



# NORWOOD NEWS

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## BRONX MAKES HISTORY WITH GIFT OF LIFE



Photo courtesy Montefiore Health System

**HIV-POSITIVE, WESTCHESTER** resident and heart organ recipient, Mrs. Miriam Nieves, 62, (in red) is pictured on Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2022, at Montefiore Medical Center, located at 111 E 210th Street in Norwood, The Bronx, along with the mom and sisters of deceased, HIV-positive, heart donor, Brittany Newton, 30, a nurse from Louisiana, Nieves' family members, and the Montefiore Health System transplant team who carried out the operation, the world's first HIV-positive to HIV-positive heart transplant.

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

It was an extra special Thanksgiving this year for one mother and her family. Seven

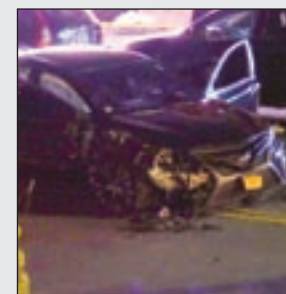
months after history was made in The Bronx, an emotional meeting took place on Tuesday, Nov. 22, between the world's first

HIV-positive to HIV-positive, heart transplant recipient and her donor's family. Westchester resident, Mrs. Miriam Nieves,

62, who is HIV-positive, met the mom and sisters of deceased donor, 30-year-old aspiring nurse, (continued on page 15)



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# NORWOOD NEWS

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# Bronx Children's Museum Formally Opens!

By ARIEL PACHECO

After operating as a “museum without walls” for more than 12 years, The Bronx Children's Museum has finally found a permanent home in the South Bronx. Located near Yankee Stadium, along the Harlem River, The Bronx Children's Museum is set to officially open to the public on Saturday, Dec. 3.

A long-awaited, ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Wednesday, Nov. 16, in celebration of the opening of the museum's opening. The Bronx Children's Museum is the first ever children's museum in The Bronx, and event organizers estimate they will engage with 24,000 children at the facility during its first year.

The opening ceremony featured several speakers, including Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, former Bronx borough presidents, Rubén Díaz Jr. and Adolfo Carrion Jr., along with various officials who played key roles in the founding of the museum.

“The Bronx Children's Museum will truly serve as a beacon of hope and opportunity, a space of artistic expression of culture, of education, all coming together,” said Gibson, a longtime supporter of the museum since her days as a city council member in District 16. “I am so proud that this date is finally here because of all the work,” she added.

The museum is geared toward children who range in age from infancy through fourth grade and is located just steps away from the Bronx Terminal Market and the future site of the Universal Hip-Hop Museum, part of the multi-million-dollar Bronx Point development. Several lucky children in attendance for the opening ceremony were able to see, ahead of the public, what the museum has to offer.

Hope Harley, founding president of the Bronx Children's Museum, who now serves on its board of directors, said of the occasion, “I didn't even envision this. I had no vision of what this would look like.” She added, “I just knew that we needed to create a museum for the children of The Bronx. “Every time I come in here, I cry, but tears of joy.”

The Bronx Children's Museum features site-specific art installations and interactive exhibits allowing families to play, learn and connect to The Bronx. The 13,000 square-foot facility has numerous exhibits including The Waterways, The Woods, The Block, The Nest, The Turret Gallery, and Sonia's Corner.

The Waterways mimics the look, feel, and function of Bronx waterways like the Bronx River, the Harlem River, and Orchard Beach. The Block is a miniature replica of a local neighborhood, complete with a community garden and various store fronts. The Nest targets children aged 0 to 3 years of age



**HOPE HARLEY, FOUNDING** president of the Bronx Children's Museum, Arlene Bascom, current president of the museum, Laurie Cumbo, commissioner of the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, former Bronx borough president, Ruben Díaz Jr., and State Sen. José Serrano (S.D. 29), among others, are joined by a group of children as actor and writer, Sonia Manzano, cuts the ribbon to mark the formal opening of the Bronx Children's Museum at 725 Exterior Street in the South Bronx on November 16, 2022. Photo by Ariel Pacheco

and their caregivers, where infants and toddlers can develop their motor skills through crawling and sorting objects.

The Woods allows children to discover and observe a variety of animals and plants through a microscope, while the Turret Gallery allows children to climb and crawl in an interactive space that features artwork from the children attending the museum's afterschool program.

Sonia's Corner is named in honor of both U.S. Supreme Court Justice and Bronx native, the Hon. Sonia Sotomayor, another longtime supporter of the museum, and Bronx native actor and writer, Sonia Manzano. Manzano played Maria on Sesame Street. Sonia's Corner features a collection of children's books and family-friendly resources.

“It's all about the children seeing, touching, experiencing, and really exploring,” said Arlene Bascom, current president of the museum, who also serves on its board of directors. The facility also includes twelve fine art installations created by Bronx-connected artists, theme-based areas, and interactive activities.

Diana Ayala, District 8 city council member and deputy speaker, said of the museum, “The fact that our children don't have to leave their place of residence to visit something so beautiful is really something that I'm proud to be a part of.”

The cultural institution was founded in 2005 and since 2010, has engaged more than 124,000 children and families according to the event organizers. “Imagine what our children will ascend to when they have institutions like this,” said Laurie Cumbo, commissioner of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. “That's why this in-

stitution is so important and perfect at this moment.”

The museum was previously mobile and the iconic purple school bus became a roving learning environment and the museum's most popular program. It was forced to shut down the “Museum On the Go” due to the pandemic. However, in the meantime, the museum secured funding from the City for a new bus that is expected to be ready for road in 2025.

Gibson went on to say, “This project will give The Bronx a cultural resource center dedicated to providing our children an opportunity to dream big, express themselves, and aspire to be whatever they want to be.”

The opening of the facility had been delayed multiple times due to various funding issues. It was supposed to be open in July 2022 but failed to acquire a temporary certificate of occupancy in time. The space is shared with the City's Parks department.

Parks commissioner, Sue Donoghue, who also spoke during the ribbon-cutting ceremony, said, “We're advancing equity and education, giving kids in The Bronx the Museum space they deserve. This museum is a partner of ours both literally and in spirit.”

For now, the museum will only be open three days a week. That may change as the institution secures additional funding in the future. Admission will be completely free for the first four to six months and thereafter, tickets will be priced at \$8 for both adults and children. Children under 12 months have free admission.

The museum is located at 725 exterior street on the second floor of the 1925 powerhouse in Mill Pond Park. Tickets are available now and more information can be found at <https://www.bronxchildrensmuseum.org/old-home>.

# Kingsbridge Heights: Fatal Shooting & Car Pile-Up

By **DAVID GREENE & SÍLE MOLONEY**

The NYPD arrested a man in connection to the fatal shooting of a 29-year-old male driver, shot on the Major Deegan Expressway on Monday evening, Nov. 21. The victim later crashed into “multiple” parked vehicles on Sedgwick Avenue in Kingsbridge Heights.

Police said that at 4.50 p.m., officers from the 50th Precinct responded to a 911 call regarding a man who had been shot in front of 2891 Sedgwick Avenue in Kingsbridge Heights. A police spokesperson said, “Preliminary investigation determined that a 29-year-old male was at 70 Major Deegan North inside of a black Toyota Camry when he was shot once in the back by an unknown individual.”

The spokesperson added, “The victim then drove to the vicinity of 2891 Sedgwick Avenue [where] he struck multiple, parked cars and then overturned his vehicle.” Police said the driver (gunshot victim) was transported to New York Presbyterian Allen Hospital in Manhattan where he was pronounced deceased.

Earlier than evening, *Norwood News* overheard some police radio transmission exchanges between two police units, one seemingly based on the Major Deegan Expressway, and one on Sedgwick Avenue. At around 4:45 p.m., an NYPD dispatcher reported that a male had been shot at Sedgwick Avenue in Kingsbridge Heights.

A short time later, a traffic unit reported shots fired on the Major Deegan Expressway and W. 234th Street and asked if it was related to the earlier reported shooting incident at Sedgwick Avenue in Kingsbridge Heights. A police official was later heard giving the address of 2891 Sedgwick Avenue and Reservoir Avenue as the location for a required ambulance to treat a shooting victim.

A short time later, at Sedgwick Avenue, a police official was heard saying, “Can I get one more bus (ambulance) to this location for an aided?” Meanwhile, a police official was heard saying, “At this time, regarding the (10-) 34 on the highway, there’s no description at this time. It just states that someone was shot and left the location.”

The police unit, seemingly based on the highway, later confirmed that shots had been fired on the highway and that a police unit was “canvassing” the area for evidence. An official from one police unit was later heard saying they had no description of the vehicle driven by the gunman, that officers had driven as far as the Yonkers border and could not locate any suspect.

The police unit based at Sedgwick Avenue was later heard saying, “Patrol supervisor, meet me over by the car wreck, over here.” Police were later heard saying units were canvassing Bronx hospitals for a possible second victim.

In another police transmission, a police unit was heard saying, “As far as the hospital canvas, there was a passenger in the backseat, a Black male with a black, baseball cap, khaki pants... possibly wearing a sweater. Unknown if he was struck, fled scene... on foot. Unknown direction of flight.” A police official was also heard on the radio saying the suspect fled from the backseat [of a vehicle].

Separately, the FDNY reported that emergency services received a call at 4.49 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 21, from 2891 Sedgwick Avenue regarding an arrest / shooting. A department official told *Norwood News* two people were transported to area hospitals, the New York Presbyterian Allen Pavilion and St. Barnabas Hospital respectively.

The deceased victim was later identified as Raymond Genao, 29, from the Fordham Manor section of The Bronx.

An NYPD flier offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest of anyone who was found to be in possession of illegal guns was later seen on the store window of the Mobil Gas Station on the Ma-

(continued on page 7)

Photo by David Greene

**RAYMOND GENAO, 29,** (POSSIBLY the driver of the pictured vehicle) was shot on the Major Deegan Expressway on Monday, Nov. 21, 2022. He later crashed into multiple, parked vehicles located on Sedgwick Avenue in Kingsbridge Heights and died a short time later.





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# INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



With the World Cup being played this year during off-season in Qatar, the first time the tournament is being held in the Middle East, and amid reports of the country's poor human rights records for women, manual workers, and the LGBTQ+ community, we asked readers if big money is influencing sports institutions like FIFA or the NBA to the detriment of professional sports.



"No, I don't think it hurts the sport. You know why? Because Qatar in the summer has very hot temperatures, so that's why they switched it from the summer to November. November, right now, in Qatar it's beautiful weather and they're holding the World Cup there. But I think everybody is happy there right now. I think that this is, like, the first World Cup held in the fall season. I don't know if that's a big problem for the players or the fans. Everything is going well. I'm a Morocco fan. They're good and their next match is against Belgium."

Ayoub EIBouhyaoui,  
Morris Park



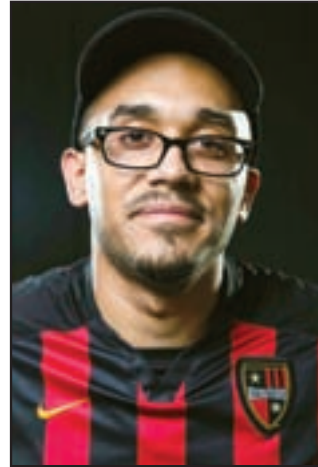
"Yes, I do think money is having an impact on sports; it's negative. The World Cup wasn't supposed to be in Qatar because it's not a site that's open to everybody. So, I think FIFA should organize the World Cup somewhere else, where everybody can be accepted and everybody can be welcomed, and that doesn't happen in Qatar. They have a lot of human rights issues. So, I think a lot of money was involved for the event to take place over there. It does have a negative impact on the sport because people are going to start to think that money can buy everything, and that can put some doubt in the results at the end. So, we're going to wonder if it was a legit end or was money involved again. We'd never know. I'm still watching. I don't watch every day because I work long hours. I must watch Brazil because that's where I'm from, so I watch my country. I think they're doing good. I think they're going to win."

Mario Souza,  
Parkchester



"Well, it's definitely all about money, you know what I'm saying? Everything revolves around money. The more money you make, the better players you have on your team, the more spectacular you can make the stadium, so people will want to come. So yes, I think the game could be stolen, just because they want the money that's circulating. I'm rooting for France. Sometimes you've got to go on faith and that's basically what I'm doing."

Chandler Monroe,  
Yonkers (visiting Kingsbridge Heights)



"I think big money is detrimental to a variety of things in the way that global capitalism has adverse effects on most of our lives. In the case of sports, we see it in concentrated wealth, generated mostly, thanks to the players, in the hands of a minority of rich owners, a small number of rich teams or a handful of developed nations. In the case of the World Cup, a small group of individuals at FIFA, many of whom are banned from soccer, in prison, or dead, likely took bribes or lucrative agreements in exchange for their support on Qatar's controversial bid. FIFA took the money and none of the players belong to, or are employed by, FIFA. They would be associated with their respective national federations. I'm not rooting for one team. I think a team from South America is due for a win."


Juan Escalante,  
Harttsdale, Westchester



"If it was up to me, I would have protested where the games were held. I do think teams stack the deck by paying players so much, for example the Yankees. I've noticed on 'True Housewives of Qatar' on Bravo, they try to make you think the women live such an extravagant, care-free life and that they have freedom like women here do. The show only portrays the rich, and you never see a maid or any common people, and where they shoot, the restaurant is usually empty. I think USA will beat Iran three to one."

Lisa Meyer,  
West Islip, NY

*Editor's Note: The Netflix documentary "FIFA Uncovered" describes the origins and trajectory of the organization, and the apparent bribery that took place over the years in respect of the bids by various countries to host the World Cup.*



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## Search for Local Missing People

By SÍLE MOLONEY

The NYPD is seeking the public's help locating a 12-year-old boy reported missing from University Heights. Police said Saul Delorbe of 2257 University Avenue was last seen leaving his home on Tuesday, Nov. 29, at around 00.50 a.m. He is around 4 feet, 8 inches tall, weighs around 100 pounds, has a thin build, a light complexion, black hair, and brown eyes. He was last seen wearing a gray sweatshirt and a black jacket.

Police are also asking for the public's assistance locating a 15-year-old girl reported missing from Kingsbridge Heights. Police said Maria Batista of 5 East 196 Street, Apt#406 in The Bronx, was last seen Monday, Nov. 21, at 7.30 a.m., leaving her home. She is described as being around 5 feet, 4 inches tall, weighs 130 pounds, is Hispanic, has a medium complexion, brown eyes and black hair. She was last seen wearing a black coat, black pants, and black and blue 'Yeezy' sneakers.

Police are also seeking the public's assistance locating a 50-year-old woman who lives in Fordham Manor. It was reported to the NYPD that Yasmine Lefranc of 2516 Grand Avenue was last seen on Friday, Nov. 4, at around 4.30 p.m., leaving

her home. She is described as female, is around 5 feet, 8 inches tall, weighs around 250 pounds, is Black with a medium complexion, and has short black hair and brown eyes. No clothing description was provided.

The NYPD is also searching for the 55-year-old man seen in the accompanying photo who is reported missing from Bedford Park. Police said that Courtney Stevens of 100 East Mosholu Parkway South was last seen on Monday, Nov. 14, at around 12.30 p.m. in his local neighborhood. He is described as being around 6 feet, 1 inch tall, weighs 200 pounds, is Black, has a medium skin complexion, brown eyes, and is bald. He was last seen wearing a black hat, a black jacket, and black jeans.

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

(continued on page 6)



# CARING MAKES MAGIC



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# NEWS BRIEFS

By SÍLE MOLONEY

## New City Laws Protect DV Survivors

Mayor Eric Adams signed two new bills into law on Nov. 22, which support survivors of domestic violence (DV) and gender-based violence in New York City. Intro. 153-A amends the City's administrative code by establishing a housing stability program for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence, while Intro. 154-A amends the City's administrative code by requiring the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV) to create an online services portal and resource guide for survivors.

The signing of the bills ushered in the City's annual, '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign,' which kicked off on Nov. 25, International Day to End Violence Against Women, and ends on Dec. 10, Human Rights Day.

## The People's Money Proposals

Mayor Eric Adams announced the launch, on Sept. 14, of The People's Money initiative, a citywide participatory budgeting process, whereby New Yorkers decide how to spend mayoral expense funding of \$5 million to improve local communities. Residents discussed some funding ideas at various public sessions in recent weeks.

Some local ideas include revitalizing the portion of Jerome Avenue between Kingsbridge Road and Bedford Park Boulevard, by Lehman College, as it "lacks lighting, sanitation, and a pedestrian-friendly environment." Students and visitors usually avoid walking on Jerome, especially at night as they are concerned about their safety and local businesses are also affected.

Another idea is to make public parks full of families and kids again, and to "stop persons from riding motorcycles in parks and smoking and other illegal activities." For a full list of the local proposed ideas, filter by borough and visit <https://www.participate.nyc.gov/processes/Citywidepb/f/303/proposals>.

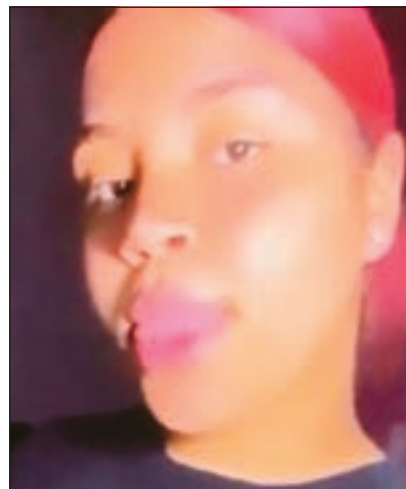
# Search for Local Missing People

(continued from page 4)

All photos courtesy of the NYPD.



SAUL DELORBE, 12,



MARIA BATISTA, 15,



YASMINE LEFRANC, 50



COURTNEY STEVENS, 55

## Patients' Bill of Rights to Include Informed Consent

State Sen. Gustavo Rivera's bill S1172C was signed into law on Nov. 22. It will ensure the State's Patient Bill of Rights includes and clearly states important rights around informed consent, which the senator said will empower patients to make the best healthcare decisions together with their healthcare providers.

## D Line Weekend Subway Suspension

The D line, weekend subway service is suspended from Fridays at 11.30 p.m. until Mondays at 5 a.m. between Norwood-205<sup>th</sup> Street station and 161<sup>st</sup> Street station due to track maintenance. Subway passengers are asked to use the 4 train at Mosholu Parkway instead and to change at 161<sup>st</sup> Street to the D line. A

free, regular bus shuttle service is in operation at weekends to transfer passengers from Norwood-205<sup>th</sup> Street station to Mosholu Parkway station.

## Laal Appoints New Outreach Coordinators

Norwood-based women's empowerment group, Laal, has appointed two new outreach coordinators to serve its Indian and Pakistani members. Sumera Kotab attended SM Law University in Karachi, Pakistan, attaining two masters, in law and in politics. She was an active member in college and loved supporting other women to reach their full potential through education. She is fluent in Urdu and Punjabi and is very proud of her culture. Sumera said she has experienced similar struggles to those experienced by the

women at Laal. However, she said she never lets those struggles define her, but rather uses them to serve as motivation to fix problems in culture and society.

Khadija Kolya, a volunteer coordinator with Laal, immigrated from Gujarat, India, in 1997 after finishing secondary school, and started out as an assistant at a daycare center for 2 and a half years, while simultaneously finishing off high school in The Bronx. She works at the U.S. Census Bureau, including on annual, door-to-door, outreach campaigns. She also works as a poll worker during election season, and volunteers at Learning Leaders, assisting public school teachers in elementary schools. In addition, she assists as an "English as a Second Language" (ESL) instructor to some of Laal's Pakistani and

Indian members.

## Bronx Chamber of Commerce Mourns Chair

The Bronx Chamber of Commerce is mourning the death of longtime chairperson, Joseph P. Kelleher, who was also a businessman and former BronxNet host. The Chamber's board of directors wrote, "Chairman Kelleher was a loving husband and father, friend and mentor to many, businessman and fierce advocate for The Bronx and New York State. He has left a lasting impact on our borough and State and is an example of true leadership for us all." They added, "Please join the Bronx Chamber of Commerce and communities throughout New York State in prayer for Joe and his family. For further information, contact [mbrady@bronxchamber.org](mailto:mbrady@bronxchamber.org)."



# Kingsbridge Heights: Fatal Shooting & Car Pile-Up

(continued from page 3)

for Deegan Expressway in Van Cortlandt Park, where the fatal shooting took place.

On Sunday, Nov. 28, the NYPD announced that pursuant to an ongoing investigation, Manuel Palma, 26, of Riverside Drive in Manhattan was arrested on Wednesday, Nov. 23, at 6.30 p.m. in the 50th Precinct in connection to the incident. He was charged with murder, manslaughter, and two counts of criminal possession of a weapon (a loaded firearm).

Because of the earlier police reference, caught on radio, to a suspect allegedly fleeing from the back seat of a car, *Norwood News* later asked the NYPD if they could say if the victim was a taxi driver, or if he had been shot by an assailant who had been in the backseat of his car. The NYPD responded, saying, "Unable to confirm at this time; incident remains under investigation."

On Sunday afternoon, Nov. 27, less than an hour before police would make the arrest in the case, *Norwood News* spoke to Albert, an employee at Sedgwick Market Place, formerly C-Town supermarket, located at 2891 Sedgwick Avenue in Kingsbridge Heights, close to the scene of the car pile-up. He described how the incident unfolded, saying, "He flipped over, and we pushed. We pushed to try and save his life, but it was too late. They came with the ambulance, the first aid, and they couldn't do anything for him."

We mentioned that we didn't see damage to the side or top of the victim's vehicle. Albert responded, "It was strange." He said that the vehicle was on its side when about eight bystanders began to push the car back onto its wheels. "We pushed, all of the people that were here, and we pushed because the guy was inside. I work here and I got out and I helped him because they couldn't," Albert said.

Gesturing with his hand to indicate that the car was on its side, he continued, "At first, the car was like this, on the side." Later, pointing to the street, he said, "The car was there, and a woman was there in a little car, and he [the driver] pushed... crashed [into other cars] and it was very bad....at the entrance to the Chinese [restaurant]."

Asked how many other cars the driver hit, Albert said, "Two, and the little....a smart car." Asked if he could confirm if the driver had been shot in the back, he said, "Yes, it was in the back. He fell down here because he lost consciousness, right here! Two cars, one here and the little one was in the back and he hit the two cars at the same time."

Albert went on to say that a woman was driving the smart car and a child, a young girl, was in the back seat. He said the driver, who was shot, had been travel-

ing southbound on Sedgwick Avenue. The police later confirmed that the victim lived near St. James Park. The victim may, therefore, have been trying to head home. Asked if the victim was a taxi driver, Albert said, "Many people said he was a taxi driver. He was."

A Bronx resident, whose name we are not disclosing to protect her identity, later confirmed she was the victim's sister when we spoke to her by phone. Asked if her brother was a taxi driver, she replied, "No, he wasn't a taxi driver." Asked if she knew what had happened to him, she said, "No, I don't know exactly what happened." We asked if she could describe her brother. She said, "I don't know anything about him. We didn't live together, and he had just came home."

*Norwood News* was unable to reach anyone at the

suspect's home for comment. We were informed by employees that police obtained surveillance video footage from both the Mobil gas station, the site of the shooting, and from a supermarket on Sedgwick Avenue near where the crash took place.

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

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



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## Letters To The Editor

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

### Come to the Table of Plenty

As we approach the reason for the season, the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ, please know you are all welcome to attend religious services at your neighborhood Church, the Parish of St. Brendan and St. Ann.

You do not have to be Catholic, and all are welcome. You will be greeted by the Pastor Raul and Deacon Paul. You can find Mass times here: <https://saintbrendanchurch.org>.

What is important is that we show fellowship with each other and think of those less fortunate than us, and how we can help those individuals and families. That is what the birth of Christ signified - hope for the world!

Christmas is a time for renewal and a chance to better the world and ourselves, all at the same time. I hope to see all of my neighbors as well as the rest of the Bronx there. We can make room for all in the pews! Merry Christmas!

**Richard Marias  
Norwood**

### Anti-Gay Bigotry, Domestic Violence, Murder

Richard Marias' letter to the editor "Qatar Hosting the Soccer World Cup," Norwood News, Nov. 17-30, is typical of his anti-gay bigotry and his hypocritical defense of evil laws in the name of morality. Qatar is supposed to be given credit for not carrying out the Sharia death penalty against gay people? They "only" get seven years in prison...

This is the penalty for all extramarital sex. So, if an unmarried man has sex with an unmarried woman, they get seven years in prison. Also, "leading, instigating, or seducing a male to commit sodomy or dissipation" gets you one to three years. "Dissipation" means wasteful. I guess that depraved government considers sex that cannot produce a child wasteful.

So, if a wife seduces her husband into giving her anal sex, or using a condom, she goes to prison. Who monitors this? Peeping Toms? Marias describes these laws as "common sense." Does he describe Donald Trump as skinny? As for Marias' use of the words "woke" and "sissy," I guess when you have no sane argument, you resort to name calling.

On another subject, I'm all for the laws passed to protect domestic violence survivors mentioned in the News Briefs in the same issue. I would add this. Any person who persists in threatening and battering a former domestic partner should be imprisoned. The woman should not have to be like a criminal and hide from him. He should not be allowed near her. When he gets out, he should be on life-time parole. If he goes near her again, he should go back to prison.

Also, here's something that should apply not only to domestic abusers. Attempted murder should be treated the same as murder. Nobody should get out so they can have a second shot at murdering their target. The penalty should be life without parole.

Of course, we need judges who properly enforce the law. In Brooklyn, Zidon Clarke was found guilty of manslaughter but acquitted of murder. His victim was shot in the back of the head. So, clearly, he intended to kill his victim. This verdict, in a non-jury trial, was delivered by Brooklyn Supreme Court Judge Danny Chun (see November 22nd NY Daily News article, "Gang member dodges murder charges in stray-bullet death.")

Also, how a shot to the head, which Clarke bragged was his good aim, gets described as a "stray bullet" is beyond

my comprehension. Obviously, Chun needs to be removed from the bench.

**Richard Warren,  
Van Cortlandt Village**

### Election Day Clean Up

Election Day has come and gone. This reminds me of "The Outer Limits," a 1960s television show. With the end of round-the-clock commercials by politicians, political parties, political action groups, and pay-for-play special interest groups, control of your television is now back with you until the next election cycle. No more candidates' campaign mailings clogging mailboxes and weighing down our hardworking postal employees. Finally, some peace and quiet!

Candidates who claimed they cared about the environment can now do their part. Winners and losers should have their paid campaign staff and volunteers pick up all the thousands of campaign signs that litter our roads and highways to help clean up this waste. They could also use leftover campaign funds to hire homeless or unemployed people to collect this litter. Let some people with community service be assigned this task. If candidates refuse to clean up after themselves, the NYC Department of Transportation should do the job and send candidates the bill.

**Larry Penner  
Great Neck**

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



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# Bronx CB7 Holds 1st Veterans' Flagging Event

By MIRIAM QUIÑONES

Bronx Community Board 7 (CB7) held the first veterans' flagging event on Nov. 19, 2022 at the Bronx Victory Memorial in Bedford Park. In attendance, among others, were Karla Cabrera Carrera, Bronx CB7 assistant district manager, Bronx CB7 Veterans Committee chair, Chad Royer, Northwest Bronx Democrats founder and veteran, Anthony Riveccio, Bedford Mosholu Community Association (BCMA) president and Bronx CB7 parks committee chair, Barbara Stroncz, Guerinos against Graffiti\* president, Sirio Guerino, veteran, David Rosas, Jean Hill, former chair and current member of Bronx CB7, and Deputy Inspector Jeremy Scheublin, commanding officer of the 52nd Precinct.

Addressing those present, Royer said, "Let us use opportunities like this to remember what is happening now. We must not forget that we still have pressing matters pertaining to our veterans. While some of our veterans are doing well, others are without a place to live, without family members, dealing with mental health challenges, dealing with physical limitations and disability, dealing with food insecurity, searching for jobs that pay a living wage, and dealing with the trauma from bad experiences during their time of service."

He added, "The list is long. We need, each of us, to play an active role in helping our friends, family members, and neighbors who have served, while we honor and remember those who have passed on while having chosen to protect our country."



Photo by Miriam Quiñones

**DEPUTY INSPECTOR JEREMY** Scheublin, commanding officer of the 52nd Precinct, addresses those gathered at the first Bronx CB7 veterans' flagging event on Nov. 19, 2022, at the Bronx Victory Memorial in Bedford Park.



Photo by Miriam Quiñones

**RESIDENTS ATTEND THE** first Bronx CB7 veterans' flagging event on Nov. 19, 2022, at the Bronx Victory Memorial in Bedford Park.

Riveccio, a U.S. Navy veteran, said, "It was my honor to advocate for an event three organizations, including mine, have been doing since 1987 when the WWI monument was in decline, and full of garbage and graffiti. Thirty-five years later, it is now clean, illuminated, and going to be used for events again, as it was decades ago, before 1987." He added, "I thank CB7 Veterans Committee, Norwood Against

Graffiti, Bedford Mosholu Community Association and Northwest Bronx Democrats."

For her part, Hill said, "For all of our vets, I would like to say everyone waves the flag, but we have to take care of our vets. They have post-traumatic stress syndrome. They have homelessness problems, they have a host of issues that seem to get lost in the storm when they come home."

She added, "Everybody waves while they are serving, but they tend to forget them when they come home, and I have experienced this full circle."

Rosas also addressed those gathered, saying, "I'm a veteran, myself, and it's a real honor to come out here for a World War I event. Last time I really went and honored World War I with veterans, or anything that had to do with World War I was when I was in Europe going to some of the monuments and sites like that, so it's great to have something like this in The Bronx." Rosas added, "So, I am really thrilled that we're going to take action as a community to try to make things better. I am really glad I came out today."

Guerino said he was glad to attend, saying, "Unfortunately I am not a vet, but my grandfather fought in World War I, on the Italian side, in Italy. My uncle, Eddie, and my uncle, Tony, my mother's brother, served in Korea. My own son was in Kuwait, and as a family member whose relatives are very patriotic, I serve the community by coming out every day to make up for not serving in the armed forces." He added, "I want to thank everybody for being here and I want to thank God I live in America. God bless everyone."

*Editor's Note: Chad Royer is referenced incorrectly as a veteran in our latest print edition. We apologize for this, our error.*



Photo by Miriam Quiñones

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7** Veterans Committee chair, Chad Royer, (left) poses for a photo with Northwest Bronx Democrats founder and veteran, Anthony Riveccio, at the first Bronx CB7 veterans' flagging event held Saturday, November 19, 2022, at the Bronx Victory Memorial on Mosholu Parkway in the Bedford Park section of The Bronx



Photo by Miriam Quiñones

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7** deputy district manager, Karla Cabrera Carrera addresses those gathered at the first Bronx CB7 veterans' flagging event on Nov. 19, 2022, at the Bronx Victory Memorial in Bedford Park.



## CRIME FILE

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



### University Heights: Man Shot in Head Area

Officials from the 52nd Precinct are calling on the public to help with an investigation into a non-fatal shooting in University Heights. They said the incident occurred on Nov. 26 at around 2:24 a.m. opposite 138 West Fordham Road. Police said a suspect shot and struck a victim in the head area before fleeing in the pictured vehicle. A reward of up to \$3,500 is being offered for information in relation to the incident. Residents are asked to call 1-800-577-TIPS with any information they may have. Calls are confidential.

to parts unknown, police said, adding there were no reported injuries.

The gunman was described as a man with a light complexion, estimated to be in his 40s with a medium build, is around 5 feet, 9 inches tall, and has short, salt-and-pepper colored hair. He was last seen wearing a yellow jacket with the words, "Sean John" affixed to the front of it, in white lettering.

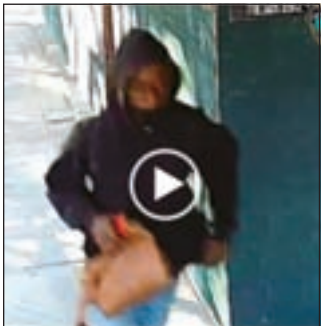
His clothing description was taken from a video recording captured a short distance away from the robbery location in which the assailant is seen turning his jacket inside out, to reveal a navy-blue jacket with white lettering affixed to the front of it, black pants, and dark



### Fordham Heights / University Heights Gunpoint Robbery

The NYPD is asking for the public's help locating the person seen in the accompanying photo who is sought in connection to a gunpoint robbery that occurred on the border of Fordham Heights and University Heights.

Police said that on Wednesday, Oct. 26, at around 3.52 a.m., in the vicinity of Jerome Avenue and West 184th Street, a man approached a second man, 27, displayed a gun, and demanded money from him. The gunman later fled southbound with \$150 on Jerome Avenue



colored shoes.

### Bedford Park: Woman, 77, Robbed on Street

The NYPD is asking for the public's help, identifying the person seen in the accompanying photo who is sought in connection to the robbery of a 77-year-old woman in Bedford Park.

Police said that on Tuesday, Nov. 8, at around 8.20 a.m., the woman was walking in the vicinity of Decatur Avenue and East 201st Street when a person unknown to her approached her. They said the person snatched her purse before fleeing northbound on East Mosholu Parkway South on foot.

The victim's purse contained a cellphone, wallet, keys and identification documents,

police said. No injuries were reported, police said.



### Norwood: Woman, 77, Robbed in Home

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the person seen in the accompanying photo who is sought regarding a robbery in Norwood.

Police said on Friday, Nov. 18, at around 8.30 a.m., a woman, 77, was entering her apartment building, located in the vicinity of Kossuth Avenue and East Mosholu Parkway North, and while walking to her apartment door, a person approached her from behind and grabbed her purse.

As a result, the victim was thrown backward and hit her head on the ground. The assailant fled the location in an unknown direction. EMS responded and treated the victim at the scene. The victim's purse contained ID documents and around \$125.



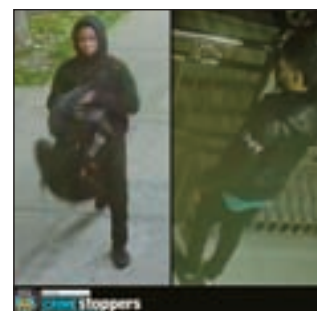
### Fordham Heights: Two Sought following Non-Fatal Shooting

The NYPD is asking for the public's help locating two people sought in connection to a non-fatal shooting in Fordham Heights. Police said that on Tuesday, Oct. 11, at around 10.10 p.m., a 24-year-old man was walking with a friend in front of 2399 Grand Concourse when two people approached him. One of them displayed a gun and fired it several times, striking the victim once on his left arm.

The two fled the location on foot, northbound, along Grand

Concourse toward East 187th Street. EMS responded and transported the victim to St. Barnabas Hospital in stable condition, police said. No other injuries were reported. Only one of the two people sought is seen in the accompanying photo.

He is described as male, is around 5 feet, 7 inches tall, weighs around 150 pounds, has braided hair, and wears glasses. He was last seen wearing a black, waist-length vest, a black, hooded sweatshirt with white patches on the sleeves, black jeans, black shoes, and a



black baseball hat.

### University Heights: Assault on Police Officer

Police are asking for the public's help identifying the two people seen in the accompanying photo who are sought in connection to an assault on a police officer that occurred in University Heights. Police said that on Tuesday, Nov. 22, at around 10.39 p.m., officers in uniform, who were in an unmarked police vehicle, observed a person changing a license plate on a gray 2007 BMW M5 in front of 2287 Loring Avenue, and attempted to conduct a car stop.

One police vehicle was parked slightly in front of the BMW and a second unmarked police car that responded to the location parked slightly behind the BMW, police said. As officers approached the BMW, police said the person who was changing the license plate fled into the rear driver side passenger seat of his vehicle.

They said the driver of the car then began ramming it back and forth into the two police vehicles, and added that six other, uninvolved, civilian vehicles were also damaged by the BMW. Police said that when officers on scene called for additional units to respond, a uniformed officer in a marked police vehicle arrived at the location. They said as the officer exited his vehicle, the driver

of the BMW reversed and struck the officer.

Police said the BMW driver then recklessly drove along a public sidewalk and fled the location. EMS responded and transported the injured officer to Montefiore Medical Center in stable condition with an injury to the right knee.

No other physical injuries were reported, only property damage, police said. After a canvass of the area, police said the BMW was located, unoccupied, near the intersection of While Plains Road and Morris Park Avenue in Little Yemen and was removed.



### Fordham Manor Arson Attack

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the person seen in the accompanying photo who is sought in connection to an arson attack in Fordham Manor. Police said on Tuesday, Nov. 22, at around 00.10 a.m., a person approached the front of a business located at 2481 Creston Avenue and set fire to garbage outside the location. (Both a Citi bank branch and a 99 Cents store are located in the vicinity of this address, according to Google Maps.)

The fire spread, engulfing a gray 2012 Nissan Rogue, parked at the location, police said. The car fire then spread to the business's awning, they said. The person fled the location on foot in an unknown direction. No injuries were reported, police said.

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



# Out & About

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

## EVENTS

Friends of Mosholu Parkland (FOMP) will be hosting a **Winterfest on Mosholu** (Parkway) and Bainbridge Avenue in Bedford Park in the lead-up to the **Annual Holiday Tree Lighting** event on Dec. 8, hosted by Bronx Community Board 7 and FOMP, at which there will be seasonal refreshments, snacks, and more. Call (347) 371 3085 for more information on the Winterfest.

Families are invited to join the fun at the **Winter Wonderland**, with icicles, snowflakes, arts and crafts, winter games, and a special visit from Santa, himself, at the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, 3225 Reservoir Oval East in Norwood on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 12.30 p.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call (718) 543-8672 or email [Sarah.Bishow@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:Sarah.Bishow@parks.nyc.gov).

Experience the magic of New York City's largest, outdoor, holiday light experience as New York Botanical Garden's **NYBG Glow** exhibit returns for a third year on Nov. 18-19, 23, 25-26, Dec. 2-3, 9-11, 15-17, 22-23, 26-30, 2022 and on Jan. 1, 7, 14, 2023, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Discover the beauty of the garden's landscape and historic buildings after dark, breathtakingly illuminated. Round out your experience with an after-dark visit to the **Holiday Train Show®** under the glow of the Haupt Conservatory by purchasing a special combination ticket. Enjoy a drink, hot cocoa, and a bite to eat at one of the outdoor bars or the Bronx Night Market Holiday Pop-Up. For more details, visit [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org).

## MUSIC

Join Bronx Arts Ensemble for its **Annual Holiday Concert**, featuring Jennifer Jade Ledesna in the Woodlawn Chapel at Woodlawn Conservancy on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 3 p.m. For more information, visit

[www.woodlawn.org](http://www.woodlawn.org).

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts presents **El Parrandón de la Gran Manzana** on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 8 p.m. The show features Víctor Roque, Henry Hierro, Pablo Martínez, Willie Gomez, Víctor Brito, Tony Valdez, with special guests, Grupo d'Ahora, and the great salsa showman and Lehman Center favorite, José Alberto aka "El Canario." This historic reunion of the original members of La Gran Manzana will be a one-of-a-kind concert at Lehman Center, a celebration welcoming in the Christmas season. Visit <https://www.lehmancenter.org/events/parrandon-gran-manzana> for more information.

Bronx Community College presents a beloved holiday event and true celebration of community! The Orchestra of The Bronx, joined by The Bronx Opera Chorus and 23 Readers in **Handel's Messiah** on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 3 p.m. at Bronx Community College, Hall of Fame Playhouse. The pedestrian entrance is 2155 University Avenue, and the car entrance is at 200 Hall of Fame Terrace. Take the 4 subway train to Burnside Avenue. Tickets for the event are \$30 in advance or \$40 at the door. Reserve at <https://www.bcc.cuny.edu/about-bcc/bcc-foundation/foundation-events/handels-messiah/>. Proof of vaccination is required or a negative test from the past five days. Masks are optional but recommended.

Four-time, Grammy award-winning, and internationally acclaimed, world music sensation, the **Soweto Gospel Choir**, will perform at the Lehman Center for the Performing Arts on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 4 p.m. Direct from South Africa, the Soweto Gospel Choir returns to Lehman Center with an all-new concert, entitled "Hope: It's Been A Long Time Coming," commemorating the freedom movement in South Africa and the civil rights movement in the United States. Visit <https://www.lehmancenter.org/events/parrandon-gran-manzana> for more information.

Celebrate the sounds of the season with **The Beautiful Music of Christmas** and help raise funds for Church of the Mediator, 260 W 231<sup>st</sup> Street in Kingsbridge, on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 3 p.m. A reception will follow. Tickets are \$25, or \$10 for students and seniors. For more information, call (929) 476-2140 or email [info@churchofthemediator.org](mailto:info@churchofthemediator.org).

## 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 183<sup>rd</sup> Street, Bronx, NY 10458, invites residents to come join some fun classes Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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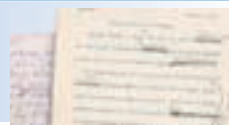
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# NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY



## Community Holiday Toy Drive

Bronx Community Board 7 is organizing a community holiday toy drive in conjunction with the 52nd Precinct Community Council. All unwrapped, donated toys should be brought to the 52nd Precinct Community Affairs office, located at 3016 Webster Avenue in Norwood. For more information, call (718) 220 5824.

## World AIDS Day Commemoration

On Thursday, Dec. 1, at 10 a.m., Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson will join Amida Care, Destination Tomorrow, and other partners in recognition of World AIDS Day at Fordham Plaza for a press conference and day of action. AIDS is a life-threatening condition caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that attacks the immune system of the patient. With the very first cases diagnosed in 1981, AIDS is responsible for 36.6 million deaths worldwide. Reaching a one-year peak of 1.9 million deaths in 2004 alone, that figure dropped to 680,000 in 2020 due to Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) that reduces the amount of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in your body and helps those diagnosed, stay healthy.

An estimated 28,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS in The Bronx, according to Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson. "This event is an opportunity for us to share resources with our community on prevention and treatment while removing stigma on HIV/AIDS in the Bronx," she said. Testing will be made available on-site as well as giveaways and community resources.

## GoFundMe Page for Bedford Congregational Church

Residents are being kindly asked to donate to support the upgrading of the heating system at Bedford Congregational Church, located at 309 East 201st Street in Bedford Park. Founded in 1889 and a designated landmark since 2000, the church is a 501(c)3 charity and provides space for local support groups battling addictions, as well as other congregations. A replacement oil tank is needed before

the water pipes freeze and burst. To donate, visit: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/warm-hearts-cold-church>.

## Capital Project Informational Workshop

Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson is hosting a virtual Capital Project Informational Workshop via Zoom on Tuesday, Dec. 13, from 5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. for nonprofit, community-based organizations. The workshop will cover what is a capital project, who can apply, the deadlines to apply and more. The meeting ID is 273 181 910 929 and the passcode is gLj9KS. For more information, call (718) 590 6033 or email [bmccray@bronxbp.nyc.gov](mailto:bmccray@bronxbp.nyc.gov).

## What is RSV?

NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene is also educating New Yorkers on the spread of the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), which is a common respiratory virus that often causes mild, cold-like symptoms but may result in severe illness in some people. Anyone can be infected, but RSV can be serious, especially in infants and older adults. Symptoms often include runny nose, sneezing, cough, shortness of breath, wheezing, fever, and decrease in appetite. Learn more at <http://on.nyc.gov/rsv>.

## College Prep and Leadership Classes

Learn how to navigate the process of choosing a school that is best for you, what to expect after graduation, and how to become a leader at Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, 3225 Reservoir Oval East in Norwood, each Wednesday from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Email [shagari.allyene@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:shagari.allyene@parks.nyc.gov) for more information.

## Epilepsy Awareness Month

November was Epilepsy Awareness Month. About one out of 10 people may have a seizure during his or her lifetime. With seizures being common, you may need to help someone during or after a seizure. Montefiore Health System has laid down the general "dos and don'ts" when helping someone who may be having any

type of seizure:

- Do not hold the person down or try to stop his or her movements.
- Ease the person to the floor in a clear and safe area.
- Do not put anything in the person's mouth. This can injure teeth or the jaw.
- A person having a seizure cannot swallow his or her tongue.
- Turn the person gently onto one side. This will help the person breathe.
- Do not try to give mouth-to-mouth breaths (like CPR). People usually start breathing again on their own after a seizure.
- Stay with the person until the seizure ends, and he or she is fully awake.

## Ombudsperson Call Center

Did you know that if you are not happy with NYCHA's response to your mold or leak complaint, a court-appointed independent Ombudsperson Call Center ("OCC") is available to help. To learn more about the OCC, visit [ombnyc.com](http://ombnyc.com) or Call 1-888-341-7152.

## MPV Updates

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.

## Heating and Cooling Assistance (HEAP) 2022-2023

As confirmed by State Sen. Alessandra Biaggi (S.D. 34), the regular HEAP season opened on Nov. 1, 2022. More information including 2022-23 benefit amounts and eligibility requirements can be found <https://www.ny.gov/services/apply-heating-and-cooling-assistance-heap>. The Emergency HEAP Benefit opens on Jan. 1, 2023. The Emergency HEAP Benefit assists those in a heat-related emergency. More information, including 2022-23 benefit amounts and eligibility requirements, can be found at <https://www.ny.gov/services/apply-heating-and-cooling-assistance-heap>.

[otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/#emergency-benefit](https://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/#emergency-benefit).

## 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.

## Affordable Housing Lotteries

Affordable housing lotteries for seniors and others are open for units at the following locations:

- 322 Grand Concourse in Mott Haven, with a deadline of Dec. 8.
- 740 Brook Avenue in Woodstock, with a deadline of Dec. 27.
- 2850 Webster Avenue in Bedford Park with a deadline of Jan. 3, 2023
- 915 Elsmere Place in West Farms with a deadline of Dec. 30, 2022.
- 1701 Purdy Street in Parkchester with a deadline of Dec. 14, 2022.

For more information, run a search using these addresses on [www.norwoodnews.org](http://www.norwoodnews.org), or contact the Affordable Housing Lottery Helpline on (212) 863-7990, or via email at [nyhousingconnect@hpd.nyc.gov](mailto:nyhousingconnect@hpd.nyc.gov). For information on applying for affordable housing for people with disabilities, call (212) 863-6486 or email: [accessibility@hpd.nyc.gov](mailto:accessibility@hpd.nyc.gov). HPD housing ambassadors can be reached at [ambassadors@hpd.nyc.gov](mailto: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](http://ny.gov/vaxtoschool).



## The Truth About HIV: U=U

By DR. ERIC A. MEYEROWITZ

World AIDS Day has been observed on Dec. 1 since 1988. This date is an opportunity to remember all those we lost during the HIV pandemic, and to reflect on the progress made to date in treating this virus and in diminishing stigma surrounding AIDS. Each year, our resolve to ending the epidemic once and for all strengthens.

## What It Means To Have Hiv In 2022

The progress scientists and physicians have made in treating HIV and preventing the spread of the virus is remarkable. In the last 30 years, treatment options have rapidly evolved. Most people living with HIV can now be treated with just one oral medicine, taken daily. Modern HIV treatments are very well tolerated, and most people experience few or no side effects.

Treatments are highly effective, with nearly all

people who regularly take their medications rapidly arriving at a point where they live with a level of the virus that is so low, it's considered "undetectable."

## What is "U=U"?

You may have heard or seen the slogan "U=U," or undetectable equals untransmissible. U=U has been proven by a large amount of scientific evidence; people who have an undetectable level of HIV, and continue their medications, cannot transmit HIV through sex to their partners who don't have HIV. Put in another way, while on treatment, a person with "undetectable" HIV has zero risk of sexual transmission to others.

In terms of prevention, we have made tremendous progress over the last decade. There are now three incredibly safe and effective options for HIV prevention, including oral and injectable medications. When taken before potential HIV exposure, as pre-exposure prophylaxis or "PrEP," these medications dramatically reduce the risk of contracting HIV.

## Transplant & New Treatments

People with and without HIV should receive the same treatment options and care for conditions that are unrelated to HIV. The HIV Organ Policy Equity Act (HOPE Act) of 2013 allowed peo-

ple with HIV to choose to become organ donors for others with the same status. This has saved many lives.

This year, clinicians at Montefiore Medical Center performed a first-of-its-kind heart and kidney transplant from a donor with HIV to a recipient with HIV. Our researchers are also working on new approaches to prevent and treat cancers related to HIV.

## A Hopeful Future

While we continue to work towards the goal of ending the HIV epidemic, there are already many tangible reasons to be hopeful. I'm reminded of this each time I help a patient start treatment or use PrEP; I can see the confidence they feel being in control of their health.

You too can make a difference by getting updated HIV testing and sharing the advances in HIV medicine. On World AIDS Day 2022, join me in a pause, to remember all the vibrant people we lost, and to also look ahead with hope and resolve. No one should die from HIV infection. Spread the word!

*Eric A. Meyerowitz MD is an infectious disease specialist at Montefiore Medical Center and an assistant professor of medicine at Albert Einstein College of Medicine.*



# ACS Investigates Case of Bronx Mom who allegedly Killed Infants

By DAVID GREENE &  
SILE MOLONEY

The City's Administration for Children's Services (ACS) told Norwood News the agency is investigating with the NYPD the case of 22-year-old Bronx mom, Dimone Fleming, who was arrested on Saturday, Nov. 27, for allegedly killing her two infant sons at a homeless shelter in the Mt. Hope section of The Bronx.

The news comes amid a media report that there was possibly a previous case of alleged abuse involving Fleming and her child, and as the mayor rolled out the City's latest efforts to address the mental health needs of undomiciled New Yorkers.

The two infants died, having been stabbed multiple times on Saturday, Nov. 27, following an apparent domestic incident at a family shelter located at 246 Echo Place in Mt. Hope. The two children were found in the bathtub underneath some clothing. They have since been identified as Octavius Fleming-Canada, an 11-month-old baby boy of 246 Echo Place, and his 3-year-old brother, Dashawn Fleming, of the same address.

Following the tragedy, on Sunday, Nov. 28, Norwood News interviewed and reported on the experiences of two former residents of the Mt. Hope shelter. Both said there was room for improvement in terms of support at the shelter for residents.

The organization running the shelter is called Services for the Underserved (S:US). One former, female resident of the building who declined to be identified, said, "Yeah, I lived there for a year, and some change. To my knowledge, I think the building was open for a few years already. I know it's a new residence, but I'm not sure how long it's been open."

The woman added, "My experience at this location was bad. I was in the SUS Program for about two years in total. That's the shelter program, they have another location that's related to domestic violence. This (Echo Place location) is just a family shelter." The woman continued, "Very, very bad transition to permanent housing... it's a really, really unprofessional place."

She continued, "That place almost got set on fire last year as well. Somebody upstairs almost set their apartment on fire. I don't know if it was intentional. They were leaving and their kitchen almost went up in flames." Asked if the shelter provided any services to families on

site, she said, "You know I got some referrals when I was at the domestic violence location. The family shelter...very poor communications, very unprofessional. The staff, they're in and out. The turnover with the staff in there is insane."

Asked if she had seen on TV about the incident involving the children, she said, "Yeah. I know the family. I don't know them very well, but I feel really bad for them in that situation. That woman really should have gotten help. I don't believe that she was given the help she needed. I feel real, real bad for that woman and her family. It's a two-parent household. I believe that was the kid's dad (who found the children) the little kids' dad."

She added, "I don't know what was going on behind closed doors, her and him. I never saw any signs of domestic violence or anything like that. The dude was always with his kids. The woman was with the kids for the most part. Whatever was going on behind closed doors, she didn't get the help she needed in that facility, and I'm pretty sure she was there for a while."

We also spoke to a second, former, female resident of the building who also declined to be identified, and who said she did not know the impacted family involved in the tragedy. Asked about her experience at the shelter, she said, "It's half residential, half New York City shelter... a lot of inconsistencies, a lot of not helping like they should, as far as the shelter system. It's a pretty clean place to live. That's about it."

Asked if she was shocked by the news, she said, "Very much so; it's normally a quiet building." According to its website, S:US is a nonprofit located at 463 Seventh Avenue in Manhattan and "envision[s] a city where everyone has a roof over their head, is healthy, productive and can enjoy the social connections that create a life of purpose."

Founded in 1978, S:US has a staff of 1,800 that provides \$245 million in services and works with over 37,000 individuals and their families every year "to create pathways to rich and productive lives by offering housing, employment, skills-building, treatment, and recovery services." Norwood News contacted S:US for comment on what the former residents said about the shelter. We did not receive an immediate response.

During a press conference on Tuesday, Nov. 29, with New York City Mayor Eric Adams and other City agency represen-



Photo by David Greene

**A CANDLE MEMORIAL** is seen outside 246 Echo Place in the Mt Hope section of The Bronx early on Sunday, Nov. 27, 2022, following an apparent domestic violence incident at the location the previous evening during which two infants were fatally stabbed.

tatives, where the mayor discussed the City's latest holistic, long-term, more coordinated approach to the mental health needs of undomiciled New Yorkers, a reporter asked the mayor about mental health support for those living in shelters, like Fleming.

The reporter asked about a previous incident that had reportedly been investigated where Fleming had allegedly abused one of her sons but did not provide further details. The NY Post had reported that Fleming was allegedly investigated by ACS after DeShawn was born according to sources who said she was suspected of improperly caring for the boy.

During the press conference, the reporter asked Adams if the previous unspecified abuse incident had been investigated by ACS, and if it had, had the system failed and if so, what was the City doing to correct the situation.

Adams responded, saying, "Well, we can't go into a case that's handled by ACS. By law, we're not allowed to do that. The goal is to bring the team together. We've had a disjointed team. We will have a outreach worker or a police officer that observes someone that fits the criteria, and they would bring them to the hospital. We'll give them medication for one day, put them back into the streets until we do this recycling, until something happens that they do something that's extremely harmful to themselves or others."

He added, "We are moving from that. We want to hand off to continuous care. We want to do a real evaluation at the hospital.

Not only what happens after you give them that medication, but how are they doing follow up services? We have to close that gap. In cases such as the unfortunate incident where we lost two children, ACS is doing a deep dive into that to find out what happened there."

The mayor continued, "I don't know of a job that's more challenging than what ACS goes through. Some reports come out that they're trying to take children away from families. Another report comes out that they're not doing enough. That's a tough call, and they're trying to have the right balance. I commend that entire team for what they're doing. I think those are professionals that are dealing with the challenges of keeping families together but protecting children, and I think they do a good job every day carrying that out."

Norwood News also contacted ACS directly about the case and the allegations regarding an alleged prior abuse incident involving Fleming. An ACS spokesperson responded, making reference to the mayor's prior remarks at the press conference, and added, "The safety and well-being of New York City's children is our top priority. We are investigating this case with the NYPD."

Dimone Fleming was taken into custody after the incident on Saturday evening. Pursuant to an ongoing investigation, police said on Monday, Nov. 28, that she had been arrested on Sunday, Nov. 27, at 7 p.m. in the 46th Precinct. She was charged with two counts of murder of multiple victims, two counts

of intention to commit murder, and two counts of murder: depraved indifference to a person less than 11-years-old, according to police. Fleming had been taken to St. Barnabas Hospital on Saturday evening after the incident occurred for a psychological evaluation.

On Nov. 22, the City Council passed two new bills to support survivors of domestic and gender-based violence, ushering in the City's annual, "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign," which kicked off on Nov. 25 (International Day to End Violence Against Women) and ends on Dec. 10 (Human Rights Day).

New York State's Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline provides free, confidential support 24/7 and is available in most languages. Call (800) 942-6906, text (844) 997-2121 or chat at @opdv.ny.gov. Individuals also can visit [www.ovs.ny.gov/connect](http://www.ovs.ny.gov/connect) to find a victim assistance program in their community.

The Office of Victim Services funds and supports more than 200 programs that provide direct services for victims and survivors of crime and their families, including therapy, support groups, case management, civil legal assistance, accompaniment to court, and transportation, among other assistance.

Local services for those affected by domestic or gender-based violence are also available in The Bronx. If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic or gender-based violence, call 311 and ask to be connected to a NYC Family Justice Center or walk-in Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call the NYC 24/7 Domestic Violence Hotline on 1-800-621-4673, or visit the NYC Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence for more information.

If you are in immediate danger, if you can, dial 911.

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

Police said the investigation remains ongoing. A person arrested and charged with a crime is deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.



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## Public and Community Meetings

The next **52<sup>nd</sup> PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meeting will take place on Thursday, Dec. 15 at 6 p.m. at Monroe College (King Hall Bldg), located at 2501 Jerome Avenue. 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 **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7** December general board meeting will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 6.30 p.m. on Zoom via the following link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85947762187>. Contact [KCabreraCarrera@cb.nyc.gov](mailto: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 November 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](mailto:bedfordmosholu@verizon.net).

### CORRECTIONS

In the *Norwood News* edition November 17-30, 2022, paragraph 10 on page 15 of our front-page story entitled, "Local Man Shot by Police Laid to Rest," the paragraph should have referred to Ajamu Demmerle throughout rather than to Kyle Lockett. The paragraph should have read: "Quoting an unnamed worker at the barber shop where Demmerle reportedly fled inside from police, The NY Daily News reported that the worker said Demmerle told him, 'I don't have a knife, no gun. I'm good. I just want to hide here. Don't call the police. Don't call the cops, please.' The worker added that Demmerle pleaded, 'I have a baby, please'."

In paragraph 20 of the same story, on page 15, we reported that Rose Bishop had written on a Go Fund Me page, created to cover the costs of Kyle Lockett's funeral, that his mother, in her grief, had asked the community to pull together and donate so that her son could be laid to rest properly. In fact, this was written by Sarah Lang, the creator of the GoFundMe page, which Bishop later shared on social media. We apologize sincerely for these errors.

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# Bronx Makes History with Gift of Life

(continued from page 1)

Brittany Newton, who was also HIV-positive.

Newton's family had flown in from Louisiana for the special occasion. Seven months after her surgery at Montefiore Health System, Nieves shared her gratitude for her medical team, for her donor, and for her second chance at life.

She also shared her message of hope and advocated for other people to consider organ donation.

"I am so grateful to the Newton family, and to Montefiore for taking a chance and extending my life," Nieves said. "I hope other people see my story and start the conversation about organ donation as they gather with their families this Thanksgiving."

Nieves' story is one of struggle and triumph. After overcoming drug addiction when she was younger, which resulted in her contracting HIV, she went on to have a successful career, three children, and six grandchildren. After years of recovery and effectively controlling her HIV, she experienced another health issue in 2006, when she was diagnosed with kidney cancer and needed to have one kidney removed.

Nine years later, her remaining kidney started to fail, eventually requiring nightly dialysis. Her kidney function was so poor it was determined that she would need a kidney transplant. When a match became available, Nieves and her husband of 27 years, Julio, were relieved and overjoyed.

However, devastatingly, when she was being assessed for the kidney transplant surgery, it became apparent that her heart function had deteriorated significantly, making it unlikely that she would survive the operation. Nieves would need a heart transplant also. She thought her chances were impossible.

Thankfully, her team of specialists at Montefiore had the experience and determination to find a solution. In 2013, the HIV Organ Policy Equity (HOPE) Act enabled HIV-positive people to donate their organs to a HIV-positive recipient. However, a HIV-to-HIV heart transplant had never been successfully performed. Montefiore infectious disease specialist, Vagish Hemmige, M.D., spearheaded efforts to develop the protocol and navigate the regulatory requirements, making Montefiore one of only two centers in the United States eligible to perform this novel surgery, and becoming the first in the country to make the surgery happen.



Photo courtesy of Montefiore Health System

**BREANNE NEWTON, SISTER** of the late, Brittany Newton, listens to her late sister's heart beating inside the chest of HIV-positive, heart donor recipient and Westchester resident, Miriam Nieves, who Breanne had just met for the first time, along with her sister, Brianca, and her mother, Bridget (also pictured) during a press conference held at Montefiore Medical Center, located at 111 E 210th Street in Norwood, The Bronx on Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2022.

"Our experience with patients who had received other organs from HIV-positive donors convinced us that a HIV-positive heart donation could be carried out successfully," said Hemmige, Nieves' HIV care provider at Montefiore, associate professor of medicine and director of medical student research at Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

According to Montefiore Health System, in the United States, there are between 60,000 and 100,000 people who could benefit from a new heart. However, only around 3,800 transplants were performed in 2021. "Sadly, many people with HIV, waiting for a heart, never receive one," said Nieves' cardiologist at Montefiore, Omar Saeed, M.D., M.S., also an associate professor of medicine at Einstein.

"By successfully managing Ms. Nieves' care, we have shown that HIV-positive donors are a lifeline, and we encourage more people to consider sharing this lifesaving gift," he added.

Meanwhile, Jamil Borgi, M.D., heart surgeon and associate surgical director for advanced pulmonary failure and lung transplantation at Montefiore, said "Our multidisciplinary team of clinical and surgical specialists are uniquely positioned to find new, sophisticated ways to serve our patients."

Once Ms. Nieves was listed for an HIV-positive heart, she was the only person on the transplant list eligible for such an

organ, which meant she didn't have to wait very long. Just a few days later, she was told there was a match. One thousand miles away in Louisiana, Newton, who according to her family, had a heart of gold, tragically passed away.

In choosing to become an organ donor, and with the assistance of the Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency, Newton became a hero, giving the gift of life to Nieves. Surrounded by her medical team at Montefiore, Nieves met Newton's mom, Bridget, and younger sisters, Breanne, and Brianca Newton, for the first time on Nov. 22. Tears were shed when, using a stethoscope, the family took turns to listen to her heart beating inside Nieves' chest.

Addressing those gathered after the emotional meeting, Breanna Newton, the elder of Brittany's two sisters, said she wanted to share a little of who Brittany was, adding that she had spent years working with the elderly. "She had a very, sweet, forgiving, helpful, and protective spirit. She was truly loved by her family and to know her was to love her as well."

Breanne continued, "She was kind, humble and lived her life to the fullest. She left this world being a blessing to others, through her selfless act of organ donation. Brittany's years on earth were short, but through organ donation, her spirit lives on. She will be missed, forever loved, and remembered by her family and

all those that knew her. The family later presented Nieves with another gift, a memorial plaque, which they said they hoped she loved.

Brianca then read the inscription on the plaque, saying, "A lady's heart of gold, a second chance that is one of a kind, and a blessing from God that is so divine, for he is the reason we are here to celebrate the second chance at life so dear. We are [inaudible] on unforeseen circumstances but we are thankful for life's second chance. We will always keep you near even though we are miles apart. We love you always because you have our sister's heart. Prayers for you always, The Newton Family"

Later, smiling and laughing, Breanna explained that purple was Brittany's favorite color and therefore, the reason why the plaque was purple.

Montefiore Health System provides care to approximately three million people in communities across The Bronx, Westchester, and the Hudson Valley. It comprises 10 hospitals, including the Children's Hospital at Montefiore, Burke Rehabilitation Hospital and more than 200 outpatient ambulatory care sites. Montefiore officials say the advanced clinical and translational research at its medical school, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, directly informs patient care and improves outcomes.

Addressing reporters later, Nieves said if it hadn't been for the Newton family, she would not be alive. "Words can't express how grateful and thankful I am," she said. She later told *Norwood News*, "The only gift I wanted I got this year, I got...the call [regarding a donor] and I'm ok, and I'm really thankful and blessed." She again encouraged people to become donors, saying HIV positive people probably didn't even know they could become donors. "I hope to inspire more people to become organ donors and see that they have the power to save lives," she said.

Fighting back tears, Nieves' husband of 30 years, Julio, told *Norwood News* that words could not express how grateful he was. "There's still a lot of stigma around HIV and, as we know, there are not even donors. Hopefully, with this, it can open the minds of many people out there, and it can make a difference in the world. To save somebody's life, it's the ultimate gift."

Those seeking more information about Montefiore Health System can visit [www.montefiore.org](http://www.montefiore.org).

*\*Rachael McCallan contributed to this story.*

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