



NORWOOD NEWS

Vol 37, No 4 • PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION • FEBRUARY 22-MARCH 6, 2024

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE WWW.NORWOODNEWS.ORG

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



Photo by Síle Moloney

FLOWERS AND BALLOONS are sold by the dozen at a stand outside Ranchito Mixteco on East Gun Hill Road in Norwood on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, 2024.

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Love is in the air and on Feb. 14, across the globe, millions celebrated Valentine's Day. At one Norwood store, we were told flower sales were up by a whopping 70 percent. So, is it just another opportunity to make a quick buck or

is there merit in reminding people of love? To find out, we are grateful to those Bronxites who were brave enough to talk to us about their own love stories.

In the company of her sister and speaking in Spanish, Maria Altagracia told *Norwood*

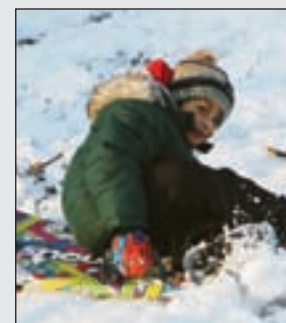
News, "Valentine's is about friendship and love, appreciating a person, taking care of love, and not just the love of a partner, but the love of friends, neighbors, and the love that is shared between those most cherished."

She added, "It's something

that is celebrated all over the world and we see everyone dressed in red, even the teachers. St. Valentine.....love!" Asked about her own love story, Maria Altagracia said her husband's name is Octavio. "I'm 45 years married," she
(continued on page 15)



**Bedford Park Mom,
Kids shot in DV
tragedy | pg 3**



Out & About pg 11



**Shooting Victim
Hasan Richburg
Remembered | pg 11**

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. 4

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

Contributors

William Murray, Michael Colon

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 Emil Cohen/NYC Council Media Unit

DISTRICT 11 CITY COUNCILMAN Eric Dinowitz participates in a pre-stated press conference at City Hall in Manhattan on Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024.

Dinowitz Bill to Enhance Housing Security for Older Adults Becomes Law

By SILE MOLONEY

New York City Council passed what was described as a groundbreaking piece of legislation, sponsored by Bronx Council Member Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11), on Thursday, Feb. 8. The bill aims to ease the burden on the City's older adults living in City-run, Mitchell-Lama housing when applying to the older adult rent freeze program.

According to officials from the councilman's office, the newly passed bill, Int. No. 0025A-2024, establishes a streamlined system through which Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) forms are pre-filled with essential information for tenants residing in such City-run, Mitchell-Lama housing.

They said the initiative is designed not only to assist individuals renewing their rent freeze benefits, but also to proactively reach all eligible tenants, particularly older adults, who they said are among the most vulnerable in the City, and often live on fixed incomes.

The councilman said having grown up in Mitchell-Lama housing, himself, he understands, first-hand, how important affordable housing is to uplifting communities. "Everyone deserves to age with dignity and security," Dinowitz said. "When we talk about affordable housing, it's not just about a roof over our heads, it's about the life-sustaining stability that affordable housing provides."

The bill is a win for the councilman, who represents the Bronx neighbor-

hoods of Norwood, Bedford Park, Kingsbridge Heights-Van Cortlandt Village, Kingsbridge-Marble Hill, Riverdale-Spuyten Duyvil, Williamsbridge-Olinville, Eastchester-Edenwald-Baychester, Wakefield-Woodlawn, as well as green areas, Woodlawn Cemetery, Van Cortlandt Park, and Bronx Park.

Situated on the border of Norwood and Bedford Park, within walking distance to NYC Health + Hospitals/North Central Bronx and Montefiore Medical Center, and adjacent to the Mosholu Parkway subway station is the North Bronx landmark that is Tracey Towers, a Mitchell Lama, twin tower housing complex, home to several older adults living in its 871 one and two-bedroom apartments.

The Towers, which opened in 1974 and which were designed by architect, Paul Rudolph, are part of NYC Department of Housing, Preservation & Development (HPD)'s Mitchell Lama affordable rental and cooperative program for moderate and middle-income families. The housing development is the 2nd largest Bronx Co-op, according to HPD, and is also home to a large Ghanaian community, among other residents. Many joyfully attended last year's Black History Month on-site celebration hosted by State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33) and others.

The latest bill mandates that HPD utilize existing data collected from city-run Mitchell-Lama tenants, such

as age and income, to automatically populate SCRIE forms. Under this bill, HPD must also digitalize all income affidavits that applicants provide. This new system not only streamlines the application process but also ensures that eligible individuals are reached proactively.

The pre-filled information also recognizes the diverse needs of older adults, some of whom may not have access to SCRIE or be aware of this program. According to the councilman's office, this approach aligns with the council member's commitment to accessibility and inclusivity.

In 2021, the councilman's father, Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81), who represents much of the same section of the North Bronx, together with former State Sen. Alessandra Biaggi (S.D. 34) passed a piece of State legislation to ensure Co-op shareholders could access reverse mortgages on cooperative apartments in the same way as other types of homeowners can.

Of the latest bill, the councilman concluded, "With this bill, we will ensure that our older adults can live independently and with peace of mind. By simplifying the SCRIE process for city-run, Mitchell-Lama tenants, we're not only giving much-needed support to our older neighbors, but also setting a precedent for future measures to enhance the affordable housing stock, especially for vulnerable populations."

Bedford Park: Mother, Teen & Child Shot, Man Arrested

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Four days before Valentine's Day on Feb. 14, tragedy struck the Bedford Park community by Valentine's Avenue and East 203rd Street once more, as a mother, a teen, and a young child were gunned down in their home in the early hours of Saturday morning, Feb. 10. The woman is dead, while her two children are stable, police said.

Police later confirmed a 37-year-old man was taken into custody and charged in connection to the incident. According to the NYPD, on Saturday, Feb. 10, at around 5.13 a.m., officers from the 52nd Precinct responded to a 911 call regarding an assault in progress inside 226 East 203rd Street.

"Upon arrival, they observed a 40-year-old woman who had been shot multiple times in the upper torso, a 16-year-old male shot once in the buttocks, and an 8-year-old male shot once in the left arm. EMS responded to the location and transported the 40-year-old female and 16-year-old male victims to St. Barnabas Hospital and the 8-year-old male victim was transported to NYC Health and Hospitals/Jacobi," an NYPD spokesperson said.

"The 16-year-old male and 8-year-old male are both listed in stable condition. The 40-year-old female victim was later pronounced deceased at the hospital," the spokesperson added. Police later said the deceased was identified Saida Bonilla Mejia, 40, of 226 East 203rd Street. Pursuant to an ongoing investigation,



Photo by Sile Moloney

POLICE RESPOND TO a triple shooting inside 226 East 203rd Street in Bedford Park by Valentine Avenue on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024.

they said Rosvin A. Mejia Castillo, 37, of the same address was arrested and charged the same day at 12.15 p.m. at the 52nd Precinct.

Mejia Castillo has been charged with murder, two counts of attempted murder, three counts of assault, attempted assault, six counts of criminal posses-

sion of a weapon, and two counts of endangering the welfare of a child. The 52nd Precinct Community Affairs team later said the fatal victim had been shot in her throat, abdomen, and upper back, and that the incident appeared to be "domestic related."

We spoke with one woman who lives

in the building, who declined to be identified and who said she didn't know the victim. Speaking in Spanish, she told *Norwood News*, "I arrived at like 3.40 a.m. at the building [on Saturday morning]. Really, I didn't see anything. When

(continued on page 7)



LIVE

YOUR LIFE.

**Need to talk to someone
about your mental health
or substance use?**

**We're only three numbers
away. Call or text.**

988

988 is your connection to free, confidential mental health support.
Talk, text or chat with a counselor and get access to mental health and substance use services. Available 24/7 in your language.*



Call or text **988** or chat
online at **nyc.gov/988**.

*Text and chat are only available
in English and Spanish.

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE

NYC
Health

Eric L. Adams
Mayor
Ashwin Vasan, MD, PhD
Commissioner

INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



This week, in the context of Black History Month, we asked readers if they ever felt discriminated against when applying for a job or an apartment.



"Oh yes, I have been discriminated against for a job and an apartment because I had six children, and they wouldn't give me the apartment because they said I had too many kids. And when I went for a job at the bank, I passed the exam but when I got the interview, she told me because I'd never done a cash out, they didn't hire me, and I felt kind of bad, and I did cry because I was excited I passed the test."

Malika Smith,
Parkchester
(Photo by David Greene)



"I don't think it was explicit, but I do think there was some implicit bias. I openly identify as part of the LGBTQA+ community and often, I list my pronouns on my resume, and I have had employers question why I've done that in the past. I think that we've come a long way, but I do think it's important to continue the work that's been started to protect protected classes. There's never enough work done to protect certain people."

Nicholas Stanton,
Castle Hill
(Photo by David Greene)



"When it comes to work, I've had the pleasure of not feeling discriminated against at all. I've worked about eight to ten, maybe twelve jobs and not once can I honestly say I felt discriminated against. But when it comes to finding an apartment, I'm actually looking for a new place to stay right now, I've never had to apply for an apartment so this is new to me, but I can't say for sure."

Christopher Lopez,
Melrose
(Photo by David Greene)



"Absolutely! I'm "Black-tino." My dad is from Trinidad and my mom is Puerto Rican, but I've experienced discrimination from both sides of my family and in school, people make all kinds of snap judgments based on the exterior of my flesh, and it's (expletive) annoying and it's disgusting. I wish we can change this as a society."

Jamil Aziz,
Manhattan resident visiting The Hub
(Photo by David Greene)



"My personal story is an old situation from over thirty years ago. As a realtor, I had one homeowner in Brooklyn about ten years ago tell me to only bring white applicants for his rental apartment. The housing affordability crisis was created by the New York housing administration, and they continue to make it worse. Every time they increase the various voucher programs to make it appealing to homeowners, it becomes the new benchmark for rental apartments. This is the analysis of a majority of the agents who have been in the industry for over fifteen years."

Phill Benn,
Brooklyn
(Photo courtesy of Phill Benn)

Editor's Note: Norwood News reached out to NYC Department of Housing, Preservation & Development (HPD) on Benn's comments and will share any updates we receive.

The Power (and Joy) of Reading

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Latinos Urbanos Book Club and the 4Bronx Project unveiled a new community library box, "Kingsbridge Community Library," outside P.S. 207 on Godwin Terrace in Kingsbridge on Feb. 15.

Laura Levine-Pinedo of the 4Bronx Project, told News 12 The Bronx on the day of the launch, "Power is knowledge and having kids have access to books right here on the sidewalk - anybody can come up, take a book, leave a book - I think it's a big win for the borough."

According to its website, the 4Bronx Project is a community service program focused on supporting the underserved and bringing diversity and inclusion to the community. The concept of free community library boxes has grown steadily in the last decade, driven, no doubt, by the closure in 2016 of the last brick-and-mortar Barnes & Noble bookstore in the borough.

While, fortunately, this is no longer the case, and some physical bookstores like The Lit. Bar in Mott Haven can still be found, they are still few and



Photo courtesy of NYC Health + Hospitals

NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS/JACOBI and North Central Bronx (NCB) representatives gather for the opening of a new library box at its NCB campus in Norwood, in conjunction with Norwood Community Library's Brandon Montes (3rd from right) on Oct. 11, 2023, in the company of State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (center with glasses).

far between. The award-winning "1.5 Million" documentary by Bronx filmmaker, Gregory Hernandez, also co-

founder of Bronx Film 48, chronicles an intimate journey into the borough's literacy crisis, and explores the political

and economic forces that gave rise to it, including lack of access to books.

According to the documentary, as of 2016, only 56% of Bronx high school graduates were college-ready, and 70 percent of South Bronx third grade students were unable to read at their grade level. Meanwhile, NYC Department of Education (DOE) found that children who fail to meet the third-grade benchmark are more likely to drop-out of high school and remain in poverty.

The new Kingsbridge Community Library box launch comes as officials from the nearby Kingsbridge public library announced its reopening on Feb. 14, after closing temporarily in late January for repairs to the building's heating system.

Among many other groups, The Bronx is Reading is an organization that promotes literacy and fosters a love of reading among children, teens, and adults through multidimensional initiatives. These include the annual

(continued on page 10)



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

Opinion

Preserving Woodlawn: A Stand Against Overdevelopment

By WILLIAM MURRAY

On Monday, Feb. 12, the Woodlawn Heights Taxpayers and Community Association gathered at the Rambling House for a critical meeting. The focus of the discussion revolved around the alarming proposal by The City of Yes for Housing Opportunity initiative, developed by NYC Department of City Planning, which lays out potential changes throughout the city that will be significant and could have detrimental effects on the cherished neighborhood of Woodlawn.

Woodlawn, with its unique charm and tranquility, has always been a haven for its residents. The low-density nature of this area is a defining characteristic that sets it apart from the rest of the

city. However, The City of Yes for Housing Opportunity initiative threatens to disrupt this delicate balance by advocating for increased housing in every neighborhood. While the intention may be to address the housing shortage, the potential consequences of such actions cannot be ignored.

Relaxing zoning regulations and allowing uncontrolled commercial development in Woodlawn would result in the destruction of private homes and the loss of the community's distinct identity. The proposed changes would pave the way for high-density buildings and the influx of businesses, fundamentally altering the landscape and atmosphere of our beloved neighborhood. The peace and tranquility that we hold dear would be replaced by increased traffic, noise pollution, and a loss of the close-knit community that makes Woodlawn so special.

It is crucial for residents to unite and oppose these proposals that prioritize housing shortages over the preservation of our neighborhood. We must not be swayed by the promises of increased housing opportunities at the expense of what makes Woodlawn truly unique. The potential consequences of these changes are far-reaching and could irreversibly alter the fabric of our community.

Rather than focusing on accommodating more housing, we should prioritize preserving the character and essence of

Woodlawn. Our neighborhood should not be treated as a testing ground for experimental DCP policies. Instead, we should advocate for responsible and sustainable development that respects the existing low-density nature of Woodlawn.

The Woodlawn Heights Taxpayers and Community Association meeting served as a rallying cry for residents to stand up and protect our neighborhood from overdevelopment. It is in our hands to ensure that Woodlawn remains a haven of tranquility and community spirit.

By actively opposing the DCP proposal and raising awareness among our fellow residents, we can safeguard the future of Woodlawn and preserve its unique charm for generations to come. Additionally, Councilman Eric Di-

nowitz (C.D. 11) was in attendance and agreed that the DCP plan as it stands, he would vote against.

In conclusion, the proposal by The City of Yes for Housing Opportunity initiative may aim to address housing shortages, but the potential consequences for Woodlawn are dire. We must prioritize the preservation of our neighborhood over accommodating more housing. Let us unite as residents and fight against overdevelopment, ensuring that Woodlawn remains the peaceful and cherished community that we know and love.

William Murray is a resident of Woodlawn.

Norwood: Jewelry Store Heist on East 204th Street

By SÍLE MOLONEY

A burglary at a jewelry store located at 286A East 204th Street in Norwood in the early hours of Wednesday, Feb. 21, resulted in the theft of \$1,100 worth of property, police said. Police said the break-in took place at around 5.05 a.m. They reported no injuries, and no description of a suspect(s) was immediately available.

We spoke to the business owner of the Wine & Liquor store located next door to the affected business who had just arrived at work later on Wednesday morning and he said he had called the affected business owner and he had not picked up. However, he said police officers told him later that the jewelry store business owner had been seen in the area on Wednesday morning and was unharmed.

The owner of the liquor store described his business neighbor as being around 50 years old and said like him, he was Asian. Other neighboring business owners did not know anything about what had happened.

One resident later commented that there didn't appear to be much inventory in the jewelry store and that it was not always open every day.

A construction worker chatting with a colleague on the other side of the street (where Foodtown is located) said he didn't know what happened but added, "The people, they are crazy." He added that he often saw people fighting in the street especially around Decatur Avenue and East 204th Street.

We spoke to other local employees in the



Photo by Síle Moloney

POLICE CORDON OFF the street around a jewelry store located at 286A East 204th Street between Bainbridge Avenue and Perry Avenue in the Norwood section of The Bronx on Wednesday morning, Feb. 21, 2024.

neighborhood, but nobody had seen what happened. Year-to-date robberies in the Bronx have increased as of Feb. 18 by 11.9 percent compared to the same period last year (648 v 579). In the 52nd Precinct, year-to-date robberies have increased as of the same date by 35.1 percent (77 v 57).

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

All calls are strictly confidential.

These are the Days

by MICHAEL COLON

These are the days that occurred
A memory bank of experiences we endured
These are the days that are present
A gift of the now that we all inherit
These are the days to be
The future isn't promised to you or me
Every step we take leaves behind footprints linked to centuries
The world is laced with real-time documentaries
Life is a movie that only has one director's cut
There is no acting when the reel stops spinning and our eyes shut
Countless stories numbered by the falling specs of sand
An hourglass of beaches falling from north to south as planned
Death and life dancing to the same song called intimacy
The melody of our origins never ends from once it came originally
Science and religion are in constant debate
Sitting at a lit candle dinner table on a long-lasting date
Wine and blood spill and flow to history's complications
These are the times of new gods and equations
At that moment when man created fire
The smoke from our egos kept rising higher
The sky blocked out in pride and ignorance
The innocent sun is hidden behind what hinders us
Picture-perfect purity can be found in the deepest part of the human heart
Expressing our true feelings is becoming a lost art
The world continues to rotate to bad and goodwill
This race we run on the planet's treadmill
It's not about going fast or slow in this race
It's being a part of it in the first place
While on this Earth what are you going to do?
Let the days go to waste or find something to pursue
Accomplishments are a figment of what we perceive
True happiness is falling deeper in love with what we believe
Eternity is unmeasurable in its context
Forever is found in the freedom of not knowing what's next
The fact we are breathing
Gives us the means to take a lung full of new meaning
These are the days that showed up
New decades are ready to erupt
These are the days of the now
No matter how hard times get, never throw in the towel
These are the days that will always arrive
Take a moment to appreciate that you are alive

Michael Colon is a poet and resident of Pelham Bay, The Bronx

NEWS BRIEFS

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Ice Spice is People's Choice

Rising female Bronx rapper, Ice Spice, took home the 2024 People's Choice Award for New Artist of the Year at the 49th People's Choice Awards held at the Barker Hangar in Santa Monica, California on Sunday, Feb. 19. The Fordham native saw off competition from Coi Leray, Jelly Roll, Jung Kook, Noah Kahan, Peso Pluma, PinkPantheress and Stephen Sanchez.

The rapper also won a second award for Collaboration Song of the Year for "Barbie World," from the motion picture "Barbie," together with Nicki Minaj and Aqua, beating "All My Life," by Lil Durk Feat. J. Cole. Born Isis Naija Gaston on Jan. 1, 2000, according to Wikipedia, the millennial rapper is fast becoming the voice of her generation. She rose to prominence in 2022 with her song "Munch (Feelin' U)," followed by "Bikini Bottom," and "In Ha Mood," from her 2023 EP "Like...?"

The EP also included "Gangsta Boo," featuring Lil Tjay, and "Princess Diana," with Nicki Minaj. She released a remix of the song "Karma" by Taylor Swift with the latter and collaborated with PinkPantheress on "Boy's a Liar Pt. 2." Her 2024 single is called, "Think U the Sh*t (Fart)."

Ice Spice has previously also won the MTV Video Music Award for Best New Artist, the Impact Award at the BMI R&B/Hip-Hop Awards, and received nominations for four Grammy Awards in 2024 including Best New Artist, though she did not take home any on the night.

Missing People

Police said Isamar Yleanesha Abril-Santana, 14, of 2874 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY, was last seen leaving her home on Thursday, Feb. 8, at around 8.50 a.m. They said she is described as female, White, is around 5 feet, 6 inches tall, weighs around 160 pounds, has brown hair and brown eyes. They said she was last seen wearing blue, ripped jeans, a black, hooded sweatshirt, a black jacket, and purple sneakers.

Police are also searching for a 65-year-old man from Fordham Heights, who has also been reported missing. Police said Michael Graham of 2264 Morris Avenue was last seen leaving 1940 Webster Avenue in Mt. Hope on Monday, Feb. 5, at around 2.30 p.m. They said he is described as male, has a dark complexion, weighs around 175 pounds, and is about 5 feet, 11 inches tall.

Anyone with information in regard to this incident is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1-800-577-TIPS (8477) or for Spanish, 1-888-57-PISTA (74782). The public can also submit their tips by

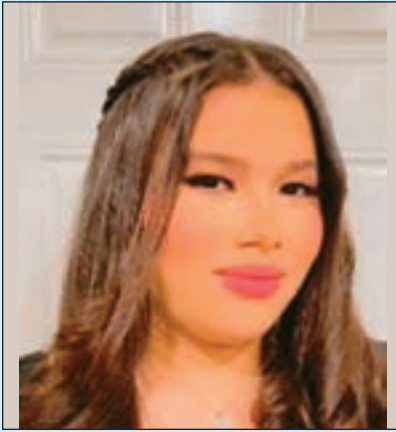


Photo courtesy of the NYPD

ISAMAR YLEANESHA ABRIL-SANTANA



Photo courtesy of the NYPD

MICHAEL GRAHAM

logging onto the Crime Stoppers website at <https://crimestoppers.nypdonline.org/>, or on Twitter @NYPDTips. All calls are strictly confidential.

UnitedHealthcare and Montefiore Health System Strike Deal on Healthcare Plan

UnitedHealthcare and Montefiore Health System (Montefiore) recently reached an agreement which UnitedHealthcare says ensures its members who are enrolled in New York UnitedHealthcare Community Plan (Medicaid), Medicare Advantage, and Group Retiree plans have access to Montefiore's providers and hospitals in New York since Feb. 1.

UnitedHealthcare officials said members with employer-sponsored and individual commercial plans, the Essential Plan, as well as Dual Special Needs Plans (DSNP), will continue to remain "in-network."

They said if a member would like assistance finding a provider or hospital in their local area, they can call the number on their health plan ID card or visit their plan's webpages: myuhc.com, myuhc-medicare.com, retiree.uhc.com for Group Retiree plans, or www.uhc.com/communityplan/new-york.

Bedford Park: Mother, Teen & Child Shot, Man Arrested

(continued from page 3)

the police came at around 5.15 [a.m.] more or less, there was blood seen on the [security] camera. In the camera, nobody was seen leaving. Only the police were seen leaving but they [neighbors] say it was the boyfriend of the victim. I never saw him."

Asked how she felt about the situation, the woman said, "Well, it's very sad. A mother.. you know? A human being who is losing her life for... Nobody in these days has feelings, it seems, to just kill another person, as if it were nothing and it's very sad what happened." Asked if she was aware of any problems like drugs in the building, she said, "I don't think so. I don't know anything."

Norwood News spoke to a cousin of the victim who confirmed she had two children. The cousin, a young man who we met on 203rd Street, who we are not identifying, said he received a

call from another cousin at around 9.40 a.m. on Saturday when he happened to be at the hospital with his own father who he said had been taken in with diabetes issues a few days earlier. He said a male cousin told him about the shooting of their mutual cousin, Bonilla Mejia.

He said, "You heard about that?" but I didn't know anything." The young man said that he thought the male cousin who was calling him was trying to reach his father but as he was hospitalized, he reached him instead.

"And then he told me somebody murdered my cousin. I said, 'What?' He said, 'Yeah, somebody murdered my cousin.' I said, 'Who?' 'They killed her,' [his male cousin said]. They killed her? For what?"

Asked what he thought happened, the young man said, "Right now, man, I don't think nothing. My mind, right now, is like uh.. [gestures that he is traumatized]. I think a lot of things. Why they do to her... why they come and shooting...why they kill her."

Asked if he knew if his cousin had been in a domestic violence situation, he declined to answer directly. He later said, "Why they kill them like that? Why are they shooting? Why? If you got problems with her, why you don't talk to fix the problem? If you don't... why? If you don't want to live with her no more, okay, you can leave or whatever. You don't have to... you don't have to kill somebody too, you know? Yeah and then, I don't know. I don't know. I can't..."

Of his female cousin, the young man then continued,



Photo by Síle Moloney

A TRAIL OF blood is seen along the stairway from an apartment inside 226 East 203rd Street in Bedford Park to the street level on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024, after three people were shot in the early hours of the morning, one fatally.

"Right now, I'm a little shocked because she's a happy girl."

Last year, as reported, two people were hospitalized after a Valentine's Day stabbing on nearby Valentine Avenue. Meanwhile, two people were also arrested for attempted murder following a separate shooting on the block in April 2023.

The Bronx District Attorney's domestic violence unit can be reached on (718) 838 6688 and provides confidential support and services to those affected by domestic violence.

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

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

All calls are strictly confidential.



Photo by Síle Moloney

POLICE GUARD THE entrance to 226 East 203rd Street in Bedford Park on Saturday morning, Feb. 10, 2024.

CRIME FILE

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



Gunman Sought in Bedford Park Shooting

NYPD detectives are looking for the gunman who shot a man in the hand on Marion Avenue in Bedford Park. According to police, the gunfire erupted at 10:20 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 15, when officers from the 52nd Precinct were called to 2700 Marion Avenue, between East 195th Street and East 196th Street, for a report of a person shot.

A police spokesperson told *Norwood News*, "Upon arrival of police to the location, a 32-year-old male reported that he was engaged in a dispute with an unknown male in front of the location." He added, "The unknown individual displayed a black firearm and shot him in the right hand."

Police said EMS transported the still-identified victim to St. Barnabas Hospital, where he was reported to be in "stable" condition. Police have reported no arrests and although there is a camera in front of the building, they said no suspect description was available. *Norwood News* reached out to the Dream Reality Corporation, believed to be the building's property manager. We did not receive an immediate response.



Photo by David Greene

AN NYPD POLICE officer watches over the crime scene after a 32-year-old man was shot in the hand outside of 2700 Marion Avenue in Bedford Park on Monday, January 15, 2024.



Fordham Manor: Person Sought for Stabbing inside Home

The NYPD is asking for the public's assistance identifying the person seen in the accompanying photo above who they say is sought in connection to an assault that occurred in Fordham

Manor. Police said that on Monday, Feb. 12, at around 00.25 a.m., the victim, a 29-year-old woman, got into a verbal dispute with another person inside 384 East 194th Street.

They said that during the dispute, the second person displayed a knife and allegedly stabbed the victim in the torso, before fleeing on foot westbound on East 194th Street to parts unknown. "The victim was transported to St. Barnabas Hospital in stable condition," police said. They said the person sought is described as female, has a light complexion, dark, long hair, and a slim build. They said she was last seen wearing multi-colored sneakers, black sweatpants, and a black sweatshirt.

Belmont: Harlem Man Dies in Hit & Run, Norwood Man Arrested

A 35-year-old man from Harlem has died following a hit and run in Belmont, police said, and a Norwood man has been arrested in connection with the incident. Police said that on Friday, Feb. 16, at around 7.39 p.m., police responded to a 911 call regarding a vehicle collision at the intersection of East 183rd Street and Park Avenue.

"Upon arrival, officers observed a 35-year-old male conscious and alert," they said. "EMS responded and transported the male victim to St. Barnabas Hospital where he was subsequently pronounced deceased." Police said that further investigation determined that the man had been driving a two-wheeled, gas-powered moped southbound on Park Avenue and had been crossing East 183rd Street when he struck the driver side of a black sedan that had been traveling eastbound on East 183rd Street.

They said the driver of the sedan did not remain at the scene. "The vehicle was last seen making a right turn onto Washington Avenue from East 183rd Street," police said. The investigation remained ongoing by the NYPD Highway District's Collision Investigation Squad (CIS), and they later confirmed that pursuant to an ongoing investigation, Emilio Galvan, 25, of Hull Avenue in Norwood was arrested on Saturday, Feb. 17, at noon. The deceased has been identified as Williams Cruz, 35, of West 144th Street in Harlem.

Police said Galvan was charged with leaving the scene of an accident and driving a motor vehicle without insurance. With CIS investigations, the NYPD handles all criminal aspects of the investigation, while NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) reviews the street design at the locations of such crashes.

Norwood: One Sought in Gang Robbery

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the people seen in the accompanying top right image who they say are sought in connection to a robbery that occurred in Norwood. Police said that on Sunday, Jan. 28, at around



3 a.m., a 42-year-old male victim was in the vicinity of 3599 Bainbridge Avenue when five as-yet unidentified males approached him. They said the group, acting in concert, pushed the victim to the ground and stole his wallet and sneakers.

They said the five then fled on foot, southbound on Bainbridge Avenue and the victim sustained minor injuries and did not seek medical attention on scene.

Norwood Break-In

On Thursday, Feb. 8, police said at around 12.41 p.m. at 3320 Reservoir East in Norwood, police received a 911 call from a person who said a trespasser broke into the living room window of her apartment in the residential building. Police said it seems the resident was out of the country at the time of the break-in and may have seen the trespasser enter the apartment on a security camera.

They said officers intercepted the male trespasser and added that the victim told them the person who broke in was not allowed to be there. They said no property was removed and the female resident declined to press charges. We asked the police press office if the tres-

passer was known to the victim, and they said this was not clear.

The following evening, Feb. 9, at around 7 p.m., around four separate police vehicles were seen patrolling the Williamsbridge Oval after dark. One middle-aged man who was in the park walking his dog on Friday evening told *Norwood News* he had noticed additional police presence in the park since Monday, Feb. 5, after dark.

Norwood News contacted the NYPD that evening to ask if there was a particular reason for the extra police presence in the Reservoir Oval and a spokesperson said they could not really say but added there was no record of any specific incident ongoing in the Oval at that time.

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.nypd-online.org/>, on Twitter @NYPDTips. All calls are strictly confidential.

Kingsbridge Shooting Victim "Never had a Father or Mother, Tried to Survive"

By DAVID GREENE

As a group of young men continued a vigil for their friend for a third day on Feb. 10 outside FM Candy and Grocery Corp in Kingsbridge Heights, residents of NYCHA's Bailey Houses, located on Heath Avenue in Fordham Manor, also remembered resident, Hasan Richburg, 26, who was shot multiple times outside the Kingsbridge store, located at 131 West Kingsbridge Road, on Thursday, Feb. 8. He later died of his injuries.

Police have since arrested a 46-year-old man in connection with the incident, which they said occurred at around 10.56 a.m. After responding to a 911 call, they said, upon arrival, officers from the 50th Precinct discovered the man lying on the street with multiple gunshot wounds to the torso.

They said he was transported by EMS to St. Barnabas Hospital, where he was later pronounced deceased. News 12 The Bronx said a witness reported seeing him try to run a few doors down the block from the location before falling in front of Caridad restaurant.

One female employee of a local store said a resident reported seeing emergency staff attempting to carry out CPR on the victim as they lifted him into a waiting ambulance.

On Feb. 14, police said that pursuant to an ongoing investigation, Deshaun Coleman, 46, of Sedgwick Avenue in Kingsbridge Heights, was arrested at 8.15 a.m. in The Bronx. They said he was charged with murder and criminal possession of a weapon.

(continued on page 11)

VIOLENCE INTERVENTION & PREVENTION (VIP) PROGRAM

975 Kelly Street Suite 401 Bronx, NY 10459

WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?

Elder Abuse, the mistreatment or harming of an older person, is an injustice that we all need to prevent and address.



- Physical
- Emotional/ Psychological
- Financial
- Sexual
- Neglect

FACTS ABOUT ELDER ABUSE

- About 1 in 10 Americans age 60+ have experienced abuse.
- Without decent health care and public resources, our population becomes more at risk for abuse as we age.
- The impact of elder abuse is felt by people of all ages.
- Elder abuse also reduces older people's participation in the life of our communities.
- Elder abuse creates health care and legal costs that are often carried by public programs like Medicare and Medicaid.



ABOUT US

We provide FREE services and supports designed to promote elder justice by helping them to navigate systems and ensure their safety within the home and their community.



OUR SERVICES

- Advocacy
- Safety planning
- Information & Referral
- Supportive Counseling
- Assistance with Order of Protection & Evictions
- Crisis Intervention
- Security Lock Installation
- Educational Workshops, and more



**FOR INFORMATION AND REFERRALS
PLEASE CALL (718)542-0006 OR EMAIL
US AT INFO@NSHOPP.ORG**



SHOPP Elder Justice Program is Funded by the NYC Department for the Aging (DFTA)

PROGRAMA DE INTERVENCIÓN Y PREVENCIÓN DE LA VIOLENCIA (VIP)

975 Kelly Street Suite 401 Bronx, NY 10459

¿QUÉ ES EL ABUSO DE ANCIANOS?

Abuso de ancianos, el maltrato o daño a una persona mayor, es una injusticia que todos debemos prevenir y ayudar.



- Físico
- Emocional/Psicológico
- Financiero
- Sexual
- Negligencia

DATOS SOBRE EL ABUSO DE ANCIANOS

- Aproximadamente 1 de cada 10 adultos mayores de 60 años ha experimentado abuso.
- Sin atención médica decente y recursos públicos, nuestra población corre más riesgo de abuso a medida que envejece.
- El impacto del abuso de ancianos lo sienten personas de todas las edades.
- El abuso de ancianos también reduce la participación de las personas mayores en la vida de nuestras comunidades.
- El abuso de ancianos genera costos legales y de atención de la salud que a menudo corren a cargo de programas públicos como Medicare y Medicaid.



SOBRE NOSOTROS

Ofrecemos servicios y apoyo GRATUITO diseñado en promoción de la justicia para personas mayores, ayudándolos a navegar los sistemas y seguridad en su hogar y su comunidad



NUESTROS SERVICIOS

- Apoyo y defensa
- Planificación de la seguridad
- Información y Referidos
- Consejería a corto plazo
- Asistencia con orden de protección y desalojos
- Intervención en Crisis
- Instalación de Cerraduras
- Presentaciones educativas, y mucho más...



**PARA MÁS INFORMACION O HACER UN
REPORTE, LLÁMENOS AL (718) 542-0006
O ENVÍENOS UN CORREO ELECTRÓNICO A
INFO@NSHOPP.ORG**



El Programa de Justicia para Adultos Mayores de SHOPP está financiado por el Departamento para Personas Mayores (DFTA) de la ciudad de Nueva York



Letters To The Editor

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

Federal Assistance for New York City

NYC Mayor Eric Adams, just like all his predecessors, went hat in hand to Albany requesting billions more from the governor and State legislature. There is an alternative to this annual pilgrimage. Remember the team of Norman Mailer for Mayor and Jimmy Breslin for NYC Council President in the 1969 Democratic mayoral primary? They advocated making NYC the 51st state.

This idea was based upon the historic imbalance of tax dollars going to both Al-

bany and Washington versus how much state and federal assistance is received and accompanied by excessive unfunded mandates and spending requirements. Year after year, for decades, the Big Apple has sent billions more to both Albany and Washington than the financial assistance it receives in return.

Two U.S. senators could also ensure a more equitable return of federal assistance to NYC. Mailer and Breslin may have been ahead of their time.

Larry Penner
Great Neck

Shame on the Bronx City Council Members

Allow me to wake up my fellow Bronxites, especially those in my be-

loved Norwood area. The Democrats are killing our city and country. Only one Republican Bronx Councilwoman voted against the How Many Stops Act and the Solitary Confinement bill, a hero, Kristy Marmorato. Every police and correction officer was against this bill but yet the Democrats ignored their concerns.

Council Members Diana Ayala, Rafael Salamanca, Jr., Eric Dinowitz, Kevin C. Riley, Pierina Ana Sanchez, Oswald Feliz, Althea Stevens, and Amanda Farias all voted in favor of the bill in December and for Tuesday's override vote. Ayala, whose district includes parts of the South Bronx, was one of the bill's sponsors.

I expected more from Dinowitz and thought he would break away from

the ilk of his political party, but I was wrong. He is of the same cloth. Let me make this clear; if you have children, grandchildren, a business, or simply live in The Bronx, you cannot vote for any Democratic candidate.

Richard Marias,
Norwood

Please send all letters to the editor, along with supporting hyperlinked sources, to norwoodnews@norwood-news.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.

The Power (and Joy) of Reading

(continued from page 4)

Bronx Book Festival, the Bronx is Reading Literacy Program, monthly book club meetings, and pop up and online stores. The first Bronx Book Festival was held on Fordham Plaza in May 2018 and aims to promote literacy and foster a love of reading among children, teens, and adults.

As reported, Brandon Montes of Norwood Community Library's grab-and-go library system previously told *Norwood News* he'd been doing whatever he could to informally share books with the community through pop-up book events since 2019. In July 2021, the Norwood Community Library's first community library box was opened outside the Keeper's House on the Reservoir Oval in Norwood.

In October 2023, Montes opened the library's second library box at Norwood's North Central Bronx Hospital, located at 3424 Kossuth Avenue. "A good book has the power to stay with you for a lifetime," Montes said at the time. "I wanted to help my whole neighborhood experience that feeling."

Other groups like Bronx Bound Books took the alternate library concept further amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Founder, Latanya DeVaughn, drove around the borough in a mobile bus library, similar to what NYPL had done during school and public library building renovations.

The mobile buses allow kids climb aboard and choose a book of their liking. The initiative was so successful, DeVaughn began operating a book kiosk inside Baychester's Mall at Bay Plaza in October 2023, with plans now afoot to build a permanent brick-and-



Photo courtesy of Latinos Urbanos Book Club

LATINOS URBANOS BOOK Club and the 4Bronx Project unveil a new "Kingsbridge Community Library" box outside P.S. 207 on Godwin Terrace in Kingsbridge on Feb. 15, 2024.

mortar store in 2024 via a GoFundMe initiative.

Latinos Urbanos Book Club has also partnered with Norwood Community Library visiting various City schools in recent months, handing out backpacks filled with school supplies and books donated by the community library. The club are also funded by donations from associations affiliated with renowned Puerto Rican rapper, Bad Bunny. One of their recent Bronx giveaways was at M.S. 244 The New School for Leadership and the Arts in Kingsbridge Heights.

Books in different languages are still much needed. In 2019, Dr. Joan Kong, principle of P.S. X11 in Highbridge, said English was not the primary language for many of the school's students. "They are coming to us not knowing the language," she said. "Our libraries are de-

prived of those types of resources."

Kong's long-held belief in the power of education led her and her colleagues to campaign for better library services for the school, in the belief that when a real library is provided to kids, it instills in them not only a love of reading but a life-long research skill.

Another player who advocates for literacy across the borough is Bronx poet and spoken word artist, Lorraine Currelley. Executive director of both the Bronx Book Fair and the Poets Network & Exchange, Currelley leads a group of fellow word lovers on a mission to expand literacy in The Bronx, providing workshops for writers and promoting storytelling by underrepresented groups in the literary world.

Currelley told *Norwood News* in 2020, "We need to address the issues affecting

our community, like obesity, hypertension, and other health issues," she said. "We need to utilize resources to bring attention to mental health issues. We don't want to be just a literary group."

With more and more community libraries popping up around the borough, hopefully the next generation of readers will continue to be equipped to do just that.

New York Public Library provides a range of free services and events in addition to library services. Check out our regular Out & About listing on www.norwoodnews.org for details of upcoming events. For more information on the Bronx Book Fair, visit <https://www.facebook.com/BronxBookFair>, and for more information on the Bronx Book Festival 2024, visit <https://www.thebronxisreading.com/>.

Out & About

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

EVENTS

To mark **Black History Month**, Woodlawn Conservancy, 4199 Webster Avenue, Bronx, NY 10470-2471, is hosting a Trolley Tour on Sunday, Feb. 25, at noon given by New York City-based independent historian and author, Eric K. Washington. Visitors will tour the gravesites and memorials of Woodlawn's African-American and Afro-Caribbean notables. Honor the legacies of such trailblazers as international star, Florence Mills, America's first Black female self-made millionaire, Madam CJ Walker, supervisor of Grand Central's "Red Cap" railroad porters, James H. Williams, and jazz giant, Duke Ellington, among many others.

PHOTOGRAPHY

The Black Photographers Collective Exhibition: Black Life is showing at The Point CDC, 940 Garrison Avenue, Bronx, NY 10474. A closing event will be held on March 8, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

ART

Self-Portrait Painting classes will be held at Woodlawn Heights Public Library, 4355 Katonah Avenue, on Saturdays, March 9, 16, 23 and 30, from 11 a.m. to noon. Explore your identity by making a self-portrait with acrylic on canvas. Learn techniques in drawing and painting.

MUSIC

Join the **Name that Tune** event at the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, 3225 Reservoir Oval East, Norwood, The Bronx, on Friday, Feb. 23, from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. If you love music and singing, come and join this free event. All ages are welcome to guess the

names of some of today's most popular hits.

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Park Blvd West Bronx, New York 10468, presents the **Sing and Swing** opening with special guest Jimmy Bosch Salsa Masters on Sunday, Feb. 25, at 4 p.m., featuring Bria Skonberg and Benny Benack III. This new and highly anticipated touring project celebrates the Great American Songbook in all of its playful and sophisticated glory. Re-imagine some of the classic partners in jazz and popular song, including Ella Fitzgerald, Judy Garland and Bing Crosby, and Dean Martin and Peggy Lee. The show features songs by Gershwin, Ellington, Cole Porter, Irving Berlin and many more. Visit <https://www.lehmancenter.org/events/jazz-at-lehman> for more information and to buy tickets.

MOVEMENT

NYC Parks and New York Knicks

(MSG Sports New York Knicks) are hosting an **All-Girls Basketball Clinic** at Kwame Ture Recreation Center, 1527 Jesup Avenue, Bronx, NY 10452, to mark National Girls and Women in Sports Day, and Women's History Month on Saturday, March 2, from 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. Girls aged 8 to 17 will participate in a series of skills and drills led by New York Knicks Youth development coaches. The event is free and open to the public. Online registration is required as space is limited. Registration is ongoing until Feb. 29, at 11:59 p.m. For more information, call (332) 207-3647 or email Ronald.Lashley@parks.nyc.gov. Recreation Center Membership is free for youth and young adults ages 24 and under. For more information visit nyc.gov/parks. Contact accessibility@parks.nyc.gov or (212) 360-1430 for more information regarding accessibility.

Kingsbridge Shooting Victim "Never had a Father or Mother, Tried to Survive"

(continued from page 8)

On Saturday, Feb. 10, *Norwood News* visited Bailey Houses and spoke to several residents who had watched the young man grow up there. One woman who declined to be identified was sitting with another woman outside the building, where another makeshift memorial of candles and photographs had been left by residents in tribute to the latest young victim of gun violence. The woman recalled, "He was a good kid. He never bothered anyone in this building."

The woman continued, "When he was younger, he lived with his mom and dad and his three brothers. They were wonderful people and he never, never got nasty with anyone here. He was so respectful around his neighbors."

Asked if people in the building had heard about the circumstances around the shooting of Richburg, the second woman, who also declined to be identified, said she heard he had sought refuge inside the FM Candy and Grocery, while the first woman added, "Going in, they shot him in the back and when he turned around, they finished him off."

Another male resident who also declined to be identified said he had known Richburg

while he lived in the building for the last 15 years. "Most of the time I didn't see him much because he was in prison," the resident said. He added that he did not know why Richburg was in prison, saying, "It wasn't for anything good."

"I think he was in some kind of gang," the resident continued. "I think he quit the gang because he tried to find a job and he was doing good the last couple of weeks." *Norwood News* reached out to City and State authorities for details of any prior arrests / convictions for Richburg. We did not receive an immediate response.

The same resident also alleged a relative of Richburg's was currently in jail and sympathized, noting that both parents of the victim died years ago. The resident said he felt very sorry for Richburg because he said it was not his fault. He added, "He never had a father or mother and he tried to survive."

Norwood News visited the FM Candy and Grocery Store on Feb. 10 and was told no video of the shooting was available, although a camera was seen outside the store.

The shooting may have been the first for 2024 in the 50th Precinct. Data from the NYPD shows that as of Feb. 4, there were zero year-to-date shootings in 50th Precinct, the same as last year. The pre-

cinct broadly covers the neighborhoods of Kingsbridge, Marble Hill, Fieldston, Riverdale and Spuyten Duyvil, as well as Van Cortlandt Park.

Unfortunately, that overview for the 50th Precinct is not reflective of the situation when it comes to shootings in the borough as a whole. As of Feb. 4, there were 24 shootings in The Bronx this year, according to NYPD data, up from 22 during the same period last year. Meanwhile, 29 victims had been shot as of the same date across the borough, compared to 27 during the same period last year.

According to the NYPD, as of Feb. 8 and since Jan. 1, 2022, 14,218 guns have been removed from New York City streets, 628 of those since Jan. 1, 2024. Coleman is deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

**Sile Moloney contributed to this story.*



Photo by David Greene

AN UNDATED PHOTO of Hasan Richburg, 26, who was shot and killed at 131 West Kingsbridge Road in Kingsbridge Heights on Thursday, February 8, 2024, is seen as part of a photo collage tribute to the young man seen outside Bailey Houses in Fordham Manor on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

Join Your Local Community Board

The Community Board application period is still live, and the Office of the Bronx Borough President is encouraging eligible candidates, 16 years or older, to apply to have a say in their community. They say joining a local community board is one of the most direct forms of democracy in New York City and can have a tremendous impact on a neighborhood. To apply before March 1, in English or in Spanish, visit https://form.jotform.com/nyc_cb/2024-bronx-community-boards.

Community Input Needed for Poe Park

NYC Department of Parks & Recreation will be hosting a Community Input Meeting for the reconstruction of Poe Park Playground on Wednesday, Feb. 28, at 6 p.m. via Zoom. Register at <https://www.nycgovparks.org/reg/community-input-meetings/14760/register>.

Deadline Approaching for 3K and Pre-K Program

The upcoming deadline for New

York City's 3K and Pre-K program is fast approaching and according to City officials, there are still seats available. The New York City Child Care Resource and Referral (NYC CCR&R) Consortium wants to make sure parents take advantage of the opportunity. Due March 1, families are encouraged to apply to the free, full-day 3K and Pre-K program, which is available for children born in 2020 or 2021. Officials said the 3K and Pre-K systems have great teachers eager to help children develop important skills such as taking turns and learning shapes, letters and numbers. To sign up, parents should visit <https://my-schools.nyc/en/>.

BOEDC Offers Grant Opportunity to Small Businesses

Applications are open with the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation (BOEDC) its BX-Factor grants, specifically designed to support promising local businesses that have faced challenges in securing necessary funding for growth and sustainability. BOEDC official said the BX-Factor is about more than just financial assis-

tance. It's a competition that will showcase the entrepreneurial spirit of The Bronx. The top five applicants will be invited to participate in a pitch competition during Bronx Week for a chance to win a \$10,000 cash prize.

They said the competition is not only about the monetary reward but also an opportunity to present innovative business ideas and gain exposure. The selection process will focus on how well applicants propose to utilize the award to benefit their business and, in turn, the local community. The deadline to apply for the grant is March 15 and finalists will be notified by April 15. To apply, visit <https://www.bxedc.org/bx-factor>.

Affordable Housing Lotteries

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

- 3001 Grand Concourse in Bedford Park with a deadline of April 3
- 1160 River Avenue in the Concourse with a deadline of Feb 22
- 909 East 229th Street in Wakefield with a deadline of March 5
- 1819 Sedgwick Avenue in Morris Heights with a deadline of Feb. 26
- 2270 Bronx Park East Apartments in Allerton with a deadline of March 1
- 710 East 215th Street Apartments in Williamsbridge with a deadline of Feb. 27

HPD frequently extends the announced deadlines. Visit <https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/search-lotteries> for more information.

Water Service Interruption

NYC Department of Design & Construction is advising residents that there will be a water service interruption on Thursday, Feb. 22, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Hennessy Place between West Burnside Avenue and 179th Street and on West Burnside Avenue from Hennessy Place to Loring Place South.

Bronx Higher Education College Fair

In partnership with our Bronx Higher Education Task Force, the Office of the Bronx Borough President is hosting a Bronx Higher Education College Fair on March 7 at Bronx Community College. Perspective students will speak to representatives from various

Bronx colleges and universities, obtain information on financial aid and scholarships, and learn more about workforce development and degree programs. Register at https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=SZq9UmV1jEe8Qnf9cOtdxD4UVuwLRKxIo07uQ_a7v8BUN1hNTkxFOFRKU1gzOE5Z-SjNLMjY0VvhdNS4u.

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 Moshulu Parkway North, and on East 211th Street between Hull Avenue and Perry Avenue in Norwood.

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/page/register-vote> to register to change party affiliation.

Summer Internship Programs

The Bronx Defenders are hiring interns. Apply at bxd.pub/jobs.

The Office of the New York City Comptroller is also running a paid summer internship program from June 3 to Aug. 1, 28 hours per week. The application period is open and ends on Feb. 23. To apply, visit <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/jobs/summer-internship-program>.

Bronx Speak-Up Event

The 30th Bronx Parks Speak-Up event takes place on Saturday, Feb. 24, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Lehman College Faculty Dining Room, Music Building, 250 Bedford Park Blvd W, Bronx, NY 10468, in conjunction with Con Edison, Partnership for Parks, Bronx Council for Environmental Quality and BCPGS. Visit www.bronxspakeup.org for more details.

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

Guy's heart stopped twice. Back coaching days later.

"I technically died, and here I am. I'm incredibly lucky. I could not have been in better hands."

—Guy Monseair, City Island Rowing Coach

"We had an immediate critical decision to make in the race to save Guy's life. We decided to proceed with emergent quadruple coronary artery bypass surgery despite Guy's swollen and weak heart resulting from his acute heart attack and cardiac arrest. There are very few health systems in the country with the knowledge base and the skill that we have at Montefiore Einstein for managing these kinds of complex life-threatening conditions."

—Robert Michler, MD
Surgeon-in-Chief and Chair, Surgery and
Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery
Montefiore Einstein

See Guy's story at montefiore.org/guy



Montefiore Einstein





**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 virtually via Zoom on Thursday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m. The meeting ID is 833 0402 4531 and the password is 64 68 62. Call the 52nd Precinct Community Affairs office at (718) 220-5824 to be added to the email distribution list.

The next **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7 (CB7)** general board meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 27, at 6.30 p.m. at Bronx Business Tech Incubator, 3rd Fl., 2501 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10468. Contact KCabreraCarrera@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list. All meetings are in person unless otherwise notified by Bronx CB7.

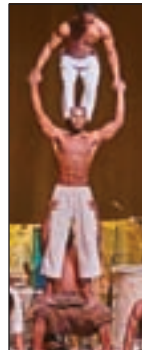
The next **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8** full board [executive] meeting will be held in March [date TBC]. Contact BX08@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list.

The next **BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** meeting will be held on Wednesday, March. 6, 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.

CORRECTION

In the page 2 story entitled “Family & Friends Remember Cecilia ‘Ceci’ Greene” published in the *Norwood News* edition dated Feb. 8 to Feb. 21, 2024, the following quote, “Greene and her schoolmates protested the Nazis by going deep into the woods and shouting ‘WE HATE HITLER!’” was incorrectly attributed to Malcolm Greene instead of Jay Hauben.

Additionally, no autopsy was conducted on Cecilia Greene, though it was referenced in a later part of the story. Malcolm Greene, Cecilia’s son, said that the medical examiner told him he concluded the highest probability in terms of the cause of death was a hypertension-related cardiac event, and that he, the medical examiner, didn’t believe an autopsy was necessary. We apologize for these errors.



Photos by Miriam Quiñones

PERFORMERS FROM THE “Afrique en Cirque” show by Yamoussa Bangoura, inspired by daily life in Guinea, showcased their talents at The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts in Bedford Park on Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024. The show comprised acrobatics executed through gravity-defying moves set to contemporary sounds of live Afro-Jazz, percussion, and kora.



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.langsampropertieservices.com

Love In The Bronx

(continued from page 1)

said. Asked how she and Octavio met, she said, "I was in university in Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic, studying to become a teacher and that's where we met, and from then on....."

We asked what was the secret that has kept them together for 45 years. "Understanding," she said. In terms of the qualities her husband possesses that she appreciates, Maria Altagracia said, "Oh, he's a person who gives me my freedom. I don't have any problems to go out." Her sister added, "He trusts her."

We also asked what quality she first saw in Octavio that made her fall in love with him. "He's a workhorse," Maria Altagracia replied. "He's honorable and honest."

Later we spoke to Omari and Tayler who are both over 18, are friends, but not in a relationship. We asked for their thoughts on what makes for a good relationship these days. Omari said, "I would say communication." Tayler agreed. "Respect, loyalty, trust," she added. Omari added, "You have to trust your partner. You have to trust that they'll respect you when you're not around."

Asked what was the first thing that attracted them to other people, Omari said, "I would say looks, I'm not gonna lie." Tayler, meanwhile, replied, "I'd say personality or if a person's funny."

We asked if, in their opinion, they felt having common interests e.g. in sports or music was a good basis for a relationship. They both agreed but were not completely sold on the idea. Asked if they have been in relationships already, Omari was more vocal in his affirmative response. We also asked what the best part was about being in a relationship. Omari said, "I would say being able to do something that you enjoy with somebody else."

The alternate "Galentine's Day," popularized by the TV series "Parks & Recreation," is marked by some single people in February who perhaps feel

a bit out of sorts when it comes to the pressures of Valentine's Day, but still wish to mark the occasion in some way among friends.

Mary Kennedy, a resident of Norwood who is originally from Sydney, Australia, told *Norwood News*, "I think I'm past feeling out of sorts. Like, I just feel blessed with my life in general." With one marriage now over, Kennedy said, "Sometimes, you've got to walk through the fire to get to a better place and so, I've found myself in a beautiful apartment. I keep in touch with friends from Australia. My neighbors in the building are gorgeous. I've struck up some really beautiful friendships."

She continued, "My neighbors and I started this nice tradition of cocktail parties, fine dining with my mixology course [the creation and innovation of cocktails]. Kennedy works as a nurse in Manhattan. "I've struck up a couple of solid friendships with nurses, so I just think that I'm pretty content," she said.

We asked if she had witnessed a lot of love firsthand in her capacity as a nurse during the pandemic when so many were saying goodbye to loved ones on a regular basis. "Unfortunately, some of them didn't get to say goodbye," she said. "Remember that it was pre-vaccine so it was very scary."

She added, "I work in emergency psych now so it's the ER part but psychiatric. Prior to that, I was on the unit. The sad thing is those nurses really suffered. Some died, you know? Some got really sick. Actually, quite a few nurses on my unit got sick. What was sad was just the ambulance bays..... just full of bodies. They were just, like, overflowing."

Kennedy said it was sad when people died and didn't have their loved ones with them. "That's terrible. When they drew their last breath, they weren't...." she said, without finishing her sentence.

We mentioned how from the outside, the public was led to believe nurses were doing their best to step in, fill the void, and stay with patients in their



OMARI, 18, TALKS to *Norwood News* about love and relationships on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, 2024.



MARY KENNEDY, A Norwood resident who is originally from Sydney, Australia, talks to *Norwood News* about love and relationships on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, 2024.

final hours. "I mean, I hope so.....depending on how busy it was," Kennedy said. "I mean they would have been with them for sure, but whether they would have been holding their hand and really present, *really* present, when they were taking their last breaths... I don't know."

The Aussie native said she was also happy to have developed some good friendships within the chess community even though after her marriage broke up, she initially felt a bit ostracized from that community. Her ex-husband is a prominent chess master.

"It just kind of happened naturally, organically," she said of those friendships. "It didn't happen immediately. It took a couple of years, but then those friendships are beautiful, and even in the Bronx, there's a lot of potential within the chess community. A friend of mine actually teaches chess in an assisted living [complex] in Bronxwood."

We mentioned how chess has been popularized in recent years by the Netflix series, "The Queen's Gambit," and how NYPL and the Bronx borough president have been organizing chess classes and contests for kids. "That's cool," Kennedy said. "I wish there was more stuff like that for adults. I never really got into chess until we broke up because the marriage was so stressful,

which is ridiculous."

She continued, "So, Valentine's Day is fine. I think it's beautiful for those people who want to, like, celebrate something special. To me, it is nothing negative. It's just a day of love as far as I'm concerned." Kennedy added that she had even received some cute messages from two chess playing friends who called her to wish her a happy Valentine's Day. "Like, I don't feel lonely, and it would take a lot for me to want to get into a romantic relationship again," she said. "I'm pretty fussy."

We asked if she had any advice for younger people entering into relationships in 2024. Referencing another prior relationship, Kennedy said, "My official advice would be no matter how charming or charismatic..... it's very hard though when you're young. You don't always take advice to heart. You have to learn your own lessons, but my advice would be, if I had kids, I'd be making them very wary about anyone who had a temper, and how they channel their anger. Now, I'm very much aware of that."

She concluded, "My radar is so finely tuned [now]. So, I would say anyone who's quick to anger, has a temper, and if they've ever had any history of laying hands on anyone, especially a woman, like, just don't go there."

Fun in the Snow despite Tech Glitch

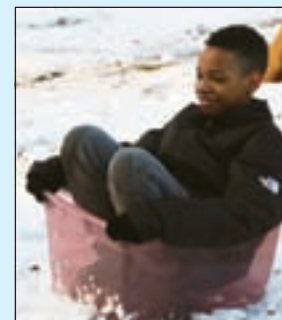
By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

When public schools closed on Tuesday, Feb. 13, due to forecasted snowfall of 5-8 inches, despite years of virtual homeschool learning amid the pandemic, for many Bronx parents, getting back online again did not go as smoothly as they had hoped. A social media message from NYC Department of Education at 8.22 a.m. read, "We are currently experiencing issues with services that require IBM authentication to login. We are actively working with IBM to resolve. We will

provide an update as soon as possible."

Around an hour later, the following update was provided, "UPDATE: IBM has added capacity and improvements are rolling out across the system. For context, IBM provides support to validate NYCPS users logging in to NYCPS systems (Single Sign On) and verifying the username and password."

However, once the school day was over, for the kids, it was all about getting out and enjoying the snow while it lasted.



Photos by Síle Moloney

LOCAL KIDS HAVE fun on makeshift sleighs and building snowmen, some with the help of their parents, in the Williamsbridge Oval Park in Norwood on Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024.

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