



# NORWOOD NEWS

Vol 37, No 7 • PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION • APRIL 4-17, 2024

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE [WWW.NORWOODNEWS.ORG](http://WWW.NORWOODNEWS.ORG)**

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

## FUTURE OF VCJC STILL UNCERTAIN



Photo by David Greene

**VAN CORTLANDT JEWISH** Center, seen here on Sunday, Feb. 25, 2024, has been located at 3880 Sedgwick Avenue in Van Cortlandt Village for the last 60 years and its management is currently in negotiations with a private developer to sell the building.

**By SÍLE MOLONEY & DAVID GREENE**

The future of Van Cortlandt Jewish Center (VCJC), as well as the many programs it provides, continues to remain in jeopardy as its representatives negotiate with a developer to

sell the property, along with a private home the center owns on the block. Simultaneously, community residents, congregants, and users of VCJC are hoping the center's management will listen to their concerns and how its potential closure would

leave a void in the community. According to its website, VCJC was established in 1927 and for the past 60 years has been located at 3880 Sedgwick Avenue, between Stevenson Place and Van Cortlandt Avenue West in the Van Cortlandt

Village section of The Bronx.

Besides being a house of worship for VCJC's Jewish congregation, the building also serves as an older adult center operated by the nonprofit, JASA, and as an early child-  
*(continued on page 15)*



**Former Cop Gets 5+ Years for Helping Murderer Flee U.S.**  
pg 4



**Fordham Anti-Gun Violence Rally held after Boy, 2, Shot**  
pg 8



**Get Your Free Solar Eclipse Glasses at NYPL | pg 15**

# RASKIN & KREMINS, LLP

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

[www.raskrem.com](http://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. 7

Norwood News is published  
biweekly 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](mailto:norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org)

Web.: [www.norwoodnews.org](http://www.norwoodnews.org)

## Publisher

Mosholu Preservation Corporation

## Editor-In-Chief, Norwood News

Sile Moloney

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

## Reporter

Ariel Pacheco

## Regular Contributors

David Greene, Miriam Quiñones

## Contributor

Raisha Hernandez

**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.



# Norwood: Woman & 7 Men Arrested for Alleged Drug, Gun Possession & Child Endangerment

By SILE MOLONEY

Seven men and one woman were arrested and charged with various offenses including criminal drug and weapon possession, following a police raid on a Hull Avenue home in the Norwood section of the Bronx on Wednesday night, March 27, police said.

An NYPD spokesperson said that at around 10.04 p.m. on the night in question, officers from the 52nd Precinct responded to a 911 call regarding a person who had a firearm at the Hull Avenue home, located between East 207th and East 209th Street.

“Upon arrival, officers observed a 24-year-old male with a firearm,” the spokesperson said. “Officers pursued the male into a basement apartment of the location where he is apprehended.” Police said a 22-year-old male was also taken into custody after attempting to leave the location with a gun.

They said the execution of a search warrant gave rise to the discovery in the basement apartment of two additional guns and a large quantity of a controlled substance and that six people were later arrested and charged in addition to the initial two.

Police said Hector Desousa-Villalta, a 24-year-old man, Javier Alborno, a 22-year-old man, Yoessy Pino Castillo, a 20-year-old woman, Yerbin Lozado-Munoz, a 25-year-old man, Yojaire Martinez, a 42-year-old man, Miguel Vaamondes-Barrios, a 31-year-old man, Jefferson Orlando Abreau, a 39-year-old man, and Johan Cardenas Silva, a 35-year-old man, were each charged with criminal possession of a weapon, criminal possession of a controlled substance and acting in a manner injurious to a child.

The two-story structure appears to be a multi-unit, residential home and there were still some people seemingly living in the building on April 1, though we were unsuccessful in our attempts to speak with them. According to NYC Department of Finance records, it is a two-family dwelling.

The NYPD later said of the guns and drugs recovered at the location, “[Four] less guns on NYC streets thanks to NY Finest. Officers from the @NYPD52Pct in the Bronx recently responded to a dispute with a gun. As a result of their swift response & brief investigation, 4 illegal firearms, ammo, & narcotics were safely recovered & 8 arrests were made.”

In an interview with Pix11 News, NYPD Chief of Patrol John Chell, who was also joined by NYPD Deputy Commissioner Tarik Sheppard, said of the raid, “Well, it was a 911 call for a person with a firearm. Our 52 Precinct personnel show up, and we quickly engage one person with a gun, chase him into a basement apartment. In that basement apartment, [...] engages with a second male with a second gun. We extract them, make the arrest and we do a search warrant on the location.”

Chell continued, “We find two additional guns, one being a ghost gun. We find ketamine narcotics, which is used to enhance narcotics. The landlord says they’ve



Photo by Sile Moloney

**POLICE SAID THIS** Hull Avenue home was the subject of a raid by police on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, which resulted in the arrest of eight people on various charges including criminal weapons and drug possession.

been squatting there, and unfortunately, these are also migrants. So why are our cops there a second time arresting people that had an open gun indictment walking the streets? One had an open attempted murder shooting in Yonkers.” He added that the attempted murder was recent.

Chell added, “So this is the problem. We’ve already made these arrests, and our cops are out there on the week of Officer [Jonathan] Diller’s death, Detective Diller’s death now, confronting evil a second time. They shouldn’t be in that situation. We have to have a discussion as to why they were out of jail.”

On the topic of recidivism, Chell was asked who the NYPD needed to speak to with to address the problem. He said, “If the process works, the process works well. So who’s in charge of the process? The stakeholders, myself, the police department, the police commissioner, our district attorneys, our judges, our elected officials, we have to get together and see how we could do things better. Like I said, when the process works, the process works well, but sometimes it breaks down. What is that breakdown, and how are we going to fix it?”

On those arrested, Sheppard said he believed at least two had prior arrests. On the question of why police tend to focus so

much on the topic of recidivism when they speak about policy, he said, “I think the recidivism issue is more about us thinking about victims. That’s really us being victim-centric, and recidivism is about the victims.”

*Norwood News* attempted to reach the Hull Avenue building owner for comment. We also reached out to the Bronx District Attorney’s Office for comment on the prior arrests. We will share any updates we receive.

During the same interview with Pix 11, in response to a separate question about crime numbers being down but people not feeling safe, for example, on the subways, Chell said, “Right, the [crime] numbers are the numbers, right? The [crime] perception piece? The community wants to see more cops, more cops in places like transit for instance.”

When asked about it being a delicate balance between reassuring the public but not making them overly anxious when they see a big police presence in the subways, for example, Chell said in part, “Well, we have to be strategic in where we put our cops. Transit, of course we’ve surged cops also down there.”

He continued, “The mentally ill and homeless? We’re going to take a new look

(continued on page 6)

# Norwood Residents React to Daycare Owner's Child Sex Offenses Guilty Plea

SÍLE MOLONEY & DAVID GREENE

A person who said she is the new owner of a Norwood daycare center located on Decatur Avenue and other Norwood residents have given their reaction to the recent guilty plea by the owner of the former daycare center [located at the same site] to sexual exploitation and child pornography charges. The victims of the former owner attended the daycare center, prosecutors said.

Norwood daycare center owner, Silfredo Castillo Martinez, 34, pled guilty on Thursday, March 21, in federal court to sexual exploitation of a child and production of child pornography, prosecutors said. Damian Williams, a federal prosecutor, said Martinez exploited the trust placed in him as a daycare provider by sexually abusing one of the minor children under his care and by forcing that child to perform sex acts on him.

"Additionally, Castillo Martinez had nearly 10,000 images depicting child pornography in his possession, all the while caring for children on a daily basis," he said. "Castillo Martinez's conduct is reprehensible, and he now faces more than a decade in prison for his crimes."

The court heard that from in or about July 2015 through in or about at least May 3, 2022, Castillo Martinez ran a licensed daycare facility, Lina's Garden Daycare, for children at his home, located at 3525 Decatur Avenue in Norwood. Federal prosecutors said Castillo Martinez pled guilty to one count of production of child pornography and sexual exploitation of a child, which carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in prison and a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison. They said he is scheduled to be sentenced in June. Meanwhile, Castillo-Martinez's has also been charged with various sex abuse offenses by the Bronx District Attorney's office and his case is pending.

According to a sign seen at the location of the former center on March 21, a new daycare center called "El Jardín de Niños" [The Garden of Children], is scheduled to open "soon" at the location. *Norwood News* called the number for the new center on March 29 and asked if it was yet open. We were informed it was not. We asked if a date for the opening was known and were informed it was not. Asked if we were speaking to the new owner, the person said, "Yes."

We asked the new owner if she had been affiliated with the previous owner. She said, "No. I don't know nothing about that." Asked if she had known Castillo-Martinez at all, she said, "No." We asked which agency the new owner had been in contact with about oversight of the new daycare. The woman replied, "No, I can't give you any information. Call another time." The woman hung up before we could ask for her name.

Meanwhile, a man who had double-

parked in front of the building on March 29 was asked for his thoughts when informed that the previous owner pled guilty to child porn and that the daycare was going to reopen with a new owner. Asked if he would send his kids there, he said, "Hell no!"

On the same day, we also spoke to a male resident of the building in which the daycare was located. Asked if he knew Castillo-Martinez, the man said, "Nah! The guy was always suspicious anyway. Even my other grandson, he made comments to him. He was a nefarious character, and my grandson was 13 at the time. He [the grandson] was like, 'That guy is funny; something's wrong with him.'"

Asked for his thoughts on Castillo-Martinez's guilty plea, the man said, "Yeah, I hope they give him the max for his behavior." We asked for his thoughts on the fact that a new owner is due to reopen the facility. The man said, "I hope they have good management and somebody really overlooking them, somebody overseeing that in a real way, with real follow-up." He continued, "Somebody rents the place out and [runs] a daycare. We don't even know who the people are who are running it. Is an oversight committee watching them and stuff like that? Is anything like that happening? That's concerning."

The building is owned by 3525 Decatur Avenue LLC. We have attempted to reach the owners for comment and will share any feedback we receive. According to NYC Department of Buildings, civil penalties are due as there is a violation for failure to certify correction of a Class I violation on the property.

Asked if he would send his grandkids there, the man said, "Absolutely not! I didn't think it was a good look anyway, because I'd see the people that were hanging around like with the guy that owned it so I'm like no, I wouldn't. I'd just stay cognizant listening to their conversations, and I was like, my kids couldn't be with them at all."

Very little information about the former center, including its rates, was available on its website last year. On the awning over the door at that time, "ACS" (NYC Administration for Children's Services) had been referenced. It was also mentioned that "government vouchers" appeared to be accepted at the center. The center was advertised as a "group family daycare center" but was also "private." We ACS what, if any, oversight or involvement ACS had with the former center as regards screening, licensing or oversight.

It transpired ACS was *not*, in fact, the city agency responsible for licensing or regulating childcare programs. We were informed ACS *does* provide eligible families with childcare vouchers which they can use to enroll their child at any childcare location of their choosing which accepts such vouchers.



Photo by Síle Moloney

**AN AWNING AT 3525 Decatur Avenue in Norwood displays details of a new daycare center "El Jardín de Niños" apparently opening soon, as seen on March 21, 2024. Silfredo Castillo Martinez previously ran a licensed daycare facility, Lina's Garden Daycare, at the same location. He pled guilty to child sexual abuse offenses in federal court on March 21, 2024.**

According to an excerpt posted last year on ACS's website, the "EarlyLearn" programs are "now" managed by the NYC Department of Education (DOE). *Norwood News* contacted DOE about the case at the time and asked what, if any, oversight or involvement it had with regard to the former daycare center. A DOE representative said, "This is not a DOE site."

Asked if DOE could provide details, generally, of its oversight and screening process of daycare centers, the DOE representative said, "Only if it is a DOE-contracted program. You have to go to DOHMH (NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene) and ACS who have more oversight of this than we do."

We contacted ACS, once again, about their general oversight process of daycare centers. We were, at that point, also referred to DOHMH, which referred us to their website for details of their screening process and offered to answer any questions. We asked if DOHMH had overseen or had had any involvement with Lina's Garden Daycare Center. We did not receive an immediate response.

An excerpt on DOHMH's website last year outlined the process for seeking daycare in New York City, and read, "When deciding where to place your child, you should focus on your family's specific needs. Be sure to make an informed decision based on the type of program and its performance history."

It continued, "If you are visiting a group child care center, you should review its child care performance summary card (PDF) for information about the program's staff, size and past violations. The card will be located near the program's entrance."

In addition, it read in part, "Child care operators looking for information about permitting and regulations should visit our Information for Child Care Operators page." Another excerpt read, "You can find out about past issues at a facility by using NYC Child Care Connect or the State's Office of Children and Family Services page. If you think a child care facility may be unsanitary, unsafe or illegal, call 311. If you think a child may be in immediate danger, call

911."

Following the latest news on Castillo-Martinez, *Norwood News* asked DOHMH again whether it has or had any oversight or involvement with Lina's Garden Daycare Center. We did not receive an immediate response.

In light of the sign posted at the location about the opening of a new daycare center soon, we asked DOHMH if it could confirm if there is a new owner for the new center, if any such new owner had any prior involvement with the previous daycare center, and which agency screened the new owner of the new center.

A department official responded, saying, "The NYC Health Department oversees home-based childcare on behalf of the state. There is no one currently holding a license to operate a childcare at that location [in question] and no pending license application." We had also followed up with ACS and DOE to ask if they had any involvement with the "new" center. A DOE representative said, "This is not a DOE-contracted site. We have no sightlines into this." ACS referred us once again to DOHMH.

As reported, Nicholas Feliz Dominici, tragically died following an apparent fentanyl overdose at Bronx-based Divino Niño Daycare Center in Kingsbridge Heights on Friday, Sept. 15, 2023. His parents were joined by District 14 City Council Member Pierina Sanchez and other Bronx elected officials and clergy at Our Lady of Angels church on Webb Avenue in Kingsbridge Heights on Sunday, Oct. 15, for a remembrance service held in memory of Nicholas, along with friends, neighbors and residents. March 15, 2024, recently marked the 6-month anniversary of the infant's death.

A female resident later said of the "new" center on March 29, "I wouldn't leave my kids here; I wouldn't. I wouldn't feel secure leaving my kids here. I don't know why the City would open this again. I don't know why."

Anyone who may have been a victim of child sex abuse or who has information about perpetrators is encouraged to call the NYPD Bronx Child Abuse Squad at (929) 265-3638.

## INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



This week, ahead of the presidential primaries, we asked readers what their most pressing voting issue would be when casting their ballot.



"He [former U.S. President Donald Trump] is the only man that can bring back America; he can bring it back. America is not the same; he can bring it back. He must be the next president for the United States, this is my opinion. My vote will go to Donald Trump. I want him to become president again."

Salim Rafeek,  
Williamsbridge  
Photo by David Greene



"I wish Donald Trump would go to jail. The most important issue is to get the crime and guns out of the city. It's the Republicans who are bringing the guns in. I'm a Democrat and they must make things better than this. Regarding bail reform, they should not let violent criminals free, no! The judges need to do a better job."

Boog A. Lou,  
Fordham Manor  
Photo by David Greene



"The most important issue is that the city isn't as safe and isn't as beautiful as it used to be - the quality of life, yes, absolutely. The federal government doesn't have as much to do with local crime as the mayor and governor do but I think it does have something to do with it. Crime is worse now than in the 1980s. I've been living here for over 50 years and crime is much worse."

Andrew Gold,  
Norwood  
Photo by David Greene



"My key issue is that Donald Trump will take the money from the top and bring it to the bottom. He's taking money and taxing the elite so the money will trickle down to the poor. This way, everybody has a chance to get some money and it goes back up. He's not taking from the poor and giving it to the rich. He's not hurting the middle class; the middle class will start to rise. It's always about the economy, you know money moves this world."

Richard Kelly,  
Norwood  
Photo by David Greene



"Illegal immigration and crime - I would say crime. I don't want the immigrants to be angry with me, if they read something like that. I've lived around here for 40 years. The most important thing happening now in this country, especially in New York City? There's a lot of crime; it's very high. Do you watch the news? Every day, something happens downtown, anywhere, killing every day. It was not like this 20 years ago; I don't think so."

John Lopez,  
Bedford Park  
Photo by David Greene

## Former Female 52nd Precinct Cop Gets 5 Years for Helping Murderer Flee U.S.

By SÍLE MOLONEY

A former, female, NYPD cop assigned to the 52nd Precinct, based in Norwood, was hit with a 5-year, 8-month prison sentence on Friday, March 29, for helping a now-convicted murderer, who was also a gang leader, flee the United States, federal prosecutors said.

Damian Williams, U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced on Friday that Gina Mestre was sentenced for her involvement in obstructing a federal grand jury investigation into the "Shooting Boys" gang and serving as an accessory after the fact to a murder committed by a member of the gang. Williams said Mestre pled guilty to the charges on Dec. 7, 2023, in Manhattan federal court before U.S. District Judge Denise L. Cote, who imposed the 70-month sentence.

"Gina Mestre betrayed and abused the trust placed in her by the NYPD and the people of New York," Williams said. "She swore to protect the public from criminal activity, but instead participated in significant crimes of her own by passing confidential information to a gang leader and helping him evade capture for the murder of a rival gang member."

He added, "For violating her oath to the citizens of New York City and her fellow police officers, Mestre has been sentenced to spend more than five years in federal prison."

According to the allegations in the indictment, other documents filed in federal court, and based on statements made in public court proceedings, Mestre was assigned to the public safety unit at the 52nd Precinct, located at 3016 Webster Avenue in Norwood. In the summer of 2020, a major focus of both the precinct and that unit was the reduction of gun violence in the area, with much of that violence attributed to members of the Shooting Boys, a violent street gang based in the University Heights section of The Bronx.

The court heard that in or about June 2020, Mestre began communicating with Andrew Done, a/k/a "Caballo," the leader of the Shooting Boys, and that she and Done communicated through secret social media accounts and phone numbers, eventually beginning an intimate relationship during which Mestre provided Done and other gang members with confidential, non-public, law enforcement information about the federal grand jury investigation into the Shooting Boys.

According to the investigation, Mestre warned Done, and other gang members, that federal investigators were preparing to bring a federal indictment against the Shooting Boys, and also warned Done about impending law enforcement operations, which enabled

*Editor's Note: According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, under the former Trump administration, the 2017 Trump tax law was "skewed to the rich, expensive, and failed to deliver on its promises." Households with incomes in the top 1 percent will receive an average tax cut of more than \$60,000 in 2025, compared to an average tax cut of less than \$500 for households in the bottom 60 percent, according to the Tax Policy Center.*

*According to reporting by The Hill, Democrats opposed the 2017 law when Trump was in power but have supported extending certain cuts, such as the decreased tax rates for people making less than \$400,000 a year. In terms of citywide crime, though the overall trends may vary over the intervening decades, according to NYPD data, if we compare citywide crime stats from the year 2023 with those of 2000, murder and non-negligent manslaughter is down (391 in 2023 compared to 673 in 2000), rape is also down (1,455 in 2023 compared to 2,068 in 2000), robbery is also down (16,910 in 2023 compared to 32,562 in 2000), felony assault is up (27,876 in 2023 compared to 25,924 in 2000), burglary is down (13,773 in 2023, compared to 38,352 in 2000), grand larceny (theft of something of high monetary value) is up (50,586 in 2023, compared to 49,631 in 2000), and grand larceny auto (vehicle theft) is down (15,795 in 2023 compared to 35,442 in 2000).*

him and other gang members to dispose of weapons, and conceal other criminal activity before law enforcement arrived on scene.

In addition, Mestre disclosed the identity of a cooperating witness who provided information about the gang to law enforcement. Armed with this information, Done and other Shooting Boys assaulted the witness to prevent said witness from further cooperation, and to send a clear message within the gang that the punishment for cooperation would be severe.

The court heard that on or about Nov. 5, 2020, Done shot and killed a rival gang member ("Victim-1") as the victim sat in his car on Cromwell Avenue in The Bronx. NYPD Detectives investigating the murder recovered security camera video capturing Done's commission of the murder. Several members of the 52nd Precinct, including Mestre, were tasked with identifying the shooter in the video. Mestre was ultimately one of several officers who identified Done as the perpetrator.

However, despite identifying him as the shooter and ostensibly participating in the NYPD's efforts to apprehend him, Mestre sent Done a copy of the video to his phone, and secretly communicated with Done the day of the murder and in the weeks afterwards. Specifically, she

warned Done about law enforcement's efforts to capture him, allowing him to eventually flee from the United States.

The court heard that in March 2022, 10 members of the Shooting Boys were charged in a 15-count indictment with various federal crimes, including racketeering conspiracy and murder. Done was charged with the murder of Victim-1 and was apprehended in the Dominican Republic several months later.

Federal prosecutors said on Nov. 17, 2022, Done pled guilty to racketeering conspiracy and admitted to his role in the murder of Victim-1. On Feb. 22, 2023, he was sentenced to 35 years in prison.

For her part, in addition to the prison term, Mestre, 33, of Mohegan Lakes, New York, was sentenced to two years of supervised release.

The 52nd Precinct covers some or all of the neighborhoods of Norwood, Bedford Park, Fordham Manor, Fordham Heights, Kingsbridge Heights, University Heights, as well as Bronx Park.

Last October, we reported on the arrest and charging of another female NYPD officer, Grace Rosa Baez, from the Bronx who, along with her Yonkers partner, Cesar Martinez, were busted for attempting to sell fentanyl and cocaine.

# NEWS BRIEFS

By SÍLE MOLONEY

## Espailat, Torres Address Updated Race and Ethnicity Census Data Standards

Rep. Adriano Espailat (NY-13) and Rep. Ritchie Torres (NY-15) recently commended the efforts of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in updating the standards for maintaining, collecting, and presenting federal data on race and ethnicity announced last week. However, they acknowledge what they said was a notable absence of specific signaling to Afro-Latinos which they said was critical to ensuring their accurate representation. They said it was important to encourage a selection of multiple categories for Afro-Latinos as the changing racial and ethnic composition of the 2020 Census reporting highlighted a significant shift in changing demographics of the nation.

## CVS Reopens

The CVS pharmacy and store located on Bainbridge Avenue in Norwood has reopened its doors following the commercial fire which wiped out several small businesses along the block between East 205<sup>th</sup> Street and East 206<sup>th</sup> Street on Oct. 10, 2023. As reported, the cause of the fire was determined to be arson. *Norwood News* continues to follow up with the FDNY (last on April 2) for more information on the fire investigation. Prior to the reopening, local clean-up group, Guerinis against Graffiti\*, had called on local elected officials to ask Bainbridge Realty Associates LLC, located at 280 East 204<sup>th</sup> Street, to maintain the fencing around the adjacent demolished site, and for CVS to keep the sidewalk clear along the strip.



Photo by David Greene

**THE CVS PHARMACY** on Bainbridge Avenue in Norwood, located between East 205<sup>th</sup> and East 206<sup>th</sup> Street has reopened following the commercial fire which caused its closure on Oct. 10, 2023.

## New Substance Use Disorder Clinic at Lincoln

New York City Mayor Eric Adams and NYC Health + Hospitals announced on March 26 plans to open an \$8 million health and substance use disorder clinic for pregnant and postpartum women and their families at NYC Health + Hospitals/Lincoln, part of the Adams administration's \$43 million plan to make New York City the most "woman-forward city" in the country. The clinic will offer pregnant and parenting individuals living with substance use disorder (a dependence on alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs) a safe and supportive place to access prenatal and postnatal care, addiction medicine, and behavioral health care. City officials said as the city aims to reduce Black maternal mortality by 10 percent and reduce opioid deaths by 25 percent by 2030, the new clinic will support healthy birth outcomes, reduce the likelihood and impact of postpartum relapse, and address the needs of older children living in these families.

They said the 6,500 square foot space at Lincoln, expected to open in 2026, will serve around 200 families per year and was chosen as it is in the area with the

highest rate of opioid overdose death in the City. In addition to substance use support, patients will also be able to access connections to community-based organizations for other critical services supporting recovery, such as housing, food, and employment. Care teams will be comprised of medical and behavioral health providers, including social workers, community health workers, and certified peer counselors with lived experience of substance use disorder.



Photo by Adi Talwar

**LINCOLN MEDICAL CENTER**, 234 East 149<sup>th</sup> Street, The Bronx, March 31, 2024.

## Tree Renewal Underway in Oval

Workers were seen removing old tree stumps from the Williamsbridge Oval park in Norwood on March 28.

Meanwhile, specific points around the park were also seen marked with NYC Parks flags denoting planned locations for new tree plantings. Some were seen beside the steps leading to the park exit by Reservoir Oval East and Putnam Place for example. *Norwood News* had reported previously on the frustrations of Bronx Community Board 7's Parks' committee with the length of time it had taken the City's forestry unit to proceed with the tree renewal following delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Photos by Adi Talwar & Síle Moloney respectively.

**TREE STUMPS ARE** removed from Williamsbridge Oval park on March 28, 2024, while flags mark the planned locations of new plantings, as seen on March 31, 2024.

## Family of Angellyh Yambo Sues Gun Manufacturer for Wrongful Death

By SÍLE MOLONEY

The family of 16-year-old Bronx teen Angellyh Marieh Yambo filed a civil lawsuit on March 27 against Polymer80, Inc., the ghost gun manufacturer and dealer who equipped Angellyh's 17-year-old shooter, Jeremiah Ryan, with an untraceable firearm.

The lawsuit alleges that the loss of Angellyh's life was made possible due to Polymer80, Inc. through the company's network of dealers and online sellers which flooded New York City streets with un-serialized and untraceable gun kits that can easily be assembled into functional handguns without background checks.

The lawsuit was filed in Bronx County, and the causes of action in the complaint include negligence and violations of New York General Business Law 898-e. Attorneys for the family issued the following statement in the context of the announcement, "The family of Angellyh Marie Yambo deserves justice. No child should lose their life to senseless gun violence. The ghost gun industry continues to place profit over public safety and the lives of our children. This lawsuit will hold them accountable for putting these dangerous and untraceable weapons on the streets."

As reported, Angellyh, who spent much of her childhood in Kingsbridge Heights and who was honored during a street co-naming ceremony in the neighborhood last year, was fatally shot while walking home from University Prep Charter High School in Mott Haven, along with two of her friends on April 8, 2022.

Ryan was later sentenced to 15 years for the shooting. In July 2023,



Photo by David Greene

**YANELLY HENRIQUEZ (IN pink)**, mother of the late Angellyh Yambo, joins family members and their attorneys on Friday, March 29, 2024, at 3340 Bailey Avenue, co-named The Angellyh Marie Yambo Way, in Kingsbridge Heights to speak about the wrongful death lawsuit they recently filed against gun manufacturer, Polymer80, Inc.

Democrat, Rep. Ritchie Torres (NY-15), whose Bronx congressional district stretches from the northwest to the south, announced the introduction of new federal legislation banning ghost guns and expanding the perimeter of gun-free school zones.

In May 2022, New York City Mayor Eric Adams, then-NYPD Commissioner Keecham Sewell, and Everytown for Gun Safety Action Fund called on the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to revoke Polymer80's federal firearms license. A statement from the Mayor's Office at the time read, "Ghost guns have been a growing contributor to gun violence in New York City and Polymer80 is, by far, the largest source of ghost guns used in crimes and recovered by law enforcement nationally."

On May 11 that year, New York

Gov. Kathy Hochul issued a statement in support of Adams' call, saying in part, "Gun violence is a public health and public safety crisis, and all levels of government must continue working together on aggressive action to crack down on the distribution and possession of dangerous weapons." She continued, "To combat the rise of ghost guns, I took action in October to criminalize the sale of ghost guns and require gunsmiths to register firearms they assemble. I also established a nation-leading Interstate Task Force on Illegal Guns, bringing together ten states, federal agencies, and local law enforcement agencies." She said the task force was having an effect and ghost guns were being recovered by law enforcement.

Polymer80 has also been sued in the State of California for allegedly not performing background checks on the purchasers of the gun components it makes. *Norwood News* contacted both Polymer80 for comment on this story. We did not receive an immediate response.

Torres gave his reaction to the lawsuit, telling *Norwood News*, "No family should ever have to suffer the devastating consequences of gun violence. The lawsuit the Yambo family has filed against Polymer80 Inc. is a crucial step towards holding manufacturers accountable and seeking justice for Angellyh and all victims of ghost gun violence. We must continue to advocate for stronger gun safety measures to prevent further senseless tragedies."

The Angellyh Yambo Foundation held its 1st Youth Gun Violence Prevention Summit on Friday, Jan. 19, in the South Bronx.



## What is Public Health and How Does it Impact You?

RAISHA HERNANDEZ

This year, National Public Health Week takes place from April 1 to April 7. It's intended to remind us of the importance of public health and the power of teamwork to improve health outcomes. Public health describes the activities carried out by communities, governments, and organizations to promote good health for the whole population. At Montefiore, one of the largest healthcare institutions in the city, public health takes center stage.

Public health programs are particularly important in The Bronx, a vibrant borough that faces unique health chal-

lenges. Let's celebrate our achievements and learn about the ways Montefiore is working to improve the health of Bronxites.

### Access to Healthcare Services

Access to quality healthcare is a big concern for many in the borough. Limited access can worsen existing health disparities like the high rates of obesity, heart disease, asthma, and depression. Expanding healthcare services so that all residents have fair access is essential.

One area we are particularly focused on is mental health. Mental health services can include inpatient treatment programs, virtual or in-person appointments with mental health professionals, support groups, medication, and resources to help improve living conditions, stress, sleep, nutrition, and physical activity. Improving mental health leads to better outcomes in our overall health, behaviors, relationships, and life expectancy.

### Social Determinants of Health

Social determinants of health are

non-medical factors that influence a person's health. They include the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, as well as the wider set of forces and systems that shape living conditions.

At the Montefiore Community Health Worker Institute, Montefiore professionals work in outpatient settings to link patients to resources that can strengthen patients' social determinants of health. These can include financial benefits, food, housing, legal services, childcare, recreational programs and more.

### Community Health Education

Providing education about relevant health topics improves public health. Montefiore provides health education in The Bronx through health fairs, screening events, educational classes, unique programming and research, and traditional medical appointments.

Montefiore's Office of Community & Population Health hosts workshops and seminars throughout the community, addressing popular topics like healthy eating, exercise, mental health, asthma,

cancer, elder health, and more. For more information about these programs, contact our community health specialist, Carlos Tejeda, at [cteveda@montefiore.org](mailto:cteveda@montefiore.org).

### Health and the Environment

The environment plays a significant role in public health. Clean and safe living spaces are essential for the well-being of Bronx residents. Urban planning projects and environmental policies contribute to creating healthier environments. You can get involved by volunteering at local parks and community gardens or becoming part of your local community board.

National Public Health Week is a great time to recognize all the ways we can work together to create healthier lives. By improving access to physical and mental health care, and providing health education, we can build a healthier and more resilient Bronx.

*Raisha Hernandez is manager of health equity programs at Montefiore Health System.*

# Norwood: Woman & 7 Men Arrested for Alleged Drug, Gun Possession & Child Endangerment

(continued from page 2)

at what we're doing collectively with homeless and mentally ill people that we transfer above ground. What can we do better? What can the inter-agencies do better? We're doing a lot but what can [we] do better? We always got to be looking."

Asked about what happens to mentally ill people once they are taken out of the subways, Sheppard said, "That part of it is something that we're concerned about. We don't have the psychiatric wards that we had in the past for many reasons, but we have to come up with a solution that once we remove people, they can't just bring themselves back on the street."

He added, "And even the removal or the visit to the hospital doesn't ensure that they're going to take their meds. The other part about the perception piece is that this is why we come here. This is why we do television. This is why we do interviews. This is why we go out and do our social media because we need people to know the efforts that we're making to keep the transit safe."

*Norwood News* spoke to some of neighbors and employees in the Hull Avenue area on the night of April 1 about the raid but nobody we spoke to at the time was aware it had taken place.

*Norwood News* is following up with the NYPD on a separate, unconfirmed report of an attempted break-in at the same Hull Avenue address on April 1, and will share any updates we receive. The eight people arrested are presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court a law.



Photo courtesy of the NYPD

**GUNS AND PACKETS** of narcotics recovered from the basement of a Hull Avenue home in the Norwood section of The Bronx on Wednesday, March 27, 2024

About two weeks prior, on March 19, as reported, federal law enforcement officials joined police at a separate Norwood home at 3405 Gates Place and arrested a formerly deported man and seized cocaine and \$3 million in cash, following the execution of a search warrant.

As also reported, during a separate cocaine-trafficking interception and takedown by law enforcement in Yonkers on March 13, Carlos Almonte Palm-

ers of Massachusetts was arrested and faces charges of criminal possession of a controlled substance in the first and third degrees. Federal officials said Almonte Palmers was deported from New York to the Dominican Republic in 2022. At a subsequent arraignment since March 13, in Manhattan Criminal Court, a judge ordered him held without bail.

Later, on March 22, Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E.

Rocah announced that day that three people were sentenced to a combined 31 years in state prison for selling more than 30 ghost guns in Yonkers after trafficking them from Washington, D.C. to Westchester County in 2022.

*Norwood News* reached out to the NYPD and ACS to ask about the whereabouts/welfare of any impacted children following the arrests and will share any updates we receive.

# Bronx BP Hosts Annual Iftar Dinner Dialogue

By SÍLE MOLONEY & ARIEL PACHECO

Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson joined the Bronx Muslim community on Thursday, March 14, in the Rotunda of Bronx Borough Hall for her annual Bronx Iftar Dinner Dialogue to mark the holy month of Ramadan, a time for fasting, prayer, and acts of kindness, which this year started on March 12 and concludes on April 9.

Iftar is the meal eaten by Muslims to break their fast after sunset every day during Ramadan. According to the Spirit of Islam website, "Iftar is a source of spiritual learning. It is the moment when physical food is converted into spiritual food."

Over 200 guests gathered for the evening's dinner and discussion, which according to Gison's office, centered on "ways to engage the Bronx's diverse Muslim community." The event was held in conjunction with NYC Votes, Metroplus Health, ICNA Relief, the African Advisory Council, Fouta Halal Restaurants, Muslim advocates, faith leaders, and community partners.

Gibson said of the event, "I want to thank all of our honorees and everyone who played a role in making this event a success. We are proud to be home to one of our country's largest and most diverse Muslim communities and appreciate their invaluable contributions to our borough."

Yahay Obeid, originally from Yemen, a current resident of Little Yemen and who is both the executive director of the Bronx Islamic Center and, by day, an air traffic controller at John F. Kennedy International Airport, served as emcee for the celebration, and was also honored by the borough president at the event.

Obeid estimates the Bronx Muslim population at well over 250,000, which includes a large Bengali community in Norwood. The North Bronx Islamic Center is located at 261 East 206th Street in Norwood and last year, one member of the Muslim community explained to us



Among those pictured are Gbenga Subair, founding member of New York City Mayor Eric Adams' NYC African Council and Bronx Community Board 12 member (3rd from left), chair of the NYC African Council, Councilman Yusef Salaam, honoree, Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson, and on the far right, Yahay Obeid, executive director of the Bronx Islamic Center.

that sometimes, members prayed collectively in the Williamsbridge Oval park on Muslim holidays as the center is not big enough to hold everyone for such occasions.

The event was held ahead of the April 2 presidential primaries in New York State. SeQuoia King, outreach manager with NYC Votes, said in part that every New Yorker, no matter where they're from or what language they speak should be able to engage meaningfully in our local democracy.

"During Ramadan, a season of community and collective care, NYC Votes is honored to partner with the Bronx Borough President's Office to provide education about upcoming elections and help members of the Community Iftar get registered to vote," she said. The more New

Yorkers who make their voices heard at the ballot box, the closer we can get to just and truly representative democracy."

U.S. President Joe Biden won the Democratic Primary and former U.S. President Donald Trump, currently besieged by several litigations, won the Republican primary.

Also in attendance were Jumaane Williams, New York City public advocate, Sidiki Donzo, chair of the Bronx borough president's African Advisory Council, and NYPD Detective Mohamed Amen of the NYPD's Clergy Outreach Unit, who provided remarks along with other prominent community leaders in attendance.

Recently elected West Harlem City Council Member Yusef Salaam (C.D.

9), also one of the Central Park 5, served as the keynote speaker. The Central Park 5 were wrongly convicted of raping a woman in Central Park in Manhattan in 1989. Film director Ava du Vernay's 2019 Netflix mini-series, "When They See Us" is a dramatization of their story.

Others honored by the borough president on the night were Zara Kandic, a volunteer with "Collective Work of Sisters;" Selma Mujovic, teacher and secretary at the Bosniak Islamic Center and director of "Collective Work of Sisters;" Gbenga Subair, founding member of New York City Mayor Eric Adams' NYC African Council and a member of Bronx Community Board 12's economic committee, and Ramatu Ahmed, founder and executive director of the African Life Center.

Asked for his feedback on the event, Norwood resident (by Perry Avenue) and Bronx Community Board 7 board member, Monjur Chowdhury told *Norwood News* he appreciated the Bronx borough president's office's efforts to connect with him and with the Muslim community all year around. Of the Iftar celebration, he said, "This year it was a little different; it was better than other years, so that was good."

Asked in what way, he said, "Not different but decoration was different and different people announced; nothing else so that was good."

After a New York State Appeals Court ruled that a law allowing non-citizens to vote in local elections was ruled unconstitutional in February, a coalition of elected officials, voters, and advocates came together to support an appeal of the ruling on the steps of City Hall on March 25.

Local Law 11 (or Our City, Our Vote) was enacted in 2022 by the New York City Mayor and City Council. Advocates of the law said it enshrined the rights of nearly one million New Yorkers to have a say in decisions about the communities in which they live, work and raise their families.

## BP Honors Bob Nolan with Posthumous Award

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Former city official and aide to four former Bronx borough presidents, Robert "Bob" Francis Nolan, who died on Dec. 15, 2023, was honored with a posthumous award in the presence of his family during an Irish Heritage Month celebration hosted by the Office of the Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson on Wednesday, March 27.

Held at the Rambling House on Katonah Avenue in Woodlawn, the borough president's office partnered with Montefiore Medical Center for the event,

which was emceed by former commissioner of the NYC Department of Small Business Services and current president of the Bronx Economic Development Corporation, Robert Walsh. District 11 City Councilman Eric Dinowitz was also in attendance.

Paying tribute to Nolan, Gibson, jokingly dubbed "O'Gibson" by Walsh for the duration of the evening, paid tribute to Nolan, saying he had served alongside former Bronx Borough Presidents Stanley Simon, Fernando Ferrara, Adolfo Carrión Jr., Ruben Díaz Jr., was the Bronx representative for NYC Health + Hospitals, and also a member of the community advisory board.

"I want to say thank you to his family, to his beloved wife, Susan, to his daughter, Vivian, and to his son, Chris," Gibson said in part. "Thank you for sharing your husband and your father with all of us. We are a better borough because of Bob Nolan's service." The borough

president also presented a posthumous tribute to the Nolan Family by issuing a proclamation declaring March 29, 2024, Robert Francis Nolan Day in The Bronx and introduced the creation of the Robert F. (Bob) Nolan Memorial Award. Presenting the glass award to the family, Gibson delighted in adding, "And....Ladies & Gentleman, it's green! It's green!"

Irish American community leader and union representative, Joe McManus, also paid tribute to Nolan, saying he had a great heart and was a great friend. "God bless the borough president for recognizing that he was a solid, important person in Bronx County, and from now on, he always will be," he said.

The evening featured special performances by the New York State Court Officers Pipes and Drums, the New York Ceili Band, comprising musicians, Sean Geraghty, Aoife Fleming, and Sean Tierney, and Irish Celtic dances performed by both Tierney and 14-year-old Flem-

ing, who was also honored on the night with the youth award. She has competed in various international Irish dance and music competitions.

Other honorees this year were Tianna Sloan, director for the Office of Veteran and Military Services at the University of Mount St. Vincent; Michael Carey, president of Cardinal Hayes High School, Bronagh Harmon; manager of An Béal Bocht Café, Deirdre Branley, executive director of communications & public affairs of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and Daniel O'Keefe, president of Cardinal Spellman High School.

Of Nolan, Gibson concluded, saying, "I am so grateful to have known him and to have been a part of his life, and it is my solemn commitment that as long as I am borough president, and as long as we celebrate any recognition of Irish American heritage and culture, we will always have a Bob Nolan Memorial Award."

# CRIME FILE

BY SÍLE MOLONEY & DAVID GREENE



## Bronx Car Theft Ring Convicted for Stealing 45 Cars in Six Months

New York Attorney General Letitia James and NYPD Commissioner Edward A. Caban announced on March 11 that nine members of a Bronx car theft ring pleaded guilty and were recently sentenced for their roles in the theft and criminal possession of 45 vehicles during a 6-month period from April to October 2020.

According to officials at the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), the defendants carried out a systematic, auto theft operation during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, targeting cars in New York City and Westchester County that were parked on the street for days at a time. They said crew members would reprogram vehicles' computers to disable alarms and quickly gain access to the cars, which they then resold across the United States and the Dominican Republic.

OAG officials said the group obtained key code information for these vehicles from unlawful websites and created keys that allowed them to breach and steal the vehicles. They said in December 2023, James and the NYPD's auto crime division charged two brothers with crimes related to theft and possession of vehicles in The Bronx, and in August 2023, James announced the convictions of six Bronx-based members of a crew responsible for over 200 burglaries of businesses in the Lower Hudson Valley, New York City, and on Long Island, including car dealerships.

*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/>, or on Twitter @NYPDTips.*

*All calls are strictly confidential.*

Source: NYPD

**TOP RIGHT CHART** - MAJOR CRIMES IN the 52<sup>nd</sup> Precinct for the 28-day period ending March 31, 2024, compared to the same period in 2023, as well as year-to-date major crimes in the 52<sup>nd</sup> Precinct as of March 31, 2024, compared to the same period in 2023.

Source: NYPD

**BOTTOM RIGHT CHART** - GUNS SEIZED BY the NYPD in New York City in 2024, and since Jan. 1, 2022.

Patrol Borough: Bronx		Precinct: 052		CompStat Book			
		28 Day		Year to Date			
	% Chg	2024	2023	% Chg	2024	2023	% Chg
Murder	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	1	0	- %
Rape	- %	5	3	66.7 %	16	9	77.8 %
Robbery	-33.3 %	23	21	9.5 %	124	90	37.8 %
Felony Assault	-18.2 %	45	43	4.7 %	156	145	7.6 %
Burglary	-75.0 %	9	18	-50.0 %	47	57	-17.5 %
Grand Larceny	-44.4 %	58	50	16.0 %	173	151	14.6 %
Grand Larceny Auto	50.0 %	16	18	-11.1 %	87	79	10.1 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>-22.5 %</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>2.0 %</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>13.7 %</b>
Patrol	-25.0 %	148	147	0.7 %	588	518	13.5 %
Transit	- %	8	5	60.0 %	15	11	36.4 %
Housing	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	1	2	-50.0 %
Shooting Victims	- %	2	1	100.0 %	11	5	120.0 %
Shooting Incidents	- %	2	1	100.0 %	7	5	40.0 %
UCR Rape*	- %	6	3	100.0 %	23	11	109.1 %
Other Sex Crimes	- %	10	4	150.0 %	26	20	30.0 %
Petit Larceny	-29.1 %	138	179	-22.9 %	489	574	-14.8 %
Misd. Assault	-69.6 %	62	57	8.8 %	210	173	21.4 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %

Guns taken off NYC streets	
Rolling Year to Date Breakdown (1/1/2024—present)	Since Start of Administration (1/1/2022—present)
<b>1605</b>	<b>15195</b>

## Fordham: Boy, 2, Shot & Man Shot, Dies Same Day

By SÍLE MOLONEY & DAVID GREENE

A 2-year-old child was shot and hospitalized on Saturday, March 30, in Fordham Manor, police said. An NYPD spokeswoman said the young boy was grazed by a bullet at 1.44 p.m. at the Grand Concourse and East Fordham Road. "He was removed by EMS, to Jacobi hospital in stable condition," the spokeswoman said. "The perpetrator is described as a male, Black, wearing a green hoodie, a black jacket with fur on the collar, light-blue jeans, and possibly red sneakers, and fled northbound on Creston Avenue towards 190th Street."

Officer Stephen Echevarria from the 52nd Precinct later said, "When officers arrived, they located a 2-year-old male shot once in the abdomen. The child was transported to Jacobi hospital and is

in stable condition." Echevarria said the perpetrator had been firing his gun in the direction of two other male individuals at that location, missed them, and instead hit the little boy."

The shooting took place a block and a half from where an Easter Egg hunt for young children was taking place in St. James Park, hosted by local District 14 City Councilwoman Pierina Sanchez, Assemblyman George Alvarez (A.D. 78) and partners.

New York City Mayor Eric Adams arrived on the scene after the incident. Speaking to reporters, he said, "The 2-year-old child that was injured, I'm going to see the child's mom now. But you know when you're



Photo by David Greene

**POLICE CORDON OFF** the scene of a shooting during which a 2-year-old boy was grazed by a bullet on the Grand Concourse and East Fordham Road on Saturday, March 30, 2024.

coming from a police funeral when a gun took the life of a young police officer [Jonathan Diller], now, you're hearing

of a shooting like this, [it] just tells you, the city, why we are just so committed to taking illegal guns off the street."

As previously reported, an 11-month-old baby girl, who became affectionately known in The Bronx as "Baby Catherine," was grazed on her face by a bullet in the Bedford Park section of The Bronx on Jan. 19, 2022. The incident caused outrage in the local community and occurred right at the beginning of the mayor's first term in office.

Adams was also at that shooting scene on the night it occurred, and later attended a vigil organized by the 52nd Precinct Community Council president, Brenda Caldwell, to pray for the little girl's recovery. Two people were later arrested and charged in connection with

(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**



## 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 promocionar 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**





## Letters To The Editor

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

### Access To Public Bathrooms Should Be a Human Right

There is still more to Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine's proposed legislation to increase public citizen access to bathrooms in all five boroughs including Bedford Park, Fordham, Norwood, and University Heights.

He reminded me of the old NYC Transit subway bathrooms. There was a time decades ago when you had to pay ten cents to relieve yourself. In those days, subway bathrooms were plentiful and open 24/7. Today, according to the MTA website, there are only 58 out of 472 NYC Transit subway station bathrooms. They include 7 (Bronx), 21 (Brooklyn), 21 (Manhattan) and 9 (Queens), and are open only between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. They close between noon and 1 p.m. for cleaning. Many with a full bladder and no accessible bathroom end up urinating or defecating inside station elevators or on platforms and stairs.

There are financial solutions to help the MTA pay for costs. Use some of the \$1.8 billion in annual Federal Transit Administration capital grant funding. When these funds are programmed for station rehabilitation projects, include as part of the scope of work repairs to reopen previously closed bathrooms. Reopening secure, safe, subway station bathrooms with adequate supplies of toilet paper,

soap, and hot water would help attract the one million former pre-COVID-19 riders who have yet to return to the subway.

Municipal public officials such as Levine can lead by example. Does his borough office provide accessible bathrooms? He could introduce legislation that all city agency buildings and offices provide public bathrooms. Every other city, state and federal elected official can provide public access to bathrooms in their local community district offices.

The situation for lack of public access to bathrooms continues to be a challenge in many neighborhoods around town. Access to public bathrooms should be a human right in today's world.

**Larry Penner  
Great Neck**

### Florida Proposed Bill Needed in NY

A Florida House subcommittee recently approved a bill that aims to bar citizens from using single-sex, public restrooms, dressing rooms, and showers that do not correspond with the gender listed on their legal identification documents, reports the Tampa Bay Times.

House Bill 583 was introduced by Republican Rep. Frank Artiles on Feb. 4 and if it becomes law, will subject any citizen "caught" using a single-sex public facility that does not match the gender listed on their legal identification to first-degree misdemeanor charges, punishable by a fine

of up to a \$1,000, and up to one year in jail. The law would also make whoever owns an establishment where such "crimes" take place open to civil lawsuits from other patrons for violating their "privacy" rights.

Artiles claims that HB 583 is intended to protect families, privacy, and public safety, notes The Tampa Tribune. He explained his argument in a recent subcommittee meeting, alleging trans people, especially trans women, are predatory and threaten the safety of others in public bathrooms, and that cisgender men could "claim" they were trans women and attack cisgender (nontrans) women and children.

We need such a law here in The Bronx and in the greater NY area and also politicians like Rep. Frank Artiles.

**Richard Marias  
Norwood**

*Editor's Note: Destination Tomorrow is the designated LGBTQ+ Resource Center in The Bronx and provides a range of services to LGBTQ+ youth and adults. The center can be reached Monday to Friday, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at*

452 East 149th Street, Bronx, New York 10455, United States, or by phone at 646 723 3325 or by emailing [info@destinationtomorrow.org](mailto:info@destinationtomorrow.org).

### The Treasures of the New York Public Library

You know something, readers? Since I have had the pleasure of renewing my New York Public Library card, I have become

re-acquainted with all the treasures that the library system has to offer. Take, for example, all the great books and recordings you can take out and can even return to any branch of the library. I managed to get a hold of a few treasures, myself!

I got a hold of a couple of good books and a foreign film DVD. The titles are "Batman: The Golden Age," featuring Batman stories from the mid-1940s.

Also, there's "The Complete Peanuts," covering the period from 1950-52, and finally, the DVD movie "Line 41," a very gut-wrenching story.

To shed a brief light on the books, they both cover the early exploits of both main characters. The Batman graphic novel has comic reprints from the near post-World War II era, circa 1944-45, to be approximate. This comic chronicles the early adventures of The Caped Crusader, and his youthful ward, Robin. At this point in the comic book series, it was starting to get a little campy and corny. It wasn't as macabre as it was when it began, just five years earlier.

Famously, Detective Comics #27 (May 1939) introduced the world to The Batman, as he was called then, and of course without his sidekick; that would come later. For serious comic book lovers, it's a real treat, as well as a rare find.

When it comes to "The Complete Peanuts" by Charles M. Schulz, nicknamed "Sparky" in some circles, he may not have been the best cartoonist of the comic strip's formative years. It may have looked more simplistic. Yet, even then, it seemed as

*(continued on page 14)*

# FLEX YOUR EARNING POWER

Give your IRA savings an extra boost with our Retirement Flex CDs.

**UNLOCK A SPECIAL 0.50% BONUS**  
on top of our current APY<sup>1,2</sup>



**GRAB A GIFT**  
when you deposit \$2,500 or more in new money<sup>3</sup>



**ROLL OVER YOUR 401(K) TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OUTSTANDING OFFER!**



Open an account online today.  
[ridgewoodbank.com](http://ridgewoodbank.com)



1. Annual Percentage Yield | 2. Offer subject to change at any time. Bonus offer only applies to the Retirement Flex CD accounts. Visit [ridgewoodbank.com/home/personal/retirement](http://ridgewoodbank.com/home/personal/retirement) for all product terms and conditions. | 3. While supplies last. To qualify for gift, deposit of \$2,500 or more must be new money (i.e., cannot be transferred or rolled over from another Ridgewood Savings Bank account). If you open online and do not live near a Ridgewood Savings Bank location, we will mail the gift to you. One gift per customer regardless of the number of accounts opened. Offer subject to change at any time. © 2024 Ridgewood Savings Bank | Member FDIC

# Out & About

Compiled by **ARIEL PACHECO & SÍLE MOLONEY**

## EVENTS

The 52nd Precinct, Lt. Nelson Bonilla, B.S.V.A.S. and Assemblyman John Zaccaro Jr. are hosting an **Easter Egg Hunt** on Saturday, April 6, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. *across the street* from the 52nd Precinct, located at 3016 Webster Ave., Bronx, NY 10467. For more information, contact NYPD Community Affairs Officers Echevarria & Capo at (718) 220-5824.

The Kingsbridge Historical Society (KHS) presents "**Bringing Oysters back to The Bronx**" by Kevin Horbatiuk at Edgehill, 2570 Independence Avenue,

Bronx on April 11, at 7 p.m. For more information, visit <https://kingsbridgehistoricalsociety.org>.

The **Bronx Night Market** returns to Fordham Plaza, (East Fordham Road & Third Avenue) on Saturday, April 6, at 4 p.m., and continues the first Saturday of each month from April to October. It will feature 50 local vendors bringing a diverse array of cuisines. To RSVP or to apply to be a vendor, visit <https://www.maschospitalitygroup.com/bronxnighmarket>.

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Park Boulevard West, presents **El Dominicano es Un Chiste**, a comedy show featuring Jochy Santos, Felipe Polanco "Boruga," and Cuquín Victoria, with Carlos Sánchez and Juan Carlos Pichardo on Saturday, April 6, at 8 p.m. Visit <https://www.lehmancenter.org/events> for more information.

[org/events](https://www.lehmancenter.org/events) for more information.

The Jerome Gun Hill BID is hosting an **Earth Day** event on Saturday, April 13, from noon to 3 p.m. at the park line area on Jerome Avenue and East Mosholu Parkway North in Norwood. For more information, contact [jeromegunhillbid@gmail.com](mailto:jeromegunhillbid@gmail.com).

## KIDS

NYC Parks is hosting a **Modeling 101 Class** for kids and young adults aged 6 to 18 at the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, 3225 Reservoir Oval East, each Saturday from April 6 to June 22 from 11 a.m. to noon. No previous experience is needed. For more information, contact [Kelsey.Phoenix@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:Kelsey.Phoenix@parks.nyc.gov) or call (718) 543-8672.

NYC Parks will also host **Bronx All Stars Dance team classes** for kids and young adults aged 6 to 18 from

April 2 to June 22 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from noon to 1 p.m. at the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, 3225 Reservoir Oval East.

## FILM

The **Mott Haven Film Festival** will be part of the Bronx Night Market Grand Reopening at Fordham Plaza (Third Avenue & East Fordham Road) on Saturday, April 6, at 4 p.m. For more information, contact [info@mhff.nyc](mailto:info@mhff.nyc).

## ART

Lehman College will be hosting the **Dead Poets Rise Tournament**, where players embark on a journey to liberate a real Dead Poet from obscurity while crafting their own verses, using unique prompts on Wednesday, April 10, from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tickets are free, and open to the public. Contact [info@dprgames.com](mailto:info@dprgames.com) for more information.

# Fordham: Boy, 2, Shot & Man Shot, Dies Same Day

(continued from page 8)  
the incident.

Meanwhile, local Councilman Oswald Feliz (C.D. 15) said in part, "Earlier today, an individual [with] no regard for the life of others decided to commit gun violence on Fordham. A 2-year-old became the latest victim. There must be real accountability for those that carry/use guns! The excuses are leading to horror in our communities!"

Norwood resident and Bronx CB7 board member, Betty Arce, said of the latest tragedy, "How very sad that a little baby has had to suffer because of the lawlessness in our neighborhoods. Praying for this little one's complete recovery and for his family."

Meanwhile, members of cure violence group, Bronx Rises Against Gun Violence, organized an anti-gun violence gathering on Tuesday evening, April 2, at the location of the shooting to denounce those responsible.

The group said the boy had been out walking with his mother on the day of the incident, the infant is expected to survive, and he and his family are receiving support. They added, in part, "But, make no mistake, WE CANNOT STAND FOR THE IDEA, THE IDEA, THAT IT IS OK FOR ANY KIND OF VIOLENCE, LET ALONE VIOLENCE THAT IMPACTS A CHILD WILL EVER BE OK!!! If there ever was a moment to join B.R.A.G. to DENOUNCE these vio-

lent acts, it is NOW!!! United, we can defeat this."

A "Stomp the Violence" event was recently organized by My Brother's Keeper, cure violence groups, and the Office of the Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, who said it was to "provide resources and education to better prepare our young Kings for the future." Rep. Ritchie Torres (NY-15) said of the event, "Gun violence in The Bronx remains an epidemic destroying far too many young lives."

Later that night, a man in his early 20s died, and another man, also in his early 20s, was hospitalized following a second shooting incident also in Fordham Manor, police said. An NYPD spokesperson said the second incident was reported at around 8.53 p.m., when officers responded to multiple 911 calls regarding shots fired at East 187th Street and Tiebout Avenue, a few blocks from the afternoon shooting location.

An NYPD spokesperson said, "Upon arrival [at the crime scene], officers discovered a 25-year-old male with a gunshot wound to the chest, and a 23-year-old male with a gunshot wound to the stomach and buttocks." She said both victims were taken by EMS to Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center where the 25-year-old was pronounced deceased, and the 23-year-old male was listed in stable condition.

The deceased was later identified



Photo by Síle Moloney

**A DARK BLUE** car appears to be marked as evidence by police at the scene of a fatal shooting at East 187th Street and Tiebout Avenue in Fordham Manor on Saturday night, March 30, 2024.

as Frankelis Tavarez of East 194th Street in Fordham Manor. Police said there were no arrests, and that the investigation remains ongoing. The crime scene appeared to take in a wide area with several streets blocked off on several sides and seemingly several shots fired, evidenced by markers. A dark blue vehicle also appeared to be marked as evidence by police, though the area was not very well lit.

*Norwood News* spoke to some employees of local stores in the area and asked if they had seen or heard the shooting. All declined to be identified for their safety. One said, "I saw a lot of police coming but I don't know what happened."

He and others spoke of prior, negative encounters with customers / robberies in the area which they said had prompted calls to police. The same employee said when he encounters trouble at his store and calls the police, they usually ask for a description of poten-

tial suspects but tend to only arrive much later.

He said in his opinion police should be stationed at three points in the area to curb crime, gesturing generally to Webster Avenue and East 188th Street, Tiebout Avenue and East 188th Street, and the location of the shooting.

Another employee described one incident that he said happened around two weeks ago. "There was some customers that came [inside] to buy some food and this Hispanic guy outside who has some wounds on his face, he was standing outside and insulting them," he said in part. "He probably [mis]took them for some people. At some point, he came inside, and they ran outside. I heard someone say he was having a knife, but I've not seen it."

He said he reported the incident to police but added that when they arrived around 30 minutes later, it was all over, and nobody had been hurt.

Another store employee said he and his colleague had been busy working earlier that evening and didn't know what had happened. He said, "You should be careful going around asking questions. When people see a light-skinned woman, crazy things go through their minds, and you don't know who's going to be next."

Anyone with information regarding 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 Crime Stoppers website at <https://crimestoppers.nypdonline.org/>, or on Twitter @NYPDTips.

All calls are strictly confidential..

# NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY



## MMCC Summer Camps

Norwood's Mosholu Montefiore Community Center (MMCC) offers eight fun-filled weeks of friends & adventure. For 80 years, Mosholu Day Camp has been providing affordable quality camping to children ages 5-16 from all over the area. Sitting on beautiful Lake Cohasset at Harriman State Park, the center offers children a place to develop, experience, and enjoy nature, while taking part in unforgettable summer activities like swimming, boating, sports, music, arts, and everything else you'd come to expect from an awesome summer day camp. Visit <https://www.mmcc.org/camp-request-info/> for more information.

## Winter II Media Education Classes

Winter II media education classes are ongoing Monday to Friday at the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation center, 3225 Reservoir Oval East in Norwood, through April 13. Call (212) 360 2702 or email [Media.Ed@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:Media.Ed@parks.nyc.gov) for more information.

## Trauma Recovery Support

The Trauma Recovery Center at Astor Services provides help, healing and hope to survivors of trauma, with the aim of reducing the long-term effects of post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms. To be eligible, an applicant must be 5 years of age or older, a Bronx resi-

dent and a survivor of a violent crime within the past three years, including but not limited to child abuse and neglect, sexual assault, battery, community violence, human trafficking, or grief and loss. Call Jaida Richardson, program director, on (845) 372 3032 or email [jrichardson@astorservices.org](mailto:jrichardson@astorservices.org) for more information.

## Food Drive

The Gambian Youth Organization is helping to support Muslim refugees with a Food Drive during Ramadan and is asking for the public's help with the effort. Visit [bit.ly/gyoramadan](http://bit.ly/gyoramadan) to donate.

## Bronx Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) Upcoming Home Health Aide Course

Bronx EOC's upcoming Home Health Aide (HHA) course begins on April 29. Get ready to embark on a fulfilling career path in healthcare. Limited seats available, so register now to secure your spot! Visit <http://www.bronxeoc.org/vocational.html> for more information.

## POTS Free Workshop on Online Business Start-ups

Part of the Solution (POTS) will host a free, workshop on online business start-ups with Rachel Perez on Saturday, April 13, at 10 a.m. at 2450 Grand Concourse. For more information, visit

[www.fittolaunch.com](http://www.fittolaunch.com). POTS also offers "Get Tech Savvy" for beginners to learn more about email, phones, and computers each Wednesday in April at 10 a.m. Call (929) 566 7963 for more information on the location as there is more than one.

## Fresh Air Fund Free Summer Sleepaway Program

Applications are open for the Fresh Air Fund Free Summer Camp. Visit [https://freshairfund.my.site.com/apply/s/login/SelfRegister?language=en\\_US](https://freshairfund.my.site.com/apply/s/login/SelfRegister?language=en_US) to apply. Youth, 8-15, who live and go to school in NYC, and meet income eligibility requirements can apply for camp. Youth, 16-17, who live and go to school in NYC are eligible to apply for the CIT Program. POTS, located at 2450 Grand Concourse, offers help to those wishing to complete the application.

## Prom & Suit Drive

The Office of the Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson will host her 2nd Annual Prom Dress & Suit Drive on May 9. Donations of new or gently used formal dresses and suits can be dropped off until May 9 at Bronx Borough Hall, 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10511.

## West Bronx Housing Services

West Bronx Housing Services, 220 E 204<sup>th</sup> St., Bronx, NY 10458, offers various types of housing support, including problems with owed rent, issues with landlords, help applying for SNAP benefits, using the NYC Housing Connect platform, immigration assistance and more.

## DOT E-Bike Educational Campaign

NYC Department of Transportation has launched a new e-bike educational campaign. Read our online story "DOT Pushes Road Safety after Several Incidents Cause Traffic Chaos Across The Bronx" on [www.norwoodnews.org](http://www.norwoodnews.org) or visit [nyc.gov/ebikes](http://nyc.gov/ebikes).

## Fundraiser Launched to Repaint "Norwood" Mural

As reported, the "Norwood" mural on East 207th Street by Bainbridge Avenue in Norwood has been defaced with the rather sinister word "Ammo," and a fundraiser has since been launched to repaint it. Laura Alvarez, the artist who painted the mural, has started an online fundraiser to meet a specific deadline. She said donations of any amount are welcome and will be matched (up to \$500 per donation) by the Con Edison Power Up Neighborhood Match Program, through the IOBY platform. To donate, visit <https://ioby.org/project/lets-repaint-norwood-mural?mc>

[cid=4d900b54aa&mc\\_eid=ae2d5215fe](https://www.fittolaunch.com).

## Here Comes the Sun, A Celebration of Solar Power

University Neighborhood Housing Program presents, "Here Comes the Sun, a Celebration of Solar Power in Bronx Buildings" on Thursday, April 18, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Serviam Hall, 2848 Bainbridge Avenue, Bronx, NY 10458. Visit <https://unhp.org/blog/here-comes-the-sun-a-celebration-of-bronx-solar-power> for more information.

## Applications Open for 2024 NY Yankees Youth Leadership Award

Applications for the 2024 NY Yankees Youth Leadership Award are open, as confirmed by Bronx Community Board 7. Apply by April 7, 2024, at noon. Visit <https://bit.ly/3l8MqRs> for more details.

## Summer Folk Culture Internship

Applications are open for a summer folk culture internship with Mind-builders Creative Arts Center. Apply at [https://www.mind-builders.org/programs/folk\\_culture.html](https://www.mind-builders.org/programs/folk_culture.html) by April 15.

## Applications Open for Tile, Marble & Terrazzo Worker Apprenticeships

Applications are open for tile, marble, and terrazzo worker apprenticeships. Applications will be available at the International Masonry Institute, located at 12-07 44th Avenue, Long Island City, NY 11101 from 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. on April 15, April 16, April 17, April 18, April 19, Oct. 21, Oct. 22, Oct. 23, Oct. 24, and Oct. 25. Applications must be completed, and exams taken, on the day of application. Doors open at 8 a.m. There will be no admittance after 8:30 a.m. Processing will be until 10 a.m. Applications will not be accepted by mail.

For further information, applicants should contact Tile, Marble and Terrazzo BAC, Local Union #7 of NY & NJ at (718) 706-9294. Additional job search assistance can be obtained at your local New York State Department of Labor Career Center (see: [dol.ny.gov/career-centers](http://dol.ny.gov/career-centers)).

## 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, 1821 Prospect Avenue, with a deadline of May 20 and 2976 Third Avenue, with a deadline of April 17. HPD frequently extends the announced deadlines. Visit <https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/search-lotteries> for more information.

## Jazz Fellowship

Applications are open for a jazz fellowship with The Brooklyn Conservatory of Music. Applications must be submitted by May 15 and the winners will be announced in June. For more information, visit: <https://bkcm.org/>.

**POTS Part of the Solution**

**Help**  
others achieve stability

**Fight**  
poverty and hunger

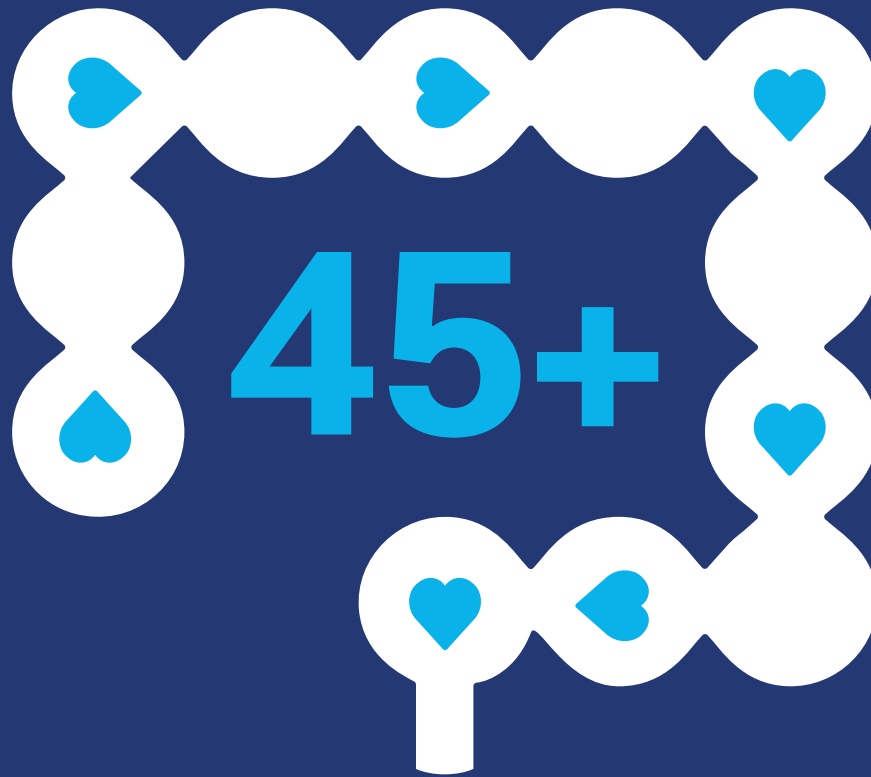
**Belong**  
to a loving community

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

Register to volunteer today!

Visit our website  
[POTSBRONX.ORG](http://POTSBRONX.ORG)

Follow us on social media  
[@POTSBRONX](https://www.instagram.com/POTSBRONX)



# MY C♥OLON KEEPS IT ROLLIN'

## Time for you to get tested for colon cancer?

With colon cancer on the rise among younger adults, screening is an important part of staying healthy after age 45. Knowing your risk and when you should start getting tested can prevent colon cancer and save lives when caught early.



Consult with one of our Patient Navigators about your risk, when you should start testing, and how to prevent colon cancer. Call 718-920-7183 or scan the QR code.



**Montefiore Einstein**  
Comprehensive Cancer Center



**Shop local  
and Save !**

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

[jeromegunhillbid.org](http://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.

### BEDFORD PARK DRAWING CLUB

Is anyone interested in a weekly figure-drawing meet-up in the Bedford Park, Bronx area? A room might be available for this sketch group to meet in if there is enough interest. Artists would be responsible for their own drawing materials and would sketch a clothed model in a variety of timed poses. All levels would be welcome! Contact [BedfordParkDrawingClub@gmail.com](mailto:BedfordParkDrawingClub@gmail.com) for details.

## Public and Community Meetings

The next **52<sup>nd</sup> PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meeting takes place on Thursday, April 25, at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Refuge Church, 290 E 196<sup>th</sup> Street, Bronx, NY 10458. 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, April 23, at 6.30 p.m. at Scott Towers, 3400 Paul Avenue, Bronx, NY 10468. Contact [KCabreraCarrera@cb.nyc.gov](mailto: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 on Tuesday, April 9, at 7 p.m. at the Ethical Culture Fieldston School, 3901 Fieldston Rd., Building 600, Bronx. Contact [BX08@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:BX08@cb.nyc.gov) to be added to the distribution list.

The **BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** meetings are usually held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. South in Apt. B1 (lobby floor). The next meeting will be in May. For more details, please contact [bedfordmosholu@verizon.net](mailto: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 8565  
[www.langsampropertyservices.com](http://www.langsampropertyservices.com)



### Letters To The Editor

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

*(continued from page 10)*

though even the "Li'l Folks," as they were once called, had a sort of grown-up depth to them, and the characters possessed a philosophical bent which seemed to resonate with the more mature and astute reader.

Then, there's the movie, "Line 41," written and directed by Tanja Cummings. It has a running time of 96 minutes, and it's a story of a man who, 70 years later, returns to a town named Lodz, which I believe is in Poland. He returns to find out the apparent fate of his long-lost sibling, a brother. It is a powerful story, and

quite a grueling experience for those

who have gravely suffered countless atrocities - worth watching.

So, there you have it! I have shared my personal picks and treasures from the NYPL. Feel free to choose your own. It will be quite the ultimate, learning experience.

**Bryan Gerard Briggs  
Wakefield**

*Please send all letters to the editor, along with supporting hyper-linked sources, to [norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org](mailto:norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org) or by mail to Norwood News, 3400 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467, by the Friday before each publication day. Letter writers should aim to write no more than 300 words on local issues or in response to published articles.*

## CORRECTION

On page 10, Letters to the Editor, of *Norwood News* Edition No. 6, dated March 21-April 3, 2024, Nat Weiner's name and neighborhood (Parkchester) was inadvertently deleted from his letter on student loan forgiveness during the production process. We apologize for this oversight.

# Future Of VCJC Still Uncertain



Photo by David Greene

**VAN CORTLANDT JEWISH** Center, seen here on Sunday, Feb. 25, 2024, has been located at 3880 Sedgwick Avenue in Van Cortlandt Village for the last 60 years and its management is currently in negotiations with a private developer to sell the building.

*(continued from page 1)*

hood education center run by Mosholu Montefiore Community Center (MMCC). News of the prospective sale was previously published in *The Riverdale Press* and *The Bronx Times*.

Retired architect Petr Stand, a longtime Sedgwick Avenue resident, who for 30 years has worked with community development corporations to curb gentrification and to preserve other Bronx neighborhoods like Melrose, said, “fighting the city’s development plans” is now another battle in the northwest Bronx.

Stand was approached by members of the local community about the issue, telling *Norwood News*, “They’re appropriately terrified of what’s going to be put there.” He added, “Some people are afraid of affordable housing for instance. Some people are afraid of market-rate housing.”

According to Stand, the developer in question, Innovative Construction, LLC, based in Miramar, FL., is currently in negotiations with VCJC to purchase two parcels of land. Stand said the developer, “does not want to discuss their plans with the community,” and alleges Innovative Development plans to build housing in the form of market-rate apartments.

He continued, “The Van Cortlandt Jewish Center is a really important cultural institution to many people in the neighborhood. They’re really concerned about the loss of this building and everything else, the services the building provides.”

Stand says that because VCJC is a religious organization and a non-profit, in order to save it and the programs it offers, “a number of us feel that they kind of have this ethical obligation to open up discussions.”

In reference to the Van Cortlandt Village neighborhood, Strand said, “This

has been a changing but ultimately a very stable neighborhood that has been a nurturing place for many generations of working people.”

According to Jack Spiegel, a VCJC board member, the members decided to sell the building in 2019. He added that VCJC congregants in the 1960s numbered about 700, whereas today, they stand at about 60.

Spiegel said there have been discussions with the community but also maintained VCJC is selling the building. He said the congregation will remain intact, however. He said JASA has informed them they would be moving out of the building, and that MMCC pre-school’s lease of the space needed to run their program expires on Aug. 31. Of the pre-school’s future, he added, “I’m not sure what they will be doing.”

Steve Bobker, a longtime resident of the area, recalled growing up during VCJC’s heyday when both his grandmother and aunt attended the center, when it had a thriving congregation. Today, he said the congregation has dwindled as many Jewish people have moved from the area.

Bobker called the current development in the neighborhood “bittersweet,” adding, “I walk around The Bronx and every little piece of land is now these ugly complexes.” He said such housing complexes have been “jammed” into small parcels of land.

*Norwood News* reached out to VCJC and Innovative Development for comment to ask if there was any change regarding the negotiations with the developer and the community. We did not receive an immediate response from Innovative Development. Spiegel responded saying the negotiations were continuing. “In my experience, negotiations usually take a long time,” he said.

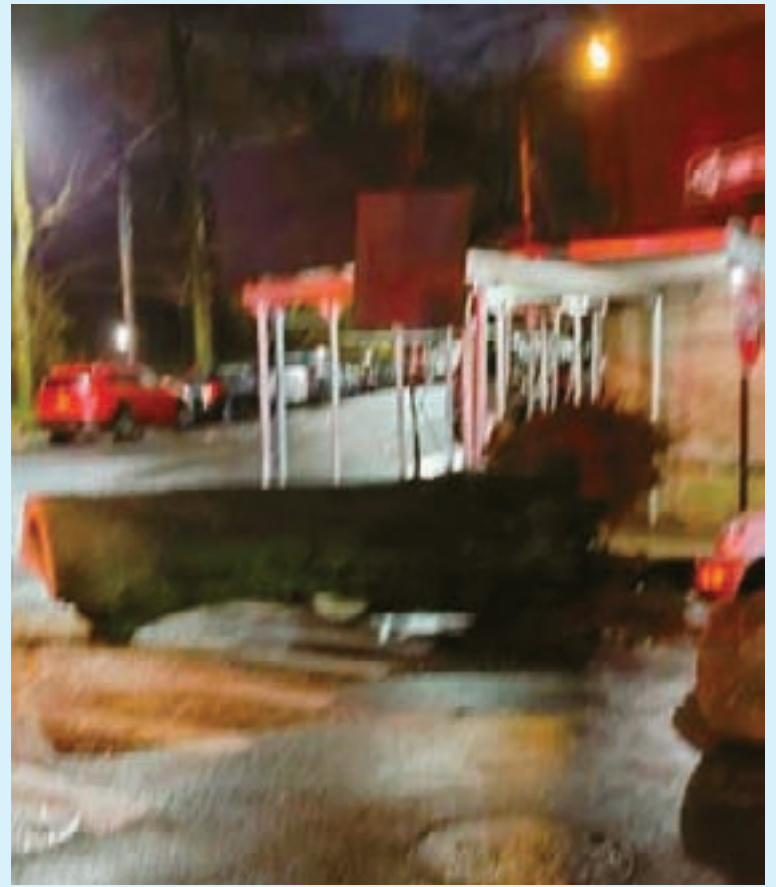


Photo courtesy of Jack Spiegel

**A TREE FELL** at Van Cortlandt Park South and Gouverneur Avenue in Van Cortlandt Village during the stormy weather on Wednesday, April 3, 2024. One car was damaged but nobody was hurt, according to Jack Spiegel of Van Cortlandt Jewish Center.

## Free Solar Eclipse Glasses Available at NYPL

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

On Monday, April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse will occur during which the moon will pass between the sun and the earth and block the sun’s light for several minutes. While New York City is not in the path of totality, the five boroughs will experience a partial solar eclipse, according to astrology experts, who also warn that it is not safe to look directly at the sun without specialized solar eclipse glasses.

New York City’s three public library systems will be distributing free solar eclipse glasses starting March 29. Glasses will be available while quantities last on a first-come, first-served basis at all New York Public Library (which includes The Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island) and Queens Public Library locations. Brooklyn Public Library locations are also giving away glasses at select

dates and times. A liability waiver must be signed before receiving your eclipse glasses. Patrons under 18 must have a parent or guardian sign the waiver on their behalf. Library locations throughout the five boroughs have also planned events leading up to the eclipse. You can browse NYPL’s events calendar for eclipse-related programming.



Photo courtesy of NYPL

**A WOMAN WEARS** a pair of solar eclipse glasses in an undated photo.

# 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](http://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