By SÍLE MOLONEY

The tragic death on Sept. 15 of one-year-old Nicholas Dominici, apparently from fentanyl-related poisoning, along with three other infants at Divino Niño Daycare Center in Kingsbridge Heights shocked New York City. An international manhunt ensued, followed by the arrest in Mexico of a fourth person sought in connection to what has been described as a “creative” drug smuggling operation.

Whether the infant’s tragic death has the potential to save other vulnerable children from a similar fate remains to be seen, but it has prompted the City’s health commissioner, Dr. Ashwin Vasan, to potentially re-assess the scope of his agency’s inspections of the City’s 600+ home-based daycare centers.

The urgency of the situation was brought into even sharper focus (continued on page 15)

NICHOLAS DOMINICI, 1, DIED in a fentanyl-related death on Friday, Sept. 15, 2023 at Divino Niño Daycare Center at 2707 Morris Avenue, The Bronx.
5th Annual 48-Hour Film Challenge “Wraps” in the Oval

By SÍLE MOLONEY

That’s a wrap! Bronx Film 48 hosted its 5th Annual 48-Hour Film Challenge last month with the winning films announced during a special outdoor screening and presentation held in the Williamsbridge Oval on Friday, Aug. 11.

The evening’s event, which was also being recorded by videographers on the night, was organized in collaboration with the City’s parks’ department and Bronx Council on the Arts. Katelyn Prieto, community liaison at Bronx Film 48, said the annual 48-hour short filmmaking challenge “[helps] creatives in the community push themselves and celebrate the resilient artistry of The Bronx.”

Ayaris Perez and Edwin Torres are the co-founders of Bronx Film 48, a collective of artists who they say are committed to elevating cinema culture in the borough. During the challenge, filmmaking teams compete to make the best short film possible within a 48-hour time limit.

Eleven short films spanning a range of topics were screened on the night and there were also Q&A sessions held afterwards. Each contestant or group of contestants had concentrated on a particular film genre for their challenge and were given a list of required elements to include in the final cut. These ranged from a given character name, a prop, a quote, a location, and more. All films had to be shot, edited, and filed within 48 hours.

It was the first time for Katia Etienne (lead actor) and Patrice Payne (director) to participate in the event and their first time to create a short film. They said they “blindly” chose a mockumentary theme, which they said was based on an ancestor. Payne said of their genre, “We were just excited about that because we love shows like ‘The Office’ and ‘Parks & Rec.’”

Etienne added, “Yeah, it was fun! It was random! It was wild!” On the time constraints involved, Payne said, “We were nervous but also excited, and it was also like crunch time because it was such a quick turnaround!”

Some of the winners of the 5th Annual Bronx 48-Hour Film Challenge display their winning certificates after a screening and awards presentation in the Williamsbridge Oval in Norwood on Friday, Aug. 11, 2023.

Gregory Hernandez, who is also a co-founder of Bronx Film 48, and director of the award-winning documentary “1.5 Million,” which discusses literacy in The Bronx, was present on the night, though not a contestant. “I love that the organization is continuing to grow and continuing to develop,” he said. “I’m here to support, and I’m so excited to see more films made in The Bronx.”

We asked contestants, Amir Windley, director, and Nicholas Velez, who said he helped with lighting and behind-the-scenes, what their motivation was for participating in the challenge. “Well, as a filmmaker, you’re always going to be challenged, and you’re not going to get anywhere in life just standing there waiting for something to happen,” said Windley. “You got to go out there and find a challenge for you.”

Meanwhile, Velez said, “My motivation was just to meet other filmmakers who were just as passionate about creating stories and putting forth film and working together.”

Bronx Film 48 seeks to create a space for aspiring filmmakers of color to meet, network, and ultimately create. The organization hosts networking events, accessible public screenings, workshops, and in addition to its annual 48-hour film challenge.

Of the winners on the night, Torres said he had some favorites but explained that the ultimate decision was left up to four independent judges, adding there were some who he thought might have placed but the judges obviously thought differently. “The fact that the films are made [at all] and shown online is reward in itself,” he said.

Marcela Torres, mother to Edwin, who also helped organize the event was happy with its success, saying, “The Bronx creates opportunity to showcase filmmakers and writers and actors, and they do it through a really fun event that brings the community together, and that’s just the best of everything; you showcase, and you share!”

The film challenge is open to creatives over the age of 18 with all levels of experience. For more information on it, and where to view this year’s films, visit bronx48film.com or follow their social media channels.

Of the overall experience, Payne concluded, “If anyone is inquiring about doing the challenge, take the leap and have fun! It’s a wonderful experience and it’s a challenging one if you’re working/going to school, but if I can do it with five jobs at the time, anybody can do it! Go for it!”

Grappling for Health LLC is an organization that looks to educate, consult, and organize around improving the social drivers of health in our community. We are available for workshops, seminars, consulting for individuals, community agencies, and schools.

Contact us by phone at (347) 480-4463 or email at grapplingforhealth@gmail.com, for more information.

Our website is grapplingforhealth.com
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, ensuring advertorials received from partner organizations are proofed and accurate, completing all necessary online compliance and other training.

Requirements:

• excellent organizational and time management skills
• ability to turn around ad contracts promptly and efficiently
• ability to understand and communicate ad technical requirements e.g. photo dimensions, photo resolution, logos, and other technical elements that make up both digital and print ads
• 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.
This week, we asked readers their thoughts on a pilot program launched by the City’s Parks' department in June 2023 which allows Class 1, 2 and 3 e-bikes and lighter-weight e-scooters on city park drives and greenways. A map is available at nyc.gov/parks/ebikes, showing the greenways and drives that fall under the program, along with a multilingual survey to obtain feedback. The program doesn't allow e-bikes on pedestrian paths, and faster, heavier mopeds or motorcycles are not allowed anywhere in parks or on greenways. The latter vehicles are also precluded from riding on bike lanes, and such drivers must hold a driver's license.

“Basically, I think it’s just but unjust at the same time because some people take advantage of the situation but at the same time, people should have the freedom to ride around and not be stopped. If you are a danger to society, then it’s understandable why they’re stopping you, but if you’re not causing any danger to society, I don’t see why they would stop you. If you’re on an illegal vehicle, then it’s understandable, but if you’re on an electric vehicle, and you’re not riding dangerously, it doesn’t make sense.”

Eric Caraballo, Parkchester
Photo by David Greene

“My feelings about it are that it has actually endangered all park users including pedestrians, children, seniors and cyclists. It not only puts the public’s safety at risk, it’s also taking away the enjoyment of people to use the parkway because people are always looking behind, forward, left and right because of these electric vehicles on parkways. Lastly, there’s no enforcement, and a lot of times you can’t differentiate between what’s actually a legal vehicle and what’s not a legal vehicle. Some of the e-scooters that are privately owned go above 20 miles per hour. They actually go 40 miles per hour in some cases.”

Roxanne Delgado, Pelham Parkway
Photo courtesy of Roxanne Delgado

“Really? I didn’t know that. I think they all should be banned; they’re dangerous. I think they should rethink this because it’s bad enough; we’re overflowing with them. After the pandemic, we’ve been flooded with scooters; scooters are everywhere. Scooters, bikes... they are just laying dormant anywhere, everywhere, and they can catch fire with those goofy batteries.”

Jake Wilson, Kingsbridge
Photo courtesy of Jake Wilson

“I think it’s okay if a park is big enough and there are wide enough paths or trails like in Van Cortlandt Park, but the problem is there has to be a limited speed limit. It could get dangerous if drugs or alcohol are involved and someone could get hurt in a crowded park. Maybe police riding mopeds... maybe it’s better to leave them on the street. Soon they will need license plates and insurance on certain roads because they do make great getaway vehicles for criminals.”

Arty Than, Yonkers, N.Y. (formerly of Riverdale)
Photo courtesy of Arty Than

“It think it’s a horrible idea. Motorized vehicles don’t belong in the parks, let alone on sidewalks. They pose a danger to children and the elderly and small animals. They belong on the streets.”

Charlie Vasquez, Pelham Parkway
Photo courtesy of Charlie Vasquez

“Sile Moloney contributed to this article

Jeremiah Ryan Gets 15 Years to Life in Prison for Fatal Shooting of Angellyh Yambo

By SILE MOLONEY & DAVID GREENE

Jeremiah Ryan, 18, who was charged last year with the 2022 fatal shooting of innocent bystander and high school student, Angelly Yambo, 16, in the Mott Haven section of The Bronx, as well as the attempted murder of two of her friends as they walked home from school together, was sentenced on Sept. 15, to 15 years to life in prison in relation to the gang-related shooting.

Ryan, 17 at the time of the unintended killing of Angelly and the shooting of her friends in crossfire, pled guilty on Aug. 4 this year to second-degree murder, avoiding the need for a trial.

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark said on the day of the sentencing, “The defendant was in a dispute with two men when he fired multiple shots from a ‘ghost gun,’ striking Angelly Yambo, 16, and two more teens who were walking home from school. His actions ended the life of a beautiful, young girl and shattered the lives of the survivors and the families of the victims.”

She added, “Since Angelly’s death, her family members have channeled their grief into action by starting a foundation to honor her memory. They have met with elected officials and supported legislation targeting ghost guns and have attended multiple anti-violence events. Her mother, Angelly’s memory will live on forever.” Ghost guns are firearms made from components purchased online with no serial number and aren’t traceable.

Ryan, now 18 and from The Bronx, was sentenced by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Jeffrey Rosembeth. Wearing a blue face mask and dressed in court in a faded, green sweatshirt and faded gray sweatpants, which were sliding down his rear and exposing his underwear, and with his hands in cuffs behind him, the 18-year-old remained silent for the most part as he sat beside his legal team during the court proceedings in the Bronx Hall of Justice, and as members of Angelly’s family read various victim impact statements. No cameras were allowed inside the courtroom. The judge explained that this restriction was due to the defendant’s age.

As reported, and according to the investigation, on the afternoon of April 8, 2022, in front 510 East 156th Street in Mott Haven, Ryan had a dispute with two men and fired at least six shots, striking Angelly, a 17-year-old boy, and a 17-year-old girl. The bullet struck Angelly in her upper back, piercing her lung and pulmonary artery, causing her death.

One of the surviving victims was shot in the left leg, and the other teen sustained a gunshot wound to the left buttocks. Ryan fled the scene and was apprehended later that day by police, as reported. Numerous vigils and anti-gun violence marches have since been held in Angelly’s memory, including one at her school.

As reported, Angelly spent some of her childhood in Kingsbridge Heights and had a street co-named in her honor in May of this year. Family members present on the day of the sentencing included her mother, Yanely Henriquez, her father, Manuel Yambo, her aunt, Mary Hernandez, who was the instigator behind the launch of The Angelly Yambo Foundation, her aunt, Lissette Camargo, her 4-year-old little brother, Mason, and other relatives, including Abed Henry Henriquez. Camargo and Hernandez read various impact statements, one of which included a direct statement from Angelly’s father.

Some of the family spoke to the media outside the courthouse afterwards and were also seen crying and hugging each other during the reading of the victim impact statements, and after leaving the courtroom. In each case, though emotional when they spoke about Angelly, their tone grew stronger and more resolute when they addressed Ryan directly inside the courtroom.

Members of Ryan’s family could also be heard sobbing during the court proceedings and a woman who appeared to be his mother called out, “Jeremiah” as he exited the courtroom after the sentencing. For his part, Ryan had remained facing straight ahead at the judge and court officials during the sentence and, as confirmed by Hernandez and Angelly’s father, who each had a better view of Ryan than members of media during the sentencing, did not appear to turn at any stage to look at Angelly’s family, even as they read their statements and held a photo of Angelly.

Her family said it was the first time Ryan had apologized for her killing. Speaking in a low voice, and after initially declining to say anything, when asked by the judge, Ryan was later heard saying, “I apologize for my actions. I’m sorry.” For the Yambo and Henriquez families, however, his apology came too late.

Summing up their victim impact statement, Henriquez talked of the agony of seeing dozens of autopsy photos of her daughter’s lifeless body and how at times, she had wanted to take her own life, saying it had, at times, become meaningless to her. “I’m standing here with all my strength,” she said, in part. Later, addressing Angelly’s spirit directly, she added, “Your mother loves you forever and a day and we are here to fight for you.”
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**Opinion**

### A Reckoning Arrives Over Campus Sexual Assaults

By FRANK AUSTIN

The persistence of sexual assault has always relied on an imbalance of power, particularly on college campuses. Whether it’s the violence of the assault, the reliance on public pressure and intimidation to keep victims silent, or the power of universities to manage their reputations, well-funded and well-connected institutions have relied on a lopsided justice system rife with insanely short statutes of limitations, and a culture of shame to protect their interests and silence those who dare speak out and share their story.

The system, by design, favors the powerful. It protects the institutions. I should know. I was raped by my roommate during my sophomore year at Fordham University. As asserted in my complaint, which I filed on June 6 in federal court, my university failed to protect me despite the reliance on public pressure and intimidation to keep victims silent, or the short statutes of limitations, and a culture of shame to protect their interests and silence those who dare speak out and share their story.

Unfortunately, my university’s mishandling of my case is a perfect example of a wider problem. Historically, universities and colleges have come up short when it comes to handling sexual assaults on their campuses. Even with reporting numbers notoriously lower than reality, a recent study by the Association of American Universities shows that more than one out of ten students will report a nonconsensual sexual encounter as an undergraduate.

And for those who report, now they have to encounter a problematic justice system. Based on the U.S. Department of Justice’s own numbers, approximately three rapists will ever serve a day in prison for every 100 rapes committed. That’s a 3% conviction rate. Would you report and relive the worst day of your life if you could safely bet that your attacker will walk free?

No student should have to face this kind of decision as they are adjusting to independence and adulthood, and no parent should have to fear that their child’s university or college would turn a blind eye to sexual assault.

Until now, there has been little recourse or protection for survivors found in the shadows and left pick up the pieces on their own. Their attackers go free, and the institutions that protected them are able to move on as if nothing ever happened and hide behind incredibly short statute of limitations that protect them from any liability.

Too many powerful people turned a blind eye to the atrocities happening right in front of them. As we continue to grapple with what it means to support survivors of sexual assault, we must do more than just talk about the problem. Rather, we must start holding institutions accountable for their negligence and refuse to allow them to sweep their cover ups under the rug.

But in the aftermath of the #MeToo movement, we have seen positive change. The imbalance of power was brought to light and with it, a national reckoning focused on righting historic wrongs and giving survivors tools, not only to heal from their attacks, but to hold their attackers and those who enabled these assaults accountable in a court of law.

Powerful predators were brought to justice. Institutions like the Catholic Church were held accountable for the staggering decades of child abuse and molestation happening within its own priesthood.

The Child Victims Act brought unprecedented attention and relief to those who had been victims of a lopsided justice system. Now, until Nov. 23 of this year, the Adult Survivors Act is allowing survivors like me to seek justice. Because the truth remains that there is not much of a difference between a 17-year-old Catholic high school student and an 18-year-old in their first year of college. Institutions of higher education must be responsible for protecting their students.

As you can imagine, the aftermath of these assaults has haunted me. Without any help or acknowledgement from the university for what happened to me, I was left to pick up the pieces on my own. I fell into a deep depression and attempted to take my own life on several occasions. I’ve sought counseling and I’m so thankful for the support of my friends, family, and husband, but the road to recovery has been long, rocky, and oftentimes lonely.

My university refused to act, and I am the one who must live with the consequences of their inaction every day. My purpose is using my experience and voice to ensure no other student must go through what I have had to endure for the last 12 years of my life, and I am fighting for justice and accountability with every avenue I have available.

Frank Austin graduated from Fordham University in 2012.

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**Kingsbridge Celebrates as Adams Eyes Revenue from Cricket World Cup on L.I.**

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Many Kingsbridge residents and environmentalists are celebrating a win following a sustained, community-led campaign, opposing the construction of a temporary 34,000 seat cricket stadium in Van Cortlandt Park (VCP) Parade Ground to host the International Cricket Council (ICC) Men’s T20 World Cup 2024.

Meanwhile, Mayor Eric Adams, who had been optimistic the VCP proposal might have benefited The Bronx, economically, still hopes New York City will garner some of the spin-off revenue generated by the event when it finally kicks off next year in the U.S. and the West Indies, and after the announcement that Nassau County’s Long Island, as well as Dallas and Miami, will host some of the games.

The ICC formally announced the decision that Long Island, rather than The Bronx, was chosen on Sept. 20, as one of the final three host locations for the event. “We’re delighted to announce the three USA venues that will host part of the biggest ICC Men’s T20 World Cup ever staged, with 20 teams competing for the trophy,” an ICC spokesperson said. “The USA is a strategically important market, and these venues give us an excellent opportunity to make a statement in the world’s biggest sport market.”

As reported, news that Van Cortlandt Park was first being considered as a possible venue for the event was met with both shock and a lot of emotion in demand for local elected officials in the form of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81), City Councilman Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11) and Rep. Ritchie Torres (NY-15), who held a press conference in the park on Sept. 1 to reiterate the reasons they felt VCP was not the best choice for the project.

Jeffrey Dinowitz said he and his colleagues, along with what he described as a great coalition of community organizations and park advocacy organizations achieved an enormous victory for the community, for Van Cortlandt Park, and parks in general. “Our collective efforts demonstrated the power of community advocacy and the importance of preserving green spaces in urban environments.”

(continued on page 8)
NEWS BRIEFS

By SILE MOLONEY & MIRIAM QUIÑONES

Hispanic Heritage Month Kicks Off

Hostos Community College kicked off Hispanic Heritage Month with a discussion on Sept. 20 on the “contributions and rich heritage of Jewish people in the Dominican Republic” led by Dr. Herbert S. Stern Diaz, a renowned Dominican ophthalmologist and historian. At a time when Jewish refugees were turned away worldwide, panelists described how the island stood out as one of few countries that received them with open arms.

Keeping this in perspective and drawing a parallel with the current migrant crisis, Stern illuminated what was described as the remarkable journey of Jewish communities on the Caribbean island through findings included in his most recent publication, “Hechos y documentos sobre la presencia judía en República Dominicana” (“Facts and Document of the Jewish Presence in the Dominican Republic”).

Local elected officials, Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81) and City Councilman Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11), spoke at the event along with Manhattan Council Member Julie Menin (C.D. 5), who chairs the Council’s Jewish Caucus, Bronx Deputy Borough President Janet Peguero, and Bronx Regional Representative from Gov. Kathy Hochul’s office, Fidel Malena.

List of NYPD Highest Lawsuit Pay-outs Released

Representatives from The Legal Aid Society released, on Sept. 25, a list of active NYPD members of service of all ranks who the society said “garnered” the highest lawsuit payouts, as well as a list of the named defendants in the most civil rights lawsuits alleging police misconduct from 2013 to July 28, 2023, per City data.

Legal Aid officials said the analysis comes on the back of a report they released earlier this month revealing that the City paid out $50.5 million in lawsuits alleging police misconduct from Jan. 1 to July 28, 2023. Among the top 11 active members of service of all ranks citywide who were most often named in civil lawsuits from 2013 to July, 28, 2023 was Det. Daniell Rivera, who out of ten filed Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) complaints had zero substantiated and the pay-out was $505,501, Det. Abelid Anderson, who out of four CCRB complaints had zero substantiated and the payout was $527,500, and Det. Jodi Brown, who out of nine complaints had zero substantiated and the payout was $1,359,000. Each is assigned to Bronx Narcotics.

Also listed was Det. Wilfredo Benitez with the 44th Precinct, who out of 18 CCRB complaints filed against him had one substantiated and a payout of $582,500, and Sgt. Edmundo Rivera with the 49th Precinct who out of 14 filed CCRB complaints had three substantiated and a payout of $683,000. All referenced employees are male and Hispanic, apart from Brown who is Black.

Among the top ten active members of service (all ranks, citywide) with the highest total payout amounts from 2013 to July 28, 2023, was Sgt. Jeffrey Griffin with the 52nd Precinct, listed as male and White, who had six CCRB complaints filed against him with one substantiated and a payout of $8,210,000. Norwood News contacted the NYPD for comment on the lists. We did not receive an immediate response. We also contacted the CCRB and asked why there was a pay-out in relation to those complaints which were not substantiated. We were referred to the City’s law department and asked the same question. A law department spokesperson said, “Cases can have multiple defendants, including the City, and other City officials. After a thorough review of the merits of the individual claims in each case, settlements are made in the best interest of the parties.”

Biden-Harris Appointee Troy Blackwell Named Senior Adviser

Former candidate in 2021 for city council in The Bronx’s Council District 15, Troy Blackwell has been named senior adviser of the newly created office of enterprise integration at the Selective Service System (SSS), an independent U.S. agency that maintains information on U.S. citizens and other U.S. residents potentially subject to military conscription.

Blackwell said he will be the first person to lead the new office while on detailed assignment from his PR role at the home agency Peace Corps. At the Peace Corps, Blackwell said he was the principal point of contact with news media in over 64 countries and the first openly LGBTQ person on record to be appointed spokesperson for the agency in its 62-year history.

In his new role, Blackwell said he will advise on issues concerning communications workflows, strategic planning, organizational performance, policy implementation, and presidential transition.

Blackwell by registering for the Selective service, young men aged 18 to 25 remain eligible for jobs, state-based student aid in 31 states, federally funded job training, as well as U.S. citizenship for immigrant young men. In response to a question on this description, Blackwell said, “As of right now, congressional legislation only requires men (those assigned male at birth) ages 18-25 to register with the Selective Service.”

Most recently, Blackwell served on assignment as a communications detail for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Before joining President Biden’s administration, he previously worked on the Biden-Harris 2020 campaign. Blackwell is a graduate of CUNY City College of New York and is finishing his master’s degree at Columbia University.

“I am thrilled to continue to support the Biden-Harris administration as I head up the newly created Office of Enterprise Integration,” said Blackwell. “With approximately 130 full-time employees, 175 Reserve Service Members (RSMs), and 56 part-time state directors, the SSS is our nation’s best insurance policy.”

White Plains Road and Hookah Zone Convenience Inc. at 634 Morris Park Avenue. Assembly District 80 covers some or all of the neighborhoods of Norwood, Bedford Park, Morris Park, Van Nest, Pelham Parkway, Pelham Gardens, and Allerton, Indian Village, and Little Yemen.

Zaccaro Jr. said of the operation, “Over the past few months, my office has been contacted by concerned constituents offering invaluable tips about how these businesses have been circumventing the law.” He added, “The information gathered was quickly turned over to the

Photo courtesy of Troy Blackwell

TROY BLACKWELL

Weapon, Cocaine Seized & 5 Arrested in Business Raids

By SILE MOLONEY

Cocaine and a weapon were seized and five people were arrested following a second round of targeted raids by law enforcement of businesses in Assembly District 80 on Monday, Sept. 18. Assemblyman John Zaccaro Jr. said the New York County Sheriff’s office conducted the raids on businesses located along White Plains Road in Pelham Parkway, suspected of illegally selling tobacco and cannabis products.

The assemblyman said the second round of raids to take place in A.D. 80 in recent weeks targeted the Pelham Bay Convenience Corporation at 2180 White Plains Road and Hookah Zone Convenience Inc. at 634 Morris Park Avenue. Assembly District 80 covers some or all of the neighborhoods of Norwood, Bedford Park, Morris Park, Van Nest, Pelham Parkway, Pelham Gardens, and Allerton, Indian Village, and Little Yemen.

Zaccaro Jr. said of the operation, “Over the past few months, my office has been contacted by concerned constituents offering invaluable tips about how these businesses have been circumventing the law.” He added, “The information gathered was quickly turned over to the

(continued on page 14)
Letters To The Editor

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

OMNY Cards and Fare Evasion

Larry Penner states in his letter to the editor [Norwood News, Aug. 10-Sept. 13, 2023] that the MTA has never made public any detailed recovery schedule from the [OMNY] contractor. Has Mr. Penner tried submitting a Freedom of Information request to the MTA? Any “ordinary” (Mr. Penner’s word) citizen, for the price of a postage stamp or the electricity, can make an online request. If Mr. Penner had made one and it has not been answered, this would give him the right to complain.

Mr. Penner states that neither Gov. Kathy Hochul nor MTA CEO Janno Lieber can explain how OMNY can end fare evasion. Fare evasion is committed by going over or under turnstiles, through exit gates, walking past a bus driver or boarding the back of a bus without paying. The problem, as I’m reading it, is a lack of enforcement. (I’m making no comment as to whether this is or isn’t the case.) How in the name of common sense can OMNY stop fare evasion?

Mr. Penner further laments that OMNY cannot be used on PATH, NJ Transit, or EDC Ferry. These are separate transit systems, run by different authorities. It would be as if one were to complain about Macy’s not accepting a JC Penney card. Mr. Penner is already lamenting how inefficient the [OMNY] contractor is. Is he really in favor of expanding the bailiwick of an inefficient contractor?

Why is Lieber’s announcement of the billionth rider to use OMNY premature? Have one billion riders used it? If so, what is premature? Although I prefer MetroCard, I have used OMNY; it works. Sometimes it’s a bit balky and you have to tap twice. If OMNY is online and it mostly works, what is Mr. Penner’s issue?

Nat Weiner
Parkchester

Purr-fect Companions

Excellent letter about stray cats from Frank Sterle Jr. [Norwood News, Sept. 14-Sept. 27, 2023]. Let me add that my current, super affectionate tabby makes my life much better. Five other cats in the past have brought great joy to my life. The only exception was one cat who became violent, twice attacking me and drawing blood, and attacking my current cat to the point that he was afraid to go near her. She had to be euthanized. But I’d say that six out of seven cats being wonderful is a track record that I’m sure would not be matched if I had taken in seven homeless humans.

Richard Warren, Van Cortlandt Village

MTA Funding of Repairs

The recent incident of 97 NYC Transit subway car windows smashed across 45 different trains on the B, D, F, N, Q and W lines raises more questions for MTA Chairman Janno Lieber and NYC Transit President Richard Davye. NYC Transit maintained they didn’t have enough spare windows in stock to quickly make all the repairs. Was there any attempt to uncouple the damaged cars from trains, leaving the remaining cars to form new 8 or 10-car train sets? Why did NYC Transit not have enough spare cars and train sets to replace those taken out of service?

The NYC Transit Fleet Management Plan would tell us how many spare cars and train sets were available. Does NYC Transit need to expand its spare fleet of cars and trains to deal with periodic crises like these in the future? Perhaps instead of disposing of all the old cars with new vehicles, those in better condition should be added to the spare fleet. Commuters, taxpayers, elected officials and transit advocates deserve answers to these very valid questions.

Larry Penner
Great Neck

Follow-Up on Fines Imposed on Convicted Bronx Politicians

The editor of the Norwood News did a wonderful job outlining the fines outstanding for some convicted Bronx politicians in a previous issue of the Norwood News [Aug. 10-Sept. 13, 2023] per my letter request. So many of my fellow Norwoodites were looking forward to Ms. Moloney’s follow-up on the matter. Alas, it was not to be! There was no mention of a follow-up. We were all so disappointed during our morning coffee gathering. Could Ms. Moloney provide some type of reporting that this subject matter is indeed being followed up on?

Richard Marias
Norwood

Kingsbridge Celebrates as Adams Eyes Revenue from Cricket World Cup on L.I.

(continued from page 6)

Nassau County Executive Laura Curran said in part, “I am thrilled for standing up to say the park is indeed being followed up on?”

Richard Marias
Norwood

Editor’s Note: Further to the updates shared by Norwood News [Aug. 10-Sept. 14, 2023] on Mr. Marias’s original inquiries relating to fines paid, sentences served, and the status of pensions for former State Sen. Efrain Gonzalez (D.33), former District 12 City Councilman Larry Seabrook, former District 12 City Councilman Andy King, and Bronx-born union boss, Norman Seabrook, we have followed up with the unified Court System for the Southern District of New York, the OSC State Comptroller’s office, and the New York City Council Ethics/Investigations committee for feedback on the various points raised. OSC and the City Council said they are investigating. We did not receive other responses.

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

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Kingsbridge Celebrates as Adams Eyes Revenue from Cricket World Cup on L.I.
Eight Injured in 2 Chain-Reaction Collisions

By DAVID GREENE

Three people, including two children, were injured after a five-vehicle, chain-reaction crash took place along Sedgwick Avenue in Kingsbridge Heights.

City officials said. FDNY spokesperson, Jim Long, who oversees EMS, said the crash was reported outside 2559 Sedgwick Avenue, between West Kingsbridge Road and Bailey Avenue at 1:37 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 20.

Long said paramedics treated three people at the scene, with one victim declining further medical attention. They said two patients were transported to St. Barnabas Hospital. Long was unable to provide any further information on the patients or their conditions.

Meanwhile, a police spokesperson told Norwood News, “Police responded to a vehicle accident at 2559 Sedgwick Avenue. Upon arrival, it was reported to police that a 2012 Toyota was traveling eastbound on Sedgwick Avenue when it sideswiped a 2017 Honda.”

The spokesperson said the force of the impact pushed the 2017 Honda into a 2017 Hyundai, which in turn was pushed into the front bumper of a 2016 Subaru. A 2012 Honda and a 2015 Toyota also suffered damage.

Police were unable to immediately confirm if any arrests or traffic summonses had been issued.

On Sunday, Sept. 24, a resident of the block who declined to be identified, said, “I didn’t see it (the crash) but I came out and saw the stuff on the floor…. just headlight pieces, the tail-light pieces, bumper pieces, stuff like that.”

When told of the two children who were injured, the young man responded, “I didn’t hear that; that sucks.” The resident said despite the existence of a speed camera at West Kingsbridge Road which records traffic driving eastbound on Sedgwick Avenue, and a curve in the middle of the block which is the site of several crashes, motorists continue to regularly speed towards Bailey Avenue.

Meanwhile, an 8-vehicle crash was reported at Van Cortlandt Park South and Oriole Avenue at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 21. The FDNY said the second, multiple-vehicle crash took place at 12.13 p.m. and five aided people were treated at the scene. They said two of the victims declined further medical treatment, two were transported to Montefiore Hospital, and one was taken to Presbyterian Hospital’s Allen Pavilion. Their conditions were not immediately known.

When contacted about the second incident, a police spokesperson said at the time, “There is nothing on file with the information provided.”

52nd Precinct Hosts Open Day

By SÍLE MOLONEY

As is an annual tradition, the 52nd Precinct once again hosted an Open Day over the summer on the stationhouse grounds, located on Webster Avenue in Norwood, to welcome residents and foster police-community relations.

About 50 to 60 people, including kids, attended and were treated to a barbecue, some fun games, and also had the opportunity to play with one of the precinct’s [K9] dogs. [The precinct’s cat, Meesh, 2009-2023, is recently deceased, as indicated by a recently erected headstone on the precinct grounds.]

Some kids were seen playing inside a squad car on the day, happily giving instructions over the vehicle’s communications system, and flashing and sounding a lowish level siren.

There was also tabling by the Precinct’s community affairs team, led by Officer Stephen Echevarria, where families and other residents were able to obtain information on matters ranging from domestic violence to vehicle security.

Details of the next 52nd Precinct Community Council meeting are listed on page 14. Visit https://www.nyc.gov/site/nypd/bureaus/patrol/precincts/52nd-precinct.page, for more information on how the 52nd Precinct Community Affairs team.
University Heights: Four Sought in Armed Robbery

The NYPD is asking for the public’s help identifying the people seen in the accompanying photos above who they say are sought in connection to a robbery that occurred in University Heights. Police said that on Wednesday, Sept. 6, at around 1:42 p.m. in front of 2254 Davidson Avenue, four males approached a 39-year-old victim and a physical altercation ensued.

“The individuals dragged the victim down the stairs and forcefully removed approximately $1,500 cash,” a police spokesperson said. “The victim sustained minor injuries and refused medical treatment. The individuals then fled on foot towards West 183rd Street to parts unknown.”

Police said three of the people sought are described as male, each with a dark complexion, and each was last seen wearing white t-shirts. They said the fourth person is also described as male and has a light complexion.

Fordham Heights Man Gets 13 Years for Killing Teen

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark announced on Monday, Sept. 11, that a Bronx man was sentenced to 13 years in prison for a gang-related shooting that killed a 17-year-old boy in a crowd that had gathered for the filming of a rap music video in a Bronx McDonald’s parking lot in 2021.

Clark said the defendant, Luis Cruz, 21, of East 163rd Street in Fordham Heights was sentenced to 13 years in prison and five years post-release supervision by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Ralph Fabrizio. He pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter on May 30.

According to the investigation, on May 15, 2021, at about 9 p.m., Cruz, then 18, and a member of the ATR Triniti gang, exchanged gunfire with an opposition gang, the Shooting Boys, in the McDonald’s restaurant parking lot at Clay Avenue and Belmont Street in Claremont, where a crowd had gathered for the rap music video shoot. Cruz fired a single shot from a .380-caliber pistol and Armanis Valdez, 17, was shot in the chest and died.

Fordham Manor: Two Sought in Armed Robbery

The NYPD is asking for the public’s help identifying the people seen in the accompanying photo above who police say are sought in connection with a robbery that occurred in Fordham Manor. Police said that on Friday, Sept. 22, at around 11:05 a.m., a 29-year-old male victim was walking in the vicinity of Fordham Hill Oval and Webb Avenue. They said he was approached by two people unknown to him, riding on a moped.

“The individual, the individuals displayed a firearm and stole the victim’s two gold chains,” a police spokesperson said. “The individuals then fled on the moped traveling eastbound on Webb Avenue.” Police said the victim was uninjured.

They described the first person sought as male who is between 5 feet, 8 inches and 5 feet, 10 inches tall, has a dark complexion, a slim build, and was last seen wearing a black mask, a black, hooded sweatshirt, black sweatpants, and black sneakers. They said the second person sought is also described as male, is estimated to be between 5 feet, 8 inches and 5 feet, 10 inches tall, has a dark complexion, and a slim build. They said he was last seen wearing a black mask, a black hooded sweatshirt, black sweatpants, and red sneakers. The two-wheeled moped was described as dark colored.

Kingsbridge Heights: Man Sought in Non-Fatal Shooting

The NYPD is asking for the public’s help identifying the person seen in the accompanying photo, obtained from the incident location, who they said is wanted in connection with a shooting that occurred in Kingsbridge Heights. They said that on Tuesday, Sept. 5, at around 4:20 a.m. in front 3340 Bailey Avenue, the person fired multiple rounds toward an unknown, intended target, striking three parked and unoccupied vehicles at the location.

“The individual then fled into 3340 Bailey Avenue and took the elevator to the 8th floor,” a police spokesperson said, adding that no injuries were reported. The person sought is described by police as male, is around 5 feet 4 inches tall, weighs around 140 pounds, has a dark complexion, a slim build and long, black hair styled in locks. They said he was last seen wearing a red, hooded jacket, black pants, and blue sandals.

Throgs Neck: Armed Robbery Results in Police-Involved Fatal Shooting

A man armed with a kitchen knife, described by the NYPD as being in his thirties and Black, has died after he was shot by a police officer during an altercation inside a 7-Eleven convenience store in Throgs Neck on Friday, Sept. 8. Prefacing that the information provided was preliminary and subject to change, police said that at 2:30 p.m., uniformed officers responded to requests for help from a walk-in complainant at the 45th Precinct.

After investigating, they said that at 2:10 p.m., two employees had been working at the store, located at 3508 East Tremont Avenue, when a man entered. The said the man repeatedly walked from the back of the store to the front of the store for around 20 minutes, approaching the counter every time a customer left the location.

They said one of the employees then exited the store to meet with a relative, and when that employee was returning, she saw the suspect behind the counter with the other employee who looked very nervous. Police said the employee who was still outside immediately went to the nearby 45th Precinct and alerted security standing outside of what she had seen.

Police said two officers walked to the store with the employee, entered it and based on the description they were given, observed the suspect at the rear of the store by the coffee machines. They said as the officers approached, one gave several commands to the suspect to take his hands out of his sweatshirt pocket.

They said as the officer gave the commands, the suspect then advanced on the officer revealing a knife in his hand. They said the suspect then began advancing with a kitchen knife and lunged at the officer who continued giving verbal commands to him. They said that officer then took out his gun, attempted to retreat backwards, and fired one time, striking the suspect in the chest. They said both officers, one of whom is a trained EMT, immediately rendered first aid to the suspect.

Police went on to say that the officers also called for EMS and the suspect was removed to Jacobi Hospital, where he was pronounced deceased at 3:14 p.m. They said the officers were also removed to a local area hospital, and that the sequence of events was put together based on body-worn camera, video at the location, and witness accounts. Police shared a photo of what was described as a large kitchen knife which they said was recovered at the scene, and added that no words were spoken by the suspect during the incident. When asked if the suspect was still lunging at the officer as he attempted to retreat, police said he was.

They said the victim lives in The Bronx.

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.
By DAVID GREENE

FDNY officials said one firefighter and two civilians suffered minor injuries after a fire broke out on the top floor of a three-family home in Bedford Park.

They said they received the call at 7 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 20, for reports of a fire on the third floor of the home, located at 216 East 201st Street, and that 60 FDNY and EMS personnel, comprising 12 units responded to the blaze.

According to the fire department, the two civilians who suffered minor injuries refused medical attention. FDNY officials said one firefighter who also suffered minor injuries was transported to Jacobi Medical Center in Morris Park.

An FDNY spokesperson told Norwood News the fire was brought under control at 7:32 a.m., and that the cause has not yet been determined.

Hours after the blaze, the unidentified owner of the home was observed speaking with displaced residents, neighbors, and a work crew who he explained he had brought in to repair the building. The owner said the entire home was damaged from both the fire and the water used to extinguish the flames, adding, “The fire department did more damage.”

Asked about injuries, the owner told Norwood News, “No, nobody was injured.” Gesturing to an ambulance, he said, “The lady went in there after the fire because of all the smoke went in her lungs, but nobody was injured.”

Asked how the fire began, the owner said, “The guy was drunk. He lit the cigarette and he set the mattress on fire and that’s the way it started.” The owner, who’s lived in the home for more than two decades, said eight people including his own family were displaced. Asked if he would rebuild, the owner replied, “Yeah.”

THE OWNER OF a home at 216 East 201st Street in Bedford Park said eight residents were displaced after an early morning fire broke out on Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2023.

Bedford Park: FF Injured, 8 Others Displaced in Fire
6th Annual 5K Walk/Roll/Run to End Domestic Violence
The Office of the Bronx District Attorney will be holding the 6th Annual 5K Walk/Roll/Run to End Domestic Violence on Saturday, Oct. 7, at 9:30 a.m. at 161st Street between Grand Concourse and Walton Avenue. All are welcome to this free event. Register at https://forms.office.com/g/KiPKkJbrFE.

Museum Teen Council Internship
The Bronx Museum is seeking teens aged 14 to 19 for a three-month paid internship. Explore the arts, collaborate with peers, and improve your resume. The deadline to apply is Wednesday, Oct. 4, at 11:59 p.m. Visit https://bronxmuseum.wufoo.com/forms/2lr897me09e04u/ 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 grants 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.

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. He is requesting residents to join him as he travels throughout the City to pay tribute to these pillars of the community.

BUSINESS NOTES

Moshulu Montefiore Community Center (MMCC) is launching the Moshulu Mastery Learning Academy, offering individualized learning for K-8 students and high school SAT/ACT preparation. MMCC representatives say this low-cost plan will improve your child’s reading and math scores and abilities. For more information, visit https://bit.ly/3KBdpBM.

Two More “HPD in Your District” Sessions in District 11
Council Member Eric Dinowitz (A.D. 81) is hosting two more “HPD in Your District” sessions with representatives from NYC Department of Housing, Preservation & Development (HPD). Learn more about housing related issues, including help with applying for affordable housing, understanding your rights and responsibilities, help with financing improvements and repairs, and more. The next session will be on Thursday, Oct. 5, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at East 241st Street and White Plains Road, Bronx, NY 10470, and the following one will be on Tuesday, Oct. 17, at the same time at 98 Van Cortlandt Park South, Bronx, NY 10463.

Applications Open for Bronx Museum Teen Council Internship
The Bronx Museum is seeking teens aged 14 to 19 for a three-month paid internship. Explore the arts, collaborate with peers, and improve your resume. The deadline to apply is Wednesday, Oct. 4, at 11:59 p.m. Visit https://bronxmuseum.wufoo.com/forms/2lr897me09e04u/ for more information.

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Free Flu Shots
Congressman Ritchie Torres (NY-15), Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81), and Councilman Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11) are hosting a free flu shot event on Thursday, Oct. 5, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Gabriel’s Church (Walsh Rectory), 3250 Arlington Avenue, Bronx, NY 10463. Register at Dinowitz.us/flu. You can also call (718) 796 5345 or email Dinowitzj@nyassembly.gov for more information. Facemasks are encouraged.

Affordable Housing Lottery
NYC Department of Housing, Preservation and Development (HPD) launched various affordable housing lotteries for units at 1325 Southern Boulevard in Charlotte Gardens with a closing date of Oct. 2, at 40 Bruckner Boulevard in Mott Haven with a closing date of Oct. 30, at 3073 Barker Avenue Apartments with a closing date of Oct. 16, and at eight other Bronx locations, including at 2042 Grand Avenue and at 1982 University Avenue with a closing date of Oct. 2. Visit www.norwoodnews.org, and search for “affordable housing” for more information.
EVENTS
October is Italian American Heritage Month! Recognize the contributions and achievements of Italian Americans at Woodlawn's Italian American Heritage Trolley Tour which will take you to the famous Italian Americans interred at Woodlawn on October 8 at noon. Visit magnificent monuments from the family of renowned marble carvers the Piccirilli Brothers, the mausoleum of visionary Futurist artist Joseph Stella, celebrated for his depictions of the Brooklyn Bridge and Coney Island, and the gravesite of one of New York's most beloved and colorful leaders, Fiorello La Guardia. The Trolley Tour will be led by architectural historian and dedicated Woodlawn volunteer Anthony Pellino. To purchase tickets, visit https://www.woodlawn.org/, click on Conservancy, and then Tours & Events.

Enjoy some family fun at Pumpkin Nights at the Bronx Zoo, an all-new, night-time family Halloween event, which takes place on Thursdays and Sundays from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. from Sept. 28 to Oct. 29. Follow an animal-themed illuminated jack o’lantern trail and learn about animal behavior after dark, plus enjoy games and treats. [This event does not include animal exhibits, which are closed at the end of daytime park hours.] For more information, visit https://bronxzoo.com/pumpkin-nights.

FOOD
Bronx Night Market is holding a special celebration on Saturday, Sept. 30, from 1 p.m. at Fordham Plaza. “Bronxtoberfest” will feature food vendors, incredible performances, The Bronx is Reading, Me Zone by Montefiore, special games, and prizes! Register at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bronx-night-market-tickets-47283877947?aff=oddftdtcreator.

MUSIC
Watch a screening of the movie “Coco” with a full live orchestra at the Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, located at 250 Bedford Park Blvd West, Bronx, New York 10468 on Sunday, Oct. 8, at 4 p.m. Visit https://www.lehmancenter.org/events/coco-in-concert for more information.

KIDS
Van Cortlandt Public Library, located at 3882 Cannon Place, Bronx, NY 10463, has weekly art programs, including the Kids Coloring Club, Doodle Doodle Doo, and Crafternoon. Meanwhile, the first-floor programming room hosts the Kids Anime Club, screening anime shows for all ages with free snacks and fun coloring pages provided for all attendees. There are also story-time and read aloud sessions, songs, rhymes, and other fun sessions for the whole family. In addition, there are weekly, educational STEAM activities for school-aged children. Email VANCORTLANDT@NYPL.ORG or call (718) 543-5150 for more information.

Bronx River Arts Center (BRAC), 1087 East Tremont Ave, PO Box 5002, Bronx, NY 10460, Open House & Registration Day takes place on Saturday, Sept. 30, from noon to 5 p.m. There will be free art activities for the entire family, a tour of the studios, art activities, community painting, art sales, snacks, printmaking, giveaways, a Latin music & piano session, and fine arts, ceramics & computer lab tours.

FILM
Join The Bronx Museum of the Arts, located at 1040 Grand Concourse, The Bronx, NY 10456, on Thursday, Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. for a free screening of “Going to Mars: The Nikki Giovanni Project,” directed by Joe Brewster and Michèle Stephenson (2023), in partnership with the 61st New York Film Festival. Winner of the Grand Jury Prize in the Sundance U.S. Documentary Competition, this beguiling documentary portrait follows poet and activist Nikki Giovanni as she approaches 80. The film explores Giovanni’s Afrofuturist-feminist philosophical outlook as well as her poignant relationship with her family, her political audacity, and her poetic eloquence, all knit together with a constant eye and ear for its subject’s own aesthetic verve. Free registration is required; walk-ins will be accommodated if capacity allows. For more information, visit https://www.eventbrite.com/e/film-screening-going-to-mars-the-nikki-giovanni-project-tickets-719950510357?aff=oddftdtcreator.
Computer Repair
Computer Repair Upgrade, troubleshooting, laptop overheats, cracked screen, broken power jack, virus removal, data recovery. Call James (646) 281-4475, (718) 324-4332.

Public and Community Meetings

The next 52nd PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL meeting will take place on Thursday, Sept. 28, at 7 p.m. at the Plaza Rehab and Nursing Center, 100 West Kingsbridge Road, Bronx, NY 10468. Call the 52nd Precinct Community Affairs office at (718) 220-5824 to be added to the email distribution list.

The next BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7 general board meeting will be held in October (date and location tbc). Contact KCabreracarrera@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list.

The next BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8 full board meeting will be held in October. Contact BX08@cb.nyc.gov for more details and to be added to the distribution list.

The BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m., sometimes in person and sometimes online. The next meeting will be held in October. For details, please contact bedfordmosholu@verizon.net.

CORRECTION

In the Norwood News edition August 10 to September 13, 2023, on page 16 of the story entitled, “Dinowitz Shares Highlights of $30M+ for City Council District 11,” in the last paragraph of the right-hand column, it was incorrectly reported that Councilman Eric Dinowitz said that as part of the city budget discussions, the mayor had proposed a 3 percent cut to the DMV [Department of Motor Vehicles] and CUNY [City University of New York], and a 4 percent cut to all other agencies.

In fact, the councilman said that as part of the city budget discussions, the mayor had proposed a 3 percent cut to the DOE [NYC Department of Education] and CUNY, and a 4 percent cut to all other agencies. We apologize for this error.

Weapon, Cocaine Seized & 5 Arrested in Business Raids

(continued from page 7)

Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) and the New York County Sheriff’s office for further investigation.”

He said the round of inspections resulted in five arrests, criminal possession of a weapon, four notice of violations with 21 violations and 135 counts of violations, an estimated $153,600 in penalties, and criminal possession of a controlled substance (cocaine).

Seized products from the most current round of inspections included flavored vape products, packages of THC flower weighing 31.46 pounds, THC pre-rolls weighing a total of 8.45 pounds, THC edibles weighing a total of 46.07 pounds, mushroom products including chocolate bars and liquid containers with other hallucinogenic ingredients, and packages of other tobacco products.

The assemblyman thanked the New York County Sheriff's Office for what he described as their “dedication” and “incredible work,” along with the constituents who had reached out to him. Zaccaro Jr. concluded, “These raids are a testament to the positive outcomes produced when elected representatives, residents, and community organizations work hand in hand. Together, we’ll continue to demonstrate our iron sense of purpose: making our community a safe place for all.” The first raid was carried out on Sept. 14 across Allerton and three locations were found to be in violation of the law.
Will Baby Nicholas Save Others?

News EMS officials were alerted at 2:42 p.m. on Sept. 15 to the emergency at Divino Nino Daycare Center for a report of a cardiac arrest. Police later said the three surviving infants are now doing ok.

The NYPD immediately launched a criminal investigation into the incident. Carlito Acevedo Brito, 41, of 2705 Morris Avenue in The Bronx and Grei Mendez, 36, a mother and caretaker of the daycare center, also of 2705 Morris Avenue, were arrested on Sept. 16 at around 8 p.m. and have been indicted on murder, attempted murder, and other charges.

They were also hit with federal drug trafficking charges on Sept. 19. Federal prosecutors allege they stored distribution quantities of fentanyl and narcotics packaging equipment in the daycare, including a kilogram of fentanyl on top of the children’s playmats. Law enforcement said they found drugs and related equipment under a trap floor in the daycare center.

Federal prosecutors later said Renny Antonio Parra Paredes, 38, was also arrested, also on federal drug-related charges, and that a fourth unidentified “person of interest” was subsequently taken into custody in Mexico. Charges weren’t specified.

Vasan said the daycare center had opened in January 2023 and had been inspected twice by health officials prior to receiving its license and opening, and it may in the future.

He continued, in part, “This story could not be just another day in our City. Four babies, four babies and whoever is a parent, you had to see that picture of that young baby who lost his life to just reckless and careless… and total disregard for those children.”

The mayor commended the EMS responders who he said identified the symptoms the babies were experiencing and quickly took appropriate action, as well as the police for what he said was their thorough investigation into the incident.

An EMS spokesperson told Norwood News the owner’s husband worked and had a truck and that as far as she knew, they had two small children and that it hadn’t been the owner’s children who had been impacted by the incident.

She said another female neighbor who knows the center’s owner had entered the daycare on the day of the incident and they both started to bring the other babies out. “Everyone was trying to help,” the neighbor said. “I never seen this community so put together like.”

Asking if she knew any of the parents whose kids were left at the center, the neighbor said, “I know one of the parents of the twins. She was definitely devastated. She was on her way back and she ran towards her child, I guess. I just seen I don’t know which baby. I don’t know if it was the twin but the baby looked like a doll. Like, it was just lifeless.”

NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) provides training and regularly updated information on how to obtain and administer naloxone (Narcan). Click here for more information.

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

A GoFundMe page, https://www.gofundme.com/f/nicholas-feliz-dominic12730, has been set-up by Nicholas’s parents “Otonel and Zoila” to help cover expenses. They said Nicholas was a happy, cheerful, intelligent, kind, curious, affectionate child. “All the words to describe the most beautiful and tender thing would not be enough to describe our son,” they said. “Our family lost one of [its] most valuable treasures.”
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- Construction Accident - $19,500,000
- Truck Accident - $10,000,000
- Police Misconduct - $28,000,000
- Elevator Accident - $1,400,000
- Car Accident - $1,600,000
- Slip & Fall Accident - $2,650,000

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