



NORWOOD NEWS

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AT JOB FAIR MAYOR SAYS: "YOU'RE HIRED!"



Photo by Síle Moloney

A JOB SEEKER attends a job fair hosted by NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services at Monroe College at 2501 Jerome Avenue in Fordham Manor on Saturday, April 22, 2023.

By SÍLE MOLONEY

There were all manner of City jobs up for grabs at the NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services job fair held at Monroe College in Fordham

Manor on Saturday, April 22. New York City Mayor Eric Adams also showed up to encourage Bronxites, and others who had traveled to the Boogie Down, about the benefits of working for

his administration.

Addressing the sizeable afternoon crowd of an estimated 350 people, which according to the fair organizers, had dwindled since the morning, Adams

said, "We have thousands of jobs, thousands of jobs, and many of you have attempted to get the services you wanted from the City, and because we have not

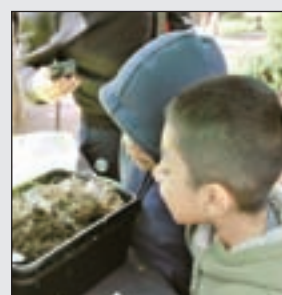
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Advocates Rally to Expand Healthcare Coverage to Immigrants

By SILE MOLONEY

As State elected officials remained in Albany thrashing out the latest overdue State budget deal with Gov. Kathy Hochul, a group of about 20 immigrants and health care workers joined nonprofit, Make the Road New York, for a rally outside Montefiore Medical Center on 210th Street in Norwood on Thursday, April 20, to call for the expansion of healthcare to immigrants.

Arlene Cruz Escobar, director of health programs at the nonprofit, addressed those gathered, saying, "We're here today to stand in solidarity with our immigrant community members, our family, our friends, healthcare providers, nurses, health administrators, impacted community members. We're all here today to advance this fight for health insurance coverage, because it is a basic human right. Who's with me?"

This led into a chant of, "What do we want? Coverage for All! When do we want it? Now!" Cruz Escobar continued, "Last year, Gov. Hochul committed to working with the federal government to include undocumented New Yorkers in a proposal that would expand health insurance coverage to all immigrants regardless of immigration status. However, this year, inexplicably, when they submitted the draft 1332 waiver, immigrants were inexplicably omitted."

Cruz Escobar went on to say that the final budget deal should authorize the use of a \$2 billion surplus that she said currently exists in the Basic Health Plan Trust Fund for coverage for all New Yorkers under 250% of the federal poverty level, regardless of their immigration status. "This means that the State could use federal funding to expand health insurance coverage to our immigrant New Yorkers," she said.

"This would come at no cost to the State. The State would even see savings of over \$500 million as it moves individuals who are currently enrolled in an emergency Medicaid program into comprehensive coverage that would allow them to finally access health care that they so desperately need."

Cruz Escobar said this was the year to expand health insurance to immigrant communities, adding that there are over 255 New Yorkers who currently lack access to health insurance due to their immigration status.

"We have the funds," she said. "We are already submitting a 1332 waiver to expand health care access to those who are under the income limits. There's absolutely no reason why this year can't be the year that we finally pass Coverage for All and make sure that immigrant New Yorkers access the care that they need."

Peter P. Semczuk, senior vice presi-



Photo by Sile Moloney

AN ELDERLY IMMIGRANT joins the nonprofit, Make the Road NY, doctors, nurses and supporters of the expansion of healthcare to immigrants during a rally outside Montefiore Medical Center in Norwood on Thursday, April 20, 2023, as budget negotiations continued in Albany.

dent at Montefiore Health System, later addressed the crowd, saying in part that it was important to represent some of who he said were the most needy people in the country in The Bronx. "I'd also like to acknowledge and thank State Sen. Gustavo Rivera who is up in Albany making sure that there is coverage for all of us," he said.

Semczuk added, "The Bronx is home to one of the largest immigrant communities in the world. I am a child of immigrants, and so many of us here are children of immigrants. Immigrants deserve health care. Montefiore Health System proudly stands, with our workforce, with our unions with all of you and our 40,000 members want everyone to know we strongly advocate health care for all, we believe it's the right thing to do, and we are happy to be your partners."

Other speakers, including Michelle Gonzalez, a nurse at Montefiore, Dr. Andrew Telzac, a primary care doctor treating patients in a local Bronx private clinic and immigrant patient, Gavina Santa Maria, who is also a mother, shared their experiences of what it was like to navigate the healthcare system for immigrants.

Santa Maria said she had been paying taxes for 15 years, and that it wasn't fair that she continued to be excluded from Coverage for All, adding that next year her daughter will also start paying taxes.

Norwood News contacted the governor's office for comment. We were referred to draft FY 2024 executive budget which reportedly takes steps to expand coverage, improve health outcomes, and reduce unnecessary financial burdens on the state's health care system. According to representatives for the governor, expanding the Essential Plan to undocumented immigrants through the 1332 waiver process carries significant financial uncertainty and risk.

They said the federal government will not provide incremental funding for the undocumented population and is unlikely to allow the State to tap its ac-

crued balance in the Essential Plan Trust Fund, as the Trust Fund's uses – authorized under the Affordable Care Act and in federal law – are limited to expanding health care for U.S. citizens or lawfully present immigrants only.

They said there is also uncertainty in estimating the size and characteristics of the undocumented immigrant population, and by extension participation rates and per member costs in an expanded Essential Plan program.

They added that the governor will continue

to explore options to broaden coverage throughout the State in a way that is compliant with federal rules and regulations, and without causing significant uncertainty or creating financial risk for New York State.

A spokesperson added, "Gov. Hochul's executive budget makes transformative investments to make New York more affordable, more livable and safer, and she continues to work with the legislature to deliver a final budget that meets the needs of all New Yorkers."

A further rally was held on Bainbridge Avenue and East Gun Hill Road by Montefiore Medical Center in Norwood on Friday, April 28, organized by the 1199SEIU union, where members were joined by Bronx elected officials, State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33), Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81), State Sen. Nathalia Fernandez (S.D. 34), Assemblyman George Alvarez (A.D. 78), State Sen. Luis Sepúlveda (S.D. 32) and Assemblywoman Amanda Septimo (A.D. 84).

The union members said the governor's tentative budget deal did not adequately fund healthcare facilities in vulnerable communities. "The Gov. can find more funds especially with a \$8 billion surplus," the union later tweeted. Fernandez wrote, "Safety net hospitals are essential to our community, and they have gone underfunded for far too long. That is why I am standing with my colleagues @NYSenatorRivera [Gustavo], @SenatorMyrie [Zellnor], as a proud co-sponsor, calling on the Governor Health Equity Stabilization and Transformation Act (S.5810) that would unlock an additional \$2.6 billion in unused federal government dollars for safety net hospitals."

As of press date, the \$229 billion budget had passed in the New York State Senate on Tuesday night, May 2, and later passed in the State Assembly. The finer details of the budget will be shared in future editions.

Karla Cabrera Elected as District Manager for Bronx Community Board 7

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Karla Cabrera Carrera, the former assistant district manager of Bronx Community Board 7 (CB7), was elected as the new district manager for the board during CB7's general board meeting held April 27. Cabrera Carrera was voted in following 20 votes in the affirmative and 6 abstentions.

She has been hired at a salary of \$96,000 per annum. As reported, the position of district manager had been vacant since the departure of former district manager Ischia Bravo who stepped down at the end of last year to take up a new role as Bronx County Clerk.

Cabrera Carrera was generally showered with congratulations and words of encouragement following the vote. CB7 chair Yajaira Arias said, "We look forward to continuing to work with you, and allowing our board to grow to a bigger and better

Bronx CB7."

For her part, the newly elected district manager said, "Thank you all and thank you for your vote of confidence. I will not let you down, and I'm open to any feedback. You can email me, you can text me any time. I'm always looking forward to [improving] in any way and I'm open to constructive criticism as well."

During her nomination process, Cabrera Carrera said her vision for CB7 was to increase capacity through training of staff and board members, to better address the needs of the community, and to increase community engagement efforts by promoting the role of the community board to all community members.

The new manager is a Bronxite, a mother, a CUNY alum, and a migrant from Guatemala City. She holds a bachelor's degree in science

(continued on page 7)



Photo courtesy of Karla Cabrera Carrera

KARLA CABRERA CARRERA is the new district manager of Bronx Community Board 7.

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By **DAVID GREENE**



This week, we asked readers their thoughts on the recent announcement by U.S. President Joe Biden of his decision to run for reelection in 2024. If he were to win, he would be 82 years old when sworn into office.



"I think it's fantastic. I think he'll be a great, great president when he gets reelected. I don't buy that [he's too old]. I don't believe in Fox News. I believe in facts, not fiction. The president has all his faculties, absolutely! He will run again. Against whom? No comment if you catch my drift."

Jeff Corman,
Kingsbridge
Photo by David Greene



"Well, I think that at 80 years old, he should kind of retire. As much as he's done, he's accomplished everything, and there's a time in life where you should just sit back, and I think this is his time to enjoy his family and enjoy everything around him because it's a very high-pressure job. Who should run instead of him? I don't know. That is one thing I don't know about because everybody says Kamila is always laughing. That's her, naturally. She's charming and everybody thinks that she shouldn't be so charming. I happen to like her because when she has to get serious, she'll get serious."

Sheran Tavarez,
San Antonio, Texas via Riverdale
Photo courtesy of Sheran Tavarez



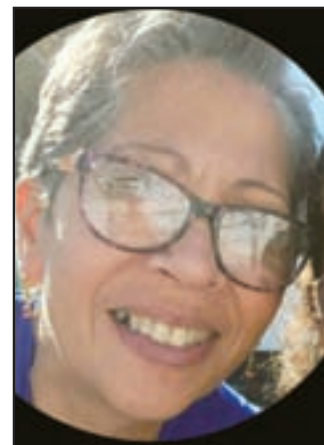
"Being president is such a stressful job that age is one factor to consider when choosing a candidate. I'm more concerned with this push to disqualify him solely on the basis of his age. He's delivered on growth, bipartisan infrastructure legislation, and spending measures, addressing the climate crisis to mention just a few of his accomplishments. There are other factors to consider in addition to age."

José A. Giral,
Bedford Park
Photo courtesy of José A. Giral



"From my point of view, Joe Biden is a gentleman, statesman, and hard-working president of the U.S.A. But regarding his age as being a factor, I don't think he is unfit. He is energetic, full of confidence, and a nice human being. I wish him all the very best during the 2024 presidential election."

Arshad Hussain,
Castle Hill
Photo courtesy of Arshad Hussain



"Now you did it! You made me think about that fool that's living in what was previously called The White House, which should be renamed now. The SOB has put a wrench into so many people's lives, and still won't admit it! I pray to God he's not only removed from office but leaves in handcuffs! Enough talk about the idiot.... my blood pressure just went up!"

Nilsa Cintron
Phoenix, AZ via Bedford Park
Photo courtesy of Nilsa Cintron

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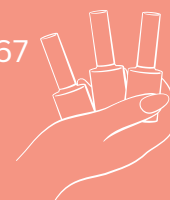
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Angellyh Yambo Art & Design Room Unveiled

By **ARIEL PACHECO**

Concourse Village Elementary School held a memorial ceremony for former student Angellyh Yambo on March 30 during which the school's art room, a place she loved to hang out, was dedicated to her. The former student, who spent much of her youth in Kingsbridge Heights, was tragically killed in broad daylight near her Mott Haven high school one year earlier on April 8, 2022, when she was hit by a stray bullet shot by a then 17-year-old male youth.

The private ceremony, which her family and friends attended, was held to honor and memorialize Angellyh who, according to those present, had developed a close bond with the school community, one which continued even well after she graduated. The ceremony was emotional for all involved as Angellyh's family and former teachers shared their favorite memories of her.

The school's principal, Dr. Alexa Sorden said, "Being able to create something that honors her that is so beautiful and highlights her [artistic] talent was very important to us as a community because she will forever continue to live in our hearts and our lives."

A slideshow of photos and videos of Angellyh during her time as a student at the school, all the way up to her graduation, was shown during the moving event. Meanwhile, the art room was decorated in pink, Angellyh's favorite color, and was filled with more photographs of her. Sorden continued "So today's purpose is in honoring her, honoring her family, her friends, and all of us that love her and making sure that she continues to live on."

Yanely Henriquez, Angellyh's mom, gifted the school a personalized glass engraving from both her and The Angellyh Yambo Foundation, which read "Thank you Concourse Village, Thank you for your love, Thank you for being there, You guys rock." Addressing those gathered, Henriquez tried to hold back her tears as she said, "Thank you is a very small word so what I really want to express is

everything that you all have done for being there. This room that you're doing for my girl, this is beyond expected."

The Angellyh Yambo Foundation launched earlier this year on Jan. 24, on what would have been Angellyh's 17th birthday. Founded her aunt, Mary Hernandez, who is also the CEO, other family members are also involved. The foundation was created with the goal of helping raise awareness about gun violence, among other aims.

Angellyh's art teacher, Courtney Watson, said she spent a lot of time with Angellyh when she was a student at the school and afterwards. When Angellyh began returning for visits, even after she began high school, Watson said she would bring in her artwork to show to her former teacher. She also explained that Angellyh would also use the art room to work on any of her upcoming artworks.

Watson said one of the last projects Angellyh worked on was part of an "Alice in Wonderland" series which depicted the Mad Hatter's tea party in black and white. "She was just an incredible artist," Watson said. "She had a different eye. She just saw things differently. Her approach to her artistic process was something not many at her age would have."

Sorden said during her visits back to her elementary school, Angellyh would often sit down with her and talk to her about everything ranging from her Sweet 16 celebration to college. Sorden said her last memory of Angellyh is of her walking to her office door to tell her that her Sweet 16 pictures weren't out yet and how she planned to show them to her once they were ready. "That's like the most vivid memory I have of, like, hearing her voice and seeing her," said Sorden.

Angellyh's passion for the arts was well known it seems as was her unique artistic approach, and she would tell people she was her own favorite artist. Christina Rivera, guidance counselor at the school, said, "I'm just happy that, as a community, we were able to give her a place where she felt safe to come back and

(continued on page 15)



Photo by Ariel Pacheco

MEMBERS OF THE Glam Squad, comprising students with an interest in art, honor the late Angellyh Yambo during a ceremony on March 30, 2023, at Concourse Village Elementary School in the South Bronx during which the school's art room was named in her honor.

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Diverse Neighbors Help Reunite Dog with Family

By SÍLE MOLONEY

A diverse community group comprising teenagers, adults, around 13 kids including a 3-year-old toddler, his grandparents, and a storeowner ensured there were happy smiles all around Bedford Park last week after they each worked in different ways to reunite a friendly lost husky called Kenzie with his rightful owners, but not before a few impromptu chases took place across Mosholu Parkway.

Nora Hamond told *Norwood News* that she was about to enter her building in the vicinity of East 201st Street near Marion Avenue on Wednesday afternoon, April 26, with her 3-year-old grandson, Javier Sierra Hamond, while her husband was parking the car, when another man came into the parking lot. "And so did this husky dog who was jumping up towards my grandson who was not a happy boy!" Hamond said.

"The dog was very friendly," she continued. "Then I said, 'You want to hold your dog?' and the man said, 'No, that's *your* dog.' I said, 'No, that's not my dog!'" It was then Hamond realized the dog had come to visit. She said she became concerned the dog, which she later found out was aged one and a half and male, might get hurt because he didn't have a collar.

"So, I told my husband to take my grandson upstairs, and I went after him

[Kenzie] because he ran out of the building, and I followed him to Mosholu Parkway," Hamond said. She then lost sight of Kenzie and began asking people who told her the dog was headed towards Bainbridge Avenue and Briggs Avenue.

Meanwhile, a local mom, Yanil Morales, told *Norwood News* that on the same afternoon she was with her kids in Mosholu Parkway playground, located next to P.S. 8 on Mosholu Parkway South and Briggs Avenue, when she spotted the four-legged pet wander into the playground to the delight of all the kids present.

"There was a couple of people that walked in as well, so we thought the dog belonged to them," Morales said. "First, I was a little skeptical because there's a sign that says, 'No Dogs Allowed,' but this dog seemed friendly, like he was not aggressive towards the kids. He was just running around minding his business."

Morales said, nonetheless, she grabbed her daughter as a safety precaution. She continued, "So, the dog keeps running up and down just looking for water. Now, I'm getting a little worried. I'm asking the person that walked in at the same time, 'Hey, is this your dog?' and they're like, 'No, we were wondering the same thing'."

After asking everyone in the park if they owned the dog, Morales said it became apparent nobody did. She said she

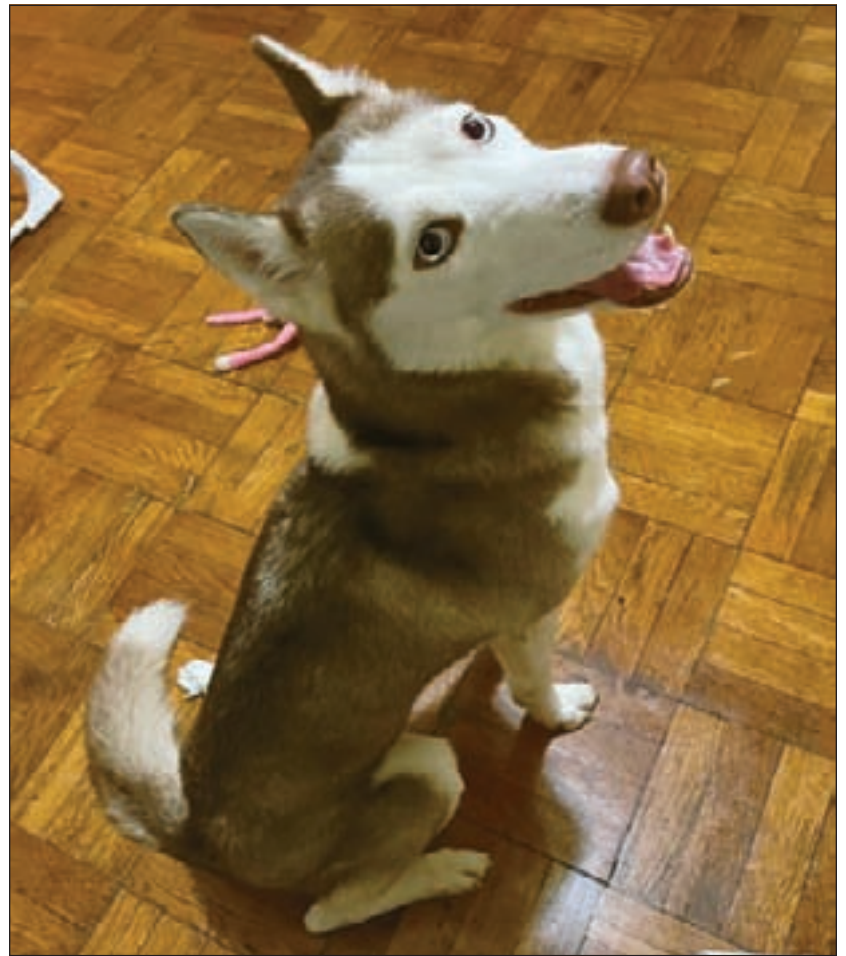


Photo courtesy of Yanil Morales

KENZIE THE HUSKY, looks up lovingly at Yanil Morales who temporarily fostered him after he got separated from his owners on April 26, 2023 in Bedford Park.

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knew there was a gate in the playground that was usually shut in the evenings. "So, I tell the kids that are with me, because I have older kids as well, 'Hey, go close the gate.' My thing is I want to protect the dog. The dog is friendly. The dog is nice. I don't want the dog to run out and get hit by a car."

She said they closed the gate and were trying to catch hold of the dog who was still friendly but didn't have any leash or a collar on, and people were still coming in and out, opening and closing the gate. It was around this time that Hamond, armed with some string, reached the playground. "Some teenagers there closed the gate and they had him under control," Hamond said.

"Then when I went in, we talked and then the dog took off, skirted down the hill and out onto the traffic, across the street, and then was running up Mosholu Parkway [North]," Hamond said. "We were running after him, young people, myself..."

Morales said, "I was running after it with a friend of mine, a young boy that Miss Nora probably told you about, so then my next thing was what do I do, because she's running away and she's fast! She saw another dog, she wanted to play with that dog. She was not aggressive at all. So, I have this really long cardigan, so I think okay, let me take off my cardi-

gan and try to use it as a leash."

The group later arrived at East 204th street. Hamond then took up the story, saying, "The guy [storeowner] came out and we were all talking about the dog," She added the others then said of the string, "No, that's not going to work." Hamond continued, "The teenager and an older lady [Morales], maybe 18, and the young man, they decided to buy a leash."

Morales said the group went to the nearest 99 cents store but as they didn't sell leashes there, they continued to a hardware store. "That's when I got a leash and I got a collar, but she still swiveled herself out of it," Morales said. "She knows how to get out of the collar and out of the leash, but we got her back in! Miss Nora called the police, and she wanted us to stay in front of the hardware store."

However, Morales said she was trying to face in the same direction as Kenzie was moving because she knew if she didn't, the dog would wriggle out of the collar and run away. She suggested they walk back to the playground where there was the gate. "So, that's what we did," Morales said. "We were there for like two hours. I called the cops and explained we moved from the hardware to the playground if you guys want to

(continued on page 9)

NEWS BRIEFS

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Missing 15-Year-Old Boy

The NYPD is seeking the public's help locating a 15-year-old boy from the Bedford Park section of The Bronx who was reported missing on Saturday, April 29. Police said Oumar Diarrassouba of 2128 Briggs Avenue was last seen on Monday, April 24, at around 7 a.m., leaving his home. Oumar is described as male, is 5 feet, 6 inches tall, weighs 120 pounds, is Black, has a dark complexion, a thin build, black hair, and brown eyes.

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



Photo courtesy of the NYPD

OUMAR DIARRASSOUBA IS reported missing.

City Council Addresses Traffic Violence

New York city council approved a package of bills on April 27 to better protect New Yorkers from preventable traffic violence by mandating new street safety infrastructure interventions. The move follows the deadliest year on record for children killed in traffic since the City's Vision Zero program began in 2014, council members said, and as cyclists face similar record-breaking traffic fatalities.

The council also voted on laws that require the NYPD to train officers how to recognize and interact with individuals with autism spectrum disorder, that create a homeless bill of rights, that facilitate rental assistance payments through the electronic transfer of funds, that permit gaming for charitable purposes at sporting venues, and that improve government efficiency by eliminating what was referred to as outdated and unnecessary government entities and requirements.

National Small Business Week Giveaway

To celebrate National Small Business Week, April 30 to May 6, the Fordham Road BID will give away multiple \$25 Fordham Bucks reward cards every day this week. These cards can be redeemed at select stores on Fordham Road, which we will feature in their posts throughout the week, culminating on NYC BID Day on May 9. Additionally, they will award one winner a free, size 10 pair of New Balance Classics! To enter, follow their Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/FordhamRoadNYC>, and like their posts on National Small Business Week. Liking one of the posts is enough to enter the giveaway for that day, and you don't have to like all the posts, although doing so will give you more chances to win.

Teens Can Work Out for Free this Summer

For a third year, Plant Fitness gym franchise are inviting high school students ages 14 to 19 to work out for free at any of its more than 2,400 Planet Fitness locations from May 15 through August 31 as part of the nationwide High School Summer Pass program. High schoolers can visit PlanetFitness.com/SummerPass to register for the program before gaining club access starting Monday, May 15.

Jerome Park Annual COVID Memorial Service

A memorial event to remember friends and neighbors lost to COVID-19 will take place on Saturday, May 13, at 1 p.m. at University Avenue and Reservoir Avenue (at Fort Washington Walk) in Jerome Park. All are welcome to attend and bring the names of their loved ones.

Apprentice Recruitment Drive

Finishing Trades Institute of New York will conduct an apprentice painter recruitment drive from June 2 through June 16, for 75 painter, decorator, and paper-hanger apprentices. Applications can be obtained, **in person only**, from Finishing Trades Institute of New York, 45-15 36th Street, Long Island City, NY 11101, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, including during an extended period until 5 p.m. on Wednesday June 7 and June 14 only.

This is a limited application recruitment drive operating on a first-come, first-served basis. The recruitment will be offered for ten (10) business days or until 750 applications have been issued, whichever comes first. For further information, applicants can call Finishing Trades Institute at (718) 937-7440. Additional job search assistance can be obtained at dol.ny.gov/career-centers.

Karla Cabrera Elected as District Manager for Bronx Community Board 7

(continued from page 3)

from Lehman College, and a master's degree in public administration from Baruch College. Cabrera Carrera spent over 11 years working in city government and accumulated a decade of experience working in public health and health promotion at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

She was hired as the board's deputy district manager in November 2021 and prior to her latest role, had been the acting CB7 district manager since January 2023.

Cabrera Carrera also has prior experience in community organizing in The Bronx through grassroot groups she co-founded, which include Friends of Tremont Park and Bronx Femme Run. She also has experience in the food justice domain as the manager of community gardening group, Garden of Happiness. "My goal as district manager is to increase community engagement by educating residents on the role that Bronx CB7 has in the community, as the most grassroots level of government," Cabrera Carrera later told *Norwood News*.

In other CB7-related news from the same meeting, the board voted to approve the flying of a Pride flag somewhere in CD7 during Pride Month, a motion proposed by resident

AJ Ramos, whose long-held and original wish was for a Pride flag to be flown either at the 52nd Precinct or at the Bronx Victory Memorial on Mosholu Parkway.

Both prior motions ended up as non-runners at committee level for different reasons. Ramos did not hold back voicing his dissatisfaction with the outcome of those prior votes, nor with the latest motion which did not specify a location. He alleged "homophobia" as one reason for the board's denial of a motion to fly the Pride flag specifically at the Bronx Victory Memorial. During his presentation on the motion, he highlighted the discrimination experienced by LGBTQIA+ service members who have fought for the country.

"If not at the Bronx Victory Memorial, or at the 52nd Precinct station, please keep the pandering gestures to the LGBTQIA+ community to yourself at a minimum and simply vote no," he said, in part at the April 27 meeting. Cabrera Carrera thanked Ramos for his comments which she said should really have been raised at committee level. She committed nonetheless to following up on the issue.

However, with just two more general board meetings remaining before the end of June, it's not certain that a permit

for the still-to-be-decided location will be obtained in time. *Norwood News* reached out to Arias on behalf of the board for comment and she said the board are not homophobic, and are very much in favor of inclusivity when it comes to gender, race, sexual orientation etc. "It's a good thing that this is being brought up, and it might take a little bit of time, but we want to make this happen!" she said.

In other CB7 news, it was confirmed that Bronx Week Parade will take place on May 21 but not on Mosholu Parkway this year. It will be held on the Grand Concourse at 170th Street. Andrew Laoisa questioned who, when, and why the decision was made to move the parade to the Grand Concourse. Cabrera Carrera said the decision was taken at the level of the Bronx borough president's office and committed to following up to obtain a response on the questions.

Two flagging events to honor local veterans are set to take place in May, one at the Bronx Victory Memorial on May 13 at 11 a.m., and another on May 24 at 10 a.m. in Woodlawn cemetery. A veterans' resource fair will be held on June 3 (more details to follow), and the board's annual resource fair will be held the last week of June (more details to follow).

Several Factors Causing Congestion for Pedestrians at Webster Ave and East 204th Street

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Frustrated at the limited space available for passing foot traffic at the bus stop located on Webster Avenue by East 204th Street in Norwood, local resident, Sirio Guerino, recently highlighted the accessibility issue with City representatives and local elected officials to see what could be done to address it. Due to a combination of factors, several City agencies are impacted.

"There is absolutely no room for a wheelchair-bound person, walker, or baby carriage to use this location's sidewalk due to the blockage of the recently built outdoor extension of the restaurant, extra-large tree pits, NYC Link info tower, three MTA Select bus service ticket machines, [a] new construction shed, [and the] location of [the] garbage bag pick up for [the] building [at] 3103 Webster Avenue," Guerino, cofounder of Guerinos against Graffiti*, said. "I hope this problem will be rectified by summertime, and NOT put on a list to be rectified in 5 to 10 years!"

Norwood News visited the site on April 19 and spoke to some pedestrians in the area about accessibility. Silna Harris, accompanied by her companion, who was using a wheeled mobility device, said she used the bus stop "often enough." Harris added, "The only problem I'm having is where the bus stop is at, where they have the machine for the bus right at that corner because they're building housing right there."

She continued, "So there are problems going down [Webster Avenue]," she said. Asked if there was room enough to pass by with difficulty with the mobility device or not at all, she said, "Yeah, we're able to go past because if the workers are there, you'll be able to go between, and you will have to ask the people to move or something." On the topic of accessibility and also the new affordable housing construction site on Webster Avenue adjacent to the bus stop, Harris said, "It's not easy.....but we need the housing!"

We later spoke to an employee at the construction site, Javier, who said he was working for the general contractor and asked if he noticed if people had difficulty passing

by the sidewalk in the area given all the foot traffic, the bus stop, the outdoor dining, and the ticket machines etc. He said he and his construction team sometimes spoke with the Super from the adjacent building, located between his construction site and Estrellita restaurant on the corner of East 204th and Webster, and that the Super hadn't complained about anything "yet."

"Sometimes they bring the garbage out," Javier said. "They put it right here on the sidewalk on our property, but you know, it doesn't really bother... but the problem is, as you can see, those MTA things. They are on the people's way, you know? We're trying to follow DOB's requirements for the fence of five feet [wide on] the curb so people can walk through all the way along. We left an extra space because we're going to be building a sidewalk shed," he added.

We contacted NYC Department of Buildings (DOB), NYC Department of Transportation (DOT), NYC Office of Technology & Innovation (OTI), NYC Department of Parks & Recreation (Parks), NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY) and the MTA for comment on the various points raised by Guerino.

Vincent Gragnani from DSNY responded, saying, "We visited the location today [April 19] and we will instruct the building management to place their trash and recycling between the trees to try and alleviate the sidewalk obstruction. We be monitoring the location for compliance."

Ray Legendre from OTI, meanwhile, responded, clarifying, "There's no LinkNYC kiosk at 204th and Webster Avenue." Referring to the "NYC Link info tower" referenced by Guerino, he said, "This is a DOT wayfinding [wayfinding] map. We're not permitted to site Links that close to bus stops."

WalkNYC is the City's wayfinding system, comprising a collection of [electronic] maps and sign [structures] that help New Yorkers find their way around the City. According to DOT's website, most WalkNYC structures are located on sidewalks, at Citi Bike stations or ferry terminals, and inside subway stations. The WalkNYC map design is also



Photo by Síle Moloney

PEDESTRIANS WALK BY or wait for the bus at the bus stop on Webster Avenue by East 204th Street in Norwood on Wednesday, April 19, 2023.

used for the NYC Bike Map and NYC & Co.'s Official Map of New York City.

David Maggiotto, DOB deputy press secretary, responded to our inquiry, saying, "As the issue pertains to sidewalks which are managed by DOT, we will defer to their agency for comment." DOT did respond but also suggested that *Norwood News* check with DOB if there were any building additions, which we did.

DOB officials said the department signed off on complete demolition of the structures at 3099 Webster Ave and 3101 Webster Avenue, which are the lots adjacent to the dining shed and the MTA kiosks. In addition, the department approved and issued permits for an 11-story building at 3095 Webster, which encompasses the lots of 3099 Webster and 3101 Webster.

According to DOB, the work should not impact/block the sidewalk, and DOB hasn't registered any complaints in this regard. A diagram of the proposed building was provided but was too large to include here.

Meanwhile, Chris Clark, press officer for Parks, said, "NYC Parks is committed to ensuring our public realm is accessible and safe for all New Yorkers. We encourage New Yorkers to report inaccessible conditions or other violations by calling 311."

According to Parks, the tree pit pictured by Guerino was installed as part of a [NYC Department of Design & Construction] DDC project, "adding offset trees to new bus stops/

shelters along the BX41 SBS line," aiming to create new tree canopy along the bus shelters and stops. According to Parks, the pits are intentionally large to provide shared rooting space for multiple trees and the tree pit design is generally only permitted where there is enough sidewalk to accommodate the pit and allow adequate space for pedestrian traffic.

Parks officials also explained that it appeared that, since the installation of the tree pit, an outdoor dining shed was built adjacent to it. They advised that DOT is responsible for overseeing outdoor dining structures and requested we contact DOT for further information. Parks also provided a photo which showed the site in question prior to the installation of the dining shed, which showed there was much more pedestrian space available at that time.

DOT also replied to our inquiry, saying, "DOT inspected the location today [April 19] and identified some areas where not enough passable space was provided, issuing a violation for fencing being too far out onto the sidewalk. The building will work with DOT to remedy the set-up. DOT will monitor and issue violations as needed if this isn't rectified."

We asked if by "the building," DOT was referring to the new affordable housing construction or the building next door or the restaurant on the corner. We will update this story upon receipt of clarification from DOT.

Guerino told *Norwood News*, "There's only two feet

and five feet on one side of that tower for the cell phone [DOT NYC Walks wayfinder structure] which has already been vandalized because there's wires hanging out of it, so they don't even maintain this stuff." He continued in part, "If they didn't build the extended restaurant during the pandemic when they allowed restaurants to extend their outdoor dining, which was only supposed to be a temporary thing, they turned around and made all them things permanent when they should have investigated this location and said, 'Ok, half of it can stay, but the other half of it has got to go'."

Located at the corner of the intersection is an enclosed outdoor dining area on the Webster Avenue sidewalk. "Basically, if they had done that, technically, I would have no complaints because the sidewalk would be back there, but they didn't do that," Guerino said.

The City voted to extend outdoor dining amid the pandemic. "I was hoping they wouldn't," Guerino said. "How do you even know if this place is paying for the permit? I don't even know if they investigated... if they have people there. I have no clue if they're even on the list to be ok."

Norwood News contacted DOT to ask about the status of the license for the enclosed outdoor dining shed at the corner of East 204th and Webster Avenue, which falls under that department's Open Restaurants Program. We did not receive an immediate response and so, we have followed up.

Since June 18, 2020, the NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) no longer accepts applications for Sidewalk Café Licenses. Instead of this license, restaurants must apply for the Open Restaurants Program, managed by DOT.

Guerino concluded, "All through my life I watched people as a kid. I watched people being victimized and it irked me that thing... and now that I'm old enough, and big enough, and powerful enough to do things for other people, I got a superman complex. I want to be Captain America! I hate to say it but that's just the way I am. I don't know how my wife puts up with me with all this stuff, honestly, because I'm always on another crusade!"



Letters To The Editor

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

Abstinence for the Gay Community?

Decades ago, I remember asking why God would have the creation of gay people but consider homosexuality to be wrong? Does God want them to refrain from having sex? Shortly afterwards, to my amazement, a priest argued exactly that in a Daily News column he wrote. All this time later, in the April 20-May 3, 2023 edition of the *Norwood News* is another anti-gay letter from Richard Marias.

He also argues exactly that. The Bible was written by humans. In particular, the Jewish people who wrote the Old Testament were outnumbered by enemies. Reproduction was essential for their survival. Unfortunately,

they panicked and felt it necessary to not only condemn homosexuality since it could not reproduce the species, but they claimed that God considered it an abomination. They had not thought out the consequences of this language.

Just for the record, I happen to be Jewish, and I'm not the only one of us who supports gay rights. In fact, I support everybody's rights. As for Marias, since he seldom writes about anything else, I have to wonder why he is so obsessed with homosexuality?

**Richard Warren,
Van Cortlandt Village**

Editor's Note: Destination Tomorrow provides a range of services to the Bronx LGBTQ+ community. Visit www.destinationtomorrow.org for more information.

Earth Day

There is more to Earth Day than what Larry Penner touches upon in his letter in the *Norwood News* edition April 20-May 3, 2023. Good stewardship of the environment is a four-way dance between decreased use of fossil fuels, increased reliance on alternative green energies, recycling, and decreasing consumption of factory farmed meat, poultry, and fish.

Mr. Penner ignores the environmental degradation caused by factory farming of meat because he loves White Castle hamburgers, and he loves cheeseburgers. I urge my Bronx neighbors to visit the website for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), and view the abuse of animals and the environment, caused by factory farming.

I am not perfect, but I am trying. I have all but eliminated meat for my

lunch, and I eat blueberries and oatmeal for breakfast. But more importantly, I don't write the newspapers urging everyone to be a good steward of the environment as I continue to eat factory-farmed meat. Why not celebrate Earth Day by attempting to eliminate meat from your diet?

**Nat Weiner,
Parkchester**

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 in response to published articles. Thank you.

Diverse Neighbors Help Reunite Dog with Family

(continued from page 6)

swing by and help me figure out what to do."

Hamond added, "There were other kids there, they bought food, I called the police." She explained she then had to go back home. "So, they said they would take care of feeding him until the police came, and there was water, and there were kids coming around saying, 'No, I'll go buy the food,'" Hamond said.

At that point, Hamond exchanged numbers with Morales, who said the police didn't show up in the end. She added, "So, there were other people saying, 'Hey, we could just keep the dog, we could sell the dog,' all these things and I'm like, okay, my mama bear instinct kicks in and I'm like, I need to protect this dog, and [it] needs to come back to his owner. I mean, it's like losing a child!"

Morales continued, "All my friends have dogs; I don't. I just have birds and I know that if they lose their dog, they want it back. No, I brought him upstairs to my house. I ran to the nearest store and I bought food, I bought bowls, and you know, treats. We got him toys. We got the whole bunch because I just wanted her to feel welcome. Yeah, next door neighbors pitched in with weewee pads and more toys, so everybody in this building just like...we put it in to help the dog."

Later, Morales, who was also taking care of her sick daughter, said her friend suggested posting fliers in the area. "And then I'm like okay, but if we could put it on the streets, there has to

be a place online that you can post about missing dogs, right? So, we started looking and that's what we did."

Morales said she later posted on several pet-related sites, including <https://lost.petcolove.org/>, www.pawboost.com, nextdoor.com, lostmydoggy.com and <https://nycaccpets.shelterbuddy.com/>. She added, "And then I made a Tik Tok because if you need to find anything or anyone, you have to post it on Tik Tok, and a lot of people were sharing!"

The Tik Tok post, which includes different photos of Kenzie's day and musical accompaniment, read, "Tik Tok, do your thing and help me find her owner!! I found her in The Bronx, NYC. She is friendly and just a little puppy! Let's find her parents #lostdog" [Kenzie is actually a male dog but this only came to light later.] Morales Tik Tok post garnered 60 likes.

Meanwhile, back at her home, Hamond and her grandson got busy making a manual flier, which included a drawing of Kenzie by 3-year-old Javier, and posted the flier on a tree outside East 201st Street.

Morales said by 7 a.m., she had received several messages, including one via PawBoost from a woman who said she was Kenzie's owner but didn't know how to get in contact with Morales. The owner, who declined to be identified for this story, and who, Morales said, works a lot, had also checked PetcoLovelost, which Morales said allows users to message whoever posts about a lost pet and sent Morales her number.

Morales said the owner wrote, "I



Photo by Nora Hamond

A MISSING DOG poster made by 3-year-old Javier Sierra Hamond, grandson of Nora Hamond, including a drawing of the missing dog, is posted to a tree in front of East 201st Street in Bedford Park on Wednesday, April 26, 2023.

think it's my dog. I can send you pictures." She added, "So, she did," saying the owner sent pictures of when Kenzie was a puppy, when he was older, photos with the owner's 4-year-old son, and others of how he looks now.

"I saw the dog has special marks, a white mark on her neck and she has white and brown fur with very beautiful blue eyes," Morales said. "So, it was the same exact dog, and it was then she found out Kenzie's name, later contacted Hamond to let her know.

Hamond said the owner had ex-

plained to Morales that she had been walking down the street with her small child, and Kenzie had taken off and they couldn't catch up with him. She said the owner told Morales her son was very upset and had been crying during the night because the dog wasn't there, and that's when the owners started to look online for him.

Reflecting on the experience, Hamond said, "I always had dogs when we were really young, and I really felt sad for this dog because I felt that somebody would take it, or it would get hit by a car running in and out of traffic."

The grandmother added, "This lady who lost the dog lived on Bedford Park and so the dog went from Bedford Park, running around in different places, but it became a neighborhood issue, and I was so pleased to see how there is a site, and how neighbors can communicate and help each other."

Morales agreed, "It was beautiful! It literally warms my heart that there's generous people out there. I know everybody's trying to just tell me, 'Oh, you did a great thing,' but just to see the community come together..." Asked how many people were involved in the rescue, she estimates 15 to 20 and laughing, added, "The whole playground! Literally everybody in the playground...we all just wanted...yeah, the kids were going crazy with her!"

Acknowledging Kenzie could have ended up in a shelter, Morales concluded, "Everybody's all so protective over the dog and we all just had the same goal, to get the dog back to its rightful owner and we got the dog home safe."

CRIME FILE

BY SÍLE MOLONEY & DAVID GREENE

**Norwood: Man Arrested in Stabbing of 2nd Man**

The NYPD launched a murder inquiry following the death of a 53-year-old man in Norwood on Tuesday, April 25. Police said that on Thursday, April 13, at around 12.07 in the afternoon, officers responded to a 911 call regarding a man who had been stabbed at the corner of Bainbridge Avenue and East Mosholu Parkway North.

They said upon arrival, police observed the man with stab wounds to the torso, that EMS responded and transported the victim to St. Barnabas Hospital in serious condition. Police said the victim was released from hospital on Monday, April 24, and that on April 25, following a call for a wellness check, the man was discovered unconscious and unresponsive in the bedroom area of his home, a residential building located on East Mosholu Parkway North close to Bainbridge Avenue.

Police said EMS responded to the location and pronounced the aided man deceased at the scene. They said the medical examiner conducted a post-mortem examination and the incident was deemed a homicide.

Two workers who spoke to *Norwood News* on Friday, April 28, at the man's home confirmed that the 6-story, residential building comprises a mix of housing, including some supportive housing.

We spoke with one female resident of the building who requested not to be identified and who said the deceased, in her experience, was a "troublemaker" who picked fights with her sometimes. She said he also argued with a local store owner, though she did not specify which one.

We later spoke to one local store owner whose name we are not disclosing who said he heard the victim had been stabbed but didn't know he had died. He said he never had any trouble with the victim and added that some people can be good people to some and bad people to others.

We also spoke to some local residents about the incident. None were aware of it nor had seen anything unusual happening in or around the building. One resident said she would sometimes see an ambulance outside.

We asked police if they could confirm who called for the wellness check on April 25, but they said they were unable to disclose this informa-

tion, though they said it was requested around mid-afternoon.

Police said the deceased was identified as Eddie Floyd of East Mosholu Parkway North, The Bronx. Pursuant to an ongoing investigation, police said Jose Santos, 51, also of East Mosholu Parkway North, had been arrested on Thursday, April 13, at 12.55 p.m. They said Santos was charged with attempted murder, assault, menacing, and criminal possession of a weapon. The investigation remains ongoing.

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

Bedford Park: Man Charged in Valentine Ave Shooting

A 25-year-old local man was arrested for attempted murder and other charges following a daylight shooting in Bedford Park earlier this month, police said. Officers were called to Valentine Avenue and East 197th Street for a report of shots fired on Saturday, April 15, at 2.22 p.m.

Police said a 35-year-old man said he observed a man on the sidewalk, unknown to him, fire one round into an occupied and moving vehicle at the location and that the shooter then fled the scene in a black sedan.

On April 21, police said Saquan Gaddy, 25, of Valentine Avenue in Bedford Park was arrested. They said Gaddy was charged with attempted murder, attempted assault, criminal possession of a weapon, and reckless endangerment.

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

**Norwood: Boy 5 Threatened with Gun During Robbery**

The NYPD is seeking the public's help identifying the three people seen in the accompanying photo above who police say are sought in connection with a home invasion robbery in Norwood. They said the pho-

tos were taken inside the incident location.

Police said that on Wednesday, April 26, at around 8 a.m. inside an apartment building in the vicinity of Gates Place and West Gun Hill Road, three people, acting together, waited outside the apartment of a 30-year-old female victim until the door was eventually opened.

At that point, police said the three allegedly entered the apartment, displayed a gun, pointed it at the victim's 5-year-old son and threatened to shoot him unless she gave them money. Police said the group also allegedly pistol-whipped the victim's 58-year-old mother and forced the victim into a back bedroom where a safe was located.

They said the group allegedly robbed the safe which contained \$40,000 in cash and that two of the suspects allegedly fled the location with the safe in a gray sedan, while the third allegedly fled in a dark blue SUV. They said the victim and her son were not physically injured, and the 58-year-old woman sustained a minor injury and refused medical attention at the scene.

Police said Individual 1 is described as male, is roughly between 18 and 20 years old, is around 5 feet, 8 inches tall, and has a light complexion and a slim build. They said he was last seen wearing a black face mask, a gray, hooded sweatshirt with a Nike logo on the front, dark colored pants, and white sneakers.

Individual 2 is also described as male, police said, is also roughly between 18 and 20 years old, is also around 5 feet, 8 inches tall, has a light com-

plexion and a thin build. Police said he was last seen wearing a black face mask, a black hooded sweatshirt, black pants, black sneakers, and white gloves.

Police said Individual 3 is described as male, is also roughly between 18 and 20 years of age, is 5 feet, 8 inches tall, also has a light complexion and a thin

build. Police said he was last seen wearing a black face mask, a black hooded sweatshirt, blue jeans, black sneakers, and white gloves.

**Female Police Officer from 50th Precinct Struck with Bottle**

A female police officer from the 50th Precinct was struck in the head with a bottle in Kingsbridge, police said. The assault, caught on camera by members of the public, occurred on Monday, April 17, at around 2 p.m., police said. Additional police units were requested to assist at the scene at 231st Street and Broadway, located in the 50th Precinct and the location of a police-involved shooting on the elevated train tracks on Thursday, April 13.

Police said the on-duty female officer was approached by an unknown person who struck her with a bottle. EMS responded and transported the victim to St. Barnabas Hospital, and her condition was described as stable. The suspect, later named as Jose Garcia, 45, of Sedgwick Avenue in Kingsbridge Heights was taken into custody at the scene, police said, and was charged with assault, obstruction of government administration, resisting arrest, menacing, criminal possession of a weapon, and harassment.

Norwood News asked the NYPD if they knew whether the attack was in response to the police-involved shooting at the same location on April 13. A police spokesperson said, "The incident remains ongoing by the Force Investigation Division." A person arrested and charged with a crime is deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

Father Gets Probation following Death of Son

Officials from The Office of Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark said Mario Rosario [of Heath Avenue, Kingsbridge Heights] was sentenced on April 20 to 5 years' probation and 500 hours of community service for his plea to criminally negligent homicide in the death of his son, Mario "Mjay" Rosario, as the two rode on a scooter and crashed

into a car on August 15, 2022.

As reported at the time by *Norwood News*, police said the child had not been equipped with a helmet at the time of the colli-

sion. Clark said of the imposed sentence, "The loss of 4-year-old 'Mjay' devastated the entire family. Mr. Rosario stands convicted of a felony, and he will have to cope with this tragedy for the rest of his life. The outcome in the case was the result of carefully considering many factors, which include consulting the boy's family throughout the process."

Representatives for the family had previously said in part that it was unfortunate that "the killer of 4-year-old Mario 'MJAY' Rosario" would be sentenced to probation "after killing his son." They added, "So the question before us is how does a person get probation after killing a 4-year-old child?"

University Heights: Man Shot in Leg

A 25-year-old man is in stable condition after he was shot in the leg in University Heights, police said. The incident occurred at 2.55 p.m. on Sunday, April 16, in the vicinity of West 184th Street and Davidson Avenue, police added. They said officers received a 911 call regarding the victim who had been transported to St. Barnabas Hospital by EMS.

When they arrived, police said they met the victim who had been shot once in the leg. Police said he told them he had had a dispute with a male group and that an unidentified person had shot him in the leg. They said the victim said the shooters later fled to parts unknown. Police said there are no arrests, and that detectives are investigating the incident.

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.



Answering Community Questions about Mental Health

by CARLOS TEJEDA

May marks Mental Health Awareness Month, a time to share information and resources about good mental health. Mental Health America has chosen as its 2023 theme for the month “Look around, Look within.”

Dr. Brenda Boatswain is the wellbeing manager at Montefiore Einstein and assistant professor in the Department of Family and Social Medicine at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Here, she answers questions from the community about mental health.

What can people do to prevent mental illness?

When we talk about prevention of mental illness, we should discuss things that can be done, even before a person is born. There are many things individuals and

families can do to support good mental health. For example, a pregnant woman can give her baby the best start by not using alcohol, tobacco products, and drugs not prescribed by a doctor.

Taking care of her own mental and physical health will also give her baby the best chance for a healthy brain. In a child's first years of life, their brain and body develop a lot and need healthy food, clean water, safe housing, safety from all forms of violence, adequate sleep, physical exercise, supportive parenting, spiritual care, and regular check-ups with a medical provider.

Prevention of mental illness also includes addressing a known risk factor of mental illness: exposure to abuse, neglect, and traumatic situations. Promoting the mental well-being of children, youth, and adults leads to better outcomes in their health, school, work, behavior, relationships, and life expectancy.

Are there signs of mental illness?

The signs of mental illness may vary based on individual differences such as age, gender, and culture. In general, speak with your medical provider if you or a loved one experiences these things: high and low extremes of emotion, big changes in sleeping and eating habits, isolation from friends and family, lots of worries or fears, seeing or hearing things that other people can't, drug or alcohol abuse, harming oneself or doing risky things, and thinking about and talking about suicide.

What kinds of treatments are used to help someone with mental illness?

Talking with a licensed counselor (talk therapy) is helpful for both the individual with mental illness and their family members. A licensed counselor can suggest ways to cope and better understand mental illness. Parents can speak with a licensed counselor or join a parents' group for skills on parenting someone with mental illness and caring for themselves.

Some people may need a combination of talk therapy and prescribed medication to feel better. Self-care is very helpful; work on reducing stress, sleeping well, eating nutritious foods, getting exercise, avoiding alcohol and drugs, doing activities you enjoy, and spending time with people who support you or in supportive environments.

I hope this encourages people to look around and look within and create communities of care and support to talk about mental health.

To request a workshop on mental health in your community, contact Carlos Tejeda at cteveda@montefiore.org. To learn more about mental health services at Montefiore, call (718) 430-2290 or visit <https://www.montefiore.org/psychiatry-services>.

Carlos Tejeda is the community health specialist in the Office of Community and Population Health at Montefiore Health System.

Out & About

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

EVENTS

The Bronx Night Market, a vibrant community event that celebrates the values of inclusivity, diversity, and local entrepreneurship comes back for its 6th season, starting Saturday, May 6. The long-awaited Bronx Night Market returns to Fordham Plaza, bringing together over 50 diverse vendors, live performances, and a cultural extravaganza. Visitors are invited to experience the market magic on the last Saturday of each month from 1 pm to 7 p.m. until October. With a diverse array of international cuisine, live music, and captivating performances, visitors will immerse themselves in the bustling energy of the market.

District 78 Assemblyman George Alvarez will host a **Mother's Day Celebration** at Our Lady of Refuge Church, 290 East 196th Street, Bronx, NY 10458 on Sunday, May 7, at 3 p.m. RSVP to munozm@nyassembly.gov.

The 2023 Color of Justice Law Day Celebration entitled, “Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility & Collaboration” will be held at Monroe College, King Hall, 2501 Jerome Avenue, Bronx on Wednesday, May 10, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. RSVP at bit.ly/lawday23 or email Jody McCalla at scsj@monroecollege.edu.

Applications are open for the **People's Choice Award** in education as part of the Bronx Walk of Fame 2023 inductions. Visit www.ilovethebronx.com to nominate your candidate.

MUSIC

Adults are invited to join a **Mother's Day Karaoke event** by NYC Parks with music, singing and dancing on Monday, May 15, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center at 3225 Reservoir Oval East in Norwood. This event is free and open to the public.

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, in association with Sal Abbatiello of Fever Records, celebrates the **50th Anniversary of Hip Hop** on Saturday, May 6, at 8 p.m. with the Hip Hop Fever 2023 concert. The show will feature performances by Grandmaster Melle & Scorpio, KRS-One, Kurtis Blow, Sugar Hill Gang, Nice N Smooth, Soul Sonic Force, CI Smooth, Black Sheep, Keith Murray, and Sweet G. Visit <https://www.lehmancenter.org/events/hip-hop-fever> or call (718) 960-8833 for more information.

The Bronx Opera presents **Francis Poulenc's Dialogues of the Carmelites**, performed in English, Saturday, May 6, at 7.30 p.m., Sunday, May 7, at 2.30 p.m., Saturday, May 13, at 7.30 p.m., and Sunday, May 14, at 2.30 p.m. at Lehman College/Lovinger Theatre, 250 Bedford Park Boulevard West, Bronx, NY. Tickets at \$40 or \$30 can be reserved at www.bronxopera.org or by calling (718) 365-4209.

THEATER

The Comedy of Errors by William Shakespeare, and adapted by Rebecca Martinez and Julian Mesri, in conjunction with NYC Parks, Arts, Culture & Fun, will be performed at Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, 3225 Reservoir Oval East in Norwood on Sunday, May 7, at 1 p.m. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-comedy-of-errors-tickets-604017090377> to reserve tickets.

MOVEMENT

A Family Day including family games, sports, obstacle courses, cotton candy and family photos will be held by NYC Parks and District 11 Councilman Eric Dinowitz on Thursday, May 11, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center at 3225 Reservoir Oval East in Norwood. This event is free and open to the public.

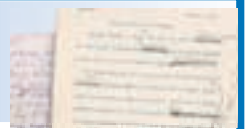
On Tuesday, May 23 at 5 p.m., Montefiore Rehab Specialists are hosting a **“Walk with a Doc”** event at Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center at 3225 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, 10467, where specialists from the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine will gather with local residents and walk for one hour. They will cover around 2-3 miles, and participants are encouraged to go at their own pace. New research shows that walking 8,000 steps once or twice a week may help you live longer.

Other benefits include lower risk of heart disease and improved brain health. Walk with a Doc is a free exercise event that has been taking place since 2015. It allows the community to come together to exercise, connect and practice wellness, along with medical professionals. Montefiore specialists also participate in the physical activity and answer health and wellness questions from the group. More information is available at <https://walkwithadoc.org/join-a-walk/locations/bronx-new-york/>.

Meanwhile, for New Yorkers 60 years old and over, a **Seniors Fitness program** offers free twice weekly pickleball, tennis, yoga, and fitness walking classes across all five boroughs starting in April. Participants of all levels are welcome to come out, have fun, and socialize. Visit <https://cityparksfoundation.org/> or call (212) 360-1399 for more information.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY



Friendly Voices Program for Seniors

If you are an older New Yorker feeling lonely or isolated, NYC Ageing can connect you with a friendly volunteer to talk with over the phone or video chat. Call (212)-Ageing-NYC (212) 244 -6469 and ask about the Friendly Voices Program.

Assemblyman George Alvarez New Office Opening

Assemblyman George Alvarez formally opened his new constituency office on Sunday, April 30. It is located at 2633 Webster Avenue, 1st Floor, Bronx, NY 10458. The number is (718) 933-2204.

Traffic Signal to be Installed at Bainbridge Ave

In efforts to address traffic congestion, NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) will install a new traffic signal at Bainbridge Avenue between East 210th Street and East Gun Hill Road in Norwood. The work is scheduled to be completed by July 31, 2023.

Potential End of Free COVID-19 Test Kits

NYC Health +Hospitals distributes free COVID-19 test kits at libraries, cultural centers, etc. thanks to funding from the federal government. That funding will end on May 11 when an emergency order is lifted and the program's future is uncertain, according to Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine. Residents still have time to stock up. Check your local public library for details.

Lead Pipe Right to Know Act Passes Senate

State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33)'s Lead Pipe Right to Know Act passed in the Senate on April 25. The senator said there is no safe level of lead in drinking water and the bill will require public water systems to take service line inventories and make such information available to New Yorkers. It will also codify federal requirements and State guidance for each water utility to develop a comprehensive inventory of all the service lines. He said this information is needed to understand the full scale of the lead service line problem in New York State. The bill awaits passage in the Assembly.

Asthma Awareness Month

May 2 marks World Asthma Day and May is Asthma Awareness Month. Asthma is a lung disease that makes it hard to breathe. In New York City, according to health authorities, asthma disproportionately affects Black and Latino children living in very high poverty neighborhoods. The Bronx has some of the highest rates per 10,000 children according to health officials. For more information and resources, visit <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/epi/databrief126.pdf>.

Auto Theft at Car Washes

The NYPD has warned of increased auto theft at car washes. They recommend keeping your vehicle in sight at all times, and prior to your vehicle being dried, to have the attendant turn off the vehicle, remove the keys, and hand them to you.

Kingsbridge Armory Survey

The working group behind the redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory, Together for Kingsbridge, is requesting the public to provide their input on what they would like to see in place in the armory by completing a survey which has been extended to May 15, and can be found here: <https://kingsbridge.together.com/community-engagement-survey>. It is available in both English and Spanish.

New Bill to Address Gun Violence

Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81) has introduced a new bill, A2882, which would require licensed gunsmiths and gun store owners to post multiple notices in their store alerting customers about the significant increase in the risk of suicide, deaths during domestic abuse, and the unintentional deaths to children, household members, and others when there is access to a firearm in the home. The notice would also provide the phone number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline for people or loved ones who are experiencing distress and/or depression.

The notice would be given to every consumer who purchases a firearm at the point of sale. The bill is modeled on a law enacted in Westchester. Dinowitz said that in 2018, a Swiss-based research project found that for every 100

residents in the U.S., there were 120.5 firearms with a total of 390 million guns in circulation.

Mental Health Resources for Mothers

NYC Well through the City's health department, provides free, brief counseling and referrals to care to those who need mental health support. Call 888-NYC-Well or text WELL to 65173. The New Family Home Visits Program offers support, services, and referrals to new and expectant parents. Call 311 to check eligibility or visit nyc.gov/NewFamilyHomeVisit. The National Maternal Mental Health Hotline provides free, confidential support before, during, and after pregnancy. Call or text 1-833-9-HELP4MOMS. The National Suicide Prevention Hotline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, and prevention and crisis resources. Call 988.

Salary Negotiation Help

New York State Department of Labor can help with applications, interviews, job offers and salary negotiation. If you need advice, visit <https://dol.ny.gov/salary-negotiation-guide>.

Charity Yard Sale

Bedford Park Congregational Church, located at 309 East 201st St., Bronx, NY 10458, will be holding a yard sale on Saturday, May 20, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is a basement clearance sale of chairs, tables and other items collected over the church's 100+ years.

New York State Primary Elections June 27 Key Dates

Request your absentee ballot online or by mail by Monday, June 12. Register to vote via <https://nycvotes.turbovote.org/?r=votingnyc> by Saturday, June 17. Update your address if you have moved in order to vote on Primary Day by Saturday, June 17. Early voting takes place from Saturday, June 17, to Sunday, June 25. Visit <https://findmypollsite.vote.nyc/> to find your *early voting site* and hours. Request an absentee ballot in person by Monday, June 26. To find your borough Board of Elections office, visit <https://vote.nyc/page/contact-us>.

Polls are open on Primary Election

Day, Tuesday, June 27, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Visit <https://findmypollsite.vote.nyc/> to find your *Election Day poll site*. Return your absentee ballot by mail (postmark required) or drop it off at a poll site by Tuesday, June 27.

Affordable Housing Lotteries

NYC Department of Housing, Preservation and Development (HPD) launched an affordable housing lottery for housing units at 1169 River Avenue in Concourse, a 19-story mixed-use building in Concourse, The Bronx, with a deadline of **May 22**. HPD also launched a lottery for housing units at 1760 Grand Avenue, a 7-story, mixed-use building in Morris Heights with a deadline of **May 19**, and a separate affordable housing lottery for units at 2441 Crotona Avenue, a 7-story residential building in Belmont with a deadline of **June 20**. Visit www.norwood-news.org, and search for "affordable housing" for more information.

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.

Switch Replacement Work on D Line

The MTA announced that switch replacement work will begin on Monday, May 15, at 5 a.m. through Monday, July 3, at 5 a.m. on the B, D, F and M Sixth Avenue subway lines. These switches near West 4th Street in Manhattan will allow the B, D, F, and M trains to move between the uptown local and express tracks. As a result, there will be several service changes on the A, B, C, D, F and M lines effective May 15. Visit www.norwoodnews.org and search for "Replacement Work on B, D, F, M" for more information.

Bronx Borough President Hosts Prom Drive

The Office of the Bronx Borough President is hosting a Prom Dress & Suit Drive through May 19. The office is collecting gently used formal dresses, suits, shoes, jewelry, purses, and accessories at 851 Grand Concourse, Room 123.

Earth Day Celebrated Across The Bronx

By MIRIAM QUIÑONES

Jerome Gun Hill Business Improvement District (BID) held a free Earth Day event, together with Friends of Mosholu Parkland (FOMP), at the Jerome Garden Plaza under Mosholu Parkway subway station by Jerome Avenue in Norwood on Saturday, April 22, 2023. From noon to 3 p.m., volunteers joined kids and BID and FOMP representatives for a community clean-up, beautification, giveaways, healthy food, and other activities.

Elizabeth Quaranta, executive director of FOMP and who also runs the Keeper's House Community "Edible" Garden on the Reservoir Oval in Norwood, is recovering from a knee injury but didn't miss the event. Smiling as she took a break from her gardening work, she said of the day, "It's a community day...community, environment, together and that's why we're out here just for a few hours to enjoy the little bit of sun that just came out!"

The event was also co-sponsored by Snatchback Nutrition, located at 336 East Gun Hill Road, and NYC Department of

Small Business Services, while NYPL had a stand and shared resources and sustainable cloth bags with attendees.

Queen of Tacos, located at 9 East Mosholu Parkway North, and Playground NYC, a non-profit adventure playground that has operated on Governors Island since 2016 and advocates for access to space for free play, also had stands on the day.

Malcom Gray, manager of neighborhood development at the BID, told *Norwood News*, "The event was a great success and is a testament towards the collaborative nature in which businesses and the overall community can work together towards a cleaner and greener city, nation and planet."

Further afield, Fordham University students also hosted an Earth Day celebration for community children on the same day at the college's Rose Hill campus in The Bronx. Children colored, painted, tried out yoga, and interacted with one another and with Fordham University staff/faculty and students, through various games.

**Sile Moloney contributed to this story.*



Photo by Miriam Quiñones

JORAJI CLARK AND Aaliyah Finch have fun planting seeds with volunteer (teacher) Jane Rubio at the Jerome Gun Hill BID Earth Day on Saturday April 22, 2023 at the Jerome Garden Plaza in Norwood.



Photo by Miriam Quiñones

VOLUNTEERS PLANTED FLOWERS, dogwood trees, and seeds at the Jerome Gun Hill BID Earth Day event on Saturday, April 22, 2023, at the Jerome Garden Plaza in Norwood.

CORRECTIONS

In the *Norwood News* edition dated April 20-May 3, 2023, on the front-page second side bar photo caption and on the page 5 story entitled, "Life Up Easter Celebration Held in the Oval," the name of the relevant nonprofit was incorrectly referenced as the Life Up foundation. It is, in fact, the Up Life foundation. We apologize for this error.

THE CITY OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF BRIDGES CONSULTANT PROGRAMS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The City of New York has a Request for Proposals available for qualified Consulting Engineering Firms interested in the following Proposed Contracts.

Project or Contract Title:

Request for Proposals:

In-Process Fabrication Inspection of Structural Steel in the Northeastern United States, Contract HBCD013A, Pin: 84123MBBR574, E-Pin: 84123P0010

In-Process Fabrication Inspection of Structural Steel in the United States and Canada, Contract: HBCD013B, Pin: 84123MBBR572, E-Pin: 84123P0008

In-Process Fabrication Inspection of Precast and Prestressed Concrete in the United States and Canada

Contract: HBCD013C, Pin: 84123MBBR573, E-Pin: 84123P0009

Expected Contracts Term: 1095 Consecutive Calendar Days from the date of the Notice to Proceed for each Contract.

Description of Services Required:

The services to be procured is the Inspection of Structural Steel in the Northeastern United States, Inspection of Structural Steel in the United States and Canada, Inspection of Precast and Prestressed Concrete in the United States and Canada.

A Pre-Proposal Conference (Optional) has been scheduled for May 16, 2023, Time: 10:00 AM through Zoom. Proposers who wish to connect to the Zoom Conference will need a Zoom ID and Password or the link. Therefore, proposers who wish to connect will need to contact the authorized agency contact person via email at least three (3) days prior to the Pre-Proposal Conference for the information to connect. Proposers will need to provide the first name, last name of everyone who wishes to connect, name of the organization, phone number and email address.

This Procurements are subject to participation goals for Minority-Owned Business Enterprises (MBEs), as required by Section 6-129 of the New York Administrative Code. The M/WBE goal for each project is 30%.

These Request for Proposals (RFP) are released through PASSPort, New York City's online procurement portal. Responses to these RFPs must be submitted via PASSPort. To access the RFPs, vendors should visit the Passport public Portal at <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/mocs/systems/about-go-to-passport.page> and click on the "Search Funding Opportunities in PASSPort" blue box. Doing so will take one to the public portal of all procurements in the PASSPort system. To quickly locate the RFP, insert the 84123P0010/84123P0008/84123P0009 for each project into the Keyword search field. To respond to the RFPs, vendors must create an account within the PASSPort system if they have not already done so.

Release Date: May 8, 2023

Pre-Proposal Conference: May 16, 2023, at 10 AM

Submission of Request for Proposals are due on or before 2:00 PM on June 5, 2023

NYBG

BRONX NEIGHBORS PROGRAM PROGRAMA PARA RESIDENTES DEL BRONX


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Public and Community Meetings

The 52nd **PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meetings usually take place on the third Thursday of each month sometimes online and sometimes in person. Call the 52nd Precinct Community Affairs office at (718) 220-5824 to be added to the email distribution list.

The next **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7** general board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 23 at 6.30 p.m. on Zoom. The Meeting ID is 859 4776 2187, or to join by phone, dial (646) 558-8656. 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 Tuesday, May 9, at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Join by phone on +16465588656, using pass-code 2114033690# or via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2114033690>. 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.



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The New York City Department of Transportation, Transportation Planning & Management Division

cordially invites your company to submit bids for the following contract:
PIN: 84123B0017-Manufacturing and Installation of Street Name Signs

The New York City Department of Transportation, Transportation Planning & Management Division cordially invites your company to submit bids for the following contract: PIN: 84123B0017-Manufacturing and Installation of Street Name Signs available for download free of charge starting May 2, 2023. To access the IFB, vendors should visit the PASSPort public Portal at <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/mocs/systems/about-go-to-passport.page>. Click on the "Search Funding Opportunities in PASSPort" blue box. Doing so will take one to the public portal of all procurements in the PASSPort system. To quickly locate the IFB, insert the **EPIN, 84123B0017**, into the Keyword search field. To respond to the IFB, vendors must create an account within the PASSPort system if they have not already done so. A pre-bid conference via Zoom is scheduled for May 9, 2023, at 11:00 AM. Those who wish to attend the pre-bid meeting must email the authorized agency contact for a link no later than May 8, 2023, by 12 PM. The deadline for the submission of questions via email is May 16, 2023, by 4:00 PM to the authorized agency contact person.

This procurement is subject to participation goals for Minority-owned Business Enterprises (MBEs) as required by Section 6-129 of the New York Administrative Code. The M/WBE goal for this project is 9% and WBE goals of 13%. Any inquiries concerning this IFB should be directed by email, under the subject line "84123B0017-84123MBTP570 Manufacturing and Installation of Street Name Signs, Citywide" to the email address of the Authorized Agency Contact, Shaneza Shinath, at sshinath@dot.nyc.gov or through the PASSPort communication function.

Responses to this IFB must be submitted via PASSPort. All Bids must be received via Passport before the Bid Due Date, June 1, 2023, no later than 11:00 AM. No in person viewing of bid opening will be permitted. You will find the Zoom information in Passport with full details. Virtual Bid Opening will be conducted via Zoom Webinar on **June 1, 2023, at 11:30 AM.**

At Job Fair Mayor Says: “You’re Hired!”

(continued from page 1)

had the number of people to fill all those jobs, we want to reach out to the community and say, ‘We know the type of city you want!’”

He continued, “You know how the City needs to operate based on your experiences throughout the year. Now, you can come in and be part of City government.” Adams talked up what he said were “good, union jobs,” with retirement and great benefits.

The mayor continued, “It’s one of the best jobs you can have. I was a DC 37 member when I was a clerk in the district attorney’s office. I was a PBA member when I was a police officer, my mother was a DC 37 member as a food service worker. My brother was a union member.” He added, “This is the first time, in probably all the time we can remember, that we have a mayor that is a card-carrying union member!”

Earlier we spoke to “Candice,” a job seeker about what she thought of the event. “I actually think this event was a really good idea because a lot of people are looking for work right now, especially after COVID, and we’re looking for jobs with good benefits and things that can actually help,” she said. “So, I really appreciate Monroe having this job fair here today.”

Asked if there were City departments she was particularly interested in, she said, “I really want to do like...customer service representative so right now, I’m on the line for the DDS so I’m

excited and I’m ready to see if they have any open positions.”

We also spoke to DCAS Commissioner Dawn M. Pinnock and asked if the turnout was what she had anticipated. “Absolutely!” she said. “The event has been tremendous. This is actually our fifth government hiring hall. Our goal is to hit every borough multiple times so we’ve been doing these events every week, and we’re going to continue to do that until June 30. The goal is for us to aggressively and boldly try to offer as many positions as we can to New Yorkers who are interested in working in government.”

Pinnock went on to say that New York City, similar to other municipalities, was dealing with a staffing shortage. “So, in order to provide the best services and continuous service to New Yorkers, we want to fill our jobs quickly,” she said. In the past she said they would have thousands of applicants responding online to numerous job offer postings, but now she said they’ve decided to completely revamp their hiring approach.

“We wanted to scale that back, come to the community, bring the jobs to the community,” she said. “So, in this particular setting you can actually be interviewed today and receive a conditional job offer today. So, this is unprecedented. It’s something we’ve never done.”

We asked if there was remote work available or if all jobs were on site in Manhattan. “For



Photo by Sile Moloney

NEW YORK CITY Mayor Eric Adams greets job seekers at a job fair hosted by NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services at Monroe College at 2501 Jerome Avenue in Fordham Manor on Saturday, April 22, 2023.

now, and I think that it’s been made pretty widely known that for New York City government, there really is no telework program currently,” Pinnock said. “There’s also been talks about there being some kind of agreement, about thinking about how best the City of New York may want to pilot that, in partnership with DC 37, as part of a recently negotiated agreement, but for now, we’re very transparent when folks ask about the schedules. We share that.”

We asked what the situation was for immigrants who might be interested in working for the City. Pinnock said, “From a visa standpoint, the City of New York doesn’t officially sponsor individuals. However, we do have our public engagement unit who comes to every job offering, every government hiring hall, and we walk people through the process of getting

the appropriate documentation to be legally able to work within government.”

She added, “So we felt that having them here, along with individuals who provide translation services, interpretation services, really ensures that everyone who wants to work in government knows that we are an accessible government.”

Asked which were the most popular City departments, Pinnock laughed and said, “It has to be *my* agency! We have our internships here, where we’re letting our recent college grads know about government, so that table has been buzzing, and we also have some other positions, one in our fleet area, energy management area, but if I’m also being honest, we certainly have had many folks who want to work for the New York City Housing Authority. They have many vacancies... Department

of Buildings and Department of Health.”

We also spoke to job seeker, Ms. Jones, who said the event was a great opportunity for the people to access good jobs. “There’s a lot of [non-City] jobs but they’re not good paying jobs that give you benefits,” she said, adding that she had previously worked for the Board of Elections. We asked what that was like and if things got contentious around election time. “It’s always, you know, the anticipation...” she said.

We discussed rank choice voting of which she was not a fan. “I’d rather just be able to vote on my own. I don’t care what you want to rank, just leave my vote alone!” We asked what her reason was for wanting to work for the health department in particular.

“Well, it’s not really in particular,” she said “I just need something to get me out the house! I need something to do and there’s just a lot of benefits of working with the health department that helps our community and I’m a community person!”

Adams had earlier summed up the day, saying, “I know what it is to be a union member. I know what it is to be employed with the City. The sacrifice has been a lot, but it makes our city a greater place and a better place. So, I want to do something that’s in contrast to Donald Trump. He says you’re fired! I’m saying you’re hired!” Jerome Avenue in Fordham Manor on Saturday, April 22, 2023.

Angellyh Yambo Art & Design Room Unveiled

(continued from page 5)

just be.”

The school’s art room is now officially named “The Angellyh Yambo Art & Design Room” and the school also has a “Glam Squad” in Angellyh’s honor, made up of current students who also have an interest in art. During the event, the squad recited a poem they had written, entitled, “What Art and Design Means to Me.”

Aside from her love of art, Angellyh also reportedly loved make-up and fashion.

Referring to the art room’s activities, Sorden explained, “We wanted to make it so that it can be art, but it could also have the option of make-up, hair, and other things like that.”

Last year, on June 8, students from University Prep Charter School, Angellyh’s high school, held a march in her memory during Gun Violence Awareness Month. They chanted “Enough is Enough!” as they marched around the school block.

Jeremiah Ryan was charged last year with the murder and attempted murder

of Angellyh. During the shooting, he allegedly used a “ghost gun,” a firearm made from components purchased online with no serial number and which aren’t traceable. He is due back in court in June.

On April 8, on the first anniversary of Angellyh’s death, the intersection of Bailey Place and Bailey Avenue in Kingsbridge Heights was officially renamed “Angellyh Marieh Yambo Way” during an unveiling ceremony attended by a large group of family, friends, and elected officials, including New York

City Mayor Eric Adams.

Back at her elementary school, reflecting on Angellyh’s sudden and shocking death, Sorden said, “When this happened, it hit really hard. I didn’t want it to be in vain.” She added, “So I needed to do something to honor her existence. She is a Concourse Village student forever.”

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

**Sile Moloney contributed to this story.*

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