



NORWOOD NEWS

Vol 38, No 5 • PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION • MARCH 6-19, 2025

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE WWW.NORWOODNEWS.ORG

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



(L TO R) STATE SEN. NATHALIA Fernandez (S.D. 34), Assemblyman John Zaccaro Jr. (A.D. 80), Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul, Assembly Member Karines Reyes and Assemblyman Michael Benedetto pose for a photo on Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025, at a check presentation event held at Morris Park library in Morris Park, The Bronx. New York State committed \$20 million to the Greater Morris Park neighborhood, winner of the eighth round of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and the third round of NY Forward.

By SÍLE MOLONEY

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul announced Thursday, Feb. 27, that the Bronx neighborhood of Greater Morris Park will receive an unprecedented \$20 million in funding after the neighborhood was announced as the New York

City winner of the eighth round of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI), and the third round of the NY Forward program.

NY Forward and DRI are distinct programs, though NY Forward builds upon the success of the DRI by focusing

on revitalizing smaller and rural downtowns, while DRI focuses on larger, more dense downtowns. Previous funding received by The Bronx in this regard was capped at \$10 million, officials said.

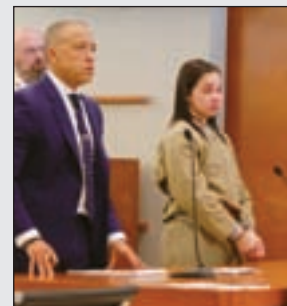
The 2024 cycle marked the eighth round of DRI applica-

tions, and an investment of \$100 million in ten new communities selected by the Regional Economic Development Council (REDC). The Bronx is located in the New York City REDC.

According to the Office of
(continued on page 15)



NYPD Cracks Down on Abandoned Vehicles
pg 2



Daycare Operator Gets 45 Years in Death of Nicholas Dominici
pg 4



Annual Bronx Parks Speak Up Held at Lehman College
pg 6

RASKIN & KREMINIS, LLP

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

www.raskrem.com

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

718-878-4858

212-587-3434

2 3 4 5 A C J Z TO FULTON STREET

N R W TO CORTLANDT STREET

NORWOOD NEWS

Vol. 38, No. 5

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
Web.: www.norwoodnews.org

Publisher

Mosholu Preservation Corporation

Editor-In-Chief, Norwood News

Sile Moloney
smoloney@norwoodnews.org

Reporter

Ariel Pacheco

Contributor

Claire Garon, Joseph Murphy

Regular Contributors

David Greene, Miriam Quiñones

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

Support Your Community Newspaper!

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

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

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

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



Photo by David Greene

AN NYPD TOW truck removes a tractor without a license plate from Webster Avenue, from a block located between East Gun Hill Road and East 233rd Street on Friday, Feb. 21, 2025.

NYPD Cracks Down on Abandoned Vehicles

By DAVID GREENE

After years of complaints from residents about large trucks, tractor-trailers, and campers being seemingly abandoned or used as housing along Bronx streets, the NYPD Tow Unit was recently observed in the northwest Bronx, removing at least one tractor, but leaving behind a larger trailer.

Along Webster Avenue, between East Gun Hill Road in Norwood and East 233rd Street in Woodlawn Heights, on Friday, Feb. 21, *Norwood News* observed an NYPD heavy-duty tow truck operator disconnecting a tractor from its trailer, and after about an hour, removing the trailer from the block.

When asked for more information about the removal, an NYPD spokesperson initially said, “There is no report on file based on the information provided in your inquiry.” A short time later, the spokesperson confirmed the incident,

and said, “The vehicle was missing a plate and was towed. No additional information is available at this time.”

The spokesperson did not respond to additional questions, like why the larger tractor was left behind, whether the NYPD Tow Unit would be returning for the dozen or more other trucks, trailers, and buses parked along Webster Avenue without license plates or registration tags, and if the latest action was part of a new policy by the NYPD.

We also asked what the protocol was for people living in campers who park in the same location for days, weeks, or even longer. We did not receive an immediate response.

Meanwhile, recent posts by users of the Citizens App indicated a similar action took place by the NYPD Tow Unit on Thursday, Feb. 27, along Jerome Avenue between East Gun Hill Road in Norwood, and East 233rd Street in Van

Cortlandt Park, southwest of Woodlawn Heights, another hotspot for such seemingly abandoned vehicles.

Jerome Park resident Louise Salant said of the ongoing situation along Goulden Avenue, between West 205th Street and Sedgwick Avenue in Jerome Park, where dozens of large vehicles have been seen parked for weeks without moving, “I think it’s a disgrace that trucks and campers have, for years, been permitted to take up parking spaces.”

Salant added, “Even more outrageous is that campers tap into the utility poles. The police are not addressing the problem on a regular basis, and this basically is an invitation for trucks and campers [to park in the area].”

She then asked, “Why are all these vehicles not being towed away? Goulden Avenue is not meant to be a street motel.” Another Jerome Park resident recalled, “About eight years ago, a group of cooperators mounted a campaign against the huge trucks and campers.”

The resident continued, “We succeeded in our mission when the 52nd Precinct, in charge of Goulden Avenue’s east side, towed away a few of the trucks.” The resident concluded, “Word got out, no more trucks, at least for a while. Little by little, they came back. No follow up from the NYPD; we citizens did our best!”

Norwood News has reached out to the NYPD once again for comment on the man’s remarks and will share any updates we receive. According to information on New York City government’s website, a heavy-duty tow fee is \$370 and an overnight storage fee for a tractor is \$20.



Photo by David Greene

SOME RESIDENTS OF Jerome Park have complained about this camper parked on Goulden Avenue in Jerome Park for at least a year and seen on Monday, March 3, 2025.

Bird Flu Cases Increase across New York State

By DAVID GREENE

Editor's Note: Due to a production error with our Feb. 20 bird flu story, some paragraphs were repeated, so we're republishing the story in full, including some missed paragraphs and also new updates. We apologize for the error.

Live poultry markets in New York are back open after a five-day closure was implemented by New York Gov. Kathy Hochul on Friday, Feb. 7. It followed the discovery of avian flu/bird flu or H5N1 virus in bird flocks at seven live bird markets in The Bronx, Queens, and Brooklyn. Officials said the ordered closures were mandated for testing, cleaning, and disinfection of poultry markets in New York City, Westchester, and Long Island.

On Jan. 28, the New York State Department of Agriculture (DOA) issued a health alert for the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), writing, "To date, 30 flocks in New York State have tested positive for HPAI since February 2022."

According to a 2015 USDA document, there are two types of the H5N1 bird flu virus; one is low pathogenic (LPAI) referring to the ability of the virus to produce disease, and the other highly pathogenic (HPAI). HPAI H5N1 is often referred to as the "Asian" H5N1, and LPAI H5N1 as the "North American" H5N1. However, HPAI has been identified in the United States since January 2022.

According to the health alert, DOA worked closely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), as well as NYS

Department of Health, and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to stop the spread of the virus.

According to DOA, the first detection of bird flu in New York at a live poultry market occurred on March 22, 2023, in Queens, and the most recent outbreak began on Jan. 17 on Long Island. The virus was found at two unidentified live poultry markets in The Bronx on Feb. 4 and 6.

In issuing the temporary closure of live poultry markets on Feb. 7, Hochul said, "My top priority will always be to keep New Yorkers safe, and I have directed our state agencies to use all available resources to ensure we are taking every measure necessary to keep the risk to the public low."

State Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald previously said of the outbreak, "While there is no immediate threat to public health, and no known cases of HPAI in humans in New York State, we support the Department of Agriculture and markets' latest proactive measures to prevent the spread of the disease between animals and humans by temporarily closing live bird markets in New York City and surrounding counties."

Meanwhile, Michelle Morse, NYC health department acting commissioner, added, "The current risk to New Yorkers of bird flu (H5N1) remains low. Avian influenza viruses only present a wider risk if the virus develops the ability to transmit between people, which we have not seen." Morse added that government agencies would work with live bird markets to provide "es-

sential information" to staff as well as treatment if "symptoms present themselves."

According to the State health department, avian flu "is a disease that is spread among birds and is caused by a flu virus. Water birds (such as ducks, geese, gulls and swans) can carry bird flu without looking sick, and bird flu can cause sickness and death in poultry birds (such as chickens and turkeys). Infected birds spread the virus through their saliva, nasal fluid, and feces."

After reports of an outbreak at both the Queens and Bronx zoos, the Wildlife Conservation Society issued a statement that read in part, "We have assessed and reviewed our protocols regarding risk to our birds from avian influenza. We implemented steps at our zoos and aquarium to limit exposure to our animals to wild birds."

The statement continued, "Three ducks at the Queens Zoo have died due to avian influenza. There are also nine wild birds and three collection ducks that have died at the Bronx Zoo that may have had exposure to the virus." The statement concluded, "As a precaution, over the last two weeks, we moved vulnerable bird species to protected areas in our parks."

On Sunday, Feb. 16, Robert, who lives across the street from the Bronx Zoo, told *Norwood News*, "Wild birds, geese and pigeons, those are the two wild birds that are just mainly in the zoo." Gesturing, he said, "The geese are over there on the opposite side of the zoo." Asked if he was concerned, Robert replied, "It's going to affect the stray cats more than anything."

Amid some reports of bird flu impacting a cat in New Jersey, we reached out to Animal Care Center NYC for comment, and a representative responded, saying, "We haven't seen any cats come into ACC with symptoms of bird flu."

During a visit to the Cross Bronx Live Poultry market located at 1863 Jerome Avenue in Morris Heights on Feb. 16, we observed hundreds of chickens in cages and a pair of customers in the market.

A man behind the counter who declined to be identified, told us, "We cleaned everything for the inspection." He added that once informed of the latest bird flu outbreak in New York and the governor's closure order, the market "immediately" closed.

Asked if their birds were



Photo by David Greene

THE MACCA VIVERO Live Poultry, located at 605 Morris Park Avenue in Van Nest, was back open on Sunday, Feb. 16, 2025, after a mandated closure temporarily shut all live poultry markets in some New York State counties.

checked, the man replied, "Of course! The moment they said, 'Close,' we didn't have any birds here. They went to a farm. That's why we closed, and we did an inspection and cleaned."

On Tuesday, Feb. 18, *Norwood News* contacted the Macca Vivero Live Poultry, Inc., located at 605 Morris Park Avenue in Van Nest, another live poultry market now back in business. A man who answered the phone was asked about the closure order. "Call the USDA inspector," he said. "We can't talk about anything. Have a good day." He then hung up.

Various animal rights groups say caged hens suffer from physical and psychological abuse. Meanwhile, when asked for his view on the latest outbreak, Kingsbridge resident C.J. Rivera said, "It's a little bit concerning to me because if they have the bird flu, it could spread to human beings. I'm not too familiar with the bird flu but it concerns me somewhat. I'm worried about that."

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends "the proper handling and cooking of poultry and eggs to an internal temperature of 165 degrees Fahrenheit" to kill bacteria and viruses.

Norwood News reached out to the Office of the Inspector General at USDA for comment as well as for additional information on the outbreak. They did not immediately respond to our request.

According to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), if your pets go outside and could potentially eat or be exposed to sick or dead birds infected with bird flu viruses, or an environment contaminated with bird flu virus, they

could become infected with bird flu.

CDC officials said that while it's unlikely pet owners would get sick with bird flu through direct contact with an infected pet, it is possible. In 2016, they said the spread of bird flu from a cat to a person was reported in New York City.

They said the person who was infected was a veterinarian who had mild flu symptoms after prolonged exposure to sick cats without using personal protective equipment.

CDC officials said if your pet shows signs of illness compatible with bird flu virus infection and has been exposed to infected (sick or dead) wild birds/poultry, you should monitor your health for signs of fever or infection.

Meanwhile, U.S. Sen. Kristin Gillibrand, who represents New York, with U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer, said March 5 that bird flu has since been found in 43 of New York's 62 counties and has forced farmers to cull more than 150 million birds around the country, including 100,000 at one farm on Long Island alone. She said a new strain of the disease has also been found in cattle; adding that its spread would be devastating to New York's dairy farmers and could pose a serious threat to human health if the strain continues to evolve.

Gillibrand said, despite this, the Trump administration has stopped releasing crucial data on the spread of bird flu and has fired federal workers responsible for tracking cases and managing the federal response. The senator is calling on the Trump administration to take action to address the outbreak and support the development of a vaccine to bring down egg prices and safeguard public health.



Photo by David Greene

THE BRONX ZOO, located at 2300 Southern Boulevard, the entrance of which is seen here Sunday, Feb. 16, 2025, reported that nine wild birds and three collection ducks recently died from avian flu, and the zoo has taken precautions to protect its animals from the virus.

INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



This week, we asked readers for their opinions on proposed State bill S.6786 / A.6989 that, if passed, would allow supermarkets to sell wine under a new license which would only be available to full-service grocery stores primarily engaged in the sale of food, which already have a license for off-premises beer sales, and which have a surface area of more than 5,000 sq. ft.



"I think they should sell wine in big supermarkets like Shop Rite, big named, brand supermarkets. I don't see why not, no. Just don't sell it to minors, yeah."

Jersey Brown,
The Hub, visiting Kingsbridge
Photo by David Greene



"I don't think they should do it. I think supermarkets have enough things to sell besides wine and stuff. I think if they did that, they would be putting the small businesses that sell wine, and who rely on those sales, out of business. It's not a good law. I don't think supermarkets should sell it at all."

Richard Buhler,
Kingsbridge
Photo by David Greene



"I think it's okay if they make sure they ID the person, because I think there would be more access to it [wine], and there would be more risk of addiction by having more access to it. But I guess if they regulate it, if they see someone show up too many times, they could decline the sale."

Ash Velez,
Parkchester, visiting University Heights
Photo by David Greene



"At first, I thought it would be a good idea when it was brought to my attention, then, maybe it's not that good of an idea because the wine stores, the liquor stores would go out of business. So, I'm against bodegas selling any kind of liquor."

Steven Casey,
Parkchester visiting Pelham Parkway
Photo by David Greene



"I think this would be more convenient for many people and it would give people more choices."

Annie Lee,
Queens, NY
Photo courtesy of Annie Lee

Daycare Operator Gets 45 Years for Nicholas Dominici's Death

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Grei Mendez, 37, the operator of El Divino Niño Daycare Center in Kingsbridge Heights where one-year-old Nicholas Feliz Dominici died on Sept. 15, 2023, from fentanyl poisoning, was sentenced to 45 years in prison for trafficking fentanyl out of the daycare, federal prosecutors said. The undercover drug operation resulted in the unintentional death of Nicholas, and the unintentional poisoning of three other infants who survived being poisoned, they said.

As reported, Mendez pleaded guilty on Oct. 29, 2024, in relation to her part in the

drug racket before U.S. District Judge Jed S. Rakoff, who imposed the sentence. Matthew Podolsky, acting U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced the news on Monday, March 3, saying, "Grei Mendez operated a daycare out of a basement apartment in The Bronx in which large quantities of deadly fentanyl were mixed, packaged, and stored."

He added, "She put babies as young as eight months old directly in harm's way as they slept, played, and ate in a room where over 11 kilograms of fentanyl was hidden underneath their feet, leading to the death of one child and the poisoning

of others. No punishment can make up for a child lost, but today's sentence sends the message that this Office and our law enforcement partners will work tirelessly to bring to justice anyone who uses children as a shield in the drug trade."

According to court records, and as reported, from at least in or about June 2022 through September 2023, Mendez and others conspired to distribute narcotics out of Divino Niño Daycare, located at 2707 Morris Avenue in Kingsbridge Heights. There, she and her co-conspirators maintained more than 11 kilograms of fentanyl and heroin in secret compartments, or traps, located underneath the floor tiles in the playroom of the daycare.

The court heard that as a consequence of the drug operation, on Sept. 15, 2023, four children at the daycare, including Nicholas, all of whom were under three years of age, experienced the effects of poisoning from exposure to fentanyl. Three of the children were hospitalized, including Nicholas, and were given Narcan, life-saving medication, in efforts to reverse the effects but tragically, Nicholas, just 22 months old at the time, died.

In addition to the prison term, Mendez, of The Bronx, was sentenced to five years

and federal charges.

Parra Paredes also pleaded guilty to his federal charges and awaits sentencing in federal court. We asked the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York for an update on the status of the case involving Acevedo Brito and will share any updates we receive.

Mendez also faces various State charges, as reported. The State trials for the various defendants had been pending the outcome of the federal cases.

Last year, Nicholas Otoniel Feliz Dominici Way was unveiled on the first anniversary of Nicholas's death on Sept. 15, in his memory.

As reported, in a separate but similar case, a Bronx man was sentenced on Oct. 16, 2024, to 13 years in prison for operating a separate drug mill in the Morris Heights section of The Bronx that resulted in the death of another one-year-old infant from fentanyl poisoning in December 2018.

NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) provides training and regularly updated information on how to obtain and administer naloxone (Narcan). Visit <https://www.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/naloxone.page> for more information.



Photo by Sile Moloney

A YEAR AFTER one-year-old Nicholas Otoniel Feliz Dominici died from fentanyl poisoning at Divino Niño Daycare Center in Kingsbridge Heights on Sept. 15, 2023, the infant's family, surrounded by friends, clergy, neighbors, elected officials and the NYPD, gathered for a street conaming ceremony in his honor at the intersection of East Kingsbridge Road and Kingsbridge Terrace in Kingsbridge Heights on Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024.

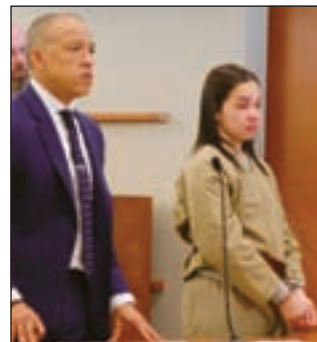


Photo by Sile Moloney

GREI MENDEZ, OPERATOR of the now closed Divino Niño Daycare Center, located on 2707 Morris Avenue in Kingsbridge Heights, where one-year-old Nicholas Feliz Dominici was fatally poisoned with fentanyl on Sept. 15, 2023, appears at Bronx Criminal Court on April 9, 2024.

of supervised release. As reported, her husband, Felix Herrera Garcia, 36, was also recently sentenced to 45 years in prison for trafficking fentanyl out of the now-closed daycare, after he also pleaded guilty last year.

In addition to Herrera Garcia and Mendez, Renny Antonio Parra Paredes, 39, and Carliso Acevedo Brito, 42, a cousin of Herrera Garcia, were also arrested in connection with the incident, and face various State

NEWS BRIEFS

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Adrienne Adams, Andrew Cuomo Run for Mayor

In her final State of the City address as speaker of the City Council, on March 4, the term-limited, Democratic Council Speaker Adrienne Adams, outlined her vision for leadership of New York City and spoke about using that leadership for the betterment of all New Yorkers. Several media outlets reported on the evening of March 5 that Adams, who represents C.D. 28 in Queens, and who has called for New York City Mayor Eric Adams (no relation) to resign, all but formally announced a mayoral run. The speaker is expected to make a formal announcement on Saturday, March 8.

Former Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo entered the already crowded mayoral race on March 2, citing his various accomplishments as governor, while also acknowledging in hindsight he would do some things differently. He was criticized for his handling of nursing homes amid the COVID-19 pandemic, for attempting to profit off a pandemic-based book he wrote, and resigned from office in 2021 amid a workplace sexual harassment scandal. Though he apologized for his behavior, he said he did not intentionally set out to cause harm.

Cuomo has received the backing of Rep. Ritchie Torres (NY-15), who represents parts of The Bronx. State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33) opposes his candidacy. Meanwhile, U.S. Sen. Kristen Gillibrand said it was up to the voters who they elected.

Fire Hydrant 3001 Webster Ave Fixed

The fire hydrant located at 3001 Webster Avenue closest to the corner of East 201st Street in Bedford Park, which had been broken for several weeks has been fixed according to NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). "This hydrant has been locked and cleaned, and crews will return at some point to paint it," DEP officials said Feb. 27.

Fordham Heights: Woman, 26, Reported Missing

The NYPD is asking for the public's help locating a 26-year-old woman from Fordham Heights reported missing. Police said Pamela Alcantara, of 2200 Morris Avenue, The Bronx, was last seen on Sunday, March 2, at around 2 a.m. at her home. They said she is described as female, Hispanic, is around 5 feet, 1 inch tall, weighs around 145 pounds, has hazel eyes and brown hair.

They said she was last seen wearing a black jacket, black pants, and black dress shoes. 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 X @NYPDTips. All calls are strictly confidential.



Photo courtesy of the NYPD

PAMELA ALCANTERA of Morris Avenue in Fordham Heights is reported missing.

Off-Duty NYPD Chaplain Arrested

A 40-year-old, off-duty, NYPD chaplain has been arrested in The Bronx for allegedly "patronizing prostitution" police said. The NYPD said that on Friday, Feb. 28, at 11.23 a.m., Fr. Michael Eguino was arrested and charged within the confines of the 49th Precinct, with allegedly either paying for sex or making an offer to pay for sex.

The Bronx District Attorney's office explained that the crime of "Patronizing a Person for Prostitution" is completed when a person offers to pay someone money in exchange for sex, so in a way, it includes attempts. Police said the person involved in the exchange was 20 years old.

The Archdiocese of New York later shared a statement, which representatives said had been shared with parishioners of St. Anselm Parish in the South Bronx, where Eguino is the local pastor. It read, "As you may have heard in the media, an allegation of inappropriate behavior with an adult woman has been made against your pastor, Father Michael Eguino. While it is painful for all to hear this, our people have expressed that they appreciate hearing from us directly.

It continued, "Father Eguino denies the allegations and maintains the presumption of his innocence. However, for the good of the parish, Father Eguino has voluntarily stepped away from the parish while the matter is investigated." It concluded, "As always, the Archdiocese of New York will cooperate with the investigation by the appropriate authorities. During this time, we remain united in prayer for all those involved, especially the parish family of St. Anselm."

We attempted to contact the pastor for comment and will share any

(continued on page 14)

Fordham Manor: 3 Cars Stolen during Armed Carjacking

By DAVID GREENE

Three cars were stolen during an armed robbery at a Fordham Manor parking lot, along with the attendant's wallet in the Fordham Manor section of The Bronx, according to police, who said no injuries were reported.

An NYPD spokesperson said the incident unfolded at a public parking lot located at 311 East 194th Street just after 1 a.m. on Saturday, March 1.

Providing few details, the spokesperson told *Norwood News*, "Victim states [an] unknown suspect displayed a firearm and took his wallet. Additional suspects took keys to three vehicles and fled the location with the vehicles."

We asked about the types of vehicles impacted, the description of the suspects, as well as whether the incident was connected to a similar incident at nearby G&S Sons Parking Lot at 2740 Webster Avenue, also in Fordham Manor, back on March 9, 2021. We did not receive an immediate response.

According to information posted to the Citizens App, based on police radio transmissions about the incident, four men removed three vehicles from the lot: a black Mercedes Benz, a white BMW sedan, and a Jeep Grand Cherokee.

Breaking News Network, a commercial news gathering service which also monitors police radio transmissions, reported at the time that police were looking for four Hispanic males, who were said to be wearing dark clothing.

A man working at the parking lot later the same day confirmed the incident was captured on surveillance video and had been given to police detectives. The employee recalled, "Somebody told me that the guy working at night said one BMW [was stolen]."

We asked if any luxury cars like Teslas, for example, were stolen. He replied, "No, not Tesla. Nobody wants that."

Tesla is owned by billionaire, Elon Musk, who has caused controversy over his handling of the newly launched U.S. Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) for recommending that funding of certain federal programs be paused or axed.

The attendant said he had heard the suspects pulled a gun on the male employee working at the time, took the keys from him, and drove off.

In the 2021 2740 Webster Avenue incident, three men produced a gun, assaulted a 58-year-old male victim,

and stole his wallet and \$180 before tying him up. The thieves then made off with a Honda CRV, a black Toyota Camry, and a black Porsche. At the time, police said the incident was part of a pattern of carjackings / robberies identified across the 43rd and 49th Precincts. Police described the suspects on that occasion as four Hispanic men in their twenties.

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark, then-NYPD Commissioner Edward A. Caban and others announced Aug. 2, 2024, that 15 people, including 14 alleged members and associates of the "1300" gang, were charged for allegedly conspiring to commit various violent crimes that took place across The Bronx, including attempted murder [shooting], conspiracy, and gang assault.

They said one of the victims was a teenage girl and another an older adult. They also said one of the gang members was charged separately for shooting four people and that the gang was also involved in a spate of carjackings and a gang assault of an off-duty police officer in the Unionport section of the Bronx in August 2022.

We've asked the Bronx District Attorneys' office if those charged are still in custody or if any have since been released and will share any updates we receive. It's unknown if they're linked to this latest carjacking incident or not.

Anyone with any information on this latest incident is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1-800-577-TIPS, and all calls remain confidential.

**Sile Moloney contributed to this story.*



Photo by David Greene

POLICE SAY FOUR men robbed an attendant of this public parking lot located at 311 East 194th Street in Fordham Manor on Saturday, March 1, 2025.

NYBG Opens ‘The Orchid Show: Mexican Modernism’ Exhibit

By **ARIEL PACHECO**

The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) premiered its 22nd Annual Orchid Show on Feb. 11. Its theme this year is “Mexican Modernism,” with the exhibit comprising a host of vibrant orchid colors across 11 galleries.

Jennifer Bernstein, president of NYBG, said of the exhibit, “The Orchid

Show: Mexican Modernism” presents the fusion of tradition and contemporary designs with an explosion of orchids that you have come to expect from this annual tradition.”

She added, “In addition to the gorgeous displays in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, we are so pleased that this year’s show is complemented by a photo

exhibit.”

Officials said the exhibit is inspired by the bold architecture of Luis Barragán, and thousands of orchids are on display to reflect Mexico’s diverse landscape.

In addition to the orchid display, the photography exhibit, *Homage to Luis Barragán: An Act of Poetry*, by the Mexi-

can American visual artist, Martirene Alcántara, is a series of images that capture Barragán’s works.

On seven select dates, NYBG is hosting “Orchid Nights” offering evening exhibition viewing, music, cocktails, and live performances for adults 21 and over. The exhibit will run through April 26. For tickets, visit www.nybg.org.



NYBG’S 22ND ANNUAL Orchid Show “Mexican Modernism” is seen on display at NYBG in Bedford Park on Feb. 11, 2025.

Photos by Ariel Pacheco

DOT Invites Proposals for New Vendors on Fordham Plaza

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) Commissioner Ydanis Rodríguez is inviting proposals from retail or food service businesses to operate in three different spaces at Fordham Plaza located on Fordham Road and Third Avenue on the Fordham / Belmont border.

DOT officials said there are both interior and exterior spaces available for “potential dealers.” They said one of the RFPs is for a larger space that includes the cafe building (yellow pictured building) and a kiosk (Kiosk 2), with outdoor concession space available, and another is for a smaller space with a window service kiosk that does not include outdoor concession space.

They said Fordham Plaza is the “geographic, economic and cultural heart of The Bronx,” and an important transportation and public space center. They said it’s within walking distance or a short bus ride from numerous local institutions, including Fordham University, the New York Botanical Garden, and the Bronx Zoo, CUNY on the Concourse, Monroe College, Lehman College, Bronx Community College, and Montefiore Medical Center.

“The new concessions at Fordham Plaza can help provide greater convenience to

Bronxites while commuting, as well as foster a vibrant and welcoming public space for all,” said Rodríguez. “The Fordham Plaza location presents an excellent business opportunity with unparalleled exposure to customers from all walks of life along some of New York’s busiest transportation lines.”

DOT officials said local businesses also have a unique opportunity to activate vital community spaces at Fordham Plaza, which they said is the central business district of The Bronx, and the third busiest shopping district in the City. They said interested business owners will have until April 11 to submit proposals to operate at the site. For more information, visit <https://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/about/doing-business.shtml#concessions>.

Described also as a transit destination, the plaza is located above the Fordham Metro North station, a 17-minute train ride from Grand Central Terminal, and also serves as a stop, terminal or transfer point for numerous bus lines serving The Bronx.

DOT officials said it is also located a short distance from the B and D trains at Grand Concourse, and that all of these factors have made Fordham Plaza the central business district of The Bronx.

Meanwhile, the Best Buy store located on the plaza is set to shutter on March 1.

On Feb. 10, NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY) held a hearing on a new agency rule that would require all business improvement districts (BIDs) to containerize public trash. DSNY officials said that for more than 40 years, BIDs have provided supplemental services (including sanitation) to enhance the City’s neighborhoods, and while DSNY shared the same goals of keeping the City’s streets and sidewalks clean, the new rule would essentially require BIDs to assume primary responsibility of sanitation services.

DSNY officials said the Belmont BID and Fordham Road BID believe the new rule is unfairly punitive, operationally challenging, remains unfunded, and undermines decades of public-private partnerships. Other BIDs are also opposed to the ruling. More to follow on this. A final decision since the hearing has not yet been announced, according to DSNY.

Meanwhile, as reported previously, concerned members of Bronx Community Board 6 (CB6) sent a letter dated Feb. 20, 2023, to Keith Kalb, then-interim commissioner at the Bronx borough office of NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) on “the current state of



Photo by Miriam Quinones

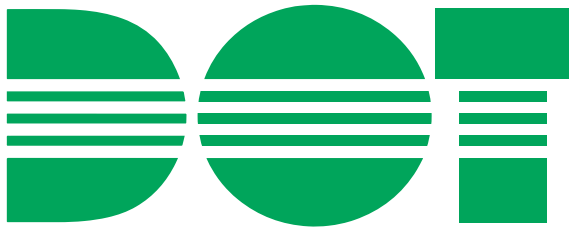
FORDHAM PLAZA, LOCATED on Fordham Road and Third Avenue on the border of Fordham Manor, Fordham Heights and Belmont, The Bronx, as seen in this photo taken from Third Avenue facing Fordham Road, Webster Avenue, and the Metro North train station on Feb. 14, 2023.

Fordham Plaza.” In it, they referred to DOT’s prior eviction of vendors and businesses which were previously operating at the Plaza, to facilitate reconstruction works at the site, which were completed in 2016.

The Bronx Night Mar-

ket continues to operate at Fordham Plaza on the last Saturday of the month from April to November from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m., while various cultural and community events are also held there regularly, including the Annual Fordham Road Fair.

NEW YORK CITY



Division of Transportation Planning and Management cordially invites your company to submit a competitive seal bid for the following Solicitation.

EPIN 84124B0019-Transportation and Inventory of Jersey Barriers, Blocks and Planters throughout New York City. This Best Value Competitive Sealed Bid (CSB) is being released through PASSPort, New York City's online procurement portal. Responses to this RFP/RfX must be submitted via PASSPort.

To access the RFP/RfX, vendors should visit the PASSPort Public Portal at <https://www.nyc.gov/site/mocs/passport/about-passport.page> then click on the rectangle captioned "Procurement Navigator," whereupon you will arrive at the Portal. To quickly locate the RfX, insert the EPIN, 84124B0019, into the Keyword search field, then click search. To respond to the RFP/RfX, vendors must create an account within the PASSPort system if they have not already done so.

A Pre-Bid conference via TEAMS/ZOOM is scheduled for 03/17/2025. Those wishing to attend must email the authorized agency contact for a link no later than 03/14/2025 by 3:30PM. The deadline for the submission of questions is 04/02/2025 by 3:30PM.

The bid due date (submission via PASSPort) as well as hard copy as instructed is due on 04/23/2025 no later than 11:00AM.

Date of Bid Opening: 4/23/2025 at 11:30 AM.
Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:
<https://zoom.us/j/91423169820?pwd=VREdlsDA0L8P3gux9HHRBZ4dTYkBim.1>
Passcode:886324

Phone one-tap:

+16465189805,,91423169820# US (New York)

+19292056099,,91423169820# US (New York)

Webinar ID: 914 2316 9820

ELEVATE YOUR EARNINGS



GET A
0.50%
APY
BONUS¹

**on an IRA CD
including a SEP IRA CD.**



Open an account today.
[ridgewoodbank.com](https://www.ridgewoodbank.com)

RIDGEWOOD SAVINGS BANK
multiply the good

1. Annual Percentage Yield. Promotion valid 10/7/24 through 4/15/25. Bonus offer not applicable to special promotion CDs. Early withdrawal penalties apply. Fees could reduce earnings. Special APY bonus offer is limited to one CD account per customer. Additional terms and conditions apply. Products, services, terms and conditions are subject to change without notice. © 2025 Ridgewood Savings Bank | Member FDIC

CRIME FILE - MAJOR CRIME STSTISTICS

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



Patrol Borough: Bronx		Precinct: 046					
CompStat Book		Week of 02/24/25 - 03/02/25					
		28 Day			Year to Date		
	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg
Murder	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	0	3	-100.0 %
Rape	- %	2	0	- %	4	2	100.0 %
Robbery	-42.9 %	32	14	128.6 %	60	46	30.4 %
Felony Assault	-20.0 %	51	63	-19.0 %	112	127	-11.8 %
Burglary	-57.1 %	13	24	-45.8 %	20	42	-52.4 %
Grand Larceny	54.5 %	48	60	-20.0 %	100	114	-12.3 %
Grand Larceny Auto	400.0 %	12	19	-36.8 %	34	34	0.0 %
Total	2.4 %	158	181	-12.7 %	330	368	-10.3 %
Patrol	-2.4 %	154	175	-12.0 %	323	358	-8.8 %
Transit	0.0 %	2	3	-33.3 %	2	6	-66.7 %
Housing	- %	2	3	-33.3 %	0	4	-100.0 %
Shooting Victims	0.0 %	0	2	-100.0 %	1	3	-66.7 %
Shooting Incidents	0.0 %	0	2	-100.0 %	1	3	-66.7 %
UCR Rape*	- %	2	1	100.0 %	4	6	-33.3 %
Other Sex Crimes	0.0 %	2	5	-60.0 %	9	15	-40.0 %
Petit Larceny	-62.5 %	64	83	-22.9 %	147	161	-8.7 %
Misd. Assault	0.0 %	64	84	-23.8 %	134	195	-31.3 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %

- All figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision. Data Summaries as of 6/13/17.
- Unless otherwise noted, crime statistics reflect New York State Penal Law (NYSP/L) definitions.
* Uniformed Crime Reporting (UCR) Rape consists of all crimes defined in the FBI UCR definition of rape

Source: NYPD

MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS for the 46th Precinct for the 28-day period ending March 2, 2025, compared to last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 46th Precinct as of March 2, 2025, compared to last year (right).

Patrol Borough: Bronx		Precinct: 050					
CompStat Book		Week of 02/24/25 - 03/02/25					
		28 Day			Year to Date		
	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg
Murder	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %
Rape	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	4	1	300.0 %
Robbery	-25.0 %	11	14	-21.4 %	20	35	-42.9 %
Felony Assault	100.0 %	15	5	200.0 %	36	24	50.0 %
Burglary	-75.0 %	6	11	-45.5 %	18	19	-5.3 %
Grand Larceny	-53.8 %	36	61	-41.0 %	77	132	-41.7 %
Grand Larceny Auto	-66.7 %	17	38	-55.3 %	36	76	-52.6 %
Total	-44.4 %	85	130	-34.6 %	191	288	-33.7 %
Patrol	-41.2 %	81	124	-34.7 %	180	275	-34.5 %
Transit	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	1	0	- %
Housing	-100.0 %	4	6	-33.3 %	10	13	-23.1 %
Shooting Victims	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %
Shooting Incidents	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %
UCR Rape*	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	5	4	25.0 %
Other Sex Crimes	-50.0 %	2	4	-50.0 %	5	7	-28.6 %
Petit Larceny	-51.9 %	66	78	-15.4 %	145	180	-19.4 %
Misd. Assault	100.0 %	21	19	10.5 %	54	46	17.4 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %

All figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision. Data Summaries as of 6/13/17.
* Unless otherwise noted, crime statistics reflect New York State Penal Law (NYSP/L) definitions.
* Uniformed Crime Reporting (UCR) Rape consists of all crimes defined in the FBI UCR definition of rape.

Source: NYPD

MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS for the 50th Precinct for the 28-day period ending March 2, 2025, compared to last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 50th Precinct as of March 2, 2025, compared to last year (right).

CRIME FILE BY SÍLE MOLONEY



Bedford Park: Person Sought for Stealing from 84-Year-Old Man

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying and locating the person seen in the accompanying screenshot above who they said is wanted in connection to a robbery that occurred in Bedford Park. Police said that on Sunday, March 2, at around 6 p.m. on the staircase of the Bedford Park Boulevard subway station, an 84-year-old male victim was approached by an unknown person who they said pushed him against a wall and forcefully stole his belongings. "The unidentified individual fled the location on foot to parts unknown,"

police said. "There were no reported injuries as a result of this incident."

We asked the NYPD to confirm if it was the subway station serving the D train, though it appears to be from the video. We did not receive a response.

Norwood: Suspected Arson Attack

The FDNY said they received a call at 10.45 a.m. on March 2, for a report of a rubbish fire at 3554 Rochambeau Avenue in Norwood, between East Gun Hill Road and East 212th Street. Officials said there were no reported injuries. The building owner, Katrina Curanaj, appears to have later released a video of the incident to a TV network which shows a person seemingly intentionally starting the fire.

The person is seen pouring what looks to be a fluid onto the sidewalk outside the building and igniting it. Later in the video, two passersby are seen putting it out. The FDNY said the matter is under investigation. We asked the NYPD for a report on the incident and were referred to FDNY. We will share any further updates we receive.

(continued on page 11)

Patrol Borough: Bronx		Precinct: 052					
CompStat Book		Week of 02/24/25 - 03/02/25					
		28 Day			Year to Date		
	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg
Murder	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %
Rape	- %	7	7	0.0 %	12	10	20.0 %
Robbery	-53.8 %	24	47	-48.9 %	51	98	-48.0 %
Felony Assault	-6.3 %	59	58	1.7 %	122	109	11.9 %
Burglary	0.0 %	12	21	-42.9 %	29	38	-23.7 %
Grand Larceny	166.7 %	65	45	44.4 %	137	114	20.2 %
Grand Larceny Auto	166.7 %	23	24	-4.2 %	42	70	-40.0 %
Total	18.6 %	190	203	-6.4 %	393	440	-10.7 %
Patrol	22.0 %	187	199	-6.0 %	386	432	-10.6 %
Transit	0.0 %	3	3	0.0 %	7	7	0.0 %
Housing	-100.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %
Shooting Victims	-100.0 %	0	4	-100.0 %	1	9	-88.9 %
Shooting Incidents	-100.0 %	0	2	-100.0 %	1	5	-80.0 %
UCR Rape*	- %	9	10	-10.0 %	15	16	-6.3 %
Other Sex Crimes	- %	8	6	33.3 %	13	15	-13.3 %
Petit Larceny	-3.7 %	113	108	6.6 %	266	341	-22.0 %
Misd. Assault	-42.9 %	47	76	-38.2 %	105	147	-28.6 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %

All figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision. Data Summaries as of 6/13/17.
* Unless otherwise noted, crime statistics reflect New York State Penal Law (NYSP/L) definitions.
* Uniformed Crime Reporting (UCR) Rape consists of all crimes defined in the FBI UCR definition of rape

Source: NYPD

MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS for the 52nd Precinct for the 28-day period ending March 2, 2025, compared to the same timeframe last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 52nd Precinct as of March 2, 2025, compared to last year (right).

CALL US AT (929) 318 6595 TO ADVERTISE

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY ARIEL PACHECO & SÍLE MOLONEY



Join your Local Community Board

Make a difference in your locality, while gaining valuable life skills and experiences by joining your local community board by March 9. Apply online now at <https://form.jotform.com/250137007893153>.

Red Cross Asks Residents to Test Smoke Alarms

Daylight saving time begins on Sunday, March 9, and the American Red Cross encourages residents to test their smoke alarms as they turn their clocks forward, to make sure the devices are working and replace the batteries if needed.

Over the past year, local Red Cross volunteers responded to help more than 10,000 people in the Greater New York region affected by nearly 1,400 home fires, which account for most of the roughly 65,000 disasters the Red Cross responds to annually across the country.

Visit redcross.org/fire for more information, including an escape plan to create and practice with your family, or download the free Red Cross Emergency app by searching "American Red Cross" in app stores.

If you need help or if you cannot afford to purchase smoke alarms or are physically unable to install one, the Red Cross may be able to help. For more information about this, visit www.soundthealarm.org/gny and learn about how to volunteer to help make your community safer against the risk of home fires.

Mind-Builders Summer Registration Open

Registration for Mind-Builders' summer program is open. Bring your summer to life with music, dance, and theater. Register by March 18 to save on the annual registration fee. Enrollment ends June 7. Visit www.mindbuilders.org for more information.

mer program is open. Bring your summer to life with music, dance, and theater. Register by March 18 to save on the annual registration fee. Enrollment ends June 7. Visit www.mindbuilders.org for more information.

4th Annual Prom Dress & Suit Drive

The Office of Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark and Bronx Fashion Week are accepting donations of gently used formal dresses and suits for high school seniors until Friday, April 18. Suits and dresses must be clean with no rips, tears, or damage. Bags and shoes are welcome, too. The drop-off location is at the Bronx District Attorney's Office, 198 East 161st Street Bronx, New York from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Free Housing Assistance

State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33) is hosting free housing assistance at his office for rent arrears, rent overcharges, landlord/tenant issues, apartment repairs, public benefits, homeowner benefits, city/state agencies, and more. Appointments are required. For more information, call (718) 933-2034.

Capital Project Submissions

Ahead of Fiscal Year 2026, City Council Member Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11) is calling on residents to submit capital project ideas that require a minimum budget of \$50,000. These could include improvements to parks, upgrades to schools, infrastructure enhancements, or the addition of community facilities that benefit the neighborhood.

Past projects have included renovating

the JFK campus football field and a new playground at P.S. 24. Submit your ideas here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqkpZnDcX0vr1WcCtJbhRupNB-KoS3Ly0DAr00QBjYJqQeb-w/viewform>.

Apply to Become a NYC Lifeguard for the 2025 Season

Apply to become a New York City lifeguard for the 2025 season. Lifeguards play a critical role in keeping New Yorkers safe at the City's pools and beaches while building valuable leadership and teamwork skills. For more information, visit www.nyc.gov/parks/lifeguards.

Group Prenatal Care

Join Bronx Healthy Start for Group Prenatal Care. Receive check-ups, participate in talks about healthy eating, dealing with common pains, stress relief, labor and delivery, breastfeeding, baby care, and more. Locations include Montefiore Wakefield campus, Montefiore Family Health Center in Fordham, and NYC Health + Hospitals/ North Central Bronx in Norwood. For more information, call (929) 697-3717.

Free Tax Prep Services

Assemblymember John Zaccaro Jr. (A.D. 80) is hosting free tax prep services every Thursday by appointment only until April 10 at 2018 Williamsbridge Road, Bronx, NY 10461. For more information, call (718) 409 0109.

Youth Leadership Award

Bronx Community Board 7 (CB7), Bronx Community Board 8 (CB8) and the New York Yankees are partnering

to select youth to be considered for the annual Youth Leadership Award, which includes a stipend of \$750 and recognition on the field during a pre-game ceremony at Yankee Stadium. This award is open to Bronx Youth ages 14-18 who live in CB7 and CB8. To apply to Bronx CB7, the deadline for which is March 20, visit bit.ly/4gM3ZuD. To apply to Bronx CB8, the deadline for which is March 14, visit <https://tinyurl.com/yankees-2025>.

Comeback Kid Achievement Award

Bronx Community Board 8 is also seeking nominations for its Comeback Kid Achievement Award to acknowledge students who have overcome challenges and demonstrated improvement over time. For more information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/cbkaa-2025>. The deadline is April 11.

Primary Election Day June 24, 2025

Primary Election Day in New York is Tuesday, June 24. Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Early Voting runs from June 14- 22. To be eligible to register to vote, a person must be a U.S. citizen; be 18 years old on June 24; a New York State resident for at least 30 days before the election; not be in prison for a felony conviction; not be adjudged mentally incompetent by a court; and not claim the right to vote elsewhere. The last day to register to vote in person is June 14. Applications to register to vote by mail must also be received by June 14. For more information, visit <https://vote.gov/register/new-york>.

Out & About

Compiled by ARIEL PACHECO

EVENTS

Join the Jerome Park Library at 118 Eames Place, Bronx, for **Art in Action! Women's History Month Artists** on Tuesday, March 11, from 3.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Learn about female artist, Mickalene Thomas, a contemporary African American visual artist best known as a painter of complex works using rhinestones, acrylic, and enamel. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

Woodlawn Cemetery and Conservatory is hosting an **Irish Heritage Trolley Tour** on Sunday, March 16, at 2 p.m. at 4199 Webster Avenue, Bronx, NY 10470. The tour will be led by

Kevin Fitzpatrick where you will visit the gravesites and memorials of Woodlawn's notables of Irish descent. For more information, call (718) 920-0500.

MUSIC

Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center is hosting a **Jazz Night** on Saturday, March 22, from 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. at 3415 Olinville Ave, Bronx. This is a student-driven series that celebrates the versatility of Jazz as performed and interpreted by Mind-Builders' stage band. For more information and for tickets, call (718) 652-6256.

Join the Lehman College Center for the Performing Arts for **Adalberto Santiago's 70th Anniversary Concert** on Saturday, March 22, at 8 p.m. at 250 Bedford Park Boulevard West, Bronx. Adalberto Santiago is an internationally renowned vocalist, celebrated for his timeless contributions to

salsa and Latin music. For more information, call (718) 960-8000.

LITERATURE

One Book One Bronx is hosting a **Book Talk** on "Their Eyes Were Watching God" by Zora Neale Hurston on Saturdays, March 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5, from noon to 1.30 p.m. at the Bronx Art Space, 700 Manida Street, Bronx (entrance on Spofford Avenue), or on Tuesdays, via Zoom, from 7 to 8.30 p.m. on March 11, 18, 25, and April 1. To register, visit <https://onebookonebronx.com>.

ART

Join Mosholu Public Library for **Adult Crafts-Acrylic Painting** on Friday, March 21, from 11 a.m. to noon at 285 East 205th Street, Bronx, NY 10467. Unleash your inner artist in a relaxed and fun-filled atmosphere. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

MOVEMENT

The Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center is hosting **Fit and Fabulous** on Friday, March 7, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at 3225 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467. This program consists of choreographed exercises to music and is open to all levels of fitness. Participants will complete a full body workout, ranging from low to high intensity that will improve cardiovascular and muscle endurance. For more information, call (718) 543-8672.

Join The St. James Recreation Center for **Chasing Vies: The Ultimate Fitness Experience** on Saturday, March 15, from noon to 2:00 p.m. at 2530 Jerome Ave, Bronx, NY 10468. Participate in full body workouts such as yoga, dance fitness, and HITT workout routines. This event is free for all ages. For more information, call (718) 367-3657.

Bronx Parks Speak-Up Held at Lehman College

By MIRIAM QUIÑONES

The 31st Bronx Parks Speak-Up event took place at Lehman College in Bedford Park on Saturday Feb. 22. Funded by the Bronx Council for Environmental Quality (BCEQ) through a Con Edison environmental stewardship grant and held in conjunction with the Bronx Coalition of Parks and Green Spaces (BCPGS), the annual event draws various Bronx environmental organizations, parks groups, and residents together to discuss and learn how to preserve and make the most of the borough's natural environment.

Hosted by Ed Garcia Conde, founder and editor of Welcome2TheBronx, this year's event comprised workshops, presentations, networking, exhibits, lunch, a raffle, art activities with the Bronx River Art Center, and more.

Fred Yonghabi, deputy program manager at Con Edison, kicked off the event with a presentation on how to take advantage of Con Edison's energy efficiency incentives. First Deputy Commissioner at NYC Parks, Iris Rodriguez-Rosa, delivered some remarks, followed by a presentation by her colleague, Jennifer Hoppa, entitled, "Vital Parks for All."

Daniel Abram of New Yorkers for Parks, also gave a presentation entitled "Play Fair for Parks: Bronx Advocacy in Action." Later, a panel discussion entitled "River Seekers: Why Bronx Waterfront Access is So Important, and So Difficult" was moderated by Robert Fanuzzi, BCEQ president, and Nilka Martell, founder of Loving the Bronx.

Panelists included Bob Bender, who has been advocating for a greenway along the Hudson River for over 15 years and is a member of Bronx Community Board 8 and vice chair of Friends of the Hudson River Greenway, and Kevin Daloia, administrator of Friends of the Hutchinson River Greenway (HRG) Team.



Photo by Miriam Quiñones

DEMI AMIDENEAU FROM NYC Parks, Bronx Borough Commissioner for NYC Parks, Jessenia Aponte, Nichloe McClain and Daniel Nieves, Bronx outreach coordinators of environmental stewardship, sign people up who want to volunteer at the 31st Bronx Parks Speak-Up event held at Lehman College in Bedford Park on Saturday Feb. 22, 2025.

From Pelham Bay/Throggs Neck, Daloia advocates for better housing, quality of life, parks and recreation, micro-mobility access, and transportation in the East Bronx. With HRG, he coordinates clean ups, plantings, bike rides and advocates for better access for biking and to the water.

Other panelists included Christian Murphy with the Bronx River Alliance, who is currently responsible for overseeing the collection, analysis, and dissemination of water quality data from the Bronx River, and who pursues efforts to protect and restore the river's health.

Meanwhile, Matthew Shore with South Bronx Unite brings residents in the Mott Haven and Port Morris neighborhoods together to reclaim underutilized public spaces for their benefit, and to fight for their right to clean air and

health equity.

Chauncy Young of Harlem River Coalition (HRC) is passionate about cycling, waterfront access, and education. He has been coordinating the HRC for over 15 years and worked for many years with the Highbridge Coalition to reopen the Highbridge for pedestrian and bike access from The Bronx to Manhattan.

Various workshops also took place, including one on "Clean Waters, Stronger Communities: Restoring Bronx Waterways," coordinated by Murphy and Noel Hefe, a volunteer coordinator with Van Cortlandt Park Alliance. Another was on grant & funding opportunities and was coordinated by Robert Madera of Partnerships for Parks.

Another workshop was on "Reclaiming the Harlem River Waterfront for People and Nature, a community planning

session" presented by Alan Hunt, Ph.D., community planner & project manager, Steph Stroud, community planner, Arriyan Peagler, landscape architect, & Olivia Wilson, community assistance fellow.

It was facilitated by Christina Carrero, Urban Waters ambassador for The Bronx and Harlem River Urban Waters Federal Partnership, and Fanuzzi, Young, and Karen Argenti from BCEQ.

The final workshop was called, "The Ripple Effect: How Water Pollution Affects Communities and How We Can Help," and was focused on how young people take center stage in the fight against water pollution. Participants left equipped with practical ideas and motivation to make a real difference in their community.

Adriel Aguliar, Ian Alvarado, Adelina Fiallos and Jayleanna Mitchell, Lehman STEP, and Rafael Lebron, Jason Ochoa-Rivera, Gaia Rueda Moreno and Jonel Shal-Aponte from The Bronx is Blooming participated.

Other attendees included Friends of Pelham Bay, Urban Park Rangers, Crotona Park representatives, NYC Parks Bronx Borough Commissioner Jessenia Aponte, City Councilman Rafael Salamanca, Jr. (C.D. 17), who is running for Bronx borough president, and Guerinos Against Graffiti* to name a few.

Elizabeth Quaranta, executive director of Future of Moshulu Parkland (FOMP), who also attended the event, said in part of the event, "Kudos to the organizers, as always! Thank you for 2025 Bronx Speak Up. I saw lots of old faces. Reminds me of how long we've been doing this."

She added, "Lots of good info and more important, it was good to see the good work that our colleagues are doing. Looking forward to next year's [event]."

**Sile Moloney contributed to this story.*



Photo by Miriam Quiñones

GWEN THOMAS-STEED AND Carmela Steed touch coyote fur after a few seconds of hesitation at the 31st Bronx Parks Speak-Up event held at Lehman College in Bedford Park on Saturday Feb. 22, 2025.



Photo by Miriam Quiñones

FRIENDS OF PELHAM Bay, Sam Halpern, a board member, and Alex, a volunteer, attend the 31st Bronx Parks Speak-Up event at Lehman College in Bedford Park on Saturday Feb. 22, 2025.



Healthy Eating Tips for Nutrition Month & Beyond

By CLAIRE GARON

Happy Nutrition Month! Healthy eating is among the best ways to prevent conditions like diabetes and heart disease and even lower the risk of cancer. It's also the main way to maintain a healthy bodyweight or lose weight. Most people have better energy and moods when 1) they eat plenty of fruits, veggies, beans, whole grains, low-fat meat and fish, and 2) moderate their intake of sugar, salt, oils, refined grains, and highly processed foods.

Check out our previous "Health Check: A Healthier Heart, The Power of Plants" online at www.norwoodnews.org for some examples. But how do we do this? If you're an adult or young adult, it's likely you'll be at work or school during lunch or dinner. Most of us have three choices: buy a meal, get one delivered, or bring one from home. The first two? Often convenient, but *much more expensive* and typically, less healthy.

Bringing a healthy meal from home with plenty of vegetables, low-fat protein, and a small amount of carbohydrates/starch is a powerful way to eat healthier and feel your best. Let's break it down:

Choose your Meal:

If you have a fridge and microwave at your location, there are as many options as internet pages! Many folks do meal prep, which means cooking a large batch of lunch or dinner and bringing one serving in a container each day.

For the Easiest Meal, Bring Dinner Leftovers!

Google terms like "healthy meal prep," or "grain bowls, soups, pasta, stews, chilis, and salad with protein." Choose a meal where each serving has about two cups of low-carbohydrate vegetables (size of two fists), 3-4 ounces of protein (size and thickness of palm of hand) and one cup of carbohydrates/starch (size of one fist).

Some people choose to skip the starch. For some great examples with detailed instructions, check out <https://www.nerdfitness.com/blog/a-step-by-step-guide-to-meal-planning-and-prep/>. Note that this is a meal with three parts, compared to stew or salad, where all parts are combined.

Here are examples of incomplete meals: chicken and potatoes (no low-carb veggies!), broccoli and rice (no protein!) or spaghetti with tomato sauce (no protein and too few veggies!). Some people prefer to prep a single serving of food the

night before work/school or that morning. They might choose no-cook options like a turkey sandwich with carrots, or a salad with chickpeas. You do you!

Shop for and Cook your Meal:

The most successful meal-bringers shop and cook on similar days and times each week, shifting and adapting the schedule when needed. Routines help us repeat healthy behaviors. Check out our previous Health Check: Setting Goals for 2024 is as Easy as ABC online on www.norwoodnews.org for more on this.

First, consider your weekly schedule and identify days and times to shop and to cook. For example, shop Sunday afternoon and cook Sunday evening. Next, make a recurring event on your phone calendar or paper calendar/planner. I encourage you to think about cooking as a time for "self-care!" Turn on a fun TV show or your favorite music or light a candle and have a treat.

I spoke to a patient recently who plans and cooks her work lunches on the week-ends with a best friend! When you want to skip, consider the huge benefits of preparing several weekly meals rather than buying out. On the busiest, hardest weeks, choose the quickest options: bagged salad and precooked chicken, frozen meals, or low sodium soup are solid choices.

Plan Your Week to Save Time:

Look around your staff lounge/kitchen (with a microwave) and you're bound to see peers with homemade

meals. I talked to an OB/GYN doctor and department director with a busy schedule who brings her lunch to work. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, one added benefit of bringing lunch was avoiding the crowded hospital cafeteria and increased risk of infection. It also saves time!

She brings three bottles of water, which keeps her hydrated and full enough to have smaller meals. The three bottles allow her to track her water intake. The OB/GYN also keeps a few healthy snacks, including 100-calorie packs of skinny popcorn, chips, and veggies at work. Make a mini pantry for yourself in the fridge or your desk/locker by bringing a few snacks and restocking when needed. Think fruit, raw veggies, nuts, cheese, crunchy things, yogurt and so on.

Many people want to eat healthier. You've just learned the benefits of homemade meals and how to get started. Fortunately, you don't have to eat "perfectly" to be perfectly healthy! When we eat healthy often, we can eat "less-healthy" foods in moderation, without any long-term issues. Please do continue to enjoy your favorite pizza occasionally; we all deserve a break from the hard work of healthy eating. To learn more about healthy eating, ask your doctor to speak to a registered dietician or health educator.

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

CRIME FILE - CONTINUED

(continued from page 8)

Off-Duty NYPD School Crossing Guard Arrested in North Bronx

Police said an off-duty New York City employee was arrested on Saturday, March 1, at 4.38 p.m. in the confines of the 47th Precinct, which covers the north Bronx neighborhoods of Woodlawn, Wakefield, Williamsbridge, Baychester, Edenwald, Olinville, and Fishbay, as well as Woodlawn Cemetery.

They said Jenny Ocampo Guterrez, 44, an NYPD school crossing guard, was charged with second-degree assault and second-degree harassment. Ocampo Gutierrez is presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

Marble Hill: One Person Stabbed near JFK High School

A person was hospitalized after a stabbing in the vicinity of the John F. Kennedy High School in Marble Hill on Tuesday, Feb. 25, according to City officials. FDNY said emergency services were called to the school, located at 99 Terrace Avenue in Marble Hill, at 8.46 a.m. on Tuesday for a report of a stabbing. They said one patient was trans-

ported to an area hospital prior to the arrival of EMS at the scene.

The NYPD said at around 8.45 a.m. on Feb. 25, police received a 911 call regarding an aided, bleeding person in the vicinity of Terrace Avenue and Tibbett Avenue, the area where the school is located. On arrival, police observed a 16-year-old male victim with a stab wound to the abdomen. The victim was transported to New York-Presbyterian Allen Hospital in stable condition. There were no arrests and the investigation remains ongoing.

Norwood News reached out to NYC Department of Education (DOE) and to the school safety agents union for more information. Jenna Lyle from DOE said, "Violence has no place in our schools or our communities. Yesterday morning, after a non-school related incident outside of the building, on the perimeter of campus, our outstanding school staff provided the necessary supports, and NYPD responded." News 12 the Bronx reported that the victim was a student. We asked the DOE to confirm if this was the case. We did not receive a re-



Image courtesy of the Citizens' App

ONE PERSON WAS stabbed in the vicinity of John F. Kennedy High School, 99 Terrace View Avenue in Marble Hill, The Bronx, on Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2025, police said. Both police and EMS later arrived at the scene.

sponse.

Anyone with information regarding these incidents is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1-800-577-TIPS (8477) or for Spanish, 1-888-57-PISTA

(74782). The public can also submit their tips by logging onto the Crime Stoppers website at <https://crimestoppers.nypd-online.org/>, or on Twitter @NYPDTips. All calls are strictly confidential.



Montefiore Nurses Rally to Oppose Planned Cuts

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Montefiore Bronx-based nurses held a rally organized by the NYS Nurses Association on Friday, Feb. 28, at 111 East 210th Street in Norwood, outside the private hospital group's Moses campus. They said their goal was "to save hospital beds and services, and end overcrowding in the emergency departments and hospital floors at Montefiore Moses and Weiler." The Montefiore Weiler campus is located in Morris Park.

They said Montefiore recently announced a "restructuring" plan that nurses say could negatively impact upon patient care in The Bronx. They allege Montefiore plans to eliminate hospital beds and some essential healthcare services, including some surgical and palliative care services at its Moses campus.

Nurses said Montefiore Moses and Weiler campuses have overcrowded emergency departments and patients waiting in hallways for care, a situation they said has gotten worse since last year. They said there are already not enough beds for patients on the hospital floors and "overflow" patients are placed in areas not intended for patient care.

At the rally, Linda Appau, RN, a nurse reportedly being displaced because of bed cuts, which NYSNA said are due start March 15, said, "More beds! More nurses! Better care!" Meanwhile, NY-SNA chair Una Davis, RN, said, "Montefiore is investing in expanding hospitals in Westchester. It's time to invest in patient care in The Bronx! Save our beds and end hallway beds and overcrowding now!"



Photo courtesy of NYS Nurses Association

MONTEFIORE BRONX-BASED NURSES hold a rally organized by the NYS Nurses Association on Friday, Feb. 28, at 111 East 210th Street in Norwood, outside the private hospital group's Moses campus.

Nurses said reducing medical-surgical beds and intermediate-level "step-down" beds could create even longer wait times and hallway patients in Bronx emergency departments, and more overflow patients in the hospitals.

Phiona McFarlane-Hunnigan, RN, said her church members and family rely on Montefiore Bronx hospitals. "I want

to see what our leadership talks about on paper, about our core values of equity, reflected in the real world," she said. Meanwhile, ED resident Luis Aguilar said it was time for Montefiore to put patients over profits. "These are not the conditions our patients deserve!" he said.

The nurses were joined by various local elected officials at the rally, along with the Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition, Mekong NYC, and New York Nonviolent Medicaid Army, and the Committee of Interns & Residents, part of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Healthcare. *Norwood News* reached out to Montefiore for comment and received the following statement.

"Like most hospitals across the country, and here in New York, we are seeing an increased demand for Emergency Department services. In fact, we are one of the top ten busiest emergency departments in the U.S. As we continue to treat a population that is growing older, and facing more complex medical needs, we've made investments to expand needed intensive and coronary care unit bed capacity."

It continued, "In doing so, we have plans to ensure repurposed Med Surge beds are made available throughout the health system to ensure everyone can receive the care they need at the right time and in the most appropriate setting. Our investments in our facilities will ensure our patients continue receiving the world-class care they deserve."

According to Montefiore, a recent study showed that 90% of U.S. emergency departments reported overcrowding to be a problem, and almost 40% reported that overcrowding occurred daily. Officials said Montefiore is fielding a 30% increase in transfers from

other facilities around the City since 2019.

They said Montefiore recently announced a \$15 million commitment to increase intensive care unit (ICU) bed capacity by 21 beds in the Bronx. With more patients arriving at hospitals older, and with more complex medical needs, they said the expansion will help meet the growing demand for intensive care in The Bronx, and ease pressures on emergency departments.

They said the new space at Moses will enable the hospital to care for several hundred additional ICU patients each year. They added that patients with fewer needs could also be treated in the ICU beds, if needed. According to Montefiore's health equity assessment submitted with its state filing, the project would not eliminate services or care.

They said Montefiore has also announced plans to expand its coronary care unit (CCU) to accommodate rising rates of heart attacks and other cardiac diseases in The Bronx. They said the plan involves converting four medical-surgical beds into coronary care beds, increasing CCU capacity from 12 to 16 beds.

They said the \$5 million investment will allow Montefiore to treat more patients experiencing heart attacks and other serious cardiac conditions while further strengthening critical care services in the community. *Norwood News* asked Montefiore for comment on the comments made during the rally regarding the alleged expansion of services in Westchester. A representative responded saying the organization has always been committed to expanding services in The Bronx and provided a range of examples.



Photo by Síle Moloney

SOME MONTEFIORE NURSES pose for a photo after speaking to residents at the Bronx Community Board 7 board meeting held Jan. 28, 2025, at P.S. 246 in Kingsbridge Heights, about their concerns over anticipated cuts to service at the private hospital group, which are reportedly taking effect on March 15.



Letters To The Editor

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

Calling on Rep. Ritchie Torres to Condemn Betar U.S.

As a Jewish constituent, I have watched, appalled as the terrorist actions and hate speech of an openly violent group called "Betar U.S." has spread ever wider across New York City. Modeled after fascist Zev Jabotinsky, in the last few months, Betar has harassed Jewish New Yorkers and their allies at funeral vigils, and issued thinly veiled death threats against many prominent Jewish figures e.g. Norman Finkelstein and Rabbi Weiss, to name just two incidents caught on video and widely distributed on social media.

I hereby call on Rep. Ritchie Torres (NY-15) to publicly condemn Betar's actions and clarify if he agrees that Betar should be prosecuted for hate speech/menacing. If he refuses, he should issue a statement as to why he considers Betar's abuse of our Jewish community (or any New Yorker) acceptable.

**J. Goodman,
Norwood**

Editor's Note: According to the Betar U.S. website, Betar is "a global organization founded in 1923 by Zionist visionary Ze'ev Jabotinsky, dedicated to empowering Jews to embrace their identity, defend their heritage, and build a thriving future

for the Jewish people." The group has an address in White Plains, NY.

According to Wikipedia, Norman Finkelstein is "an American political scientist and activist whose primary fields of research are the politics of the Holocaust and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

Goodman shared links to various videos along with the letter that show people being harassed in public and subjected to various disruptions, smears, insults, and swear words. Norwood News has traced two of the videos back to Betar U.S. and has reached out to the organization for comment. The email provided on the organization's website was rejected. The following disclaimer accompanied one of their posts:

"DISCLAIMER:

This page creates content for humor and satire only. Nothing posted here should be taken as fact, advice, or a real event. Any resemblance to actual people, places, or situations is purely coincidental (or just really funny). This content is not intended to hurt, threaten, or cause any harm to anyone."

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) very recently added Behar U.S. to its list of hate groups. The following article includes a response from Betar U.S. to that action: https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/adl-faces-off-with-betar-us-after-adding-it-to-its-list-of-extremist-organizations/.

Norwood News has reached out to Rep. Ritchie Torres and "Rabbi Weiss," who was identified in one of the videos

by Clarke, for comment on some of what is heard in the video and will share any updates we receive.

Palestine or Israel

In the February 20-March 5, 2025, issue of the *Norwood News*, Lois Harr wrote an opinion piece about the impact of the U.S. Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) on the work of Catholic Relief Services in various countries she visited. One of the places she named was Palestine. Unless she was there before 1947/1948, I believe the country is officially called Israel, not Palestine, even though some residents there may refer to it as Palestine.

**Judy Noy
Norwood**

Editor's Note: According to various media sources, by way of the Palestine Act 1948, British responsibility for the administration of Palestine ended on 14 May 1948.

The 1948 Palestine war saw the displacement of most of its predominantly Arab population by Israeli military and the establishment of Israel, despite opposition by Palestinians to the border.

Aida Refugee Camp in the West Bank was created in 1948 after the displacement of Palestinian refugees by the Israeli military and Palestinians continue to live in the makeshift camp while they wait to return to the homes they owned prior to the displacement. The Israeli government

controls the supply of water and other resources to the West Bank.

During the Six-Day War of 1967, Israel occupied the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. On Nov. 15, 1988, the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) declared the independence of the State of Palestine.

In November 2012, by a vote of 138 in favor to 9 against, including the United States, and with 41 abstentions, the State of Palestine was designated a non-member observer state at the United Nations by the UN General Assembly.

As an observer state, Palestinians can participate in General Assembly sessions, observe the UN's operations, and maintain a mission at UN Headquarters, but cannot vote.

According to various media outlets, as of November 2024, The State of Palestine is recognized as a sovereign nation by 146 countries, representing 75 percent of United Nations member states. The U.S. voted against the resolution.

In an article entitled, "Why can't I say Palestine?" dated Nov. 21, 2024, published on <https://baylorlariat.com/2024/11/21/why-cant-i-say-palestine/>, journalist Delaney Newhouse argues, in part, that when media outlets write about this area of the world, "by refusing to recognize Palestine, we are further promoting the idea that Palestinians have no claim to their own homeland."

She concludes, "How can I talk about the massive injustice done to Palestine — the state, the nation, the political identity, the people — if I can't say Palestine?"

Opinion

Aging Can be Isolating; A New Men's Group Offers a New Outlook

By JOSEPH D. MURPHY

Aging is a mixed bag. We can all have light-hearted conversations about joint pains, expanding waistlines, and keeping our cholesterol in check, but what society doesn't talk about nearly enough is how isolating getting older can be.

For those of us with complex health conditions that curb our movement and often frustratingly confine us to our homes, our world and social circle gets smaller and smaller as we age. Opportunities for real connections shrink. Friends and family oftentimes can't relate, and you don't want to burden them. Conversations can be awkward: Who, after all, wants to hear about being stuck in the hospital for three months?

New York City is isolating enough, let alone living with the burden of these challenges. I'm certainly not alone either. During the latest pandemic, New York City's then-health commissioner declared "an epidemic of loneliness." But even before COVID-19, approximately half of U.S. adults felt lonely. Yet, the loss of independence presents an additional hurdle.

I'm fortunate enough to work from home. When I go out, I have to carefully study the subway. Transportation can be inaccessible. Figuring out how to get my meals can be challenging, and as someone who uses a cane, I often feel like I have a target on my back as a potential robbery victim — particularly at night in my Bronx neighborhood.

That's why I was intrigued when my home care aide referred me to a new social forum for older men to discuss these issues. At first, I was hesitant. I sat, saying little, as I watched the group of a dozen or so Bronxites banter about their lives. But I became more engaged when the conversation veered into our medical issues, how to stay healthy and cope with our situations.

We talk about what it's like to learn how to walk again using walkers and

canes. We talk about what it's like to have foot pain, and neuropathy, and how to tie our shoes. We talk about the challenges of eating healthy, and about best practices to communicate these issues to our doctors, about how we feel outside in the community, and how we interact with a community that often isn't built for the aging population.

I was born and raised in The Bronx. I'm 65, and men of my generation generally do not tend to open up like this. The opportunity to talk with men of my own age about what we go through, and how we cope has been surprisingly therapeutic, and I come from a therapeutic background myself. For two decades, I worked as a licensed counselor and case manager. I spent my career helping clients improve their quality of life, including through art, but hadn't really thought about how I might benefit.

We need more of this programming as our city ages. One in five New Yorkers are over the age of 60 and are more likely to live alone with frailty than older Americans as a whole. Recent data also shows New York City's 65-plus population grew 36% in the past decade, but services to support older

New Yorkers have not kept pace.

With an aging population, the State and City should prioritize these types of social groups and learn from organizations like RiverSpring Health Plans, the Bronx-based, health care provider who facilitated this men's group, and provides the home care aide that allows me to live independently as part of their Managed Long Term Care program.

While our small group is growing, and recently expanded to Brooklyn, it'd be great if more members signed up. More men would benefit if they shed their fears and talked about these changes in their lives. Society, as a whole, would experience the value, including youngsters on the road to poor health with their current lifestyle choices. For others, vanity and ego keeps them from seeing a doctor despite the deterioration of their bodies.

I've always said that from day to day, we've all got to do something that makes us feel good in our own skin, and this group does that. I hope as our City ages, more New Yorkers will experience these same benefits and officials will see the value.

Joseph D. Murphy is a professional photographer who lives in The Bronx



**Shop local
and Save !**

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

jeromegunhillbid.org
BID hotline 718-324-4946

@jeromegunhillbid
 @jghbid



Classifieds

Professional Directory

COMPUTER SERVICES

Computer Repair

Computer Repair Upgrade, troubleshooting, lap-top overheats, cracked screen, broken power jack, virus removal, data recovery. Call James (646) 281-4475, (718) 324-4332.

Public and Community Meetings

The **52nd PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meeting usually takes place on the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. either virtually or in person. Meeting details for March are to be confirmed. 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 Tuesday, March 25, at 6.30 p.m. at KIPP Elementary School, 2720 Jerome Ave, Bronx, NY 10468. Contact KCabreraCarrera@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list. All meetings are in person unless otherwise notified by Bronx CB7.

The next **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8 (CB8)** full board (hybrid) meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11, at 7 p.m. at In Tech Academy Library, 2975 Tibbett Ave, Bronx, NY 10463. Contact BX08@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list.

The **BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. South in Apt. B1 (lobby floor). For more details, please contact bedfordmosholu@ve-rizon.net.

NEWS BRIEFS

(continued from page 5)

updates we receive. Eguino was appointed an NYPD chaplain in August 2021, according to an NYPD Chaplains Unit brochure. He was ordained a Catholic priest in July of 2015, and also serves as one of the spiritual directors for the NYPD Manhattan, Bronx, and Staten Island Holy Name Society. He is presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

An off-duty, auxiliary police offi-

cer was also arrested for criminal mischief in the 49th Precinct on Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2024.

Photo courtesy of
NYPD Chaplains
**FR. MICHAEL
EGUINO**



CORRECTIONS

In reference to our Page 2 story, "Norwood Fire Displaces 93-Year-Old Widow," in our Feb. 20, 2025, edition, the Red Cross cannot disclose the names of residents displaced by fires, only the number. As reported, the Red Cross confirmed that one person was offered emergency accommodation and other assistance after the fire at 3551 Dekalb Avenue in Norwood on Sunday, Feb. 16. Benjamin, son of Juanita, the 93-year-old female resident referenced in our story, later said that an apartment clean-up took place very quickly after the fire and his mother's kitchen

window was also boarded up the same day. Therefore, she decided to stay in her apartment in the end that night.

However, Benjamin added that his mom still doesn't have gas, though she has heat and electricity. He said he was reportedly told by Con Ed that it was the building's landlord who had to coordinate with Con Ed to fix the gas restoration. We followed up with all concerned and the landlord confirmed on March 5 that Bruckner Plumbing is scheduled to turn the gas meter on, and that a call would be placed to them on March 6.



APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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

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

MORRIS PARK BAGS \$20M

(continued from page 1)

the Bronx Borough President, the program is a cornerstone of the State's economic development program, led by the governor, to transform downtown neighborhoods into vibrant centers that offer high quality of life, and are magnets for redevelopment, business, job creation, and economic and housing diversity.

Bronx officials from the borough president's office said the borough received a previous DRI award in 2018 for the Bronx Civic Center in the South Bronx. Addressing local elected officials and various stakeholders gathered at Morris Park public library for the announcement, the governor said the DRI was one of her favorite programs, because it gives back to a community that believes in itself.

"It gathers leaders and elected officials and everybody who cares about their neighborhood, brings them together to come up with an idea, a concept, for many ideas," Hochul said. "And what we do at the state level, we evaluate it, we process it, we think about it, but we fund it, and we have not done this before. It's normally a \$10 million announcement and people get very excited about that, but this time, this is a very special [box?]. We are going to make it \$20 million!" Cheers and applause ensued.

The governor said 32 proposed projects may benefit from the funding, but they have not yet been selected for funding under DRI. "Sometimes, they all fit in with their budget, but these [undisclosed projects] will deal with transit, infrastructure, sidewalks and crosswalks, community beautification, park improvements, all kinds

of shuttles and public events, and everything that makes this community even better," she said.

Hochul said she looked forward to coming back to announce the final selected project, after the required review process and then "get them shovels in the ground." She said coming from Buffalo, she understood what it meant to come from "a community that sometimes is a little knocked down." She added, "It just gives you that sense of confidence that you matter, that people believe in you and just as I do believe in this community."

The Greater Morris Park DRI area has general boundaries of Pelham Parkway to the north, Hutchinson River Parkway to the east, East Tremont Avenue and Westchester Avenue to the south, and Bronx Park and White Plains Road to the west. It includes the neighborhoods of Morris Park, Van Nest, Westchester Square, Indian Village, and Pelham Parkway.

Existing Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) within the Greater Morris Park DRI include the Morris Park, Westchester Square, and White Plains Road BIDs. According to the Office of the Bronx Borough President, the area is a top 10 employment center for New York City and, as reported, will soon see two new Metro-North stations opened as part of the Penn Station Access project. A recent rezoning plan was approved along with \$500 million in capital to support the community.

Reacting to the news, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson described the funding as a significant investment in The Bronx, and a huge



Photo by Sile Moloney

LISA SORIN, EXECUTIVE director of the Bronx Chamber of Commerce poses for a photo on Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025, after a check presentation event was held at Morris Park library in Morris Park, The Bronx. New York State has committed \$20 million to the Greater Morris Park neighborhood, winner of the eighth round of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and the third round of NY Forward.

win for the borough. "We have an incredible, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to position the Greater Morris Park community as a critical intermodal transit hub that will drive future growth, and dramatically enhance the economic vitality of The Bronx," she said.

She thanked "the governor's continued leadership in recognizing that The Bronx is a thriving economic generator" that Gibson said will continue to create job growth and career opportunities for its residents. She added in part, "We are excited to see this \$20 million financial commitment and are grateful for our Bronx Economic Development Corporation (BXEDC) team, led by our President Rob Walsh, our Bronx Tourism Council, and our Planning & Development team."

She added, "We remain committed to advocating for funding that supports all our communities, ensuring the Bronx continues to strive and thrive in 2025 and beyond." For his part, Walsh described the funding as "a transformative moment" for Greater Morris Park and The Bronx. "It will fuel small businesses, improve infrastructure, and drive lasting economic growth," he said.

"BXEDC, alongside the Bronx Borough President's Office, is committed to ensuring this funding creates real opportunities for businesses and residents alike," he added. We thank Gov. Hochul for her leadership and vision in empowering communities across New York City."

According to the borough president's office, the 32 capital projects identified for funding total around \$105 million in capital-requested funding. Gibson said the wide range

of projects includes beautification projects, public park improvements, and transit, traffic, and pedestrian infrastructure. She said the funding aligns with her vision to enhance and revitalize The Bronx's commercial corridors.

Lisa Sorin, president of the Bronx Chamber of Commerce, also said the benefits of the funding are huge. "This type of state funding, especially when they're giving \$20 million, talk about the investment in our borough!" she said. "We knew we're growing. We're expanding things like this, and the vision of our leadership within the borough, both at the borough level, in our states, is incredible."

Meanwhile, Assemblyman John Zaccaro Jr. said in part, "We know the Downtown Revitalization Initiative is something that is critical to local communities, and today, The Bronx is the first community, particularly here in Morris Park in my district, to receive a \$20 million grant. We got the Metro North coming, and there's so much exciting things happening in this community."

For her part, State Sen. Nathalia Fernandez (S.D. 34) said the news was amazing. "There's so many things that we've been looking at working on over the last decade, with myself and other elected officials past and present," she said. "This is just such great news to know that we're finally going to get the boost that we've been asking for to revitalize our community, to make sure that the business corridor is strong, that our amenities, like our parks, are in the best condition they can be."

She said she was looking forward to hearing about the process and gathering more ideas from the community. Asked if the funding was separate from designated funding for the new Metro North Stations, the senator said, "Yes." She said some of the possible projects floated revolved around parks, including Matthews Playground and Loreto Park, which she said needs investments, and mentioned possible "sensory playgrounds."

Fernandez added, "I know Camilla has always wanted to see the power lines go underground. I don't know if this can do that, but it certainly is an opportunity to have maybe our storefront improvements, to see our sidewalks all improved without a cost to the businesses, to see connectivity brought in like these link towers. Yeah, there's a lot we can do."

Sorin summed up the win, saying, "What we're looking at is what we've always deserved. Our businesses and residents have a lot to be proud of, and this money is being put to use and being executed by some of the best people in our borough." She spoke of a Bronx renaissance. "We've been heading in that direction, and what I love to say is Brooklyn and Queens and everybody did their part. It's the Bronx's turn, and we're ready to take it all on and leave everybody else behind!"



Photo by Sile Moloney

BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT Vanessa Gibson (blue suit), New York Gov. Kathy Hochul (center front), and Rob Walsh, Bronx Economic Development Corporation (BXEDC) president (behind Hochul) join others for a photo on Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025, at a check presentation event held at Morris Park library in Morris Park, The Bronx. New York State committed \$20 million to the Greater Morris Park neighborhood, winner of the eighth round of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and the third round of NY Forward.

Injured Construction Workers & All Other Accident Victims

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

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



Our GUARANTEE

There is NO FEE Unless We Win

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

FREE CONSULTATION

Call 24 Hours • 7 days a Week

Some Recent Verdicts & Recoveries for Clients

Construction Accident - \$19,500,000 • Truck Accident - \$10,000,000
Police Misconduct - \$28,000,000 • Elevator Accident - \$1,400,000
Car Accident - \$1,600,000 • Slip & Fall Accident - \$2,650,000

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

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

RASKIN & KREMINs, LLP

Over 75 Years Of Combined Personal Injury Law Experience

www.raskrem.com

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

718-878-4858

212-587-3434

2 3 4 5 A C J Z TO FULTON STREET

N R W TO CORTLANDT STREET