By Síle Moloney

A Silent Disco was held at Woodlawn Cemetery on Friday, May 12, as part of the Bronx Week 2023 celebrations. Dozens of silent party goers wearing fluorescent cat ears, waving neon rods, danced the night away while listening to their favorite music on headphones and intermingled with colorfully lit “robots” on stilts, which added to the fun and somewhat paranormal atmosphere.

For those unfamiliar with the concept of a silent disco, it consists of real DJs playing music of different genres on different decks and attendees can choose which music they want to jam to by selecting different colored headsets.

To the uninitiated, watching (continued on page 15)
UNHP Celebrates 40 Years as New Report Ranks Bronxites among Worst Affected by Housing Crisis

By JOSÉ A. GIRALT

The University Neighborhood Housing Program (UNHP) was created in 1983 by Fordham University to help Bronxites take ownership of community-based redevelopment efforts. On Thursday, April 27, the organization celebrated 40 years with an event entitled “40 & Still Fighting Fiesta” held at Serviam Hall in Bedford Park.

The organizers also used the occasion to honor UNHP board president, Joe Muriana. It was as a member of Fordham University’s Office of Government & Urban Affairs that Muriana began his relationship with UNHP. “I was the assistant director for urban affairs,” he told Norwood News. “[UNHP] was in part a creation of Fordham University. Its board of trustees created it to be a mechanism for the University to become more actively engaged in the neighborhoods on an institutional level in terms of [investment].”

Prior to working at UNHP, Muriana worked as a community organizer with the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition (NWBCCC) in the mid-70s, initially while still a student at Fordham University. He was later hired as a staff member after graduation. He considers his time at NWBCCC as invaluable in terms of learning the needs of the local community and how best to provide needed services, especially financial strategies to fund home ownership.

As board member of a nonprofit organization, Muriana does not draw a salary. During his time as board president, he said he has seen how the quest for profits has transformed the real estate environment in The Bronx. “When we started out, people were walking away from buildings,” he said. “You could buy a deed, literally, for a few hundred dollars, if not less. What we were able to do was to get some people to agree to put money and park it with University Neighborhood...and we would use that money to begin to renovate buildings. But, all the pricing was reasonable then.”

Muriana said the concept of collecting money from residents to buy inexpensive properties has long disappeared, however. “We couldn’t do it at a collection taken up at church,” he said. “We have to have a different approach.”

Now, Muriana and UNHP look toward much bigger entities to secure financing options with more complex financial arrangements. “We can get money to do renovation work through a combination of New York City programs, some federal programs, and some private banks,” he said. Indeed, UNHP lends money toward renovations through its Green Loan Fund. UNHP has used Green Loans to fund roof replacements, boiler repair and other work that reduces operating costs and saves energy.

To try to maintain a multitude of partnerships to keep UNHP on track with its mission to ensure affordable housing was reiterated during the celebration by Jim Buckley, executive director. Buckley acknowledged the sponsorship of financial institutions like Apple Bank, M&T Bank, Amalgamated Bank, Webster Bank, and JP Morgan Chase, among others. “The ability to have partnerships with such a wide variety of people and organizations is one of the things that sets UNHP apart,” he said.

The 40th anniversary event took place before the publication of a report by the Association for Neighborhood Housing & Development (ANHD) on May 15, which ranked 18 indicators of risk to affordable housing in each of the City’s 59 community districts (CDs). “This year’s risk chart highlights that in low-income communities of color, new units are priced well out of reach for the vast majority of residents,” an extract read in part.

The report found that Bronx CDs ranked highest for threats to affordable housing citywide. Compounding risk factors pointed to long-standing disinvestment from Bronx communities, particularly those with the highest shares of people of color. Bronx CD 1 through 7, spanning west of the Bronx River up to Woodlawn Cemetery, all ranked in the top ten overall threats to affordable housing.

Meanwhile, Bronx CDs 1 to 7 and Bronx CD 12, generally covering Wakefield, Williambridge and Baychester, ranked particularly high for eviction filings (between 83 and 121.3 per 1,000 renter households), rent burden (between 59.8% and 64.3%), tenant-initiated housing court cases (between 7.2 and 10 cases per 1,000 renter households), immediately hazardous housing violations (between 55.4 and 244.3 per 1,000 units in 6-unit or more buildings), and unplanned NYCHA service outages (between 13.4 and 56 per building).

These same districts are among those with the lowest income (between 27% of the Average Median Income (AMI) and 56% of the AMI). They have the highest shares of people of color (between 81.1% and 90.6%), have the highest shares of limited English proficiency (between 19.4% and 26.3%), have high shares of uninsured residents (between 7.6% and 10.1%), and have comparatively low reported COVID vaccination rates (between 70.4% and 72.2%).

The work of UNHP is felt by Bronxites across the borough. Bedford Park resident, Nelson Guzman, has lived in a building on East 198th Street for a little more than a year. He found his apartment with the help of UNHP. “I’m grateful to the organization, the institution, with their programs,” he said in his native Spanish. “I live alone so I’m appreciative of all the help they offered me.”

Meanwhile, in Co-op City, Esbelin Guzman (no relation to Nelson) and her husband, Julio Almonte, were also helped by UNHP with a myriad of paperwork necessary to become homeowners. Speaking to Norwood News in Spanish, Guzman, 65, described the 6-year journey to securing their permanent Co-op City apartment as one filled with financial education training, tax preparation, and a wait-and-see approach.

The couple began working with UNHP in 2016, and when they found a place they liked, they moved in February 2022. “From the beginning, they helped me with a [training] course on finances, and then they helped us with our taxes,” Guzman said. She credits that training with helping them to be better prepared when shopping around for financial services from different banks. “Today, we own our apartment thanks to this organization and its personnel.” She added. “They were super, super excellent. I feel like we were treated like family. Both my husband and I are very grateful and blessed.”

*Síle Moloney contributed to this story.
NYBG

...things come to thrive...
in the shedding...in the molting...

Gardens & Works by Ebony G. Patterson
May 27–Sept 17
Bronx Nurses Honored During Nurses Week 2023

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Bronx nurses were honored and celebrated for their dedication and service during Nurses Week 2023.

At NYC Health + Hospitals/Jacobi, nurses were showered with various honors to mark the occasion. Assembly Member John Zaccaro Jr. (A.D. 80), a Democrat, visited Jacobi Medical Center, part of the City’s public hospital system, on Friday, May 15, and presented a proclamation to the nursing staff there in recognition of Nurses Week which celebrates nurses across the country.

The proclamation was in honor of “the dedicated nursing staff at Jacobi,” according to NYC Health + Hospitals officials. Nurses Week, celebrated annually from May 6 to May 12, is a time to honor, recognize, and appreciate nurses for all they do, according to nursejournal.org.

The week garnered even more relevance in recent years amid the coronavirus pandemic, and in The Bronx, home to several large hospitals, the week is an important one.

Zaccaro Jr. broadly represents some or all of the neighborhoods of Norwood, Olinville, Williamsbridge, Allerton, Pelham Parkway, Pelham Gardens, Little Yemen, and Morris Park, as well as Bronx Park.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER JOHN Zaccaro Jr. (A.D. 80), a Democrat, visits NYC Health + Hospitals/Jacobi and presents a proclamation to the nursing staff on Friday, May 15, 2023, in recognition of Nurses Week which celebrates nurses across the country.

(continued on page 6)
Neighbors Lost to COVID Remembered at Annual Memorial

THE CELIA CRUZ BRONX HIGH School of Music gospel choir with student director, Aiden Jeffrey (center back), principal, Jarrod Mabry, (center front), and organizer of the event, Marianne Kraft, a longtime resident of Kingsbridge Heights, attend the annual COVID memorial ceremony held at Fort Washington Walk in Jerome Park on Saturday, May 13, 2023.

A new annual COVID memorial ceremony was once again held by local northwest Bronx residents, including Friends of Jerome Park, at Fort Washington Walk at the corner of Reservoir Avenue and University Avenue in Jerome Park on Saturday, May 13, to commemorate those lost to COVID-19 over the course of the recent pandemic.

On Oct. 23, 2021, a tree-planting ceremony took place at the same location to memorialize all victims of the pandemic. Three of the trees were seen this year growing very well.

Marianne Kraft, one of organizers of the event, previously told Norwood News that trees were the perfect symbol to honor those lost, since the coronavirus is a respiratory illness and trees provide oxygen to the planet.

Science tells us that through the process of photosynthesis, leaves pull pull in carbon dioxide and water and use the energy of the sun to convert this into chemical compounds like sugars that feed the tree. As a by-product of that chemical reaction, oxygen is produced and released by trees. During some remarks, Kraft said, in both English and Spanish, “[The trees were] a gift of oxygen, beauty and hospitality.”

The Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music gospel choir sang for the occasion, and Fr. Joe Fanco from Our Lady of Angels parish gave a blessing. Meanwhile, the names of those who have passed were read out by Marlene Rosa and Chris Rosa. Lia Tejeda Garcia read a poem called “Let’s Plant a Tree” during the event, while Richard Sherman read a poem called “Monday Note from Nature.”

As of May 13, according to the World Health Organization, 6,927,378 people have died worldwide from the coronavirus. Meanwhile, according to New York State Department of Health, 62,520 people have died from COVID-19 across the State, including 5,103 people in The Bronx.

Some of the names read on the day included Paul Waylonis, Luis Tovar, Diego Rivera, Esperanza Reyes, Angie, Janet Lee Sanchez, Rebecca Santiago, Elvira Montilla, Nancy Sheehan, Fr. Joe Bisignano, Mr. & Mrs. Patterson, and Charlie Guglielmo.

Elections 2023: Campaign Financing Updates

By SÍLE MOLONEY

New York City Campaign Finance Board (CFB) approved on May 15 “matching funds” payments to various 2023 city council candidates for election in the upcoming June primaries. New York City’s landmark small-dollar public matching funds program helps candidates rely on New York City residents, and not special interests, to fund their election campaigns.

The voluntary program “matches” small contributions from NYC residents paid to candidates, allowing candidates who participate in the program to receive up to $2,000 in public funds per eligible contributor.

CFB officials said the latest approved funds totaled $733,844 for 18 city council candidates citywide, marking the fourth opportunity for 2023 candidates to qualify for public funding by raising small contributions from NYC residents.

To qualify for public matching funds, candidates must demonstrate support for their candidacy by raising small contributions from within their communities. This encourages candidates to spend more time speaking to voters and less time fundraising.

In terms of local Bronx candidates, District 12 Democratic City Councilman Kevin Riley had $43,344 in public funds paid to him on May 15. This is also the total amount of public funds paid to him to date for the 2023 election cycle. The total dollar amount raised from individual, organizational, and all other contribution sources in respect of the candidate as of March 15 was $37,330.

The maximum public funds payment for each election is $184,000 and five percent of all payments are reserved until the last payment. The percent of contributions reported from individual residents in the candidate’s council district, as of March 15, excluding organizational and other contribution sources was 51.1 percent.

The percent of aggregate contributions from individuals that totaled $175 or less, as of March 15, excluding organizational and other contribution sources for Riley was 81.2 percent. Aggregate contributions refer to the total dollar value of all contributions reported from any one donor.

The total amount of public funds paid to Riley to date for the 2023 election cycle is also $43,344. The total dollar amount raised from individual, organizational, and all other contribution sources in respect of the candidate as of March 15 was $37,330. The percent of contributions reported from individual residents in Riley’s council district, as of May 13, according to the World Health Organization, 6,927,378 people have died worldwide from the coronavirus. Meanwhile, according to New York State Department of Health, 62,520 people have died from COVID-19 across the State, including 5,103 people in The Bronx.

Some of the names read on the day included Paul Waylonis, Luis Tovar, Diego Rivera, Esperanza Reyes, Angie, Janet Lee Sanchez, Rebecca Santiago, Elvira Montilla, Nancy Sheehan, Fr. Joe Bisignano, Mr. & Mrs. Patterson, and Charlie Guglielmo.

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Photo courtesy of Bernadette Ferrara
City Council Member Amanda Farias and District 13 City Council Member Marjorie Velázquez had earlier paid a visit to the hospital, located at 1400 Pelham Pkwy South in Morris Park, on Tuesday, May 9, to also present nursing staff with proclamations on behalf of the New York City Council Bronx Delegation.

Again, according to Jacob representatives, the proclamations were in celebration of the nurses’ contributions to the wider community. As reported, Farias recently allocated $25,000 to Jacobi Medical Center’s Stand Up to Violence program, which aims to curb the plague of gun violence in the borough. The hospital is one of The Bronx’s designated trauma hospitals, specializing in treating and caring for gunshot and other victims of trauma who require specialist care, as well as providing counseling and other support to families affected by gun violence.

Farias represents some or all of the neighborhoods of Soundview, Castle Hill, Parkchester, Clason Point, and Harding Park while Velázquez represents some or all of the neighborhoods of Allerton, City Island, Country Club, Edgewater Park, Ferry Point, Locust Point, Morris Park, Pelham Bay, Pelham Gardens, Pelham Parkway, Schuylerville, Silver Beach, Spencer Estates, Throgs Neck, Van Nest, Waterbury LaSalle, Westchester Square, and Zerega.

The two were joined on the day by Dr. Nancy Kheck, director of health and human services for Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson, who also presented an award to the nurses on behalf of the borough president.

Meanwhile, at Montefiore, spokesperson Alex Gomez, said, “Our celebration of Nurse’s Week 2023 reflects Montefiore’s deep appreciation for our nursing leaders successfully align their nursing strategic goals to improve the organization’s patient outcomes.”

Montefiore officials said, “He is a strong advocate for the Magnet and serves as chair of shared governance, participating in multiple committees.”

Magnet refers to the American Nurses Credentialing Center Magnet Recognition Program. The program designates organizations worldwide where nursing leaders successfully align their nursing strategic goals to improve the organization’s patient outcomes.

They said Gil incorporates Montefiore’s values in all aspects of his clinical practice, serving as a mentor and “exemplary role model” for novice nurses. “During the Magnet certification process, surveyors recognized Ryan for his passion, engagement, and dedication to his patients, their families, and peers,” Montefiore officials said.

Finally, Mary Alevis, BSN, RN, based at the hospital network’s Moses campus at E 210th Street in Norwood, was also honored with the award. “Mary is knowledgeable about the latest policies, procedures, and best practices,” Montefiore officials said. “She willingly shares her challenges and learning experiences with others to help them learn. Mary is always on time and sets an excellent example for her colleagues.”

They said Alevis communicates expectations clearly and works well with others. “When working with patients, she is compassionate and respectful of their vulnerability during hospitalization,” they said.

May 12 marks the birthdate of celebrated nurse, Florence Nightingale.
By SILE MOLONEY

Law Day Marked at Monroe College

Law Day 2023 was commemorated at Monroe College School of Criminal and Social Justice on May 10. New York Supreme Court Judges Leslie Stroth and Kathy King and New York City Criminal Court Judge Yadhira Gonzalez-Taylor were part of the planning committee who worked with the college’s academic leadership team to attract over 120 high school students to attend. They said students interacted and networked with a distinguished panel of professionals during the event.

The panelists comprised Justice Eddie McShan of the appellate division, chief attorney of citywide operations at the Legal Aid Society, Tina Luongo, bureau chief at the Bronx District Attorney’s office, Wanda Perez-Maldonado, commissioner of jurors at Westchester County, Dr. Betty L. Campbell, Professor Saliahah Denman at New York Law School. The panel was moderated by American Bar Association president, Deborah Enis Ross, who guided the conversation centered on this year’s Law Day theme of “Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility, and Collaboration.”

Special Ed. Students Race for St. Jude’s

Photo courtesy of Judge Yadhira Gonzalez-Taylor

Panelists and Organizers of a Law Day 2023 event held at Monroe College pose for a photo on May 10, 2023.

Elections 2023: Campaign Financing Updates

(continued from page 5)

March 15, excluding organizational and other contribution sources was 51.1 percent.

Meanwhile, the percent of aggregate contributions from individuals who totaled $175 or less to Riley’s campaign, as of March 15, excluding organizational and other contribution sources was 81.2 percent.

District 13 Democratic candidate Bernadette Ferrara, a member of Bronx Community Board 11 and Van Nest Neighborhood Alliance, had $452 in public funds paid to her on May 15. The total amount of public funds paid to her to date for the 2023 election cycle is $48,488. The total dollar amount raised from individual, organizational, and all other contribution sources in respect of Ferrara as of March 15 was $7,046.

The percent of contributions reported from individual residents in the candidate’s council district, as of March 15, excluding organizational and other contribution sources was 88.5 percent. Meanwhile, the percent of aggregate contributions from individuals that totaled $175 or less to Ferrara’s campaign, as of March 15, excluding organizational and other contribution sources was 96.1 percent.

District 13 Republican and Conservative candidate Kristy Marmarato had $80 of public funds paid to her on May 15. The total amount of public funds paid to her to date for the 2023 election cycle is $80,712. The total dollar amount raised from individual, organizational, and all other contribution sources in respect of Marmarato as of March 15 was $26,140.

The percent of contributions reported from individual residents in the candidate’s council district, as of March 15, excluding organizational and other contribution sources was 61.4 percent. Meanwhile, the percent of aggregate contributions from individuals that totaled $175 or less, as of March 15, excluding organizational and other contribution sources was 87.3 percent.

District 13 Republican and Conservative candidate Hasime “Samantha” Zherka, who previously ran against Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez in New York’s 14th congressional district in 2022, though she did not appear on the ballot, had $38,023 of public funds paid to her on May 15. This is also the total amount of public funds paid to Zherka to date for the 2023 election cycle. The total dollar amount raised from individual, organizational, and all other contribution sources in respect of the candidate as of March 15 was $32,426.

Meanwhile, the percent of aggregate contributions from individuals that totaled $175 or less to Zherka, as of March 15, excluding organizational and other contribution sources was 88.6 percent.

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Boogie Down Celebrates 50 Years of Hip Hop!

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts was the chosen Bronx venue for the 50th anniversary celebration of the birth of Hip Hop on Saturday, May 6, 2023, when the Hip Hop Fever 2023 concert kicked off in conjunction with Sal Abbatiello of Fever Records.

In the early 1970s, Hip Hop was born in the South Bronx and the concert celebrated the early pioneers of the now world-famous music genre. The show featured performances by Grandmaster Melle & Scorpio, KRS-One, Kurtis Blow, the Sugar Hill Gang, Nice N Smooth, Soul Sonic Force, Cl Smooth, Black Sheep, Keith Murray, and Sweet G.

Hosted by Video Music Box owner Ralph McDaniels and Fever Records owner Abbatiello, there was also music by Grand Wizard Theodore, DJ Hollywood, and DJ Bruce Lee, all of whom delighted the ecstatic crowd of all generations. The atmosphere was one of old-school vibes and plenty of laughs, with some traveling to the Boogie Down from other parts of the city for the show.

According to the event promoters, Abbatiello, one of the pioneers of Hip Hop, discovered many rappers and DJs like Grandmaster Flash, Kurtis Blow, and Run-D.M.C. at legendary night club Disco Fever. They said Abbatiello's Bronx Latin dance club, The Devil's Nest, is where Latin Hip Hop was born and is now called Freestyle. There, they said he discovered Little Louie Vega, TKA, The Cover Girls, Lisette Melendez and many more.

Abbatiello got the crowd movin' and groovin' straight away with chants of “Throw your hands in the air, and make it look like you just don’t care! If you came to party with us tonight, somebody say, ‘Oh yeah!’” An enthusiastic crowd delivered with several “Oh yeahs!” in unison. Abbatiello continued, “Yeah, we’re gonna party tonight! Look at that line-up, Baby! Give it up for that line-up right there!”

He added, “So, this is the 50th year of Hip Hop; give it a round of applause! We are so blessed that we all been a part of this from the ’70s right up until today, and I’m just so happy that we’re all still alive!” The music executive later joked, “Beautiful people, make some noise!” before adding that he wasn’t forgetting his ugly friends in the house either.

“I see you!” he laughed. “Don’t be playin’ to the beautiful people” he added, before asking how many people went to the Fever back in 1976 to 1986, and explaining how he later opened Fever 2 from 1992 to 1995 on Tremont and Webster Avenues.

There were also shout-outs given to Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark, as well as to all the moms for Mothers’ Day. “Way to go my beautiful mothers, my single mothers, my married mothers, my young mothers,” Abbatiello joked, before calling on them to recall all those who ever disdained them to join him in a rousing rendition of Gloria Gaynor’s I will survive! “Give it up ladies,” he said. “Happy Mothers’ Day and Happy 50th Hip Hop Day!”

There was also some friendly shade thrown at the “cheap-ass balcony people” who Abbatiello joked had just shown up on the night, paid at the door, and were like, “Yo, there’s still seats??”

There were also shout-outs given to Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark, as well as to all the moms for Mothers’ Day. “Way to go my beautiful mothers, my single mothers, my married mothers, my young mothers,” Abbatiello joked, before calling on them to recall all those who ever disdained them to join him in a rousing rendition of Gloria Gaynor’s I will survive! “Give it up ladies,” he said. “Happy Mothers’ Day and Happy 50th Hip Hop Day!”
Budget Failures on Bail & Pot

Granted, Republicans are the worst, especially with their continued support of what would be dictator Donald Trump, but the State budget came a month late because of Democrats fighting among themselves. Still, they messed up by not eliminating bail and by authorizing a crackdown on “unlicensed” marijuana shops. It’s again apparent that Republicans are not the only problem.

Again, bail should not have been reformed. It should have been eliminated. Have defendants held if there is a good reason to believe they are dangerous, won’t show up for trial, or are repeatedly arrested. All others should be released pending trial. This way, no one is imprisoned because they don’t have money and no one dangerous is released because they do.

New Jersey has eliminated bail and The Daily News editorial writers have called for its elimination here. I’m glad when they agree with me on something. But the only legislator who has called for eliminating bail is a Republican, State Sen. Jake Ashby. As for the budget, calling for crackdowns on “unlicensed” marijuana shops with fines and confiscation (which is stealing when the government does it) of their product, that is indefensible.

When there are only a handful of shops that are licensed, we should not have to travel far out of our neighborhoods to buy pot. Taking forever to license these businesses is the reason unlicensed businesses opened up out of necessity. If they finally open a licensed shop in my neighborhood, I’ll still go to the unlicensed one that’s selling a superb product. Like with anything else, I’m loyal to good businesses, even if they are not licensed by a government that cannot be described as good.

Richard Warren, Van Cortlandt Village

Bronx CB7 Manager Off to a Wrong Start

I, with others, wished our new Community Board 7 district manager the best of luck in her new position. However, I was alarmed, along with others, during our morning coffee session when we read her first priority was to get Pride flags displayed on Mosholu Parkway. That’s the last thing we need with all the other issues facing our community!

Obviously, she failed to recognize the motion made to get these flags displayed never made it out of the committee. That should have told her something. I have a miniature Pride flag that I accepted when it was shoved into my hand while leaving a subway station in the City. It fits perfectly on the bottom of my bird cage.

Richard Marias, Norwood

Budget Ceiling

Shame on U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer for scaring 65 million seniors by claiming that if we don’t extend the federal government debt ceiling, they may not receive their monthly social security check. Schumer should be aware that as a member of Congress in 1996, members passed a law, Section 1145, “Protection of Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds.” This legislation ensures that social security checks will keep flowing, even if the U.S. government begins defaulting on its other existing financial obligations.

The law allows social security and Medicare trust funds to be drawn down to continue paying benefits until the debt limit is raised. It also prevents those funds from being used to pay for any other government programs. Uncle Sam has taken in over $2 trillion in revenue for fiscal year 2023. Rest assured, Schumer, his wife, Iris Weinshall, and millions of seniors will still receive their SSI checks. Perhaps Schumer needs to take a cognitive memory test so constituents can be sure he is aware of the facts.

Larry Penner, Great Neck

Jerome Gun Hill BID Hosts Mother’s Day Celebration

By DAVID GREENE

Mothers and other visitors to Jerome Gardens Plaza enjoyed an afternoon of free music and giveaways on Saturday, May 13, as the Jerome Gun Hill Business Improvement District (BID) held its annual Mother's Day celebration. Held inside plaza, located at East Mosholu Parkway North and Jerome Avenue in Norwood, the free event featured a live band, a sketch artist, and giveaways.

Daniela Beasley, executive director of the BID, said, “This event is part of a spring event series that’s funded by the New York City Small Business Services. They gave the BID a small BID grant and so we’re using those funds to bring people out to the neighborhood and show them that we’re doing work to make the neighborhood a better place.”

Queens-based band The Afro-Latineers performed their own unique style of “Jazz with a touch of Salsa” on the day. The band said they performed at the BID-sponsored Fall Festival on Jerome Avenue in the past. The event also featured character artist Mike Logsdon of Draw My Party Illustration, who was on hand to sketch anyone for free. Beasley said Logsdon has also worked with the BID in the past, adding, “He loves giving out free drawings to kids.”

After dancing to a few numbers by The Afro-Latineers, Stevens Patino of Kingsbridge told us he’s an intern at the Bronx Oncology Living Daily (BOLD) unit at Montefiore Hospital, working with cancer patients and had learned of the event and decided to come along. “They were like, ‘If you’re interested and would like to come dance with a band performing live music...’ and I was like, ‘I’d love too.’”

We asked his dance partner, Eunice Nazar how she liked the performance by The Afro-Latineers. She replied, “The band is great, very lively!” Nazar added, “I feel great supporting a local event and community solidarity. It’s great to be here and feel the music and people and get resources.”

Lastly, as part of the Mothers’ Day festivities, SB Nutrition, located at 336 East Gun Hill Road, handed out free surprises to anyone who filled out a brief BID survey, asking what improvements and what type of stores they would like to see in the area in the future. Manning a table of free cupcakes with pretzels on top was Asha Finch, owner of the business, who said her cupcakes with pretzels are under 250 calories.

Finch and her husband Mitch opened their shop one year ago. Finch said, “We saved up, we opened a business on Gun Hill, and we want to bring this to the community. SB Nutrition offers nutrition, Salsa and Zumba classes, self-defense classes, and sells prepared meals that are under 250 calories. Finch said she was grateful to the BID, adding, “They have helped the business get out in the community with similar events.” She said she hopes to attend similar events in the future.

The Jerome Gun Hill BID is hosting a Juice & Paint event on June 20 at 336 East Gun Hill Road. Follow the BID on Instagram @jeromegunhillbid for details of more events.

QUEENS-BASED BAND THE Afro-Latineers performed their own style of jazz with a touch of salsa at the Jerome Gun Hill BID Mother’s Day celebration in Norwood on Saturday, May 13, 2023.
Kingsbridge Heights Murder

The NYPD launched a murder investigation after an apparent fatal shooting in Kingsbridge Heights. Police said that on Wednesday, May 17, at around 6:30 a.m., police responded to a 911 call regarding a man who had been shot in front of 4700 Fort Independence Street. Upon arrival, officers found a 27-year-old man, unconscious and unresponsive, with gunshots wounds to the chest. EMS responded to the location and transported the victim to Montefiore Medical Center, where he was pronounced deceased. There are no arrests, and the investigation continues.

Fordham Heights: Teen Slashed, Woman Shot

Police are searching for a group sought following a slashing and shooting. Police said the incident was reported on Saturday, May 13, at 3:17 a.m. near Webster Avenue and East 188th Street. They said a 17-year-old female teen was slashed in the face during a dispute. When a 32-year-old woman attempted to break up the argument, she was shot in the leg. Both victims were transported to St. Barnabas Hospital in stable condition. There are no suspects police said and the investigation continues.

Fordham Heights: Two Women Shot on Street

Two women were hospitalized after they were shot by a man in broad daylight by a bus stop on the Grand Concourse in Fordham Heights. Police said that on Wednesday, May 3, at around 1:31 p.m., police responded to a 911 call near 2417 Grand Concourse. Police said upon arrival, officers found a woman, 44, with multiple gunshot wounds about the body, and a woman, 52, with a gunshot wound to the leg.

The NYPD is seeking the public’s help locating the people seen in the accompanying photos (above) who police say are sought in connection with a robbery that occurred in Fordham Manor. Police said that on Sunday, May 7, at around 1:45 p.m., in front of 80 West Fordham Road, a male victim, 38, was approached by a group unknown to him who flashed him in the head with a cutting instrument and stole his cellphone before fleeing on foot. Police said the victim was transported by EMS to St. Barnabas Hospital in stable condition.

Norwood: Man Shot in Gun Hill Road Apt

A man has been arrested following a shooting inside a residential building on East Gun Hill Road in Norwood. Police said that on Thursday, March 16, at around 9:45 a.m., police responded to a 911 call regarding a shooting in the 3K apartment building on the 3rd floor.

The victim was pronounced dead at Barnabas Hospital, police said. The investigation is ongoing.
EVENTS

The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG)’s Spring Uncorked Weekend explores the savor and science of wine with artistic activities, games, and light bites from Bronx Night Market on Saturday, May 20, and Sunday, May 21, from noon to 4 p.m. Located at Daffodil Hill, NYBG, 2900 Southern Boulevard in The Bronx, sip and savor spring during this wine lover’s weekend, featuring wineries from the Hudson Valley, Brooklyn, and Long Island. Enjoy samples, relax to live music, learn the science behind making great wines, and kick back with a variety of crafts and games.

As part of Bronx Week 2023, on Friday, May 19, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., The Office of the Bronx Borough President and partners will host a Kingsbridge Armory Award ceremony at King Hall auditorium in Monroe College, 2501 Jerome Avenue.

Four teams from CUNY architectural schools were recently asked to share their vision of a proposal for a vertical farm at the armory. Judging, by mainly city planners, took place last week during a zoom call and the winning team will be announced at this event. There will also be a tour of other parts of the armory (other than the main hall) e.g. the basement area and tower where there is/ was a bar/lounge area. All are welcome.

The Bronx Week 2023 honorees will be inducted onto the Bronx Walk of Fame on the Grand Concourse near the front entrance of Bronx Borough Hall on Saturday, May 20, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The honorees include Sunny Hostin, Juliet Papa, God-Is Rivera, SWV, and Luis Torres. All are welcome.

The Office of the Bronx Borough President & partners will host the Bronx Week 2023 Parade on Sunday, May 21, at 10 a.m. on the Grand Concourse between 158th Street and 167th Street. This will be followed by Bronx Week 2023 Food & Arts Festival on Sunday, May 21, from noon to 5 p.m. on the Grand Concourse between 164th Street and Lou Gehrig Plaza. Also on Sunday, the Bronx Week 2023 Concert Finale will run from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Joyce Kilmer Park (161st Street and Grand Concourse). All are welcome.

Borough Community Board 7 will be hosting a Flagging Ceremony at Woodlawn Cemetery, 3800 Jerome Avenue, on May 23, at 10 a.m. to honor the community’s veterans. All are welcome.

KIDS

The movie, “Encanto,” will be screened on Thursday, May 18, from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. by NYC Department of Parks & Recreation in conjunction with District 11 City Councilman Eric Dinowitz. This event is FREE and open to the public. Glass bottles and alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited. In the event of heavy rain or extreme weather, the screening can be moved indoors to cancel the event. The event will be made prior to the screening and will be promptly posted on our website. For more information visit nyc.gov/parks or call 311. Contact (212) 360-1430 or accessibility@parks.nyc.gov for more information regarding accessibility.

A Weird Science Fair will be held on Tuesday, May 23, in the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, 3225 Reservoir Oval East in Norwood. If you have a love of science, grab your lab coat and goggles for volcano eruptions, exploring space and more! Email Ana.Torres@parks.nyc.gov or call (718) 543-8672 for more details.

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, located at 250 Bedford Park Boulevard West, Bronx, NY 10468, is proud to present the exclusive NYC appearance of Los Van Van. Cuba’s legendary Grammy Award-winning dance band, on Friday, May 26, at 8 p.m. Known worldwide for their iconic live performances, the group features three of the children of the late founder Juan Formell, leader and drummer/timbaleros Samuel Formell, bassist Juan-Carlos Formell, and the family’s youngest daughter, lead vocalist Vanessa Formell. Tickets can be purchased by calling the box office at (718) 960-8833, or online at https://www.lehmancenter.org/events/los-van-van.

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Park Boulevard West, The Bronx, has advised that Tito Puente Centennial, a tribute to the 100-year legacy of Tito Puente, originally scheduled for Saturday, May 20, has been rescheduled to Saturday, March 2, 2024.

MOVEMENT

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. The doc, 10467, where the teams from the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine will gather with 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/.

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) 360-1309 for more information.

NYPD Attempts to CURB Riders of Illegal Bikes Again

DAVID GREENE

Nearly a year after the NYPD rolled out a new initiative to help crackdown on illegal All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) dirt bikes, and scooters, the NYPD’s Community Response Team is back with over 300 officers from scooters, the NYPD’s Community Response All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) dirt bikes, and a new initiative to help crack down on illegal bikes. We started bringing some cops in the summer, we created a community response...
First Annual Bronx Aging Advocacy Day Held

By ARIEL PACHECO

Amid proposed budget cuts, the first annual Bronx Aging Advocacy Day was held on May 1 on the steps of Bronx Borough Hall as elected officials, advocates, community organizations and seniors gathered to help fight for the protection of equitable services for the elderly population.

Mayor Eric Adams’ proposed City budget for fiscal year 2024 was set to see reduced city funding for many programs that provide essential services to the elderly, including cuts to older adult centers and home-delivered meals. The City Council’s budget response called for increased funding for these programs, however, along with calls to provide holiday and weekend meals for seniors. The deadline to implement the City’s budget is July 1.

“We are standing here today to advocate for a budget that does not cut our services, but adds to our services,” said Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson. “Sadly, we are seeing proposed cuts. We are seeing $7 million cuts in older adult centers, $5 million cuts in cuts for home delivered meals, and the elimination of $1 million of a one-time reimbursement for home-delivered meals just in this adopted budget alone.”

Gibson called on Adams and City Hall officials to “stand with our seniors” in maintaining funds for these programs. Among the changes Gibson said she wished to see in a revised budget were better pay for human service workers. “We are also calling for pay parity for human service workers who have been in the trenches,” said the borough president. “Human service workers are valuable parts of our infrastructure, and they don’t get the pay that they deserve.”

Gibson also noted that many older adults struggle with a gap in their digital knowledge and that the pandemic left that portion of the population disconnected from families and friends. “During the pandemic many of us were disconnected,” she said. “We did not have the digital equity and the tech access to reach out. The programs we are talking about have proven successful; they make a difference.”

Meanwhile, District 16 City Councilwoman Althea Stevens, who represents the neighborhoods of Concourse, Crotona, Highbridge, Morris Heights, Mount Eden, and Morrisania, was also in attendance. Stevens spoke on her prevailing wage bill, which she said would establish prevailing wage requirements for city-contracted human service workers.

“That’s something that’s not talked about,” Stevens said. “How are we ensuring that you’re able to age with dignity and that you are getting the things that you deserve?”

Several older adults in attendance later gave the opportunity to share their personal experiences of using City services and raised concerns about how potential cuts would alter their respective lifestyles.

In reference to the various services which she said are so appreciated by Bronx seniors, Bernadine Harding of the Lafayette Morrison NORC Center, said, “They have a wonderful arts and crafts programs for us. It gives me something to do during the day and that’s very helpful for senior citizens’ mental health.”

(continued on page 15)
CRIME FILE CONTINUED

Fordham Manor Stabbing

The NYPD is asking for the public’s help identifying the people seen in the accompanying photos who police say are sought for questioning in connection with an attempted robbery that occurred in Fordham Manor. Police that on Tuesday, March 28, at around 5:30 a.m., the male victim, 30, was walking at the corner of Grand Concourse and East Kingsbridge Road when a group approached him and grabbed the neck chain.

They said when the victim struggled, a member of the group displayed a knife and stabbed the victim in the chest, causing a puncture wound. “The individuals fled on foot northbound on Grand Concourse,” police said. “The victim was removed to St. Barnabas Hospital in stable condition.”

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, 1-888-577-PISTA (7478). The public can also submit their tips by logging onto the CrimeStoppers website at https://crimestoppers.nypd.org/, or on Twitter @NYPDTips. All calls are strictly confidential.

NYPD Attempts to Curb Riders of Illegal Bikes Again

(continued from page 11)

On Sunday, April 30, at another NYPD-related press conference held inside Castle Hill Library, Adams and Chell unveiled yet another type of Star Chase device for civilian use which can assist with auto theft prevention. It consists of an electronic tracking card which, once activated, can track the location of a stolen vehicle.

During the same press conference, Nortwood News asked Chell for more information on how the police-tracking system [vehicle mounted GPS launcher] worked, which is different from the civilian-use technology. He replied, “It’s just a handheld device or a device on the front of a car and it shoots a sticky-glue device, and it hits the back of a pursued/stolen car, it sets off a GPS so we can track the car."

He said the pursued/stolen car can then be followed by a helicopter, and patrol cars can also follow at a safe distance without causing injury to the public and without risk of losing sight of the pursued vehicle, since the helicopter is tracking it. The patrol cars can then close in on the pursued vehicle once the driver either stops or abandons it. Chell was asked if the Star Chase technology also worked on illegal bikes. He replied, “Not allowed to use it on ATVs.” When asked if it worked on any other types of bikes, he replied, “No.”

Over the last few years, a large band of bikers of every type of two and three-wheeled vehicle imaginable has been seen at least once a year, always on Sundays, rolling down the Grand Concourse or across Fordham Road.

Police radio transmissions heard by Nortwood News on Sunday, March 26, referenced an NYPD helicopter which was seemingly hovering over a large group of bikers who had converted outside the entrance of the Allen Shandler Recreation Area inside Van Cortlandt Park. The recreation area is bordered by Jerome Avenue to the east, the Major Deegan Expressway to the west, East 233rd Street to the north, and Mosholu Golf Course to the southeast.

The transmission also referenced at least one NYPD ground patrol unit in pursuit of a pair of pick-up trucks which were apparently loaded with ATVs, and which were headed northbound towards Yonkers. Based on the radio transmission, it was understood police were attempting to intercept the trucks. Nortwood News contacted the NYPD for more information about the alleged pursuit but did not receive a response.

Meanwhile, on the same day, around the same time, Nortwood News witnessed a group of around 250 bikers riding various types of illegal bikes along the outer two lanes of the Grand Concourse, and on the sidewalk, coming from the direction of Jerome Avenue / Tracey Towers, later turning left onto Van Cortlandt Avenue, across Mosholu Parkway, and up the hill into Norwood.

The group included several ATVs, at least one of which was being dangerously driven on the sidewalk close to the entrance of a residential building by a middle-aged man who was simultaneously smoking a cigar. The bikers took several minutes to pass through the area and did not stop for the red light on Grand Concourse at Van Cortlandt Avenue, nor for the other drivers who had the right of way. It would be another minute or two before the ear-deafening sound of the bikes’ collective exhausts dissipated and the area returned to near silence.

During the 52nd Precinct Community Council meeting on May 27, 2021, Nortwood News was present when police officers proudly wheeled several confiscated motorbikes past a group of appreciative residents who cheered and applauded the display. During the course of the meeting, several more illegal bikes were taken from riders passing through the blocks around the Webster Avenue 52nd Precinct stationhouse.

We later reported on the announcement on Aug. 2, 2022, of a citywide crackdown on illegal bikes during a press conference held at the 52nd Precinct hosted by the NYPD’s Highway One Captain Lee Manuel and the 52nd Precinct Commanding Officer Deputy Inspector Jeremy Scheulin, during which dozens more confiscated illegal bikes were placed on display.

DOZENS OF RIDERS of illegal ATVs, dirt bikes, and motorcycles head south down the Grand Concourse service road before crossing Mosholu Parkway in Bedford Park and turning onto Van Cortlandt Avenue and heading into Norwood on Sunday, March 26, 2023.

More recently, we reported on the sentencing by Supreme Court Justice Linda Poust-Lopez on Thursday, April 20, of Ma- rio Rosario to five years’ probation and 300 hours of community service for his plea to criminally negligent homicide in the death of his son, 4-year-old Mario “Mjay” Rosario, as the two rode on a scooter and crashed into a car in the Fordham Manor section of the borough on August 15, 2022, as reported.

Police said the child had not been equipped with a helmet at the time of the collision. The NYPD had previously confirmed to Nortwood News that the scooter driver’s “criminal possession of stolen property” charge pertained to a scooter that was being driven by the boy’s father at the time of the accident.

On Sunday, April 2, Scheulin told officers from the 52nd Precinct confiscated 30 bikes in one day. “We get them from all over, from a bunch of different locations,” he said. “We prefer to get them when they’re stopped to avoid the pursuit, but sometimes that’s the way it goes, but most of these were gotten when they were stopped.”

Scheulin concluded, “It’s crazy, right? I love to take them. We were leading the city in the 5-2 last year. We had 540 for the year as the final number.” He added, “This year, we’re looking to do the same. We’re starting now with some initiatives. Like I said, this past Sunday we took 30, and we’re going to continue. It’s not only dangerous [to ride the bikes] on the sidewalk but they use them to commit robberies and other acts of violence around the community, so it’s always been a priority for us.”

*Síle Moloney contributed to this story.
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The CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORATION
DIVISION OF BRIDGES
CONSULTANT PROGRAMS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

Project or Contract Title: Request for Proposal – Resident Engineering Inspection Services in Connection with Component Rehabilitation of 10 Bridges in Queens.

Contract No. HBCR22B
Pm: 84123QUBR582

Expected Contract Term: 1155 Consecutive Calendar Days starting from the date of the Notice to Proceed

Description of Services Required:
The services to be procured is the Resident Engineering Inspection Services in Connection with Component Rehabilitation of 10 Bridges in Queens.

A Pre-Proposal Conference (Optional) has been scheduled for May 30, 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 this project is 30%.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is released through PASSPort, New York City’s online procurement portal. Responses to this RFP must be submitted via PASSPort. To access the RFP, 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 EPIN 84123P0007, into the Keyword search field. To respond to the RFP, vendors must create an account within the PASSPort system if they have not already done so.

Release Date: May 22, 2023
Pre-Proposal Conference: May 30, 2023 at 10AM
Submission of Request for Proposals are due on or before 2:00 PM on June 19, 2023.

Public and Community Meetings

The next 52nd PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL meeting will take place on Thursday, May 25, at 7 p.m. at Annunciata Bethell Senior Center, 243 E 204th St., Bronx, NY 10458. 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.

Details of the next BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8 full board meeting are to be confirmed. 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.
Bronx Borough President

tended said they could tell which type of everyone “get jiggy with it” in relative si-

nence, it seems somewhat bizarre, but it soon becomes obvious that part of the fun is in attendees “finding their people.” At-
tendees said they could tell which type of music others were listening to from their
dance moves, or because they were mouthing the lyrics of specific songs. People also felt it was respectful to those buried on the grounds as it was “silent” event.

There was salsa, old-school funk, something for everyone, and some human chains / processions were even forming around the venue as the silent dancers followed the instructions of the DJs through their headphones. In addition, there was also candy floss, snacks and overall, a good time vibe.

The event was hosted by Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson and partners, The Bronx Tourism Council, BronxNet, Schneps Media, Pix11, News12 The Bronx. “Lauren” from Throgs Neck told us in part, “This is my first time at a silent disco. I’ve seen them before. This is so much fun! I’m meeting all sorts of people from all over my borough. I’m already sweating! The three DJs are unbelievable!”

Man Exonerated after 26 Years for Subway Shooting

By SILE MOLONEY
Bronx District Attorney (DA) Darcel D. Clark said on May 10, that a Bronx judge vacated the attempted murder conviction of a Bronx man who served 26 years in prison, after investigations by her office’s conviction integrity bureau, and by The In-

nocence Project, found that the man had been wrongfully convicted due to ineffective defense counsel. The case related to a shooting that occurred on the border of Fordham Heights and University Heights in 1996. “Norberto Peets has served 26 years in prison, after being found guilty in a trial where his lawyer overlooked key evidence that could have led to acquit-
tuality,” Clark said. “My Office’s Conviction Integrity Bureau has helped bring him some sem-
blance of justice by investigat-
ing his claims and joining The In-
nocence Project to have the charges dismissed and clear his name. Hopefully it will help him as he puts his life back to-
gether.”

Officials from the DA’s office said that on May 9, Bronx Supreme Court Justice Ralph Fabrizio vacated Peets’ conviction and dismissed the charges of attempted murder, assault, as well as weapon charges for shooting at people, wounding two, on Sept. 29, 1996, under the elevated subway at Jerome Avenue and East 183rd Street sub-
way station.

According to DA’s office, tak-
ing into consideration that the only evidence pointing to Peet’s guilt was what was described as “questionable eyewitness identifi-
cation,” Clark concluded that the reliability of the [original] jury’s verdict was questionable, and on Sept. 30, 2022, her office joined The Innocence Project’s motion to vacate Peets’ convic-
tion.

As a result, Peets was released from prison after 26 years. The DA’s office said that separate reinvestigations found that Peets’ trial attorney had not adequately investigated his case and had overlooked key evi-
dence that both pointed to an alternate suspect, and discredited the eyewitness testimony that had convicted Peets.

Clark thanked Risa Gerson, chief of the conviction integrity bureau and Assistant District Attorney Gabriela Tully, who reinvestigated the case. Repre-
sentatives from The Innocence Project accompanied Peets to the court on May 9. “Mr. Peets has steadfastly maintained his innocence for 26 years,” they said in part.

According to The Innocence Project, on Sept. 29, 1996, a fight broke out at the elevated subway station at 183rd Street and Jerome Avenue. Its representa-
vatives said as a man, described as Black, ran down the station’s stairs, he shot two other men, described as Hispanic, and as-
aulted a third. They said when two officers arrived, the gun-
man began shooting at them. “One of the officers gave chase, exchanging gunfire as the shooter fled the scene,” they said. “A bloody bullet fragment was found where the gunman had apparently fallen, leading police to believe that the gun-
man had been shot. Forensic testing was never performed on the bullet, but ballistics showed the bullet had come from the gun of the officer in pursuit of the suspect. By the time the In-
nocence Project began its investi-
gation, the bullet fragment had been lost.”

Norwood News contacted the NYPD, the Bronx District Attorney’s office and the Of-

fice of Court Administration to request corroboration of the veracity of this account of how the shooting unfolded. We did not receive a response from the NYPD or the Office of Court Administration.

On May 9, The City media publica-
tion reported on the his-
tory of the case, which included accounts that Fabrizio, the latest judge to preside over Peets’ case, had reversed previous deci-
sions that he himself had made, “re-vacating Peets’ convictions and dismissing his original in-

entlement, burying the case for good.”

The publication also reported on alleged complaints report-
edly lodged against the judge by “at least eight defense attorneys and prosecutors,” as well as al-
legation by one source that Fab-
rizio “has a bit of a temper,” but

Video still courtesy of The Inno-
cence Project

NORTERBO PEETS LEAVES
Bronx County Hall of Justice, lo-
cated at 265 East 161st Street in The Bronx, on May 9, 2023, after being exonerated 26 years after the court administrator to the reported

previous decisions in relation to the reported

complaints lodged against Fab-
rizio by “eight defense attor-
nies and prosecutors. A re-
presentative responded, saying, “The bullet fragment was lost. That means by statute – it never existed. And we do not discuss complaints against judges nor the reasons for their judicial decisions.”

Norwood News also contacted both the NYPD and the Bronx District Attorney’s office to ask if anyone else, other than Peets, has or had ever been ar-
rested following the shooting. We have also requested more context around the circumstances under which the refer-
ence to the bullet fragment was lost. We will update this story should we receive any feedback. Any-
one wishing to support Peets rebuild his life can contribute to his wish list by visiting www.
amazon.com and searching for “Norberto Peets’ Wishlist.”

NYAM has also created an in-
teractive map to help senior cit-
izens locate human resource ser-
ves and support in every borough. Meanwhile, residents can visit https://nyma.qualics.com/jfe/form/SV_3vRSMDByH523Q7CHL-ur to complete the survey online. It is available in several languages including Spanish, Bengali, Italian, Russian, and Chinese.

May is officially known as Older Americans Month, with this year’s theme being “Aging Unbound.” U.S. Census data from 2022 estimated that 14 percent of The Bronx’s population are 65 years and older.

Norwood News has contacted the Adams administration for comment on the proposed cuts to senior services and will provide an update upon receipt of any response.

Norwood News contacted the Adams administration for comment on the proposed cuts to se-

ior services. Gregory Rose from NYC Department of Aging press team responded, saying in part, “While this has been a tough bud-
get process for everyone, [we were] able to secure 4 percent in savings by realizing unspent resources from a variety of programs we of-
er. This will allow us to continue key services to help residents in every borough in place.”

First Annual Bronx Aging Advocacy Day Held

(continued from page 12)

added, “And the lunch is out of this world!”

The New York Academy of Medicine Center for Healthy Ag-
ing (NYAM) conducts research programs and policy initiatives to ensure that everyone has access to good health care. NYAM recently launched the “Aging Well in the Bronx survey” in an effort to use the findings to make The Bronx a better place to grow older.

The director of NYAM’s Cen-
ter for Healthy Aging, Elana Ke-
liffe, said they’ve conducted simi-
lar surveys in both Brooklyn and Manhattan and have used the data collected to help make recommenda-
tions to improve the quality of life for seniors.

NYAM has also created an in-
teractive map to help senior cit-
izens locate human resource ser-

vices and support in every bor-
ough. Meanwhile, residents can visit https://nyma.qualics.com/jfe/form/SV_3vRSMDByH523Q7CHL-ur to complete the survey online. It is available in several languages including Spanish, Bengali, Italian, Russian, and Chinese.

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Silent Disco, a Bronx Week Highlight

(continued from page 1)
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