



NORWOOD NEWS

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NORWOOD HONORS SALLIE



Photo by Miriam Quiñones

DANZA FIESTA HAD everyone moving to their lively, colorful performance during the 22nd Annual Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 22, 2023, hosted by the Jerome Gun Hill Business Improvement District (BID).

By SÍLE MOLONEY & MIRIAM QUIÑONES

It was an emotional day at the 22nd Annual Fall Festival hosted by the Jerome Gun Hill Business Improvement District (JGH BID) as a special tribute was paid to Tracey Towers resi-

dent and longtime board member of the BID, Sallie Caldwell, who died earlier this year, as reported.

According to the BID team, Caldwell had been a trusted and regular presence at the Fall Festival each year, and her leg-

acy is now set to continue as the team announced that the Sallie Caldwell Lifetime Leadership Award will be presented annually to those who follow her example of uplifting the neighborhood and harnessing the best of community spirit.

The inaugural award was presented to Caldwell's family on the day. During her remarks, Daniela Beasley, executive director of the BID, said Caldwell always had her finger on the pulse of everything. "If I ever

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Remembrance Service Held for Nicholas Feliz Dominici

By SÍLE MOLONEY

The parents of one-year-old Nicholas Feliz Dominici, who tragically died following an apparent fentanyl overdose at Divino Niño Daycare Center in Kingsbridge Heights on Friday, Sept. 15, were joined by members of the clergy, neighbors, residents, and various elected officials for a candlelit remembrance service at Our Lady of Angels church on Webb Avenue in Kingsbridge Heights on Sunday, Oct. 15, one month after the infant's passing.

A private prayer service, closed to the media, was held inside the church at 7 p.m. where attendees were afforded the opportunity to sympathize in person with Nicholas's heartbroken parents, his father, Otoniel Feliz Samboy, and mother, Zoila Dominici, who are also parents to four other young children. The service was followed by refreshments, a brief press conference with elected officials outside the church led by District 14 City Councilwoman Pierina Sanchez, and a choral recital.

Acknowledging the tragic death of Nicholas at the daycare center, where he "should have been safe," Sanchez said in part, "As a family, we gathered to support the Dominici and the Feliz family." She thanked everyone for joining the vigil before turning the mic over to Feliz Samboy, who she said would talk about his son and what "the future will hold for our City and our City's children."

Surrounded by the light of candles and holding his wife in his arms, his eyes red from crying, but maintaining the same determined strength and composure he exuded during a press conference at the Bronx District Attorney's office on Oct. 5, when State charges were announced against those responsible for his son's death, Feliz Samboy thanked everyone for attending the service.

He said even though it was a month since his son's death, it was still a very difficult time for his family. "At this moment, we're feeling the same pain," he said. "These candles are a sign that the life of our son will always shine."

He said he felt the love and support of his family and each person and was grateful for it. "I know my son's passing will not be in vain, not only because those who are guilty will pay, but also because due to his death, many things will change, not only in this City, but in this country and across the world," he said.

Feliz Samboy went on to say, "It's the moment to do the right and conscientious thing following this tragedy that



Photo by Sile Moloney

OTONIEL FELIZ SAMBOY (center) and Zoila Dominici (center right), the parents of Nicholas Feliz Dominici, are joined by District 14 City Council Member Pierina Sanchez and other Bronx elected officials for a prayer and remembrance service for Nicholas at Our Lady of Angels church on Webb Avenue in Kingsbridge Heights on Sunday, Oct. 15, 2023.

happened to my family." He said that although his family bore the brunt of the tragedy, they carried with them knowledge that their motive going forward in honoring Nicholas' passing was to ensure the protection of other children in the United States and across the world.

He said during the mass, his family felt the support of the whole community, not just locally but across the world, and he acknowledged the many letters he said they had received at their home. He thanked again all the organizations and officials from The Bronx, City, State, and federal government who he said had assisted his family throughout the tragedy. "Without all this support, we would not have been able to carry on," he said.

"Thank you to the community for your support, for your nourishing words and messages of condolences and support which have helped us get up each day and face the future with a reason and a motivation to continue forward, that is our family," he said in part. "Thanks for reminding us that we're not alone."

He said in the immediate aftermath of Nicholas' death, he/his family didn't know how to cope with life but the support of the community and of God have kept them on their feet, and helped them continue to fight for their four other children.

"Now, I am a lucky citizen because I have four children in this City who live with me in my home, but I also have one son who has emigrated to the celestial city where we await each other, and one day, we will be reunited as a family," he said, in part. "He will always live in our hearts. Despite the pain and sadness and suffering we feel every day, every night, which has exhausted us, I give thanks to God."

Nonetheless, he explained that even though he knew all those responsible would pay for their crimes, it still wouldn't bring peace to his family's hearts.

Sanchez thanked Congressman Adriano Espaillat (NY-13), Bronx Bor-

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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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- knowledge of Spanish not required but an advantage, as would be a knowledge of New York City departments and their advertising agents
- 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, we asked readers their thoughts on the proliferation of cannabis stores opening up in the community.



"All of these pot stores are open illegally without a license! Two things should happen. If a location opens and starts selling illegal pot, they should be banned from putting a licensed store there. Second, why is it necessary for someone to be convicted of breaking drug laws that they are the first to be rewarded with a license, when breaking or disobeying the law shows what kind of person you are."

Sirio Guerino,
Norwood
Photo by David Greene



"When it comes to the smoke shops, I think it really depends. On one side, it's a good thing because you have people that are sick and might need it, but on the other side, kids have easy access to it, so it really depends. I think if they added more monitoring and restrictions, a bit more limitations would make it easier for everybody. But I mostly see kids going there. I don't really see a lot of adults... I don't see a lot of those stickers [QR code posted outside the store which denotes a licensed establishment] around."

Anniqua Cooper,
Melrose
Photo by David Greene



"This generation is so sidetracked, with everything about instant gratification. Because of the internet, their attention spans are shorter and now add everybody is smoked up, weeded up, because it's everywhere, and it makes it normal to children when they see these places open everywhere."

David Shark,
Harlem, NY
Photo courtesy of David Shark



"The pandemic allowed the illicit market to thrive with smoke shops masked as bodegas, popping up across the city. While convenient, these smoke shops don't offer the stringent standards that an actual dispensary would offer, nor do they vend the cannabis grown diligently by a new class of New York farmers. Dispensaries will clear communities of the illicit market while providing a safe, reliable, and locally grown product."

Christian Amato,
Morris Park
Photo courtesy of Christian Amato



"As a mother of two young children, it is surprising to see how quickly these shops have populated the community and those around me. They seem to be at every other shopping mall and synonymous to a bagel shop or dry cleaners. It makes me wonder how my children will view these establishments as they grow [and] more importantly, the influence it will have on their views of cannabis."

Elvira Carpiteyro,
New Jersey
Photo courtesy of Elvira Carpiteyro

Remembrance Service Held for Nicholas Feliz Dominici

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ough President Vanessa Gibson, Assemblymember George Alvarez (A.D. 78), State Senator Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33), State Sen. Robert Jackson (S.D. 31), State Assemblymember Yudelka Tapia (A.D. 86), most of whom were present, the leadership of the NYPD, who she said had fought so hard to get arrests promptly after the horrific tragedy, the leadership in the community from P.S. 310, the parents, the principal, all of the community, the International School for Liberal Arts (ISLA) Middle School, the Marie Curie High School, Bronx Community Board 7, and everyone for coming together to ensure that the tragedy and loss of Nicholas would not be in vain.

Sanchez also thanked the clergy of Our Lady of Angels church and Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark and her team who she said were fighting with all their might for justice for Nicholas.

As reported, Clark was joined by members of law enforcement at her office on Oct. 5 to announce that Feliz Herrera Garcia, the husband of Grei Mendez, the operator of Divino Niño Daycare Center,



Photo by Sile Moloney

OTONIEL FELIZ SAMBOY and Zoila Dominici the parents of Nicholas Feliz Dominici, District 14 City Council Member Pierina Sanchez and other Bronx elected officials and clergy raise candles for Nicholas outside Our Lady of Angels church on Webb Avenue in Kingsbridge Heights on Sunday, Oct. 15, 2023, after a remembrance service.

Mendez herself, and Carlisto Acevedo Brito, cousin of Herrera Garcia, were charged with murder "under circumstances evincing a depraved indifference to human life, assault, and other charges for allegedly exposing Nicholas and three other surviving babies to fentanyl which was stored in the daycare. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

As reported, they also face additional

federal charges related to drug trafficking. As also reported, the daycare center had undergone three inspections by city health officials to obtain its license, including one surprise inspection prior to the poisoning incident on Sept. 15. Federal and local law enforcement later recovered large quantities of what appears to be fentanyl under the floorboards of the daycare center where infants had been sleeping.

For his part, Espallat said during

the vigil, "We're here to support this family, a young family, an honest family, a hardworking family to show them that the community is behind them, and that this tragedy perhaps will lift the city up so that it doesn't happen to another family like them, that it doesn't happen to any other child. Thank you and we are with you."

The vigil concluded with raised candles, hymns, and chants of, "Nicholas, always," and "We are Nicholas."



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Opinion

“Only One Time is Appropriate for a Rally Celebrating the Murder of Innocents - Never Again”

By VIRGINIA KROMPINGER

The rally held Sunday Oct. 8, by the [NY Chapter of the] Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), right after the abominable attacks on Israel on Oct. 7 is inexcusable. I call upon all community leaders and elected officials who have

not already done so to renounce their support of or from the DSA immediately and do it by name. The “two-siderism” expressed by the DSA and their allies following Hamas’ unprovoked and sadistic terrorist attack on Israeli civilians is unacceptable. This is not only because those blaming Israel are feeding the anti-Semitism that is on the rise both in the United States and globally, and not only because it undermines our strategic partnership with Israel, and therefore our own safety, but also because it is abhorrent to blame a country and its people for being the victim of brutal terrorist attacks - full stop.

Those who immediately cited the long history of Palestine and Israel instead of just outrightly condemning the perpetrator in this heinous attack fell short.

Hamas’ attack was not a military action aimed at military targets. It was aimed at civilians, including women and children, and it was successful in

its murderous aims. It is the height of hypocrisy to condemn Hamas while at the same time praising their “resistance” on behalf of Palestinians. Please explain to me how murdering babies and young children, while at the same time kidnapping and doing God knows what to men, women, and children, is a justifiable form of “resistance”?

And how can one in good conscience celebrate so-called “resistance” *the next day* in NYC, the city that is home to the second largest population of Jewish people in the world? Further, how could the DSA, its members, its allies, and those who restated their rhetoric, have ever thought *this* was the appropriate time to have a rally in support of this “resistance?” DSA’s apology days later addressed only the timing of the rally and again blamed the Israeli government for the violence. There is only one time that is appropriate for a rally celebrating the murder of innocent people: never again.

As someone who was right outside

the World Trade Center on 9/11, watching people jump out of windows to escape what must have been unbearable heat and fire, and who then had to run along with many others on the ground to avoid falling debris, I can tell you unequivocally that no one, no matter what their ethnicity or background, deserves to be a victim of terrorist violence.

Think about what is still happening now in Israel, and then imagine it happening on the streets of New York. Then imagine citizens of our closest allies, the United Kingdom, Canada, Israel, and others, gathering in the streets the day after those attacks and cheering on the perpetrators and justifying their actions. It is a thought too difficult to bear.

Virginia Krompinger is a resident of Riverdale/Spuyten Duyvil and is vice-chair of the Bronx Democratic County Committee and president of the Benjamin Franklin Reform Democratic Club, based in Kingsbridge.

‘Congestion Pricing’ Tolls One Step Closer to Reality

by DAVID GREENE

Bronx drivers should brace for impact as officials at NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) are a big step closer to hitting drivers entering Midtown Manhattan from The Bronx with the new ‘congestion pricing’ toll. DOT work crews have already begun working on the installation of cameras.

Norwood News discovered the new overhead cameras in-

stalled at Park Avenue and on York Avenue, between East 60th and East 61st Streets in Manhattan. The cameras scan a vehicle’s EZ-Pass or snap a photo of its license plate, and the driver later receives a bill in the mail.

Some finer details regarding the new tolls are still being worked out but according to published reports, they are expected to take effect in May 2024 and drivers would be charged between \$9 and \$23 during peak

hours when entering Midtown Manhattan.

One proposal would give individuals earning under \$60,000 per year a tax credit at the end of the year, while taxi drivers across the City have been petitioning New York Gov. Kathy Hochul for an exemption from the new toll.

Upon learning that new toll cameras were already being installed, Parkchester resident Vanessa Goodwin told *Norwood News*, “Oh Boy! I’m a home health aide so enough is enough! We don’t get paid enough; we haven’t had a raise!”

She went on to turn her attention to the situation regarding the ongoing influx of migrants to the City, saying, “I welcome everybody here but we can barely take care of the New Yorkers that we have already, so with the congestion, I believe more money needs to be put into more highways and better infrastructure.”

Meanwhile, Parkchester driver Breanne Dolan said of the new tolls, “I think it’s ridiculous! How are they going to send me an [expletive] bill



Photo by David Greene

NYPD TRAFFIC AGENTS watch traffic pass at York Avenue and East 61st Street in Manhattan, where new congestion pricing toll cameras were observed on Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023.

just for moving around in my own city.” Dolan added, “Why would people want to move here if they have to pay just to go downtown?”

Also turning her focus to New York City’s migrant crisis,

Dolan said, “Everything keeps going up and they don’t want to help people that need help. The wrong people are getting help and prices keep going up, and we’re not getting any help.”



Photo by David Greene

NEW CONGESTION PRICING toll cameras will either scan a driver’s EZ-Pass or snap a photo of their driver’s license plate. The new toll cameras are seen in this photo taken Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023.

NEWS BRIEFS

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Search for Norwood Girl, 15, Reported Missing

The NYPD is asking for the public's help locating a 15-year-old girl reported missing from Norwood. Police said that Nayeli Gualotuna of 3254 Parkside Place was last seen on Tuesday, Oct. 10, at around 5.45 a.m., leaving her home. They said she is described as a White Hispanic female, is 5 feet tall, weighs 140 pounds and has long black hair. They said she was last seen wearing a white shirt, black pants and white shoes.

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



Photo courtesy of the NYPD
NAYELI GUALOTUNA, 15, reported missing.

Housing Repairs After Flooding

NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) is searching for a partner organization to launch the expansion of a program to help low and moderate-income homeowners pay for repairs and upgrades to their properties – including improvements to protect their homes from extreme weather and flooding events.

Originally launched in 2019, HomeFix provides access to low or no-interest loans up to \$60,000 per unit to owners of one to four-family homes in New York City. The loans pay for repairs that address building systems, housing deficiencies,

and other conditions that may be hazardous to residents' health and safety. Eligible renovations may include window replacement and heating, hot water, roofing repairs, and accessibility improvements to help seniors age in place.

City officials said the expanded program, HomeFix 2.0, will be funded through a contract with the City for the first time, allowing for the program to cover sustainability and resiliency upgrades to reduce energy costs, advance emissions reduction goals, and help protect homeowners from extreme weather and flooding events.

They said 75 percent of buildings in the city's coastal floodplain are one to four-family homes and added that the expansion of the plan is part of the City's strategy to help existing homeowners address physical and financial conditions in small buildings, prevent foreclosure and displacement, and ensure the long-term stability of one to four-family homes. To learn more about the HomeFix program, visit <https://www.nyc.gov/site/hpd/services-and-information/homefix.page>, and to learn more about submitting a proposal to the HomeFix 2.0 RFP, visit https://passport.cityofnewyork.us/page.aspx/en/bpm/process_manage_extranet/18911.



Photo courtesy of Kevin Daloia
(L TO R) KEVIN DALOIA AND friend, participate in the Tour de Bronx 2023 on Oct. 21, 2023.

Annual Tour de Bronx Sees 4,000 Bikers

The 29th Annual Tour de Bronx bike race saw 4,000 bike riders take to the borough's streets on Sunday, Oct. 22, including Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson, whose office, in partnership with The Bronx Tourism Council, Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company of New York, Inc., Montefiore Einstein, J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., The Bronx Community Foundation, Transportation Alternatives, and other event sponsors, hosted the event.

Recognized each year as the largest free cycling event in New York State, a total of three routes were featured this year to accommodate both new and ex-

perienced cyclists, including a 40-mile route which included a special detour to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Hip Hop to 1520 Sedgwick Avenue, a 25-mile route, and a new family-friendly 10-mile route. All three ended at the New York Botanical Garden for a festival and concert that featured multi-platinum music producer Antwan "Amadeus" Thompson, and acclaimed radio personality, DJ Spynfo, owner of Sankofa Haus in the Mott Haven section of the Bronx.

"What better way to experience the richness in culture, diversity, and heritage found in our neighborhoods, historic districts, and iconic corridors than through cycling across our beloved borough," said Gibson.

Officials further advised that children should never trick or treat alone. "A parent or responsible adult should accompany young children," they said, while also recommending that parents plan the trick-or-treat route in advance. They further advised that kids should only walk on sidewalks, not on the streets. "Walk, don't run, look both ways before crossing the street, and cross only at the corner, and with the green light/walk sign," they said. "Don't cross between parked cars, never walk through alleys or cut across yards, [and] only cross the street in designated crosswalks."

ACS officials said adults should use extra caution if driving because trick-or-treaters can get excited and



Photo courtesy of Sirio Guerino

LOCAL VOLUNTEERS JOIN the annual BMCA clean-up of Mosholu Parkway on Oct. 21, 2023.

Volunteers Join BMCA for Annual Fall Clean-Up

Members of Bedford Mosholu Community Association, shown above, were joined by Guerinos Against Graffiti (GAG)* and community resident, AJ Ramos, for the annual fall clean-up event on Mosholu Parkland, despite the rain on Saturday, Oct. 21. Ramos was commended by Sirio Guerino of GAG for being the only resident to show up on the day to volunteer, outside of the two groups.

may forget to look both ways before crossing. They said children should accept treats at the door but never go inside a stranger's home and both children and adults should be cautious around animals and pets.

In addition, it's recommended that grown-ups check goodies before eating, that they make sure to remove loose candy, open packages and choking hazards, and discard any items with unfamiliar brand names.

They further recommend leaving the pumpkin carving to adults and instead to let children draw a face with markers. They also advise using a flashlight or glowstick to light the pumpkin instead of a candle.

ACS Offers Tips for Safe Trick or Treating

Ahead of Halloween, NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) and the American Red Cross are sharing some important tips to help keep New York City's children safe. Agency officials recommend making sure trick-or-treaters can see and are, themselves, seen. "Give children a flashlight to light their way so they don't trip or get hurt, wear light-colored clothing and add reflective tape to costumes and trick-or-treat bags so kids are easier to see in the dark," they said. They also recommend choosing safe costumes. "Use flame-resistant costumes, [and] try on costumes ahead of time to make sure children can see properly through masks or headwear," they said.

Apply for Congressional App Challenge by Nov. 1

Middle and high school students who live in or attend a school in Congressional District 14 in The Bronx, represented by Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, are invited to create a software application for the Congressional App Challenge. Students may register as individuals or as teams of up to four. No more than four students are allowed to form a team. Winners will be invited to gather in D.C. to be publicly recognized. Register at <https://www.congressionalappchallenge.us/> by Nov. 1.



Letters To The Editor

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

National Debt

There is no cause for celebration by President Biden and Congress now that our national debt exceeds \$33.6 trillion. This averages \$100,227 per citizen or \$259,103 per taxpayer according to the October 20, 2023, National Debt Clock. There are thousands of employees who are familiar with the details of our federal budget. How difficult can it be to find billions in savings? This could assist in reducing our periodic raising of the debt ceiling.

Millions of Americans cut their household budgets to make ends meet. It is time for Washington to live within its available existing revenues without excessive borrowing, just like millions of

ordinary citizens. We should return to pre-COVID-19 spending levels of \$1.47 trillion annually. The President and Congress have forgotten the old saying - a penny saved is a penny earned. Americans should send both a penny to remind them that it is not a sin to save. Unless we change our ways, America is on the road to losing our status as the world's number one superpower to China. Just like mighty ancient Rome before the collapse, we are going down the path to become the world's super debtor.

**Larry Penner,
Great Neck**

The SANTOS Act

Does Congress really need to pass the SANTOS [Stopping Another Non-Truthful Office Seeker] Act to make it a crime for a congressional candidate to lie about his or her background? If Democratic congressional candidate Robert

Zimmerman had not been so stupid, he would have checked [Rep.] George Santos' [NY-3] background and discovered that he was lying before the election. Nowadays, it's easier than ever to do this with this newfangled thing called the internet. Isn't this something candidates routinely do? It's ironic that his name is Robert Zimmerman. A brilliant man who was born with the same name but changed it to Bob Dylan would probably tell him, "You're an idiot, Babe/ It's a wonder that you still know how to breathe."

**Richard Warren,
Van Cortlandt Village**

Fines / Pensions / Jail Terms for former Bronx Politicians / Union Reps

Editor's Note: *Norwood News* is continuing to follow up with various federal, State and City departments to obtain

the status of jail terms, fines, and pensions for various former Bronx elected officials and union representatives previously arrested on alleged corruption charges. We will share any updates we receive in due course.

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.

Pop-Up Food Pantries Still Needed

By SÍLE MOLONEY

As the cost of food continues to remain high, the local Muslim community affiliated with Masjidus Sabur and the 52nd Precinct joined forces on Friday, Oct. 6, to support another pop-up food pantry in Norwood at 2975 Bainbridge Avenue, where lines of families were seen waiting to fill their bags with fresh food and some hot prepared meals.

NYPD Community Affairs Officer Stephen Echevarria explained that the food was supplied by Masjidus Sabur and the logistics of coordinating it to the site was facilitated by the precinct, along with some members of the NYPD Explorers program, who were also present handing out public safety and other information.

"The rain held for us," Echevarria said. "This was part of our Faith and Blue weekend where we do a little bit more outreach to our clergy, our mosque in the neighborhood, and this is one of the mosques that we chose because they've been doing great things in the neighborhood."

He added, "It was an honor to be a part of this today and we're very glad that Iman Talivudeen and Brother Musa were able to invite us to just enjoy giving back to the community and that's what we want to do."

We also spoke to the Iman [Talivudeen McCutchen], who said they sometimes partner with another mosque for

the event and fund the event through a grant they receive. "We're able to serve, generally speaking, 200 families per week," he said in part, adding, "We're fortunate to be able to have these partnerships."

Auxiliary Inspector Dave Wong said of the event, "You know, we broke bread together [for] many, many years and are currently actually doing something which is great, together."

Meanwhile, Officer Martin explained the NYPD Explorers program, saying, "Our age ranges from 14 to 20. We bring them together with an introduction to law enforcement, we teach them to try to give them the scope of a real officer. Like our junior officers, we teach them scenarios like domestic violence, car stops, and what we look for, what they can look for, but also with our posts, they have competitions with other posts to see who's the best at it, and so that's good. They have fun, and it's also about giving back to the community like you see us here today."

Dr. Shaka Aziz, a naturopath, was



Photo by Síle Moloney

VOLUNTEERS PREPARE FRESH food and hot meals for local residents at a pop-up food pantry at 2875 Bainbridge Avenue in Norwood hosted by Masjidus Sabur and the 52nd Precinct on Friday, Oct. 6, 2023.

also present providing acupuncture services to attendees. He said he loves sharing information about air acupuncture or air acupressure with people because he said it's excellent for pain reduction and harm reduction. "It's also helpful for relieving individuals who are battling substance abuse disorders, and not just that, but anybody that's battling any

type of stress, period," he said. "It helps to balance out the body."

Meanwhile, Officer Capo said, "We're working with Islamic Relief Fund. We usually do it once or twice a year. They do it [themselves] every month. There's a lot of stuff that people need. It's good to see the turn-out. You'd be surprised how many people need food."

Woman Pleads with Gunmen Not to Harm Grandma During Norwood Robbery

By SÍLE MOLONEY

A young female Norwood store owner pleaded with three masked gunmen not to harm her grandmother or other family members as they held a gun to the back of her boyfriend's head, while pulling the backroom contents of the store asunder, searching for cash during a robbery earlier this month.

Police later said four people robbed the store of a quantity of cash on Monday, Oct. 16, at around 7.06 p.m. The store owner later confirmed the group took \$1,000 in cash, plus other items. A police spokesperson told *Norwood News*, "Four suspects....unknown [description]. They were all wearing masks and [some] displayed firearms." Some residents reportedly told another local store owner they saw a group of three fleeing the location on foot northbound on Bainbridge Avenue on the evening of the incident.

According to police and Yasmin, the store owner, who declined to give her surname, no injuries were reported, though the five people present during the robbery were still clearly in shock an hour or two after the incident as they contemplated how differently the evening could have transpired. Present during the robbery were Yasmin, her mother, her grandmother, her boyfriend, and her boyfriend's customer. Her father and boyfriend also work at the business.

A sign on the store's door requests patrons to gently knock to gain entry. Describing how the event unfolded, Yasmin said, "I was in the back, and then my mom let these three people in because they usually are normal customers." She said the group went straight to the back of the store where one employee who fixes electronic products was working.

"I guess they knew that there was money here, and I don't know.... They started knocking things down in the back, and then my mom ran to the back to see what was going on, and they had their guns out," Yasmin continued.

She said she recalls seeing three guns before her instincts kicked in. "I tried to run outside and get the police but I fell to the ground and the guy got me," she said. "He was like, 'Go to the back,' and he had the gun on the side of my ribcage," she added, her voice trembling.

She continued, "I just came around, and I see that they have the gun on my boyfriend's back of his head, and I'm here trying to calm my grandma down because she was panicking and I was telling the guy, 'Please, please don't shoot. I have my grandma here. Please don't do anything,' and then they were just saying, 'Don't touch anything and stay still!'"

Yasmin said the group kept running back and forth and as they were about to leave, one of them said, "There's more money! There's more money!" She said they then took her bag. "I'm just in shock," she said. "I'm grateful that nothing [more serious] happened. It's just crazy."

She said she and her family tried to use their phones but the gunmen, who she described as very young with Dominican accents who spoke in Spanish, kept telling them to leave their phones alone. "They just stole mad things," she said. "They steal money. They steal a present from.. a Gucci bag, Apple watches, our wallets, so everything."

Asked if she or police had checked nearby trash cans for her handbag since sometimes thieves just want the contents or cash and quickly get rid of the bag, she said, "I don't know. They didn't check anything. They just did the fingerprints in here, and they asked us questions, checked the cameras. They had us zooming around to check if we could see them around, but they fled so fast that I knew we weren't going to find out where they were."

Asked if the cash was taken from a cash register, Yasmin said, "No, it was in the safe because the safe was open, because he [a colleague] was putting money in." Asked if she thought the robbers knew at what time employees were usually taking money in and out of the safe, she said, "I think they knew because we send money to countries. They knew that there was money here. This was planned out because it's impossible for someone just to come out of nowhere."

Asked if she recognized the group as regular customers, Yasmin said, "My mom said that she recognized.... They looked like they were regular customers, but once that whole thing happened, like we knew that they weren't customers." Asked if they were big guys / intimidating, Yasmin said, "[Some] skinny, [some] bulky. They weren't intimidating. It was more so because they had the guns, they scared us. If they didn't have those guns, something felt like it could have been done."



Photo by Síle Moloney

POLICE DETECTIVES INTERVIEW THE owner and family members of Yasmin Boutique Multiservices, located at 282 East 204th Street between Perry Avenue and Bainbridge Avenue in the Norwood section of The Bronx, after a group of four robbed the store on Monday evening, Oct. 16, 2023.

Asked if they seemed nervous, Yasmin said, "They were shaking because one of them was in front of the door, and there was two back there. They were just searching everything to see if there was money." Asked if they broke anything, she said, "They didn't break anything. They just knocked everything down in the backroom."

She added, "I'm just happy everyone is okay. I was more so concerned about my grandma. She could have gotten like a heart attack." Seated on a low stool, as one of the male employees stood guard at the door, and holding her head in her hands, the visibly shaken, tiny grandmother offered up prayers. We asked Yasmin if her mom or grandma wanted to say anything. They declined. "They're just scared," she said. "They're just in shock."

We mentioned that a business owner in the area said he believes crime has gone up in the last two years, and asked Yasmin if that was also her impression. "Around here? Yeah, we've never.... I'm not going to say never... but it hasn't been this bad until now," she said. "We've been having people with motorcycles, jumping people, taking phones."

She said she thought there had been a recent robbery close by on Decatur. "They also robbed like two weeks ago," she said. "They had a robbery around there. I just don't feel like we're safe here now. We don't know if they'll come again, especially knowing that this is a business where we can send money. So, somebody must know that there's something here, that they planned this out, and they sent them over or something."

According to NYPD data, year-to-date robberies in the 52nd Precinct, compared to the same timeframe in 2022,

are up 9.6 percent, but in The Bronx as a whole, year to date, they have dropped 5.3 percent.

Asked if the money transfers were made electronically on site, she said no, that they accepted cash from customers and then the cash was deposited in a bank to make the transfer. "But we might have to change that now," she said. "That's going to have to change, definitely. We're not going to be taking no more cash now. It's just something that we're not safe with here anymore."

In reference to future security measures, Yasmin said, "We want to get security in here. I tell my mom that we're definitely going to have to get a panic button. Yeah, for anything that happens because phones, we can't rely on. There just has to be some sort of way for us to be safe without us having to go through something like this. Like I wouldn't even wish this on anyone."

In terms of the amount of money taken, Yasmin said, "We didn't even care for that. We were just like, 'Take it all. Just leave my family alone.'"

Asked if there was anything she wanted to share with other business owners following the incident, Yasmin said, "I just feel like any business out there... I feel like they should start putting signs up [and] anybody that comes in should take off their mask immediately because you never know what can happen.... to be alarmed or to have some type of way to get in contact with the police without having an emergency button or whatever it is."

We mentioned that New York City Mayor Eric Adams had spoken previously during a press conference about the need for mask removal to be implemented when customers enter stores going forward to assist police / victims with a description in the event of a robbery.

"Definitely," Yasmin said. "I feel like there should be more precaution around the area. If anybody sees something to speak up, not record. Like recording is not a way out. Like anything could have happened here; anybody could have been shot."



Photo by Síle Moloney

POLICE VEHICLES ARE seen outside Yasmin Boutique Multiservices, located at 282 East 204th Street between Perry Avenue and Bainbridge Avenue in the Norwood section of The Bronx, after a group of four robbed the store on Monday evening, Oct. 16, 2023.

CRIME FILE

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



companying photos at left who they say are wanted in connection with an attempted shooting in University Heights. Police said that on Thursday, Oct. 12, at around 2.25 p.m., the two fired multiple rounds at a group of people standing in front of 2401 Davidson Avenue. They said the two were last seen fleeing northbound on the avenue and that no injuries were reported.

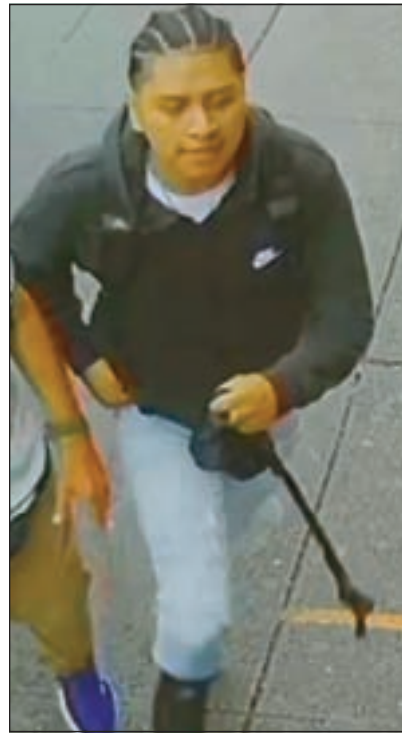
Police said one of the two, believed to be the shooter, was described as male, with a light complexion, and was last seen wearing a black hooded jacket, blue jeans, and black sneakers. They said the second person was described as male, with a light complexion, who was wearing a blue, colored hoodie under a dark jacket, black pants and white sneakers.



Fordham Manor: Man Sought following Bottle Attack

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the person seen in the accompanying photo above who they say is sought in connection with an assault that occurred in Fordham Manor. Police said that on Wednesday, Sept. 13, at around 9.47 p.m., a person entered 237 East 194th Street and struck the victim, a 26-year-old male, in the face with a bottle, causing minor injuries.

They said the assailant fled the location to parts unknown. "The victim was removed by EMS to St. Barnabas Hospital in stable condition," a police spokesperson said. Police said the accompanying photo was obtained from the vicinity of the incident location.



Belmont: 18-Year-Old Arrested in Non-Fatal Stabbing

The NYPD said they have made an arrest in the case of a non-fatal stabbing of a 16-year-old male youth that occurred in Belmont earlier this month. Police had been asking for the public's help locating the person seen in the accompanying photo above who they said was wanted in connection with the assault. They said that on Friday, Oct. 6, at around 11.35 a.m., an unidentified person got into a physical altercation with a group of men in front of 406 East Fordham Road in Belmont.

Police said that during the altercation, the person stabbed the victim, a 16-year-old male, in the stomach, and was last seen fleeing westbound on East Fordham Road on foot. They said the victim was removed by EMS to St. Barnabas Hospital in stable condition. They said the assailant was described as male,

around 5 feet, 9 inches tall, weighed 170 pounds and had a light complexion and braided hair. They said he was last seen wearing a black, hooded sweatshirt, blue jeans, and black sneakers.

On Oct. 17, police said pursuant to an ongoing investigation, Ronaldo Martinez, 18, of Sedgwick Avenue in University Heights, The Bronx was arrested on Monday, Oct. 16, at 2 p.m. They said he was charged with assault. A person arrested and charged with a crime is deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

Fordham Heights Subway Robbery

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the person seen in the accompanying photo at bottom who they say is wanted in connection with a robbery. They said that on Sunday, Oct. 22, at around 5 a.m., the victim, a 25-year-old man fell asleep aboard the D train at the Grand Concourse and East 182nd Street subway station. Police said the man stole the victim's watch, wallet, an iPhone 14 Pro Max, and sneakers, and then fled to parts unknown.

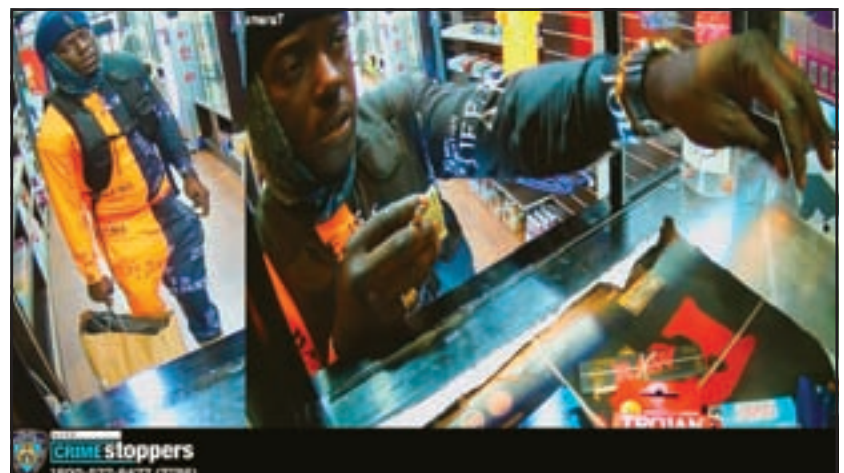
They said there were no injuries reported following the incident and added that the value of the property was around \$1,180. They said the person sought is described as male, has a dark complexion, a medium build, is estimated to be aged between 20 and 25, and was last seen wearing a yellow/blue, long-sleeve shirt with matching yellow/blue pants, a blue, winter hat and tan boots.

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



University Heights: Two Sought in Nonfatal Shooting

The NYPD is asking for help locating the two people seen in the ac-



150 Protest Torres' Support of Israel

By DAVID GREENE

The Bronx Antiwar Coalition held a second rally in The Bronx on Tuesday, Oct. 24, to call for a cessation of the bombing of Gaza, after tensions escalated severely in the Middle East following a Hamas terrorist attack on Southern Israel on Oct. 7, and Israel's subsequent bombing and ground invasion preparation of Gaza.

CBS News reported on Oct. 18 that Palestinian officials say Israel's bombardment of Gaza has killed about 3,000 people and wounded around 12,500 others, a majority of them women and children [since Oct. 7]. Meanwhile, in Israel, officials say Hamas's terror attack and ongoing rocket attacks have killed some 1,400 people and wounded 3,500 others. The outlet reported that Hamas is said to be holding almost 200 hostages, though some have been released in the interim.

The first pro-Palestinian rally was held on Fordham Plaza on Sunday, Oct. 15. The second time their rally was held on East Fordham Road, outside the office of Congressman Ritchie Torres (NY-15) as an estimated crowd of 150 denounced his support of Israel, and the continued bombing of Gaza where, according to intelligence officials, Israeli hostages may also be held captive.

Demonstrators gathered outside Torres' Bronx office at 540 East Fordham Road in Belmont with chants of, "Not another

nickel, not another dime. No more money for Israel's crime," and "Ritchie Torres, you can't hide. No more money for Israel's crime."

Standing outside Torres' office which was closed, Richard Merino of the Bronx Antiwar Coalition told the crowd, "So, this is the letter that we wrote to Ritchie Torres that caused him to block us on social media."

Addressing Torres, in absentia, Merino continued, "You began your Twitter tantrum by falsely claiming that we are largely pretending to be from The Bronx. I want you to shout right now if you're from The Bronx." Many in the crowd shouted, "Yeah!"

Stating that more than 4,000 Palestinians have been killed, and more that one million people displaced [since Oct. 7], Merino issued three public demands of Torres: end [U.S. military] aid to Israel, stop the bombing of Gaza, and end the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

According to the Council on Foreign Relations, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict dates back to the end of the nineteenth century. In 1947, the United Nations adopted Resolution 181, known as the Partition Plan, which sought to divide the British Mandate of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states. On May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was created, sparking the first Arab-Israeli War. The war ended in 1949 with Israel's victory, but 750,000 Palestinians were displaced,

and the territory was divided into 3 parts: the State of Israel, the West Bank (of the Jordan River), and the Gaza Strip.

According to one EU agency, some 4.5 million Palestinians live in the Occupied Palestinian Territories of the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and Gaza. Amnesty International has said of the Israeli government, "Laws, policies, and institutional practices all work to expel, fragment, and dispossess Palestinians of their land and property, and deprive Palestinians of their human rights." It concludes the treatment amounts to an institutionalized regime of oppression and domination defined as apartheid under international law.

Back at the rally, continuing to address Torres, Merino said, "You don't represent us. 96.3 percent of your campaign's funding came from outside the 15th Congressional District. You represent luxury real estate developers who are eager to turn the South Bronx into the next Williamsburg." *Norwood News* was unable to corroborate whether this allegation regarding funding is true as of press date but is following up on the matter and will share updates in subsequent editions.

Rabbi Dovid Weiss of the True Torah Jews who leads "an anti-Zionist congregation" in Monsey, New York, later told the crowd, "Greetings to all on such a sad occasion, an occasion of bloodshed, of death, suffering. Every minute that goes by is precious because.....another bomb, more lives destroyed."

Weiss added, "Our history in the Torah is 3,000 years old. We accepted a covenant with God to be subservient for 3,000 years already. We strictly adhere to that. Zionism is 150 years of a political movement. They [other Jews] have no right whatsoever to speak in the name of my religion."

Speaker Claudia De La Cruz, codirector of the People's Forum and presidential candidate of "Party for Socialism & Liberation," who said she once attended Theodore Roosevelt High School, located a block from the protest venue, said of Torres, "At the end of the day, he lacks the backbone to make the connection that his people, Puerto Rican people, have been under the boot of U.S. imperialism."

After the rally, "Debra" a resident of Parkchester and a woman



Photo by David Greene

PRO-PALESTINIAN DEMONSTRATORS DENOUNCE the support of Israel by Rep. Ritchie Torres (NY-15) amid the bombing of Gaza since Oct. 8, 2023, during a protest outside of Torres' East Fordham Road office on Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2023.

of Puerto Rican and Dominican decent, told *Norwood News*, "I'm here today first because Ritchie Torres is my congressman and I want to stop genocide. He needs to stop sending money to Israel." Protesters then marched across East Fordham Road to the U.S. Military Recruiting Station on the Grand Concourse.

At the same time as the second pro-Palestinian rally was held, a separate pro-Israel, pro-Torres rally was being held at Seton Park at West 235th Street in Riverdale, which a source later told *Norwood News* was attended by approximately 250 people, including Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81) and Councilman Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11.)

After the dueling rallies, Torres tweeted, in part, "My congressional district saw two rallies regarding Israel. An astroturf, anti-Israel, hate rally with less than 100 people (mostly from outside my district) chanting 'resistance is justified.' Although the congressman was not in attendance, Torres alleged 1,000 people attended the Riverdale rally.

Chants of "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free," were heard at different Pro-Palestinian rallies. According to the American Jewish Committee (AJC), the refrain, which is also the title of a book, is a common rallying cry for pro-Palestinian activists, and seemingly calls for the establishment of a State of Palestine from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea, eliminating Israel entirely.

We asked the Bronx Antiwar Coalition if they wished for such a Palestinian governing, one-state solution. They responded, saying, "It calls for the liberation

of Palestinians from Zionist settler-colonialism, genocide, military occupation, apartheid, and displacement. The single state that will result from that liberation will provide equal rights to all people living in Palestine."

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (NY-14), who represents parts of Queens and The Bronx, had called for a ceasefire during an Instagram Live session on Sunday, Oct. 22, with her constituents, saying human rights had to be upheld by all sides of the conflict.

On Oct. 25, according to Congressman Jamaal Bowman Ed.D. (NY-16), the House of Representatives voted on a resolution that does not acknowledge a two-state solution in the Middle East and does not call for a de-escalation of violence. Bowman had previously condemned the Hamas attack on Israel on Oct. 7.

The congressman, who represents Westchester and parts of The Bronx, said, in part on Oct. 25, "In order to save Israeli and Palestinian lives now and in the future, and fight the rise of antisemitism, islamophobia and all hate, we need to respond in this moment with leadership, balance and a spirit towards true and long-lasting peace, not war."

For those wishing to donate to help humanitarian efforts in the region, Unicef is coordinating aid for those affected by the conflict. Visit <https://www.unicefusa.org/>.

Norwood News reached out to Torres' office for comment on the second Fordham rally. We did not receive an immediate response.

**Sile Moloney contributed to this story.*



Photo by David Greene

TWO MEMBERS OF an "anti-Zionist Jewish congregation" from Monsey, New York stand between a "Wanted" sign, featuring Congressman Ritchie Torres (NY-15) during a rally outside his Fordham Road office on Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2023.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

Fordham Road Fair

The Annual Fordham Road Fair will be held on Saturday, Oct. 28, from noon to 6 p.m. at East Fordham Road between Grand Concourse and Elm Place. There will be food, rides, roller skating, games and music. All are welcome.

Idea Generation Session on People's Money

Bronx Community Board 7 is holding an ideas generation session on Saturday, Nov. 4 from 11 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. at 2450 Grand Concourse, 3rd Floor, Bronx, NY to help decide how to spend \$5 million of the City's budget. Please RSVP at bit.ly/46Kv8tk. Call (929) 496 7687 or email sochoa-camacho@cb.nyc.gov with any questions.

Free Paper Shredding Event

Various elected officials will be hosting a free paper shredding event on Sunday, Oct. 29, at 3107 Kingsbridge Avenue, Bronx, NY, for anyone who would like to dispose of personal documents safely.

Job Fair

Assembly Member John Zaccaro Jr. and NYS Department of Labor will be hosting a job fair and career expo on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Columbus High School campus, 925 Astor Avenue, Bronx, NY 10469. Call (718) 409 0109 for more details.

Free Housing Legal Services

State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33) and New York Legal Assistance Group will be hosting a free, virtual housing legal services event on Thursday, Nov. 16, from 10 a.m. to 2.15 p.m. and a second in-person event on Tuesday, Nov. 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 2432 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10458. Call (718) 933 2034 to book an appointment.

One-on-One Tech Help

The Mosholu branch of New York Public Library offers free one-on-one tech help to those 18 and over at the library, located at 285 East 205th Street, Bronx, NY 10467, on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3.30 p.m. No registration is required.

Clothes Drive

District 11 City Council Member Eric Dinowitz is hosting a clothing drive for new or gently used clothes to help migrant families. Donations of warm coats and jackets, underwear, t-shirts and blouses, pants, hats, shoes, scarves, diapers & formula, sweaters, sweatshirts, socks, leggings and long-sleeve shirts can be dropped off Monday to Friday from 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 277 West 231st Street, Bronx, NY. Please call (718) 549 7300 or email dinowitz@council.nyc.gov with any questions.

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>.

Con Ed Works

Con Edison is performing electric upgrade work on East 203rd Street between Grand Concourse and Valentine Avenue in Bedford Park from Oct. 4 to Nov. 29, Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and thanks residents for their patience during this work. Residents should expect street closures, limited street parking and noise during the duration of the work. If anyone has any concerns, please email worknotice@coned.com.

Flea Market

Bedford Park Congregational Church, located at 21st Street and Bainbridge Avenue in Bedford Park, will host a big flea market on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with bargains, raffles, sandwiches, and cakes. All are invited.

General Election Key Dates

The next general election takes place on Tuesday, Nov. 7. The deadline for voter registration, updating your address, and requesting an absentee ballot (online or by mail) is Monday, Oct. 23. Early voting runs from Saturday, Oct.

28, through Sunday, Nov. 5. Register to vote at <https://nycvotes.turbobvote.org/>. To find your early voting or Election Day voting site, visit <https://findmypollsite.vote.nyc/>.

Funding Needed to Preserve Edgehill Church

Kingsbridge Historical Society (KHS) is appealing to the community to support the upkeep of its headquarters, Edgehill Church, located in Spuyten Duyvil. Members wish to preserve and protect the landmarked, 135-year-old church for its historical significance but also for meetings, lectures, and other cultural events. They said there is no heating system, it takes in water during rainstorms, badly needs a coat of paint, and its Tiffany Studio windows need to be preserved and protected. Donations can be made at <https://kingsbridgehistoricalsociety.org/donate/> or on KHS's Go Fund Me page directly.

Affordable Housing Lotteries

NYC Department of Housing, Preservation and Development (HPD) launched an affordable housing lottery for units at 40 Bruckner Boulevard in Mott Haven with a closing date of Oct. 30, and another for units at 3073 Barker Avenue in Olinville with a closing date of Nov. 15. Visit www.norwoodnews.org, and search for "affordable housing" for more information.

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.

POTS Part of the Solution

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others achieve
stability

Fight
poverty and
hunger

Belong
to a loving
community

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Investigation into Bainbridge Avenue Fire Ongoing

By SÍLE MOLONEY

The cause of the commercial fire that ripped through seven small businesses on Bainbridge Avenue in Norwood between East 205th and East 206th Streets during the early hours of Tuesday, Oct. 10, is still under investigation according to the FDNY, who provided the latest update on Oct. 25. The building is owned by Bainbridge Realty Associates LLC. *Norwood News* has attempted to reach

the owners for comment. Builders were seen demolishing the remains of the structure last week, and there are rumors that the site has been sold. We will share any updates we receive on the matter. During the Bronx CB7 general board meeting held at Monroe College on Oct. 24, concerns were raised by one member regarding whether the affected business owners were receiving the support they needed in the wake of the blaze.

Out & About

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

EVENTS

During the Gilded Age, Americans who achieved wealth celebrated it as never before. It should come as no surprise that residents of Gilded Age mansions also had Gilded Age mausoleums. Visit Woodlawn Cemetery on Saturday, Oct. 28 at 7 p.m. for an evening walking tour of **Illuminated Mausoleums of the Gilded Age**. Be sure to dress for weather and bring comfortable shoes. For more information and to reserve tickets, visit <https://www.woodlawn.org/conservancy/tours-events/>.

Some 8,500 veterans are buried at Woodlawn. In honor of Veterans Day, Woodlawn Cemetery & Conservancy invites the public to join Kevin C. Fitzpatrick, award-winning author of "World War I New York: A Guide to the City's Enduring Ties to the Great War," for a **Walking Tour of the Gravesites and Memorials of the Veterans of the Great War** who served a century ago. You will meet soldiers in the trenches, daring aviators who risked their lives in biplanes, a member of the Harlem Hellfighters, the most storied Black combat unit of World War I, and poor

immigrants who served their new country with honor. Kevin will have copies of his book, which includes a chapter on Woodlawn heroes, for sale. For more information and to book tickets, visit <https://www.woodlawn.org/conservancy/tours-events/>.

FOOD & DRINK

Bronx Night Market's season finale will conclude its 7-year run on Fordham Plaza in Belmont/Fordham Manor on Oct. 28. Organizers said the difficult decision comes from various factors, including concerns for the safety of its dedicated team and valued vendors, challenges in garnering substantial support from the community, and the inability to secure necessary sponsorships for Bronx-based experiences.

The market organizers wish to express their deepest gratitude to the community, vendors, attendees, and partners who they say have been integral to its journey. For inquiries, details about the final events, and the Bronx Night Market's legacy, please visit www.bronxnighmarket.com.

KIDS

Kids aged 5-12 are invited to join the Kingsbridge branch of New York Public Library, located at 291 West 231st

Street, Bronx, NY 10463, for an evening of **Halloween Crafts** on Monday, Oct. 30, at 4 p.m. Have fun creating arts & crafts for Halloween.

The 52nd Precinct will host its Annual **"Trunk or Treat"** event for local children on Tuesday, Oct. 31, at 5 p.m. at 3016 Webster Avenue in Norwood. All are welcome.

The **38th Annual Bronx Halloween Parade** takes place on Saturday, Oct. 28, from noon to 5 p.m. at Westchester Avenue and Southern Boulevard. Visit <https://donyc.com/events/2023/10/28/38th-annual-bronx-halloween-parade-tickets> for more information and to purchase tickets. The theme, this year, is 80s Horror Movies, there will be a best costume contest, and much more. Call (718) 328 9125 for more information.

ART

Paint with watercolor and oil pastels at Mosholu Library, located at 285 East 205th Street in Norwood, as part of its **Culture Pass Creative Program** on Thursday, Oct. 26, at 3 p.m. Join the library for **Adults Arts & Crafts** and make some homemade decorations and gifts on Wednesday, Nov. 8, and on Nov. 22, at 3 p.m. No registration is required and anyone over 18 can join.

MOVEMENT

Various Fitness Programs ranging from Line Dancing to Cardio Strength to Hip Hop and from Zumba to Circuit Training are running at Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, 3225 Reservoir Oval East in Norwood from Oct. 1 through Dec. 16, on various days at different times. Call (718) 543 8672 or email Victor.Campbell@parks.nyc.gov for more information.

City as Living Laboratory (CALL) has announced that on Sunday, Oct. 29, opera composer, Kamala Sankaram, will lead two **Tibbetts Brook Sound Walks** in Van Cortlandt Park, 240 Van Cortlandt Park South, Bronx, NY 10463, to launch "The Buried Book," a free, interactive augmented reality sound walk that traces the sonic geography of the buried Tibbetts Brook, which once flowed from Yonkers through The Bronx and into the Harlem River. As you follow the brook's former route, the app activates field recordings, songs, and instrumental solos that overlap uniquely for each listener. Walk Section One starts at noon, and Walk Section Two starts at 1.30 p.m. and is followed by refreshments at The Van Cortlandt Lakehouse at 3 p.m. RSVP at <https://www.cityaslivinglab.org/events/theburiedbrooklaunch>.



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SELF DEFENSE

Ogunda Ryu is a Wellness Combat and Self Defense Program. Our classes are in Masjidus Sabur, located at 2975 Bainbridge Ave, Bronx, NY 10458, Tuesdays and Sundays, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Please come join us. Ousssss. Have a Blessed Day.

Public and Community Meetings

The next **52nd PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meeting will take place on Thursday, Oct. 26, at 7 p.m. at St. Philip Neri Church, 3025 Grand Concourse, 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 (CB7)** general board meeting will be held in November (date TBC). Contact KCabreraCarrera@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list. All meetings are in person unless otherwise notified by Bronx CB7.

The next **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8** full board meeting will be held in November (date TBC). Contact BX08@cb.nyc.gov for more details, and to be added to the distribution list.

The next **BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** meeting will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 1, at 7 p.m. Usually, the meetings are held at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. South in Apt. B1 (Lobby Floor). For more details, please contact bedfordmosholu@verizon.net.



Clocks Go Back for Daylight Saving

Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, Nov. 5, at 2 a.m. On Saturday night, Nov. 4, clocks *are set back one hour*, gaining one hour to “fall back.” Sunrise and sunset will be one hour earlier on Nov. 5, than on the previous day, and it will be brighter each morning from Nov. 5 onwards until the next clock change.

Norwood Honors Sallie Caldwell

(continued from page 1)

wanted to know what was going on in the neighborhood, what our small businesses needed, she knew," Beasley said.

She continued, "She [knew] everything that [was] going on, and so when we did lose her this year, it was a huge loss to the BID and to the community. To her neighbors, to every single person who Sally touched, and she touched absolutely everyone in the north Bronx, I would like to give the lifetime leadership award, to recognize Sally Caldwell, to her family and just say how much we loved her."

Caldwell's grandson, who is a musician, Julian Michael Caldwell, accepted the award on behalf of his family. "Can we make some noise from my grandmother, Sally Caldwell?" he asked the crowd, later explaining that he knew her as "Grandma Sassy."

Caldwell continued, "That's a story from when I was really young but yeah, my grandmother, she obviously loves her family. We were her blood family but she was all about her community, this area. She lived in Tracy Towers for decades, longer than I've been on this earth. Whether it was about the health and the safety of this community, she went all in. Whether it was about just having fun and celebrating this very festival right here, she was all about it, so it's amazing!"

Her grandson added that the longtime BID board member, who had been honored with several accolades throughout her lifetime for her dedication to her community, would have gotten a kick out of the latest acknowledgement. "I

didn't know that for years to come [the award] was going to be named after her," he said. "That's amazing, that not just this year but every year we could recognize and remember her."

Local health & nutrition-based business, "Snatch Back Nutrition," were presented with the Community Service Award. "They have been absolutely amazing," Beasley said of the store before presenting the award. "They are a newer business on Gun Hill Road and we did a spring event series this year, and they showed up every single time and we can always count on them, so they were very deserving of this community service award."

Owner, Asha Finch, said she was not expecting the honor. "What can I say?" she said. "This journey for me has been very difficult. Three years ago... my life... I shouldn't be talking to you guys, but the universe and I had different plans and then within that journey, I took that, and I opened up this location for the community because I'm so family orientated. I'm so community orientated, and I just wanted to be able to give back to you guys."

She described her business as a safe space. "You're never alone," Finch added. "You don't walk alone. We are here with you. We have programs, we have meals, we have refreshers. We are one big family. We're located at 336 East Hill Road and you don't only get me, you get my family!"

The Public Service Award was presented to David Lowe from the BID's clean team. "I couldn't think of anybody more deserving than our clean team and



Photo by Miriam Quiñones

VENDORS COOK UP some sausages during the 22nd Annual Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 22, 2023, in Norwood, hosted by the Jerome Gun Hill Business Improvement District (BID).

David Lowe [and the clean team]," Beasley said. "When you walk through the streets, the reason you're not seeing as much litter and garbage everywhere is because David and his coworkers' hard work every single day, so the BID thanks you!"

She continued, "We thank the team, and [to] the whole neighborhood, if you see them out, stop and say thank you because they're the reason that our streets stay clean."

Accepting his award, the softly spoken Lowe said, "I was not expecting this. It's not really necessary as that's what I do but I appreciate you all for recognizing me. Thank you and everybody have a blessed day."

The festival featured performances ranging from a Puerto Rican folklore group to various Hip Hop artists, and of course, there were also vendors like Montefiore Einstein who were distributing health-related information, pumpkin picking, apple picking, and face painting. Local resident, Mark, attended the festival with his 8-year-old son, Jacob. Asked how he was enjoying the day, he replied, "It's all right. It's my first time."

Dance troupe, "Danza Fiesta," had everyone on their feet at one point with their lively and colorful performance. Director Gilda Rivera Pantojas said, "It's a beautiful group and we love what we do!"

The smell from the sausage stand had many people walking up to the truck. The sausage sandwiches were going for \$20. Some walked away, while others paid the \$20. One man commented that he remembered when they were \$6.

Norwood News also spoke with some of the Hip Hop performers. We asked Ty Drake, born and raised in The Bronx, who were his inspirations growing up. "So, I get inspired by a lot of people, but I would be lying if I didn't say I got three top people that inspire me, which is Jay Cole, Kendrick Lamar, and Drake," he said in part. "Those are like my three inspirations, but I definitely get inspired by anything, whether it's like movies,

life, literally like anything."

Asked what appealed to him about those three, in particular, he said, "Besides being talented, I just liked the versatility. Jay Cole was number one. I would say with him, it just stood out. When you're 16 years old, and you're going through real life situations and then you hear somebody that you can relate to, it's different than like hearing all the other mainstream music."

We asked if he felt the New York City did a good job in marking the 50th anniversary of the birth of Hip Hop. "Besides me not being in Madison Square Garden, right now? Absolutely, they did!" Ty Drake said. "I heard it all over. I think they've been honoring this since last year, low key. I don't know if people were confused on what the 50th year was, but I remember performing at a 50th year festival last August so, they've been honoring..."

He continued, "Shout out to Hip Hop! Keep it going...it's so fun. It's more than music; it's a whole culture. It's beautiful!" Getting a little serious, he then added, "It could be detrimental sometimes. Like, be mindful. For the creators, be mindful what you put out. For the consumers, be mindful what you listen to and take in."

Wrapping up, he said, "The day is beautiful. We in The Bronx. It's beautiful. Keep the culture going. There's many ways of keeping the culture going, you know? So, be a creator, be you, and that's the culture!"

Ty Drake's comments were echoed by Caldwell. Thanking the BID for honoring his grandmother, and adding that October was her birth month, he wrapped up by saying the fact that it coincided with the Fall Festival would ensure there would be a continuous celebration of her birthday every year. "[We/you] got something incredible here, all the people out here, even in the rain, and couldn't stop the celebration," he said. "So, we're honoring my Grandma Sassy. Thank you so much. Let's celebrate and have a beautiful time!"



Photo by Miriam Quiñones

DAVID LOWE WITH the Jerome Gun Hill BID Clean Team receives the BID's public service award from BID executive director, Daniela Beasley, at the 22nd Annual Fall Festival in Norwood on Saturday, Oct. 22, 2023.

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