



NORWOOD NEWS

Vol 36, No 5 • PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION • MARCH 9-22, 2023

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE WWW.NORWOODNEWS.ORG

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



A BURNT-OUT SCOOTER is seen at the site of a 5-alarm fire on Sunday morning, March 5, 2023, which broke out at 2096 Grand Concourse in Fordham Heights.

By **SÍLE MOLONEY & DAVID GREENE**

The following story is the latest version of the one published on our website on Sunday, March 5, and includes details of a March 7 press conference.

A 5-alarm supermarket fire caused by a lithium-ion battery explosion on Sunday, March 5,

in Fordham Heights, injured seven people and has prompted the introduction of new City and federal laws covering the sale and use of lithium-ion batteries. The laws echo similar legislative actions taken in the wake of the Twin Parks North West fire which also occurred in Fordham Heights just over a year ago on

Jan. 9, 2022, killing 17 people.

Fire officials said Sunday's 5-alarm fire, described by the FDNY as a "hazmat incident," meaning relating to hazardous material, broke out at a supermarket located at 2096 Grand Concourse in the vicinity of East 181st Street. They said the alarm was raised at 10.41 a.m. and the

fire was caused by an explosion resulting from the charging of a scooter with a lithium-ion battery.

More context around how the explosion occurred is still being sought by investigators but during a press conference on the day

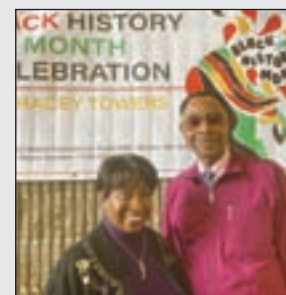
(continued on page 12)



John Zaccaro Jr. sworn in as Assemblyman for A.D. 80 | pg 6



Youth Basketball Tournament held at Lehman | pg 14



Black History Celebrated at Tracey Towers | pg 15

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. 36, No. 5

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

Intern

Sara Martinez

Contributor

Mary Lou Pompeii

Regular Contributors

David Greene, José A. Giralt,
Ariel Pacheco, 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.



Dinowitz & BetaNYC Launch New Map Showing Accessible City Playgrounds

By SILE MOLONEY

District 11 City Council Member Eric Dinowitz, in partnership with BetaNYC, has launched a new mapping tool which shows the level of playground accessibility for residents near their homes and schools. The map was designed to provide an easy way for residents and their families to locate playgrounds that are safe and accessible and to accommodate those with disabilities.

The new mapping tool includes detailed information about each playground throughout New York City, including the types of accessible features that are available at each playground. According to the councilman's office, Dinowitz, a former teacher who represents the Northwest Bronx neighborhoods of Bedford Park, Kingsbridge, Norwood, Riverdale, Van Cortlandt Village, Wakefield, and Woodlawn, has been focused on accessibility for people with disabilities through legislation and advocacy.

Most recently, as reported, he led the passage of Intro 660, a bill to help ease the transition of accommodations for high school seniors with disabilities to their college or university of choice. As also reported, he has also been involved, along with other advocates, in efforts to bring an elevator to Mosholu Parkway subway station on the Jerome Park / Norwood border.

Details about what the various icons denoting accessibility and inclusivity mean are included on the mapping tool. For example, "Limited Wheelchair Access" means a playground offers wheelchair access through the entrance but not to all play elements, whereas "Wheelchair Accessible" means a playground that has ramps or transfer stations or accessible play elements.

Meanwhile, a comfort station restroom icon indicates that the playground has a comfort station, whereas a restroom icon with a wheelchair indicates that the comfort station meets the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act. "Inclusive Play Elements" are playgrounds which contain elements designed for children with autism-spectrum disorders or other sensory processing disorders, such as loss of vision or hearing.

"In a city where accessibility is often an afterthought, we must make it a priority," said the councilman, who is running for reelection this year. "This map will allow families to find the playgrounds that meet the needs of their children. It also reveals that some playgrounds in our communities are still not accommodating children with disabilities. This map puts us on a path to accomplishing full accessibility." Meanwhile, Zhi Keng He, civic innovation lab manager at BetaNYC, said of the new map, "We are excited to partner with Council Member Dinowitz to raise awareness about accessibility and inclusive play elements in our city's playgrounds."

Keng He added, "Currently, the Parks



Photo by Adi Talwar

KIDS PLAY AT the Williamsbridge Oval playground in Norwood, The Bronx.

department does not provide an accessible map with filters for their playgrounds. By creating a map that shows the level of access near their homes or schools, we can take an important step towards ensuring that all New Yorkers with children can find and enjoy public parks that meet their needs. We can also advocate for improvements if nearby parks do not have such elements."

The map reveals that there are still some inaccessible playgrounds in New York City. To create a truly inclusive map, representatives for Dinowitz and BetaNYC said they consulted with people with disabilities to make the map accessible to view as well. Eman Rimawi-Doster, executive director of the Harlem Independent Living Center, said that when he and Dinowitz first met at a City Hall hearing about disability and the arts, and subsequently met again to talk about all things accessibility, he knew the councilman would be a champion for accessibility everywhere. "It's vitally important to me as a working adult with disabilities that our city is 100 percent accessible for all children with disabilities as well," Rimawi-Doster said.

Meanwhile, Council Member Shekar Krishnan, who represents the 25th City Council district in Queens, and who is chair of the Committee on Parks and Recreation said, "From fresh air and exercise to socialization and community, kids, parents, and all New Yorkers with disabilities deserve to enjoy the full benefits of our city's playgrounds." He added, "I applaud Council Member Dinowitz and BetaNYC for making it easier for families to find accessible playgrounds near them, and I hope this map will serve as a call to action to make all of our parks, playgrounds, and recreation centers fully accessible."

In other playground news, in July 2022, as reported, Wakefield Playground, located on Matilda Avenue in Wakefield, was reopened after a \$5.2 million renovation, including two basketball courts, a soccer field and spray showers. Also in early 2022, the playground on the site of Tracey Towers housing complex in Je-

rome Park reopened after it was temporarily shut for a duration following a wall collapse.

In 2021, friends and family members of the late EMIT, Yadira Arroyo, were joined by community members and elected officials to officially rename Blackrock Playground, located in the Unionport section of The Bronx, in honor of the late FDNY emergency medical technician after she was killed in the line of duty when struck while attempting to stop her ambulance from being stolen during an emergency response in Unionport on March 16, 2017.

In December 2020, *Norwood News* also reported on then-new murals which were added to Mosholu Playground in Bedford Park, while there were also disturbing reports of shootings at a playground in Morris Heights and at Olinville playground. In 2020, we also reported on the reopening of Kossuth Playground following a \$3.8 million upgrade.

In March of 2022, a brush fire broke out at Whalen playground in Norwood, and in February 2022, *Norwood News* reported on a second incident of hateful graffiti displayed at a playground in Spuyten Duyvil. Meanwhile, last September, NYC Mayor Eric Adams, NYC Parks and NYCHA announced that plans were afoot to build new open spaces and playgrounds at various NYCHA housing developments.

The new map of accessible playgrounds can be accessed at <https://playgrounds.beta.nyc/>.

For more information on in-person and online activities and support for parents of children and young people with disabilities, visit includenyc.org/events. INCLUDEnyc fosters positive futures and enhances the quality of life for young people with any disability from birth to age 26 and their families in New York City. The organization promotes access to educational, employment, and independent living opportunities for young people, and advocate with families for meaningful inclusion in the broader community. Share your experiences, struggles, and successes as parents of children with disabilities.

Funding Main Concern at Bronx Parks Speak-Up Event

By SILE MOLONEY

Funding to help maintain city parks was one of the primary concerns voiced by attendees at the 29th Bronx Parks Speak-Up event held this year at Lehman College in Bedford Park on Saturday, Feb. 25.

An annual, boroughwide event, unique to the Bronx, it draws together various Bronx green organizations and groups such as the Bronx Council for Environment Quality (BCEQ), Van Cortlandt Park Alliance, and various friends of parks groups to discuss how best they can work together to enhance the borough's parks and environment.

Iris Rodriguez-Rosa, first deputy commissioner of NYC Department of Parks & Recreation and former Bronx parks commissioner, delivered a video message to the numerous attendees since she could not be there in person. She congratulated all the groups for their work and for sharing their "desires of improving the city's open spaces, environments and parks and playgrounds." The deputy commissioner added, "I have been committed to working with you throughout the years and I will continue to do so."

During a review of some of the ideas discussed during the day, moderator, Robert Fanuzzi, spoke of how Daniel Ranells, board member of BCEQ, had said something really fascinating earlier. "Wouldn't it be great if the greenway signage included the direction, the destination, and the name [of the greenway]? Little things like that would mean a lot," he said. Another idea was to include more courtesy and safety guides.

Ranells is also a member of the Bronx River Alliance and was on the planning group for the Bronx Park SpeakUp event, together with Nika Martell, Maria Luisa Cipriano, Christina Taylor, and Robert Fanuzzi. He said the event was an opportunity for people to work together with government to see what the opportunities are for change, what the obstacles are, and what everyone can do to play a part to make things better.

On the parks budget, Ranells said "Parks doesn't have enough funding or people power to do what the City wants of them, and I don't think it's fair. I think it boosts our economic situation when we give people jobs, and give them money, and it will boost the economics of it by having more money spent here by people who live here."

Michael Taylor from the fitness group, Spartan Spades, said it was a great event. "Bronx Speak-Up gives the community the ample time to give their input on how to improve the parks for The Bronx," he said. "It's great for outreach and networking, especially with the different community groups. So, you have different people such as myself, along with Bronx Soul, the run groups, and some of the different horticulturists that come here, and just help make parks come to-

gether for the greenways."

Diane H. Sargent was a panelist on the day and later also spoke to *Norwood News* about the question of funding, saying, "You're talking about three decades, almost three decades, and the aim was at least one percent [funding for parks in the city budget, an election promise of Mayor Eric Adams]. It's sad that we've had this much time and you're still trying to get that, and when the Parks do *so* much for the community."

Asked if she would like to say anything directly to the mayor or to the city council on the matter, she said, "Yes. Give them some money, okay? Parks cannot do it. They're not just... what do you call it? Capital expenses? There needs to be maintenance, right? There needs to be staff. Otherwise, all of that money will eas-

ily be spent, and it's not going to last that long."

Helene Hartman Kutnowsky, a member of Bronx Community Board 7, said, "Not much to build on that, except to say the money is needed, especially now for the mental and physical health." On the topic of mental health, Sargent added, "Where do you go? Walking in the park, and the way they look now, it's not encouraging. So, you want people to be able to get out and about. If there was anything, they need to be in motion. Where else? Walk around the block. Go to the park."

The event was sponsored by Con Edison and hosted by "Welcome 2 the Bronx" founder, Ed García Conde and ended with the awarding of various raffle prizes, including membership of such institutions as the New York Botanical Garden and the Bronx Zoo.



Photo by Sile Moloney

NIKA MARTELL, MARIA Luisa Cipriano, and Christina Taylor were among the organizers of the 29th Bronx Parks Speak-Up event held at Lehman College on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023.

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**



This week, we asked readers their thoughts on e-bike fires that are reportedly caused by illegal, damaged or improper chargers or lithium-ion batteries.



"It's an urban nightmare! Bringing something that's flammable and explosive into a city of eight-and-a-half million people is crazy. To risk your neighbor's life, firemen's lives, your life, and the ruination of housing stock that's depleted as it is...for what? Deliveries? You can't pick up your own stuff? And I think the city really has to crack down on it, make it a law. You don't have the right to burn me out of my apartment."

C.J. Sullivan
Former Fordham Manor resident now living in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn

Photo courtesy of C.J. Sullivan



"I believe one neighbor in the building has one and he has that bike and that battery on it. I just see him every now and then carrying it up the stairs and it's dangerous. My daughter just had a baby and they live on top of me. It's something for everyone to worry about that lives in a building. I am absolutely 100 percent behind any legislation."

Tracey Deonn Jones,
The Hub

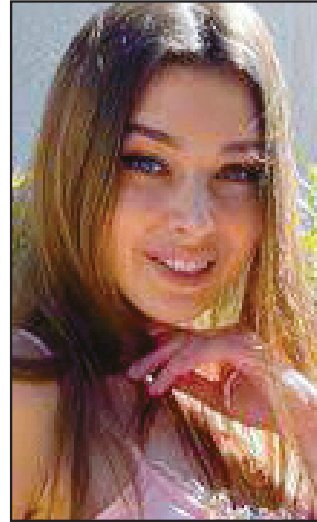
Photo courtesy of Tracey Deonn Jones



"Electric bikes have become increasingly prominent in recent years due to their comfort and eco-friendliness. However, like any electrical appliance, e-bikes present a threat of fire which can result in serious pain, property damage, or even death. It's recommended to check for signs of damage or overheating and if it overheats, stop using your bike immediately."

Stanley Joseph Dean,
Former Wakefield resident now living in Liberia

Photo courtesy of Stanley Joseph Dean



"Yes, I'm hearing a lot of fires happening from these e-bikes and scooters; it's scary. The firemen are handling it well, I'm very proud of them."

Jessica James,
Riverdale native now living in Dallas, TX.

Photo courtesy of Jessica James



"While I am not in favor of over regulation, I do believe that Rep. [Ritchie] Torres' newly announced bill to mandate federal safety standards for lithium-ion batteries in e-bikes and scooters will help to prevent fires and save precious lives. I have enormous respect for Rep. Torres."

Joanne Russo Rubino,
Pelham Gardens

Joanne Russo Rubino

THAT'S A
RATE & A HALF
ON ANY IRA CD¹

**CHOOSE YOUR TERM
& WE'LL RAISE YOUR RATE AN EXTRA 0.50%**

Lock in a special **0.50% interest rate bonus** on top of our current rate.¹



Visit [ridgewoodbank.com](https://www.ridgewoodbank.com) or scan here to see rates and open online.



Roll over your 401(k) to take advantage of this great offer!



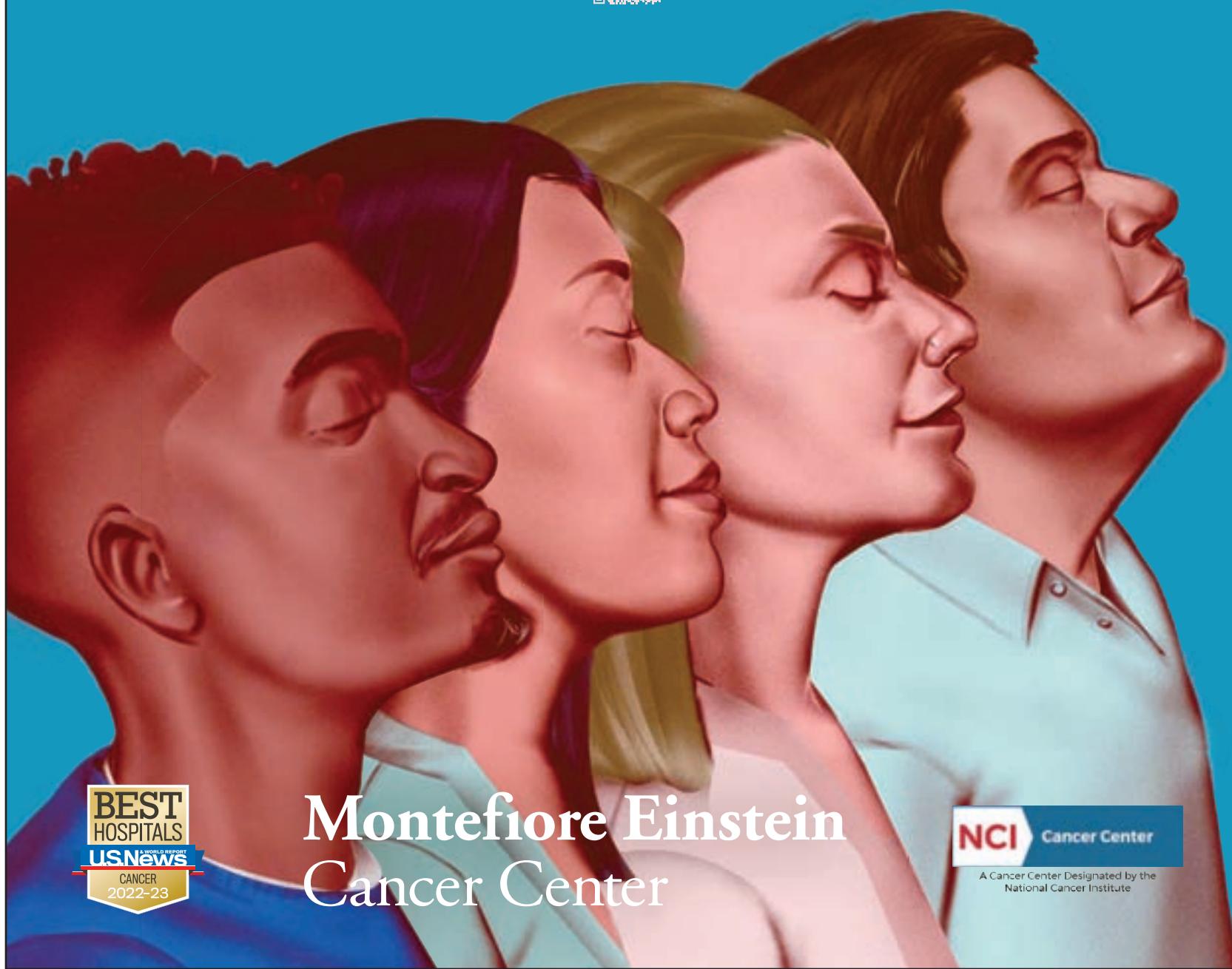
1. Offer subject to change at any time. Early withdrawal penalties apply. Fees could reduce earnings. Bonus offer not applicable to special promotion CDs. Visit [ridgewoodbank.com/home/personal/retirement](https://www.ridgewoodbank.com/home/personal/retirement) for all product terms and conditions. | © 2023 Ridgewood Savings Bank | Member FDIC

Screen like your life depends on it.

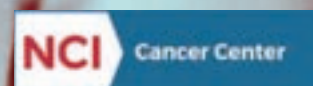
*45 or older? Get your Colon
Cancer Screening Today.*

Colon cancer is on the rise, especially for those 45 and older. But together, we can beat it. So why wait? Early screening can save your life with options including virtual colonoscopies. Early screening saves lives.

Call 718-920-7183 now to schedule your appointment
and decide which screening option is right for you.



Montefiore Einstein
Cancer Center



A Cancer Center Designated by the
National Cancer Institute

Zaccaro Jr. Sworn in as Assemblyman of A.D. 80

By JOSÉ A. GIRALT

The Rotunda of Jacobi Medical Center in Morris Park was filled with some of New York's political constellation on Saturday, March 4 for the inauguration ceremony of Democratic Assemblyman John Zaccaro Jr. (A.D. 80). The guest list included U.S. Sen. and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, Rep. Ritchie Torres (NY-15), Councilman Oswald Feliz (C.D. 15), among many others. New York City Mayor Eric Adams, who was scheduled to attend three other events the same day, sent his well wishes to Zaccaro Jr. via video message.

Before administering the oath of office, State Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie (A.D. 83) shared an endearing memory of his previous interactions with Zaccaro Jr., saying, "John John, that's the name that I still have on my cell phone for John." He added, "I said I would never change that because sometimes people get elected and titles change who they are, but I kept that name because I don't care what title John has. He will always be 'John John' to the community and to his family."

Joining 34-year-old Zaccaro Jr., a former Bronx Community Board 7 member, on stage for the actual swearing in part of the ceremony were his grandmother, Angelita Rivera, his mother, Stephanie Fonte, his wife, Daniella, and their three children, Judah, 7, Miah, 5, and Ethan, 3. Afterwards, the assemblyman and son of

a single mother, spoke to *Norwood News* about his thoughts on the day.

"This has been a long journey; it's been a long road," he said. "To see so many people that have been with me from the inception, many of those who have contributed their time, their energy to my walk in this journey, it was a beautiful thing to see."

The event was ceremonial in nature and, as Zaccaro Jr. confirmed, new members of the State legislature have already been working in their official capacities as lawmakers since early January, following their respective wins in the November 2022 general elections.

The assemblyman serves on various committees from aging to alcoholism and drug abuse, from economic development, job creation, commerce and industry to small business, and tourism, parks, arts and sports development. He is also a member of the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian Legislative Caucus.

As reported, Zaccaro Jr. beat out Republican, Phyllis "Tiz" Nastasio in November, winning 69.4 percent of the vote to her 30.6 percent. As also reported, Nastasio is currently running to unseat District 13 City Council Member Marjorie Velázquez.

The rookie assemblyman said while he was grateful to all the elected officials who showed up at the Rotunda for the occasion, he had a special message



Photo by Miriam Quiñones

(L TO R) ASSEMBLY MEMBER JENIFER Rajkumar (A.D. 38), Assemblyman Charles Fall (A.D. 61), Assembly Member John Zaccaro, Jr. (A.D. 80), State Sen. Nathalia Fernandez (S.D. 34) attend the inauguration ceremony of Zaccaro, Jr. held at The Rotunda of Jacobi Medical Center, 1400 Pelham Parkway South in Morris Park, The Bronx, on Saturday, March 4, 2023.

for those not so famous volunteers and campaign workers from his assembly district. "[I'm thankful for] members of this community, members of our local neighborhood association, people who have knocked on doors with me, people who have made phone calls with me," he said. "[The swearing in] was a very emotional thing and I'm just really excited."

While his name may be relatively new to some in the community, Zaccaro Jr. has been active with Bronx political organizations for more than a decade. In his early twenties, he served as president of the Bronx Young Democrats, which according to their website, serve as "the youth arm of the Bronx Democratic Party." State Sen. Jamaal T. Bailey (S.D. 36) is chair of the Bronx Democratic County Committee and said he still carries a lapel pin from the time Zaccaro Jr. was a member of the "youth arm" over a decade ago.

"I know you first as president of the Bronx Young Democrats," Bailey told the audience, in part. "You were the first one to create this pin. When we got a pin, it made us feel something special. You created this pin because you saw something in the young folk in this borough that needed to be revitalized, that we needed to see some sort of spark."

Bailey continued, "Small as it seems, this pin went a long way. I've never forgotten the impact, the indelible impact that you made as president of the Bronx Young Democrats."

Both Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson and State Sen. Nathalia Fernandez (S.D. 34), Zaccaro Jr.'s predecessor in A.D. 80, also spoke highly of the work the assemblyman carried out while with the Bronx Young Democrats. Fernandez spoke optimistically of the voters in the 80th assembly district in the context of Zaccaro Jr.'s new leader-

ship.

Acknowledging that although, geographically, her senate district includes just a small part of A.D. 80, she said she hoped the two could still work collaboratively on issues impacting common constituents. "What's great is that when we're in Albany, and we're looking at the bills, discussing what to do for our state, for our communities. I have such a strong partner in John, to make sure that we're pushing and fighting for the values of our combined districts," she told *Norwood News*.

The new senator also said she was confident collaborating with Zaccaro Jr. would remain relatively easy. "I still live in the 80th," she said. "It's just an easy call or text to John. I think that the work that is possible and that can be done with all of our colleagues that overlap can be really great."

It was as chief of staff to Councilman Rafael Salamanca Jr. (C.D. 17) that Zaccaro Jr. raised his profile in Bronx politics. "I met John in 2014 when he was president of the Bronx Young Dems and when I ran for City Council, John was by my side every step of the way," Salamanca Jr. said. The councilman also gave Zaccaro Jr. a direct vote of confidence in his newly elected position, saying, "You have watched on the sidelines. You have learned. You have taught me. You are ready to lead, my friend."

For his part, Zaccaro Jr. is eager to deliver on his campaign promises on improving educational services, providing more affordable housing options, and helping residents with quality-of-life issues. "There's a sense of community that I got a good feel for today," he said. "I'm just really excited. I'm glad. I'm honored. I'm privileged."

**Sile Moloney contributed to this story.*

Get The Best Pest Control That You Deserve

A&E Safeway Systems Pest Control, Inc.



PEST CONTROL

WE SPECIALIZE IN CONTROL OF ROACHES, BED BUGS, FLEAS, ANTS, SPIDERS, MICE, RODENTS, TERMITES AND TICKS

COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL RESIDENTIAL • APARTMENTS

- Removal of HPD Violations and Health Department Violations
- Servicing NYC & Metro Areas
- Monthly, Quarterly, Annual Services
- Licensed & Insured by NYS DEC. Reg. Lic.#17257
- Over 25 Years Experience



CALL FOR FREE ESTIMATE • 718-220-1410



189 Schofield Street
Bronx, NY 10464
718-506-2250
Fax: 212-409-8555
www.AEsafewaysystems.com

NEWS BRIEFS

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Riley Introduces Bill for Free Child Care

District 12 City Council Member Kevin Riley introduced a new bill to create free universal child-care in New York City. As the son of an immigrant single mother, a husband, and father of three, Riley said he was proud to partner with his colleagues to introduce the historic bill.

Riley said the bill was a plan that supports families, providers, and disinvested communities and, if passed, would expand quality and equitable access to childcare that supports all New York families across this city. He said the law would provide assistance to parents who work nights and weekends and would connect agency resources to educate and uplift families in need.

Fourth Annual Brandon Hendricks Scholarship

Applications for the fourth annual Oyate Group Brandon Hendricks Scholarship have officially opened, with an award of \$20,000 going to each of two applicants for the first time in the scholarship's history, organizers announced on March 2.

Previously, the organization offered \$5,000 in total in scholarship funds and was founded in honor of Brandon Hendricks, a 17-year-old, rising basketball star, who was fatally shot in crossfire at 1726 Davidson Avenue in the Morris Heights section of The Bronx on June 28, 2020.

The scholarship, according to Oyate Group officials, provides graduating seniors the opportunity Brandon never received, and creates a pathway for students to continue pursuing their educational and professional dreams. Visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PP3ZRBB> for more details.

City Addresses Rats in Schools

On the heels of an announcement last month of the roadmap for citywide composting, NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY) announced on March 6 that all NYC Department of Education (DOE) schools in The Bronx will receive five-nights-per-week collection of compostable material. Officials say this means less rat food out in the black bags each night, cleaner streets, and cleaner air – led by students.

With the 325 Bronx schools all now trained on proper material separation and receiving service, the total number of schools that separate their compostable material stands at 1,211, according to DSNY. The remaining 533 – which are primarily in Queens and Brooklyn – will receive service starting in the 2023-24 school year, bringing this important program to every single DOE school, DSNY officials said.

Each school received training for custodial staff,

faculty, and students on the right way to separate compost and the importance of doing so, according to the department.

Applications Open for Junior Camp

Now is the time for New York City families to register their children for a summer of free Fresh Air Fund experiences at sleepaway camps in New York's Mid-Hudson Valley, or for them to visit volunteer host families along the East Coast.

The Fresh Air Fund's "Camp Junior" in Harri-man State Park, New York is named in memory of Lesandro "Junior" Guzman-Feliz, a 15-year-old victim of gang violence who was murdered on East 183rd Street and Bathgate Avenue in the Belmont section of

The Bronx in June 2018.

Camp Junior, in partnership with New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie (A.D 83), the Office of the Bronx Borough President, and the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, provides Bronx children aged 8 to 15 with the opportunity to attend a free, two-week, sleepaway camp where they develop self-confidence, discover new talents, enjoy outdoor activities and experience the joy of summer, organizers say.

Applications for parents are available in English, Spanish, and Chinese and additional translation support can be provided, if needed. For more information about registering your child, visit www.FreshAir.org.



Cardinal McCloskey
COMMUNITY SERVICES

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





Letters To The Editor

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

Disappearing SNAP Benefits

With SNAP emergency allotments ending in March 2023, NBC offers numerous examples in its Feb. 25th article, "With food stamp cuts just days away, millions of Americans brace for tougher times in the grocery aisle," of poor people who will be devastated by this. I'll deal with one.

Charles Jones, a 63-year-old, military veteran, from Rockford, Illinois has received \$281 a month under this program. This allowed him to move out of a homeless shelter and into a \$650-per-month studio apartment. Starting in March, his SNAP benefits will be reduced back to \$23 per month. There's an additional issue of how our government can afford a bloated defense budget that is largely corporate welfare, but no housing and food assistance for those who served our country.

According to www.armed-services.senate.gov, the Fiscal Year 2022 defense budget was \$777.7 billion. Conservative think tank, The Jamestown Founda-

tion, estimates Russia's "skyrocketing" defense budget for that period at \$90.9 billion, and China's at \$229 billion. If we merely matched their combined budgets instead of more than doubling them, we'd have plenty of money left to feed our hungry people.

Another issue is that normal SNAP assistance payments are so low, only emergency allotments make them adequate (barely). Congress recently passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023. This ends the emergency allotments. With all the talk of a gridlocked, partisan, divided Congress not being able to accomplish anything, they seem to have no trouble uniting to do the wrong things.

**Richard Warren,
Van Cortlandt Village**

Fare Evasion

Last year, MTA chairman, Janno Lieber, promised to make public a report on fare evasion. In 2022, the MTA lost \$500 million in revenue to those who didn't pay their fare. In conjunction with the study, MTA officials discussed with all five NYC district attorneys the impact of the non-prosecution or reduced prosecution of those found not paying their

fares. Law abiding taxpayers and honest commuters who pay should not have to tolerate this theft of service. Gov. Kathy Hochul promised to conduct the most transparent administration in the history of state government. This commitment was also supposed to extend to the MTA.

In the meantime, the MTA, once again, went hat in hand to Albany looking for several billion dollars, in addition to billions more in annual State assistance to deal with the current multi-billion-dollar, multi-year shortfall. A significant reduction in fare evasion during 2023 could raise several hundred million more in revenue. Lieber has refused to commit to a future date for release of this critical report. Making public this report is critical for taxpayers and riders to understand how the MTA will go forward in dealing with fare evasion.

**Larry Penner,
Great Neck**

Example for The Bronx to Follow

I was pleased to see the Governor of the Great State of Tennessee banned drag queen performances, and I would like to see our borough president sign such a proclamation here in our beloved Bronx. Not too long ago, it was a crime in NYC for a man to walk down the street in an effeminate manner or to dress up like a woman. We need to get back to basics, and let's all send out a congratulatory note to Kellyanne Conway, President Trump's former counselor who just removed a 240-pound tumor from her back!

**Richard Marias,
Norwood**

Editor's Note: Destination Tomorrow is the LGBTQ+ center for The Bronx. The center's representatives believe all LGBTQ+ people deserve a space to grow, learn, and flourish and that people, regardless of their sexual identity or gender expression, deserve a space they can call their own.

Through comprehensive programming and services, both in-house and referral based, the center works to ensure Bronx LGBTQ+ community members, and those who love and support them, have this space. The center also offers capacity building to agencies who wish to work with LGBTQ+ communities but lack the cultural competency, expertise, and space to do so.

The center's representatives believe it is more helpful to empower the most vulnerable LGBTQ+ community members in a way that takes them off the path of needing emergency care, and therefore, the organization emphasizes economic, social, and mental empowerment through a variety of holistic educational, financial, support-based, housing, and health programs. For more information, visit <https://destinationtomorrow.org/> or call (646) 723-3325.

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

MARC Academy and Family Center, Inc. invites the submission of sealed bids from qualified food service management companies for the preparation and delivery of meals to its center. Prospective bidders must be capable of providing breakfast, lunch and afternoon (PM) snacks for approximately 278 children ages 3-5 and 42 adults, five days a week for 261 days per year. The bids should take into account all applicable U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) requirements. Bids for the above must be received by 2:00 p.m. on March 23, 2023; at MARC Academy and Family Center, 55 E 175th St, 1st Floor Bronx, New York 10453, at which time they will be opened to the public, read and recorded. Interested parties may obtain the service specifications at the MARC Academy and Family Center, 55 E 175th St, 1st Floor, Bronx, NY 10453, on any weekday from 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m., or by calling Nadine Spencer at (718) 562-3410.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large-print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the -Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992.

Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington D.C. 20250-9410;
2. fax: (202) 690-7442; or Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

MARC Academy and Family Center is an equal opportunity provider.

ADVERTISE TODAY in the NORWOOD NEWS

Nearly 40,000 readers means 40,000 customers.

SELL YOUR BRAND. MAKE MONEY.

Advertise in the Norwood News. **Call 718-324-4998.**

NORWOOD NEWS

3400 Reservoir Oval E. • Bronx, NY 10467
718.324.4998



Gibson Delivers First State of the Borough Address

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson delivered her first State of the Borough address in sparkling attire at Manhattan College on Wednesday, March 1, outlining the accomplishments of her administration during 2022 and unveiling a bold, strategic agenda for 2023.

The college is celebrating its 100th year this year and its president, Brother Daniel Gardner, FSC, said college officials were honored to host the event. “We recognize that The Bronx is a special place and look forward to partnering with the borough president’s office in the future as she continues to improve the lives of Bronxites and help make the borough a better, more equitable place to live,” he said.

The packed-out event was attended by various religious leaders, including Rabbi Bob Kaplan, Iman Musa Kabba, Bishop Nancy Rosario, Rev. Dr. Helen C. Wingate, and Pastor Jay Gooding. Among the elected officials were New York City Mayor Eric Adams, New York Attorney General Letitia James, New York State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, and Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark, along with other dignitaries like Paula Martinez of Catholic Charities.

Gibson used the occasion to announce new initiatives in education, health, public safety, tourism. “From turning The Bronx into a global destination for tourism to increasing transportation options in the East Bronx through the Penn Station Access Project, to protecting and restoring our environment through the One Million More Trees Initiative, and plans to cap the Cross Bronx Expressway, I am delighted to share that the Bronx is poised to become a “Borough of Opportunities,” Gibson said.

The borough president said she was working to reinstate the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation’s community development financial institutions fund, to help bring economic opportunities to underserved and underbanked areas of the borough, while the nearly finalized U.S. Small Business Administration’s community advantage loan program will allow the Bronx Business Initiative Corporation of New York to approve loans from \$25,000 to \$350,000 for small businesses to receive access to capital.

In terms of health, with Black women in New York City 9.2 times more likely than white women to die from maternal complications, Gibson said her office will soon release a borough-wide birthing center report with a focus on expanding access to doula and midwifery services for women of color and establish a culturally competent care model to support Bronx mothers.

She said her office is also building a coalition to establish a borough-wide diabetes task force to address the high rates of diabetes in The Bronx. It will include Chris Norwood from Health People and C. Virginia Fields of the National Black Leadership Commission on Health (Black



Photo by Sile Moloney

BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT Vanessa Gibson delivers her State of the Borough address at Manhattan College in Fieldston on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, surrounded by hundreds of attendees.

Health), hospitals, federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), food policy activists, CBOs, FBOs, and health educators.

Referencing a \$14.5 million allocation in the Financial Year 2023 budget for technology upgrades and capital upgrades in Bronx schools, the borough president later voiced her support for the “Link NYC” kiosks, located on the City’s streets which provide free, digital information to residents on various city services, and the need for greater public/private partnerships to eliminate digital deserts.

Gibson also announced the extension of the Community Board application deadline to Wednesday, March 15, to give interested candidates additional time to apply. As reported, this can be done manually or digitally at <https://bronxboropres.nyc.gov/community-boards/>.

On safety matters, she recalled her collaboration with District 15 Council Member Oswald Feliz after the Fordham Heights’ Twin Parks North West fire tragedy which cost 17 Bronxites their lives on Jan. 9, 2022, in drafting legislation to ensure the safety of tenants, and to hold landlords accountable. This included establishing the definition of a “self-closing” door, stating that doors must return to the closed position and latch shut when opened and released.

It also requires that doors providing access to interior corridors or stairs be self-closing or equipped with devices that ensure closing after opening, and reduces the amount of time for a landlord to correct a violation to keep or maintain self-closing doors from 21 days to 14 days.

The borough president also referenced a recent partnership with the American Red Cross to “sound the alarm” on fire safety by coordinating smoke detector installations and fire safety workshops in conjunction with the FDNY.

She also announced the creation of an Office of Public Safety with a focus on collaboration with the NYPD, clergy, violence interrupters, and other pertinent

stakeholders “to holistically address crime in the borough.”

Additionally, she committed to supporting the “My Brother’s Keeper” initiative, and to the launch of a “My Sister’s Keeper” counterpart, both of which focus on empowering and uplifting Bronx youth of color.

Other uplifting initiatives include the introduction of the “People’s Choice

Award.” For the first time, Bronxites will have the chance to nominate an educator to be inducted into the “Bronx Walk of Fame” alongside previous inductees.

Meanwhile, Gibson said the ilovethebronx.com website has been revamped to facilitate access for Bronxites, and those interested in visiting the Bronx, and experience its cultural institutions, restaurants, small businesses, and other gems.

The event was preceded by a presentation of colors by the FDNY Color Guard and musical and dance performances respectively by the Celia Cruz Choir, directed by Jacqueline Bergland, and the Academy for Scholarship & Entrepreneurship Dance Troupe. At one point, attendees stood to applaud the borough’s NYPD officers and other first responders in attendance. Violinist, Priya DeBerry, and saxophonist, Tony Smith, also entertained guests on the night.

Of her ambitious new agenda, Gibson said, “This will not be easy.” She added, “But together, we will ensure our future generations have access to state-of-the-art technology, that our small businesses have the resources to operate, that our residents can continue to afford to live and grow their families here, that your race and/or gender does not affect your quality of care, that we will increase tourism in the borough to highlight the culture and diversity of the Bronx and that the narrative of the Bronx is not one to be ashamed of but instead to be proud of.”

Get your High School Equivalency Diploma!



MMCC is offering FREE GED classes for young adults ages 18+, looking to meet their educational and career goals!

- **Registration is ongoing! Zoom orientation every Friday!**
- **Flexible Schedules - Morning, Afternoon & Evening classes available.**
- **2 convenient locations within the Bronx!**

For more information or to make an appointment, Call (718) 652-0282 or VISIT mmcc.org



Educational Counseling Center
Mosholu Montefiore Community Center
3512 Dekalb Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467
718-652-0282 | www.mmcc.org



CRIME FILE

BY SÍLE MOLONEY & DAVID GREENE

**Norwood: Male Youth, 17, Shot**

Police are looking for the gunman who shot and wounded a 17-year-old male youth in Norwood. Police said the shooting took place just after 7 p.m. on Wednesday March 1, outside 3315 Hull Avenue, between East 209th Street and East Gun Hill Road. Police officials say the unidentified gunman was inside a silver Nissan Rogue and fired at least one round, striking the victim in the pelvis. The victim was rushed to Jacobi Hospital. No condition on his condition was immediately available. The gunman reportedly fled southbound on Hull Avenue. Police said there were no arrests, and the investigation remains ongoing.

Arrests and Jail Time for Bad Tax Preparers

The NYS Department of Taxation and Finance announced on Feb. 21 the results of a recent statewide crackdown on bad tax preparers. An Erie County CPA, on Feb. 7, was convicted of attempted failure to file his own personal tax returns for three consecutive tax years. Meanwhile, a Manhattan-based tax preparer was sentenced to eight months in jail for violating his probation related to previous tax crimes, including criminal tax fraud, grand larceny, and filing fictitious returns.

On Jan. 26, a Brooklyn-based man acting as a ghost tax return preparer was arrested and is alleged to have prepared multiple tax returns that contained false information during an undercover operation that occurred in May of 2022. A ghost tax return preparer is someone who does not sign tax returns they prepare as required. Ghost preparers often claim false dependents or claim fake or inflated deductions to boost the size of a refund.

Some ghost preparers may even direct those refunds into their own bank account, and not the taxpayer's. He was charged with offering a false instrument for filing as well as criminal tax fraud, both felonies. Another Manhattan tax pre-

parer was arrested on Feb. 7, and charged with grand larceny, scheme to defraud, and offering a false instrument for filing.

Meanwhile, Joseph Clay, 49, of Suffern, NY was arrested on Jan. 30, and accused of filing returns with bogus Individual Retirement Account (IRA) deductions at Prime Tax & Professional Services, LLC, located at 73 Market St., Ste. 376, Yonkers, NY.

Clay allegedly prepared tax returns for tax years 2019 and 2021 with fictitious deductions and is charged with two counts of offering a false instrument for filing and two counts of criminal tax fraud. A person charged with a crime is deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

Certain tax return preparers must register annually with the Tax Department and post copies of their current registration certificate. To confirm your tax return preparer's credentials, visit: https://www.tax.ny.gov/tp/reg/tpreg_list.htm. Also visit the department's Consumer Bill of Rights webpage: <https://www.tax.ny.gov/tp/cbr/>. If you feel your tax preparer is not meeting their obligations, you can file a complaint online: <https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/opr/tax-preparer-complaint-instructions.htm>.

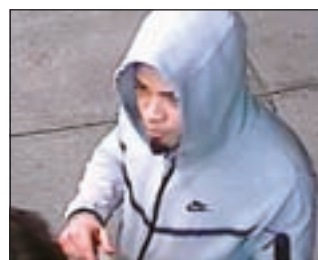
Fordham Manor: Woman, 70, Robbed & Elbowed in Face

The NYPD is asking for the public's assistance locating the person seen in the accompanying photo, top right, who is sought for questioning regarding a robbery and assault of an elderly woman that occurred in Fordham Manor. Police said that on Sunday, March 3, at around 4.45 a.m., opposite 327 East Kingsbridge Road, a 70-year-old woman was approached by an unidentified male suspect who snatched her purse and elbowed her in the face, causing her tooth to fall out. "Two good Samaritans at the scene chased down the suspect," police said, adding they recovered her purse. "The suspect fled on foot on Kingsbridge Road towards



East 192 Street."

was not hospitalized following the incident.

**Woodlawn Heights: Search for Man following Robbery**

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the person seen in the photo directly above who is sought in connection to a robbery that occurred in Woodlawn Heights. Police said the incident took place on Tuesday, Feb. 14, at 8.22 p.m. at the corner of Katonah Avenue and East 235th Street, where the unidentified male suspect met a 29-year-old male victim at the location. "The male expressed interest on Facebook Market to purchase the victim's Apple MacBook," the spokesperson said. "Upon meeting at the location, the victim showed the suspect the MacBook, but the suspect grabbed the item and fled on foot without paying."

The spokesperson said the victim then began to chase the suspect and sustained bruising and scratches after a physical altercation with him in attempts to regain the item. However, the suspect managed to flee with the property in a dark colored BMW, according to police, who added the victim

**Bedford Park: Public Lewdness aboard MTA Bus**

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying and locating the person seen in the photo directly above who is sought for an incident of public lewdness that occurred on an MTA bus in Bedford Park. Police said that on Saturday, Feb. 11, at around 6.10 p.m., the victim, a 23-year-old woman, boarded a BX1 bus on Grand Concourse and East 203rd

Street and encountered the unidentified man aboard the bus, exposing his genitals and performing a lewd act.

According to police, he got off the bus on West 231st Street and Broadway in Kingsbridge and fled eastbound on West 231st Street. He is described as male, has a dark complexion, brown eyes, and short black hair. He was last seen wearing a red hoodie, red sweatpants, and dark colored shoes.

Belmont: Man, 25, Shot Dead

The NYPD has opened a homicide investigation following the fatal shooting of a 25-year-old man in Belmont. Police said that on Sunday, Feb. 26, at around 1.24 a.m., officers responded to a 911 call regarding shots fired at the intersection of Bathgate Avenue and East 183rd Street. Upon arrival, officers observed a 25-year-old man, unconscious and unresponsive, with a gunshot wound to the head, police said.

They said EMS responded and transported the aided man to St. Barnabas hospital where he was pronounced deceased. They said there were no arrests, and the investigation remains ongoing. The deceased was identified as Achilles Baskin from the Claremont Village section of The Bronx.

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.

**TO REPORT A STORY TO THE
NORWOOD NEWS CALL US AT
(929) 318 6595**

Out & About

COMPILED BY SARA MARTINEZ & SILE MOLONEY

EVENTS

Woodlawn Cemetery, Crematory & Conservancy, located at 3800 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, NY, will be holding a trolley tour (electrical bus) of the final resting places of Woodlawn's suffragists, authors, explorers, and athletes, including notable women like Nellie Bly, Celia Cruz, Alva Belmont, and Madam CJ Walker, on March 26 at 2 p.m. to celebrate **Women's History Month**. General admission is \$25 dollars and for students/seniors/members, it is \$20 dollars. For tickets or for more information, visit <https://www.woodlawn.org/conservancy/tours-events/>, email info@woodlawn.org, or call (718) 920-0500.

On weekdays throughout March, the Bronx Library Center, located at 310 East Kingsbridge Road, The Bronx, will be offering **Free Technical Instruction**. Some classes will be hosted in-person on a first come, first served basis, in addition to other virtual class options. For class registration & information, call (718) 579-4244 or

visit <https://bit.ly/blccomputerclass>.

MUSIC

The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, located 250 Bedford Park Boulevard West, The Bronx, will present Jazz at Lincoln Center's **"Songs We Love," a celebration of the history of American Jazz**, spotlighting next-generation jazz stars and iconic songs from the 1920s to 1950s, on Saturday, March 11, at 4 p.m. Tickets are available at \$75, \$55, \$35, and \$25 and can be purchased by calling (718) 960-8833 or online at <https://www.lehmancenter.org/events/jazz-at-lehman-center>.

KIDS

Community members, parents, and guardians are now able to reserve tickets for the month of April to visit the **Bronx Children's Museum**, located on the 2nd floor of 725 Exterior Street, Bronx, NY. The museum is a place where children use their natural creativity and curiosity to learn and play. Regular admission price is eight dollars per person for adults and children and there is free admission for children under one.

Reserve tickets here <https://www.bronxchildrensmuseum.org/tickets>, email

info@bronxchildrensmuseum.org or call (718) 775-3450 for more information.

FOOD

The **Bronx Night Market** will reopen on Fordham Plaza on April 29 and again on the last Saturday of every month until October. The market is a community event that celebrates cuisine, culture, and local businesses. It will host 50 diverse vendors and there will be live music and performances by local artists also. An RSVP is recommended to participate in exclusive raffles and giveaways, but no ticket is needed to enter the market. Email: info@maschospitalitygroup.com or call (323) 452-2340 for more details.

MOVEMENT

The northwest Bronx running group, **Bronx Nomads**, generally meet at the Williamsbridge Oval track on Monday and Thursday evenings at 6.30 p.m. to run together safely. All levels are welcome in a supportive and fun environment, with a mix of running or walking and running groups to suit all levels of fitness. Follow the group on Instagram @bronxnomads or email bronxnomads@gmail.com for more information.

On Medicare? Save More!

Income eligibility limits for the Medicare Savings Program have increased. Now, more New Yorkers can enroll and save money.

Learn more.
Call 212-AGING-NYC
(212-244-6469).



NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY



Rat Academy Training in March

For details of how to sign up for rat academy training sessions by NYC Department of Health, visit <https://www.nyc.gov/site/doh/services/rats-control-training.page>.

Predatory Towing

Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81) said his office has been made aware that there is predatory towing activity at the Key Food on Johnson Avenue and West 235th Street in Riverdale. He urges residents to use caution when parking in the lot, especially if intending to patronize other businesses aside from Key Food or other businesses listed on posted signage.

As a reminder, he said New Yorkers have rights when it comes to towing. For more information, he said residents can visit the NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP): <https://www.nyc.gov/site/dca/consumers/shop-ping-services-towing.page>.

He added that towing companies cannot demand cash; they must accept at least two major credit cards, towing fees are limited to \$125 for removal from a private parking lot, residents are entitled to simply pay a "drop fee" of \$62.50 if their car has not been towed yet, and complaints can be filed with DCWP.

Bx25/26 Bus Stop Restorations

Both the east and westbound Bx25/26 stops on Bedford Park Blvd at Marion Avenue, initially removed under the Bronx Local Bus Network Redesign, has been restored effective immediately.

Affordable Housing Lottery Wakefield

An affordable housing lottery has launched for units at 4435 White Plains Road, in Wakefield. Available are 27 units for residents on 130 percent of the area median income (AMI), ranging in eligible income from \$68,572 to \$187,330.

Applications must be postmarked or submitted by mail or online via NYC Housing Connect at <https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/details/3008> no later than **April 17, 2023**. To request an application by mail, send a self-addressed envelope to 4435 White Plain Road Apartments c/o Front Door Management P.O. BOX 9, Purchase, NY 10577. **No deposit or application fees apply.**

Affordable Housing Lottery Bedford Park

An affordable housing lottery has also launched for units at The Bronx Grove, two 11-story buildings located at 261 East 202nd Street and 207 East 203rd Street in Bedford Park. The structures comprise 127 residential units for residents earning 30 to 80 percent of the area median in-

come (AMI), ranging in eligible income from \$0 to \$132,400.

Applications must be postmarked or submitted by mail or online via NYC Housing Connect at <https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/details/3487> no later than April 11, 2023. To request an application by mail, send a self-addressed envelope to The Bronx Grove c/o K&G Upright, PO Box 1181, New York, NY 10039. **No deposit or application fees apply.**

Affordable Housing Lottery Twin Parks Terrace

An affordable housing lottery has launched for Twin Parks Terrace at 373 East 183rd Street in Fordham Heights. Though the name is similar, and though the building is located in Fordham Heights, Twin Parks Terrace is not the same site as where the Twin Parks fire tragedy occurred on Sunday, Jan. 9, 2022. The fire broke out at 333 East 181st Street, a 6-minute walk away from the new building.

Twin Parks Terrace comprises 181 residential units for residents at 40 to 80 percent of the area median income (AMI), ranging in eligible income from \$22,012 to \$132,400, and 11,000 square feet of retail space. Applications must be postmarked or submitted by mail or online via NYC Housing Connect at <https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/details/3427> no

later than **April 11, 2023**.

To request an application by mail, send a self-addressed envelope to Settlement Housing Fund, Attn: TPT Lottery, 247 West 37th Street, 19th Floor, New York, NY 10018. No deposits or application fees apply. More information can be found at <https://www.settlementhousingfund.org/twin-parks-terrace/>.

An affordable housing lottery helpline is available on (212) 863-7990 or via email at nychousingconnect@hpd.nyc.gov. For information on applying for affordable housing for people with disabilities, please call (212) 863-6486 or email accessibility@hpd.nyc.gov. Housing ambassadors can be reached at ambassadors@hpd.nyc.gov.

Fire Safety Info Session

Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81) and Councilman Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11), will be hosting a virtual Fire Safety Info Session with FDNY, covering the common causes of fire, safety tips & equipment, escape plans, overloading power strips and more on March 9, 2023, at 7p.m. Visit the following zoom link to sign up: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87004933104?pwd=cUp5d2Z0YmJINlNNTjVYJjUazR3dz09>. Residents can also sign up for fire alarm installation (smoke and carbon monoxide detectors) at www.bit.ly/FireAlarmInstall.

Bronx Fire Prompts New Battery Laws

(continued from page 1)

of the incident, Fire Commissioner Laura Kavanagh said the department was aware of other fires caused by illegal or incorrect batteries or chargers for the devices being charged.

Kavanagh said the FDNY wanted to emphasize how much damage could be caused by a single e-bike that isn't compliant, might not be certified, or is using an illegal battery. "This bike could be in your home, and if it can do this amount of damage to a store of this size, just think of the danger to yourself, to your family, to your building," she said.

Asked if the battery which caused the fire was illegal, the commissioner said this was still being investigated and added it was also unknown who owned the bike. She continued, "This really shows you how incredibly serious this can be. Thanks to the quick work of our members who were here in under four minutes, we have not suffered a loss of life. There is extraordinary damage. This entire building behind me is completely

destroyed. The roof is caved in. There is nothing left."

In addition to questions regarding who owned the bike and whether the battery which caused the fire was an illegal one, *Norwood News* asked the FDNY if the e-bike was legal or illegal, if the charger used to power the e-bike was the right type of charger for that e-bike, if the e-bike was actually being charged at the time of the explosion, for how long the e-bike was charging, if indeed it had been left charging at the time of the explosion, if the e-bike was left charging unattended, the brand name of the e-bike, the brand name of the battery, and the brand name of the charger. We were informed that these matters were still under investigation.

FDNY chief of department, John Hodgens, had explained on Sunday how firefighters quickly stretched the hose line into the building to extinguish the fire and highlighted the volume of fire produced by the single battery in just under five minutes. "We were unable to get ahead of it. It had spread quickly into the

void spaces of the building and took off from there," he said.

Hodgens added, "These buildings are old and when you expose that aged lumber, to fire, it quickly spreads throughout the entire building." He continued, "It was a difficult operation. We went to a defensive operation. You see these tower ladders? We stopped the fire from spreading to the furniture store, but the fire had already spread to the laundromat. It's really something that we have never seen before as far as a small fire turning into something like this in a matter of a few minutes."

Hodgens added that lithium-ion batteries are very powerful and are also particularly resistant to water. He said, as such, they require "a tremendous amount of water directly onto the battery" to extinguish fires ignited by them. He added that because the batteries generate such large fires and very quickly, firefighters have to extinguish the fires around the area where the batteries are located before they can begin to extinguish/neutralize the bat-

tery fires themselves.

Confirming details of those injured, which included five firefighters, and an EMT and civilian who had serious injuries, Kavanagh said on Sunday, "This is an extraordinary amount of damage from this single e-bike," adding that the response to the incident took several hours to contain. "We have over 50 units, fire and EMS, on scene," she said. "We have over 200 members."

According to the FDNY, the fire began in the rear of the one-story building (100 ft x 125 ft). Fire officials later warned New Yorkers, "If you have an e-mobility device, check to see if your device is UL-tested and certified." According to compliancegate.com, Underwriter Laboratories (UL) is an independent organization that develops standards for many categories of products including but not limited to lithium batteries.

On March 2, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recalled 7,250 units of Chinese-manufactured RELiON InSight Series® lithium batteries, due to thermal burn and

fire hazards. The company received five reports of batteries overheating. No injuries were reported. Meanwhile, according to Binghamton.com, Broome County-based, lithium-ion battery manufacturer, iM3NY, is looking for a federal loan to significantly upscale its production capacity in Endicott, NY.

"The gigafactory is currently creating enough batteries to produce 1.8 gigawatts of energy storage per year and has submitted an application to the U.S. Department of Energy for a \$700 million loan toward building a new facility 12 times larger than its current space," the article read. The loan is reportedly being championed by U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer who, according to the report, also helped secure \$34 million from the federal government to support the lithium-ion battery ecosystem.

As above, while the brand name of the battery which caused the March 5 fire is still unknown, *Norwood News* contacted iM3NY and asked how it ensures the safety of batteries it

(continued on page 18)

Robert Jackson Sworn in as Senator of Redrawn District 31

By **ARIEL PACHECO**

State Sen. Robert Jackson carefully chose In-Tech Academy middle and high school campus in The Bronx's Marble Hill neighborhood as the site for his latest inauguration as a veteran senator on Feb. 4, following his November 2022 reelection in redrawn District 31.

In addition to a large swath of Manhattan, the district also includes the Bronx neighborhoods of Marble Hill, where the school is located at 2975 Tibbett Avenue, Kingsbridge, Kingsbridge Heights, Van Cortlandt Village, and parts of Fordham Manor, Jerome Park, University Heights, and Morris Heights.

Education has always been one of Jackson's central policy issues. He is well known for having walked 150 miles from New York City to Albany (twice) all in efforts to highlight educational inequality. "There is no more fitting place to have a swearing-in for Robert Jackson than a public school," said State Sen. Jamaal T. Bailey (S.D. 36), one of many elected officials in attendance on the day.

Jackson's first elected position was as school board president before serving 12 years in the New York City Council. "Everyone knows that education is the key to uplift all families," Jackson said. "We need to make it possible for every student in New York State to access affordable quality higher education and that's why funding CUNY and SUNY schools is crucial to our economic progress."

Other guest speakers at the event included U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Public Advocate Jumaane Williams. In addition, New York Working Families Party state director, Sochie Nnaemeka, and president of the Public Employees Federation, Wayne Spence, also gave speeches.

"I know, firsthand, where Robert Jackson's heart is, who his heart is for, and it is for the people, and it's the people with the most struggle and need the most help," Williams said.

For his part, Schumer constantly referred to Jackson as "Action Jackson," throughout his address. The majority leader said he gave the senator the nickname because "in all the time that I've known him, he's been working hard for his community."

Schumer went on to say the senator's inauguration was a great day for the 31st district, adding, "When it comes to education, when it comes to climate, when it comes to keeping our streets safe, and building bridges between communities, there's no one better."



Photo by Ariel Pacheco

STATE SEN. ROBERT JACKSON (S.D. 31) addresses attendees during his inauguration ceremony held at In-Tech Academy middle and high school campus in The Bronx's Marble Hill neighborhood on Feb. 4, 2023, following his November 2022 reelection.

Jackson beat his nearest rival, Angel Vasquez, in his 2022 Democratic primary by more than 20 percent, and in the general election, beat Republican, Donald Skinner, by more than 70 percent. He is now serving his third term which will conclude on Jan. 1, 2025. Andrew Stewart-Cousins, New York State Senate majority leader, administered the oath of office to Jackson, while his great-nephew held the Quran.

Addressing the crowd, Jackson said, "I kept every single campaign promise I made. I have the track record to prove that." One of the senator's biggest wins during his previous term was a piece of legislation he sponsored that amended Article 1 of the State Constitution and is just 16 words long.

It reads, "Every person should have a right to clean air and water, and to a healthful environment." New York voters approved the amendment on Nov. 2, 2021. Jackson was also co-sponsor of the Climate Leadership Protection Act, which, according to the bill, "adopted measures to put the State on a path to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 85 percent by 2050, and net zero emissions in all sectors of the economy."

He was also a co-sponsor of the José Peralta New York State DREAM Act, which provided an avenue for undocumented, high-school students to avail of state college tuition assistance, and created a "DREAM Fund," funded by private contributions, which gave scholarships to students of immigrants.

the sealing of criminal records, and one requiring fossil fuel plants to submit renewable energy plans.

Of his plans for his next term, Jackson touched on several topics he said were at the root of constituents' concerns. "We need to address the mental health crisis in our homes, schools, and streets and we need to address the rise of fentanyl and opioid crises in our community," Jackson said.

The senator previously served as chair of the Contracts Committee and of the Education committee. He now serves as chair of the Civil Service and Pensions Committee.

Wrapping up his address at the inauguration, which included dance and musical performances by students from In-Tech Academy. Jackson said, "My highest priority is the safety and security of all of you that I represent."

He continued, "There isn't one simple answer. We need to invest in sustainable, culturally relevant services for families and individuals, such as our libraries, public parks, workforce and jobs centers, food pantries, community-based organizations, senior centers, free health clinics, and youth programming."

ATTENTION JOURNALISM STUDENTS



Opportunity is Knockin'!

ARE YOU A COLLEGE STUDENT?

DO YOU KNOW A COLLEGE STUDENT WHO WANTS TO EARN \$2,600 THIS SUMMER?
Paid Summer Internship Positions Available

The New York Press Association Foundation is sponsoring a paid summer internship at this newspaper for a qualified journalism student.

Any student currently enrolled in a recognized journalism program is eligible to compete for an internship with a net \$2,600 stipend provided by NYPA. Applicants must attend college during the 2023-2024 academic year.

Don't delay! Application deadline is **March 1, 2023.**

Application forms available online at:
www.nynewspapers.com

click on **NYPA** click on **Internships**

New York Press Association
NYPA
 FOUNDATION

'Buckets for the Bronx: 3v3 Tourney' Held at Lehman College

By SÍLE MOLONEY

A free 3v3 basketball tournament: Buckets for the Bronx: 3v3 Community Classic for Bronx teens was held at the Apex Center at Lehman College on Saturday, Feb. 25. The event was organized by local community members, Jessica Altagracia Woolford, founder of Kingsbridge Unidos, and Haramritjot Singh, founder of Cash Cow NYC.

The tournament was open to local high school students aged 14-18 of all genders. It was free to enter and winners earned prizes, including three tick-



Photo by Síle Moloney

(L TO R) GABRIEL HERNANDEZ (17), LISMARÍ Castillo, 16, and Sofie Jimenez, 16, attend the Buckets for the Bronx: 3v3 Community Classic held at the Apex Center at Lehman College on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023.

ets to a Knicks game at Madison Square Garden, various cash prizes, two dozen brand-new Spalding basketballs, and exclusive Cash Cow NYC merchandise.

Community members were also invited to stop by a drop-in bike repair workshop hosted by volunteers from the Bronx Bike Collective, to avail of basic repairs, safety checks, and to get their input and vision for a more bikeable Bronx. NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) officials were also on hand to provide helmets and resources on safety tips. The Bronx Bike Collective was re-

cently selected to receive a 2023 Community Leader grant from the Citizens Committee of NYC.

"Ballin 4 Peace" lead a skills and drills workshop before tip-off began at 1 p.m., and the event was sponsored by Flava in Ya Hair Barbershop, Broadway Pizza and Pasta, Royalty Deli Grocery, Claudy's, Live from the Bronx, Ranger Supply, and several other "generous," individual donors, according to the organizers.

Altagracia Woolford and Singh both grew up in Kingsbridge and have known each other since their Head Start days in Marble Hill. Now they are both parents of young daughters they're raising in the community that raised them. Kingsbridge Unidos is a mutual aid group that distributes fresh produce and more to families in the northwest Bronx while Cash Cow NYC is a lifestyle and clothing brand dedicated to honoring the Bronx and its people.

We spoke to Emmanuel K Sarfo, one of the finalists on the day about the event. "So, it was really great for me because it shows I've been I'm improving," he said. "I didn't start playing basketball until I was, like, 9, and now I'm 15. There's a lot of people but, you know,

I made it to the finals and lost but you know, it's just showing my progress and stuff like that." Asked if he wanted to thank anyone, Emmanuel gave a shout out to Coach Dooby and Coach Josh from Ace High School in South Shore, Brooklyn. "They've been really a great help, and my family, and God."

The Group B winners (aged 16-18) on the day were brothers, Kahill Foster and Melton Foster, and Da'king Smith.



Photo by Síle Moloney

JESSICA ALTAGRACIA WOOLFORD, founder of Kingsbridge Unidos, (left) and Haramritjot Singh, founder of Cash Cow NYC, (right) pose with some of the winners of the "Buckets for the Bronx: 3v3 Community Classic" basketball tournament for Bronx teens held at the Apex Center at Lehman College on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023.



Photo by Síle Moloney

JENESIS LEON, 14, Ethan Rodriguez 13, and Emmanuel K Sarfo, 15, attend the Buckets for the Bronx: 3v3 Community Classic held at the Apex Center at Lehman College on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023.

SEEKING DISTRICT MANAGER

Are you an experienced manager?
Are you interested in working in your local community?

If so this position may be of interest to you:
Bronx Community Board 8 is seeking a District Manager

Please view the full job description at
www.nyc.gov/bxcb8

To Apply please go to
www.nyc.gov/jobs and search for job ID 574176

Deadline March 11, 2023



Train & Earn in the real world!



MMCC offers **FREE** Culinary Arts & Medical Administrative Assistant training programs for young people, ages 16-24, not in school and living within the 5 boroughs.

Get certified with opportunities for **PAID Internships!**

For more information or to make an appointment, Call (718) 652-0282 or VISIT mmcc.org



Building communities one life at a time



W TRAIN & EARN

Scan & see if you qualify!



Educational Counseling Center | Mosholu Montefiore Community Center
3512 Dekalb Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467 | 718-652-0282 | www.mmcc.org



Eat Better during National Nutrition Month & Beyond

By MARY LOU POMPEII

National Nutrition Month is an annual campaign designed to help people make informed food choices and develop healthful eating and physical activity habits. It was created 50 years ago by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND), a trusted source of food and nutrition information.

This year's theme is "Fuel for the Future," which aims to highlight how we can eat with sustainability in mind. The topic of food waste is not commonly discussed, yet it needs our attention to help protect our oceans and landfills from unnecessary debris. According to AND, Americans throw away billions of pounds of food each year. We can start to decrease the amount of food we waste by looking in our own kitchens.

Here are a few tips to help address this which

begin with you:

- Purchase foods in bulk to decrease the packaging that becomes waste.
- Plan meals based on what you already have in your refrigerator, freezer or cupboard.
- Limit the purchase of perishable foods or use before they are over-ripe.
- Get creative with leftovers; transform them into soups, salads or sandwiches.
- Follow the shelf life of foods; use them by their expiration date.

Another way to "Fuel for the Future" is to follow the U.S. Department of Agriculture's "MyPlate" daily recommended amounts of each food group. Choose smaller portions to stay within your calorie needs and make your food choices according to the MyPlate nutrition guidance. Recommendations from MyPlate help us understand how to create a healthy eating routine at every stage of life.

MyPlate reminds us how important it is to fill half of our plates with a variety of vegetables and fruits, followed by grains, protein foods, and dairy or non-dairy alternatives. This is represented by the MyPlate symbol, which you can find at: <https://www.myplate.gov/>. Examples of healthy food combinations that go well together, using ingredients you may already have in your kitchen, include:

- quinoa, or brown rice with black beans, corn, and chopped or sliced bell peppers, accompanied by a dressing of olive oil and lime juice;
- salad with lettuce, hard boiled eggs, tuna, and tomatoes, dressed with a little olive oil and vinegar;
- scrambled eggs with cheese, salsa, and whole grain toast; and
- baked fish with sauteed vegetables and rice.

For more information, tips, and recipes for healthy eating, here are some resources:

- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics: <https://www.eatright.org/>
- NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene: <https://www.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/eating-well.page>
- NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene: <https://www.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/nutrition-services.page>

For help reaching your health goals, talk to your health care provider about seeing a registered dietitian. They are the nutrition experts who can provide advice to help you "Fuel the Future" today, and every day, moving forward.

Mary Lou Pompeii RDN CDCES CDN is an associate wellness dietitian in the Human Resources, Total Rewards division of Montefiore Health System.

Black History Month Celebrated in The Bronx

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Black History Month was celebrated across The Bronx in February with several events held in honor of the country's ancestors, while elsewhere, the ongoing debate over the teaching of Black history to children in schools continues to make headlines.

State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 31), who broadly represents the neighborhoods of Norwood, Bedford Park, Jerome Park, Riverdale, Fieldston, North Riverdale, Spuyten Duyvil, parts of Fordham, Belmont, Tremont, Van Nest, Little Yamen and Allerton, held a celebration at Tracey Towers housing complex in Jerome Park on Saturday, Feb. 25, in conjunction with Bronx Health Reach. It comprised of live music, raffles, performances, food, drinks, COVID-19 and flu vaccinations, and was followed by some speeches.

Several of the towers' elderly residents were seen in attendance and appeared to be enjoying the festivities, whereas some of the younger residents



Photo by Sile Moloney

STATE SEN. GUSTAVO Rivera (S.D. 31), on the right, joins Tracey Towers resident, Addai Kwarteng, at Tracey Towers in Jerome Park, The Bronx, for a Black History Month celebration on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023.

we spoke to did not seem to be as interested in marking the occasion.

We spoke to 94-year-old resident, Rosemary O. Brown, about what the month meant to her. "Well, Black History Month is very important to me. I was born a very long time ago and it's always an honor to be here. I have traced my family back to

my enslaved great, great grandmother. I have eight generations of family that I've traced all the way down to my tree, right here in the United States, southern part," she said.

Born and raised in The Bronx, Brown said hers was a good oral history to hear and said she was going to be presenting it later that day. Smiling,

she added, "My maiden name is Orange, so if there's any Oranges out there, you related to me, okay?" We also spoke to the drummer with the band who said, "I just wanted to say that it's important to know *everybody's* history."

Asked what the best part of the event was, two elderly female residents, Lucy Okyere

and Grace Drompeh, originally from Ghana but living in the U.S. for 20 years, said the best part was the music, the band, and meeting Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark.

"We are so proud to have her here today and our assemblyman too," one said. "We love you all. We know you are fighting for us." Asked how things were going generally at Tracey Towers, the ladies mentioned that there were still problems with the elevator. *Norwood News* has reached out to the management company for comment.

Nana Ampomsah, another elderly male resident said his highlight was meeting the Bronx Borough President. "It was my first time," he said. "Everything's good."

Another female resident, Ama Jackson, agreed it was a good event. "What's most important is that we understand Black History Month is Black History year, and it's not just Black history, it's Hispanic history, it's Asian history," she said, in part. "It is the com-

(continued on page 16)

Black History Month Celebrated in The Bronx

(continued from page 15)

plete and true story that has occurred in this country because it is not just American history, it's world history. That's what we have to remember and if we taught history the way it should be in this country, you'd have no need for Black History Month."

Jackson continued, "You wouldn't, because it would already be embedded in the curriculum, but we have a curriculum in this city that does not represent the children that attend. They're being fed some great misinformation and it's very sad. That's why events like this are important, because we need to teach young people their history and that's all young people, because everyone benefits from history when it's taught properly and it's taught honestly."

For his part, Rivera said the event was an opportunity to celebrate Black excellence in the country and the neighborhood, particularly when there's such a large Black population at Tracey Towers. "There's so many Black folks who live here who have been such an important part of this neighborhood in The Bronx," he said. "So, I wanted to come back and celebrate them. We had an opportunity to do some dancing and some singing."

He agreed that Black history was American history and



Photo by Sile Moloney

TRACEY TOWERS RESIDENT, Rosemary O. Brown, 94, attends a Black History Month Celebration at Tracey Towers in Jerome Park, The Bronx on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023.

needed to be celebrated. "I'm Puerto Rican, and I'm quite pale, but would you be surprised to find that my father is a Black Puerto Rican man? I'm very, very proud of the Black roots side of my family, but when I came to the U.S., it was getting to know the Black community in the U.S., and particularly in the last 13 years as I've been a state senator, that has been an incredibly important part of who my constituency has been," Rivera said in part.

Asked for his thoughts on the opposition to teaching Black history in schools, he said, "Well, it's deeply racist, and it's deeply ahistorical. How do you actually hide parts of what your history is in the United States? The reality is that as great as our country is, there are deep

wounds that are part of the foundation of our history."

He added, "This notion that we need to hide those things about our country, which we are ashamed of only makes it more likely that we will ignore it or more likely that we will repeat it. We have to acknowledge those things. We are not yet there, and it is the experience of Black Americans that has pushed us, thankfully, towards a more just society. We should not go backwards and trying to stop teaching the history of our country is going back - not a fan."

We later spoke to the district attorney, who said as the first Black woman to be elected DA in the State of New York, it was important not only to be the first, but to make sure she was not the last. "So, it's important to come out, engage with the community, so they know the work that the district attorney does, and [how] my job is to keep them safe, and my mission is to make sure that we have public safety, justice and fairness at the same time," Clark, who is running for reelection this year, said.

Asked what non-Black residents and citizens could do to keep things moving in a positive way for Black Americans, the district attorney said, "To always be an ally; it's not about race. It's about people, it's about service, so making sure that we do all we can to uplift our com-

munities, whatever way you can and support the causes of different people."

Jean Hill is president of Tracey Towers Tenants Organization and a member of Bronx Community Board 7. She said the band organized by Rivera was "fabulous" and that some suitably themed movies like "Wakanda Forever" and "Black Panther" were also scheduled to be screened later in the day to mark the occasion.

"So, it's been a fabulous day, and then what we're also going to do is have the oral histories amongst the people themselves," she said. "We always hear about people who are famous, but we want to tell the story from the individual, common man point of view to let them see what our histories were in this country."

She continued, "You may have come from a foreign country, you may have heard America's this fabulous beacon of light. What did you experience when you really got here? I was born and raised in

America. I also grew up in a time of segregation. So, I have also a history of what it's like being born here, living here and still making America, *our* country, because we helped build it along with everybody else. So, Black history is American history because we built the infrastructure of it, along with a bunch of other people, including the Irish, including the Chinese. Let's keep all of our brothers and sisters together."

She added, "So, we need to tell these individual stories. We need to let people know it's not just about famous people. It's about the everyday working man and woman who has to raise their children, bring their children up. We live in a time with strife. A lot of time what people are trying to do is divide the soul, and we cannot exist as a house divided. We must work together. That's the only thing that's going to make America strong, and never perfect but a work in progress."



Photo by Sile Moloney

TRACEY TOWERS TENANTS Organization president, Jean Hill, joins Addai Kwarteng at Tracey Towers in Jerome Park, The Bronx, for a Black History Month celebration on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023.



Photo by Sile Moloney

BRONX DISTRICT ATTORNEY Darcel Clark joins Tracey Towers residents, Lucy Okyere and Grace Drompoh, at Tracey Towers in Jerome Park, The Bronx, for a Black History Month celebration on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023.

A new heart gave Jessica another shot.

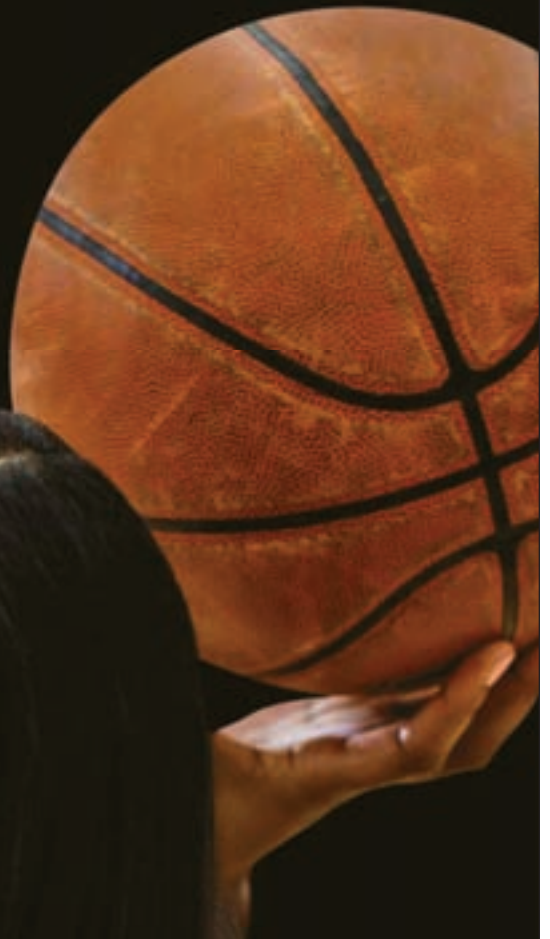
Thanks to
Montefiore Einstein,
she's undefeated.

When Jessica's heart was
pumping at just 5% capacity
her survival was measured
in weeks, not months. She
turned to Montefiore Einstein
who saved her with a bridge
to a new heart.

See Jessica's story at
montefiore.org/Jessica



Montefiore Einstein





**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



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.langsampropertieservices.com

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. Hairdresser Wanted. (347) 284 3834

Public and Community Meetings

The **52nd PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meetings usually take place on the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m., sometimes in person and sometimes virtually. Call the 52nd Precinct Community Affairs office at (718) 220-5824 to be added to the email list. Proof of vaccination is required for in-person meetings.

The next **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7** general board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March. 28, 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 next **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8** full board meeting will be held on March 14 at 7 p.m. Contact BX08@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list.

The **BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** meetings are usually held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m., sometimes in person and sometimes online. For details of future meetings, please contact bedfordmosholu@verizon.net.

CORRECTIONS

In the *Norwood News* edition Feb. 23-March 8, 2023, the police killing data referenced in the second sentence of the third-last paragraph of the page 10 story, entitled, "Tyre Nichols Rally Dark Day for NYPD," covered the period from 2013 to 2022 (and not only 2022) and referred to police killings per one million people during this period. The sentence should have read as follows: "Meanwhile, between 2013 and 2022, the breakdown of police killings per one million people during this period was as follows: 90 Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, 68 Black, 39 Native American, 31 Hispanic, 23 White and 8 Asian." We apologize for this error.

**TO REPORT A STORY TO THE
NORWOOD NEWS CALL US AT
(929) 318 6595**

Bronx Fire Prompts New Battery Laws

(continued from page 12)

produces, as well as what warnings are provided on packaging to consumers on the safe use of such batteries. We will share any updates we receive.

On Sunday afternoon, units were still operating to extinguish small pockets of fire. "Units will continue to operate on scene to prevent a rekindle of any sort," officials said, adding the fire was brought under control at 3.21 p.m.

Meanwhile, NYC Department of Emergency Management officials had earlier warned residents there would be a lot of smoke and traffic delays in the area and advised them to close their windows. Some social media users posted photos of dense, voluminous smoke from the fire billowing into the sky, reportedly seen from as far away as New Jersey.

On Feb. 25, fire officials announced they had conducted a joint operation at five locations in Manhattan with the purpose of identifying violations related to the charging and storage of lithium-ion batteries. "Twenty-five members from both agencies worked together and identified numerous dangerous conditions, unsafe electrical practices, and other assorted fire safety violations, including the storage of propane," fire department officials said.

"Improper storage and charging of hundreds of batteries and dozens of e-mobility devices was found at all five locations. In all, #FDNY issues 11 FDNY summonses, 14 violation orders, and 6 criminal summonses," they added.

Last year, *Norwood News* reported that the cause of a fire at 2230 Grand Concourse on Sunday, Jan. 9, the same day as the Twin Parks fire, was a lithium-ion battery from an e-scooter.

District 15 City Council Member Oswald Feliz, who represents parts of Fordham, Bedford Park, Mount Hope, Bathgate, Belmont, East Tremont, West Farms, Van Nest, Allerton, and Olinville, and who is a member of the City Council fire safety taskforce, had just introduced additional fire safety legislation on March 2 relating to lithium-ion batteries.

"E-bikes are the future of urban mobility," Feliz had said, in part, on March 2. "Thousands of 'deliveristas' rely on them for work. We've seen some defective batteries cause fire safety chal-

lenges – 200+ fires in one year. Thankful to all who joined to ensure only safe batteries are sold, so our families aren't put at risk." He added, "We can and will get this right in NYC."

The package of bills follows previous legislation for which the councilman was a lead sponsor, following the Twin Parks fire tragedy last year. The latest bills require that e-bike batteries go through safety checks and be certified in order to be sold in New York City and prohibit the sale of refurbished e-bike batteries.

The bills also require the FDNY establish materials related to safe e-bike battery usage, require food hub platforms like Grubhub to provide safe e-bikes to delivery workers, and require the FDNY to provide information related to e-bike fires and how to minimize fire safety threats.

A second package of bills is underway, according to Feliz, and will include a battery swap program, safe disposal of lithium-ion batteries, and more. "The sharp rise in fires involving e-bike batteries is incredibly concerning," Feliz said. "Last year, there were approximately 220 fires caused by faulty e-bike batteries. Families were displaced, and some of them lost loved ones. This cannot become the norm, so we are taking action."

He added, in part, "Not all batteries have caused fire safety challenges. Batteries that are certified have safety-related tools that help prevent overheating and other malfunctions that lead to fires. We are dedicated to ensuring that lithium batteries are safe and accessible for all New Yorkers."

The councilman thanked the hundreds of firefighters for risking their safety to control the fire and vowed to work with the impacted small business owner and employees to help them recover. "They can count on us," he said.

Reacting to news of the fire, one social media user, martino_num1, asked, "When these e-bikes or scooters catch fire like this, is it something the company owns up to, and compensates?" Another social media user, therealgujosh, said, "This happens with EV cars as well. Nothing E is good for us."

Another user added, "Also... e-bikes are legal, mopeds are not. It's confusing to call everything an e-bike." According to



Photo courtesy of the FDNY

FDNY OFFICIALS RESPOND to a 5-alarm fire which broke out on Sunday, March 5, 2023, at 2096 Grand Concourse in Fordham Heights, The Bronx.

the NYPD, dirt bikes are illegal and if a scooter has an electric or gas motor with no vehicle ID number, then it is also illegal and cannot be driven or sold.

[Check out our Inquiring Photographer feature in this edition of the *Norwood News*, for more comments from Bronxites on their thoughts regarding the regulation of lithium-ion batteries.]

Mayor Eric Adams, who also visited the site of the fire on Sunday, said he was relieved to report that no one was seriously injured. "@FDNY Commissioner Kavanagh has been sounding the alarm on the danger of lithium batteries on e-bikes, and today we again saw why," he said. "Safety must come first." He urged New Yorkers **not** to keep devices like e-bikes in domestic settings to prevent similar fires from occurring.

A follow-up press conference was held on March 7 with Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, Feliz, fire officials, and Congressman Ritchie Torres (NY-15), who represents a large section of The Bronx, including Fordham Heights where the fire broke out, Norwood, Bedford Park, and other areas stretching from the northwest of the borough to the south.

Torres said that even though lithium-ion-battery-powered e-mobility bikes have become a common form of transportation for food delivery workers, neither the National Highway Traffic Administration nor the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) have a role in regulating the bikes.

"So, I'm here to announce that I'm introducing legislation that would require the Con-

sumer Product Safety Commission to set mandatory standards for the design and manufacturing of e-mobility devices like e-bikes and e-scooters that rely on [these] lithium-ion batteries," he said.

The "Setting Consumer Standards for Lithium-Ion Batteries Act" would require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish a final consumer product safety standard for rechargeable lithium-ion batteries used in personal mobility devices, such as electric scooters and bikes, to protect against the risk of fires caused by such batteries.

"I'm grateful to the hundreds of first responders who continue to bravely respond to these incidents and do all they can to save lives and property, but the time has come for the federal government to act because this problem is not isolated to just New York," Torres said. "We must work to create and implement national safety standards for lithium-ion batteries in order to protect people and places from unreasonable risk, serious injury or damage, and/or death."

According to Torres' office, in New York City alone, the FDNY reports that rechargeable lithium-ion batteries have caused more than 400 fires over the last four years, resulting in more than 300 injuries, 12 deaths, and damage to more than 320 structures and more than 100 non-structures.

The congressman previously sponsored the "Empowering the U.S. Fire Administration Act," in the wake of the Twin Parks fire last year and which is now law, and is currently cosponsor-

ing the "Safer Heat Act of 2023," to address underlying manufacturing issues and safety concerns with space heaters.

Meanwhile, Gibson referenced another 5-alarm super-market fire which broke out at 1750 University Avenue on Feb. 9, the cause of which was also a lithium-ion battery. "As a borough, we have seen an unprecedented number of fires that have caused irreparable harm to our communities," she said, while voicing her support for Torres' bill.

Dan Flynn, chief fire marshal with the FDNY, had earlier spoken of some of the "egregious violations of the fire code" identified during recent fire safety sweeps. "We've been able to go to these stores and mitigate those problems," he said in part. "We have been going out every day visiting these stores, not only to conduct enforcement but education."

Flynn added, "I think a lot of the stores don't realize some of the practices they're engaged in are dangerous. We're not looking to hammer small businesses over this. We [just] want our residents to be safe and understand what is causing these problems and also the fire code."

For more safety tips visit <http://fdnysmart.org>.

Regarding the referenced battery recall, consumers can call RELiON collect at (803) 324-6644 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or email at AMER-recall@oneag.com, online at www.relionbattery.com/product-recall-us or www.relionbattery.com and click on "Product Recalls" at the bottom of the page.

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 similiar 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