

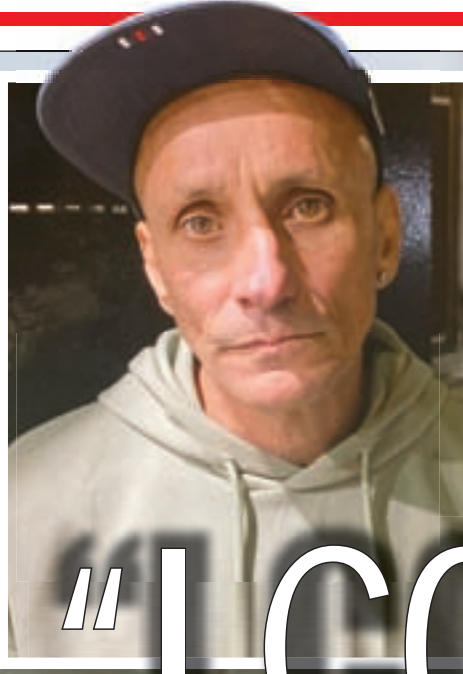


# NORWOOD NEWS

Vol 39, No 10 • PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION • MAY 14-MAY 27, 2026

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# "I COULDN'T SAVE MORE"

## Hero Neighbor Saves One Child from Fatal Fire

**SEE PAGE 15**

Photo by Sile Moloney

**JAIME CUEVAS VENTURA**, insert, saved one small child from the fatal fire that broke out at 2609 Bainbridge Avenue in the Fordham Manor section of The Bronx on Monday afternoon, May 11, 2026, and laments he could not save others.

Photo courtesy of Citizens App

**BLACK FUMES ARE** seen rising out of 2609 Bainbridge Avenue in the Fordham Manor section of The Bronx on Monday afternoon, May 11, 2026, after a fatal fire broke out in the building.



**Pet Turtle Saved Weeks after Belmont Fatal Fire** | pg 2



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N R W TO CORTLANDT STREET

# NORWOOD NEWS

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Mosholu Preservation Corporation (MPC)  
3400 Reservoir Oval East  
Bronx, New York 10467  
Phone: 718 324 4998  
Fax: 718 324 2917  
E-mail: [norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org](mailto:norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org)  
Web.: [www.norwoodnews.org](http://www.norwoodnews.org)

**Publisher**

Mosholu Preservation Corporation

**Editor-In-Chief, Norwood News**

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

**Contributors**

Polina Umylny, Natasha T. Kostek

**Regular Contributors**

David Greene, Miriam Quiñones

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Photo courtesy of Mary Baron

**A MEMBER OF NYC Animal Care Centers** is seen on May 12, 2026, carrying a cage containing “Oreo” a cat removed from 660 East 187<sup>th</sup> Street in Belmont, where a fire broke out on April 21, 2026. Oreo was returned to his anxious family the same day.

## Cat, Turtle Rescued Weeks after Fatal Fire

By **DAVID GREENE**

For three straight weeks, Belmont family members displaced by a 5-alarm, fatal fire that also resulted in several injuries, have been back at the building, now encased by a temporary wooden barricade, keeping vigil and searching the broken windows for any glimpse of the estimated seven cats and other animals left behind after the blaze. Residents believe they may still be inside the hollowed-out structure.

According to one neighbor, Mary Baron, on Tuesday, May 12, 21 days after the fire which took place on April 21, Kevin Sexton of NYC Animal Care Centers (ACC) emerged from the building once again, this time with a black and white cat named Oreo that had been captured in a trap left by ACC, and returned it to its family. After the latest rescue, Baron said, “That’s good news because the more happy endings we have, the more we will continue to try.”

Baron, a schoolteacher, who lives a block away from the building where the fire broke out at 660 East 187<sup>th</sup> Street, sparked the rescue mobilization along with rescue groups like Little Wanderers NYC, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), Melody’s Garden Sanctuary, based in Co-Op City, and Cat, Kitten Solutions Rescue of Long Island. The rescue mission also brought out local cat trappers Star Morales, John Cortese, and “Monica.”

According to residents and video posted to social media, a cat named



Photo by David Greene

**DISPLACED RESIDENTS OF 660 East 187<sup>th</sup> Street in Belmont** celebrate after a large turtle, which had been trapped in the building for 17 days after a fire, was liberated on Friday, May 8, 2026.

“Charlie,” was observed on the building’s fire escape on Sunday, April 26. Baron was able to convince members of FDNY’s Ladder 42 to climb the fire escape to the cat but Charlie slipped away. Fire crew members *were* able to grab “Coco,” who was later returned to its owner, Esmerelda Reyes, who continues to advocate for the other families and their pets.

On Thursday, May 7, a demonstration organized by Little Wanderers and PETA was held at the building, where they were joined by the fire victims. Members of NYC Emergency Management, the FDNY, the NYPD, NYC Department of Buildings (DOB) and NYC Department of Housing, Preservation and Development (HPD) were huddled

nearby, discussing and planning ways to safely enter the severely damaged, 5-story building built in 1906.

During two prior press conferences held at the site, fire officials had confirmed that the roof had collapsed from the fifth floor to the fourth floor and the interior stairs had collapsed above the second floor.

On May 7, Rachel Ejsmont of PETA used a bullhorn as she led the crowd in chants of, “FDNY! Do your job!” and “Let the trappers in!” After more chants of “Two weeks too long!” the group of City officials casually moved out of sight down Cambreleng Avenue. They soon returned, and after speaking with Ejsmont for several minutes, she returned to the

*(continued on next page)*

(continued from previous page)

crowd telling them, "It's going to be a little dangerous but the good news, they're going in!" The news was met with loud applause and cheers from the crowd of residents and animal advocacy groups.

A short time later, Sexton returned with an orange tabby cat, first believed to be "Ritchie," owned by displaced resident Luciano Silva. Ritchie's family appeared ecstatic as television cameras focused on the apparent reunion and several media outlets quickly left and reported that Ritchie had been returned to his family. However, Ritchie's family took the distraught tabby cat to a vet and discovered the cat was female, and not actually Ritchie but "Miss Kitty." She was later returned to her owner.

Sexton was also seen consoling another family as they learned news of their deceased dog, the body of which had been also retrieved from the building.

Many of the same cat rescue groups returned to the site again on Friday, May 8, as ACC members once again reentered the damaged building. This time, Sexton returned with a large turtle, as well as a small, deceased cat, giving another family closure.

As reported, the Red Cross told *Nor-*



Photo by David Greene

**DISPLACED RESIDENTS OF** 660 East 187<sup>th</sup> Street in the Belmont section of The Bronx hold flyers with photos of their missing cats after a daily vigil got the attention of local animal rescue organizations and several news outlets on Thursday, May 7, 2026.

*wood News* the fire had displaced 29 households made up of 95 people, 75 adults and 25 children and were provided financial assistance and temporary lodging if needed. On Tuesday, May 12, Frederic Klein, the regional communications manager with the Red Cross, said, "I remember, I was at that response. I remember people being very

worried about their animals." He added that residents registered 20 animals, 11 of which were reported missing.

Baron said she learned of a proposed animal welfare bill S1784 that had advanced in the State Senate on May 5 that would require property owners to inspect vacated apartment buildings within three days. The legislation is

currently under discussion in the State Assembly.

Sydney Guzman of Little Wanderers said in part of the latest rescue and advocacy efforts following the Belmont fire, "At a certain point this is going to be over. We're going to make all of the efforts that are possible, but at a certain point, there's going to have to be thought of what do we do with any of this? I do think that it's only been a short amount of time, but I've learned a lot. I've learned that there's a lot of gaps [in the current laws]".

On Tuesday, May 12, *Norwood News* contacted the building's super, Luis, by telephone and asked about the cats still left in the building. He replied, "I don't know anything," and the phone disconnected. A second call was made and went to voicemail. *Norwood News* attempted to reach the property manager and building owner but was unsuccessful.

Also on May 12, David Maggiotto, DOB deputy press secretary said, "ACC has put humane cat traps on the first and second floor, as well as the rear of the building. Floors above are not accessible, as there is no safe staircase." He added that the traps are checked every 24 hours. *Norwood News* will continue to follow the story.

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# INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

BY DAVID GREENE & SÍLE MOLONEY



This week, we asked readers for their opinion on rising gas prices amid the war with Iran.



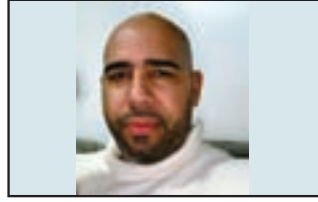
"I'm a person who's really for the people so gas is too high, but not for me, personally, because I drive cars. I've got a lot of cars. I have high-end cars, but gas is really high. I put \$60 in my tank and it's not filling it up. Usually, \$40 will fill up the tank and it will go to the max. For me, it's not a problem, but for the drivers of the 18-wheeler trucks because their gas is going from \$800 to \$1,500 or \$1,600. Why are you making people pay that much money for gas? The war with Iran was the worst thing they could have ever done. You're bombing them and they did nothing wrong to anybody."

**Dajun Knowles,  
Norwood**  
Photo by David Greene



"Yes, the gas prices now are hurting my wallet, very much. The prices have been very high lately so it's kind of like my project is messed up. The entire situation with the government is affecting everything in the U.S. When I buy food and pay for my health insurance, at the end of the month, I'm short. Whatever money I'm spending on gas is taking away from my other bills. I don't think the war with Iran is justified. They have weapons, but I can't talk about it because I just know what's been on the news and I haven't seen any proof. They should put out any proof that they have to make us all aware."

**Wilmar Lopez,  
Tremont**  
Photo by David Greene



"As a father of two young kids, the rising gas prices is frustrating because every extra dollar at the pump takes away money that should be going towards groceries, childcare, rent and everyday bills. Working families are already doing everything they can to stay afloat, and these constant increases just make it harder to keep up. It's disappointing to see the choices being made by this administration because at the end of the day, hardworking Americans are the ones paying the price. People who commute to work, take their kids to school, and work long hours are feeling the impact every single week at the pump. Families need relief and policies that help lower costs instead of adding more financial pressure."

**Emilio Lopez,  
Bedford Park**  
Photo courtesy of Emilio Lopez



"I think it's ridiculous! We control a lot of the oil, but I don't think it's because of the war, because the gas prices were high before the war. I've gone to different stations and see they have different prices, and most of these stations are owned privately, so they can raise it to whatever they want. California has \$8 a gallon. They are price gouging without a doubt. The bombing of Iran was inevitable; it was going to happen, but I also tell everybody we're living with sleeper cells at the delis, the gas stations, and the halal places are all Muslims, and they're radicals. Whenever somebody dies, they're cheering about it, [that] the bombing was justified."

**Oscar Zalzar,  
Fordham**  
Photo by David Greene



"Bombing Iran is none of our business. To me, they are no threat to us. The World Trade Center attack was a threat to us. My husband died in the World Trade Center, and the gas prices? If you want to own a car in this country, you pay high gas prices and you shouldn't be complaining about gas prices because driving is a privilege. Because when you go to other places, you don't always have that privilege."

**Carlos Concepcion,  
Allerton**  
Photo by David Greene

*Editor's Note: Official intelligence assessments from the U.S. and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) indicate that Iran does not currently have a dedicated, structured weapons program and has not mastered all the technologies required to construct a detonable device. According to the U.S. Congress, under the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Iran's uranium enrichment was heavily restricted. Following the collapse of the nuclear deal and subsequent international military actions against Iranian nuclear sites, Iran officially ended the 2015 restrictions. Iran has continued to process and stockpile enriched uranium, which can be further refined to weapons-grade levels. Since 9/11, jihadist-inspired attacks and plots have accounted for less than 2% of total terrorist incidents in the U.S. Data tracked by researchers at the Triangle Center on Terrorism and Homeland Security shows that the annual number of Muslim Americans involved in extremist plots has remained historically low, representing a tiny subset of the millions of Muslims living in the U.S. Polling from organizations like the Pew Research Center indicates that the overwhelming majority of American Muslims believe there is little to no support for extremism within their communities, and they view violence as contrary to their values. According to various news reports, the Trump administration gave diverse explanations for starting the war, including forestalling Iranian retaliation after an expected Israeli attack, destroying Iran's missile capabilities, preventing Iran from building a nuclear weapon, seizing Iran's oil resources, or achieving regime change. According to reporting by the BBC, the US-based group Human Rights Activists in Iran (HRANA) reported on 7 April that 3,636 people had been killed in Iran since the war began – including 1,701 civilians, of whom at least 254 were children.*

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# Feds Release Detained Bronx Man Three Days after ICE Crackdown in Norwood

By SÍLE MOLONEY & DAVID GREENE

A father of five from the Northwest Bronx who had been reportedly arrested and detained by agents from the U.S. Department of Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) in early February was released from custody on Saturday, May 9, according to Hands Off NYC, the self-described coalition of “over 200 labor unions, faith leaders, and community groups standing together in nonviolent resistance, dedicated to protecting New York City.” As reported, ICE had been observed by residents in different sections of The Bronx in early February.

Durga Sreenivasan of Hands Off NYC told Norwood News the unnamed father of five was released from federal custody on Saturday, having been arrested and detained months earlier. “Really great news I want to share with you to give people hope,” she said.

The news follows the arrest and detention by ICE agents of at least four people in Norwood, according to Hands Off NYC, between Wednesday, May 6, and Friday, May 7, one of which followed the prior misidentification of, and injury to, local 18-year-old resident and U.S. citizen, Jeury Concepción of Norwood.

Sreenivasan said she wants to empower everyday residents with the knowledge that their advocacy can and does make a difference. Regarding the father of five, she said he ran a store and alleged he was “unlawfully kidnapped as soon as he crossed state lines from The Bronx.” Sreenivasan said the man’s fiancée had been studying in the medical field in another state, and when he was detained by federal agents, she was obliged to leave her studies and take up running the store on his behalf.

“The father of five’s fiancée was found by a team of business canvassers from State Sen. Gustavo Rivera’s Small Business Outreach Program,” Sreenivasan said. She was referring to the practice by Hands Off NYC and others of speaking to, usually, small business owners and employees about their rights.

Sreenivasan went on to explain that the team happened to walk into the store the man ran. Rivera, who represents State senatorial district 33, which includes Norwood, has been holding regular “Know Your Rights” outreach efforts in the district since at least last year. “When a team of business canvassers happened to walk into the store, they found this person working at [the] store,” Sreenivasan said. “Then the person told them that their fiancé was kidnapped, so that shows how important business canvassing is.”

Sreenivasan highlighted that such business canvassing and getting to know neighbors is “just as crucial to keeping the community safe.” She added, “In this case, [it] led neighbors to identify the man and offer support. Because of



Still image of video obtained by Norwood News

**ICE AGENTS TACKLE** Jeury Concepción, 18, to the ground on Hull Avenue and East Gun Hill Road in the Norwood section of The Bronx on Wednesday, May 6, 2026.

our coalition partners, we were able to connect them with a lawyer,” she said. “Without them, we would’ve never gotten in touch with the family and helped them connect with legal aid.”

Sreenivasan went on to describe a complex legal battle that required securing representation in two different jurisdictions. “When someone is moved to a different state, a cruel tactic often used by ICE, families must find a lawyer in both New York and in the state where they are being detained, a state that he had no local guardian or family members [in],” she said. She added that New York lawyer, Vichal Kumar, was particularly helpful.

“Behind the scenes, finding a lawyer is hard,” Sreenivasan continued. “Once I posted a call for a lawyer on social media, advocates and I found one willing to do the work pro bono [within] 24 hours. After one month of working with the lawyers, we were able to get [the father of five] back,” she said.

She continued, “At a time when mutual aid resources are stretched thin, I am happy to help connect affected neighbors with mutual aid and legal services in a personal capacity, as an advocate, and friends in our coalition are willing to be tapped in, as needed.” She added that Hands Off NYC focuses on preventative work and training neighbors and said coalition partners have helped several people get released from ICE custody to date.

Sreenivasan hopes the success of the latest release encourages others to speak out and seek help. “I think that could be really impactful to show people that there are things we can do,” she said. “We have resources, and as a child of immigrants, I’m more than willing to give myself as a resource to anybody reading your piece and say that if they need legal help and support, I will personally help find it for them.”

She also encouraged residents to

join the coalition’s efforts and help prevent “kidnappings.” “They can join Hands Off to do business canvassing,” she said. “Each of the kidnappings last week [was] in front of a business, so if these business owners knew what to do, we wouldn’t be where we are today. Any store owners who may have footage of the kidnappings, please continue to share, so we can support the legal cases of those kidnapped.”

Norwood News also asked Sreenivasan for her views on the current atmosphere in The Bronx following recent ICE raids. “People are wildly scared because of how untrained and lawless ICE is,” she said. “Everyone on the street, business owners, no one is happy because ICE is here. They’re taking good people, hard-working people. At the same time, numerous volunteers are stepping up to canvass businesses and train in both prevention and response, bringing hope to the neighborhood. We’d love to welcome any residents who want to join us.”

Sreenivasan provided the following resources for those seeking help or looking to get involved: Call the NYC Hotline: (229) 304-8720, join Hands Off as an individual at [handsoffnyc.com/get-involved](http://handsoffnyc.com/get-involved), and Bronx residents can also email [durga@handsoffnyc.com](mailto:durga@handsoffnyc.com) / or message via Instagram @durganyc.

“We’re so blessed to be a part of this network and hope we can work together to help as many residents as possible,” Sreenivasan concluded. “They should feel free to reach out at any time.”

In one of two videos obtained by Norwood News regarding the incident involving Concepción, which took place on Hull Avenue by East Gun Hill Road, the teen is first seen, dressed in black, walking from the direction of East Gun Hill Road up Hull Avenue along with two companions. A masked federal agent dressed in a bulletproof vest is then seen running up behind them with a pistol

pointed at their backs.

In the videos Norwood News obtained, the trio do not appear to run away or resist arrest. More agents arrive and proceed to grab Concepción, drag him face down on the sidewalk, seemingly pinning his arms behind his back and cuffing him, before later placing him in a nearby vehicle.

In an interview with CBS news, Concepción’s grandmother had said, “He had never been through something like this.” Meanwhile, Concepción, who was seen on camera with a large gash to his face, and who reportedly required stitches reportedly said that when the detaining ICE agents looked at his phone and checked his ID, they realized he was not who they were looking for.

A third person was also seemingly arrested by federal agents at the Citgo gas station on Webster Avenue on May 6. Norwood News spoke to employees at the station, but they were not present at the time of the arrest. More to follow.

Norwood News also reached out to both DHS and ICE to ask for the reason for the detention of those arrested, including the father of five, and for a comment on the injury to Concepción. A DHS spokesperson initially responded only on the misidentification of Concepción, saying, “DHS is NOT arresting U.S. citizens by mistake.” [Norwood News did not say it was.]

The statement continued, “DHS enforcement operations are highly targeted, and officers do their due diligence. We know who we are targeting ahead of time. If, and when we do encounter individuals subject to arrest, our law enforcement is trained to ask a series of well-determined questions to determine status and removability.”

The statement continued, “This individual [Concepción] was NOT arrested by ICE. On May 6, ICE law enforcement was conducting a targeted enforcement operation when they encountered an individual who matched the physical description of the target outside of the target’s residence.”

The statement continued, “When law enforcement approached the individual, he became combative and refused to identify himself. A large crowd of anti-ICE agitators descended and swarmed officers. For their safety, they temporarily detained the individual to safely finish asking their questions. Once officers finished their questioning, he was promptly released.”

Again, according to the video, Concepción did not appear to be “combative” or to resist arrest, despite being chased by an armed individual from behind. He does appear to have been shoved to the ground by the federal agent.

The statement continued, “A crowd of

(continued on page 7)

# NEWS BRIEFS

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

## State & City 2027 Budgets Announced

NY Gov. Kathy Hochul announced the 2027 \$268 billion State budget deal on Thursday, May 7. It incorporates what was described as a comprehensive path to universal childcare, makes New York more affordable for families by lowering auto insurance premiums, tackles energy costs with a “sweeping affordability package,” including a \$1 billion energy rebate to provide utility relief to New Yorkers, and a new ratepayer protection program to guard against rate increases and spiraling costs.

It also includes protections against what was described as “unprecedented escalation” in aggressive federal immigration enforcement by the U.S. Department of Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE), enacts “nation-leading,” online protections and privacy requirements to protect children from predators and AI chatbots, includes “landmark reforms” to cut red tape to build more housing and infrastructure faster and cheaper, and introduces a first-in-the-nation law to crack down on 3D printing of “ghost guns,” the component parts of which can be bought online and assembled at home.

On Tuesday, May 12, New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani released details of New York City’s 2027 \$124.7 billion executive budget. City officials said that “after inheriting a historic \$12 billion budget gap,” the mayor restored New York City’s fiscal health through aggressive savings, taxing the rich, partnership with Albany, and critical new investments. They said the mayor balanced the budget without slashing services, raising property taxes or draining long-term reserves.

A new “pied-à-terre-tax” for those who own a luxury second home is being introduced at State level to raise revenue, while the mayor said he will work with City Council Speaker Julie Menin and the City Council at City level on the Council’s proposal to reduce the UBT (Unincorporated Business Tax) tax credit. Members say the tax credit overwhelmingly benefits millionaires, and reducing it will raise an additional \$68 million.

## NYC Security Grille Law Takes Effect July 1

NYC Local Law 75 takes effect on July 1 and will ban the installation of solid panel security grilles for buildings in occupancy groups B (business) or M (display or sale of merchandise). The law requires that all existing and new security grilles on such buildings, when closed, permit at least 70% visibility from the sidewalk. From July 1, NYC Department of Buildings (DOB) may fine non-compliant businesses, but no such penalty will apply if the condition is corrected within 90 days and a certificate of correction is filed with DOB.

## Mayor Promotes 2026 FIFA World Cup at Belmont’s P.S. 32

New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani recently launched “Soccer Streets,” a traveling series of field days during which he is visiting 50 public schools across the five boroughs ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, co-hosted by New York and New Jersey. On Tuesday, May 12, he stopped by Belmont’s P.S. 32, joined students for a game of soccer, and was also treated to a string performance by preschoolers in the Bronx Arts Ensemble’s Early String Pathways Program.



Photo courtesy of Kara McCurdy of the Mayoral Photography Office

**PRESCHOOLERS PERFORM A** string recital during a visit by NYC Mayor Zohran Mamdani to P.S. 32 in Belmont on May 12, 2026.

## Child Abuse Prevention Month Marked

In recognition of April as “National Child Abuse Prevention Month,” the Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) joined provider partners, government leaders and families on Thursday, April 16, at Martin Van Buren Playground in Crotona Park to raise awareness about the supports available to New York City families in need.

ACS officials said Interim ACS Commissioner Melissa Hester and representatives from ACS’s contract

provider agencies explained the work New York City is doing to keep children safe and families supported. ACS also promoted its dedicated Support Line (212) 676-7667, which any family can call for help with accessing

food, diapers, clothing or services like counseling, substance abuse treatment and more. Participants were also given a pinwheel, the official symbol for Child Abuse Prevention Month.



Photo courtesy of ACS

**IN RECOGNITION OF** April as “National Child Abuse Prevention Month,” the Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) joined families, provider partners, and government leaders on Thursday, April 16, at Martin Van Buren Playground in Crotona Park.

# DEA Warns Naloxone May Not Work on New Drug Mixes

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) warned on May 12 that the U.S. continues to face an unprecedented and evolving drug threat driven by illicit fentanyl, which they said is increasingly being mixed with “a dangerous array of synthetic substances emerging in the illicit drug market.” They said the combinations are making an already deadly drug supply even more unpredictable and lethal.

“Law enforcement and public health officials are seeing fentanyl combined with highly potent substances such as xylazine, nitazenes, cyclophosphine, and medetomidine,” DEA officials said. “Many of these substances are not approved for human use and are often undetectable to the user.”

They said xylazine and medetomidine are used by veterinarians to sedate animals, and nitazenes and cyclophosphine are potent, unregulated, synthetic opioids. “DEA has reported 22 unique nitazenes compounds since 2020,” 21 of which are listed as Schedule 1 controlled substances,” they added.

Schedule I controlled substances are drugs, substances, or chemicals defined by the DEA as having a high potential for abuse. DEA officials said these emerging synthetic drugs can be

significantly more powerful than fentanyl and greatly increase the risk of a fatal overdose. “These substances are frequently mixed into counterfeit pills or fentanyl powder without the user’s knowledge,” they added.

They also highlighted that drugs like xylazine and medetomidine are not opioids, meaning naloxone, a drug used to often successfully reverse the effects of an opioid overdose, may not work on these drugs. They said other synthetics, such as nitazenes and cyclophosphine, might require several doses of naloxone to be effective. They added that xylazine has been linked to devastating soft tissue damage, infections, and prolonged sedation, while other synthetics can cause rapid respiratory depression and death.

Health officials advise people never to take a pill that isn’t prescribed and dispensed by a licensed pharmacy, assume all illicit drugs may contain fentanyl or other deadly additives, carry naloxone and be trained in how to use it, but understand it may not fully reverse all substances present.

They also advise people to call 911 immediately in any suspected drug poisoning or overdose scenario, as time is critical, and to stay informed and spread awareness. “The threat is evolving rapidly,” they said. For more information, visit [DEA.gov/fentanyl](https://www.dea.gov/fentanyl) free and [DEA.gov/onepill](https://www.dea.gov/onepill).

# Feds Release Detained Bronx Man Three Days after ICE Crackdown in Norwood

(continued from page 5)

anti-ICE agitators formed.” [Around six people, including Concepción’s two companions and some others who appeared to be just bystanders are seen in the video during the incident.] “ICE law enforcement, for their safety and the individual’s safety, left the scene and moved to a nearby location once officers identified the individual was not the target.”

The other people seen in the video did not appear to do anything that placed the ICE agents in danger, though there is no sound in the video we obtained so we cannot hear what is being said.

On the same day as the incident involving Concepción took place, another man was also arrested by ICE agents on Decatur Avenue (parallel with Hull Avenue) located between East Gun Hill Road and East 209th Street.

Norwood News spoke to Daedae on Decatur Avenue on Sunday, May 9, and asked for his thoughts on the Decatur arrest of the second man. “It was definitely wrong,” he said. “They chased him. They wasn’t even sure. They asked him for no ID. They was just hurting people.”

Daedae said he first saw the second man running down Gun Hill Road from the direction of Hull Avenue being chased by ICE agents and said he then turned into Decatur Avenue. “I seen them running, chasing him,” Daedae said in part. “He was running from up the block.”

Gesturing to one of the buildings on Decatur, he said, “He stopped there to go in the building and the building was locked, and then they pulled out their guns, aimed it at him, he put his hands up, got on the floor, was tryin’ to get on the floor, and they still tackled him. They started punching him and it’s like big ass [inaudible].”

Asked if the agents had their guns out while they were chasing the man, Daedae said, “They had their guns out chasing him, then they put it away ’cause they had to catch up to him, then they pulled up to him and they pulled it back out again.” Asked for his thoughts on ICE activity in the area, he said, “It’s crazy; they need to go. We don’t, we don’t need them.”

He continued, “There’s people that have been here for 20 years, 30 years, and they’re trying to take them. They’ve been here for their whole life. They grew up here, so it’s like it’s [inaudible] not legal. It’s crazy.”

Asked if he felt elected officials were doing enough to support immigrants and people who are being potentially unlawfully targeted by ICE, Daedae said, “No, they’re not. They need to get ICE out of here.” We mentioned that many elected officials had been sharing fliers and organizing informational workshops which aim to educate immigrants, business owners, and others on what their rights are.

We asked if he thought this was use-

ful. Daedae said, “It’s not ’cause the government still don’t care about our rights. They still violate our rights, so it doesn’t matter. We don’t have no rights, especially in New York City.”

On May 5, at a conference in Arizona, “Border Tzar” Tom Honan had said, “What’s going to happen with places like New York and these other people that want to pass this ridiculous legislation not to work with us, we’re going to flood the zone, You’re going to see more ICE agents than you’ve ever seen before, so congratulations because when we send these teams out there, we’ll find the bad guy [inaudible/ ’cause we always do?] and when we find the bad guy and he’s with others, others who may not be the primary target, but they’re in the country illegally, but we find them during these operations.” He added in part, “You’re going to see [collateral vests/arrests?/inaudible] increasing. You’ll see more agents in your neighborhood.”

Norwood News mentioned to Daedae about the “New York for All” pending State legislation that, if passed, would create more protections for immigrants in New York State and Honan’s comments on May 5, the day before the arrests, about sending even more ICE agents to New York.

In light of this information, we asked if he had a different view. “Just get ICE out of here,” he said. “We don’t need them. Like, you’re [the federal government] trying to force it like it seems

better, but it’s not better. Y’all arrestin’ people that doesn’t even need to get arrested. These people is no harm to nobody.”

We put it to Daedae that some Americans and residents do feel ICE is needed because there are some undocumented people who are committing crimes and asked for his thoughts on that. “There are, but why are y’all not going after them [inaudible],” he asked. “They’re going after all the individuals. It doesn’t even make sense going after even people that got petty crimes. Why would you go after them? There’s New Yorkers with worse crimes. Now, let’s be real. Going after people with petty crimes is crazy.”

ICE/DHS has released some information on people the agencies have detained, along with the crimes they are alleged to have committed. However, requesting information on specific incidents relating to ICE sightings has proven difficult.

In conjunction with the New York for All Act, there is also a proposed measure included in the State budget agreement to preclude ICE agents from wearing masks. “States like New York must be a guardrail against ICE, an out-of-control \$85 billion agency,” New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said on May 7. “We’re putting those guardrails in place: local cops focused on local crime, protections for sensitive locations, unmasking law

(continued on page 8)

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**NYPD**



# Feds Release Detained Bronx Man Three Days after ICE Crackdown in Norwood

(continued from page 7)

enforcement, and real accountability when rights are violated.”

Asked if, generally, he carried ID, Daedae said he did. “I only carry ID ‘cause I’m a driver and they made it mandatory for drivers in New York City to carry the license, and I don’t carry ID ‘cause the streets. I don’t care about that but because the cops want to see if it’s a good license, so that’s why I carry it,” he said.

Daedae continued, “You don’t need to carry ID on you. We shouldn’t have to. We’re not in a state of panic or anything. Why do we need to show anybody who we are, what we’re doing or committed a crime. We’re not doing nothin’. Why we showin’ who we are? Why would you need to identify yourself? It doesn’t even make sense.”

In response to the Hull and Decatur Avenue incidents, Congressman Ritchie Torres (NY-15) sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security inspector, General Joseph Cuffari, urging his office to open a formal investigation into what he said were two deeply troubling videos documenting violent actions by ICE agents in the Norwood section of the Bronx.

Other local elected officials have also condemned the actions by ICE in relation to the Hull and Decatur Avenue incidents. The incident involving Concep-

ción took place a few minutes’ walk from the Hull Avenue home where a woman and seven men were previously arrested for alleged drug and gun possession as well as child endangerment in March 2024.

Meanwhile, New York Attorney General Letitia James’ Office of Special Investigations released its report on July 24, 2024, into the death of Bronxite, Kyle Lockett, 21, who was fatally shot by police on Nov. 3, 2022, at Hull Avenue and East Gun Hill Road. Police said the shooting occurred at 11.20 a.m. as members of the Queens Warrant Squad were in an unmarked police vehicle in front of 330 Gun Hill Road. Police said at the time they were there investigating an unrelated incident.

In November 2024, police released photos of two people sought in relation to an unrelated shooting also on Hull Avenue close to East Gun Hill Road. There is no indication that those incidents had anything to do with the arrests which took place on May 6.

A third person was seemingly arrested by federal agents at the Citgo gas station on Webster Avenue in Norwood on May 6, according to Hands Off NYC. Norwood News has obtained video of all three arrests. We later spoke to local people in the area as well as to employees at the gas station about it but they said they were not present at the

time of the arrest. More to follow.

According to Hands Off NYC, a fourth person was also arrested in Norwood sometime between May 6 and May 7. We do not have any details of this fourth arrest.

On Tuesday, May 12, DHS responded in relation to our request regarding the reason for the detainment of the Northwest Bronx father of five from federal custody on Saturday, May 8, saying, “When the media refuses to give names, it makes it impossible to provide details on specific cases or even verify any of this even happened or that the people even exist. If you can’t do your job, we can’t do ours.” Norwood News does not know the name of the father of five.

In response to our request for information regarding the charges relating to the arrest of the man on Decatur Avenue on May 6, the spokesperson said the man arrested was an “illegal alien” from the Dominican Republic. “He entered the country on an unknown date through Mexico. He declined a voluntary departure and will remain in ICE custody pending removal proceedings.”

In response to our request for the charges relating to the man arrested at the Citgo gas station, the spokesperson provided the same response as the one for the father of five. We informed DHS that we did not have the names of those arrested, and in any case, the NYPD

doesn’t request names from the press to provide details of crimes / arrests. They only require the location, date and approximate time.

NY Legal Assistance Group had urged the U.S. Senate in January of this year to reject increased ICE and border patrol funding but to no avail. As reported, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul and New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani joined formerly detained Marble Hill high school student Dylan Josue Lopez Contreras, his mother, and many others on Thursday, March 19, in Manhattan to welcome him back to New York City following his release from ICE detention.

Dylan, 20, had been detained there for nearly 10 months after his highly publicized courthouse arrest outside a scheduled immigration hearing at 26 Federal Plaza in Manhattan last May.

On Monday, May 11, the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) filed a complaint against the U.S. Department of Justice Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) for failing to comply with a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request on how immigration judges make bond determinations.

Norwood News is continuing to attempt to reach those detained for comment. We will share any further updates we receive. Read more coverage on [www.norwoodnews.org](http://www.norwoodnews.org).

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Zohran Kwame Mamdani  
Mayor  
Alister F. Martin, MD, MPP  
Commissioner





## Supporting Moms during the Critical “Fourth Trimester”

BY POLINA UMYLNY & NATASHA T. KOSTEK

Meet Jasmine. She’s a first-time mom in The Bronx, three weeks out from having delivered a healthy baby girl. Everyone wants to know how the baby is doing. “Who does she look like? How much is she eating?” they ask. Jasmine smiles, answers every question, and listens to advice.

What she doesn’t say is that she hasn’t showered in four days, she cried for two hours last night for no obvious reason, and she feels guilty for not being as happy as she envisioned.

Jasmine is living through “the fourth trimester,” a period that can be especially challenging for many new parents. You’ve heard of the first, second, and third trimesters of pregnancy, but the 12 weeks after a baby is born (known as the fourth trimester) can be just as demanding for a mother, as pregnancy itself. Yet, after delivery, medical attention of ten shifts primarily to the baby, leaving many mothers with limited support for their own recovery and well-being.

Those first 12 weeks are filled with physical and emotional changes that we don’t talk about nearly enough. While bodies heal, hormones that surged during pregnancy drop dramatically, sleep becomes a memory, and for many women, feelings of sadness and worry creep in. About 80% of new moms experience “baby blues” in the first weeks after baby is born.

This can include mood swings, tearfulness, and irritability. For most, these feelings fade, but for roughly one in five women, they deepen into postpartum depression or anxiety, conditions that are real, common, and very treatable.

Postpartum depression can show up in new moms as feeling numb or emotionally disconnected, not enjoying things they once loved, or having persistent thoughts that they’re doing everything wrong. Postpartum anxiety can look like constant worrying that is hard to shut off, as well as experiencing physical symptoms like a racing heart, difficulty sleeping, and a persistent sense that something bad is about to happen.

In The Bronx, the stakes are especially high. Studies show that some women in the borough are almost twice as likely to screen positive for depression as other women across the country. Financial stress and feeling isolated can worsen symptoms. But asking for help isn’t always easy. Focusing on the baby, worries about judgment or not knowing where to find mental health support can keep many women from reaching out.

If any of this sounds familiar to you, or to a loved one, please know that this is not a character flaw. These are medical conditions,

and help is available.

At Montefiore, we developed the Prenatal Healthy Steps Program to address this need. Healthy Steps is an online prenatal support group where pregnant women like Jasmine can prepare for the emotional road ahead. We talk openly about baby blues and postpartum depression, and practice stress management exercises together.

We help women think about what kind of parent they want to be and what social and community support they need to get there. We encourage every parent to think carefully about their “village.” Who can they call when they’re feeling overwhelmed? Who will help with the baby at 2 a.m.? Having a plan before the baby arrives can make a real difference.

One stress management exercise we teach is reframing. Reframing is a technique used to shift your mindset, so you’re able to look at a situation, person, or relationship from a slightly different perspective. During the fourth trimester, Jasmine experiences many judgmental and pessimistic thoughts about her ability to be a parent.

For example, she said, “I always wanted to be a mom, but I’m failing at this,” or “I love my baby, but I don’t know how to care for her when she cries.” The word “but” can erase the first part of the sentence and magnify negative thoughts. Replacing “but” with “and” makes room for two things to be true at once. It can help quiet a racing mind and allow space for hope.

Once the baby is born, we connect families to Montefiore’s Healthy Steps Program (<https://www.cham.org/programs-centers/>

healthy-steps), which provides support and guidance to families of children from birth to age 5 who are seen at Montefiore pediatric practices (<https://montefioreeinstein.org/patient-care/services/primary-care/locations>).

Parents can meet with a behavior and development specialist who attends to both the baby’s and parents’ needs, as part of the baby’s well child visits. If you are a Montefiore patient and pregnant or recently postpartum, and feeling overwhelmed, sad, or anxious, reach out to your or your child’s medical provider, and ask to be connected to Healthy Steps.

Some other helpful resources available to families include Just Birth Space (<https://www.justbirthspace.org/en/communityconnect>) online postpartum and parenting support groups, Expectful’s health and news hub (<https://expectful.com/>), breastfeeding resources (<https://montefioreeinstein.org/patient-care/breastfeeding-support>), and stress management apps such as CALM and Insight Timer. For immediate mental health support, call or text 988 any time, day or night.

Polina Umylny, Ph.D., is director of Montefiore’s HealthySteps Program, assistant director of Montefiore’s Behavioral Health Integration Program (BHIP) and assistant professor of pediatrics at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Natasha T. Kostek, Psy.D., is currently completing a pediatric psychology postdoctoral fellowship through BHIP and HealthySteps at Montefiore’s Comprehensive Family Care Center. They would like to thank David and Miriam Phalen for their support of the HS: BRIDGE Project.

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# NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

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Those in need of free legal services covering immigration and asylum, rental and housing assistance, tax issues, domestic violence, student debt, and more can call (917) 661-4500 Monday to Friday from 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. for help. The service is also available in Spanish.

**Literacy & Immigrant Services**  
NYC Department of Youth & Community Development (DYCD) offer a variety of services including adult literacy, immigrant services, adolescent literacy, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)/Civics and more. For more information, call 1-800-246-4646 or email [dvcdliteracy&immigrantservices@dycd.nyc.gov](mailto:dvcdliteracy&immigrantservices@dycd.nyc.gov).

**Sanitation Investment for Bronx CD5**  
Bronx Community District 5, covering some or all of University Heights, Mount Hope, Morris Heights, and Fordham Heights is one of the community boards targeted for Sanitation investment in the executive budget for Financial Year 2027, announced May 12 by NYC Mayor Zohran Mamdani. With \$14.8 million allocated to waste containerization in 2027, growing to \$162.2 million by Financial Year 2030, City officials said it furthers the mayor's April commitment to fully containerize trash in six new community districts during 2027, including Bronx CD5, and for full citywide trash containerization by end of 2031.

**Options Wellness Center**  
The NYPD Community Affairs Bureau Youth Strategies Division has an Options Wellness Center located at Bergen Building, 1932 Arthur Avenue, Bronx, NY 10457, for youth aged 12-19 which offers homework help, a tech lab, gaming, music, chess, videography, fitness, art and young men & women leadership training.

**NYCHA Student Scholarships**  
NYCHA and CUNY are offering \$1,000 scholarships to low-income and middle-income students who are enrolled at CUNY and are NYCHA or NYCHA Section 8 residents. Applications are now open until June 23. Apply at [on.nyc.gov/nycha.cuny](http://on.nyc.gov/nycha.cuny).

**NYC Parks Lifeguard Qualifying Test**  
All potential lifeguards must pass the Lifeguard Qualifying Test, which includes a vision and swim exam. To qualify, you must be at least 16 years of age by July 18, 2026, have at least 20/30 vision in one eye and 20/40 in the other, without corrective lenses. (Glasses and contact lenses may not be worn during the eye exam.) and be able to swim 50 yards in 50 seconds or less, with proper form. For more information, visit the Become an NYC Parks Lifeguard page

here: <https://www.nycgovparks.org/opportunities/jobs/lifeguards>.

**Domestic Violence Community Conversation**  
Bronx Community Board 7 and Council Member Oswald Feliz (C.D. 15) are hosting domestic violence community conversations in the near future (dates TBC) to help plan, develop and execute DV awareness, prevention and support programming in the district. Be part of the conversation and sign up at [bit.ly/4akOkSQ](http://bit.ly/4akOkSQ).

**Primary Elections Key Dates**  
The change of address deadline to vote at the correct polling location is Monday, June 8. The voter registration deadline is Saturday, June 13. The mail ballot request deadline (requested online or by mail) is Saturday, June 13. Early voting begins Saturday, June 13.

The in-person mail ballot request deadline is Monday, June 22. The mail ballot postmark deadline is Tuesday, June 23. Primary Election Day is Tuesday, June 23. Only voters enrolled in a political party can vote in that party's primary. The mail ballot receipt deadline is Tuesday, June 30, meaning this is the last day by which the Board of Elections can receive your mail ballot and have it counted.

**When to Contact 988**  
Call or text 988, or visit [nyc.gov/988](http://nyc.gov/988) for free, confidential mental health support in the following situations: if you or someone you know is worried about the negative impact drugs or alcohol is having; if you are feeling stressed, overwhelmed or struggling with daily activities; if you are looking for mental health or substance use providers in your area; if you are having thoughts of hurting or killing yourself; or if you are concerned about changes in the behavior of someone you care about.

**Free Pest Control Services**  
NYC health department offers free services on pest control for children with asthma living in The Bronx. For more information, call (718) 508 0643.

**Pet Food Pantries of NYC**  
Pet Food Pantries are available in The Bronx at the following locations: Strong Paw Rescue at [www.strong-pawrescue.org/pet-pantry](http://www.strong-pawrescue.org/pet-pantry), Animal Care Centers of NYC on (212) 788 4000 or at [info@nycacc.org](mailto:info@nycacc.org), and at Church of Saint Helena on (718) 892 7713 or at [sthenarc@yahoo.com](mailto:sthenarc@yahoo.com).

**Affordable Housing Lotteries**  
NYC Department of Housing, Preservation and Development (HPD) has open, affordable housing lotteries for housing units in The Bronx. Visit <https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/searchlotteries> for more information.

# Out & About

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

## EVENTS

### Bronx Week 2026

The Bronx Tourism Council, in partnership with the Bronx Borough President's Office and The Bronx Economic Development Corporation, presents **Bronx Week 2026**, an annual almost one-month celebration of the borough from May 1 to May 17. All events will take place in The Bronx, culminating with the Bronx Ball at Bally's Golf Links on Saturday night, May 16, at 6 p.m. and the Bronx Week 2026 parade and concert on Mosholu Parkway on Sunday, May 17, at 10 a.m. Visit <https://www.ilovethebronx.com/bronx-week-2026> for more information.

Assemblyman John Zaccaro Jr. (A.D. 80) and Wildlife Conservation Society present **"Discover the Wild,"** a family adventure at the Bronx Zoo on Saturday, May 16. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/4ui8jZz>.

The official **NYNJ World Cup 26 Jersey Fan Hub** is coming to Sports Illustrated Stadium during FIFA World Cup 2026™ transforming the venue into the NYNJ Host Committee's official New Jersey fan experience.

The Jersey Fan Hub will feature live broadcasts of FIFA World Cup 2026™ matches, entertainment, food, sponsor experiences, activations, and unforgettable watch party energy throughout the tournament.

Open across 8 Group Stage dates and 8 Knockout Round dates, fans will watch matches live from the stadium floor on a massive 60-foot screen on the pitch, creating one of the most unique viewing experiences in the region.

Hype House will also serve as a central gathering point within the venue, featuring 20 large screen TVs, a 360-degree bar, and a built-in stage for musical performances and special appearances. Get your tickets here: <https://www.sportsillustratedstadium.com/fan-hub>.

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Park Blvd W, Bronx, presents

**The Comedy Kings**, featuring Joe Torry, Talent Harris, Capone and Joe Clair, hosted by AG White on Saturday, May 23, at 8 p.m. For tickets, call the Lehman Center box office at (718) 960-8833 or book online at <https://www.lehmancenter.org/events/comedy-kings>.

The **40<sup>th</sup> Annual Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade Gala** takes place on Wednesday, May 27, at 6 p.m. at Villa Barone Manor at 737 Throggs Neck Expressway, Bronx, and

the Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade takes place on Saturday, May 30. Email [MASeventsnyc@gmail.com](mailto:MASeventsnyc@gmail.com) for more information.

## MUSIC

Opera Essentia presents **Lost in Cyprus**, a one-hour distillation of Handel's Tolomeo from 1728, on Saturday, May 30, at 3 p.m. at the Bronx Library Center Auditorium, 310 E Kingsbridge Rd, Bronx, NY 10458. Come witness Baroque rock star music with passion so deep it rings true 300 years later. Obsession? Poisoning? Betrayal? What's in store for the hounded Seleuce or the wretched Tolomeo? Free Admission for all performances! Register at [www.operaessentia.org/season](http://www.operaessentia.org/season).

## ART

Visit Lehman College Art Gallery, 250 Bedford Park Blvd. West, Bronx, NY 10468, to participate in an **Inclusive Family Sculpture Program** on Sunday, May 17, from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Create a found object sculpture! Tour the 2026 BFA, MA, and MFA Thesis Exhibition. Visit <https://bit.ly/49sHEk1> for more information.

## MOVEMENT

Join NYC Parks at NYPL Mosholu Library, 285 E 205th Street in Norwood each Friday in May at 10 a.m. for free **Low Impact Dance Fitness** classes designed to make you feel energized! Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/3OIUrIN>.



## Letters To The Editor

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

### Policing the Word "Milk"

Efforts to restrict plant-based products from using the word "milk" are gaining traction again, despite little evidence that consumers are confused (Reuters, April 24, 2026). Most people know exactly what oat milk is and choose it intentionally.

So, why the push to regulate language? It's hard not to see it as an attempt to shield one industry from growing competition.

Consumers benefit from clear labeling and diverse choices. Limiting how products are described doesn't protect the public, it limits innovation and restricts access to alternatives many people prefer for health, environmental, or ethical reasons.

What's next? If the dairy lobby has their way, you soon might have to buy peanut spread instead of peanut butter.

**Newman Nalpers  
Williamsbridge**

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

# Bronx Week 2026 People's Choice Winner Announced

SÍLE MOLONEY

Bronx Week 2026 is well underway, as reported, and on Tuesday, May 5, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson and partners hosted a Bronx Week 2026 Sponsorship Appreciation Event at Pregones Theatre in the South Bronx, during which this year's Bronx Walk of Fame People's Choice Award winner was announced as Jaime "Jimmy" Rodriguez Jr. of Jimmy's Bronx Café.

The event, held in conjunction with the Bronx Tourism Council, the Bronx

Economic Development Corporation (BXEDC), and the Bronx Chamber of Commerce, also recognized this year's sponsors, community partners, and community stakeholders whose continued support, Gibson said, helps make Bronx Week possible each year.

During her prepared remarks, Gibson said this year, the chosen category for the People's Choice Award was culinary arts and Bronxites were asked to nominate a restaurateur / entrepreneur / small business owner or leader who has been more than 25 years in the culinary industry. In announcing Rodriguez Jr. as the 2026 Bronx Walk of Fame People's Choice honoree, Gibson said he was born and raised in the South Bronx and has been 40 years in the business. "His entrepreneurial journey began when he was a high school dropout, working on the streets alongside his father," she said.

She said Rodriguez Jr. works with businesses and people who want to build something meaningful and last-

ing. "His consulting approach centers on one truth: 'belief precedes achievement.'" She added, "As he puts it, the hardest part is believing, the other part is achieving. Every venture he has built, from street level seafood sales to a hospitality empire, began with a decision to believe it was all possible. He continues to redefine what hospitality can look like in our borough that shaped him."

Accepting the honor, Rodriguez Jr. thanked Gibson and all those responsible for it, and said it was especially meaningful because it came from the people. He said reading some of the emails he received from colleagues during the nominating process was especially meaningful. "There are so many memories but, you know, believing in yourself and saying that you can overcome anything in this world, for me, was everything and I continue to do this and I instill this in my children and anyone in my life and in my circle," he said.



Screenshot by Síle Moloney  
**JAIME "JIMMY" RODRIGUEZ** Jr. is the Bronx Week 2026 Bronx Walk of Fame People's Choice award recipient in the category of culinary arts. He is seen here speaking at Pregones Theatre in the Concourse section of The Bronx on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, during a Sponsorship Appreciation Event.



### Man Gets 15 Years for Daytime Shooting of Two Women

Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark announced Tuesday, May 12, that Carlos Rivera, 66, of East 178<sup>th</sup> Street, Bronx, was sentenced on May 11 to 15 years in prison after being found guilty of attempted murder and assault for shooting two women, seriously injuring one of them in in Fordham Manor in May 2023.

Clark said Rivera was also sentenced to five years post release supervision by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Verena Powell. She said he was convicted by a jury of attempted murder in the first-degree, first-degree assault, second-degree assault, and second-degree criminal possession of a weapon on March 6.

According to the facts brought out at trial, at around 1.48 p.m. on May 3, 2023, Rivera and Erica DiSalvio got into an argument inside the TD Bank at 148 East Fordham Road. The court heard that Rivera exited the bank, waited for DiSalvio and when she exited, he fired two shots at her, striking her twice. Prosecutors said the bullets hit her in the pelvic area, right chest, and right arm, and that a bystander who was on the street, was also hit in the leg. They said both women were taken to St. Barnabas Hospital, with DiSalvio suffering serious injuries which required reconstructive surgery. They said to this day, she experiences pain in her arm and leg.



### Norwood Man Arrested after Attempted Assault

Police said a Norwood man, Terry Niquan, left, has been arrested following an attempted assault in Morris Heights in April. They had been asking for the public's help identifying the person seen in the accompanying photo, saying he was wanted in connection with the incident.

They said that on Monday, April 20, at around 11.40 a.m., at the intersection of Davidson Avenue and West 177th Street, an unidentified suspect displayed and then fired a gun in the direction of a 30-year-old man and then fled the location in a black sedan to parts unknown. They said there were no injuries reported following the incident.

Pursuant to an ongoing investigation, they said Niquan was arrested and charged on Thursday, May 7, with assault, criminal possession of a weapon, and reckless endangerment. He is presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

### Allerton: 27-Year-Old Man Shot

A 27-year-old man is stable after being shot in the vicinity of New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)'s Pelham Parkway Houses in Allerton, police said. The NYPD said the department received a call at 8.55 p.m. for a report of a person who had been shot at 2355 Wil-

liamsbridge Road. They said upon arrival, officers discovered a 27-year-old male with gunshot wounds to the arm and chest.

They said the victim was transported to NYC Health + Hospitals/Jacobi, where he remains in stable condition. They said the victim was uncooperative, there is no description for the perpetrator, no arrests, and the investigation is ongoing. One NYCHA resident said his kids were playing at a nearby playground when the incident occurred and ran inside to tell him what happened.

The FDNY said the department received a call at 8.56 p.m. for a report of a person shot at 2355 Williamsbridge Road between Stell Place and Waring Avenue. They said EMS transported one civilian to Jacobi Hospital and that their description and condition was unknown.

### Wakefield: Man 26 Stabbed on White Plains Rd & East 233rd Street

Police have identified the man who died following a fatal stabbing in Wakefield on Friday morning, May 1. Police said they received a call at 6.37 a.m. on May 1 for a report of an assault at White Plains Road and East 233rd Street, under the elevated train tracks at East 233rd Street subway station.

They said upon arrival, the victim was discovered with slash wounds to the neck, head and arm. "[He was] transported to Jacobi [Hospital], where

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# NYPD



# CRIME FILE

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



he was pronounced deceased,” they said. “No arrests and the investigation is ongoing.”

When contacted, an FDNY/EMS spokesperson said they received a call at 6.39 a.m. for a report of a male with stab wounds at East 233rd Street and White Plains Road and that one patient was transported to Jacobi Hospital and that his condition and description was unknown. On Saturday, May 2, police identified the victim as Marquez Brown, 26, from the Wakefield section of The Bronx.

Norwood News spoke to one woman who was working in the area on May 1 who said she witnessed the stabbing and alleged the perpetrator was an older man who stabbed a younger man in the neck / back. “The only thing I saw is when the youth, when the man stabbed the youth in the back, I ran,” she said. Asked if she could describe the perpetrator, she said he was wearing a mask, a jacket and a hat. “I don’t know him,” she said, adding that he was dressed in black clothing.

The woman said she ran upstairs and called “Help! Help! Help!” She said the perpetrator ran “up the road,” gesturing generally east of White Plains Road at East 233rd Street. Norwood News also spoke to a local business owner and asked if there were usually problems in the area or if it was quiet and he said,

“It’s a tough corner. “There’s a lot of activities going on here.” We asked what he meant by activities and he said, “Fighting, shouting, cursing, gangs, you name it.”

Asked if he had encountered trouble in his business in the past, he said he had not, and that it was usually confined to the street. Several police evidence markers were seen behind the cordoned off crime scene marking around 10 pieces of evidence including blood stains and what looked to be a coffee cup.

### Norwood: Woman Arrested following Stabbing/Slashing

Police said they’ve arrested a 31-year-old woman in relation to a slashing / stabbing assault on one male teen and two men in Norwood, after they had sought the public’s help identifying the woman seen in the accompanying photo who they said was wanted for questioning in connection with the incident.

Police that on Wednesday, April 29, at around 6 p.m. in front of 3424 Kosuth Avenue, between East Gun Hill Road and East 210th Street, the victims, a 28-year-old male, an 18-year-old male, and a 24-year-old male got into a dispute with an unidentified male and female.

They said the female suspect displayed a cutting instrument and slashed the 28-year-old male in the hand, stabbed the 18-year-old male in the



torso, and stabbed the 24-year-old male in the upper back and in the back of the head. They said the victims traveled by private means to NYC Health + Hospitals/North Central Bronx, all in stable condition and the suspect and her male companion fled the location in an unknown direction.

Pursuant to an ongoing investigation, police said Alyana Randolph, 31, left, of Norwood was arrested on Friday, May 8, at 8.20 a.m. They said she was charged with two counts of attempted murder and three counts of assault. She is presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

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.

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## Public and Community Meetings

The next 52<sup>nd</sup> PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL meeting will take place on Thursday, May 28, at 7 p.m. at Monroe College, King Hall Bldg, 2501 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, NY 10468. Call the 52nd Precinct Community Affairs office at (718) 220-5824 to be added to the email distribution list.

The next BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7 (CB7) general board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 26, at 6.30 at Monroe College, Mintz Auditorium, 2501 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, NY 10468. Contact [KCabreraCarrera@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:KCabreraCarrera@cb.nyc.gov) to be added to the distribution list. All meetings are in person unless otherwise notified by Bronx CB7.

The next BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8 (CB8) general board meeting will be held in June (date tbc). To join via Zoom or phone, visit <https://us-02web.zoom.us/j/2114033690> or call +16465588656, and enter the Meeting ID 2114033690#. Contact [BX08@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:BX08@cb.nyc.gov) to be added to the distribution list, and check <http://www.nyc.gov/bronxcb8> for any updates.

The BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION monthly meetings are usually 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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# I Couldn't Save More

## Hero Neighbor Saves One Child from Fatal Fire

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

A brave, quick-thinking neighbor, who is also a survivor of gun violence, is lamenting that he couldn't save other kids trapped inside his burning Fordham Manor building on Monday, May 11, after he scaled the back of the building minutes after a fire broke out and helped rescue one mother and her infant daughter.

As reported, police said a 1-year-old baby boy died after the residential fire broke out at 2609 Bainbridge Avenue on Monday, and that a 6-year-old girl and a 6-year-old boy (twins) remain in critical condition at St. Barnabas Hospital.

An FDNY spokesperson told *Norwood News* the department received a call at 3:39 p.m. for a report of a fire on the second floor of the residential building located between East 193rd Street and East 194th Street.

The spokesperson said 21 units, comprising 79 fire and EMS personnel responded to the scene and that five civilian patients, three with critical injuries and one with serious injuries, were transported to area hospitals. He said one with minor injuries refused medical attention.

The spokesperson added that three firefighters with minor injuries were also transported to area hospitals, adding that the condition and descriptions of the injured were unknown. He said the fire marshals had been notified and the cause is under investigation. He said the fire was brought under control at 4:40 p.m.

Speaking in Spanish, Jaime Cuevas Ventura told *Norwood News* he had been sitting on a fold-up chair in front of the building having a drink when he realized something was wrong. "I was there and I realized the fire started," he said.

He said one mother came running downstairs shouting, "My kids are up there! My kids are up there!" Cuevas Ventura, who walks with a limp and has a slightly curved leg due to problems recovering from two gunshot wounds from way back, continued, "There was nobody around in the apartment [to help her], you know?"

He continued, "I went running up the [interior] stairs with her, but when we broke open the door of the apartment, there was SO much black, black smoke, I couldn't enter."

Slight in stature, Cuevas Ventura later showed us where he went behind the building, yanked down the emergency ladder for the exterior fire escape, and proceeded to climb up to the second floor.

He said it was a really chaotic situation and difficult to see. From there, he said he ended up breaking open one window but it was to an apart-

ment adjacent to the woman's apartment, and he entered the building from there.

"When I got inside, I didn't realize that the kids were in another apartment, next door," he said, referring to the kids of the woman who had sought his help.

Cuevas Ventura, who said he lives on the fourth floor, said he ended up saving a small infant girl from the adjacent apartment he entered. He estimated she was around 3 years of age and described her as Mexican. He said he brought her down the fire escape, and then also helped the little girl's mother down afterwards.

"I tried to then save the other three, but I couldn't because the smoke wouldn't allow me," he said. "I didn't have a mask or anything," he added, explaining that he did break a window to try to let the smoke out of their apartment, but when the firefighters arrived, they advised him to go back down.

Reacting to the tragedy, another female local resident who declined to be identified and who was the person who told *Norwood News* about Cuevas Ventura saving the people from the building, said, "It was sad seeing the kids come out. The first baby they brought out was burned on the face and they were trying to resuscitate him."

She added, "They were all covered in black smoke, and it was sad and it happened so quick; it was crazy. My heart went out to the family and to the kids, you know?" Asked if a fire alarm had gone off, she said she didn't hear one.

Speaking in French, another young, male resident of the fifth floor who said he's originally from Mauritius and who works as a delivery driver, said his friend had called him to let him know there was a fire in the building and that other people had also gone upstairs to knock on neighbors' doors to let them know. Asked if an alarm had sounded, the man said he had not heard one.

"We went downstairs and we saw the police and the ambulance and now we don't have much more news," he said.

We asked the resident if he had taken the interior or exterior stairs to exit. He said the exterior one. Asked if there had been a lot of flames, he said no, but that there had been a lot of smoke in the corridors and everywhere. Asked if he felt he was in real danger, he said it was just difficult with the smoke, but they found the exit.

Speaking in Spanish, a local hairdresser whose business is located at

the rear of the building said it seemed to take a long time to get one woman out from the third floor from what she could see. Another man, speaking in Spanish, commented that the resident appeared to be scared to go down the fire escape. He said a firefighter reached her floor from the roof and broke her window to get to her.

Red Cross workers were seen talking to a large group of residents outside the building later on Monday. A Red Cross spokesperson later said they registered 51 people for emergency assistance after the fire (46 adults and 5 children).

*Norwood News* asked if any pets had been reported and the spokesperson said, "We did register one cat that was missing. I will let you know that these statuses are not always updated in our system to reflect when a pet has been located, but they do reflect the status at the time of registration."

Meanwhile, an NYC Department of Buildings (DOB) spokesperson said inspectors carried out a structural stability inspection of the 5-story multiple dwelling, which has 11 apartments, and inspectors observed extensive fire damage including charred joists, open windows, and severely damaged public areas.

"DOB issued a Fully Vacate Order of the building and ordered the building owner to enlist a professional engineer to submit a structural stability report," the spokesperson said. "DOB investigations also revealed illegally constructed dwelling units on the property," he added. "As a result, DOB will be issuing multiple OATH/ECB violations, included work without a permit, occupancy contrary to Certificate of Occupancy, and work without a permit."

*Norwood News* also spoke to some displaced residents, a brother, sister and mom, neighbors of the family whose child died and whose other children were injured. "I know the two kids," one man said. "I work in banking so every day, I wear a tie to work, and the little kids are always surprised about the ties."

He said he usually left for work at around the same time as the kids were going to school. He said the family were good people and would often hold his packages/deliveries for him. He said he thinks they have four children ranging from around 12 to the baby who died and including the two twins.

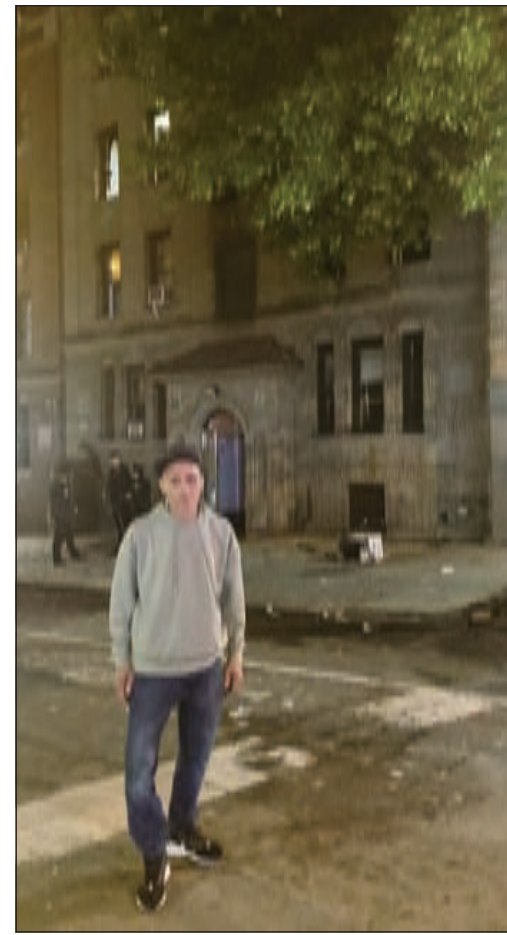


Photo by Síle Moloney

**JAIME CUEVAS VENTURA** is seen in front of the damaged remains of 2609 Bainbridge Avenue in the Fordham Manor section of The Bronx on Monday afternoon, May 11, 2026, after a fatal fire.

"I'm never home," he said. The family said they were not home when the fire broke out. They appeared calm despite not knowing the state of their apartment. Asked if they were concerned to hear that apparently no fire alarm went off, the man's sister said she was, given there had been so many fires lately in The Bronx.

"It's funny like that we do fire drills and things like that in school but never at home and usually, people don't know what to do, especially if the alarm doesn't go off," she said.

"I know some people don't even know how to unlock the fire escape," she continued. "I was one of those." The woman also mentioned that she thinks there might be a problem with electricity in the building because she said sometimes, especially in summertime, when the AC is on, the lights would go off or would be very dim.

She said when she would plug the AC into another outlet, it would solve the problem. "It's not normal," she said. She added that the family who lost their baby boy were very friendly.

Her brother said he heard that many people couldn't find a way out during the fire, so they went up to the roof and jumped to adjacent buildings from the roof which, the woman added, are fortunately attached with no gap.

"I think they should start making people do fire drills in the building," the woman said.

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