



# NORWOOD NEWS

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Photo by Síle Moloney

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS** of Kyle Lockett, 21, speak to the media on the first anniversary of his death prior to a memorial service at Woodlawn Cemetery on Friday, Nov. 3, 2023. Lockett died following a police-involved shooting and a separate armed altercation with another man on Hull Avenue and East Gun Hill Road in Norwood on Nov. 3, 2022.

## By SÍLE MOLONEY

The family of Kyle Lockett, 21, killed in front of a deli on the corner of Gun Hill Road and Hull Avenue in Norwood during a police-involved shoot-

ing which followed a separate armed altercation inside the deli with Ajamu Demmerle, 29, on Nov. 3, 2022, is calling for answers from authorities on the first anniversary of Lock-

ett's death.

As reported, police said members of the NYPD Queens Warrant Squad, who were in an unmarked police vehicle in front of 330 Gun Hill Road

on the day of the fatal shooting, were investigating an unrelated incident when, at 11.30 a.m., after double-parking his White Lexus on the corner,

*(continued on page 15)*



**More and darker an-  
tiseemitism incidents  
seen in Norwood | pg 2**



**Norwood Mourns  
Death of Community  
Activist Lyn Pyle | pg 4**



**AM George Alvarez  
Hosts Seniors Night in  
Kingsbridge Heights  
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# NORWOOD NEWS

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Mosholu Preservation Corporation (MPC)  
3400 Reservoir Oval East  
Bronx, New York 10467  
Phone: 718 324 4998  
Fax: 718 324 2917  
E-mail: [norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org](mailto:norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org)  
Web.: [www.norwoodnews.org](http://www.norwoodnews.org)

**Publisher**

Mosholu Preservation Corporation

**Editor-In-Chief, Norwood News**

Sile Moloney  
[smoloney@norwoodnews.org](mailto:smoloney@norwoodnews.org)

**Contributor**

Claire Garon

**Regular Contributors**

David Greene, Ariel Pacheco,  
Miriam Quiñones

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Mosholu Preservation Corporation is a non-profit support corporation of Montefiore Medical Center.



# “Kill Jews” Darker Graffiti Seen Once Again in Norwood

**By SILE MOLONEY**

A white van spray painted in red with the ominous words “Kill Jews” was seen on Jerome Avenue and Mosholu Parkway South in Norwood on Tuesday, Nov. 7 [Election Day]. It is the second such display of antisemitic vandalism seen in the neighborhood in the space of a week, and a month after the Hamas terrorist group attacked Southern Israel on Oct. 7, causing an immediate shelling and ground invasion of the Gaza Strip by Israeli defense forces.

As reported and according to NPR, Hamas attacked several communities in Israel on Oct. 7, killing 1,400 people and kidnapping around 240 people, including children. Some hostages have been released. Since then, according to NPR, the death toll in Gaza has exceeded 10,000. Mass protests have been held all over the world calling for a ceasefire in the region to allow the lifting of a blockade along the Gaza frontier to allow the intake of urgently needed medical and food supplies.

Dr. Michael Ryan of the World Health Organization said on Oct. 26, “What’s unfolding in Gaza right now is a humanitarian and health catastrophe...the situation is beyond belief.” Ryan called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza so that “unhindered, unfettered humanitarian relief” can enter the territory.

Meanwhile, the latest incidence of antisemitism in Norwood comes around a week after the front of local Jewish center, the Sholem Aleichem Cultural Center, located on Bainbridge Avenue, was spray painted in black and purple with the words “Free Palestine.”

It prompted immediate condemnation by local elected officials, including District 11 Councilman Eric Dinowitz, who is Jewish, Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81), his father, who is Jewish, and State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33).

Police said the incident occurred sometime on Halloween, Oct. 31, between 10.15 and 10.30 p.m. A police spokesperson added, “They don’t have any suspect description.”

Itzik Gottesman, co-president of the center, was not in New York at the time of the incident. He said he believes nothing was broken and that it was just graffiti. Asked if anybody was hurt, he said, “no.”

“We are saddened by the defacing of our building,” he said. “This is the first time something like this has happened to our Center in 50 years and it has no place in our neighborhood.” The Center has a weekly conversation group, lecturers in Yiddish, and a community library of Yiddish books.

Meanwhile, the man who owned the white van is a street car washer who is Spanish speaking and who was busy washing other cars when we spoke to him about the graffiti on Tuesday. Speaking in Spanish, he told us he did not see who had spray painted his van



Photographer name withheld upon request  
**SHOLEM ALEICHEM CULTURAL** Center, a Jewish center located at 3301 Bainbridge Avenue in Norwood, The Bronx is seen vandalized on Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2023, as police cordon off the area and carry out an investigation.

and asked us what the words meant. When we translated, he appeared saddened and said, “I’m sorry. I’ll scrub it off.” The NYPD has been notified of the incident.

Further down the street was another street car washing site with another white van which had purple and black graffiti symbolism spray painted on it. We asked one of the men at the site if they knew what the graffiti meant. One elderly man said the symbols were gang related and were often seen spray painted in many areas. He specifically mentioned the area around LaGuardia airport. “This is a thing of gangs, from the schools,” the man said in Spanish. “If they get caught, they know they will be arrested.”

We asked if the purple and black graffiti was recently sprayed on the white van and the owner said no, that it had been there for about two months, the length of time he had been working in the area. There was no immediate indication that it was antisemitic graffiti.

When contacted for comment on the latest incidence of antisemitism in his district, Jeffrey Dinowitz said, “Antisemitism is at the highest point in memory. The number of antisemitic incidents since the unprovoked

attacked by the savage Hamas terrorist against Israel on October 7, which resulted in the largest slaughter of Jews since the Holocaust, has gone up by over 400%.”

He added, “Hatred of Jews is a problem both on the extreme right and the extreme left. The horrible antisemitic statements coming out of some of the people who are part of the anti-Israel demonstrations as well as the tearing down of posters of the hostages is just disgusting. I know we can count on the police to crack down and investigate this incident and every other incident. I believe that we have to stand tall and stand strong against all forms of antisemitism, and stand united and support of Israel, and the demand to release the hostages.”

On Nov. 7, U.S. Sen. Kirstin Gillibrand, delivered a speech on the floor of the U.S. Senate, drawing attention to the hostages kidnapped by Hamas on Oct. 7. She later tweeted on X, formerly known as Twitter, “It’s been exactly one month since Hamas’ brutal attack on Israel. For the families of those taken hostage, this month has been unbearable as they wait for their loved ones to return home safely. I’m praying for these families, and I won’t stop fighting until we [#BringThemHomeNow](#).”

Meanwhile, a group of health-care workers / Palestinian supporters gathered by City Hall in Manhattan on Friday, Nov. 3, to read out the names and pray for healthcare workers killed in Gaza since Oct. 8. Some wore scrubs and white lab coats, with one attendee saying the rally had been organized by local healthcare workers in New York City.

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

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

All calls are strictly confidential.

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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](mailto:smoloney@norwoodnews.org).

## INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



This week, we asked readers their thoughts on the redesign and installation by NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) of an island to accommodate bus traffic along the center of East Gun Hill Road in the Norwood section of The Bronx.



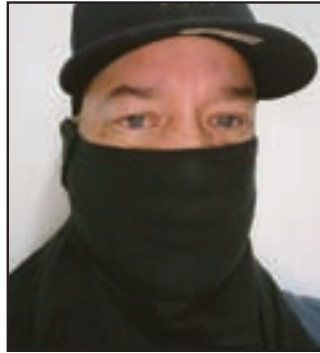
"The problem is before, a lot of people stopped here to get some pizza. Now, the problem is nobody wants to stop to buy pizza. Yeah, that's a problem. Sometimes people park on the side [street] but, you know, it's not like it used to be here. This just happened. They didn't say anything. Of course, it is a mistake. A lot of people now have no business, especially here in this area."

**René Lopez,**  
Pelham Parkway, owner of Pizza &  
Burgers, located at E. Gun Hill Road &  
Perry Avenue, Norwood  
Photo by David Greene



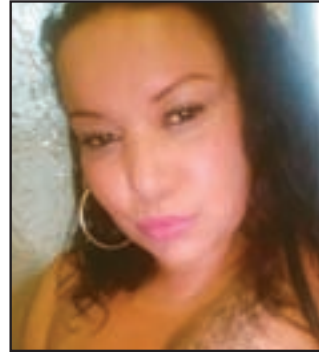
"It's disturbing; parking spaces are limited, and I notice the cars are just trying to go and when they park in the bus lane, there is only one lane, and it's terrible. Oh my God! I don't want to live here during rush hour. When I come, it takes me an extra 25 minutes just to get to my house. I think the traffic is just as bad now. I thought that this was going to make it easier, but it's not. I haven't seen any enforcement. Sometimes, they park there, and you've got to go in the bus lane, and the buses are going to be equipped with cameras, and then we're going to get a ticket. I didn't hear anything about this; it just happened. I don't know if there's a better way but I'm not going to stay around to find out. I'm leaving."

**Max Gonzalez,**  
Norwood  
Photo by David Greene



"This is s—t; it's horrible. It's the worst thing that ever happened to Gun Hill Road, a major thoroughfare connecting the east side of the Bronx to the west side of the Bronx and vice versa. They put these islands here. My kids go to school on the other side of White Plains Road. It used to be a 4-minute trip. Now, it's a 22-minute trip and I drive. It's the worst thing for drivers. Maybe for the buses, it's a good thing for them [if that's the idea, but even the buses are right beside me while I'm stuck in that traffic, so they're feeling it also. That's another thing; it's going to take somebody dying in an ambulance coming through here for them to switch this. I don't know how many millions of dollars they spent building this, but this was the wrong move."

**Travis B.,**  
Norwood, 26-year resident  
Photo courtesy of Travis B.



"I think it's a horrible idea. Now it's dangerous, very dangerous. There's been more accidents than we had before because what's happening is you can't turn, so people are illegally making U-turns. People are illegally turning onto the street, so now, you're having accidents on the corner here on Tryon [Avenue]. Also, you'll see accidents that are happening on Kings College [Place] because people are being very careless. Now, you have the motorcycles, mopeds, and scooters going into the bus lane or going into the wrong lane, because they're trying to get past the traffic. For example, I'm walking my dog and I have to be careful because there's a motorcycle coming out of the blue, you know what I'm saying? It's just dangerous."

**Rebecca Marrero,**  
Norwood  
Photo courtesy of Rebecca Marrero



"In the case of Gun Hill [Road], I see it causing more problems than solving - period. If there's a back-up, and the lane is occupied, or if someone has to do a drop off, or if someone gets a flat tire, that can stop traffic for several blocks. Even if you have the raised curbs and the dedicated bus lane, the drivers are still going to drive recklessly even on the wrong side of the road, and all it takes is a wrong turn or a bad decision by a driver, and that car or vehicle can hit anyone in any direction regardless of how the road is designed."

**Chad Royer,**  
University Heights  
Photo courtesy of Chad Royer

## Norwood Mourns Beloved Resident & Activist Lyn Pyle

By SÍLE MOLONEY & DAVID GREENE

The local community is mourning the recent death of Norwood resident and community activist Lyn Pyle who died last month at the age of 83. Pyle was a Norwood resident and "Knox Place Legend" according to a flier posted ahead of a memorial service held in her honor on Sunday, Oct. 29, at the COVE, located 3418 Gates Place.

COVE stands for Community Organized with a Vision of Excellence and is an after-school media arts program for teens created by the Knox-Gate Neighborhood Association (KGNA), of which Pyle served as executive director. The after-school program celebrated 25 years in the community in 2014, and was established to offer programming in martial arts, health and beauty, and literacy.

Participants were encouraged to assume responsibility and practice self-respect. Students of the program wrote, produced, directed, acted, and edited a movie, "Only If," a neo-noir film that told the fabled story of a young man whose good intentions lead him into

trouble. In her role as executive director, Pyle experienced some challenging years. "During the Bloomberg years, it was very hard for small programs to exist," she said.

**According to the National Council of Elders,** Pyle's activism began when she was arrested in the Free Speech Movement at Berkeley, California, and later became a longtime community organizer in The Bronx for most of her adult life. For 44 years, they said she acted, choreographed, and wrote politically provocative plays and documentaries with Mass Transit Street Theater, located at 75 West Mosholu Parkway North in Norwood.

In 1988, with several neighbors and a group of neighborhood teens, they said she co-founded the referenced Media Arts & Literacy youth program. In 2006, with a group of Bronx young people, she also co-created "AIN'T EASY," a play that told their stories of living with violence. Out of this production evolved "Dare to Revitalize Education thru Arts & Mediation (DREAM!)," training Bronx

and Harlem students and their teachers in restorative practice and mediation.

Pyle told *Norwood News* at the time of COVE's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary that there was a need for a program like it in the community to lure local kids away from drug influences happening along several known corners of the neighborhood. "You can't just say no," she said. "You got to provide something positive that's more fun, more exciting than hanging out with your friends and getting high."

*Editor's Note: Norwood News reached out to various sources for comment on this*



Photo courtesy of the National Council of Elders

**LYN PYLE (APRIL 22, 1940-Oct. 13, 2023)**

*story. As of press date, we had not received feedback, but will include any feedback in the online version of the story on [www.norwoodnews.org](http://www.norwoodnews.org).*



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## November is Diabetes and Prediabetes Awareness Month

By **CLAIRE GARON**

The holiday season is here, a time when many people gather with family and friends to celebrate and eat great food. With all the celebrations, it can be easy to overindulge, but it is important, especially for people with diabetes and prediabetes, to be mindful of what we are eating.

Diabetes is a chronic disease that is more common now than ever before. In fact, according to a recent study published in the Lancet medical journal, by 2050 approximately 1.3 billion people around the world will have diabetes.

Type 2 Diabetes (T2D) is the most common type of diabetes - a disease where a person has high levels of blood sugar or "glucose" in the body. Every person has blood sugar, but people with T2D have higher amounts. If a person does not manage their T2D, it can damage their heart, kidneys, eyes, and feet.

Prediabetes is a condition where blood sugar is higher than normal, but not yet T2D. Doctors measure blood

sugar using a lab test called the Hemoglobin A1C, which determines if the amount of blood sugar is normal (less than 5.7), in the prediabetes range (between 5.7 and 6.4), or at the level of diabetes (more than 6.5).

Prediabetes can be a scary diagnosis, but it's a great opportunity to start healthy habits - like modifying your diet and doing regular exercise. These changes can lower your blood sugar to the normal amounts and prevent the development of T2D! The most important step is to maintain a healthy weight or lose some weight. This will also help lower your risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, heart attack, stroke, gallstones, breathing problems, and certain cancers.

Research shows that losing even a small amount of weight (5-7% of total weight) is enough to greatly lower or delay the chance of getting T2D. For example: 5-7% of the weight of a 200-pound person is 10 to 14 pounds - an achievable amount for many people.

A program sponsored by the CDC and available in many communities is called the National Diabetes Prevention Program (NDPP). It comprises a series of group classes where participants learn skills like how to eat healthier, exercise more, and reduce their blood sugar. The two main goals of the program are 1) lose 5-7% of total body weight, and 2) exercise for 150 minutes or more each week. NDPP is very effective. Participants who finished the program and adopted the recommended behaviors were **less likely to develop** T2D in the future,



Photo courtesy of Montefiore Health System

**MONTEFIORE HEALTH SYSTEM** kicks off a diabetes screening event on Nov. 1, 2023, held in partnership with Labcorp and Empire BCBS. Community members had their Hemoglobin A1c levels checked and also learned how to manage diabetes.

compared to people who did not.

Montefiore and Einstein are proud to run NDPP classes for our patients with prediabetes, where trained facilitators oversee the year-long classes. Participants learn about topics like healthy eating and cooking, exercise, stress management, sleep, social support, and more. They track the food and beverages they consume in a daily log, along with set minutes and types of exercise. The NDPP group classes allow participants to bond over shared experiences, goals, and accomplishments. We will be starting a new class soon! If you are interested in NDPP or prediabetes in general, please email [healtheducation@montefiore.org](mailto:healtheducation@montefiore.org).

Montefiore is also hosting a series

of educational activities and events throughout November, including nutrition workshops, screening events, and a diabetic foot ulcer expo, to raise awareness about the condition and its possible complications, as well as sharing diet and lifestyle guidance with the community. The calendar of events can be found at <https://www.montefiore.org/diabetes-month-events>, and is also available in Spanish.

Let's use November to learn more about diabetes and prediabetes and start implementing some meaningful changes that can improve our overall health.

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

## Police Search for People Reported Missing



Photo courtesy of the NYPD

**SYNTHIA WATSON, 12**, OF Fordham Manor is reported missing.

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

The NYPD is seeking the public's help locating a 12-year-old girl from Fordham Manor who is reported missing. Police said that Synthia Watson of 2460 Davidson Avenue was last seen leaving her home on Tuesday, Nov. 7, at around 8 a.m. They said she is described

as female, Black, has brown eyes, black hair, is around 4 feet, 11 inches tall, and weighs around 85 pounds. They said she was last seen wearing a pink shirt, multicolored pants, black coat, grey sneakers, and a purple backpack.



Photo courtesy of the NYPD

**THE NYPD IS** seeking the public's help locating a 53-year-old man from Bedford Park who is reported missing.

The NYPD is also seeking the public's help locating a 53-year-old man from Bedford Park who is also reported missing. Police said Murad Ali of 2859 Briggs Avenue was last seen leaving his home on Wednesday, Nov. 1, at approximately 6 a.m. Ali is described as male, Asian, around 5 feet, 6 inches tall, weighs around 150 pounds and was last seen

wearing blue jeans, a purple, hooded sweatshirt, and brown sneakers.

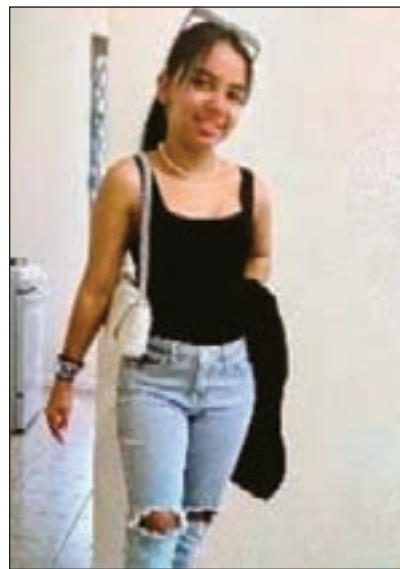


Photo courtesy of the NYPD

**RASHELLY MARTINEZ DE VERAS** from University Heights is reported missing.

The NYPD is also looking for help locating a 15-year-old girl from University Heights who was reported missing on Tuesday, Oct. 31. Police said that

Rashelly Martinez De Veras of 2392 Grand Avenue was last seen on Saturday, Oct. 28, at around 11 a.m. inside her home. They said she is described as a female, Hispanic, has black hair, brown eyes, is 4 feet, 11 inches tall, and weighs around 100 pounds. They said she was last seen wearing a black shirt, black jeans, and a black purse.

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

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# NEWS BRIEFS

By SÍLE MOLONEY

## Montefiore Einstein Highlight Lung Cancer Awareness Month

To mark the launch of Lung Cancer Awareness Month, on Nov. 1, Montefiore Einstein Comprehensive Cancer Center (MECCC) hosted an event at its Moses campus in Norwood, along with a pair of giant, inflatable lungs, in efforts to help educate the community about the importance of life-saving lung cancer screening.

According to Montefiore Einstein officials, while more people die from lung cancer than breast, colon and prostate cancers combined, in New York, only 6% of those at high risk who are between the ages of 50 and 80, who have a history of smoking at least one pack per day for 20 years, and currently smoke or who quit smoking within the past 15 years, are screened.

Screening helps identify cancers in a person at a stage where there is the greatest chance of curing it or treating it with the best available options, officials said. A designated comprehensive cancer center by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), Montefiore Einstein officials say MECCC offers the most advanced lung cancer care, support, and access to clinical trials in the local community. For more information, call (718) 920-LUNG (5864).



Photo Courtesy of Montefiore Health System  
**MONTFIORE EINSTEIN COMPREHENSIVE** Cancer Center officials host an event on Nov. 1, 2023, at their Moses campus in Norwood to mark Lung Cancer Awareness Month

## NYC Health + Hospitals Host Sexual Assault Conference

Officials at Jacobi Medical Center, located in Morris Park, and North Central Bronx Hospital, located in Norwood, hosted the 3rd Annual Regional Sexual Assault Conference in The Bronx on Oct. 18. Medical professionals joined experts in the field of sexual trauma to discuss the medical, legal, and social needs of those suffering from sexual assault. They also discussed sex trafficking, mental health, and sexual violence, and the importance of consent in the forensic evidence collection process.



Photo courtesy of NYC Health + Hospitals  
**PARTICIPANTS OF THE 3rd Annual Regional Sexual Assault Conference** in The Bronx hosted by NYC Health + Hospitals pose for a photo on Oct. 18, 2023.

## MTA Release First OMNY Vending Machines in The Bronx

MTA officials announced the activation of the first OMNY card vending machines in the City on Oct. 30, including at both Fordham Road subway stations serving the 4, B and D trains. Officials said tappable OMNY cards provide cash customers a way to take advantage of OMNY's financial flexibility to pay-as-you-go and never spend more than \$34 in 7 days.

Installation of OMNY vending machines in all 472 subway stations will continue through 2024. As a temporary introductory offer, new OMNY cards are \$1, the same price as a new MetroCard. OMNY cards last up to five years, more than three years longer than newly issued MetroCards.

State Sen. Robert Jackson (S.D. 31) who represents parts of Manhattan and The Bronx, said in part, "Connecting our Bronx communities with cutting-edge technology is the key to a brighter future."

Given there was some pushback during the pandemic towards a move to a more cashless environment, which disadvantaged low-income communities, we asked the MTA if the new OMNY cards can be purchased/topped up using cash. They confirmed that customers can use cash, credit and debit cards, and digital wallets for purchases.



Photo courtesy of the MTA  
**NYC TRANSIT PRESIDENT** Davy uses an OMNY card at an NYC subway station on Oct. 30, 2023.

## Funding for Penn Station Access

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and U.S. Sen. Kirstin Gillibrand announced over \$1.6 billion in federal funding for the Metro-North Railroad Penn Station Access via four new Bronx stations on Sunday, Nov.

5, at a press conference at 120 Erskine Place in Pelham Bay. They were joined by councilmembers, assembly members and state senators.

MTA officials said track and infrastructure enhancements will enable the expansion of Metro-North's New Haven line to Penn Station and bring Amtrak-owned infrastructure to a state of good repair. They said the new route will dramatically reduce travel time to and from the East Bronx, which currently lacks rail service. They said residents will save up to 75 minutes over current subway and bus connections and will create a direct commuter rail route between The Bronx, Westchester, and Connecticut.

## Sepúlveda Aims to Halt Familial DNA Searches and Protect Privacy Rights

In a move to uphold the privacy rights of New Yorkers, State Sen. Luis Sepúlveda (S.D. 32) recently introduced Bill S7734, to curtail what he said were

invasive familial DNA searches by law enforcement agencies. The bill proposes a ban on the technique, underscoring what was described as a critical juncture in the fight against discrimination and the protection of civil liberties.

On Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2021, law enforcement officials announced that a Westchester man was charged with the 1999 murder case of Minerliz Soriano, 13, whose body was found in a dumpster in Co-op City. Familial DNA technology was used as part of the investigation and resulted in an eventual DNA match with the defendant. It was the first time that *familial* DNA technology has been used in New York City to solve a case.

Meanwhile, Sepúlveda said of the bill, "Familial DNA searches pose a stark challenge to the very fabric of our privacy rights. The use of such methods can inadvertently target individuals who have no involvement in criminal activities, breaching the presumption of innocence and potentially leading to unwarranted scrutiny."

## Man Dies in Cement Mixer Accident

By SÍLE MOLONEY

A 52-year-old male worker has died following an accident on Monday, Nov. 6, involving a cement mixer at 1140 Grinnell Place in the Hunts Point section of The Bronx, according to the NYPD and emergency services. An EMS spokesperson said they received a call regarding the accident at Grinnell Place, located between Barry Street and East 156th Street on Monday at 1.24 p.m. They said a person got "entangled" in machinery, reported to be a cement mixer truck, and was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Norwood News reached out to NYC Department of Buildings (DOB) for more information and following a preliminary investigation, officials informed us that DOB personnel were called to 1140 Grinnell Place, a commercial place occupied as a concrete ready-mix plant in the South Bronx, after receiving reports that a worker had been injured by a piece of machinery.

According to DOB officials, their preliminary investigation at the scene determined that the worker had been killed while cleaning a concrete truck. They added that inspectors also determined the site was not a construction site and no construction operations were active at the time of the accident.

As a result, DOB determined the incident falls outside of the department's purview. They said DOB inspectors have referred the case to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for follow-up. Norwood News also contacted the NYPD for more information on the incident. A police spokesperson later confirmed, "A 52-year-old male was involved in a work accident." They said the victim's name was being withheld pending proper family notification and that he had sustained injuries to his head and upper body.

We asked if the victim was alone or with a colleague at the time of the accident. The spokesperson could not confirm. "He was prepping the cement truck," he said, adding the name of company which owned the truck was called CNB Contracting Corp, which specializes in trucking, concrete, masonry, excavation, sheet and pipe piling, underpinning, tiebacks, restoration of roads, asphalt milling, paving, and various types of utility work. Norwood News has reached out to CNB Contracting Corp for comment. We did not receive an immediate response.

To read some of our previous coverage of construction accidents in The Bronx, visit [www.norwoodnews.org](http://www.norwoodnews.org).



Image courtesy of Google Maps

**A MALE EMPLOYEE** died in an accident at 1140 Grinnell Place between Barry Street and East 156th Street in Hunts Point on Monday, Nov. 6, 2023.





## Letters To The Editor

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

### Metro North Bronx Stations ADA Projects May Not Be Eligible for Federal Funding

In 2023, the MTA Metro North followed the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), and not the federal National Environmental Protection Act in relation to three Bronx station capital improvement projects. This was highlighted in a notice published in the NY Daily News on Oct. 26 and 27 under the heading, "Metro-North ADA Improvements at Three Bronx Stations-Harlem Line Project." The text included a reference to being exempt from the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). There was no mention of compliance with the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Following NEPA is one requirement necessary to preserve eligibility for potential Federal Transit Administration funding to pay for any planned capital improvements. Why did the MTA, on behalf of Metro North, potentially forfeit obtaining federal funding for ADA work at the Harlem Line Botanical Gardens, Williamsbridge, and Woodlawn stations? In 2023, the MTA was eligible to receive approximately \$1.8 billion in FTA capital dollars.

Every year, the MTA allocates between 10% to 15% of these funds to Metro North's capital program. FTA, for decades, has assisted Metro North in paying for station work including ADA access.

Metro North commuters, those physically disabled and unable to board at these stations, taxpayers, transit advocates, transit reporters, local elected officials, and local community planning board members deserve answers as to why the MTA would forfeit access to FTA funding for these capital improvements.

**Larry Penner**  
Great Neck

### Richard Warren's Letter on "The Santos Act" [Norwood News Oct. 26-Nov. 8]

An extract from Wikipedia's page on Republican Rep. George Santos [NY-3]

in relation to Democratic congressional candidate Robert Zimmerman's explanation of his approach in terms of opposition research on Santos, reads, "Some of these [allegations] were flagged as needing further research, such as whether Santos had a criminal record. Since that further research would cost thousands of dollars, Zimmerman decided that in the limited time he had until the election, his campaign would instead focus its spending on voter outreach and advertising." Three mouse button clicks took me there. Mr. Warren should try doing nuts and bolts research as opposed to making holier-than-thou pronouncements about Zimmerman's intelligence. Losing campaign strategies does not necessarily make one "stupid."

If Mr. Warren is against congressional candidates lying to us, how does he propose to address it? Threaten them with five lashes on the wrist with a wet noodle? Pass a bill requiring only high IQ candidates run for Congress? Should Congress pass a law dictating political candidates dig up dirt on their opponents? Or maybe pass a law requiring all voters research political candidates prior to casting their ballots, and set up computers in polling sites?

While I sometimes virulently disagree with Mr. Warren, I have, at least, found his letters to be fact-based and intelligent, but not this one. I am also somewhat surprised that Ms. Moloney, who I have found to be honest, honorable, impartial, and fact-based allowed this letter to get by her.

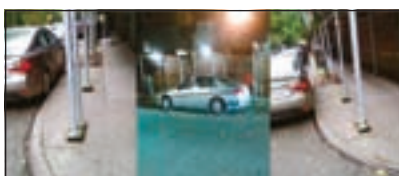
**Nat Weiner**  
Parkchester

*Editor's Note: While it's true we could have added a note, for context, to Mr. Warren's letter explaining Zimmerman's rationale for not choosing to further screen Santos' candidacy, Mr. Warren was expressing his opinion of Zimmerman, albeit without this additional context. We do endeavor to add context when we can. Unfortunately, we are extremely short on resources currently and apologize therefore for this omission. We would also kindly encourage our readers to write about local issues as our research scope is also limited. Thank you.*

### Parking Fines

On Van Cortlandt Park South, near the southeast corner with Gouverneur

Avenue, there used to be a space where a small enough car could legally park without being too close to the fire hydrant. A friend recently received a \$115 ticket for parking there. Why? Because without any warning to neighborhood residents, a no standing sign was put there.



Photos by Mark Gornstein  
**ACCOMPANYING PHOTOS PROVIDED** to *Norwood News* in relation to Richard Warren's letter.

Like many New York City neighborhoods, finding street parking is difficult here. If we had a government that truly cared for its citizens, it would not be making parking more difficult, while fleecing drivers with surprise signs.

**Richard Warren,**  
Van Cortlandt Village

### Vandalism of Sholem Aleichem Cultural Center

I am appalled by the antisemitic vandalism done on Tuesday, Oct. 31, to the Sholem Aleichem Cultural Center, located down the block from where I live in Norwood. This act must be condemned. Since the unjustified attack on Israeli civilians by Hamas on Oct. 7, and the ensuing genocidal carpet bombing of Gazan civilians by Israel, I have been rallying with thousands of other members of Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) and allies. Many have been arrested for civil disobedience, to demand a ceasefire and an end to U.S. tax dollars being sent in military support to Israel.

We have been clear to point out that the violence that erupted on Oct. 7 was not the beginning of this war. The root

cause of the violence in Israel/Palestine is the 75-year Israeli occupation of Palestinians and brutal system of apartheid. We have chanted "Free Palestine" at our rallies. However, when that slogan is splashed with paint on a cultural center, solely because it is Jewish identified, it becomes an antisemitic attack, and cannot be tolerated.

We, in JVP, say loudly that our opposition to Israeli apartheid and Zionism is not antisemitic. It is a call for all people in the region to be able to live in peace, which means freedom, justice, and equality for Palestinians. Whoever vandalized the Sholem Aleichem Cultural Center made the grave mistake of conflating anything Jewish-identified with supporting the Israeli war on Palestinians. In doing so, they played into the hands of some of our local politicians who constantly attack and mischaracterize progressive Jewish groups that truly stand for freedom and equality.

**Pam Sporn**  
Norwood

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

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

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



# Elections 2023:

## Unofficial Election Night Results, Marmorato Declares Victory in CD13

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Kristy Marmorato, Republican and Conservative candidate in the District 13 City Council race, declared victory over incumbent Democratic Councilwoman Marjorie Velázquez, who first took her seat in 2022, in the general election on Tuesday night, Nov. 7, an hour or so after poll closure. If she wins the race, after all absentee votes are counted, it will flip the district, which has long voted blue, to red, bolstering the prevailing Republican minority in the council.

All eyes were on the District 13 race which saw Marmorato narrowly lead Velázquez at poll closure with 49.97 percent of the vote to the councilwoman's 49.25 percent, but a few hours later, with 98.33 percent of voting scanners returned, Marmorato's lead had stretched to 52.46 percent (6,571 votes) to Velázquez's 46.81 percent (5,863 votes), based on Election Day and early votes. Mail-in ballots and overseas ballots still have to be counted. Write-ins accounted for 0.73 percent or 91 votes.

Though no statement was released by the candidate on social media on Election Night, The Bronx Times and NY Daily News reported that Marmorato, who recently participated in a BronxNet debate with Velázquez, which centered in large part around upzoning in the East Bronx, had declared victory at her post-election party venue later that night. *Norwood News* reached out to both Marmorato's campaign and Velázquez's campaign for comment but did not receive an immediate response from either.

District 13 encompasses the neighborhoods of Allerton, City Island, Country Club, Edgewater Park, Ferry Point, Locust Point, Morris Park, Pelham Bay, Pelham Gardens, Pelham Parkway, Schuylerville, Silver Beach, Spencer Estates, Throggs Neck, Van Nest, Waterbury LaSalle, Westchester Square, and Zerega.

According to her website, Marmorato was born, raised, and educated in The Bronx, and said she understands her community because she truly embodies District 13. Marmorato grew up in Throggs Neck and, as an adult, lived in both Pelham Bay and Country Club. Currently, she lives in Morris Park with her husband and family. She said they decided to raise their daughter there so that she could have similar life experiences to the ones her parents had growing up in District 13.

Marmorato, a specialist in women's health at Greenwich Women's Hospital in Connecticut, who worked as an X-ray technician for 24 years, 16 in the East Bronx, said she has an extensive background in training and educating medical personnel and has worked with a team of highly skilled individuals to devise plans of action for patients who are

at their most vulnerable.

She said she believes the East Bronx community, and the city in general, is in its most vulnerable state. "[I] will be the assertive advocate that the district needs and will help provide solutions and ideas for the issues and problems the community is currently facing," she wrote. Marmorato ran on a platform of protecting quality of life, fighting for public safety, and advocating for better education for children.

Turnout appeared to be low and slow on Election Day, as expected for a non-presidential election. According to NYC Board of Elections, Bronx voter turnout after early voting in 2023 totaled just 9,134, a substantial drop from 2022 when early voting totaled 39,069, suggesting many voters were undecided about who to vote for right up until Election Day. In the end, total voter turnout was 48,404 on Election Night based on the Bronx District Attorney's race.

In that race, the Democratic incumbent, Darcel D. Clark, who ran unopposed in the general election, won 97.48 percent of the vote (48,024 votes) and is therefore reelected. Write-ins accounted for 2.51 percent of votes (1,244 votes).

Clark said on Election Night, "It is the honor of my life to serve the Bronx as District Attorney. In 2015, becoming the first woman to be elected DA in the Bronx and the first woman of color elected DA in the State of New York was one of the proudest moments of my life. I am elated to continue serving the borough that I have always called home."

Clark thanked all those who supported her and added, in part, "We are confronting gun violence and hate crimes, and holding perpetrators accountable. We are working with our community partners to engage and empower our youth. Our office is implementing and using innovative programs and Bureaus to establish meaningful reforms, investigate wrongful convictions, address root causes of crime, and address mass incarceration."

In the District 11 City Council race, Democratic incumbent Council Member Eric Dinowitz led on Election Night with 83.50 percent of the vote (8,755). The district encompasses the neighborhoods of Norwood, Kingsbridge, Van Cortlandt Village, Wakefield, Riverdale, Woodlawn Heights and part of Bedford Park.

As reported, the councilman recently introduced legislation, along with Democratic District 12 City Councilman Kevin Riley, that would require NYC Department of Emergency Management, in consultation with the Office of the Mayor and community boards, to identify and designate facilities within each community district to serve as rapid emergency response centers.

According to Dinowitz, each center would be required to stock supplies for



Screenshot courtesy of BronxNet

**REPUBLICAN AND CONSERVATIVE** candidate in the District 13 City Council race Kristy Marmorato, seen here during the BronxNet District 13 debate held on Oct. 31, 2023 at Lehman College in Bedford Park, has declared victory in the general election held Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023 over incumbent Democrat Councilwoman Marjorie Velázquez who first won her seat in 2022.

residents who are displaced by a natural / human caused disaster. The Jewish councilman, who recently provided a breakdown of the latest City budget's impact on District 11, has also been vocal in his condemnation of the recent Hamas attacks on Israel, and on the vandalism of a local Jewish Center in Norwood in the wake of the attacks.

Dinowitz said on Election Night, "I am incredibly honored to continue serving the North Bronx in the City Council. I was born and raised in this community – to be able to advocate for my neighbors, friends, and family in City Hall is the greatest job in the world."

Thanking all those who voted for and supported him, he added, "Together, we have secured resources for our seniors and students, improved our parks, strengthened our schools and senior centers, made our streets safer, stood against hate crimes, empowered tenants, and made our city more accessible for everyone. I'm excited to continue this important work and remain focused on preparing our neighborhoods for climate change, addressing food insecurity, supporting our small businesses, increasing access to healthcare, and standing up for our values."

Robert Caemmerer, the Republican Party, Conservative Party, and Medical Freedom Party candidate, won 14.48 percent of the votes (1,518) on Election Night and the remainder were write-ins.

Meanwhile, Riley, who represents the neighborhoods of Wakefield, Baychester, Eastchester, Olinville, Edenwald, Williamsbridge and Co-op City, has been vo-

cal in his calls for the closure of Rikers Island sooner rather than later, led on Election Night with 92.69 percent of the votes (9,298). Dewayne Lee, the Republican Party candidate for District 12, had 6.69 percent of votes (671).

City Council Member Pierina Sanchez, the Democratic incumbent representing District 14, which encompasses the neighborhoods of Kingsbridge, Fordham, University Heights, Mount Eden and Mount Hope, led on Election Night with 88.34 percent of the vote (3,628). She ran on both the Democratic and Working Families Party line.

Sanchez recently announced funding of \$1 million in participatory budgeting projects in District 14 and has also been vocal on the need to provide more support for her constituents on housing matters, and a strong advocate for those negatively affected by the criminal justice system.

Amelia Rose, the Republican Party candidate for District 14, won 10.96 percent of the vote (450) on Election Night.

City Council Member Oswald Feliz, the Democratic incumbent representing District 15, which encompasses the neighborhoods of Fordham, Belmont, East Tremont, West Farms, Van Nest, and Allerton, led on Election Night with 79.79 percent of the vote (3,092).

The councilman led the passage of enhanced fire regulations following the Twin Parks fire tragedy in January 2022. More recently, Feliz introduced a bill earlier this year to curb the proliferation of fake license plates by increasing

(continued on page 11)



## CRIME FILE

BY SÍLE MOLONEY &amp; DAVID GREENE



### Norwood: One Arrested and One Sought for Armed Robbery

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 to a robbery that occurred in Norwood. Police said that on Thursday, Oct. 19, at around 2.37 a.m., a 25-year-old male victim was walking in front of 3600 Jerome Avenue when two males on a moped approached him from behind.

They said the two displayed a gun and demanded his property. They said they then stole the victim's jewelry, cellphone, and other property. The total value is estimated at \$2,600. Police said the two then fired multiple rounds and fled the location on a moped, traveling southbound on Jerome Avenue to parts unknown. They said there were no injuries reported.

Police said a 14-year-old male was arrested on Thursday, Oct. 26 in connection with the incident. He was charged with robbery, grand larceny, criminal possession of a weapon, reckless endangerment, and menacing. The other suspect is described as male with a medium complexion.

### Man Shot Dead in Mt. Hope

Police said a 23-year-old man died following a fatal shooting in Fordham Heights.

They said the incident occurred on Wednesday, Nov. 8, at around 00.25 a.m. They said officers responded to a 911 call regarding a man who had been shot at 251 East Tremont Avenue. "Upon arrival, police observed a 23-year-old male with a gunshot wound to his head," they said. "EMS also responded and pronounced the male deceased at the scene. A person of interest was taken into custody. The investigation is ongoing." The deceased was later identified as Romel Carey of Wilkes-Barre, PA.

### Fordham Heights Subway Assault

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the person seen in the accompanying top right photo who they say is sought in connection with an assault that occurred at Fordham Road subway station. Police said that on Monday, Aug. 28, at around 6.25 p.m., a 49-year-old male victim was standing on the southbound D train platform of the Fordham Road subway station, when an unidentified individual punched him in the face and then fled the train station on foot, heading to parts unknown. "The victim was transported by

EMS to Montefiore Medical Center in stable condition," they said.

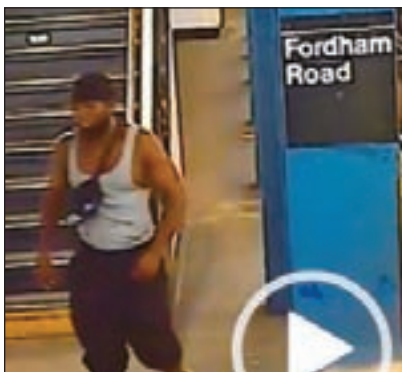


Photo by David Greene

**POLICE CARRY OUT** an investigation at 179 East 205th Street in Bedford Park after a man was shot on Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023.

### Bedford Park: 19-Year-Old Shot

A 19-year-old male teen was hospitalized and is in stable condition after a shooting on Saturday, Oct. 28, police said. Police said the incident occurred at 3.01 p.m. at 179 East 205th Street in Bedford Park. "We have a male, 19, shot once in the left leg," a police spokesperson said. "He was taken to St. Barnabas [Hospital] by EMS in stable condition."

Police said no description for the perpetrator was available at the time of the notification, and there were no immediate arrests. "The investigation remains ongoing," he said. When asked if the incident took place on the street or inside the building, the spokesperson said in front of the building.

Earlier police radio recordings between different police units and an emergency dispatcher at 3.02 p.m. refer to a report of a male victim shot inside Williamsbridge Oval park in Norwood twenty minutes earlier, who was later encountered by police inside 179 East 205th Street in Bedford Park.

They said the caller said he had been shot in the back and police reached the victim at East 205th Street at 3:05 p.m., as other officers raced to respond to the Oval park, where a kids' Halloween event was just wrapping up.

When *Norwood News* spoke to several people later inside the Oval park about the reported incident, nobody had heard any shots or seen police. However, people outside the Oval reported seeing police speed by at one point.

The NYPD dispatcher was also earlier

heard saying, "Again, the caller is on the call with 911. He states he was shot randomly in the park twenty minutes ago." A 52nd Precinct police officer is then heard saying, "Be advised, we're talking to the victim now. He has no idea who it was – no direction of flight. That's all we got right now. There's one wound to the left thigh."

*Norwood News* also talked later to some Bedford Park residents about the incident. A few said they did not hear anything and just saw the police searching the Bedford Park building on East 205th Street afterwards. Two others said they did not see the incident occur or hear any shots but that from speaking to the police, they understood from a video police reviewed, it looked like the victim had been walking

alone on the block, had a gun in his pocket, and injured himself accidentally. They said they understood the victim had been waiting on a family member near his home.

Speaking in Spanish, one of the two said, "They [the police] believe it was he [the victim] who shot [himself]," she said. "It's understood that in a moment of alarm and carelessness, he injured himself." She said that according to the video police had seen, nobody else was seen running away after the incident, and the victim was not bleeding.

The woman continued, "The police checked the cameras and they saw that he spent a little while walking around well enough. There was no blood. Later, they lifted up his clothes and there was nothing but the impact [of the misfire/discharge?] on his leg – it was black. The confusion is he was walking very well."

*Norwood News* contacted EMS for further clarification regarding the victim's injuries. They responded saying they could not provide any specifics on the victim's condition and referred us to the NYPD for more information.

Based on a photo taken at a distance by *Norwood News* of the victim on Saturday, which we are not sharing due to HIPPA privacy restrictions, the victim did not appear to be bleeding but we're unable to confirm this. He was seen sitting up on top of the gurney as it was being wheeled to a waiting ambulance by EMS personnel and did not appear to be in a lot of pain though, again, we are unable to confirm this.

ShotSpotter gunshot detection technology, used by the NYPD, uses sophisticated

acoustic sensors to detect, locate and alert law enforcement agencies and security personnel about illegal gunfire incidents in real-time.

The digital alerts include a precise location on a map (latitude/longitude) with corresponding data such as the address, number of rounds fired, type of gunfire, etc. delivered to any browser-enabled smartphone or mobile laptop device as well as police vehicle MDC or desktop.

When contacted about the incident again on Monday, an NYPD press officer said he had no record of a shooting at the Oval on that day [despite the 911 call description by the victim, which we referenced during our conversation]. The spokesperson reiterated the report of a shooting outside 179 East 205th Street. When asked, the spokesperson was unable to clarify the extent of the victim's injuries.

### Bronx Female NYPD Officer & Yonkers Partner Arrested on Drugs Charges

Federal prosecutors said a Bronx female NYPD officer, Grace Rosa Baez, 37 and a Yonkers man, Cesar Martinez, 43, who are romantic partners, have been busted and charged with attempting to traffic fentanyl, heroin, and cocaine. Both were arrested on Thursday, Oct. 19, and were presented on Friday, Oct. 20, before a federal judge in Manhattan. Prosecutors said some of the attempted sale discussions took place while Baez was on duty.

As alleged in the complaint filed, Baez and Martinez allegedly had numerous conversations with a confidential source (the "CS") who was working with law enforcement regarding wholesale narcotics trafficking, and allegedly offered to sell the CS kilogram quantities of fentanyl, heroin, and cocaine.

Up to the date of her arrest, prosecutors said Baez had been employed since 2012 as a police officer with the NYPD. In or about 2020, following accusations of misconduct, they said the NYPD began to investigate her and she was ultimately placed on modified duty. As of October 2023, they said during her participation in selling kilogram quantities of narcotics, Baez was assigned to modified desk duty at a particular NYPD facility.

According to NYPD online records, she had been assigned at one point to Police Service Area 6, serving 18 New York City Housing Authority developments in Manhattan. Both face a minimum term of 10 years in prison and a maximum sentence of life in prison. Any sentencing of the defendants will be determined by a judge. The defendants are deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

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.



# Elections 2023:

## Unofficial Election Night Results, Marmorato Declares Victory in CD13

(continued from page 9)

finer for those who sell or use fraudulent paper plates.

Jose A. Padilla Jr., the Conservative Party candidate for District 15, who also ran in District 15 in 2021, won 6.92 percent of the vote (268) on Election Night, while Erica Elias, the Republican Party candidate, garnered 12.57 percent (487) on Election Night.

In the race for Justice of the Supreme Court in the 12th Judicial District, Democrat Michael A. Frishman won 30.72 percent of the vote on Election Night (32,039 votes), Democrat Sharon A.M. Aarons won 38.94 percent (40,619 votes), and John A. Howard-Algarin won 28.15 (29,361). Write-ins accounted for 2.19 percent or 2,286 votes. Voters could vote for any three candidates.

In the race for Justice of the Civil Court in Bronx County, Democrat Joaquin E. Orelana won 97.96 percent of the vote on Election Night (40,477 votes). Writes in accounted for 2.04 percent or 844 votes. Voters could vote for one candidate.

In the race for Judge of the Civil Court in the 1st Municipal Court District, Bronx, Democrat Carol Elaine Malcolm won 58.84 percent of the vote (24,784 votes) and Democrat Edit Shkreli won 39.12 percent (16,477 votes). Write-ins accounted for 2.05 percent (862 votes).

Proposal 1 on the ballot, an amendment, the removal of small city school districts from special constitutional debt limitation, passed with 72.70 percent (358,955) voting "Yes," to 27.30 per-

cent (134,767) voting "No."

Proposal 2 on the ballot, an amendment, extending sewage project debt exclusion from debt limit, also passed with 75.97 percent (372,659) voting "Yes," to 24.03 percent (117,895) voting "No."

The NYC Campaign Finance Board (CFB) issued public matching funds payments totaling \$894,749 to 47 candidates citywide on Thursday, Nov. 2, the last payments issued before the general election.

We spoke to William Figueroa of Bainbridge Avenue in Norwood outside P.S. 94 The Kings College School, also in Norwood, on Election Day and asked him if he wanted to say who he voted for and why. "Well, I'm a staunch Democrat, so I kind of went down the line with Democrats," he said. Asked if there were particular issues that were on the top of his mind when casting his ballot this year, he said, "No, not at the moment because a lot of these people that were on the ballot seem to be on line and on par with some of the things that I feel are important for the City, especially smaller government."

Figueroa added, "You know, it has to start here at the bottom of the pyramid." Given the apparent low voter turnout, we asked if he had any suggestions on what could be done to get more people engaged in local elections. "Yeah, the local ones, It's just lack of information," he said. "You don't see any real commercials, campaign ads."

He continued, "At least, I don't really

see many for these types of elections, so sometimes it's a little hard to distinguish who you should be voting for, and what their causes are and, you know, like I said, I'm a staunch Democrat, but maybe, all of a sudden, there is a Republican that's sort of in line with some of your views so that would be nicer to know these candidates just a little bit more." Asked if there were any problems voting with the machines, he said, "No, if I was in there 10 minutes, it was too long."

We also spoke to Rinaldo Luyando outside the same school polling site, which was almost empty when we were inside apart from one female voter. [It was a similar scene at P.S. / M.S. 498, The Van Nest Academy polling site at 1640 Bronxdale Avenue in Morris Park, with no voters present when we visited the polling site.]

Luyando said he had voted earlier that day. Asked what issues were of particular concern to him when voting, he said, "Well, today, I decided to vote because we need to bring change. There's a lot of stuff in the neighborhood we need to start fixing up, you know, and try to improve the neighborhood because it's a little more violent here."

He mentioned the men's shelter on Jerome Avenue in Norwood. "Then, you got the addicts who, you know, have to get their fix," Luyando said. "And then you have the immigrants that just came, they just made it into a hotel [on Webster Avenue], and all these new buildings that they've been putting around this neighborhood, they're not bringing in good people."

He continued, "They're just you know people that we don't know. They're not from the neighborhood, and then when you *do* try to get one of those apartments, you can't afford it, because you got to make a certain amount of money,



Photo by Síle Moloney

**RINALDO LUYANDO VOTED** on Election Day, Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2023, and said housing equity was one of his top concerns.

and then people that come out from other countries just come in and get everything they want."

He added, "And then us, that we're here, citizens, that we've been paying taxes for years, we don't get enough. So, I'm hoping that there'll be a change." Asked therefore, if he voted differently this year, he said, he voted Democrat. "Because us, Republicans, they're messing up, man, with all this scandal that's been going on, so I voted Democrat this year."

Of the District 13 voters, Marmorato told NY1 on Wednesday morning, "They were ready for the change. They feel like there's no more local control in the community. They don't feel like they have a say in what's going on in their neighborhoods and they're just fed up with it."

To read more of our election coverage, visit [www.norwoodnews.org](http://www.norwoodnews.org).



Photo by David Greene

**A VOTER CASTS** his ballot at P.S. / M.S. 498, The Van Nest Academy polling site, located at 1640 Bronxdale Avenue in Morris Park on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023. The District 13 City Council race was one of the tightest.



# NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

## Calling All Neighborhood History Keepers

The Bronx Historical Society and Columbia University, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, is looking to five neighborhood history keepers for a special history project running from November 2023 to March 2025. You'll be paid \$30 per hour for your work and receive free training and support. You'll be based in Mott Haven and will be required to devote about 15 hours a month to the project. Call Amy Starecheski on (212) 851 4395 or email [aas39@columbia.edu](mailto:aas39@columbia.edu).

## Tree Seed Community Planting Event

Mosholu Teaching Forest is hosting a tree seed community planting event on Saturday, Nov. 11, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at West Mosholu Parkway North and West Gun Hill Road in the open area of the forest. Organizers say if you make it to the corner, you will find it but the nearest street address is 75 West Mosholu Parkway North. All are welcome. Bring the kids and learn about planting. Contact Matt on (917) 557 3562.

## RFP Open for Orchard Beach

NYC Parks & Recreation announced Oct. 27 it is accepting Requests for Pro-

posals for the development, operation and maintenance of a restaurant, snack bar and merchandise concessions at the Orchard Beach Pavilion in Pelham Bay Park. Visit [www.nyc/parks](http://www.nyc/parks) for more information. The solicitation number is X39-SB-R-2023.

## RFP Open for Kingsbridge Armory

NYC Economic Development Corporation is accepting Requests for Proposals for the development of the Kingsbridge Armory in Kingsbridge Heights. The deadline to apply is Jan. 18, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. For more information, visit <https://edc.nyc/kingsbridge-armory-redevelopment-rfp>.

## Naloxone Training

The Office of the Bronx Borough President is hosting a virtual Naloxone training event on Tuesday, Nov. 14, at 6 p.m., for those interested in learning this lifesaving skill. Visit [https://health-nyc.gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_RCoBCtsjRKanIPBu5-Mu8Jg#/registration](https://health-nyc.gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RCoBCtsjRKanIPBu5-Mu8Jg#/registration) to register.

## Calling All Veterans & Families of Veterans

The Bronx Historical Society is calling on all veterans to share their stories with the society to create an ar-

chive and pay tribute to the struggles, lives and sacrifices of veterans. Contact [librarian@bronxhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:librarian@bronxhistoricalsociety.org) or call (718) 881 8900 Ext. 105.

## 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.

## 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 203<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:worknotice@coned.com).

## Affordable Housing Lotteries

NYC Department of Housing, Preservation and Development (HPD) launched an affordable housing lottery for units at 3073 Barker Avenue in Olinville with a closing date of Nov. 15. Visit [www.norwoodnews.org](http://www.norwoodnews.org), and search for "affordable housing" for more information.



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# Fordham Manor: Politicians Show Up for Senior Night



**ASSEMBLYMAN GEORGE ALVAREZ** (A.D. 78) addresses the crowd at a Seniors Night held at Caridad Kingsbridge in Kingsbridge Heights on Thursday, Oct. 26, 2023.

## BY MIRIAM QUIÑONES

Assembly Member George Alvarez (A.D. 78) and Rep. Adriano Espaillat (NY-13) held a Senior Night to celebrate local seniors at Caridad Kingsbridge, lo-

cated at 135 West Kingsbridge Road in Kingsbridge Heights on Thursday, Oct. 26, from 5 to 9 p.m. Espaillat represents parts of northern Manhattan and parts  
*(continued on page 13)*



# Out & About

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

## EVENTS

On Saturday, Nov. 11, a **Veterans Grab 'n Go Luncheon** will be held at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center at 130 W Kingsbridge Road in Fordham Manor, hosted by the U.S. Department of Veterans Services, in honor of all who served. Music will be provided by the United States Air Force Rhythm in Blue Jazz Ensemble.

Parkchester Library, 1985 Westchester Avenue, is hosting **Creative Writing Classes** each Tuesday in November from 5 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. to celebrate National Novel Writing Month. Learn different writing styles, get helpful handouts and worksheets, enhance your writing skills, learn how to organize your story and more.

## MUSIC

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, located on the campus of Lehman College/CUNY at 250 Bedford Park Boulevard West, Bronx, NY 10468, presents an **ABBA Tribute Show "Arrival from Sweden"** on Saturday, Nov. 18, at 8 p.m. According to the Center's representatives, "Arrival from Sweden" is one of the world's most popular and best-selling ABBA tribute bands. "Hailed as the closest you will ever get to ABBA, the

show masters the Nordic band's spirit with sensational vocals, breathtaking arrangements, and incredible costumes," they said. Tickets can also be purchased online at <https://www.lehmancenter.org/events/abba-tribute>.

## KIDS

Kids are invited to join the Kingsbridge branch of New York Public Library, located at 291 W 231<sup>st</sup> Street, The Bronx, and **Play Chess!** Classes are open to beginners as well as experienced players. If you don't know how to play, that's all right: come and learn! Meet in person on Monday, November 13, 20 & 27 at 3.30 p.m.

## ART

Join Mosholu Library, located at 285 East 205<sup>th</sup> Street in Norwood, for its **Adults Arts & Crafts** program and make some homemade decorations and gifts 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](mailto:Victor.Campbell@parks.nyc.gov) for more information.

# Fordham Manor: Politicians Show Up for Senior Night

(continued from page 12)

of the West Bronx, while Alvarez broadly represents some or all of the neighborhoods of Kingsbridge Heights, Belmont, Bedford Park, and Fordham Manor.

In addition to the assemblymember, among those in attendance were Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, Council Member Oswald Feliz (C.D. 15), who represents Bedford Park, Fordham, Mount Hope, Bathgate, Belmont, East Tremont, West Farms, Van Nest, Al-lerton, and Olinville, Council Member Perina Sanchez (C.D. 14), who represents Morris Heights, University Heights, Fordham, Kingsbridge, Sirio and Heather Guerino of Guerinos Against Graffiti, and about 150 guests. Heather Guerino, an advocate for those affected by domestic violence, said she cohosted the event. As reported, both the incumbent Democratic councilmembers led in the polls after poll closure on Election Night, Nov. 7.

There was dinner, music with DJ Vega, a salsa dancing concert, and an opportunity to pose for some photos with the elected officials. Many of those

we spoke to on the night said it was a beautiful evening and that they really enjoyed being outdoors, since the event was held both outdoors and indoors.

The evening's festivities were also supported by State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33), who broadly represents the northwest Bronx, as well as Norwood, Bedford Park, Fordham Manor, Belmont and Tremont, and State Sen. Robert Jackson (S.D. 31) who represents parts of Manhattan and the Bronx. Other sponsors included ICNA Relief and Humana.

Alvarez later said of the night, "We had an amazing time dancing and eating! Thank you to all my colleagues who supported this event."

*\*Sile Moloney contributed to this story.*

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## Public and Community Meetings

The **52nd PRECINCT FELLOWSHIP RECOGNITION BREAKFAST** will take place on November 17 at 10 a.m. at Monroe College Bronx Campus, King Hall, 2501 Jerome Avenue, The Bronx. Email [52precinctcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:52precinctcouncil@gmail.com) for tickets. 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 on Tuesday, Nov. 28, at 6.30 p.m., location TBC. Contact [KCabre-raCarrera@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:KCabre-raCarrera@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 on Tuesday, Nov. 14, at 7 p.m. at the College of Mount Saint Vincent's Science Hall Building, located at 6301 Riverdale Avenue, Riverdale, NY, 10471. Contact [BX08@cb.nyc.gov](mailto: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, Dec. 6, 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](mailto:bedfordmosholu@verizon.net).

## CORRECTION

In the Norwood News edition dated Oct 13-26, 2023, in the page 8 story entitled, "Pop Up Food Pantries Still Needed," the spelling of Dr. Amir Shaka Azizel's name was incorrect, as was that of Imam Talibudeen McCutchen. In the same story, the location of the pop-up was incorrectly referenced as Norwood, rather than Bedford Park. We apologize for these errors.

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# Lockett Family Want Answers

(continued from page 1)

Demmerle entered the deli and engaged in a violent struggle with Lockett, who was already inside.

Police said, during the struggle, caught on video, Lockett allegedly had a gun while Demmerle was allegedly stabbing Lockett with a knife. Police said Demmerle then fled the deli, was pursued by Lockett, and as Lockett exited the deli, he allegedly fired at Demmerle at point-blank range into his white Lexus.

Police said the Queens Violence Detectives Squad, in plain clothes, then confronted Lockett and fired numerous times [at him]. They said Lockett was subsequently removed to Jacobi Medical Center and was pronounced deceased.

Demmerle, who had escaped from his car, later walked/ran several blocks to a barber store on East Gun Hill Road

by Jerome Avenue. He was later arrested by police.

Myisha Lockett, Kyle's mother, later told *Norwood News*, "It's been a year since Kyle, my son, has passed away. It was tragic. He was stabbed four times in the corner deli where he grew up by an unknown assailant, who he did not know." [Norwood News is currently unable to corroborate these details.]

She added, "At first, the police was saying it was gang activity. It was not, and when we went to court, they, you know [inaudible] that there was no affiliation. We're still in trial, so I can't really go into detail with that, but the issue is that we haven't gotten any names from the Attorney General's Office."

She continued, "We don't know the police who shot Kyle from the warrant squad. We know that there were three police on the scene, and we still have a lot of questions," she said, in part, add-

ing that several rounds of shots were heard in the video of the incident.

Myisha Lockett continued, "We just want justice. We want to know why, you know, his back was turned. They said in the preliminary that they felt that he was a threat, but how could he be a threat when his back [was] turned to them, and as soon as they shot, he threw the gun."

Kyle Lockett's father was also at the memorial service. Of his son's death, he said, "You don't know what it's like until it happens to you." He declined to comment further saying he was feeling very emotional.

Asked what Kyle was like, Kyle's cousin told us, "He was a good kid. He was young. He's been my cousin since I was young. I moved. I came back over here, and they ended up killing him. So, I'm just lost for words to be honest."

*Norwood News* reached out to the Attorney General's Office [Letitia James] and asked for a comment on the pace of the investigation, given the family's

frustrations. A representative replied saying the case was ongoing.

We also reached out to the Bronx District Attorney's office regarding the separate case involving the altercation with Demmerle. We were informed he is due back in court on Nov. 9.

Of Kyle's character, Sarah Lang, a friend of the family, told *Norwood News*, "I grew up with Kyle Lockett from when he was an itty bitty baby, and he was a really good kid. He helped me. He gave his last dollar to people on the street. He was a real, you know. He loves music. He loves his family. He was a doting uncle, brother, son, friend."

Of the incident, she added, "White cops should not be policing Black and brown communities. Whether they know it or not, or they believe it or not, they do come with biases."

Kyle's mom later concluded, "He just begged for his life because he already knew he had been shot and he was like, 'Please do not let me die here on the ground.'"



Photo courtesy of Jessica Lugo

**A COLLAGE OF** photos of Norwood resident, Kyle Lockett, 21, is framed and accompanied by the message, "Sleep in Paradise." Lockett was shot and killed by police following a dispute with 29-year-old, Ajamu Demmerle, during which police intervened, on the corner of Gun Hill Road and Hull Avenue in Norwood on Thursday, November 3, 2022.

## Norwood: Family Mourns Baby Delilah

By DAVID GREENE

A handful of family members quietly gathered along East Mosholu Parkway North at Decatur Avenue in Norwood on Sunday, Oct. 15, to mourn the passing of Delilah Annabelle Rolon, who police say died days before her second birthday from carbon monoxide poisoning in Syracuse, New York, as recently reported by *Norwood News*.

Delilah's family said she and her parents had been evicted on Sept. 25 from their Syracuse apartment and had been sleeping inside their car on Sept. 27 when Delilah died. Her father, former Norwood resident, Joshua Rolon, 36, and his partner, Delilah Rodriguez, 39, the baby's mother, were seriously injured from the same fumes, were hospitalized and recovered. Social service officials in Syracuse say the family were offered alternative accommodation after being evicted, but never showed up. They family dispute this.

A planned local funeral in Norwood arranged by family members was cancelled at the last minute by the couple, who decided to return to Syracuse and hold a private cremation there instead. In a social media post announcing the memorial, a family member wrote, "Funeral was cancelled by parents. They want a service for them and baby only."

Delilah's tragic death is the second heart-wrenching death for the Norwood

family in less than a year as Rolon is the half-brother of Angel "Pookie" Cuasant, 36, a popular Norwood man who was shot and killed inside a Fordham Manor bodega on Briggs Avenue at 194<sup>th</sup> Street on Dec. 18, 2022.

Andres Latorre, 37, was arrested on April 5 and charged in connection with Cuasant's death. Latorre is due back in court on Nov. 9.

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



Photo by David Greene

**AT A MEMORIAL** event on Mosholu Parkway in Norwood on Sunday, Oct. 15, 2023, for Baby Delilah Annabelle Rolon, who died of carbon monoxide poisoning on Sept. 27, 2023, in Syracuse, NY, several photos of Baby Delilah are seen, as well as a photo of Angel "Pookie" Cuasant, 36, the baby's uncle, who was shot and killed in Fordham Manor in December 2022.

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