



# NORWOOD NEWS

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## THE BRONX CELEBRATES ITS OWN

**SEE PAGE 19**

Photo by Síle Moloney

ATTENDEES OF THE Bronx School for Continuous Learners (B.S.C.L.), which has a campus at 3177 Webster Avenue in Norwood, reach the viewing stand after marching in the Bronx Week 2026 Parade on Mosholu Parkway in Bedford Park on Sunday, May 17, 2026.



**42 Graduate from Mount St. Ursula**  
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**Crime: Two Murders & Other Assaults**  
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**Run the Bronx 2026 held at BCC**  
pg 15

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# NORWOOD NEWS

Vol. 39, No. 11

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



# Academy of Mt. St. Ursula Celebrates Class of 2026

By SÍLE MOLONEY

The Academy of Mount St. Ursula (AMSU), a historic, all girls, Catholic high school founded in 1855, celebrated the commencement of its Class of 2026 on Thursday, May 21. The school said the graduates demonstrated exceptional academic excellence and boasted a 100% college acceptance rate.

The commencement took place at St. Philip Neri Church on the Grand Concourse in Bedford Park, honoring 42 graduating seniors of the Class of 2026, and was presided over by Mrs. Geraldine Lavery, AMSU president, alongside commencement speaker, Dr. Surojnauth Tiwari.

Addressing those gathered, Lavery said in part, “It’s not just any high school diploma. That high school diploma is from the Academy of Mount St. Ursula, where you were challenged not only academically, but also to become women of faith, and women who understand that leadership is far more than simply a title.”

She said the mission of the school was to empower young women for leadership in society. “Let’s think about that,” she said. “Leadership begins long before someone gives you a title or a name on the door. It begins in the daily choices that you make, how you treat people, whether you show integrity when no one is watching, whether you choose kindness in a world that can sometimes feel unkind.”

The valedictory address was delivered by Brooklyn Valentin, a National Honor Society inductee, who will receive an advanced Regents diploma and who became emotional at one point during her address as she remembered her grandmother. She also recalled moments over the years with her classmates when they were dying with laughter one minute and scrambling to finish year-end projects the next.

Referring to conversations she had had more recently with some of her classmates about their respective moms, she said, “It was clear that they had shaped us into who we are today.” She also recognized how mature she and her classmates had become, as people. “Challenges that seemed so difficult to overcome are now miniscule issues in the backs of our heads,” she said, later thanking family, friends, teachers, coaches and all who ensured the success of her class.

Muna Jack, salutatorian, a highly distinguished QuestBridge scholar and National Honor Society inductee, who will also receive an



Photo by Síle Moloney

**GRADUATES OF THE** Academy of Mount St. Ursula, a Bedford Park Catholic high school, celebrate their commencement at St. Philip Neri Church on the Grand Concourse on Thursday, May 21, 2026.

advanced Regents diploma, also addressed her class at the ceremony.

School officials said a staggering \$12.6 million was awarded in scholarships to AMSU students and reflects what they described as the graduates’ “relentless commitment” to academic achievement and community leadership. They said in addition to NYU and Vassar College, the graduates have been accepted to, and plan to enroll in, top-tier institutions including Fordham University, Stony Brook University, Pace University, Le Moyne College, Purchase College, and the United States Army, among many others.

Founded in 1855, school officials said AMSU is the oldest continuously operating Catholic high school for girls in New York State. Located in The Bronx, they said it is dedicated to the academic and spiritual development of young women, preparing them for college and empowering them to be leaders in their communities.

Lavery said leadership would be tough for those graduating at a time when the world is “noisy,” and where it’s harder to distinguish AI from truth. “There are constant opinions, constant distractions, constant pressure to define yourself by achievement, by looks, by appearance, or by likes on social media.”

She added in part, “But always remember that diploma and you are special, because for 170 years, AMSU has successfully prepared young women who are civically engaged, women who are tolerant of diverse views, and women who are committed to *Serviam* as a way of life.” *Serviam* is Latin for ‘I will serve.’

The president continued in part, “I have no doubt that you will continue that tradition. She also talked about courage and said courage

didn’t mean having everything figured out. “You know what? Most people don’t” she said. “Courage means moving forward anyway, despite.”

A prior graduate of the school, Kalise Williams, who was in attendance on the day, sang the school’s praises, saying, “The Academy of Mount St. Ursula helped me go to St. Johns [University]. Amazing! They helped me know everything that I know. My little sister goes here as well, Michaela Morgan, and she’s a basketball star, and she’s a freshman, and my cousin, Maya, so it’s just continuing in the family.”

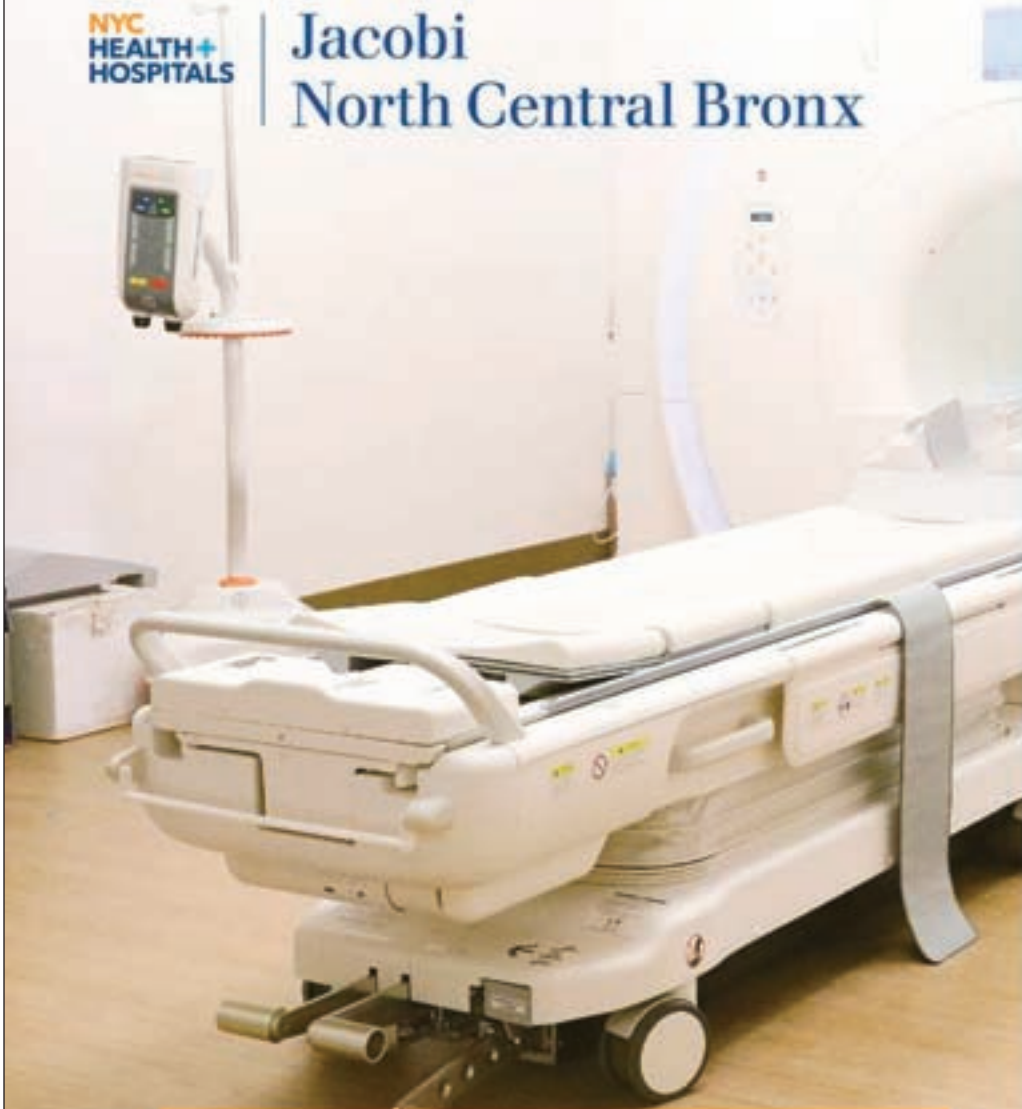
Williams added, “It’s so good that I picked this school to help out my family because they have *Serviam* here. When I was here, I did 500 service hours. I won an award. It’s just, like, it helps me learn and give back to the community.” Williams said she’s now studying finance at St. John’s University.

We also spoke to Kaysha Arriola, 18, and asked what graduating high school meant to her. “Honestly, it means a lot,” she said. “All the memories that I made here, it’s like being in the moment, right? Everyone’s there and it’s your first time being around such old people, you know? You’re so excited for the new beginnings.” Arriola said she plans to double major in business and environmental science at Iona University in New Rochelle.

Of her school years, she said, “Basically, everyone is telling you it goes by so fast, and now we’re here, and it’s very emotional and bitter-sweet because new beginnings are great, but then everything that I had in the past, all my fond memories of my friends, and all the comfortability of being in school and having the routine every day, it’s definitely a big change but I’m very excited!”

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# INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

BY DAVID GREENE & SÍLE MOLONEY



This week, after some negative comments about quality-of-life issues in and around the Williamsbridge Oval park in Norwood, and in Norwood more broadly, were sent recently to the Office of Councilman Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11), Bronx Community Board 7, and the Jerome Gun Hill BID from George Lunney of Norwood Residents Association, and other quality-of-life concerns were raised by other local residents, we asked readers for their views on the situation.

On Monday, May 25, Norwood News photographed several dog poop piles in the dog park in the Oval while a putrid smell filled the air. A laundry basket was left abandoned along Reservoir Oval East on Sunday, May 24, and someone apparently removed a tire lock placed on a scoff-law vehicle and dumped it in the park the same day. As recently reported, Webster Avenue is frequently seen lined with piles of trash.

Complaints highlighted by residents included dog poop, reduced public parking spaces due to “motorcycles parking horizontally” on Perry Avenue between East 206th and East 207th Streets, as well as plants, Citibikes, ZIP car shares, and garbage containers.

Other complaints related to clogged catch basins in the Oval and Skate park, which frequently floods after heavy rain, dirty sidewalks, discarded e-scooters, and planters filled with trash on East Gun Hill Road, litter, apparent lack of citations for dog poop by police, and overflowing trash cans.

Jerome Gun Hill (JGH) BID responded on May 20 to say that their clean team is responsible for the sidewalk and tree pits but not the gutters, and neither can they go on side streets or into the residential areas of the JGH BID corridor. The BID said they would ask the clean team to focus their efforts more on Webster Avenue and Bainbridge, and added that they have brought up the trash issues with the Sanitation department, asking them to issue warnings/tickets to people sitting in their cars during Alternate Side Parking when they can't access those areas.

The BID said the planters were to be serviced the week ending Friday, May 22 with new plants, and are tended to once a month by a vendor where trash is removed. They added that a graffiti removal service also takes care of graffiti in the area. They said the Montefiore planters aren't

within their scope but offered to follow up with Montefiore once advised of specific sites.

Bronx Community Board 7 (CB7) said that they do their very best to address and escalate concerns raised by the nearly 147,000 residents in the district and that Norwood is the most active in terms of public safety and quality-of-life issues.

They confirmed on May 21 that Sanitation enforcement was due to walk through the blocks mentioned and issue summonses as needed. They said Sanitation is not responsible for picking up e-scooters and this should be reported here: <https://portal.311.nyc.gov/article/?kanumber=KA-03442>.

They said dog waste or animal waste should be reported here: <https://portal.311.nyc.gov/article/?kanumber=KA-02247> and catch basin complaints here: <https://portal.311.nyc.gov/article/?kanumber=KA-01084>

They said requests for litter baskets should be logged here: <https://portal.311.nyc.gov/article/?kanumber=KA-02143> and added that any 311 complaints can be escalated to CB7 via email or text (including a picture of the issue) or to Councilman Eric Dinowitz's (C.D.

11) office.

The councilman's office followed up with Lunney by phone to address his concerns. Dinowitz had coordinated a clean-up in the park on Earth Day in April with local volunteers, while Future of Mosholu Parkland also organize clean-up events in and around the neighborhood. Norwood News has also carried out one or two clean-ups in the Oval in the past.

Elsewhere in nearby Bedford Park on Risse Street, resident Shannon Lee Gilstad Sucre has queried why there are so many cars with non-New York State registration plates parked on this street. While it is not illegal, Norwood News counted 18 such cars parked in the area on Monday, May 25, and reached out to the NYPD to see if they have any information on the situation. The 52 Pct said they would look into it but added that if the cars are parked legally, not much can be done. “We don't have local laws stopping out of state residents from parking in on public streets like in other cities,” they said.

See our Neighborhood Notes section also for more on the topic of the Oval.



“You cannot come here at night to take a jog, that's for sure. It's not too safe. I didn't even know they just put cameras here. I didn't even know that. I see garbage, yes. I don't know if this is a part of the upcoming Zoom, but they should have more entertainment here in the summertime. There is also a rat problem. Otherwise, everything else is fine because it looks like it's improving.”

**Andy Cox,**  
Norwood  
Photo by David Greene



“Oval Park is fine how it is, but it's just people who just don't respect the park as much as they should, and they just do whatever and they cause trouble and stuff. The park has a bad reputation about how it is now; that's the only problem. They should just respect the Oval, how it used to be, because everybody used to come here. I kind of grew up here. My grandmother used to take me here to the playground. I see they have installed new cameras, which is good, but before there used to be problems. I got robbed here too at night; that's how bad it really was. It's a little bit better now, but once the kids are here, they still create problems, like the incident that happened with the kid who got stabbed over there. It was very unfortunate. The police come once in a while, but they're not really here much.”

**Chuy Tello,**  
Yankee Stadium via Norwood  
Photo by David Greene



“While I know there is a new effort to recreate the ‘Friends of Williamsbridge Oval’ to hopefully address these problems, long term and short term, all elements of our city agencies, from City, State, federal, even community boards, have not put together any organizational plan. If you look closely, it's because they are new themselves. Thus, the [problems] you speak of. Today, the Park is a disaster in many ways. When you have people in charge that are newer than the next building going up, you will have destruction, from the trash to multiple homicides.”

**Anthony Riveccio,**  
Bedford Park  
Photo courtesy of Anthony Riveccio



“I walk in the tunnel there and I notice it's not a clean park, but the garbage is coming from. I hate to tell you, from people who are from outside the neighborhood. Not only that, but it's also a lot of immigrants who play soccer there. I know the people bring food and they sit there on the benches, and I can see that people leave their junk all over.”

**Tony Apostolos,**  
Bedford Park  
Photo by David Greene



“The huge pile of garbage at the entrance at Holt Place is not ideal, but I guess that is where it is picked up. I no longer consider the tunnel at Bainbridge Avenue and Van Cortlandt (Avenue) ‘the pee tunnel,’ as we did back in the day. The restrooms are open during the day now. By and large, I use and appreciate the Oval as a valuable neighborhood resource. I did feel a slight concern when cutting through the park one night recently. Not that it has gotten worse, but I'm not young and invincible anymore.”

**Chris Perkins,**  
Norwood  
Photo by David Greene

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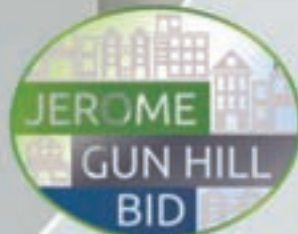
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# NEWS BRIEFS

By SÍLE MOLONEY

## Bronx Zoo Worker Bit by Reptile

A male worker at the Bronx Zoo was hospitalized on Sunday, May 24, after a tomistoma bit his arm, officials from the Bronx Zoo clarified Monday, May 25. Police had originally reported on Sunday that the man had been bitten by a crocodile but when contacted for comment, a Bronx Zoo spokesperson said Monday, “There was an incident with a wild animal keeper at the Bronx Zoo [May 24] at about 2.30 p.m. with a Tomistoma, also known as a Sunda gharial.”

The statement continued, “The keeper was cleaning an enclosure and after slipping, a small Tomistoma nipped at the left forearm of the keeper. The keeper was treated at a local hospital and released for a minor wound which did not need stitches.”

On Sunday, the NYPD had said that at around 2.45 p.m. that day police responded to a 911 call regarding a 38-year-old man bit by “a crocodile” inside Bronx Zoo. “Upon further investigation, it was determined that the male worker was feeding the crocodile, sustained a small bit to his left arm,” police said. “EMS responded and transported the man to St. Barnabas Hospital in stable condition. The investigation remains ongoing.”

As reported, an emaciated alligator found in Brooklyn’s Prospect Park had been transferred to and cared for by the Bronx Zoo in 2023 but later died. In 2021, a woman was found trespassing inside the Bronx Zoo’s Lion’s Den. Read more on [www.norwoodnews.org](http://www.norwoodnews.org).



Photo courtesy of The Bronx Zoo

**SUNDA GHARIALS, ALSO** known as tomistomas, seen at the Bronx Zoo can grow up to 18 feet.

## BMCA Carry Out Clean-Up of Bedford Park

Bedford Mosholu Community Association (BMCA) carried out a clean-up event of Mosholu Parkway on Saturday, May 9, one of many they organize in the neighborhood. They were joined by Sirio Guerino of Guerinos against Graffiti\* and other volunteers and collected several bags of trash from the parkway which were later seen ready to be collected on Webster Avenue.



Photo by Síle Moloney

**BMCA MEMBERS AND** volunteers take a breather after they conclude a clean up of Mosholu Parkway on Saturday, May 9, 2026.

## Orchard Beach Pavilion Reopens after Renovation

New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani and various city officials and elected leaders, including Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, celebrated the reopening of the 140,000-square-foot Orchard Beach Pavilion on Wednesday, May 20. It followed the \$114 million reconstruction project that restored the landmarked building’s historic architecture, expanded ADA access, and revitalized concession and community spaces.

Built in 1936 with funding secured largely through the Works Progress Administration, according to City officials, the pavilion has been fully closed since 2009. Known for its striking columns, limestone cladding, bright blue tiles and terrazzo flooring, the pavilion was designated a landmark by the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) in 2006.

The pavilion’s ground floor is now open to the public and includes upgraded restroom facilities. Visitors can also enjoy the upper balconies to take in views of the beach and Long Island Sound. The restoration also included extensive structural and architectural repairs to the roofs, columns, limestone cladding, glazed terracotta, terrazzo and metalwork, City officials said, adding that the project also added new trees and upgraded lighting throughout the site.

To improve accessibility, city officials said the landside entrance now includes new ramps leading to the upper level of the pavilion. They said that on the beach side, a curved brick-clad accessible ramp connects the upper level to the lower plaza near the beach, ensuring all visitors can move through the pavilion with equitable access for the first time.

City officials said historic concession spaces within the pavilion are being rebuilt to accommodate new food and retail offerings, with upgraded mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems for long-term resiliency. They said NYC Parks selected Unwind Hospitality Group to operate food service and merchandise spaces within the pavilion.

They went on to say that the company will partner with local vendors to provide a range of food options for beachgoers, adding that the concession

areas are expected to open later this summer, while the pavilion’s restaurant space is scheduled to open in 2027.

NYC public beaches officially opened for the summer season on Saturday, May 23. “Lifeguards will be on duty daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. until the end of the season in early September,” Parks officials said. “Swimming is prohibited when lifeguards are not on duty and in closed sections. Closed sections are marked with signs and/or red flags. All public beaches are free and open to all. For more info, including locations, rules, and status, visit: [on.nyc.gov/NYCBeach](http://on.nyc.gov/NYCBeach).”



Photo courtesy of NYC Department of Parks & Recreation

**ORCHARD BEACH PAVILION** reopened May 20, 2026, post renovation.

## Jeffrey Dinowitz Forcefully Pushed at Event

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81), who broadly represents the Northwest Bronx and who is running for reelection to retain the seat he has held for around four decades, was involved in an altercation seemingly with a member of the public during a paper-shredding event he co-hosted with other elected officials in Woodlawn on Saturday, May 9.

In a video posted online by Woodlawn resident Mary Muldoon to a Bronx-based community group on May 20, the assemblyman, 71, is seen outside the Emerald Isle Immigration Center at 4235 Katonah Avenue near some street stands for the event at which people could shred sensitive documents for free.

Dinowitz is seen near the stands talking to people on the street when he is approached by another man dressed in white sneakers, a grey/blue sweatshirt, and dark colored pants. The man approaches Dinowitz with an outstretched arm and the two are seen shaking hands. A third man dressed in all black/dark clothing and a baseball hat is seen standing sort of in between them with his back to the camera. The complete view of the incident is therefore obstructed by this third man.

Moments later, the man who approached Dinowitz is seen getting closer to his face and they appear to get into some type of verbal spat. The same man is then seen pushing the assemblyman backwards with some force. At one point, the assemblyman appears to place his hand on the man’s shoulder.

The assemblyman stumbles backwards and bumps into a man and a woman standing behind him, who break his fall. The man he bumps into appears elderly, is dressed in a green jacket, possibly dark blue jeans, and has white hair. The assemblyman and the man who pushed him appear to continue yelling at each other as the latter departs the area in the opposite direction and the assemblyman gives him the bird.

In the video, date-stamped May



Screenshot via social media courtesy of Mary Muldoon

**ASSEMBLYMAN JEFFREY DINOWITZ** (A.D. 81) is seen standing on a street seemingly in Woodlawn before he is pushed backwards by a second man after some type of verbal dispute in a video screenshot dated May 9, 2026, at 11.37 a.m.

9 at around 11.37 a.m., some muffled sounds can be heard in the form of some swearing / foul language, and the assemblyman is seen waving and saying “Bye” at one point.

In an accompanying post, Mary Muldoon writes, “This is not a good thing. Woodlawn people need to wake up. Dinowitz needs to go. He is also behind that all children must be vaccinated before going to summer camp.”

She adds, “He is selling the people of Woodlawn out. The video of Dinowitz is when someone asked him a question. From what I am hearing from multiple sources, he had his fingers in the [guy’s] chest, so the person pushed him. Wake up Woodlawn.” As above, the view of the incident is partially obstructed. Therefore, *Norwood News* is unable to corroborate this account of the interaction.

*Norwood News* reached out to Muldoon and asked what she meant by the assemblyman selling Woodlawn out and for more context on the

(continued on page 11)

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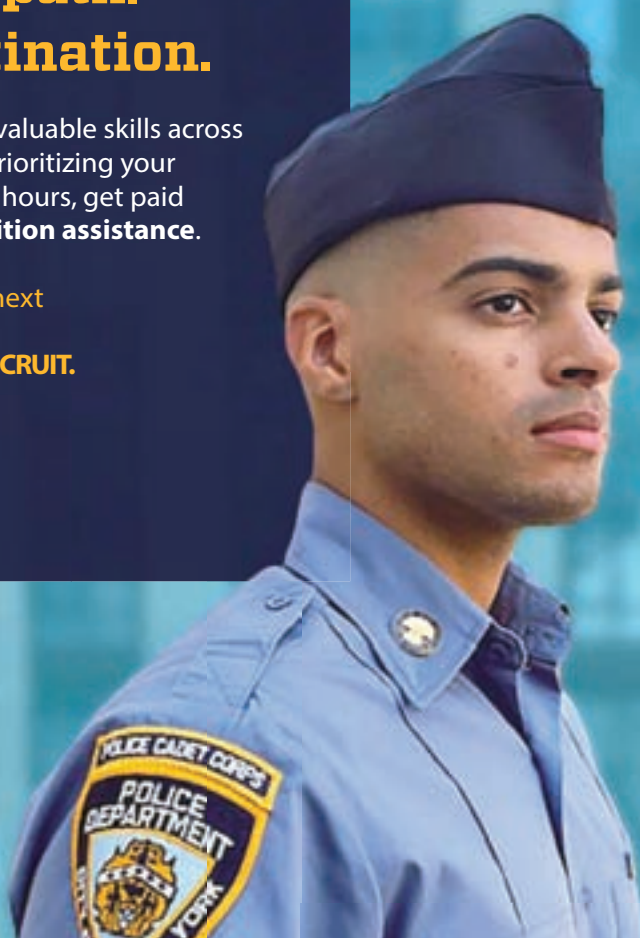
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**Bronx Youth Career Fair**

A Bronx Youth Career Fair will be hosted by Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, City Council Member Althea Stevens and NYS Department of Labor on Thursday, June 4, at 10 a.m. at Bronx Borough Hall, 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx. Meet with future employers, explore potential career paths, and more. Call Millicent Matos on (929) 286 0160 for more information.

**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 will be held on Wednesday, June 3, at 6 p.m. Register at [nyc.gov/parks/input](http://nyc.gov/parks/input). Registration is required by June 3 at 5 p.m. For more information, contact Katerine Borrrome at [Katerine.Borrrome@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:Katerine.Borrrome@parks.nyc.gov) or on (718) 430 1801. You can also visit [nyc.gov/parks](http://nyc.gov/parks) under the Capital Project Tracker section.

**CEC District 10 Empowerment & Engagement for Parents**

Community Education Council (CEC) District 10 is hosting an Empowering & Engagement event for parents on June 6 at 10 a.m. on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of 2100 Bartow Avenue, Bronx. Come and avail of support for families, community networking, discussions, workshops and more. Lunch will be provided. Register at <https://bit.ly/49l3hnd>.

**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 [dvcdliteracy&immigrantservices@dvcd.nyc.gov](mailto:dvcdliteracy&immigrantservices@dvcd.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 home-

work 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).

**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.

**Pet Food Pantries of NYC**

Pet Food Pantries are available in The Bronx at the following locations: Strong Paw Rescue at [www.strongpawrescue.org/pet-pantry](http://www.strongpawrescue.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 [sthelenarc@yahoo.com](mailto:sthelenarc@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.

**Nakba Remembrance Day**

On this day of remembering, May 15, 78 years of the Nakba, and as a gender and sexuality counselor educator, I look at how far the USA/Israel Zionist billionaire complex has gone to harm us all. We still don't have the Epstein files. Slowly but surely the Zionists in the files are resigning or being fired, but none of the cishet, White men have been hauled into court for their sexual abuse. For 78 years, Zionists have raped and tortured and sexually abused Palestinians. When The New York Times finally did an article on it, large numbers of old White Zionists protested at a rape rally downtown.

Pinkwashing continues to be used to somehow make it seem like Israel is a better place to be than the rest of West Asia, but Israel is backed by the USA, a bastion of fascist repression killing off women's health, queer, and trans rights at hyper-speed. The celebration of rape culture in Israel is just as fascist. What about all the dead queer and trans persons of West Asia killed in genocide and throughout the ongoing Nakba? What

about all the women and girls killed in genocide in Israel, Lebanon, Yemen, Syria, Iran? Feminism & queer/trans rights for me [Zionists] but not for thee [Muslims, Christians, Iranian Jews].

**Stuart Chen-Hayes  
North Riverdale**

Sources for sexual assault and downtown rally references:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/apr/21/israeli-soldiers-using-sexual-assault-to-force-palestinians-out-of-west-bank-report-says>

<https://en.davar1.co.il/248375/>

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/03/more-human-can-bear-israels-systematic-use-sexual-reproductive-and-other>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2026/05/11/opinion/israel-palestinians-sexual-violence.html>

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/israeli-activists-protest-new-york-times-building-after-article-exposes-rape-palestinians>

*Editor's Note: According to the United*

**Jeffrey Dinowitz Forcefully Pushed at Event**

*(continued from page 6)*

incident / dispute and she later referred to the upcoming and seemingly second closure of Woodlawn playground, and some other urban development in the neighborhood which she alleged was forcing residents their homes. Muldoon is also opposed to what she feels are excessive vaccine requirements for kids going to summer camps.

A representative for Dinowitz responded, saying, "Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz has been the subject of hateful attacks, antisemitic threats, outlandish activity by anti-vaxx and MAGA extremists, and he has risen above it all to continue to deliver for the North Bronx." The statement continued, "An unfortunate event occurred where a person [yelled] obscenities, and pushed him at a government event, as video clearly shows. Nothing will stop Jeffrey's determination to be a progressive, effective and engaged Assemblyman in every corner of his district."

Norwood News does not know who pushed the assemblyman in order to reach the man for comment. Should he wish to share a comment, we can be reached at [smoloney@norwoodnews.org](mailto:smoloney@norwoodnews.org) or on (646) 531-6858.

We asked the assemblyman's representative if a police report was filed fol-

lowing the incident and he said, "The NYPD were called." We contacted the NYPD for details and will share any feedback we receive. One [non-police] source told *Norwood News* amid "a heated discussion," Dinowitz placed his fingers on the man's chest and that was why he got pushed. The source alleged the other man can be heard saying, "Keep your hands off me." The source alleged the man turned himself in May 21 and got a desk appearance ticket.

Norwood News is unable to corroborate if this is an accurate description of what happened until we receive a copy of the police report / official complaint. We will share any further updates we receive. When contacted about the matter, the Bronx District Attorney's office said if a desk appearance ticket was issued, there would be no complaint on file until the man appears in court.

Rallies have been held at the assemblyman's home and office in the past by anti-vaxxers, opposing his pro-vaccination stance. The assemblyman's representative alleges Muldoon is antisemitic. Muldoon denies the allegation. *Norwood News* has contacted NYC Parks to ask for the reason for the playground closure, and to other Woodlawn residents to ask for their views on development in the neighborhood. We will share any feedback we receive.

*Nations, the Nakba, which means "catastrophe" in Arabic, refers to the mass displacement and dispossession of Palestinians during the 1948 Arab Israeli War. Before the Nakba, Palestine was a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural society. However, the conflict between Arabs and Jews intensified in the 1930s with the increase of Jewish immigration, driven by persecution in Europe, and with the Zionist movement aiming to establish a Jewish state in Palestine.*

*According to the website, Verywell Mind, the term "Cishet" is a portmanteau of "cisgender" and "heterosexual" and is used to describe a person whose gender identity matches the sex they were assigned at birth (cisgender) and who is*

*sexually or romantically attracted to the opposite sex.*

*According to various reports including from CNN, <https://www.cnn.com/2026/05/12/middleeast/report-sexual-violence-hamas-oct-7-attacks-intl>, acts of sexual violence were also carried out by Hamas on Israelis on Oct. 7, 2023.*

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

**ART****Out & About**

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

**EVENTS**

Join the Bronx County Historical Society for a **University Heights Walking Tour** on Saturday, May 30, at 10 a.m. Meet at Bronx Community College front gate entrance at 2155 University Avenue. The tour is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. Visit <https://shop.beyonk.com/6thh7cli/experiences/is8ivteg> for tickets.

The **40<sup>th</sup> Annual Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade**, "honoring the past, inspiring the future" will take place along the Grand Concourse from East 166<sup>th</sup> Street to Mt Eden Avenue on Saturday, May 30, at 11 a.m. Email [MASeventsnyc@gmail.com](mailto:MASeventsnyc@gmail.com) for more information.

The 52<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**MUSIC**

NYC Cultural Affairs and the Bronx Council of the Arts presents "**Paladium Style, Celebrating the Golden Era of Dance**" on Saturday, May 30, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Williamsbridge Oval park, 3225 Reservoir Oval East in Norwood. (Rain date - June 6). All are welcome.

**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 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](http://bronxartspace.com).

**The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA)**, 11 West 53<sup>rd</sup> 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**

**Bronx Buccaneers Youth Football** who train in the Williamsbridge Oval park, 3225 Reservoir Oval East in Norwood are still recruiting for Flag Football participants aged 5-7 and Tackle Football for those aged 8-14 on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays at 10 a.m. Call (718) 764 8384 or 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>.



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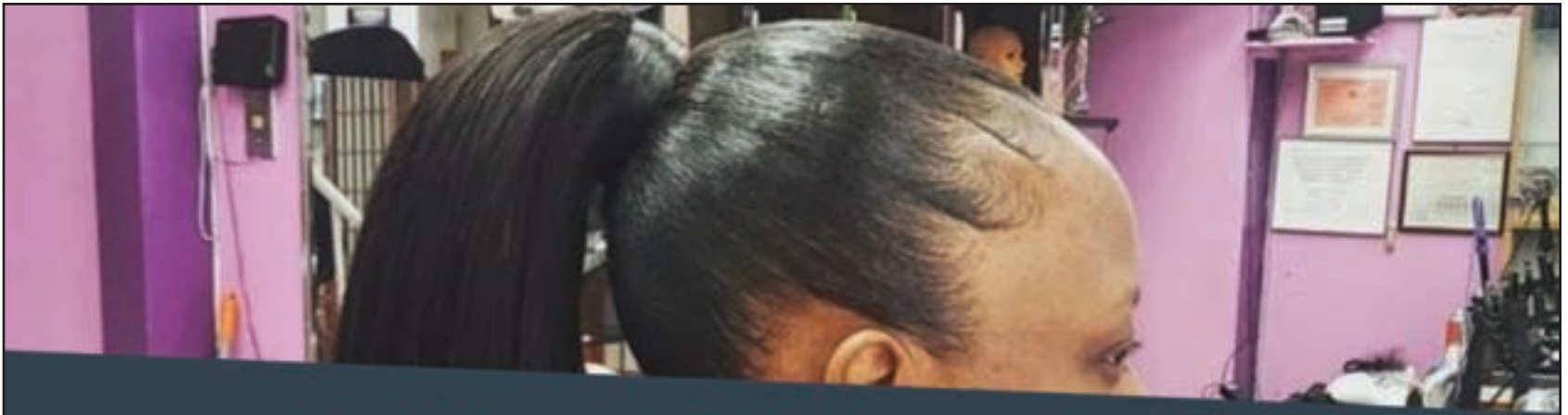
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### Bronx Man Gets 15 Years for Daytime Grand Concourse Shooting

Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark announced May 12 that a Bronx man was sentenced to 15 years in prison after being found guilty of attempted murder and assault for shooting two women, seriously injuring one of them in May 2023.

Clark said the defendant, Carlos Rivera, 66, of East 178th Street in The Bronx was sentenced on May 11 to 15 years in prison and five years post release supervision by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Verena Powell. She said Rivera 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 evidence, at around 1:48 p.m. on May 3, 2023, the defendant and Erica DiSalvio got into an argument inside the TD Bank located at 148 East Fordham Road. The court heard that Rivera exited the bank and waited for DiSalvio and when she exited the bank, Rivera pointed a gun at her and fired two shots, 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.

### Bronx Woman Charged with Fatally Stabbing Boyfriend in Norwood

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark announced May 14 that a Bronx woman was charged with second-degree murder and related charges for allegedly stabbing her boyfriend, Ramon Vasquez, 35, to death on Webster Avenue in Norwood in March.

Clark said that defendant Dulce Dayana Hernandez Jimenez, 28, of Perry Avenue, Bronx, was arraigned on May 12, on second-degree murder, first-degree manslaughter and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon before Bronx Supreme Court Justice Audrey Stone. She said she was retained in custody and is due back in court in July.

According to the investigation, on the afternoon of March 28, Hernandez Jimenez and her boyfriend, Vasquez, argued in front of 3210 Webster Avenue. Hernandez Jimenez allegedly slapped Vasquez and they dispersed. Around 9:45 p.m., she allegedly returned to the same location and another argument ensued.

The court heard that she allegedly took out a butterfly knife and stabbed Vasquez multiple times, including once in the chest. Vasquez was taken to St. Barnabas Hospital where he died.

As reported, a dead Pitbull was later found in a trash bag at the site of the stabbing on April 13. Police were seen investigating the discovery of the dog the same day. *Norwood News* asked the

NYPD if it had anything to do with the murder. We were advised that the investigation was ongoing. Hernandez Jimenez is presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

To report animal cruelty in progress, call 911 immediately, and also report it to the closest NYPD Precinct. To report ongoing animal abuse or neglect, please call 311 or file an NYPD Crime Stoppers report online, or by calling 1-800-577-TIPS (1-800-577-8477).

You also can file a complaint for ongoing animal abuse or neglect online (non-emergency response) through the City of New York's NYC 311 website. Read more about reporting animal cruelty and other resources on the NYC Mayor's Office of Animal Welfare website.



### Bedford Park: Arrest Made in Shooting on E 198th Street

After a 32-year-old man was shot in Bedford Park on Friday night, May 15, police said on Thursday, May 21, that they have made an arrest in the case. On Monday, May 18, the NYPD released photos above of a man and had asked for the public's help identifying him, saying he was wanted for questioning in connection with the incident.

As reported, police said that on May 15 at around 9.05 p.m. in front of 268 East 198th Street, a 32-year-old male victim was involved in a verbal dispute with an unidentified male individual. They said the unidentified male suspect shot the victim in the chest, before fleeing southbound on Briggs Avenue to parts unknown. They said EMS responded and transported the victim to St. Barnabas Hospital in stable condition.

Police said the suspect was described as male, had a medium complexion, and was last seen wearing a red, hooded sweatshirt, blue pants, red sneakers, and a blue hat. On May 21, pursuant to an ongoing investigation, police said Orlando Martinez, 28, from Belmont was arrested and charged the same day at around 10 a.m. in The Bronx. They said he was charged with attempted murder, assault, and criminal possession of a weapon. He is presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

A local worker told *Norwood News* that after the shooting, the victim and his friend fled into their corner deli for help and the deli manager and worker locked the front door, brought their customers into the back room to keep them safe, and the victim's friend called for help.

Asked if anyone had been pressing down on the man's chest wound before

the emergency services arrived, he said, "Yeah, his friend had been pressing on his chest." Another person in the area told *Norwood News* the shooting took place within close range of the victim (around a foot) on East 198th between the Briggs Avenue and Bainbridge Avenue. He added that the perpetrator was not wearing a mask and described all involved as young. The deli worker had described the victim and his friend as Hispanic and aged around 29/30.

A prior fatal shooting of a 40-year-old man took place on the corner of Briggs Avenue and East 198th Street in October 2024.

### Kingsbridge Heights: Man Shot on W Kingsbridge Rd

A 27-year-old man was shot on Saturday night, May 16, in Kingsbridge Heights, police said. The NYPD told *Norwood News* the department received a call at around 10.34 p.m. on May 16 for a report of a person who had been shot behind 135 West Kingsbridge Road. "Upon arrival, officers were informed a 27-year-old male was shot in the leg by an unidentified individual," they said.

"The individual fled the location northbound on Sedgwick [Avenue] to parts unknown. The victim was transported to St. Barnabas [Hospital] in stable condition. There are no arrests and the investigation is ongoing. No known motive and no perpetrator description at this time." The residential building is located next to Caridad Bar & Grill.

*Norwood News* visited the site in the early hours of Sunday morning and spoke to a few people in the area. One local man who did not witness the incident said, "Ahh, everything happens around here. Everything happens, you know? It's like you got people who have problems so you know?"

Asked if there was usually trouble at the bar, which is located opposite the Bronx VA Hospital, he said, "No, basically, it's quiet, but then, when something jumps off, that's when everything starts." The man said police wrapped up their investigation at around 1 a.m.

When asked for his reaction to the shooting, another man working in a local barber shop that was getting ready to open, said, "I've been in the neighborhood since 1992, and I've seen many young dead people." The worker said more programs were needed to keep youth off the streets. "If there were programs around here that kids could get on a basketball league that don't cost them anything..." he said. "They be on the street... it's unbelievable," he added.

### Fordham Manor: Man Dies after Fatal Stabbing

A 34-year-old man died in Fordham Manor in an early morning stabbing, police said. A second 32-year-old male who reportedly tried to intervene to help the first man according to a family member, was also stabbed and was reported stable in hospital.

Police said the department received a

911 call on Tuesday morning, May 19, at around 00.24 a.m. They said officers responded to a report of an assault in front of 2466 Marion Avenue. "Upon arrival, officers observed a 34-year-old male with multiple stab wounds to the torso and right arm and a 32-year-old male with multiple stab wounds to the back," they said. "EMS responded and transported the 34-year-old male victim to St. Barnabas Hospital, where he was pronounced deceased."

Police said the 32-year-old male victim was transported by EMS to Bronx-Care Health System in stable condition. They said there are no arrests and the investigation remains ongoing. They said the deceased was identified as Luis Almanzar of Marion Avenue, Bronx.

An aunt to the surviving stab victim was at the crime scene later on Tuesday morning. "I heard that he was in front of the house," she said. "He seen someone from the area. He was getting beat up so he was trying to tell him to 'come on,' and they said that him trying to stop them, they stabbed him too."

Asked if she wanted to describe her nephew, the woman said, "He's a good kid. He comes from a good family. They own a home in the area. You know, he was born and raised here so, you know, it's sad, it's sad." She added that her nephew was stable and that his mom was going to go back again to the hospital and check on him. Asked if it was the first time a stabbing or similar incident had happened on the block to her knowledge, she said, "Yeah, this area, I guess, last year there was a couple of shootings."

Gesturing towards East 188th Street, she said, "A man died in front of the store. A young lady got shot by the park, you know and it was innocent bystanders." Blood stains were seen on the steps of the house as police cordoned off the crime scene and canvassed the area. The home is located diagonally across from a church and not far from a local school. Neighbors in the area and teachers at the school called for more police presence in the area.



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

# Run the Bronx 2026 Held at Bronx Community College

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

*Run the Bronx*, the annual event comprising a 5K run, 10K run and 2-mile walk, was held this year on Saturday, May 2, once again at Bronx Community College in University Heights, where a host of shiny trophies and medals were awarded to pumped up participants in the presence of Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson. A kid's fun run was also held.

As reported, the Bronx has ranked 62 out of New York State's 62 counties each year for several years, in terms of health rankings according to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's county health ranking report and the *Run the Bronx* event was born out of a need to address the disparity. *Norwood News* spoke to some of the participants on the day.

First place trophy winner in her age group, Ariella Trotsanko, was absolutely jubilant as she accepted her trophy, alongside her friend, Cira Cardaci, who also ran. Asked if she was surprised that she won, Trotsanko, who has been running since 2022, said, "I was. I won second place in my age group last year. This year, I'm in a different age group. I work for the CUNY Office of Central Research so it's great to be part of the CUNY running community, and to be representing all the campuses, and to help spur this great community."

Trotsanko added, "Bronx is a very special place, and this race means a lot in terms of spurring health and wellness for the local community, so I'm so happy to be a part of it." Asked what the best thing was about running (apart from the wins!) laughing, she said, "To be part of an amazing community; I'm part of a run club in my local neighborhood and it's just so much fun to get out there everyday and chat with people, to be taking care of myself and just pound the pavement every day, to get better for myself."

Asked if she had any words of advice for those who might be considering running for the first time, she said, "Just take it slow. Go easy. Get yourself into a sport that you like and running is so ac-

cessible. All you need is a pair of sneakers!"

We also spoke to Aylin Villada, 28, and asked her how it went. "It was really good," she said. "It was really nice seeing everybody come out and support, people outside with water bottles, people outside of their houses. We were looking at everyone, so it felt really nice to be supported in that way. There were a lot of hills, so it was really hard. I did the 5K and it was really good!"

Asked if she was a regular runner, Villada said, "No, a little bit, yeah. I try to run once or twice a week, but max is like 3 to 4 miles." Asked if she participated in a lot of races, she said, "I don't! This is my only one! I participated in it last year. I ran it with my friend who's a teacher in The Bronx, so I come and support her, and her school."

Asked what prompted her to take up running, Villada said, "When I was growing up, my dad took me and my sister out running to the park and he was always very adamant that we were always doing some sort of sport whether it be running, swimming, so I kind of grew up doing sports."

Asked what the best part about it was, she said, "I guess now that I'm older, just pushing myself mentally and seeing how far I can go." Asked if she had any words of encouragement for those who might be considering starting to run, she said, "I would say it gets easier. Just try and push yourself a little bit. Don't give yourself too many expectations. If it's for the first time, just be happy that you've even stepped outside and even attempted to run... or walk. You don't have to start off running. You can just walk."

Abdel Khalil was the first man to win the 5K in a time of 16 minutes, 51 seconds, while Ari Gibbs was the first woman to cross the line in the 5K in a time of 20 minutes, 19 seconds.

In the 10K race, Abelino Ale Torre was the first man to cross the finish line in a time of 33 minutes, 5 seconds, while Tiasha Roberts-Liverpool was the first woman in the race in a time of 38 minutes, 26 seconds.



Photo by Síle Moloney

**ARIELLA TROTSANDO AND CIRA CARDACI** attend Run the Bronx 2026 at Bronx Community College in University Heights on Saturday, May 2, 2026.

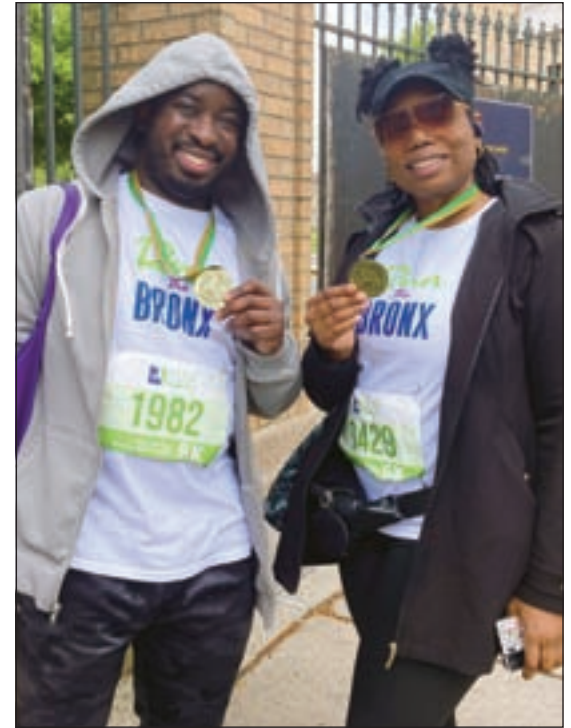


Photo by Síle Moloney

**PARTICIPANTS CELEBRATE TAKING** part in the Run the Bronx 2026 race event at Bronx Community College in University Heights on Saturday, May 2, 2026.



Photo by Síle Moloney

**SOME OF THE** participants in the Run the Bronx 2026 held at Bronx Community College in University Heights on Saturday, May 2, 2026, pose for a photo with their medals/trophies, alongside Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson and other officials.



Photo by Síle Moloney

**PARTICIPANTS CELEBRATE TAKING** part in the Run the Bronx 2026 race event at Bronx Community College in University Heights on Saturday, May 2, 2026.



Photo by Síle Moloney

**PARTICIPANTS CELEBRATE TAKING** part in the Run the Bronx 2026 race event at Bronx Community College in University Heights on Saturday, May 2, 2026.



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## Public and Community Meetings

**CORRECTION TO PREVIOUS NOTICE:** The next 52<sup>nd</sup> PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL meeting will take place on Thursday, May 28, at 7 p.m. at 3100 Webster Avenue, 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 in June (date TBC). 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 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://us02web.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 next BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 3, 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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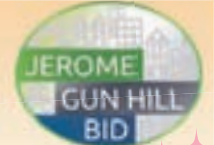
1PM-5PM

DOORS OPEN AT 12:30PM

# NORWOOD PRIDE 2026



PRESENTED BY:



## SAVE THE DATE!!

# The Bronx Celebrates its own

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Bronx Week 2026 wrapped up under beautiful sunshine on Sunday, May 17, with the Bronx Week 2026 parade along Mosholu Parkway drawing thousands of residents from all over the borough to Bedford Park, where a food and street festival as well as a concert finale was also held.

Ahead of the parade, a Memorial Day celebration originally scheduled for 10 a.m. to honor all veterans and active military for their service was held once again at the Bronx Victory Memorial on Mosholu Parkway between Marion Avenue and Hull Avenue.

Hosted by Bronx Community Board 7 (CB7) and the New York Gray Cadets, in conjunction with the Office of Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, Guerinos Against Graffiti\*, Crusaders for Children's Rights, NYC Parks, The Financial Advisors Group, and State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33), Assemblyman George Alvarez (A.D. 78), Councilman Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11) it was attended by veterans, CB7 members, the Cadets, the borough president, Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark, Guerinos against Graffiti\*, Crusaders for Children's Rights, the NYPD's 52<sup>nd</sup> Precinct, Joe Bello, U.S. Navy veteran and chair of the VA NY Metro Community Veterans Engagement Board, other Bronx community board members from across the borough, and Bronx residents.

Framed photos of fallen veterans, SPC Mariyah Symone Collington and 1st. Lt. Kendrick Lamont Keys Jr., along with a photo of two veteran centenarians, recently honored at a Bronx Week 2026 veterans' brunch hosted by Gibson on May 11, were displayed in front of the monument during the ceremony.

The event consisted of a military procession, the pledge of allegiance, a lone trumpeter recital and other musical performances, speeches, and the placing of flags around the memorial. Addressing the crowd, Barbara Stronczner, Bronx CB7 Parks chair, said, "The monument was created and dedicated in memory of the soldiers we lost in World War I [1914-1918]. After the War, it was counted that The Bronx lost about 950 soldiers in World War I."

Stronczner said a committee got together to arrange funding for the monument and it was unveiled 7 years later in 1925 on Armistice Day, now Veterans Day, Nov. 11. She said various veterans maintained it and a ceremony was held on each Memorial Day, but after local World War II veterans died, it became neglected. She said no ceremonies were held during the 1970s, and graffiti was seen on it. She said The City's Municipal Art Society had a program called "Adopt a Monument" in the 1980s, and the statue was restored in 1988 as part of that program.

The CB7 Parks chair said a formal ceremony was held to mark the occasion, attended by various officials in-

cluding the French ambassador to the U.S. at the time, since the French liquor company, Grand Marnier, provided a lot of the funding for the restoration. "It was a thank you for the allegiance they had with our country during World War I," she said.

Stronczner said through funding from former councilman for C.D. 11, Oliver Koppell, lights were later added and in recent years, Bronx CB7 veterans committee decided to revive the annual ceremony. "We're hoping that this will continue every year, and it's a thank you not only to the World War I veterans who lost their lives, but to many of the other veterans throughout the wars," she said in part.

Later Bronx CB7 veterans committee chair Chad Royer invited Iraq War veteran, a chemical specialist, Deahna Penn, to address those gathered. "I served in Iraq after 9/11 in the Army," Penn said. "I came back in somewhat one piece, but I want to acknowledge every veteran, everyone who served." Penn then gave a shout out to family members of those who served. "Thank you. That's all I want to say. Thank you!" she added.

Norwood News spoke to local veteran Anthony Rivieccio who said it was the fourth annual ceremony in recent years. "We were just thanking the community for showing up," he said in part. "It's getting a bit bigger every year. It's really a struggle of love more than anything else. The monument came not just from the victory of World War I, but it was created by the citizens of Bedford Park/Norwood, so it brings a lot of memories to a lot of people, including myself." He said one of the reasons he was so adamant to hold the annual event was because he joined the Navy when he was 16.

"The first year that I joined, my father took me and my sisters to the New York Botanical Garden. I saw the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary that day and because I was in navy uniform, I felt the need to come out and salute to the monument so when I moved into the area 15 years later, this monument was in decay, so I'm very honored to have helped to have cleaned it up and sort of get it off the ground. It was almost like it was dying at one point and now we have wonderful, two-year events, Memorial Day and Veterans Day."

We also discussed the movement to restore the other veterans' memorial site beside Woodlawn subway station, also in Norwood, which has also fallen into disrepair, as reported. Some residents had hoped it would be restored by Memorial Day. "Yeah, Sirio Guerino is a very big advocate of that," Rivieccio said. "I strongly recommend to everyone who's brought it to my attention to a) of course, keep up the good fight, and b) speak to both Councilman [Eric] and Assemblyman [Jeffrey] Dinowitz."

Norwood News confirmed that we had reached out to the councilman's office



Screenshot by Sile Moloney

**VARIOUS ELECTED OFFICIALS** join veterans, Bronx Community Board 7, Guerinos Against Graffiti\*, Crusaders for Children's Rights, and Bronxites for the fourth annual Memorial Day celebration in recent years at the Bronx Victory Memorial on Mosholu Parkway in Bedford Park ahead of the Bronx Week 2026 parade on Sunday, May 17, 2026.

recently to ask for an update further to our last story on the matter, and Jenna Klaus, chief of staff for the councilman, replied on May 15 saying in part, "We'll see if we can get a timeframe. We have been told by City agencies that the pole is privately owned, and they are hesitant to touch something that doesn't belong to the City. We're going to keep working on it and will keep you in the loop."

Later, we spoke to Sirio Guerino of Guerinos Against Graffiti\*, who said he is the son of a veteran, father to his son, Duval, who is a veteran, and grandson of a World War I veteran. Together with his wife, Heather, of Crusaders for Children's Rights, and Duval, Sirio provided the sound for the event, water for the cadets, a U.S. flag, and three POW flags. "This monument is personally very meaningful to me," he said. "This is a win-win for The Bronx. This goes to show that everybody, before we march, before we party, we pay tribute to those who died for our freedom."

He continued, "I want to especially thank Vanessa Gibson for carrying the full burden of this event for us." Heather Guerino mentioned that she had also contacted Gibson both last year and this year to request that she lay a wreath at the event, which she did.

Heather said she was disappointed that the event program had been cut short as the parade had to get underway, and that not everyone had not been thanked for their efforts in helping to organize the event.

Norwood News reached out to CB7 for comment and Karla Cabrera Carrera, district manager, responded, saying, "Bronx Community Board 7 did include all partners to thank in our program. We were a little pressed for time, and had to shorten the program, so there may have been a partner that was not mentioned [verbally]."

She continued, "It was unintentional. In my closing remarks, I had planned to

give a 'Thank You' to everyone listed on the program. The Bronx Borough President's Office has allowed the Community Board to host the flagging ceremony before the parade kicks off, and Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson committed to providing a wreath for the flagging event as a token of collaboration to Bronx Community Board 7, and Senator Gustavo Rivera provided the flags."

She concluded, "Next year, we will ensure we thank our community partners in our Welcome Remarks, as we couldn't host this community event to honor past, present, and future veterans without them."

Norwood News also spoke to Bello later who said, "It was important for me to be here today because we're honoring those who have fallen. We always talk about Veterans Day and yesterday was Armed Forces Day, but today is Memorial Day, and we honor those who went and served, and particularly those in the past. We have our freedoms that we have today because these individuals, that this memorial is dedicated to, gave their lives and honor them and for the community to say, 'We have not forgotten.'"

We asked Bello for his opinion on recent news regarding cuts to veterans' services in the latest City budget. "The mayor is looking to cut the veterans' agency by 13%. Mayor Adams had just given about \$680,000 last year to the agency and so the mayor is literally cutting that money and more and it's a small agency, so what is it that we're going to lose? That's the question." Norwood News has reached out to the MAMDANI administration for comment and will share any feedback we receive.

Sirio Guerino summed up the event saying, "The memorial is for the guys who died and are never forgotten. It's the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary and God Bless America and we shall always be on the side of freedom and liberty."

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