



NORWOOD NEWS

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"GHOST BIKE" RIDE HONORS FALLEN BIKERS

SEE PAGE 19

Photo by David Greene

THE "GHOST" BIKE dedicated to traffic collision victim Charles Ovono Oluwole, 50, of Williamsbridge, The Bronx, is seen at Southern Boulevard and Mosholu Parkway, just south of Norwood, The Bronx, on May 20, 2026. It is the 47th "Ghost" bike installed as part of the NYC Street Memorial Project dedicated to bicycle riders killed in The Bronx since 2005.



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NORWOOD NEWS

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Norwood: Cops Release Photos of Persons of Interest Sought in Decatur Ave Murder



Screenshot courtesy of CopWatch / Sal Greco

A MAN IN plain clothes is seen seemingly on West 238th Street in the Kingsbridge Section of The Bronx, repeatedly punching a second shirtless man, who earlier allegedly punched two female police officers inside the 50th Precinct stationhouse also in Kingsbridge on Thursday, June 4, 2026. The shirtless man was later arrested.

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Police released photos on Tuesday night, June 9, of two persons of interest sought for questioning following the fatal shooting of 23-year-old Jayden Purvis in the Norwood section of The Bronx late on Sunday night, June 7, and are asking the public for help identifying the two.

As reported, one police source said early Monday morning that the NYPD were searching for two people who fled the scene after the shooting.

A police spokesperson said Monday that the NYPD had responded to a 911 call received at 00.08 a.m. on Monday for a report of an assault at the intersection of East 207th Street and Decatur Avenue.

On Tuesday, June 9, police said it was later reported to them that on Sunday, June 7, at around 11.54 p.m. in front of 366 East 207th Street, two unidentified people

produced guns and had shot the 23-year-old male victim multiple times, causing his death. They said the two then fled on foot to parts unknown.

They said the first person of interest is described as male, and was last seen wearing a black sweatshirt, black sweatpants and a blue medical mask. They said the second person of interest was also described as male, and was last seen wearing a black sweatshirt, black sweatpants and a black face mask.

P.S. 56 is located at the corner of Decatur Avenue and East 207th Street, close to the crime scene which was on East 207th Street between Decatur Avenue and Parkside Place.

Early on Monday morning, a police spokesperson had said, "Upon arrival, officers observed a 23-year-old male with multiple gunshot wounds to the torso. EMS

responded and transported the victim to St. Barnabas Hospital, where he was pronounced deceased. There are no arrests at this time and the investigation is ongoing."

According to one police source who spoke to *Norwood News* on Monday morning, the NYPD had been looking for two males who they said fled the location in a black BMW sedan northbound on Parkside Avenue [Place]. The motive or circumstances leading up to the shooting were unknown at the time according to the police source.

The deceased was later identified as Purvis of the Forest Houses section of the South Bronx.

At the crime scene, East 207th Street was blocked off between Decatur Avenue and Parkside Place. One young person, who was later joined by two of his friends

(continued on page 17)



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INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

BY DAVID GREENE



This week, and ahead of Game 3 on Monday, June 8, we asked readers for their thoughts on the current NY Knicks season and their chances of winning their first NBA Championship since 1973.



"The Knicks winning is a wonderful way to start the summer. All my friends have been watching all of the games and they're all going crazy with the Knicks."

Perla Abreau,
Bedford Park
Photo by David Greene



"So far, I feel like in this series, the Knicks are playing in a way that they really represent New York culture and society. They have displayed a lot of grit and hard work. Most importantly, they're consistent in their style of play, which I feel is resulting in victories. The basketball gods are just smiling upon us because there is no reason we should have won that game yesterday. I think the Knicks will win in four, I just feel that the way we are playing, there is nobody beating us, not in a single game at this moment."

Rafael Diaz,
Castle Hill
Photo by David Greene



"I've been a Knicks fan for about 40 years, die hard through the hard times. I liked the Knicks and what they stood for, especially in the 1990s, when we had The Squad and (Patrick) Ewing, it was rough, and they never gave up. Recently, I had a heart transplant and just watching the Knicks compete on TV gave me positive energy. Honestly, I wanted it to happen, and I love that it's happening, but did I see it coming right now? No! Anytime any of the big teams do good, it's contagious; the fans, the spirit and the hype of the moment. This is the closest they've been. I think this is the year."

Richard Cintron Cabassa,
Parkchester
Photo by David Greene



"I've been a fan my entire life. Look at my pictures from 1999 with Allan Houston, Patrick Ewing. We spent a lot, we placed Knicks flags around the house, and we plan on painting our garage with the Knicks logo. We're winning! I think it's going to be a sweep. Let's go Jalen Brunson, the best Captain Clutch!"

Vanessa Agosco,
Pelham Bay
Photo by David Greene



"I've been a fan since I was born in 1965, because my father was a fan. The drought years were bad, but as a senior in high school in 1982, me and my friends would go and it was \$10 to sit near the roof, and at half time, we would sneak down. I have mixed feelings about them shutting down the watch party at Madison Square Garden, but when alcohol is involved, and I hate to say it, but it's the younger guys that drink and go crazy. It's not the older working man that's doing that type of stuff."

Joe Hunte,
Van Cortlandt Park
Photo courtesy of Joe Hunte

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NEWS BRIEFS

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Man Reportedly Seen with Snake at Woodlawn Subway Station

A man was reportedly seen with a large snake around his neck near Woodlawn subway station in the Norwood section of The Bronx on Sunday evening, May 31. *Norwood News* visited the station later on Sunday and asked some bystanders / taxi drivers if they had seen the man or the snake. Two taxi drivers said they didn't see either the man or the snake on May 31 but had seen them about a month ago at the same location.

One taxi driver said the snake appeared to be the man's pet. Asked how big it was, he indicated a diameter roughly equal to the size of a coffee mug. Another taxi driver said when he saw the man previously with the snake, he had it around his neck and also said the man was carrying the snake affectionately as if it were a pet.

He added that the man was walking up the stairs of the elevated subway station and the taxi driver said to himself, "What are you going to do - bring the snake onto the train?" He said people were sure to freak out. As he had been working, the taxi driver did not know what happened after that. Asked if he could describe the man with the snake, he said he was young, around 20-25 years of age.

Norwood News asked the NYPD if a report had been filed about the alleged snake sighting on May 31, which was referenced on social media on Sunday, and will share any feedback we receive.

A snake that looked like a python was reportedly seen in a wall in Wakefield at East 233rd Street in October 2024. One month earlier, police had removed a snake found in a shopping bag in Olinville. In June of that year, the NYPD shared a video of the removal of a snake from a home in Manhattan. More recently, a Bronx Zookeeper was hospitalized after he was bitten by a reptile while feeding it.

According to 311, New Yorkers can report people keeping wild or illegal animals as pets. "Where applicable, you must provide the landlord's or property owner's name," a 311 website extract reads. "By law, most farm, wild, and exotic animals cannot be kept as pets in New York City." If New Yorkers have an illegal pet, they may drop the animal off at any one of the Animal Care Centers of NYC shelters in each borough, according to 311 and will not receive a violation for dropping off an illegal animal.

New Yorkers are advised to call before arriving with a stray animal. Visit <https://www.nycacc.org/> for more information. Call 311 or (212) 639-9675 for help. The Bronx District Attorney's Office has a specific unit which prosecutes

animal cruelty cases.

Riverview Family Residence Transitioning from Emergency to Longterm Housing

During the Bronx CB7 Land Use meeting held Tuesday, June 9, representatives from Westhab Inc., a housing provider based in Yonkers and in The Bronx, which oversees the emergency housing facility at Riverview Family Residence located at Parkside Place in Norwood, said the plan is to transition the facility to a permanent/long-term housing facility. They said the building was first opened in June 2023 and currently houses 62 families.

They said 47 families were placed in permanent housing in 2025, 15 families were placed in permanent housing from January-May 2026, and an additional nine families are linked to permanent housing and are expected to move shortly. They said if a permanent housing unit becomes available at the Norwood facility, and families wish to stay on there, they help facilitate that but sometimes, families may wish to move elsewhere for various reasons e.g. proximity to families / schools etc.

They said all families have been screened for housing eligibility, 12 families have housing applications already submitted, and 11 families have housing vouchers. They said all families have been referred to medical services, and all school-aged children have been enrolled in local schools

Currently 70% of the facility is devoted to shelter accommodation and 30% to permanent, low-income housing. They said residents of the latter have their own entrance and the facility operates like any other residential building. Westhab said they also provide wrap-around services to shelter residents like job support, social services, recreational services, child development support, housing case management, and connecting residents with partner organizations to ensure continuation of support while they search for permanent housing. No vote was taken at the meeting. A summary will be provided at the Bronx CB7 board meeting scheduled for June 30 at 6.30 at New York Botanical Garden's Ross Hall.

Noise Complaints

in 3187 Webster Ave Vicinity

Norwood resident Kama Linden has thanked the 52nd Precinct's Community Affairs team, including Det. Stephen Echevarria and, in particular, Officer Cristina Acosta Rivera for addressing the noise complaints in the vicinity of 3187 Webster Avenue. "Next Community Board meeting, could we please get an award to Officer Acosta Rivera?" Linden said. "Not only has she gone above and beyond with arrests, summonses, and text communication, she is all around deserving of the next award. 3187 Webster Avenue: eight years of hell finally being dealt with. Illegal fireworks on Decatur Avenue any night of the week after 10 p.m., even 2 a.m. Describing where they are as I see them out the window never seemed to compute before

with 311. In past years, I have sent 311 complaints and either they were never answered, or someone would come eight hours later, which did not help, obviously. Officer Acosta Rivera needs to be lauded and awarded for her work." When *Norwood News* visited the area on Sunday night, May 31, some residents we spoke to who were sitting on the corner of Webster and E 205th talking said the music that night was coming from the building next door and not from them and that they only sometimes play music until 10 p.m. The owner of the corner deli also denied allegations we facilitated the plugging in of a speaker from his store.

Storm Downs Trees & Cuts Power for Some Bronxites

A downed tree that fell at 3081 Decatur Avenue on Saturday evening, June 6, between East 204th Street and East Mosholu Parkway North in Norwood, blocked the street from vehicular traffic from around 10 p.m. before it was finally chopped up and removed the following day by City officials. The tree trunk did not appear to break but appeared to uproot and fall over. Local resident Katie and neighbor AJ Ramos said the tree seemingly fell before the storm began on Saturday evening.

Meanwhile, Katie, who called 911 to report the incident, as did her neighbors, said, "A lady from that black car had come out with a baby like minutes, or seconds you could say, before the tree fell." There didn't appear to be any injuries reported, but *Norwood News* is following up with emergency services on this.

Katie added that the Parks' depart-

ment had carried out an inspection of the trees about a month prior and had also trimmed them around two weeks before the storm. She said they checked the roots and they seemed healthy.

Norwood News reached out to the Parks department for comment and was advised that the department had received 259 reports of trees down city-wide due to the storm and would address tree-related reports as soon as it was safe to do so. The representative asked that tree conditions be reported to 311, or in cases of true emergency, to 911.

Meanwhile, Con Edison urged residents to stay away from any downed wires as they may be live, and confirmed Sunday, June 7, the company had restored power to nearly 14,000 customers and was working to restore service to a remaining 5,200, including 254 Bronx customers.



Photo by Síle Moloney

A DOWNED TREE is seen amid stormy and rainy weather at 3081 Decatur Avenue between East 204th Street and East Mosholu Parkway North in the Norwood section of The Bronx on Saturday, June 6, 2026.

Boricua Pride & Lots of Wheels at 40th Bronx PR Day Parade

By SÍLE MOLONEY

The 40th Annual Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade returned to the Grand Concourse on Saturday, May 30, and Boricua pride was ever present. With this year's theme of "honoring the past, inspiring the future," organizers said it reflected the parade's longstanding commitment to preserving Puerto Rican traditions, while empowering future generations.

The community was invited to celebrate culture, heritage, resilience, and unity as various floats made their way along the Grand Concourse between 166th Street and Mt. Eden Avenue, following the annual gala held Wednesday, May 27, at Villa Barone Manor.

Organizers said the 40th anniversary milestone celebration was an occasion "to proudly honor the rich contributions of the Puerto Ri-

can community in The Bronx while uplifting the next generation through culture, music, leadership, and community pride."

A special tribute was paid to the legacy of the late singer and musician, Willie Colón, "recognizing his profound impact on Puerto Rican culture and music." A presentation was made on the viewing stand to some of his family members and friends, who were present for the occasion.

In addition to a host of floats, young performers, athletes, and participating community organizations, this year was marked by a huge contingent of very fancy cars, many adorned with massive Puerto Rican flags.

The event also featured special guests, community leaders, performers, elected officials, cultural organizations, and honorees who continue

(continued on page 11)



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Photo courtesy of Rep. Adriano Espaillat

CONGRESSMAN ADRIANO ESPAILLAT (NY-13) is running for reelection in NY-13.



Photo courtesy of Darializa for Congress

DARIALIZA AVILA CHEVALIER is running for Congress in NY-13, which includes the Bronx neighborhoods of Kingsbridge, Kingsbridge Heights, Bedford Park, University Heights, Morris Heights, Fordham Manor and Fordham Heights.

NY-13 Race Heats Up: Espaillat Vs Avila Chevalier

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

The NY-13 Congressional Democratic primary is heating up with incumbent Congressman Adriano Espaillat being challenged by progressive candidate Darializa Avila Chevalier. Though the majority of the district falls in Northern Manhattan and Harlem, it also covers some or all of the Bronx neighborhoods of Kingsbridge, Kingsbridge Heights, Bedford Park, University Heights, Morris Heights, Fordham Manor and Fordham Heights.

Espaillat, whose first congressional term began in January 2017, said his latest re-election campaign is focused on immigration, affordability and democracy. As reported, the congressman has, in the past, visited Federal Plaza courthouse in southern Manhattan, along with his colleague, Rep. Nydia Velazquez of Brooklyn, in attempts to perform oversight on the detention of immigrants detained there.

His campaign says he knows the situation first-hand, being the first formerly undocumented elected member of congress. “He’s fought to dismantle U.S. Department of Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE), keep families together, defend due process, and protect our communities from abusive enforcement,” an extract from his website reads. Avila Chevalier, a PhD student at Columbia University, has broadly categorized some of Espaillat’s actions as optics, and alleges when her fellow Columbia student, Mahmoud Khalil, was famously detained amid the University protests against Israel’s bombing of Gaza in recent years, the congressman did not receive the support he needed

from Espaillat.

Meanwhile, Espaillat said he joined litigation against the Trump administration to protect Congress’s authority to conduct oversight visits at ICE detention centers without advance notice, introduced legislation requiring ICE and Border Patrol agents to wear body cameras, and to protect sensitive locations such as schools and hospitals from immigration enforcement actions.

The congressman said he has also supported legal efforts to prevent the IRS from sharing confidential taxpayer information with immigration enforcement agencies, and helped block an agreement allowing airlines to share sensitive passenger data with ICE. Espaillat said he has fought against deportations, using his office to help keep families together, and presided over the vote to pass the DREAM Act. He said he has also co-sponsored legislation to defund and dismantle ICE.

On affordability, his campaign website extract reads, “New Yorkers are getting squeezed: rent, groceries, child-care, everything. Adriano has delivered real relief, and he’s going to keep fighting so working families can stay in the neighborhood they built.”

Espaillat said he has fought in the courtroom for renters’ rights and fair housing, testifying against efforts to weaken the Fair Housing Act. As reported, he has also secured congressional funding for the redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory. An ethics complaint was filed by Agallas Equities, a losing bidder for the Armory redevelopment project in 2025 against Espaillat, alleging favoritism by the congressman for the winning bidder, 8th Regiment

Partners.

Norwood News reached out to both the Office of Congressional Conduct for an update on the complaint and to the losing bidder in attempts to find out the latest status and will share any updates we receive. Aside from other Manhattan-based investments, the congressman said he introduced legislation to help homeowners and working families in the Caribbean/Puerto Rico access grants to rebuild and renovate after Hurricane Maria.

In terms of democracy, a campaign website extract reads, “Extremists are trying to rig the rules and silence our communities. Adriano has stood up in the streets and in the courts to protect our rights and he’ll keep defending the freedom to vote, protest, and be heard.”

Espaillat said he was among the first members of congress to back the impeachment of Donald Trump in 2017, introduced the JARED Act to block security clearances for presidential family members who can’t pass a background check, and supported calls for full transparency and accountability regarding the release of documents related to Jeffrey Epstein.

He said he has also “pushed for responsible national security that reflects our values, standing against reckless, unchecked military spending.” He also co-chairs the Latino-Jewish Caucus “to build bridges across communities,” and “secured millions in funding to combat drug trafficking to protect families.”

According to various media reports, after a 2023 Manhattan Democratic Party leadership election, a February 2025 report concluded that

Espaillat and others “violated multiple provisions of the New York County Democratic Party Rules through vote manipulation, improper check-in procedures, intimidation tactics, improper filling of vacancies, and obstruction of accountability mechanisms.”

Norwood News reached out to the Manhattan Democratic Party to ask how Espaillat, and others who were also investigated at the time, were held accountable for their actions. We did not receive an immediate response.

Aria Chevalier, 32, a self-described working-class, Afro-Latina community organizer, whose father is a truck driver and whose mother is a single mom and case worker, has lived in New York City, Florida, the Dominican Republic, and in Venezuela at different points, before moving “uptown” to attend Columbia University and still lives there, according to her campaign profile.

She is currently a PhD student at CUNY, and “studies how the U.S. immigration system criminalizes Black immigrants from Latin America.” Her community organizing includes successfully fighting the ICE “to release immigrants that were illegally detained, and to reunite families separated by ICE.”

While working at a human rights organization, Families for Freedom, she said she helped free from ICE detention, Abdikar Mohamed, a U.S. permanent resident from Somalia who was detained for one and a half years due to Trump’s 2017 “Muslim ban.”

Like many Democratic challengers, Avila Chevalier is running on a platform focused on affordability. On Day 1, *(continued on page 17)*



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Copays, prescriptions, dental, vision & more.

EMPLOYEE SAVES	EMPLOYER SAVES	EMPLOYER SAVES
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Community Clean Up of Williamsbridge Oval

A community clean-up of the Williamsbridge Oval Park in Norwood is taking place on Sunday, June 14, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All are welcome to come and volunteer.

Share Your Ideas for the Williamsbridge Oval Park in Norwood

NYC Parks is asking residents to share their ideas about how to improve the Williamsbridge Oval Park in Norwood, as well as the reconstruction of the park. A virtual meeting was held June 3 but residents can still provide their feedback via the following link: <https://bit.ly/4vyaPLK>. For more information, contact Katerine Borrrome at Katerine.Borrrome@parks.nyc.gov or on (718) 430 1801. You can also visit nyc.gov/parks under the Capital Project Tracker section.

Fire Safety

Visit <https://www.fdnysmart.org/> to read FDNY's fire safety tips. "During a fire, always close the door behind you!" fire officials say. "It helps contain smoke and flames, giving you precious time to escape." Sign up for a free smoke alarm here: <https://bit.ly/3Ggzvto>.

The FDNY encourages New Yorkers to use spray caps to open hydrants. "If you'd like to cool off with a hydrant, make sure you do it safely and legally, using a spray cap," an extract from the NYC Department of the Environment (DEP) website reads. "When hydrants are opened without a spray cap, they can use 1,000 gallons of water per minute (or more), reducing water pressure in the surrounding area, making it harder for the fire department to fight fires when necessary."

Free Legal Services NYC

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 dycdliteracy&immigrantservices@dycd.nyc.gov.

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.

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.

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

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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.



Leave Ed Koch's Name on the 59th Street Bridge

Jim Owles Liberal Democratic Club wants to remove the name of the former great mayor of NYC Ed Koch from the 59th Street Bridge. With all the problems in NYC to be addressed by our local city council, this borders on insanity. Why are they doing this? Because this group feels Mayor Koch was gay and did not come out publicly, and did not do enough for the AIDS crisis?

Well, Mayor Koch was not gay as he had the beautiful girlfriend and former Miss America, Bess Myer-

son, as his partner and companion. They were both seen holding hands and kissing during Koch's 1977 mayoral run for office. Ed Koch would have made a great husband and father had he married Ms. Meyerson, but he put his love for the people of NYC above his own personal needs and life. We should do more naming in his memory as he will go down as one of the greatest mayors of all time, up there with Fiorello LaGuardia and Rudy Guiliani! And for those suffering from same-sex attraction, please visit this website for assistance: Couragerc.org, and stop worrying about other people's sex lives.

Richard Marias Norwood

Editor's Note: According to a detailed New York Times article, Koch's sexual orientation was extensively documented and confirmed by close friends years after his death. According to the article, during his later years, Koch even privately expressed deep loneliness and a desire to find a male partner.

Destination Tomorrow, located at 452 E 149th Street, 3rd floor, Bronx, New York 10455, is The Bronx's designated LGBTQIA+ center and offers a range of resources to the community. Bronx walk-

in hours are Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The last client will be seen at 5 p.m. Call (646) 723-3325 or Fax (917) 580-6485. Check out our Out & About section for details of various Pride events in June.

Please send all letters to the editor, along with supporting hyperlinked sources, to norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org or by mail to Norwood News, 3400 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467, by the Friday before each publication day, 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.

Out & About

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

EVENTS

June marks Pride Month. **Bronx Pride** will be celebrated Saturday, June 20, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Lou Gehrig Plaza, 161st Street between Grand Concourse and Walton Avenue, Bronx. All are welcome.

Norwood Pride will be held at LNE Bar & Restaurant, 390 E 204th St #1, Bronx, NY 10467 on Saturday, June 13, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Doors open at 12.30 p.m. Contact edwreyes@montefiore.org for more information. This event is FREE to attend, but RSVP is encouraged!

The 52nd Precinct will hold their **Annual Autism Awareness event** at the stationhouse at 3016 Webster Avenue, Bronx on Tuesday, June 16, at noon. All are welcome.

Assemblyman John Zaccaro Jr. (A.D. 80) is hosting a **Skate Party** at Kossuth Playground in Norwood on Friday, June 12, at 5.30 p.m. There will be skates, equipment and lessons for beginners. This event is free.

MUSIC

The Bronx Music Heritage Center presents *Nuevas Voces*, emerging voices in Latin Jazz, on Thursday, June 18, at 8 p.m. at the Bronx Music Hall, 438 East 163rd Street, Bronx. Tickets are \$15.

ART

Bronx Arts Space is accepting applications for art installations (all art genres) that envision a healing village and restorative justice at the site of the former Spofford Juvenile Detention Center in Hunts Point from both adults formerly housed at Spofford and other juvenile centers, and from youth "currently system-involved," including incarcerated youth, for an exhibit showing June 27 to Aug. 1. The deadline to apply is June 16. Partner organizations are also invited to help with art therapy and more. For more information, visit bronxartspace.com.

The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), 11 West 53rd Street in Manhattan is free for New Yorkers every Friday from 5.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Register for free tickets at <https://bit.ly/4e05IOB>.

MOVEMENT

The Bronx County Historical Society advises that the **25th Annual Golf Tournament** will be held on Sept. 23 at Pelham Split Rock Golf Course, 870 Shore Road, The Bronx, honoring Stagg Group. Reserve your spot early by calling (718) 881 8900.

The FIFA World Cup in soccer is almost here, and the World Cup Fan Zone at Bronx Terminal Market will bring live match screenings, entertainment, food and fan-filled energy. Visit <https://bit.ly/4efj6xj> for more information.

Join NYC Parks at NYPL Moshulu 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>.

Boricua Pride & Lots of Wheels at 40th Bronx PR Day Parade

(continued from page 6)

to make a difference throughout New York City and beyond. They included Special Guest Caridad De La Luz aka "La Bruja," Hosts Jose Rivera & Artie, Grand Marshal Rafael Toro Goya, Madrina Omi Hopper, and Padrino Richard Izquierdo Arroyo.

The 2026 honorees included the State Senator, the Hon. Luis R. Sepúlveda (S.D. 34), who received the Legislative Pioneer Award, Catherine Garcia who received the Latina Philanthropy Award, Milteri Tucker Concepción, who received the

Cultural Roots Award, Tiffany Nieves, who received the Champion Award, Joseph Ayala, who received the Boricua Shield of Honor Award, Bobby Sanabria, who received the Rhythm of the Community award, Mike Amadeo of Casa Amadeo, Children's Aid, and Moses Medical.

The Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade Committee thanked all sponsors, community partners, volunteers, and supporters who made the annual celebration possible.



Photos by Síle Moloney

PARTICIPANTS AND ATTENDEES alike enjoy the 40th Annual Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade on the Grand Concourse on Saturday, May 30, 2026.

Opinion

America's Obsession with Grades is Failing Students

By RAY McNULTY & RICK DALTON

Artificial intelligence is exposing a truth that education has spent years avoiding; grades are a weak measure of human potential. Students have been evaluated from time immemorial, but the ubiquitous A-F scale is a relatively new phenomenon. First introduced in 1897, it didn't become commonplace until World War II, and even as late as 1970, a third of primary and secondary schools didn't subscribe to it.

Through the next 50 years, however, it became embedded in the academic and social culture, becoming part of the lexicon, "A for effort" and used as shorthand evaluation for everything from agricultural products to NFL draft prospects. More ominously though, GPA became a make-or-break determinant of a young person's future.

Today, employers increasingly place less emphasis on GPA because modern work rewards qualities transcripts rarely capture: adaptability, judgment, resilience and the ability to solve prob-

lems alongside other people.

Last month, *The Wall Street Journal* published a story with a blunt headline: "No One Cares About Your GPA Anymore." The headline captured something parents, employers and students already sense; in an economy reshaped by artificial intelligence, the academic measures we have relied on for decades no longer mean what they once did.

Even some of the nation's most elite universities are beginning to acknowledge the problem. Harvard recently announced efforts to address grade inflation after criticism that soaring GPAs had made academic distinctions increasingly meaningless. When almost everyone earns an A, the metric itself stops telling us much.

Researchers have warned about this for years. In *Teaching the New Basic Skills*, Harvard economists, Richard Murnane and Frank Levy, argued that long-term success increasingly depends on problem-solving and the ability to adapt, qualities traditional academic systems don't measure.

Hiring trends are now catching up to that reality. The National Association of Colleges and Employers ranks adaptability, teamwork and critical thinking among the most valued skills in new hires. LinkedIn's workforce research has likewise shown a sharp rise in skills-based hiring. According to LinkedIn, job postings that emphasize skills rather than degrees have grown significantly in recent years as employers seek candidates who can adapt to rapidly



Photo courtesy of Fordham University

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY'S KEATING Hall at its Bronx campus is lit in orange and blue for Game 3 on Monday, June 8, 2026, in support of the New York Knicks in the NBA Finals against the San Antonio Spurs.

changing workplaces.

Artificial intelligence is accelerating the shift, because it's performing many of the tasks, such as coding and writing essays, that have traditionally determined aptitude. And that has exposed another flaw that's been there all along: grades can be affected by external factors.

Consider a student named Marcus. Marcus worked nearly thirty hours a week while helping care for his younger siblings after school. By the time he sat down to study at night, exhaustion often won. His unimpressive GPA reflected survival more than potential.

But through a five-year mentoring relationship, and an internship with a manufacturing company, different qualities emerged. Supervisors noticed that Marcus stayed calm during production delays, even when customers became frustrated. Coworkers trusted him because he listened, solved problems, and took initiative without waiting for instructions.

Within two years of graduation, Marcus had moved into a supervisory role, while some classmates with stronger transcripts struggled in workplaces that rewarded initiative and adaptability more than test-taking ability. Marcus is not unusual. He simply reveals what grades often miss.

Knowledge, literacy and technical competence still matter of course, but when grades become the dominant measure of these merits, we narrow our understanding of human potential at a time when the economy requires broader forms of talent.

That reality is already reshaping hiring. Companies including IBM, Google, Delta Air Lines, and Bank of America have reduced degree requirements in favor of demonstrated skills and practical experience. Internships and work-based learning increasingly carry more weight because employers want evidence that applicants can adapt, collaborate and solve problems outside structured academic settings.

Education is beginning to respond.

Career-connected learning, mentoring programs and experiential education are gaining momentum because they cultivate the qualities employers consistently say they need. Many schools and youth-serving organizations are also placing greater emphasis on what the college and career readiness nonprofit, CFES Brilliant Pathways, calls the Essential Skills™: adaptability, resilience, problem solving, teamwork and critical thinking.

In our forthcoming book, *America's Next Dream*, we argue that the future of opportunity will depend less on mastering academic systems and more on students' ability to adapt, collaborate and navigate constant change.

Education cannot continue to emphasize compliance and individual performance while the economy increasingly values initiative and collaboration. Meaningful transcripts must measure leadership, applied problem-solving, mentoring and work-based learning alongside academic achievement.

The future of education will belong to systems that measure not only what students know, but how they adapt, contribute and grow, because employers and students themselves will demand it. The greater world of academics needs to keep pace. *Ray McNulty and Rick Dalton are leaders at CFES Brilliant Pathways and have each spent more than five decades working in education and workforce development. They are co-authors of the book "America's Next Dream," which explores the future of opportunity, talent, and economic mobility in America.*

Editor's Note: In Ireland, at least, as certain industry leaders push to increase the number of technical and business-related courses taught at third-level educational institutions in order to produce enough graduates to meet their workforce needs, there has been concern among some sectors that the availability of courses in the arts / humanities / languages may start to disappear from colleges' curricula.

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JUNE 13TH, 2026

TIME:
1PM-5PM
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Kingsbridge: Man Assaults Two Female Police Officers & is Arrested

A 36-year-old man was arrested in the Kingsbridge section of The Bronx on Thursday afternoon, June 4, after two female police officers were assaulted inside the 50th Precinct stationhouse, police said.

An NYPD spokesperson said that at around 12.55 p.m. on June 4, “A male individual entered the vestibule of the 50 Precinct station house and, without provocation, punched a 31-year-old female police officer in the back, causing pain to her back. The individual then punched a 51-year-old female police officer in the head, causing a contusion.”

The spokesperson said the assailant subsequently fled the location on foot and was apprehended in front of 226 West 238th Street. “While officers were attempting to place the individual under arrest, he resisted arrest and punched a 28-year-old male police officer in the head,” the spokesperson added. “As a result, the officer sustained lacerations to his right hand and suffered pain to his left knee and right elbow.”

Police said Wilton Pena, 36, of Southern Blvd in the South Bronx was arrested and charged the same day at 1.02 p.m. in the confines of the 50th Precinct: They said he was charged with 6 counts of assault, three counts of menacing, three counts of disorderly conduct and three counts of harassment.

In a [video](#) posted to social media on June 4 and shared by others on June 5, a person in plain clothes is seen fighting with a second man, seemingly shirtless and seemingly on West 238th Street in Kingsbridge. The person in plain clothes is later seen straddling and punching the second shirtless man repeatedly while he is on the ground before a group (three or four) of uniformed police officers, some female, run towards the two and some also appear to restrain the man on the ground.

Even after the other officers arrive, the man in plain clothes continues to punch the shirtless man on the ground. The uniformed police officers later put the man upright on his feet and appear to arrest him and take him away.

Talk show host Sal Greco shared the video on social media with the accompanying narrative, “In an incident first posted by CopWatch on Instagram, an emotionally disturbed person walks into the 50 pct and punches a police officer and ran. They attempted to taser this perp, and it did not work. Enter Officer Anthony Riley in plain clothes from the 50 who ran up to said perp, and this unfolds.”

Norwood News shared the post / video with the NYPD and asked about the incident. We received the above report in relation to it. *Norwood News* later asked if the plainclothes officer seen in the video was indeed Officer Anthony Riley from the 50th

Precinct. We will share any updates we receive. An NYPD Officer Anthony Riley is stationed at the 50th Precinct according to NYPD records and was assigned to the role in 2021. In terms of disciplinary history, there were no applicable entries according to the database.

Bystanders who seemingly recorded the incident can be heard saying, “That’s crazy!” at one point, while another person, possibly an arriving police officer or possibly another bystander, but it’s unclear, can be heard saying, “Stop it, man.”

As [reported](#), a female police officer from the 50th Precinct was assaulted with a bottle in April 2023.

Pena is presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

Bedford Park: Man Hospitalized after Stabbing

Emergency services said a man was stabbed in Bedford Park and hospitalized in the early hours of Monday morning, June 8. An FDNY / EMS spokesperson said they received a 911 call at 5.35 a.m. on Monday for a report of a person who had been stabbed at Bedford Park subway station, serving the B & D trains, located at 199 Bedford Park Blvd, between Villa Avenue and the Grand Concourse. They said one civilian patient was transported to St. Barnabas Hospital and their condition and description was unknown.

An NYPD spokesperson later said the department received a call at 5.57 a.m. for an incident at Bedford Park Blvd station, where a 34-year-old man was slashed in the left side of his forehead. The spokesperson said the man was taken to St. Barnabas Hospital in stable condition, and there are no arrests or description for the suspect. Asked if the incident took place inside or outside the station, the spokesperson said, “Possibly on the train.”

The incident is one of a series of stabbings at the station in recent months. As reported, a 40-year-old man was also stabbed in the same station and hospitalized on Dec. 10, 2025, and a month prior, another man was also stabbed at the same station on Election Night, Nov. 4, 2025, and was also transported to St. Barnabas Hospital. That last patient from the November incident had been in critical condition. Police later released an image of a man wanted for questioning in connection with the November 2025 incident.

Wakefield: Man Sought after Sexually Motivated Burglary

The NYPD is asking for the public’s help identifying the man seen in the attached photo who they say is wanted for questioning in connection with a sexually motivated burglary that occurred in the Wakefield section of The Bronx.

Police said that on Monday, May 25, at around 5.11 a.m. an 8-year-old female victim was sleeping at her home in the vicinity of De Reimer Avenue and Bussing Avenue when an unidentified person broke in through her bedroom window. “The victim awoke to the person exposing himself and performing a lewd act before fleeing the [.] location on foot, traveling eastbound on Bussing Avenue to parts unknown,” a police spokesperson said. There were no physical injuries reported following the incident.

Police said the suspect is described as male, has a medium complexion, and was last seen wearing a black sweater with a white logo, black pants, a gray skullcap, and black sneakers.

On June 9, pursuant to an ongoing investigation, detectives identified the suspect as Tishawn Maile, 35. Maile has not been charged with any crime and 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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CRIME FILE - MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



Patrol Borough: Bronx North | Precinct: 046

CompStat Book | Week of 05/25/26 - 05/31/26

	% Chg	28 Day		Year to Date		% Chg	
		2026	2025	2026	2025		
Murder	- %	2	1	100.0 %	6	2	200.0 %
Rape	- %	10	7	42.9 %	28	22	27.3 %
Robbery	87.5 %	36	30	20.0 %	167	166	11.3 %
Felony Assault	145.5 %	104	71	46.5 %	441	341	29.3 %
Burglary	60.0 %	13	15	-13.3 %	64	69	21.7 %
Grand Larceny	-55.0 %	43	66	-36.8 %	266	275	-3.3 %
Grand Larceny Auto	25.0 %	18	20	-10.0 %	82	116	-29.3 %
Total	42.2 %	226	212	6.6 %	1,094	993	10.2 %
Patrol	41.9 %	218	203	7.4 %	1,063	966	8.8 %
Transit	50.0 %	5	6	-16.7 %	19	13	46.2 %
Housing	0.0 %	3	3	0.0 %	22	12	83.3 %
Shooting Victims	- %	4	4	0.0 %	9	15	-40.0 %
Shooting Incidents	- %	4	3	33.3 %	9	12	-25.0 %
UCR Rape*	- %	10	7	42.9 %	34	27	25.9 %
Other Sex Crimes	200.0 %	8	5	60.0 %	39	30	30.0 %
Petit Larceny	-65.9 %	69	103	-33.0 %	435	429	1.4 %
Misc. Assault	42.1 %	83	94	-11.7 %	457	378	20.9 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	1	0	- %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	1	0	- %

All figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision. Data summarizes as of 5/31/26.
 * 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 / CompStat

MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS for the 46th Precinct for the 28-day period ending May 31, 2026, compared to last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 46th Precinct as of May 31, 2026, compared to last year (right). This precinct covers some or all of Fordham, University Heights, Morris Heights and Mt. Hope.

Patrol Borough: Bronx North | Precinct: 050

CompStat Book | Week of 05/25/26 - 05/31/26

	% Chg	28 Day		Year to Date		% Chg	
		2026	2025	2026	2025		
Murder	0.0 %	1	0	- %	5	1	400.0 %
Rape	0.0 %	1	0	- %	18	8	125.0 %
Robbery	-60.0 %	4	13	-69.2 %	46	45	2.2 %
Felony Assault	-16.7 %	23	20	15.0 %	111	96	15.6 %
Burglary	60.0 %	7	9	-22.2 %	33	64	-48.4 %
Grand Larceny	-40.0 %	48	54	-11.1 %	204	259	-21.2 %
Grand Larceny Auto	42.9 %	21	26	-19.2 %	104	111	-6.3 %
Total	-14.7 %	106	122	-13.9 %	621	564	-10.8 %
Patrol	-26.5 %	95	116	-18.1 %	482	558	-12.0 %
Transit	- %	3	2	50.0 %	7	5	40.0 %
Housing	- %	7	4	75.0 %	22	20	10.0 %
Shooting Victims	0.0 %	1	0	- %	9	4	125.0 %
Shooting Incidents	0.0 %	1	0	- %	5	3	66.7 %
UCR Rape*	0.0 %	2	2	0.0 %	24	12	100.0 %
Other Sex Crimes	60.0 %	10	5	100.0 %	54	16	237.5 %
Petit Larceny	-13.3 %	126	113	11.5 %	482	452	6.6 %
Misc. Assault	-16.7 %	30	33	-9.1 %	172	160	7.5 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	1	0	- %	6	0	- %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	3	0	- %

All figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision. Data summarizes as of 5/31/26.
 * 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 / CompStat

MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS for the 50th Precinct for the 28-day period ending May 31, 2026, compared to last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 50th Precinct as of May 31, 2026, compared to last year (right). This precinct covers some or all of Kingsbridge, Fieldston, Riverdale, Marble Hill, and Spuyten Duyvil.



Bronx Community Board 8 is seeking a
Community Coordinator
 Please view the full job description
 and how to apply at www.nyc.gov/jobs
 and search for job ID 780685
 Deadline to apply is June 30, 2026

Patrol Borough: Bronx North | Precinct: 052

CompStat Book | Week of 05/25/26 - 05/31/26

	% Chg	28 Day		Year to Date		% Chg	
		2026	2025	2026	2025		
Murder	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	3	2	60.0 %
Rape	-100.0 %	4	1	300.0 %	22	20	10.0 %
Robbery	140.0 %	36	36	0.0 %	184	169	8.9 %
Felony Assault	6.7 %	64	75	-14.7 %	363	337	13.6 %
Burglary	-40.0 %	20	12	66.7 %	81	87	-6.9 %
Grand Larceny	5.9 %	59	69	-14.5 %	323	359	-10.0 %
Grand Larceny Auto	66.7 %	21	27	-22.2 %	95	118	-19.5 %
Total	17.4 %	204	221	-7.7 %	1,091	1,092	-0.1 %
Patrol	8.9 %	196	214	-7.5 %	1,067	1,074	-0.7 %
Transit	400.0 %	6	7	-14.3 %	21	18	16.7 %
Housing	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	3	0	- %
Shooting Victims	0.0 %	1	3	-66.7 %	6	5	20.0 %
Shooting Incidents	0.0 %	1	3	-66.7 %	5	5	0.0 %
UCR Rape*	0.0 %	5	2	150.0 %	27	22	22.7 %
Other Sex Crimes	-33.3 %	9	16	-43.8 %	40	57	-29.8 %
Petit Larceny	114.8 %	166	119	56.3 %	665	690	-25.4 %
Misc. Assault	-8.5 %	100	78	28.2 %	407	360	13.1 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	2	0	- %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	1	2	-50.0 %

All figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision. Data summarizes as of 5/31/26.
 * 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 / CompStat

MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS for the 52nd Precinct for the 28-day period ending May 31, 2026, compared to the same timeframe last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 52nd Precinct as of May 31, 2026, compared to last year (right). This precinct covers some or all of Bedford Park, Fordham, Kingsbridge, Norwood, Bronx Park, and University Heights.

TEXT US YOUR NEWS TIPS AT (646) 531 6858

NY-13 Race Heats Up: Espailat Vs Avila Chevalier

(continued from page 8)

according to her campaign website, she will sign onto the Homes Act “to build deeply affordable public housing, cooperatives, and community land trusts with rent caps and other protections for tenants,” the Tenants Right to Organize Act “so renters receiving housing vouchers are protected from landlord retaliation,” the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act “to build union density and give everyone who wants to form a union the fair chance to exercise that right,” and the Raise the Wage Act “to raise the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$15 an hour.”

The candidate has also committed to the Green New Deal “to transition to a 100% clean energy economy with high-wage union jobs and a livable world for everyone,” the American Dream & Promise Act “to provide a path to citizenship for millions of DREAMers and immigrants with Temporary Protective Status (TPS),” the Child Care for Every Community Act “to create universal child care nationwide, the Social Security Expansion Act “to increase benefits so our seniors live in dignity, and the Prescription Drug Price Relief Act “so corporations can’t charge Americans more for a drug in the U.S. than they would overseas.

Avila Chevalier’s campaign said she has also signed up to the Ultra-Millionaire Tax Act and the Equal Tax Act, to fairly tax billionaires, the College for All Act “to guarantee tuition-free community college for working class students, the Block the Bombs Act “to ban the U.S. from sending weapons to Israel

that are used to bomb Gaza,” and the Medicare for All Act “so everyone has health insurance including dental, vision, and hearing aids.”

Norwood News spoke to Avila Chevalier on June 10 and asked where and when she has been campaigning in The Bronx and what are the top concerns Bronx residents have raised with her. “We’ve had a number of events in The Bronx, our largest being the rally at Lehman College, which is actually the school I used to teach at over there, with DSA and Bernie Sanders,” she said, adding that she also has had regular canvasses in “Bedford Park, [inaudible] and Kingsbridge.”

Avila Chevalier also said her campaign team has had a daily “knock the block” program, talking to neighbors in their own communities and have gone to multiple Bronx community organizations and houses of worship to also canvass. “The Bronx is so relational; it’s really important for folks to hear directly from their neighbors, and they’ve really been able to build out our presence as a campaign in that way,” she said.

The candidate said for many people, affordability and immigration were huge issues. “[This] is why I’m running to win housing for all, running to make sure our tax dollars come back to our communities, and invest in our babies, not bombs, and making sure that we are abolishing ICE to protect our immigrant neighbors, and using those resources to create pathways to citizenship,” she said.

We asked if there were any priority policy areas the incumbent has not already worked on that Avila Chevalier would prioritize, or if none, in terms of common policy areas, how she would approach such areas differently, if elected.

“In terms of housing, really pushing for the Green New Deal for public housing to make sure that NYCHA residents get the investments that it needs to actually repair and decarbonize NYCHA,

and make sure that we are creating good union jobs for folks in the process, making sure that we are protecting the tenants’ right to organize, and making sure that we are signing on to the Homes Act,” she said.

“In terms of immigration, signing on to the Melt ICE Act. My opponent is the chair of the CHC [Congressional Hispanic Caucus], and he isn’t even signed on to this act, and making sure that we are under this framework of babies not bombs, actually blocking the bombs, because despite the overwhelming majority of Democrats supporting this, we still have not had a representative who will sign on to this act,” she said.

She added, “I think that’s deeply important, because of the billions of dollars that we send in weapons. That is billions of dollars that could come back to our communities, that we could be investing in, in childcare, that we could be investing in the child tax credits, or baby bonds, or all of the other things that would really benefit working families here in our district and across the country.”

Avila Chevalier had attended a rally in New York City the day after the Oct. 7th attacks on Southern Israel, something some Jewish found highly insensitive. While she has explained that she was there as a private citizen at the time to show her support for the injustices suffered by Palestinians in Palestine at the hands of the Israeli government, we asked Avila Chevalier, given the divided times we live in, what, if any, is her experience of conflict resolution and how she would bring people together, if elected.

“I think many New Yorkers are really hungry for our politics of life, one that actually invests our resources in our communities, and so that’s why we’ve really been advocating for a framework of babies, not bombs, making sure that we are divesting from the things that are harming our communi-

ties, and investing in things that are helpful to our communities,” she said. “All the things that our babies need, every single person in our community also needs,” she added in part.

“We deserve leadership that is fighting for human life, for human dignity, and making sure that our policy and our budgets reflect that because I truly believe that budgets are a moral document, and we can only win all of that if we’re actually bringing people together.” Avila Chevalier said as an organizer, that is the core of what organizing is, “to be part of or to combine common ground between people who have different views on a number of issues.”

She added, “There are no two people who have the same views on every single issue, and you have to be able to build trust, and build something that uplifts all of us to be able to actually deliver. I’ve taken many conflict resolution courses or their experience in de-escalation, but the biggest thing is just being able to listen to folks, like hear where they’re coming from, even when you’re in a place of deep disagreement, because if you don’t actually understand where they’re coming from, you’re never going to find those points of common ground where you can actually build off from.”

She added, “I’m fighting to represent every New Yorker in this district, and to make sure that the things that we need as New Yorkers that we are delivering on, and the thing that you can always expect from me is that I will show up and I will listen, and I will always fight for New Yorkers, because that is what we deserve. We deserve leadership that will fight for us.”

Norwood News reached out to the congressman for his feedback on this story. We did not receive an immediate response but will share any updates we receive. Please check www.norwood-news.org for more election coverage.

Early voting starts Saturday, June 13. Election Day is June 23.

Norwood: Cops Release Photos of Persons of Interest Sought in Decatur Ave Murder

(continued from page 2)

and a parent, and who said he did not see the shooting, explained that he heard around three shots fired when he was further away at a Laundromat on Decatur Avenue, closer to East 204th Street.

He said around 6 minutes later, as he was walking back towards Parkside Place, he came across the victim lying on the street face down. He said when he found

the victim, he and his friends called the police.

The youth said the victim’s phone rang while they were waiting for emergency services to arrive and he believed it was the victim’s wife / partner. She asked about the victim and the youth who found him said he told the woman, “I think he’s dead.” He said the woman was distraught.

The youth indicated that there was

blood on the victim’s shoulder / arm, and he estimated that he was around 25. One other male resident said he heard gunfire from inside his home earlier but had thought it was fireworks.

Speaking in Spanish, another male resident commented, “It’s very rare for something like this to happen here. It’s a good neighborhood with hardworking people. It’s unusual to see the police here.”

A police official at the scene was heard referring to the number eight, possibly referring to gunshots. Detectives were later seen interviewing the group of youths who discovered the victim.



As reported, last month a Bronx woman was charged for the fatal stabbing of Ramon Vasquez in April at Webster Avenue in Norwood, a short distance away from the latest shooting.



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Public and Community Meetings

The next 52nd PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL meeting will take place on Thursday, June 25, at 7 p.m. at Bronx Library Center, 310 East Kingsbridge Road, Bronx. 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, June 30, at 6.30 p.m. at the New York Botanical Garden's Ross Hall Auditorium, 2950 Southern Blvd, Bronx. Contact KCabreraCarera@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 on Wednesday, June 24, at 7 p.m. at Wave Hill Public Garden and Cultural Center Armor Hall, 675 West 252nd Street, Entrance at W. 249th St and Independence Ave, Bronx. 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 to be added to the distribution list, and check <http://www.nyc.gov/bronxcb8> for any updates.

The BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION is on summer hiatus. The next meeting will be held in September (date TBC) at 7 p.m. at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. South, Apt. B1 (lobby floor). For more details, please contact bedfordmosholu@verizon.net.

CORRECTION

In our page 4 Inquiring Photographer article in the Norwood News print edition No. 11, dated May 28-June 10, 2026, we included details of some quality-of-life complaints raised by one resident that had been forwarded to us by another resident. The initial resident had not wanted their complaint to be made public, but Norwood News was unaware that this was the case. We did attempt to reach the original resident directly to follow up on the complaint but were unsuccessful. We apologize to the resident in question..

LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed bids will be received at the Heart to Heart Social Adult Services Office at 209 Empire Blvd., Brooklyn, NY 11225 until July 1, 2026, for meal catering services that adhere to CACFP requirements at two Day Centers located in the Crown Heights area of Brooklyn and The Bronx. Specifications for the number of breakfasts, lunches, and snacks can be obtained by contacting Mark Rabinowitz at office@closeatheart.com. Bids will be opened and read on July 2, 2026.



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“Ghost Bike Ride Honors Fallen Bikers



Photo by David Greene

MEMBERS OF THE NYC Street Memorial Project and Transportation Alternatives gather on a traffic island at Southern Boulevard and Mosholu Parkway, just south of Norwood, The Bronx, as a “Ghost” bike and plaque are dedicated to traffic collision victim Charles Ovono Oluwole during an annual “Ride of Silence” through The Bronx on Wednesday, May 20, 2026.

By DAVID GREENE

A dozen or so bike riders participated in the annual Bronx “Ghost” bike “Ride of Silence” through the borough on Wednesday, May 20. The event was organized, as usual, by the NYC Street Memorial Project and Transportation Alternatives and was dedicated to the memory of the 47 bikers killed in Bronx traffic collisions since 2005, according to Transportation Alternatives.

On the eve of the ride, Kevin Daloia, a leading biking advocate, said, “We placed a ‘Ghost’ bike at the intersection of Mosholu [Parkway] and Southern Boulevard last night and we will stop there to place and dedicate a sign for the fallen cyclist.” The ghost bike memorials are actual bikes painted white, and left, along with flowers, at the locations of various fatal bicycle and e-bike collisions to raise awareness about cyclist and e-bike safety.

The bike riders duly gathered the following day at the northwest corner of Mosholu Parkway at Southern Boulevard, just south of Norwood, as one of the riders hung a sign over the latest installed “ghost” bicycle.

The group then cycled down the winding bike path along Southern Boulevard towards Bronx Park East. The bike riders also placed flowers at other “ghost” bike sites along their 10-mile trip. They said the latest “ghost” bike was dedicated to Charles Ovono Oluwole, 50, of Williamsbridge, The Bronx who, according to his cousin, Ana Adeyemi, was making a food delivery at the time of his death in 2025.

According to the NYPD, Oluwole was riding an e-bike eastbound on Southern

Boulevard when he collided with a metal pole and was ejected from his bike. Oluwole was not wearing a helmet and suffered severe head trauma. He was transported to St. Barnabas Hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

On Thursday, June 4, Adeyemi, who is Oluwole’s only relative in the United States, recalled, “We got the news on October 7, and we did the burial on November 14.” Adeyemi had posted a GoFundMe request that helped pay for Oluwole’s burial at Woodlawn Cemetery. Asked what police told her at the time of her cousin’s death, Adeyemi replied, “They said he hit his head on the pole.” Asked if he had worn a helmet, she said, “No, no helmet.”

According to Adeyemi, Oluwole came to The Bronx from Nigeria in 2012. She said he was undocumented and often worked for a popular food delivery company. She said he would also take odd jobs, like covering as a security guard. “He was a hard worker,” Adeyemi said. According to an obituary distributed at Oluwole’s wake, he was “enthusiastic about music” and taught himself how to play drums and keyboard. According to the obituary, Oluwole was survived by his siblings, Seyi Arayela and Oluleke Arayela, as well as his cousin, Adeyemi.

Oluwole would become at least the third victim of a fatal bicycle collision on an estimated one-mile stretch of Southern Boulevard between East Bedford Park Boulevard and Bronx Park East in the last decade. According to published reports, in April 2016, Heather Lough, 29, was struck and killed by a truck, literally feet from arriving at her job at the New York Botanical Garden. The truck

that killed her had just made a delivery to the garden.

Published reports say that in July 2018, the driver, Robert Owens, now 54, pled guilty to reckless driving and one count of failure to exercise due care, a traffic infraction. He was fined \$1,088 and his driver’s license was suspended for 75 days.

Norwood News was at the scene of a hit and run crash that took place on June 18, 2021, along Southern Boulevard at the entrance to the northbound Bronx River Parkway. The NYPD said at the time the victim was struck by a 2019 BMW, and the driver fled the scene on foot.

On Tuesday, June 9, an NYPD official told *Norwood News* the victim had still not been identified, and no arrests have been made. We asked if a photo, sketch or description of the victim or of the BMW driver was available, and if the BMW vehicle had been stolen. We had not received a response as of press date.

On Friday, June 4, *Norwood News* spoke to Erin, a biker and Woodlawn resident, who said he bikes 4 miles a day commuting as a teacher. Crossing from the eastbound to the westbound lane along a heavily congested Mosholu Parkway the same day, Erin said of the area, “I drive here often; never any problems.” He continued, “That’s the concern, running into someone else with a bike, like this guy right here.” Erin gestured to a man riding an e-bike who turned onto an incline while wearing a pair of headphones.

“And you can’t say anything to them, or they’ll flip out on you and pull their guns out on you,” Erin continued. “In

terms of the cars, you’ve got to stay out of their way. If not, you might get hit.”

The New York City Street Memorial Project began in 1992 and has since become a worldwide phenomenon. Used bikes are donated to the group that are amended by Recycle-a-bicycle so that they cannot be ridden anymore and are used for the memorials.

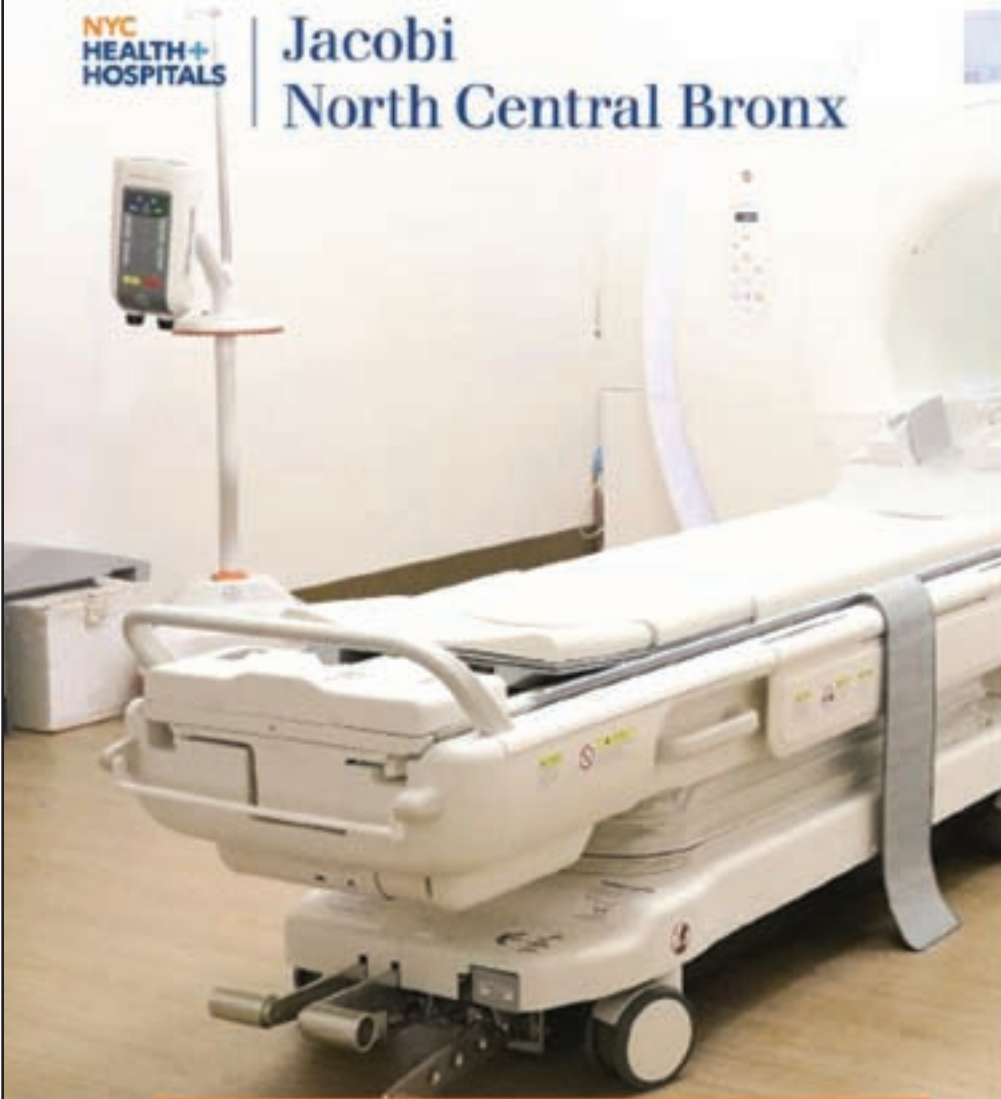


Photo courtesy of Ana Adeyemi

AN UNDATED PHOTO of road accident victim Charles Ovono Oluwole, 50, who police say was riding his bike without a helmet at the time of the accident, struck a metal pole and was killed some years ago, is shown to *Norwood News* by the victim’s cousin.

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