



NORWOOD NEWS

Vol 35, No 21 • PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION • NOVEMBER 3-16, 2022

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE WWW.NORWOODNEWS.ORG

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

FUN IN THE SUN AT FALL FESTIVALS!



Photo by Miriam Quiñones

CATHERINE GASTA DANCES and entertains kids, (l to r) Jade Lexis Gutierrez, Bellamia Toro and Nayaly Carter, all 5 years of age during the Friends of Mosholu Parkland Fall/Halloween Community Festival on Oct. 15, 2022, held in Mosholu Playground at P.S. 8 in Bedford Park.

By MIRIAM QUIÑONES

Under some glorious fall sunshine, Friends of Mosholu Parkland (FOMP) were back with gusto as they celebrated a delightful, organic-themed Fall / Halloween Community Festival in Mosholu Playground at P.S. 8 in Bedford Park on Saturday, Oct. 15.

The festival drew local kids

dressed in Halloween costumes, as they munched on hot dogs, popcorn, donuts, and treats. Some played in the playground, which was decorated with a natural fall/straw theme, some got busy making ragdolls out of fabric, while others colored and ran around playing various games in the beautiful sunshine.

Among the group's other

community and parkland work, FOMP manages the local community garden located beside the Keeper's House at 3400 Reservoir Oval East in Norwood. The group are strong advocates of the environment and of maintaining clean, healthy air.

One parent, who declined to be photographed on the day or to give her name said she loved the

festival. "It was good to get out of the house on a beautiful warm day," she said.

Republican candidate for Assembly District 80 in the upcoming general election on Nov. 8, Phyllis "Tiz" Nastasio, who was recently profiled in the Norwood News, also attended the festival. She told us, "I'm attend-

(continued on page 18)



Profile: A.D. 80 Dem Nominee John Zaccaro Jr. | pg. 2



Hispanic Heritage Month in the Oval pg 3



Is Mobile Banking The Future? Pg 8

RASKIN & KREMINS, LLP

Over 75 Years Of Combined Personal Injury Law Experience • Over \$100 Million Dollars Recovered for Our Clients

www.raskrem.com

160 Broadway (4th Fl.) New York, NY
Bronx Office - by appointment only

718-878-4858
212-587-3434

2 3 4 5 A C J Z TO FULTON STREET

N R W TO CORTLANDT STREET

NORWOOD NEWS

Vol. 35, No. 21

Norwood News is published
bi-weekly on Thursdays by
Mosholu Preservation Corporation (MPC)
3400 Reservoir Oval East
Bronx, New York 10467
Phone: 718 324 4998
Fax: 718 324 2917
E-mail: norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org
Web.: www.norwoodnews.org

Publisher

Mosholu Preservation Corporation

Editor-In-Chief, Norwood News

Sile Moloney
smoloney@norwoodnews.org

Interns

Ariel Pacheco, Julian Roberts-Grmela

Regular Contributors

David Greene, José A. Giralt,
Miriam Quiñones

**For Display Advertising
Call Sile Moloney
(929) 318 6595**

Support Your Community Newspaper!

The Norwood News is a not-for-profit publication and relies upon the support of its advertisers and readers to produce a quality community newspaper. To support your paper, become a member and receive a subscription for one year.

Simply mail check or money order for \$40 to:
Norwood News, 3400 Reservoir Oval East,
Bronx, NY 10467.

Norwood News is not responsible for typographical errors. Opinions expressed in signed letters and bylined columns represent the sole opinion of the author and are not necessarily those of Mosholu Preservation Corporation or Montefiore Medical Center. Editorials represent the views of the editor only. The newspaper reserves the right to limit or refuse advertising it deems objectionable. Advertisements appearing in this paper cannot be used without the written permission of the Norwood News. Letters to the editor are subject to condensation and editing. Writers should include their affiliation or special interest if any. Anonymous letters are not published but your name can be withheld upon request.

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



Elections 2022:

John Zaccaro Jr. on Quality of Life, Housing & Education

By JOSÉ A. GIRALT

In the upcoming general election on Nov. 8, voters of Assembly District 80 will decide who best represents their interests in Albany. Running for the seat on behalf of the Democratic Party is a former A.D. 80 male district leader, John Zaccaro Jr., who served in the latter role from 2018 to 2020. If elected to the assembly, he will replace incumbent assembly member, Nathalia Fernandez, who is running as the Democratic nominee in the State Senate District 34 race.

Zaccaro Jr. was selected on Sept. 7 by a Bronx Democratic Party committee as the Democratic nominee for A.D. 80, which includes parts of Norwood, Mosholu Parkway, Bedford Park and extends east to include Allerton, Morris Park, Pelham Parkway, Pelham Gardens and Van Nest. As reported, the State's assembly districts will be redrawn ahead of the 2024 primaries.

In an interview with *Norwood News*, Zaccaro Jr. spoke about his top three campaign issues for the district: quality of life, housing, and education. "[In] quality of life, you find a lot of issues: crime and public safety," he said. "Addressing cleanliness in the community, from sanitation and clean up services and a host of whole other issues, transportation, parks, and so many other things that fall under the umbrella of quality of life, and make up the fabric of what we want to see progress in our community."

As a housing organizer, housing is another issue Zaccaro Jr. plans to address, if elected. "We're in a massive affordability crisis right now," he said. "We have more people than we have units available for people to live in. Those who are living in housing now can't afford it." We asked Zaccaro Jr. if by housing, he means rented units. We did not receive a response as of press date.

For those families who are dissatisfied living in rental units, Zaccaro Jr. wants them to know that he sees what holds them back from purchasing a home. "We need to do everything we can to create those opportunities, not just for affordable housing but affordable home ownership."

New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), the largest public housing authority in the country, oversees 177,569 apartments across 335 housing developments. Over 339,900 residents depend on NYCHA for their housing needs. Within A.D. 80, the Parkside Housing Project



Photo by José A. Giralt

JOHN ZACCARO JR., Democratic nominee for State assembly in A.D. 80, greets an attendee at an Election 2020 town hall held at Tracey Towers housing complex in Jerome Park in February 2020.

and Pelham Parkway Houses are NYCHA properties. In June 2022, *The New York Times* described some of the dire conditions under which people were living in NYCHA housing.

"Walls and ceilings crumble and leak, mold grows in kitchens and bathrooms, elevators cease to function, the heat goes out in the dead of winter," *The Times* reported. The publication also reported that in more than 40 percent of NYCHA apartments, "residents reported three or more maintenance problems."

Longstanding problems in public housing made State legislators pass the Public Housing Preservation Trust bill in June which was strongly supported by New York City Mayor Eric Adams.

Under the law, going forward, NYCHA will draw hundreds of millions of new federal dollars per year by utilizing federal tenant protection vouchers, which receive a higher per-unit subsidy than traditional Section 9 public housing vouchers. This additional subsidy will be used by the trust to float bonds to raise funds which NYCHA can then use to upgrade 25,000 NYCHA apartments with necessary capital improvements, as part of a pilot program.

It is this kind of partnership between State and City officials that Zaccaro Jr. hopes to expand on to help NYCHA residents, if elected.

As chief of staff to district 17 city

council member, Rafael Salamanca Jr., Zaccaro Jr. said he has become intimately aware of how intertwined some of the housing and homelessness issues are between the City and State. "When we're talking about housing, we're not just talking about affordable housing, but we're talking about addressing homelessness and addressing issues affecting NYCHA," he said.

"I had the pleasure of helping work on Intro 1211 in the City Council that mandated developers receiving city subsidies to set aside 15 percent of those total unit counts for homeless families ready for independent living," he recalled. The nonprofit organization, Coalition for the Homeless, described the bill as a "historic vote" which "represents a major turning point in combating the city's record homelessness crisis."

Serving in Albany, Zaccaro Jr. said, would allow him to do more in finding solutions to the multiple housing problems the City faces. "On a State level, we need to find creative ways to expand on this out-of-the-box thinking by providing additional housing subsidies, while ending the practice of paying market rate rents to shelter providers for sub-par temporary housing," he said.

Rounding out his third campaign priority is education. The candidate was previously appointed to serve as the

(continued on page 19)

Norwood Delights in Live Hispanic Dance Show

By **ARIEL PACHECO**

Performing arts organization, Hispanic Culture Arts, delighted residents of Norwood on Oct. 18 with a live, outdoor, daytime music and dance show at the Williamsbridge Oval Park, entitled “Danzas de Ida y Vuelta,” a round trip voyage of Hispanic music and dance.”

Showcasing the history of Hispanic performance culture, audience members were transported from the “Old World” of Spain through Latin America, and on to The Bronx, by a group of colorful, costumed dancers and musicians.

The show was choreographed by Spanish dance artists, Anna de la Paz and Anna Tonna, who were joined by Carlos Fittante and Yumiko Niimi from BALAM Dance Theater, along with pianist, Pablo Zinger, and percussionist, Danny Mallon. Instruments like castanets and shakers were also used during the show.

“We’re here to tell you a story, not with words, but through music and dance,” said de la Paz. “We’re so happy to share our colorful music and dances from the Hispanic world.”

The performance featured songs, dances, and narration originating in Spain, Peru, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Cuba. Some of the dances included Fandango, Zapateo, Danzón, and Habanera, while some of the songs included “Lamento Borincano,” and “La paloma.”

Students and teachers from P.S. 56, Norwood Heights School, located on 341 East 207th Street in Norwood, along with other members of the public, attended the performance. Some were even invited on stage at one point and were taught some new dance moves, while others became active audience participants, learning a new vernacular as well as how percussion instruments worked. Admission was free and open to everyone.

“We were, of course, thrilled to serve the school children that came to us,” said Tonna. “We also celebrate the fact that we had seniors as well as an adult’s special needs group that participated in our community dance workshop, led by Anna de la Paz.”

The group received numerous rounds of applause after each segment, with the performers sharing nuggets of historical context about the instruments used and on each of the songs and dances performed. The added background served the audience well on their journey through Hispanic culture.

Omar Rodriguez, 37, who just happened to be in the park as the performance was kicking off, said performances like these were important because they helped share cultures with those who may not otherwise experience them.

“It’s special because without this kind of show, how would these kids in attendance learn about these things?” he said. “It’s so very important that we show support to programs like this one happening, because this is how we keep culture alive.”

Rodriguez added, “I think all kids would love this kind of thing. Kids love music, dancing, and costumes and this has it all! I don’t have any children, but if I did, I’d love for them to have been here to watch this.”

The event was held with support from the Bronx Council of the Arts and NYC Department of Parks &

Recreation.

Founded in 2018, Hispanic Culture Arts provides programming for school-aged kids in the classical arts from Spain and Latin America. The organization connects classical Hispanic arts to modern-day life, including Salsa, in New York City. “Our mission as a company is to aid children’s artistic self-discovery, using the music, dance, and theater from the Hispanic world,” said Tonna.

Tonna, who works as a teaching artist with Hispanic Culture Arts, has lived in the Bronx for almost two decades. She has always been very involved in

the music and culture of Spain and The Bronx. Tonna had the idea to bridge the gap between The Bronx and Spain, and that’s when she and Spanish dance artist, Anna de la Paz, founded Hispanic Culture Arts.

Of the numerous songs performed, Tonna said her favorite is “El Zapateado” from Zarzuela (Spanish Opera), “La Tempranica.”

“In this song, a little gypsy boy called Gabriele talks about a tarantula that has bitten him. He has a fever and shakes but what he is really talking about is being bitten by the ‘bug of love,’” said Tonna. “In this

(continued on page 6)

WE ARE HIRING!!

CMCS provides services throughout the Bronx.

Master Teachers
Infant & Toddler Teachers
Home Visitors
Program Administrators
Assistant Program Administrators
Education Specialists/Family Child Care
Family Workers/Advocates
Health & Nutrition Specialist/Family Child Care
Health Nutrition & Safety Monitor
Custodians
Cooks

SEND RESUME TO MYRIAM SANABRIA
MSANABRIA@CMCS.ORG
(914) 406 5331

INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



As the Adams administration seeks input from New Yorkers on how best to spend \$5M in mayoral expense funding, the so-called "People's Money," we asked readers for their ideas.



"Oh, well, I believe there should be more youth programs in the area, and also self-defense programs for the youth and for women, so they're able to defend themselves, a community center, and you could have retired NYPD officers or FDNY retired firemen, or even a corrections officer come in and teach the youth how to defend themselves. Also, they can use the Kingsbridge Armory as one of the locations that they can use as a foundation for the smart, kind-hearted youth of tomorrow. I know it's a great idea."

Sasha Augustine,
Kingsbridge



"I feel like, in a way, the community has already gone through a transformation when it comes to the area and the environment. The environment right now is changing, and we just need programs and stuff like that to help raise the youth. Those same facilities can help someone coming up, like basketball, like the People's Park; that was beautiful. That was a great renovation right there by M.S. 80 on Van Cortlandt [Avenue East] on the last stop of the D train."

You'd have a facility where you could have tournaments, just enhancing our facilities in the community, and it could be properly integrated with the new architecture and stuff. Right now, it doesn't feel like much, but when it starts to feel more like a home with programs to help them grow creatively, they could offer photography, technology, or Tik-Tock classes, things that people see a future in, things that will help people become innovative and spread information."

Jhalil Wright,
Bedford Park



"This community does need a place that people can just go to for comfort and the ability to be themselves. There should be more community centers that can provide help to anyone with depression, help assist finding jobs, and just to support. We do need more daycare centers. If parents can't find a daycare center, they could have a community center that can care for kids and that would actually help single parents who takes care of the kids by themselves; a place to leave their kids until they get off work. I think that would help give all of us more support as a family. I feel like the neighborhood should feel more like a family."

Tarik Solomon,
Burnside

Editor's Notes: NYC Parks provides several free programs for seniors and others on sports, photography, art and more at its various recreational centers. Check our regular Out & About features for details. (Scroll to the end.) There are some constraints around the future use of the Kingsbridge Armory. Learn more at an upcoming visioning workshop on Nov. 5 at noon at P.S. 340 Annex, 2751 Jerome Avenue, Bronx. As reported, discussions are ongoing with District 15 city council member, Oswald Feliz, on potentially converting the Old Fordham Library, located at 2556 Bainbridge Avenue, into a community center.



"West Farms needs more events, more family-friendly stuff, because what they have here is not working. That's all I can say. A community center, that would be fun. We don't have one. They just have the park and the Bronx Zoo and it's pretty boring. They should provide cleaning services because the neighborhood is disgusting."

Osvaldo Rodriguez,
West Farms



"I think we can use a YMCA. We need housing programs and a welfare assistance program, providing outreach to the community. We need people to help people with food, programs for kids and older people, a place to seek job opportunities and training."

Nana Asoku,
Norwood

All photos by David Greene

Friends of Mosholu Parkland

Sustainability Efforts for the future of Mosholu Parkway

Working with businesses, organizations & community on environmental projects

Build new gardens
Edible Garden Program
Waste Management
Climate Initiatives
Garden Maintenance
Spring /Fall Clean-Up
Garden Management
Sidewalk & tree pit care
and much more...

3 ways to make a difference, create an impact in the community

- * Support us -donate
- * Volunteer with us
- * Hire us

Donations Tax Receipt provided. Info: contact us Follow us :

(347-371-3085)
WWW.mosholuparkland.org

3400 Reservoir Oval Bronx NY 10467

Made with PosterMyWall.com

BronxChester REALTY Inc.

1616 MAHAN AVE, BRONX, NY 10461

Serving The Bronx and Westchester County for

Over 20 Years

Residential and Commerical Sales/Rentals.

Market Evaluations available upon request.

Maura Finnegan
Real Estate Broker/HUD Broker
Ph: 646-244-2598
maura@bronxchesterrealty.com
www.bronxchesterrealty.com

Mom Seeks Answers One Year after Son's Murder

By DAVID GREENE

Heartbroken mother, Nicole Wynaar, attended a mural unveiling in University Heights on Sept. 3. in honor of her deceased son, Hednick "Henney" Wynaar, who had just turned 22 when he was shot and killed on Halloween 2021 in The Bronx. Now approaching the first anniversary of his killing, the grieving mother is asking the public for any information they may have which might help locate his killer, as the police investigation has apparently stalled.

Now living in Connecticut with her sole surviving son, Wynaar recently returned to the "old block" on Hennessey Place in University Heights, in the shadow of Bronx Community College for the unveiling of the larger-than-life mural, located on the roll-down gate of the E&B Laundromat at the corner of West Burnside Avenue.

According to police, Wynaar was one of three people shot at the corner of Colden Avenue and Adece Avenue, on the north border of Allerton at 12:50 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 31, 2021. At the time of the shooting, police said three people were shot outside of a home located at 951 Adece Avenue. A 22-year-old male suffered a gunshot wound to the head, an 18-year-old male was struck in the left leg, and a 69-year-old woman suffered a graze wound to the right leg.

Wynaar, the 22-year-old victim died on Nov. 1, 2021, and the 18-year-old victim and friend of Wynaar, was treated and later released from hospital. The 69-year-old victim was treated at the scene and refused additional medical attention.

The NYPD would later release a poor-quality surveillance video that captured three people exiting a vehicle and each firing several times at the three victims. Police have yet to announce any arrests, but one ranking police official maintained the case was "active and ongoing."

At the mural unveiling on West Burnside, Nicole Wynaar was surrounded and consoled by her son's friends as they did their best to celebrate Wynaar's life. However, the way he died brought way too much grief.

For her son's birthday, Nicole Wynaar sought out Brooklyn artist, Kenny Alttidor, who often paints murals for members of the FDNY and NYPD. She eventually gave Alttidor a photograph of her son and the artist used it to produce the giant mural of an expressionless Wynaar, looking straight ahead.

Moments before the unveiling, the group, also joined by two uniformed police officers from the 44th Precinct, heard Nicole Wynaar's plea, when she said, "I just need the police to do more, and I just need the mayor to help me get justice for my son." She added, "I am tired every day to see another mother crying...has to bury her son, her children. I miss my son very much and I don't want to do this anymore, I'm just tired... of crying."

Family and friends sang "Happy Birthday" moments before the mural, protected by plexiglass and a stark reminder of the still unresolved murder, was eventually unveiled. After the unveiling, the crowd played Wynaar's favorite songs and enjoyed some cake topped

with icing in the young man's likeness.

His mother later recalled how her son grew up in University Heights and attended P.S. 226, on Segewick Avenue, M.S. 379 in Queens, and Truman High School in Co-op City, before attending Hostos Community College, where he was studying culinary arts.

Nicole Wynaar told Norwood News why she was unhappy with the police investigation, recalling, "They haven't obtained any video footage from where the car was stolen, to my knowledge. In my opinion, they didn't obtain any surveillance video from where the car was found. They told me they (the suspects) walked where there weren't cameras. God help me, please understand that. I just need to understand how is that possible because everyone has cameras. So, in my opinion, they're not doing anything."

Recalling the day of the shooting, when her son went to Adece Avenue to help a friend find an apartment, Nicole Wynaar added, "He went out to help his friend, and this car pulled up, and they jumped out and start shooting. I waited 10 years to have my son. They killed my son... How is that possible. Why?"

The mom, already having moved to Connecticut, had begged her son to also move to the safety and tranquility of Constitution State. Recalling her son's words in response to her request, she said he said, "Mom, Connecticut is so quiet. I don't



Photo by David Greene

GRIEVING MOTHER, NICOLE Wynaar, (center) is consoled after the unveiling of a mural dedicated to her son, Hednick "Henney" Wynaar, killed on Halloween 2021, at West Burnside and Hennessey Place on Saturday, September 3, 2022.

have any friends."

Asked about the claims made by the grieving mom, one detective noted that police could not comment on an active investigation. Anyone with any information is urged to call Crime Stoppers at 1 (800) 577-TIPS, all calls remain confidential.



Photo by David Greene

FRIENDS AND FAMILY of Hednick "Henney" Wynaar, who was fatally shot on Oct. 31, 2021, gather at Hennessey Place and W Burnside Avenue in University Heights on Saturday, Sept. 3, 2022, wearing t-shirts in his honor, and celebrating what would have been his 23rd birthday.

NYBG

BRONX NEIGHBORS PROGRAM PROGRAMA PARA RESIDENTES DEL BRONX

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

nybg.org/BronxNeighbors



**FREE Grounds Access Pass
for Bronx Residents**

**Entrada Gratuita; "Grounds Access
Pass" para Residentes del Bronx.**

Major support for Bronx Neighbors Program provided by: **MetLife Foundation**

NEWS BRIEFS

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

BMCA Cleans Up Mosholu

Bedford Park Community Association (BCMA) held a clean-up of Mosholu Parkland on Saturday morning, Oct. 29. Under plenty of dry, warm sunshine, about 23 volunteers, including local adult residents and youth from Christodora Ecology Group, participated in the clean-up, bagging leaves, weeding, and planting bulbs. Christodora operates in collaboration with the New York Botanical Garden. Using the garden as their outdoor classroom, some 40 junior-high school and high school students meet weekly and focus their minds on a broad range of fundamental ecological concepts and nature study.



Photo courtesy of Bedford Park Community Association

VOLUNTEERS CLEAN-UP MOSHOLU Parkland, Oct. 29, 2022



Photo courtesy of Jade Guzman
BARBARA STRONCZER & Alexis A. Ruiz, Sept. 27, 2022

Bronx CB7 Longtime Members Honored

Bronx Community 7 (CB7) longtime members, Andrew Laoisa, a former budget, personnel & ethics committee chair, and Barbara Strongczer, the parks committee chair and acting board chair, were honored by Bronx Borough President Vanessa

Norwood Delights in Live Hispanic Dance Show

from page 3)

number, I sing, while an intricate and virtuosic Spanish shoe dance is performed by Anna de la Paz, in an Andalusian costume and hat from the area of Córdoba in Spain,” said Tonna.

Hispanic Culture Arts is a current grant recipient of the Bronx Council for the Arts Community Grant. The show was put together, in part, to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Tonna said, “Hispanic Heritage Month is a great occasion to showcase all these ties that we have, using dance and music and even stories.”

As for what’s next for the group, Tonna said they’ll keep trying to showcase programs to schools and the neighborhood at large. “We are in the process of serving a school in Morris Park in a series of arts education workshops,” she said.

“We keep expanding the type of of-



Photo by Ariel Pacheco

CARLOS FITTANTE (LEFT) OF BALAM Dance Theater dances alongside Anna de la Paz (right) of Hispanic Culture Arts, in front of students from P.S. 56. and Norwood residents during a show entitled, “Danzas de Ida y Vuelta” at the Williamsbridge Oval Park in Norwood on Tuesday, Oct 18, 2022. Dancers, Anna de la Paz, Yumiko Niimi, pianist, Pablo Zinger, and percussionist, Danny Mallon also performed.

fers we have to schools, and of course hope to continue our relationship with the NYC Parks and Recreation here in The Bronx, as a performing arts organization, to showcase programs such as ‘Danzas de Ida y Vuelta’ for the neigh-

borhoods of Norwood and Bedford Park, as well as other surrounding neighborhoods.”

More information on Hispanic Culture Arts can be found at <https://www.hispanicculturearts.com/about>.

Gibson at the general board meeting held on Sept. 27, at Montefiore Medical Center in Norwood. Laoisa, who was not present, and Stronczer, who was, were awarded a Citation of Merit for their services to the community over the years. The award was formally presented to Stronczer on the night by Alexis A. Ruiz, deputy director for community boards, on behalf of Gibson.

Power Outage Disrupts FDNY/EMS System

The FDNY confirmed a power outage on Oct. 12 caused a temporary disruption to the usual communications system used by EMS and FDNY. A spokesperson said at around 11 a.m. on Oct. 12, a power outage at 11 MetroTech Centre in Brooklyn impacted servers and the internet. “FireCAD (computer-aided dispatch) lost connection for one minute. EMSCAD lost connection for 52 minutes,” the spokesperson said. EMS pivoted immediately to a

back-up radio system and using pen/paper. The department continued to respond to calls for help during the outage. The relevant Bronx site never lost power, according to FDNY. EMSCAD and radio went down at the site but immediately moved to contingency back-up measures.

FDNY officials said a contractor performing work at the FDNY data center inadvertently triggered an emergency power-off sequence which, by design, removed power from the entire data center. The contracting company has removed the employee, and he will never again be involved with anything related to FDNY, officials said.

According to firerescue1.com, the FDNY launched the then-new FireCAD system in August 2021, replacing a 45-year-old CAD system called STARFIRE. The \$22M FireCAD system, reportedly developed by Accenture, was the result of a four-year project to build a modern, reli-

able platform with expanded features.

Salary Transparency Law Takes Effect

The NYC Salary Transparency Law, Local Law 32, became effective Nov. 1, and requires most employers in New York City to include the minimum and maximum salary range for every job, promotion, and transfer opportunity advertised. The law, which is part of the NYC Human Rights law, applies to employers that have four or more employees, or one or more domestic workers. The workplace is covered by the law when at least one employee works in New York City.

Kingsbridge: Girl, 14, Still Missing

The NYPD is still seeking the public’s help locating a 14-year-old girl reported missing person from Kingsbridge in 2021. Melissa Ganon of 3018 Kingsbridge Avenue was last seen at her home on Thurs-

day, April 29, 2021, at around 8.39 a.m. She is described as female, is approximately 5 feet tall, weighs around 150 pounds and is Hispanic.

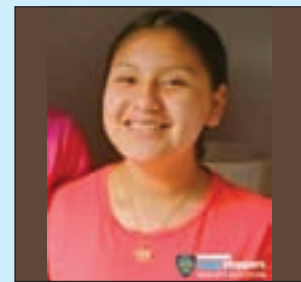


Photo courtesy of the NYPD
MELISSA GANON, 14, of Kingsbridge is missing.

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

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

Passing of Mr. David Edelstein

Friends of Pelham Parkway and the Jewish Community Council of Pelham Parkway advise of the sad passing of the latter's executive director, David Edelstein. His funeral was held on Oct. 27 at the Bronx Jewish Center on 900 Pelham Parkway South. Rest in Peace.

Passing of Ms. Ora Lee Holloway

Norwood News has been informed of the sad passing of Ms. Ora Lee Holloway, who was born March 17, 1937 and who died Sept. 25, 2022. Lee Holloway was a former resident of Chicago and The Bronx, where she acted as union rep for 1199 Union at Montefiore. Her funeral was held at Granby's Funeral Home in The Bronx on Oct. 14. She is laid to rest at Woodlawn Cemetery. Rest in Peace.

Clock Change

Daylight Saving Time 2022 in New York ends at 2 a.m. EST on Sunday, Nov. 6.

Clocks go back by one hour for an extra hour's sleep!

General Election Nov. 8

The general election takes place on Tuesday, Nov. 8, with polls open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Early voting started on Saturday, Oct. 29, and continues 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 on Election Day for many residents changed due to redistricting, causing confusion for some voters. Residents are asked to ensure to check their designated poll site ahead of time to allow themselves sufficient time to vote.

Alternate Side Parking

Alternate Side Parking Rules are suspended on Election Day, Nov. 8, and on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

Diabetes Awareness Month

November is American Diabetes Month, a time to raise awareness about the disease and its complications, if left untreated. In New York State, an estimated 1.6 million people or 10.5 percent of the adult population have diabetes, and the incidence is 16 percent in The Bronx. Throughout November, Montefiore Medical Center is running a series of events and activities to educate and encourage Bronx residents to manage their diabetes. For more information, visit: <https://www.montefiore.org/diabetes-month>.

Stigma & HIV, MPV & COVID-19 Conference

Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson & partners are hosting a conference on Nov. 14 at 1 p.m. at Lincoln Hospital on The Intersectionality of Stigma with HIV, MPV and COVID-19.

MPV Updates

As of Oct. 29, there were 3,739 cases of MPV in New York City, up from 3,683 cases in mid-Oct. A two-dose MPV vaccination is available for those eligible. A Bronx mass vaccination site is open at Lincoln Hospital, 234 E 149th Street. Book an appointment by calling 877-829-4692. Visit: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/monkeypox.page> for more information.

Fire Safety Training

The FDNY is hosting a fire safety training event on Saturday, Nov. 5, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Bronx Terminal Market, 610 Exterior Street, Bronx NY 10451.

Abortion Access Hub

NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (DOH) has launched the NYC Abortion Access Hub, which provides confidential support for anyone seeking abortion services, regardless of where they live. To connect to the Abortion Access Hub, call 1-877-NYC-AHUB. Learn more at <https://on.nyc.gov/3h2fQv1>.

Kingsbridge Armory Visioning Workshop

A Kingsbridge Armory Visioning Workshop will be held on Saturday, Nov. 5, at noon at P.S. 340 Annex, 2751 Jerome Avenue, to discuss the future use of the Kingsbridge Armory. Learn about the history of the armory and the visioning process, share your questions, and meet the working group.

New Affordable Internet Access Program

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has launched the Affordable Connectivity Program to help

connect families and households struggling to afford internet service. Find out how you can immediately save \$400 per year. Under this new federal program, you may be eligible for a discount on internet access. Visit <https://www.fcc.gov/acp> for more information.

Bronx CB7 Holiday Tree-Lighting

The provisional date for Bronx Community Board 7's annual holiday, tree-lighting ceremony is Dec. 8, but is subject to approval by NYC Parks.

Affordable Housing Lotteries

An affordable housing lottery launched for units at 322 Grand Concourse in Mott Haven, with a deadline of Dec. 8. An affordable housing lottery launched for units at 740 Brook Avenue in Woodstock, with a deadline of Dec. 27.

For more information, call the Affordable Housing Lottery Helpline on (212) 863-7990 or email: nychousing-connect@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.

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.

SCAN HERE TO APPLY



Accepting applications throughout the year

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.



- Free Full Day Program
- Qualified Staff
- Nutritious Meals (Breakfast & Lunch Provided)
- Safe Environment (We follow all CDC COVID guidelines)
- Promote School Readiness
- Family Support
- Fatherhood Support
- 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



Will Credit Unions Solve the Affordable Financial Services Crisis?

By JOSÉ A. GIRALT

When Sonya Ferguson started to do the math on how much it was costing her to fill up her pre-paid debit card, she wondered if there was a better way. Her main method of banking consisted of check cashing outlets and pawn shops. Recalling a recent experience, she said, "I asked for a pre-pay card, and they said '\$10.' I said 'Ok, I want to put \$100 on it.' They said '\$5, you have to pay to put \$100 on your pre-pay card.' I said, 'But it's my card!'"

Ferguson said she realized she didn't have enough money for the next day, so she went to an ATM to withdraw cash and had to pay an additional \$5 for the privilege. "So, when we do the math, I lost out on \$20," she said.

Experiences like Ferguson's are not uncommon in areas that have more check cashing stores than established banks. Ferguson, 62, was born and raised in The Bronx and has seen her community neglected for too long when it comes to banking services. On July 19, she attended the launch, outside the Bronx campus of Boricua College, of the Bronx People's Federal Credit Union.

(continued on page 13)



Photo by José A. Giralt

AT A PRESS event announcing the launch of the Bronx People's Federal Credit Union, members of the Bronx Financial Access Coalition speak at Boricua College Plaza on Tuesday, July 19, 2022. The van will provide financial services to customers throughout the borough.



Letters To The Editor

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

Hey Guys, Let's Man Up

I see too many young men fathering children without the needed life skills. Our local politicians should ensure that in freshmen and sophomore years of high school, there are classes or programs that include job training, marriage and relationship skills, child raising and mentoring education, financial literacy, securing health insurance and more. I am tired of flipping on the radio channel and hearing songs that denigrate women, calling them horrible names. Our local politicians need to be more of a moral voice and encourage young men, especially, to get religion into their lives! Let's man up now!

Richard Marias
Norwood

Inflation, Columbus, Crime, Bullying

In the Oct. 20-Nov. 2 edition of the *Norwood News*, the article "Torres Highest Priority for Small Business: Access to Capital," doesn't delve into the main cause of inflation: corporate greed. The February issue of "Hightower Lowdown" dealt with this. Four monopolistic meat companies underpay ranchers and overcharge stores for meat.

President Joe Biden's justice department has refused to use antitrust and anti-price fixing laws to fight this. Also, how often do the wildly profitable oil companies actually have to raise prices? How often are they actually using current events as a cover for their insatiable greed? If prices were increased only out of necessity, inflation would be rare.

In the article, "Columbus Day Celebrated in Morris Park," there is no mention of what many of us feel. Should we be celebrating one of the pioneers of genocide against America's natives? To honor Italian Americans, how about this? There was an Italian American who as early as 1940, in the segregated southern city of St. Louis, Missouri, demanded that a hotel clerk give a door key to his Black roommate.

In 1945, he starred in the anti-bigotry short film, "The House I Live In." In the early 1960s, his outspoken opposition to segregation at Las Vegas hotels put an end to it. He also supported Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He was a multiple Grammy winner and won an Oscar as well. His name was Francis Albert Sinatra. Also, I'm sure the music would be much better at a Sinatra Day Parade.

As for Richard Marias' letter to the editor, he writes, "Don't complain about crime if you support the people who allow criminals to act without consequences." But Marias supports the Republicans who want no consequences for Donald Trump, and his supporters attempting the crime of treason.

Marias' opinions, at best, don't make sense and at worst, are dangerous. The fact that so many people, not just Marias, are supporting candidates who support Donald Trump's attempt to make himself a dictator is scary.

Finally, on the story on Darryl "DMC" McDaniels of the innovative rap group RUN-DMC, who pioneered the mixture of rap and hard rock, it's appropriate that McDaniels spoke about bullying. RUN-DMC's "Can You Rock It Like This?" has the perfect answer to bullies: "You're breathing down my back/You're breathing down my neck/I'm not Rodney Dangerfield so give me some respect."

Richard Warren,
Van Cortlandt Village

Editor's Note: According to the following article, <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/threats-antitrust-enforcement-supply-chain>, U.S. President Joe Biden

has taken some steps to utilize anti-trust laws to combat inflation.

The longer online version of the Columbus Day story allowed for more nuance on this topic. We were limited in terms of space in the print edition.

Elections 2022

Listening to Gov. Kathy Hochul in her recent debate [Oct. 25 on NY1], I would have thought that Donald Trump was the Republican Party candidate for governor. No wonder Hochul followed the Rose Garden campaign strategy. She preferred hiding behind tens of millions of dollars in television campaign commercials rather than face challenger, GOP gubernatorial candidate, Lee Zeldin, face to face in a series of debates.

State Sen. Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins and State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie will maintain Democratic majority control of the State legislature. State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli and Attorney General Letitia James are safe for another term. One party, Democratic Party] control of State government is an open invitation to waste, fraud, abuse, and corruption in Albany. It is the best reason to elect Lee Zeldin governor.

Larry Penner
Great Neck

Editor's Note: Both the Hochul campaign and the Zeldin campaign have accused the opposing side of dodging debate scheduling, according to media reporting.

To ensure sufficient time for review of all letters to the editor, please send them to norwoodnews@norwood-news.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.

Elections 2022:

Jeffrey Dinowitz Looks Forward Not Back

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Editor's Note: The following story is a shorter version of the one we first published ahead of the June 2022 primary election.

As the incumbent assemblyman representing Assembly District 81 since 1994, Jeffrey Dinowitz is both a seasoned politician and candidate when it comes to election campaigns. He has seen off several political challengers over the course of his political career to retain his Northwest Bronx seat and appears adamant to keep it that way ahead of the upcoming general election on Nov. 8.

Given his many years in office, and the countless pieces of legislation on which he has worked throughout his career, *Norwood News* asked Dinowitz if he could speak to what he felt were the top three priorities for his current campaign. "It's really hard to narrow things down to three – it's housing, health care and environment or sometimes housing, health care and crime, because the truth is, there are more than three issues," he said, in part.

On housing, the assemblyman said he has been a statewide leader, citing the various eviction moratorium bills, the Tenant Safe Harbor Act, more recent legislation that prevents landlords from charging legal fees without a court order, and laws relating to the charging of air conditioners.

"Those are all my bills," he said. "And I've had others beyond that: the legislation which we passed not too long ago that mandates that when the court orders a repair of a building, it has to be done within a certain time period."

Dinowitz was referencing "Jashawn's Law," State legislation which passed in 2020, almost 18 years after a tragic Norwood fire took the life of 9-year-old Jashawn Parker. The bill was put forward by Dinowitz in 2003 in response to the Aug. 6, 2002, blaze at 3569 DeKalb Av-

enue. At the time, the building had over 350 building code violations, and its owner had been ordered to make repairs by a housing court judge, but those repairs were never made.

"I focus on housing issues, because we want people to be able to stay in their homes," he said. "We don't want to see people thrown out on the street, particularly during the pandemic."

Dinowitz, whose son, Eric, is the councilmember for City Council District 11, which covers much of the same political jurisdiction as A.D. 81, said having grown up and lived in The Bronx all his life, and having lived in all types of housing, he has a deep understanding of housing issues, and how they are basic to people's needs. "I lived in a rent-controlled walk-up when I was young. I lived in NYCHA public housing, I've lived in rent-stabilized housing, Mitchell Lama; I've lived in it all," he said.

On healthcare, he said he has been a longtime advocate and co-sponsor of the New York Health Act, which aims to expand the scope of healthcare coverage in New York State. He said he has also been the foremost advocate for vaccines in the State legislature.

"A few years ago, I passed legislation which mandated that there will no longer be non-medical exemptions to vaccine requirements in schools," he said, adding that prior to that, many people were getting exemptions for their kids based upon what he believed were false claims, at a time when measles were on the rise.

More recently, he's been strongly encouraging people to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Rallies were held outside the assemblyman's home and office by some parents and others who were against the COVID-19 school vaccine mandate. Nonetheless, Dinowitz refused to back down, receiving widespread support from



Photo courtesy of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz

ASSEMBLYMAN JEFFREY DINOWITZ (A.D. 81)

across the State for his stance on the issue. He also backed legislation to prevent the use of fake vaccination cards.

"You've seen some of the opposition to my position at some of these disgusting displays of Nazi symbolism by vaccine opponents," he said. "I've also got a bill passed just this session which mandates insurance coverage for colorectal screening for people aged 45 that was not mandated previously, and it's very important that people be screened for that."

Another priority is the environment. The assemblyman was behind the passage of the Climate Change Superfund Act. Described as first-in-the-nation legislation, it will use the "polluter-pays model" exemplified by existing federal and State superfund laws to collect \$30 billion over ten years for climate change adaptation from the parties most responsible for causing the climate crisis – fossil fuel companies.

On crime, Dinowitz said, "Many people do not feel safe, whether it's on the streets or on the subway, and we need to do more to address that situation. We, in the legislature, we passed a package of 10 anti-gun bills which I think is very, very important," adding that he was very proud of the bills. "But that's only one part of it. I think that we need to address many of

the other issues."

He commended the anti-gun violence, anti-gang, and drug counseling work carried out by Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, based in Norwood. "I just got them a quarter of a million-dollar grant to work with teenagers," he said. "It's the things that we want to keep young people away from. I don't think police are the answer to everything, but I think those who call for the defunding of police are way off base. I'm pretty sure I'm the only candidate running in this race that doesn't want to defund the police."

Asked for his view on whether police should be present when dealing with people who have mental health issues, he said, "Well, I think everything has its time and place. There will be some instances where having a mental health counselor may be the right answer, but if you have somebody who can be an immediate danger to either themselves or other people, and the police are there, it may not be advisable for the police to wait for a mental health counselor. Sometimes the police have to try to address the situation. So, it really depends on the individual situation. We have to do things in a smart way."

We put forward the view to the assemblyman that there are those who would say some of the recent legislative wins could have been achieved earlier had the assemblyman pushed for them harder and earlier in his career and that this is why some people feel perhaps it's time for a change in representation in the Northwest Bronx.

"Well, if you want change, you should vote for me, because I've been putting forth change as long as I've been in office: good change," he said. "There are many people in various jobs that have been there for a long time, not just in elected office. You know, what if a teacher has been doing a great job? Even to

say that after an excellent review, they should no longer be a teacher, that just doesn't make sense. If somebody does a good job, they should have the opportunity to continue at that job."

He added, "So, as far as change, yes. Many of the things we just talked about are that change, making good things happen. That's positive change, and I've been doing that as long as I've been in office."

We also asked the assemblyman about his past endorsement of Sen. Jeff Klein, who, headed up the Independent Democratic Conference, an entity which blocked progressive legislation from being passed in the State legislature for many years.

"Well, we don't really know what could have happened," Dinowitz said. "To the people who want to harp on about a single endorsement out of hundreds of endorsements I've made over the years, that took place four years ago, I would suggest that we would be better off if people would look in front of them rather than behind them," he said.

"You know what I've told my grandkids when they're running, and they like to look behind to see if their brother is getting close? Look in front of you. When you look behind you, that's when you trip and fall. And for the people who could only look to the past, that's really regrettable on their part. My record stands for itself. That was a single endorsement." He added that perhaps with one exception, he generally endorses all his colleagues in office. "Elections are not about the past," he said.

Assembly District 81 includes Riverdale, Kingsbridge, Van Cortlandt Village, Kingsbridge Heights, Marble Hill, Norwood, Woodlawn, and Wakefield. New York State assembly district lines will be redrawn ahead of the primary elections in 2024, according to a court ruling dated June 10.

Early voting is ongoing through Nov. 6. Check your polling site ahead of time.

Elections 2022:

Jessica Altagracia Woolford Says Politics is not Binary

By SILE MOLONEY

Editor's Note: A longer version of this story was first published before the June 2022 primary election.

Jessica Altagracia Woolford is running for office in Assembly District 81 in the Nov. 8 general election, on the Working Families Party ticket.

Growing up in Kingsbridge, Altagracia Woolford is a community organizer who has previously worked for the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand's office, and has also campaigned for former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in 2016.

She says politics is not binary, that she doesn't run on slogans, and that voters across the State have more in common than people might think. The candidate says her priority is putting Bronxites first, and if elected, she said this will be straightforward because she will not be beholden to any corporate interests.

We asked the first-time challenger, who is also a mother, what her top-three campaign issues are. "We've talked to thousands of voters over the past few months, people that I've known growing up, but also getting to know a lot more folks across the 81st district," she said in part, before adding that what she hears incessantly are concerns over housing and affordability.

"There are a lot of people, myself included, who are stressed about the rising costs of living, how inflation is impacting us and obviously, some of these issues, they're global crises. But people in The Bronx, and here in the 81st district, they're really feeling that very acutely," she said.

"They're having a hard time making their dollars really go a distance, people are worried about evictions, and so something that I learned too, before I launched my campaign, was just how severe the hunger crisis is in our community," she said, adding that since New York City is one of the wealthiest cities in the world, it has the resources to ensure people are fed, housed, and have affordable healthcare.

"Those are my top three issues: it's all about housing, it's hunger, and it's healthcare. Unfortunately, there are elected

officials who have distanced themselves from what it means to have to stretch every dollar to buy milk for your kids, formula for your baby, but also to be able to find nutritious produce, to care for yourself if you're an elder, to make sure that the options available are also culturally competent if you are observant and you need Kosher and you need halal food," she said, adding that the demographics of the district have changed over the last 28 years to become more Black and brown.

"On the legislative end, my priorities in Albany would be to pass 'Good Cause Eviction,'" Altagracia Woolford said, referring to a bill introduced at State level in 2021, which, if passed, would prohibit landlords from ending a tenancy with market-rate tenants without good cause, except in cases of lease violations like failure to pay rent or other infractions.

"We got so close and it's so heartbreaking," Altagracia Woolford said. "I talked to a lot of activists and folks who have gone up to Albany. It was like their part-time job, and to think that we've got Democrats in charge at all levels but yet, we're not delivering on those core values that make Democrats who they should be."

We asked Altagracia-Woolford if she had been in government, how she would have addressed those issues. She alleged that in the 28 years that incumbent assemblyman, Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81), has been the local assembly member, he hasn't prioritized equity and that legislators should be made to understand what "Good Cause" could mean for hard-hit communities like Kingsbridge, Norwood, and Wakefield.

She added that she was intentional about connecting with residents by talking about these issues. They're [residents] so disenchanted with what's possible with government, that there's such a lack of imagination," she said.

The candidate added that it was also important for voters to know that as one of nine candidates backed by the Working Families Party, as a collective block of progressive candidates, they would have a mandate "to fight for working folks," not only in The Bronx, but across the State, adding that the hous-



Photo courtesy of Jessica Altagracia Woolford

JESSICA ALTAGRACIA WOOLFORD

ing crisis was not unique to the City, and she saw opportunities for alliances with upstate legislators on both housing and on the expansion of the Nourish New York program.

Launched amid the pandemic, the \$147 million State program helps New Yorkers who are food insecure access the nourishment they need, while providing a market for New York farmers to sell their products.

Altagracia Woolford said she was also excited to see what could be achieved locally together with progressive legislator, State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33). "A few years ago, we got the IDC out in the Senate, we need now to finish the job in the assembly, because so many of these big, transformative pieces of legislation, they passed in the Senate over and over again, and then they died in the assembly," she said.

The Independent Democratic Conference (IDC) was a former group of Democrats who had typically voted with Republicans, blocking various pieces of progressive legislation. She continued, "They die in the assembly because folks are taking money from corporations. Jeff [Dinowitz] has taken almost \$180,000 in the past few years from corporate PACs, from real estate developers.

She alleged Dinowitz and others say they care about particular issues, but following the dollars, she said they are in direct conflict with how to deliver on such services. The candidate's campaign contributions are covered under a separate story.

We asked Altagracia Wool-

ford why she believes she will succeed in unseating Dinowitz, who has held the seat since 1994. "I have fought really hard for my optimism in politics," she said, adding that there was a lack of trust in government, that New Yorkers were burnt out from the nastiness of politics, and that she aims to bring more care and humanity to the process. She said she was also used to working in tough environments, citing her work at the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union at a time when she said, "attacks from the right" were "relentless."

In terms of her appeal, she said, "I think it's that compassion and that understanding... that I see care as a superpower, I see care as vital to the work of service, and people have not seen that enough from the assembly member." She said people were starving, alone and isolated at the height of the pandemic and scared of being evicted.

"I rolled up my sleeves, and I started a mutual aid effort to feed people, and then from there, we expanded to do community programming for the families of Broadway Family Plaza," Altagracia Woolford said, referring to a program that houses 83 families with priority offered to those who have roots in or close to Bronx Community Board 8.

We put it to Altagracia Woolford that the assemblyman has advocated for his reelection based on what he said he has achieved on the legislative front in terms of housing, vaccines, the environment, the fact that he supports the New York Health Act, and that he is opposed to defunding the police which he says is in line with what constituents want, given the prevailing gun violence crisis.

"I do hear public safety is a huge concern," said Altagracia Woolford who has also received the backing of environmental and other community-led groups. "I hear a lot from elders of color, in particular, that they want to see police in their communities, and I respect that, and I believe, as an assembly member, it's important to build ties across different communities."

She added that, ultimately,

public safety doesn't exist if people don't have permanent, "dignified" housing, if schools aren't fully funded, if people can't afford health care. "These are the basics that make communities whole and make communities safer," she said. When asked if she was in favor of defunding the police, she said no, that she didn't run on slogans, but she did expect police accountability.

In terms of Dinowitz's record, she said, "If he was doing such a good job, then I don't understand how, in our district, over half of renters are rent-burdened, that people are struggling."

She was also critical of the scope of recent relief efforts for small businesses amid the pandemic. "When the restaurant resiliency grant money came through, and the State touted all of these funds – a number of immigrant-owned businesses did not have the support that they needed to get through that grant process," she said, citing the problem of language barriers among others. "I can tell you the bureaucratic process is really challenging. You need advocates in offices, like the assembly member's district office, who can help small businesses navigate the red tape, but also have some compassion for the small businesses that are really struggling and need support."

She added that public safety should also include the health of the small business community, making sure that they have what they need to thrive and that small business owners feel safe when they close up at night.

Assembly District 81 includes Riverdale, Kingsbridge, Van Cortlandt Village, Kingsbridge Heights, Marble Hill, Norwood, Woodlawn and Wakefield. New York State assembly district lines *will* be redrawn in time for the primary elections in 2024, according to a court ruling dated June 10.

In conclusion, Altagracia said, "That's why I'm so convinced and compelled that June 28 is going to be a great day for me, because it's going to be a great day for our community because people really do want change."

Early voting is ongoing through Nov. 6. Check your polling site ahead of time.

Elections 2022:

Kevin Pazmino on Govt Oversight, Crime & Housing

By SILE MOLONEY

Freelance filmmaker and former district 11 city council candidate, Kevin Pazmino, is running on the Conservative Party ticket in the upcoming general election on Nov. 8. in Assembly District 81. The seat is currently held by Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz and covers much of the Northwest Bronx.

Asked what his top-three campaign issues are, Pazmino said government accountability, crime, and housing. The candidate ran unsuccessfully on the Republican Party and Conservative Party tickets in the 2021 District 11 City Council general election which was ultimately won by now incumbent, District 11 Councilman Eric Dinowitz, son of the assemblyman.

Pazmino did not avail of the public matching funds program when he ran for city office and said, this time, he is also “self-funded.” The candidate holds what many would arguably call controversial views when it comes to science, among other topics, is opposed to a vaccine mandate, and previously told *Norwood News* that he does not necessarily fact-check posts which may contain conspiracy theories before he shares them with others.

Of his latest election bid, he told *Norwood News* in May, “Yes, I am running under the Conservative party line. I was going to be on the Republican line but there was an issue with the paperwork.” On government accountability, he said he wants to see “audits of government agencies, tracking of tax dollars spent, [with] an itemized breakdown to each taxpayer of how their money is being spent, the introduction of term limits, and a recall mechanism [for elected officials]. The incumbent has held the seat in District 81 since 1994.

Pazmino told *Norwood News*, “I would say if people are unhappy with the Democratic Party’s leadership, they should vote for change.” He added, “The progressive left has taken over the Demo-

cratic Party and are pushing to destroy our constitutional republic. They continue to step on our civil liberties with unconstitutional mandates. Their irresponsible spending is destroying our economy. If they (voters) want to bring back accountability, they should vote for me.”

He added, “The people need to be protected from elected officials who do not abide by their oaths of office. When the actions taken by career politicians infringe on our constitutional rights, the people should not have to wait for a court decision. The sheriffs should be the peoples’ first line of defense.”

He continued, “I want to audit all State and City government agencies, investigate the handling of the COVID-19 emergency, remove all immunity from elected officials, [and] help NYS recommit to the U.S. constitution.”

Pazmino, a father of four and 1st assistant director with the Directors Guild of America union, said he is running to dethrone, Dinowitz, who he characterized as “a swamp creature who has been in office for nearly 30 years.”

He has a three-point approach to crime: the rolling back of “pro-crime” legislation, “the creation of jails/hospitals to handle crimes that deal with the mentally ill and crimes committed while on drugs or alcohol, to make a distinction between organized crime and crimes committed due to mental illness and drug alcohol abuse,” and the fixing of the educational system with added programs to keep youth engaged.

He went on to say that he plans to repeal “all progressive legislation that is defunding our law enforcement. This includes the defunding of DA’s budgets for discovery.” He also wants to implement “constitutional carry.”

“If elected, I will be looking to overturn/repeal cashless bail & The Less is More Act,” Pazmino said. “I am looking to work to empower county



Photo courtesy of Kevin Pazmino

KEVIN PAZMINO

sheriffs with the power to remove any elected official who doesn’t abide by their constitutional oaths of office, set term limits [for assembly members] and the implementation of a recall mechanism, remove all the mandates, and reinstate religious medical exemption.”

Pazmino said he is *not* running on the Parent Party ticket in November but *has* been endorsed by the party. On April 20, the national Parent Party introduced a group of “Parent Party Democrats” to run in Democratic primaries in New York who took the “Parent Party Pledge.” This was described as “empowering parents (school choice), empowering citizens (term limits) and supporting local law enforcement (opposing ‘Defund the Police’ efforts).”

According to the Parent Party, political candidates who used its fundraising platform could be registered Democrats, Republicans, Independents or other third parties. Parent Party candidates agreed to a Parent Party Pledge:

This included supporting educational freedom and independence for parents by

having their education funds follow the students based on their parents’ choice of schooling, and supporting a full audit (academic, financial, and personnel) of the education system and schools to provide parents and the public with full transparency.

On housing, Pazmino advocates for a 10-year up-zoning freeze in New York City with a focus on fixing infrastructure and quality of life, working with other assembly districts in upstate regions to provide affordable housing and a fast commute to New York City, “rent-to-own” programs, and ease zoning to allow homeowners to rent out available rooms. “I will work with small landlords, corporations and private homeowners, and figure out a fair deal when building starts,” he said.

Among other plans, if elected, he plans to work with other assembly districts and the Army Corp of engineers to upgrade NYS infrastructure to better prepare the State for all possible disasters, rebuild and grow upstate cities to help provide affordable housing and grow the economy, and develop a

fair deal between private homeowners, small landlords and larger corporate developers with a focus on maintaining the integrity and history of neighborhoods.

He also plans to reopen and optimize State prisons he said were closed by Democrats, reopen and upgrade psychiatric hospitals he said were also closed by Democrats, and which he said, “has caused a flood of mentally ill in our jails,” and maintain historical infrastructure, for educational purposes, that is “ready to go in case of disaster.”

He also wants to ban critical race theory, ban sexual education for Grade 6 and below, form a NYS Militia/Guard, “tether State pensions to real world assets, and develop a crypto currency that gains value when spent inside the State. He said this would replace the need for State income tax and fund New York State government spending.

Other ideas are the implementation of a policy information resource, so that all citizens are fully aware of what laws are being discussed in Albany, with a system that allows the citizens to decide how they want elected officials to represent them, and implementation of full disclosure of any and all government action, including anything considered “Top Secret” as soon as any potential security concerns have passed.

Pazmino also wants to work with federal representatives to mandate that the IRS focus on government, multinational corporations, and NGO spending and not individuals making less than 300K and implement the retroactive removal of any liability protection for pharmaceutical companies.

“New York State has fallen to the Democratic Party. I am running to help save NYS from the grips of the Democratic Party,” Pazmino said.

Election voting is ongoing through Nov. 6. Check your polling site ahead of time.

Elections 2022:

Breaking Down Campaign Donations in A.D. 81

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Three candidates are running for office in Assembly District 81 on Nov. 8, incumbent Democratic assemblyman, Jeffrey Dinowitz, Working Families Party candidate, Jessica Altagracia Woolford, and Conservative Party candidate, Kevin Pazmino.

Ahead of the June primaries, Altagracia Woolford alleged that Dinowitz and other elected officials say they care about particular issues but following the dollars, she said, they are in direct conflict with how to deliver on such issues. “Jeff [Dinowitz] has taken almost \$180,000 in the past few years from corporate PACs, from real estate developers,” she said.

A review of the assemblyman’s campaign contributions since 1994, as of June 25, 2022, showed he had received \$1,287,354 in total contributions. Since the beginning of 2021, in the lead-up to his latest re-election campaign in June 2022, he had received a total of \$207,982 as of June 25.

This was made up of \$84,182 from 176 individuals. The largest individual donations were for individual amounts of \$4,700 and came respectively from David C. Rich from Maplewood, NJ; Richard Wills from Brooklyn; Inna Wills from Brooklyn; Asef Nagizade from Staten Island; Aynur Nagizade from Staten Island; and Neal C. Garelik from The Bronx. Their professions were not listed. The smallest donations were for amounts of \$10.

In terms of donations that were listed as *non-individual* contributions since the beginning of 2021, these totaled \$123,800 and came from 135 different entities. The largest of these contributions was for \$9,400 from the Law PAC of New York.

Lesser amounts were for \$4,700, received respectively from the New York Hotel Trades Council Committee and from the New York State Democratic Committee. Smaller amounts of \$100 were received respectively from Strategic Services Inc. and Padernacht Law PC, located in The Bronx.

Included in the \$100 to \$4,700 donation range were donations from Comcast & NBC Univer-



Photo by José A. Giralt

A LONE VOTER fills out a ballot at the Glad Tidings Assembly of God polling site in the Jerome Park section of the Bronx during the 2022 Primary Elections on Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2022.

sal, health insurance and auditing firms, sub-contracting firms, various professional associations related to beer, banking, law firms, car dealers, and several trade unions representing fire fighters, EMTs, nurses, transport workers, mechanics, plumbers, along with some florists and steamfitters. Johnson & Johnson donated \$250, and Pfizer donated \$500 on two separate occasions.

We later put it to the assemblyman that there are voters who may feel it’s preferable to vote for a candidate who does not appear to be beholden to any special interests, and who has committed to only accepting small-dollar donations from individuals.

Dinowitz replied, “Well, she [Altagracia-Woolford] could say that, but we really don’t know where all of her contributions came from, because if you look at her disclosure statement, some of her contributions aren’t itemized.” He added, “Every last one of my contributions are itemized. I have 100 percent transparency. She does not.”

We put it to Altagracia Woolford that the assemblyman told us he itemized his contributions and alleged that she, on the other hand, did not. The candidate appeared amused by the statement and responded, saying, “The comparison that a nearly 30-year

incumbent taking that scale of money from corporate PACs questioning the small-dollar donors that we didn’t itemize, you know?”

She continued, “To be clear, we follow the law, we follow all the rules with all of our filings, and I *don’t* take corporate money, I *don’t* take money from Pfizer, I *don’t* take money from the real estate industry.”

Altagracia challenged Dinowitz for the Democratic nomination in the June 2022 primaries. She referenced her previous links with the Democratic Party and her work on the Clinton election campaign, and added, “These are who *my* friends are, people that I’ve worked with, that I organized with, here in New York and across the country, but we can look at who *his* friends are and they’re corporations.”

Altagracia Woolford had raised \$108,590 as of June 26. The largest donations were for amounts of \$4,700, and these came from the Courage to Change PAC, affiliated with Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (NY-14), who has endorsed Altagracia Woolford, from David Roush of Manhattan and from Sen. Gustavo Rivera. The smallest donations were for amounts of \$1.

There were some in-kind con-

tributions, including one valued at \$150 from a corporation called Onkar Enterprises Inc., another valued at \$1,500 from Henry Cardenas in Chicago, another for \$405 from Ivett Contreras, spokesperson for Ocasio-Cortez, and three others totaling \$1,830 from D’Arrigo Bros. Co. of New York, based at Bronx Terminal Market.

Referencing again the need to follow the money, Altagracia told *Norwood News*, “The fact that Dinowitz has taken tens of thousands of dollars from developers, from the Real Estate board, but also from real estate lobbyists, shows you that when it comes down to you making a choice between who is going to protect those small businesses and your local economies, and the developer who wants to build another hideous structure, and what follows...big box corporate stores, they’re going to win because they’re the ones who are calling the shots.”

Norwood News carried out a search on the assemblyman’s campaign filings, using the words “real estate” and “REBNY” [Real Estate Board of New York]. They generated no results. We, therefore, reached out to Dinowitz’s campaign on Sunday June 26, for comment on this point. Matt Rey, a campaign spokesperson for the as-

semblyman, responded, saying, “Jessica has run nothing but a campaign based on lies and mudslinging, all fueled by out-of-state donors. The voters of the North Bronx will not be fooled.”

She added, “I’m also really proud of the fact that I’ve gotten a number of donations from folks that I’ve worked with deep in the trenches. I worked at an international labor union, I’ve worked for the 2016 Democratic National Convention, supporting Hillary Clinton to make sure that she had a platform and a vision that was clearly conveyed to people.” (Altagracia-Woolford also acknowledged the latter campaign was not ultimately successful.)

The challenging candidate concluded, “These are who *my* friends are: people that I’ve worked with, that I organized with here in New York and across the country. But we can look at who *his* friends are, and they’re corporations.”

Of his campaign donations, the assemblyman later added, “First, I believe I have a very small number of contributions from some corporates, including Pfizer, the manufacturer of the vaccine that saved millions and millions of lives, probably, and the contribution was a mere \$500. So, to say, ‘Oh, he takes corporate contributions,’ is really disingenuous because I have a lot of contributions. I have a significant number of contributions from individual people in my district.”

He continued, “She has just a tiny number of contributions from people in our district and in fact, I believe the majority, or close to the majority, of contributors are from out of state. What is it that is motivating people from places around the country to give her money for her campaign, but not people from the constituency that she’s going to serve?”

Pazmino did not avail of the public matching funds program when he ran for city office in District 11 in 2021. He said in relation to his assembly campaign, he is also “self-funded.”

Early voting is ongoing through Nov. 6. Check your polling site ahead of time.

Out & About

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

EVENTS

Join the **World War I Veterans Walking Tour** at Woodlawn Cemetery, 3800 Jerome Ave, The Bronx, NY 10467, on Sunday, Nov. 13, at 2 p.m. to honor notable veterans from World War I. The tour will be led by Kevin Fitzpatrick. Please dress for weather, as this is a walking tour. For more information, call (718) 920-0500 or email info@woodlawn.org.

Norwood Farmstand Compost sessions are held in conjunction with Grow NYC on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at E Gun Hill Rd and Dekalb Avenue in Norwood.

Join Woodlawn Cemetery, 3800 Jerome Ave, The Bronx, NY 10467,

for **Memorial to a Marriage – 20th Anniversary Celebration** on Sunday, Nov. 6 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. This self-guided tour of the remarkable sculptures and monuments of women, designed by women, and created by women celebrate the work of artist, Patricia Cronin. The Memorial to Marriage sculpture was the first monument to same-sex marriage in the world. Patricia Cronin will be present at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. for an artist talk at her sculpture. Pre-registration is not necessary. Call (718) 920-0500 or email info@woodlawn.org.

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. To reserve tickets, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com> and search for “Comedy Night Bronx Brewery.”

MUSIC

The **Bardekova Ensemble** is giving a free concert on Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2022, at the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center at 3225 Reservoir Oval East in Norwood. For more information, text (917) 584 6626.

PHOTOGRAPHY

From Nov. 1, 2022, to Jan. 1, 2023, En Foco Inc., 15 Canal Place, Bronx, NY 10451, is showing, “**George Malave: A Collection of Photographs from 1968 – 1979**,” which features a selection of works from photographer and En Foco member, George Malave, including: Varet Street Kids, Third Avenue El, and other historic images of the Bronx. For more information, please visit: www.enfoco.org.

The Humanities Institute of The

New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) has announced a new photography fellowship established by Larry Lederman, a member of NYBG’s Board of Advisors. The **Larry Lederman Photography Fellowship** will be awarded annually to an outstanding established or emerging photographer whose work focuses on gardens or landscapes and demonstrates excellence and a creative approach to the art of landscape photography. The application period runs from Oct. 20 through Dec. 31. Visit <https://www.nybg.org>, and search for The Larry Lederman Photography Fellowship, for more information.

MOVEMENT

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.

Will Credit Unions Solve the Affordable Financial Services Crisis?

(continued from page 8)

Credit Union which, for the moment, is operating out of a modified van, bringing banking and other financial services to neighborhoods that are underserved by the bigger banks.

The Bronx Financial Access Coalition (BXFAC) made up of Banana Kelly Community Improvement Association, University Neighborhood Housing Program, We Stay/Nos Quedamos, and Women’s Housing and Economic Development Corporation (WHEDco) has teamed up with The Lower East Side People’s Federal Credit Union (LES People’s FCU), Webster Bank, and partners including The Drivers’ Coop, The Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development, New Economy Project, and Boricua College to bring the project to fruition.

Webster Bank is providing the funding for the new mobile credit union. The deal was originally initiated by Sterling National Bank, but it recently merged with Webster. LES People’s FCU CEO, Aissatou Barry-Fall, expressed optimism for the partnership in a press release. “We are excited to expand to the northern borough and create the Bronx People’s

Federal Credit Union in partnership with the Bronx Financial Access Coalition,” he said.

“These communities don’t just need financial services, they need affordable financial services. Today, we proudly announce our goal of establishing a permanent branch in The Bronx by the end of 2023.”

A major difference, one that affects affordability between a traditional bank and a credit union is that banks are for-profit institutions, while credit unions are nonprofit organizations. This distinction plays a large role in why banks need to charge fees for some of their services while credit unions either charge no fees or nominal fees for services, and charge lower rates for loans. As stated in *Forbes Advisor*, “Banks are in business to make a profit. This means banks are focused on making that profit, rather than specifically centering on the needs of the account holder.”

A specific location for a permanent brick-and-mortar credit union branch has not yet been announced, but the van has made several stops in the South Bronx and was on the Grand Concourse and East 196th

Street on Aug. 11.

Closer to home in the north Bronx, *Norwood News* has covered multiple bank branch closings in recent years. As far back as 2008, stories about bank branches described the Bronx as “the most under-banked borough in New York City.”

Results of a survey covering the neighborhoods of Crotona Park East and Morrisania published in May 2019 by WHEDco, found that 24.2 percent of respondents did not have a U.S. bank account. One of the most common reasons given was, “I can’t maintain the minimum balance required.”

Another was “There is no bank in my neighborhood.” The study went on to identify The Bronx as having “the lowest concentration of bank branches per household in the country, and the largest concentration of unbanked households in NYC.”

Making banking services more affordable through a credit union is seen as a much-needed option in neighborhoods deemed underserved by local community leaders. Kerry McClean is vice president for community development at WHEDco and spoke at the launch event.

“I’m an immigrant to The Bronx, myself, and have been here for decades,” she told the crowd. “I’ve seen it for myself with my own family, just how the lack of access to convenient branches can really impact your ability to keep your hard-earned dollars in your pocket.”

Referring to the new mobile credit union, she said, “More people, especially low and moderate-income people, will be able to keep more of their dollars in their pockets and not have it taken out in maintenance fees, overdraft fees, unfavorable credit, and inflexible loans.”

As president of the Banana Kelly Block Association and a Community Board 2 (CB2) member, Ferguson is painfully aware of how a community suffers when banks are scarce and check cashing stores proliferate. She welcomes the arrival of affordable financial services in her neighborhood and wants others to know about the benefits of a mobile credit union. “I signed up for the credit union because it’s for the people, and I like the idea of belonging to something,” she said. “The part about fixing your credit is great, and a free ATM is even better. Now, I can say I’m a member of a financial institution.”

CRIME FILE

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



NJ Man Charged in Fatal Hit & Run of Food Delivery Worker

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark announced on Oct. 19 that a New Jersey man was charged with recklessly driving on the Grand Concourse, leading to the death of Bronx food delivery worker, Victorio Hilario-Guzman, in 2020.

Clark said Yeramil Alvarez, 22, of Ridgefield, New Jersey, was arraigned on Oct. 19, on charges of leaving the scene of an incident without reporting, reckless driving, and aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. Bail was continued at \$25,000 cash, \$75,000 bond.

According to the investigation, at around 7:47 p.m. on Sept. 23, 2020, near the corner of East 180th Street and Grand Concourse, Alvarez was allegedly stopped in a 2020 Black Genesis sedan and accelerated when leaving the location. Alvarez was allegedly speeding, ran a red light, and struck Hilario-Guzman, 37.

Hilario-Guzman was ejected from his bike and hit his head against the curb. Alvarez allegedly fled the scene, without stopping. The victim was taken to St. Barnabas Hospital where he was pronounced deceased hours later.

Alvarez's license had been

suspended at the time the incident occurred. To evade authorities, he allegedly drove to a hotel in New Jersey. The vehicle was a rental for which he had allegedly used a fake Pennsylvania license plate and had provided an inaccurate call back number.

The vehicle was found totaled in Michigan a month after the incident. Alvarez was arrested on Sept. 19, 2022, after he was stopped in Manhattan for driving with a suspended license. A person arrested and charged with a crime is deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

Olinville: 40-Year-Old Man Fatally Shot

Police said a 40-year-old man was fatally shot in Olinville. Officers from the 47th Precinct said that on Wednesday, Oct. 19, at around 3:34 a.m., police responded to a 911 call regarding a man who had been shot in the vicinity of East 216th Street and White Plains Road.

Upon arrival, officers observed a man, 40, with gunshot wounds to the chest in front of 3734 White Plains Road. EMS responded to the location and transported the victim to Jacobi Medical Center, where he was pronounced deceased. There are no arrests, and the investigation

remains ongoing. The deceased have since been identified as Obdulio Martinez, 40, from the Williamsbridge section of The Bronx.

Bronx Teacher Gets 15 Years for Child Pornography

A 40-year-old Bronx teacher pled guilty and was sentenced on Oct. 6 to 15 years in prison for enticing minor children to send him nude and sexually explicit photographs and videos of themselves over the internet. On April 5 of this year, Jonathan Skolnick, 40, of The Bronx, pled guilty before U.S. Judge Colleen McMahon, who imposed the sentence.

According to the charges, court documents, and based on statements made in open court, between in or around August 2012 and in or around June 2018, Skolnick worked as a high school teacher at a school in Brooklyn. In or around July 2018, he became an associate principal at a middle school in The Bronx, where he worked until his arrest in September 2019.

The Bronx Times reported that Skolnick worked until September 2019 at Salanter Akiba Riverdale Academy (SAR), located at 655 West 254th Street in Riverdale.

Off-Duty Cop Arrested for Sex Abuse

An off-duty NYPD officer has been arrested on charges of sexual abuse in the 49th Precinct, which covers the neighborhoods of Allerton, Morris Park, Van Nest, Pelham Parkway, Eastchester Gardens, and Pelham Gardens.

Carlos Diaz, 36, was arrested on Friday, Oct. 21, at 10:45 p.m. and charged with forcible touching and sex abuse. There are three police officers with this name assigned to the NYPD based at different commands. Care has been taken, in reporting this story, to protect against the potential identification of the victim. A person arrested and charged with a crime is deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

Two Sought in Armed Home Invasion

The NYPD is asking for the public's assistance locating the person seen in the accompanying photo who is one of two people sought for questioning in connection with an armed home invasion robbery that took place in Mt. Hope.

Police at the 46th Precinct said that on Tuesday, Sept. 27, at around 7:40 p.m., two people gained entry to an apartment lo-

cated at 1695 Grand Concourse. Once inside, the two displayed guns and demanded property from the two apartment occupants, a man, 35, and another man, 45.

The assailants allegedly struck the 45-year-old in the head with a gun and stole around \$70 and two cellphones from the location. They then fled in an unknown direction. Police said the victims were treated at the scene by EMS and refused further med-



ical attention.

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

3.35%^{APY} OPEN A CD IN MINUTES

Limited-Time Offer: Open our special **25 Month CD** today and maximize your earnings!

EXPERIENCE THE SERVICE.

At Ridgewood, discover sophisticated solutions for every stage of life – backed by the latest technology and a long tradition of personalized attention.



LEADING-EDGE PRODUCTS



UNMATCHED CONVENIENCE



POWERFUL DIGITAL TOOLS



DEEP COMMUNITY ROOTS



Open your CD today!
ridgewoodbank.com



Have a question?
Call our Customer Contact Center at **(718) 240-4778**.

1. Annual Percentage Yield. Rates are effective as of 10/27/22. The minimum balance to open the 25 Month CD is \$100. Early withdrawal penalties apply on CD accounts. Rates and terms are subject to change without notice.

Member FDIC | © 2022 Ridgewood Savings Bank



Cops Flood Subways to Combat Rising Crime

By DAVID GREENE

About two weeks before Election Day, Gov. Kathy Hockul and Mayor Eric Adams announced the NYPD was adding an extra 1,200 overtime shifts to its department roster each day. This constitutes about 10,000 additional patrol hours, with officers deployed to over 300 subway stations across the City during peak hours.

During the announcement of the new program called, “Cops, Cameras, Care,” on Saturday, Oct. 22, at Grand Central Station in Manhattan, officials laid out a plan that included “Safe Operations Support Units,” units dedicated to providing assistance to people experiencing homelessness on the streets and subway.

The units will also provide additional training to members of the NYPD, MTA police and EMS in dealing with people affected by homelessness and the mentally ill. The new “Cops, Cameras, Care” program also calls for the installation of video surveillance cameras in every single subway car.

Gov. Hockul said, “I want to be very clear; this is not something we started thinking about recently. It’s something we’ve been laser focused on, the MTA, NYPD, since the beginning. The mayor and I have been working to find solutions literally since his first day on the job when we went to the subway together and talked about a new era of cooperation between the State and the City to

solve these common problems that we share.”

Hockul added, “Today we’re also announcing we’re expanding our training to inform MTA police, the NYPD, and EMS on how to transport and deal with individuals in need of psychiatric evaluation. This training will incorporate the best practice for engaging the street and subway homeless population, helping officers better understand the problems they’re facing and how to deal with them.”

Adams added, “This effort will help with two things New Yorkers desperately want: the addition of hundreds of additional, strategically placed officers on our trains, and help to those suffering from serious mental health illness so they can find a way out of the subway system.” Adams added, “The bottom line is that riders will see more officers in the system, and so will those thinking of breaking the law.”

Speaking to *Norwood News* a day after the announcement, Norwood resident, Chris Perkins, recalled an unusual ride on a downtown 4 train on Friday, Oct. 21. “The conductor says, ‘This is 161 Street, Yankee Stadium and there is also a police department subway district,’ and I was like, why would they say that?” Perkins recalled wondering what the announcement meant as they pulled into the station. He continued, “Is he telling us to watch ourselves, and warn-

ing us that the cops are coming on the train and searching us?”

Recalling those first stops where officers were on many of the platforms, Perkins said, “I swear to God, we were all looking around like, ‘What the hell is going on?’ There were cops at every other station or two.” He added, “You got used to it along the way and all of a sudden, I’m thinking, I haven’t seen a cop on the subway in 3 years, and now they were like freaking everywhere.”

Meanwhile, Police Benevolent Association president, Patrick Lynch, quickly tweeted in response to the announcement, “The increased workload is crushing the cops who remain. The answer is not to squeeze them for more forced OT (overtime). Our city must immediately boost pay and improve working conditions in order to recruit and retain enough police officers.”

With many critics blaming bail reform for the surge in crime, on Sept. 10, *Norwood News* asked Manhattan Sen. Robert Jackson (S.D. 31), currently running in the upcoming general election on Nov. 8 to represent additional neighborhoods in the West Bronx, if he was worried about the upcoming election and a backlash over bail reform.

“No, not at all because bail reform was 2019,” he responded confidently. “We made some changes, and is there a possibility that we will look at some changes? I would say, yes, there is.” He

continued, “However, State senate majority leader, Andrea Stewart-Cousins (S.D. 35) and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie (A.D. 83) said that we’re not looking at that right now.”

Meanwhile, additional amendments, which took effect on May 9, were added to the cashless bail rules. These include additional factors judges may consider when deciding on bail, as well as expanding the list of gun crimes for which bail can be set. Hochul has also said she will revisit bail reform again when State legislators return to the Albany in January.

Based on NYPD statistics as of Oct. 23, there were 106 murders reported across the borough, compared with 124 during the same timeframe in 2021, a decrease of 14.5 percent. Felony assaults are up 17.6 percent, but overall crime in Bronx subways is currently up a whopping 41.6 percent.

Meanwhile, a day after the new police patrols were announced, the NYPD announced the arrest of a suspect wanted for slugging a 62-year-old straphanger who then fell onto the subway tracks. The incident was reported at the East 149th Street Station on the Grand Concourse at 9.45 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 23. Police charged Deshaun Smith, 21, of Brooklyn with assault, reckless endangerment, and harassment in the latest unprovoked subway attack.

SECURITY CONTRACTOR WANTED

The Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, Inc is looking for a security company contractor to install new security systems. The systems that we are looking to install are 180 degree panoramic dome cameras, access control system with new doors and locking hardware system. The project will be taking place at 3512 Dekalb Ave Bronx NY 10467.

For more information on the project please contact Ivan Diaz at 718-882-4000 ext 251. All contractors interested will be required to put a bid in for the project.



By NAOMI PEMBERTON

Every November, we mark National Diabetes Month by sharing guidance on diet, lifestyle modifications and treatments that can help people manage the condition. But less commonly discussed is the connection between diabetes and Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS), a hormonal disorder seen in women of reproductive age that can lead to insulin resistance and other poor health outcomes. More than half of women with PCOS develop Type 2 diabetes by age 40.

What is PCOS?

Polycystic Ovary Syndrome, otherwise known as PCOS, is a common hormonal disorder that affects women during their childbearing years. PCOS can also cause female infertility. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) reports that about 6 percent

to 12 percent of women of reproductive age in the United States (about 5 million) suffer from PCOS.

Common PCOS symptoms include:

- irregular menstrual cycles;
- weight gain;

- acne;
- excess hair growth;
- dark patches of skin, and headaches.

Women with PCOS are often insulin

resistant. This means the body is not properly using, or not responding to, the insulin the pancreas produces to control the sugar in the bloodstream, which increases the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes. Even though millions of women around the country suffer from PCOS, many people have never heard of this disease, and never receive a diagnosis, which is why it is critical to raise awareness about it, how it is connected to diabetes, and how to treat it.


It is important to take steps early on to prevent and treat PCOS. Luckily, what we eat has a great impact on this disease and this is very important for early intervention. Small changes in your diet, such as following a low-fat, plant-based diet can help reverse insulin resistance. A diet that limits carbohydrate intake can also help with insulin resistance, decreasing the insulin produced by the body. These changes in your diet can help with managing PCOS and its symptoms.

A proper diet can help you feel better physically and help your overall health. Obtaining proper medical attention and nutritional education can help manage PCOS and Type 2 diabetes. Montefiore has many resources and programs to assist. If you or someone in your family or community are facing challenges with PCOS, or with finding healthy food options, Montefiore is here to help. Here are some tips:

- Make an appointment with your primary care provider or obstetrician/gynecologist and get screened for social determinants of health. Your provider can assist you with resources for food and other needs.
- Always consult with your primary care physician before making any changes to your diet. Request a referral to a nutritionist or dietician who can help assist with meal planning.
- See a specialist like an endocrinologist (a doctor specializing in hormone-related diseases and conditions) who can provide additional treatment options.

Visit Montefiore's Project BRAVO food pantry located at 3058 Bainbridge Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467 on Mondays and Fridays from noon to 2 p.m., or on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon.

Naomi Pemberton, MPA, CPC is senior project manager of social determinants of health at the Office of Community and Population Health for Montefiore Health System.



Type 2 Diabetes & Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS)

AFTER A 2 YEAR HIATUS, POTS HARVEST DINE-AROUND IS BACK!

Nearly two dozen chefs,
clubs and gourmet
merchants will come
together to support our fight
against poverty and hunger.

The 2022 Dine-Around will
honor Joanne Daly.

Hampshire Country Club
Mamaroneck, NY
November 15 at 7 p.m.

Get your tickets at bidpal.net/potsdinearound





Affordable Housing for Rent

2850 Webster Avenue Senior Apartments

130 NEWLY CONSTRUCTED UNITS AT 2850 Webster Avenue, Bronx, NY 10458

Bedford Park

Amenities: On-site laundry room with card operated machines; 24-hour Building Superintendent; Part-time security on-site; Social services

Transit: Trains: D, B, 4; Buses: Bx26, Bx34, Bx41, Bx1; Metro North

No fee to apply • No broker's fee • Smoke-free building • More information: www.fordham-bedford.org.

Information about this lottery will also be posted on www.NYHousingSearch.gov

This building is being constructed through the Senior Affordable Rental Apartments Program (SARA) of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, and financing from the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal.

Who Should Apply?

Individuals or households with at least 1 household member who is 62 years of age or older at the time of the application who meet the income and household size requirements listed in the table below may apply.

Qualified applicants will be required to meet additional selection criteria. Applicants who live in New York City receive a general preference for apartments.

A percentage of units is set aside for:

- Mobility-disabled applicants (5%)
- Vision/Hearing-disabled applicants (2%)

5% of units are set aside for MI applicants and 2% of units are set aside for HI/VI applicants with disabilities as required by the DHCR

AVAILABLE UNITS AND INCOME REQUIREMENTS

Unit Size	50% AREA MEDIAN INCOME (AMI) UNITS	Monthly Rent ¹	Units Available		House-hold Size ²	Annual Household Income ³ <i>Minimum – Maximum⁴</i>
Studio		Eligible applicants must qualify for Section 8 and will pay 30% of their household income in rent.	105	→	1 person	\$0 - \$46,700
					2 people	\$0 - \$53,400
1-Bedroom		Eligible applicants must qualify for Section 8 and will pay 30% of their household income in rent.	25	→	1 person	\$0 - \$46,700
					2 people	\$0 - \$53,400
					3 people	\$0 - \$60,050

¹ Rent includes gas for cooking. Tenants are responsible for electricity.

³ Household size includes everyone who will live with you, including parents and children. Subject to occupancy criteria.

⁴ Household earnings include salary, hourly wages, tips, Social Security, child support, and other income. Income guidelines subject to change.

How Do You Apply?

Apply online or through mail. To apply online, please go to <https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/>. To request an application **by mail, send a self-addressed envelope to:** 2850 Webster Avenue Senior Apartments c/o Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation, 2751 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10468. To request an application over the phone or if you need more information please call 917-645-9542 and follow the directions.

RETURN APPLICATION: After completing your application, you must mail it to PO Box 2004 Bronx, NY 10458. Only send one application per household. Do not apply online and also send in a paper application. **Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.**

When is the Deadline?

Applications must be postmarked or submitted online no later than **January 3, 2023**. Late applications will not be considered.

What Happens After You Submit an Application?

After the deadline, applications are selected for review through a lottery process. If yours is selected and you appear to qualify, you will be invited to an screening interview to continue the process of determining your eligibility. Appointments are usually scheduled from 2 to 10 months after the application deadline. You will be asked to bring documents that verify your household size, identity of members of your household, and your household income.

Español	Presente una solicitud en línea en https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/ . Para recibir una traducción de español de este anuncio y la solicitud impresa, envíe un sobre con la dirección a: 2850 Webster Avenue Senior Apartments c/o Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation, 2751 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10468. En el reverso del sobre, escriba en inglés la palabra "SPANISH." Las solicitudes se deben enviar en línea o con sello postal antes de 3 de enero 2023.
简体中文	访问 https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/ 在线申请。如要获取本广告及书面申请表的简体中文版，请将您的回邮信封寄送至：2850 Webster Avenue Senior Apartments c/o Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation, 2751 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10468. 信封背面请用英语注明"CHINESE"。必须在以下日期之前在线提交申请或邮寄书面申请 2023年1月3日
Русский	Чтобы подать заявление через интернет, зайдите на сайт: https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/ . Для получения данного объявления и заявления на русском языке отправьте конверт с обратным адресом по адресу 2850 Webster Avenue Senior Apartments c/o Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation, 2751 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10468. На задней стороне конверта напишите слово "RUSSIAN" на английском языке. Заявки должны быть поданы онлайн или отправлены по почте (согласно дате на почтовом штемпеле) не позднее 3 января 2023.
한국어	https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/ 에서 온라인으로 신청하십시오. 이 광고문과 신청서에 대한 한국어 번역본을 받아보시려면 반송용 봉투를 2850 Webster Avenue Senior Apartments c/o Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation, 2751 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10468. 으로 보내주십시오. 봉투 뒷면에 "KOREAN" 이라고 영어로 적어주십시오. 2023년1월3일까지 온라인 신청서를 제출하거나 소인이 찍힌 신청서를 보내야 합니다.
Kreyòl Ayisyen	Aplike sou entènèt sou sitwèb https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/ . Pou resevwa yon tradiksyon anons sa a nan lang Kreyòl Ayisyen ak aplikasyon an sou papye, voye anvòp ki gen adrès pou retounen li nan: 2850 Webster Avenue Senior Apartments c/o Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation, 2751 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10468. Nan dèye anvòp la, ekri mo "HATIAN CREOLE" an Anglè. Ou dwe remèt aplikasyon yo sou entènèt oswa ou dwe tenbre yo anvan dat janvye 3, 2023.
العربية	ارسل طلب عبر الإنترنت على https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/ . لتلقي ترجمة باللغة العربية لهذا الإعلان والتطبيق المطبوع، أرسل مظارو "أنا بالعنوان إلى: 2850 Webster Avenue Senior Apartments c/o Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation, 2751 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10468" على ظهر المطبوع، اكتب باللغة الإنجليزية كلمة "ARABIC". يجب تقديم الطلبات عبر الإنترنت أو عن طريق ختم بريدي قبل 3 يناير 2023.
Polskie	Aby złożyć wniosek online, przejdź na stronę https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/ . Aby uzyskać polskie tłumaczenie tego powiadomienia oraz wniosek w wersji wydrukowanej, wyślij kopertę z własnym adresem: 2850 Webster Avenue Senior Apartments c/o Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation, 2751 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10468. Wpisz słowo „POLISH” w j. angielskim na odwrocie koperty. Wnioski muszą posiadać stempel pocztowy lub zostać przesłane online nie później niż 3 stycznia 2023.
Français	Pour déposer votre demande en ligne, rendez-vous sur le site https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/ . Pour recevoir une traduction en français de cet avis ainsi qu'un dossier de demande papier, envoyez une enveloppe libellée à votre nom et votre adresse à l'adresse suivante : 2850 Webster Avenue Senior Apartments c/o Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation, 2751 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10468. Inscrivez le mot « FRENCH » au dos de l'enveloppe. Les demandes doivent être envoyées par la poste ou soumises en ligne au plus tard le 3 janvier 2023, le cachet de la poste faisant foi.
বাংলা	অনলাইনে আবেদন করতে, অনুগ্রহ করে https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/ এ যান। এই বিজ্ঞপ্তির বাংলা অনুবাদ এবং আবেদনটি ছাপানোভাবে পেতে এই ঠিকানায় একটি স্ব-সম্বোধিত খাম পাঠান: 2850 Webster Avenue Senior Apartments c/o Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation, 2751 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10468। খামের পিছনে "BENGALI" শব্দটি ইংরেজিতে লিখুন। অ্যাংলিকেশনগুলি অবশ্যই ৩ জানুয়ারি ২০২৩, এর মধ্যে পোস্টমার্ক করতে হবে বা অনলাইনে জমা দিতে হবে।

اردو: ان لائن اپلائی کرے کے لیے، براہ کرم <https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/> پر جائیں۔ اس نوٹس کا اردو زبان میں ترجمہ اور پرنٹ شدہ درخواست موصول کرنے کے لیے، ایسے ذاتی پتے کا حامل ایک لفافہ: 2850 Webster Avenue Senior Apartments c/o Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation, 2751 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10468 پر بھیجیں۔ لفافے کی پشت پر لفظ "URDU" انگریزی میں تحریر کریں۔ درخواستوں کے لیے پوسٹ مارک کردہ ہونا یا 3 جنوری 2023 سے زیادہ تاخیر سے ان لائن جمع نہ کرایا جانا لازم ہے۔





Shop local and Save !

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

jeromegunhillbid.org
BID hotline 718-324-4946

 @jeromegunhillbid
 @jghbid



Classifieds

Professional Directory

COMPUTER SERVICES

Computer Repair

Computer Repair Upgrade, troubleshooting, lap-top overheats, cracked screen, broken power jack, virus removal, data recovery. Call James (646) 281-4475, (718) 324-4332.

Madame P's Beauty World, 617 East Fordham Rd., Bronx, NY 10458, specializes in basic hair care, press 'n curl, relaxer and silk press. We do hair-cutting, wave nouveau, carefree curl, hair coloring, afros, finger coil, afro shampoo and trim special offers. (347) 284 3834

FOR RENT

For Rent: Office apartment (P/H) - 4 rooms, plus foyer and waiting areas; private front entrance; 2 blocks from Monte & NCB; ideal for group practice: psychotherapy, energy healing, consultation, tutoring, etc.; (partially furnished, optional) rwengermail@aol.com.

Public and Community Meetings

The **52nd PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meetings usually take place on the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. 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, Nov. 15, at 6.30 p.m. Contact KCabreraCarrera@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list. All meetings are being held virtually, via Zoom, until further notice.

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



APARTMENTS FOR RENT

LANGSAM PROPERTY SERVICES CORP., AMO®
A COMPREHENSIVE REAL ESTATE SERVICE ORGANIZATION

1601 Bronxdale Avenue • Bronx, NY 10462 • T 718 518 8000 • F 718 518 8585
www.langsampropertyservices.com



Follow the *Norwood News*
on Facebook and
[@norwoodnews](https://twitter.com/norwoodnews) on Twitter



**TO REPORT A STORY TO THE
NORWOOD NEWS, CALL US AT
929-318-6595**

Fun in the Sun at Fall Festivals!

(continued from page 1)

ing this beautiful fall festival today at P.S. 8 Moshulu Playgrounds.” She added, “It’s amazing! Elizabeth and Aesha have done a great job! I am looking forward to spending a whole lot more time here!”

Sheila Sanchez, president of Northwest Bronx Democrats, was also in attendance with her grand-daughter, Mima. The Northwest Bronx Democrats have endorsed Nastasio in the upcoming election.

We also spoke to Aesha Valencia, public relations director for FOMP, about the planning that went into the event. “This year’s fall festival is at Moshulu playground,” she said. “It is the next playground on our list to get renovated and updated. We haven’t been able to do our fall festival for the past two years due to COVID. We have had to pause a lot of our events and activities, but this year we are

back doing our normal work.”

Indeed, the group has been advocating and sharing a flier on social media about the playground in hopes of increasing awareness and potentially obtaining funding for its renovation. As previously reported, it is situated about 50 feet away from the site of a non-fatal shooting which occurred last June.

On Wednesday, June 8, at around 2.20 p.m., a 22-year-old male victim was in a vehicle (as a passenger), located opposite 214 East Mosholu Parkway South, when he encountered a shooter. The gunman shot the victim in the back, and then fled on foot westbound along East 203rd Street, toward Valentine Avenue.

“The victim was removed to Montefiore [Medical Center in Norwood] by private means,” police said. He was treated there, and an EMT later confirmed to Norwood News that he was later transported to a trauma hospital.

Elections 2022: John Zaccaro Jr. on Quality of Life, Housing & Education

(continued from page 2)

Bronx director for intergovernmental affairs under former Schools chancellor, Carmen Farina. As a father of three, there’s nothing more important, I think, outside of the health and well-being of a child, than the education that our children are receiving, ensuring that they are receiving a high-quality education, that we have schools that are performing, and schools that are not overcrowded,” he said.

Zaccaro Jr. is a product of the north Bronx. Born at North Central Bronx Hospital in Norwood, he attended P.S. 246, located across from Poe Park in Fordham Manor, J.H.S. 143 John Peter Tetard in Kingsbridge Heights, which closed in 2007, and later DeWitt Clinton High School in Jerome Park.

He is open about his struggles as a teenage student. “I struggled through high school and ended up in a transitional high school which is CUNY Prep, which is right here in the district on White Plains Road,” he remembers. He said he also had to assume household responsibilities from an early age. “Being the only man in the house, raised by a single mother, it was my obligation from the age of 12 to work and to provide, and be of assistance,” he said.

From humble beginnings, continued close ties to his community and now, with more than 14 years of experience working for City government, Zaccaro Jr. believes he has what it takes to move on to State-level lawmaking. Asked to describe A.D. 80, he was effusive in his

praise of its diversity, citing former Mayor David Dinkins’ oft-quoted description of New York City as ‘a beautiful mosaic.’

The candidate added that he sees the district filled with rich culture. “Everywhere you go at every corner of the district you can find such great diversity,” he said. “You go to Little Yemen, and you see what they’ve built for themselves, and how we coexist, and the work we do together.”

Zaccaro Jr. is an executive board member of the Liberty Democratic Association, a member of the Pelham Parkway Neighborhood Association, and former board member of Bronx Community Board 7.

The Pelham Parkway resident wants voters to know that his lived experience has prepared him for what he hopes will be an opportunity to serve his community in a greater capacity. Whether it is quality-of-life issues, housing problems, or finding solutions for a better education, he is asking voters to give him a chance to work it out for them from Albany.

“These are the issues that are important to me, the issues that I’m hearing about from my neighbors that are important to them,” he said. “These are the issues that I feel I also have the experience to address and look forward to doing that upon taking office.”

Election Day is Nov. 8. Early voting continues through Nov. 6.

**Sile Moloney contributed to this story.*



Photo by Miriam Quiñones

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF the Jerome Gun Hill BID, Daniela Beasley and Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81) are pictured with officers from the 52nd Precinct, including community affairs officer, P.O. Stephen Echevarria (2nd right) who was presented with a community service award at the BID’s 21st Annual Fall Festival on Jerome Avenue in Norwood on Saturday, Oct. 22, 2022.

“There were no other injuries reported as a result of the incident,” police added.

Speaking to the benefit of the annual FOMP Fall Festival for residents, Valencia said, “The fall festival is important for the children and adults of the community; they do look forward to it! We always make sure that we have activities for them and entertainment that they don’t normally see. We think it’s beneficial to have these events for the Moshulu community.”

Those thoughts were previously echoed by Christian Ortiz, 20, who had been visiting his girlfriend in a nearby building on the day the June 8th shooting occurred, though he did not see it take place. We asked him at the time how he felt about the fact that it happened so close to his girlfriend’s home.

He said, “I’d say I’m desensitized to it. Growing up in The Bronx, you kind of get used to it, which is not a good thing, especially with the world affairs now and everything that’s going on. You’re just kind of like, ‘Oh, just a shooting,’ you know? It’s kind of almost like a car crash. I feel like it’s only going to get worse, only because I feel like a lot of people are ignorant to change.”

Ortiz told us his brother-in-law had been fatally shot years before. He said having him taken away was “uncomfortable,” adding, “It’s not like he passed away, or had heart attack. It’s like somebody took his life, and it’s a different feeling I’d say, because I lost my father to asthma.”

He said he felt angry at the time, and added, “There’s a lot of us who have lost people and it’s sad because it’s ignorance, a lot of ignorance. I feel like, with guns, we’ve just gotten worse.”

Back at the festival, meanwhile, Catherine Gasta, actor, theater maker and mime artist, was busily entertaining the kids with her fun costumes, dancing, and theatrics. There were also some strange-looking, Zombie-like characters present, adding to the spooky, Halloween atmosphere.

Later, reacting to the day, executive director of FOMP, Elizabeth Quaranta, said, “An amazing fall festival yesterday that was much needed at this Moshulu Playground, bringing awareness to it. It’s in much need of an upgrade.”

Local Bengali women’s empowerment group, LAAL, in conjunction with the Mekong organization and Meals for

Unity, held their own Fall Festival on Bainbridge Avenue in Norwood on Saturday, Oct. 22. Held under more beautiful sunshine, the Jerome Gun Hill Business Improvement District (BID) also lucked out, holding their fall festival along Jerome Avenue in Norwood on the same day.

The street was lined with an array of colorful stands selling clothes, jewelry, and candy, as well as hot and cold traditional foods from a variety of different cultures. There were also bouncy houses and, of course, a main stage where there was plenty of music and entertainment for those gathered.

Addressing the crowd on the day, new BID executive director, Daniela Beasley, thanked everyone for coming out to the BID’s 21st fall festival. “I’m so happy to be here hosting such an amazing event. The weather is gorgeous today, so we’ll get back to the performances in a minute,” she said, before going on to present an award to someone who she said was very special to the BID.

“Without the partnership with the 52nd Precinct, none of the work that we do would be possible, keeping the safety of our merchants in mind, the safety of the residents, and of course, just assisting us with huge events like this,” she said. “So, I want to give a huge thank you to the 52nd Precinct and present the Public Service Award to Officer Stephen Echevarria.”

Acknowledging the award, the community affairs officer said, “Hello everyone, Hello! Thank you, everyone, thank you, Daniela, and thank you to the Jerome Gun Hill BID, always a great partner to the 52nd Precinct. I hope you guys are enjoying yourselves. If you saw the first two performances, they were awesome.”

He added, “There’s going to be a few more so stick around, and anything we can do at the 52nd Precinct to help you, we have our NCOs (Neighborhood Coordination Officers) here today so if you have any questions, please reach out to us and thank you again. Have a great day!”

The next main event hosted by Friends of Moshulu Parkland will be held on Nov. 19 when they will host a fall bulb-planting day on the Parkland.

Summing up the festival, Quaranta later said, “Thanks to all those who came out! We had fun didn’t we? Let the holidays begin!”

**Sile Moloney contributed to this story.*

Injured Construction Workers & All Other Accident Victims

*We Fight for the Money You Deserve
Regardless of Your Immigration Status*

- Construction & Workplace Accidents
- Car & Truck Accidents
- Negligent Building Security
- Slip, Trip & Falls
- Elevator / Escalator Accidents
- Medical Malpractice
- Nursing Home Negligence
- Police Brutality
- Civil Rights Violations
- Victims of Sexual Abuse



Our **GUARANTEE**

There is NO FEE Unless We Win

Our firm has recovered over
Three Hundred Million Dollars
in verdicts and settlements
for our satisfied clients

FREE COUNSULTATION

Call 24 Hours • 7 days a Week

Some Recent Verdicts & Recoveries for Clients

Construction Accident - \$19,500,000 • Truck Accident - \$10,000,000
Police Misconduct - \$28,000,000 • Elevator Accident - \$1,400,000
Car Accident - \$1,600,000 • Slip & Fall Accident - \$2,650,000

If You Can't Come to Us...We'll Come to You

Expenses payable upon conclusion of case. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome

RASKIN & KREMINs, LLP

Over 75 Years Of Combined Personal Injury Law Experience

www.raskrem.com

160 Broadway (4th Fl.) New York, NY
Bronx Office - by appointment only

718-878-4858
212-587-3434

2 3 4 5 A C J Z TO FULTON STREET

N R W TO CORTLANDT STREET