

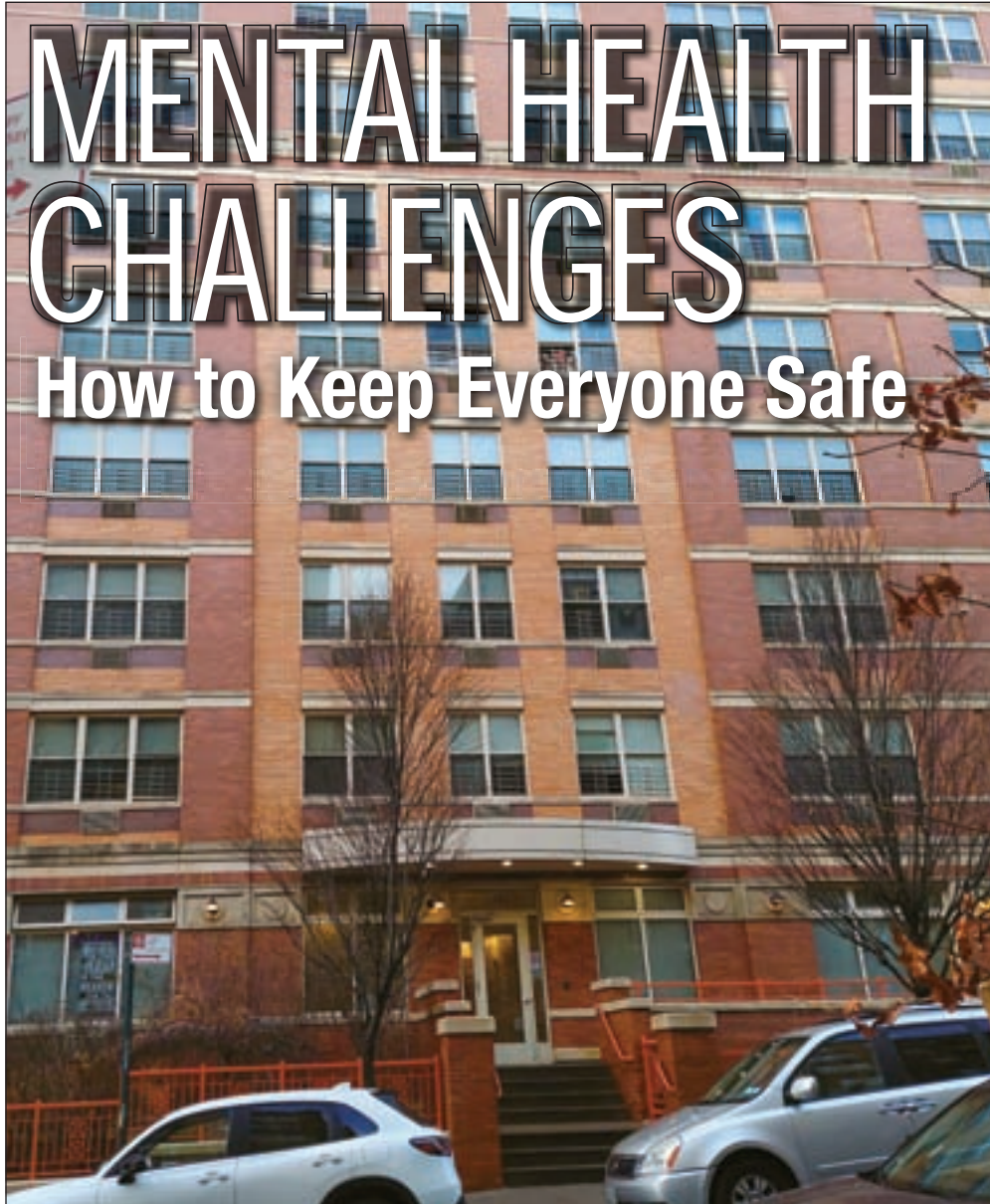


NORWOOD NEWS

Vol 38, No 2 • PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION • JANUARY 23-FEBRUARY 5, 2025

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE WWW.NORWOODNEWS.ORG

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



MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES

How to Keep Everyone Safe

Photo by David Greene

AT LEAST TWO residents of 3525 Hull Avenue in Norwood have been charged with crimes. The building, pictured Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024, is run by the Postgraduate Center for Mental Health.

By **DAVID GREENE**

A second resident living at a Norwood-based, assisted living complex for persons with a mental illness has been arrested, this time for a “lewd act” aboard a subway last month, police said. It follows a prior arrest of another resident of the same complex, located at 3525 Hull Avenue, for the 2021 slashing of a senior with a boxcutter.

According to its website, the Postgraduate Center for Mental Health (PCMH) was founded in 1945, is a “major developer of housing for persons with mental illness,” owns 17 apartment buildings across New York City, and “is expanding its commitment to reducing homelessness among the City’s most vulnerable citizens.”

The \$17.4 million Hull residence opened in February 2012, according to PCMH’s website, and is for applicants only referred by NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS) and NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) who meet specific program requirements, as well as community tenants who applied [for residency]. On-site case management and clinical services are available.

On Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2024, the NYPD shared a photo on X of a man sitting in a subway train with a caption that read, “At 8.25 a.m. a 25-year-old female was on board a southbound “A” train at Chambers Street Subway Station [Manhattan] when an unknown male performed a lewd act in front of her.” On Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024, police announced Wesley Anderson, 42, of 3525

(continued on page 15)



Kingsbridge Fire Displaces 45 Residents
pg 2



CC Sabathia Joins the Baseball Hall of Fame Class of 2025
pg 9



Officials Work to Rescue Pets after Allerton Fire
pg 12

RASKIN & KREMINS, LLP

Over 75 Years Of Combined Personal Injury Law Experience • Over \$300 Million Dollars Recovered for Our Clients

www.raskrem.com

160 Broadway (4th Fl.) New York, NY
Bronx Office - by appointment only

718-878-4858

212-587-3434

2 3 4 5 A C J Z TO FULTON STREET

N R W TO CORTLANDT STREET

NORWOOD NEWS

Vol. 38, No. 2

Norwood News is published
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

Sile Moloney
smoloney@norwoodnews.org

Reporter

Ariel Pacheco

Regular Contributors

David Greene, Miriam Quiñones

**For Display Advertising
Call Sile Moloney
(929) 318 6595**

Support Your Community Newspaper!

The Norwood News is a not-for-profit publication and relies upon the support of its advertisers and readers to produce a quality community newspaper. To support your paper, become a member and receive a subscription for one year.

Simply mail check or money order for \$40 to:
Norwood News, 3400 Reservoir Oval East,
Bronx, NY 10467.

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.

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



Photo courtesy of the Citizens' App

FLAMES ARE SEEN emanating from 3030 Heath Avenue in the Kingsbridge section of The Bronx after a residential fire broke out on Wednesday evening, Jan. 15, 2025, with two minor injuries to firefighters reported.

Kingsbridge Fire Injures Two FFs & Displaces 45 Residents

By **SILE MOLONEY**

Two firefighters were treated for minor injuries after a four-alarm, residential fire broke out in Kingsbridge on Wednesday night, Jan. 15, displacing dozens of residents. The FDNY said the department received a call at 5.56 p.m. for reports of a fire on the fourth floor of a 4-story building at 3030 Heath Avenue between Albany Crescent and Summit Place, a few hundred feet from Local Ladder 46 firehouse at nearby Bailey Avenue and Heath Avenue.

FDNY Assistant Chief Kevin Woods, chief of operations, said the affected multiple dwelling was a non-fireproof, Class 3, H-type building [60 X 60] comprising 6 apartments on each floor. FDNY officials said a 2nd alarm was raised at 6.10 p.m., a third alarm at 6.15 p.m. and a 4th alarm at 6.40 p.m. They said 39 units, comprising 168 fire and EMS personnel responded to the blaze, which according to Diana Finch from the Bronx Park East Community Association, could be seen from the 9th floor of her building in the East Bronx.

The FDNY said the blaze was brought under control at 8.08 p.m. and FDNY fire marshals are investigating the cause. Woods later said in part, “We arrived here in under four minutes. Upon arrival, we had heavy fire on the top floor, the cockloft [the space between the ceiling of the top-floor and the roof], and through the roof.”

According to APX Data, in firefighting, the cockloft can present a significant hazard to firefighters. At another recent residential fire on Jan. 10 at 2910 Wallace Avenue in Allerton, which displaced hundreds of residents, the fire had also extended to the cockloft.” Woods added, “Our engine companies

moved in very aggressively, stretching multiple hand lines to that top floor and also to the roof. Our ladder companies also did a phenomenal job opening up many of the voids in that cockloft and cutting open the roof.”

Woods said the work was exacerbated by the wind which he said pushed the fire across the cockloft, which he said was undivided. “With this weather, as soon as this water hits the ground, of course it freezes upon impact,” he added. Asked if there was construction happening inside the building, the chief said there was not.

Asked if they had made any rescues, Woods confirmed they had not and that everyone self-evacuated. Asked about the 4-alarm nature of the fire, he said in part, “Firefighting is extremely physically demanding. It’s labor-intensive and the constant relief of the units, the amount of fire, and the amount of apartments that are involved, it’s just very labor-intensive.....hence the fourth alarm.” Asked if the cause was potentially suspicious, Woods said it was under investigation.

He added in part, “There are no injuries to any of the occupants. There is extensive damage to approximately six to eight apartments.” He said the fire units prevented further extension and damage.

We spoke to Miguel, the building’s super, who lives in the basement with his family. Speaking in Spanish, he said everyone had been evacuated. Residents and neighbors were seen standing in the cold on the icy streets on an evening where temperatures had dropped to 28 degrees Fahrenheit. Asked if he knew how the fire started, Miguel said, “I don’t know. I’m ok. I was downstairs.” He said his family were also ok. He said

residents on the third and fourth floors couldn’t return due to the fire damage and seemed to believe residents on the lower floors could.

A Red Cross spokesperson later said it had initially registered 17 households and 34 individuals (of which four were children) for emergency housing. “Our Disaster Action Team also provided meals, blankets, toiletries, and other care items to impacted residents,” the spokesperson said, adding that anyone who was unable to connect with the Red Cross should call 1-877-RED CROSS (877-733-2767) and select option 1.

On Jan. 16, the Red Cross said a full vacate order was in effect and referred us to NYC Department of Buildings (DOB) for more details. When contacted, DOB officials said inspectors were called to the scene to conduct a structural stability inspection, which determined the building sustained extensive structural damage, “including charred wood joists, a partially collapsed roof, collapses of interior walls, and broken windows.”

They said the building was deemed unsafe for people, and all displaced residents were therefore also offered emergency relocation assistance by the Red Cross. “The Vacate Order will remain in effect until such time as the owner makes the necessary repairs to make the building safe for occupancy,” they said, adding that DOB inspectors were back the next morning, working with partner agencies to conduct additional inspections and cleanup operations.

According to DOB records, there are open violations for the building with civil penalties due. Since Sept. 23, 2024, there was an open, active low pressure boiler violation number 06078. On June

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

1, 2021, another Construction / Plumbing (OATH/ECB) violation number 39042008N was recorded for failure to maintain the building in a code-compliant manner. The notes read, "Observed on second floor apartments 2A and 2C in the kitchen area behind gas stoves, no gas valve, repair and replace."

As of Jan. 15, a new construction violation number 25-00064 was recorded with the following update, "Structure rendered non-compliant at time of inspection, observed severe fire, water & smoke damage throughout entire premises along with windows out, large sections of roof missing. Severe charring to structural wall/ceiling framing. Exposure #1 (Heath Ave) parapet wall severely leaning forward."

The Red Cross later revised the number of residents they assisted, saying, "As of 3 p.m. today [Jan. 16], we are now at 21 households consisting of 45 individuals (of which seven are children)."

On the evening of the fire, two MTA "Out of Service" buses were seen being waived past a police vehicle on Bailey Avenue, likely called to pick up residents and transport them elsewhere. A Red Cross official was overheard talking to an official we believe was with NYC Department of Emergency Management about the possibility of relocating residents to a local school for registration.

Fire and emergency units could be seen all along Bailey Avenue from at least 230th Street, and the NYPD had blocked off the other end of Bailey Avenue at 231st Street. Meanwhile, Heath Avenue was also blocked off by the NYPD to vehicular traffic at Summit Place as more fire units, a Con Ed vehicle, and emer-

gency vehicles almost filled the street to Bailey Avenue. An official from NYC Department of Sanitation was also seen at the site of the fire. Asked if a fire alarm had gone off, Miguel said, "No, no, no."

We spoke to three other female residents, two of whom were just coming home from work to find the building on fire and one of whom had been inside in her third-floor apartment when the fire broke out. They all said they and their families were safe. One of the residents commented that it was a "lucky" time that the fire broke out as most people were at work.

The female resident who declined to be identified who had been inside her apartment appeared slightly traumatized by the event. Speaking in Spanish, she said, "Everyone is safe, thank God. I was inside and when I saw the smoke, I left. The fire was upstairs on the fourth [floor]. I opened the door by the kitchen, I saw a fireman, and I yell to my daughter, 'Run out of your room! Let's go! There's a fire upstairs!'"

She added, "We went to the next-door neighbor. She says, 'Stay here,' but they started to go downstairs. I heard the neighbors calling, 'Run, Madam!' and we went down the stairs. I was nervous when I saw the smoke. No one got hurt. I'm still nervous. I have not moved from where I am right now."

Asked if she knew what started the fire, she said, "No, because it was upstairs. I don't know." Asked if it had been difficult getting out with the smoke, she said there was water and glass falling down on top of them from the higher floors. Asked if she had seen any injured people, she said, "No, no, no, it was calm." Asked if she recalled hearing a

fire alarm go off, she said she didn't but heard the firefighters outside.

We asked the FDNY about alleged reports that no fire alarm was heard by some residents, and they responded, saying, "Part of the investigation conducted by Fire Marshals." The building owner, according to City records, is MGSA IV LLC, with an address in Cedarhurst, NY. The building was constructed in 1926.

Based on NYC Department of Housing, Preservation & Development (HPD) records, there are three, open, repair-related complaints as of the date of publication for the 3030 Heath Avenue, and no complaints closed since the date of the fire. Meanwhile, HPD records 260 open violations, five citing heat/boiler issues, and one additional boiler-related one.

A similar named entity, MGSA III LLC, owns nearby 3021 Heath Avenue which, according to HPD, has 399 open violations, while MGSA II LLC owns 3004 Heath Avenue which has 229 open violations, MGSA I LLC owns 160 West Kingsbridge Road in in Fordham Manor, which has 291 open violations, and MGSA VII LLC owns 2487 Grand Avenue in Fordham Manor,

which has 312 open violations.

Norwood News was unsuccessful in our attempts to reach MGSA III LLC for comment.

Click <https://www.fdnysmart.org/> to read FDNY's fire safety tips. "During a fire, always close the door behind you!" fire officials say. "It helps contain smoke and flames, giving you precious time to escape. Your quick action can make the difference."

*Miriam Quiñones contributed to this story.



Photo by Síle Moloney

MEMBERS OF THE Red Cross of Greater New York are seen at 3030 Heath Avenue in the Kingsbridge section of The Bronx after a residential fire broke out on Wednesday evening, Jan. 15, 2025, with two minor injuries to firefighters reported.

BRAC Unveils First 2025 Gallery Opening

By **ARIEL PACHECO**

The Bronx River Art Center (BRAC) opened its first gallery of 2025 to the public entitled, "Between Inspiration and Collecting: The Artist's Cabinet," on Thursday, Jan. 9. The gallery showcases various artists' personal collections and reveals how they shape their creative vision.

Officials said the exhibit aims to challenge the notion that art collecting is for prestigious institutions, or for the ultra-wealthy by turning attention to the personal collections of 12 selected artists.

Alena Alekseeva, BRAC exhibitions coordinator and curator of this exhibit, said, "This show is not just a showcase of the artists' work, it's also a showcase of their personal collection. So, my goal was to show how artists can collect what they collect and how it influences the work that they do. So, I gathered 12 artists here to show their [process] and their collection pieces."

Alekseeva said the 12 artists selected were chosen after receiving

more than 70 applications. "My vision for the selection process was to see how artists understand what they do and how they relate to their art and their collection," said Alekseeva.

The exhibit features the artists' collections of Amy Talluto, Anna Fine Foer, Chris Baker, Katia Rozenberg, Jude Griebel, Tatiana Mesa Paján, Robbii Wessen, Sahar Alizadeh, Sheldon Campbell, Stephanie Germosen, Sor Elizabeth Ochoa-Zavala, and Ying Hung.

Paján described her personal collection as "notes taken from the streets of Havana, Cuba." She said it consists of broken texts found across the city, including messages, letters, secrets, and more that show the life of the city through these texts.

The exhibit will be on display in the Bronx River Art Center's main gallery until Saturday, Feb. 15, and is located at 1087 East Tremont Avenue in the West Farms section of the borough.

(continued on page 6)



Photo by Ariel Pacheco

"BETWEEN INSPIRATION AND COLLECTING: THE ARTIST'S CABINET" exhibit is on display at the Bronx River Art Center in West Farms until Saturday, Feb. 15, 2025.

INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By **DAVID GREENE**

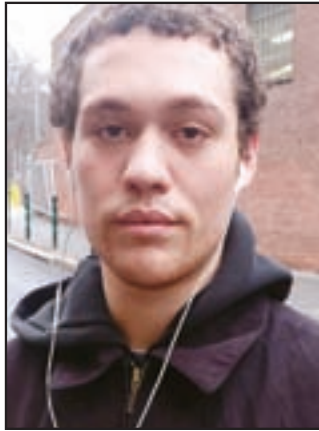


This week, in the context of the 2,193 “heat/hot water complaints” logged in Bronx Community District 7 since Jan. 1, we asked readers if they feel their apartments are sufficiently heated this winter.



“They don’t give enough heat; it comes up for a little while and then it cuts off and then it comes back on, and there’s a lot of senior citizens here. The super doesn’t even speak English; he’s Albanian. His wife speaks English, but everyone comes to me to complain. No one calls 311; I don’t know why. This has been going on for many years.”

Ray Smith,
Bedford Park



“Not really... I mean they just choose when they want to put the heat on and it’s just not on the correct days to be honest. Yeah, it’s kind of funny because it’ll be really, really [expletive] cold, and then nothing at all. But then, when it’s not that cold, then they turn it on, but it doesn’t stay on very long so you can’t even really feel it. We’ve called 311, but they don’t do anything, obviously. You call them repeatedly and nothing happens.”

Chance Marquez,
Parkchester



“The building gets heat, but some people in the building don’t get heat. When my mom turns her heat on, it lasts for like seven minutes and then it starts blowing cold air for no reason. That’s been for the past 14 years, and then the super comes upstairs and fixes whatever. I think something’s wrong with the thermostat. The thermostat always reads between 75 and 80 degrees and it’s not true; the apartment is still cold. My mom called 311 about three times; nothing happened.”

Carlito Paz,
Parkchester



“I’m not getting enough heat because every time when it’s below zero degrees, they don’t turn on the heat. They only turn on the heat when it’s like forty degrees outside. That’s when the super of my building turns on the heat. The heat only comes on if they turn it on and sometimes, they don’t. I think they’re trying to save money on gas because they don’t want to spend the money. No, we haven’t called 311. I use a space heater to keep me warm, and that’s dangerous.”

Raven Chestnut,
Norwood



“I’m a resident here in The Bronx and I’ve been seeing a lot of reports with people complaining about the lack of heat, even though they pay rent. These people need heat, and landlords need to update their boilers. And they should limit the heat in each apartment, because a lot of people like to abuse and use more heat than a regular tenant. And sometimes, the landlords want to be cheap and they don’t want to fix things, and they act like it comes out of their pocket, but everybody is paying rent.”

Carlos Veras,
Kingsbridge

**Ariel Pacheco contributed to this opinion piece.*

STUDIOS FOR RENT
Fordham Section / Bronx
One occupant only. Full kitchenette, private bath. Fully furnished.
Outdoor patio. Laundry room.
24/7 security. Near Subway & bus. Rent stabilized.
\$20 Background Check, fee.
(2) Apartments Available \$645/month & \$649/month

Strict Income Limits: Min: \$22,000.00/yr.; Max: \$65,220.00/yr.
Contact (718) 367 – 1900, ext. 130.



***Picture shown is a model unit

Webster Ave Post Office Shut for 3-4 More Weeks

By DAVID GREENE

The USPS post office located at 2963 Webster Avenue and Botanical Square in Bedford Park has been closed since a large water main break caused major flooding back on Monday, Dec. 16, 2024. USPS now says repairs to the damaged building could take as long as a month before it's back up and running.

When contacted on Tuesday, Jan. 21, Xavier Hernandez of the USPS strategic communications team told *Norwood News*, "The contractor has begun working on repairs to extensive flood damage at Botanical Station." He added, "If all goes well, we expect the work to be completed within the next three to four weeks. Once completed, we expect regular retail service to begin shortly thereafter."

On the same day, we spoke to "David," a resident of Botanical Square, whose building remains without elevator service or gas for his oven since the flooding. David had already learned about the post office's closure, saying, "Yeah, that's what they say because they're taking their sweet time to do anything in there."

He alleged, "I know the owner of the place and the post office isn't letting him

send a crew in there to do it. The post office is using their own crew and they're taking their sweet time to do anything in there."

He continued, "And it's bad for us, because the post office there was convenient for everybody around here. Now, we have to go to [East] 204th Street and [East] Mosholu Parkway [North] to the post office over there, or we have to go to the one on [East] 188 Street and Third Avenue, and if you go to the one on Third Avenue, you're going to be there for up to an hour."

As reported, Norwood residents were previously very frustrated over the length of time it took to reopen the Jerome Avenue post office branch located by East Gun Hill Road after it was temporarily closed in recent years due to a raccoon infestation. On that occasion, *Norwood News* received conflicting reasons from USPS and the building owner for why it took so long to reopen the branch, which did eventually reopen.

We sent some follow-up questions to Hernandez on David's claims about the workers at the Webster Avenue branch. We had not received a response as of press date but will share any updates we receive.



Photo by David Greene

THE BOTANICAL SQUARE post office in Bedford Park remained closed on Monday, Dec. 23, 2024, after a water main break flooded the area causing water damage on Dec. 16, 2024.



Photo by David Greene

REPAIR WORK IS underway at the USPS post office on Webster Avenue and Botanical Square in Bedford Park on Friday, Jan. 17, 2025, after a water main break caused flooding and damage to various Webster Avenue



Photo by David Greene

AS THIS PHOTO of the inside of the damaged Botanical Square post office in Bedford Park dated Friday, Jan. 17, 2025, shows, it could be closed for another month as workers continue to repair the damaged floor caused by flood waters after a water main break occurred in mid-December 2024.

Spuyten Duyvil: MTA Bus Hits Wall on Black Ice

By SÍLE MOLONEY

There were no injuries reported after a BxM1 bus crashed into a high wall by 2601 Henry Hudson Parkway and Kappock Street / Independence Avenue in the Spuyten Duyvil section of The Bronx on Friday morning, Jan. 17, according to City officials. The FDNY said on Friday they received a call at 8.40 a.m. for a report of a bus hanging from an overpass. They said there were no reported injuries, but emergency units remained at the scene. The MTA later confirmed the FDNY helped the driver off the bus.

When contacted, an NYPD spokesperson said at 8.40 a.m., upon arrival at Independence Avenue and Kappock Street, officers from the 50th Precinct were informed that a 57-year-old, male, MTA bus driver was traveling southbound on the Henry Hudson Parkway West when he failed to navigate the roadway and lost control of the bus, missing its turn and skidding over the stone wall. “There were no injuries reported,” the spokesperson added.

Asked if the bus had been occupied at the time with many passengers, the spokesperson said, “I don’t have that detail at the moment.” We asked the MTA if they could confirm this information. A spokesperson later responded, saying, “The incident involving a BxM1 bus was reported at 8:32 am at Kappock and Henry

Hudson Parkway.”

The MTA spokesperson added, “No customers were on board at the time. No injuries have been reported.” Asked if there were any other vehicles involved in the accident, the NYPD spokesperson said it was just the bus.

Some videos of the scene were shared with *Norwood News* by local resident, Stephanie Coggins, and can be viewed on the online version of this story on our website.

TWU Local 100 MTA Bus Vice President Danny D’Amato, Division Chair Mike Capocci, Yonkers Depot Chair Marcus Soler and TWU Safety Team members Joseph DiPaola and Jamie Ayuso later said they also responded to the scene. They said the 26-year-veteran bus driver at the wheel had been attempting to pass a poorly parked vehicle obstructing a narrow single lane service road.

They said the bus slid on black ice into a ditch, and the front wheel hit a guardrail, damaging a stone wall abutting the Henry Hudson Parkway. “The Bus was safely removed by the TWU Local 100 road service crew with the help of FDNY,” they said. “Vice President D’Amato said the operator is shaken up by this unfortunate incident but thankfully nobody got injured.”

With collision investigations, the NYPD handles all criminal aspects of

the investigations, while NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) reviews the street design at the locations of such crashes. We reached out to DOT for more information on whether the road design was a factor.

A DOT spokesperson later said that parking at the corner [of the Henry Hudson Parkway West service road, southbound, before the bend by Kappock Street] is not new, and was temporarily removed while MTA Bridges & Tunnels made improvements to the nearby pedestrian and bicycle path. The spokesperson added that the contractor is responsible for returning parking spaces after work is complete.

Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81), who represents the local area, said on Friday, “I was on the scene of the BxM1 bus crash with Council Member Eric Dinowitz. Thankfully, there were no customers on board and no injuries. The bus operator was safely removed by the FDNY and is unharmed. The crash happened while the driver tried to go around



Image courtesy of the Citizens’ App
AN MTA BUS is seen hanging over a high broken wall at Independence Avenue and Kappock Street in the Spuyten Duyvil section of The Bronx on Friday morning, Jan. 17, 2025.

a double-parked car.”

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

BRAC Unveils First 2025 Gallery Opening

(continued from page 3)



Photos by Ariel Pacheco

“BETWEEN INSPIRATION AND COLLECTING: THE ARTIST’S CABINET” exhibit is on display at the Bronx River Art Center in West Farms until Saturday, Feb. 15, 2025.

NEWS BRIEFS

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

Charges Against Former Lt. Gov. Dropped

Federal prosecutors announced on Friday, Jan. 17, that bribery and related charges brought against former Democratic New York Lt. Gov. Brian Benjamin in April 2022 were dropped following a review of the case and in light of the death of a Bronx-born cooperating witness, Gerald Migdol, 73, who was also a co-defendant. Benjamin was charged on April 11, 2022 for conspiracy to commit bribery and honest services wire fraud, bribery, honest services wire fraud, falsification of records, and aiding and abetting.

In light of the death of Migdol on Feb. 9, 2024, and a review of the case, they said U.S. District Judge J. Paul Oetken approved dismissal of the federal charges against Benjamin, 48, a former State senator representing Upper Manhattan, including Harlem. The court heard that the government determined it could no longer prove the charges beyond a reasonable doubt.

In Migdol's obituary, he was described as "a community-minded businessman, attorney, philanthropist, and beloved family man" who was born in The Bronx on Feb. 10, 1950, and raised in Queens. Some media outlets described Migdol as a Harlem real estate mogul.

According to a 2021 990 tax form, Migdol was president of Friends of Public Schools, Harlem, Inc, a nonprofit with an address at 223 West 138th Street in Harlem. According to the same filing, the organization's primary, tax-exempt purpose was "fundraising and providing resources to public schools and students in Harlem." The organization's book-keeping was listed as being handled by Migdol. Net assets for 2021 for the nonprofit amounted to \$21,144.

According to a 2022 990 tax filing for another 501(c)(3) entity, an exempt private foundation, "The Migdol Family Foundation Inc, aka The Daniel Migdol Memorial Fund," on which Migdol served as an officer/director or other, net assets amounted to \$378,957. Corporate stock investments amounted to \$308,164 at year-end, while disbursements for charitable purposes amounted to \$17,525 at year-end.

On April 12, 2022, federal prosecutors alleged Benjamin struck a deal with an unnamed real estate developer, referred to in the indictment as CC-1, and allegedly directed a \$50,000 state grant to a nonprofit controlled by CC-1 in exchange for tens of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions from CC-1.

They also alleged Benjamin repeatedly lied to cover up the bribery scheme, including by falsifying campaign forms

and misleading city regulators. They also alleged Benjamin repeatedly lied on the forms he filled out before he was appointed lieutenant governor.

Benjamin received the endorsement of the Bronx County Democratic Party in February 2021 in his bid to win the seat for New York City comptroller, a race ultimately won by now-incumbent, Brad Lander. Representatives for the Party said at the time of Benjamin's endorsement that the Party was committed to helping elect Democrats across the borough who "continue to fight for progress and for the residents of the community."

The party's representatives said the endorsement was based on Benjamin's extensive experience handling investments, and his background in finance, a crucial skill, they said, for the job of city comptroller. Combined with his work as chair of the Budget and Revenue Committee in the state senate, they said Benjamin was the only candidate with the ability to handle investing the City's money while protecting the pensions of retirees.

Benjamin denied any wrongdoing and entered a not guilty plea. Reacting to the dropped charges, he said in part, "I would like to thank the present leadership at @SDNYnews for reviewing this case and deciding to dismiss the charges in its entirety today. I want to thank my legal team, family, friends and community for all of their unwavering support."

Meanwhile, an excerpt from Migdol's obituary reads, "Gerald devoted countless hours to supporting Harlem's public schools by providing educational resources and assisting Harlem Hospital with vital supplies."



Photo via social media

FORMER NEW YORK Lt. Gov. Brian Benjamin

AOC, Espaillat Urge New Yorkers to Know their Rights

Following the inauguration of Donald Trump as the 47th president of the United States on Jan. 20, and the likelihood of ICE raids stemming from his immigration policy, Reps. Adriano Espaillat (NY-13) and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (NY-14), and others are urging immigrant New Yorkers to know their rights.

They said immigrant New Yorkers do not have to open the door to, or consent to a search by ICE officials without a warrant, that the 5th Amendment pro-

tests their right to remain silent, that ICE officials cannot enter employee-only areas of the workplace, and that immigrant New Yorkers are not obligated to provide personal information to ICE. They added that immigrant New Yorkers should not lie, do not have to sign anything or hand over any documents, and have the right to speak to an attorney.

Bedford Park Man Reported Missing

The NYPD is asking for the public's help locating a Bedford Park man, Theodore A. Rourke, 43, who was already being searched for by the Riverhead Town Police Department in Upstate New York after he was reported missing by his mother, Judith Leavitt of Riverhead, NY, on Friday, Jan. 9. They said she last had contact with Rourke in mid-December.

Rourke is described as a white male, 5 feet, 8 inches tall, weighing 140 pounds, with balding, brown hair. Police said he was last seen in the area of 2700 Marion Avenue in Bedford Park in mid to late December 2024 and has lived at 2700 Marion Avenue for roughly the last seven years. They said although no foul play is suspected, Rourke is diagnosed with schizophrenia.

On Saturday, Jan. 18, the NYPD said Rourke was last seen leaving his home on Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2024, at around 8 p.m. They said he was last seen wearing a blue jacket and blue jeans and

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



Photos courtesy of law enforcement
THEODORE ROURKE

Mayor Talks Up Bronx Jobs after Trump Meeting

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

Amid criticism from some that his meeting with now-U.S. President Donald Trump, held Friday, Jan. 17, was used to discuss his pending federal legal case of alleged bribery in the context of prior election campaign financing, and to which he has pleaded not guilty, NYC Mayor Eric Adams refuted suggestions the meeting was used for this purpose and said the discussion, among other topics, focused on bringing manufacturing jobs to New York City, particularly in The Bronx.

"President Trump and I had a productive conversation about New York's needs and what's best for our city, and how the federal government can play a more helpful role in improving the lives of New Yorkers," the mayor said. "While we briefly touched on a number of issues, we specifically focused on the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas, and how it will have a positive impact on public safety in our country; how we can bring manufacturing jobs back to New York, particularly in The Bronx; and how we can continue to make federal investments in New York City, especially when it comes to infrastructure."

Adams added, "To be clear, we did not discuss my legal case, and those who suggest the mayor of the largest city in the nation shouldn't meet with the incoming president to discuss our city's priorities because of inaccurate speculation, or because we're from different parties, clearly care more about politics than people."

The mayor continued, "Like I've always done, I will take every opportunity possible to advocate for New Yorkers and our city, and after our discussion, I strongly believe there is much our city and the federal government can partner on to make New York City safer, stronger, and more affordable. I thank President Trump for his time and attention and look forward to working with him to benefit all New Yorkers."

Bronx City Councilman Kevin Riley (C.D. 12), who represents much of the North Bronx, responded to Adams, saying, "Would love to hear more about this convo @NYCMayor."

The day before the Trump meeting, the mayor announced the release of the \$114.5 billion fiscal year

(continued on page 9)

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY ARIEL PACHECO



CM Dinowitz Seeks Capital Project Input

City Council Member Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11) is asking residents for their input on capital projects that require a minimum budget of \$50,000 in Council District 11 in preparation for Fiscal Year 2026. He said these could include improvements to parks, upgrades to schools, infrastructure enhancements, or the addition of community facilities to benefit the neighborhood. Past projects have included renovating the JFK school campus football field and a new playground at P.S. 24. Fill out the required form at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqkpZnDcX0vr1WcCtJbhRupNBKoS3Ly0DAR00QBjYJq0eb-w/viewform>.

Virtual Demo Day

The Robin Hood Foundation is asking residents to join a Virtual Demo Day on Jan. 29 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. ET to see how leading innovators are using AI to create breakthrough solutions to fight poverty in the U.S. The challenge aims to identify effective uses of AI in education, financial empowerment, and workforce development, and to inspire

more efforts to apply AI in service of expanding upward mobility from poverty. From these finalists, three winners will be selected (one in each field) and each will receive a \$1 million prize. These demos are part of the winner selection process. Register at https://robinhoodnyc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Or7ZdwogS9WEpre6ZZgemw#/registration.

Rent Freeze and Homeowners' Tax Break Day

State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33) is hosting a rent freeze and homeowners' tax break day on Friday, Feb. 7, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at POTS, 2450 Grand Concourse, 3rd Floor, Bronx, NY, 10458 to help residents apply or recertify their Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption, Disability Rent Increase Exemption Program, or Senior Citizen Homeowners' Exemption. Appointments are required. For more information, call (718) 933-2034.

Bronx Hiring Event

JobsNYC is hosting a hiring event on Thursday, Jan. 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Carolyn McLaughlin Com-

munity Center, 1130 Grand Concourse Bronx, NY 10456. Opportunities are available to work for The City of New York and private employers, along with onsite interviews and connections to resources and benefits. For more information, visit nyc.gov/jobsevents.

Career Fair

NYCHA residents are invited to join the Career Fair on Wednesday, Jan. 29, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at P.S. 107, 1695 Seward Ave., Bronx, NY 10473. Meet and interview with employers in the construction industry, explore job opportunities, and register for free construction training. For more information, email info@positiveworkforce.org.

Re-Entry Employment Resource Fair

The Office of the Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark is hosting a re-entry employment Resource Fair on Tuesday, Jan. 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at BronxWorks Betances Community Center, 547 East 146th Street, Bronx, NY 10455. Dress for success and bring your resume. Employers and interviews will be held on-site. For more information,

call (718) 590-2272.

Kingsbridge Armory Environmental Review Hearing

An Environmental Review Hearing for the Kingsbridge Armory will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 11, at 4 p.m. This is a virtual public meeting for the Draft Scope of Work for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/40yflrQ>.

Affordable Housing Lotteries

NYC Department of Housing, Preservation and Development (HPD) has some open housing lotteries described as affordable for housing units in The Bronx. Among others, there are open lotteries for units at 790 Allerton Avenue Apartments, with a deadline of Jan. 24, 2017 Grand Concourse, with a deadline of March 14, and 2386 Morris Avenue and 1966 University Avenue, with a deadline of Jan. 28. Visit <https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/searchlotteries> for more information.

New Year's Celebration & Giveaway Held

By SÍLE MOLONEY

The Dowe Twins, the Bronx's first-ever brother-sister, twin, Hip Hop duo partnered with beloved Bronx pizzeria, Marconi's Pizza & Restaurant, and TruFly NY, a community-focused organization dedicated to uplifting and serving the community, to host a New Year's celebration toy and pizza giveaway on Saturday, Jan. 18, in Norwood.

The event took place from 11 a.m. to noon at Marconi's, located at 181 East Gun Hill Road, at the corner of Wayne Avenue. The Italian eatery has been proudly serving the community for over 50 years and counting.

"We're thrilled to collaborate with Marconi's Pizza and TruFly to give back to our community," said The Dowe Twins. "This event is a wonderful way to kick off the new year, spreading love and kindness to those in need."

During the event, which was free and open to the public, attendees enjoyed free toys and pizza, courtesy of The Dowe Twins, Marconi's Pizza & Restaurant and TruFly.

In the past, The Dowe Twins have collaborated, among other groups, with Norwood Community Library, to bring free books to The Bronx, and have cohosted other community events to promote peace and general good vibes. Organizers said the event was "wonderful" with over 100 toys and slices of pizza distributed to smiling, happy kids. "Our community needs more happy moments!" their mom, Alina Dowe, said.



Photo courtesy of the event organizers

PARTICIPANTS ENJOY A New Year's celebration toy and pizza giveaway on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025, at Marconi's Pizza & Restaurant on East Gun Hill Road in Norwood, The Bronx, sponsored by The Dowe Twins, Marconi's Pizza & Restaurant, and TruFly NY.



Photo courtesy of the event organizers

PARTICIPANTS ENJOY A New Year's celebration toy and pizza giveaway on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025, at Marconi's Pizza & Restaurant on East Gun Hill Road in Norwood, The Bronx, sponsored by The Dowe Twins, Marconi's Pizza & Restaurant, and TruFly NY.



Photo courtesy of the event organizers

PARTICIPANTS ENJOY A New Year's celebration toy and pizza giveaway on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025, at Marconi's Pizza & Restaurant on East Gun Hill Road in Norwood, The Bronx, sponsored by The Dowe Twins, Marconi's Pizza & Restaurant, and TruFly NY.



Letters To The Editor

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

Meat & Your Health

Eating meat is no longer just about heart disease, stroke, cancer, and diabetes. It's about dementia too! A study of 133,000 U.S. men and women, tracked for more than 40 years, concluded that consumption of processed meat products leads to increased risk of dementia and reduced cognition. The study was published last week in the prestigious journal, *Neurology*.

Another study that tracked half a million U.K. adults over eight years found that daily consumption of an ounce of processed meat was associated with a 44 percent higher risk of developing dementia and a 52 percent higher risk of developing Alzheimer's disease. That study was published five years ago in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*.

Ready relief is offered by our supermarkets in their rich selection of

legumes, nuts, grains, soy products, and other natural protein-rich plant foods. The *American Heart Association* provides more details in their website heart.org.

Niles Neusbaum Williamsbridge

A Role Model for All Bronxites

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, the court's second Black justice, suggested that his colleagues should "reconsider" major decisions dealing with gay marriage [marriage equality], contraception, and intimate relations between same-sex couples. I wholeheartedly agree as I'm sure many of my fellow Bronxites do.

Thomas' comments came attached to the court's controversial decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* that overturned the constitutional right to abortion the court had established in *Roe v. Wade* nearly five decades earlier. Sadly, right here in NYC, recent studies have shown more Black babies are aborted than are

born according to 2013 data compiled by the City's health department and fact-checked by The Poynter Institute's Politifact: <https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2015/nov/25/cynthia-meyer/cynthia-meyer-says-more-black-babies-are-aborted-n/>.

Justice Thomas grew up in poverty, but yet managed to reach the pinnacles of the legal system with his appointment to the highest court in the land, the U.S. Supreme Court.

As we turn the calendar pages into the year 2025, I am urging every Bronxite to encourage our youth, especially young males, to look at Justice Thomas Clarence as a role model for their future, and let's protect all forms of life rather than allow abortions!

Richard Marias, Norwood

Keep Those Letters Coming

Congratulations to my fellow 2024 "Letters to the Editor" writers! Surveys reveal that "Letters to The Editor" is one of the most widely read and popular sections

of any newspaper. Most newspapers will print letters submitted by any writer regardless of where they live so long as the topic is relevant to readers.

It helps to have a snappy introduction, a good hook, to be timely, precise, sourced, and to have an interesting or different viewpoint to increase your odds of getting published. Many papers welcome letters commenting on their own editorials, articles, or previously published letters to the editor.

I continue to be grateful that the *Norwood News*, along with other newspapers, afford both me and my fellow letter writers the opportunity to express our views as well as differing opinions on issues of the day.

Please join me along with your neighbors in reading the *Norwood News* or (your other favorite daily and local, weekly community newspapers). Patronize their advertisers; they provide the revenues necessary to keep them in business. This helps pay to provide space for your favorite or not-so-favorite letter writers.

Larry Penner Great Neck

Mayor Talks Up Bronx Jobs after Trump Meeting

(continued from page 7)

2026 preliminary budget. According to City officials, the budget makes "sound investments" that will keep the City's subways and streets safe, bring tax relief to working-class New Yorkers, beautify parks, and make communities safer.

On Friday, the NYPD released the following statement regarding additional police presence on the City's subway system. "The NYPD will be rolling out the ambitious plan to put two officers on every overnight train in phases. Phase 1 will officially begin on Monday and include the first 100 officers."

The department added, "Additional phases will be rolled out over the coming weeks with the expectation that the full operation will be complete by the end of the month. This is a massive undertaking that involves specialized training as well as logistics and resource management. We appreciate the governor's support in keeping New Yorkers safe."

Meanwhile, of the budget announcement, City officials said that investments in various sectors were made possible through what they said was the Adams administration's "ongoing, strong, fiscal management," including \$3.4 billion in total savings" and a "robust economy."

They said the Adams administration's policies had set the stage for the City's economic growth and helped increase tax revenues, adding that the asylum seeker reforecast saves the City \$2.4 billion over two fiscal years, bringing total asylum seeker savings over three fiscal years to \$5.2 billion.

Reaction to the budget was mixed, both positive and negative. New York's

civil legal service providers, for example, called on the mayor to fix what they said was the City's broken contract and payment process, saying payment delays jeopardize nonprofits' ability to deliver on the mayor's stated goals of helping tenants, low-income people, and new arrivals.

The Legal Aid Society, Lawyers For Children, Human Services Council, Mobilization for Justice, The Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG), TakeRoot Justice, The Bronx Defenders, Legal Services NYC, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A, CAMBA Legal Services, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, and The New York Immigration Coalition said, "Like Mayor Adams' State of the City address, his Fiscal Year 2026 Preliminary Budget announced today includes various initiatives that are dependent on non-profit contractors to implement."

They added that what they saw as the mayor's reliance on nonprofits revealed a "problem of the mayor's own making" that will delay his agenda from moving forward i.e. "the City's broken payment and contracting process."

"Nonprofits either cannot submit or still have not received payment on current invoices for payment on any approved baseline contract with the Human Resources Administration – the



Photo courtesy of Ed Reed/Mayoral Photography Office

NEW YORK CITY Mayor Eric Adams presents his Financial Year 2026 Preliminary Budget at City Hall on Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025.

department responsible for the majority of the City's social services programs, which includes critical housing and immigration-related programming," they said.

They went on to say that the "current egregious payment delays" have some providers "on the brink of bankruptcy," soon unable to carry out the administration's priorities, and ultimately harming New Yorkers who desperately need these services.

"Mayor Adams needs to recognize that his agenda and priorities are being stymied by his refusal to fix a failed process he campaigned on reforming," they concluded. "Many of the proposals he announced last week and today are necessary and will benefit many of the

communities we serve, but they will fall flat if the City persists in its failures to pay the nonprofits tasked with implementing them."

The mayor attended Trump's inauguration ceremony in Washington D.C. on Jan. 20. Adams is deemed innocent of the bribery and related charges unless and until convicted in a court of law. Meanwhile, NPR reported that the president received an unconditional discharge for his criminal conviction in New York on Jan. 10, meaning he will not face fines, prison or any other penalties in relation to the 34 felony counts of falsifying business records to conceal a payment to adult film star, Stormy Daniels. Trump plans to appeal the conviction.

CRIME FILE

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



University Heights Armed Robbery of Store with Machete

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying and locating the person seen in the accompanying photo below who they say is wanted for questioning in connection to a robbery that occurred in University Heights. Police said that on Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2024, at around 10 a.m. inside a business (deli) located at 51 West 183rd Street, an unidentified person displayed a machete and demanded goods from the employee.

They said the suspect stole store merchandise and then fled on foot to parts unknown. They said there were no reported injuries. Police said the person sought is described as male, has a light complexion, is around 5 feet, 7 inches tall, and weighs 150 pounds. They said he was last seen wearing a black hat, a multi-colored sweatshirt, black pants, and grey sneakers.



Norwood Man Gets 40 Years to Life for Shootings

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark announced on Jan. 6 that a Norwood man was sentenced to 40 years to life in prison after he was convicted of second-degree murder and additional charges for fatally shooting a bodega clerk and wounding the store's owner in Mount Eden in 2021. Officials from the Bronx DA's office said the defendant, Tykwan McLeod, 49, last of Dekalb Avenue in Norwood, was additionally sentenced on Jan. 6 to five years post-release supervision after being convicted by a jury of second-degree murder, attempted assault in the first degree, and second-degree criminal possession of a weapon by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Ralph Fabrizio.

According to the investigation, on Feb. 16, 2021, at around 8.40 p.m., the defendant entered K's Convenient Deli at 8 East Mount Eden Avenue and immediately shot the store clerk, Donte

Thomas, 33, in the face, killing him instantly. The court heard that as Thomas fell, McLeod shot him twice, but as he attempted to flee, the bodega owner grabbed him. Prosecutors said that as the owner did so, McLeod then also shot the owner in the chest at point blank range. They said the owner and another employee then wrestled the gun away from McLeod, and an off-duty, NYPD auxiliary officer then picked it up from the floor.



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Attorneys Office for the Southern District of New York

\$2,466 IN CASH found in or around April 2024 by law enforcement in the vehicle of a former NYC Department of Correction officer, Ghislaine Barrientos, who has pleaded guilty to accepting bribes from an inmate in exchange for drug smuggling into Rikers Island jail.

Former Female DOC Officer Pleads Guilty to Bribery

Federal prosecutors announced Wednesday, Jan. 8, that Ghislaine Barrientos, a former NYC Department of Correction (DOC) officer, pleaded guilty to bribery in exchange for smuggling cocaine into Rikers Island jail. Edward Y. Kim, now-former acting U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, said Barrientos pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Gregory H. Woods and is scheduled to be sentenced in April.

The court heard that the former DOC officer conspired with others to smuggle contraband, including cocaine, smokeable synthetic cannabinoids (known as "K2"), and food to inmates housed at the Robert N. Davoren Complex on Rikers Island in exchange for thousands in cash bribes.

For example, on April 11, 2024, CC-1, an associate of an inmate ("Inmate-1") and Barrientos discussed CC-1 sending Barrientos a package through a delivery service. On April 15, 2024, surveillance footage shows Barrientos entering Inmate-1's cell, where the surveillance footage could not capture her actions. Two days later, DOC searched Inmate-1's cell and recovered sheets of paper that tested positive for cocaine.

The court heard that on April 24, 2024, CC-1 sent Barrientos another package using the delivery service. When Barrientos went to work later that day, a drug-detecting canine alerted officials to the presence of narcotics. DOC employees searched Barrientos's belong-

ings and found around 10 sheets of paper that tested positive for K2.

Barrientos later falsely told law enforcement that no inmates had ever asked her to bring them contraband. Prosecutors said when officers searched Barrientos's vehicle, they recovered additional sheets of paper, as well as around \$2,466 in cash.

Barrientos, 37, of Mount Vernon, NY, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit federal program bribery, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison. The statutory maximum sentence is prescribed by Congress and is provided for informational purposes only. Any sentencing of Barrientos will be determined by the judge.



Man Charged with Fatal Stabbing of 14-Year-Old Boy

A 29-year-old man, Waldo Mejia, with a history of violence and mental health issues, has been arrested and charged with murder for the fatal stabbing in Mott Haven on Friday, Jan. 10, of 14-year-old Caleb Rijos on his way to school, police said. Caleb grew up in Wakefield but later moved to Mott Haven. Police said they believe Mejia, seen in the accompanying photo above, may also be responsible for a prior stabbing of a 38-year-old male, Hispanic victim in Mott Haven earlier this month.

They said on Jan. 10 at around 9.33 a.m., police responded to NYC Health and Hospitals/Lincoln, located at 234 East 149th Street in the South Bronx, for a report of a 14-year-old boy in critical condition who was being treated for multiple stab wounds to the chest. They

said hospital staff later pronounced Caleb deceased.

They said further investigation determined an unprovoked stabbing occurred in front of 300 East 138th Street in Mott Haven, while Caleb had been standing alone on the sidewalk and that the perpetrator had fled the scene. They said Caleb lived on nearby Alexander Avenue. Friends later said he had grown up off 224th Street and Bronxwood Avenue in Wakefield and had attended middle school nearby.

NYPD Chief of Detectives Joseph Kenny said the stabbing of the 38-year-old occurred on Sunday, Jan. 5, on the corner of East 138th Street and Third Avenue [also in Mott Haven] as the victim was walking downstairs to the subway, adding he had been approached from behind by an unidentified male who stabbed him once in the left arm. He said the victim was removed to a local hospital, where he received several stitches.

Kenny said once police obtained video and photographs of Caleb's stabbing, they shared them with all officers and a Transit Bureau officer recognized Mejia from the Jan. 5 incident and notified detectives. He said Mejia was described as male, Hispanic, with a slim build, around 6 feet, 3 inches tall, was wearing a black jacket, gray pants, and black sneakers with a white stripe.

They said patrol officers were posted near Mejia's home, and just after midnight on Saturday morning, they spotted him returning to the building, approached him, and detained him without incident. They said he was wearing the same sneakers and pants he had worn during the homicide and was in possession of a bloody knife.

Police said Mejia, also of Alexander Avenue, was later charged with second-degree murder, first-degree manslaughter, and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon. Kenny encouraged the public to call the tip line on 1800-577-TIPS if anyone had any additional information on the two stabbings. Mejia is presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law. Read our separate story in this edition of a vigil later held in Caleb's memory.

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

**CALL US AT
(929) 318 6595 TO
ADVERTISE**

Patrol Borough: **Bronx** Precinct: **046**

CompStat Book Week of 01/06/25 - 01/12/25

| | 28 Day | | | Year to Date | | | |
|--------------------|---------|------|------|--------------|------|------|----------|
| | % Chg | 2025 | 2024 | % Chg | 2025 | 2024 | % Chg |
| Murder | 0.0 % | 2 | 1 | 100.0 % | 0 | 1 | -100.0 % |
| Rape | 0.0 % | 3 | 3 | 0.0 % | 1 | 2 | -50.0 % |
| Robbery | -66.7 % | 25 | 37 | -32.4 % | 5 | 15 | -66.7 % |
| Felony Assault | 54.5 % | 63 | 57 | 10.5 % | 23 | 25 | -8.0 % |
| Burglary | -75.0 % | 11 | 22 | -50.0 % | 2 | 7 | -71.4 % |
| Grand Larceny | -36.4 % | 34 | 44 | -22.7 % | 11 | 21 | -47.6 % |
| Grand Larceny Auto | -50.0 % | 8 | 19 | -57.9 % | 3 | 5 | -40.0 % |
| Total | -22.5 % | 146 | 183 | -20.2 % | 45 | 76 | -40.8 % |
| Patrol | -25.0 % | 143 | 176 | -18.8 % | 44 | 75 | -41.3 % |
| Transit | 0.0 % | 1 | 5 | -80.0 % | 0 | 1 | -100.0 % |
| Housing | - % | 2 | 2 | 0.0 % | 1 | 0 | - % |
| Shooting Victims | 0.0 % | 1 | 1 | 0.0 % | 0 | 0 | 0.0 % |
| Shooting Incidents | 0.0 % | 1 | 1 | 0.0 % | 0 | 0 | 0.0 % |
| UCR Rape* | -50.0 % | 3 | 8 | -62.5 % | 1 | 4 | -75.0 % |
| Other Sex Crimes | 0.0 % | 5 | 3 | 66.7 % | 1 | 1 | 0.0 % |
| Petit Larceny | -26.3 % | 74 | 68 | 8.8 % | 27 | 26 | 3.8 % |
| Misd. Assault | -57.7 % | 77 | 98 | -21.4 % | 24 | 37 | -35.1 % |
| Hate Crimes | 0.0 % | 0 | 0 | 0.0 % | 0 | 0 | 0.0 % |
| Traffic Fatalities | 0.0 % | 0 | 0 | 0.0 % | 0 | 0 | 0.0 % |

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

Source: NYPD

MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS for the 46th Precinct for the 28-day period ending Jan. 12, 2025, compared to last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 46th Precinct as of Jan. 12, 2025, compared to last year (right).

Patrol Borough: **Bronx** Precinct: **050**

CompStat Book Week of 01/06/25 - 01/12/25

| | 28 Day | | | Year to Date | | | |
|--------------------|----------|------|------|--------------|------|------|----------|
| | % Chg | 2025 | 2024 | % Chg | 2025 | 2024 | % Chg |
| Murder | 0.0 % | 0 | 0 | 0.0 % | 0 | 0 | 0.0 % |
| Rape | - % | 1 | 1 | 0.0 % | 1 | 1 | 0.0 % |
| Robbery | 0.0 % | 10 | 18 | -44.4 % | 4 | 7 | -42.9 % |
| Felony Assault | 0.0 % | 10 | 15 | -33.3 % | 7 | 8 | -12.5 % |
| Burglary | 200.0 % | 10 | 8 | 25.0 % | 4 | 4 | 0.0 % |
| Grand Larceny | -46.7 % | 35 | 60 | -41.7 % | 15 | 28 | -46.4 % |
| Grand Larceny Auto | -72.7 % | 17 | 41 | -58.5 % | 5 | 20 | -75.0 % |
| Total | -36.4 % | 83 | 143 | -42.0 % | 36 | 68 | -47.1 % |
| Patrol | -40.6 % | 75 | 138 | -45.7 % | 32 | 65 | -50.8 % |
| Transit | 0.0 % | 0 | 0 | 0.0 % | 0 | 0 | 0.0 % |
| Housing | 100.0 % | 8 | 5 | 60.0 % | 4 | 3 | 33.3 % |
| Shooting Victims | 0.0 % | 1 | 0 | - % | 0 | 0 | 0.0 % |
| Shooting Incidents | 0.0 % | 1 | 0 | - % | 0 | 0 | 0.0 % |
| UCR Rape* | - % | 3 | 2 | 50.0 % | 2 | 2 | 0.0 % |
| Other Sex Crimes | -100.0 % | 0 | 3 | -100.0 % | 0 | 3 | -100.0 % |
| Petit Larceny | -12.5 % | 51 | 92 | -44.6 % | 22 | 28 | -21.4 % |
| Misd. Assault | -20.0 % | 16 | 20 | -20.0 % | 5 | 8 | -37.5 % |
| Hate Crimes | 0.0 % | 1 | 3 | -66.7 % | 0 | 0 | 0.0 % |
| Traffic Fatalities | 0.0 % | 0 | 0 | 0.0 % | 0 | 0 | 0.0 % |

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

Source: NYPD

MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS for the 50th Precinct for the 28-day period ending Jan. 12, 2025, compared to last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 50th Precinct as of Jan. 12, 2025, compared to last year (right).

Patrol Borough: **Bronx** Precinct: **052**

CompStat Book Week of 01/06/25 - 01/12/25

| | 28 Day | | | Year to Date | | | |
|--------------------|----------|------|------|--------------|------|------|----------|
| | % Chg | 2025 | 2024 | % Chg | 2025 | 2024 | % Chg |
| Murder | 0.0 % | 0 | 0 | 0.0 % | 0 | 0 | 0.0 % |
| Rape | -100.0 % | 4 | 3 | 33.3 % | 1 | 1 | 0.0 % |
| Robbery | -54.5 % | 25 | 50 | -50.0 % | 11 | 17 | -35.3 % |
| Felony Assault | 14.3 % | 54 | 48 | 12.5 % | 18 | 19 | -5.3 % |
| Burglary | -33.3 % | 11 | 13 | -15.4 % | 4 | 4 | 0.0 % |
| Grand Larceny | 27.3 % | 57 | 51 | 11.8 % | 23 | 22 | 4.5 % |
| Grand Larceny Auto | -33.3 % | 22 | 31 | -29.0 % | 10 | 14 | -28.6 % |
| Total | -16.7 % | 173 | 196 | -11.7 % | 67 | 77 | -13.0 % |
| Patrol | -14.6 % | 171 | 192 | -10.9 % | 66 | 76 | -13.2 % |
| Transit | -100.0 % | 2 | 4 | -50.0 % | 1 | 1 | 0.0 % |
| Housing | 0.0 % | 0 | 0 | 0.0 % | 0 | 0 | 0.0 % |
| Shooting Victims | -100.0 % | 3 | 7 | -57.1 % | 1 | 4 | -75.0 % |
| Shooting Incidents | -100.0 % | 3 | 5 | -40.0 % | 1 | 2 | -50.0 % |
| UCR Rape* | -100.0 % | 4 | 4 | 0.0 % | 1 | 2 | -50.0 % |
| Other Sex Crimes | 0.0 % | 8 | 6 | 33.3 % | 3 | 1 | 200.0 % |
| Petit Larceny | -33.3 % | 148 | 154 | -3.9 % | 66 | 95 | -30.5 % |
| Misd. Assault | -40.0 % | 57 | 76 | -25.0 % | 18 | 33 | -45.5 % |
| Hate Crimes | 0.0 % | 0 | 0 | 0.0 % | 0 | 0 | 0.0 % |
| Traffic Fatalities | 0.0 % | 0 | 1 | -100.0 % | 0 | 1 | -100.0 % |

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

Source: NYPD

MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS for the 52nd Precinct for the 28-day period ending Jan. 12, 2025, compared to the same timeframe last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 52nd Precinct as of Jan. 12, 2025, compared to last year (right).

Department of Transportation
 Ydanis Rodriguez, Commissioner

DIVISION OF BRIDGES
INVITATION FOR BIDS

Rehabilitation of West Tremont Avenue Bridge over Metro-North Railroad Hudson Line and the Major Deegan Expressway (I-87)
 Borough of the Bronx
 Contract No. HBX1460
 Federal Aid Project No. X720.45.321 NYSPIN: X720.45
 NYC PIN: 84124BXR619; EPIN: 84124B0010

84124B0010-84124BXR619 Rehabilitation of West Tremont Avenue Bridge over Metro-North Railroad Hudson Line and the Major Deegan Expressway (I-87) in the Borough of the Bronx:
 This Competitive Sealed Bid is released through PASSPort, New York City's online procurement portal. Responses to this Bid must be submitted via PASSPort. To access the Competitive Sealed Bid, vendors should visit the PASSPort public Portal at <https://www.nyc.gov/site/mocs/passport/about-passport.page> and click on the "Search Funding Opportunities in PASSPort". Doing so will take one to the public portal of all procurements in the PASSPort system.

To locate the Competitive Sealed Bid, insert the EPIN, 84124B0010, into the Keyword search field. In order to respond to the Competitive Sealed Bid, vendors must create an account within the PASSPort system if they have not already done so.

A pre-bid conference via ZOOM is scheduled for 02/04/25 at 10:00 AM. Those wishing to attend must email the authorized agency contact for a link.

A Site visit has been arranged for 02/04/25 at 2:00 PM. All prospective bidders are strongly encouraged to attend the site visit.

The deadline for the submission of questions is 02/11/2025 by 4 PM.

The bid due date (submission via PASSPort) as instructed is due 03/19/2025 at 11 AM. Date of Bid Opening 03/19/2025 at 11:30 AM

This Project is federally aided and is subject to the provision of Title 23, U.S. code, as amended, and applicable New York State Statutes. In compliance with these provisions the minimum wages to be paid to laborers and mechanics are included in wage schedules that are set out in the bid proposal.

This procurement is subject to DBE participation goals. The DBE goal for this project is 10%.

As-Built Drawings will be available upon request from the Contractors. Contractors need to sign Confidentiality agreement to view As-built drawings.

Any inquiries concerning this Competitive Sealed Bid should be directed by email, under the subject line "Rehabilitation of West Tremont Avenue Bridge over Metro-North Railroad Hudson Line and the Major Deegan Expressway (I-87)" to the email address of the Authorized Agency Contact, Navneet Kumar, at nkumar@dot.nyc.gov

Eric Adams, Mayor
Ydanis Rodriguez, Commissioner

DOB & ACC Work to Rescue Pets after Allerton Fire

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

Following the horrific, 5-alarm fire at 2910 Wallace Avenue in the Allerton section of The Bronx on Friday, Jan. 10, which displaced hundreds of residents amid frigid temperatures, NYC Department of Buildings (DOB) workers carried out some ad hoc pet rescue at the now-vacated building.

On Wednesday morning, Jan 15, five days after the fire broke out, DOB Principal Engineer Ben Sippel worked with Animal Care Centers of NYC (ACC) to help rescue Daisy, a cat stranded in one of the apartments vacated after the fire. “We’ve since helped reunite Daisy with her family and can confirm that, while a little bit cranky, she is warm and has a full belly,” a DOB spokesperson said.

“In emergency situations where Vacate Orders are placed on a building, instances like this do occur and

we work tirelessly to ensure that stranded pets are reunited with their families!” According to DOB, Sippel also saved and reunited a pet turtle from the building with its owner.

Another pet rescue took place on the fifth floor of the building on Thursday, Jan. 16, when Sasha, another house cat, was reunited with her owner, after she was stranded in the building, DOB officials said. They added that DOB and ACC worked together to set up other “traps” inside the building to catch other pets that may have been wandering around lost.

“The ACC team have been putting a lot of work [in] at this location, helping to reunite owners with animal members of their family,” said Andrew Rudansky of DOB. “They deserve a ton of credit for these efforts.”

DOB officials said each day after the fire occurred, DOB staff con-

ducted extensive structural stability inspections of the building, coordinating with other City agencies and the building owner’s representatives as they began clean-up operations and work to make the building safe, and to allow tenants to start retrieving necessary items from their homes.

They said DOB would continue to maintain a presence at the building, monitoring the progress of the clean-up operations, and pushing the owner to start the needed repairs to get the displaced tenants back home.

Norwood News was previously advised by the FDNY Foundation that if residents are not home when a fire breaks out and if they have pets, owners can place a notice somewhere inside the apartment near the apartment door in large lettering

that indicates if there are pets in the apartment, how many, and in which room they are typically located. They said every second counts and if they can, firefighters may do their best to rescue them, though they cannot guarantee it.

According to Maryland SPCA officials, any pets who have endured a fire should be taken to the veterinarian **as soon as possible**. Some effects of house fires can take several hours to become lethal, so immediate veterinary care may prevent such effects from occurring, they said. “Your veterinarian will assess your pet’s heart, lungs, eyes, and skin,” they added. Contact Animal Care Centers of NYC to adopt a pet, volunteer, and more at <https://www.nycacc.org/contact/>.



Photo courtesy of NYC Department of Buildings

REPRESENTATIVES OF ANIMAL Care Centers of NYC reunite Sasha, the cat, with her owner at 2910 Wallace Avenue in the Allerton section of the Bronx on Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025, after a 5-alarm fire broke out in the building on Friday, Jan. 10, 2025, displacing hundreds of residents.

Out & About

Compiled by **ARIEL PACHECO**

EVENTS

NYC Restaurant Week takes place from Tuesday, Jan. 21, to Sunday, Feb. 9. Taste the best of NYC and sample a variety of cuisines across the five boroughs with 2-course lunches, and 3-course dinners at \$30, \$45, and \$60* at select restaurants. For more information, visit <https://www.nyc.gov/events/nyc-restaurant-week/296362/2>.

Bronx Opera presents **Hansel & Gretel** by Engelbert Humperdinck at Lehman College’s Lovinger Theater, 250 Bedford Park Boulevard West, Bronx, NY, on Friday, Jan. 31, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 2, at 2:30 p.m. The show will feature singers drawn from opera companies around the world, accompanied by a full orchestra conducted by Michael Spierman. For more information, call (718) 960-8495.

LITERATURE

One Book One Bronx is hosting a Book Talk on *Freedom Is a Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the Foundations of a Movement* by Angela Y. Davis on Saturdays, from noon to 1:30 p.m. Feb 1, 8, 15, 22, and March 1 at the BronxArtSpace, 700 Manida St. (entrance on Spofford Ave), or on Tuesdays via Zoom from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Feb 4, 11, 18, & 25. To register, visit <https://onebookonebronx.com>.

ARTS

The **Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center**, located at 3225 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467, welcomes participants to

explore the arts through different mediums including collage, painting, and drawing. All family members are welcome. For more information, (718) 543-8672.

Join the **Kingsbridge Library’s Adult Crafts- Sculpture Making Class** at 291 W 231st Street, Bronx, NY 10463, on Friday, Jan. 31, from 11 a.m. to noon. Join for a relaxing hour of creativity. For more information, call (718) 548-5656.

Join Poe Park Visitor Center at 2640 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10458 for **Mocktail and Paint** on Thursday, Jan. 30, from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Youth ages 6-17 are invited to a mocktail and paint event. Participants will be guided through a step-by-step art class while enjoying refreshments, listening to music, and socializing with friends. For more information, call (718) 365-5516.

PHOTOGRAPHY

The Bronx County Historical Society, 3266 Bainbridge Ave. The Bronx, NY 10467, is showing the **Seis del Sur** photography collective featured in *HISTORIAS*, a multimedia exhibit on display through April 6. Photographs from the exhibit include those of Ricky Flores, Joe Conzo, Jr., Abigail Montes, and Edwin Pagán. For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

MOVEMENT

The St. James Recreation Center, located at 2530 Jerome Ave, Bronx, NY 10468, is hosting a **Yoga Class** on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This is an open level class designed to awaken your mind, body and senses through controlled breathing, simple meditation, and the adoption of specific bodily postures. For more information, call (718) 367-3657.

CC Sabathia Selected for Baseball Hall of Fame

By DAVID GREENE

The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum announced on Tuesday, Jan. 22, that three players from the modern era, including New York Yankee pitching legend, CC Sabathia, were selected to be inducted this summer into the National Baseball Hall of Fame. The other two are Ichiro Suzuki and Billy Wagner. All three were selected by members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

In the announcement, Hall of Fame officials wrote, "CC Sabathia, Ichiro Suzuki and Billy Wagner earn baseball immortality and join Dick Allen and Dave Parker in the Class of 2025."

Hall of Fame officials said Sabathia, 44, was inducted in his first year of eligibility, receiving 342 votes or 86.8% of all votes. They said the pitcher began his 19-season career with the Cleveland Indians in 2001, and in 2008, he joined the Milwaukee Brewers.

They said he joined the Yankees for the 2009 season, where the team enjoyed a World Series victory, and Sabathia was named the 2009 American League's Most Valuable Player



Photo by David Greene

WEARING YANKEE PINSTripES for the first time are CC Sabathia (left) and A.J. Burnett as they are introduced to the press for the first time at Yankee Stadium on Dec. 17, 2008.

(MVP). They went on to say that Sabathia retired as one of only six pitchers in history with at least 250 victo-

ries, a .600 winning percentage and 3,000 strikeouts.

Meanwhile, they said Ichiro, 51, becomes the first Japanese player to enter the National Baseball Hall of Fame. He also had his rookie season in 2001, joining the Seattle Mariners and was named the American League's Most Valuable Player and Rookie of the Year the same year. They said during his 19-year career, Ichiro also played for the Yankees and the Miami Marlins.

They said the 2.31 career ERA for Wagner, 53, is the lowest among retired, left-handed pitchers with at least 500 innings pitched in the live-ball era (post 1920). Wagner played with the Houston Astros, the Philadelphia Phillies, the New York Mets, the Boston Red Sox, and the Atlanta Braves. His career walks-plus-hits-per-innings-pitched ratio (WHIP) of 0.998 is lowest among all retired relievers with at least 700 innings pitched.

Reacting to the announcement, The New York Yankees posted on X, "Next stop: Cooperstown" in reference to the New York town, where the Hall of Fame ceremony



Photo by David Greene

CC SABATHIA MAKES his first appearance as a New York Yankee during a press conference announcing him as a team player for the 2009 season on Dec. 17, 2008.

will take place in the summer. The following day, they posted a photo of Sabathia with the caption, "CC will continue to #RepBX in Cooperstown." They also posted a photo of Sabathia with a quote from him taken from his plaque at Monument Park in Yankee Stadium.

It reads, "This is home, The Bronx. I found a home in The Bronx, and I don't think I'll ever leave this city. So, I think it's only fitting." Meanwhile, Sabathia, himself, reacted to the honor, writing on social media, "Thank you for all the love and support around being elected to the Hall of Fame 2025 class. It truly means everything to me and my family. I realize how special (the) first ballot is, and very appreciative of all the voters who recognized my accomplishments."

He added, "Getting to share that moment with all my people is what matters the most. Next stop, Cooperstown." The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum Induction Weekend will be held July 25-28 on the grounds of the Clark Sports Center in Cooperstown, NY.

Hall of Fame officials also said Dave Parker, a former player with the Pittsburgh Pirates, was selected in December 2024 by the Classic Era Committee to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, along with Dick Allen, a former player with the Philadelphia Phillies, who died in 2020 at the age of 78.

Finally, Tom Hamilton, 52, a sportswriter with the Washington Post, will be presented with the Ford C. Frick Award for baseball broadcasting during the upcoming ceremony, along with Thomas Boswell, who spent 52 years as a columnist with the Washington Post before retiring in 2021. Boswell was selected the 2025 winner of the BBWAA Career Excellence Award.

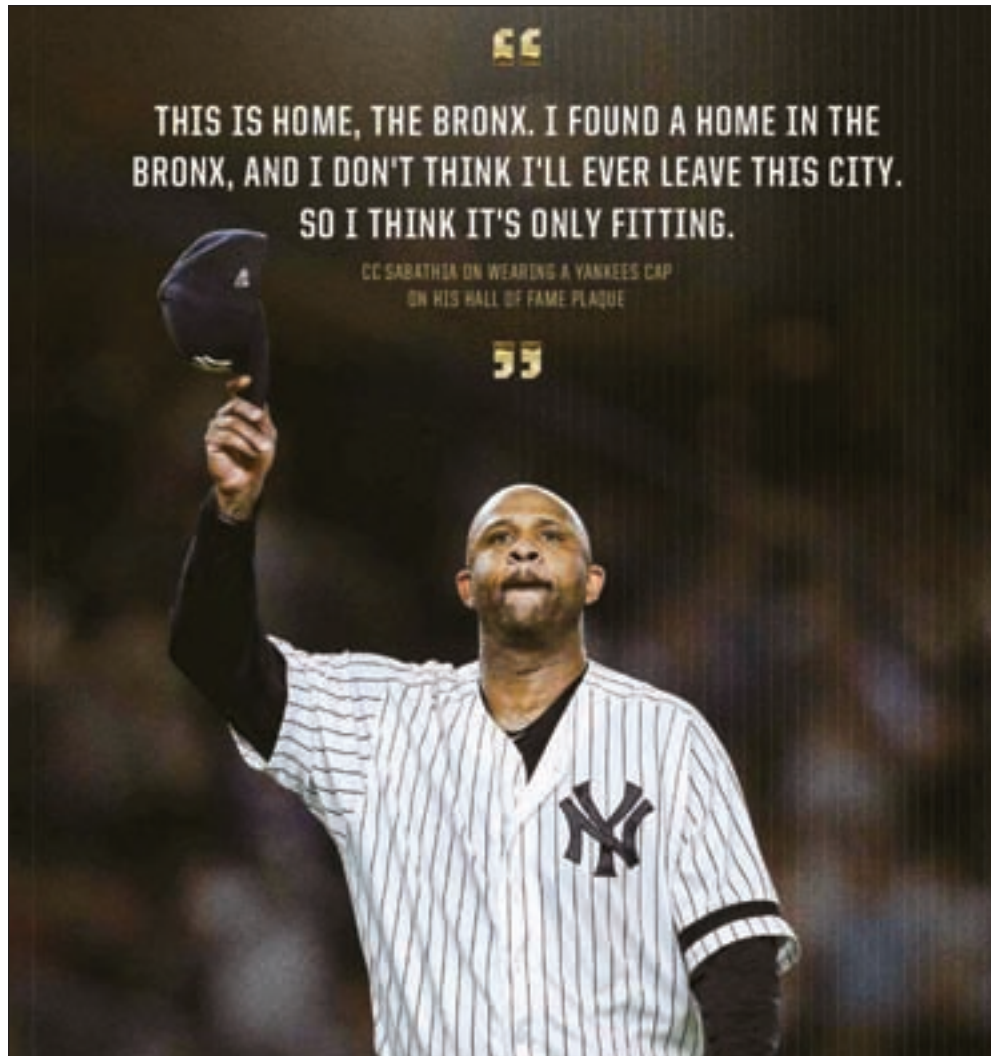


Photo courtesy of the New York Yankees

THE NEW YORK Yankees posted this photo of CC Sabathia on X on Jan. 22, 2025, after it was announced he will be joining the Baseball Hall of Fame, with a quote from the player that's engraved on his plaque in Monument Park at Yankee Stadium.



**Shop local
and Save !**

Small businesses and big savings await at the Jerome Gun Hill BID.

jeromegunhillbid.org
BID hotline 718-324-4946

@jeromegunhillbid
 @jghbid



Classifieds

Professional Directory

COMPUTER SERVICES

Computer Repair

Computer Repair Upgrade, troubleshooting, lap-top overheats, cracked screen, broken power jack, virus removal, data recovery. Call James (646) 281-4475, (718) 324-4332.

Public and Community Meetings

The next 52nd **PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meeting will take place on Thursday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m. at Serviam Gardens, 2848 Bainbridge Avenue, Bronx. Call the 52nd Precinct Community Affairs office at (718) 220-5824 to be added to the email distribution list.

The next **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7 (CB7)** general board meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 28, at 6.30 p.m. at P.S. 246 Poe Center's Gymnasium, 2641 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10468. (Enter through E 193rd St. between Grand Concourse & Creston Ave.) 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** full board (hybrid) meeting will be held in February (date tbc). Contact BX08@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list.

The **BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. South in Apt. B1 (lobby floor). For more details, please contact bedfordmosholu@verizon.net.

Police Appeal for Help Locating Norwood Man Reported Missing

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

The NYPD is seeking the public's help locating a 28-year-old man from Norwood, reported missing. Police said Lovelle Shaw of 282 East Gun Hill Road was last seen leaving his home Monday, Jan. 20, at around 10 a.m. They said he is described as male, Hispanic, has a slim build, a light complexion, weighs around 160 pounds, is 5 feet, 10 inches tall, and wears his hair in locs/locks.

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



Photo courtesy of the NYPD
LOVELLE SHAW IS reported missing



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

**CALL US AT (929) 318 6595
TO ADVERTISE**

Mental Health Challenges

How to Keep Everyone Safe

(continued from page 1)

Hull Avenue in Norwood, was arrested on Dec. 19, 2024, and charged with public lewdness.

On Feb. 6, 2021, *Norwood News* was at the scene after a 67-year-old man was slashed across his right ear and neck with a boxcutter on East Gun Hill Road and Hull Avenue allegedly by Dave Scafe, 48, another assisted living resident. It was reported at the time that the victim required 11 stitches to close the gash. At the time, *Norwood News* spoke with two additional male victims, a store employee and a business owner on East Gun Hill Road, who alleged they were also assaulted by Scafe, but apparently did not press any charges.

Ten days after Anderson's arrest, on Dec. 29, 2024, we visited the Hull Avenue building to try to speak with him. Once inside, a male employee located behind a glass partition said, "He doesn't have a phone." We asked if Anderson was home. The employee replied, "He should be up there; I think he's up there. He moves around. You know what this is, so he moves around a lot."

The employee confirmed the building was run by PCMH. We asked if, generally, residents are removed from the building if they're arrested. He replied, "He's here." When asked about Scafe, the employee replied, "He's still here."

Norwood News first visited the 8-story building on Feb. 14, 2021, when a woman who identified herself as a manager, said, "This is a mental health fa-



Photo courtesy of the NYPD

ON DEC. 11, 2024, the NYPD posted this photo to X of a man wanted in connection with a lewd act that took place on a Manhattan subway train, and later arrested Wesley Anderson, 42, who lives at an assisted living home at 3525 Hull Avenue in Norwood.

cility." When asked about Scafe's arrest, she replied, "We don't know anything about that and if we did, I wouldn't be able to give the information about that because that's his personal business."

In 2021, an extract from PCMH's website explained that clients were welcome to stay at the facility for as long as they wanted. We asked the manager if a resident would be removed if they were convicted of a crime. She responded, "That's between him and the company; we don't make the final decision. There's a whole upper management and the legal team; we have nothing to do with it." The extract in question has since been removed from the website.

PCMH has ten locations in The Bronx, four in Manhattan and three in Brooklyn. The Bronx sites include Bronx Park East, Crotona Park, Grand Concourse, Hull Avenue, Teller Avenue, Marion

Avenue, Washington Avenue and Shakespeare Avenue.

On Feb. 14, 2021, *Norwood News* contacted Scafe via text to ask him about his arrest. He replied, "I don't know of any such thing." He added, "Police are in the business of telling lies." We attempted to reach Scafe again in January this year but were unsuccessful.

According to the Bronx District Attorney's office, Scafe has been on "supervised release" since shortly after his 2021 arrest and had returned to his Hull Avenue home. The Bronx District Attorney's office also confirmed that Scafe, who originally faced ten charges, including assault, menacing and harassment, pleaded guilty to second-degree assault, and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon, and was expected to be sentenced on Feb. 11, 2025.

Outside the Hull Avenue building, on Dec. 29, 2024, we asked a female passerby who lives on the block if there were any problems with the building. She replied, "Sometimes you hear screaming upstairs."

When informed of the 2021 stabbing, the woman replied, "Yeah, I heard about that." Asked if she knew if Scafe was still living in the building, she said, "He's still alive. I think so, yeah." When shown the photo of Anderson circulated prior to his arrest, the woman said, "I don't know him."

When informed Anderson was arrested for masturbating on a subway

train, she gasped, "Oh!" When informed he was still living in the building, she said, "Really? That's not good." Asked if she thought residents should be removed from the building if arrested, she said, "Yeah, they should."

According to PCMH's website, the Hull Avenue building is a partnership with a host of other government agencies and programs, including OMH, DHS, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), NYS Homeless Housing Assistance Program (HHAP), and NYS Housing Finance Agency (HFA).

After repeated attempts to obtain information and a comment about the Hull Avenue building, Mitchell Abramson of DHS responded on Tuesday, Jan. 21, saying, "DSS / DHS doesn't oversee this site." *Norwood News* also reached out to DOHMH for comment. We had not received a response as of press date.

In a review of PCMH posted in February 2023 on Indeed.com, one former employee of the PCMH Grand Concourse facility alleged, "This is a nonprofit that doesn't care about their housed tenants or staff; people in high positions are very cutthroat, with no integrity." The unidentified poster also alleged, "If a tenant spits on you or assaults you, there's nothing you can do, or you'll be fired."

After numerous calls to PCMH's executive assistant John McMasters on Tuesday, Jan. 21, "Christina" of PCMH, who said she oversees the residential division, fielded questions on PCMH's business practices.

She said PCMH is overseen by both the OMH and "DOHC" and was unable to speak about specific clients. She said PCMH houses clients with mental health issues, as well as working families but she could not give a ratio of clients versus working families at the massive, 8-story building.

Asked about the process for evicting a client, Christina said, "We do have to follow the same exact housing laws as you and I have, which means we have to go through very, very lengthy court proceedings."

Referencing the eviction moratorium in place amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Christina added, "And we share in the same frustration when we come across clients that really need to be held accountable for their actions, and we want to protect our buildings and the community." She added, "And it takes years for us to evict tenants that are deserving of being evicted."

Regarding the post where a former employee of the Grand Concourse facility alleged PCMH employees had no protection against assaults by clients, Christina said, "That is 100% not accurate and it's actually the opposite. We always encourage and support our staff to press charges if they are assaulted." She added that 50% of the time staff members decline to press charges against a resident because doing so would damage the relationship between the staffer and the client, or because the staffer doesn't want to go through with the required lengthy legal process.

Anderson is deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.



Photo by David Greene

POLICE ARE SEEN at the corner of East Gun Hill Road and Hull Avenue in Norwood Feb. 6, 2021, after a 67-year-old man was slashed across his ear and throat. They quickly arrested Dave Scafe, an assisted living resident of 3525 Hull Avenue in Norwood, on Feb. 6, 2021.

Injured Construction Workers & All Other Accident Victims

*We Fight for the Money You Deserve
Regardless of Your Immigration Status*

- Construction & Workplace Accidents
- Car & Truck Accidents
- Negligent Building Security
- Slip, Trip & Falls
- Elevator / Escalator Accidents
- Medical Malpractice
- Nursing Home Negligence
- Police Brutality
- Civil Rights Violations
- Victims of Sexual Abuse



Our **GUARANTEE**

There is NO FEE Unless We Win

Our firm has recovered over
Three Hundred Million Dollars
in verdicts and settlements
for our satisfied clients

FREE CONSULTATION

Call 24 Hours • 7 days a Week

Some Recent Verdicts & Recoveries for Clients

Construction Accident - **\$19,500,000** • Truck Accident - **\$10,000,000**
Police Misconduct - **\$28,000,000** • Elevator Accident - **\$1,400,000**
Car Accident - **\$1,600,000** • Slip & Fall Accident - **\$2,650,000**

If You Can't Come to Us...We'll Come to You

Expenses payable upon conclusion of case. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome

RASKIN & KREMINS, LLP

Over 75 Years Of Combined Personal Injury Law Experience

www.raskrem.com

160 Broadway (4th Fl.) New York, NY
Bronx Office - by appointment only

718-878-4858

212-587-3434

2 3 4 5 A C J Z TO FULTON STREET

N R W TO CORTLANDT STREET