



# NORWOOD NEWS

Vol 38, No 11 • PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION • MAY 29-JUNE 11, 2025

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## BRONX VICTORY MEMORIAL MARKS 100 YEARS



Photo by Miriam Quinones

**MEMBERS OF THE** military service form a procession carrying flags as part of Bronx Community Board 7's Veterans' memorial flagging and centennial celebration at the Bronx Victory Memorial on Mosholu Parkway and Marion Avenue in Bedford Park on Sunday May 18, 2025.

**By SÍLE MOLONEY & MIRIAM QUIÑONES**

Bronx Community Board 7 (CB7) and community partners gathered to commemorate

Memorial Day and an early centennial celebration of the Bronx Victory Memorial, located on Mosholu Parkway in Bedford Park on Sunday, May

18, 2025. The memorial was first unveiled on Nov. 11, 1925.

As part of the ceremony, uniformed troops from the New York Grey Cadets Infan-

try formed a procession and marched to the site, carrying flags. There was a wreath-laying ceremony, speeches, some

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# NORWOOD NEWS

**Vol. 38, No. 11**

Norwood News is published biweekly on Thursdays by Mosholu Preservation Corporation (MPC)  
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## NYC Commission to Strengthen Local Democracy Hosts Meeting in Bronx

By **ARIEL PACHECO**

The NYC Commission to Strengthen Local Democracy hosted a public hearing on Bronx land use issues at the Bronx Museum of the Arts on May 12. The Commission says its goal is to improve and restore public confidence in City government by enhancing accountability and transparency.

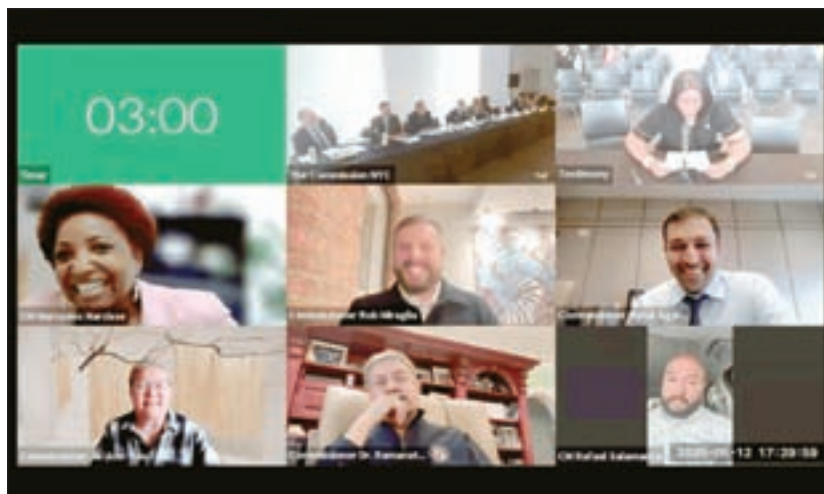
The Commission reviews New York City's Charter, holds hearings, and proposes initiatives to strengthen democracy. Meetings like the one held at the Bronx Museum of Arts are intended to use testimony from the public to help develop proposals to improve city government. The meeting was also open to join via Zoom.

The May 12th meeting focused on land use, including fair housing and community planning, expanding ULURP (the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure) pre-certification, and preventing fraud in City office leases.

Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson was the first to testify at the hearing and asked for the commission "to consider restoring and strengthening New York City's 'Fair Share' principles so that no single community board bears an outsized burden of shelters and migrant facilities."

New York City's Fair Share criteria, adopted in 1991, attempts to foster an equitable distribution of public facilities throughout the City. Gibson argued that low-income working-class communities of color carry a disproportionate burden when it comes to shelters and migrant locations.

The borough president said,



Screenshot by Ariel Pacheco

**THE NYC COMMISSION** to Strengthen Local Democracy holds a meeting at Bronx Museum of the Arts on May 12, 2025.

"Across 59 community districts across five boroughs, nine currently have zero shelters at all. Meanwhile, Bronx Community Boards 5 and 6 have more than 20 each, despite already facing high levels of poverty rates."

Gibson continued, "The issue has only been worsened by this administration's handling of our migrant crisis, and we understand that it was a migrant crisis none of us knew would happen, but we recently opened a 2,200-bed, single men's facility at 322 Bruckner Boulevard [in the South Bronx]. We got very little notification, no advance, no community engagement at all."

District 16 City Council Member Althea Stevens shared a similar sentiment, "We need a fair share approach, every community should contribute. No neighborhood should have to carry a disproportionate burden like mine has currently. Equally important is to ensure that the city charter includes a clear, accessible process for community planning."

District 12 City Council Member Kevin Riley said, "We definitely need to build housing, but housing alone is

not enough. We must approach building housing more comprehensively, and address community needs with investments in support of services such as sewer infrastructure, open spaces, schools, libraries, and public transportation."

Riley added, "Not all neighborhoods have the same needs, these important investments must be tailored accordingly through a community-focused plan and process."

Robin Rollan, a member of Bronx Community Board 7, testified and made clear her statements were entirely her own, "What concerns me is the proliferation of buildings and housing, but not services and resources for the community. We definitely need to have the resources to sustain all this development, and not just these resources, but building for the community of the future, the children."

The Commission will be holding a hearing on budget transparency on Tuesday, June 17, at Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center, 2nd Floor, 3415 Olinville Avenue in Olinville, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. To join via Zoom, visit [www.thecommission.nyc](http://www.thecommission.nyc).



Screenshot by Ariel Pacheco

**THE NYC COMMISSION** to Strengthen Local Democracy holds a meeting at the Bronx Museum of the Arts on May 12, 2025.



# Juvenile Arrested after 18-Year-Old Shot Dead

By SILE MOLONEY

Police said a 17-year-old male youth has been arrested following the fatal shooting of an 18-year-old male teenager on the corner of East Gun Hill Road and Putnam Place in Norwood on Wednesday, May 21. An NYPD spokeswoman said that at 5.53 p.m. in front of 266 East Gun Hill Road, police responded to a 911 call regarding a male who had been shot. "Upon arrival, officers observed an unidentified individual with a gunshot wound to the left side of the head."

She continued in part, "EMS transported the victim to St. Barnabas Hospital in critical condition." Onlookers said they saw one person being transported away in an ambulance but did not see what had happened. Several residents said they heard one sole gunshot. Many had descended from their buildings and formed a crowd at the opposite corner, taking in the scene as police cordoned off the area.

The shooting took place one block from the *Norwood News* office located beside the Keeper's House Community Garden run by Future of Mosholu Parkland (FOMP). The group often takes on interns. Upon hearing of the shooting, the group's executive director, Elizabeth Quaranta, gave her reaction to *Norwood News*.

"As much as this is so uncomfortable for me having an open garden literally right there, this is the reason why community gardens, even ones on private property, [are] needed," she said. "In places affected by

violence, it's a way to grow healing, connection and hope, right where it's needed most."

One female resident at the crime scene who did not witness the incident said, "We heard the sound [of the gunshot] and the ambulance was already here. We were in the park coming back from Family Dollar." Montefiore Medical Center is located two blocks from the crime scene on East Gun Hill Road and Bainbridge Avenue and ambulances frequently pass along East Gun Hill Road.

One local employee who declined to be identified said he didn't see what happened either and also heard one shot. He said he ran out onto the street and saw one masked/hooded, young male person dressed in dark clothing lying on the street not moving. He said he waved down a passing ambulance to ask for help. "I saw everybody running so I see the guy was like asleep on the floor," the employee said. Asked if he could describe him, he said, "Light skin... he's young."

Asked if he thought the victim was deceased, the man said, "Actually, I'm not sure. I tried to stop the ambulance; I had to do something. When they take the facemask from his face, I see a big hole in his head." Asked if the incident made him nervous, he said, "Of course. Now, I'm thinking about to put glass in my store."

Later, referring to video footage of the incident, the employee said it appeared a dispute broke out among three hooded/masked young people, dressed in black/dark clothing (on top),



Photo by Sile Moloney

**NYPD DETECTIVES AND** police officers are seen at the cordoned off crime scene after a fatal shooting took place on East Gun Hill Road and Putnam Place in Norwood on Wednesday, May 21, 2025.

before one was shot. He said in the video two others are seen running away, one northbound along Putnam Place in the direction of Woodlawn Cemetery and one southbound along Putnam Place towards the Reservoir Oval.

In the video, the person who runs towards Woodlawn Cemetery appears to have been wearing white sports shoes. About an hour after the shooting took place, a loud argument could be heard in the Williamsbridge Oval opposite Putnam Place between a group of people. One person was seemingly complaining about "taking sides." The speakers were not visible and it's unknown if the conversation was related to the shooting or not.

Police later said the victim was an 18-year-old male and that after being transported by EMS to St. Barnabas Hospital, he succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased.

The deceased was identified as Estarling Peralta from Mt. Eden.

Another local employee later told us three youths were seen walking from the direction of the Williamsbridge Oval / Reservoir Oval down Putnam Place towards East Gun Hill Road before the shooting took place. An NYPD crime scene unit was still at the scene at around midnight on Wednesday.

On Thursday, May 22, pursuant to an ongoing investigation, police said a 17-year-old, unnamed, male youth had been arrested the previous day. They said he was charged at 11 p.m. in the confines of the 52nd Precinct with murder in the second degree, manslaughter in the first degree, and criminal possession of a weapon in the second degree. He is deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

According to the NYPD, 2,099 guns have been taken off

New York City Streets since the beginning of the year, while 21,859 have been taken off the streets since the start of the Adams administration on Jan. 1, 2022. In terms of shootings in the 52nd Precinct for the 28-day period ending May 18, there were none, and there were also none during the same timeframe last year.

Meanwhile there were two year-to-date shootings in the 52nd Precinct as of May 18, compared to seven during the same timeframe last year (a drop of 71.4 percent). Check out our latest Crime File for more recent statistics. Attempts to reach the family of the victim for comment on Thursday were unsuccessful.

During the 52<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Community Council meeting held Thursday, May 22, prayers were offered for those killed since the previous monthly meeting, including for Peralta. Amid applause, Deputy Inspector Chase Maneri, commanding officer of the 52nd Precinct, said the case was already solved. "It's a sad thing," he said. "The perpetrator and the victim went to school together, and they've been disputing for a while, some months."

He continued in part saying, "The perpetrator and the victim met and got into a scuffle, and then the perpetrator shot him in the head once and then ran back to his own building, where we were able to track him down with some video." He added, "It's, you know, two families. Two families are destroyed because of...it's completely senseless."

## Illegal Scooter Crackdown Continues

By DAVID GREENE

Police officers from the 52nd Precinct are continuing to remove illegal scooters from local roads. Uniformed officers driving in an unmarked, black SUV were seen apparently stopping a scooter rider on Thursday, May 8 in Bedford Park. *Norwood News* observed the scene at the corner of East 198th Street and Briggs Avenue at 1.45 p.m. Two officers got back into their unmarked SUV and drove off while two other uniformed officers waited with the scooter for a second vehicle to arrive and transport it to the precinct. The driver of the scooter was not seen. Despite repeated requests, the NYPD was unable to provide any information on the incident.



Photo by David Greene

**POLICE OFFICERS WAIT** for a pick-up truck at the corner of East 198th Street and Briggs Avenue in Bedford Park on Thursday, May 8, 2025, to transport a confiscated scooter to the Precinct.



## INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



This week, we asked readers if they have felt the impact of U.S. President Donald Trump's policies on their day-to-day lives.



"I haven't noticed any change, but Trump is doing good for us. Yeah, Donald Trump has been doing food for us, and 'Obamacare' hasn't really been doing good for us these days. He [Trump] is not going hard enough, and I feel he needs to get more leniency and be given more power for what he's doing. Trump has helped people that I know get out of prison when the January 6th thing happened. One of my family members was inside of that, so he [Trump] helped him come home and helped the guy get his job back."

Devon Davis,  
Westchester Square  
Photo by David Greene



"Yes, I have. Trump's budget cuts with HUD [U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development] affected me and I'm a disabled veteran. They completely cut me off, saying I made too much money. However, in New York City, I make three times below the poverty line. To maintain my family, my wife has to work in order to keep up with half of the bills and at the same time, she is a full-time student."

Akeem Giddins,  
Williamsbridge  
Photo by David Greene



"The policies of the Trump administration so far have been noticeably and negatively impactful. Personally, I have noticed higher costs for electronics, and higher prices at grocery stores. I'll also add that Trump's policies have prompted me to cut back on personal expenses and go out less, knowing that everyday life is more expensive. I now spend less."

Marc Polite,  
Harlem, N.Y.  
Photo courtesy of Marc Polite



"The only impact I've felt is a negative one. The prices of everything are going up to a point that I have to make sacrifices. My wife and I are both on disability and we're barely getting by right now. I'm not hopeful while he [Trump] is in office."

Phil Clarke, Jr.,  
Norwood  
Photo courtesy of Phil Clarke, Jr.



"Donald Trump policies are hurting working class Americans, veterans, people who have disabilities and elderly people. I have friends whose 401Ks were affected. I have friends whose social security is affected and decreased."

George Fox,  
Manhattan, N.Y.  
Photo courtesy of George Fox

# Bronx Week 2025 Concludes in Bedford Park

By MIRIAM QUIÑONES &  
SILE MOLONEY

Bronx Week 2025 concluded on Sunday, May 18, on Mosholu Parkway in Bedford Park with the annual parade, street activities, and concert finale. Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson hosted the lively musical celebration, which featured performances by TKA, Eddie Montalvo, Los Hermanos Morenos, and La Insuperable.

With around 1,000 attendees, it seemed like people truly enjoyed the atmosphere, some relaxing on blankets, while others brought along beach chairs to soak up the music and festivities. Other local elected officials were present for the parade, as were a host of local groups and organizations, including among many others, Bronx Buccaneers, Bronx Community Board 7, and Future of Mosholu Park-land.

It was heartwarming to hear how excited one little girl called Marie was to play with other children while her mom enjoyed the music. The events drew people together, creating lasting memories, and strengthening community bonds. The return of the parade to Mosholu Parkway as the traditional venue for the parade added another layer of sentimentality to the occasion. It was great to see The Bronx thriving with such a vibrant celebration!

The previous day, this year's Bronx "Walk of Fame" inductees were formally inducted onto the Bronx Walk of Fame as part of streetsign unveiling ceremony. As



Photo by Sile Moloney

**THE BRONX WEEK** 2025 Walk of Fame Inductees pose for a photo with Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson at Bronx Borough Hall on Saturday, May 17, 2025.

reported, this year, the People's Choice Award went to journalist, DJ, and long-time BronxNet TV host, Gary Axelbank, who was accompanied at the event by his wife, Suzanne, daughter, Shawn, son, Evan (also a journalist), as well as other family members.

Gibson said this year Bronxites were asked to vote for their favorite person in media and the arts. "I'm so proud the person that got the total number of votes, the highest votes ever, is our very own producer, television media extraordinaire,

the host of Bronx Talk on BronxNet Television, Gary Axelbank," she said. "And I said to him, 'Don't thank me, thank the people of The Bronx! They voted for you!'" she continued. "I had no role in it. I was not a judge. I just had to make sure it was completely fair, but Gary won hands down and we say, 'Congratulations!'"

Introducing Axelbank, the event's emcee, ABC 7's Pedro Rivera, a Bronx native, said that after getting his education in Bronx public schools and colleges for the most part, in 1994, the TV host started

Bronx Talk. "He has sat down and interviewed pretty much anyone who has come from the borough," Rivera said. "He's the guy if you want to know anything about what the Bronx is, who is an elected official, I mean, literally anything, he's an encyclopedia sitting right there. There's no one better to represent the borough on air than that man."

Addressing the crowd, Axelbank thanked his family, saying he had nothing without them. "I grew up and am still living in Van Cortlandt Village in the north Bronx," he said, before talking about being in college in the '70s. "I did not know that The Bronx was burning, and that tells you something about the nature of what it was in the '70s, and of course why the Bronx was burning etc," he added.

Axelbank said he later got into radio and music. "I was a radio DJ. I was hired by Howard Stern," he said, who was then a program director in Westchester. Axelbank, himself, became a program director at 25 of a "progressive rock station." He continued, "Think about where you were when you were 25 years old," he said. "I still can't even imagine."

He said he went on to work at stations in Delaware, Maryland, and New Jersey, at one point making \$5.45 an hour for a three to four-hour shift until he begged for a raise and was later given \$5.55/hour. He said he also taught at a media school because he needed a job. It was there that a guy approached him saying he was looking for interns for a new cable station in

(continued on page 11)

# Speeding ruins lives. Slow down.



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# NEWS BRIEFS

By SÍLE MOLONEY



Photo courtesy of NYC Health + Hospitals/Jacobi and NCB

**A 27-YEAR-OLD BRONX** Police Officer salutes his colleagues as he leaves Jacobi Hospital in Morris Park after being hospitalized following an assault by two people on Saturday, May 24, 2025, in the Parkchester section of The Bronx.

## Assaulted Bronx Cop Discharged from Jacobi

A Bronx police officer who was robbed and assaulted by two people after finishing his shift in the Parkchester section of the Bronx on Saturday, May 24, was discharged from Jacobi Hospital on May 28. Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch and other members of the NYPD lined the exit area to cheer and clap for the unnamed 27-year-old officer as he was wheeled out and helped into a waiting vehicle.

The NYPD had released images of two suspects wanted for the assault and had asked for the public's help identifying them. They said the incident took place at around 4.09 a.m. on Saturday in the vicinity of 1473 St. Peters Avenue. They said two people forced the victim to the ground, striking his face and causing multiple fractures. They then held a knife to the victim's throat before stealing his wallet and iPhone. Police said one of the suspects stole the victim's registered gun and fled the location with his accomplice, on foot, to parts unknown.

They said EMS transported the victim to a local area hospital in critical condition. One suspect was identified as Taveon Hargrove, 23, and described as male and Black, and a second suspect was later identified as Wayne Lucas, 23, also described as male and Black.

On May 27, Tisch said Hargrove was in the handcuffs of the officer he assaulted, after he was taken into custody that morning in Virginia by the @USMarshalsHQ Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force and NYPD detectives. "One under, one to go," she said. Tisch announced on May 28 that Lucas was also taken into custody in Virginia, adding, "Come for one of us & you'll have the full force of the NYPD coming for you."

## International Diner Closes after 43 Years

The International Restaurant & Coffee Shop, located at 8 Bedford Park Blvd in Bedford Park has shuttered according to a notice seen in its window on May 27. It read, "After 43 incredible years of serving this community, it is with a heavy heart that we officially say goodbye to our beloved neighborhood diner. The decision did not come easily. Over the years, we've weathered many changes together, shifts in the neighborhood, rising costs, and the challenges of staying small and local in a rapidly changing world."

It continued, "Most recently, a gas leak forced us to shut our doors temporarily. Unfortunately, delays in inspection and approval made it impossible for us to reopen in a timely and sustainable way. That became the final hurdle we could not overcome."

We want to express our deepest gratitude for your support over the decades. You celebrated birthdays, graduations, first dates, and everyday meals with us. Your stories, smiles and loyalty are what made this place feel like home."

It concluded, "While this chapter closes, we're not going far. We're still here for you just across the street at Bedford Café. We'd be honored to continue serving you there, with the same care, heart and good food that defined our diner for nearly five decades." It was signed, "With appreciation, International Restaurant & Coffee Shop, The Management"

We spoke to the manager at Bedford Café who said it was the same manager who owned both diners. We also reached out to Con Ed for comment. We will share any updates we receive



Photo by Síle Moloney

**THE INTERNATIONAL RESTAURANT & Coffee Shop** is seen shuttered on May 27, 2025, on Bedford Park Boulevard between Jerome Avenue and the Grand Concourse in Bedford Park.

## Kingsbridge Heights: Police Appeal to Public for Help Locating 15-Year-Old Boy Reported Missing

The NYPD is appealing to the public for help locating a 15-year-old boy who is reported missing from Kingsbridge Heights. Police said that Riley Mehki of Bailey Avenue was last seen in front of his school, located at 99 Terrace View Avenue in Marble Hill, on Wednesday, May 21, at around 9.42 a.m. They said he is described as male, Black, is 5 feet 6 inches tall, weighs around 145 pounds, has a thin build, a dark complexion,

brown hair, and black eyes.

They said he was last seen wearing a black, hooded sweatshirt, black sweatpants, and white sneakers. 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

**THE NYPD IS** seeking the public's help locating a 15-year-old boy who is reported missing from the Kingsbridge Heights section of The Bronx.

## Court Order Preserves Congestion Pricing for Now

U.S. Judge Lewis J. Liman, presiding over court in the Southern District of New York on May 27, issued a temporary order restraining the White House from taking steps to end congestion pricing in New York City, which began earlier this year, until June 9, The New York Law Journal reported. It had also been reported that the president replaced his own federal prosecutors when they acknowledged there were holes in their legal arguments to kill the program.

In response, Gov. Kathy Hochul said on May 27, "We've won — again. Judge Liman's temporary restraining order is a massive victory for New York commuters, vindicating our right as a State to make decisions regarding what's best for our streets. New Yorkers deserve to control our own traffic patterns, keep gridlock off our streets and protect our clean air."

She added, "We need to make the massive investments necessary to support our transit system and prevent it from falling into disarray and disrepair. Congestion pricing is the right solution to get us there. So, here's the

deal: Secretary Duffy can issue as many letters and social media posts as he wants, but a court has blocked the Trump Administration from retaliating against New York for reducing traffic and investing in transit. Congestion pricing is legal, it's working and we're keeping the cameras on."

MTA Chair and CEO Janno Lieber gave his reaction on May 28 saying, "Congestion pricing isn't just surviving, it's thriving. We're pleased that Judge Liman has put a stop to threats by Washington intended to deprive New Yorkers of the benefits of the program, less traffic, safer streets, cleaner air, and better transit."

## Body Recovered from Jerome Reservoir

Police said that a body was recovered from the Jerome Park Reservoir in Kingsbridge Heights on Tuesday, May 20. They said at around 5.27 p.m., police responded to a 911 call reporting an unconscious and unresponsive male in the water in the Reservoir.

"The NYPD's Emergency Services Unit responded to the scene and removed the unidentified male from the water," police said. "EMS pronounced the male deceased on scene. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will determine the cause of the death. There are no arrests at this time and the investigation remains ongoing."

A helicopter was seen circling the area on the day of the discovery. We also reached out to FDNY/EMS for any additional details and a spokesperson said the department received a call at 5.28 p.m. on Tuesday for a report of a body floating in the water at 999 Jerome Park Reservoir. They said one person was pronounced deceased at the scene.



Image courtesy of the Citizens App

**POLICE VEHICLES AND** police officers are seen by Jerome Park Reservoir on Sedgwick Avenue in Kingsbridge Heights on Tuesday evening, May 20, 2025.

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# Armory ULURP & Public Hearings Advance Amid Lawsuit

By SILE MOLONEY

News shared May 19 that the required Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) and public hearings for the latest Kingsbridge Armory redevelopment plan are about to kick off appear to signal that it's full steam ahead for the beleaguered site. This is despite a pending lawsuit filed at the end of March against the City, 8th Regiment Partners, the winning bidder, and NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC) by losing bidder, Agallas Equities.

Meanwhile, as the first public hearing for the winning proposal, ("The Kingsbridge Center/El Centro Kingsbridge)," announced in late January, was scheduled to take place on May 28, some residents said they want to better understand what type of housing will be implemented under Phase II of the project. Some are already anxious it may constitute supportive housing services for persons living with substance addiction who frequent the area, as well as the nearby Kingsbridge Underpass, which New York City Mayor Eric Adams visited last year.

"From training troops during World War I to distributing supplies after Hurricane Sandy, the Kingsbridge Armory has served our city for more than a century," said Adams in the context of the ULURP kick off. "With the ambitious vision our administration has put forward for this space and the \$200 million investment we are committing to bring it to life, we'll begin work on the next chapter in this distinguished history."

In addition to that \$200 million, a further \$2 million was pledged in support of the project by the Office of the Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, \$12 million from the Office of City Council Member Pierina Sanchez (C.D. 14), along with a \$1.05 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), with the support of Congressman Adriano Espaillat (NY-13), all in hopes of finally putting the long-underutilized site to use for something other than filming occasional episodes of "The Penguin."

Adams added, "We will create hundreds of affordable homes, support 21st-century industries, generate over \$2 billion in economic impact, and give residents of the Bronx, and all New Yorkers, the world-class space they deserve."

The New York City Charter requires that certain actions reviewed by the NYC Planning Commission undergo a ULURP, a standardized procedure whereby applications affecting the City's land use are publicly reviewed. The Charter also mandates timeframes within which such reviews must take place.

Meanwhile, Bronx Community Board 7 (CB7) District Manager Karla Cabrera Carrera and CB7 Chair Yajaira Arias said, "Bronx Community Board 7 and the community look forward to continued conversations on the proposed redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory."

According to City officials, the aim of the latest plan is to turn the historic, long-vacant, City-owned Armory, located



Photo by Sile Moloney

**ONE OF THE** renovated annexes used by the National Guard and located on the grounds of the Kingsbridge Armory on West 195th Street is seen on May 26, 2025, on the right of this photo, and is the intended site for rental housing under Phase II of the redevelopment of the Armory, according to NYC Economic Development Corporation.

in Kingsbridge Heights, into "a thriving, community-centered hub that delivers economic opportunity, social infrastructure, and cultural vitality for Bronx residents."

Meanwhile, the lawsuit filed against EDC, the winning bidder, and various current and former politicians and City officials broadly alleges "a troubling pattern of political interference, procedural violations, and apparent intellectual property theft that [allegedly] corrupted what should have been a fair and transparent [RFP] public process" for the redevelopment of the City-owned Armory.

City officials said the 8th Regiment Partners' proposal was selected "after a rigorous request for proposal process that was informed by a nine-month public engagement process with over 4,000 community members," which ultimately produced the "Together for Kingsbridge Vision Plan."

More recently, Agallas Equities has also criticized the mayor over apparent plans to open a microchip production plant at the armory as part of the redevelopment. Agallas cited health and other risks associated with the potential plant.

City officials said Phase I of the selected project will consist of "a mixed-use development with a state-of-the-art venue space and entertainment uses, sports fields [for local youth academies], cultural and commercial space, light industrial manufacturing space, an educational facility focused on workforce development, and over 25,000 square feet of dedicated community space." They said this phase is centered around the 180,000 square foot, column-free drill hall located within the Armory and is expected to be completed by 2030.

They said Phase II consists of the redevelopment of the adjacent "National Guard site" [also on the grounds of the Armory site] and will include around 450 units of permanently affordable, rental housing adjacent to the main Armory building [drill hall]. It is expected to be completed by 2032.

On March 3, 2022, NYS Office of General Services, NYS Military & Naval Affairs, and the U.S. National Guard held ground-breaking ceremonies for a \$10 million upgrade to the two annexed buildings used by the National Guard situated on this site adjacent to the main Kingsbridge Armory drill hall, along West 195th Street.

At the time, the NYS Division of Military and Naval Affairs told *Norwood News*, "The two National Guard buildings now beginning their upgrade were first constructed to complement the larger armory structure in 1950 and 1957. They include administrative, storage and training spaces as well as a vehicle storage building. They will continue to house 100 NY Army National Guard Soldiers of Bravo Battery of the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery." They are roughly three stories high and currently do not block the view of the main drill hall's roof.

*Norwood News* asked the NYS Division of Military and Naval Affairs for comment on plans to build affordable rental housing on the annexes site and asked how this would impact upon their current operations. A representative said on May 27 the agency was aware of the latest plan for the reuse of the Kingsbridge Armory site.

"Over the years, the division's position has been that we are prepared to move from the two annex buildings, but

we will require a new location in The Bronx for an armory to replace our current facility," the representative said.

City officials said the redevelopment of the armory is expected to generate an economic impact of nearly \$2.6 billion over the next 30 years, creating over 3,000 construction jobs and 360 permanent jobs in the process. They also said construction will be executed under a project labor agreement, ensuring fair wages and benefits for construction workers.

The Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition (NWBCCC) has long been a key stakeholder in the redevelopment of the site. Back in 2013, as part of redevelopment discussions on the now-abandoned Kingsbridge National Ice Center (KNIC) project, NWBCCC worked tirelessly, as part of a wider community stakeholder group called CAC, to broker with KNIC Management, the then-chosen developer of the proposed ice center, a historic, first-of-its-kind community benefits agreement. (CBA).

On the latest ULURP kick-off, the organization said, "For over three decades, our communities have organized to ensure the Armory not only serves the people of the Bronx but becomes a model of justice, sustainability and equity. Now, we must remain vigilant and organized to ensure what was promised to our community becomes a reality: family-sustaining union jobs, affordable housing, environmental sustainability, anti-displacement protections for local businesses, co-governance and community ownership."

The organization recently held a multi-faith vigil outside the Armory on May 18, on the last day of Bronx Week 2025, and later said it would be preparing residents "to [show] up powerfully" at the upcoming public hearings. On Monday, May 26, we spoke to some residents of the area and asked for their opinions on the housing element of the project.

One man said, "I think that it's long overdue. I think the housing is very good, depending on the type of selections that they make. If it's beneficial for the area and for the person that's moving in, I'm all for it, but if it's going to turn into a rehab type center or something like that, right across the street from Kingsbridge College (Kingsbridge Heights School, P.S. 86), I don't think this is the best area to do that, especially with the type of resurgence this neighborhood is having."

The man added, "They need to really engage with the community and be serious with that." We asked how many stories he thinks would be acceptable to devote to housing as part of the redevelopment, and if he believed the chosen location for housing was a good one. "It can be," he said. "But again, we have a lot of 'interest,' he said, adding air quotes.

Seemingly alluding to the possibility of gentrification at the site over time, he added, "So, depending on that 'interest,' like any other building that they say that they're going to put up anywhere in the five boroughs, a specific amount is going

(continued on page 13)



## CRIME FILE

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



### Boy, 13, Arrested in Kingsbridge Heights Fatal Shooting

Police said a 13-year-old boy has been arrested following the fatal shooting of a 28-year-old man in Kingsbridge Heights in April. Police said the shooting took place on Wednesday, April 23, at around 4.57 p.m. when officers responded to a 911 call regarding an assault in progress at 2690 University Avenue, one block away from the Kingsbridge Armory, off West Kingsbridge Road.

UNK Candy and Grocery is located on the street level of the address. "Upon arrival, officers observed a 28-year-old male with a gunshot wound to his head," police said. "EMS responded and transported the victim to St. Barnabas Hospital in critical condition where he succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased."

They continued, "Additionally, police were alerted of a second victim, a 33-year-old female, who was transported by private means to NYC Health and Hospitals/Woodhull [in Brooklyn] with a gunshot wound to the left hip. She is listed in stable condition." When asked, the NYPD press office said the shooting took place outside the location.

Police later said a group of people who had allegedly fled the location northbound along University Avenue were sought in connection to the incident. The deceased was identified as Marji Daoud from Yonkers, NY.

On May 28, pursuant to an ongoing investigation, police said a 13-year-old had been arrested within the confines of the 50th Precinct on May 27 at 2 p.m. in connection with the incident. They said he was charged with two counts of murder in the second degree, manslaughter in the first degree, and criminal use of a firearm in the first degree. We've asked for details of the second count of murder and will share any updates we receive. The 13-year-old is deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

### Fordham Heights: Man Sought for Assault on Female MTA Worker

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the person seen in the accompanying image at right who they say is sought in connection with an assault that occurred in Fordham Heights. Police said that on Saturday, May 17, around 5.39 a.m. at West 183<sup>rd</sup> Street and

Jerome Avenue subway station, an on-duty 35-year-old female, MTA employee was punched in the face while onboard a southbound "4" train.

"The unidentified individual then fled the location in an unknown direction," police said. "EMS responded and transported the victim to BronxCare Health System." Police said the suspect is described as male, has a dark complexion, is estimated to be between 30 and 35 years of age, is around 5 feet, 8 inches tall, has a medium build, brown eyes, and was last seen wearing a light-colored, hooded sweatshirt, gray sweatpants, a white baseball hat, and black and white shoes.



### Fordham Heights: 57-Year-Old Man Fatally Shot

Police said a 57-year-old man has died in Fordham Heights following a fatal shooting, and a woman was also shot but survived. They said on Sunday, May 18, at around 6.49 p.m. officers from the 46th Precinct responded to a 911 call regarding two people who had been shot in the vicinity of East 188th Street and Marion Avenue. "Upon arrival, officers observed a 57-year-old male who sustained a gunshot wound to the head, and a 34-year-old female who sustained a gunshot wound to the left leg," police said.

They continued, "Both victims were transported by EMS to St. Barnabas Hospital where the male was subsequently pronounced deceased, and the female is listed in stable condition." Police said there are no arrests and the investigation remains ongoing. They said the deceased has been identified as Kevin Jennings of College Avenue in the vicinity of Claremont Village.

A person was seen being escorted by police into a police vehicle close to the crime scene in a video posted to the Citizens' App. *Norwood News* has reached out to the NYPD for more information about this

and will share any updates we receive. Police later released the accompanying image of the suspect and requested the public's help locating him.

### Second Man Arrested in Hit & Run that Killed "Coach D"

Following the death last November of 60-year-old local, volunteer football coach Dwight Downer as a result of a hit and run car crash, police said a second person has been arrested in connection with the incident. Downer coached local football team the Bronx Buccaneers, who regularly practice in the Williamsbridge Oval in Norwood, as well as Bedford Park's DeWitt Clinton football team.

Downer, nicknamed "Coach D," from Eastchester Road in Laconia, who was the partner of Bronx Community Board 7 board member Tasha Andrews, was killed in the road accident which involved multiple vehicles a few minutes after midnight on Nov. 30, 2024. Police said officers responded to a 911 call regarding a pedestrian who had been struck at the intersection of Givan Avenue and Eastchester Road in the East Bronx, south of Edenwald.

"Further investigation by the NYPD Highway District Collision Investigation Squad determined that a 2013 BMW 328 XI, operated by a 24-year-old male was traveling eastbound on Eastchester Road, when he struck an unknown pick-up truck that was traveling northbound on Givan Avenue," police said.

They continued, "After the initial impact, the BMW collided with a parked and unattended 2020 Acura MDX, a 2007 Nissan Murano, and a 60-year-old male pedestrian who was standing alongside the Nissan. After striking the pedestrian, the BMW collided with a parked and unattended 2014 Honda Accord and a 2007 Toyota Camry."

Police said EMS responded to the scene and transported the pedestrian to Jacobi Hospital where he was pronounced deceased. They said the driver of the BMW remained at the scene and was later also transported by EMS to Jacobi for minor injuries. On Thursday, March 13, police said they arrested Orville Barry, 27, of Yonkers in connection with the incident. They said he was charged with leaving the scene of an incident resulting in death, and third-degree aggravated, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Pursuant to an ongoing in-

vestigation, on May 8, police said Sheydon McLean, 25, of The Bronx, was also arrested in connection with the incident. They said he was charged the same day with manslaughter in the second degree, criminally negligent homicide, as well as a motor vehicle violation (no license). Barry and McLean are presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law. With collision investigations, the NYPD handles all criminal aspects of the investigations, while NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) reviews the street design at the locations of such crashes.



### Fordham Heights: Four Sought in Shooting

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the five people seen in the accompanying photos above who they say are wanted in connection with a non-fatal shooting that occurred in Fordham Heights, next to the constituency office of Councilwoman Pierina Sanchez (C.D. 14). Police said that on Monday, May 5, at around 6 p.m. two groups of unidentified people got into a verbal dispute inside 2065 Morris Avenue, a residential building, and a physical altercation ensued.

Police said two people displayed and fired guns, striking a 20-year-old male victim in the hip. "EMS responded and transported the victim to St. Barnabas Hospital in stable condition," police said. "One of the sought individuals fled the location on foot, traveling northbound on Morris Avenue," they added. Police said four other people fled the location in a black vehicle, traveling northbound on Morris Avenue.

They said the first suspect is described as male, has a dark complexion, and was last seen wearing a black jacket, a gray sweatshirt, gray sweatpants, and dark colored sneakers. They said the second suspect is also described as male, has a dark complexion, is around 5 feet, 7 inches tall, and has a heavy build and long braided hair.

Police said he was last seen wearing a dark-colored jacket, dark-colored pants and light-colored sneakers. They said

the three remaining unidentified suspects are described as male. On Friday, May 9, the council member joined gun violence interrupters, Bronx Rises Against Gun Violence (B.R.A.G.V.), for a rally at the location of the shooting to call for an end to gun violence.

### Norwood: Brave Older Woman Fights Back in Attempted Robbery

A courageous, older woman started her day alert enough to successfully fight off a prospective thief in Norwood, police said. The NYPD is now asking for the public's help identifying the person seen in the attached photo below and video who they say is wanted in connection to the attempted robbery. Police said that on Friday, May 2, at around 7.40 a.m. a 68-year-old woman was parked in her vehicle opposite 3290 Webster Avenue, when she was approached by an identified male. "The individual threw a rock and broke the driver side window, then opened the car door and removed her purse," police said.

"A physical altercation ensued, and the victim was able to retrieve her purse. No property was removed, and the individual fled the location on foot, traveling northbound on Webster Avenue," they added. Police said there were no physical injuries reported and described the suspect as a male with a dark complexion who was last seen wearing a black, hooded sweatshirt and a purple vest. As reported, another woman was assaulted and robbed while inside her parked car on Hull Avenue also in Norwood one year ago, in May 2024.



*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 X @NYPD-Tips. All calls are strictly confidential.*



## CRIME FILE - MAJOR CRIME STSTISTICS

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



Patrol Borough: Bronx		Precinct: 04					
ComptStat Book		Week of 05/19/25 - 05/25/25					
		28 Day			Year to Date		
	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg
Murder	-100.0 %	1	3	-66.7 %	2	12	-83.3 %
Rape	0.0 %	8	3	166.7 %	21	9	133.3 %
Robbery	-25.0 %	34	29	17.2 %	154	131	17.6 %
Felony Assault	-33.3 %	68	61	11.5 %	321	293	9.6 %
Burglary	50.0 %	12	12	0.0 %	64	81	-21.0 %
Grand Larceny	-23.5 %	52	62	-16.1 %	248	269	-7.8 %
Grand Larceny Auto	0.0 %	27	14	92.9 %	114	82	39.0 %
Total	-25.0 %	202	184	9.8 %	924	877	5.4 %
Patrol	-27.3 %	195	181	7.7 %	901	855	5.4 %
Transit	0.0 %	4	2	100.0 %	11	12	-8.3 %
Housing	- %	3	1	200.0 %	12	10	20.0 %
Shooting Victims	-100.0 %	4	5	-20.0 %	15	17	-11.8 %
Shooting Incidents	-100.0 %	3	4	-25.0 %	12	14	-14.3 %
UCR Rape*	0.0 %	8	4	100.0 %	26	18	44.4 %
Other Sex Crimes	0.0 %	7	8	-12.5 %	29	35	-23.7 %
Petit Larceny	18.2 %	74	47	57.4 %	362	365	-0.8 %
Misd. Assault	4.0 %	99	93	6.5 %	366	459	-19.8 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	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.

\* Unlawful 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 May 25, 2025, compared to last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 46th Precinct as of May 25, 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

ComptStat Book

Week of 05/19/25 - 05/25/25

		28 Day			Year to Date		
	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg
Murder	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	1	1	0.0 %
Rape	0.0 %	1	2	-50.0 %	8	3	166.7 %
Robbery	-33.3 %	9	6	50.0 %	41	59	-30.5 %
Felony Assault	-50.0 %	14	25	-44.0 %	66	85	-12.2 %
Burglary	0.0 %	10	11	-9.1 %	61	49	24.5 %
Grand Larceny	-45.5 %	48	54	-11.1 %	240	300	-20.0 %
Grand Larceny Auto	166.7 %	25	18	38.9 %	105	135	-22.2 %
Total	-22.7 %	107	116	-7.8 %	542	632	-14.2 %
Patrol	-25.0 %	103	111	-7.2 %	519	601	-13.6 %
Transit	- %	2	0	- %	5	2	150.0 %
Housing	0.0 %	2	5	-60.0 %	18	29	-37.9 %
Shooting Victims	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	4	2	100.0 %
Shooting Incidents	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	3	2	50.0 %
UCR Rape*	- %	3	3	0.0 %	11	9	22.2 %
Other Sex Crimes	- %	3	4	-25.0 %	15	24	-37.5 %
Petit Larceny	166.7 %	97	80	21.3 %	415	432	-3.9 %
Misd. Assault	-53.8 %	48	33	45.5 %	160	133	20.3 %
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 5/13/17.

\* Unless otherwise noted, crime statistics reflect New York State Penal Law (NYSP/L) definitions.

\* Unlawful 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 May 25, 2025, compared to last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 50th Precinct as of May 25, 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					
ComptStat Book		Week of 05/19/25 - 05/25/25					
		28 Day		Year to Date			
	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg
Murder	-50.0 %	2	3	-33.3 %	2	4	-50.0 %
Rape	-100.0 %	0	4	-100.0 %	19	24	-20.8 %
Robbery	-27.3 %	40	35	14.3 %	161	196	-18.7 %
Felony Assault	27.3 %	74	52	42.3 %	321	264	21.6 %
Burglary	-50.0 %	10	14	-28.6 %	77	78	-1.3 %
Grand Larceny	30.8 %	76	60	26.7 %	341	297	14.8 %
Grand Larceny Auto	11.1 %	32	30	6.7 %	115	142	-19.0 %
Total	0.0 %	234	198	18.2 %	1,036	1,007	2.9 %
Patrol	-1.9 %	227	192	18.2 %	1,019	982	3.8 %
Transit	- %	6	5	20.0 %	16	21	-23.8 %
Housing	0.0 %	1	1	0.0 %	1	4	-75.0 %
Shooting Victims	-33.3 %	2	3	-33.3 %	4	14	-71.4 %
Shooting Incidents	100.0 %	2	1	100.0 %	4	6	-50.0 %
UCR Rape*	-100.0 %	1	5	-80.0 %	21	33	-36.4 %
Other Sex Crimes	-66.7 %	16	12	33.3 %	53	50	6.0 %
Petit Larceny	31.0 %	118	122	-3.3 %	669	770	-13.1 %
Misd. Assault	-52.2 %	70	62	12.9 %	340	324	4.9 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	2	1	100.0 %

All figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision. Data Summary as of 5/13/17.  
Unless otherwise noted, crime statistics reflect New York State Penal Law (NYSP/L) definitions.  
\* Unlawful 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 May 25, 2025, compared to the same timeframe last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 52nd Precinct as of May 25, 2025, compared to last year (right). This precinct covers some or all of Bedford Park, Fordham, Kingsbridge, Norwood, Bronx Park, and University Heights.

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# NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY ARIEL PACHECO & SÍLE MOLONEY



## Help Decide How to Spend “The People’s Money”

NYC Civil Engagement Commission is calling on residents to help decide how to spend “The People’s Money.” New Yorkers have participated in the Participatory Budgeting Process and have selected a list of projects which are now on a ballot. Only the top five projects will be funded. New Yorkers aged 11 and older are invited to vote on their preferred projects. To learn more about the projects on the ballot, visit [https://cec.blueberryapp.io/?utm\\_source=print&utm\\_medium=palm\\_card\\_and\\_posters&utm\\_campaign=the\\_peoples\\_money\\_citywide\\_voting](https://cec.blueberryapp.io/?utm_source=print&utm_medium=palm_card_and_posters&utm_campaign=the_peoples_money_citywide_voting).

## Kingsbridge Armory Public Hearing Dates

A second public hearing, in person, on the redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory will take place on Tuesday, June 3, at 6.30 p.m. at KIPP Elementary School, 2720 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, NY 10468. Sign-up to speak at [bit.ly/4mufdrK](mailto:bit.ly/4mufdrK).

## NWBCCC Meeting

The Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition will hold its next monthly meeting on Saturday, May 31, at 11 a.m. at the Mary Mitchell Center, 2007 Mapes Avenue, Bronx. There will be prep for the upcoming CB7 public hearing on the Kingsbridge Armory, and lunch, childcare, and

Spanish interpretation will be provided. RSVP: [info@northwestbronx.org](mailto:info@northwestbronx.org) or [linktr.ee/nwbccc](https://www.nwbccc.org/).

## Mental Health Awareness Conference

I Am A Better Me! Inc. is hosting a Mental Health Awareness Conference on Saturday, May 31, from 8.30 a.m. to noon at the New York Botanical Gardens, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, NY 10458. This conference will shine a spotlight on mental health and feature numerous guest speakers. For more information, call (914) 634-0199.

## Summer Youth Police Academy

The NYPD Summer Youth Police Academy for youth ages 10-15 gives them the opportunity to train with police officers during the summer. Participants will attend the youth academy in their borough for five days a week for six weeks from 8.30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The last day to submit an application to join is Sunday, June 15. For more information, email [ythstrat@nypd.org](mailto:ythstrat@nypd.org).

## Intro to Adobe Premiere Pro

The Bronx Documentary Center is hosting an intro to Adobe Premiere Pro on Saturday and Sunday, June 14 and June 15, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Join filmmaker and editor Giacomo Francia for a weekend intro to Adobe Premiere Pro, where

you’ll learn the basics of video editing. To register, visit <https://www.bronxdoc.org/bronx-documentary-center/education/workshops/>.

## Celebrating Women Veterans

The Office of the Bronx Borough President Veteran Advisory Council, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs & partners will host an event honoring female veterans at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center (3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Room 3D-22) at 130 West Kingsbridge Road, Bronx, NY 10468 on Thursday, June 12, at 11 a.m. RSVP is required to [Jade.Williams@va.gov](mailto:Jade.Williams@va.gov) or call Millicent Matoa at (718) 590 3513.

## Spreading Love Health Hub

Visit the “Spreading Love Health Hub” on June 5, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 483 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY 10457 for services including free health screenings, vaccinations, food assistance, mental health services, counseling services, health education, and more. For more information, call (646) 267-7354.

## Resource Fair

Community Education Council 11 is hosting a resource fair on Saturday, June 7, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at John Philip Sousa Campus, 3750 Baychester Avenue, Bronx, NY 10466. Bring your family for a day filled with excitement and school dis-

trict community resources. For more information, email [cec11@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:cec11@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 conviction; not be adjudged mentally incompetent by a court; and not claim the right to vote elsewhere.

## Ranked Choice Voting is Back

Ranked Choice voting is back. To learn more, visit [nycvotes.org/rcv](https://nycvotes.org/rcv). The last day to register to vote in the June 2025 Primaries 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, and more. Visit <https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/searchlotteries> for more information.



# Bronx Week 2025 Concludes in Bedford Park

(continued from page 4)

The Bronx.

"The lights went off, the stars went off and it was a great moment for me, but more importantly, it was a great moment for the borough of the Bronx because this was before News 12," Axelbank said. Launching on July 1, 1993, he said thereafter, everybody in The Bronx knew everything that was going on in the borough. "You could never have a terrible incident like the Bronx was burning, and the people in the northern Bronx didn't know anything about it," he said.

The TV host continued in part, saying, "BronxNet Television is what brought this borough together! Now we all know everything going on." In conclusion, Axelbank said when playing baseball as a kid, he was never able to hit the roof across the street and that was how you got a home run. "I never hit it onto the roof, but I'll tell you one thing, my frickin' name is going to be on the Grand Concourse!"

The other inductees were NBA legend Kemba Walker, WWE superstar Damian Priest, who was seen at one point taking selfies with the security guards at Bronx Borough Hall, freestyle icon Judy Torres, and illustrator and artist Devin Rodriguez. Walker said it was an unbelievable honor. "I'm so proud," he said, adding that he was going to continue to represent the borough proudly for the rest of his life.

Priest also said it was an honor for which he was grateful and appreciative and talked about the realization of having a platform to represent his culture and inspire the next generation. "Today is this exhibit from all of you, having this place that I love giving back and honoring me, I am so grateful."

Introducing Torres, Rivera talked about her role as a leader in her field and how freestyle was still going strong and as successful as ever, almost five decades later. For her part, Torres thanked everyone for the honor and said when she was asked where she was from, she would say from the Boogie Down Bronx, and they would be surprised.



Photo by Miriam Quinones

**JANET G. SANCHEZ**, assistant executive director at the Lehman Center for Performing Arts, attends the Bronx Week 2025 concert finale on Sunday, May 18, 2025, on Mosholu Parkway in Bedford Park.

"I am from the Boogie Down Bronx and I am proud to be a Latina, born and raised in The Bronx, because to be from the Bronx means to not be silent, to be from The Bronx means to be resilient, to use your voice, and to have a responsibility to be a reflection of what good things come out of The Bronx," she said.

Of having her name on a street sign, she said it brought on tears because it was permanent. "Sometimes, you do what you do, and you wonder if anybody sees," she said in part. "Does anybody even care? So, to know that you got a sign with your name on it, from where you come from is way better than any Grammy Award."

Introducing Rodriguez, Rivera described him as a content creator and storyteller who redefined the intersection of art and human connection. He said, "You probably recognize his early work when he would sit on the subway near an unsuspecting passenger, draw them across the aisle, and then catch [their] surprise on camera. It blew up on social media, but now his work has grown far beyond



Photo by Miriam Quinones

**ATTENDEES AT THE** Bronx Week 2025 parade on Mosholu Parkway in Bedford Park have a great time singing and dancing on Sunday, May 18, 2025.

the MTA [...] from Rome to Bangkok, next week in Paris. He's going everywhere."

Rodriguez said having a permanent street sign in The Bronx was a dream come true. "I grew up on 141 and Willis in like this little room," he said. "My dad wasn't there for me. I had, like, a crazy mom but my grandma saved my life. Shout out to my grandma over there. I was, like, a teenager, 14. I was always in and out of ACS, always like, you know, praying that I could meet my dad one day because he was an artist, and left me when I was three."

He continued, "You know, just welfare, school snacks, and always having this dream of, like, I want to be an artist, and I don't care that I'm from the Bronx." He talked about going to an art and design high school in Midtown, and how other students would say, "Oh, you from The Bronx? Like, I'm kind of scared of you!"

He continued, "I'm like, wait, what? Why? Anyway, so I always had these big dreams. I wanted to be an artist. And

then in 2020, I started going viral on Tik Tok, and then my life changed so fast." He said he met the president, got to travel the world, making art in Japan, Rome, and Paris. "My dream as a kid was to have art in my life, everywhere, and now I sell these prints and people send me pictures and are like, 'Look at this painting that I have in my house in Japan,' and it's just a dream come true."

The festivities continued into Saturday night, May 17, at the Bronx Ball, where the inductees were once again, honored. Gibson later said, "No one does it like how we do it in the Boogie Down! We were proud to host our Annual Bronx Week induction ceremony to celebrate five Bronx luminaries whose names will forever be etched in our borough's history. Congratulations!"

She concluded, "With love, pride, and deep gratitude, we thank our honorees, partners, and community for making this another unforgettable year. Your legacy inspires generations and keeps the Bronx spirit shining bright."



Photo by Miriam Quinones

**LOS HERMANOS MORENOS** entertain the audience at the Bronx Week 2025 concert finale on Sunday, May 18, 2025 on Mosholu Parkway in Bedford Park.



Photo by Miriam Quinones

**LOS HERMANOS MORENOS ARE** presented with a certificate of merit by Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson during the Bronx Week 2025 concert finale held Sunday, May 18, 2025, on Mosholu Parkway in Bedford Park.





## Letters To The Editor

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

### Say "No" to Cuo-No!

Andrew Cuomo, the disgraced, former governor who had to resign due to [alleged] improper behavior is now running for mayor of our beloved City.

In October 1981, the Brinks robbery took place in Nyack, NY where \$1.9 million was stolen by radicals from the 1960s. Two police officers and one Brinks security guard were killed by these terrorists in this crime. Two of the terrorists, David Gilbert and Judith Clark, were captured but defied our Courts by refusing to attend their trial.

They were properly sentenced to 75 years to life but leave it Cuomo to visit

them in prison and have them pardoned, and right out of Biden's playbook, he pardoned Gilbert on his last day in office. Cuomo is a coward for his behavior during COVID and his nursing home scandal which is now being investigated by the DOJ [Department of Justice], and he is hedging his bets by running on another party line besides the Democratic ticket. Please vote for anyone but Cuomo and send a big "no" to him for his past behavior!

**Richard Marias,  
Norwood**

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

## Out & About

Compiled by ARIEL PACHECO

### EVENTS

Join the 52nd Precinct's Community Affairs team for their annual **Autism Awareness Walk** on Thursday, June 12, at noon at 3016 Webster Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467. For more information, call (718) 220-5824.

The Mosholu Preservation Corporation will host its annual **Juneteenth Festival** with City Council Member Kevin Riley (C.D. 12) on Thursday, June 19, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on White Plains Road between 211th Street and 212th Street, Bronx, NY 10466. Join to celebrate Black culture, resilience, and history through live performances, local

leadership, and powerful storytelling. For more information, call (646) 984-6545.

The Kingsbridge Historical Society will open **Kingsbridge Remembers 250** on Sunday, June 8, at 2570 Independence Avenue, Bronx, 10463. This exhibit marks the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. For more information, visit [kingsbridgehistoricalsociety.org](http://kingsbridgehistoricalsociety.org).

### FILM

The Dominican Film Festival of NYC presents **"Dúenos del Tiempo"** on Friday, May 30, at Poe Park Visitor Center, 2640 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY, 10458. This film tells the story of a scientist and a group of kids who travel with a time machine through from the first era of Dominican history. It is a free event. For more information, call (718) 365-5516.

The Bronx County Historical Society presents a **Free Virtual Screening and Q&A** of "The Pound Ridge Massacre: A Dark Chapter from Early America" on Wednesday, June 4, at 7 p.m. The documentary, directed by Jon Scott Bennett, looks at the Pound Ridge Massacre, one of the deadliest attacks on indigenous people on the Atlantic Coast. To register, visit [bronxhistory.org/poundridge](http://bronxhistory.org/poundridge).

### LITERATURE

One Book One Bronx is hosting a **Book Talk** on *Breath, Eyes, Memory* by Edwidge Danticat on Tuesday, June 3, from 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. via Zoom. For more information visit <https://onebookonebronx.com/>.

### YOUTH

Join the Bronx Library Center for **Manga Magnet Making** on Friday, June 6, at 3 p.m. at 310 East

Kingsbridge Road, Bronx, NY 10458. Repurpose images from your favorite manga and anime to create unique magnet designs. For more information, call (718) 579-4244.

The St. James Recreation Center is hosting **Learn to Play 8-ball** on Saturday, May 31, from 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m. at 2530 Jerome Ave, Bronx, NY 10468. Youth aged from 13-17 years of age are invited to join and learn. For more information, call (718) 367-3657.

### MOVEMENT

The Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center will host a **Running Group** on Wednesday, June 11, from 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. This beginner's 5K running program is a 10-week program that gets you ready for your first 5K. It's an easy-to-follow program consisting of active running/walking intervals that gradually builds to more time running than walking. For more information, call (718) 543-8672.

## Marble Hill Student Detained by ICE

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Following news that a New York City high-school student attending English Language Learners and International Support Preparatory Academy (ELLIS) in Marble Hill, was detained by U.S. Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials when he, reportedly, appeared at a Manhattan courthouse for a routine hearing on May 20, we reached out to ICE and asked what offense, if any, the student had been charged with, and where he was currently being held.

The student is named Dylan in a media report by Chalkbeat. We paid a visit to the student's school on Wednesday, May 28. However, we were unable to reach anyone for comment. In response to our request, our questions were not answered and we received the following statement which we were informed was issued by DHS, and attributable to a DHS official.

"Dylan [...] is an illegal alien from Venezuela who illegally entered the U.S. more than one year ago. Under the Biden administration, he was encountered at the border and released into the country. On May 21, 2025, Contreras was arrested and placed in expedited removal proceedings." We are withholding Dylan's surname, though it was provided by DHS, in line with the family's wishes.

The statement continued, "Most aliens who illegally entered the United States within the past two years are subject to expedited removals. Biden ignored this legal fact and chose to release millions of illegal aliens, including violent criminals, into the country with a notice to appear before an immigration judge. ICE is now following the law and placing these illegal aliens in expedited removal, as they always should have been."

It concluded, "If individuals have a valid credible fear claim, they will continue in immigration proceedings, but if no valid claim is found, aliens will be subject to a swift deportation. ICE takes its commitment to promoting safe, secure, humane environments for those in our custody very seriously. It is a longstanding practice to provide comprehensive medical care from the moment an alien enters ICE custody."

Several Bronx elected officials had already condemned Dylan's detainment and had been calling for his release. Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson said of the incident, "Dylan did everything right. He enrolled in school in our Borough and got his license to obtain a delivery job to take care of his younger siblings. It is outrageous and horrible to learn he was detained by federal authorities last week during a court appearance.

This is unacceptable and nothing short of an injustice."

She continued, "We demand accountability for Dylan, who has been separated from his family and school community. We must also protect our immigrant families who are being unfairly targeted and exploited by this administration by calling for a full investigation into this incident, so this injustice does not happen to any other member of our community."

Rep. Ritchie Torres (NY-15), who represents a large section of The Bronx stretching from the Northwest to the South, said, "I'm outraged by the detention of my constituent Dylan, a 20-year-old student and legal U.S. entrant with no criminal record. He worked, studied, and helped lift his family from homelessness. His detention is unjust. The Bronx deserves answers."

Public Advocate Jumaane Williams said of the case, "Bring Dylan home. We stand with his family and the ELLIS Prep community in demanding that ICE release Dylan, who is a caring brother and son, and a student with dreams of college. ICE wants



Photo by Síle Moloney

**A NEW YORK** City high-school student named Dylan, 20, attending English Language Learners and International Support Preparatory Academy (ELLIS) in Marble Hill (pictured on May 28, 2025), was detained by U.S. Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials when he, reportedly, appeared at a Manhattan courthouse for a routine hearing on May 20, 2025.

to play cowardly tricks on New Yorkers. We won't stand for it."

Meanwhile, Democratic mayoral candidate, Zohran Mamdani said, "Trump's ICE is now kidnapping New York City high school students. This is where Eric Adams' silence and complicity has led us. Free Dylan now."

Immigrants have rights, and most local elected officials have pamphlets at their offices which are free to obtain, and which explain those rights in various languages. We will share any further updates we receive on Dylan's case.



# Armory ULURP & Public Hearings Advance Amid Lawsuit

(continued from page 7)

to this [e.g. market rate], another amount is going to be this [e.g. affordable housing]. How many years will it take before the first factor, first phase, gets phased out; it's a cycle."

Asked if he thought housing along West 195th Street would ruin the Armory's esthetic, he said, "I mean everybody wants to draw everything on The Bronx and this and the other. I mean Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island, we all have the same esthetics, but the problem is that this has such a beauty to it that if you add control i.e. airspace, which everybody rents, I mean, you know how that goes. How high is enough? 20 stories? You know then you overshadow the little sunlight that we do get."

Another resident of the area, Robert Bowman, who said he is an active serviceman with the U.S. Navy since 2001 and works as a culinary specialist chef, said, "I do believe that out of respect, we do need to preserve and protect the building and I don't agree with the renovations or update, other than to the armory itself."

Informed about the two-phase, multi-use plan, and limitations on what can be

done to change the esthetic of the building due to its historic nature, he added, "I believe we should just leave the armory here as it is right now. I like it how it is. I wouldn't agree with too much renovation. I don't agree that they should put all of the extra stuff in there."

Asked if he preferred to see it empty, Bowman said, "Yes." Asked what he would say to people who want to see more housing in the area, Bowman said, "Once again, I don't agree, you know, that they need any updates. I believe it should prevail the way it is."

He continued, "I believe things happen for a reason. I mean, it's a reason why [it] is empty and it's the reason why there's no multi-centers and apartment buildings in there. You know, I believe they need to protect it and preserve it and leave it as it is."

He concluded, "We need to protect and preserve it, and protect our soldiers, and make sure that they safe, so I believe they just need to stay there, solely, just solely soldiers there and military personnel need to just stay there. I don't believe they need anything extra, other than that."

We also spoke to a local family and



Photo by Síle Moloney

**ONE OF THE** renovated annexes used by the National Guard and located on the grounds of the Kingsbridge Armory is seen on the corner of Reservoir Avenue and West 195th Street in Kingsbridge Heights on May 26, 2025, on the left of this photo (white garage door). It is the intended site for rental housing under Phase II of the redevelopment of the Armory, according to NYC Economic Development Corporation.



Photo by Síle Moloney

**A MAN LIES** on the sidewalk at the corner of Jerome Avenue and Kingsbridge Road, opposite the Kingsbridge Armory on Monday, May 26, 2025.

asked for their thoughts. Speaking in Spanish, the father said, "I don't think it's a good idea because this is a landmarked historical building or something. I think it holds a lot of significance for a lot of people, and there are so many places that they could put housing that they don't have to choose this location specifically." We mentioned that housing was needed in the area and the man said, "Housing, yes, is needed, but there are many places that they can use still."

Also speaking in Spanish, the mother of the family then said, "This, they have to preserve because, for example, during the pandemic, they used it as a food distribution hub and that is needed when those kinds of things happen." We mentioned the two-phase approach and the planned facilities for community use in the main drill hall. The mom then said that maybe a multi-use plan could work, but it would depend on the people who would be housed at the site.

"If they allow people of little means to live there, who need somewhere to live, and who contribute to society, yes, but if it's simply for people who are going to just use it as a benefit and then you're going to have delinquency and things like that, then no," she said. Asked how many stories high of housing they felt would be acceptable, they said five or six.

For her part, Sanchez, a co-chair of the "Together for Kingsbridge Community Visioning Process," said in part that the community had a once-in-a-generation opportunity to get the project right, and "to deliver a project as beautiful, dynamic, and resilient as the people that call the Bronx home."

She said as part of her review of the project, she would work with local stakeholders to seek community benefits with clear structures for accountability and

ongoing community governance. "We must ensure that the redevelopment of this great structure is both transformative and equitable for generations to come," she said.

Other stakeholders appeared to sing from the same hymn sheet, with Gabriella Sottile, a principal at Madder Equities, one of the partners behind 8th Regiment Partners, also saying the firm would work hand-in-hand with the community to deliver "a place of opportunity and a gathering space for all."

Meanwhile, Gary LaBarbera, president of NYC and NYS Building and Construction Trades Council, said the ULURP certification was a crucial step to bringing well-paying union construction jobs to hard-working New Yorkers from Kingsbridge Heights and neighboring Bronx communities.

At the first public hearing held May 28, it was confirmed by officials that up to 500 affordable housing units across income levels ranging from 30% to 80% of the AMI would be created. The residential building will be located at the existing site used by the National Guard is. The mixed-use housing will be located on the northern side of armory. It will be a 16-story building with an opening in the middle. It was confirmed that the current permit allows the developers to build higher, but they wanted to be respectful of the esthetic of the armory

The housing will be red brick, like the armory, will be connected by a bridge, and will have "a lot of amenities." The whole ground floor is proposed for retail space, up to about 20,000 sq ft of retail and "easy access" into the armory.

The next public hearing will take place in person on Tuesday, June 3, at 6.30 p.m. at KIPP Elementary School, 2720 Jerome Avenue, Bronx. Sign up to speak at [bit.ly/4mufdrK](https://bit.ly/4mufdrK).





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### Public and Community Meetings

The next 52<sup>nd</sup> PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL meeting will take place on Thursday, June 26, at 7 p.m. (venue TBC). 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, June 17, at 6.0 p.m. at the New York Botanical Garden, Ross Hall Auditorium, 2950 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, NY 10458 (entrance across from Metro North Station). Contact [KCabreraCarrera@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:KCabreraCarrera@cb.nyc.gov) to be added to the distribution list. All meetings are in person unless otherwise notified by Bronx CB7.

The next BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8 (CB8) full, hybrid, board meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 25, at 7 p.m. at Wave Hill Public Garden and Cultural Center Armor Hall, 675 West 252nd Street, Bronx (entrance at W. 249th St and Independence Ave.) and via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2114033690>.

or by phone on +16465588656, with passcode/meeting ID 2114033690#. Contact [BX08@cb.nyc.gov](mailto: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](mailto:bedfordmosholu@verizon.net).



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# Bronx Victory Memorial Marks 100 Years

(continued from page 1)

patriotic songs were played and there was some live performance also. The event took place on the same day and at the same location as the starting point for the Bronx Week 2025 parade, hosted by Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson.

The Memorial celebration was organized in conjunction with Gibson, the New York Grey Cadets Infantry, State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33), Assemblyman John Zaccaro Jr. (A.D. 80), Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81) Councilman Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11), Bedford Mosholu Community Association, Guerrinos Against Graffiti\* and Crusaders for Children's Rights.

Present at the event were the Cadets, Karla Cabrera Carrera, district manager for Bronx CB7, Edgar Ramos, chair of the Bronx CB7 transportation committee, Anthony Riveccio, founder of the Northwest Bronx Democrats and U.S. Navy Veteran, BMCA President and chair of Bronx CB7's Parks committee, Barbara Stroncz, Sirio Guerino of Norwood Against Graffiti, Heather Guerino of Crusaders for Children's Rights, Jerry Landron of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Community Council, and residents.

The chair of the veterans committee, Chad Royer, is currently recovering from cancer and was unable to attend but shared the following quote with *Norwood News*. "When I became chairperson of CB7's Veterans Committee in September 2020, I wanted our community to



Photo by Miriam Quinones

**ANTHONY RIVIECCIO, FOUNDER** of the Northwest Bronx Democrats, MBA PFA and U.S. Navy Veteran attends Bronx Community Board 7's Veterans' memorial flagging and centennial celebration at the Bronx Victory Memorial on Mosholu Parkway and Marion Avenue in Bedford Park on Sunday May 18, 2025.

have a better understanding of current veteran issues and the history of the veterans in our backyard.

He continued, "Our committee initiated the convening of the Bronx Victory Memorial with help from Friends of Mosholu Parkland in November of 2022, because it was needed. Sadly, I couldn't attend this event on its 100th year anniversary due to my health, but I want all our veterans, veteran advocates and veteran families to know that I am there in spirit to honor our veterans and WWI heroes who have long passed on."

Stronzer gave an overview of the history of the Memorial, explaining that between 1914 and 1918, the end of World War I, citizens got together to establish a memorial, which was finally ready to go seven years later in 1925. "It was opened on...it was called Armistice Day, Nov. 11. Today, we call it Veterans Day. Hundreds of people came out here to witness the unveiling [...] ceremony."

She said over the years, they continued to hold ceremonies but by the 1970s, things had gotten rough around the area and the statue was vandalized with graffiti. "No one took care of it," Stronzer said. "The [NYC] Parks' department did not have a huge budget, and it really deteriorated." She said in 1988, New York City, with the Municipal Arts Society, decided to choose several statues across the city and get a sponsor to renovate them. A French liquor company, Grand Marnier, were the sponsors of the Bronx Victory Memorial and the renovations were completed.

"In 1988, there was another grand opening ceremony, which I attended," Stronzer said. "We had the borough president, we had the U.S. ambassador from France, we had Henry Stern, who was the parks commissioner. It was a lovely day."

She said over the years, together with Bedford Mosholu Community Association and another party [inaudible] they decided to visit their then-councilman Oliver Kopell (C.D. 11) to ask for lighting around the statue, that was arranged and they remain on every night. Stronzer said they held another ceremony to mark the occasion.

As the Bronx Week 2025 parade had started at that point, the end of Stronzer's remarks could not be heard, unfortunately. Cabrera Carrera then spoke, saying, "Thank you for being here. On behalf of our chairperson, Yajaira Arias and I, I want to thank you for your service and for your sacrifice, and for fighting for our rights and our freedom. We want to thank everyone who partook in making this event possible for us to recognize our veterans." She said that included the Bronx CB7 board members who are volunteers and who worked to ensure that it would be a great event and to recognize the people in our community.

Col. David LeCourt of the New York Grey Cadets then spoke. He thanked everyone for organizing the event, and said, "Back in 2009, I was privileged to be the third vice chair [of CB7]. So, I'm home. We're home. This is our home. We are here out of P.S. 8, and we are here out of M.S. 80, but we are here representing Community Board 7, which is our home, and we want to thank you for that."

LeCourt added, "Today's an honorable day where we give thanks to those that laid their lives down for us to do this kind of stuff on Sunday and sort of enjoy the day and thank God the rain has held up. There's a lot of different people here that have taken me back, and have been part of my development, part of Community Board 7."

He concluded, "So, I want to thank you for that and we are here as New York raised, my staff is here. I have new members of my staff as we grow, and to Ms. Carrera and her team, and to all of you, if you need anything for [inaudible] please let us know. Again, thank you CB7, thank you to these men and women that have laid their lives down throughout history."

The borough president also spoke and said she wanted to recognize all of the community leaders who had sent her emails, making sure she could be there for the event. "Thank you to all of our colonels, and our veterans, and veterans families, military families. We thank you. We honor you. We recognize you for all of your great work on behalf of this nation. We are a free country because of your sacrifice and your service."

She added, "It's so important that we take a moment to acknowledge our veterans, past and present every day, not just on Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and Independence Day." She said over her three years as borough president, she had been able to work closely with all 12 community boards in The Bronx, her veterans advisory council.

"We have been absolutely committed to lifting up the voices of our veterans," Gibson said. "I am a niece of a Vietnam War veteran. My uncle served and was drafted right out of high school, and now he is a street vendor. He has continued to serve his

community, and he reminds me all the time of what we need to continue to do to support our veterans and our military families, our Gold Star families, our Blue Star Families."

She added, "He reminds me of the sacrifice and the service defending our country, our freedoms, our democracy, everything that we are afforded As Americans, we stand on your shoulders. We thank you for being here at the Bronx victory Memorial. This is a sacred space. It is a space of peace, of comfort, of healing, of restoration, of recognizing the strength, the courage, the bravery of our men and women in the armed services for all that you have done. We say thank you."

The borough president mentioned that last year she worked with the Council Member Dinowitz to recognize the entire month of November as Veterans Appreciation Month. "It matters when you recognize the service all the time," she said. "It matters when you lift up our military families. We've also done a lot with our BAC, our Veterans Action Committee, and our Veterans Advisory Council."

Gibson spoke about other issues affecting veterans like PTSD, housing, and helping them reenter the workforce. She said on June 12, her office would be honoring female veterans with a special event at the James J Peters VA Hospital. "We do that every year because we lift up all of our veterans, but we also acknowledge the female veterans that are with us."

She added, "We say thank you for all that you have done. As we lay this wreath, we do it in honor of those that paved the way, those that were on the battlefield and unfortunately lost their lives. Their legacies live on."

Ramos later recited the following text, "Day is done, gone the sun from the hills, from the lake, from the skies. All is well, safely rest, God is high. Fading light dims the sight, and the star gems the sky, leaving bright from star, drawing high holds the night. Thanks and praise for our days neath the sun, neath the stars, neath the sky. As we go, this we know, God is high."



Photo by Miriam Quinones

**NORWOOD AGAINST GRAFFITI\*** founder, Sirio Guerino, and Heather Guerino of Crusaders for Children's Rights attend Bronx Community Board 7's Veterans' memorial flagging and centennial celebration at the Bronx Victory Memorial on Mosholu Parkway and Marion Avenue in Bedford Park on Sunday May 18, 2025.



Photo by Miriam Quinones

**JERRY LANDRON OF** the 52<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Community Council and Heather Guerino of Crusaders for Children's Rights attend Bronx Community Board 7's Veterans' memorial flagging and centennial celebration at the Bronx Victory Memorial on Mosholu Parkway and Marion Avenue in Bedford Park on Sunday May 18, 2025.



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