Proudly Serving Bronx Communities Since 1988

FREE

NORWOOD NEWS

Vol 39, No 16 • Pulished By Mosholu Preservation Corporation • August 28, 2026

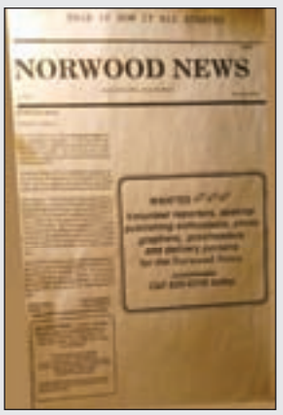
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE WWW.NORWOODNEWS.ORG

FOR THE LATEST COMMUNITY NEWS AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH, BENGALI, SPANISH, ARABIC, FRENCH AND CHINESE.

THANK YOU

Then & Now: The Evolving Development Landscape | pg 2

Then & Now: The Best Of Community pg 5



How it all Began pg 14 & 15

It Takes A Village pg 15

NORWOOD NEWS

Vol. 39, No. 16
Norwood News is publis5ed biweekly on Thursdays by
Mosholu Preservation Corporation (MPC)
3400 Reservoir Oval East
Bronx, New York 10467
Phone: 718 324 4998
Fax: 718 324 2917
E-mail: norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org
Web.: www.norwoodnews.org

Publisher
Mosholu Preservation Corporation

Editor-In-Chief, Norwood News
Síle Moloney
smoloney@norwoodnews.org

Regular Contributors
David Greene, Miriam Quiñones

Contributors
Raisha Hernandez, Sandra Lobo, Diego Padilla, Christina Hanson, Cynthia Tuohy, David Cruz, Daniela Beasley

Norwood News thanks Helen Cashell and Judy Noy for their production help with this final print edition.

Freelance Graphic Designer
Mauro DeLuca

Norwood News is not responsible for typographical errors. Opinions expressed in signed letters and bylined columns represent the sole opinion of the author and are not necessarily those of Mosholu Preservation Corporation or Montefiore Medical Center. Editorials represent the views of the editor only. The newspaper reserves the right to limit or refuse advertising it deems objectionable. Advertisements appearing in this paper cannot be used without the written permission of the Norwood News. Letters to the editor are subject to condensation and editing. Writers should include their affiliation or special interest if any. Anonymous letters are not published but your name can be withheld upon request.

Side Bar 1 Photo Caption

Photo by Síle Moloney

RESIDENTS ATTEND A White Plains Road Plan workshop on Aug. 18, 2026 in Williamsbridge.

Side Bar 2 Photo Caption

Photo by Síle Moloney

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7 members pose for a photo with the 2026 Yankee Youth Leaders at the New York Botanical Garden in Bedford Park on June 30, 2026.

Mosholu Preservation Corporation is a nonprofit support corporation of Montefiore Medical Center.

Then & NOW

THE EVOLVING DEVELOPMENT LANDSCAPE

By SÍLE MOLONEY

On reviewing the various development projects in the Northwest Bronx over the last 38 years, the first thing that comes to mind in some but not all cases is, of course, just how seemingly arduous and protracted they can be. Often surpassing the durations of successive gubernatorial and mayoral administrations, and the tenures of various politicians, this has certainly been the case with the Kingsbridge Armory, which *Norwood News* first reported on decades ago.

Kingsbridge Armory

Among the many ideas *proposed* for the Kingsbridge Heights-based Armory, over the intervening years, have been, of course, the infamous Ice Center, a Salsa museum, a shopping mall, and a sports venue. Meanwhile, the Armory's vast interior and adjacent annexes have *actually* been used as a film and TV set, as a food hub during the COVID-19 pandemic, as a women's shelter at one point, and of course by the Washington Greys Military Cadets, overseen by the National Guard.

As reported, at least two lawsuits relating to the Armory's redevelopment have further prolonged the misery for Bronxites eager to see it put to use, one stemming from a dispute over financing arrangements between the City and a former developer, and one over alleged favoritism by the City of the winning bidder following the most recent Request for Proposal.

However, it seems an end is in sight. On Oct. 29, 2025, the New York City Council voted "yes" on the latest multi-purpose redevelopment project, "The Kingsbridge Center (*El Centro Kingsbridge*)" for the long-vacant, City-owned structure.

Under Phase I, City officials said there will be a 17,000-person capacity, live events venue created for concerts, graduations, and other events, an entertainment arcade for youth sports, e-sports to be managed by established operators, a 95,000 square-foot community facility for cultural uses, 31,000 square feet of commercial offices, a 100,000 square-foot, below-market space to incubate small-scale, light manufacturing businesses in The Bronx, 250 parking spaces and loading areas, and 65,000 square feet of new public open space.

Under Phase II, they said there will be 450 to 500 affordable apartments, with a goal of 50% 2-bedroom and 3-bedroom units, 20,000 square feet of below-market commercial space, 80 parking spaces, around 3,000 construction jobs, 600 permanent jobs, and more. The housing will be located adjacent to the Armory, where currently the National Guard operates from two annexes on West 195th Street, between Jerome Avenue and Reservoir Avenue.

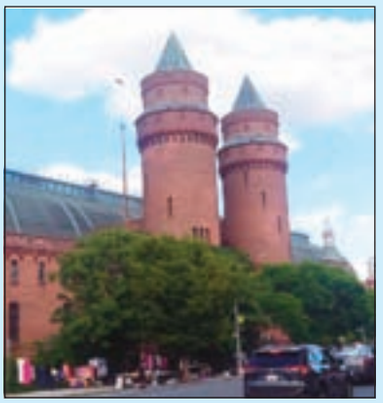


Photo by David Greene

THE KINGSBRIDGE ARMORY in Kingsbridge Heights is seen on Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2026.

Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson said in part at the time, "With the reimagining of the Kingsbridge Armory, we will see affordable housing opportunities, good-paying union jobs with pathways to the middle class, recreational space for youth and families, support for small businesses, and a true commitment to equitable economic development in the Bronx that we have not seen for decades." The project is expected to be finalized some time in 2030 and 2032, respectively, according to EDC.

It is in no small part thanks to the dogged advocacy of community nonprofit organizations like Our Bronx, formerly Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition, which actively lead and participated in dozens of envisioning meetings, surveys, outreach sessions, hearings and more, all before securing the latest community benefits agreement, valued at $130 million. In doing so, Our Bronx has reimagined the way other community-based organizations may go on to negotiate public land use in New York City.

Those interested in training, workforce resources, and opportunities connected to the Armory are being asked by Our Bronx to sign up and get connected to the workforce pipeline by filling out the workforce training interest form at https://bit.ly/ourarmoryworkforce. You can also email info@ourbronx.org for more information.

White Plains Road Plan

A Goals Workshop to discuss the White Plains Road Neighborhood Plan was hosted by NYC Department of City Planning (DCP) on Aug. 18 at a Williamsbridge high school and was attended by DCP Commissioner Sideya Sherman, various residents as well as Councilman Kevin Riley (C.D. 12) and Councilman Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11). It was confirmed that since 2023, the City has been experiencing its lowest average vacancy rate (housing availability) since 1968, at 1.41%, and that in The Bronx, it's even lower at 0.82%.

It was confirmed that more than half of residents in Bronx Community District 12, covering Wakefield, Williamsbridge, Woodlawn, Olinville, Eastchester, and Edenwald-Baychester, are paying almost a third or half of their income on rent and that the Bronx population has grown by 6.1% from 2010 to 2020. The purpose of the workshop was to obtain feedback from residents of what White Plains Road should look like in 2035. Retaining the cultural identity of the area was among the priorities. Elected officials emphasized the importance of residents being involved in the decision-making in terms of housing and development.

Fordham Landing

Norwood News reported in December 2025 that Dynamic Star LLC, the developer behind the billion-dollar Fordham Landing Development housing project planned along the Harlem River in the University Heights section of The Bronx, had voluntarily filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

Chapter 11 bankruptcy is a form of financial reorganization that allows businesses and, in some cases, individuals with significant debt to restructure their obligations and continue operating under court supervision. *Norwood News* recently spoke with Brad Zackson of Dynamic Star, who provided an update on the bankruptcy filing and the project. A second bankruptcy filing was made in March and when asked about it, Zackson broadly described it as a correction/redo of the first one.

In February 2025, the developer had told Bronx Community Board 7 that under Phase I, Fordham Landing South, located at 320 West Fordham Road, south of University Heights bridge, was to be developed as a 900+ unit affordable housing project on a 4-acre site on the Harlem River waterfront next to the University Heights Metro North station.

He said Fordham Landing North, located at 2475 Exterior Street, north of University Heights bridge, would be developed as part of Phase II, and would consist of one building comprising three towers, 574 residential units, a grocery store, 182 parking spaces, and

some supportive housing admin space.

When contacted on Aug. 21, Zackson said, "So, the South, the brief is the bankruptcy is basically coming to an end." He said the court was forcing the parties into arbitration, the aim was to reach an agreement in the next 30 days, and that they were hoping to close and move forward with their partners, Urban Builders Collaborative-Lettire in December.

Zackson said in relation to Fordham North, he's currently waiting on confirmation of confirmed "Opportunity Zones" in The Bronx. Opportunity Zones are economically distressed communities, defined by individual census tracts, nominated by America's governors, and certified by the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury. Under certain conditions, new investments in Opportunity Zones may be eligible for preferential tax incentives. There has been some criticism of Opportunity Zones, and questions over whether developers availing of such tax incentives have in fact invested in such communities in return.

Zackson said Dynamic Star was working very hard on the north with NYC Department of City Planning (DCP) "to do this very interesting commercial, job-creating idea, which is learning, incubating, executing, and kind of taking a page out of the Brooklyn Navy Yard Industry City, and kind of mixing that into our commercial concept for small businesses."

"We have a really exciting idea and a new partner that we will be announcing in a few weeks," he said. "We're very excited about developing Fordham Landing and the whole waterfront, and we're not going anywhere."

In November 2025, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced a $55 million Empire State Development (ESD) investment to advance Fordham Landing South. When contacted for comment on the latest status of the project, an ESD representative said, "The State continues to monitor the Dynamic Star LLC's Chapter 11 filing and project status. The State has not disbursed funding for the project and will complete all due diligence before releasing any State funds."

Croton Water Filtration Plant

Another local mammoth redevelopment project has been the Croton Water Filtration Plant built underneath Mosholu Golf Course in Van Cortlandt Park along Jerome Avenue in Norwood. The federal government ordered New York City to build a filtration plant for its Croton water supply, and the City secured passage of State legislation authorizing use of the Mosholu Golf Course site for construction of the Plant, subject to certain conditions.

According to greenroofs.com, the Plant is nine acres wide, and sinks 12 stories into the earth. Opposition to the project by local residents was in part due to concerns over lack of public walkway access to the nearby Jerome Park Reservoir. Those concerns have since been realized, as reported.

Rendering courtesy of SLCE Architects

THE LATEST AVAILABLE rendering of the planned affordable housing development for Fordham Landing South, located at 320 West Fordham Road, south of the University Heights Bridge in The Bronx.

NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) informed *Norwood News* in 2023 that at some points in the past, the city agency had allowed periodic, limited access to the waterfront but because the reservoir is an active part of the water supply system, DEP no longer permits public access to the facility. DEP officials said there was no amount of additional security measures DEP or the NYPD could recommend that would make the facility safe for consistent public use.

Other fears were the effects of years of construction on quality of life for Norwood residents particularly, including increased air pollution, noise and traffic. Park advocates also said the knocking out of public parkland for an industrial facility was a dangerous precedent. Construction for the plant began in 2005 and was supposed to be completed in 2011 under a federal order, but was marred by the enormity of the project, which ultimately went $3 billion over budget.

Following the completion of a $15.7 million upgrade to the reservoir in February 2022, DEP was set to begin a further $38 million project "to further improve structural components of the reservoir to ensure it continues to fulfill its critical role in the City's water supply system."

Norwood News was informed by DEP that the work also coincides with the "Washington's Walk" retaining wall construction project, a nearly $1 million project that will reconstruct retaining walls at the southeast corner of Claflin Avenue and Reservoir Avenue, south of the reservoir, and along West 197th Street between Reservoir Avenue and University Avenue at Washington's Walk in Kingsbridge Heights.

According to NYC Parks, the schematic design for the Washington's Walk project has been approved internally at Parks and is now going through review by the community board and external regulatory agencies for comment and approval. In terms of a timeframe, the review process began in November 2024 and is expected to be completed in October 2026.

Other community concerns related to fire safety at the plant and adherence to employment contract terms. Following the selection of Mosholu Golf Course / Van Cortlandt Park as the site for the Plant and in accordance with the terms of the 1999 ULURP approval of the project, various Bronx Parks benefits valued at $43 million in Van Cortlandt Park were promised.

These included the restoration of the Mosholu Golf Course & Driving range, the implementation of a forest management plan, the renovation of the Shandler Recreation Area, the renovation of the Saturn Playground, the upgrade and improvement of the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail, and the provision of signage describing flora and fauna within Van Cortlandt Park wetland areas adjacent to the site.

Other commitments were the renovation of the entranceway west of Dickinson Avenue near Van Cortlandt Park South, the complete restoration of the area adjacent to the Van Cortlandt Valve Chamber, evaluating the feasibility of building a bridge over the Major Deegan Expressway to connect the east and west portions of Van Cortlandt Park, and the creation of a facilities monitoring committee.

Additionally, the City was due to commit to spending $200 million on projects to acquire and / or improve parks and recreational facilities and to improve the environment in The Bronx. *Norwood News* has reached out to NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to ask for an update on these commitments. We will endeavor to include DEP'S feedback on www.norwoodnews.org, should we receive it in the next few days.

In 2015, *Norwood News* reported that community leaders and representatives announced $12 million had been allocated for the proposed bridge, thanks to collective efforts from community, City, and State officials.

The proposed bridge would have allowed residents on the east side of Van Cortlandt Park, in Woodlawn, access to amenities located on the west, more affluent side of the Park, in Fieldston. In July of this year, a Woodlawn resident shared his concerns that now, $23 million in funding, allegedly including the original Croton Filtration Plant mitigation money meant to compensate the heavily impacted Jerome Avenue corridor, was allegedly being diverted to fund a luxury golf cart bridge, a "Birding Bridge," servicing the Van Cortlandt Park Golf Course on the wealthier west side of the Park.

Meanwhile, the resident alleged the east side (Van Cortlandt Park East, Gun Hill Road, and East 233rd Street) had been left completely unbudgeted and that bridge connectivity would be assessed based on any leftover funding. "Our local families are dodging traffic at the dangerous Jerome Ave/233rd intersection just to get kids into the park, but the city is prioritizing country club amenities," the resident said.

In a letter dated July 1 from NYC Parks to the resident, seen by *Norwood News*, the agency indeed confirmed that two Van Cortlandt Park projects i.e. Van Cortlandt Park Woodland Crossings & Birding Bridge Reconstruction Projects have been funded and an engineering consultant has been selected to help with the site assessment, permitting, and design.

Parks went on to say that the "east side perimeter restoration project" has not yet been assessed in terms of size and scope and that Parks plans to study and coordinate with NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) on "intersection safety on Jerome Avenue."

Parks further confirmed that funding for all Van Cortlandt Park Improvement projects includes around $9.5 million in mayoral funding, $9.9 million from DEP, $3 million from New York State Assembly Members Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81) and Carl Heastie (A.D. 83) through the Dormitory Authority (DASNY), and $1 million from former New York State Senator Jeff Klein via DASNY, totaling $23.4 million. *Norwood News* has reached out to Parks for comment on the resident's concerns. We will endeavor to include Parks' feedback on www.norwoodnews.org, should we receive it in the next few days.

Other major development projects in the North Bronx to keep an eye on are the Old Fordham Library, located at 2556 Bainbridge Avenue in Fordham Manor, on which a townhall was held in April 2025 with Councilmember Oswald Feliz (C.D. 15), Loew's Paradise Theater, located at 2403 Grand Concourse, and the ongoing, various housing developments taking place around Webster Avenue and Bedford Park Boulevard, including a proposed new dormitory for Fordham University students. Visit www.norwoodnews.org to read our latest stories on some of these projects.

Photo courtesy of NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

AN AERIAL VIEW of the top of the Croton Water Filtration Plant which lies beneath Mosholu Golf Course in Van Cortlandt Park, Norwood, as seen during construction in 2014.

INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

BY DAVID GREENE

This week, we asked readers for their thoughts on the final edition of the *Norwood News*.

"I never missed an issue because you brought it here to the hardware store all the time. I would see our customers in the paper all the time and sometimes they come in here to get a copy. There were so many good topics I cannot remember at the moment. I enjoyed the different topics and seeing what local residents had to say about it."

Tony Enamoredo,
Norwood

"The Norwood News is the only paper we get here. I often see it at the bank. It's the only free paper I see around here, and it tells you what is happening around the neighborhood. The people I see in the Inquiring Photographer; it tells you who they are and their thoughts on a particular issue. Sometimes, I see Raven in it who works here. It would tell you what's going on around the neighborhood, that's the most important thing, because there is no other paper and I don't watch the news, so this was how I'd get my news."

Sonia DeCicco,
Norwood

"I see the paper in all the stores around the neighborhood. I see people I know in the Inquiring Photographer all the time. I've seen so many different people from the neighborhood who were in the paper, but I don't remember the subjects. I enjoyed the pictures and the stories that people shared. It informed you about a lot of different things about what is happening around us, how the neighborhood is changing."

Mario DeBona,
Bedford Park

"I hope they don't end this because it was good for the neighborhood and it makes [residents] aware of what's happening around the neighborhood. They should keep it because a lot of people aren't online. My customers come in all the time to get the paper. I remember when I first opened here you came in when I first started eight years ago. The article was always fair and had different opinions."

Randy Rivera,
Bedford Park shop owner,
Morris Park resident

"I would pick up the paper at Williamsbridge Oval Park when I go to the gym. It's how I would find out about a lot of local events. Sometimes I would see people I know in the Inquiring Photographer, and it would be interesting to see the response of people I would not talk politics with, and that was interesting to read their views. I have been reading the paper since moving into the area in the late 1980s. It was also interesting to see the opinions of local people addressing national issues."

Chris Perkins,
Norwood

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

Suicide Prevention Workshop

New York State's "Link to Hope" suicide prevention event is a 90-minute, skills-based workshop designed to equip community members and staff across a wide range of settings to recognize and respond to individuals who may be experiencing emotional distress or thoughts of suicide. Drawing on the familiar concept of First Aid, the training helps participants understand how to recognize when someone may be signaling the need for help, directly or indirectly, and how to respond and connect with them confidently and compassionately.

Participants learn how to ask openly and directly about suicide, what to do if the person responds "yes," and how to provide supportive assistance until additional resources can be introduced. Visit www.preventsuicideny.org to register for the virtual / in-person training. If you are in crisis and need free mental help support now, call or text 988 or chat online at https://chat.988lifeline.org/.

Apply for Funding for Community Safety in the West Bronx

Council Member Pierina Sanchez (C.D. 14) and partners are encouraging Bronx residents to apply now for funding to fund initiatives that address community safety in the West Bronx from a $3 million budget. The deadline to apply is Aug. 28 at noon. Example initiatives include those focused on youth engagement, educational and employment support, mental health services, and stronger community connection. To apply, visit: https://bit.ly/3SnpCv3.

Bronx Documentary Center Fellowship Deadline Extended

The deadline to apply to the Bronx Documentary Center (BDC) for the BDC Films Fellowship has been extended to Sunday, Aug. 30. The fellowship supports NYC-based documentary filmmakers with a $3,000 stipend, equipment access, mentorship and professional development, workshops, screenings & panels, workspace & editing resources, as well as support to complete a short documentary film. No need to have everything figured out before you apply. Bring your perspective, your questions, and the story you want to tell. Apply here: https://bit.ly/4irzI8C.

Resources for Free Representation in Housing Court

The Met Council is reminding residents about who is eligible for legal representation in Housing Court. They say under the "Universal Access" program, any income-eligible tenant facing eviction might have access to a free attorney or counseling regardless of their type of apartment and immigration status. They add that even if a tenant is over the eligible-income level, they have the right to a legal consultation or advice session. They say the program is only open to those with an active eviction case, and the eligible income threshold is below $25,000 for a single person, and above $53,000 per family of four. They say you can get a lawyer at the Bronx Courthouse Office of Universal Access. For more information, go to the Housing Court Answers Desk or call the Tenants' Rights Mutual Aid Hotline on (212) 979 0611.

Bronx Small Business Apply Grants of up to $20,000

Optimum Business and the Bronx Chamber of Commerce are proud to bring $145,000 in grants to support small businesses in The Bronx through the "Lifting Up Small Businesses in The Bronx" program. The program will award 25 eligible local businesses with a $5,000 grant and one business with a $20,000 grand prize grant to support their growth and long-term success. To qualify, businesses must have a brick-and-mortar business or office location in a community served by Optimum, employ 10 or fewer people, have been open for at least one year, be willing to participate in promotional materials, and explain how the grant will help grow the business and positively impact the community. Applications are due Sept. 1. Apply here: https://bit.ly/3UhUVId.

Help for Selected Vendors on 2016 Waitlist

Are you an NYC general vendor who got selected from the NYC Small Business Services (SBS) general vendor 2016 waitlist? You have until Oct. 29 to submit an application for a new General Vendor license. You must have a General Vendor license to sell, lease, or offer to sell or lease goods or services in a public place that is not a store. You do NOT need a General Vendor license to sell newspapers, periodicals, books, pamphlets, or other written matter, artwork, including paintings, photographs, prints and sculptures, items at a garage sale on private property, or food and/or drinks (as food vending requires a license from NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene). Learn more at https://www.nyc.gov/site/sbs/index.page.

NYC Department of Consumer & Worker Protection (DCWP) will reach out to you and @nycsmallbiz's Business Solution Centers can help with your application, for free. NYC Business Solutions Centers offer free services provided by the NYC SBS to help entrepreneurs start, operate and grow their businesses in New York City. Services provided are access to financing, business education, legal assistance, recruitment, M/WBE certification, and more. All services are available online and in person. The NYC Business Solutions Center, Bronx is located at 400 East Fordham Rd, Bronx NY 10458. Phone (718) 960-7910 or email bronx-bsc@nycbusinesssolutions.com.

Then & NOW

Photo by José A. Giralt

(L-R) ASSEMBLYMAN GEORGE ALVAREZ (A.D. 78), Ana Chapman, chief program director at The HOPE Program, Christina Hanson, executive director at POTS, and Keith Pagnani, chair of POTS' board of directors, cut the ribbon to formally open the second POTS location at 2450 Grand Concourse in Fordham Heights on Thursday, June 29, 2023.

Part of the Solution (POTS): Redefining Stability in The Bronx

BY CHRISTINA HANSON & DIEGO PADILLA

For more than four decades, Part of the Solution (POTS) has grown alongside The Bronx communities it serves, responding to changing needs while remaining grounded in a vision established by its founders in 1982. That was to create a loving community and a network of support for New Yorkers facing hardship. Food assistance was the first expression of that vision, beginning with a soup kitchen, but POTS quickly recognized that helping people overcome poverty would require addressing the many challenges affecting their lives.

That understanding shaped the organization POTS is today. A food pantry opened in 1996, followed by a legal clinic in 2000 to help neighbors facing eviction and other challenges. Over time, POTS continued adding services addressing public benefits, housing, employment, education, personal care and other barriers to stability. Mentoring created opportunities for clients to establish longer-term goals, while showers, haircuts and other Dignity & Wellness services ensured that people facing hardship could access essential care with dignity.

That evolution has also made POTS a trusted resource during periods of extraordinary uncertainty. The organization remained open throughout the COVID-19 pandemic as need surged across The Bronx. In 2025, the federal government shutdown and uncertainty surrounding food assistance once again left families concerned about their ability to meet basic needs. POTS responded with food, services, information and reassurance while advocating alongside partners for stronger solutions. The circumstances have changed considerably since 1982, but the ability to listen and adapt to what Bronx families need has remained central to the organization.

New and expanded facilities followed as the number of people seeking assistance grew. Today, POTS brings these resources together with its own methodology so that someone who first comes through its doors for groceries or a hot meal can connect with a broader network of support that improves their chances of finding a better future.

(continued on page 10)

Farewell to the Norwood News

By PIERINA SANCHEZ

For nearly 40 years, *Norwood News* has done something essential for our local democracy: ensuring that the people, challenges, victories, and everyday life of the Northwest Bronx are seen and remembered. This loss is personal for me. *Norwood News* was the first newspaper to write about my first-time candidacy for the New York City Council, helping reintroduce me to the community that raised me, and that I was seeking to represent.

Since then, its reporters have covered our neighbors coming together, explained complicated legislation, and consistently elevated stories from our communities before they were picked up by citywide and sometimes national media.

Norwood News now joins the sad national trend of local news outlets shuttering. Local journalism ensures our communities are seen, our institutions are held accountable, and our history is recorded. Without *Norwood News*, the stories, struggles, relevance, resilience, and victories of the Northwest Bronx will shine just a little less brightly.

I am saddened to see it go and profoundly grateful to every reporter, editor, photographer, and staff member who

Photo by Miriam Quiñones

PIERINA SANCHEZ IS the city council member for New York City's 14th council district, which covers much of the West Bronx.

helped tell the story of our people over the last 40 years."

Pierina Sanchez is the city council member for New York City's 14th council district, which covers much of the West Bronx.

Editor's Note: Freelance reporter José Giralt wrote the candidate profile for the Norwood News of now-Councilmember Sanchez when she first ran for office.

By DARCEL CLARK

I am saddened that the *Norwood News* will cease to play its pivotal role in The Bronx as a vital source of local news and information. Its intrepid reporters and journalists, Síle Moloney and David Greene, will be sorely missed for their thoughtful, thorough and astute coverage.

They covered Norwood and the broader Bronx community with professionalism, fairness, accuracy and genuine compassion. When reporting on my office's work and community events, they brought stories to life with detailed reporting, and photographs capturing the sorrow of victims, the joy of our 5K runs, and the solidarity of our anti-gun violence marches.

Síle Moloney was never afraid to ask pointed questions, while David Green took the time to verify facts with our public information officers. Their commitment to responsible journalism helped keep our community informed and our public institutions accountable.

I will deeply miss the *Norwood News* and the important role it played in The Bronx. Thank you to Síle, David, and the entire *Norwood News* team for your dedicated service to our community.

Darcel D. Clark is the Bronx District Attorney for Bronx County since January 2016.

Photo by Síle Moloney

BRONX DISTRICT ATTORNEY Darcel Clark attends a gun buyback event with clergy member, Fr. Nathanael Saint-Pierre, on the grounds of St. James Episcopal Church in the Fordham Manor section of The Bronx on Nov. 22, 2025.

Editor's Note: Freelance photographer Miriam Quiñones, among others, captured many of the district attorney's 5K runs which, each year, raise awareness of domestic violence, among other events.

By ERIC DINOWITZ

Throughout its decades-long run, the *Norwood News* has served as a trusted source for hyper-local news. They have reported on housing, transportation, small business, and more. The news is always about our community and about us.

Even before taking office, I flipped eagerly through its pages, checking to see if any of my friends, neighbors, or relatives were featured in the photographs or quoted in the articles. Now, as a city council member, I appreciate more than ever the platform it provides to tell the stories of people from The Bronx.

The end of the *Norwood News* reflects a broader, troubling trend taking place across the country. Local papers are abandoned or subsumed into larger corporate machines. The result is a standardized, corporatized media in which local stories are obscured and minimized, if reported at all.

The Bronx has already felt this loss more than most counties. Our borough has long been under-covered by the citywide press, treated as an afterthought compared to Manhattan or Brooklyn. Papers like the *Norwood*

Photo by Síle Moloney

COUNCILMAN ERIC DINOWITZ (C.D. 11) addresses those gathered for the unveiling of the newly renovated Harris Park in the Bedford Park section of The Bronx on Wednesday, May 7, 2025.

News gave Bronxites a place where our neighborhoods were the headlines, not footnotes. Without outlets rooted in our community, we risk The Bronx becoming even more invisible in the broader media landscape, our concerns folded into vague, citywide coverage that misses what makes Norwood, Bedford Park, and Van Cortlandt Village distinct.

Where else can one read about the businesses and institutions that are the lifeblood of our neighborhood? The *Norwood News'* hyperlocal focus has also kept city agencies, landlords, and elected officials accountable. Longtime readers will remember its reporting on some of the district's most consequential fights, from exposing the NYPD's lack of transparency around crime statistics to shining a light on the treatment of tenants by housing corporations and developers. Recent reporting on the rent hike fight at Tracey Towers has catapulted the issue into citywide discussion.

The *Norwood News* has helped ensure transparency in local government. Since I first ran for city council, I have been able to reach my constituents through a trusted source residents can count on. It has covered the bills I've introduced and passed, including legislation to ease the affordable housing application process, as well as my press conference to improve safety at Williamsbridge Oval and my sustained campaign for accountability at our city agencies.

I am incredibly grateful for the decades of service to our neighborhood that the *Norwood News* and its staff have provided. I especially want to thank Síle Moloney for her diligent reporting. Going forward, I am committed to finding ways to help fill that gap, whether through direct outreach to residents, support for the local outlets that remain, or new approaches to keeping this community informed. The Bronx deserves a press that knows its streets and its people, and I am saddened that we will no longer have our cornerstone, hometown outlet.

The end of the *Norwood News* is a loss for every resident of this district, whether they read it every week or only picked it up once. It leaves a gap in how we understand our own neighborhood, and that gap will not be easy to fill. I hope other outlets, local leaders, and residents step up to keep telling the stories that make the Bronx worth covering.

Eric Dinowitz is the council member for New York City's 11th city council district which broadly covers the Northwest Bronx.

Farewell to the Norwood News

By ROBERT JACKSON

For nearly four decades, the *Norwood News* has done something increasingly rare and deeply necessary: it has paid attention.

Through generations of change in the Northwest Bronx, it has chronicled the lives, struggles, victories, and everyday realities of Norwood, Bedford Park, Jerome Park, Kingsbridge Heights, Fordham, University Heights, and surrounding communities. It understood that a neighborhood newspaper is more than a record of events. It is a place where communities speak to one another, where institutions are held accountable, where residents see their concerns treated with seriousness, and where the work of building a stronger neighborhood becomes part of the public record.

That mission matters even more today. At a time when disinformation can spread like wildfire, when facts are distorted for political convenience and entire communities can be reduced to stereotypes or erased from the larger story, community journalism remains a force of resistance. Local newspapers preserve something essential to democracy: the right of people to tell their own stories.

In every borough and every neighborhood, community media stands on the frontline of truth. It is where residents become sources, witnesses, writers, photographers, and sometimes journalists themselves. It is where young people discover the power of storytelling, and where our culture, history, struggles, and demands for justice are documented by people who actually know the streets they are writing about.

I have many memories of the *Norwood News*, but among the most meaningful was seeing its coverage of my Community First Awards. Hundreds of neighbors gathered as we honored organizations and individuals who give so much of themselves to strengthen our communities. Their service deserved to be seen, remembered, and recorded. The *Norwood News* helped make sure it was.

Photo by Síle Moloney

STATE SEN. ROBERT JACKSON (S.D. 31) attends the Annual Fall Festival held in St. James Park in Fordham Manor on Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025.

That is the quiet power of local journalism. It tells people: your work matters, your neighborhood matters, your story belongs in the record. The final edition of the *Norwood News* closes an important chapter, but its legacy lives in every story preserved, every neighbor informed, every institution held accountable, and every person who saw their community reflected honestly in its pages.

A newspaper may stop publishing; the truth it helped a community tell about itself does not disappear. Thank you, *Norwood News*, for nearly four decades of making sure the Northwest Bronx was heard.

Robert Jackson is the New York State senator representing the 31st senatorial district, which covers parts of Northern Manhattan and the West Bronx.

By GEORGE ALVAREZ

For many years, the *Norwood News* has been far more than a local newspaper. It has been a trusted voice, a community record, and a reflection of the people, families, businesses, schools, and organizations that make The Bronx, particularly the neighborhoods within our district, so special.

Through its dedicated reporting, the *Norwood News* brought attention to the issues that mattered most to Bronx residents. It celebrated community achievements, highlighted local leaders, informed neighbors about important resources and events, and ensured that the concerns of everyday Bronxites were heard. At a time when many communities struggle to receive meaningful and consistent local news coverage, the *Norwood News* remained deeply connected to the people it served.

The paper helped strengthen the relationship between residents, community organizations, and their elected representatives by keeping the public informed about government programs, neighborhood developments, public meetings, and decisions affecting their daily lives. Its work encouraged civic participation and reminded residents throughout our district that their voices, experiences, and concerns mattered.

Our district has greatly appreciated the Norwood News' longstanding commitment to honest, accessible, and community-centered journalism. Its reporters consistently showed up for The Bronx, documenting not only our challenges, but also the strength, resilience, culture, and achievements that define our borough. Through its coverage, the Norwood News helped ensure that the stories of our neighborhoods were preserved and shared with the dignity and attention they deserved.

Photo by Miriam Quiñones

GEORGE ALVAREZ IS the New York State assembly member representing the Assembly District 78, which covers much of the West-Central Bronx.

Although this final edition marks the end of an important chapter, the legacy of the *Norwood News* will continue through the stories it preserved, the residents it empowered, and the connections it helped build across The Bronx.

On behalf of our district, we extend our deepest gratitude to the reporters, editors, photographers, contributors, and community partners who dedicated their time and talents to this publication. Thank you for your many years of service, your unwavering commitment to our neighborhoods, and your invaluable contributions to The Bronx community.

The *Norwood News* will be deeply missed, but its impact on our district and the entire Bronx will never be forgotten.

George Alvarez is the New York State assembly member representing Assembly District 78, which covers much of West-Central Bronx.

By GUSTAVO RIVERA

It is with great sorrow that I write this message. For almost 40 years, the *Norwood News* has been much more than a newspaper. It has been a trusted source for so many communities in the Northwest Bronx including Bedford Park, Kingsbridge Heights, Fordham, and Norwood.

The *Norwood News* always shows up to tell the stories that matter to my neighbors. They dutifully covered a decades-long fight to redevelop the Kingsbridge Armory. They are there when tragedies leave deep marks on our neighborhoods. They have told countless stories about the people and issues that shape our communities as a steadfast champion of local journalism.

As a longtime elected representative of this community, I will always be thankful to the *Norwood News* for its willingness to ask difficult questions, hold those in power accountable, and, most importantly, to go above and beyond to give a voice to the residents of The Bronx.

Generation after generation of Bronx readers knew they could turn to the *Norwood News* to understand what was happening in their own backyard. That kind of journalism cannot be measured in clicks or circulation numbers. It is measured in the trust built between a newspaper and the community it serves.

It is a sobering reminder of today's troubling state of local journalism that we are losing this paper. Across our country, community newspapers are disappearing, leaving our communities without a platform to tell our stories.

I am deeply grateful to everyone who dedicated their time, talent, and passion to this newspaper over the past four decades. From David Cruz to Síle Moloney, to every editor, reporter, photographer, staff member, and contributor in between, I personally want to thank you for showing up for our community week after week, year after year, despite the challenges that you faced.

And to you, the readers who picked up the paper for all of these years: thank you for supporting your local newspaper.

The *Norwood News* may be coming to an end, but their legacy will remain for empowering our community by telling our stories. We owe all those who made it possible a tremendous debt of gratitude.

Gustavo Rivera is New York State senator for the 33rd senatorial district, which covers a large area, including some of the Northwest Bronx.

Photo by Síle Moloney

STATE SEN. GUSTAVO Rivera (S.D. 33) attends the opening of Bedford Green House supportive housing complex, located at 2865 Creston Avenue in Bedford Park, on Thursday, July 14, 2022.

Then & NOW

LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS

From NWBCCC to Our Bronx: Building Community Power Across Generations

By SANDRA LOBO

When the Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition (NWBCCC) was founded in 1974, The Bronx was facing redlining, arson, landlord abandonment, and decades of public and private disinvestment. Entire neighborhoods were being written off. But Bronxites were organizing building by building and block by block. Residents came together through faith institutions, tenant associations, neighborhood groups, and local committees to fight for safe housing, functioning city services, decent schools, investment in their neighborhoods, and a meaningful say in the decisions shaping their lives.

Fourteen years later, the *Norwood News* began documenting our communities and the people and institutions working to rebuild the Northwest Bronx. For nearly four decades, the paper has chronicled NWBCCC's campaigns, victories, challenges, and evolution alongside the larger story of the Northwest Bronx. Much has changed since those early days, including our organization, now known as Our Bronx, but the foundation of the work has remained the same.

In our early years, NWBCCC's organizing was deeply neighborhood-based. Residents formed local committees to identify the most urgent issues on their blocks and develop solutions together. Those committees addressed immediate problems while also developing community leaders. Neighbors learned how to organize with each other, negotiate with public officials, understand how decisions were made and build campaigns that produced real improvements.

That organizing also created institutions that remain important to The Bronx today. NWBCCC helped establish organizations such as Fordham-Bedford Housing Corporation (FBHC), Mount Hope Housing Company, University Neighborhood Housing Program (UNHP), creating lasting infrastructure to preserve affordable housing and strengthen neighborhoods. The organization also joined campaigns that helped win the federal Community Reinvestment Act, and, in later decades, worked in coalitions that advanced New York City's Student Safety Act, New York State's Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act, and the Fair Medical Debt Reporting Act.

As conditions in The Bronx changed, so did the issues residents brought forward. Housing remained central, but our organizing expanded to include youth leadership, education, health equity, environmental justice, and community and economic development. We increasingly understood that these issues are connected and that addressing them required looking beyond individual problems to the systems that shaped people's lives.

By the early 2010s, members and staff were asking another question. After decades of organizing victories, improving housing conditions, stopping harmful development, and winning important public policies, why were so many Bronx residents still struggling economically while significant new investment and wealth were coming into the borough?

That question helped shift the organization's thinking about economic development. In 2012, NWBCCC co-founded the Bronx Cooperative Development Initiative (BCDI), with organizations from across the borough to explore a different model. The effort was informed by years of organizing around projects such as the Kingsbridge Armory and Sheridan Expressway, where communities spent an enormous amount of time and energy fighting proposals that did not reflect their priorities.

We began asking not only how to stop harmful development, but what community-led development should look like and who should own, govern, and benefit from growth in the Bronx. That same year, NWBCCC began a year-long process with staff, board members, and community leaders focused on economic democracy. In 2013, the organization formally centered racial justice and economic democracy in its mission, leading to a deeper focus on community ownership, shared governance, and long-term systems change.

Photo by Síle Moloney

A MEMBER OF Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition holds up a reads, "Whose armory? Our armory" during a press conference held at the vacant Kingsbridge Armory in the Kingsbridge Heights section of The Bronx on Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2023, during which joint City and State funding of $200 million to boost the redevelopment of the armory was announced.

The distinction between "fighting back" and "fighting forward" became important to our organizing. Fighting against harmful policies, negligent landlords, and inequitable development remained necessary, but communities also needed to build the capacity to create the alternatives our communities wanted.

That approach has shaped much of the organization's work over the past decade. We founded the Bronx Community Land Trust and began developing pathways for tenants to expand organizing around housing conditions toward collective ownership. We've organized for policies such as the Community Opportunity to Purchase Act and Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act, and brought organizations and institutions together to develop a longer-term economic vision for The Bronx.

More recently, we returned to the Kingsbridge Armory. For decades, the Armory represented the question of who gets to decide what development looks like in our communities. In the most recent redevelopment process, thousands of residents participated in developing a community vision before a project was selected.

That organizing helped secure a legally binding community benefits agreement with commitments around family-sustaining jobs, local hire, community oversight, and long-term community benefits. Our Bronx also secured a direct community ownership stake in the project and will own and govern community and manufacturing space within the Armory.

For us, that represents the evolution of the same organizing approach that began decades ago. Residents come together around the conditions they face, develop leadership and a shared analysis, organize for change, and build the institutions needed to sustain that change. Increasingly, that has meant creating opportunities for Bronx residents to own assets and have greater decision-making power over their lives.

Our recent merger with BCDI and transition to the name Our Bronx reflects another stage in that evolution. Our roots remain in the Northwest Bronx, but many of the forces affecting our communities operate across neighborhoods and across the borough. We are working to connect organizing, planning, and economic development at a larger scale, in coordination with organizations and institutions across The Bronx.

Despite these changes, much of what defined NWBCCC in 1974 remains central today. We continue to believe that people directly affected by an issue bring expertise to solving it. We continue to invest in leadership development and coalition-building, bringing together groups who may not have traditionally worked together. And we continue to create new approaches and institutions when existing ones do not meet our communities' needs.

The *Norwood News* has witnessed and documented much of that history. Its reporters have covered community meetings, hearings, neighborhood events, and moments that might otherwise have gone undocumented. The newspaper has helped residents understand what was happening in their neighborhoods, follow important public decisions, and hear from people working to change their communities. That makes the paper's closing a real loss for the community.

The Bronx of 2026 is not The Bronx of 1974. Some of the challenges have changed, from disinvestment to displacement, an affordability crisis, and fundamental questions about who will own and benefit from the borough's future. Yet the need for residents to organize, develop leadership, build coalitions, and have a meaningful role in shaping their communities remains.

For nearly 40 years, the *Norwood News* helped document that work and the people behind it. We are grateful that it did.

Sandra Lobo is executive director of the nonprofit, Our Bronx.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Final Edition of the *Norwood News*

While the internet opens the door to infinite amounts of world news and information, we feel that the most valuable information is to be found right in our own neighborhoods.

Many U.S. adults feel that local print newspapers are important to their communities, a sentiment that has risen in the most recent decades. Studies have shown that in communities with strong local newspapers that are readily available in print, there is greater interest in civic engagement, higher voter turnout, and greater political accountability.

Print newspapers play a crucial role in local communities by fostering connection and providing essential information needed for community engagement. They serve as a platform for local voices, helping to uplift stories and issues that may otherwise go unheard. Print newspapers provide vital information for residents to access necessary services and local developments. They contribute to the local economy by supporting local businesses.

They enhance culture and civic life and ensure that the news is relevant to the community. Print newspapers are distinct from simple newsfeeds in that they provide depth, beyond simply reporting facts. They offer editorials, opinion columns, investigative features, and expert analysis that help readers understand the "why" behind the headlines.

We pick up our local print newspapers in stores, community centers, at schools, and through subscriptions. The very act of obtaining a print newspaper puts us in touch with our community, engaging us to share the relevant information. We then engage with each other which strengthens and advances our communities.

Since 1988, the *Norwood News* has served the Northwest Bronx, but also has a readership that extends south, west, and east of their Norwood headquarters. As a former resident of Bedford Park, I knew of the existence of the *Norwood News,* but I learned of its *presence* in the larger community because it provides important news coverage that is important to a larger residential diaspora. While I now live to the west of Norwood in Spuyten Duyvil, the *Norwood News* has covered the news that, yes, is important in a hyperlocal sense, but also unites the entire Bronx and helps define us as a wonderful place to live and work

And at the helm of the *Norwood News*, is Síle Moloney, an editor-in-chief of remarkable talent and commitment. She is known throughout the Northwest Bronx (and beyond) as an exemplary journalist and leader. She is the most hard-working editor I have ever witnessed, clocking all the necessary hours to produce what we should all be proud to call our hometown paper.

And so, for this commemorative issue of the last print edition of the *Norwood News*, I say thanks to the board of directors at Montefiore Hospital for their support of the newspaper.

And of course, we all thank Síle Moloney for her continuing role as the captain of the journalistic ship that is the *Norwood News,* and our friend, and a very good neighbor.

Stephanie Coggins
Spuyten Duyvil
Community Activist & Board Member of the Kingsbridge Historical Society

Final Edition of the *Norwood News*

For my final letter to the *Norwood News*, I would like to say thank you to the greatest editor of a newspaper, Ms. Síle Moloney. No one has strived for more accuracy in reporting than this lovely lady.

Norwood will be in great hands with the wonderful Elizabeth Quaranta, who meticulously gives us the cleanest park in New York City, and that is the Mosholu Parkland. Even when she is out there sweating in the heat, picking up trash, she still looks like the beautiful movie star Natalie Wood! I hope Sheila Sanchez will come back to the Williamsbridge Oval and have that skating rink ramp created in memory of the late, great Doug Condit!

Finally, when I worked in Manhattan, my coworkers did not believe that my parish, St. Brendan's, was built like a ship in a landlocked area of The Bronx. Well, I would close this letter by saying that that church is truly the cornerstone of Norwood, and I will light a candle inside for all of you readers this weekend. Please stop in as there is plenty of room at the table or should I say pew!

Richard Marias,
Norwood

Hail and Farewell

It was with deep sadness when I learned that the Norwood News would be ending its run. It was an honor for me to have served as its one and only proofreader over its lifetime. I started as a volunteer after its first issue in December of 1988 and remained with the paper until COVID-19 struck in March of 2020.

I saw editors come and go. I saw writers come and go. I saw interns come and go. I saw staff come and go throughout those more than 30 years. I take pride in having outlasted them all. I was never replaced.

When the paper had a special 30th year celebration, I was feted for my years of service and received a special plaque. It was a surprise since I was not informed in advance.

The paper's original concept was to bring news to the people of our neighborhood. It is a d--n shame that the powers that be chose to stop publishing.

It would be great if the paper were to be sold in order to continue publishing but if it has seen its final issue, it was nice while it lasted.

Judy Noy
Norwood
Former Proofreader of the *Norwood News*

Thank You, *Norwood News,* Our People's Herald

It is with profound gratitude and deep regret that we bid farewell to the *Norwood News*. For decades, this beloved newspaper has been far more than a publication; it has been a trusted neighbor, a community advocate, and the people's herald.

We are especially grateful to editor-in-chief Síle Moloney who has been present on the ground and among us like a member of our community family. Síle consistently created space for the stories, concerns, celebrations, and struggles of North Bronx residents. She understood that local news is not merely information; it is a vital instrument of community awareness, engagement, and empowerment. Through her dedicated reporting, she helped us tell our shared stories, claim our collective voice, and take greater ownership of our neighborhoods.

The Groundswell Group and the WEPA Coalition are deeply thankful for the many opportunities we received to contribute news stories and opinion pieces over the years. As WEPA continues engaging our community in healing our families and schools, and confronting the opioid crisis that has taken far too many precious lives, we will greatly miss this faithful communications advocate striding beside us, heralding our journeys, amplifying our voices, and keeping us connected in our shared struggle to co-create a more just, peaceful, and healthy culture in which all people can thrive and flourish.

The closing of the *Norwood News* is an immeasurable loss to our community. Yet its legacy will endure in the stories it preserved, the neighbors it connected, and the people it empowered. Thank you, Síle. Thank you, *Norwood News*, our community newspaper, our faithful companion, and our people's herald. You will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

Rev. Addie Banks
CEO and Founder,
The Groundswell Group
Executive Director,
WEPA Coalition

Last Print Edition of the *Norwood News*

Your leadership of the *Norwood News* fulfills the high standards of journalism I learned at the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University. I have always sought two reactions from readers: "Holy Cow! I didn't know that!" and "I never thought of it that way!"

Kudos and mazel tov to all of you for creating a space for that kind of reporting.

Gene Roman
Belmont
Freelance Reporter

PS: I will miss you guys.

Goodbye, Farewell and Amen, for Now

There's a lot which makes up a neighborhood's unique flavor, building landmarks, memories, day to day and seasonal events, but most of all its people and not just the specific folks you meet and greet on your way to work, but a wider community which shares all that culture, inevitably creating, as the saying goes, a sum far greater than its parts. Such sharing needs communication, a way for folks to stay con-

(continued on page 11)

Public and Community Meetings

The next regular **52nd PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meeting will take place on Oct. 22, at 7 p.m. at St. Brendan's Church, 260 East 207th Street, Bronx. Prior to that, a Fellowship Recognition Brunch will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 29, at 10 a.m. at Monroe University, King Hall, 2501 Jerome Avenue, Bronx. RSVP for the brunch to 52precinctcouncil@gmail.com. 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 on Tuesday, Sept. 8, at 7 p.m. at In Tech Academy Library, 2975 Tibbett Ave, Bronx, and on Zoom at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2114033690, or by calling +16465588656 and entering the Meeting ID 2114033690#. Contact BX08@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list and check http://www.nyc.gov/bronxcb8 for any updates.

The next **BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** meeting will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 2, at 7 p.m. at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. S, Apt. B1 (lobby floor). For more details, please contact bedfordmosholu@verizon.net.

Part of the Solution (POTS): Redefining Stability in The Bronx

(continued from page 5)

The scale of that work now reaches around 37,000 New Yorkers each year. In 2025, POTS' pantry provided the equivalent of more than 2.8 million meals. Its legal team prevented 413 evictions, while case management and benefits services helped households access approximately $17 million in public benefits. Across the organization, these programs provide immediate relief while creating opportunities to address the underlying circumstances that can keep individuals and families in cycles of poverty.

POTS is now undertaking a major transformation built around an ambitious next step: scaling a model designed to help more families achieve lasting stability and intergenerational upward mobility. Central to that effort is the Stability Index, a methodology developed by POTS to track client progress across five interconnected areas: housing, finances, health, education and day-to-day essentials. It represents an important shift in how the organization holds itself accountable. Success cannot be measured only in meals provided, applications completed, or appointments held. POTS also wants to understand whether people's lives are changing, and which strategies are most effective in helping them progress.

Decades of relationships and trust within the community provide the foundation for this next stage. With a larger team and expanded physical capacity, POTS will be able to bring its model to more families, strengthen coordination across services, and use the Stability Index to identify which interventions are most effective at helping clients make measurable progress.

After more than four decades, POTS' ambition extends beyond increasing the number of people it serves. The organization aims to demonstrate what is possible when trusted community relationships, integrated services and meaningful measures of long-term progress come together to help *families* achieve greater stability across generations.

By testing and strengthening that approach in The Bronx, POTS hopes the lessons learned locally can eventually inform how other organizations and communities confront poverty beyond the borough.

In the decades of *Norwood News* documenting The Bronx, its coverage of POTS also provides a record of an organization that has continued to evolve alongside its community. In the words of our executive director, Christina Hanson: "We are firm believers in the potential that resides in local communities, our ability to connect despite our differences, and the power that sharing our experiences has to effect positive change in society."

She adds, "In the past decades of reporting our work and impact, we have been extremely appreciative of *Norwood News* for having kept the humanity at the center of its storytelling, giving people an opportunity to feel the heart of The Bronx."

Christina Hanson is executive director of Part of the Solution and Diego Padilla is director of external relations and communications at Part of the Solution.

APARTMENTS
FOR RENT

LANGSAM PROPERTY SERVICES CORP., AMO®
A COMPREHENSIVE REAL ESTATE SERVICE ORGANIZATION

1601 Bronxdale Avenue • Bronx, NY 10462 • T 718 518 8000 • F 718 518 8585
www.langsampropertyservices.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR CONTINUED

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

(continued from page 9)

nected and informed even when we're ten plus blocks away!

For decades now, *Norwood News* has been one of the biggest pipelines that's kept communication flowing in our little corner of the Boogie Down. Since 1988 (That long? Wow!) *Norwood News* has consistently kept us in touch with news, ideas, concerns and fun events, everything that counts basically! Because of their efforts, reading the *Norwood News* has become part of our neighborhood's "unique flavor" too.

Norwood News' presence and its professional, effective and so thoughtful staff have enriched many Bronx lives, including mine. Discovering that its print and online stories will stop the presses for now is a cultural, community loss for us all. Our neighborhood has a whole lot left to say and share. So, here's to hoping it's just a temporary pause!

Janet Goodman-Clarke
Norwood

Loss of *Norwood News*

We are sorry to hear about the loss of the print edition of the *Norwood News*. As an organization, which has been in this community for over fifty years, we find it difficult to understand why Montefiore is dropping sponsorship at a time when our community is witnessing much growth and development. Every neighborhood in the Northwest Bronx has added many new buildings along with the relocation of residents, who in many cases are not familiar with local resources.

We realize Montefiore is a very different entity today. It has expanded to many different suburban communities. The hospital, however, should not forget its origin and the need for outreach to a neighborhood, which is also, experiencing much growth and change. We hope Montefiore will reconsider this decision and again support the print edition of our local paper. If not, we look to our local elected officials to find a new sponsor who will continue to provide this much needed service to our community.

Barbara Stronczer
President
Bedford Mosholu Community Association

Editor's Note: The board of directors of Montefiore and the board of directors of MPC are separate entities.

Farewell to the *Norwood News*

For many years, *The Norwood News* has been much more than a local newspaper. It has been the voice of our neighborhood, preserving the stories that often go untold and highlighting the people, organizations, and everyday moments that make our community unique.

As the executive director of Future of Mosholu Parkland (FOMP), I have always believed that strong communities are built through connection. Whether reporting on neighborhood events, environmental initiatives, local businesses, schools, or the people working to improve our quality of life, the *Norwood News* helped create those connections. It reminded us that the small victories matter and that local stories deserve to be seen and celebrated.

Community newspapers play an important role in strengthening civic engagement. They encourage residents to become involved, introduce neighbors to one another's work, and provide a historical record of how a neighborhood grows and changes over time. Many of our organization's milestones, volunteer efforts, and environmental projects reached new audiences because of the paper's willingness to shine a light on grassroots work.

As we say goodbye to this cherished publication, I hope we also remember the countless journalists, editors, photographers, and contributors who dedicated themselves to informing and connecting our community. Their work has left a lasting legacy that extends far beyond printed pages. We wish them much success as they venture into a new page in their lives.

Thank you, *Norwood News*, for believing that local stories matter. Thank you for documenting our neighborhood's history, celebrating its people, and inspiring so many of us to continue working toward a stronger, greener, and more connected community. While the newspaper's final edition marks the end of an era, its impact will continue to be felt for generations to come.
With gratitude,

Elizabeth Quaranta
Executive Director
Future of Mosholu Parkland Inc.

Out & About

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

EVENTS

The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG)'s all-new **Día de los Muertos** exhibit in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden will open to the public on Oct. 3. With vibrant marigold blooms and colorful *ofrendas*, the rich traditions of Mexico's *Día de los Muertos* come to the Garden for a celebration of memory, life, and renewal, and is new this year at NYBG. Explore a trail of floral displays and artfully arranged *calaveras*, listen to the music of the holiday on weekends, and experience joyful moments of reflection among fall's golden foliage and festive pumpkins. For more details, visit https://www.nybg.org/.

Woodlawn Cemetery is the final resting place of author, poet, and crusader, Dorothy Parker. After an odyssey beginning with her death in 1967, Parker's cremains were interred beside her parents in August 2020. Join Kevin Fitzpatrick, president of the Dorothy Parker Society, for the **Dorothy Parker and the Talk of the Town New Yorkers Trolley Tour** on Saturday, Aug. 29, at 11.30 a.m. to visit her gravesite along with notable artists, captains of industry, explorers, performers, and writers. More information can be found here https://bit.ly/4iu4Xjt.

NYC Parks presents its **Annual Fall Festival** at the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, 3225 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx on Saturday, Oct. 17, at 11.30 a.m. There will be hay bowling, gaga ball, an obstacle course, other games, treats and more. The event is free and open to the public.

MUSIC

The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts presents **Princess Nokia** for her debut performance on Friday, Sept. 4, at 8 p.m. Guests seated in Orchestra Rows A-J are invited to an exclusive VIP reception at 6 p.m. before the performance, featuring complimentary wine, beer, beverages, and light bites in our elegant mezzanine cocktail bar. Known for blending hip-hop, punk, soul, and unapologetic attitude, Princess Nokia has carved out a powerful space in music with her bold lyricism and deep connection to New York City culture. This special hometown performance promises to be more than a concert, it's a celebration of identity, creativity, and the spirit of The Bronx. Call (718) 960-8833 or visit https://www.lehmancenter.org/events/princess-nokia for more information.

Join the board and staff of Bronx Opera for **A Tribute to Michael Spierman**, music director of The Orchestra of The Bronx and artistic director emeritus of Bronx Opera, on Saturday, Sept. 19, at 2 p.m. at the Lovinger Theater at Lehman College, 250 Bedford Park Blvd West, Bronx. A Bronx native and longtime presenter and champion of the classical music repertory, Spierman will be honored for his years of presenting free classical music concerts in The Bronx. The celebration will comprise an afternoon of images, tributes, testimonials, song and music featuring friends that Spierman has made along the way, in and out of music. Admission is free or pay what you wish. RSVP to bronxopera@gmail.com or call (646) 281.9963.

ART

Reform Architecture Gallery, located at 287 Walton Avenue, 3rd Floor, Bronx, NY 10451, presents **Supersymmetry**, a group exhibition at the intersection of art, architecture and community that brings together 10 artists, including several with connections to The Bronx. Running from Sept. 10 to Nov. 5, an opening reception will be held on Thursday, Sept. 10, at 6 p.m., and a discussion panel on Friday, Sept. 11, at noon. For more information, visit https://ragbx.com/.

SPOKEN WORD

Poe Park Visitor Center in Poe Park, 2640 Grand Concourse, Bronx, will be hosting a **Visual Poetry event** on Saturday, Sept. 19, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. to showcase the new use of the Center's space, combining poetry, visual art, and live creative expression. For more information, call (718) 365-5516 or visit https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-visual-poetic-experience-tickets-1996820194956?aff=oddtdtcreator.

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://bit.ly/4wRoU7O.

Saying Goodbye to an Institution I Once Led

By DAVID CRUZ

It's going to be hard to imagine The Bronx without the *Norwood News*. Through its near 40-year history it was a paper that fought for its residents, producing high-quality news that arguably made the borough a better place to live. It also served as an entry point to tomorrow's journalists.

I would know as I oversaw the hyperlocal paper from December 2013 until the eve of the pandemic in March 2020. There was no square foot I didn't know about Norwood, a community forged around a lush park that stood at its center, the Williamsbridge Oval.

For a paper known for such doggedness in bringing quality-of-life issues to the forefront, it was a publication I was proud to helm. Whether it was covering P.S. 95's annual spelling bee contest, highlighting a rash of thefts along the Jerome Gun Hill Business Improvement strip, or chronicling the state of politics in the borough, the paper *served* the people. As Dr. Spencer "Spike" Foreman, then head of Montefiore Health System during Norwood News' early years, said: the paper doubled as the neighborhood antidote. It was a paper, as my predecessor, Alex Kratz, noted, that "gave voice to the voiceless."

That mantra was no more illustrative than when the team covered the issue of housing, where the *Norwood News* sought to expose deplorable building conditions across its coverage area, drawing attention to decision-makers for solutions. One singular housing story stands out.

It came in February 2015 when a Bedford Park resident approached me after the local civic meeting with a tip on poor heating conditions in her building on Valentine Avenue. It was the dead of winter. The temperatures were probably in the high 30s to low 40s. Yet, this building was experiencing the winter from hell. I needed to check this out for myself.

The residents met me inside the frigid lobby of their building, an old minimalist-style residence. These were working-class people just getting by in The Bronx. They spoke to me of their new landlord who, after a few months, installed sensors that would automatically turn off when the heat reached what they thought was an acceptable temperature. Acceptable temperatures appeared to be somewhere in the 50s inside the home.

This was a story that fit the mold of the *Norwood News*, giving voice to the voiceless. I stayed with this story. For every interview I conducted, I would learn more about the building, its residents, and the building owner lording over the property. Little did I know the building had some major backers behind it.

After peeling the onion on publicly available property records, I learned that the building wasn't owned by a small-time owner, but a housing development juggernaut. The story got better: a multi-billion-dollar concern was mismanaging a building that shouldn't have been happening. But then there was another twist.

I learned that the building itself was purchased with monies from New York City's pension fund. This, of course, was not good news (or a good look) for the person managing the city's pension fund system, then-City Comptroller Scott Stringer. But despite the paper being small, constantly in triage mode (the newspaper operated with a staff of one full-timer: me) – our story got the city's attention. It was a big win for the paper.

Photo by Ariana Cipriani

DAVID CRUZ, FORMER editor-in-chief of the *Norwood News* between December 2013 and March 2020, is pictured with former *Norwood News* proofreader Judy Noy.

That story was one of many pieces driven in service of its residents. They thought they had no place to go, but they found one in the community paper. Other stories of that caliber would follow, including a deep dive into the city's housing changes, efforts by the local 52nd Precinct to combat a surge of opioid-related deaths, a construction boom born out of major rezoning efforts, nearly all of them coming down to the wire on production day when we put the paper together.

With the help of Judy Noy, our consummate copy editor at the time and Mauro DeLuca, our designer, we crammed as much neighborhood news that our pages could fill. It was a Herculean effort, but a roster of interns and freelancers helped us get to the finish line. Every edition felt like an achievement.

And there was certainly something for everyone, whether learning about free services in Neighborhood Notes, arts and culture in Out & About or getting answers to our question of the week in our Inquiring Photographer.

We also had a public meetings section intended to encourage residents to attend their local community board which, for the paper, was a trove of fantastic leads about goings-on in the neighborhood. There, I would find the community spirit teeming among those who put a premium on their quality of life.

It's hard to think this borough will be down another paper. In an era where misinformation has blanketed social media, it's so important for there to be a trusted source of vital information. No other borough deserves that as much as The Bronx, which has certainly risen from its days of burnt-out homes, a polluted river running down its spine, and under-investment. I'd like to think a vestige of the *Norwood News* helped contribute to boosting that quality of life.

With the paper reaching its final edition, it's my hope residents will fill that void in letting everyone know what's happening in their neighborhood. Attend a community board or precinct council meeting or consider joining it. Volunteer your time for community clean up events. Tell your elected officials what is going on. Participate; it can be a great disinfectant.

I know that will happen. Like the heat-deprived Bedford Park residents, Bronxites know when to stand and speak up.

David Cruz is the former editor-in-chief of the Norwood News between December 2013 and March 2020.

On the 25th Anniversary of 9/11 Let Us Never Forget

By CYNTHIA TUOHY

At 5 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 10, 2001, my manager informed me by phone that she would miss a review deadline critical to my work. She rhetorically asked if that was OK. Of course it wasn't, but through gritted teeth I replied, "Sure, what difference does a day make?"

The next morning, I awoke early to vote in New York City's mayoral primary. Because there had been no line at Norwood's Mosholu Montefiore Community Center polling location, I arrived at my desk on the 32nd floor of 3 World Financial Center, the iconic Lower Manhattan building with the green pyramid on top, about 15 minutes earlier than usual.

As I waited for my computer to start, I turned toward my north-facing window. It was a picture-perfect view broken by the sight of an American Airlines jet, silver with red, white and blue stripes, flying down the middle of Manhattan toward the World Trade Center, directly across West Street from where I stood.

The plane was high enough to clear my 52-story building, so I felt no immediate danger. Its wings rocked up and down and I assumed the pilot was fighting mechanical trouble. Years later, I learned that motion was likely the struggle to control the aircraft through the dense air of low altitude. When the plane drifted to its right, I thought the pilot was aiming to ditch in the Hudson River. Then it banked hard left and up. I held my breath, knowing it had to clear the Twin Towers. After what felt like minutes, not seconds, I heard the crash.

It wasn't like a movie explosion. It sounded like a locomotive slamming into a mountain, muffled by more than 50 floors between me and the impact. In that instant, my body reacted before my brain could catch up and I was soaked with sweat. I called my parents, still in bed at Knox Place in Norwood. When my mother answered, groggy with sleep, I said with no further explanation, "Turn on the TV and just know that I'm all right." Then I left a friend a message: "Oh my God, oh my God, oh my God. A passenger jet just hit the World Trade Center. Hundreds of people on the plane and in the building are dead. This is going to be the worst thing that ever happened. I've got to go."

I ran to the northeast windows and looked down at the World Trade Center plaza, expecting wreckage. Instead, everything was gray and still. The only mo-

A LETTER TO OUR READERS

By DANIELA BEASLEY

The *Norwood News* has been a part of my life for nearly as long as I have been building my career, and that makes writing about this moment particularly difficult.

My own story with the *Norwood News* began as an intern. I was a journalism student, eager to learn and excited by the possibility that reporting could make a tangible difference in the community around me. I had the opportunity to work under then-Editor-in-Chief David Cruz, and that experience gave me my first real window into what it meant to cover a neighborhood, not simply reporting what happened, but understanding why it mattered to the people who lived there.

After graduating, I continued to contribute to the *Norwood News* and was involved in a series that went on to receive a New York Press Club award. I also got to indulge my more creative side with a piece called "Nightlife in Norwood," a story that I enjoyed writing so much that I still have a copy hanging in my office today.

I never could have imagined then just how much the *Norwood News* would continue to shape my life. The publication introduced me to Mosholu Preservation Corporation overall, the organization I now have the privilege of leading. The *Norwood News* became the bridge between the career I thought I was pursuing, and the work I ultimately found myself called to do. Journalism taught me to ask questions, challenge the easiest answers, and most importantly, to understand that every community has stories worth telling. Those lessons have stayed with me.

Over the years, MPC has worked hard to keep the *Norwood News* going because we have always believed that a community deserves a place to find information about the people and issues that affect their daily lives. Keeping a small community newspaper alive is no small undertaking. Every edition represents hours of reporting, editing, designing, photographing, coordinating, printing and distributing, often accomplished by a small number of people who care deeply about the work and the community behind it.

Photo courtesy of Daniela Beasley

ADI TALWAR, FREELANCE photographer, Daniela Beasley, executive director of Mosholu Preservation Corporation, David Cruz, former editor-in-chief of the Norwood News, and a colleague are seen at a prior New York Press Club awards event.

There are so many people who deserve recognition for making that possible. To our freelancers: thank you for your reporting, curiosity and willingness to chase down the stories that mattered. To our advertisers: thank you for investing in a local publication and helping make each edition possible. To our community organizations and partners: thank you for sharing your work with us and allowing the *Norwood News* to help connect residents with the resources and events happening around them.

To our elected officials and their offices: thank you for continuing to provide information and work with us to keep the community informed.

And, of course, to our editor-in-chief, Síle Moloney: thank you for your dedication to the publication and for the countless hours you have put into keeping the paper moving forward.

I deeply value the work that has gone into every edition of the *Norwood News*. I cherish the stories, the photographs, the community announcements, the profiles, the celebrations, and even the occasional stories that required far more digging than anyone anticipated.

Together, they created a record of a community that is constantly changing while still holding onto the things that make it distinctly Norwood. And now, after years of working to sustain the publication, we have reached a point where an indefinite hiatus is necessary.

That is a difficult sentence to write.

But I also don't believe it needs to be the final sentence in the *Norwood News*' story.

The world of journalism has changed dramatically since the paper first launched 38 years ago. The challenges facing local news, and the way people receive information, look drastically different. And yet, the need for trustworthy, community-focused journalism has not disappeared. If anything, at a time when residents are surrounded by more information than ever before but often have less certainty about what they can trust, local journalism matters tremendously.

While this marks the end of the *Norwood News* as we know it today, I don't believe that has to mean the end of its legacy. What the future may hold is something we can leave for another chapter. For now, our focus is on closing this one thoughtfully and celebrating what the publication has meant to this community.

Thank you to everyone who picked up an issue, contributed a story, placed an advertisement, sent us a tip, shared an announcement, appeared on our pages, or simply took the time to read. Thank you to everyone who helped make the *Norwood News* part of our neighborhood's story and thank you for allowing me to be part of its story, too.

I hope that what the *Norwood News* placed in your hands over the years, information, stories, connection and a deeper understanding of your community, stays with you long after this final edition.

Until next time.

Daniela Beasley is the executive director of Mosholu Preservation Corporation and of the Jerome Gun Hill BID.

---

tion was paper, what seemed like all the paper in the world, floating down from above. I saw a wheel from the landing gear, but I did not yet know that a colleague who sat nearby was beneath it. Miraculously, she survived. When I looked up, I expected to see the plane's tail. There was nothing but a massive scar across the side of the building, pouring flames and smoke into the sky.

A colleague asked what had happened. When I told her, she said, "You mean a private plane? A prop plane?" Nearly losing patience, I pointed out the window and said, "You think a prop plane did that? It was an American Airlines jet." Minutes later, a public-address announcement told us the events across the street did not affect us and we should shelter in place. Then I heard a real explosion. A visible shockwave rolled through our building. I thought a fuel tank had blown inside the North Tower. Someone ran from the southeast side of the floor and said another jet just hit the South Tower. In that moment, we knew our city was under attack.

Photo by Cynthia Tuohy

CYNTHIA TUOHY IS seen in a recent selfie.

After a brief phone outage, I reached my sister who saw from the caller ID that I was still at my desk. She ordered me to "get out of there!" Simultaneously, another announcement told us to remain inside. I listened to my sister. I took the elevator down, exited onto Vesey Street, and was directed toward North End Avenue.

I found members of our chairman's office in the crowd. We watched people high above us at the Windows on the World restaurant waving tablecloths toward hovering helicopters. Part of my mind still tried to make the day normal. I wondered how they would repair damage that high in the sky and how many days it would be before we returned to work.

Then, a person fell from more than 100 floors up. A collective gasp rose from the crowd. Then it happened again, and again. We realized people were actually jumping. We wondered how terrible it was inside if that was the better choice. Only the four lanes of West Street separated us from people who, just like me, had gone to work expecting an ordinary day. Later, watching the news, I understood that television viewers had been spared much of the horror we witnessed from the ground.

When I saw what looked like pieces of the South Tower's roof shooting downward, I knew I didn't want to be there when the antenna atop the North Tower became a giant javelin. I started the 17-mile walk home to Norwood, where I still live. No one had to tell me the subways would not be running. I had reached 23rd Street before I turned back and saw, in total disbelief, a giant smoke cloud where the Twin Towers had stood.

Now, 25 years later, when social media-driven conspiracy theories travel around the world in seconds, I feel a responsibility to say what I saw. I was there. I saw the plane. I heard the crash. I saw the papers fall, the towers burn, and people make impossible choices in the sky above New York. I carry that day with me because I lived it, and because the truth of what happened must be told by those who were there.

Cynthia Tuohy, 68, is a life-long resident of Knox Place, Norwood, The Bronx. She still works at the World Financial Center, now known as Brookfield Place.

It Takes a Village…

By SÍLE MOLONEY

It takes a village to produce a community newspaper, and over the years, the *Norwood News* has been fortunate enough to have worked with some of the best in the business. When we asked former and longest-serving Editor-in-Chief Jordan Moss for his thoughts on the final print edition, he said in part, "Dart Westphal, then head of MPC, created the *Norwood News* in 1988, because he felt strongly that it would connect the local residents and programs to each other, widen the awareness of good and helpful things going on around them, and give them a voice to hold city agencies and elected officials accountable."

He continued in part, "The *Norwood News* raising and following issues like the endless delays of P.S. 20's construction, and the city's lack of attention to rehabbing the Kingsbridge Armory in a way that would benefit Bronx residents, played a key role in getting the attention they both desperately needed. For these and many other issues it covered, *Norwood News* won many awards in the city and state."

Photo courtesy of Steve Bobkner

AN UNDATED PHOTOGRAPH OF Jules Ira Rubenstein, who passed away on Feb. 4, 2020 at the age of 74.

Freelance reporter and photographer José Giralt, among others, is among those winners, recently working with incarcerated people to tell their stories in truly compelling ways. Freelance photographer Miriam Quiñones loves taking "pictures." Asked how she started with the paper, she said she was friends with both David Greene and former *Norwood News* editor-in-chief, David Cruz. "I always used to go to the Oval, and then one time, I asked David Cruz, "So when are you going to put my pictures in the *Norwood News*?" she said.

She said Cruz asked to see her photos and that's how everything started. "I sent him the pictures. They were published, and from there on, he [would] call me and 'Okay. I got an assignment'." Quiñones, who does phenomenal volunteer work across The Bronx, for which she has been honored several times, said a lot of the events she covered related to fires, elections, building collapses, community events or were weather-related. Asked what she liked most about the job, she said, "It's fun! I love to take action pictures as they're moving."

Photo by David Greene

MIRIAM QUIÑONES, FREELANCE photographer, is photographed at work on Aug. 16,2026.

Quiñones said she also loves to see people's reactions to her work, and that she seems to have a knack for photographing animals, adding that they appear to want to face her lens for the perfect shot. She said she also gets a kick out of people recognizing her from covering different events.

Freelance reporter, photographer and deliveryman David Greene said he started with the *Norwood News* around '95 or '96. "I was running a driving school on 207th Street, and Jules Rubenstein was doing the Inquiring Photographer, and he came up to me and said, 'Would you like to be in the newspaper?'" Greene said.

"I don't even know what the question was! So, I was in the paper. I learned about the *Norwood News*." He said he believes Rubenstein, who sadly died in 2020, conducted the Inquiring Photographer interviews for *Norwood News* for around 18 years.

Photo courtesy of Vivian Carter

SEVERAL PAST AND present *Norwood News* faces share a moment shortly after the *Norwood News* 30th anniversary celebration at Bedford Park's Lehman College on Nov. 1, 2018, wraps up. Pictured, among others, are *Norwood News* founder, Dart Westphal, former *Norwood News* editors, Jordan Moss, Alex Kratz and David Cruz, former *Norwood News* proofreader, Judy Noy, former *Norwood News* reporter and current City Limits executive editor, Jeanmarie Evelly.

Later, Greene said the secretary at the driving school, who had connections with the Williamsbridge Oval Park, knew Greene wrote about boxing and asked if he could do a story in the paper about kids in the Oval and how she was trying to secure a grant to open a community center for local kids.

"The connection with the *Norwood News* started then," he said. "My first editor was [Betty] Chen. I did one story for her." He has worked with most editors in between. Greene said he later worked with the Bronx Times, among other publications. "In 2004, I started chasing stories on my own, and when I was working with the [NY] Post, I was still giving stories to the *Norwood News*. Like, if I covered a fire for the Post, the next [*Norwood News*] issue, they would have like a full story."

Greene said in the roughly 16 years he's covered the Inquiring Photographer feature, he hadn't had "a miss" in terms of not getting five people to share their opinions with him. "Then, I finally had a miss!" he said. "That was hard!"

Asked what he likes about being a journalist, Greene said, "It's a good question. I don't know. I guess I like reporting. I like putting out stuff that nobody else has. Helping people is an added benefit." Of the downside, he said, "Getting blamed by everybody for everything. You know, the cops hate you, the freaking dealers hate you, the gunmen, gangbangers hate you. The worst thing was this sh*t with fake news from [U.S. President Donald] Trump."

Photo by Miriam Quiñones

DAVID GREENE, FREELANCE reporter, is photographed at work on Aug. 14, 2026.

He continued, "I used to say, 'Excuse me, would you like to be in the newspaper?' They'd put their arm around me. 'Come, step into my office!' You know that sense of fake news [now]? I get fists shaken at me. I'm, like, 'What the hell!' They're nuts! And then people don't want to participate because they don't believe in the news."

Asked, given the digital age we live in, if he thinks younger people read the *Norwood News,* Greene said, "I know when I drop it at the schools, they have classes where they look at our articles. There's a lady from Botanical Square. I think her kids go to P.S. on Webster. I think every issue, they go through it."

Of the impact of the digital age, he said in part, "You still see people carrying the paper walking down the street or if I show up, they'll say, 'Oh, I've been waiting for you, or there was a lady here. She was waiting for this paper.'"

Asked about changes he's witnessed in the local neighborhoods over the years, Greene talked about the changing demographic and how once Norwood was home to mostly Irish, Jewish and Black residents, and the 19 or so bars that he said used to exist locally. "They've almost all gone out of business," he said. "Now, it's a lot more diverse. Now, you have, like, from Arab countries… Pakistani. But crime was a problem then. Crime is a problem now."

Asked how he was feeling ahead of the final print edition, he said, "Disappointed." He explained how he enjoyed training in other budding reporters in the field who may not have formal training, and even some who have. In 2030, Greene said he'll be 40 years in the business.

"I always figured that I [could] bring somebody on. I could train them to be a photographer / journalist, and I could give them the job to deliver the paper," he said. "I always thought, I'd be able to pass it on and now, not being able to pass it on, it was like, I don't know. Sad."

Barbara, Greene's partner, was asked what it was about his reporting that stood out to her. "You can see the level of passion, commitment, and dedication in his work," she said, adding that what mattered most to him was giving a voice to those suffering. "Each story carried a sense of obligation," she said.

Award-winning, freelance graphic designer Mauro DeLuca, who designed each print edition (his creativity often curtailed by word count) is truly a warrior. He has gone above and beyond for the *Norwood News*, through illnesses, surgeries and more to ensure it got printed every other week. I am eternally grateful for his warmth, humor and professionalism.

Photo courtesy of Cathy DeLuca

MAURO DELUCA, FREELANCE graphic designer, is seen in an undated photo.

I also sincerely thank Christina Arias, who spent many hours on top of her usual MPC-related work, billing our advertisers, Richner Services, our printers, for their super generous flexibility around deadlines, elections and more, Melissa Cebollero of Montefiore community relations, Daniela Beasley, executive director of MPC, and indeed all my colleagues, past and present at MPC and the Jerome Gun Hill BID.

To Ariel Pacheco, and all freelance reporters, past and present, Adi Talwar, freelance photographer, and all interns, past and present, your joy, vitality, and dedication to your work was infectious. To everyone at Montefiore, especially IT Support, thank you for everything.

To Judy Noy, former (meticulous) freelance proofreader, who would text in corrections after each print edition, even after she was no longer in the role, thank you. Noy recently recalled how she even caught one sneaky letter to the editor sent in many years ago before it almost went to print. It had been signed using the name of a character from a Godfather movie, which had recently come out!

To *Norwood News* founder, Dart Westphal, for your courage and conviction in transforming a bold idea into reality all those years ago, and for your passionate work educating journalism students, thank you. To all former *Norwood News* editors-in-chief, thank you for your meticulous and diligent work in spotlighting so many issues of importance to the local community. The work speaks for itself and was invaluable to me as I delved through the archives. Thank you, especially, to Jordan Moss for your support.

Of course, I will be eternally grateful to David Cruz, my predecessor, for hiring me, along with Jennifer Tausig of MPC. I learned so much from David and from all the talented people with whom I have worked over the last 7 years or so. Thank you. My thanks also to all local community organizations and leaders for all that you do for the people of The Bronx.

To all our sources, you are awe-inspiring and have taught me so much. Thank you and I'm so sorry I couldn't get to all your stories. They are important ones to tell. Keep telling them.

August marks Hip Hop Recognition Month. Though, immeasurably painful as we close out the final print edition of the *Norwood News* after 38 years this month, it seems somehow fitting to take comfort from the ethos of a Bronx creation and music genre. It reminds us in that unfiltered, unrepentant, real-as-the-day-is-long kind of way that life is an eternal struggle, and you either have to roll with the punches or get chewed up and spat out. But in the words of Big Pun, "There's no longevity, living off of negativity."

On behalf of everyone who has been part of the *Norwood News* story over the last 38 years, especially *Norwood News* founder, Dart Westphal, editors-in-chief, Betty Chen, Helen Schaub, Jordan Moss, Alex Kratz, David Cruz and me, it's been a privilege and the honor of a lifetime to share the stories of the people of Norwood, Bedford Park, Kingsbridge Heights, Fordham, Jerome Park, University Heights and beyond with the world. Thank you for reading.

Photo by Miriam Quiñones

FREELANCE REPORTER JOSÉ Giralt is seen with the Highlight Pro Skydiving Team to at an event celebrating the centenary of women's suffrage and marked with a 4,500-foot skydive, landing on Woodlawn Cemetery on Aug. 26, 2020.

FARMERS MARKET

NORTH CENTRAL BRONX CAMPUS BEGINS:
EVERY WEDNESDAY
8:00AM-3:00PM
E. MOSHOLU PARKWAY NORTH & JEROME AVE.

JACOBI CAMPUS BEGINS:
EVERY FRIDAY
8:00AM-3:00PM
PELHAM PARKWAY SOUTH
(AT EASTCHESTER RD)

NYC HEALTH+ HOSPITALS | Jacobi
North Central Bronx

HARVEST HOME