



NORWOOD NEWS

Vol 37, No 2 • PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION • JANUARY 25-FEBRUARY 7, 2024

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE WWW.NORWOODNEWS.ORG

FOR THE LATEST COMMUNITY NEWS AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH, BENGALI, SPANISH, ARABIC, FRENCH AND CHINESE.



THE OWNER OF 3595 Bainbridge Avenue in Norwood (pictured Jan. 18, 2024) is one of eight Bronx building owners fined \$15,000 each for lead-paint regulation violations, according to NYC Department of Housing, Preservation & Development.

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Eight Bronx building owners, including two in Norwood, one in Bedford Park, one in Kingsbridge, and one in Fordham Manor, are among ten owners who were collectively fined over \$150,000 by NYC Department of Housing, Preservation & Development (HPD) for failing to comply with lead-based paint regulations, HPD officials said on Jan. 16.

City officials said ten properties owned by Ezriel Weinberger and affiliates incurred penalties on 790 housing units, 99 of which had open, lead-based, paint violations. HPD Commissioner Adolfo Carrión Jr. said, "Today's announcement will resonate with all New Yorkers. We all know that lead exposure is toxic and can especially affect young children and set back or permanently damage their development."

He added, "We also know that responsible property owners make sure their buildings are lead safe and lead free. That's why I'm glad we're holding this irresponsible owner to account."

The ten properties, located in various parts of the Bronx, were fined for lead-paint violations. The properties are located in various parts of the Bronx, including Norwood, Bedford Park, Kingsbridge, and Fordham Manor.

The ten properties, located in various parts of the Bronx, were fined for lead-paint violations. The properties are located in various parts of the Bronx, including Norwood, Bedford Park, Kingsbridge, and Fordham Manor.

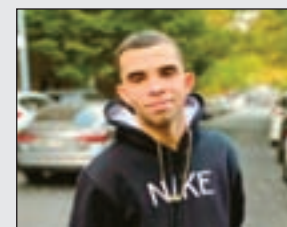
(continued on page 15)



MLK Day Celebrated Across The Bronx
pg 2



AYF Hosts 1st Youth Gun Violence Prevention Summit | pg 4



NYPD Sgt. Pleads Not Guilty in Duprey Man-slaughter Case
pg 13

RASKIN & KREMINs, LLP

Over 75 Years Of Combined Personal Injury Law Experience • Over \$300 Million Dollars Recovered for Our Clients

www.raskrem.com

160 Broadway (4th Fl.) New York, NY
Bronx Office - by appointment only

718-878-4858
212-587-3434

2 3 4 5 A C J Z TO FULTON STREET

N R W TO CORTLANDT STREET

NORWOOD NEWS

Vol. 37, No. 2

Norwood News is published bi-weekly on Thursdays by 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
Web.: www.norwoodnews.org

Publisher

Mosholu Preservation Corporation

Editor-In-Chief, Norwood News

Sile Moloney
smoloney@norwoodnews.org

Regular Contributors

David Greene, Ariel Pacheco,
Miriam Quiñones

**For Display Advertising
Call Sile Moloney
(929) 318 6595--**

Support Your Community Newspaper!

The Norwood News is a not-for-profit publication and relies upon the support of its advertisers and readers to produce a quality community newspaper. To support your paper, become a member and receive a subscription for one year.

Simply mail check or money order for \$40 to:
Norwood News, 3400 Reservoir Oval East,
Bronx, NY 10467.

Norwood News is not responsible for typographical errors. Opinions expressed in signed letters and bylined columns represent the sole opinion of the author and are not necessarily those of Mosholu Preservation Corporation or Montefiore Medical Center. Editorials represent the views of the editor only. The newspaper reserves the right to limit or refuse advertising it deems objectionable. Advertisements appearing in this paper cannot be used without the written permission of the Norwood News. Letters to the editor are subject to condensation and editing. Writers should include their affiliation or special interest if any. Anonymous letters are not published but your name can be withheld upon request.

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



Photo courtesy of the Office of the Bronx Borough President

BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT Vanessa Gibson hosts an interfaith service honoring the legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday, Jan. 15, 2024 at Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church, 1488 Reverend Dr. Fletcher C. Crawford Way in Charlotte Gardens.



Photo courtesy of the Office of the Bronx Borough President

BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT Vanessa Gibson hosts an interfaith service honoring the legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday, Jan. 15, 2024 at Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church, 1488 Reverend Dr. Fletcher C. Crawford Way in Charlotte Gardens.



Photo courtesy of the Office of City Councilwoman Kristy Marmorato

REPUBLICAN CITY COUNCILWOMAN Kristy Marmorato (C.D. 13) joined Van Nest Neighborhood Alliance and officers from the 49th Precinct for a community clean-up event in District 13 on Monday, Jan. 15, 2024.

MLK Day Celebrated across The Bronx

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson hosted a service honoring the legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday, Jan. 15, in partnership with News 12 The Bronx and Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church, located at 1488 Reverend Dr. Fletcher C. Crawford Way in the Charlotte Gardens section of the borough.

"Dr. King dreamed of a better world and fought tirelessly to bring that dream to fruition," Gibson said. "He was a pioneer whose shoulders we proudly stand on and we are proud to continue his fight for racial equity and justice for all."

Gibson thanked Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church, various guest speakers, her colleagues in government, and everyone else who she said attended the event in celebration of the life and legacy of King.

Former assembly member for the 79th assembly district and Minister Michael Blake served as master of ceremonies on the day, while Rev. Dr. Stephen A. Green, pastor of St. Lukes A.M.E. Church in Harlem, delivered the keynote address. Rev. Frederick Crawford, senior pastor at Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church, provided closing remarks.

Other attendees included Democrats, U.S. Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, New York Attorney General Letitia James, Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark, Deputy Bronx Borough President Janet Peguero, State Senator and Bronx Democratic Party Chair Jamaal Bailey (S.D. 36), State Sen. Nathalia Fernandez (S.D. 34) Assembly Member Karina Reyes (A.D. 87), State Sen. Luis Sepúlveda (S.D. 34), City Councilman Kevin Riley (C.D. 12) and Rob Walsh, president of the Bronx Economic Development Corporation.

Bailey later wrote on X, formerly Twitter, "Honoring Dr. King's legacy goes beyond words; it is a call to live by the principles he stood for, and to carry that purpose forward through action. Thank you @bronxbp for bringing us together at @bx_uniongro to reflect on Dr. King's message of equality, justice, and service." The theme for this year's event was "*Born for This Day.*"

Recently elected Republican City Councilwoman Kristy Marmorato (C.D. 13) joined Van Nest Neighborhood Alliance and officers from the 49th Precinct for a community clean-up. "Dr. King once said in part, 'Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve.' Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time. Let's keep our communities litter free!"

Further north, community groups, Future of Mosholu Parkland and Friends of Pelham Parkway, were also among those who volunteered on the day, cleaning up their local neighborhoods. Elizabeth Quaranta, executive director of FOMP, said of the occasion, "Community matters. Where you reside matters. It affects you, your neighbor, your circumstances, and even your income."

Democratic Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz also participated in a day of service, joining hundreds of volunteers at the Riverdale Y's "Rise Against Hunger." Joining him were, among others, Democratic Congressman Ritchie Torres (NY-15), Democratic State Committeeman Michael Heller, volunteer, Matt Altman, and community mobilizer, Amira Mintz-Morgenthau. They were pictured wearing t-shirts with the word "Official Mensch" printed on the front. A Mensch, in Yiddish, is a person of integrity and honor.

Friends of Pelham Parkway later wrote in part of their day of service, "Despite the weather, eight of us collected trash for 2 hours in our Parkway and

even alongside the parked cars. Cleaning also protects us, as well as our environment; @greenpollyusa bags used, strong, and made of 100% recycled plastics." The group added in part, "If we all just committed a little time, our community would be better. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and others committed their whole lives to service. We can commit a few hours."

Since Jan. 19, it was reported that the youngest son of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Dexter King, died of prostate cancer at age 62.



Photo courtesy of the Office of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz

ASSEMBLYMAN JEFFREY DINOWITZ (A.D. 81) said he joined hundreds of people at the Riverdale Y's Rise Against Hunger for Martin Luther King Jr.'s Day of Service on Monday, Jan. 15, 2024, including Congressman Ritchie Torres (NY-15), Democratic State Committeeman Michael Heller, a volunteer, Matt Altman, and a community mobilizer, Amira Mintz-Morgenthau.

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



**Grappling for
Health LLC**

Among the Elite 1% NCI-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers in the U.S.

New research.
New discoveries.
New options.



See why we're among the elite 1%
NCI-Designated Comprehensive
Cancer Centers in the U.S. at
cancer.montefioreeinstein.org.



Montefiore Einstein
Comprehensive Cancer Center

INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



With the recent win by former U.S. President Donald Trump in the Iowa Republican presidential caucuses, and his projected win in the New Hampshire Republican primary, this week we asked readers their thoughts on the possibility of a second Trump presidency.



"I'm not a political guy. I don't think it [a second Trump presidency] would be a good thing because he seems to incite a lot of fear and racism and division. A prime example was the January 6th riot. That really put America's justice system and democracy at risk. No, that was not a tourist thing. That was democracy being threatened. It's terrible that they're lying to the American people. That's another reason why it would be scary to see Donald Trump in the White House again."

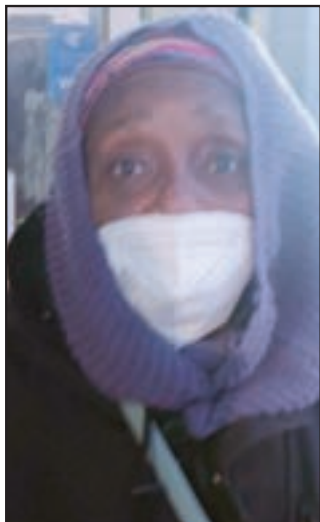
Yaw Gyamfi,
Jerome Park



"I'm going to say I don't know. I can't say that... they'll persecute me. I don't want to get into politics; I've changed my mind."

Adolph Beckford,
Williamsbridge

Editor's Note: Mr. Beckford began to give his response but then said he believed that if he shared his true feelings on the issue, he would hear about it from other seniors at Bronxwood Assisted Living.



"Keep the [current] president. Donald Trump needs to be in jail! I don't want the White House to get burned down."

Boog A. Lou,
Kingsbridge



"We need him, yes, [as] president. I want Donald Trump to be president because he's going to help the country like he said. He's in favor of this country and he's the only one who's going to help us. Oh, there's a lot of problems in the city and right now. I am an immigrant but the immigrants coming now, they don't deserve to just come. They don't come for opportunity. They're coming to live free without paying. It's okay if they come illegally, and want to stay here and work, but they want everything free and we're paying for that."

Marcia Calle,
Van Cortlandt Park South

Editor's Note: According to Trump's campaign website, his campaign issues include "rebuild[ing] the greatest economy in history, fair trade for the American worker, unleash energy dominance [via oil and natural gas], secure borders and reclaim national sovereignty, war on the drug cartels, stop crime and restore safety, renew American strength and leadership, reject globalism and embrace patriotism, care for our veterans, protect parents' rights, defend law and liberty, end censorship and reclaim free speech, free, honest and lawful elections, drain the swamp of Washington corruption, [and] better health care choices at lower costs."



"I think he's committed a lot of crimes and he's fake. He only does it for himself and his kids. He's a faker. I don't want him as president. I'd prefer somebody else. That's the way I feel. The choices could be a little bit better. It's hard to say. I don't know about voting for him [U.S. President Joe Biden] because he hasn't done anything for us, the poor people."

Yvette Diaz,
Belmont

Editor's Note: Politico provided an overview in December 2023 of the status of criminal charges brought against the former U.S. President Donald Trump. Trump faces four felony counts for his alleged efforts to overturn the 2020 election. In Georgia, he faces 13 felony counts for his alleged election interference in that state. In New York, he faces 34 felony counts in connection with alleged hush money payments to a porn star, and in Florida, he faces 40 felony counts for the alleged hoarding of classified documents after he left office and allegedly impeding the government's efforts to retrieve them. All cases are pending trial. A person charged with a crime is deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law. Trump denies any wrongdoing.

According to the White House, the Biden-Harris administration top accomplishments include "lowering costs of families' everyday expenses; more people are working than at any point in American history; making more in America [manufacturing boom]; rescued the economy and changed the course of the pandemic; rebuilding the country's infrastructure [creating jobs]; historic expansion of benefits and services for toxic-exposed veterans; the first meaningful gun violence reduction legislation in 30 years; protected marriage for LGBTQ+ and interracial couples; historic confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson [and] federal judges of diverse backgrounds."

They also include "rallied the world to support Ukraine in response to Putin's aggression; strengthened alliances [G7, NATO, etc] and partnerships [...]; successful counterterrorism missions against the leaders of Al Qaeda and ISIS; executive orders protecting reproductive rights; historic student debt relief for middle and working-class families; ending the failed approach to marijuana; advancing equity and racial justice, including historic criminal justice reform; delivering on the most aggressive climate and environmental justice agenda in American history; [and] more people with health insurance than ever before."

AYF Hosts 1st Youth Gun Violence Prevention Summit

By SILE MOLONEY

Coinciding loosely with Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Jan. 15 and Angellyh Yambo's birthday, which falls on Jan. 24, the Angellyh Yambo Foundation (AYF) held its 1st Youth Gun Violence Prevention Summit on Friday, Jan. 19, in the South Bronx.

As reported, Angellyh, who had spent much of her childhood in Kingsbridge Heights, was just 16 when she was fatally shot while walking home from University Prep Charter High School in Mott Haven with two friends on April 8, 2022. Her family friends, and teacher say she was a talented artist and had her sights set on becoming a doctor.

The summit, held at La Central YMCA, located at 434 Westchester Avenue, a 6-minute walk from Angellyh's high school, was attended by 100 students from various New York City schools. Opening remarks and an introduction to King's six principles of non-violence to

effect social change were shared by "Coach Roc," described by Angellyh's aunt, Mary Hernandez who is a founding member of the foundation, as an "amazing motivational speaker."

The first principle, according to King, is that nonviolence is a way of life for courageous people and is active nonviolent resistance to evil. It is aggressive spiritually, mentally, and emotionally. Principle Two is that nonviolence seeks to win friendship and understanding. The result of nonviolence is redemption and reconciliation. The purpose of nonviolence is the creation of the "Beloved Community."

The third principle, King said, is that nonviolence seeks to defeat injustice, not people. Nonviolence, he said, recognizes that evildoers are also victims and are not evil people. The nonviolent resister seeks to defeat evil, not people. The fourth principle is that nonviolence holds that suffering can educate and transform.

According to King, nonviolence accepts suffering without retaliation. Unearned suffering is redemptive and has tremendous educational and transforming possibilities, he said. Principle five is that nonviolence chooses love instead of hate. Nonviolence resists violence of the spirit as well as the body, according to King.

Nonviolent love is spontaneous, unmotivated, unselfish, and creative, he said. Lastly, the sixth principle is that nonviolence believes that the universe is on the side of justice. The non-violent resister has deep faith that justice will eventually win. Nonviolence, according to King, believes that God is a God of justice.

A police officer from the 40th Precinct's Community Affairs bureau spoke about crime prevention and remarks were also given by Pamela Hight of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, a subsidiary of the nonprofit, Everytown for Gun Safety, the largest gun violence

prevention organization in the country with nearly 10 million supporters. The former was formed by family members in the wake of the 2012 Sandy Hook school mass shooting.

Other speakers included a representative of a youth group, as well as panelists representing the East Side House Settlement, Boys Scouts of America, La Central YMCA, and the cure violence group, Guns Down Life Up. There was also a Q&A session.

Later, to mark what would have been Angellyh's 18th birthday on Jan. 24, her mom, Yanelly Henriquez, addressed those gathered, and spoke lovingly about the birth of her daughter on a cold frigid afternoon. "It was an inspiring day for both of

(continued on page 11)



Our mission is to change lives and transform communities, one scholar at a time.

6TH GRADE SEATS STILL AVAILABLE!

International Leadership Charter Middle School



Enroll your scholar in a rigorous academic program with engaging activities.

- S.T.E.A.M. Instruction & Robotics
(Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math)
- United Nations Junior Ambassador's Program
- World Languages & Culture
- Support for Individualized Education Plans
- ESL Services & Support

Now Accepting 6th Grade Applications



For more Information:

www.ilchs.org

929-223-7637

or
(718) 562 - 2300
Ext. 404

Memorial Held on 2nd Anniversary of Twin Parks Fire

By **ARIEL PACHECO & SILE MOLONEY**

Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson organized a wreath-laying ceremony on Jan. 9, to honor the 17 people, including 8 children, mostly of Gambian descent, who lost their lives in one of the deadliest fires in New York City's history. The ceremony took place at Bronx Borough Hall on the second anniversary of the tragic Twin Parks fire which broke out in Fordham Heights on Jan. 9, 2022.

"It's been 2 years since the horrific fire at Twin Parks North West, and our borough continues to mourn," Gibson said during the event. "We will never forget the 17 lives lost on this day, the families of those who were impacted by this tragedy, the bravery of our first responders, and the support from our city agencies, community organizations, colleagues in government, hip-hop artists, and others who showed up for our neighbors during our borough's greatest time of need."

The borough president, who was barely a week in elected office in her new role when the tragedy unfolded, added, "Twin Parks was a painful reminder of the work needed to invest in fire safety education and our city's housing infrastructure so families are provided with safe and quality housing, and we prevent a tragedy of this magnitude from ever happening again."

As reported, last year, a floral tribute was arranged outside the Twin Parks site to mark the first anniversary of the tragic incident, which was attended by New York City Mayor Eric Adams. As part of this year's ceremony, flags were also flown at half-staff outside Bronx Borough Hall.

As reported, the fire at Twin Parks North West, built in 1972 and comprising 120 units is home to numerous public housing residents. The fire prompted a billion-dollar class action lawsuit against the building's ownership group, Bronx Park Phase III Preservation LLC (BPP3LLP), and The City of New York by various tenants. Fire officials said at the time that the 5-alarm fire was sparked by a space heater which was inside the 19-floor building, located at 333 East 181st Street, and spread quickly due to issues with malfunctioning self-closing doors.

FDNY unions held a public zoom call in the days that followed the deadly fire, led by Andrew Ansboro, president of Uniformed Firefighters Association and Lt. James McCarthy, president of the Uniformed Fire Officers Association of America.

Recalling the tragedy, Ansboro said at the time, "I was called to the scene when I was alerted to the 5th alarm and the large number of people requiring medical attention. When I got on the scene, it was absolutely horrific. I talked to many veteran firefighters who said it was the worst fire they'd ever been in in their lives. They were doing CPR on people outside, getting them in ambulances; it was absolutely horrific."

Meanwhile, McCarthy said at the time, "Two hundred firefighters responded to this incident, and they really operated above and beyond the call of duty. Fire on the second floor that extended to the third



A WREATH IS displayed in Bronx Borough Hall on Jan. 9, 2024, on the second anniversary of the Twin Park Fire.



A CARD IS pinned to a wreath displayed in Bronx Borough Hall on Jan. 9, 2024, on the second anniversary of the Twin Park Fire in memory of the 17 lives lost.

floor and the smoke went out throughout the building into the stairwell and [the smoke overcame] a lot of the residents, and they could not get out of the building."

McCarthy added that as temperatures were getting colder in the evening, residents were finding different ways to heat their apartments and stay warm, and space heaters were often a problem due to what he said were open electrical connections or disrepair, causing fires.

"One of the biggest things that the fire department puts out in their public service announcements is to close the door to the apartment, and that was one of the problems here – that the residents exited the apartment, left the door open, and the fire extended out into the public hallway, and the stairwell, exposing everybody else in the building," he said.

He added, "It's a federal building... built with federal subsidies that didn't have to adhere to New York City fire codes, so there was different fire protection in this building than we have in other tenements, and other high rises in New York City, under the New York City code. So, it exposed members to a more dangerous atmosphere."

During that call, it was also mentioned that it was believed there was no sprinkler system in the impacted building. Meanwhile, in terms of staffing on the day, Ansboro added, "48 Engine was first due [to arrive at the scene]. They normally have five firefighters working. Due to medical leave department-wide being high, they didn't hire someone to work in that position, so there was one less person on that first engine company."

Julie Bolcer from NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) told Norwood News on Jan. 11, 2022, "The cause of death [of all 17 victims] is smoke inhalation [and] the manner of death is accident."

Norwood News later asked the FDNY if functioning self-closing doors would have prevented death by smoke inhalation. We were referred to the Mayor's Management Report (MMR) but the report year was not specified. The 2023 MMR does not provide the requested information. The 2022 report is no longer available online.

Norwood News reached out to City Hall for a copy. We did not receive an immediate response. We also contacted BPP3LLP, the City's law department and court administration officials for details of the status of the class action lawsuit. We did not receive an immediate response.

As reported, the fire led to a legislative push for more fire safety regulations at all government levels, including some mayoral initiatives. U.S. Rep. Ritchie Torres (NY-15), a Democrat, introduced a bill that authorizes the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) to conduct on-site fire safety investigations of major fires and other fires under other specified circumstances. The bill was signed into law by U.S. President Joe Biden in December 2022, and received bipartisan support.

District 15 City Councilmember Oswald Feliz, a Democrat, whose district includes the Twin Parks North West building, sponsored a package of bills aimed at improving fire safety regulations, including defining the term self-closing door and making modifications to local law 111, which requires that doors providing access to interior corridors or stairs be self-closing or equipped with devices to ensure closing after they are opened.

NYC Department of Housing, Preservation & Development (HPD) previously confirmed that in the wake of the fire, all the resident households were given the opportunity to receive emergency shelter at a hotel, those who required help finding and securing new permanent housing were aided, and all families were offered Section 8 housing vouchers.

According to HPD, as of October 2022, each of the households under its care had been moved out of temporary shelter at a hotel and into permanent housing. HPD officials said 92 families moved to La Central housing in South Bronx, 79 with Section 8 vouchers, six families moved to 425 Grand Concourse also in the South Bronx, all with Section 8 vouchers, 42 households remained residents at Twin Parks, and other households were able to secure permanent housing on their own.

When contacted for comment on the first anniversary of the fire, BPP3LLP provided a statement and update to Norwood News on the actions taken in the wake of the tragedy.

"There is nothing more important than the safety of our residents," the group said, in part, at the time. They added that throughout 2022, they had worked diligently with residents, local elected officials, and the Bronx community to rebuild and recover from the effects of the fire. "We have committed significant resources to building upgrades and improvements at Twin Parks North West, and will continue to work with our property management, social service, and relocation assistance teams to support and assist Twin Parks North West residents," the group added at the time.

Meanwhile, the rise in the use of e-scooters and e-bikes powered by lithium-ion batteries has led to more fire safety concerns among New Yorkers as they have been found to have caused several fires in New York City in recent years. At home fire safety tips can be found at www.fdnysmart.org. The Office of the Bronx Borough President is currently hosting a series of fire safety training sessions around the borough in conjunction with the FDNY.

During the 2nd annual remembrance ceremony, on the wreath, located inside Bronx Borough Hall, a card was attached which read, "In Recognition of the 17 Lives Lost at Twin Parks North West on January 9, 2022. We Honor. We Reflect. We Remember."



FLAGS OUTSIDE BRONX Borough Hall were seen at half-staff on Jan. 9 2024 in honor of the 17 lives lost in the Twin Parks Fire two years earlier.

NEWS BRIEFS

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Lottery Dibs to Reduce for Local Residents

The City of New York settled a lawsuit with after nearly 10 years of legal fighting and will reportedly change its existing practice of giving local residents dibs on new affordable apartments via NYC Department of Housing, Preservation & Development's lottery system.

The Real Deal reported on Jan. 22 that a group that sued the city over the practice of "community preference" settled with the Adams administration over how many below-market units are reserved for neighborhood residents. According to the report by The Real Deal, up until now, the policy has been that 50 percent of a project's apartments offered in a city-run housing lottery must be set aside for residents of the local community district.

Under the settlement terms, it was reported that this threshold will drop to 20 percent until May 1, 2029, then decrease to 15 percent, according to HPD. It was also reported that any project that goes to market within the next three months will be grandfathered under the old system. Norwood News reached out for comment to HPD on the report and also asked if units would continue to be set aside for those with disabilities. We did not receive an immediate response. We will share any updates we receive.

Calling New Community Board Applicants

Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson is encouraging Bronx residents to apply now to be a member of their local community board. For the 2nd year in a row, digital applications are available in both English and Spanish for interested applicants. "Our community board members play a crucial role in our democracy by advocating on behalf of their neighbors and by being the voice of their communities," Gibson said in part. "We encourage everyone eligible to apply to please do so and share the information with their friends and family."

Annually, officials from the BP's office said they accept applications from city residents who reside, work, and/or have professional or other significant interests in the borough. To date, the borough president has also pushed for youth membership on community boards by encouraging students 16 or older to apply during school visits, she has held a new member orientation and swearing-in ceremony with workshops from city agencies, and has honored Parks committee chairs for their commitment to environmental justice advocacy at the first-ever Annual

Community Board Appreciation BBQ. Deputy Bronx Borough President Janet Peguero has also delivered testimony before the New York City Council Committee on governmental operations to advocate for more technical support for community boards and an updated community board handbook. Participation at regular Bronx Community Board 7 meetings has been notably less since all meetings went back to being in person, in accordance with City regulation.

The deadline to submit an application is Friday, March 1, 2024, at https://form.jotform.com/nyc_cb/2024-bronx-community-boards or to Office of the Bronx Borough President, 851 Grand Concourse, 3rd Floor, Bronx, New York 10451.



Photo by Síle Moloney

NEW MEMBERS OF various Bronx community boards are sworn in by Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson [not pictured] during a ceremony at Lehman College in Bedford Park on Sept. 5, 2023.

AG Sues Fraudulent Lawyers in The Bronx for Scamming Immigrants

New York Attorney General (AG) Letitia James filed a lawsuit on Jan. 23 against Kofi Amankwaa, a Bronx immigration lawyer, and others in his office, Sylvester Boateng, Nana Adoma Kontoh, Betty Smith, and Kofi Amankwaa Jr., for allegedly running an illegal scheme that scammed hundreds of vulnerable immigrants into paying thousands of dollars for fraudulent services that caused many to be deported or have their green card applications denied.

Officials from the AG's office said that from 2018 through 2023, Amankwaa and the other defendants charged immigrant clients thousands of dollars to submit paperwork on their behalf to secure green cards for their clients. They said that unbeknownst to their clients, Amankwaa and the other defendants were also illegally submitting separate petitions falsely claiming that their children were abusing them.

They said these petitions were filed under the Violence Against Women Act, which allows victims of abuse by a U.S. born child over 21 years old to seek lawful permanent residency. They said that as a result of these false claims, several immigrants were deported

while others were denied their green cards. James is seeking an order to immediately halt Amankwaa and the defendants' illegal scheme and force them to pay restitution and damages to their affected immigrant clients, in addition to civil penalties to the state.

Gilibrand Calls for Mental Health Workforce Expansion in Underserved Communities

U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand announced her support on Jan. 24 for bipartisan legislation to help expand the mental health workforce in underserved communities. The *Mental Health Professionals Workforce Shortage Loan Repayment Act* would incentivize mental health professionals, including psychiatrists, social workers, clinical and school psychologists, and school counselors, to practice in underserved areas by offering them student loan forgiveness in return.

Rivera on Health Care Priorities

State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33), who broadly represents the northwest Bronx, as well as some or all of Norwood, Bedford Park, Ford-

ham Manor, Fordham Heights, Mt. Hope, Belmont, Van Nest, Pelham Parkway, Indian Village, Little Yermen, and Allerton, recently sent a letter to the New York Times in response to an article on home care written by Ady Barkan's wife, Rachael King.

In the letter, the senator argued that his Home Care Savings and Reinvestment Act (S7800) would save New York millions in long term care, a budget goal stated by New York Gov. Kathy Hochul for 2024, while also improving care for New Yorkers and increasing salaries for home care workers. Rivera also recently discussed new law S.6897, which he said will reduce the use of temporary staffing agencies in residential healthcare facilities and establish a joint labor management nursing home staffing workgroup.

As chair of the Senate Health Committee, Rivera said his legislative priorities for the 2024 session include passing more bills from his #EndMedicalDebt legislative package, eliminating managed Medicaid plans from the long-term care system, Coverage for All, and passing the New York Health Act.

Adams Unmoved by Detractors during State of the City Address in The Bronx

By SÍLE MOLONEY

New York City Mayor Eric Adams delivered his third annual State of the City address on Wednesday, Jan. 24, at Hostos Community College in the South Bronx. The mayor laid out plans for what he called a "future-focused vision for working-class New Yorkers" during his address.

His plans include establishing a department of sustainable delivery, supporting 400,000 green economy jobs, building new housing on public land, expanding the "New York City Reads" program, investing in clean, dynamic public spaces, and protecting New York City from climate change.

Other topics included the Adams administration's vision on public safety, rebuilding the economy, and making the city more livable. In addition, Adams touted his administration's efforts in terms of safer streets, canceled medical debt, "record amounts" of affordable housing created, and investments in clean streets and public spaces.

City officials contextualized the mayor's address by touting the mayor's achievements in driving down crime and pushing job growth to "historic" highs, "all while managing a once-in-a-generation asylum seeker humanitarian crisis."

Adams said, "When we came

into office two years ago, we had a clear vision: protect public safety, rebuild our economy, and make this city more livable."

He continued, "Two years later, thanks to the hard work of this administration and millions of dedicated New Yorkers, the state of our city is strong — far stronger than it was when we came into office. New York City is becoming a place where everyone has the opportunity to make it, and the future-focused vision we laid out today will build on all that we have delivered for New Yorkers by investing in public safety, public spaces, and the working people who make New York City the greatest city in the world."

Adams added, "While our city is still full of questions, history shows we can answer them and progress together when we work as one. The last two years have been a time of renewal and resetting — now, let's make the future together."

Different groups gathered at the event to protest some of the policies and approaches taken by the Adams administration, particularly around the handling of asylum seekers and migrants, detainees on Rikers Island, and previously announced budget cuts, some of which were later reversed.

CRIME FILE

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



Bedford Park: Two Sought for Assault & Robbery of Man, 61

"The NYPD is appealing to the public for help identifying the people seen in the accompanying photo above who they say are sought for questioning in connection to an assault and robbery that occurred in Bedford Park.

Police said that on Tuesday, Jan. 2, at around 7.56 a.m., in the vicinity of Villa Avenue and East 204th Street, a 61-year-old male victim approached two people who were attempting to remove items from his vehicle. They said the two, acting in concert, displayed a firearm and struck the victim about the body with their fists. Police said they then stole the victim's wallet before fleeing on foot to parts unknown.

They said the 61-year-old male sustained minor injuries and refused medical attention on scene. Police said the first suspect is described as male and has a medium complexion and medium build. They said he was last seen wearing a black jacket, black pants, black sneakers, and a black face mask. They said the second suspect is also described as male, and also has a medium complexion and medium build. They said he was last seen wearing a blue jacket, blue jeans, and gray sneakers.



Edenwald: Two Sought following Nonfatal Shooting

The NYPD is appealing to the public

for help identifying and locating the people seen in the accompanying photo bottom left who they say are sought for questioning in connection to a shooting that occurred in Edenwald.

Police said that on Monday, Jan. 8, at around 9.48 p.m., on the corner of East 233rd Street and Baychester Avenue, a male victim, whose age was not disclosed by police, was approached by two people who shot him once in the right arm. They said the two suspects then fled on foot to parts unknown. They said the victim suffered minor injuries and was removed by private means to Montefiore Medical Center in stable condition.

Wakefield: One Dead, Three Injured in Shooting

A 23-year-old man has died, and three other people were also shot but survived in an early morning shooting in Wakefield. Police said that on Sunday, Jan. 21, at around 6.08 a.m., officers responded to a 911 call regarding a man who had been shot at 4137 White Plains Road.

They said, "Upon arrival, officers observed a 23-year-old male with a gunshot wound to the torso, a 44-year-old male with a gunshot wound to the leg, and a 26-year-old male with a gunshot wound to torso inside the location."

Police said the 23-year-old victim was transported by EMS to NYC Health and Hospitals/Jacobi where he was pronounced deceased, the 44-year-old and 26-year-old victims were also transported by EMS to NYC Health and Hospitals/Jacobi in stable condition, and a fourth victim, a 52-year-old man, was later discovered with a gunshot wound to the leg.

They said he was also later transported by EMS to NYC Health and Hospitals/Jacobi in stable condition. "There are no arrests, and the investigation remains ongoing," a police spokesperson said.

On Sunday, Jan. 21, police released the name of the deceased as Dashawn Hibbert from the Throggs Neck section of The Bronx, adding that the victim's family had been notified.

Two Moped Riders Sought in Bronx & Manhattan Armed Robbery Pattern

The NYPD is appealing to the public for help identifying the people seen in the accompanying photo top right who they say are sought in connection with a robbery pattern that was identified during December and January across various Bronx neighborhoods located within the perimeters of both the 49th and the 50th Precincts,



as well as in other northern Manhattan neighborhoods.

Police said the first incident occurred on Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023, at around 2.30 p.m. in the northeast corner of Van Cortlandt Village. They said a 67-year-old female victim was approached in the vicinity of Van Cortlandt Park West and Dickinson Avenue by two people riding a dark-colored moped. They said the two riders displayed a knife and stole the victim's phone, before fleeing to an unknown location on the moped. They said the victim sustained no physical injuries during the incident.

Police said the second incident took place on Sunday, Dec. 24, 2023, at around 1.50 p.m. in Fieldston, when a 38-year-old female victim was approached in the vicinity of Broadway and 252nd street once again by two people riding a dark-colored moped. They said the two once again displayed a sharp object and stole the 38-year-old victim's phone before fleeing to unknown location on the moped. They said the victim did not sustain any physical injuries as a result of the incident.

Police said the third incident took place on Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2023, at around 3.55 p.m. in northern Manhattan. They said a 31-year-old female victim and a 28-year-old female victim were walking in the vicinity of Henry Hudson Parkway and West 180th Street, when they were approached by two people, once again, riding a dark-colored moped. They said the two suspects once again displayed a sharp object and stole the 31-year-old victim's bag which contained some credit cards and the 28-year-old victim's phone before fleeing the location on the moped. They said neither victim sustained any injuries during the incident.

The NYPD said the fourth incident occurred on Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023, [New Year's Eve] at around 2.57 p.m. also in Van Cortlandt Village, when a 26-year-old female victim was approached in the vicinity of 115 Van Cortlandt Park South by two people who were once again riding a dark-colored moped. They said the two once again displayed a sharp object and stole the 26-year-old victim's phone, before fleeing

the location on the moped. They said the victim did not sustain any injuries during the incident.

According to police, the fifth incident took place on Tuesday, Jan. 2, at around 5.35 p.m., once again, in Van Cortlandt Village. They said a 19-year-old female victim was approached in the vicinity of Van Cortlandt Park South and Dickinson Avenue by two people again riding a dark-colored moped. They said the two once again displayed a sharp object and stole the 19-year-old victim's phone before fleeing the location on the moped. They said the victim did not sustain any injuries during this incident.

Police said the sixth incident occurred on Wednesday, Jan. 3, at around 5.10 p.m. again in Van Cortlandt Village. They said a 31-year-old female victim was approached in the vicinity of 115 Van Cortlandt Avenue West by two people riding a dark-colored moped. They said the two displayed a sharp object and stole the victim's phone before fleeing the location on the moped. They said the victim did not sustain any injuries during the incident.

Police said the seventh incident took place on Thursday, Jan. 4, at around 3.45 p.m. in the Parkside Housing Project. They said a 16-year-old male victim was approached in the vicinity of 2970 Bronx Park East, once again by two people riding a dark-colored moped. They said the two displayed a sharp object and forcefully attempted to steal the victim's backpack before fleeing the location on the moped. They said the victim did not sustain any injuries during the incident.

Police said the eighth incident occurred on Thursday, Jan. 4, at around 3.55 p.m., in Woodlawn Heights. They said a 51-year-old male victim was approached in the vicinity of Van Cortlandt Avenue East and East 233rd Street by two people, once again riding a dark-colored moped. They said the two displayed a sharp object and forcefully attempted to remove the victim's wallet before fleeing the location on the moped. They said the victim did not sustain any injuries as a result of the incident.

Police said both suspects are described as male, have dark complexions, and were last seen wearing all black and riding a dark-colored moped.

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.



Letters To The Editor

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

Metro North Penn Station Access Project

News that the Urban Land Use Review Process (ULURP) will begin for the \$3.1 billion MTA Metro North Penn Station Access project was surprising. It should have already been completed prior to start of construction for the project. Both the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) provided

funding based upon the promise that this was a shovel-ready project. The completion date has already slipped from 2026 to 2027. Construction contracts were previously awarded. ULURP will further delay completion for all four new stations.

Any design, engineering, or scope-of-work changes arising from ULURP could add to both cost and time for the project. It could also trigger revisiting to update the federally required National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review and findings by both FTA & FRA. The final price tag might grow beyond \$3.1 billion. It will not be known until 100% of all contract punch lists are complete, final contract retainage is paid to all

contractors, and MTA makes public the cost of borrowing that supports project financing.

Amtrak faces the ongoing challenge of providing enough employees to work on many other state-of-good-repair and system expansion projects along the northeast corridor, between Washington D.C. and Boston, while supporting work on the Penn Station Access project at the same time. Residents, commuters, future riders, taxpayers, local community planning board members, public officials and project supporters need to ask FTA, FRA, MTA, and Metro North why ULURP was not completed prior to receipt of federal funding and awarding of construction contracts.

Transparency on the part of New York State Gov. Hochul, MTA Chairman Janno Lieber and Metro North President Catherine Rinaldi in providing answers is required.

Larry Penner Great Neck

Please send all letters to the editor, along with supporting hyperlinked 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. Letter writers should aim to write no more than 300 words on local issues or in response to published articles.

Collection Held for DV Survivors ahead of Galentine's Day Event

By SÍLE MOLONEY

In advance of *Galentine's Day*, a global holiday that celebrates women's friendship and mutual empowerment, typically marked on Feb. 13, a collection of pre-loved or new items, including beauty products, accessories, jewelry, hair products, purses, shoes, clothes, and more was organized to support women living at a Bronx Domestic Violence (DV) shelter.

The collection was organized by the *4Bronx Project*, a community service program focused on supporting the underserved and bringing diversity and inclusion to the community. It is led by Laura Levine-Pinedo and the program operates at the headquarters of the nonprofit, Kingsbridge Riverdale Van Cortlandt Development Corporation (KRVC), located at 505 West 236th Street, just northwest of Kingsbridge in Riverdale.

"We will be throwing our 2nd An-

nual Galentine's Day at a DV shelter on 2/13," Levine-Pinedo said ahead of the collection day on Sunday, Jan. 21. "We are having a pizza party, game night, and giveaway. We will be setting up a pop-up shop with donations for the ladies to shop (all free of course!)"

The UK's Telegraph newspaper previously described Galentine's Day as follows: "Just remember that Galentine's Day was born out of rebel spirit, intended as a rebuff to the conventions of Valentine's Day. It's about doing exactly what you want to do and feeling thankful for having friends that let you do it."

Donors to the DV shelter collection were seen throughout Sunday dropping off various items which were later sorted and packed by volunteers and some staff members based at the location in advance of the Feb. 13th event. Levine-Pinedo said the organizers also had an Amazon wish list for anyone who

preferred to donate in that way. "Every purchase made is pure joy and a stress relief!" she said in reference to the beneficiaries.

She later thanked all those involved, including community partner, 555 Kap-pock, for ensuring a successful collection. "They have done so much to redirect items to people in our amazing borough of The Bronx," she said. Referring to the upcoming Galentine's Day event, she added, "The ladies will love all of these beauty products! Thank you! They will shop 'til they drop and pick up their new-found treasures. We will have a gift bag, free raffles, and book giveaway!"

January marks both National Stalking Awareness Month and Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Survivors and victims of both stalking and human trafficking are sometimes also subjected to domestic violence.

Bronx Borough President Darcel D. Clark participated in a Red Sand Project event on Tuesday, Jan. 23, in The Bronx to raise awareness of the plight of human trafficking. The district attorney, whose office runs a human trafficking unit, said in part, "We are raising awareness about the crime of modern-day slavery. As part of the Red Sand Project, we poured [red] sand to fill sidewalk cracks, with the grains representing victims who go unnoticed, or 'fall through the cracks'."

Experts working in the area of human trafficking say the true numbers of those who fall prey to human trafficking are unknown due to its underground nature, but it is estimated to be one of the most lucrative, illicit businesses in the world due to



Photo by Síle Moloney

VOLUNTEERS ACCEPT AND sort through donated items at the nonprofit KRVC, located at 505 West 236th Street in Riverdale, on Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024, for a collection and giveaway benefiting a domestic violence shelter and organized by the *4Bronx Project* program in advance of a Galentine's Day event scheduled for Feb. 13, 2024.



Screenshot courtesy of the Office of the Bronx District Attorney

BRONX DISTRICT ATTORNEY Darcel D. Clark participates in a Red Sand Project on Jan. 23, 2024, to help raise awareness of human trafficking and how easily victims can fall through the cracks unseen.

the fact that, unlike the drug trade, victims can be "sold" over and over again. New York State officials reported that based on 2021 human trafficking data, 73 percent of cases involved sex trafficking, 22 percent labor trafficking, and 3 percent a combination of both.

Clark also hosts an Annual Domestic Violence 5K Run/Walk/Roll each fall to bring awareness to the issue of domestic violence. On Jan. 12, sharing a memory from one of the events, she wrote, "I'm saddened by the passing of Lucille 'Miss Lucille' Boles-Wilson, who personified The Bronx with her community service, love of people, and amazing spirit." Boles-Wilson was a regular participant at the annual 5K and was known for her colorful, flamboyant attire. "She was a fierce advocate for older adults. She was a talented poet and dancer too. She adored young people," Clark added.

The Bronx DA's human trafficking unit can be reached on (718) 838-7185. The domestic violence unit can be reached on (718) 838 6688. Anyone interested in becoming a community partner with *4Bronx Project* can reach Levine-Pinedo at laura4bronx@gmail.com.

One FF Injured as Three Fires Destroy Bronx Properties

By SÍLE MOLONEY

A fire broke out on the 4th floor of a multi-story, residential building in Fordham Manor in the early hours of Tuesday, Jan. 16. FDNY officials said they received a call at 3.57 a.m. at 2700 Marion Avenue, located between East 196 Street and East 195th Street for a report of a fire. They said on arrival, they discovered the blaze on the 4th floor of a 6-story, non-fireproof, multiple dwelling.

Fire officials said 12 fire units, comprising 60 firefighters responded to the incident and that one firefighter suffered minor injuries. They said the fire was brought under control at 4.43 a.m. and fire marshals are investigating the cause.

When contacted about those likely displaced because of the fire, Frederic Klein, regional communications manager for the Red Cross of Greater New York said in part, "After the January 16 fire on Marion Avenue in the Bronx, the American Red Cross registered two households (5 individuals total – 4 adults, 1 child, and 4 pets) for emergency assistance, including temporary lodging. Our Greater New York Disaster Action Team also provided clean-up kits to residents."

Another residential fire broke out in Bedford Park on Friday, Jan. 19, and resulted in no injuries, FDNY officials said. Fire department officials said they received a call at 11.25 a.m. on Jan. 19 from 221 East 201st Street (and Bainbridge Avenue) for a fire emergency in a 6-story, multiple dwelling (75 x 75).

They said firefighters proceeded to fight the fire which was on the first floor of the building and brought it under control at 11:51 a.m. They said no injuries were reported.

When contacted for details of anyone possibly displaced as a result of the fire, Red Cross officials said in part that they had registered one household (one adult, one child, and one dog) for emergency assistance, including temporary lodging and financial assistance.

A third residential fire that broke out in Williamsbridge also resulted in no injuries, FDNY officials said. Fire department officials said they received a call at 12.30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 18, for a report of a fire / smoke in a 3-story multiple



Photo courtesy of the Citizens' App

A FIRE BREAKS out on the 4th floor of a multi-story, residential building in Fordham Manor in the early hours of Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024.

dwelling (25 x 75) located at 3632 Holland Avenue between East 214th and East 215th Street.

According to FDNY, the fire was on the third floor of the building but several floors appeared to have been affected with most windows on one side either shattered or purposefully broken by firefighters. A second alarm was raised in respect of the blaze which resulted in a total of 25 fire units, comprising 106 fire and EMS personnel responding to the incident, FDNY officials said.

We spoke to Rafael Rodriguez who, along with a crowd of other residents, was standing on the street in front of the burning building. He said he lives next door to the affected building. We asked if his building had been evacuated as well. "No. Actually, I came outside as I saw all the smoke. I was like, 'Oh my God.' That's why I came out but I think maybe there's still one [person] maybe still inside but I'm not sure as everything seems to be taken care of now."

Asked if he knew his neighbors in the affected building, he said, "No," adding that he only knew his immediate neighbors in his own building. We also spoke to another elderly female resident who was also standing on the street outside and who said she was a resident of the affected building where the fire broke out.

Declining to be identified, the woman said she had not been home when the fire broke out as she had a hospital appointment, which she said she later canceled. Asked which floor she was living on, she said the second. Referring to the broken windows, we asked if she already knew how much damage there was to her apartment. She said she didn't yet know.

Officials from the Red Cross were seen scouting the area. We encouraged the woman to check with them for assistance. Later, Klein issued a statement, saying, "After the fire on Holland Avenue in the Bronx, the American Red Cross registered three households (13 individuals total – 3 children, 10 adults) for emergency assistance, including temporary lodging and financial assistance."

He added, "Our Greater New York Disaster Action Team also provided care

items, including blankets, comfort kits, hand warmers, and spare clothes. Any residents affected by this fire who were not able to connect with the Red Cross on scene and who need help with their recovery process can call 877-RED CROSS (877-733-2767)."

According to the Red Cross, so far this year in The Bronx, through Jan. 18, the organization has registered 60 households (comprising a total of 196 people – 149 adults and 47 children) for emergency assistance after they were displaced by various disasters in the borough.

Meanwhile, Klein said that across The Bronx during 2023, the American Red Cross registered 1,144 households (3,094 total individuals) for emergency assistance after 357 disasters which caused displacement of people, including fires, building collapses, and vacate orders.

Klein said that across the entire Greater New York region (Long Island, NYC, Westchester, Rockland, West Point Military Academy, and Greenwich, Conn.) in 2023, the American Red Cross registered 4,479 households (11,629 total individuals) for emergency assistance, after 1,646 disasters caused displacement of people, including fires, floods, building collapses, vacate orders, and other disasters.

Later, we spoke to some other young neighbors on East 214th Street who declined to be identified. We asked them if they saw any of the residents of the affected building being evacuated. They said they only saw residents of an adjacent building on East 214th Street being evacuated.

Asked if they were kids, one of the young residents said, "I didn't see kids. I saw two ladies and a guy." Asked how old they were, she said she estimated them as being in their 30s

or 40s. She said she and her friends were not affected.

Asked if she had heard from neighbors how the fire started, she said, "No, we didn't hear nothing. We just saw the black smoke." Asked if the evacuees looked alarmed, she said, "Of course.. they were terrified! They didn't know what was happening." We asked if she could smell the smoke from her building. She said no because they had the windows down.

We asked if they had regular fire drills in her building. The young resident said, "Yes, we do," adding that everyone evacuated twice a week. In respect of the fire at 3632 Holland Avenue, she concluded, "We're just happy that nobody got hurt and the firefighters did their job correctly. I give it to them. They did a great job."

Asked if they had arrived quickly, she said, "Quickly, and they moved fast." FDNY officials said the fire was brought under control at 1.55 p.m. and the cause of the fire is under investigation.

Deirdre, a hair stylist at Cut of Style on nearby 214th Street said she had difficulty getting to work due to the multitude of fire trucks in the area. Her colleague mentioned that she knew of some Bronxites who were using stoves to heat their apartments as they had not had heat in two weeks. Meanwhile, Deirdre mentioned that if she plugs in an electrical heater, she puts it on a timer.

As reported, a memorial event was recently held for 5-year-old Kashmir Marquis, who died following a basement fire at his Barnes Avenue home in Wakefield earlier this month.

Visit www.FDNYSmart.org for fire safety recommendations, including those related to lithium-ion batteries. Free smoke alarms area also available. The Office of the Bronx Borough President is organizing a series of fire safety training sessions in the coming weeks across the borough. We will share dates and venues for local sessions, once announced.



Image courtesy of the Citizens' App

FIREFIGHTERS RESPOND TO a fire that broke out in a residential building at 221 East 201st Street in Bedford Park, The Bronx on Jan. 19, 2024.



Photo by Síle Moloney

FIREFIGHTERS RESPOND TO a fire at 3632 Holland Avenue in the Williamsbridge section of The Bronx on Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024.

Out & About

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

EVENTS

From the Producers behind the hit TV series "Who Do You Think You Are?", "Back in Time," and "Long Lost Family," comes a new immersive history show and **Family TV Casting**. Producers are looking for fun American families to step back to the 1950s, then travel forward in time on an exciting new series for a major U.S.A. Network.

Does your family love American history? Is your family interested in a time traveling adventure? Have you got what it takes to overcome the challenges of the past? Sign up at <https://eu.castitreach.com/ag/walltowall/americanadream/welcome.html>.

The Church of the Mediator, 260 W 231st Street in Kingsbridge, will be hosting a **Flea Market** of toys, books, jewelry, clothing, household items and more on Saturday, Jan. 27, from noon to 6 p.m. Congregants are also invited to a bilingual healing service on the last Sunday of each month at 11 a.m.

Join the Bronx County Historical Society on Jan. 29, for a 7 p.m. for a virtual book talk with Helaine Helreich, author, editor and widow of William Helreich, a famed sociologist and urban historian, whose award-winning, "The New York Nobody

Knows" series explored each of New York City's five boroughs. The talk will focus on "**The Bronx Nobody Knows, An Urban Walking Guide**," and delve into the research and process that went into producing the book.

Beyond Words is a fun, virtual, friendly, supportive book club that meets regularly to host intimate discussions of books focused on real-life issues and interpersonal relationships. The group meets Wednesdays, Jan. 10, 17, 24 and 31 at 7 p.m. and sessions are facilitated by Barbara Keihani-Dubison. Register at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfah4LWN3HDGAb6eShRu7dDgOJSuK6NZX_ntw9qTNqQ7soXCw/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0. Join on Jan. 31, as the club continues "How the One-Armed Sister Sweeps Her House" by Cherie Jones. Jones is scheduled to join the discussion.

MUSIC

The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts presents on Sunday, Feb. 4, at 4 p.m. **Afrique en Cirque**, a show by Yamoussa Bangoura, inspired by daily life in Guinea. This performance shares the beauty, youth, and artistry of African culture. A colorful show beyond its scenery, costumes, and staging, it makes any theatre vibrate with energy and represents the strength, agility, and life's joys of young Africans. The audience will see acrobats execute gravity-defying moves and human pyramids, accompanied by the

contemporary sounds of live Afro-Jazz, percussion, and kora. Welcome to the universe of Kalabanté Productions and prepare for an unforgettable journey.

SPOKEN WORD

Bronx Comedy is taking over the Arthur Avenue Retail Market starting Jan. 29, every Monday at 7 p.m. Producer Walt Frasier is teaming up with Pauly DiSilvio of LCG Cigars to bring professional stand-up comedy, improv comedy, music and even murder mystery events to The Bronx's Little Italy. Frasier has 20+ years of comedy performance and production experience and has been seen on HBO, MTV, NBC'S Blacklist, CBS's Blue Bloods and Letterman, Showtime's Billions and more.

Joining Frasier each week will be both favorite Bronx local comics and headliners from Manhattan clubs and more. Tickets from \$20 at the door or at www.bronxcomedy.com. There is no additional purchase required but come early for coffees, drinks, and desserts from O'Ccaffe, and pizza, calzone and antipasti by Funicci A'Pizza.

Art in the Basin presents "**Working Gal Rock n' Roll Poet and Spoken Word artist Anne Leighton**," on Feb. 20, at 7 p.m. for a night of poetry dedicated to her "late, great 102-year-old mom" at Mon Amour Coffee & Wine, 234 W 238th Street, The Bronx, located off Broadway in Kingsbridge. Visit Art in the Basin's event page on

www.eventbrite.com and search for Art in the Basin for more information or Facebook at www.facebook.com/events/888089339526406.

MOVEMENT

The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) invites residents to participate in its **EcoQuest Challenge**. EcoQuests, part of the NYC EcoFlora Project, challenge New Yorkers to become community scientists and observe, study, and conserve the native plants, fungi, and animals of the City via iNaturalist, an easy-to-use mobile app.

Each month, NYBG EcoFlora will announce a new Challenge where they need help documenting the wild flora and fauna of New York City by taking and sharing photos via iNaturalist. Download the iNaturalist App or register at iNaturalist.org. Take photos for the month's EcoQuest Challenge. Post your findings on iNaturalist so they can be added to the NYC EcoFlora Project.

There are no wrong observations. Each observation contributes vital information to reveal traits and processes largely unknown before due to a lack of data and coordination between data sets. Millions of individual data points add up to big data that will enable new insights and opportunities for research, conservation, and engagement. Please do not disturb animal activity as you record your observations.

AYF Hosts 1st Youth Gun Violence Prevention Summit

(continued from page 4)

us," she said. "To see her softness and how she embraced me in my arms. This was the happiest day of my life since God granted me a princess for me to dress up and spoil."

She added, "For the next 16 years, I had the ultimate privilege of caring for my daughter and nurturing this profound bond I built with her. Our relationship was defined by open communication, heartfelt discussions, and raw honesty. She became my closest ally as I became hers. I cherished every conversation, laugh, and memory we shared. Though some were difficult, those years were the

most rewarding of my life. I'm forever grateful for the time we had together."

Henriquez went on to say that Angellyh loved to be home. "She said the streets were very dangerous and she didn't quite understand why kids stayed outside and they didn't go home," she said. "The strangest thing in life is that Angellyh cherished her home and was killed by a random bullet walking home from school."

As reported, Jeremiah Ryan, 18, who was charged with the 2022 fatal shooting of Angellyh, as well as the attempted murder of two of her friends, was sentenced on Sept. 15, 2023 to 15 years to life in prison in relation to the incident which was gang-related. Ryan, who was

17 at the time of the unintended shooting of Angellyh and that of her friends, all of whom were hit in crossfire, pled guilty on Aug. 4 this year to second-degree murder, avoiding the need for a trial.

New York State and City has taken various actions to remove so-called ghost guns i.e. those which can be bought in component parts, assembled online, and which do not have a serial number, from communities. Many ghost gun parts are made of polymer plastic, which is undetectable by metal detectors, according to City officials. New York State laws (Scott. J. Beigel Unfinished Receiver Act and the Jose Webster Untraceable Firearms Act) prohibit the sale or possession of un-serialized frames or receivers, and other ghost gun components.

The NYPD's ghost gun investigations begin at the point of the online purchase of ghost gun kits, additional parts, and other means to assemble these weapons at home, and result in search warrants and seizures. In fiscal year 2023, City officials say the City of New York settled four lawsuits against five online gun retailers for illegally selling and delivering ghost gun components to addresses in the City.

The terms of these settlements include a permanent prohibition on the sale of unfinished frames, receivers, and/or ghost guns to any individual with a billing or shipping address in



Photo courtesy of the Angellyh Yambo Foundation

ORGANISERS OF THE first summit hosted by the Angellyh Yambo Foundation in conjunction with pose for a photo at the event along with an enlarged photo of the late Angellyh Yambo on Friday, Jan. 19, 2024.

NYC, as long as the NYC Administrative Code and/or NY Penal Law continue to prohibit such sale.

Angellyh's aunt closed out the event, thanking all those who had participated. "This summit holds great significance for empowering our youth," Hernandez said in part. "It is imperative that we collaborate to highlight the array of services available to help our young people thrive. Our shared goal is to see each and every student succeed in graduating high school and avoiding the pitfalls that can derail bright futures."

Addressing the youth directly, she continued, "We aim to continue being a supportive presence in your lives going forward. Please make the most of all the information presented today for your benefit. Young people, I urge you to choose community over conflict whenever faced with difficult decisions. By coming together in the spirit of a mutual understanding, we can build the kind of society we all wish to see - one founded on compassion and respect for all people. Together, we can help you achieve your full potential."

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

Housing Lottery Dibs

NYC Department of Housing, Preservation and Development (HPD) has open affordable housing lotteries for housing units at the following locations, among others:

- 2072 Anthony Ave., Bronx, NY 10457, with a deadline of Feb. 12
- 1761 Walton Ave., Bronx, NY 10453, with a deadline of Feb. 13
- 3073 Barker Ave., Bronx, NY 10467, with a deadline of Feb. 1
- 2330 Cambreleng Ave., Bronx, NY 10458, with a deadline of Jan. 31
- Betances VI Family Apartments, 405 E 146th St, Bronx, NY 10455, with a deadline of Feb. 13.
- 1160 River Avenue, Bronx, NY, 10452, with a deadline of Feb. 22.

Visit <https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/search-lotteries> for more information.

Help Applying for Affordable Housing

Bronx Community Health Network (BCHN) and New York Public Library (NYPL) will be providing help on Tuesday, Feb. 6, at West Farms Library, 2085 Honeywell Avenue, Bronx, NY 10460, to anyone wishing to apply for affordable housing. For more information, call (929) 220-8181 or email info@bchnhealth.org.

Veterans Services

NYC Department of Veterans' Services is reminding all veterans that as-

sistance with housing, legal services, burial services, free mental health services, wellness, employment, benefits and much more is available to them. Email connect@veterans.nyc.gov or call (212) 416-5250 for more information.

Free Pet Vaccines and Microchips

Free pet vaccines and microchips for dogs and cats will be available on Saturday, Jan. 27, at 10 a.m. at The Point, 940 Garrison Avenue at the Barreto Street entrance. The event is sponsored by ACC and the Millstein Veterinary Project. There is a limit of four pets per household. Bring past pet vaccine paperwork if you have it but it's not required. No sick pets allowed. Email Communitypets@nycacc.org for more information.

National Stalking Awareness Month

January is National Stalking Awareness Month. Resources are available to those who fear that may be being stalked. Stalking is a pattern of behavior directed at another person that would place that person in reasonable fear and can include monitoring activities, digital tracking, unwanted gifts and notes, following, repeated calls you, your family, friends or workplace. Call 311 to be connected to your nearest Family Justice Center Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can also

call New York City's 24-hour Domestic Violence hotline on 1-800-621-4673 or New York City's 24-hour Crime Victim hotline on 1-866-689-4357. **Call 911 if you are in immediate danger.**

Shared Work Program

NYS Department of Labor is seeking to help nonprofits which may be encountering various hurdles, including financial constraints, budget reductions, increasing interest rates, and inflation in 2024.

To navigate these obstacles, the Shared Work Program could offer the support you need. This program presents an opportunity to **save labor dollars during challenging times, retain employees in a tight labor market, increase flexibility while providing critical services, and position for the long-term.** Call (518) 549-0480 for more information or visit https://dol.ny.gov/shared-work-program-0?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.

Ramp Works

Works by NYC Department of Design & Construction are expected during the first quarter of 2024 at various locations in The Bronx for the rehabilitation of a simple pedestrian ramp, including on Hull Avenue, between East 209th Street, and East Mosholu Parkway North, and on East 211th Street between Hull Avenue and Perry Avenue in Norwood.

Suitcase Collection

As the city has begun to relocate asylum seekers, they are allowing the impacted families to only use two bags to carry all their belongings. With limited access to suitcases, many are using shopping bags and totes. To help the families, Riverdale Neighborhood House, located at 5521 Mosholu Ave, Bronx, NY 10471, is organizing a collection of suitcases, duffels, backpacks, and other secure bags until Jan. 27. Drop off is Monday to Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Please make sure items are in good condition; bags should be clean and sturdy.

Heating Requirements

Through May 31, from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., a reminder that building owners/managers must set the heating to a minimum of 68 degrees inside when the outside temperature falls below 55 degrees, and from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., they must set the heating to a minimum of 62 degrees, irrespective of the outside temperature.

During the colder months, drivers are encouraged to bang on their hoods before starting their cars to prevent killing small cats/dogs or other animals who may be sheltering inside from the cold.

Upcoming Voter Registration & Election Deadlines

The U.S. presidential primaries take place on April 2. Early voting starts March 23. The primary elections

for Congress, State, and party positions take place on June 25. Early voting starts June 15. The last day to change party registration is February 14. If you are registered in one party, and want to vote in a different party's primary, you must change your party registration. The last day to register to vote is March 23 for the presidential primary, and June 15 for the local primaries. Visit <https://vote.nyc.gov/register-vote> to register to change party affiliation.

U.S. Citizenship Workshops

Parkchester Library, 1985 Westchester Avenue, Bronx, NY 10462, will be hosting U.S. Citizenship Workshops on Saturday, Jan. 27, at 10 a.m. and Monday, Jan. 29, at 3.30 p.m. to help adults prepare for the U.S. Citizenship Test.

Rent Freeze Program

Eligible New Yorkers with disabilities and older New Yorkers can stop their rent from increasing with the City's Rent Freeze program. Find out if you're eligible! Call the Mayor's Office for Public Engagement's Rent Freeze Hotline at (929) 252-7242. More information is also available here: <https://nyc.gov/site/rentfreeze/index.page>.

Applications Open for En Foco Media Arts Fund 2024: Works-in-Progress Initiative Support Grant

Applications for the En Foco Media Arts Fund 2024: Works-In-Progress Initiative closes Saturday, Jan. 27, at 11.59 p.m. The fourth Annual En Foco Media Arts Fund: Work in Progress (WIP) Initiative Support Grant, in collaboration with BronxNet, is designed to support New York City-based, early career artists of color who engage with digital media technologies within their art-making processes. For this opportunity, early-career artists are defined by a 2 to 9-year artistic working history. Artists who have also applied for the 2024 Photography Fellowship are only eligible to receive one award if selected for either opportunity. Contact grants@enfoco.org for more information.

Apply for Citizens NYC 2024 Grants

Applications are now open to apply for Citizens NYC 2024 grants of up to \$3,000 for community projects and up to \$5,000 for small businesses. The closing date is Friday, March 31, 2024. Winners will be selected, and grants will be distributed in the summer of 2024. Learn more and apply at www.citizensnyc.org.

Restorative Justice Opportunity

Learn how to help the Bronx community resolve low level arrests through healing, dialogue, and community connection by becoming a restorative justice volunteer, while receiving a stipend. The next training session takes place on Friday, Jan. 26, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, email ProjectResetBX@innovatingjustice.org or call (718) 618 1550.

POTS Part of the Solution

Help
others achieve stability

Fight
poverty and hunger

Belong
to a loving community

Join an active group of volunteers dedicated to serving the local community!

Register to volunteer today:

Visit our website
POTSBRONX.ORG

Follow us on social media
@POTSBRONX

QR code linking to potsbronx.org

NYPD Sgt Charged with Manslaughter in Fatal Water Cooler Throw

By SILE MOLONEY & DAVID GREENE

New York Attorney General (AG) Letitia James announced on Tuesday, Jan. 23, that manslaughter charges have been brought against NYPD Sgt. Erik Duran, 37, of Putnam County, following a police-involved operation during which a water cooler was thrown at Bronx man, Eric Duprey, 30, in the Fordham Manor section of the Bronx last August, resulting in his death.

In response to the latest announcement, the attorney acting on behalf of the Duprey family, Jonathan Roberts of the law firm Talkin, Muccigrosso & Roberts, said, "Seeing Sgt. Duran in handcuffs was little consolation for the family of Eric Duprey, who struggles to understand how a New York City police officer could behave so recklessly as to kill a young man who posed no threat whatsoever."

Duran has been charged with manslaughter in the second degree, assault in the first and second degrees, and criminally negligent homicide. The indictment alleges that on Aug. 23, 2023, Duran, an undercover member of the NYPD Narcotics Borough Bronx (NBBX) Tactical Response Unit, forcefully threw a cooler at Duprey as he was driving a motorized scooter, causing Duprey's death.

Duran was suspended and later placed on modified duty following the incident, according to the AG's office, which, as reported, opened an investigation into the incident the following day on Aug. 24.

Officials from the AG's office said that Duran was arraigned on Jan. 23 before State Supreme Court Justice George Villegas, who set bail at a \$150,000 bond or partially secured bond, with a \$150,000 cash alternative. Duran is due back in court on April 18. The maximum sentence on the top charge according to the AG's office, is 25 years in prison.

As reported, the court heard that at around 5 p.m. on Aug. 23, members of the NBBX team arrived on Aqueduct Avenue between West 190th and 192nd Streets in Fordham Manor to conduct their fourth "buy-and-bust" operation, or undercover drug purchase, of the day.

During the operation, NBBX team



Still of video courtesy of the Office of the NY AG

A STILL FROM a video released by the Office of NY Attorney General shows Eric Duprey falling from a moped he was driving and crashing onto the street after he had a picnic cooler thrown at him by NYPD Sgt. Erik Duran at 2505 Aqueduct Avenue in Fordham Manor on Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023, during a police operation.



Photo courtesy of the family of Eric Duprey

AN UNDATED FAMILY photo of Eric Duprey who died after he was hit by an ice cooler and knocked off his moped by NYPD Sgt. Erik Duran of NYPD Narcotics Borough Bronx (NBBX) during a police-involved operation on Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023, at 2505 Aqueduct Avenue in Fordham Manor.

members encountered Duprey and attempted to arrest him, at which point he got on a motorized scooter to flee. As Duprey rode the scooter toward West 190th Street, Duran grabbed a civilian's cooler off of a nearby table and threw it at Duprey, striking him in the head and causing him to lose control of his vehicle. Duprey then sideswiped a tree before he was thrown from the scooter and hit his head on the curb, landing under a parked vehicle. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Officials from the AG's Office of Special Investigation (OSI) said that pursuant to New York Executive Law Section 70-b, OSI assesses every incident reported to it where a police officer or a peace officer, including a corrections officer, may have caused the death of a person by an act or omission.

Under this law, the officer may have been on-duty or off-duty, and the deceased person may have been armed or unarmed. Also, the deceased person may or may not have been in custody or incarcerated at the time of the incident. They said if OSI's assessment indicates an officer may have caused a death, OSI proceeds to conduct a full investigation of the incident.

As also reported, a protest was held at

the site of the Fordham Manor incident in September 2023 in response to the incident, and concluded at the 52nd Precinct in Norwood, even though Duran is not stationed there. There were no reported injuries, despite one protestor holding an open flame close to some gas pumps located just inside the entrance to the precinct. After giving several warnings, police made one arrest.

A further protest by members of Black Lives Matter, also covered at the time by *Norwood News*, was also later held in Manhattan in response to the incident.

According to the NYPD, Duran became a police officer in 2010, was promoted to sergeant in 2018, and sergeant detective in 2022. According to his disciplinary record, there is one allegation recorded dated July 21, 2023. No further details are available in relation to the incident.

According to the same police file, he has been recognized for "excellent police duty" at various stages over the course of his career. *Norwood News* contacted the Civilian Complaints Review Board in September for more details about Duran's disciplinary history. We did not receive an immediate response. We have followed up and will share any updates

we receive.

In a previous statement following Duprey's death, the NYPD said, in part, "The NYPD is committed to ensuring there will be a full, thorough, and transparent investigation of this incident to determine the facts and to take the appropriate steps forward." We reached out to the department for further comment following the announcement of the charges.

An NYPD spokesperson wrote, "On Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 0800 hours, the following off-duty New York City employee was arrested and charged within the confines of the 44 Precinct: Arrested: Duran, Erik, 36-year-old male, NYPD-Sergeant. Charges: Manslaughter, Criminally Negligent Homicide, Assault"

Meanwhile, Roberts previously said the deceased man was the father of three children all under the age of nine and that he believed Duprey to be a lifelong Bronxite. Roberts said of Duprey's death, "Another young man gone too soon at the hands of a reckless police officer."

He also described Duprey as "a loving partner," adding that he was a "father and son who provided financial and emotional support to the family. Nothing can mitigate this family's pain, but the individual who committed this heinous act must be held accountable."

Roberts told *Norwood News* on Jan. 23, "When police officers, whose sole responsibility is to protect us become the greatest threat to safety and human life, we have to question where we are headed as a society." The charges against Duran are accusations at this point and he is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Norwood News reached out to various parties in efforts to connect with Duran's legal team to ask how he has pleaded. As of press date, we had not received confirmation. The NY Post reported that Duran pleaded not guilty.

Announcing the charges, James wrote in part, "My prayers are with the Duprey family."



Photo by Sile Moloney

HAWK NEWSOME OF Black Lives Matter Greater NY and about 10 to 15 BLM members march down 42nd Street in Manhattan towards Lexington Avenue near Grand Central Station on Friday, Sept. 8, 2023, after they hold a brief press conference inside the station and call for New York Attorney General Letitia James to bring murder charges against NYPD Sgt. Erik Duran with Bronx Narcotics, after he threw a water cooler at Bronx man Eric Duprey during a police operation at 2505 Aqueduct Avenue in the Fordham Manor section of The Bronx on Aug 23, 2023, and the latter died.



Photo by David Greene



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



**Shop local
and Save !**

Small businesses and big
savings await at the
Jerome Gun Hill BID.

jeromegunhillbid.org
BID hotline 718-324-4946

 @jeromegunhillbid
 @jghbid



Classifieds

Professional Directory

COMPUTER SERVICES

Computer Repair

Computer Repair Upgrade, troubleshooting, lap-top 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, Jan. 25, 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 (CB7)** general board meeting will be held in February (date tbc). Contact KCabreraCarrera@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list. All meetings are in person unless otherwise notified by Bronx CB7.

The next **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8** full board meeting will be held in February (date tbc). Contact BX08@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list.

The next **BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024, 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.



APARTMENTS FOR RENT

LANGSAM PROPERTY SERVICES CORP., AMO®
A COMPREHENSIVE REAL ESTATE SERVICE ORGANIZATION

1601 Bronxdale Avenue • Bronx, NY 10462 • T 718 518 8000 • F 718 518 8585
www.langsampropertyservices.com

KEEP THE LOST ART OF LETTER WRITING ALIVE!



WRITE TO US

Síle Moloney
Editor
Norwood News
3400 Reservoir Oval East
Bronx, NY 10467

EMAIL US

Síle Moloney
Editor
smoloney@norwoodnews.org

OR

Letters should be 400 words max, and include the author's name.
Anonymous letters will not be published, but names will be withheld upon reasonable request.

Bronx Building Owners Fined

(continued from page 1)

cated in The Bronx and Manhattan, each incurred fines of \$15,000 per building, HPD officials said. They added that childhood lead exposure has seen a “remarkable 93 percent decline” since the “Taking the Lead on Lead” initiative was launched by the City in 2005.

Meanwhile, City healthy officials said lead is a metal that is toxic to people and there is no safe level of lead in your body. They said in the past, it was used in gasoline, paint, ceramics, caulking, pipes and solder, and in 1960, NYC banned the use of lead-based paint in homes.

Additional measures were taken in the 1970s. However, they said lead can still be found in some products and in our environment, and layers of lead paint may still be present in older buildings and can become dangerous when the paint chips or peels, is abraded, or when renovations or repairs are conducted without properly controlling dust.

Health officials said the main source of childhood lead poisoning is lead-based paint in older, deteriorated housing. They said children with lead poisoning may develop health, learning and behavioral problems, and these effects can persist long after the exposure has stopped, and a child’s blood-lead level has declined. They said fetal exposure to lead may also result in cognitive and developmental problems.

HPD officials said Ezriel Weinberger and affiliates have been ordered to comply with lead-based paint regulations, and rectify all violations across the ten buildings, two of which are in Manhattan and eight in The Bronx. Several entities are referenced in documents filed with NYC Department of Buildings (DOB) and NYC Department of Finance in respect of the properties.

When *Norwood News* asked HPD to clarify the relationship between the affiliates and Ezriel Weinberger, we were informed we had to send a freedom of information request. We were unable to reach Weinberger for comment. The following entities were referenced in various mortgage agreements.

Regarding 3595 Bainbridge Avenue in Norwood, in 2018, Ivory Bainbridge LLC, 1651 Coney Island Avenue in Brooklyn contracted a mortgage with New York Community Bank of Hicksville, NY. A visit to the property on Jan. 18 revealed that Residential Management (NY) Inc., 1651 Coney Island Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11230, is listed as the property manager and that the building is owned by 3591 Bainbridge Corp.

We spoke to a 73-year-old female, longtime resident of the building, and asked if she knew if there was an issue with lead paint in the building. “I didn’t know until two months ago,” she said, adding that her neighbor’s apartment, where there were kids living, was found to have had some lead paint.” She added, “Also, my apartment was inspected



Photo by Sile Moloney

A SINK INSIDE an apartment located at 3595 Bainbridge Avenue in Norwood, pictured on Jan. 18, 2024, needs repair.

by three managers here. They said we don’t have no lead paint here, but they had it mostly over there.” The woman gestured to her neighbor’s apartment.

The resident continued, “This building is very old, and this building has a lot of things happen to it. We have insects, bugs. We have rats, everything inside this building here. I don’t see them doing anything about this building here. It’s like they’ve just given up.”

The woman showed us pictures of her windows which she said needed replacing and of her kitchen sink, which required repair. “We have to get a new carpet on the floor. We had to get a new faucet in the bathroom,” she said.

Asked if the management company was generally responsive, the resident said, “When I ask him to come fix something, like the landlord, he’s very, very lazy. You have to go up to him four or five times to call him on the phone or text him sometimes. He has his voicemails. He doesn’t answer your voicemail. The voicemail is filled up.”

Asked if she was referring to the management company or the super, she said the super. “The super answers it when he feels like it. The landlord doesn’t answer it at all.” The resident also complained about noisy neighbors who she said often played very loud music. She said it was an ongoing problem for 5 years, and that she was told to email her complaints.

“I don’t know how to email,” she said. “I need a phone number.” Asked who asked her to email, she said, “the cops.” Adding that she was also informed she had to go to court about the issues, she said, “I don’t want to go to court by myself.”

The woman also alleged the landlord was turning a blind eye to some residents who she alleged didn’t have a lease

and were still living in the building. We asked if perhaps they were asylum seekers placed in the building by the City, and she said they were not, adding that they were “regular people.”

We also spoke to the Super of the building and asked about the lead paint issue. Speaking in Spanish, he said, “I didn’t know about the fines, but they’re doing the tests in all the apartments. It’s ongoing.” We mentioned the allegations cited by the resident regarding cold entering through her windows, rodents etc. He replied, “Every month, an exterminator comes. If there’s an issue with windows, we try to fix it.”

Regarding 115 East Mosholu Parkway North in Norwood, in 2020, Aqua 2939 GC LLC, 1651 Coney Island Avenue, Brooklyn, NY, contracted a mortgage with Capital One National Association of Melville, NY. A visit to the property revealed that again Residential Management (NY) Inc., 1651 Coney Island Avenue, Brooklyn, was listed as the property manager.

A resident of the building said it was inspected for lead she believes last September but said the test results were never provided to her. “I’m not sure if there was lead or not so I just took it upon myself and repainted the apartment,” she said.

We contacted Residential Management for comment and were unable to reach anyone, after being transferred internally a few times. We left a message.

Regarding 3140 Kingsbridge Avenue in Kingsbridge, in 2019, 3140 Kingsbridge LLC, 1285 52nd Street in Brooklyn, contracted a mortgage with Santander Bank of Manhattan. A visit to the property revealed that Diamond Management is listed as “the owner” of the property. We contacted Diamond

Management for comment. They had none. We also spoke to the Super for the building, who said he was aware tests were being carried out for lead paint but didn’t know the outcome of them, and referred us to the property manager for comment.

A 30-year-old male resident of the building who said he is a father to one son, wasn’t aware that there was any potential issue with lead paint in the building prior to a recent inspection, and neither was he aware of a fine.

He said in part, “A couple of weeks ago, there was a guy with the Super and he was going to all the apartments, and he was checking all the walls to see if there was any remnants of lead or anything. He checked the apartment, and we didn’t have any lead in our apartment.” He said he understood it was possible to obtain the test results straight away, and that he never got any written formal confirmation.

2995 Botanical Square in Bedford Park, 2675 Grand Concourse in Fordham Manor, 1750 Grand Concourse in Mt. Hope, 2181 Barnes Avenue in Pelham Parkway, and 1001 Jerome Avenue in the Concourse section, each had links to 1651 Coney Island Avenue in Brooklyn.

HPD officials said Weinberger and affiliates must comply with record-keeping, annual notice, and investigation requirements per Local Law 1 of 2004, going forward. They said to prevent lead exposure, landlords of specific, older multiple dwellings were required to provide annual notices in English and Spanish to tenants before Jan. 16, and collect the completed notices by Feb. 15.

They said the notices were to find out if a child under six lived or spent significant time in the relevant housing unit. They said if tenants didn’t return the completed notices by the required deadline, landlords were required to notify the City’s health department.

They said that if owners discovered a unit was occupied by a child under six, they were required to conduct visual inspections for potential lead-based paint hazards in the housing unit annually, or more frequently based on prior knowledge or reports. Tenants concerned about lead paint and landlords’ inaction can file complaints online or via 311.

HPD’s “Get Ahead of Lead” webinar series can help landlords learn more about their responsibilities and obligations under Local Law 1 of 2004. For more information, visit <https://www.nyc.gov/site/hpd>.

Of the latest imposed fines, Carrión Jr. concluded, “Enforcement is a pillar of our work to ensure families live in safe and healthy homes. We use violations, litigation, and swift emergency repairs to compel landlords to meet their moral and legal obligations. Those who perform as expected contribute to our collective well-being, and those who don’t are, and will continue to be, held accountable. Good work Team HPD!”

Injured Construction Workers & All Other Accident Victims

*We Fight for the Money You Deserve
Regardless of Your Immigration Status*

- Construction & Workplace Accidents
- Car & Truck Accidents
- Negligent Building Security
- Slip, Trip & Falls
- Elevator / Escalator Accidents
- Medical Malpractice
- Nursing Home Negligence
- Police Brutality
- Civil Rights Violations
- Victims of Sexual Abuse



Our GUARANTEE

There is NO FEE Unless We Win

Our firm has recovered over
Three Hundred Million Dollars
in verdicts and settlements
for our satisfied clients

FREE CONSULTATION

Call 24 Hours • 7 days a Week

Some Recent Verdicts & Recoveries for Clients

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

If You Can't Come to Us...We'll Come to You

Expenses payable upon conclusion of case. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome

RASKIN & KREMINs, LLP

Over 75 Years Of Combined Personal Injury Law Experience

www.raskrem.com

160 Broadway (4th Fl.) New York, NY
Bronx Office - by appointment only

718-878-4858

212-587-3434

2 3 4 5 A C J Z TO FULTON STREET

N R W TO CORTLANDT STREET