed and continues to endorse a mix of both Democratic and Republican candidates. The group most recently backed Republican candidate, Phyllis "Tiz" Nastasio, over Democrat, John Zaccaro, in the upcoming A.D. 80

race on Nov. 8. In the past, the group has endorsed Republican, Gene DeFrancis, leader of the Allerton Merchants Association and former marine, who confirmed he attended a Proud Boys rally in Washington D.C. in December 2020.

There is also the Northwest Bronx Democrats for Change who have a strong following in the University Heights and Fordham Manor neighborhoods, and which has successfully canvassed for the likes of Rep. Adriano Espaillat (NY-13), District 15 City Coun-

cil Member Oswald Feliz, and most recently, Democratic candidate for Assembly District 78, George Alvarez.

For Guggenheim, meanwhile, the new Unity Democratic Club is about understanding equity. "We understand equity is central, and equity does not happen by default," she said. "It must have a real plan of action: access, resources, and equitable practices. The Unity Democratic Club will continue this work and I am proud to be a founding member."



Photo courtesy of State Sen. Robert Jackson via Twitter

(L TO R) STATE SEN. Robert Jackson (S.D. 31), Morgan Blair-Evers, Ramdat Singh, State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33), Danielle Guggenheim, Betsey Knapp and Abigail Martin attend the launch of the Unity Democratic Club on Oct. 3 at The Bronx Public eatery located at 170 West 231st Street in Kingsbridge Heights. Singh and Martin are newly elected Democratic district leaders of the 81st assembly district.

Simon "Shimi" Pelman. Adams said the council was pleased to honor Kaplan and Pelman for their dedication to strengthening community relations.

According to Dinowitz's office, also known as "The Harvest Festival," Sukkot is a weeklong Jewish holiday that comes five days after Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, which refers to the culmination of the ten "Days of Awe," a period of introspection and repentance that follows Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. Sukkot celebrates the gathering of the harvest and commemorates the miraculous protection God provided for the children of Israel when they left Egypt.

State Debt Fee Relief or Students

Gov. Kathy Hochul signed new legislation on Oct. 13, which ends the practice by the State of charging indebted students an additional fee when collecting outstanding debts owed to the State for educational expenses. Prior to this law, a fee of 22 percent was added, under State law, to the total debt owed by students. Various State agencies had been collecting educational debts owed to the State, and when unable to collect through traditional means, the debts were sometimes referred to the Office of the Attorney General's civil recoveries bureau.

Torres, Gillibrand Receive Digital Future Award

Democrats, Rep. Ritchie Torres (NY-15), who will represent Norwood from Jan. 1, 2023, should he be reelected in the upcoming general election, and U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, were recently honored with the Crypto Council for Innovation's Digital Future Award, which recognizes government leaders across the political spectrum for their initiative, engagement, and commitment to U.S. leadership in the crypto space. Julio Barrios, founder and CEO of Bronx Crypto, Inc., a cryptocurrency learning platform, said he was encouraged and proud to see New York's elected officials honored for what he said was their forward-thinking and

early interest in emerging technologies which he said will transform New York City.

"These are the investments of the future that have the potential to build generational wealth for those historically left out of banking and economic prosperity," he said. "Already, we are seeing small businesses accepting digital coins for transactions and using NFTs [non-fungible tokens] to create additional streams of revenue." According to euromoney.com, Blockchain is a system of recording information in a way that makes it difficult or impossible to change, hack, or cheat the system. A blockchain is a digital ledger of transactions, duplicated and distributed across an entire network of computer systems.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

General Election Nov. 8

The general election takes place on Tuesday, Nov. 8, and polls are open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Early voting takes place from Saturday, Oct. 29, to Sunday, Nov. 6. If voting early, find your early voting site, which may be different from your designated election day poll site at: findmypollsite.vote.nyc.

During the June and August primaries, the usual poll sites for many residents changed due to redistricting, causing confusion for some voters. **Ensure to check your designated poll site ahead of time to allow yourself sufficient time to vote.**

Domestic Violence Awareness Resources

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic or gender-based violence, help is available. Call 311 and ask to be connected to a NYC Family Justice Center or walk-in Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call the NYC 24/7 Domestic Violence Hotline on 1-800-621-4673.

Dental Hygiene Month

October is National Dental Hygiene Month. Tips for good oral health include brushing teeth twice a day, flossing daily, eating healthily, avoiding tobacco, limiting alcohol, visiting the dentist, and asking about fluoride treatments. To find low-cost dental treatment near you, search the NYC Health Map: <https://on.nyc.gov/3yglY17>.

Free English Classes

Practice your English while getting to know your community, regardless of immigration status, with free English classes offered by the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs. Sign up at <https://wespeaknyc.cityofnewyork.us/>.

Bronx Community Board 7 News

Bronx Community Board 7 (CB7) district manager, Ischia Bravo, has been appointed, effective Jan. 2, 2023, as county clerk for Bronx County at the Supreme Court of The State of New York Appellate Division, first judicial department. Her replacement has not yet been announced.

Elections for various roles on the board are due to be held in November. Karla Cabrera-Carrera, assistant district manager of Bronx CB7, said nominations will take place in October, and elections in November. As reporter, the chair of the board, Emmanuel Martinez, stepped down over the summer.

Public Safety Town Hall

District 11 city councilman, Eric Dinowitz, and deputy mayor for public safety, Philip Banks, will host a public safety town hall on Monday, Oct. 24, at 5 p.m. at Lehman College, 250 Bedford Park Boulevard West. There will be a Q&A held afterwards.

Affordable Housing Lotteries

An affordable housing lottery launched for senior housing units at 305 East 165th Street in Concourse with a deadline of Nov. 1. An affordable housing lottery launched for units at 2 Mount Hope Place in Mt. Hope, with a deadline of Oct. 31. An affordable housing lottery launched for units at 322 Grand Concourse in Mott Haven, with a deadline of Dec. 8. For more information, call the Afford-

able Housing Lottery Helpline on (212) 863-7990 or email: nychousingconnect@hpd.nyc.gov

For information on applying for affordable housing for people with disabilities, call (212) 863-6486 or email: accessibility@hpd.nyc.gov. HPD housing ambassadors can be reached at ambassadors@hpd.nyc.gov.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Women are encouraged to make an appointment to get screened. Bronxites can also participate in an NYC Health+Hospitals/NCB walk in support of Breast Cancer Awareness on Sunday, Oct. 23, at 8 a.m. starting at

Bay Blaza Shopping Center, 200 Baychester Avenue, Bronx, NY 10475. All funds raised go to the American Cancer Society. Email Vanessa.Eaddy@nychcc.org for more information. Go to <https://bit.ly/3fd6njY> to register.

Learn more about women's health services offered by NYCH+H at <https://bit.ly/3D5kpxF>. According to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), sometimes breast cancer shows no symptoms nor warning signs, not even a lump. Screening is important. If you have trouble paying for a breast cancer screening, the CDC offers free or low-cost screenings to women who qualify. Go to: <https://bit.ly/3NP4A0f>.



Cardinal McCloskey
COMMUNITY SERVICES

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cmcs.org/Early-Childhood-Education

We offer Early Head Start, Head Start, DOE UPK and Family Child Care programs within the Bronx. Low-income families are eligible. Our Services include programs for pregnant women, free full-day childcare for children ages birth to 3 years old and Center Based programs for children 3-5 years old.



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- Children Birth to 5 Years Old
- Pregnant Women
- Free Early Head Start Services with Qualified Providers for Infants & Toddlers. 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
- DOE UPK and Family Child Care Programs
- Bilingual Programs

CONTACT US: Gilda Morales-Aleman & Alexander Martinez

Phone: 718-993-7700 ext. 915 & 924

Email: gmoralesaleman@cmcs.org & AlexanderMartinez@cmcs.org



Columbus Day Celebrated in Morris Park

By DAVID GREENE

Despite the warm weather and a smaller than usual crowd size, several hundred youngsters who made up a number of marching bands from local Bronx schools participated in the 45th Annual Bronx Columbus Day Parade in Morris Park on Sunday, Oct. 9.

Sponsored by the Morris Park Community Association, this year's parade featured Grand Marshal, retired New York Supreme Court Justice Nick Lacovetta, and honorary Deputy Grand Marshal, Ray Vitiello, the archdiocesan regional superintendent of Northeast / East Bronx Catholic Schools.

Among the elected officials marching in this year's parade were Assemblyman Michael Benadetto (A.D. 82), Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark, Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez (A.D. 80), Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, and District 13 Councilwoman Marjorie Velazquez.

Also marching was Queens Republican / Conservative candidate in the New York State Assembly, Samantha Zherka (A.D. 34), while joining officials at the reviewing stand on Williamsbridge Road was Republican congressman, Lee Zeldin, who represents two-thirds of Suffolk County and who is the current Republican



Photo by David Greene

YOUNG STUDENTS FROM St. Clare of Assisi School march through the streets of Morris Park during the annual Bronx Columbus Day Parade on Sunday, October 9, 2022.

candidate for governor.

Seventy-eight-year Morris Park resident, Antoinette Penta, was busy applauding marchers as they passed her by on Morris Park Avenue, while she sat in a lounge chair. Penta said she has never missed a parade, but this year gave a thumbs down to local officials.

The senior adult fumed as she was asked about her local elected officials, saying, "They destroyed our community, all of them! They're all crooks,

the mayor, everybody!" When asked about Fernandez, who represents Morris Park, Penta told Norwood News, "I told her to go away, I told her to go home."

Penta then took a swing at Velazquez also, adding, "Forget about it! We haven't seen her in two-years." Velázquez assumed her position as councilwoman on Jan. 1, 2022. Penta continued, "They only come around for elections, and they destroyed everything around us; it's destroyed!"

Asked given she is no longer happy in the neighborhood, if she considered moving, Penta smiled and replied, "I'm a Morris Park girl!"

Watching over the crowd and getting an occasional pat on the head was NYPD Transit Officer "Argus" of the K-9 Unit. Argus was named in honor of fallen NYPD police officer, Joseph Piagentini, who was shot and killed with his partner in a public housing complex near the Harlem River Drive in Manhattan on May 21, 1971.



Letters To The Editor

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

Republicans No Solution

Crime is a problem on the subways, where it is making people reluctant to use what would for some be an otherwise convenient mode of mass transit. Also, the random nature of current crime is scary, but Richard Marias' contention, in his "Taxpayers are the Losers in NYC," letter to the editor in the *Norwood News* October 6-19 issue, that electing Republicans would be the answer is greatly flawed.

The last time New York City had a Republican mayor while the State had a Republican governor, crime was higher. In 2001, there were 162,908 major felonies, which included 649 homicides. In 2021, those figures were 102,741 and 488 respectively. But the biggest problem is that the Republican candidate for governor, Lee Zeldin, and many others in his party still support Donald Trump. Now that's far from the only objection I have to Republicans. But that's the biggest and most important.

There are many things wrong with the Democrats, but they're still better, and they're not trying to make anyone a dictator. I have voted for Green Party candidates in the past. Unless one of the major parties greatly improves, I would hope either the Greens or some other benevolent party would emerge. But I do wish for the Democrats to do better on the upcoming Election Day. When the Republicans are threatening to take from us what freedom

we do have, voting against them is a simple act of self-defense. But if the Democrats were *really* good, I think the Republicans would be out of business, and vice versa.

**Richard Warren,
Van Cortlandt Village**

Editor's Note: The referenced crime stats are as per NYPD historical data.

Daily National Debt Clock

Our national debt has now reached \$31.130 trillion and is on a path to grow by trillions more for years to come. Today's tab averages \$93,423 per citizen or \$247,325 per taxpayer according to the October 8, 2022, National Debt Clock.

It is time to install a national debt clock with daily updates in both Congress and the White House. They can see how much they are adding to long term debt every time they pass spending bills dependent upon borrowing to pay the tab.

Who is going to bail out Uncle Sam to pay for this?

Government, the private sector, and citizens must make difficult financial decisions on how to use existing resources. Americans prioritize their own family budgets. They make the hard choices in how existing household financial resources will be spent. The president and congress should do likewise.

The world's favored currency is our dollar. This could end if Washington does not control annual increases in spending and debt. If things continue the way they are, China may surpass us, and the yuan may become the world's favored currency. Our reign as the #1 superpower will come to an end, like all empires.

**Larry Penner
Great Neck**

Editor's Note: According to <https://fiscaldata.treasury.gov>, the latest national debt figure as of Oct. 17, 2022, is \$31.144 trillion.

Elections Have Consequences

I would urge all my fellow Bronxites to vote for Republican and/or Conservative candidates this Nov. 8, 2022, at all levels of government. We must send a message to NYS Assemblyman Carl Heastie and NYS State Senator Andres Stewart Cousins that we are tired of their legislation, aiding criminals and reducing the opportunities for judges to keep arrested persons behind bars before trial. You all see the rise of crime by people just arrested but out on the streets before police officers get out of the court building! Don't complain about crime if you support the people who allow criminals to act without consequences. These current crop of Democratic politicians in office are like dirty diapers - they need to be changed!!!

**Richard Marias,
Norwood**

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.

Out & About

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

EVENTS

The **21st Annual Fall Festival** takes place on Saturday, Oct. 22, from noon to 5 p.m. on Jerome Avenue between East Mosholu Parkway North and East Gun Hill Road in Norwood. There will be food, music, games, face-painting, arts & crafts and more.

The 52nd Precinct youth coordination officers and District 11 Councilman Eric Dinowitz will be hosting a **Trunk or Treat Halloween Party** at the 52nd Precinct stationhouse at 3016 Webster Avenue in Norwood on Monday, Oct. 31, at 5 p.m. All are welcome.

The Office of the Bronx Borough President and partners will host a **Hispanic Heritage Celebration** at Bronx Community College, Colston Hall Lower Level, 2155 University Avenue in University Heights on Thursday, Oct. 20, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Email smalave@bronxbp.nyc.gov for more information.

The **10th Annual Miss Abbie's Kids Halloween Health Wellness Fair and Block Event** will take place on Monday, Oct. 31, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 2553 Decatur Avenue in Fordham Manor. Hosted by Artistup, with a range of sponsors, there will be music by Square Root Entertainment, health resources, treats, face-painting, on-site screenings, surprises, raffles & more!

Dorothy Day at 125: A Conversation with Martha Hennessy and Robert Ellsberg about activist, journalist and founder of the Catholic Worker

Movement, Dorothy Day, will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 1 at 5:30 p.m. at Manhattan College's Kelly Student Commons, 5B, at 3900 Waldo Ave., The Bronx, NY 10463.

Kingsbridge Heights Community Center, located at 3101 Kingsbridge Terrace, The Bronx, NY 10463, is hosting a **Harvest Fest** on Thursday, Oct. 27 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. All are welcome.

Council Member Kevin Riley is hosting a **Trunk or Treat event** on Saturday, Oct. 29, from noon to 3 p.m. at the Northeast Bronx YMCA. Call 718-684-5509 or email SiJones@council.nyc.gov for more information.

Norwood Community Library will be giving out free books at 169 East Gun Hill Road on Sunday, Oct. 23, from noon to 3 p.m.

The 37th **Bronx Annual Halloween** parade will take place on Saturday, Oct. 22, at noon. Assembly line-up at Simpson Street between E 163rd Street and Westchester Avenue in the Woodstock neighborhood of the South Bronx. There are four age categories for most creative costume. Email events@bxc22.events for more information.

Enjoy **Live Stand-Up Comedy** at the Bronx Brewery on Thursday, Nov. 10, from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. sponsored by **NY Comedy Festival**, bringing to you some of the funniest comedians from NYC and national touring artists,

and hosted by Stephen Hightower and Ishmael Gaynor. Reserve tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/comedy-night-bronx-brewery-tickets-117858005467?aff=ebdssbddestsearch>.

ART

The Bronx Museum of the Arts is accepting applications for the 43rd cycle of the AIM Fellowship Artist Open Call program. The AIM Fellowship provides **no-cost career-boosting resources to New York City-based visual artists who are at the early stages of their careers** and seek to make a serious commitment to creative expression as a professional artist. Apply by Oct. 24, 2022 here: <https://bronxmuseum.submittable.com/submit/237011/2023-bronx-museum-aim-fellowship>.

Spanning over a decade of work, **Abigail DeVille: Bronx Heavens** exhibit has been extended through April 9, 2023, at The Bronx Museum of the Arts, located at 1040 Grand Concourse and 165th Street, and examines the myths and realities of local, familial, and ancestral histories and the convoluted notion of freedom. The Bronx has served as a sanctuary for immigrant and migrant communities, including for the artist and several generations of her family who have lived in the area and were part of the Great Migration. DeVille's work unearths forgotten narratives of communities of color and explores issues of identity, culture, and class.

MUSIC

Michael Spierman, founder/conductor of the Orchestra of The Bronx, announces the opening of the 2022-23 season on Sunday, Oct. 23, at 3 p.m. at the orchestra's home base of Lehman College, with a program of Haydn, Mendelssohn, and Rossini. Joining the 40-member orchestra of musicians drawn from other major orchestras and Broadway shows is special guest violinist, Garry Ianco. Concerts continue

to be free of charge, in accordance with the company's mission to enable people of all income levels to experience the beauty of the orchestral repertoire.

The Fall Concert with the Bardekova Ensemble takes place on Sunday, Oct. 30, at 3 p.m. at the Woolworth Chapel, Woodlawn Cemetery, Jerome Avenue entrance in Woodlawn. From classical to classic jazz, the Bardekova Ensemble will present music from Beethoven and Mozart to Duke Ellington and Celia Cruz. This event is at capacity, but a waiting list is open. To be added to the list, please email contact@woodlawnconservancy.org.

DANCE

The Lehman College Department of Music, Multimedia, Theatre & Dance at 250 Bedford Pk Blvd. W, Bronx, NY 10468 presents "Dance in Dialog" on Thursday, Oct. 20, and Friday, Oct. 21, at 7 p.m. This event is free. Choreography by Jason Rodriguez and Beverly Lopez.

MOVEMENT

The Annual **Tour de Bronx** bike ride is back for its 28th year and this year, will be open to 1,000 riders from across the borough and tri-state area. The 25-mile free cycling event through historical districts, beautiful waterfronts and lush greenways will officially begin on Sunday, Oct. 23, at 10 a.m. on 161st Street and the Grand Concourse and will conclude with a free festival and concert at the New York Botanical Garden. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tour-de-bronx-2022-registration-414734460937>.

Bronx Nomads running group generally meets at the Williamsbridge Oval track on Mondays and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. All levels are welcome.

BronxWorks and **Twin Parks West Older Adult Center**, 355 East 183rd Street, Bronx, NY 10458, invites residents to come join some fun classes Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Farewell to Summer at Fordham Street Fair

By DAVID GREENE

Bronxites bid farewell to Summer 2022 at the Fordham Road Business Improvement District (BID) Annual Street Fair in Fordham Manor on Saturday, Oct. 8, after the event was postponed due to rain at the end of September. According to the Fordham Road BID's website, the Street Fair is the largest street festival in The Bronx.

The Fordham Road BID is a non-profit founded in 2005 with the aim of fostering promoting and growing local businesses. Held along East Fordham Road,

between the Grand Concourse and East Kingsbridge Road, the daylong event featured concession stands featuring food from local restaurants, as well as free rides, carnival games, and music for the young and not so young.

Members of the 52nd Precinct's NYPD Explorers program were on hand on the day recruiting youngsters aged between 14 and 21 for its volunteer program.

The busy business corridor saw substantial damage to several stores during the protests



Photo by Steve Bobker

LOCAL BUSINESS, CITY Jeans, holds a raffle with free giveaways during the Fordham Road Street Fair in Fordham Manor on Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022.

in the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd in early June 2020, along with some closures amid the pandemic.

In early August, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson

joined NYC Small Business Services commissioner, Kevin Kim, Fordham Road BID executive director, Wilma Alonso, and the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation team,

on a walk through the district. Gibson later said, "We remain committed to enhancing public safety and supporting our small businesses."

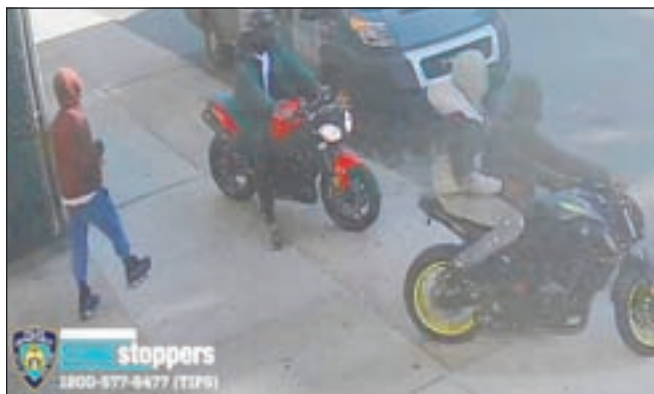
One day prior to the fair, under more glorious sunshine, on Friday, Oct. 7, Fordham Plaza was awash with excitement as NYC Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment sponsored the "Broadway in the Boros," outdoor event, with performances from renowned shows, "Wicked," "Moulin Rouge! The Musical" and "Kinky Boots."

Meanwhile, Fordham Road shoppers have more to look forward to with the grand opening of a new Target store on Sunday, Oct. 23.

**Síle Moloney contributed to this story.*

CRIME FILE

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



Five Sought in Armed Robbery Pattern

The NYPD is asking for the public's help locating the people seen in the accompanying photo who are sought in connection to a local gunpoint robbery pattern identified in Van Cortlandt Village. Police said the first incident took place on Monday, Oct. 10, at around 2.39 p.m. when two victims, a 34-year-old woman and a 26-year-old man were walking in the vicinity of Sedgwick Avenue and Hillman Avenue. Police said five unidentified male motorcyclists pulled out a gun and demanded their property.

They said they grabbed the woman's necklace and demanded her cellphone while also demanding cash from the man, before fleeing eastbound on Sedgwick Avenue. The value of the stolen property is approximately \$1,800. There were no physical injuries resulting from the incident.

Police said the second incident occurred on Monday, Oct. 10, at around 3.10 p.m., when the victim, a 21-year-old man, was walking in the vicinity of West 238th Street and Bailey Avenue. Police said four unidentified male motorcyclists approached the victim, pulled out a gun, and stole his chain and cellphone. They later fled eastbound on West 238th Street to parts unknown, police said. The value of the stolen property is estimated at \$3,200. There were no physical injuries resulting from the incident.

The group are described as male, are estimated to be between 16 and 18 years of age, and were seen riding two motorcycles, a red and black one and a black and yellow one.

Woman Charged with Alleged Assault on Husband

A woman was charged with an alleged assault on her husband in the Van Cortlandt Village section of The Bronx,

police said. According to the NYPD, officers responded to an incident at 112 Van Cortlandt Avenue West at 7.10 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 17. Police said a 37-year-old woman, Unme Tanjina, was charged with assault for allegedly striking her 43-year-old husband in the head with a cellphone.

No further details on whether the assault took place in the midst of a struggle are known at this time. Citizen Users posted a video of a number of police vehicles at the location shortly after the incident occurred, and one user of the platform said an ambulance had been requested at the scene. *Norwood News* contacted the emergency services to obtain the status of any injuries. We did not receive a response as of press date.

October marks Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and several events were organized to raise awareness of the issue across The Bronx, which has the highest domestic violence rate per head of population in New York City. From July 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2021, The Bronx recorded 797 chronic domestic violence complaints, compared to 429 in Manhattan, 598 in Queens, 183 in Staten Island, and 815 in Brooklyn.

Those working in both law enforcement and directly with survivors of domestic violence say incidents are generally underreported. If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic or gender-based violence, help is available. Call 311 and ask to be connected to a NYC Family Justice Center or walk-in Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call the NYC 24/7 Domestic Violence Hotline on 1-800-621-4673. A person arrested and charged with a crime is deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

Fordham Manor: Capital One Bank Robbery

Police are searching for a man sought in connection with a reported robbery of a Capital One bank branch located on East Fordham Road in the Fordham Manor section of The Bronx. According to police, the incident which took place at the junction of East Fordham Road and 190th Street (at 151 East Fordham Road), reportedly occurred around 1.15 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 14, and the man sought is in his 40s, was wearing a white t-shirt and had red dye on his face and hands. He reportedly fled on the number 4 train after the incident.

Scooter-Riders Sought in Slashing / Shooting

The NYPD has released photos of two people sought for questioning in connection to an assault that occurred in Fordham Heights last month and are asking for the public's help locating both suspects. They said that on Wednesday, Sept. 28, at around 7.25 a.m. in the vicinity of Tiebout Avenue and East 182nd Street, a 43-year-old man was approached by the two men on a black, two-wheeled scooter device.

Police said one of the scooter riders fired at the male victim, striking him once in the back. The same individual displayed a sharp object and slashed the victim about the face. Both suspects then fled northbound on Tiebout Avenue. EMS responded and transported the victim to St. Barnabas Hospital in stable condition. One of the two was described as male, is around 40 years of age, has black hair, a light skin complexion, and was last seen wearing a black, hooded sweater, black sweatpants, black sneakers and was driving the scooter.

Police Confiscate Illegal Weed Truck

After complaints to 311 from residents in Fordham Manor, officers from the 52nd Precinct removed an ice cream truck from the streets that wasn't selling ice cream. 52nd Precinct commanding officer, Deputy Inspector Jeremy Scheublin, confirmed that an occupant of the truck with painted graffiti on all sides advertising the sale of "Lover's Lane Exotics," was indeed involved with the illegal sale of weed, adding that the truck was recently seen operating at Valentine Avenue and East 194th Street.

Scheublin said following some community complaints

to 311, the truck is now in police custody and "violations were issued to those involved." He declined to say how much pot was confiscated. *Norwood News* is waiting for feedback on a request placed with the NYPD press office on the date of confiscation of the truck, along with other questions regarding the incident.

On Aug. 28, the Mayor's office announced that New Yorkers can now apply for the State's first cannabis retail dispensary licenses, adding that licenses for those most harmed by cannabis prohibition would be prioritized. More details can be found at nyc.gov/cannabis. Meanwhile, U.S. President Joe Biden announced on Oct. 6, that he was pardoning all prior federal offenses of simple marijuana possession.

NYPD Proposes New Rules for Gun Licenses

The NYPD announced on Friday, Oct. 14, that the agency is releasing proposed rules concerning the issuance of gun licenses. According to agency, the proposed rules seek to amend gun licensing standards following the Supreme Court decision in the case of *New York State Rifle & Pistol Ass'n v. Bruen*, 142 S. Ct. 2111 (2022), as well as recent statewide legislation governing gun licensing. If adopted, the agency's proposed rules will make emergency rules, issued in August and September of 2022, permanent.

NYPD officials said, in part, "Specifically, the proposed rules will amend the minimum age to obtain a rifle/shotgun permit from 18 to 21; codify hearing procedures for licensees whose licenses have been suspended or revoked; require applicants to attest that they have received the rules for license revocation, the laws relating to sensitive and restricted locations, and the requirements for safe storage of a firearm."

The newly proposed rules, if adopted, would also eliminate the "proper cause" and "good cause" standards; update the rules to allow for electronic filing of applications and documents to obtain or renew a firearm license; and add State law requirements to receive a carry license, such as four character references, and a list of current and former social media accounts from the last three years.

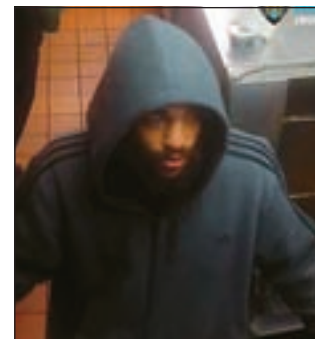
It would also require ap-

plicants for a carry license to certify that they completed the training course and live-fire training course, as required, pursuant to section 400.00(19) of the Penal Law; repeal the pre-license exemption application for applicants who need to use a gun for instructional purposes; add a two-hour live firearms training requirement in connection with renewal applications for carry licenses; require that when a handgun is outside of the licensee's immediate possession or control, the handgun is safeguarded with a safety locking device and stored in a locked container.

A public hearing will be held on the matter on Nov. 18, in the first-floor auditorium of 1 Police Plaza. The proposed rules will not go into effect until the NYPD posts the final rules sometime after this public hearing.

Man Sought following Store Robbery

The NYPD is asking the public's help identifying the person seen in the accompanying photo who is sought for questioning in connection to a commercial burglary that occurred in Fordham Manor. Officers from the 52nd Precinct said that on Tuesday, Oct. 4, at around 2.40 a.m., an unidentified male individual entered, through an unlocked front door, a restaurant located at 305 East Fordham Road. Once inside, police said the person stole two speakers and a sweatshirt, before fleeing the location. The photo is taken from the incident location.



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

Bravo Appointed Bronx County Clerk at NYS Supreme Court

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Ischia Bravo, district manager for Bronx Community Board 7, has been appointed effective Jan. 2, 2023, as the county clerk for Bronx County at the Supreme Court of the State of New York Appellate Division, First Judicial Department.

The news was announced in a press release on Wednesday, Oct. 19, by presiding Justice Rolando T. Acosta. According to the press release, in her new capacity as county clerk, Bravo will be responsible for the oversight of one of the State's busiest county clerk's offices and will serve several functions, including as clerk of the Supreme Court, civil branch, Bronx County and the commissioner of jurors for the Supreme Court, Bronx County, for both the civil and criminal branches.

Court officials confirmed the appointment was made by a unanimous vote of the Appellate Division, First Department pursuant to Article 13 of the New York State Constitution. "Ischia Bravo has worked in public service for more than 15 years, most recently as district manager for Bronx Community Board 7 since 2018," the press release read. "She has previously worked as executive director of the Bronx Democratic county committee, with nonprofit organizations, and in the offices of a U.S. congressman and New York state senator."

Acosta said Bravo had extensive experience conducting public hearings to understand community concerns, liaising with government officials and community leaders, and managing teams of more than 50 employees and budgets over \$500,000.

"The Court is pleased to appoint Ischia Bravo to the position of Bronx County Clerk following a rigorous, merit-based hiring process," he said. "I convened a committee of five Justices, which reviewed nearly 300 applications, selected eight of the most highly qualified candidates for interviews, and recommended a select few of the most impressive candidates to me."

Acosta continued, "From that list, I interviewed the top two candidates and found Ms. Bravo to be the most highly qualified, based on her credentials as a longstanding public servant and lifelong resident of the Bronx, her clearly expressed enthusiasm for public service, and her passion for inspiring the people of Bronx County to participate in local government. I recommended Ms. Bravo to the Court, which approved her appointment unanimously."

He went on to say that he would be remiss if he failed to note the historic nature of the appointment, as Bravo will be the first woman and first Latina to serve as Bronx County Clerk. "I am hopeful that insofar as her appointment will contribute to our 'gorgeous mosaic,' as former Mayor David Dinkins put it, even more residents of the Bronx will see themselves reflected in their public servants."

He added, "The Court is confident that Ms. Bravo will serve honorably in her new role, will improve operations in the Bronx County Clerk's Office and Supreme Court, and will make the people of Bronx



Photo by Adi Talwar

ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT manager for Community Board 7, has been appointed as the county clerk for Bronx County at the Supreme Court of the State of New York Appellate Division, First Judicial Department.

County proud."

Acosta said the Court extended its gratitude to Kevin Rothenmel for serving as acting county clerk for the past two years. "By all accounts, he has done an excellent job, and we thank him for his service," the judge said.

Reacting to her appointment, Bravo said, "I look forward to continuing my public service career as the Bronx County Clerk. The Bronx is not only my home, but also my passion, and the people of The Bronx need and deserve strong representation in critical roles such as this one. Growing up in public housing, I know all too well the challenges faced by Bronxites, and the feeling of being forgotten by those in power."

She added, "As the Bronx county clerk, I will do my part to change that — to lead an office where residents feel welcomed and valued. I want people to know that they are not only getting the best service, but that they deserve the best service. This honor is particularly special to me because I will be the first Latina to serve in this position, making this a historic appointment taking place toward the end of Hispanic Heritage Month. I want to express my gratitude to Presiding Justice Rolando T. Acosta and the Court for this honor."

In light of the news, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, said, "We are so proud that former CB 7 District Manager, Ischia Bravo, has been appointed

the County Clerk of Bronx County!" She added, "She will be the FIRST WOMAN & LATINA to hold this title. This is huge! We are so proud and cannot wait to see all that she does in this position."

As reported, Bravo has previously ran for elected office, most recently as City Council member for District 15, a race that was ultimately won by incumbent District 15 city council member, Oswald Feliz, with Bravo finishing as runner-up. The CB7 district manager had garnered an impressive slate of endorsements, including one from Leandra Feliz, mother of slain Bronx teenager and NYPD Explorer member, Lesandro "Junior" Guzman-Feliz.

Bravo's move to the new role of Bronx county clerk leaves an open position for district manager on Bronx Community Board 7.

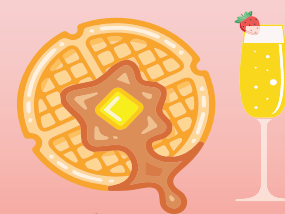
In addition, elections for various roles on the board are due to be held in the near future. Karla Cabrera-Carrera, assistant district manager of Bronx Community Board 7, said nominations will take place in October, and elections in November. As previously reported, chair of the board, Emmanuel Martinez, stepped down over the summer.



Photo by Síle Moloney

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7 district manager, Ischia Bravo (right) presides over the September 2022 Bronx Community Board 7 general board meeting held at Montefiore Hospital in the Norwood section of The Bronx, in the presence of some of the other Bronx Community Board 7 board members.

BRUNCH
BEACON



Come brunch with us

Sunday, October 23rd

11:00am - 3:00pm

Main Street / Beacon, NY

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Torres' Highest Priority for Small Business: Access to Capital

By JULIAN ROBERTS-GRMELA

Ahead of Election Day, Nov. 8, and in a bid perhaps to win over his future constituents in New York's redrawn 15th Congressional District, Rep. Ritchie Torres has said one of his highest priorities is to provide small businesses with access to capital.

The Democratic congressman was speaking at a virtual forum held on Thursday, Oct. 13, hosted by Biz2Credit, an NYC-based lending company for small businesses. Torres appeared as a guest alongside Long Island Republican, Rep. Andrew Garbarino.

"One of my strongest priorities is to ensure that we are doing everything we can in Congress to support the recovery of small business[es], which is the beating heart of the American economy," Torres said. "We have to ensure that small businesses have access to capital. That's going to be a priority of mine going forward."

The forum was moderated by Rohit Arora, CEO of Biz2Credit. Torres and Garbarino both gave short opening statements before answering selected questions from the audience. (Upon registering for the forum, *Norwood News* sent through a question about the congressman's plans for economic development in Norwood, but it was not asked during the event.)

Torres, who is a member of the congressional financial services committee, said small businesses in the service and retail industries have been struggling since the pandemic. "I'm in New York where the entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well, but what translates the entrepreneurial spirit into an *actual* business is access to capital," he said. "That's where we need to do more work."

Torres said there was a shortage of lending sources for small businesses. "We have a system where larger banks have an incentive to make large loans to large businesses, and small businesses tend to get left behind," he said. The Bronx congressman also said that the federal government needed to do a better job communicating with local communities about pre-existing opportunities to receive aid.

"Most of these programs are poorly marketed and exist as an abstraction, and people fail to feel them in their real lives," he said. "I feel like we, in the federal government, have to do a better job of communicating."

The congressman also expressed his concern about "aggressive" interest rate increases by the Federal Reserve to combat inflation. According to reporting by Vox on Sept. 8, when inflation goes up too much, one of the main policy tools employed by the Federal Reserve to slow things down is to raise interest rates. This makes borrowing more expensive, thus cooling off demand. However, this, in turn, can increase unemployment.

Meanwhile, as reported by The



Photo by Sile Moloney

ANTHONY'S FAMOUS GOURMET Deli, located on East Gun Hill Road in Norwood, pictured on Oct. 19, 2022 is one of many small businesses facing the brunt of inflation.

Guardian on Oct. 16, experts say that raising interest rates 'isn't working' (in terms of reducing inflation) and that the real culprits are corporate pricing, energy costs and supply chain issues.

Tony Ghazali, owner of 'Anthony's Famous Gourmet Deli' located on East Gun Hill Road in Norwood, told *Norwood News* by phone that increased supply chain prices *have* indeed forced him to raise prices, which is hurting sales. "Everything is expensive and nobody's buying nothing," the deli owner said, adding that the federal government should do what it can to reduce prices.

Torres said he was concerned that such "aggressive" interest rate increases could harm employees, make it more difficult for unestablished businesses to access loans, and not do much to reduce prices.

Torres said five interest rate increases by the Federal Reserve this year have had a "minimal" impact on inflation. "I've expressed to the chair of the Federal Reserve the concern 'that if we are too aggressive at raising interest rates, we risk the worst of both worlds: inflation and high unemployment, stagflation,'" Torres said. "We have to tread carefully."

Michael Brady, chair of the legislative affairs committee for the Bronx Chamber of Commerce and CEO of the Third Avenue Business Improvement District (BID), appeared to concur that raising interest rates made it more difficult for small businesses to access capital through loans because the interest rates are higher.

"Inflation is still up and it's also becoming more and more costly for small businesses to borrow money," Brady said. "As the [Federal Reserve] tries to

get inflation under control, they're raising the interest rates and that is essentially to pump the brakes on consumer spending. However, that's also constricting accessibility to capital for small business owners. So, it's a bit of a double-edged sword."

Brady also said the federal government should be offering more "low threshold, character-based" loans to small businesses.

"If small businesses are not able to get a business loan from a regular commercial bank because the interest rates are so prohibitive, there should be an entry point that is more accessible to small businesses who may not have a strong credit score or who may not have the appropriate revenue-to-debt ratio that folks are looking at," he said.

After the two congressmen left the forum, Arora instructed the audience to complete a multiple-choice survey on their biggest concerns as small business owners. According to the results, 27 percent responded, saying, "high inflation and supply chain disruption," 35 percent responded, saying, "lower revenue due to pandemic/economic effects," 16 percent responded, saying, "rising interest rates and financing costs," 11 percent selected "trouble hiring the right employees," and nine percent selected "not a business owner."

Meanwhile, in other small business-related news, The Bronx Chamber of Commerce recently shared an update on a \$250 million COVID-19 Capital Costs Tax Credit Program by New York State's Empire State Development (ESD) agency. The new program provides financial assistance to New York State small businesses burdened with a range of operational costs stemming from

the COVID-19 pandemic. These may include structural changes and building upgrades to health-related supplies and materials.

The program offers qualifying businesses relief from the added economic burden by providing tax credits to help reduce the pandemic-related financial impact. Small businesses can receive a tax credit of 50 percent of qualifying expenses, up to a maximum of \$25,000 in tax credits based on qualifying expenses of \$50,000.

Additionally, the chamber also shared the news that NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS) has launched a new grant program to support small Business Improvement Districts across the city, comprising two grant options.

A single district grant directly provides funding to place-based, nonprofit organizations that are currently addressing commercial corridor recovery, management, and growth within the boundaries of an existing Business Improvement District (BID) or Special Assessment District (SAD) in New York City, with an annual assessment of less than or equal to \$600,000.

Meanwhile, a citywide grant provides funding to nonprofit organizations for the development and deployment of technical assistance programs, capacity-building resources, and back-office services for the collective benefit of multiple Business Improvement Districts and Special Assessment Districts with annual assessments less than or equal to \$1,000,000.

More information about the Small BID Support Grant program and applications can be found at <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/sbs/neighborhoods/small-bid-support-grants.page>, and the deadline for both grant programs is Sunday, Oct. 30. The Bronx Chamber of Commerce is also hosting a grant information session on Thursday, Oct. 30, at 3 p.m. explaining how to apply for funding for neighborhood businesses. Visit <https://business.bronxchamber.org/events> for more information.

Effective Jan. 1, 2023, the congressman's new district will include some or all of the north and central Bronx neighborhoods of Norwood, Woodlawn, Riverdale, Fieldston, Spuyten Duyvil, Williamsbridge, Olinville, Eastchester, Allerton, Edenwald, Pelham Gardens, Van Nest and Morris Park, in addition to the southern Bronx neighborhoods he already represents.

On the other hand, he is losing some southeast Bronx neighborhoods including Hunts Point, Castle Hill, Clason Point, Unionport and parts of West Farms. Torres faces Republican challenger, Stylo Sapaskis, in the upcoming general election. Early voting commences on Oct. 29.

**Sile Moloney contributed to this story.*

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Public and Community Meetings

The next **52nd PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meeting will take place on Thursday, Oct. 27, at 7 p.m. at the Kennington Building on 2455 Sedgwick Ave., Bronx, NY 10468. 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 will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 25, at 6.30 p.m. at Bronx Library Center, 310 East Kingsbridge Rd., Bronx, NY 10458. Contact KCabreraCarrera@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list. Proof of vaccination is required for in-person meetings.

The next **BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** meeting will be held in person on Wednesday, Nov. 2, at 7 p.m. at 400 E Mosholu Pkwy S, #B1 (lobby floor), The Bronx, NY 10458. For further details of future meetings, contact bedfordmosholu@verizon.net.

CORRECTIONS

In the page 2 story of some print copies of the *Norwood News* edition Oct. 6-19, 2022, Phyllis Nastasio was *incorrectly* referenced as a Democratic candidate in the upcoming general election on Nov. 8 for A.D. 80, when, in fact, she is the Republican candidate. We apologize sincerely for this error.

The photo of Joseph Landon in our Inquiring Photographer feature on page 4 of the same *Norwood News* edition was taken by Joseph Landon, and not by David Greene, who took all the other photos for that feature. We apologize for this error.

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Run-D.M.C. Legend Visits Students at P.S. 207

(continued from page 1)

A founding member of the legendary, Hip-Hop group, Run-D.M.C., who first emerged on the Hip-Hop scene in the 1980s, McDaniels, a Queens native who spent much of his youth in foster care, emphasized to the third, fourth and fifth graders at the Kingsbridge school, the importance of chasing their dreams.

An impassioned McDaniels, who was adopted by his foster family and later attended St. John's University in Queens, discussed his own personal experiences of dealing with bullies as a child, reaffirming to the students that they were perfect just as they were. He also ensured to reiterate the message that they should notify an adult if they found themselves dealing with a bully or saw someone else being bullied.

"It doesn't matter what the bullies think," the "King of Rock" rapper said. "It doesn't matter what the people who tease you, for whatever reason, think. You are perfect just the way you are, and because you are perfect the way you are, that will allow for any, and all, of your dreams to come true!" he added.

McDaniels explained during his visit that he had been bullied for wearing glasses, but through his music and love for comic books, he found the confidence in himself to overcome his insecurities.

Through the pre-scheduled "Dreaming with DMC: Youth (Re)Visions for the Future" event, organized in conjunction with Kingsbridge Heights Community Center, the students were given the opportunity to share their own personal dreams with the artist whose work with Run-D.M.C. include such hits as "It's Like That," and "It's Tricky."

Each student designed an individual vision board displaying their hopes and dreams for the future, and as the kids held up their colorful artwork to show McDaniels, he even signed some of them.

Principal of P.S. 207, Tara O'Brien, later said of the visit, "DMC's words of wisdom will resonate in the minds and hearts of our students as they continue to grow as leaders of today and tomorrow."

"Darryl's Dream" was inspired by the rapper's own childhood, and some of the challenges he faced growing up, like being bullied. The book dives into his personal experiences of how he found the confidence to overcome his shyness and perform the music he loved.

In February 2006, VH1 premiered the documentary entitled *DMC: My Adoption Journey*, which chronicles the rapper's adoption journey, in which he reunites



Photo by Ariel Pacheco

DARRYL 'DMC' MCDANIELS of rap group, RUN-D.M.C., visits P.S. 207 in Kingsbridge on October 14, 2022, as part of an event organized in conjunction with Kingsbridge Heights Community Center (KHCC).

with his birth mother.

"Hip-Hop and rap is about caring for one another; that's why I came here to meet ya'll," McDaniels continued. "This is better than being at the Grammys! This is better than being at the MTV Music Awards! This is even better than me being at the Academy Awards!"

Reflecting on the visit, Kadijah Caban, youth operations director at Kingsbridge Heights Community Center, said, "DMC had a clear message for our youth; being true to yourself is the biggest key to success. We appreciate DMC for always supporting our youth and P.S. 207 for working with us to create this powerful

experience for their students."

To top it all off, McDaniels later delivered a live rap performance for the starstruck students of what he referred to as the "greatest rap of all time," the ABCs. The students were also given a chance to ask the icon some questions, which ranged from inquiries about his career, to what happens if they fail.

"Every successful person failed a million times," said McDaniels, who hails from Queens. "But when you try something and fail, you learn." McDaniels connected his personal success as a rapper for the students by pointing out that The Bronx is the birthplace of Hip Hop.

He explained, "We don't want children to be ashamed of who they are. We want them to stand on their honest and true selves. We want to continue to encourage our children's interests and make sure they are celebrated. We also want to instill the enthusiastic attitude to the kids that will be the next educator, scientist, or the one that will cure cancer, so they don't follow the ones with shallow goals."

McDaniels concluded, "You're from The Bronx; that means you're from a place that's cooler than Asgard and Wakanda!"

**Sile Moloney contributed to this story.*

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