



NORWOOD NEWS

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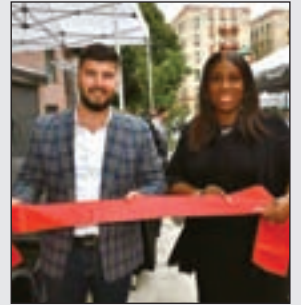
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BRONX CB7 HONORS COMMUNITY



Photo by Sile Moloney

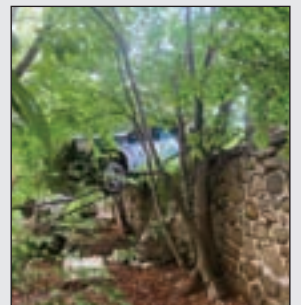
(L TO R) COUNCILMEMBER ERIC DINOWITZ (C.D. 11), Council Member Oswald Feliz (C.D. 15), and Bronx Community Board 7 (CB7) board members, Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky, Barbara Stronczer, Yajaira Arias, Lowell Green, and Karla Cabrera Carrera, CB7 district manager, pose for a photo at a community awards ceremony at the New York Botanical Garden in Bedford Park on Thursday, June 25, 2026.



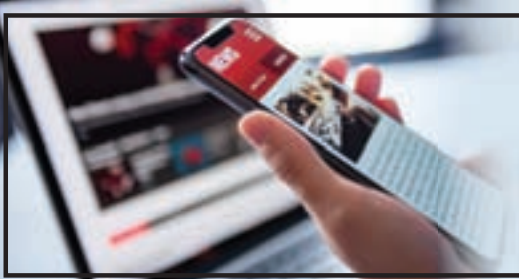
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Bedford Park: 166 New Homes on E 198th St, 34 Affordable

By SILE MOLONEY

AG Holdings Group joined Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson, elected officials, community leaders, residents and project partners on Tuesday, July 7, to celebrate the completion of 19 East 198th Street and 21 East 198th Street, two newly completed residential developments in the Bedford Park section of The Bronx.

Officials said that together, the two developments include 166 new apartments, including 34 permanently affordable apartments, designated under New York State's 485-x Affordable Neighborhoods Program for households earning up to 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI).

Affordable housing is based on a household's percentage of AMI, which is set by the federal government on a yearly basis. Housing is considered affordable if it costs about one-third or less of household income and is regulated so the rent can't go up dramatically over time. An overview of AMI income bands and percent of AMI is provided below.

The AMI for all cities across the country is defined each year by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The 2023 AMI for the New York City region is \$127,100 for a three-person family (100% AMI). *Norwood News* asked HUD in the past if it could provide the AMI for a single person. We did not receive a response, despite following up.

Meanwhile, AG Holdings said the remaining apartments are market-rate units, and both buildings are multifamily residential developments. They said number 19 East 198th consists of 99 apartments, while number 21 comprises 67 units. They added that the development includes 20 parking spaces available for rent to residents of either building.

"Affordable, dignified and safe housing is what working families, middle-class families, older adults, seniors and

young people deserve," said Gibson. "Every new affordable home created here in the Bronx helps ensure that our borough remains a place where families can truly build a future together. AG Holdings is making a long-term investment in the Bronx and in the residents who call our borough home. This kind of sustained commitment matters because strong communities are built through lasting partnerships, initiatives and responsibility."

The ceremony featured public remarks from Gibson, AG Holdings Group Founder and President Andrea Gjini, and resident and superintendent Keith Hibbler before attendees gathered for a ceremonial ribbon-cutting and toured the completed development.

"I come from a family that was always part of the middle class and working people, Gjini said. "They taught me that if you want to grow and be successful in life, you have to work. That's why, whenever we purchase land, we automatically try to go affordable. We need to work with working people. We need to work with the middle class because every society with a strong middle class is going to be successful in the future."

Founded by Gjini, AG Holdings Group is described as "a vertically integrated real estate development, construction and property management company focused on expanding housing opportunities throughout New York City." Company officials said that by overseeing development, construction and long-term ownership under one roof, it remains committed to investing in the neighborhoods it serves while also delivering quality housing across The Bronx.

The term "sustainable community growth" was used on the company's website to describe its activities. *Norwood News* asked what this meant in practice and were advised that the phrase is used to describe the creation of "housing that supports long-term neighborhood



Photo by Miriam Quiñones

A NEW HOUSING development at 19 East 198th Street and 21 East 198th Street, two newly completed residential developments, are seen in the Bedford Park section of The Bronx, Tuesday, July 7, 2026.

stability through durable construction, responsible property management, and expanding housing opportunities for Bronx residents. It refers to sustainable neighborhood investment rather than environmental sustainability."

The company also referred to the development being a "long-term investment" in the community and *Norwood News* also asked what that meant. AG Holdings Group officials said it means the company's commitment to "owning, managing and maintaining the properties for the long term, while continuing to invest in the surrounding neighborhood through quality construction, professional property management, hiring locally whenever possible, supporting local businesses and vendors, and building lasting relationships within the community."

Finally, another reference on the website referred to the development integrating "seamlessly with the existing fabric of the Bronx community" and we asked what that meant. We were informed that this meant "the projects were designed to complement the surrounding neighborhood by providing high-quality housing on underutilized sites while improving the streetscape and supporting continued residential growth in a transit-accessible area of the Bronx."

For his part, Hibbler said, "When people hear about new development, they sometimes worry about what it means for their neighborhood. But this isn't about pushing people out. It's about investing in the Bronx, creating opportunities and making sure the people who already call this community home have a chance to stay and build their future here. I'm proud to be part of what AG Holdings is building—not just these buildings, but stronger communities."

More information can be found at ag-holdingsgrp.com.

Income Bands and Percent of AMI

Income Band	Percent of AMI
Extremely Low-Income	0-30%
Very Low-Income	31-50%
Low-Income	51-80%
Moderate-Income	81-120%
Middle-Income	121-165%

Source: NYC Department of Housing, Preservation & Development

INCOME BANDS AND Percent of AMI

Local Teens Plant Flowers on Gun Violence Awareness Day

By DAVID GREENE

A few dozen teens gathered in a community garden in Fordham Heights to plant flowers in honor of various victims of gun violence, as local officials recognized National Gun Violence Awareness Day on Friday, June 5.

The “Reclaim the Block” event, hosted by the Office of Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark brought the youngsters to the Bean Morris Community Garden, located at 2096 Morris Avenue, between East 181st Street and Burnside Avenue, where the teens planted perennial orange flowers. Various violence interruption groups like Bronx Rises Against Gun Violence (B.R.A.G.) and Stand Up to Violence (SUV) were also in attendance.

Before the planting began, Clark told those in attendance, “We are here to beautify this park on Gun Violence Awareness Day, to honor gunshot victims, and reclaim an area of violence for the good of the people who deserve peace.” Clark continued, “The annual and perennial orange flowers we will plant represent the lives that still flourish in our minds and in our hearts, even though they were cut short by loss.”

Clark added, “Here in The Bronx, we are tragically and sadly aware of gun violence every month and nearly every day, and a terrible fact (is) that more shootings are intended for or committed by young people. My office continues to hold people accountable and provide services to victims and (is) working on prevention by focusing on youth and filling their lives with positive activities.”

The district attorney noted that as



PhotoS by David Greene

(ABOVE) AT A NATIONAL Gun Violence Awareness Day event held at the Bean Morris Community Garden at 2096 Morris Avenue in Fordham Heights, The Bronx on Friday, June 5, 2026, volunteers plant flowers and plants to honor and in memory of victims of gun violence.



(LEFT) AT A NATIONAL Gun Violence Awareness Day event held at the Bean Morris Community Garden at 2096 Morris Avenue in Fordham Heights, The Bronx on Friday, June 5, 2026 are (l-r) Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark, Carrie Cuthbertson (second row), and Bronx Borough Vanessa Gibson.

of June 5, the NYPD recovered nearly 500 guns from Bronx streets during the first five months of 2026, and a day earlier, she announced that charges had been brought against an unnamed 16-year-old male teen who had been arrested following the murder of a 23-year-old Reyna Caceres at Aqueeduct Lands Playground in University Heights in the early hours of Thursday, May 28.

Borough President Vanessa Gibson, who was also present, later told the crowd, “Everyday, something is happening across our community. Just yesterday, at Bronx Borough Hall, we had

a press conference to recognize this [Gun Violence Awareness] month, but to also speak to young people to make sure that they know there are options for them.” Gibson said that the press conference had coincided with a jobs fair for youth.

The borough president continued, “As we plant trees, we do it in honor of a life that was lost, but we also do it in

honor of a survivor. There are many survivors in our borough, and we know that they are still living with trauma. I believe in this work, and I am choosing community over violence, hope over violence, peace over violence. We want peace in the streets. We want this to be the safest summer of 2026 ever.” Gibson also said that 200 additional slots had been added to the summer jobs program, bringing the total number to 1,200.

Carrie Cuthbertson, whose son, Devon “Bean” McFarlane, 24, was shot and killed on Morris Avenue on Dec. 27, 2019, was

also in attendance. Cuthbertson and her neighbors had been rallying to take over an abandoned lot on public land and turn it into a community garden. When her son died, the garden was later renamed “Bean” Morris Community Garden in his memory.

Speaking to the crowd, Cuthbertson said, “We have taken this tragedy of gun violence as an opportunity to show we are here and love the community.” She added, “My son was the light of my life, and we keep his memory alive with the community garden.”

Cuthbertson later told *Norwood News* that the plot of land had been abandoned for about 15 years before they reclaimed it with the help of NYC Parks’ department. She added, “Every day, the garden is open to the community. We host a lot of events for the community, we give out turkeys, we do a lot of collaboration with elected officials and the community board.”

Cuthbertson said the gun violence awareness advocacy work she carries out gives her purpose, while also remembering her son and the manner in which he was killed. “I’m not going to lay down or sit down,” she said. “I’m going to come out and be boots on the ground. I’m going to advocate for my son.” Asked if anyone had been arrested in connection with McFarlane’s death, she replied, “The driver was arrested, but not the shooter. The shooter is still on the run.”

Norwood News followed up with the NYPD to ask for further information on McFarlane’s murder and the related investigation. The department responded, saying there were no arrests on file in connection with the case. Separately, the Bronx District Attorney’s office confirmed that a Mathew Torres had been arrested and was later found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to 20 years in prison on April 11, 2025.

On the same day as the event took place, NYPD Commissioner Jessica Tisch announced that over 2,000 guns were taken off the streets of New York City during the first five months of 2026, including 496 guns in The Bronx. Tisch added during her announcement, “These results reflect a police department that has identified the drivers of violence, built a strategy around them and executed that strategy with discipline.” She continued, “But this work only becomes lasting when our prosecutors stand with us and turn enforcement into consequences.”



Photo by David Greene

DURING A NATIONAL Gun Violence Awareness Day event held at the Bean Morris Community Garden at 2096 Morris Avenue in Fordham Heights, The Bronx on Friday, June 5, 2026, Carrie Cuthbertson, who lost her Devon Istan McFarlane, 24, after he was shot and killed on Morris Avenue in Fordham Heights in 2019, addresses those gathered.

INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

BY DAVID GREENE



This week, we asked readers for their opinions on the FIFA World Cup currently underway in several cities in the United States.



"I've been rooting for Argentina. Last night was a great game. They tied it up and (Lionel) Messi scored another goal and they won; it was a tough game. It was good to see. Argentina vs. the U.S. would be a great match. No, I wasn't able to go [and attend as a spectator]; it was very expensive. It's crazy! It's, like, \$800 is the cheapest ticket you can get. I just watch it in my house."

Anthony Lopez,
Norwood
Photo by David Greene



"The energy of the World Cup is undeniable, but will it result in funding and equity in PSAL [Public Schools Athletic League] teams in New York City DOE [Department of Education] schools? Will this translate into both girls' and boys' soccer teams in every school that can host them? Will there be an effort made to address payments for coaches, equitable access to fields, investment in local parks? My students ask why PSAL rations out teams. They are being told to wait, and why [are they] pushed to play for other schools when their campus can have girls' and boys' soccer? We have momentum with the World Cup. I hope it will spark some conversations that will lead to investment for sports in our schools."

Aixa Rodriguez,
Fordham
Photo courtesy of Aixa Rodriguez



"I love the World Cup and enjoy watching it with friends. Overall, the fans, the competition, and seeing teams like Egypt play brings so much inspiration, but heads of state need to stay out of the game entirely. FIFA should focus on soccer and people and take Amnesty International's human rights reporting seriously. FIFA should keep the spirit of the sport above politics and out of reach of the soft power of elites. Most importantly, arbitrary and capricious referees should never impact results."

Daniel Falcone,
Manhattan
Photo courtesy of Daniel Falcone



"I think it's a very exciting event because it happens every four years as far as the World Cup is concerned. I really like it when I get a chance to watch it. There's not really one team I'm rooting for to be honest. I'm supportive of any country, I wanted this country to win of course but any country that plays great soccer, because these guys work hard. It will be interesting to see who comes out on top."

Wolf Garner,
Brooklyn via Tremont
Photo by David Greene



"I just watched a couple of matches and then I watched the Americans against Belgium. I think the stuff that's going on around politics has overshadowed the excitement and enthusiasm for it. I think that's in the background, and what he (U.S. President Donald Trump) did about the American's (Folarin Balogun) red card (asking FIFA to reverse the red card and related game suspension decision), I think he should stay the hell out of it. That's politics. This is sports and it should be separate."

Walter Pofeldt,
Schuylerville
Photo courtesy of Walter Pofeldt

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Man Dies of Apparent Heart Attack inside Car on Jerome Ave

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Police said an investigation is underway after a man was found deceased inside a car parked just north of the Norwood-Woodlawn border on Thursday afternoon, July 2. In response to an inquiry regarding EMS and police activity at 2901 Jerome Avenue on Thursday, a police spokesperson told *Norwood News* that the NYPD received a 911 call on Thursday at 2.30 p.m. for a wellness check at the location.

Police said upon arrival, officers found a person inside a car who was pronounced deceased at the scene by EMS. Asked if there was a description of the person, the spokesperson said he didn't have an age but that the person was male. Asked if there was an investigation underway into the discovery, police said there was.

An EMS/FDNY spokesperson later said that EMS received a call at 2.37 p.m. for a report of a cardiac arrest at 3545 Jerome Avenue and that upon arrival, EMS pronounced one civilian deceased on scene. The spokesperson said the patient's description was unavailable.

The address 3545 Jerome Avenue is actually the address of Mosholu Golf Course inside Van Cortlandt Park. However, based on video footage of the scene posted to the Citizens' App by a user called Devon, it would appear (unless the car was moved) that the incident took place at 3901 Jerome Avenue, roughly opposite the entrance to Mosholu Golf Course and a short distance from the entrance to Woodlawn Cemetery.

Norwood News queried the disputed address with the NYPD and the FDNY



Photo by Síle Moloney

A MAN DIED inside a vehicle parked a short distance away from the entrance to Mosholu Golf Course on Jerome Avenue just north of the Norwood-Woodlawn border in The Bronx on Thursday afternoon, July 2, 2026, police said.

and the NYPD later said the incident took place “opposite of 3545 Jerome Avenue.” When *Norwood News* visited the scene later on Thursday night, we spoke to a man who was hanging out with other adults and some kids who were playing in a paddling pool on the side of the avenue.

Speaking in Spanish, the man said he hadn't been there earlier when the body was discovered but that a carwash worker operating at the side of Jerome Avenue had allegedly told him that he, the carwash worker, had allegedly noticed the victim in the car and had called 911. The car wash worker was no longer at the scene when *Norwood News* was on site.

The man we spoke to at the scene said the impacted car in which the victim died

had been located just after the traffic lights on Jerome, opposite the entrance to Mosholu Golf Course. The man said he heard from the car washer that the victim had seemingly suffocated. Based on the videos posted to the Citizens' App by Devon, it appears the parked car with the victim inside was white, that the victim was in the driver seat, and that the car was located roughly opposite the entrance to Mosholu Golf Course, not too far from the entrance to Woodlawn Cemetery, just north of Woodlawn subway station.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will determine the cause of death. Temperatures reached 101 degrees on July 2, and a heatwave advisory was in place across New York City. On Friday, July 3, New York Independent Service Operator (ISO) issued the following warning, “An Energy Watch for July 2 has been issued due to a decline in operating reserves. The grid is operating normally at this time and there are adequate resources to meet forecasted demand. Visit <http://nyiso.com/system-conditions> to learn more.”

Amid some power outages over the Fourth of July holiday weekend, Norwood News contacted Con Ed to ask if reports were true that the wedding held at Madison Square Garden on Friday, July 3, between singer Taylor Swift and Kansas City Chief Travis Kelce had prompted or contributed to the outages. The spokesperson said, “Absolutely not.” He explained that different networks operate independently of each other in different parts of the City, and Con Ed cannot redirect power from one neighborhood to another when one area has outages. They

simply have to ask nearby residents to conserve energy while they make repairs.

Meanwhile, New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani shared the energy-related warning, adding, “New York ISO just issued an early warning that we must alleviate the strain on our energy grid statewide. Please do your part in keeping our power on by: •Setting your AC to 78 degrees. •Turning off lights and unplugging electronics you're not using. •Waiting until early morning or late at night to run appliances like dishwashers or laundry machines. During a historic heatwave, AC will save lives — but only if we keep the grid stable enough for it to stay on.”

Spray caps are available at local fire houses and can be affixed to fire hydrants to cool off, while simultaneously conserving water needed for firefighting. Per NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), opening fire hydrants without a spray cap can cause a sharp drop in water pressure, reducing water for firefighters and leaving your water supply with low pressure, outages, or brown water.

Upper floors are often affected first, DEP officials said. “Only open a hydrant with a spray cap, free for anyone 18 or older at local firehouses. A capped hydrant uses far less water and keeps pressure up for everyone. Report uncapped open hydrants to 311,” they added.

Due to the high temperatures and high heat indices, NYC cooling centers were opened across the city. During heatwaves, residents should call the centers directly to confirm hours and to ask for more information. Find a cooling center near you at on.nyc.gov/CoolingCenters, and find additional cooling off options at <https://on.nyc.gov/2U2dXTP>.

Meanwhile, according to Animal Care Centers of NYC, thanks to Petco, cooling spots for the City's furry family members were also available across the city. Visit <https://finder.nyc.gov/coolingcenters/locations> for more information.

The recent heatwave was followed by heavy rain which caused some downed trees in the Williamsbridge Oval, though Con Ed said Westchester County and the worst affected area.

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

All calls are strictly confidential.



A WHITE VEHICLE is seen parked at 3901 Jerome Avenue close to Mosholu Golf Course entrance and Woodlawn Cemetery entrance just north of the Norwood-Woodlawn border in The Bronx on Thursday afternoon, July 2, 2026, police said. The car's front windows and windscreen are covered with a white cloth. Image courtesy of the Citizens' App

NEWS BRIEFS

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

Intl Business Leaders Get Bronx Tour

As part of the “Choose NYC” Summit, the Bronx Chamber of Commerce hosted an international delegation of business leaders for a tour of The Bronx on June 24. They said the tour began at Yankee Stadium, where attendees received an overview of the borough’s business landscape before visiting major development corridors and projects across The Bronx. They said the tour showcased the borough’s “competitive advantages, public and private investment, and growing role as a destination for business expansion, innovation and long-term investment.”

“The Bronx is one of New York City’s strongest opportunities for business growth, investment and innovation,” said Lisa Sorin, president of the Bronx Chamber of Commerce. “We were proud to partner with NYCEDC to introduce international leaders to the people, places and projects shaping the future of our borough.”



Photo courtesy of Bronx Chamber of Commerce.

BRONX CHAMBER OF Commerce President Lisa Sorin (fourth from right) welcomed participants at New York City Economic Development Corporation’s “Choose NYC” Summit for a Bronx business and investment tour.

Calls to Move “Patty” the Elephant to Sanctuary after 50 Yrs at Bronx Zoo

Amid mounting pressure from animal rights activists, officials from Voters for Animal Rights allege the Bronx Zoo is officially considering moving Patty, its last remaining elephant, to a 3,000-acre sanctuary in Tennessee. Voters for Animal Rights said Patty has lived in captivity for over 50 years at the Bronx Zoo, and in solitary confinement since 2018. After the death of her elephant companion, Happy, in May, they say Zoo officials are weighing whether it’s time to finally let Patty go. Last month, Voters For Animal Rights joined the Nonhuman Rights Project in sending a letter directly to the

Wildlife Conservation Society, which oversees Bronx Zoo, to urge them to release Patty to an accredited sanctuary, where they say she could have space to roam and bond with other elephants, instead of living out her final years alone in a Bronx enclosure.

The group alleges that elephants are among the most intelligent and socially complex animals on earth, live in tight-knit family groups, travel vast distances, and depend on companionship for their physical and psychological wellbeing. They say solitary confinement does not constitute care but cruelty.

The group further alleges that Bronx Zoo’s elephant program has been a failure. They allege Happy, who they say was captured from the wild as a calf, spent over two decades in isolation after her companion, Grumpy, was killed by fellow elephants, Patty and Maxine, in 2002. They said rather than rehoming her to a sanctuary where she could have lived out her days with space and companionship, the Bronx Zoo kept Happy confined until her death on May 27.

They went on to say that the Association of Zoos and Aquariums explicitly states that no elephant should live in a herd of fewer than three, and that Patty has been living alone for years. They said the Bronx Zoo is in clear violation of this standard and has repeatedly ignored calls from advocates, scientists, and the public to act.

Voters for Animal Rights allege Zoo officials haven’t made a decision on Patty’s future yet, and they interpret this to mean the pressure campaign isn’t over and is working. They are encouraging those who care for Patty’s welfare to sign a petition and add their voices to what they say is a growing call to send Patty to sanctuary. More information can be found here: vfar.org/patty. Norwood News reached out to the Bronx Zoo for comment.

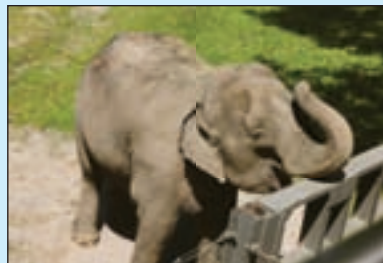


Photo courtesy of Brigitte Stelzer

PATTY THE ELEPHANT at Bronx Zoo

Norwood: Pride Month Marked at NYC Health + Hospitals North Central Bronx

NYC Health + Hospitals/North Central Bronx in Norwood celebrated Pride Month on Tuesday, June 23, with music, dancing, crafts, and giveaways, according to hospital officials. They said attendees celebrated the occasion with “Pride” and / or stood in solidarity with colleagues, some posing behind giant, rainbow-colored letters

that spelled out the word “Pride.”

They said there were also rainbow-colored, heart-shaped stress balls that were distributed to attendees. Meanwhile, some Knicks fans painted small rocks in the rainbow colors during the arts & crafts session, according to hospital officials. Finally, they said there were also Pride flags and rainbow-colored beach balls distributed at the event. Hospital officials said a similar event was held at NYC Health + Hospitals/Jacobi in Morris Park on Wednesday, June 24.

Destination Tomorrow is The Bronx’s dedicated LGBTQ+ center. More information can be found here: <https://destinationtomorrow.org/>.



Photo courtesy of NYC Health + Hospitals/Jacobi | North Central Bronx

ATTENDEES AT A Pride event held on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, to mark Pride Month at NYC Health + Hospitals/North Central Bronx in Norwood pose for a photo with rainbow-colored letters spelling “PRIDE.”

Norwood: Police Appeal for Help Locating 14-Year-Old Boy Reported Missing

The NYPD is seeking the public’s help locating a 14-year-old teenager from Norwood who is reported missing.

Police said Juan Diaz Tapia of 3554 Rochambeau Avenue, Bronx was last seen leaving his home on Tuesday, July 7, at around 3 a.m. They said he’s described as male, is 5 feet, 6 inches tall, weighs around 140 pounds, has black hair, and was last seen wearing a green sweater, gray pants, and black/white sneakers.

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



Photo courtesy of the NYPD

THE NYPD IS seeking the public’s help locating a 14-year-old teenager from Norwood who is reported missing.

Kingsbridge Heights: Partial

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

There was one minor injury reported after a residential fire broke out on Saturday, July 4, in Kingsbridge Heights, FDNY officials said. NYC Department of Buildings (DOB) issued a partial vacate order as one resident said the top three apartments on the fourth floor were destroyed with the roof caving in.

A department spokesperson said the FDNY received a call at 8.41 p.m. on Saturday for a report of a fire on the fourth floor of a multiple dwelling at 2849 Webb Avenue, located between Reservoir Avenue and West 197th Street. The spokesperson said a second alarm was raised at 9.25 p.m. and that 46 units, comprising 141 fire and EMS personnel were utilized to respond to the blaze.

One firefighter was transported to an area hospital with a minor injury the spokesperson said, adding that the fire was brought under control at 10.11 p.m. The cause is under investigation. A partial vacate order issued by DOB was seen affixed to the front door of the building later that evening.

Norwood News spoke to a few affected residents of the fourth floor at the scene

and asked if they could describe what happened. Speaking in Spanish and holding a few of his belongings in his hands, Darvis Plasencio said, “Really, I don’t know. I was sleeping. My friend woke me up. There was a lot of smoke. My eyes hurt.”

Plasencio said he lived in Apartment 4D next to where the fire broke out. Asked if he had seen flames, he said, “No, no, no, just a lot of smoke going out and an ugly smell.” Asked if it was an electrical smell, Plasencio said it was like burned wire or cardboard and



Photo by Síle Moloney

A FIRE UNIT is seen outside 2849 Webb Avenue in Kingsbridge Heights, The Bronx on Saturday night, July 4, 2026, after a residential fire broke out in the building.



Beating the Heat: A Guide to Staying Safe and Hydrated

By CARLOS TEJEDA

Summer in New York City is iconic. Picture movies like “Do the Right Thing,” “In the Heights,” or the beautiful children’s book “Tar Beach” about the author’s childhood in Harlem, escaping the heat on the family’s roof. While a New York summer is iconic, unfortunately, the combination of soaring temperatures and the urban environment can also create unique health risks. When a heat wave strikes, it’s important to protect yourself and vulnerable groups like children and the elderly from harm.

A heat wave is a period of abnormally hot and humid weather, typically lasting two or more days. Temperatures during a heat wave are often 90°F

(32.2°C) or higher. In crowded areas like New York City, heat waves are particularly dangerous due to the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect. Buildings, concrete, and asphalt absorb heat during the day and radiate it back into the environment at night, preventing the city from cooling down. This leaves residents, especially the elderly, young children, and those with health conditions at higher risk of heat-related illness.

Feeling sweaty? Water makes up about 70% of the human body and we sweat water to cool down, much like dogs pant to release heat. If we sweat in the heat and don’t drink enough liquid, we risk becoming dehydrated, losing more fluid than we drink through urination and sweating, and our body doesn’t have enough fluid to do its job. This is especially true during walking or exercise when we sweat more than usual. Some signs of dehydration are extreme thirst, weakness, tiredness, dizziness, nausea, less frequent urination, and dark urine (the color of apple juice).

Water is essential for health. Cells, body tissue, and organs all depend on water to function properly. One of the most effective ways to stay healthy in the heat is to hydrate. Make it a priority to drink 8 ounces of water every 20 minutes, rather

than waiting until you feel thirsty. Take consistent, small sips throughout the day. Think of yourself as a human plant that needs to be watered all day long! Of course, the best drinks are those without sugar or artificial sugar, caffeine, and certainly no alcohol. Think plain water, water infused with fruit, bubbly water (plain, flavored, or with a splash of juice), or unsweetened or lightly sweetened decaffeinated iced tea (like hibiscus, lemon, ginger, berry, etc).

Stay healthy during a heat wave by making small changes to your habits. Whenever possible, do your errands, walking, and outdoor exercise during the cooler morning or evening hours, rather than between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. when the sun is highest and the temperature is hottest. For example, it may be too hot for your normal lunchtime walk at 1p.m., but you may enjoy a stroll in your neighborhood after you eat dinner. Summer is a great time to use the gym if you’re a member or plan to do a home workout of any kind several days a week. For example, use your exercise bike, stepper, elliptical, or treadmill, follow a video for yoga/Pilates, dance, or strength train with your exercise bands or dumbbells.

In your home, use air condition-

ing and fans, and block the sun with curtains. When outdoors, wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing and use broad-spectrum sunscreen, no matter your skin color. Finally, monitor yourself and loved ones for heat-related symptoms like dizziness and cramping. If these occur, put a damp towel or paper towel on pulse points (neck, wrist, or back of the knees) to lower body temperature immediately. These could be signs of heat exhaustion and even heat stroke, a life-threatening condition where the body becomes overheated and organ failure can occur. If you see a loved one or stranger in trouble, call 911 for medical help.

Help your community and loved ones by sharing information from this article, and about public cooling centers and misting stations here: <https://www.nycgovparks.org/about/health-and-safety-guide/cool-it-nyc>. Check on vulnerable neighbors, especially the elderly, and encourage your loved ones to make the small changes described in the article. Drink up and have an active, healthy summer!

Carlos Tejeda is a community health specialist with the office of community and population health at Montefiore Einstein.

Vacate Order after Fire at 2849 Webb Ave on Fourth of July

paper.

He went on to say that there are three apartments on the fourth floor, the top floor and he didn’t know if there were families living in all three but when asked if there were many senior people living in the building, he said there were. Plasencio said all three apartments were destroyed. “The clothes, everything, destroyed. We couldn’t take anything,” he said. “The roof caved in.”

Plasencio’s cousin, who lives in the same apartment, later said, “I was watching a movie and I smelled smoke. I checked the house and there was nothing and I went back to watch my movie and, like, ten minutes later, there was more smoke. There was mad smoke. We’d tried checking everything and couldn’t find nothin’ and just walked out and ten minutes later, the fire department came in.”

Asked if he knew where the fire started, Plasencio’s cousin said, “I don’t know. They said it was between the top floor and the roof because it was inside the walls. That’s what the fire department says, so.” He added that it may have been due to overheating. “The day before yesterday, the lights was dimmin’ out... all my lights, so I’m thinking it’s probably ‘cause they’re using all the AC and stuff so maybe it was maybe ready to happen,” he said.

Other residents we spoke to had been out enjoying the Fourth of July celebrations when the fire broke out, and

said they just returned home once they got word of the fire. Up the street, fireworks were still being lit. The building is owned by Narino Realty LLC with a Bronx address.

Red Cross spokesperson, Ned Klein later said that after the fire, the Red Cross registered 21 adults and six children for emergency assistance, such as a safe place to stay and financial assistance. Klein added, “Any residents impacted by this fire who need help with their recovery and have not already connected with the Red Cross should call 1-877-RED CROSS (877-733-2767) and select Option 1.”

He continued, “Our casework team will be meeting with each impacted family in [the] coming days to identify remaining recovery roadblocks and help connect them with government and community partners to help with longer-term recovery needs.”

According to DOB records, there were 17 complaints filed in respect of the building, including one from April which read, “The hot water coming out of the bottom part of my shower is extremely dirty. It comes out dark or light brown. The boiler must be broken. This needs to be fixed as soon as possible. I have a child.” Additionally, there are 262 open violations according to NYC Department of Housing, Preservation & Development logged in respect of the property, some relating to needed repairs / “defective

plastered surfaces.”

Meanwhile, Con Ed was also seen on site and a spokesperson said Sunday that the company is sometimes called to fire scenes to switch off the networks so that the FDNY can safely carry out their work. A Con Ed vehicle was also seen outside another building on nearby Reservoir Avenue and West 195th Street opposite Discovery High School in the early hours of Sunday morning.

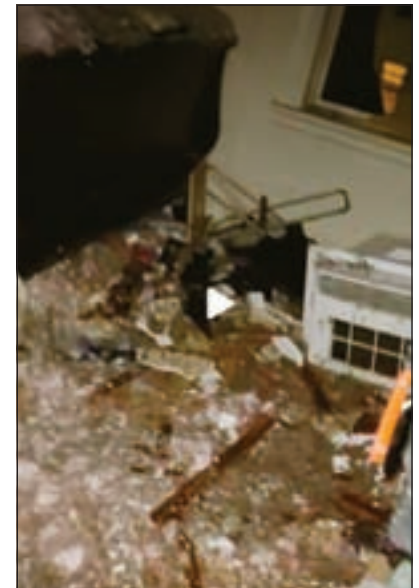
Meanwhile, at the corner of nearby Jerome Avenue and West 195th Street, opposite the Kingsbridge Armory, a possibly empty fire hydrant was seen with a traffic cone covering the opening. The same fire hydrant had been seen by *Norwood News* open at full throttle a week or so beforehand.

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.”

Click <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 <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/e446a7012e0e405881b144cb8539966d>.

**Miriam Quiñones contributed to this story.*



Screenshot courtesy of Darvis Plasencio
A SCREENSHOT OF a video taken by Darvis Plasencio of the damage to his apartment at 2849 Webb Ave in Kingsbridge Heights, The Bronx on Saturday night, July 4, 2026, after a residential fire broke out in the building.

Opinion

Democrats Disagree on New PR Status Bill

By GENE ROMAN

Puerto Rico's non-voting Resident Commissioner in Congress, Pablo José Hernández Rivera, (D-PR), introduced a new bill on June 10 to address Puerto Rico's status as a U.S. territory. The day after the bill's introduction, Democrats, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (NY-14) and Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez (NY-7), issued the following joint statement opposing the status legislation:

"Yesterday, the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico co-opted our legislation and introduced a bill that includes an option to maintain the current status



Photo by Stephanie Klepacki on Unsplash

SAN JUAN ANTIGUO, San Juan, Puerto Rico, May 21, 2020.

of the island as a colony. Over the last three congresses, more and more members have come to acknowledge that the current colonial condition of Puerto Rico is a moral stain on our nation's history that must be addressed. Our country cannot claim to be a bastion of de-

mocracy as we continue to hold colonies in the Caribbean and the Pacific.

The Hernandez bill calls for a plebiscite in Puerto Rico in which voters can choose from among four options: statehood, independence, independence with a Compact of Free Association, and

"Commonwealth." The bill argues that under "the current Commonwealth relationship," Puerto Rico "has a measure of autonomy comparable to that possessed by the States." The bill additionally asserts that "Puerto Rico exercises autonomy over fiscal and economic policy."

In *Puerto Rico v. Sanchez Valle* (2016), the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Puerto Rico does not enjoy a level of autonomy comparable to that of states like New York, nor does Puerto Rico exercise autonomy over its own fiscal and economic policy. The Court declared that Puerto Rico does not share in the States' "power, dignity, and authority" and is not on "equal footing" with them.

As the Supreme Court has stated and Congress has demonstrated, "the current Commonwealth relationship" of Puerto Rico is not one of autonomy; there is no sovereignty. It is sometimes painful to acknowledge, but as Reps. Ocasio-Cortez and Velázquez attest, there is no denying "the colonial character of the Commonwealth."

NYSNA Alleges Montefiore Plans to Replace Some Nurses with AI Systems

By SÍLE MOLONEY

The New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA) alleged Wednesday, July 1, that Montefiore Health System, a private hospital system operating in The Bronx and Westchester Counties, is planning to lay off real nurses and replace them with artificial intelligence (AI)-powered software. According to the union, the affected nurses are those who "use their decades of bedside experience and clinical judgement to review insurance denials and make sure patients get the care they need covered by insurance."

Bronx Nurses hosted a town hall this week to raise awareness of what they said is AI making inroads in healthcare and threatening patient care and jobs. They allege the lay off plan will give over private patient records to a Palantir-connected company.

The union went on to say that replacing real nurses with AI is "terrible for workers and the economy in The Bronx." They said it could also have negative consequences for patients in The Bronx. The virtual town hall was held with nurses "directly impacted" by the alleged proposal in order "to discuss Montefiore's plan, its negative impact on jobs and patient care in the Bronx, and how healthcare practitioners and communities can fight back against untested AI in their hospitals."

They said community members and elected officials, including City Council Member Shirley Aldebol (C.D. 13), who represents the East Bronx, joined the town hall. "I am calling on Montefiore to stop the layoffs immediately, stop the 45-day displacement clock, and commit to abide by the nurses' contract by engaging in meaningful discussion about any plans to implement AI or other technology that

could replace real nurses or compromise patient care," the councilmember said.

Meanwhile, Marilyn Shuler, RN, a utilization review nurse who the union said is slated to be laid off after working at Montefiore for 39 years, said, "What we want from Montefiore is simple: stop the layoffs, keep a licensed nurse on the final review, use AI to support us instead of replacing us, and sit down with the nurses who actually do this work."

Union officials said Shuler is one of 12 nurses that Montefiore allegedly intends to replace with AI-powered software. They said utilization review nurses read patient charts and make the case for a patient's insurance company to cover the care a doctor orders. They allege Montefiore is "gambling, without evidence, that AI can do a better job." They went on to say that nurses have raised concerns about the potential negative impact on patients.

They said that if AI replaces nurses' clinical judgement, complicated cases may be dropped, and that means a missed diagnosis or a surgery never gets approved.

Assembly Member George Alvarez (A.D. 78), who broadly represents the center of The Bronx, said, "Hospitals that attempt to replace our medical professionals with AI-powered technology are choosing to side with profits over patients. Quality patient care must always come first, especially in communities like the Bronx that already face significant healthcare challenges. As technology continues to evolve, we must ensure that medical professionals with firsthand experience are included in the decisions about artificial intelligence. I stand with NYSNA who have always prioritized the wellbeing of both healthcare workers and the patients they serve."



Image courtesy of Montefiore

MONTEFIORE MEDICAL CENTER, East 210th Street, Norwood, The Bronx

Union officials said nurses at the town hall also raised concerns about the company Montefiore selected for the proposed work. They said Datavant, a private-equity-backed technology company, has two partnerships with Palantir, the company appointed by U.S. Department of Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE), to surveil and deport immigrants.

They said it also has a history of data breaches. Nurses expressed concerns about Montefiore outsourcing access to private medical records that they said could include immigration status, to Datavant.

NYSNA Executive Committee member at Montefiore, Shaiju Kalathil, RN, said: "We are outraged about these layoffs because these dedicated nurses are being replaced by AI. This is a violation of the contract that we recently won by going on strike. It should also concern every practitioner and patient who cares about the future of healthcare and the quality of care they receive."

NYSNA President Nancy Hagans, RN, BSN, CCRN, said, "Artificial intelligence should never replace real human caring from a nurse. The 45,000 members of NYSNA fully support this fight to protect our patients and practice from AI."

Assembly Member Amanda N. Sep-timo (A.D. 84), who largely represents the South Bronx and who recently shared her Lupus diagnosis, said, "Montefiore's decision to replace experienced nurses with AI-powered technology is deeply concerning for both healthcare workers and the patients they serve."

She added, "These nurses use years of clinical expertise to help patients overcome insurance denials and access the care they need. Human compassion and medical judgments cannot simply be replaced by software. Technology should support healthcare professionals, not replace them. I stand with the New York State Nurses Association in calling on Montefiore to halt these layoffs, stop the displacement process, and work with frontline nurses to ensure innovation strengthens, not compromises, patient care."

State Sen. Nathalia Fernandez (A.D. 80), who largely represents the East Bronx, said, "Transparency and real engagement with the workers on the front lines should be the standard for any decision that could impact jobs, clinical judgment, or the quality of patient care. As healthcare technology continues to evolve, we must ensure it is used responsibly and never as a shortcut to undermine workers or weaken patient care."

Norwood News reached out to Montefiore for comment and received a response from Joe Solmonese, senior vice president for government relations and strategic communications at Montefiore.

"As is often the case, the claims by NYSNA are inaccurate and misleading," Solmonese said. "What is true is that we are always investing in new technology to ensure the best care and outcomes for our patients and will continue to do so for the betterment of the people we serve."

Bedford Park: One Arrested in Mosholu Parkway Crash

By SÍLE MOLONEY

The NYPD said one person was arrested and one person was injured following a motor-vehicle collision in The Bedford Park section of The Bronx on Saturday evening, June 27.

A police spokesperson said the department received a call regarding the collision at around 6.15 p.m. at Mosholu Parkway and Hull Avenue (it was closer to Marion Avenue).

The spokesperson said a 25-year-old male incurred minor injuries and was transported to a local area hospital. He did not have details of which hospital. "One individual was taken into custody, and that's all we got so far," the spokesperson added. At the scene, a truck was seen crashed into a wall about 15 feet from the intersection of Marion Avenue and Mosholu Parkway.

Several residents were seen standing around recording the scene. One couple told *Norwood News* there were told by others who had been at the scene earlier that there were allegedly two occupants in the truck. One silver saloon car was seen crashed and stationary on top of the center median of Mosholu Parkway. It was later towed away.

Efforts to remove the truck from the wall, where it hung precariously over an interior park at an estimated drop of around 20 feet, were unsuccessful initially and one police official was heard saying a larger tow vehicle was needed for the job. Some residents we spoke to said they heard a very loud bang but did not see the accident take place.

Speaking in Spanish, one woman



Photo by Síle Moloney

A TRUCK HANGS over Mosholu Parkway wall after it crashed with another car at Mosholu Parkway and Marion Avenue, Bedford Park, Bronx, Saturday, June 27, 2026.

said, "There's usually a Mexican lady selling fruit on the median [of Mosholu Parkway] on Saturdays, but she's not here. Also speaking in Spanish and gesturing to a nearby bench beside the crash site, another resident said, "There are usually old people seated on the bench. Thank God there was nobody there."

Another resident said there were often children playing inside the park who could have been injured when the truck crashed through the wall. Another resident said the occupants of the truck had

been cleaning up the parkway.

Police later confirmed that the driver of the truck had been taken to the NYPD Highway Division to be tested for possible intoxication. With collision investigations, the NYPD handles all criminal aspects of the investigation, while NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) reviews the street design at the locations of such crashes.

Though it appeared to have been stuck in the wall, the truck was eventually extracted at around 10.20 p.m. on Saturday night and was towed away.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call the NYPD's Sex Crimes Hotline at 1-212-267-7273 or 646-610-7272, the Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1-800-577-TIPS (8477) or, for Spanish, 1-888-57-PISTA (74782). The public can also submit their tips by logging onto the Crime Stoppers website at <https://crimestoppers.nypdonline.org/>, or on X @NYPDTips.

All calls are strictly confidential.



Photo by Síle Moloney

A GREY CAR is seen on top of the Mosholu Parkway median after crashing with a truck at Mosholu Parkway and Marion Avenue, Bedford Park, Bronx, Saturday, June 27, 2026.



Photo by Síle Moloney

A GREY CAR is seen on top of the Mosholu Parkway median after crashing with a truck at Mosholu Parkway and Marion Avenue, Bedford Park, Bronx, Saturday, June 27, 2026.



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Example \$1,000 contribution

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Daycare, after-school programs, summer camps, elder care & more.

EMPLOYEE SAVES	EMPLOYER SAVES
\$300-\$1,200 per year	-\$1,250 per year
	-\$382 per year

Example \$1,000 contribution

Healthcare Savings (FSA)
Copays, prescriptions, dental, vision & more.

EMPLOYEE SAVES	EMPLOYER SAVES
\$100-\$600 per year	-\$250 per year
	-\$76 per year

Example \$1,000 contribution

When to Contact 988
Call or text 988, or visit 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.strongpaw-rescue.org/pet-pantry, Animal Care Centers of NYC on (212) 788 4000 or at info@nycacc.org, and at Church of Saint Helena on (718) 892 7713 or at sthele-narc@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.

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NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY
SÍLE MOLONEY

Free Summer Meals

From June 29 to Sept. 4, even when school is out, anyone who is 18 years old or younger can still enjoy free breakfast and lunch as part of NYC Schools' 2026 Free Summer Meals Program. You can find these meals at specific places like select NYC Public Schools, community pool centers, parks, and libraries. You don't need to sign up, show any papers, or have an ID to get these meals. Just head to one of our spots and enjoy a delicious breakfast and lunch.

Service Dates & Menus

Monday, June 29 – Friday, Sept. 4
All dates, times, locations and menus are subject to change.

Breakfast Service Time:

8 a.m. – 9.15 a.m.

Lunch Service Time:

11 a.m. – 1.15 p.m.

Join Future of Mosholu Parkland, BetaNYC and Councilman Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11) for Part 1 (field mapping) of a "Mapping for Equity" event (outdoors) on Friday, July 10, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Mosholu Playground at E Mosholu Parkway South & Bainbridge Avenue. R.S.V.P. at <https://www.beta.nyc/e260710-rsvp>. Part 2 will take place indoors on Thursday, July 23, at 3 p.m. at Mosholu Library. R.S.V.P. for Part 2 at <https://www.beta.nyc/e260723-rsvp>.

On Saturday, July 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. the Mexican Consulate in New York will host an event in The Bronx at Our Lady of Mercy Roman Catholic Church, 2496 Marion Avenue, in conjunction with the Office of State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 31) to help Bronx residents with paperwork relating to passports, voting, and more. To make an appointment, call (424) 309 0009 and for questions, call the senator's office on (718) 933 2034.

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 Katherine Borrome at Katherine.Borrome@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/3Qgzvto>.

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.

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.

When to Contact 988

Call or text 988, or visit nyc.gov/988 for free, confidential mental health support.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Welcome to Mamdanistan!

The primary election in New York State, especially New York City, was a massive win for Democratic Socialists and a big rejection of centrist / conservative corporate Democrats, locally and nationally.

Voters said no more to AIPAC [American Israeli Public Affairs Committee], Democratic Majority for Israel [an American advocacy group and PAC founded in 2019 that works to maintain and strengthen the U.S.-Israel alliance], corporate PACS [political action committees], crypto, and the real estate lobby, all of whom have backed racist/Zionist Rep. Adriano Espaillat (NY-13) & Zionist Dan Goldman, gone. Zionist Rep. Ritchie Torres (NY-15) is hopefully next out with a strong challenge from Socialist Andre Easton.

Welcome Darializa Avila Chevalier to The Bronx as our likely new congressional representative, come November! Voters demand affordability, a rent freeze (thank you Mayor Mamdani), and an end to gentrification. We need national health care, food security, and a living wage for all, as we end funding of Israel, endless war, genocide, and ICE [U.S. Department of Immigration & Customs Enforcement]. Make Zionist & racist Christian nationalist billionaires nervous!

Stuart Chen-Hayes,
Riverdale

Can't Make This Up!

I had the honor of meeting the great former NYC Mayor Ed Koch back in the late 1980s when he gave the commencement address for the Lavelle School for the Blind in The Bronx. When I had the pleasure to shake his hand, I told him we had something in common. He asked me what that was and I said we both agreed that his former girlfriend, Bess Meyerson, was gorgeous!

Well, no good deed goes unpunished! Two individuals wrote in to "correct" me on the mayor's sexuality. And guess what the last names of these writers were? Joy and Weiner! You cannot make this up as I told everyone who commented to me on it during my daily walk through our beloved hamlet of Norwood!

Richard Marias,
Norwood

Same Sex Attraction

In a recent *Norwood News* letter to the editor submitted by Richard Marias, he wrote that former NYC Mayor Ed Koch was not gay because he kept company with Bess Myerson. While they maintained a friendship, it was later reported that Koch WAS gay. In the same letter, Mr. Marias advises visiting a website for assistance for "those suffering from same sex attraction," and suggests that readers should stop worrying about other people's sex lives.

For one thing, it's unlikely that gay people would describe themselves as "suffering" and for another, Mr. Marias should follow his own advice and practice what he preaches to stop worrying about other people's sex lives.

Judy Noy
Norwood

Editor's Note:

According to a detailed New York Times article published May 7, 2022 and updated June 22, 2023, entitled "The Secrets Ed Koch Carried," 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.

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

Out&About

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

EVENTS

Nonprofit, KRCV, will be screening various **Kids' Movies** on the following Saturdays, July 11 (Encanto), July 18 (Moana), July 25 (Coco), and Aug. 1 (Lilo & Stitch), all from 1.30 p.m. to 4 p.m. at 505 West 236th Street in Riverdale. Snacks will also be provided and all are welcome to this free event.

Bronx & Brooklyn Energy Hub and NYSEDA Regional Clean Energy Hub is hosting the **Bronx Environmental Justice Arts Festival** on Saturday, July 11, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Bronx Music Hall, 438 East 163rd Street, Bronx. Come along for this free family-friendly event and enjoy a day of art, music and giveaways.

Kingsbridge Library, 291 West 231st Street, Bronx, will host **Two-Player, Adult Board Games** like Chess, Scrabble, Trouble, Connect 4, Uno, and Monopoly on Saturdays at 2 p.m. in the coming weeks. All are welcome.

MUSIC

The Bronx Music Hall presents La

Reina de la Salve, Enerolisa Vive, in an evening of Afro-Dominican music at 438 East 163rd Street, Bronx on Saturday, July 11, at 7 p.m. Visit www.bronxmusicall.org for more information. Tickets are \$20.

ART

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.

Bronx residents can obtain a **Free Grounds Access Pass** to the New York Botanical Garden by visiting <https://www.nybg.org/community-access-discount-programs/>.

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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CRIME FILE

BY SÍLE MOLONEY & MIRIAM QUIÑONES



Photo by Miriam Quiñones

POLICE CORDON OFF the crime scene after a stabbing in the vicinity of 3053 / 3069 Villa Avenue in the Bedford Park section of The Bronx on Tuesday morning, July 7, 2026.

Bedford Park: Man Stabbed on Villa Ave

A 42-year-old man was hospitalized on Tuesday, July 7, after a stabbing near a deli in Bedford Park, city officials said. An FDNY/EMS spokesperson said the department received a 911 call at 9.17 a.m. on Tuesday for a report of a person who was stabbed at 3053 Villa Avenue, located between Bedford Park Boulevard and East 204th Street. They said one civilian patient was transported to St. Barnabas Hospital in Belmont and their condition and description were unknown.

Meanwhile, when contacted, the NYPD said that, similarly, they received a 911 call at 9.17 a.m. for a person stabbed in the vicinity of 3069 Villa Avenue. They said a 42-year-old male was stabbed in the abdomen and leg, apparently following a verbal dispute. They said EMS transported the victim to St. Barnabas Hospital in stable condition, there were no initial arrests, and the investigation was ongoing.

Two people were seen on video being placed in police vehicles at the scene. *Norwood News* was later informed that they had been arrested. They are presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law. One witness, whose identity we are not disclosing, told *Norwood News* two males got into a fight with a third man who had a bike.

The witness said the two stabbed the third man in the stomach and in the leg. She said the dispute started between two people, and as one started to leave, three people were eventually seen arguing, with one person calling the biker the N word.

"Then they started fighting," the witness said. "That guy fell down on the floor, and the two stabbed him," they added, referring to the victim. The witness then said the two

assailants entered a nearby building and the victim entered another building, which they said police were later seen also entering.

Two white, blood-stained cloths, one possibly an item of clothing and one possibly a napkin, were seen on the pavement at the crime scene, alongside some other pools of blood.



Photo courtesy of the NYPD

THE NYPD HAD been asking for the public's help locating this person who they said was wanted for questioning in connection with a rape of a 13-year-old girl that occurred in Van Cortlandt Park on Tuesday night, June 23, 2026 (Election Night).

North Riverdale: Man Arrested for Rape of Girl, 13

The NYPD said they have made an arrest in the case of the rape that took place of a 13-year-old girl in the North Riverdale section of The Bronx on Election Night. As reported, they had been looking for the person seen in the attached photo in connection with the incident. Police had said that on Tuesday, June 23, at around 10.45 p.m. the 13-year-old female

victim was on board a northbound BX9 MTA bus when she was approached by an unidentified person.

According to the NYPD press office, when the victim and the man exited the bus in the vicinity of Broadway and West 261st Street, the individual raped her in the vicinity of Van Cortlandt Park and then fled on foot to parts unknown. Police said the victim was transported by EMS to a local area hospital in stable condition.

On July 1, police said pursuant to an ongoing investigation, a 36-year-old man was arrested and has been charged with rape. He was named as Abundio Hernandez Cantu of Yonkers. The same day, according to the Bronx District Attorney's office, the Assistant District Attorney in the case asked for supervised release and the defendant's next court date is in July.

Norwood News was later informed by a law enforcement source that bail was not requested in the case of the defendant because "further investigation was warranted." According to the criminal complaint, at the "northeast corner of Broadway and West 262nd Street," the defendant, being 18 years or more, allegedly engaged in vaginal sexual contact with another person less than 15 years of age, and the defen-

dant, being 21 years or more, allegedly engaged in vaginal sexual contact with another person less than 17 years of age, without their consent.

According to the complaint, the defendant allegedly touched the victim's breasts without her consent, and knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the mental, physical or moral welfare of a child less than 17 years of age, or directed or authorized such child to engage in an occupation involving a substantial risk of danger to his or her life or health, and subjected a person to sexual contact without their consent. He is presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

When *Norwood News* visited the location, a short distance from the Yonkers border, in the early hours of Sunday, June 28, we were informed by local people that the stop at 261st Street is the last stop for the Bx9, and it was clear that the northbound side of Broadway next to the park was very dark, even though a deli and a few other businesses are located on the other side of the street. Nobody we spoke to had seen the incident.

Some local employees and others said they had seen an uptick in car break-ins and people camped out in the woods in recent years.

Meanwhile, Katy Diaz-Espinal, a resident, said, "I personally put in various 311 complaints, wrote to the councilmember [Eric Dinowitz C.D. 11] and the community board [Bronx Community Board 8 (CB8)] about that general area, 261 and Broadway, being unsafe, due to lack of lighting."

She said he had raised the request in December 2025, adding, "That bus stop is immediately next to the forest, and I feared that what happened would happen to me, or one of my children. DOT [NYC Department of Transportation] does not allow more than one ticket being entered and the Councilmember's office did nothing. The opening of [a] 150 [men's] shelter right across this very area is imminent and nobody is doing anything to ensure our children are safe."

Diaz-Espinal questioned if the bus driver had not seen anything and alleged the 50th Precinct rarely patrolled the area.

Norwood News contacted the councilman, CB8, the NYPD, DOT, City Hall, and the MTA for comment on this story. The

MTA referred us to the NYPD. The councilman later said the assault had shaken the entire community and that families across the Northwest Bronx deserved to feel safe in the neighborhood, especially at night.

He said he was convening an emergency meeting with Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81), the NYPD, DOT, the Parks' department, CB8, and Van Cortlandt Park Alliance to address safety and lighting in the area. "I am pleased with the work of NYPD for swiftly apprehending the suspect and thank them for their dedication to the safety of our community," he said.

Ed Breen from CB8 told *Norwood News* the board had recently received a request for lighting in the area but that it was received after CB8 had already submitted all their lighting requests, of which he said there are many on a regular basis. We did not receive an immediate response from the others we contacted but will share any feedback we get.

Norwood: Woman, 22, Arrested in Decatur Ave Murder

Police said a 22-year-old woman has been arrested following the murder of 23-year-old Jayden Purvis in the Norwood section of The Bronx on Sunday, June 7. The NYPD had previously released photos on June 9 of two persons of interest who had been sought for questioning following the fatal shooting and had asked the public for help identifying them. One police source told *Norwood News* at the time the NYPD were searching for two people who had fled the scene after the shooting.

As reported, police said that the NYPD had responded to a 911 call received at 00.08 a.m. on Monday, June 8, for a report of an assault at the intersection of East 207th Street and Decatur Avenue. "Upon arrival, officers observed a 23-year-old male with multiple gunshot wounds to the torso," they said. "EMS responded and transported the victim to St. Barnabas Hospital, where he was pronounced deceased." There were no initial arrests.

They said it was later reported to them that on 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

CRIME FILE - MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



Patrol Borough: Bronx North		Precinct: 046	
CompStat Book:		Week of 06/29/26 - 07/05/26	
	28 Day		Year to Date
	% Chg	2026	2025 % Chg
Murder	0.0 %	0	1 -100.0 %
Rape	- %	3	3 0.0 %
Robbery	-38.6 %	34	32 6.3 %
Felony Assault	-12.9 %	99	85 16.5 %
Burglary	-50.0 %	20	20 0.0 %
Grand Larceny	18.2 %	53	61 -13.1 %
Grand Larceny Auto	-100.0 %	4	14 -71.4 %
Total	-17.2 %	213	216 -1.4 %
Patrol	-19.0 %	207	209 -1.0 %
Transit	0.0 %	2	2 0.0 %
Housing	- %	4	5 -20.0 %
Shooting Victims	- %	3	2 50.0 %
Shooting Incidents	- %	3	2 50.0 %
UCR Rape*	- %	5	3 66.7 %
Other Sex Crimes	0.0 %	12	9 33.3 %
Pett Larceny	12.5 %	69	57 21.1 %
Misd. Assault	8.3 %	121	110 10.0 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	1	0 - %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	0	0 0.0 %

All figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision. Data Summary as of 6/13/17.
 * Unless otherwise noted, crime statistics reflect New York State Penal Law (NYSP/L) definitions.
 * Uniformed Crime Reporting (UCR) Rape consists of all crimes defined in the FBI UCR definition of rape.

Source: NYPD / CompStat

MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS for the 46th Precinct for the 28-day period ending July 5, 2026, compared to last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 46th Precinct as of June 21, 2026, compared to last year (right). This precinct covers some or all of Fordham, University Heights, Morris Heights and Mt. Hope.

CRIME FILE - CONTINUED



Photo courtesy of the NYPD

POLICE RELEASED THESE photos of two people sought following a fatal shooting at the intersection of East 207th Street and Decatur Avenue in Norwood on Sunday, June 7, 2026.

the two then fled on foot to parts unknown.

On June 29, police said a 22-year-old woman had been arrested in connection to the incident, pursuant to an ongoing investigation. They said Dora Teal of Norwood was arrested the same day at 2.30 p.m. in the confines of the 52nd Precinct. They said she's been charged with murder, manslaughter, and criminal possession of a weapon, and that the investigation remains ongoing. Teal is presumed innocent un-

less and until convicted in a court of law. They said a second person is still being sought.

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.

Patrol Borough: Bronx North		Precinct: 050	
CompStat Book:		Week of 06/29/26 - 07/05/26	
	28 Day		Year to Date
	% Chg	2026	2025 % Chg
Murder	0.0 %	0	0 0.0 %
Rape	0.0 %	5	4 25.0 %
Robbery	- %	12	5 140.0 %
Felony Assault	-50.0 %	17	21 -19.0 %
Burglary	-50.0 %	8	9 -11.1 %
Grand Larceny	-61.5 %	34	36 -5.6 %
Grand Larceny Auto	20.0 %	29	16 81.3 %
Total	-20.7 %	105	91 15.4 %
Patrol	-8.0 %	103	84 22.6 %
Transit	-100.0 %	0	1 -100.0 %
Housing	-100.0 %	2	6 -66.7 %
Shooting Victims	-100.0 %	0	1 -100.0 %
Shooting Incidents	-100.0 %	0	1 -100.0 %
UCR Rape*	0.0 %	5	4 25.0 %
Other Sex Crimes	200.0 %	5	4 25.0 %
Pett Larceny	-42.9 %	68	117 -34.6 %
Misd. Assault	-11.1 %	38	24 58.3 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	1	0 - %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	0	0 0.0 %

All figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision. Data Summary as of 6/13/17.
 * Unless otherwise noted, crime statistics reflect New York State Penal Law (NYSP/L) definitions.
 * Uniformed Crime Reporting (UCR) Rape consists of all crimes defined in the FBI UCR definition of rape.

Source: NYPD / CompStat

MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS for the 50th Precinct for the 28-day period ending July 5, 2026, compared to last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 50th Precinct as of June 21, 2026, compared to last year (right). This precinct covers some or all of Kingsbridge, Fieldston, Riverdale, Marble Hill, and Spuyten Duyvil.

Patrol Borough: Bronx North		Precinct: 052	
CompStat Book:		Week of 06/29/26 - 07/05/26	
	28 Day		Year to Date
	% Chg	2026	2025 % Chg
Murder	0.0 %	0	0 0.0 %
Rape	100.0 %	4	7 -42.9 %
Robbery	-60.0 %	30	37 -18.9 %
Felony Assault	-22.2 %	102	89 3.0 %
Burglary	0.0 %	19	21 -8.6 %
Grand Larceny	-50.0 %	54	72 -25.0 %
Grand Larceny Auto	-83.3 %	21	33 -36.4 %
Total	-40.3 %	230	269 -14.5 %
Patrol	-41.4 %	226	265 -14.7 %
Transit	100.0 %	4	3 33.3 %
Housing	-100.0 %	0	1 -100.0 %
Shooting Victims	0.0 %	3	2 50.0 %
Shooting Incidents	0.0 %	2	1 100.0 %
UCR Rape*	200.0 %	5	9 -44.4 %
Other Sex Crimes	33.3 %	10	7 42.9 %
Pett Larceny	-40.0 %	121	126 -4.0 %
Misd. Assault	22.7 %	86	94 -8.5 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	1 -100.0 %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	0	0 0.0 %

All figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision. Data Summary as of 6/13/17.
 * Unless otherwise noted, crime statistics reflect New York State Penal Law (NYSP/L) definitions.
 * Uniformed Crime Reporting (UCR) Rape consists of all crimes defined in the FBI UCR definition of rape.

Source: NYPD / CompStat

MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS for the 52nd Precinct for the 28-day period ending July 5, 2026, compared to the same timeframe last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 52nd Precinct as of June 21, 2026, compared to last year (right). This precinct covers some or all of Bedford Park, Fordham, Kingsbridge, Norwood, Bronx Park, and University Heights.

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Public and Community Meetings

The next 52nd **PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meeting will take place in September after the summer hiatus. 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 September, after the summer hiatus. Contact KCabreraCarrera@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list. All meetings are in person unless otherwise notified by Bronx CB7.

The next **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8 (CB8)** general board meeting will be held in September after the summer hiatus. 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.

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Letters should be 400 words max, and include the author's name. Anonymous letters will not be published, but names will be withheld upon reasonable request.

Bronx CB7 Honors Community

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

Bronx Community Board 7 (CB7) held a special community awards ceremony at the New York Botanical Garden in Bedford Park on Thursday, June 25, to honor various members of the community ahead of the annual summer hiatus.

The event comprised a buffet meal, some prepared remarks by elected officials, Councilmembers Oswald Feliz (C.D. 15) and Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11), and others, followed by the awards presentation. Bronx Community Board 7 is one of 59 voluntary community boards across New York City, which convene regularly, usually several times per month, with the aim of addressing various community concerns, in partnership with government agencies and other interested parties.

CB7's board chair is Leurys Acosta, also a volunteer, and the board's various committees cover specific areas like public safety, veterans' services, transportation, sanitation, housing and more. In addition to the volunteer board members, Karla Cabrera-Carrera is the Bronx CB7 district manager, a full-time paid position, assisted by Genesis Reyes, deputy district manager, and Cristiana Robles, district coordinator, also paid positions.

During his opening remarks, a representative from NYBG welcomed everyone and commended CB7 for the "incredible" work they do, saying even though they might not always agree as a collective, their work was democracy in action. Greeted with cheers of approval, Cabrera-Carrera later said, "It brings me joy to see all of you today here. You can look around the room and everyone here plays a key role in community whether that is by submitting 311 complaints, escalating those complaints within your city agencies, providing housing linkages between community and other services, I thank you all for showing up." She also thanked Reyes and Robles for all their work in bringing the event together.

Before presenting the first awards, Robles highlighted the work of local Business Improvement Districts (BIDs)

in terms of advocacy for small businesses, health & safety, supplementary sanitation, beautification and more.

The community honorees were Wilma Alonso, Fordham Road BID, Daniela Beasley, Jerome Gun Hill BID, Joshua Stevenson, West Bronx Housing, Eric Urquiza, West Bronx Housing, Elizabeth Quaranta, Future of Mosholu Parkland, Molly Mattimore, Housing & Services, Inc., Jackie Ruegger, Monroe University, Tracey Towers Tenants Organization, and Brenda Caldwell-Paris, 52nd Precinct Community Council.

Not all honorees spoke. Alonso kept her remarks short and sweet with a simple, "Go Fordham!" Beasley was unable to make it. Later, Reyes said that over the year, CB7 hosts 60 to 70 public meetings and thanked the board's community partners who she said provide meeting spaces and "open their doors not only to us but to the community at large" to facilitate those meetings. Accepting her award, Hill said, "Thank you one and all. You're all beautiful people!" Later, addressing those gathered amid cheers, Feliz said in part, "Good Evening to the best community board in the Bronx, CB7!" On a serious note, he said the board served a community that faced a lot of challenges of all kinds and he thanked those who he said worked tirelessly to make life for the community better.

Dinowitz joked later that Feliz was a brave man for naming his favorite com-

munity board. He congratulated all the honorees and commended them on their work.

Some members of the military services were also present, with many attending alongside their family members.

The agency liaison honorees were Rene Luciano, NYC Department of Transportation (DOT), Jason Jones, NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY), Stephen Echevarria, NYPD 52nd Precinct Community Affairs, Asif Iqbal, NYPD 52nd Precinct commanding officer, Joe Magneri, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation (Parks), and Ryan Arecco, NYC Department of Consumer & Worker Protection (DCWP). Echevarria, Iqbal, and Ardizzone were not present but sent their thanks for the recognition.

The Bronx CB7 board members who were honored for having served 1 to 5 years were Craig Rijkaard, Deahna Penn, Yini Rodriguez, Kimberly Troncoso, Muhamed Bayo, Kiani Oro, Khadija Kolya, Stephen Bogart-Lebow, Marcus McLarty, Esme Sattaur-Low, Robin Rollan, Mamodou Sawaneh, Kimali Corley, Jesús López-Jensen, Tayna Peña, and Tobie Buford.

Board members who served 6 to 16 years and were honored were Tasha Andrews, Leurys Acosta, Helene Jake Wilson, Yajaira Arias, Betty Arce, Monjur Choudhury, Chad Royer, Edgar Ramos, Gwen Thomas-Steed, Alfred Grant, Jean Hill, and Adaline Walker-Santiago.



Photo by Síle Moloney

(L TO R) BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7 (CB7) District Manager Karla Cabrera Carrera, Genesis Reyes, deputy district manager, Jean Hill, CB7 board member and a friend pose for a photo at a community awards ceremony at the New York Botanical Garden in Bedford Park on Thursday, June 25, 2026.

Finally, board members who served from 20 to 50 years included Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky (20 years), Lowell Green (25 years), Sandra Erikson (25 years), Andrew Laoisa (35 years) and Barbara Stronczer (50 years). We asked Stronczer after the ceremony if she could recall any highlights over her 50 years and she said, "Well, I would say that I worked with seven or eight district managers over the years." She added that the revival and restoration of the Bronx Victory Memorial on Mosholu Parkway and the recent annual ceremonies held around it was one highlight.

We put the same question to Green and she said,

"Small things like this fire hydrant on Gun Hill Road and it kept running, and it took me two years but it finally got fixed, and Woodlawn Cemetery used to have on 211th Street an entrance, and it was no parking anytime, and they finally needed the space so they closed the road but it was one space no parking, and I finally got it taken away so one car could park there. I'd also like to say, as an older member, there are a lot of people out there, young and old, who don't feel comfortable raising their voice, but if they see me, they say, 'Ok I can talk to her,' and I will keep your name quiet and bring up your concerns, and I can't promise anything but I'll see that they get heard."

Asked if it was a good/rewarding thing to be a board member, Chad Royer, former Veterans Affairs committee chair, who has also been open about his recent cancer journey and road to recovery, said, "It allows you to connect with the community." He added, "You get to see the things that most other people do not see. It helps you understand how different levels of government work, and it gives you the opportunity and the insight on how to solve problems, big and small."

Meanwhile, Buford later summed the role up saying, "I think it's important to give back to the community in a way that helps enhance, so I'm happy to be a board member and I really appreciate the fact that I've been reappointed."



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