



NORWOOD NEWS

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Photo by Síle Moloney

MCS GET THE crowd jumping at a free block party and concert held on Saturday, Aug. 12, 2023, on Sedgwick Avenue in Morris Heights to mark the 50th anniversary of the birth of Hip Hop at 1520 Sedgwick Avenue [Hip Hop Boulevard] block party on Aug. 11, 1973.

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Though most argue it hadn't ever left, Hip Hop officially came home to 1520 Sedgwick Avenue in Morris Heights on Saturday, Aug. 12, with a special, free block

party and concert, marking its 50th anniversary at its birthplace. Performers included KRS One, Flavor Flav of Public Enemy, The Sugar Hill Gang, Slick Rick, Talib Kweli of Black Starr,

the Cold Crush Brothers, Chuck D, C.L. Smooth, Hakim Green, Wise Intelligent, Peter Gunz, and many more.

The previous evening, on the official 50th anniversary of the

now-famous inaugural party held on Aug. 11, 1973, on Sedgwick, saw a star-studded line-up of Hip Hop artists perform at nearby Yankee Stadium, including
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NORWOOD NEWS

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Two Charged in Shooting of “Baby Catherine” in Drug-Related Spat

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Two men have been charged in relation to the unintentional Bedford Park shooting in January 2022 of a then 11-month-old baby girl who became known affectionately to the public as “Baby Catherine,” law enforcement officials announced on Aug. 9.

As reported at the time, the infant was shot by a stray bullet on Valentine Avenue and East 198th Street on the evening of Jan. 19, 2022, while sitting in a parked car with her mother, as her dad picked up an errand at a nearby store.

The baby’s first birthday was spent in hospital where she remained for several months in critical but stable condition, after being initially rushed there from the crime scene. She was discharged in May 2022, and continues her recovery journey.

Federal and City law enforcement officials announced on Aug. 9 the charging of Ahmed Altorei, a/k/a “AK,” and Samuel Bautista, a/k/a “Sammy,” with distributing narcotics and carrying guns in connection with a drug trafficking operation based on the Grand Concourse and East 198th Street in Bedford Park.

They said the defendants were involved in the street shooting on Jan. 19, 2022, which they said targeted a rival drug dealer, but which resulted in “Baby Catherine” being shot in the face. They said Altorei was arrested on Aug. 8, and Bautista was arrested on Aug. 9 during an operation conducted by the FBI and the NYPD. Both were expected to be presented before U.S. Magistrate Judge Gabriel W. Gorenstein on Aug. 9. The Office of the Bronx District Attorney assisted with the case.

New York City Mayor Eric Adams, only a few short weeks in office at the time of the shooting, along with Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark, clergy members, law enforcement, and a host of elected officials, cure violence groups, and local residents attended a vigil at the location of the shooting, organized by Brenda Caldwell Paris, president of the 52nd Precinct Community Council, a few days after the horrific incident on Baby Catherine’s first birthday.

Speaking of her parents, Adams said at the time, “I remember the night of the shooting when they just walked into the room to speak with me and all they said was, ‘Can we just hold hands together in a circle and pray?’”

The mayor continued, “But we’re going to match that prayer with action, and to be here with the cure violence team, these young people who are here, [and]



Photo courtesy of the NYPD

THE INNOCENT LITTLE girl who became affectionately known in The Bronx as “Baby Catherine,” who was shot in the face in crossfire at 11 months in the Bedford Park section of The Bronx on Jan. 19, 2022, leaves hospital with her parents on May 13, 2022.

are just amazing.” Adams also called on the federal government at the time for help curbing the flow of illegal guns to New York City, especially ghost guns.

As reported, on June 20 this year, Rep. Ritchie Torres (NY-15), who tested positive for COVID-19 earlier this week, announced the introduction of The Angellyh Yambo Gun Free Zone Expansion Act of 2023, banning ghost guns and expanding the perimeter of gun-free school zones.

“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,” Torres said.

Baby Catherine’s 2022 vigil was held just 10 days after a separate vigil had been held for the 17 victims, including 8 children, killed in the Twin Parks fire tragedy in Fordham Heights on Sunday, Jan. 9, marking a somber opening to the mayor’s first year in office.

Though gun violence has dropped across the City over the last year or so,

it is still a major concern for some residents, especially those living in areas where there is a high incidence of unemployment and other social problems. The Bronx has seen more tragic shootings involving young children and teens since Baby Catherine’s shooting, some as recently as this summer.

At a roundtable discussion on Thursday, Aug. 10, at City Hall, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety Sheena Wright and Anti Gun Violence Czar A.T. Mitchell outlined the next phase of the mayor’s blueprint to end gun violence, with the aim of continuing to concentrate efforts on addressing the underlying root causes of gun violence in key target districts, which include several in The Bronx.

Meanwhile, the defendants’ case is assigned to Chief U.S. District Judge Laura Taylor Swain. Law enforcement officials said Altorei, 36, and Bautista, 30, both from The Bronx, are each charged with one count of narcotics conspiracy, which carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison, and a maximum sentence of life in prison; one count of using or carrying firearms during and in relation to, or possessing firearms in furtherance of, a drug trafficking crime, some of which were brandished and discharged.

The latter carries a mandatory minimum consecutive sentence of 10 years in prison, and a maximum sentence of life in prison. They are also charged with possessing ammunition after a felony conviction, which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

The minimum and maximum potential sentences in this case are prescribed by Congress and are for informational purposes only. Any sentencing of the defendants will be determined by the judge. A person arrested and charged with a crime is deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

Norwood News reached out to Baby Catherine’s parents for comment and will share further updates.

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NORWOOD NEWS

Norwood News is Recruiting a Sales Executive

Norwood News, founded in 1988 and located at 3400 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467, is an award-winning, biweekly, print community newspaper and website which primarily serves the Bronx neighborhoods of Norwood, Bedford Park, Kingsbridge, Kingsbridge Heights, Fordham Manor, University Heights, and Fordham Heights, and to a lesser extent, the wider Bronx. We are currently recruiting for a sales executive to join our growing team. The sales executive will work closely with the editor-in-chief, the designer of our print newspaper, the web designer, and the office manager by proactively selling ads for both our print publication and our website.

The right candidate should have two years previous sales experience, be highly organized, have excellent interpersonal skills, be motivated to respond promptly and attentively to our advertisers' inquiries, maintain a strong network of advertising relationships, have *some* technical skills, a knowledge of the Northwest Bronx and of wider citywide sales opportunities, good grammar and writing skills, and be able to work independently in a fast-paced environment for a busy nonprofit news outlet.

Responsibilities include proactively selling [ideally recurring] ads for both our print publication and website, carrying out all necessary due diligence on advertisers, contract preparation and coordination of signatures by advertisers on all ad contracts and insertion orders, completing and maintaining both electronic and hard copy logs of all ad sales contracts and insertion orders, preparing a biweekly ad schedule ahead of each print edition, which includes details of the ads running on each publication date, the ad specifications, details of each contract run date, etc., liaising with advertisers to fully understand their technical ad requirements and communicating these to the designer, obtaining sign-off from advertisers on any ad amendments and communicating this to the designer, proactively liaising with our office manager to ensure the timely issuance of invoices and assisting the office manager, when necessary, with chasing payment of outstanding invoices, coordinating and furnishing any necessary affidavits requested by advertisers in respect of ads, maintaining and growing a network of advertisers and maintaining an updated, competitive media kit, adding any new advertisers to the distribution list for receipt of hard copies of the newspaper, keeping all expense receipts and submitting expenses electronically via the requisite channels, ensuring advertorials received from partner organizations are proofed and accurate, completing all necessary online compliance and other training.

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- a basic knowledge of advertising law, particularly around legal notices and affidavits would be useful

The salary for this position is \$55,000 per annum plus 15% on sales commissions, paid quarterly, with full benefits. For details on how to apply, please send an email to Síle Moloney, *Norwood News* editor-in-chief, at smoloney@norwoodnews.org.

INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



This week, following the settlement, as reported, of various legal cases in relation to the NYPD's handling of the 2020 Black Lives Matter protests, and the announcement of a new tiered policing approach to the handling of future spontaneous protests in the City, we asked readers if they had faith that the new approach, which has been agreed with the protestors' defense attorneys and which is subject to review, will work. City officials said the new approach combines multiple law enforcement strategies, including the use of more community affairs officers to liaise and de-escalate situations with protesters, the presence of patrol officers to enforce traffic laws and direct crowds, and the deployment of specialized units, including the Strategic Response Group (SRG) "as necessary" to ensure public safety. They said the agreement also establishes a collaborative committee that will evaluate the NYPD's response to 12 protests over the next three years.



"I'd briefly heard about the settlement. I feel like if they come together and actually help the community, that would be a great thing, but there's been a lot of times when we were told this, so it's really hit or miss. I'm looking forward to change in the community."

Amirah Vanterpool,
Throggs Neck
Photo by David Greene



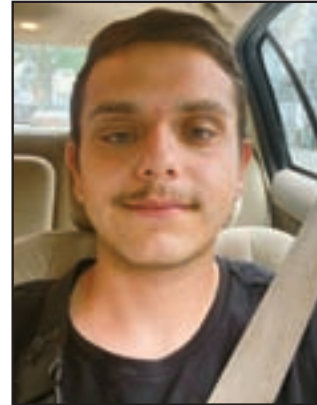
"My feelings are, because of their history in coming after protesters and they don't understand sometimes, I would have liked to have seen a therapist included at their rollcalls. Everybody that's hotheaded don't all need their help... They should talk to people because they go straight to the boss and now you have a person half beat-up."

Simone Jones,
Fordham Heights
Photo by David Greene



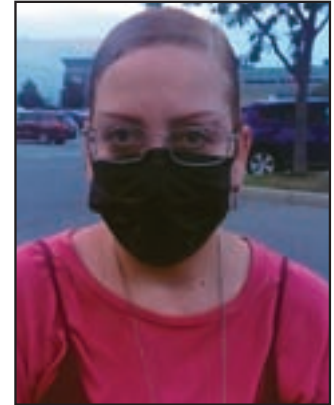
"I'm aware of the aggressive tactics of the New York City Police Department against Black Lives Matter people and my understanding is they were often brutal and insensitive to the hurting they were doing to these protesters. So, I hope the police department can persuade its members to be more civil at these demonstrations."

Lance Rosenbaum,
Norwood
Photo by David Greene



"I think it was a shame to see what happened to those humble protesters for vocalizing their right to stand up for the oppression of the African American community that is happening today in modern day America. It's a shame that some people are ignorant to the struggles the minority community faces."

Louis Russo,
Morris Park
Photo courtesy of Louis Russo



"I had read that the agreement calls for officers to give three warnings before making any arrests at a protest. I think if that is implemented, a lot of people who don't want to get arrested, won't. I do have faith in this plan."

Diane Slone,
Co-Op City
Photo by David Greene

145 CB Members Sworn-In at Lehman Ceremony

By SILE MOLONEY

Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson hosted an inaugural swearing-in ceremony for 145 of the Bronx's newest community board members at Lehman College on Tuesday, Sept. 5.

Held in the Music Building's Faculty Dining Room, located at 250 Bedford Park Boulevard West, the borough president highlighted earlier efforts to ensure fairness, equity, and broader participation on the boards, mirroring what she described as the diversity on all 12 Bronx community boards. To this end, this year, the Bronx's first-ever online community board digital application was made available in English and in Spanish, as previously reported.

"I am excited and energized about our new class of community board members who represent the rich diversity and mosaic of our borough," said Gibson. "From single parents and caregivers to high school students, veterans', LGBTQIA+ residents, and others who have a vested interest in seeing change in their communities, this entire group is ready and prepared to contribute in their new role to ensure that our neighborhoods run efficiently, with all the resources and tools necessary to thrive."

She continued, "I look forward to this opportunity to work with our new and returning members to advocate for the needs of our residents and families." Af-

ter the official swearing in, and the obligatory and collective Bronx "X" sign photo, various members of City government provided training to the members and an overview of how they should conduct themselves as board members to avoid any potential conflicts of interest.

According to the borough president's office, out of New York City's 59 community boards, 12 are located in The Bronx, with each playing what was described as a critical role in advising on Land Use & Zoning, New York City's budget process, and in service delivery within districts. They said that while the borough president's office does not directly manage community boards, this year, efforts were made to effectively onboard new members through the scheduling of various courses and seminars made available through the office and city agencies "to ensure the continued effectiveness of each district."

Office officials said that out of a total of 548 online applicants, 145 were appointed by the borough president to serve, with each taking part in the Bronx's first swearing-in ceremony in decades.

A demographic break-down of the new appointees shows 25.1% (35) identify as parents / guardians of a child (Pre-K to 12 grade), 13.6% (19) are immigrants, 8.6% (12) are members of the LGBTQIA+ community, 7.1% (10) are people with disabilities, 5.7% (8) are parents / guard-



Photo by Sile Moloney

SOME OF THE 145 of the Bronx's newest community board members are seen being sworn in during a ceremony hosted by Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson at Lehman College in Bedford Park on Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2023.

ians of a pre-school aged child, 5.7% (8) are caregivers and 5% (7) are veterans or military service members, 4.3% (6) are non-native speakers of English and 2.8% (4) are union members.

In terms of age, 25.1% (35) are aged between 30 and 39, 21.5% (30) are aged between 40 and 49, 18.7% (26) are aged between 20 and 29, 17.2% (24) are aged between 50 and 59, 8.6% (12) are aged between 60 and 69, 4.3% (6) are aged 70 and over, 2.1% (3) are aged between 18 and 19, and 1.4% (2) are aged between 16 and 17 years (by April 1).

In terms of gender, 60.4% (84) are female, 38.816% (54) are male, 0.7% (1) is gender non-conforming. We spoke to some of

the community board members, who are unpaid volunteers, after the event.

Second-year board member, Elliot Elias Contreras, said after the event, "I think it was very informative, very insightful. It was a great introduction into what to expect and who's who of the community, and the different organizations that kind of help lead the change that we can bring about into the community."

First-time board member with Bronx CB9, "Derek" said he found the event long but said it was meaningful and important. Asked if he felt differently about putting himself forward to become a board member after the presentation, he said, "No, I'm equally excited. I think it's just really important. It may be long but it's worthwhile. I'm ready to go."

First-time board member, LaTicia Thompson, who lives in the vicinity of 1520 Sedgwick Avenue, the birthplace of Hip Hop, said she had attended board meetings as a resident in the past, but that this was her first time to get actively involved.

"Glad we got out to see everybody," she said. "I'm also on the community education council for District 8 as well, so I'm really coming in as a parent and as a Bronx born and bred." She said the Harlem River Waterfront [project] was important to her. "I hate that they're calling it that because it's a little auspicious but I'm ready to get to work," she said.

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Opinion

Support Needed for Alzheimer's and Dementia Efforts

By DALMA RIQUELME

There are presently 426,000 New Yorkers diagnosed with Alzheimer's and Dementia. That number may be higher as there may be others who have yet to be diagnosed or experiencing ear-

ly-stage symptoms that have yet to be realized.

The Alzheimer's Association International Conference held in Amsterdam in July, presented research it had carried out on the prevalence of people with Alzheimer's disease in all 3,142 United States counties.

Representatives of the association said the State of New York ranks number two nationwide in total prevalence, and Bronx County tied for first place among U.S. counties for percentage of residents with Alzheimer's. The research found that 16.6% of Bronx residents aged 65 and older have Alzheimer's.

What this research report reveals is that Alzheimer's Disease has become a growing public health crisis in the New York and will only worsen as the population in the State ages.

I am a constituent of Rep. Ritchie Torres's congressional district 15 in The Bronx. I am also an advocate for the Alzheimer's Association and a caregiver of a parent with Alzheimer's.

September is World Alzheimer's Awareness Month. As someone affected by Alzheimer's, I ask all NY congressional representatives, and especially Congressman Torres, my local representative, for their support in co-spon-

soring of The NAPA Reauthorization Act (S.133/H.R. 619) and the Alzheimer's Accountability and Investment Act (S. 134/H.R. 620) in the current 118th Congress.

Reauthorizing the NAPA and AlInvestment Act would help address health disparities in underrepresented areas in NY, especially The Bronx, and prioritize Alzheimer's and Dementia research funding. For more information, visit <https://aaic.alz.org/highlights2023.asp>.

Dalma Riquelme lives in The Bronx and is an advocate for the New York City Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

Norwood: Charter Middle School Opens at former St. Ann Site

By SÍLE MOLONEY

The International Leadership Charter Middle School held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 3515 Bainbridge Avenue in Norwood on Monday, Sept. 11, and officially opened its doors on Wednesday, Sept. 13, for the 2023/24 school session.

Monday's ceremony included a tour of what were described as state-of-the-art classrooms by staff and faculty. Officials said the new school will duplicate the instructional model which they said has proven successful at the International

Leadership Charter High School located at 3060 Riverdale Avenue in Kingsbridge, which opened its doors on Sept. 11, 2006.

Dr. Elaine Ruiz López, founder and CEO of the International Leadership Charter Schools, said of the date, "We chose that day as a symbol of hope and a light that would shine from The Bronx and to acknowledge all that is still beautiful and positive about our future."

She added, "Our Bronx scholars, many of whom are economically disadvantaged and/or multilingual learners, deserve the



Photo courtesy of International Leadership Charter Schools

(L TO R) SASHEENA WALKER, DIRECTOR of literacy & academic intervention at International Leadership Charter Schools, Anthony Lopez, chief officer for strategic partnership at the school system; Dr. Elaine Ruiz Lopez, founder and CEO of International Leadership Charter Schools; Nahla Ward, director of curriculum & instruction at the school system, and David Wiggins, operations manager at the school system attend the ceremonial opening of the new International Leadership Charter Middle School on Bainbridge Avenue in Norwood on Monday, Sept. 11, 2023.

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opportunities that traditionally have not been readily available to them."

Representatives for International Leadership Charter Schools said its high school system was established in 2006 and provides college preparatory education to thousands of Bronx scholars. They said it has earned recognition by U.S. News &

World Report for the Best High School in the country and state.

"This is due, in part, to the fact that the school's average graduation rate over the last decade is 95%, and that 99% of those scholars have been accepted to 4-year private and public institutions of higher

(continued on next page)

NEWS BRIEFS

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Mercy College Now Mercy University

Mercy College, located at 1200 Waters Place in Pelham Bay, among other locations, announced its name change to Mercy University on Aug. 22. Its representatives said the change in status, approved by the New York State Board of Regents, reflects the breadth of its programs across a wide variety of disciplines at the undergraduate and graduate levels and is a landmark moment in Mercy's nearly 75-year existence.

The news follows the summer arrival of Dr. Susan L. Parish, Mercy's 13th president, as well as the addition of a School of Nursing, alongside five other schools of Liberal Arts, Business, Education, Health & Natural Sciences, and Social & Behavioral Sciences.

"Mercy has been a vital member of the Bronx community for several years," said District 13 City Council Member Marjorie Velázquez. "Their campus in my district has served countless students by giving them the tools to succeed in their future careers, and this status change reflects the hard work and commitment to academically prepare our future leaders."

Terrified Dog Escapes Loud Music & Dies

In late August, the owners of Kayvee, a "Black, small, spayed" dog, posted a message on Pawboost, a site dedicated to lost dogs, about their lost pet, saying she

had last been seen at Jerome Avenue and "Gun Hill Road Park" (Mosholu Park) in Norwood. They wrote, "We miss Kayvee so much! Please help us find her." Aanya P, who appears to be Kayvee's owner, later updated readers who tried to help find her, saying, "She escaped the harness due to the fear of loud music and cars, bikes and trains. She is no longer more. Please pray that her soul rests in peace!"

Local resident Cynthia Tuohy later followed up with District 11 Councilman Eric Dinowitz about "the intolerable noise conditions on weekends in and around the Gun Hill Meadow of Van Cortlandt Park and on both sides of West Gun Hill Road." She also complained again, following an apparent earlier complaint in February, about "the proliferation of mopeds being ridden recklessly on the streets and sidewalks of the Jerome Gun Hill BID."

She added, "The situation has escalated to the point of becoming a family tragedy for one of our neighbors," in reference to Kayvee's passing. Tuohy went on to describe how she was almost run over while standing in the pedestrian area on Jerome Avenue where the street mural is painted. "I was brushed back by a speeding moped without a headlight, riding against the light," she said. "A few seconds later, when the light turned green for me to cross East Gun Hill Road, three mopeds ran their red light at high speed and came within a few feet of me."

She said on another occasion when she was crossing the same street, a woman on a moped carrying three small children ran the red light at high speed. She said such incidents occur "hundreds of times each day," and that vehicles also make illegal turns at the Jerome Gun Hill intersection. She added that it had become a life and death matter. "When is enough enough?" she asked. *Norwood News* has contacted both the NYPD and the councilman's of-

fice for a comment on the complaints.

An NYPD spokesperson said, in part, "The NYPD seizes unregistered motor vehicles of all types. The NYPD [also] conducted educational outreach efforts and issued warnings to address this complex challenge. Yet the conditions persist. The NYPD strives each day to achieve balance and work toward common-sense solutions to improve traffic safety and everyone's quality of life."

Meanwhile, Dinowitz said his office responded to Tuohy and others on similar complaints, liaised with the NYPD who have since confiscated speaker systems and towed vehicles in the district, requested a dedicated Parks Enforcement Patrol (PEP) command in Van Cortlandt Park, and co-sponsored a bill requiring every electric/motorized vehicle not otherwise required to be registered with NYC Department of Motor Vehicles to be registered with NYC Department of Transportation, and for such vehicles to receive an identifying number to be displayed on a visible plate affixed to the vehicle..

Mosholu Parkway Native Serves Aboard U.S. Navy Warship

Petty Officer 3rd Class Jhoelmy PaulaGil, a native of Mosholu Parkway, The Bronx, is serving aboard a U.S. Navy warship operating out of San Diego, California, the U.S. Navy reports. PaulaGil joined the Navy three years ago and today serves as an interior communications electrician aboard USS Makin Island.

"I joined the Navy to get away from the city and go see the world," said PaulaGil. "My college admissions program wasn't what I expected. I had no clue what I wanted to do career-wise, so I looked into all the branches and chose the Navy."

Growing up on Mosholu Parkway, PaulaGil attended Longwood Preparatory Academy and graduated in 2009.

"My hometown taught me to be resilient," said PaulaGil. "The Navy was a big step for me and was a culture shock. Luckily, being from the 'Big Apple' taught me a certain type of toughness that allowed me to enter any environment and adapt and overcome all the new things life throws at you."

Makin Island is an amphibious assault ship. According to Navy officials, these ships have been and will continue to be called upon to support humanitarian and other contingency missions on short notice. With 90 percent of global commerce traveling by sea and access to the internet relying on the security of undersea fiber optic cables, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity of the United States is directly linked to trained sailors and a strong Navy.

PaulaGil is grateful to others for helping make a Navy career possible. "I would like to thank my teachers, Mr. Gloster and Mrs. Abeloas, for supporting my decision to join the Navy," added PaulaGil. "They knew I would be fine and haven't been scared while I've been in the Navy. They were confident in my ability to go and do great things."



Photo courtesy of 2nd Class Officer Jordan Jennings, U.S. Navy

PETTY OFFICER 3RD Class Jhoelmy PaulaGil,

(continued from previous page)

education," officials said. They said these institutions include New York University, Fordham University, Manhattan College, Barnard College as well as State University of New York (SUNY) and City University of New York (CUNY) schools.

The school building is the former site of St. Ann's School, one of three Bronx Catholic schools which closed following an announcement by the Catholic Archdiocese of New York in February 2017. The other two were St. Mary School and Visitation School. The closure trend continued in recent years with the announcement of the closure of a further six Bronx Catholic schools in 2020 and six more in 2023, as reported.

According to an Archdiocese announcement in 2017, students at the former St. Ann School had had "the opportunity to continue their Catholic education at St. Brendan School [in Norwood], St. John's School in Kingsbridge, and Our Lady of Grace, respectively, or at other neighbor-

hood Catholic school."

Since then, St. Brendan School on East 206th Street, also in Norwood, has also closed, as reported, to the disappointment of many local parents, teachers, kids, and alumni who held rallies to oppose the closure, while the other two Catholic schools remain open. As reported, Success Charter Academy announced in April 2023 the leasing of the former St. Brendan School site for the opening of a new charter school in September 2023.

The International Leadership Charter School is also opening a new charter school in Kingsbridge, as reported, despite opposition from some residents who oppose the location of the school site at 306 West 232nd Street.

Meanwhile, officials of the charter school said incoming 6th graders at the new Bainbridge Avenue middle school will receive an academically rigorous curriculum with a S.T.E.A.M. focus that includes robotics and coding, all skills designed to prepare them for the jobs of the future in



Photo courtesy of International Leadership Charter Schools

REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL Leadership Charter Schools attend the ceremonial opening of the new International Leadership Charter Middle School on Bainbridge Avenue in Norwood on Monday, Sept. 11, 2023.

areas which they said will undoubtedly require higher levels of competency. Officials said the school is still accepting applications.



Photo courtesy of International Leadership Charter Schools

(L TO R) CHRIS NESTERCZUK, SENIOR director of real estate and facilities at Montefiore Health System, Dr. Elaine Ruiz Lopez, founder and CEO of International Leadership Schools; Edward Pflieger, senior vice president of facilities and real estate at Montefiore Health Health System attend the ceremonial opening of the new International Leadership Charter Middle School on Bainbridge Avenue in Norwood on Monday, Sept. 11, 2023.



Letters To The Editor

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

Some Observations on VCP Proposed Cricket Stadium Boondoggle

Bronx Community Board 8 Parks Committee Chair Deb Travis cites cricket as the number two sport in the world. [On the VCP Cricket Stadium, the Bats are Out, *Norwood News*, July 27-Aug. 9, 2023] So what? What percentage of the Bronx population follows or plays it? She says the 2022 World Cup final drew 100,000 fans and the attendance for the other games averaged 40,000 to 50,000. This was in Australia. Van Cortlandt Park is in The Bronx.

She doesn't know what effect the Cricket World Cup would have on the annual Philharmonic concert, the Manhattan College Invitational, or the African Burial Grounds. Does she even care? Opponents who spoke at the July 20 meeting expressed concerns about pollution, parking, environmental concerns for Van Cortlandt Park itself and its wildlife. While the proposed stadium would provide a spotlight for foreign athletes, it would take land away from neighborhood residents who wish to play there.

New York Cricket League player Jeff Morrishaw claims to respect in-

dividuals who live in the area, but he doesn't show it with his dismissive attitude toward their complaints. He refers to complaints Van Cortlandt Park users had about the building of the water filtration plant, which the city built rather than buy up land near the water to protect it from being polluted in the first place.

Construction took place at the Mosholu Golf Course, disrupting the neighborhood from 2007 to 2015. Though it was supposed to be underground, parts of it are above ground. It was supposed to cost \$800 million. It wound up costing \$2.3 billion. This is the example to show us that there will be no problems building the cricket stadium?

**Richard Warren,
Van Cortlandt Village**

Editor's Note: At the Bronx CB8 board meeting held on July 20, Deb Travis shared with those present, on behalf of her colleagues, some context and information gathered at short notice in terms of the impacts of the proposed stadium identified at that stage. For his part, Jeff Morrishaw said he understood the perspective of the complainants and even agreed with some of them. He advocated for further dialogue on the matter.

NYC Overrun with Stray Cats with No/Little Shelter Space Available

I believe that human apathy, the

throwaway mentality/culture and even a bit of public hostility toward cats, often result in stray cat population explosions, and thus their inevitable neglect and suffering.

I grew up around feral cats and developed a life-long appreciation and affection for them. I've also found that, along with individual people, collective society can be callously cruel towards such homeless cats. Near where I reside, the stray cat population already numbers in the tens of thousands, and it's growing.

Yet the local government, perhaps reflecting the general sentiment of its electorate, does little to help with the local non-profit trap/neuter/release program, regardless of its (and others') documented success in reducing the needlessly great suffering.

I now realize that only when their numbers are greatly reduced by responsible owners, consistently spaying/neutering their felines, might these beautiful animals' presence be truly appreciated, especially for the healthy relationships they can offer loving owners, rather than being taken for granted or even resented.

**Frank Sterle Jr.
White Rock, B.C.
Canada**

MTA Spending Priorities

Advocates for underground air-conditioned subway stations have something in common with others who want instal-

lation of platform barriers on all 472 stations to prevent people from falling on the tracks. There are more important priorities facing NYC Transit than spending \$4.5 billion for air conditioning stations, or \$7 billion plus \$120 million in annual maintenance costs for station platform barriers.

It will take numerous MTA Five-Year Capital Plans until 2060 for the NYC Transit to finally reach a state of good repair for existing fleet, signals, interlockings, track, power, yards, shops, and stations, including making all ADA accessible. The same is true for ensuring that maintenance programs for all assets are fully funded and completed on time to ensure riders have a safe and reliable service.

**Larry Penner
Great Neck**

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

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Three Dead in Norwood as Summer of Violence Ends

By DAVID GREENE

Crime scene investigators and detectives have been busy in recent weeks with at least seven people reported dead after a series of violent, seemingly unrelated incidents took place across the borough, including three in Norwood.

On Sunday, Aug. 20, at around 1.54 a.m., police officers from the 52nd Precinct responded to a 911 call regarding an assault in progress at 200 East Mosholu Parkway. "Upon arrival, officers observed a 36-year-old male with a gunshot wound to the head," police said. "The victim was transported by EMS to St. Barnabas Hospital in stable condition, where he was subsequently pronounced deceased on Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023."

The deceased has since been identified as Philip Martinez, 36, of Rochambeau Avenue in Norwood. Pursuant to the ongoing investigation, police said Jason Soto, 44, of Camden, New Jersey was arrested on Thursday, Aug. 31, at around 5.33 p.m. within the confines of the 52nd Precinct. They said he was charged murder and manslaughter.

Five days later, on Friday, Aug. 25, police said a man and a woman also died in Norwood, and a second woman remains

hospitalized after a grizzly stabbing incident was reported the same day at 10:19 p.m. at 3145 Rochambeau Avenue in Norwood. (It was not the same address as the victim's address in the previous Norwood shooting incident.)

According to police, after responding to a call regarding an assault, a still-unidentified 29-year-old woman was discovered with a stab wound to the chest and a 33-year-old woman was slashed on her hand in front of the location. As both women were being transported by EMS to St. Barnabas Hospital, officers discovered a 45-year-old man inside a fourth-floor apartment at the location with multiple stab wounds to his torso.

Police said the 29-year-old woman was pronounced deceased at the hospital and the man was pronounced deceased at the scene of the incident. The 33-year-old woman was listed in stable condition.

A ranking police official said a suspect in the case was apprehended hours after the incident, and the investigation is ongoing. The deceased have been identified as Roberto Jimenez, 45, of 3145 Rochambeau Avenue in Norwood and Gina Cooks, 29, of Valentine Avenue in

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Montefiore Wakefield Celebrates 15 Years

By DAVID GREENE

Continuing with its “back-to-school initiative” over the course of the last month or so, Montefiore Wakefield Hospital celebrated 15 years of serving the community on Saturday, Aug. 12, with its annual health fair and back-to-school event.

Held at the hospital’s entrance at 600 East 233rd Street, a free backpack filled with school supplies was provided to all children in attendance, and several teams of health-care providers were also on hand to provide free medical testing.

Various nonprofit groups were also present on the day, providing a variety of free services, while kids got their faces painted. Booths were also manned by staff of the FDNY’s Fire Safety and Education Unit and by the New York Public Library.

Reggi Jordan, vice president for clinical services, and who oversees Montefiore Wakefield, told staff and community members, “We want to celebrate 15 years of providing safe, world-class quality, patient, corporate healthcare to the residents of Wakefield, The Bronx, and our surrounding communities.”

Jordan continued, “That’s 15 years healing hearts, mending lives, and embracing hope. Together, we created a legacy



All photos by David Greene

MONTEFIORE WAKEFIELD HOSPITAL holds an open house at the front of the hospital as its team celebrates 15 years as a Montefiore-run hospital on Saturday, Aug. 12, 2023.

of care that continues to touch and transform lives.”

New York State Sen. Jamaal Bailey (S.D. 36), a Democrat, told staff members, “In a day when we talk about A.I. and robots and all these things taking over, they can’t do what you do because they don’t feel what you feel, and you’re not in this to be rich or famous or anything about you. You do this work for us.”

Fellow Democrat, Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81), who appeared with his left arm in a sling, presented hospital staff with a New York State Assembly proclamation on behalf of himself and As-

sembly Speaker Carl Heastie (A.D. 83) The hospital was also presented with a second proclamation from the Office of the Bronx Borough President.

Meanwhile, Councilman Kevin Riley (C.D. 12) who attended the event with his three children, told the crowd, “The entire staff, this entire system at Montefiore really helped my family out three times, and I really appreciate you all.” Riley continued, “As a city council member, it’s very important that we talk about healthcare, especially within The Bronx, and the healthcare system that we have in The Bronx with Montefiore is re-

ally important.”

Hospital staff then honored Cleothild “Cleo” Trotman R.N. for her 56 years of service to the East 233rd Street-based hospital, where she also worked prior to Montefiore’s takeover in 2008.

As Trotman stood silently, clutching the award, a daughter read her mother’s prepared statement, telling coworkers, “It’s great to be honored, to receive this special award. I’d like to thank you all for believing in me and for joining me in this unforgettable journey.”

According to Trotman’s daughter, Antoinette, Trotman has been a maternity

here the whole time. We’re very proud.”

Another daughter, Dion, added, “We’re extremely blessed and proud of our mom today. This is a day that we’ll never forget. Our dad is looking down on us. We’re proud! We’re full of joy! This is just the greatest day!”

In 2022, according to Montefiore officials, the Wakefield hospital treated more than 15,000 people at its various clinics, delivered more than 1,200 babies, and treated more than 50,000 patients in its emergency department. They added that the same year, the hospital received a Magnet



A SPECIAL AWARD was presented to Cleothild Trotman R.N. for her 56 years of service to Montefiore Wakefield Hospital, once known as named Misericordia Hospital [five decades ago] and later as Our Lady of Mercy, at the 15th anniversary of the hospital under Montefiore management on Saturday, Aug. 12, 2023.

nurse who has also headed the post-partum department at the hospital, while she and her husband raised their five daughters in the Edenwald and Wakefield neighborhoods of the borough.

Antoinette recalled how her mom started working at the then-Misericordia Hospital five decades ago and continued to work at the hospital after it was taken over by Our Lady of Mercy, and later by Montefiore.

Antoinette added, “And now it’s Montefiore and she’s been

designation for nursing excellence, becoming the first and only hospital in The Bronx to earn the prestigious designation.



STAFF MEMBERS AT Montefiore Wakefield Hospital sign a large poster, in honor of the hospital’s 15th anniversary milestone of serving the community on Saturday, Aug. 12, 2023.



“CLEO” TROTMAN (CENTER) R.N. is recognized with a special award for her 56 years of service to the hospital which was once named Misericordia Hospital [five decades ago] later Our Lady of Mercy, and since 2008, Montefiore Wakefield Hospital during the 15th anniversary celebration of the hospital under Montefiore management on Saturday, Aug. 12, 2023.

Demonstrators Protest NYPD after Eric Duprey's Death

By DAVID GREENE

Thirty demonstrators took to the streets in Fordham Manor on Friday, Sept. 1, to protest the death of Eric Duprey, 30. According to updates from both the Office of the New York Attorney General (AG) investigations team and the NYPD, Duprey died following an NYPD operation in Fordham Manor on Aug. 23.

They said he was struck in the head with a picnic cooler thrown by NYPD Sgt. Erik Duran with the Bronx Narcotics unit at 2505 Aqueduct Avenue as Duprey was trying to flee from police on a motorcycle. Officials from the AG's office said Duprey was pronounced dead at the scene. A video of the incident has since been shared online.

In a statement following Duprey's death, the NYPD said, in part, "The NYPD is committed to ensuring there will be a full, thorough, and transparent investigation of this incident to determine the facts and to take the appropriate steps forward."

The crowd started the rally at the site of the fatal incident in Fordham Manor before later marching to the 52nd Precinct stationhouse located at 3016 Webster Avenue in Norwood. The precinct covers parts of Fordham. There were no reported injuries, but police made one arrest.

Prior to the protesters' ar-



Photo by David Greene

A POLICE OFFICER warns protesters of nearby gas pumps as one of them, Joshua Lopez, 44, pours an accelerant on an American flag during a rally outside the 52nd Precinct in Norwood on Friday, Sept. 1, 2023.

rival, cops had moved vehicles usually parked outside the station house and had placed wooden and metal barricades outside the precinct entrance. The protesters later stood outside the barricades, taunting the dozen or so officers who stood in silence between the barricades and the steps of the station house, with chants of "F*ck the Police!" and recording them on cell phones.

Some also held signs, some of which read, "Justice for Eric Duprey," while one protester hoisted a picnic cooler above his head before placing it inside the barricade at the entrance to the precinct. Using accelerants,

some demonstrators burned NYPD and American flags. An officer holding a fire extinguisher walked over to the barricade to extinguish the flames on a few occasions, leaving a cloud of smoke in his wake.

He alerted protesters to two nearby gas pumps located on the precinct grounds. At one stage, a demonstrator hunched over the barricade was seen holding a small burning American flag made of plastic. A piece of the flag later fell to the ground inside the barricade several feet from the two gas pumps.

As the flag burned, the 52nd Precinct's commanding officer, Deputy Inspector Jeremy Sch-

eublin, was observed on his cell phone. Minutes later, about 30 members of the NYPD's Strategic Response Group (SRG) gathered around the crowd and several protesters retreated along Webster Avenue.

Members of the SRG then surrounded the protester who had set the plastic flag alight and which had fallen close to the gas pumps and he was quickly arrested and placed in a police van. Members of the SRG unit then surrounded the police van.

The protester later said he was taken to the 50th Precinct for processing and was later photographed leaving the station house. The SRG members then walked north along Webster Avenue as around half of the remaining [15] protesters followed them with camera phones, again taunting them with chants during their exit from the area.

Protester and Bronxite Desmond Morrero told *Norwood News* on the day of the rally, "We demand justice for Eric Duprey. That cop should be arrested, not just fired, because any civilian would have already been arrested."

As previously reported, Duran is currently on unpaid leave, pending an investigation into the incident by the Office of the AG. The Office had reported that during the Aug. 23 incident, the picnic cooler hit Duprey, causing him to fall to the ground.

The City's medical examiner later told *Norwood News* his death has been ruled a homicide and the cause was "blunt force injuries of head." *Norwood News* has asked both the Bronx District Attorney's Office and the NYPD if Duprey had any prior arrests. [Officials at the AG's office said their investigation is on Duran's actions.] We had not received a response as of press date.

On Thursday, Sept. 7, Scheublin said the death of Duprey took place within the jurisdiction of the 52nd Precinct command but told *Norwood News*, "It's important for me to mention that he's [Duran] not from the 52."

Asked about the reason for the arrest of the protester, Scheublin replied, "The issue was that it was in close proximity to gas pumps... We had to have the guy apprehended. It's like, Dude... the gas pumps are right there, and if there's a little gas on the ground... you know what I mean? This could be an issue."

A fire was reported at the 52nd Precinct station house in January 2022. On his officers' response to the protest, Scheublin replied, "They were respectful to protesters and I'm proud of how professional they were."

On Sept. 8, an NYPD spokesperson identified the arrested protester as Joshua Lopez, 44, and said he was charged with reckless endangerment and disorderly conduct. The spokesperson said Lopez, "was arrested for lighting flags on fire in front of officers and a gas pump, causing a substantial risk of physical injury to individuals present."

As the NYPD announced the suspension of Duran, a Norwood resident who declined to be identified and who said he has been "harassed" by the NYPD sergeant, told *Norwood News*, "He used to pick on everybody around this neighborhood."

The resident added that when he complained about Duran to the NYPD, he was informed that the Bronx Narcotics unit was based in Mount Vernon. *Norwood News* asked the NYPD if this was the case. As of press

(continued on page 14)



Photo by David Greene

WEARING A SHIRT honoring Eric Duprey, a protestor, Joshua Lopez, is taken into custody by members of the NYPD's Strategic Response Group after burning a plastic flag close to some gas pumps located inside the 52nd Precinct grounds during a protest outside the Norwood precinct on Friday, Sept. 1, 2023.

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NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY



Local Concert

Bedford Park Congregational Church invites the community to celebrate its 134th anniversary on Sept. 24, 2023, with a free concert at 2 p.m., followed by dinner at 3:30 p.m. (at a cost of \$40), with advance reservation required. For further information, and to reserve, please call (718) 733-3199 or email bdpdkcongregationalchurch@gmail.com.

Job Fair at Bronx Library Center

New York Public Library is hosting a Job Fair on Friday, Sept. 15, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Bronx Library Center, 310 E Kingsbridge Road, Bronx, NY 10458. Learn about legal employment authorization and understand your employment rights. Get a professional headshot, get details of job openings, connect with top recruiters, attend job application workshops and more.

Mindbuilders Scholarships

Fall registration is now open at Mindbuilders, 3415 Olinville Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467. Register now for amazing fall/spring classes and give your child an unforgettable experience. Mindbuilders also offers free classes for all ages and financial aid options. Dance Auditions for Merit and Pre-Professional Ensemble Scholarships, for ages 10-17, will also be held on Tuesday, Sept 12. Scholarships include free instruction, discounted

tuition, professional development, performing opportunities, and more!

Community Engagement Grants

Bronx Council of the Arts is advising residents that the 2024 Community Engagement Grants (CEG) application cycle is open. Bronx-based artists, collectives, and arts organizations have the opportunity to apply for New Work, Arts Fund, and Community Arts for a total of up to \$10,000 in grants. Applications are due Tuesday, Oct. 31 at 11:59 p.m. Visit www.eventbrite.com and search for 2024 Community Engagement Grants (CEG) for more information.

Rules re Trash for Businesses

NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY) implemented a new rule on Aug. 1, whereby all food-related businesses in New York City must use rigid containers with secure lids when setting out trash and compost for collection. Go to nyc.gov/UseBins for more information.

Reporting Park Noise

During a prior meeting of Bedford Moshulu Community Association, officers from the 52nd Precinct said it was important to log noise related calls with 311 as any unanswered calls over an hour are being flagged to Police Chief John Chell who is monitoring such 311 calls. They said that anything that is flagged

as “outside” in a 311 complaint, like barbecues or noise, gets flagged and “body cameras go on right away” so that residents can see what the officers are doing to address the situation. He said the cameras get turned off after enforcement.

The officers explained that they also now have an app on their phones where they can read off all 311 jobs. “Usually, we can call if you guys leave a number to ask what the problem is,” Officer Boland said. “Right now, we get a notification on our phone. There’s a police vehicle that is only assigned to 311s. They don’t do 911s and within an hour, it’s supposed to be answered.” He also clarified, “My rule of thumb is if you need 911, you always call 911.”

Boland explained that both he and Officer Arias (Sector C) work every day except Sunday and Monday and handle mostly 311 problems. They encouraged residents to both call 311 and text them and said they will be there within 15 minutes. Boland’s number is (929) 287 7212 and Arias’s is (917) 374 0459.

Pillar of the Community Award Nominations

New York City Mayor, Eric L. Adams says the wisdom, history, commitment, and passion that so many of our residents exhibit and extend to their neighbors makes them pillars of their communities and city. It is in this spirit that Adams wishes to honor residents who have lived on the block, resided in buildings, served in a civic organization the longest. He is requesting residents to join him as he travels throughout the City to pay tribute to these pillars of the communities. Nominate a block association, civic association, homeowners association, tenant association or other here: <https://www.nyc.gov/site/cau/Initiatives/mayor-adams-neighborhood-awards.page>.

Friends of Devoe Park Art Series

Friends of Devoe Park (FoDP) is kicking off an art workshop series, coinciding with the back-to-school season. The series comprises two events, the first of which takes place on Saturday, Sept. 16, between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Around ten local children will receive “a paint and arts bundle” to learn how to paint and later take home their finished visions of Devoe Park, located at West 188th Street on West Fordham Road between Sedgwick Avenue and University Avenue. The date of the second event in the series is to be confirmed.

Congressional Redistricting Updates

Following the 2020 census, the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) held several virtual sessions with residents to discuss the redistricting process. The IRC held a final Bronx County hearing on its proposed redrawn maps for the assembly, State senate, and congressional districts on Nov. 9, 2021. That hearing can be watched here: <https://totalwebcasting.com/view/?func=VIEW&id=nysirc&date=2021-11-09&seq=1>. The maps/plans were submitted by the commission to the State legislature on Jan. 3, 2022.

The State legislature voted on the first set of plans, rejecting it, and could not agree on a second set. Instead, elected representatives voted to approve alternate maps proposed by the New York State Democratic Party, and these were ultimately approved on Feb. 2, 2022, by the State legislature, which holds a Democratic majority, and were signed off by Gov. Kathy Hochul on Feb. 3, 2022.

The NYS Republican Party mounted a legal challenge, and a judge later overruled the February 2022 vote by the State legislature as unconstitutional, saying the February 2022 maps were gerrymandered by Democrats. The court ordered new maps to be redrawn. Lawmakers had until April 11, 2022, to submit new maps, but on April 4, 2022, a judge issued a stay on the case, which retained the prevailing February 2022 maps in place, allowing candidates time to collect the required number of voter signatures needed to get on the ballot for the June 2022 Primaries before the required deadline.

On April 27, 2022, the New York Court of Appeals struck down the congressional and State senate redistricting maps approved by the State legislature in February 2022, and a court-appointed special master was required to come up with new maps by May 20, 2022. The court also ordered that the 2022 congressional and State primary elections be postponed to Aug. 23, 2022. The latest redrawn maps by the special master can be viewed here: https://newyork.redistrictingandyou.org/?districtType=cd&propA=current_2012&propB=congress_specialmastercorrected_20220604%26map=5.5/42.957/-75.332.

In June 2023, AP reported that lawyers seeking redrawn congressional lines in New York argued their case before a State appeals court on June 8, 2023, in a Democrat-backed lawsuit that could have implications in the 2024 fight for control of the U.S. House of Representatives.

AP reported that the lawsuit was brought on behalf of 10 New York voters who want the State redistricting commission to submit new proposed state congressional lines for 2024. A victory for the plaintiffs would scrap the lines drawn up in 2022 by the outside special master expert. Republicans flipped four congressional seats in New York under those latest redrawn lines.

Affordable Housing Lotteries

NYC Department of Housing, Preservation and Development (HPD) launched an affordable housing lottery for units at 1325 Southern Boulevard in Charlotte Gardens, with a closing date of Oct. 2, and another for units at 40 Bruckner Boulevard in Mott Haven, with a closing date of Oct. 30. Visit www.norwoodnews.org, and search for “affordable housing” for more information.

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NORWOOD NEWS

***Norwood News* is recruiting a Reporter (for one year)**

Norwood News, founded in 1988 and located at 3400 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467, is an award-winning, biweekly, print community newspaper and website which primarily serves the Bronx neighborhoods of Norwood, Bedford Park, Kingsbridge, Kingsbridge Heights, Fordham Manor, University Heights, and Fordham Heights, and to a lesser extent, the wider Bronx. We are currently recruiting for a full-time reporter to join our team for one year, with a possibility but not a guarantee to extend the position.

The reporter will work closely with the editor-in-chief and other freelance reporters on our biweekly print and digital community newspaper. The right candidate should have an interest in people and in the news, understand attribution, balance, and fact-checking, have an open mind, be able to perform research on various topics, understand the difference between activism and journalism, understand the structure of City and local government, have a keen eye for detail, have exceptional grammar and writing skills, and be familiar with the northwest Bronx.

Responsibilities include performing research on different topics, analyzing and interpreting findings, uncovering newsworthy stories, interviewing key people (witnesses, sources, etc.), writing articles with readers' needs in mind, ensuring stories are fact-checked, accurate and objective, establishing contacts and sources for future research and stories, maintaining and providing the editor with back-up notes / records in written and in electronic form, contributing to content idea generation for publication, staying up to date with local, national, and international news, submitting completed work on time, and via the requisite channels, attending and reporting on community events and press conferences.

Requirements:

- excellent communication, time management skills and able to turn around a story same day, if needed
- capacity to work with minimal supervision, be self-motivated, and have a disciplined approach to work
- computer proficiency (MS Office, digital editing, web search and databases), excellent writing skills in English, and excellent grammar
- ability to follow strict deadlines and fact-check information and have a broad knowledge of the news
- knowledge of Spanish not required, but preferred
- degree in journalism, communications or relevant field, or equivalent experience
- must be available evenings and some weekends to cover events and breaking news

The ideal candidate will have a basic knowledge of media law, have previous journalism or community newspaper experience, or be a recent graduate with relevant qualifications and work samples, have a passion for finding interesting stories, be at ease working in a fast-paced environment and be able to analyze and interpret findings by breaking down data. The salary will be between \$58,000 and \$60,000 per annum, depending on experience, with benefits.

For details on how to apply, please email Síle Moloney, *Norwood News* editor-in-chief, at smoloney@norwoodnews.org.



Top Tips for Healthy Back-to-School Snacking

By **CLAIRE GARON**

“But I’m hungry!” If you’ve ever cared for a young person, you’ve heard this before! Being hungry between meals is no fun and can be easily fixed with a quick, healthy snack. With back-to-school season in full swing, learn how to keep your student nourished and ready to learn with healthy snack options.

Choosing healthy snacks, in good portions, is an important part of healthy eating. Each day, adults and young people should have about 1,500 to 2000 calories of food, made up of meals and snacks of healthy, high-nutrient foods like fruit, veggies, nuts, whole grains, and low-fat protein. A snack is a small amount of food eaten

between meals, about one to three times a day. Healthy snacks are a great way to boost energy and prevent overeating at the next meal.

Now consider “junk food,” snacks that are high in sugar, salt, oil and white flour, and low in nutrients like vitamins and minerals. Large amounts of these snacks, including chips, fries, and sweets, may well lead to weight gain. The rate of obesity in kids is higher than ever before. Large amounts of high-calorie, low-nutrient snacks and foods raise blood sugar and damage our insulin hormone, paving the way for Type 2 Diabetes.

Excess “junk food” is also responsible for vitamin deficiencies, headaches, stomach aches, tiredness and difficulty concentrating. As a caregiver, you have the power to guide your young people, from toddlers to teens, toward healthy snacks foods.

Let’s be honest: it’s hard to limit tasty junk food when it’s waiting in the kitchen. If you want to cut down on these foods, strongly consider skipping them at the store and buying single servings occasionally, outside the home. For example, buy the kids one donut as a treat, during the morn-

ing coffee run, rather than getting the big box from the grocery store for the house. The same goes for bags of chips or ice cream. This is a simple way to eat these foods in moderation. Instead, stock up on these healthy snacks for your kids:

- Sliced cheese **or string cheese and a handful of crackers or pretzels***
- Cheese and **fruit (apples, oranges, banana, grapes, berries, etc) ***
- **Veggies (carrots, celery, tomatoes, cucumbers) with hummus/dressing/dip**
- **Nuts/seeds and dried fruit (store-bought trail mix or combine your own) ***
- **Yogurt or unsweetened plain yogurt with fruit or cereal/granola***
- **Granola bar***
- **Popcorn***
- Small bowl of **cereal /granola. Put a handful in a bag for a snack on-the-go** (It’s important to read the food labels and choose a brand with minimal sugar like Chex, Kix, special K,

or Cheerios)

- Deli turkey and cheese slices, rolled together
- One slice of bread with peanut butter and jelly or sliced fruit instead of jelly
- One slice of bread with hummus or avocado or other spread
- Hard-boiled egg (You can boil a bunch and store in the fridge for a week or less)

If you’re out and about or running around with after-school activities, consider bringing the foods indicated in **bold** above. If you’ve forgotten to pack a snack, go to the corner store, drug store or grocery store to buy those foods marked with a star (*) above.

Back-to-school brings changes in routines and new experiences. Explore new foods with an open mind. You never know; the kids might love hummus or peanut butter and apples. Happy snacking and have a healthy September!

Claire Garon MPH, CHES is a senior health educator at the Office of Community & Population Health at Montefiore Health System.

Demonstrators Protest NYPD after Eric Duprey’s Death

(continued from page 10)

date, we had not received a response.

The same Norwood resident said of Duran, “I’ll be honest with you. I’m surprised he didn’t kill somebody from [East] 204 Street, because back in the day, when the drugs were heavy over there, he was there every day in a different car, and you wouldn’t know they were cops until it was too late.” He added that since the death of Duprey, he’s seeing what he believes are undercover vehicles in Norwood once again.

On Saturday morning, Sept. 9, as reported, two Black vehicles appeared to have been involved in a collision at 55 West Mosholu Parkway North in Norwood. When contacted for more information on the incident, EMS officials said response units were assigned to the location for reports of a

trauma. They added, “The incident was deemed a PD [Police Department] matter only.”

When contacted for details of the incident, the NYPD said they hadn’t received any information from the Collision Investigation Squad and said to check with them later, which we did. As of Sept. 13, we had not received an update.

According to NYPD disciplinary records for Duran, there is one allegation recorded dated July 21, 2023. No further details were available in relation to the incident. According to the same police file, he has been recognized for “excellent police duty” at various stages of his career. *Norwood News* also contacted the Civilian Complaints Review Board for more details on Duran’s disciplinary history. We did not receive an immediate response.

Meanwhile Jonathan Rob-

erts of the law firm Talkin, Muccigrosso & Roberts, which is representing the Duprey family, said Duprey was the father of three children all under the age of nine and that he believed Duprey to be a lifelong Bronxite. Roberts said of Duprey’s death, “Another young man gone too soon at the hands of a reckless police officer.”

On Sept. 5, Mayor Eric Adams joined other City officials to announce that the NYPD has implemented new practices to respect every person’s first amendment rights to free speech while keeping New Yorkers safe, and to better address what were described as the unique challenges they say arise during spontaneous protests. It coincided with the settlement of various lawsuits filed against the City by Black Lives Matter protesters in 2020.

“The right to peaceful protest is a fundamental part of American freedom, and the right to public safety is essential for our city to function; balancing these two important rights is one of this administration’s core missions,” said Adams. “I spent my career fighting for police reform and accountability, and now as mayor, our administration is committed to improving our policies to keep New Yorkers safe and protect their civil liberties.”

Black Lives Matter of Greater NY has, in the interim, called on the AG to bring murder charges against Duran, who is Hispanic, as is Duprey. The group has been organizing to bring attention to the matter. As reported, on Friday, Sept. 8, Hawk Newsome, founder of the group, was arrested on 42nd Street by Lexington Avenue in Manhattan, during a rally

[for Duprey] that started inside Grand Central Station and continued down 42nd Street, amid moving traffic.

Separately, as reported, a man armed with a kitchen knife, described by the NYPD as being in his thirties and Black, died after he was shot by police officers during a stand-off with police inside a 7-Eleven convenience store in the Throggs Neck section of The Bronx on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023.

Meanwhile, Roberts has described Duprey as “a loving partner,” adding that he was a “father and son who provided financial and emotional support to the family.” Roberts concluded, “Nothing can mitigate this family’s pain, but the individual who committed this heinous act must be held accountable.”

**Sile Moloney contributed to this story.*

CRIME FILE

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



University Heights: Man, 30, Fatally Shot

A man, 30, has died following a shooting in University Heights. Police said that on Thursday, Sept. 7, at around 9.12 p.m., police responded to a 911 call regarding a man who had been shot in front of 1955 Sedgwick Avenue. "Upon arrival, officers observed a 30-year-old male with multiple gunshot wounds to his torso," they said. "EMS transported the male to St. Barnabas Hospital, where he was pronounced deceased. There are no arrests, and the investigation remains ongoing." The deceased has been identified as Angel Rojas of Sedgwick Avenue in Univer-



sity Heights.

Food Vendor Slashed

The NYPD is appealing to the public for help identifying the person seen in the accompanying photo above who they say is sought in connection with a Bedford Park assault. Police said that on Sunday, Aug. 6, at around 3.55 a.m., the victim, a 32-year-old male food vendor, was operating his business at the intersection of Jerome Avenue and East Bedford Park Boulevard when he got into a verbal dispute with the individual and it escalated into a physical altercation.

Police said the person sought slashed the victim numerous times in the arms and back and was last seen fleeing northbound on Jerome Avenue in a dark colored vehicle. They said the victim was removed to St. Barnabas Hospital by EMS in stable condition. The suspect is described as male, is around 6 feet tall, has a dark complexion, a medium build, and was last seen wearing a black hat, a dark-colored, hooded sweatshirt, dark colored pants, and black sneakers.

Gas Station Robbed at Gunpoint

Police said a Bedford Park gas station employee was the victim of an armed robbery at around midnight on Tuesday night, Aug 8. They said the robbery took place at Gastor gas station, located at 2985 Jerome Avenue, when two male suspects entered the business, pushed a male employee into a corner, displayed a gun, and "demanded property." Police said the two stole a sum of money from the employee's pocket before fleeing the location on Jerome Avenue. They said the employee, whose age unknown, was not injured.

14-Year-Old Boy Shot

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the people seen in the accompanying photo who they say are sought in connection with a Fordham Heights shooting. Police said that on Saturday, Aug. 12, at around 8.10 p.m., two unidentified people approached a 14-year-old victim while he was playing basketball at the intersection of East 181st Street and Walton Avenue. They said one of them displayed a gun and discharged it multiple times, striking the victim in the lower back and right leg.

They said both assailants then fled the location southbound on Jerome Avenue on foot towards the 183rd Street subway station, which serves the 4 train. They said EMS responded and transported the victim to New York-Presbyterian/Weil Cornell Medical Center in stable condition.

The first individual sought is described as male, has a light complexion, is between 5 feet, 6 inches and 5 feet, 8 inches tall, has a slim build, and was last seen wearing a dark, hooded sweatshirt, light-colored pants, and a blue baseball cap. The second was described as male, has a light complexion, his height was unknown, he also had a slim build, and was last seen wearing a black, hooded sweatshirt, black pants, black and yellow sneakers and had his hair tied in a ponytail.

Moped Driver Dies in Hit & Run

A male moped driver has died following a hit and run collision in Fordham Heights. Police said that on Wednesday, Aug. 23, at around 1.23 a.m., officers responded to a 911 call regarding a road collision at the intersection of East 184th Street and Grand Concourse. Upon arrival, they said officers observed an unidentified, adult male moped driver, unconscious and unresponsive, lying on the roadway. Police said EMS responded to the location and transported the aided male to St. Barnabas Hospital, where he was pronounced deceased.

Further investigation by the NYPD Highway District's Collision Investigation Squad determined the victim, while driving a Transpro JJ150T gas-powered moped, was traveling northbound on the Grand Concourse main roadway when the vehicle veered to the right to avoid another vehicle which entered the intersection traveling westbound on East 184th Street.

They said the moped driver then mounted the median which separates the northbound Grand Concourse main roadway from the service road, ejecting the driver from the moped. They said the second vehicle did not remain at the scene. The investigation is ongoing. In collision investigations, the NYPD handles any criminal aspects of the investigation, while DOT reviews the street design at the locations of such crashes.

Fordham Heights Armed Robbery

The NYPD is asking for the public's help locating the people seen in the ac-

companying photos who they say are sought in connection with a Fordham Heights robbery. Police said that on Thursday, Aug. 3, at around 4.20 p.m., the male victim, 24, was emptying his vehicle in front of 2427 Webster Avenue when he was approached by three people. They said that, acting in concert, the three displayed a gun and stole the victim's jewelry.

They said the group then fled in a vehicle driven by a fourth person who was last seen traveling northbound on Marion Avenue, and that the victim was uninjured. Police said the first person is described as male, is around 5 feet, 11 inches tall, has a dark complexion and a slim build. He was last seen wearing a gray, hooded sweatshirt. The second person is described as male, is around 5 feet, 11 inches tall, has a dark complexion and a medium build. He was last seen wearing a black sweatshirt and a gray hood and black pants.

The third person is described as male, is around 5 feet, 11 inches tall, has a dark complexion and a medium build. He was last seen wearing a black sweatshirt and black shorts. The description of the fourth person is unknown. The vehicle is described as a gray, four-door sedan with heavily tinted windows, and the vehicle's right rear tire doesn't have a hub cap.



Two Sought in Fordham Manor Armed Robbery

Police are asking for the public's help identifying the people seen in the accompanying photo who they say are sought in connection to a Fordham Manor robbery. Police said that on Friday, Aug. 18, at around 6.20 p.m., two people approached a male victim, 35, in the vicinity of Grand Concourse and East 193rd Street. They said they displayed a gun and stole the victim's e-bike and property and then fled southbound on Cresent Avenue. They said the victim did not sustain any injuries.



Fordham Heights: Male Sought in Machete Assault

The NYPD is seeking the public's

help identifying the person seen in the accompanying photo above who they say is sought in connection to a Fordham Heights assault. Police said that on Tuesday, July 4, at around 10.55 p.m., the person approached a male victim, 22, in the vicinity of Valentine Avenue and East 180th Street and struck him in the head and right hand with a machete. They said EMS responded and transported the victim to St. Barnabas Hospital in serious but stable condition.

Norwood: Group Sought for Armed Robbery of 54-Year-Old Man

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the people seen in the accompanying photo who they say are sought in connection with a Norwood armed robbery. Police said that on Wednesday, Aug. 9, at around 4.40 a.m., the victim, a male victim, 54, was in front of 299 East 206th Street when the group of five approached him, displaying a gun.

Police said the group ordered the victim to get down on the ground before stealing his bookbag, Apple watch and approximately \$65. They said one person began punching the victim in the face as he tried to get up. They said the group fled on foot to parts unknown, and that the victim's book bag contained his wallet with credit cards but was later recovered in the vicinity of the incident.

Each member of the group is described as male and is estimated to be between 18 and 25 years of age. Police said the photo was obtained from 361 East 204th Street after the incident took place.

Fordham Manor Robbery

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying a group of people sought in connection to a Fordham Manor robbery. Police said on Wednesday, Aug. 16, at around 3.25 a.m., four people approached a male victim, 28, in the vicinity of Bainbridge Avenue and East 194th Street. They said the group told the victim to give them everything he had.

They said this prompted the victim to run away from the group. In the process, they said the victim dropped his cellphone and it was picked up and taken by one member of the group. They said the group fled southbound on Bainbridge Avenue, and the victim did not sustain any injuries.

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

Anyone with any information relating to any of these incidents is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1 (800) 577-TIPS, all calls remain confidential.

JBOLC Farmers Market Celebrates 3rd Birthday

By MIRIAM QUIÑONES

The James Baldwin Outdoor Learning Center (JBOLC) Garden Community Farmers' Market celebrated its 3rd anniversary on Aug. 19 with music, food, and fun! The event was held in the community garden

located behind DeWitt Clinton High School near Goulden and Sedgwick Avenues in Jerome Park.

Danielle Guggenheim, resident educational director and board member of JBOLC and a member of the Unity Democratic Club, which launched

in October 2022, spoke about a donation of building blocks for the event, and children were seen on the day building, learning, and playing with them.

There was also handmade gnocchi prepared by Bartho Staalman,

live musical performances, plenty of fresh produce of course, and sunshine and happy vibes all around. Meanwhile, Ray Pultinas of JBOLC said preparations and planning are ongoing for the group's centennial celebration in 2024.



Photos by Miriam Quiñones

BARTHO STAALMAN PREPARES handmade gnocchi as the James Baldwin Outdoor Learning Center Community Garden celebrates its third anniversary on Saturday, Aug. 19, 2023, behind DeWitt Clinton High School near Goulden and Sedgwick in Jerome Park.



"JEREMY" IS SELLS tomatoes, cucumber, carrots, onions, lettuce and beets, grown upstate, at his produce stand at the James Baldwin Outdoor Learning Center Garden Community Farmers' Market 3rd anniversary celebration on Saturday, Aug. 19, 2023, behind DeWitt Clinton High School in Jerome Park.



DANIELLE GUGGENHEIM, VICE president of The Unity Democratic Club talks about funding blue building blocks for kids at the James Baldwin Outdoor Learning Center Garden Community Farmers' Market 3rd anniversary celebration on Saturday, Aug. 19, 2023, behind DeWitt Clinton High School in Jerome Park.



A CHOIR PERFORMS at the James Baldwin Outdoor Learning Center celebrate the third anniversary on Saturday, Aug. 19, 2023, behind DeWitt Clinton High School near Goulden and Sedgwick in Jerome Park.



A LITTLE GIRL finds a toy bear head, runs away but then goes back, noticing it is ok and holds on to it at the James Baldwin Outdoor Learning Center Garden Community Farmers' Market 3rd anniversary celebration on Saturday, Aug. 19, 2023, behind DeWitt Clinton High School in Jerome Park.



LUCIA MARIN OF Norwood buys some corn and lettuce and says the price is good at the James Baldwin Outdoor Learning Center Garden Community Farmers' Market 3rd anniversary celebration on Saturday, Aug. 19, 2023, behind DeWitt Clinton High School in Jerome Park.

Out & About

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

EVENTS

Celebrate **Fall-O-Ween** at The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG), located at 2900 Southern Boulevard, The Bronx, open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday to Sunday, and Monday federal holidays. NYBG becomes the region's pumpkin headquarters during NYBG Fall-O-Ween, offering a fun and engaging array of activities, programs, and photo opportunities for all ages, from Saturday, Sept. 16, through Sunday, Nov. 12.

Experience hundreds of pumpkins and gourds on display; food and beverage talks, demonstrations, and tastings; and two family-friendly Spooky Garden Nights, offering Halloween-themed entertainment for adults and children alike. For more information, visit <https://www.nybg.org/event/fall-o-ween/>.

Join Mindbuilders Creative Arts Center, 3415 Olinville Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467, on Saturday, Sept. 16, for its **6th Annual Open House Street Festival**. Mindbuilders is turning 45, and they're pulling out

all the stops for an unforgettable event with the theme of "Old School Meets New School" in honor of the 50th Anniversary of Hip Hop! There will be free food, games, raffles, and some amazing giveaways!

Join The **Bronx Chamber of Commerce** on Thursday, Sept. 21, at 6:30 p.m. at Marina Del Rey, 1 Marina Drive Bronx, NY for the **2023 Gala – The Bronx is Building** to celebrate esteemed leaders in the Bronx business community. It's the number 1 business networking event of the year and features a two-hour cocktail reception, dinner, live entertainment, dancing, and so much more, and it also raises critical funds to support the borough's small businesses, economic recovery, and development. Visit <https://bronxchamber.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register/3174>, for more information.

MUSIC

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, located on the campus of Lehman College/CUNY at 250 Bedford Park Boulevard West, Bronx, NY 10468, is proud to present its spectacular **2023-2024 Season Opening Concert**, featuring **The Mambo Legends Orchestra, Lucrecia, and Nelson Gonzalez**, with the **Del Caribe Latin**

Jazz All Stars on Saturday, Sept. 16, at 7:30 p.m. produced by Robert Sancho. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://www.lehmancenter.org/events/mambo-legends> or by calling (718) 960-8833.

Come celebrate the release of the Edgar Allan Poe-inspired single "Spirits of the Dead" on Sunday, Oct. 1, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. by harp trio **Thistle** at a **free outdoor concert** at none other than the historic Edgar Allan Poe Cottage, where Poe spent the final years of his life. The performance will also commemorate his death, which occurred on Oct. 7, 1849. Select poetry and stories of Edgar Allan Poe will be illustrated through original chamber music for harp, voice, cello, and percussion by Thistle.

"The Raven," "The Pit & the Pendulum," "Evening Star," and "Spirits of the Dead" are among the literary works which inspired this music, which will be released with other works on a full-length album in January 2024. Space is limited to 100 and chairs are limited to 20. Please bring a blanket. Thistle will be playing under the covered porch.

ART

Amanda Johnson, curator at Bronx Art Space, located at 700 Manida

Street, [Ground Floor **Entrance on Spofford Ave.**], Bronx, NY 10474, is excited to present **BODIES**, from Sept. 8 to Oct. 7. The exhibition features the work of six female artists; **Bianca Abdi-Borangi, Tasha Dougé, Isadora Frost, Tania Balance-Gaubert, Tere Garcia, and Anjelic Owens**. The artists drew influence from racial, gender, and cultural identities. Promoting conversations and art making, referencing politicized bodies, sex, education, land/borders, advocacy, and mental health. Admission is free.

En Foco, Inc., located at 15 Canal Place, The Bronx, NY 10451, presents **Wildstyle: Iconic Fashion from Gen-X to Gen-Z**, an exhibition hosted virtually illustrating the powerful influence of Hip Hop culture and all its expressive forms. Featured artists include Anthony Artis, Alex Bershaw, Koren Martin, Jamel Shabazz, Coreen Simpson, and Hidemi Tagaki. Curated by Tarisse Iriarte, and Kay Hickman. "Wildstyle" was pioneered by the Mcs, B-boys/B-girls, Djs, and innovators to create a distinctive blueprint of innovative fashion and sentiments of liberation. For more information, visit <https://enfoco.org/wildstyle/>.

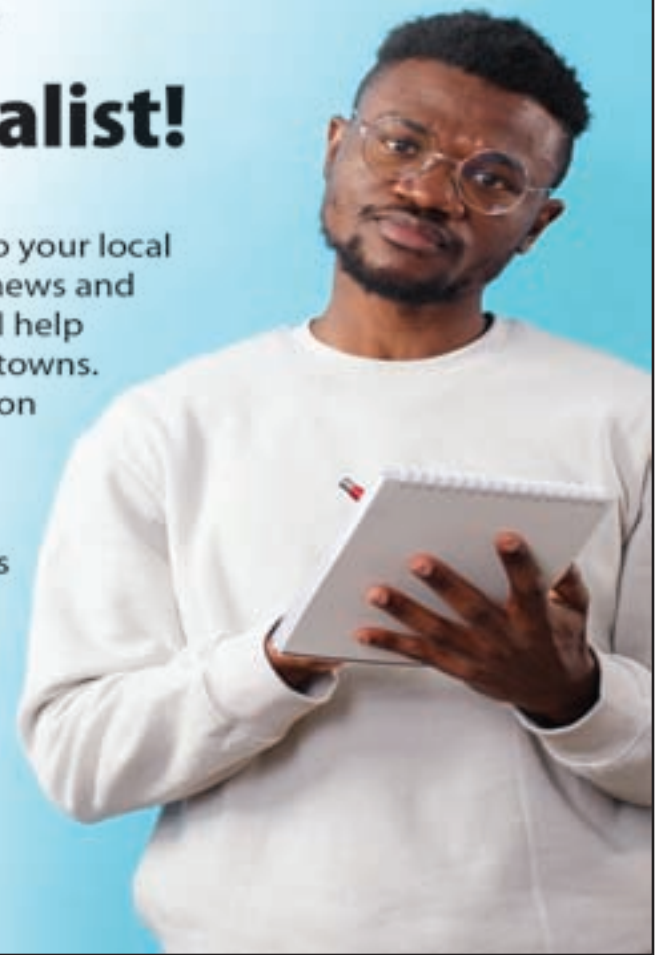
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The online training will be offered two 90-minute sessions; October 17th and 18th from 6:00pm - 7:30pm. To register, contact judy@nynewspapers.com.





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Public and Community Meetings

The next **52nd PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meeting will take place on Thursday, Sept. 28, at 7 p.m. at the Plaza Rehab and Nursing Center, 100 West Kingsbridge Road, Bronx, NY 10468. 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, Sept. 26, at 6.30 p.m. at Sister Annunciata Bethell Senior Center, 243 E 204th Street, Bronx, NY 10458. Contact KCabreraCarrera@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list. All meetings are being held virtually, via Zoom, until further notice.

The next **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8** full board meeting will be held in October. Contact 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 October. For details, please contact bedfordmosholu@verizon.net.



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Three Dead in Norwood as Summer of Violence Ends

(continued from page 8)

Fordham Heights.

Pursuant to the ongoing investigation, police said Derrick Williams, 55, of 3145 Rochambeau Avenue was arrested on Wednesday, Aug. 30, at around 10 p.m. He has been charged with two counts of murder and one count of attempted murder.

First Deputy Mayor for Public Safety Sheena Wright, Man Up! Founder & NYC gun violence prevention czar, A.T. Mitchell and executive director for the Mayor's Office for Ethnic & Community Media, José Bayona, hosted a roundtable at City Hall on the latest phase of the mayor's blueprint to end gun violence on Aug. 10.

The blueprint, developed by the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force with support from Gov. Kathy Hochul, is a \$485 million-dollar plan that will double down on previous public safety efforts, they said. Officials said the City is taking a 360-degree, holistic approach to further reducing gun violence by investing in the most impacted communities, supporting young people, and mobilizing every level of city government to make prevention-based approaches to public safety their top priority.



Photo by David Greene

MEMBERS OF THE NYPD's Crime Scene Unit join detectives as they enter 3145 Rochambeau Avenue in Norwood to investigate a double murder on Saturday, Aug. 26, 2023.

In seeking to answer the question, "How can we stop the violence before it happens on our streets?" city officials said that with the help of community members, the task force landed on seven key strategies. These include trauma-informed care, housing, employment, benefits access, improving the relationship between the police and the community, community vitality, and early interventions to protect youth.

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

Hip Hop Comes Home!

(continued from page 1)

ing a surprise appearance by ex-Fugee, Ms. Lauryn Hill, to the ecstasy of the packed crowd.

Other artists and guests on the night included Snoop Dog, Ralph McDaniels, DJ Kool Herc, the latter credited with creating Hip Hop music by isolating the “break,” Cindy Campbell, the latter credited with organizing the Bronx block party in 1973 which launched Hip Hop, Kurtis Blow, Roxanne Shanté, Fat Joe, Ashanti, lil Wayne, Ice Cube, Wiz Khalifa, Nas, Run-D.M.C. and U.S. Senate Majority Speaker Chuck Schumer, among others.

Some of the attendees we spoke to at the Sedgwick Avenue concert had also attended the ticketed show the previous evening. Despite some drizzly rain, the vibe the next day was familiar, celebratory, and one of relaxed pride.

Food trucks and stands selling commemorative T-shirts lined the route to the stage and there were plenty of residents hanging out on their stoops soaking up the party atmosphere.

Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson later took to the stage with local District 14 City Council Member Pierina Sanchez to address the crowd. “What a night!” Gibson said, adding, in part, “We’ve been celebrating the 50th anniversary of Hip Hop but guess what? It started right here – 1520 Sedgwick Avenue! They never thought that Hip Hop could take

it this far, right? Well, if you don’t know, then now you know!”

Gibson said she was grateful to KRS-One and the whole team who planned the concert. “We want to make sure that ALL our residents enjoy good music, take it back to the basics, and what Hip Hop means,” she said.

“When our little kids were listening to music on a boom box 50 years ago, no-one believed in what Hip Hop can do - this billion-dollar industry that we’re celebrating here tonight.”

She later paid homage to Herc, credited with creating Hip Hop music by isolating the “break,” Campbell, credited with organizing the Sedgwick Avenue block party in 1973 that launched Hip Hop, Rocky Bucano of the Universal Hip Hop Museum, currently under construction in Bronx Point as part of a \$30 million investment, and former Bronx Borough President Ruben Díaz Jr., who championed the initiative.

Gibson concluded, “To all the residents and families of 1520 [Sedgwick Avenue], Tenants Association President Gloria Robinson, and everyone who has done so much to keep this building alive, John Crauty and the team, we say thank you!”

Proclamations were then presented by Gibson and Sanchez, including one on behalf of State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, who Gibson said had dedicated \$11 million to the Universal Hip Hop Mu-



Photo by Sile Moloney

A POP-UP EXHIBIT displaying photos, art, and some of the history of Hip Hop lined the buildings around and outside 1520 Sedgwick Avenue [Hip Hop Boulevard] in Morris Heights on Saturday, Aug. 12, 2023, to mark the 50th anniversary of the birth of the music genre during a special celebratory, free concert.

seum.

There were plenty of light moments from the artists during the show including a comical rap performance about anyone found stealing “lyrics from friends”

who would “never MC again!”

After the show, we spoke to “Twin David” from Riverpark Towers in Morris Heights, together with his twin brother, who had reunited with old friends for the concert. “So long overdue! Long overdue...” he said. “I grew up in this area, so this was a homecoming for a lot of us. This brought back a lot of memories of when we would meet here, so it was like the best thing that happened!”

David continued, “*This* is hip hop! Hip hop was *the crowd*! It wasn’t just the artist; it was *the crowd*! Somebody had to watch them before so we supported the hip hop thing. Somebody had to come to the parties! They used to party up in the thing over there and bring the speakers out the windows. Yeah, so we just wanted to put that out to hip hop. Welcome home! Welcome to our home! This is our home! These guys was born here, so to see this happening like this... Wow! Incredible! Thank you for coming!”

Meanwhile, LaTicia Thompson, who said she was born a little further up on Sedgwick Avenue and who attended the event with one of her sons who is 9, smiled as she said, “He doesn’t know anything about this [history] but now he does.” Of the show, she said, in part, “It was awesome! This is the culture, this is us. It was something positive – that’s what it was started as. I hope we live long enough to do the hundred!”

The Aug. 11th concert at Yankee Stadium can be watched on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RgGYGPTXCg&t=1s>.



Photo by Sile Moloney

FANS POSE IN front of commemorative posters outside 1520 Sedgwick Avenue [Hip Hop Boulevard] in Morris Heights after a free block party and concert was held on Saturday, Aug. 12, 2023, to mark the 50th anniversary of the birth of the music genre.

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