



# NORWOOD NEWS

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## SUMMER OF VIOLENCE CONTINUES

Photo courtesy of the 52nd Precinct Community Council

**A SPATE OF** 16 reported shootings over the Fourth of July holiday weekend prompted elected officials, including Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark, State Sen. Jamaal Bailey (S.D. 36), and Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, along with various cure violence groups and members of local precinct community councils, to hold a press conference at Lou Gehrig Plaza on July 6, 2023, to call for an end to the violence.

### By SÍLE MOLONEY

Despite marking the whole month of June with the usual events aimed at curbing the gun violence that continues to plague The Bronx, the last day of Gun Violence Awareness

Month was marred by the violent shooting of a 5-year-old girl in Olinville, followed by a spate of 16 shootings over the Fourth of July weekend. What followed was possibly even worse when four people, including two chil-

dren under the age of 7, were gunned down in broad daylight by two masked scooter drivers beside St. James Park in Fordham Manor on July 11.

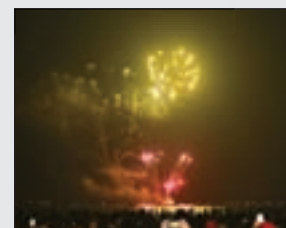
While all four victims are reported to be in stable condition,

and while elected officials are taking legislative action in efforts to address the crisis, some residents and the families of victims are calling for stronger measures to be implemented.

*(continued on page 15)*



**6 Injured in Partial Wall Collapse**  
pg 2



**Fireworks Display Brings Joy to Holiday Weekend**  
pg 6



**CD14 gets \$1 million for PB projects**  
pg 7

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# NORWOOD NEWS

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Photo by Miriam Quiñones

**A PARTIAL WALL** collapse on July 11, 2023 at Barker and Burke Avenues in the Olinville section of The Bronx is seen at the site on July 12, 2023.

# Olinville: Six People Injured in Partial Wall Collapse at Construction Site

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

FDNY officials said following what was described as a major technical rescue from a Bronx construction site in the Olinville section of the borough, six people suffered injuries, including three who were hospitalized.

FDNY officials said they received a call at 4.07 p.m. on Tuesday, July 11, and units responded to 3073 Barker Avenue for reports of a partial wall collapse. “Members were able to determine that the incident had occurred at a construction site at that location,” FDNY officials said. “There were six patients.”

They said three were treated at the scene but refused transportation to hospital, and three were transported to Jacobi Medical Center in Morris Park. Their conditions or descriptions were unknown. They said NYC Department of Buildings (DOB) was notified of the incident which was “placed under control” at 4.45 p.m.

When contacted, Ryan Deegan, DOB deputy press secretary said that from a preliminary report on the incident, DOB personnel were called to the location, a seven-story new building under construction, to conduct a structural stability inspection after receiving reports that a retaining wall had partially collapsed at the site.

Deegan said that at the scene, inspectors determined that while workers were pouring concrete on the second

floor, plywood formwork and shoring gave way, causing a 50 feet x 30 feet section (approximately) of the second floor which was under construction to partially collapse onto the first floor.

He said DOB also inspected several neighboring buildings and observed no damage arising from the incident. Following the inspection, the Deegan said DOB issued a violation for the site’s failure to institute adequate safety measures to prevent the collapse. He said DOB also placed a Full Stop Work Order on the site until repairs can be made. Deegan said two workers incurred “minor injuries” according to emergency officials.

A stop work order letter was seen posted at the site on July 12 and the area was still sealed off with yellow tape. One man said he hoped that everyone

working there was ok.

Three migrant construction workers in their twenties, one from Ecuador and one with a young family, who were seriously burned following a workplace accident / flash fire in the Williamsbridge section of The Bronx have filed a negligence lawsuit against BE Bronx Builders, LLC, Stagg Group, and Mark Stagg, as reported. The accident occurred at 739 East Gun Hill Road, a new building under construction, on Monday, May 15, as reported.

Meanwhile, in Wakefield, on Tuesday, June 6, as reported, after a worker fell 30 feet from a building site at 4180 Carpenter Avenue, NYC Department of Buildings (DOB) issued various violations to Stagg Group, which was also one of the entities behind the development at that Wakefield site.

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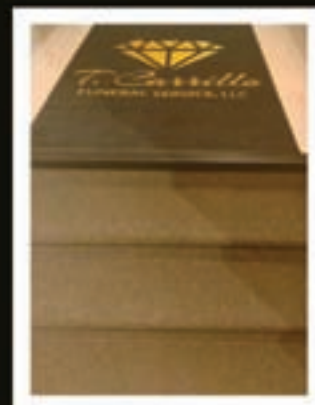


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# INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



This week, we asked readers their thoughts on the abrupt departure of former Police Commissioner Keechant Sewell and the naming of Bronxite, Eddie Caban, as interim police commissioner.



"I think cops are bad; I'm not a fan of policing. So, I didn't think it matters as much if she's a woman. Like there was still cops coming into our communities. I didn't see a change with the police on the ground, no. I think there's still too many of them and they're still coming in and acting like they own the place, and they don't. I think we've seen efforts trying to hire more cops from the community and it didn't work out well. I don't think it did. They're just as violent as the cops who are not from the area. That's my view."

**Andrew Basta,**  
Allerton  
Photo by David Greene



"I thought she was doing a pretty good job, that's all I can say. I didn't even hear that she left. Around here it's pretty quiet but if you go around the corner, a couple of blocks down....yeah, whatever happens, happens. With (Eddie) Caban being from the Bronx, it could be a good thing."

**Alexander Mata,**  
Bedford Park  
Photo by David Greene



"My thoughts on the police commissioner resigning is I felt there was too much micromanaging from the Adams' administration in City Hall. With that being said, this doesn't make the mayor look good at all and the feedback I'm getting from many people is that the mayor tried to undermine her; he probably did. She was doing a very good job and it makes you wonder if the mayor really knows how to lead by having so many friends and people....I don't know if he's able to let things ferment naturally within his administration. She's going to be missed and I really expect her to find another top job at a police department in the near future."

**Efrain Gonzalez,**  
Morris Park  
(not the former New York Sen. Efrain Gonzalez)  
Photo courtesy of Efrain Gonzalez



"Well, we don't know why she left, if it was her performance in front of the camera, her daily workload, if she was a good representative of the force, or all or none of the above. But unless you know what she really did daily, it's hard to say because her job looked intense. No single person can stop crime, but it is a male run world. Here's the bottom line: men are visual and when working with a woman, no matter how smart she is, if she doesn't captivate a man's attention, then that respect goes elsewhere... We, as women, get no respect no matter what we do or how hard we try. So those in positions like [hers] get pushed around. Am I disappointed? Absolutely."

**Aniya Period,**  
Brooklyn  
Photo provided by Aniya Period



"It's important that the next commissioner be familiar with the outer boroughs and the challenges we face here.....for the 45th Precinct and its limited manpower for one of the largest geographic areas in New York City. Furthermore, we need to make sure existing budget priorities are fully funded, like renovating the shooting range at Rodman's Neck. Finally, our coastal communities are in greater need of resources when it comes to the Harbor Patrol."

**John Doyle,**  
City Island and VP of the 45th Precinct  
Community Council  
Photo provided by John Doyle

## Health Fair Held at Lehman College

By SÍLE MOLONEY

District 11 City Councilman Eric Dinowitz, in conjunction with Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81), hosted a health fair at Lehman College in Bedford Park on Friday, June 16, 2023. Present on the day were about 27 community partners and city agencies, all sharing health-related resources with the community. Some included NYC Depart-

ment of Health & Mental Hygiene, the Kingsbridge Heights Community Center, Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, and Riverdale Senior Services to name a few.

Asked what the driver for the event was, a representative for the councilman said, "We were planning events for throughout the summer and for the rest of the year and the team itself was think-



Photo by Síle Moloney

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND** city agencies table and share resources with community members at a health fair held at Lehman College on June 17, 2023.



Photo by Síle Moloney

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND** city agencies table and share resources with community members at a health fair held at Lehman College on June 17, 2023.

ing what events would be good. I was trying to think of events we haven't done before and one of those was a health fair."

He continued, "I was up in Albany for caucus weekend. I saw a lot of these health insurance groups and I reached out to them and said I'm planning a health fair for Councilmember Dinowitz and would love to have you as a partner." He said the event was well attended and the councilman's office hopes to make it an annual event.

The representative continued, "Events like these are one of the cornerstones of what we do in the city council and just in government as an elected official and as representatives, to provide for our constituents, let them know what's available to them, because we can't do everything on our own. It's like an inside out strategy, so that's what we have these nonprofits that we work with and partner with in the community here for."



# POTS Opens Second Location on Grand Concourse

By JOSÉ A. GIRALT

The address says 2450 Grand Concourse, but the public will find the entrance to the new, second location of the nonprofit, Part of the Solution (POTS), just a few steps from the eastside exit of the B and D subway station at Fordham Road on East 188<sup>th</sup> Street. The official opening was originally scheduled for June 8 but was rescheduled to June 29 following the issuance of an air quality advisory by health officials when the skies over NYC turned a deep orange due to residue from the Canadian wildfires.

The three-week delay did not dampen the spirits of POTS' staff, however, who attended the event along with the nonprofit's leadership team, and Assemblyman George Alvarez (A.D. 78), whose new constituency office is located a few doors down from POT's original location on Webster Avenue.

"I know that fighting food insecurity is not easy," Alvarez said on the day, while paying tribute to the work of POTS' staff. "Having an organization like POTS in the community and having individuals like you that fight to allow people to have food on the table is something that our community loves, and something that I really feel passionate about, and that's why I'm here today."

POTS describes itself as an organization offering "a mosaic of services which come together to create a pathway forward for all who seek help." The services offered are indeed comprehensive. They range from addressing immediate needs, including a hot shower and access to medical and dental services, to food security, to more long-term needs like applying for public benefits and a legal clinic.

According to a recent POTS press release about the new location, the additional space at Grand Concourse will house POTS' legal clinic, as well as the development, finance, and communications departments. As reported, POTS has been around since 1982, serving the Bronx community originally as a soup kitchen. Since then, it has continued to add other services to help people get back on their feet after economic or personal challenges. The organization celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022, as reported.

The search for the second location started before the COVID-19 pandemic hit and according to POTS officials, it was later hampered by it. Ideally, they wanted a space that was within walking distance of their location at 2759 Webster Avenue, just north of East 197<sup>th</sup> Street.



Photo by José A. Giralt

**(L-R) ASSEMBLYMAN GEORGE ALVAREZ** (A.D. 78), Ana Chapman, chief program director at The HOPE Program, Christina Hanson, executive director at POTS, and Keith Pagnani, chair of POTS' board of directors, cut the ribbon to formally open the second POTS location at 2450 Grand Concourse in Fordham Heights on Thursday, June 29, 2023.

Christina Hanson, executive director of POTS, spoke with *Norwood News* after the ribbon-cutting ceremony and explained how the final decision was made.

"We ultimately chose this location [on Grand Concourse] because it has its own entrance," she said. "We couldn't beat the location because it's on top of the entrance to the B/D subway train, so that would expand the community that we could have access to in The Bronx. We wanted to be here for a while; we have a 15-year lease."

The new location also has more space for computer and job training services, what Hanson describes as POTS' "long-term stability program." She said that the location on Webster "is 15,000 square feet and this one [on Grand Concourse] is 11,000."

Josef Aguilar is associate director of long-term stability services at POTS. He has worked there for eight years, oversees the mentoring team, and supervises the case management team, among other duties. He gave *Norwood News* a tour of the new space and spoke enthusiastically about future training programs there. "Food security is something we've been doing for decades," he said. "POTS has been growing to really address the needs of an individual and their family in a holistic way."

He continued, "But now, with this phase, we're actually going to be able to have the [job] trainings [here]. Computer literacy, financial coaching... anything that is going to make them become more stable." Aguilar added that the

space will "allow us to expand our partnerships as well."

The HOPE Program, an organization that specializes in job training, skills development, adult education, industry certifications and placement services, is partnering with POTS to provide another avenue to self-sufficiency. Ana Chapman is the chief program officer at The HOPE Program and sees a natural fit between the two organizations. "We serve the same population... and we do

a very exhaustive intake process so that we can kind of glean, 'Is this person job ready?'" she said.

Chapman continued, "If not, what can we do? Does this person need child-care? Does this person have other needs that we need to meet? Here, POTS has all the bells and whistles that we consider so important to the students that we serve, so those that are here, are receiving not just the workforce development training, not just employment services, but they're getting everything that POTS has to offer."

With a background in family and singles' shelters, Christina Guzman started working at POTS in April as a stability service manager. Still based at the Webster Avenue location, she will be spending some of her time at the new space when it starts offering vocational training. She spoke about the future of POTS in glowing terms. "This location represents the future for POTS," Guzman said. "It takes us from where we welcome the clients that may come in [at] the dignity and wellness level, because they're homeless and they need a shower, to actually letting them secure food stability, and eventually transitioning them to secure vocational training and then employment."

For more information on the services offered by POTS, residents can visit their website at <https://potsbronx.org/english/> or call (718) 220-4892.



Photo by José A. Giralt

**JOSEF AGUILAR, ASSOCIATE** director of long-term stability services at POTS, stands inside a space that can be used as a classroom at the nonprofit's second location opened at 2450 Grand Concourse in Fordham Heights on Thursday, June 29, 2023.



# Fireworks Display Delights Bronxites at Orchard Beach

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson and executive director of the Bronx Tourism Council, Sulma Arzu-Brown, were joined by City Council Member Marjorie Velazquez (C.D. 13), State Sen. Nathalia Fernandez (S.D. 36), and Orchard beachgoers for the Annual New York Salutes America Bronx Fireworks Extravaganza on Thursday, June 29. The fireworks display was by “America’s First Family of Fireworks,” the Gruccis, and the evening featured entertainment by DJ Lex, as well as performances by the Gambian Giedundun Performers, and Garifuna and Bomba dancers.

“Our annual, ‘New York Salutes America,’ Bronx Fireworks Extravaganza at Orchard Beach is one of our crown jewel events to celebrate the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend,” said Gibson. “I am grateful to have joined this year with NYC Council Member Marjorie Velazquez, New York State Sen. Nathalia Fernandez and all of our sponsors to make this event a success for our residents and families to enjoy.”

For her part, Velázquez said the event had become a Bronx tradition like no other, of which she was proud to be a part. “The ‘New York Salutes America’ event brings us all together as a community to celebrate the freedoms and values that make our country extraordinary,” she said. “I want to thank Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, New York State Senator Nathalia Fernandez and all of our sponsors for helping put on this wonderful event, a staple of summertime in The Bronx.”



Photo by Miriam Quiñones  
**EMPTY BOXES OF** the fireworks brand “Pounding Barrage and Raptor” were seen scattered along the sidewalk of the Grand Concourse and Bedford Park Boulevard on Wednesday morning, July 5, 2023.

Fernandez concurred, saying, “I couldn’t be more thrilled to celebrate and support the annual Bronx Fireworks Extravaganza at Orchard Beach! It’s a momentous occasion that ignites our spirits and brings us all together in a magnificent display of joy and pride.”

She added, “The fireworks at Orchard Beach not only showcases the natural beauty of our beloved waterfront but also serves as a catalyst for local businesses, tourism, and economic growth, firmly establishing the Bronx as a thriving hub of culture and excitement. I am so grateful that Borough President Gibson, Council Member Velazquez, our amazing sponsors, and beachgoers from all over can come together to revel in the spectacular night!”

Sponsors for the evening included Hot 97, Con Edison, Verizon, the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation and the Orchard Beach Snack Bar.

Meanwhile, on the morning of Wednesday, July 5, empty fireworks boxes of the brand, “Pounding Barrage and Raptor” were seen scattered along the sidewalk of the Grand Concourse and Bedford Park Boulevard that had seemingly been left there since the previous evening. Consumer fireworks are illegal in New York City.

The City’s health department had reminded all New Yorkers about the serious risks of fireworks ahead of the Fourth of July holiday weekend, saying across the country each year, more than 10,000 people visit emergency departments due to fireworks injuries. “In New York City in 2022, nearly 40 people visited emergency departments due to fireworks injuries,” health officials said. “Fireworks can cause severe burns and injuries to the eyes, head, face, hands, and more.

Health Commissioner Dr. Ashwin Vasan said, “Our city has the most dazzling July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks displays in the world – but these events are put on by technical experts. Keep yourself and loved ones safe by leaving the fireworks to the professionals.”

In 2022, according to health officials, there were 38 firework-related emergency department visits, compared with an annual average of 31 from 2017 to 2021. They said in 2022, 65% of these visits were among males, and 21% were among people aged between 15 and 24. However, officials said firework-related ED visits occurred among all ages, from 2 to 85 years of age. They said 76% of these visits happened during the holiday week between July 2 and July 8.



Photo courtesy of The Office of the Bronx Borough President  
**A FIREWORKS EXTRAVAGANZA** was hosted by the Office of the Bronx Borough President at Orchard Beach on Thursday, June 29, 2023, before the Fourth of July holiday weekend.



# NEWS BRIEFS

By SÍLE MOLONEY

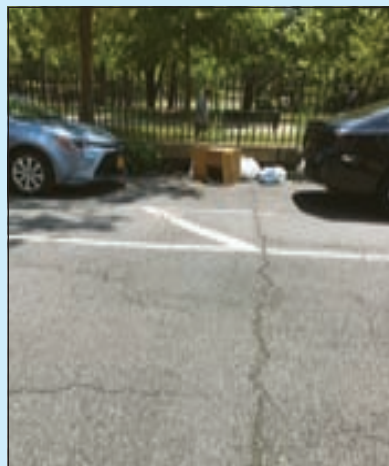


Photo courtesy of Carol Lang

**TRASH IS SEEN** around the Reservoir Oval by Wayne Avenue in Norwood on July 7, 2023.

## Trash Around the Reservoir Oval

What appears to be household trash continues to be deposited between parked cars and the railing / wall around the Reservoir Oval by Wayne Avenue in Norwood. The accompanying photo shows trash on July 7. *Norwood News* had reached out previously to NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY) for comment on the situation when the matter was raised via letters to the editor by different residents. DSNY officials replied, saying the trash was collected from the area regularly, and that it was even being picked up earlier than before to avoid it being left on the

sidewalk for long durations, attracting rats. *Norwood News* shared the latest photo of the trash with DSNY and has reached out, once again, for comment. We will share any feedback we receive.



Photo by Miriam Quiñones

**A MOBILE USPS** unit is seen outside the post office located at 3464 Jerome Avenue in Norwood on July 12, 2023.

## Jerome Avenue Post Office Closure

Following the closure of the Norwood-based post office located at 3464 Jerome Avenue, *Norwood News* reached out to USPS for more details regarding the closure reason and timeframe. A USPS representative replied, saying, "As a result of a racoon infestation presenting a safety hazard, the Mosholu Finance Station has been temporarily closed since June 13."

The representative added, "The building landlord has been working to abate the infestation and in the interest of USPS continuing service, a mobile unit was placed in front of the site. The mobile unit is currently providing full service and PO Box customers service remains uninterrupted, on-site, Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m."

When asked by *Norwood News* on July 12, the staff at the mobile unit said they did not know why the post office was closed or when it would reopen. A few people were seen trying to open the door only to realize it was closed.

A list of other nearby post offices is also listed on the door of the building. Residents we spoke to said they did not know why it was closed.

One resident also raised concerns that the 4 p.m. closure time was not serving those who worked until 5. We raised this point with USPS also. We did not receive an immediate response as of press date.

## NYC Employee Retirees to Rally over Medicare

Following the issuance of a preliminary injunction by New York Supreme Court which stops the City administration from moving around a quarter million elderly and disabled City retirees off their longstanding Medicare insurance plans and onto what they describe as an inferior type of insurance called "Medicare Advantage," the group planned to hold a rally outside City Hall on Thursday, July 13.

City Council bill 1099 has been introduced and, if passed, would amend the health insurance policy workers say they have had for almost 60 years. They say the City, by law, is required to pay for health coverage for such retired workers up to a specific level.

Marianne Pizzitola, president of the New York City Organization of Public Service Retirees, said, "The unions are sending emails to the Council telling them not to sign Intro 1099, after threatening them with pulling back endorsements and donations if they do."

She added, "The Municipal Labor Committee refuses to admit they misused the Health Insurance Stabilization Fund that pays the premium for them (it does not pay for Medicare Retirees' health premiums). This is why they are selling retirees off like cattle, gaslighting everyone that they are giving us a better plan, when it is inferior, solely to enrich themselves. They have lost their moral compass and forever

damaging the labor movement." *Norwood News* has reached out to City Hall and the City Council for comment.

## Complaints re Party at Mosholu Golf Course

Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81) said in his newsletter dated July 12 that over the previous weekend, an event hosted by an international for-profit company took place at the Mosholu Golf Course in Van Cortlandt Park. He said the event drew large crowds, inevitably leading to excessive trash, double-parked cars along Jerome Avenue, and loud music throughout the day.

"Understandably, my office received numerous complaints regarding the event. I am not only disappointed that the community and elected leaders were not informed of the event in advance but that the NYC Parks Department had permitted it," Dinowitz wrote. "There is an evident lack of transparency in how these permits are issued if a permit for up to 1,500 people, which includes the allowance of sound and alcohol, can be granted without any input from the community it will directly affect."

Dinowitz said he also called into question the vetting process for vendors considering the outcome. "This decision seems incredibly ill-conceived. My colleagues and I have been attempting to address issues with Parks at the adjacent Allen Shandler Recreation Area, where other gatherings have plagued the Woodlawn community members for years." He added that Congressman Ritchie Torres (NY-15), Council Member Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11), and the assemblyman have submitted a formal letter to City Parks Commissioner Sue Donoghue about the incident.

*Norwood News* has also reached out to the City's Parks department about the event and will share any updates we receive.

# Sanchez Announces \$1 Million in "Participatory Budgeting" Projects

By ARIEL PACHECO

District 14 City Council Member Pierina Sanchez announced a million-dollar investment in various quality-of-life improvements going to schools, libraries, and senior centers in the district on June 20. The funding came by way of New York City Council's participatory budgeting (PB) process, which allows the community to participate and help decide how to allocate a proportion of tax dollars.

It's the second consecutive year that \$1 million goes to District 14 through the process, with Sanchez explaining that it's up to each council

member to decide how much money they wish to include in the PB process. Sanchez said 1,000 constituents provided input into the decision-making process this year. This included allowing constituents the opportunity to pitch and vote on which projects to fund.

"These one million dollars are going to have a transformative impact on our community, not just because we're fixing things up and making things better physically, but because we did it together," said Sanchez. "That's what participatory budgeting is about - sharing and empower-

ing."

The funding has been distributed across several different projects. The largest amount went to M.S. 390, where Sanchez made the announcement, amid cheers from the students and staff in attendance. The school received \$750,000 to carry out upgrades to its gym. New flooring, basketball hoops, and equipment is also covered.

Sanchez said, "This will provide our young people with an excellent modern space to nurture their physical and mental well-being."

(continued on page 8)



**DISTRICT 14 CITY COUNCIL MEMBER** Pierina Sanchez announces funding of \$1 million for various community projects, while standing next to M.S. 390 principal, Andrea Varona, and students and staff of the school on June 20, 2023, as part of the City Council participatory budgeting process.



## Letters To The Editor

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

### Happy 59th Birthday to Bronx Public Transportation

July 2023 marks the 59th anniversary of federal government support for public transportation. The success of public transportation can be traced back to one of the late President Lyndon Johnson's greatest accomplishments, which continues benefiting many Americans today. On July 9, 1964, he signed the "Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964" into law. This has resulted in the investment over time of several hundred billion dollars into public transportation.

Millions of Americans, including many residing in The Bronx today on a daily basis, utilize various public transportation alternatives. They include local and express bus, para transit, ferry, jitney, light rail, subway and commuter rail services. All these systems use less fuel and move far more people than conventional single occupancy vehicles. Most of these systems are funded with your tax dollars thanks to President Johnson.

Depending on where you live, consider the public transportation alternative. Liberty Lines Bronx Express and New York Bus previously provided an express service between The Bronx and Manhattan. NYC transferred their franchise agreements to the MTA under a Master Lease and Operating Agreement in 2005. This included both equipment and bus facilities.

The action resulted in creation of MTA Bus. Fast forward to today. Fortunately, we have the MTA and its various operating agencies, including NYC Transit subway, bus and Staten Island Railway, Metro North & Long Island Rail Roads, MTA Bus, and Westchester Bee Line Bus.

Using MTA Metro or OMNY cards pro-

vides free transfers between the subway and bus. This has eliminated the old two-fare zones, making public transportation an even better bargain. Purchasing a monthly Metro North or MTA subway/bus pass reduces the cost per ride and provides virtually unlimited trips.

In many cases, employers can offer transit checks which help subsidize a portion of the costs. Utilize this and reap the benefits; it supports a cleaner environment.

Many employers now allow employees to telecommute and work from home. Others use alternative work schedules which afford staff the ability to avoid rush-hour gridlock. This saves travel time and can improve mileage per gallon. Join a car or van pool to share the costs of commuting.

The ability to travel from home to workplace, school, shopping, entertainment, medical, library etc. is a factor when moving to a new neighborhood. Economically successful communities are not 100% dependent on automobiles as the sole means of mobility. Seniors, students, low and middle-income people need these transportation alternatives.

Investment in public transportation today contributes to economic growth, employment, and a stronger economy. Dollar for dollar, it is one of the best investments we can make.

**Larry Penner  
Great Neck**

### Public Banking

I thought the article, "Bronx Town Hall Touts Public Banking [Norwood News dated June 27-July 12, 2023] was an interesting article, but it doesn't go far enough. The Bronx, as everyone is aware or should be aware, is the poorest borough and is completely underserved regarding all kinds of services. However, what has been proven over time is public-private collaborations never serve to help communities, but generally help to make wealthy people wealthier.

One of the lessons that we can learn from the Bank of North Dakota, which is a public bank, is that it cannot go bankrupt, and the management is subject to public scrutiny, unlike private or public-private establishments. Public private partnerships generally mean that a large percent of the financing comes from public funds, while the profits generally go to private industries.

Why do it this way? Why not just produce public institutions which are deemed for the social good, rather than producing infrastructure that will be at the public trough, and to the detriment of the public? We can see this in charter schools now, where public funds are invested in schools that are privately run and where public funds are squandered, since so much of them go into the pockets of private concerns.

The charters do no better than the public schools, and they are much more expensive since the people who run them are determined to turn a profit. Most charters can make decisions not to take certain students, and, in addition, prevent unions for taking hold, thus lowering the cost of labor. Better to nationalize the banks, keep schools public, and guarantee national healthcare for all.

As private investors seek to make a profit, the quality of the services decline. Why not encourage societal needs such as better and free transportation and quality education? These are absolute necessities for a society that is concerned about the well-being of its citizens, and that starts with public banks.

**Carol Lang  
Norwood**

### Letter on "MTA Fare Increases"

Regarding Larry Penner's letter to the editor on "MTA Fare Increases" in the Norwood News, June 29, 2023, his position directly conflicts with his Sept. 5, 2022, opinion piece published in theisland360.com, entitled, "Readers Write:

Does MTA treat commuters and taxpayers as an ATM?"

Mr. Penner's opinion piece, which incidentally directly contradicts his previous opinion pieces on congestion pricing, excoriates the MTA. Mr. Penner feels that before the MTA considers congestion pricing, it should consider cracking down on overtime abuses, Buy American only, fare evasion, etc.

Larry Penner worked for 31 years for the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA). I'm sure he has a decent pension and Social Security. I don't begrudge the author any material success he may have achieved. I do begrudge him, and mightily, for not understanding not everyone is as affluent as he is. With a divorce, four years plus, in the rearview mirror, child support of five years plus, and other family-related considerations, I can absorb a fare increase. Many people cannot. There was a time I couldn't.

So why is Mr. Penner in favor of a fare hike? He wrote that he was against it in his December 7, 2022, opinion piece published in thechiefleader.com, entitled, "The MTA's solutions to its multi-billion-dollar shortfall make no sense." Isn't that treating commuters as an ATM?

**Nat Weiner  
Parkchester**

*To ensure sufficient time for review of all letters to the editor, please send them, along with supporting sources, to [norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org](mailto:norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org) or by mail to Norwood News, 3400 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467, by the Friday before each publication day. If sent by email, please mark them as "Letter to the Editor" in the subject line. Letter writers should aim to write no more than 300 words on local issues or in response to published articles. We do not publish op-eds from political candidates or from elected officials [with some exceptions for health-related matters]. Thank you for reading and for your continued support.*

# Sanchez Announces \$1 Million in "Participatory Budgeting" Projects

(continued from page 7)

Meanwhile, M.S. 390 School Principal Andrea Varona, said, "It's life-changing for our students. It's a moment of joy, and now we can say we are going to have a gym well-equipped for our students, which is rewarding and exciting."

The second largest portion of the PB funding went to The Francis Martin Library, which received \$64,470 to fund technology upgrades and create a mini STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) lab.

According to Melody Ramos, a li-

brary assistant at the library, Makerspace Mondays is one of the library's more popular programs. Through Makerspace Mondays, she said kids get access to a 3D printer. However, she said the project had only been temporary due to a lack of funding.

With the funding the library has now been awarded from the participatory budgeting process, it will be able to buy a 3D printer along with other computers.

"The community showed up for us," said Ramos. "They put our names in the

game and that's why we're here right now."

In addition, the BronxWorks Senior Center was awarded \$50,000 which will go towards renovations of the cafeteria. "This will ensure that our seniors have a comfortable and welcoming space to enjoy their meals and engage with their peers," said Sanchez.

A new media center will also be established at P.S. 206, with \$51,234 going towards the project, helping the school's computer science, coding, and app design programs. "This investment will

empower our youth in the neighborhood with the tools and resources that they need to thrive in the digital age," said Sanchez.

University Woods Park will also be receiving a portion of the budget, with \$55,000 going towards a tree planting project at the park.

District 14 broadly encompasses some or all of the neighborhoods of Kingsbridge Heights, Fordham Manor, Fordham Heights, Bedford Park, University Heights, Mt. Hope and Morris Heights.

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



# Hip Hop Meets Art at the Oval

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Hip Hop met art at the Williamsbridge Oval in Norwood on June 17 as the Feel Free Art Festival coincided with another occasion to enjoy live, local musical performances to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of

Hip Hop.

The Feel Free Art Festival comprised of a day of free arts and culture that gave attendees, including many artists who had traveled from as far as Brooklyn, the opportunity to feel free to dance, paint, and express them-

selves. Activities included painting, drawing, sketching, and more. It was also an occasion to table and share resources with the community. Local business, SB Nutrition, based on Gun Hill Road was the organizations tabling on the day, as was the Jerome Gun Hill BID. State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 31) also stopped by to lend his support to the event.

Amaury Grullon, owner of Bronx Native, a clothing brand “that embodies what The Bronx truly is,” said of the event, “50 years of Hip Hop - this is the mecca to create spaces like this for our community to enjoy art [and] creative building; that’s what it’s all about.” He added, “Happy to do this – it’s only the beginning and let’s keep going! Bronx all the way!”



All Photos by Síle Moloney

**ARTISTS ATTENDING THE** Feel Free Art Festival pose with some of their artwork at the Williamsbridge Oval in Norwood on June 17, 2023.



**A HIP HOP** performer entertains the crowd at the Williamsbridge Oval in Norwood on June 17, 2023, as part of a combined Hip Hop and Art event to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hip Hop.



**ARTWORK IS DISPLAYED** at the Williamsbridge Oval in Norwood on June 17, 2023, as part of a combined Feel Free Art Festival and Hip Hop event to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hip Hop.



**ARTWORK IS DISPLAYED** at the Feel Free Art Festival in the Williamsbridge Oval in Norwood on June 17, 2023.



**HIP HOP PERFORMERS** entertain the crowd at the Williamsbridge Oval in Norwood on June 17, 2023.



**AN ARTIST ATTENDING** the Feel Free Art Festival poses with his artwork in the Williamsbridge Oval in Norwood on June 17, 2023.



## CRIME FILE

BY SÍLE MOLONEY &amp; DAVID GREENE


**JAMS Shelter Client  
Charged in Brooklyn  
Sex Attack**

NYPD detectives in Brooklyn arrested a man charged with beating and sexually assaulting a woman in Brooklyn on June 7, who they say had been a resident at the Jerome Avenue Men's Shelter (JAMS) located on Jerome Avenue in Norwood.

Police say the 51-year-old victim was inside a building in the vicinity of Bradford Street and Pitkin Avenue in Brooklyn, when she "was pushed down a flight of stairs," causing her to sustain a fractured eye socket, a fractured jaw, and broken ribs.

The assailant later allegedly forced his victim to perform a sex act, before fleeing along Pitkin Avenue towards Miller Avenue. They said the victim was transported to a local hospital in stable condition. On June 14, the NYPD released a video and photo of the alleged suspect, apparently inside a bodega.

On June 21, the NYPD announced the arrest of Jareill Finley, 30, who police say had been a client at the JAMS shelter located at 3600 Jerome Avenue. Finley was charged with assault with intent to disfigure / sexually motivated strangulation, and two counts of a criminal sex act, and sexual abuse.

In October 2021, a local resident told *Norwood News*, "That shelter is a disgrace! As a resident of this neighborhood for over 23 years, I have never seen my neighborhood this bad."

A woman who answered the phone at the 200-bed shelter on Saturday, June 24, did not recall Finley's name as someone who had stayed at the shelter and directed calls for comment to Tamara Gayle, the residence director of JAMS which is run by BronxWorks. We were unable to reach Gayle for comment.

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

**Kingsbridge: One Dead,  
One Charged in  
Fatal Knife Attack**

Police have formally charged one person in the context of a murder investigation after a man was taken into custody for questioning following the fatal stabbing of a 52-year-old second man in the middle of the street in a seemingly random attack in Kingsbridge in

the early hours of Friday morning, June 30.

Police said that at around 00.16 a.m., officers responded to a 911 call regarding an assault in progress at West 236th Street and Broadway, a few hundred feet from the 50th Precinct stationhouse. "Upon arrival, officers observed a 52-year-old male with multiple stab wounds to the torso," a police spokesperson said.

"The victim was transported to New York-Presbyterian Allen Hospital, where he was pronounced deceased." Police said a 58-year-old male person of interest was taken into custody at the scene and the investigation remains ongoing. The deceased was identified as Richard Roberts, undomiciled.

*Norwood News* spoke to an Uber Eats delivery worker who asked not to be identified who said he had been waiting for a delivery at a nearby McDonalds and saw the incident unfold. Asked if he could describe the attacker, he said, "Maybe some homeless man, you know? Going through something, I don't know....a random person in a random attack."

Asked if he thought maybe the attacker was perhaps on drugs, the delivery worker said, "Yeah, maybe. The other guy was just walking, and this guy came out of nowhere with a knife. We asked the delivery worker if he saw the whole attack unfold. "Yeah, I was here waiting for a delivery, right here," he said. "It happened right there by that Victoria Nails over here in that street."

He continued, "So the police.....you know, this is a precinct so they were coming out [of the precinct stationhouse]. They saw everything, they caught the guy right here because he run to the corner right there [to 237th Street]."

Asked if the attacker was a young person, the delivery worker said he couldn't see well enough to say from where he was located. Asked to describe the victim, he gestured to one of his colleagues who looked Hispanic and said, "He looked like him." We asked if he meant the victim was young [as his colleague appeared young] and he said, "Yeah, young, young, young, yeah."

Asked if he saw a lot of trouble in the neighborhood late at night in general, the delivery worker said, "No, never.... first time, first time we see something going on here, be-

cause this area is always nice and calm." We asked if he now felt more unsafe working late at night after witnessing the event. The delivery worker replied, "Of course, yeah because you know we do delivery, so we gotta go upstairs in the buildings and come out, get the food and stuff, so obviously you would feel scared now, because there can be another random person that attacks you for no reason."

We asked if he saw a lot of trouble in the neighborhood late at night in general, the delivery worker said, "No, never.... first time, first time we see something going on here, because this area is always nice and calm." He added, "I'm glad they caught him. He was crazy, you know? This is... like a random attack." Asked if he knew the victim, he said, "No, no, no, no, it's like, I was just sitting here waiting for a delivery."

Asked what hours he worked, the delivery worker said, "Well, sometimes I start 12 to four in the morning, sometimes eight to four, or ten to 11." Asked if he had been interviewed by police, he said no. Police confirmed later on Friday evening that pursuant to an ongoing investigation, Hardy Renell, 58, undomiciled, was arrested at 6 p.m. at the 50th Precinct. He was charged with manslaughter and criminal possession of a weapon.

We asked if the man who was charged was the same man who was taken into custody for questioning in the early hours of Friday morning and if he had been assessed for mental health issues. We did not receive an immediate response. A person arrested and charged with a crime is deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

**University Heights: Man  
Sought for Assaulting Sec-  
ond Man with Baseball Bat**

The NYPD is appealing to the public for help identifying the person seen in the top right photo who they say is sought in connection to an assault that occurred in University Heights. Police said that on Thursday, July 6, at around 2.50 p.m., a 37-year-old man was walking at the intersection of Aqueduct Avenue and West 183rd Street when he was approached by a person unknown to him.

"The individual displayed a baseball bat and struck the victim about the head with it," a

police spokesperson said. "The individual fled the location to parts unknown. The victim sustained a laceration to his head, as well as bruising. EMS responded and transported the victim to St. Barnabas Hospital in serious but stable condition."


**Norwood: Five Sought after  
Fourth of July Robbery**

The NYPD is appealing to the public for help identifying five people they say are sought for questioning in connection with an armed robbery that occurred in Norwood on the Fourth of July. Police said that on Tuesday, July 4, at around 5.35 a.m., a 51-year-old man was walking in the vicinity of Jerome Avenue and East Moshulu Parkway North when he was approached by a group of five.

"One of the individuals displayed a knife while the other individuals forcibly removed the victim's backpack and glasses," a police spokesperson said. "The individuals pushed the victim to the ground before fleeing the location northbound on foot. The victim sustained minor lacerations as a result and refused medical attention on scene."


**Olinville: Man Sought after  
Woman Fatally Stabbed**

Police have released the accompanying photo below of a person of interest sought for questioning following the fatal stabbing of a 39-year-old woman in Olinville. Police said they received a 911 call regarding an assault in progress on White Plains Road and East 220th Street on Friday, July 7, at around 9.35 p.m.

"Upon arrival, police discovered a 39-year-old female with stab wounds to her torso," a police spokesperson said. "EMS responded and transported the aided to NYC Health and Hospitals/ Jacobi, where she was pronounced deceased. There have been no arrests made and the investigation is ongoing."

The identity of the deceased is being withheld pending family notification. Pursuant to an ongoing investigation, on July 9, NYPD detectives shared the accompanying photo of a person sought for questioning in connection with 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 CrimeStoppers website at <https://crimestoppers.nypdonline.org/>, or on Twitter @NYPD-Tips. All calls are strictly confidential.*

**TO REPORT A  
STORY TO THE  
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## EVENTS

The Bronx Documentary Center, located at 614 Courtlandt Avenue, Bronx, NY 10451, is screening **"From Mambo to Hip Hop,"** on Saturday, July 15, at 5 p.m. followed by a panel discussion.

Travel back in time with Michael Cumella, aka DJ MAC, to visit the gravesites of vaudeville and jazz legends on the **Woodlawn Vaudeville and Jazz Greats Victrola Trolley Tour** on Sunday, July 23 at 11:30 a.m. and at 3 p.m. Woodlawn is the final resting place of many of the nation's leading jazz musicians, composers, and promoters like Miles Davis, Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington, Lionel Hampton, and Max Roach, to name a few. For more information, visit <https://www.woodlawn.org/conservancy/tours-events/>.

## MUSIC

The Office of the Bronx Borough President & partners are hosting a series of **Summer Concerts** each Sunday through Sept. 3 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at various locations throughout the borough. The next concert will be held on Sunday, July 16, at

# Out & About

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

Soundview Park by Morrison and Lafayette Avenues.

The **Hip Hop 50 Live** concert will take place in Yankee Stadium on Friday, Aug. 11, 2023, with Snoop Dog, Lil Wayne, Ice Cube and more. Tickets can be purchased at Livenation.com, Ticketmaster.com, and Axs.com.

On Saturday, July 15, from noon to 4 p.m., The Office of the Bronx Borough President and partners will host a **Boogie on the Boulevard** from 165<sup>th</sup> to 167<sup>th</sup> Streets for free music, art, and fitness programs. Admission is free.

## ART

A free, 10-day **2023 Summer Art Week** takes place from July 10-21 at the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, 3225

Reservoir Oval East in Norwood. NYC Parks is looking for youth interested in art for this 2-week art camp. Participants will need to fill out an application to apply. For questions, email [ana.torres@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:ana.torres@parks.nyc.gov) or call (718) 543 8672.

## MOVEMENT

Join the **Summer Sports Experience** program at the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center located at 3225 Reservoir Oval East in Norwood through Aug. 30. The fun summer program is for all ages and will introduce participants to some of the most loved sports through clinics and game play. The next session takes place on Wednesday, July 26, from 4 to 6 p.m. and will cover soccer.

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 since April 2023. 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.



## Summer is Here - Don't Forget to Stay Active and Hydrate!

By NAOMI PEMBERTON

July brings cookouts, swimming, and often, hot temperatures. Staying hydrated during the hottest summer months is vital, especially during physical activity. The CDC recommends that young people and adults get 150 minutes of exercise a week; that's about thirty minutes per day for five days.

As you walk, swim, bike, run, hike, or play with kids, don't forget to drink plenty of water. Being hydrated helps you enjoy the activities you love!

### What is Dehydration?

Dehydration occurs when we lose more fluid than we drink, and your body doesn't have enough fluid to do its job. Water makes up about 70% of the human body! You can become dehydrated when you sweat and don't drink enough to replace the lost fluid. This is especially

true during physical activity when you sweat more than usual.

### How Do I Prevent Dehydration During Physical Activity?

Water is essential for health. Cells, body tissue, and organs all depend on water to function properly. Make it a priority to stay hydrated during summer fun. Drink 8 ounces of water every 15 minutes when exercising. That's about half a standard water bottle. When exercising, avoid coffee, tea, alcohol, and sugar-sweetened drinks because they contain extra calories and can dehydrate you further.

### What are the Signs of Dehydration?

There are a few signs that indicate when we are getting dehydrated. They include extreme thirst, weakness, tiredness, dizziness, nausea, less fre-



quent urination, and dark urine (the color of apple juice).

If you are feeling symptoms of dehydration, stop your physical activity and drink water in the shade. If you think you are severely dehydrated, contact your doctor or go to the ER or Urgent Care.

### Making Hydration Fun

Adding fresh fruit and vegetables to your water, such as lemon slices, orange slices, or cucumber slices, using the natural flavors of fruit and vegetables that

you like helps you increase your water intake; many beverage companies offer low-calorie flavored water options. The key is to make drinking water fun and remember that staying hydrated contributes to a healthy body.

Also remember, you can often prevent dehydration before it ever starts. Drink up and have an active, healthy summer!

*Naomi Pemberton, MPA, CPC, Senior Project Manager, Office of Community & Population Health, Montefiore Health System*



# NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY



## NYBG NYC Resident Grounds Access Pass

On Tuesday, and Thursday-Sunday; a grounds access pass to the New York Botanical Garden is available for purchase by NYC residents only. Proof of residency is required and may only be purchased onsite. On Wednesdays, grounds admission is free to NYC residents all day and to all other visitors between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Grounds admission includes access to outdoor gardens and collections, including the Everett Children's Adventure Garden.

## Designated Barbecuing Areas

To find a list of authorized designated BBQ sites in The Bronx, visit <https://www.nycgovparks.org/facilities/barbecue>. NYC Parks reminds residents to be cautious when barbecuing, and to keep a safe distance from patrons, children, and trees. Be courteous to others and clean the area carefully before you leave. Events involving more than 20 people require a special events permit.

NYC Parks rules prohibit the littering and dumping of debris, the use of propane, barbecuing in non-authorized areas, barbecuing next to trees, tree roots, or buildings (ten feet rule), any type of open, ground, or campfire, and barbecuing by anyone under 18. Please barbecue at least three feet off

the ground.

All coal and matches must be disposed of in designated red barrels. Please do not place anything flammable in a regular litter barrel. Use water to extinguish hot coals. Improperly dumped coals or matches can do major damage to parks.

## Rain Barrell Giveaway

District 11 City Councilman Eric Dinowitz is hosting a Rain Barrell Giveaway on July 29 from 10 a.m. to noon at Woodlawn playground, 4370 Van Cortlandt Park East, Bronx, NY 10470. Call (718) 549 7300 for more information.

## Laborers Recruit Apprentices

The Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee for Laborers Local Union 731 will conduct a recruitment drive from July 10 through July 21, 2023, for 50 skilled construction craft laborer apprentices. Applications will be available online at <https://recruitment.local731.com> from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Monday through Friday, during the recruitment period. **This is a limited-application recruitment. Only 500 applications will be distributed, on a first come, first-served basis. The recruitment will be offered online for 10 business days or until 500 applications**

**have been issued, whichever comes first.** Applicants who do not have access to a computer should visit their local library or their nearest Department of Labor Career Center. Visit [dol.ny.gov/career-centers](http://dol.ny.gov/career-centers). For questions, contract Local 731 on (718) 752-9860.

## Environmental Monday Park Clean-Ups

Friends of Mosholu Parkland (FOMP) remind residents that each Monday is an opportunity to get some fresh air and help with local park clean-ups. The group has gloves, bags, and grabbers and meets at 10 a.m. at the "Welcome Garden" at Bainbridge Avenue and East Mosholu Parkway North corner. They start promptly and end at 11:45 a.m. and say they love to see new faces.

## Affordable Housing Lotteries

NYC Department of Housing, Preservation and Development (HPD) launched an affordable housing lottery for units at 739 East Gun Hill Road in the Williamsbridge section of The Bronx, with a deadline of Aug. 16. HPD also launched a lottery for units at 2279 Barker Avenue, in the Allerton section of The Bronx, with a deadline of Aug. 9.

Another affordable housing lottery launched for Marion Creston Apartments, two new residential buildings located respectively at 2997 Marion Avenue and 2861 Creston Avenue in Bedford Park, with a deadline of Aug. 1, another for units at 1135 Teller Avenue, an eight-story residential building in Concourse with a deadline of Aug. 29, and another for units at St. Francis Commons, a 7-story, mixed-use building at 1544 Shakespeare Avenue in Morris Heights, with a deadline of Sept. 6.

Visit [www.norwoodnews.org](http://www.norwoodnews.org), and search for "affordable housing" for more information. An affordable housing lottery helpline is available on (212) 863-7990 or via email at [nyc-housingconnect@hpd.nyc.gov](mailto:nyc-housingconnect@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](mailto:accessibility@hpd.nyc.gov). Housing ambassadors can be reached at [ambassadors@hpd.nyc.gov](mailto:ambassadors@hpd.nyc.gov).

## No Parking Temporarily

There will be no parking temporarily on the east side or the west side of Jerome Avenue at Shandler Road from July 17 through July 28, 2023, on a 24/7 basis.

## Mammogram Mobile Clinic

A mobile mammogram clinic will be on site at 3551 Laconia Avenue organized by District 12 City Councilman Kevin Riley and the Bridgefield Civic League on Friday, July 14, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., for women aged 40 to 79. Call 1-877-628-9090 for more information.

tion.

## Stolen Checks

Friends of Pelham Parkway have advised that checks totaling \$3,000 mailed in a mailbox located at Barnes Avenue and Pelham Parkway South were stolen and deposited at the TD Bank underneath the 2 train. They suggest handing mail to a mailperson or sending your checks from the nearest post office.

## Fire Hydrants, Cooling Sprinklers, & Cooling Centers

**Opening a fire hydrant at "full throttle" is illegal.** Blocking a fire hydrant is also illegal. However, sprinkler devices (caps) are available from local FDNY fire houses and can be affixed to street fire hydrants to allow some water to be sprayed gently onto the street, a practice which is legal, as recently confirmed by NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Cooling sprinklers (showers) are also available in some local parks. Visit <https://www.nycgovparks.org/abouthealth-and-safety-guide/cool-it-nyc> for details on where to find them. Report any broken sprinklers to 311.

During heat emergencies, the City will open cooling centers throughout the five boroughs. Visit <https://finder.nyc.gov/coolingcenters/deactivated> or contact 311 to find out whether a cooling center is open near you.

## Survey re Parked Overnight Trucks

To help City officials address the issue of overnight parked trucks in Bronx Community District 7 and in other districts, which residents have been complaining about for several months, residents are invited to complete a survey on the issue, and ask others to do the same. The link is as follows: <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/1267646deeb5419284ab98c766ad6d9a>

## Bronx Summer Clean-up 2023 Series

The Office of the Bronx Borough President and partners are organizing a Bronx Summer Clean-up 2023 series to coincide with Hip Hop's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Volunteers receive free Yankee tickets subject to certain conditions. The first scheduled clean-up date is Friday, July 21, in Kingsbridge Heights [location to be confirmed] from 10 a.m. to noon.

## Farmers Market

NYC Health + Hospitals/NCB provides the community with fresh fruits and vegetables, along with cooking demonstrations and more from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each Wednesday at Jerome Avenue and Mosholu Parkway North. More healthy eating tips can be found at <https://bit.ly/3A9yt7J>.

**POTS Part of the Solution**

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**Fight** poverty and hunger

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# Fun-Filled Father's Day Event Held in St. James Park

By SÍLE MOLONEY

HERO Dads at Montefiore-Einstein is a free program designed to empower low-income, non-custodial fathers to achieve family and financial success. HERO stands for healthy, empowered, resilient and open. Funded by the Office of Family Assistance (OFA), and led by a team of psychologists, mental health counselors, and career development specialists, its mission is to help fathers become involved, nurturing parents to their children.

Other goals are for dads to form and maintain collaborative relationships with their children's other caregivers, and to achieve financial stability. On June 15, Bronx dads and their kids got together for a fun day of games and activities to celebrate Father's Day in St. James Park in Fordham Manor. The event was co-sponsored by HERO Dads, SHR (Supporting Healthy Relationships) which aims to build futures around families, and Montefiore Care Management Company.

Bronx dads built up skills, spent quality time with their kids, coloring kites and carrying balloons filled with water and competing in games against their kids.

Some dads were also shaven by their sons or daughters. There was also a scavenger hunt, cotton candy, ice-cream, and kids' hairstyling.



Photos by Miriam Quiñones  
**IGNACIO DIAZ GETS** shaven by his daughter, Itzel S. Diaz, during a HERO Dads Father's Day event on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at St. James Park in Fordham Manor. Itzel graduated from kindergarten the same day.



**LIAM MORALES, 6,** COLORS a kite during a HERO Dads Father's Day event on Thursday June 15, 2023, at St James Park in Fordham Manor.



**EIMIY AND ENSABETH** color some kites together at a HERO Dads Father's day event on Thursday June 15, 2023, at St James Park in Fordham Manor.



**OLIVER CAMPOS ENJOYS** coloring his kite at a HERO Dads Father's Day event on Thursday June 15, 2023, at St James Park in Fordham Manor.



**DADS POSE FOR** a group photo with their children during a HERO Dads Father's Day event held on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at St James Park located in Fordham Manor.

**DR. MOSHE MOELLER,** associate director of HERO DADS, shows Angel Milton how to fly a kite during a HERO Dads Father's Day event on Thursday June 15, 2023, at St James Park in Fordham Manor.



**DANICA ARIA IS** pictured shaving her dad, Daniel Aria, winning the contest for who could shave their dad and get cleaned up the fastest during a HERO Dads Father's Day event on Thursday June 15, 2023, at St James Park in Fordham Manor.

**A FATHER AND** son pose for a photo during a HERO Dads Father's Day event held on Thursday June 15, 2023, at St James Park in Fordham Manor.







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### Public and Community Meetings

The next **52<sup>nd</sup> PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meeting will take place in September. 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 in September. Contact [KCabreraCarrera@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:KCabreraCarrera@cb.nyc.gov) to be added to the distribution list. All meetings are being held virtually, via Zoom, until further notice.

The next **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8** full board meeting will be held in September. Contact [BX08@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:BX08@cb.nyc.gov) for more details and 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. The next meeting will be held in September. For details, please contact [bedfordmosholu@verizon.net](mailto:bedfordmosholu@verizon.net).

## University Heights: Search for 65-Year-Old Missing Person

By SÍLE MOLONEY

The NYPD is seeking the public's help locating a 65-year-old woman reported missing from University Heights. Police said that Joan Donohue, 65, of 130 West 183rd Street was last seen on Saturday, July 8, at around 9 p.m. at the Canal Street subway station in lower Manhattan.

They said it is believed she may have boarded a northbound train. She is described as female, Black, is around 5 feet, 5 inches tall, weighs around 140 pounds, and has brown hair and brown eyes. She was last seen wearing a pink shirt with a butterfly on it, and blue jeans.

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.

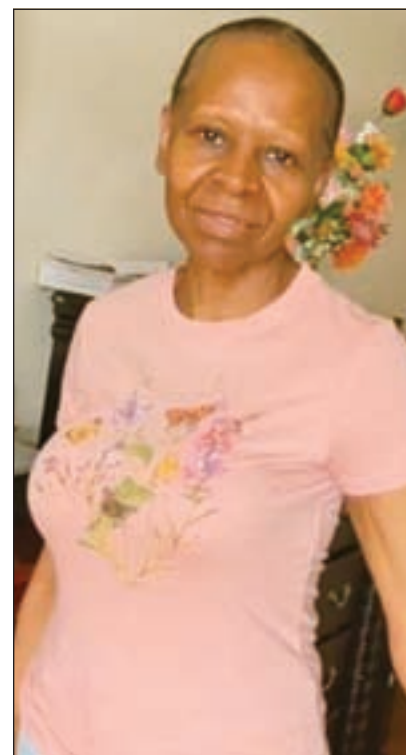


Photo courtesy of the NYPD  
**JOAN DONOHUE, 65,** IS reported missing from University Heights.



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# Summer of Violence Continues

(continued from page 1)

They say this is required in order to see any real change.

Congressman Ritchie Torres (NY-15) commemorated National Gun Violence Awareness Month on June 20 by joining the family of Angellyh Yambo, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark, and students from University Prep Charter High School to announce new federal legislation banning ghost guns and expanding the perimeter of gun-free school zones. As reported, 16-year-old Angellyh, who spent much of her youth in Kingsbridge, was killed when she was hit by a stray bullet shot by a 17-year-old male youth armed with a ghost gun, in close proximity to her school in the South Bronx on April 8, 2022.

Ghost guns are untraceable firearms without a serial number that anyone, even minors, prohibited purchasers, domestic abusers, and gun traffickers, can buy online and assemble at home without a background check. According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the use of ghost guns in U.S. crimes has soared by more than 1,000% since 2017.

"I'm proud to introduce the 'Angellyh Yambo Gun Free Zone Expansion Act of 2023' in honor and memory of a beloved daughter, friend, and honor roll student who should still be with us today," said Torres. "We are the only country in the industrialized world with an epidemic of gun violence and mass shootings, and the notion that this reality is the inevitable price we pay for our freedom is outrageous."

The Act would ban the transfer and possession of ghost guns and expand gun-free school zones from 1,000 ft. to 5,000 ft. for all public, private, and charter schools and early childhood ed-

ucation centers. If passed, the legislation would go further than current federal regulations requiring manufacturers of ghost gun kits to become licensed under the Gun Control Act, to include serial numbers on the kits' frames or receiver, and to run background checks prior to a sale of a ghost gun kit.

As reported previously by *Norwood News*, in 2022, U.S. President Joe Biden, during a visit to New York City to discuss the issue of gun violence with local elected officials, announced the enactment and finalization of a rule that would expand the definition of firearms to include ghost gun kits. However, as Torres said during the June 20<sup>th</sup> press conference, "Retailers began selling the gun components separately rather than the gun kits in order to circumvent the rules. Gun retailers are willing to break the law, and the ATF has been unwilling to enforce the law as vigorously as it should be."

Torres continued, "We do not have to live in a world where Americans and especially children routinely fall victim to mass murder in the very places where they're supposed to be safe. It is far past time for the federal government to crack down on the proliferation of weapons of war on our streets, including untraceable ghost guns, and implement other gun safety measures to protect our communities and save lives."

For her part, Mary Hernandez, Angellyh's aunt and CEO/founder of The Angellyh Yambo Foundation, said, "Gun violence is a national crisis that demands a national solution." She said the Act will help kids in the community feel a little safer walking to and from school. The foundation's aim is to create safe havens for children and the family have been

engaged with Torres's office to create common-sense policy solutions.

According to the CDC, guns are the leading cause of death for American children and teenagers. So far in 2023, the Gun Violence Archive reports that there have been more mass shootings than days in the year, putting the U.S. on track to set a new record for mass killings.

Gibson said with the proliferation of gun violence reaching epidemic proportions across the city, state, and nation, the need for cross-governmental collaboration was greater than ever before. She added in part, "This is why I fully support [this act]. I want to thank Congressman Torres for honoring the life of Angellyh Yambo and her loved ones by introducing legislation that works to ensure the safety of our students around educational institutions nationwide."

The draft bill was also welcomed by Clark. Referring to the fact that Angellyh had been killed by a ghost gun, she said, "Naming the proposed legislation for Angellyh is poignantly appropriate, as her family has channeled their grief into advocacy against gun violence."

*Norwood News* spoke to Angellyh's parents and aunt after the press conference to ask how they felt. Yanelly Henriquez, Angellyh's mother said, "I was holding all these emotions for so long. I'm so overwhelmed, so excited, and I hope that this brings the change that we need."

Nonetheless, she added, "A lot of young kids are dying in vain, our doctors and lawyers of the future. We have to do something about this. I don't even know what it is that we have to do, because it's like these guns are taking control of us and that is sad. We have to target on something that, you know, hits them hard... offenses, charges. Like you can't get a gun like buying a pair of sneakers."

At a state level, elected officials like Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81), who represents the general Northwest Bronx region, say they are continuing to fund programs such as those run by Mosholu Montefiore Community Center in Norwood which recently received \$250,000 under the latest budget, which will go towards programs aimed at preventing gun violence among local youth.

In response to the drive-by shooting of four people in Fordham Manor on July 11, local City Council Member Pierina Sanchez (C.D. 14) visited the scene of the crime along with Assem-



**YANELLY HENRIQUEZ LOOKS** lovingly at a poster of her 16-year-old daughter, Angellyh Yambo, during a press conference on June 20, 2023, outside University Prep Charter High School in the South Bronx, during which draft federal bill, The Angellyh Yambo Gun Free Zone Expansion Act of 2023, was announced by Congressman Ritchie Torres (NY-15).

blyman George Alvarez (A.D. 78). She later wrote on Twitter, "We are FURIOUS! PUT THE GUNS DOWN! Thank God that two babies and two adults shot yesterday are in stable condition. Thankful for @nypd52pct's swift response and ongoing work to get guns off our streets, and @GoodShepherdNYC BRAG's work to calm tensions and prevent retaliation."

Local cure violence group, B.R.A.G. (Bronx Rises Against Gun Violence) had only three days earlier held their annual peace barbecue at the very same location where the four people were shot. Meanwhile, police released a video of the incident and appealed to witnesses for any information that might be helpful to the investigation.

In response to Sanchez's comments, Rev. Oswald Denis later wrote, "They are not going to put the guns down. We need our elected officials to make stricter laws!"

A spate of 16 reported shootings over the Fourth of July holiday weekend prompted elected officials, including Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark, State Sen. Jamaal Bailey (S.D. 36), and Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, along with various cure violence groups and members of local precinct community councils, to hold a press conference at Lou Gehrig Plaza on July 6 to call for an end to the violence. The 52nd Precinct Community Council was represented by Jerry Landron.

Gibson said of the event, "Today, I joined with Bronx DA Darcel Clark, Assistant Chief Philip Rivera, local elected officials and cure violence organizations to condemn the gun violence we witnessed over the holiday weekend. Thank you to our Bronx DA, NYPD, and our cure violence organizations who are on the

ground doing the work and preventing violence everyday."

She added, "Lastly, thank you to Mayor Eric Adams for allocating nearly \$200 million for programming to reduce gun violence in communities & connect New Yorkers with city-funded services, including school conflict mediation, violence interruption, non-traditional therapeutic services, & more."

As of July 9, year-to-date shootings in The Bronx were actually down by 27.3 percent (173 v 238) compared to the same time last year and year-to-date shooting victims in the borough as of the same date were also down by 24.5 percent (210 v 278)).

In the 52nd Precinct, which covers Bedford Park, Fordham, Kingsbridge, Norwood, Bronx Park, and University Heights, year-to-date shootings were also down by 55.6 percent (8 v 18) compared to the same time last year, while year-to-date shooting victims were also down by 61.9 percent (8 v 21).

Despite this encouraging trend, victims of gun violence continue to live with the daily agony of lost loved ones. Back on June 20 at the press conference, we asked Henriquez how she was doing generally, "I'm okay," she said bravely. "I could be better, but she [Angellyh] holds me up and my family too, but she's the one that always says, 'You know, Mama, you got this.'"

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

All calls are strictly confidential.



Photo by Sile Moloney

**THE NYPD CORDONS** off a crime scene following a multiple shooting which resulted in injury to four people, including two children under the age of 7, at East 193rd Street and Morris Avenue in Fordham Manor on Tuesday, July 11, 2023



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