



NORWOOD NEWS

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OLD FORDHAM LIBRARY DEBATE HEATS UP



Photo by Miriam Quiñones

THE OLD FORDHAM Library building (Insert) located at 2556 Bainbridge Avenue in Fordham Manor, pictured April 30, 2025, has been dormant for around 20 years.

Photo by Adi Talwar

RESIDENTS ATTEND A town hall hosted by Council Member Oswald Feliz (C.D. 15), left, at the Bronx Library Center, 310 East Kingsbridge Road in Fordham Manor, on April 23, 2025, to once again discuss the future potential use of the Old Fordham Library building located at 2556 Bainbridge Avenue in Fordham Manor.

By ARIEL PACHECO

District 15 City Council Member Oswald Feliz (C.D. 15) hosted a town hall Wednesday, April 23, for residents to gather ideas and explore possibilities for the future use of the old Fordham Library building, located at 2556 Bainbridge Av-

enue in Fordham Manor.

The building has remained vacant since 2005 and currently falls under the remit of NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS), according to City officials, having previously fallen under the responsibility of NYC Depart-

ment of Health & Mental Hygiene from 2008.

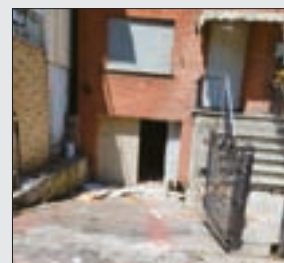
The town hall was held at the Bronx Library Center, located at 310 East Kingsbridge Road in Fordham Manor, which opened in 2006 to replace the former Fordham Library. During the intervening 20 years, the for-

mer library building has so far seen several potential proposals fall through, including a community space, an animal shelter, and a 10,200 square-foot computer-based testing and application center (CTAC), to test and apply for for City jobs.

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Photo by Sile Moloney

NEWLY CROWNED BABY Miss New York 2024, 2-year-old Emilia Charlot, along with her mom, paid a visit to the attendees of a senior program run at Mosholu Montefiore Community Center (MMCC) in Norwood on Friday, April 25, 2025. City Councilman Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11) and some Montefiore officials posed with them for some photos.

Baby Miss New York Charms MMCC

By SILE MOLONEY

Fulfilling part of her official duties, newly crowned Baby Miss New York 2024, 2-year-old Emilia Charlot, paid a visit to the attendees of a senior program run at Mosholu Montefiore Community Center (MMCC) in Norwood on Friday, April 25, delighting everyone with her presence.

Norwood News learned that Emilia, a student at MMCC's Head Start Child Development Program, captured the hearts of the judges and audience at the recent Baby Miss America Pageant, in which she was a runner-up, with her charm and delightful personality.

MMCC officials said they were honored to highlight her achievement and recognize the positive impact events like the pageant have on the local community. Local City Councilman Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11), who was seen trying on Emilia's tiara at one point, used the occasion to formally present Emilia with a "baby proclamation."

The councilman said Emilia was the youngest person to whom he has ever presented a proclamation. Reading in part from it, he said, "I join [this area] in celebrating Emilia Charlot who was recently crowned Baby Miss New York for her charm, delightful personality, and the joy you bring to all who meet you."

Dinowitz talked about how Emilia shone brightly on the recent Baby Miss America pageant stage, "serving as a wonderful example of confidence, creativity, and comradery from a young age." He added, "Now, therefore, be it known, Eric Dinowitz, councilman of the district, proudly recognizes Emilia Charlot, Baby Miss New York, for your outstanding achievement!"

Mixing happily among the adults, Emilia smiled and posed for some photos, one of her trophies in toe despite it being a good foot taller than her tiny self. Frank, 75, said of Emilia, "She's done so much in the past couple of months," adding that he thinks she will be a great representative



Photo courtesy of Mosholu Montefiore Community Center/Maya Doyle

BABY MISS NEW York, Emilia Charlot, is seen on a recent coronation night surrounded by her trophies.

for New York. Another attendee, Terry, 63, said, "She's the cutest one! And I know she has the innocence, but she can keep on going on and she will be the Miss Universe!"

Later, we asked Maya Doyle, Emilia's mom, about the pageant experience. "I enrolled her in the pageant world about maybe May of last year," she said. On July 4, she said they were informed Emilia had been selected to represent New York, and she then had to submit pictures, and later fly to New Orleans for the Baby Miss America contest. "It was five different outfits she had to wear: a cocktail dress, an eighties outfit, Mardi Gras because it was New Orleans, a pink western outfit, and Back to Blue, which is about representing and honoring the police department," she said.

Emilia's mom said the little girl won first place in that category which she thinks was because she wore her own miniature NYPD uniform, and all the family also participated, wearing NYPD shirts. She said the contest hosts encouraged her to keep going and therefore, Doyle said they would, for as long as Emilia enjoys it. "It gets her out, it gets her available to people, and it connects

her to the communities," Doyle said.

We asked the proud mom if she had any concerns about any potentially harmful effects of the pageant world on children. "No," she said. "So, the protocols they put in place during the actual competition, there's no cell phones. All the photography is done by their team and it's to prevent anything malicious done to a child. You can't take pictures of another person's family. You pay for a photo package of your child, so there's no concerns I had. It's so safe and protective as a family so I would totally do it again."

When asked, the councilman later said on the same topic, "It's not just about standing on the stage waving. She has to go to a senior center for grandmas and grandpas and talk to them, and I don't think there's anything more beautiful than the youngest generations having interactions with the older generation. I think it's great. I was really proud to be here for [one of] our youngest constituents," he said, adding that his oldest constituents, aged 100, are also honored.

We also asked Doyle if the contestants wear make-up or other cosmetics. "It's not required for the pageant," she said. "They ask you to be as natural as possible. You just do their hair and ask them to smile. They don't look for the make-up, the lashes; it's not what this pageant is about. It's really about natural beauty, and honoring the family, and the kids as beautifully as they naturally are."

We said Emilia was certainly that and the little girl replied, "Thank you!" Asked what her best friend's name was, Emilia said, "Jess" and when we asked what her favorite game was, she said, "Soccer!"

Jackina Farshtey of MMCC said of the event, "It's such an honor to have Baby Miss New York, Emilia Charlot, be part of our program. She's dynamic, she's young, and it's great to really see a young person at such an early age do such amazing things, so we're just honored to have her!" She added, "And her mother, who is one of our directors, Maya Doyle, is a legacy applicant and turned into a wonderful director here so the tradition continues!"



Department of Transportation

Ydanis Rodriguez, Commissioner

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COMPONENT REHABILITATION OF TEN BRIDGES

Borough of Queens
Contract No. HBCR22B
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EPIN: 84124B0008

EPIN: 84124B0008-PIN: 84124QUBR634 -Component Rehabilitation of Ten Bridges, in the Borough of Queens. This Competitive Sealed Bid (CSB) is being released through PASSPort, New York City's online procurement portal. Responses to this CSB must be submitted via PASSPort. To access the solicitation, vendors should visit the PASSPort Public Portal at <https://www.nyc.gov/site/mocs/passport/about-passport.page> and click on the "Procurement Navigator". This will take you to the Public Portal of all procurements in the PASSPort system.

To quickly locate the CSB, insert the EPIN: **84124B0008**, into the Keywords search field. In order to respond to the Competitive Sealed Bid, vendors must create an account within the PASSPort system if they have not already done so.

Any inquiries concerning this Competitive Sealed Bid should be directed by email to agency contact nkumar@dot.nyc.gov, under the subject line EPIN: 84124B0008.

A pre-bid conference via ZOOM is scheduled for 05/14/2025 at 10:00 am. Those wishing to attend must email the authorized agency contact for a link.

The deadline for the submission of questions is 5/21/2025 by 4:00 pm.

The bid due date (submission via PASSPort) as well as hard copy as instructed is due 6/25/2025 by 11:00 am.

Bid opening date via ZOOM is 6/25/2025 at 11:30am.

This procurement is subject to M/WBE participation goals, the M/WBE goals for this project are 30%.

As-Built Drawings will be available upon request from the Contractors. Contractors need to sign Confidentiality agreement to view As-built drawings.

Eric Adams, Mayor
Ydanis Rodriguez, Commissioner

INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE & SÍLE MOLONEY



This week, we asked readers their opinion on the life and death of Pope Francis.



"This pope was friendly. He changed how the church works. He saw how the world was with people who are gay and the LGBT community. It changed many lives, and he opened the minds of many people. But now, there are going to be changes. I think he will be the last good Pope. I feel Pope Francis had a peace inside him like Pope John Paul (II)."

Fernando Medina,
Norwood
Photo by David Greene



"Pope Francis was a good man for the church. He was an example for everybody because he loved everybody. No matter what, he loved everybody and he was a good man, and we're going to miss him because he looked like a saint. He brought a lot of change to the church. He traveled to every country and brought peace to the people. We're going to miss him, but wherever he is I know he's praying for us."

Alberto Bravo,
Norwood
Photo by David Greene



"He was a wonderful pope, and he served the church with love and the amazing grace he had. He was thinking all the time about the poor and the ones who needed help. Sometimes, we are blind, but this pope was the one the Lord used for us to see the need throughout the whole world. The immigrants, the ones suffering because of the wars, the ones who are suffering because of the drugs; he taught us how to welcome all these people."

Gustavo Gonzalez,
Norwood
Photo by David Greene



"Every time that I started praying to him after he passed, I kept saying, 'Pope Francis,' because he was such a gift from God to us. I don't remember any other pope having been so concerned about the immigrants, the homeless people, even gay people, all people in general. He always said we are all children of God, and I pray and bless him every day that God sent us this angel."

Nereida Malave,
Kingsbridge
Photo by David Greene



"It deeply saddened me to hear of the passing of Pope Francis. A great light has left the earth, his divine mercy, unwavering faith, and his tireless dedication to sharing the Lord's goodwill. He can never be replaced. May the Lord lovingly embrace his faithful servant and welcome him into the joyful afterlife he so passionately preached and lived for. His legacy will continue to inspire us all."

Cyara Rodriguez Lugo,
Norwood
Photo courtesy of Cyara Rodriguez Lugo

Walton High School Unveils New Library

By ARIEL PACHECO

Kingsbridge Heights' Walton Campus, which comprises five schools, unveiled a brand-new library for its hundreds of students on April 7 after the complex went years without access to one.

Faculty, students, and elected officials gathered to celebrate the opening of the library, located at 2780 Reservoir

Avenue, during a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The space includes new computers along with hundreds of books on well-stocked bookshelves. Along with the new library, a new staff librarian, Maria Simon, was hired in February.

"When I say it's about access, it's about access to physical books, but also just to a space to connect with each other outside of the classroom, a place to decompress," Simon said. "I think the idea of not having access to a library is a disservice to our students."

Simon added that she turned the space around in about 30 days, a process that included both ordering books and organizing them. "As far as I can tell, the space has not been utilized since 2018. However, I believe that it was closed previous to that, in preparation for the renovation," she added.

United Federation of Teachers (UFT) President Michael Mulgrew said of the opening, "This really is evidence that when the community comes together, things get done. All five schools should absolutely have access to a library each

and every day that school is in session."

Mulgrew added, "We want you to utilize this library. Make it part of your instructional plan, make it part of your support structure; that's what everyone wants."

For her part, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson said, "There is nothing greater that we can ever invest in than the education of our scholars. It is the gateway and the pathway to a better tomorrow for our children and their families."

She continued, "This is a project that means so much to the Walton Campus and all of our schools. I am so grateful to be here and to say congratulations because this, your library, we want you to take advantage of it. We want you to learn, we want you to partner with your fellow classmates and really make everything possible."

For his part, District 11 City Council Member Eric Dinowitz, a former special needs teacher, said, "What we want our students to do is what you're doing right now. Sitting together, ideally working together and collaborating, and having the technology needed to get your work done to be better students."

Dinowitz added, "I am really just so thrilled with the way this space looks and what it means for all the students and



Photo by Ariel Pacheco

WALTON CAMPUS FACULTY, including Walton Campus Principal Nicole Perkins, and elected officials attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the opening of the Walton Campus Library on April 7, 2025.



Photo by Ariel Pacheco

THE NEW WALTON Campus Library on April 7, 2025.

all the teachers to be able to collaborate and work together." The library is now officially open and available for students from all five schools to use.

Walton Campus includes students from the High School for

Teaching and the Professions, Discovery High School, the Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music, the Kingsbridge International High School, and the International High School for Liberal Arts.

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Norwood Home Used by Gang Broken into Again

By DAVID GREENE

Nearly five months after federal agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) raided a Norwood building used by gang members at 3267 Decatur Avenue, and almost two months after federal prosecutors announced the seizure of the building through the courts, to the relief of block residents, workers were seen sealing the two-story home at the end of March. One month later, on April 30, the home was seen broken into and not for the first time.

On March 29, *Norwood News* observed a half dozen contractors mixing cement and cutting plywood as they boarded up the garage door, front door, and first-floor windows of the two-family home.

When asked about their work at the property, one man who seemed to be in charge, said, "We're from the City." Asked if the City was taking over the property, he replied, "We only seal it up." We asked if anyone had been inside the home when the workers arrived. The man responded, "Nobody inside, empty, empty."

According to City records, including one "Satisfaction of Mortgage" document, the late Mrs. Mary McCaffrey, 97, of 3267 Decatur Avenue was the property

mortgage holder of the entire lot which includes a garage and/or vacant land. Public records show she died in July 2020.

Various court records in 2022 show NYC Department of Buildings had been issuing notices to McCaffrey instructing her to safeguard the property which had fallen into disrepair, likely not realizing she had already died in 2020. Records show the legal action against her was discontinued in January 2024.

As reported, residents of the block allege the home was taken over by a local gang sometime after McCaffrey died. In 2022, they allege the gang pushed out a man who claimed to be the last legal occupant of the home. In November 2024, *Norwood News* contacted the man who declined to be identified out of fear for his safety.

He alleged the building had been left to him in 2020 by McCaffrey when she died. The same man alleged he was the legal owner of the home around 2020 to 2021 when he allowed a pregnant woman and her boyfriend to stay in it rent-free. The man also alleged a local gang later took up residence in the building.

As reported, on Nov. 20, 2024, a former female second-floor occupant of the home said she had been renting at the location

but did not specify from whom. Subsequent visits to the home found the door with a new lock, before it was apparently kicked in again. This happened on multiple occasions. At one point, a panel from the front door was removed. Residents claimed they continued to see teenagers and young men enter the home.

The ATF raided the property in November 2024. *Norwood News* obtained video from a resident showing dozens of agents at the location and later children filing past them as they walk towards P.S. 56 Norwood Heights School, located about 200 feet away on East 207th Street. Residents alleged the agents were searching for a suspect who fled out the back of the building and that investigators recovered drugs and guns inside the home.

On Nov. 19, 2024, Amanda Hay, in response to our inquiry, a public affairs specialist at ATF told us in part, "Unfortunately we can't comment on any part of the investigation and what we're doing." At the time, we asked Hay if ATF had secured the property after the raid. She replied, "I was not on the operation. I was just advised that we cannot comment on any aspect of it until it's, you know, once the news release comes out."

In February 2025, as reported, prosecutors announced the home had been seized via the courts via a civil forfeiture complaint in which it was alleged the property was being used by members of the "Drilly Gang" as a stash house for drug trafficking and guns. Civil forfeiture is a legal process that allows law enforcement to seize property that is suspected of being involved in a crime without charging the owner.

They said federal agents had recovered, among other things, a pistol magazine; 177.73 grams of cocaine; 33 grams of methamphetamine; 38 grams of fentanyl; 65 grams of psilocybin mushrooms; and 240 grams of marijuana, drug packaging materials, which were designed to make the drugs look like candy, and around \$1,700 in cash. No arrests were announced.

More recent City records for the property show that a law firm located in Manhattan is representing Celink, a loan servicer of the mortgage. In response to questions raised by a concerned resident of the area about the comings and goings at the property, the law firm referred to a public foreclosure auction or sale and said once a judgment of foreclosure and sale was received, the property could be sold to a 3rd party purchaser.

"Any person who wants to bid at the sale/auction can do so once Plaintiff obtains a judgment," a law firm official said. "The successful bidder takes ownership of the property, can begin any landlord tenant proceeding, or take any action to secure their investment."

The official added that Celink has been monitoring the property and was actively trying to resolve the safety issues. "Due to the occupancy (from alleged squat-



Photo by David Greene

CONTRACTORS APPARENTLY HIRED by the City secure the home at 3267 Decatur Avenue in Norwood with concrete and plywood on Saturday, March 29, 2025.

ters) they have not been able to secure the property previously," the official said. "Once the property has been determined to be vacant per inspections (which occur regularly) it will be secured."

Two residents of the block and the former male resident of the home had previously alleged a "Bloods" gang who allegedly took over the home in 2022 was part of the same gang tied to the March 17th, 2021 fatal shooting of Delila Vásquez, 20, in an apartment on Hull Avenue and East 209th Street in Norwood, which had also allegedly been taken over by the gang.

According to the Bronx district attorney (DA)'s office, Precious Williams (female) pleaded guilty to second-degree manslaughter in connection to the death of Vásquez and is currently serving a two-and-a-third to seven-year sentence. The Bronx DA's office said Omar Gibbs pleaded guilty to criminal possession of a weapon in the second degree and was sentenced to 6 years in prison, and 5 years post-release supervision.

Both Gibbs, AKA "Leeky," and Williams, AKA "PW Jet," among others, were named in an 82-count indictment of the "G-Side / Drilly Gang," prominent in the Drill rap scene, on April 7, 2022, announced by the Bronx DA. The members were charged with various offenses related to murder, non-fatal shootings, and stabbings that took place broadly between 2018 and 2022. According to the Bronx DA's office, the gang is a subset of the "Bloods Sex Money Murder" gang.

On March 24, 2021, the super of the Hull Avenue building where Vásquez was shot recalled, "The girl that got killed in there, she was not living in the apartment. She was visiting. The person that is supposed to live in that apartment, she's

(continued on page 14)

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By **SÍLE MOLONEY**



Photo courtesy of Rai-Elle Ingram
RAI-ELLE INGRAM

DeWitt Clinton Student Represents School at Medical Congress

Rai-Elle Ingram, a senior honors student at Jerome Park's DeWitt Clinton High School, was recently selected to represent her school and community as a delegate at the Congress of Future Medical Leaders and Physicians, a national program recognizing high-achieving honors students interested in medicine and science. The event will take place on June 25–June 27, just outside Boston on the University of Massachusetts Lowell campus.

The Congress is an honors-only program for high school students who want to become physicians or go into medical research fields. The purpose of the event is to honor, inspire, motivate and direct the top students in the country interested in these careers to stay true to their dream, and after the event, to provide a path, plan and resources to help them reach their goal.

Rai-Elle's nomination was signed by Dr. Mario Capecchi, winner of the Nobel Prize in Medicine and the science director of the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists to represent DeWitt Clinton, based on her "academic achievement, leadership potential and determination to serve humanity in the field of medicine."

Omnicare & CVS Found Liable in Fraud Case

A unanimous jury found Omnicare, the country's largest long-term care pharmacy, liable on April 29 for fraudulently dispensing drugs without valid prescriptions to elderly and disabled people in assisted living facilities and other residential long-term care facilities, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York Jay Clayton said. After a four-week trial, he said the jury found that Omnicare billed Medicare, Medicaid, and TRICARE for over three million false claims resulting in \$135,592,814 in damages.

Clayton said under the federal False Claims Act, the government is entitled to three times the amount of these assessed damages, or \$406,778,442, plus statutory penalties to be determined by the court. He said it is one of the largest damages verdicts rendered by a jury in a False Claims Act case, and the jury also found CVS Health Corporation, Omnicare's parent, liable for causing Omnicare to submit false claims.

Capital One Invests \$1M in Bronx & More to Come

Capital One held the grand opening of its branch at 151 East Fordham Road on Saturday, April 26, simultaneously announcing an investment of \$1 million in The Bronx. Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33), City Council Member Pierina Sanchez (C.D. 14), Rob Walsh, president of the Bronx Economic Development Corporation, joined Capital One officials, the Fordham Road Business Improvement District, and other local officials & organizations for the occasion.

Capital One representatives said following the recent approval of the bank's proposed acquisition of Discover Financial Services, the Bronx investment signals the start of a series of investments Capital One will be making in low and moderate-income communities across New York, and nationwide, as part of a \$265 billion, five-year Community Benefits Plan (CBP).

They said funds will provide direct support to start-up incubators, bolster the local business improvement district, expand small business loan programs, and offer technical assistance and financial counseling to entrepreneurs and residents. Visit <https://www.capitalone.com/about/newsroom/capital-one-announces-usd1-million-investment-for-the-bronx/> for more information.



Photo courtesy of Capital One
LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS, representatives of Fordham Road BID and the BXEDC joined Capital One officials and others for the grand opening of Capital One's branch at 151 East Fordham Road on Saturday, April 26, 2025.

Rivera Helps Clean Up Poe Park, Announces Mayoral Endorsements

On Monday, April 21, Democratic State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33) joined St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction, for their weekly syringe clean-up in Fordham Manor's Poe Park. His office said the cleaning route started at Poe

Park, moved on to the Kingsbridge Underpass, then to St. James Park, and finally to Aqueduct Walk. As reported, the areas in question are frequently used by drug users and residents have previously raised safety concerns for children over discarded needles.

Bronx Community Board 7 and City Council Member Pierina Sánchez (C.D. 1) supported the effort, described by the senator's team as an important one. On Wednesday, April 30, the progressive senator announced his endorsement of mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani, a fellow progressive and assemblyman for A.D. 36 in Queens since 2021. He also ranked City Comptroller Brad Lander in second place.

Without ranking any others, Rivera also voiced his support for City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams, who represents parts of Queens, State Sen. Zellnor Myrie (S.D. 20), who represents parts of Brooklyn, and State Sen. Jessica Ramos (S.D. 13) who represents parts of Queens.

Part of Mamdani's platform includes freezing rent; fast, fare-free buses; no cost childcare; city-owned grocery stores; cracking down on bad landlords; and creating a department of community safety. We've reached out to Mamdani's team to ask how he proposes to fund the programs and will share any details we receive.



Photo courtesy of Sen. Gustavo Rivera
STATE SEN. GUSTAVO Rivera (S.D. 33) joins Bronx CB7 and others in helping to clean up Poe Park on Monday, April 21, 2025.

Photo courtesy of Sen. Gustavo Rivera
STATE SEN. GUSTAVO Rivera (S.D. 33) endorses Assemblyman Zohran Mamdani (A.D. 36) on April 30, 2025, in the upcoming Democratic mayoral primary.

Ridgewood Savings Bank Marks Earth Day

Ridgewood Savings Bank joined others in marking Earth Day. Since launching its Free Green Checking ac-

count in 2022, officials at Ridgewood Savings Bank, founded in 1921, said it has helped plant 5,632 trees through the nonprofit, One Tree Planted. "Free Green Checking is more than just a smart, modern banking option; it gives our customers the power to make a positive environmental impact with every new account," said Leonard Stekol, chairman, president and CEO of Ridgewood Savings Bank.

Ridgewood officials said its Free Green Checking account is designed with sustainability and simplicity in mind. They said the account features zero monthly fees, free eStatements, 24/7 digital banking access, 90,000 surcharge-free ATMs nationwide, Bill Pay + Zelle® for secure, convenient transactions. They said for every new Free Green Checking account opened, Ridgewood donates to One Tree Planted, helping to plant trees in U.S. National Forests.

Additionally, in 2024, officials said Ridgewood was honored to collaborate with neighbors and support many meaningful causes throughout the year. This included \$1,011,916 in corporate giving, donations & outreach, \$175,950 in community reinvestment, \$86,123 in employee charitable giving, \$83,858 in bank-matched donations, and 1,581 employee volunteer hours.



Photo by Síle Moloney
RIDGEWOOD SAVINGS BANK, Norwood, March 15, 2025

**TO REPORT
A STORY TO
THE NORWOOD
NEWS CALL US
AT 646-532-6858**

CRIME FILE

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



Fordham Manor: Man Sought for Non-Fatal Shooting

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying and locating the person seen in the accompanying photo above who they say is wanted in connection with a reckless endangerment incident (shooting) that occurred in Fordham Manor. Police said that on Tuesday, April 22, at around 5.35 p.m. in front of 2584 Briggs Avenue, an unidentified individual displayed and discharged a gun.

"The individual then fled the location on foot northbound on Briggs Avenue," police said. "No injuries were reported as a result of this incident." Police said the suspect is described as male, has a dark complexion, and was last seen wearing a black sweatshirt, a red shirt, multicolored shorts, and white sneakers.

Fordham Manor: Two Sought for Non-Fatal Shooting of Two Men

The NYPD is asking for the public's help locating and identifying the two people seen at right in the accompanying photos who they say are sought for questioning in connection with a non-fatal shooting that occurred in Fordham Manor. Police said that on Wednesday, April 9, at around 4.50 p.m. in the vicinity of East Fordham Road and the Grand Concourse, a 26-year-old man and a 52-year-old man were approached by two people on a motorized scooter.

Police said they fired shots, striking the 26-year-old man in the right ankle and the 52-year-old man in the back. They said both victims were transported by EMS to NYC Health + Hospitals/North Central Bronx and St. Barnabas Hospital, respectively, in stable condition. "The unidentified individuals fled the

location on the motorized scooter traveling on East Fordham Road towards Webster Avenue," police said.

They said the first suspect is described as male, has a light complexion, is around 5 feet, 6 inches tall, and was last seen wearing a baseball cap, a green sweatshirt, a black jacket with an unknown design on the front, dark colored pants, and black sneakers. They said he is estimated to be between 18 and 25 years old.

They said the second suspect is also described as male, has a medium build and a light complexion, and is around 5 feet, 6 inches tall. They said he has black hair, was last seen wearing an "8 ball" jacket, a black balaclava with a Nike logo, a black sweatshirt, dark colored pants, and red shoes, and is estimated to be between 18 and 25 years old.



Olinville: Arrest Made in Unprovoked Stabbing

The NYPD said a 50-year-old man has been arrested following an unprovoked stabbing assault in Olinville on Friday, April 18. Earlier the same day, police had asked for the public's help identifying the man seen in the accompanying photo above who they said was sought in connection with the incident. They said that on Friday at around 7 a.m., a 21-year-old male victim was aboard a southbound 5 train in the vicinity of White Plains Road and the East 219th Street subway station when he was approached by a suspect.

They said the suspect displayed a knife and stabbed the victim multiple times in the torso, EMS responded and transported the victim to NYC Health and Hospitals/Jacobi in stable condition. According to police, the suspect fled on foot and was last seen exiting the 225th Street subway station to parts unknown. They said he was described as male, had a medium complexion, and was last seen wearing a black vest, a blue sweatshirt, gray pants, and multiple-colored sneakers.

Pursuant to an ongoing investigation, police said Lateef Green from Wakefield was arrested on April 18, in the north Bronx. They said he has been charged with second-degree attempted murder, first-degree assault, and two counts of second-degree assault. He is presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

Williamsbridge: Man Fatally Shot on Bronxwood Avenue

Police said 20-year-old man has died following a daylight shooting in Williamsbridge. They said that on Thursday, April 17, at around 1.33 p.m., police responded to a 911 call of an assault in

progress at 3724 Bronxwood Avenue [a corner deli] by East 217th Street. "Upon arrival, officers observed a 20-year-old male with a gunshot wound to the neck and chest," police said, adding that EMS responded and transported the victim to NYC Health and Hospitals/Jacobi in Morris Park, where he succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased.

Police said there were no arrests and the investigation remains ongoing. We spoke to some workers at the deli on April 17, but they were not working at the time the shooting occurred. We also spoke to some other residents but they were not home when the incident took place and didn't know anything about it. Other residents declined to comment. The deceased has since been identified as Sorai King of Williamsbridge.

Fordham Manor: Man Sought following Groping Incident

The NYPD is asking for the public's help locating and identifying the person seen in the accompanying photo who they say is wanted in connection with a groping incident that occurred in Fordham Manor. Police said that on Saturday, March 1, at around 1.15 p.m., a 51-year-old female victim was inside 2503 Grand Concourse, when she was approached by an unknown individual. "The individual grabbed the victim's buttocks and fled the location on foot in an unknown direction," police said. "The victim did not sustain any injuries as a result of this incident."



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

CRIME FILE - MAJOR CRIME STTISTICS

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



Patrol Borough: Bronx

Precinct: 046

Comptrol Book:

Week of 04/21/25 - 04/27/25

		28 Day			Year to Date		
	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg
Murder	0.0 %	1	2	-50.0 %	1	8	-88.9 %
Rape	-100.0 %	1	2	-50.0 %	12	6	100.0 %
Robbery	0.0 %	34	32	6.3 %	118	102	15.7 %
Felony Assault	-26.7 %	52	59	-11.9 %	247	232	6.5 %
Burglary	500.0 %	13	9	44.4 %	47	69	-31.9 %
Grand Larceny	9.1 %	39	33	18.2 %	197	207	-4.8 %
Grand Larceny Auto	66.7 %	28	20	40.0 %	86	68	26.5 %
Total	7.7 %	168	157	7.0 %	708	693	2.2 %
Patrol	10.8 %	164	153	7.2 %	692	674	2.7 %
Transit	0.0 %	4	3	33.3 %	7	10	-30.0 %
Housing	-100.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	9	9	0.0 %
Shooting Victims	-50.0 %	9	3	200.0 %	11	12	-8.3 %
Shooting Incidents	0.0 %	7	2	250.0 %	9	10	-10.0 %
UCR Rape*	-100.0 %	2	4	-50.0 %	17	14	21.4 %
Other Sex Crimes	0.0 %	7	8	-12.5 %	23	30	-23.3 %
Petit Larceny	-42.3 %	90	83	8.4 %	319	348	-8.3 %
Misd. Assault	0.0 %	70	66	-18.6 %	268	306	-26.8 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	0	2	-100.0 %	0	2	-100.0 %

All figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision. Data Summary as of 5/13/17.

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 April 27, 2025, compared to last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 46th Precinct as of April 27, 2025, compared to last year (right). This precinct covers some or all of Fordham, University Heights, Morris Heights and Mt. Hope.

Patrol Borough: Bronx		Precinct: 050					
Comptrol Book:		Week of 04/21/25 - 04/27/25					
		28 Day			Year to Date		
	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg
Murder	- %	1	0	- %	1	1	0.0 %
Rape	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	7	1	600.0 %
Robbery	-100.0 %	6	12	-58.3 %	32	53	-39.6 %
Felony Assault	-25.0 %	17	20	-15.0 %	71	60	18.3 %
Burglary	0.0 %	13	9	44.4 %	48	38	26.3 %
Grand Larceny	7.7 %	73	51	43.1 %	186	246	-24.4 %
Grand Larceny Auto	60.0 %	23	19	21.1 %	79	117	-32.5 %
Total	-3.4 %	132	111	18.9 %	424	516	-17.8 %
Patrol	3.7 %	130	104	25.0 %	406	490	-17.1 %
Transit	-100.0 %	0	2	-100.0 %	2	2	0.0 %
Housing	-100.0 %	2	5	-60.0 %	16	24	-33.3 %
Shooting Victims	- %	4	0	- %	4	1	300.0 %
Shooting Incidents	- %	3	0	- %	3	1	200.0 %
UCR Rape*	0.0 %	0	2	-100.0 %	8	6	33.3 %
Other Sex Crimes	0.0 %	4	5	-20.0 %	13	20	-35.0 %
Petit Larceny	41.2 %	108	90	20.0 %	321	352	-8.8 %
Misd. Assault	133.3 %	37	23	60.9 %	112	100	12.0 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %

All figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision. Data Summary 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 April 27, 2025, compared to last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 50th Precinct as of April 27, 2025, compared to last year (right). This precinct covers some or all of Kingsbridge, Fieldston, Riverdale, Marble Hill, and Spuyten Duyvil.

Patrol Borough: Bronx

Precinct: 052

Comptrol Book:

Week of 04/21/25 - 04/27/25

		28 Day			Year to Date		
	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg
Murder	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %
Rape	-100.0 %	2	4	-50.0 %	19	20	-5.0 %
Robbery	16.7 %	33	39	-15.4 %	118	163	-27.6 %
Felony Assault	0.0 %	50	57	-12.3 %	248	212	17.0 %
Burglary	-50.0 %	11	17	-35.3 %	67	64	4.7 %
Grand Larceny	162.5 %	71	61	16.4 %	265	237	11.8 %
Grand Larceny Auto	80.0 %	24	27	-11.1 %	83	112	-25.9 %
Total	28.3 %	191	205	-6.8 %	800	809	-1.1 %
Patrol	28.9 %	190	202	-5.9 %	791	790	0.1 %
Transit	- %	1	1	0.0 %	9	16	-43.8 %
Housing	-100.0 %	0	2	-100.0 %	0	3	-100.0 %
Shooting Victims	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	2	11	-81.8 %
Shooting Incidents	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	2	7	-71.4 %
UCR Rape*	-100.0 %	2	5	-60.0 %	20	28	-28.6 %
Other Sex Crimes	66.7 %	16	11	45.5 %	37	38	-2.6 %
Petit Larceny	27.8 %	157	159	-1.3 %	553	648	-14.7 %
Misd. Assault	12.5 %	84	90	-6.0 %	270	262	3.1 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	2	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 April 27, 2025, compared to the same timeframe last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 52nd Precinct as of April 27, 2025, compared to last year (right). This precinct covers some or all of Bedford Park, Fordham, Kingsbridge, Norwood, Bronx Park, and University Heights.

MARC Academy and Family Center, Inc. invites the submission of sealed bids for qualified Food Service Vendors

MARC Academy and Family Center, Inc. invites the submission of sealed bids from qualified food service management companies for the preparation and delivery of meals to its center. Prospective bidders must be capable of providing breakfast, lunch and afternoon (PM) snacks for approximately 240 children ages 3-5 and 30 adults, five days a week for 262 days per year. The bids should take into account all applicable U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) requirements. Bids for the above must be received by 2:00 p.m. on May 15, 2025; at MARC Academy and Family Center, 55 E 175th St, 1st Floor Bronx, New York 10453, at which time they will be opened to the public, read and recorded. Interested parties may obtain the service specifications at the MARC Academy and Family Center, 55 E 175th St, 1st Floor, Bronx, NY 10453, on any weekday from 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m., or by calling Nadine Spencer at (718)562-3410.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in, or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large-print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

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1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington D.C. 20250-9410;
2. fax: (202) 690-7442; or Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

MARC Academy and Family Center is an equal opportunity provider.

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NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY ARIEL PACHECO



Transition Fair for Students with Disabilities

The Bronx Transition and College Access Center is hosting a BXTCAC Transition Fair on Tuesday, May 6, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Roberto Clemente State Park, 301 West Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY 10453. This fair is designed to empower students with disabilities as they transition from high school to adult life.

Meet NYC's Department of Buildings

Schedule an appointment with NYC's Department of Buildings to get more information on things like building permits, remodeling your home, and questions about violations during an event hosted by Assemblymember John Zaccaro Jr. (A.D. 80) on Friday, May 16, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. at 2018 Williamsbridge Road, Bronx, NY 10461. To make an appointment or for more informa-

tion, call (718) 409-0109.

"I Can't Be Stopped" Scholarship Fund

The "I Can't Be Stopped" Scholarship, created by Bronx Hip-Hop legend MC Sha-Rock, will award a \$1,000 annual one-time fund to a graduating high school student at the High School for Contemporary Arts in The Bronx. The application deadline is Friday, May 16. To apply, or for more information, visit BronxHistory.org/sharock.

Photography Workshop

Green Canvas Productions is hosting a photography workshop on Saturday, May 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Bryan Park, East Fordham Road and East Kingsbridge Road, Bronx, NY 10458. For more information, visit <https://greencanvasproductions.com>.

Resource Fair

P.S./M.S. 20, in partnership with the Office of Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson and the Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, is hosting The Innovative Resource Fair on Friday, May 16, from noon to 3 p.m. at 3050 Webster Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467. Free resources include education, health care services, basic needs, employment, food resources, and more. For more information, email IFischer@schools.nyc.gov.

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 con-

viction; 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>.

Affordable Housing Lotteries

NYC Department of Housing, Preservation and Development (HPD) has open affordable housing lotteries for housing units in The Bronx, including at:

- 130 East 177th Street, with a deadline of May 30
- 2070 Honeywell Avenue, with a deadline of May 1
- 811 Elmsmere Place Apartments, with a deadline of May 7

Deadlines are sometimes extended. Visit <https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/searchlotteries> for more information.

Out & About

Compiled by ARIEL PACHECO

EVENTS

The Landmarked Bedford Park Congregational Church is hosting a **Free Tour** on Saturday, May 17, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at 309 East 201st Street. The free tour is sponsored by the NY Landmarks Conservancy. Also featured will be beautiful, oversized, two-dimensional, crocheted creations by fiber artist Naomi Lawrence. For more information, email elainemaddux@yahoo.com.

The 52nd Precinct's Community Affairs Bureau is hosting an **Egg Hunt** on Saturday, May 10, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the grassy area across the street from the stationhouse at 3016 Webster Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467. For more information, call (718) 220-5824.

The Bronx County Historical Society is showing an exhibition entitled "**Uptown Rumble: Heavy Music in the Bronx**" through November at 3266 Bainbridge

Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467. The exhibit explores the rich history of Bronx bands and musicians playing in the heavier registers of rock music including hard rock, heavy metal, thrash metal, death metal, hardcore, and more from the 1960s through the early 2000s. For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

One Book One Bronx will host a virtual **Book Talk** on "First in the Family: A Story of Survival, Recovery, and the American Dream" by Jessica Hoppe via Zoom on Tuesday, May 6, from 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. For more information, visit <https://onebookonebronx.com/>.

The New York Botanical Garden presents **The LEGO® Botanical Garden Pop-Up** on May 10-11, 17-18, and 23-25 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, NY 10458. Explore the power of connection and creativity with a hands-on make-and-take experience, while supplies last. For more information, visit <https://www.nybg.org/event/lego-pop-up/>.

MUSIC

The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, on the campus of Lehman College/CUNY at 250

Bedford Park Boulevard West, Bronx, NY 10468, presents a **Golden Oldies Doo Wop** on Sunday, May 18, at 5 p.m. This unforgettable evening brings together some of the most iconic voices of the golden era, including The Platters' former lead singer Frank Pizarro, Clyde McPhatter, Drifters, featuring Ronn David McPhatter, The Coasters, Jay Siegel's Tokens, Bill Haley Jr.'s Comets, and Bobby Wilson with a tribute to his father, Jackie Wilson. Also featured are the Chiclettes, honoring legendary female artists through the decades. For tickets, call (718) 960-8833 or (para español) (718) 960-8835, or book online at <https://www.lehmancenter.org/events/golden-oldies>.

KIDS

Join the St. James Recreation Center for **Toddler Time with Kelize** on Wednesday, May 7, from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. at 2530 Jerome Ave, Bronx, NY 10468. Toddlers aged 1-5 years old are provided with arts, drawing, and physical activity in a safe, structured environment. For more information, call (718) 367-3657.

Join the **Kingsbridge Library for Kids "Crafternoon"** on Thursday, May 15, from 3.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. at 291 W 231st St, Bronx, NY 10463. Kids ages 5 through 12 are invited for a simple, hands-on craft. For more information, call (718) 548-5656.

ART

The Jerome Park Library, 118 Eames Pl, Bronx, NY 10468, is hosting "**The BX Factor**" on Wednesday, May 14, from 3.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Take a look at the trajectory of Hip Hop, its style and artistry via clips and photos. You can also create some graffiti art. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

MOVEMENT

Join the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center's **Running Group** on Wednesday, May 7, from 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. at 3225 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467. This beginner's 5K running program is a 10-week program that gets you ready to run your first 5K. It's an easy-to-follow program consisting of three days of active running/walking intervals that gradually build to more time running than walking. For more information, call (718) 543-8672.

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Bengali Muslims Celebrate End of Ramadhan

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Around 40, mostly male, worshippers from the North Bronx Islamic Center and Bengali Muslim community gathered at Dhaka Food Express & Deli on Bainbridge Avenue in Norwood for an annual Ramadhan Iftar celebration on March 28. The group was joined by several guests and visitors to mark the approach of the end of the holy month of Ramadhan which took place on March 29 this year.

According to Henry Ford College, Ramadhan is a holy month of worship, study of the Quran, prayer, and fasting. It occurs during the month in which Muslims believe the Quran began to be revealed to the Prophet Muhammad and is a joyous celebration for Muslims. Fasting is one of the five pillars of Islam.

According to Islamic Relief UK, Iftar is the name of the meal eaten by Muslims at sunset each day to break their fast during Ramadan. It is the main meal of the day for those who are fasting, with the other meal for those who are fasting being Suhoor, which is eaten early in the morning before dawn.

Monjur Chowdhury, a longtime member of Bronx Community Board 7 (CB7), was the evening's host, welcoming everyone and ensuring they were all served a meal as the group grew larger over the course of the evening.

Among the attendees were several senior members of the Muslim community, including the local president, as well as Mazed Rahman Omi, Ami Efrati, Dr. Jahan, City Councilman Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11), his two sons, Karla Cabrera Carrera, district manager of Bronx CB7, Leurys Acosta, chair of the Bronx CB7 education committee, Acosta's father, and local resident and health food entrepreneur, Gloria Bent, among others.

Jahan, a family physician originally from Bangladesh, said she was very happy to be at the event and said she had long wanted to come and visit the local community in The Bronx. "I always had a dream to practice in the Bronx area," she said, adding that her own practice was in Brooklyn. She added that in Bangladesh, she is an OBGYN, but in the U.S., had to "start from scratch." She said that she specialized in women's health but also saw men and added that speaking Bengali was a great asset in her work. "They can express all their feelings" she said.

Cabrera Carrera wished everyone a happy celebration and encouraged all Muslim and Bengali community members to come to CB7 for help, if needed. "You have an amazing friend here in Monjur, and advocate at the community board, so you can elevate things to him and he will elevate them to the office, and we'll provide as much assistance as we can," she said.

For his part, Acosta also praised Chowdhury, saying, "Monjur, thank you for inviting me. He's a great friend



of the community board. He's very active and he also loves taking pictures! I love my Bengali people! I love Bangladesh! One day, I would love to visit. I love your food. I love your culture, and most importantly, I love your people, so I'm just happy to be here. Thank you."

The councilman, who is Jewish, said he always feels very welcome whenever he comes to visit the Muslim community in Norwood, also crediting Chowdhury for always inviting him. He referenced a recent Citizenship event held at the local library at which Bengali translation was made available.

He also talked about the recent installation of some needed Stop signs in the neighborhood, and an investment of \$1 million for P.S. 94 Kings College, located at 3530 Kings College Place in Norwood, to build a new cafeteria at which halal meals would be served. He invited all attendees to an Eid celebration he was co-sponsored at City on April 2.

"As elected representatives in government, we're not always going to look like the people who represent us," Dinowitz said. "We're not always going to sound like the people who represent us. I know I don't speak the same lan-



Photo by Síle Moloney

WORSHIPPERS FROM THE North Bronx Islamic Center and the Bengali Muslim community gathered at Dhaka Food Express & Deli on Bainbridge Avenue in Norwood for an annual Ramadhan Iftar celebration on March 28.

guage as some of you but I'm trying a little bit." He then spoke a few words in Arabic, and said what was important was that despite the differences, the community shared common values.

"I know here we care about each

other, and our commitment to our faith and our commitment to God, and our commitment to one another," he said in part before wishing everyone "As-salamu alaykum," which translates to "Peace be upon you."





Letters To The Editor

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

Deportations to El Salvador

I refer to the letter to the editor by Richard Marias, "Let's Send Our Rikers Officials to El Salvador Prison for Training" published in the *Norwood News* edition dated April 17-April 30, 2025. Disregarding alleged beatings, making prisoners sit in "tight squatting positions" for hours at a time, I believe, would be considered cruel and unusual punishment prohibited by the Constitution. I ask the author if he has ever tried this.

The purpose of prison is not just to punish, but to rehabilitate. Those inmates that genuinely are remorseful for their crimes and wish to do their time and move forward with their lives deserve an opportunity to learn a trade, receive an education, and a chance to become useful, productive citizens upon release.

The situation at Riker's Island is horrific and I don't claim to be an expert on incarceration, but I do not believe violating Constitutional rights is the answer.

**Nat Weiner
Parkchester**

The Bronx on Film

I want to reflect upon two screenings I attended recently which showcase a specific area of The Bronx. The first was a movie called "The Cameraman" (1928) with Buster Keaton. The second was an episode of "Naked City" (1958-63). Both took place in and around none other than Yankee Stadium.

Let's begin with the movie. There

was a plethora of funny scenes in this movie. Yet, to me, the most enduring and the funniest scene was when Keaton ran into the old Yankee Stadium to make a newsreel film of the "Bronx Bombers" in action over on the other side, at River Avenue and 161st Street. Of course, he didn't get a chance, and was booted out of the old stadium by a Keystone Cop.

Then, of course, there was that old episode of "Naked City" from 1961. It featured a young Robert Duvall on the run from the NYPD and hiding in a relative's apartment until the coast was clear. This, of course, didn't turn out the way he wanted [no spoilers]. Crime did not pay, especially in those days! The episode was also filmed just a few blocks from Yankee Stadium. I believe they might have also shown it on Retro-TV. Check your local listings!

One movie was a comedy, the other, art imitating life in a gritty, golden-age police drama. On BronxNet, with my shows, "The Film Perspective" and "The Newsgram," I wish to show that great things that can come out of this borough or at least one can try. All you have to do is have a great idea!

**Bryan Gerard Briggs
Gun Hill**

Broken Windows Policy: I Must Be a Trendsetter

In the April 17-April 30, 2025, edition of the *Norwood News*, I castigated the Bronx District Attorney for failing to identify the root causes of crime in her argument of not instituting the "Broken Window" theory of policing at a recent City Council hearing.

I provided an outline for her to follow, and I hope she will understand that all types of crimes must be strictly enforced. Well, lo and behold, the NYC Po-

lice Commissioner gave a speech right after the publication of my letter to the NYC Crime Commission.

In her speech, Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch told the audience of influential citizens that if criminals want to steal a car, they should do so in The Bronx. Why? Because instead of being charged with a felony, they will only be charged with a misdemeanor. I almost fell off my seat reading those comments which almost sounded like they came directly from my letter about the Bronx DA!

Notwithstanding pounding my chest with pride, sadly, as a car owner in The Bronx, that is a harsh reality of parking a vehicle here. We pay higher insurance rates for thefts because of the current political landscape of Democrats who favor criminal rights over victim rights. In closing, if you want a better quality of life in our beloved County of the Bronx, don't vote for any Democrat anymore!

**Richard Marias,
Norwood**

Editor's Note: In an apparent dig at Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark, the NY Post reported Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch as saying at the Citizens Crime Commission of New York City breakfast forum in Midtown, Tuesday, April 15, "Auto theft is a felony, so it needs to be charged as a felony, and when you don't charge appropriately...you end up leading the city in stolen cars by a wide margin." Norwood News reached out to the Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark for comment and received the following statement in response.

We reached out to the district attorney's office for a comment on the commissioner's remarks and received the following statement: "We have a productive partnership with NYPD Auto Crime

to address auto crime and vehicle theft, which has resulted in several long-term investigations of car theft crews and organized theft rings. This approach allows us to interrupt the patterns of these crimes and prosecute vigorously."

It continued, "There is a difference between what the police charge at arrest and what we can prove in court. Charging decisions are made with the utmost integrity and we do not charge unless we have the evidence. Given that the Bronx is a hub for the sale of cars stolen from other jurisdictions, we will continue our stepped-up efforts to address auto crimes and hold people accountable for them."

See the latest auto theft stats for the local area in our Crime File section.



Photo courtesy of the Citizens' App
A CAR IS seen parked at 7 Bedford Park Boulevard in the Bedford Park section of The Bronx with a broken window in an undated photo posted to the Citizens' App in April 2025.

Please send all letters to the editor, along with supporting hyperlinked sources, to norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org, or by mail to Norwood News, 3400 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467, by the Friday before each publication day. Letter writers should aim to write no more than 300 words on local issues or in response to published articles. Please put "Letter to the Editor..." followed by the subject in the email subject line.

Opinion

Our Moral Moment

By **SILVIA BLUMENFELD**

These days, friends here in The Bronx, and all across the country, are telling me that they have stopped listening to the news. I can't say the same, but in a way-I really do get the reason for that phenomenon.

It's awfully hard to enjoy your morning roll and coffee, while hearing about the latest Draconian cuts to essential

programs. It's disturbing to hear about hungry children and about old folks scrambling to make the rent. It's hard to hear about fired federal workers and about shuttered programs, both here and abroad, which have saved so many lives.

It's alarming to learn of neighbors swept off our streets by masked individuals (ICE officers) to be sent to torture camps in El Salvador. All of this is taking place without lawyers, court hearings, or any mention of due process. A MAGA-controlled Congress has abdicated its responsibilities.

Meanwhile, we are all bracing for the prices on everything from our kids' clothes, our medications, and our new

cars, to shoot through the roof as a result of the Trump tariff wars. The chatter about Hilary's emails seems oddly quaint now, as we wonder what defense secrets are currently being divulged to evil doers all over the globe in sloppy signal chats, carried out by Trump's incompetent cabinet members.

For all of these reasons and more, the news of U.S. Senator Cory Booker's recent 25-hour marathon session on the U.S. Senate floor gave me some hope. Every single thing that he said spoke to me and to many other heartbroken Americans. He talked about the suffering of ordinary citizens brought about by the many cruel and unjust cuts and policies enacted in

the short time that this administration has been in power.

There was one bit that especially resonated with me, as the senator characterized our current situation. It was deceptively simple, but truly eloquent to my ears. Toward the end of his marathon, he explained, "This is our moral moment. This isn't right vs. left, it's right vs wrong." Amen to that!

I hold on to the hope that Americans can finally overcome the hatred, embrace our diversity, and bring back the promise of an America that works for us all.

Silvia Blumenfeld is a retired therapist, writer, artist, and grandmother living in the northwest Bronx.



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Public and Community Meetings

The 52nd **PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meeting usually takes place on third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. either in person or on Zoom. 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, May 27, at 6.30 p.m. at KIPP Elementary School, 2720 Jerome Avenue, 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, May 13, at 7 p.m. at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 144-146 W 228th Street, Bronx, and via <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2114033690> +16465588656, 2114033690# on Zoom. Contact BX08@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list.

The **BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** meetings are held on 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@verizon.net.

Norwood Home Used by Gang Broken into Again

(continued from page 6)

in jail."

Asked if the apartment was being used to sell drugs, the super replied, "The only thing I can tell you is there were a lot of young guys going in and out of that apartment. What they were doing inside the apartment, I don't know."

Meanwhile, prior to the latest apparent break-in at 3267 Decatur, when asked what the heavy sealing of the property meant to local residents, one said, "It definitely secures it now and it keeps the riff

raff out of there, and I think it's also good for the schools, because a lot of parents were concerned."

Upon receiving news of the latest break-in, *Norwood News* informed the 52nd Precinct. We've reached out to the law firm to request more information on the apparent transfer of title regarding the property and will share any feedback we receive. Defendants not yet convicted of a crime are deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

**Sile Moloney contributed to this story.*



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Attorneys Office for the Southern District of New York
DRUGS, DRUG PARAPHERNALIA and cash were removed from 3267 Decatur Avenue in the Norwood section of The Bronx in November 2024 following a dawn raid of the home by federal agents



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Old Fordham Library Debate Heats Up

(continued from page 1)

The City even held a public hearing in conjunction with DCAS to discuss the latter proposal in 2021, nearly four years ago, as reported. When asked for a status update in 2022, a spokesperson for DCAS told us, "We are continuing to engage with the local elected officials and community members to determine the best use for this space."

Norwood News previously reported in 2013 that because the structure, built in 1923, was designated as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, any changes to it would have to be approved by the state's historical preservation office. In recent years, we asked DCAS, among other questions, if that approval had ever been requested and/or received. We didn't receive a response, have followed up again, and will share any updates we receive. [It's, of course, possible that such a request might be dependent upon first selecting a definitive project.]

About two dozen people showed up for the town hall, where Feliz discussed some of the issues the building has faced since becoming dormant. "As we know, the building was in very bad shape," the councilman said. "It's a big priority for me because right now, a building with a lot of possibilities has turned into an eyesore. The building is always covered in graffiti from top to bottom. I have reached out to DSNY (NYC Department of Sanitation) millions of times, and they have cleaned up the graffiti only for a week later, we're back to square one."

Feliz continued, "But even more than that, it turned into a garbage dumping zone in front of it, also in the back of it, and even has safety issues. We've had many cases where individuals break in for all types of things, including drug use." *Norwood News* had reported on an apparent break-in in January 2024, when the building was seemingly being used to house migrants illegally.

Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, who also attended the town hall, said, "It is honestly shameful that it has been allowed to be dormant the way it

has been for close to 20 years, and I know as borough president that if this old library were in other neighborhoods, we would not be having this conversation almost 20 years later. We deserve new opportunities just like everyone else."

One of the central topics of discussion from both the elected officials and the community was the prospect of potentially demolishing the old building and constructing a new bigger, modern mixed-use one of the community's choosing. According to Feliz, the current structure is one and a half floors high, but a new building could potentially go up to five floors.

Gibson continued, "Because of the age of the building, because of the fact that it has not had any existing and active usage for all these years, the building is not in the best condition. So, there may be a possibility where we have to look at options that may not allow the existing building to remain. We've done that before [with] other projects. We've demolished, and then we build brand new, and sometimes it's more cost-effective than it is to renovate an existing building."

Feliz said the potential cost of renovating the existing building would be \$80 million, or a second option would be entering the ULURP (Uniform Land Use Review Procedure) process in order to repurpose the building and which would likely mean a private developer or non-profit organization would get involved. He said the community, elected officials, and city agencies could provide input, request changes, or block any new proposal, and typically, any ULURP process takes about a year.

Continuing his remarks on the ULURP scenario, Feliz said, "As of right now, the only use of the property is a library. After we decide the future use of the building, and we say, 'Hey, instead of the library, we want it to be a community center, housing, etc.,' then we could put the building up for public auction. The highest bidder takes the property, and develops it but throughout that auction process, it would be a somewhat community-driven auction."



Photo by Ariel Pacheco

HEATHER GUERINO OF Crusaders for Children's Rights, and City Council Member Oswald Feliz attend a town hall at the Bronx Library Center on East Kingsbridge Road in Fordham Manor to discuss the fate of the old Fordham Library building, located at 2556 Bainbridge Avenue in Fordham Manor, on April 23, 2025.

Feliz continued, "We can say to any bidder, for example, that they need to commit to doing five stories, and 30% of it needs to be a community center, and the remaining 70% needs to be affordable home ownership." Gibson repeatedly said she would pursue any avenue the community wanted, adding that choosing a cheaper alternative would likely lead to an easier process, logistically.

"Just in my experience in working with the City, I honestly think the best measure is what is most cost-effective," the borough president said. Feliz later asked residents for a hand-count of whether they would prefer demolishing the building, and building a new one, or if they would prefer to renovate the building instead. A large majority of the hands that went up voted to renovate the building, and almost no hands voted to demolish it.

Resident Sirio Guerino stressed the importance of preserving Bronx history regardless of cost, saying, "The Bronx has been dumped on for years and the young generation wants to tear everything down and rebuild with new and better things. I want to see this building stay here."

Guerino added, "The youth need this building, foster care parents need this building. There is no advocacy office in the Bronx for foster care parents. Foster care parents don't have access to lawyers. They have to pay out of pocket if they get sued by the state or the children who get placed in their homes."

Heather Guerino, co-founder of Crusaders for Children's Rights, and wife of Sirio, also advocated for part of the building to be used as an advocacy center for foster parents. The couple also foster children. "They definitely need an advocacy center here in that building," she said. Foster parents also need help and legal representation, because biological parents have legal representation and the children that are in foster care have legal representation, but unfortunately, the foster parents do not."

Edgar Ramos, who serves on Bronx Community Board 7 as the Traffic & Transportation committee chair, shared

one of his biggest concerns about the building's potential use for affordable housing. "A lot of these developers are coming into this area with a big sign in front saying, 'low-income housing,' but when you step inside, and try to fill out an application, if you're not making at least \$100,000, they aren't even looking at your application."

Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky, who is the Bronx Community Board 7 secretary, but who stated that her opinion was solely hers, said, "I think our community has a lot of new housing already; I think we need services. We need a community center, we need offices for our elected officials, for the community board. We need a new senior center, we need daycare. We especially need employment and training for youth."

Robin, another resident, said, "We should have some technical stuff going on in this space. When we talk about jobs, and I think about the future where other kids are learning about robotics, we should have some type of space here where they could come practice using different types of technologies and collaborate with other people and kids."

Edward Koku, a board of trustees chair at Fordham United Methodist Church, located behind the old Fordham Library building, said, "The building has attracted a bunch of quality-of-life issues to the area. Parishioners and most of the elderly are, actually, scared to come to church because of the building, and just the way people have been using that space." Koku added, "I'm very glad this conversation has started, and I hope to remain a very active part of it as we go forward."

The town hall concluded with every member who wanted a chance to speak being granted the opportunity to do so. Feliz later told *Norwood News* he hopes to have the building's use agreed upon within the next month, adding, "This is the first town hall we've held where we hear from everyone, and the information that we received today is the first part of the process."

**Sile Moloney contributed to this story.*



Norwood News file photo

IN 2007, SEVERAL rallies by community groups were held asking the City to turn the old Fordham Library building into a community center.

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