



NORWOOD NEWS

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KHCC CELEBRATES 50 YEARS



Photo by Síle Moloney

(L TO R) LISA LINDVALL, CHAIRPERSON of Kingsbridge Heights Community Center (KHCC), Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, Margaret Della, former executive director of KHCC, Councilman Eric Dinowitz, Raye Barbieri, chief executive officer of KHCC, pose for a photo at KHCC's 50th Anniversary at Tribeca Rooftop, located at 2 Desbrosses Street in Lower Manhattan, on Friday, May 17, 2024.

By SÍLE MOLONEY

"Inspiring Generations and Transforming Lives" was the theme of Kingsbridge Heights Community Center

(KHCC)'s 50th anniversary celebration and fundraising gala on Friday, May 17. Held at the fancy Tribeca Rooftop, located at 2 Desbrosses Street

in Lower Manhattan, donors were invited to honor the past and embrace the future as they joined the non-profit's representatives in celebrat-

ing five decades of service to the Bronx community.

Located at 3101 Kingsbridge Terrace in Kings-
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Mosholu Preservation Corporation (MPC)

3400 Reservoir Oval East

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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

Reporter

Ariel Pacheco

Intern

Ashley Castillo

Regular Contributors

David Greene, Miriam Quiñones

Contributors

AJ Ramos, Helen Meltzer-Krim, Roberta Todd, Fahima Degia

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Girl 15 Dies in Scooter Collision, Driver Arrested

By SÍLE MOLONEY & DAVID GREENE

A 15-year-old girl from Manhattan died following a motor vehicle accident in Fordham Manor. Police said that on Tuesday, May 28, at around 12.09 p.m., police responded to a 911 call regarding a motor vehicle collision at the intersection of West 192nd Street and University Avenue.

“Upon arrival, officers observed an 18-year-old male with minor injuries and a 15-year-old female unconscious and unresponsive with trauma about the head and body,” a police spokesperson said. “EMS responded, pronounced the female deceased on scene, and transported the male to St. Barnabas Hospital where he is listed in stable condition,” the spokesperson added.

Police said that a preliminary investigation conducted by the NYPD Highway District’s Collision Investigation Squad (CIS) found that a 22-year-old man, the driver of Vehicle #1, a Honda Pilot [SUV], had been traveling northbound on University Avenue when he collided with Vehicle #2, a moped traveling at high speed in the same direction and driven by an 18-year-old male, with a 15-year-old female passenger.

They said the driver of Vehicle #1 remained on the scene and was not injured, the 18-year-old driver of the moped was taken into custody in connection with a prior investigation, and the investigation into the crash remained ongoing by NYPD Highway District’s Collision Investigation Squad.

On June 5, police said that pursuant to an ongoing investigation, Joshua Matthew, 18, of West 172nd Street in the Mt. Eden section of The Bronx, was named as having been arrested and charged on May 28, at around 5 p.m. They said Matthew was charged with criminal possession of stolen property in the fourth degree, unauthorized use of a vehicle in the third degree, and reckless driving.

We asked the NYPD if these charges were prior charges or if they related to the scooter collision on May 28. We did not receive an immediate response. Police had earlier confirmed that Dafney Juan from Manhattan had been identified as the deceased victim.

With collision investigations, the NYPD handles all criminal aspects of the investigation, while NYC Department of Transportation reviews the street design at the locations of such crashes.

Norwood News was present both on the day of the crash and again on Thursday, May 30, when we spoke to some residents of the area. One female resident who had seen a video of the incident and whose colleague translated from Spanish for her, said of the crash, “People are supposed to be careful on scooters because they were going too fast.”

Asked if the scooter riders had been wearing helmets, she said no. Asked if the scooter had been making a turn at the time of the crash, the resident said, “No.” She added, “This intersection is really, really dangerous because sometimes cars come through here fast.”



Photo by David Greene

AN NYPD TARP covers the body of Dafney Juan, 15, who was killed in a scooter collision at University Avenue and West 192nd Street in Fordham Manor on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, as a pack of cigarettes and a pair of slippers lay next to the mangled scooter.

Another male resident said he witnessed the crash. Pointing southbound on University Avenue and in reference to Honda pilot, the man said, in part, “The car was coming from over here and they [the scooter riders] tried to pass the car fast.” He said the scooter overtook the car and added, “Since they were going too fast, they lost control.”

He added, “But the thing is, the car didn’t hit the scooter. They lost control and hit the pole. It’s not really his (the Honda Pilot driver) fault because they were going too fast, and when you’re on a scooter, by law, you’re supposed to wear a helmet.”

Another male resident of University Avenue called Notik who also witnessed the crash, said in part, “I heard the back of the moped screeching, and they [the scooter riders] made a sharp right, and they ended up bumping into the building on the corner and missed the whole street.”

Notik said he also witnessed the highly publicized crash on Aug. 23, 2023, that took place two blocks away from the latest crash in which local man Eric Duprey, 30, was killed when NYPD Sgt. Erik Duran, 37, threw a water cooler at him during a drug bust operation as Duprey was attempting to leave the scene on a scooter, and as a result of being hit, ended up crashing, as previously reported. “I saw that whole thing too,” Notik said. “They threw the cooler at the Spanish guy that was riding the moped.”

Duran, an undercover member of the NYPD Narcotics Borough Bronx (NBBX) Tactical Response Unit, is currently facing manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide, and assault. The case is being handled by The Office of the New York Attorney General. Duran appeared in a Bronx court on May 16 and pled not guilty to the charges. The case is ongoing and Duran is presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

Asked what he thought about the

prevalence of illegal scooters in The Bronx, Notik said, “The whole scooter situation is troubling, but the economy is so bad and the price of insurance is so high that I don’t see it being a thing.” He continued in part, “It’s like poor people don’t have a choice but to survive how they can. To get an apartment in New York City, you’ve got to make over \$100,000 a year. Everybody doesn’t make that so it’s either move out of the big city or get run over in the big city.”

Notik also said in relation to the latest crash that the victims on the scooter were not hit by the car, but lost control of the scooter. Asked if anyone from the nursing home across the street gave aid, he said, “Nah, I didn’t see anybody give aid. I didn’t see anyone. The first guy I saw was a guy with a black hat come out. He was bald. He was the first guy to come out of that building. He stood there and called the cops.”

Asked if he knew the victims, he said, “No, I’ve never seen them, but I heard they were from Burnside. Police later confirmed that the scooter driver is from West 172nd Street in The Bronx.

We mentioned that the Honda Pilot had a paper plate. Notik said, “Yes. He probably just bought the Pilot. That’s something that the police have to investigate on their own to see if the paper plate is from the dealer or the streets, because that’s the only way they’re going to find out, but I know the scooter had no reason to be going a million miles per hour.”

Asked how fast the scooter was traveling, Notik said, “It looked fast. Like about 60 – 75. Another thing I can say is young people are young and we make mistakes, so it’s about the parent’s, Man. You have to stay on top of your kids so they don’t make those mistakes over and over.”

A memorial to Dafney was seen erected on May 30 at the crash site. An elderly man was seen placing a Christian medal at the site when two of Daf-

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By **DAVID GREENE**



This week, we asked readers their thoughts on a Manhattan court jury finding former U.S. President Donald J. Trump guilty on 34 counts of falsifying business records ahead of the 2016 presidential election.



"Trump cheated on his taxes and there were so many charges against him. Yet, it's taken the forever to put him behind bars which, if it would have been one of us, a citizen, we would have been put in jail a long time ago. Why was the Justice Department taking its sweet time to convict him? He's going for sentencing, yes, but he should do time in jail like everyone else. He's no longer the president."

Armando Flores
Connecticut resident visiting Parkchester
Photo by David Greene



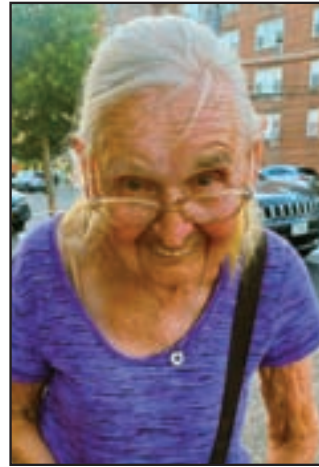
"To me, they're all the same, just different faces and they're going to take care of their own. I work for mine and my mother showed me that but to me, once they get into office, it's all the same. They promise you things that never change. They're all pretty much getting away with stuff because they have their accountants. Most people don't have that. People say he didn't do anything. He did something but there's people who do worse. Rich and powerful people get to do what they want."

M. Guadalupe,
Bedford Park
Photo by David Greene



"I see how so many people are following him (Donald Trump) for his eccentric personality even though he was found guilty. He can possibly go from jail to the White House. It could happen."

Rolando Peralta,
Morris Park
Photo by David Greene



"I love Donald Trump. He gave me money; he did nothing wrong."

Anna Smith,
Morris Park
Photo by David Greene

Editor's Note: In a story dated Oct. 2, 2018, The New York Times reported that former U.S. President Donald Trump had long sold himself as a self-made billionaire, but the Times investigation found that he received at least \$413 million in today's dollars from his father's real estate empire, much of it through tax dodges in the 1990s.



"Being found guilty of something, you still have the option of appealing your case. He still has the option of going all the way to the Supreme Court, so it's a matter of allowing the judicial system to take its course, and after the judicial system takes its course, you can then seek other remedies as well. As far as Mr. Trump is concerned, he, like any other American, has the opportunity to seek the best legal advice. But clearly, we all see that something needs to be done."

Norman Jones,
Van Nest
Photo by David Greene

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Girl 15 Dies in Scooter Collision, Driver Arrested

(continued from page 2)

ney's schoolmates also arrived to place a candle with the others.

According to the NYPD, as of May 12, there were 16 traffic fatalities in The Bronx, compared to 15 as of the same date in 2023. Meanwhile, there was one in the 52nd Precinct, compared to two as of the same date the previous year.

Norwood News spoke to the two and asked what their friend had been like. "She was a very sweet girl, and she was a close friend to me and what happened is really sad, so I wanted to show her love and kind of be here, even though she's not here anymore," one of the two said.

She continued, "I didn't believe it when it first happened. People were sending it to me asking me if this was true and I was like... I didn't even know until I saw it on the news and then I texted her, and she didn't text me back so that's when I knew she was really gone."

Asked if the victim hung out on the block, her friend replied, "Yeah." Asked if she knew who the scooter driver was, the same girl said, "That was her friend. They said that they were driving on the scooter and going very fast, so they're trying to say it's their fault, so they

might charge him."

On the day of the crash, *Norwood News* witnessed the Honda Pilot driver being given a field sobriety test after the incident. However, according to the police preliminary incident report, the Honda driver was not charged, though the investigation is ongoing. "I kind of feel like that's a little unfair because I just don't think it was right," Dafney's friend said, seemingly unsure of where the fault lay. "I think the whole situation is sad."

In reference to the fatal Eric Duprey scooter incident, Dafney's other friend said, "That's crazy. That's why I stay out of The Bronx. I live in Manhattan." The two friends confirmed that Dafney had been enrolled at Arts & Technology High School located on the grounds of the Martin Luther King High School at 122 Amsterdam Avenue and West 66th Street near the Lincoln Center in Manhattan.

One of the friends added, "She didn't really go to school." The other friend said, "She never really came to school but when she did come to school, we had fun." Asked what they were going to miss about Dafney, one of them said, "I'm going to miss her presence," while her other friend said, "I'll miss her energy; I loved the spirit in her voice and just seeing her."

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1-800-577-TIPS (8477). All calls are strictly confidential.

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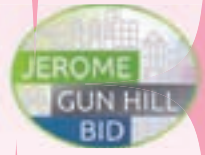
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NEWS BRIEFS

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

Beach Season is Open

New York City's public beaches formally opened for swimming on Saturday, May 25. Orchard Beach, the only public beach in The Bronx, also officially opened on May 25 also. Lifeguards will be on duty daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. until Sunday, September 8. Swimming is strictly prohibited at all other times.

Line Workers Recruit Apprentices

NYS Department of Labor said the Northeastern Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee for the Outside Electrical Industry will conduct an online recruitment drive for New York State from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, for 50-70 electrical (outside) line worker apprentices. Online applications will be accepted the 1st Monday of every month during this recruitment period at <http://www.NEAT1968.org>, with a maximum of 30 applications per area, per month.

A \$25 test processing fee is required, though it may be waived upon verifiable proof of financial need. Applicants without internet access should visit their local library or nearest New York State Department of Labor Career Center (see: dol.ny.gov/career-centers) to apply. The deadline is June 30, 2025.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old. Check the website for other requirements.

Tree Planted in Memory of Sylvia Lask

The Community Advisory Boards (CAB) of NYC Health + Hospitals/Jacobi and North Central Bronx met at Jacobi Medical Center in Morris Park to plant a tree in memory of longtime CAB chair, Sylvia Lask on May 8. CAB members said Lask had been a dedicated member of the CAB for decades and was a stalwart advocate for mental healthcare. Bronx Borough President Vanessa L Gibson joined the ceremony and delivered remarks on her own relationship with Lask.



Photo courtesy of NYC Health + Hospitals
THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY Boards (CAB) of NYC Health + Hospitals/Jacobi and North Central Bronx plant a tree at Jacobi Hospital in memory of longtime CAB chair, Sylvia Lask, on Wednesday, May 8, 2024.

Bronx Nurses Honored during Nurses Week

Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson visited NYC Health + Hospitals/North Central Bronx (NCB) during Nurses Week to celebrate the nursing heroes at the facility. Nurses at

NCB, and throughout the country, are celebrated during this week as they often go above and beyond what is required to care for their patients. Both Jacobi and NCB hosted several events throughout the week to celebrate the nursing profession and honor those who are integral to the delivery of compassionate care.



Photo courtesy of NYC Health + Hospitals/Jacobi & North Central Bronx
BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT Vanessa Gibson joins a ceremony at NYC Health + Hospitals/North Central Bronx in Norwood during Nurses Week to celebrate the nursing heroes at the facility.

The Bronx Vegan Bazaar Makes Its Fordham Plaza Debut June 15

The Bronx Vegan Bazaar, a pioneering vegan food expo of 25 food vendors and collaboration between MASC Hospitality Group (MHG) and the Fordham Plaza Project, is set to make its grand debut at Fordham Plaza on Saturday, June 15, from noon to 6 p.m. Organizers say it is not just about vegan cuisine but also about health, community, and sustainability. Alongside the food options, visitors can also explore eco-friendly products, cruelty-free cosmetics, sustainable fashion, and more. There will also be music by DJ Sabrosura, Bronx

native and wellness coach Scott Bernard will host the event, and Bronx Eats will be conducting food demonstrations.

The Bronx is Reading, featuring Authors and Writers Out Loud, will also be present to celebrate Juneteenth with Daniel J. O'Brien, the illustrator of "Juneteenth Is". There will be a dedicated storytime, and arts and crafts activities, followed by a book signing with the illustrator. Limited free copies of the book will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. The Bronx Vegan Bazaar will be held every third Saturday from May to October, from noon to 6 p.m.

Montefiore AI Tool Helps Colon Cancer Screening

During the ASCO 2024 cancer research conference held in Chicago from May 30-June 3, Montefiore Einstein Comprehensive Cancer Center's (MECCC) psycho-oncologist, Alyson Moadel Robblee, PhD, shared how a new artificial intelligence (AI) tool helped double the colonoscopy completion rate among patients who previously were no-shows or canceled colonoscopy screening appointments.

The AI patient navigator, MyEleanor, calls patients and connects them to human patient navigators and identifies barriers to care, improving cancer screening and prevention. In the Bronx community, people who are Black and Hispanic are diagnosed with more aggressive cancers, often at younger ages, compared to their white counterparts. By improving the screening completion rate, MECCC hopes to identify colon cancer at early stages when there's the greatest chance for a cure.

Opinion

Irlande, Douze Points
[Ireland, 12 Points]:

Eurovision Song Contest
2024 Recap

By **AJ RAMOS**

"Avada Kedavra, I speak to destroy. The feelings I have, I cannot avoid. Through twisted tongues, a hex deployed on you."

Although not entirely Bronx-related but as we are now celebrating Pride Month, I wanted to share my thoughts as this was the first year Americans could vote in the Eurovision Song Contest through "The Rest of The World" category. This was thanks to Peacock acquiring the rights to broadcast the contest. I just wanted to formally say that IRELAND WAS ROBBED!

Ireland, represented by non-binary artist, Bambie Thug, with the song "Doomsday Blue," delivered the most perfect and ultimate Eurovision performance and set ever! From start to finish,

this song and performance showcased artistic and vocal superiority among the other contestants. In my personal and professional opinion, it should have won the whole contest! However, due to international politics and final vote counts, it did not. Many claimed Bambie's performance was "satanic" because of the lyrics and imagery used.

The performance included a Trans flag-inspired outfit and faced backlash for the artist's support of political stances such as "Free Palestine" and "Ceasefire Now" during the supposedly apolitical contest. There was even a demand to remove some make-up from the costuming that showcased the ancient Ogham/Irish alphabet.

With a Harry Potter reference opening the song, leading into, "I guess you'd rather have a star than the moon. I guess I always overestimate you. Hoodoo, all the things that you do. I'm down, down in my doomsday blue," can one truly be too scared of such powerful and masterful art?

AJ Ramos is a resident of Norwood, a Eurovision fan, a member of the LG-BTQIA+ community, and recently graduated from The CUNY School of Professional Studies in Manhattan with a B.A. in communications and media.



Photo by Alma Bengtsson courtesy of the European Broadcasting Union
REPRESENTING IRELAND, BAMBIE Thug, performs "Doomsday Blue" at the 68th Annual Eurovision Song Contest in Malmo, Sweden on Saturday, May 11, 2024. The show aired on Peacock and was won by Switzerland.



Photo courtesy of Genesis D. Fdez
(L TO R) SAMIA MOIN, LATOYA Duncan, Norwood resident AJ Ramos, and Bibi Bushra Noor pose for a photo in support of Palestine at their recent graduation ceremony from The CUNY School of Professional Studies in Manhattan held at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing, NY, on May 23, 2024.

CRIME FILE

BY SÍLE MOLONEY & DAVID GREENE

**University Heights: Double Homicide**

The NYPD released the names of the two people who were fatally shot in University Heights in late May during a multiple shooting. Police launched a double-murder investigation following the May 24 incident, after a man and a woman were shot dead, and a third person was also injured from gunshot wounds.

Police said that at around 00.14 a.m., officers responded to a 911 call regarding a report of a person who had been shot in front of 2290 Davidson Avenue by Evelyn Place. "Upon arrival, police observed a 36-year-old male with a gunshot wound to the chest, a 40-year-old male with a gunshot wound to the right arm, and a 44-year-old female with a gunshot wound to the chest," police said. "The three victims were transported by EMS to St. Barnabas Hospital."

Police said the 36-year-old man and 44-year-old woman were pronounced deceased at the hospital, and the 40-year-old male is in stable condition. They said there were no arrests, and the investigation remains ongoing. Police said the deceased was identified as Clarethia Daniels, 44, and Justin Lawless, 36, both of Grand Avenue in University Heights.

University Heights: Owner of Pitbull Which Attacked Cat Arrested

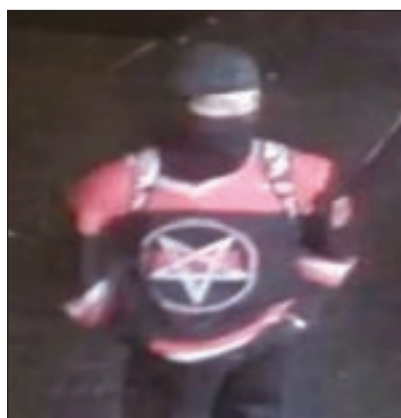
The NYPD said their Animal Cruelty Squad arrested Terrence Wallace, 29, at 2515 University Avenue in University Heights on May 8 at 5.50 a.m. on animal cruelty charges relating to an

attack on a cat by a pitbull "for gain." *Norwood News* reported in late April on a widely circulated video obtained by cat rescue group, Little Wanderers NYC, which showed a pitbull attacking a cat on its owner's instruction, though the incident location of the attack was unknown. In the video, a man can be heard encouraging the dog to attack the cat.

It is unclear if the arrest related to the incident seen in the circulated video or a separate case. We asked the NYPD to clarify. We did not receive a response. Police said Wallace was charged with causing an animal to fight for gain, aggravated cruelty to animals, and two counts of torture/injury to an animal. The NYPD said Wallace had been charged on Dec. 18, 2023, with third degree robbery for a robbery that unfolded on Oct. 10, 2023.

The Bronx District Attorney's Office had confirmed an investigation into allegations of dogfighting and animal cruelty in The Bronx was ongoing. Wallace is deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

Little Wanderers NYC is asking residents to contact their local elected officials to increase resources for Bronx rescue groups who include spay/neuter services, offer subsidies to vets who partner with rescue groups, encourage the police to take animal abuse seriously, and demand the Bronx DA leverage maximum penalties for dogfighting.

**Kingsbridge: 58-Year-Old Man Slashed**

The NYPD is asking for the public's help locating the person seen in the accompanying photo above who they say is sought for an assault that occurred in Kingsbridge. Police said that on Wednesday, May 29, at around 10 p.m. in front of 5625 Broadway, the suspect approached a 58-year-old man from behind with a knife, causing a laceration to the left wrist, left arm, and left thumb. They said the suspect then fled westbound on West 232nd Street to parts unknown.

Police said the victim was transported by EMS to New York-Presbyterian Allen Hospital in stable condition, that there were no arrests, and the investigation remains ongoing. They said the suspect is described as a male with a light complexion who is around 5 feet 9

inches tall, and who was last seen wearing a black facemask, a black and red sweatshirt with a graphic on the front, black jeans, white sneakers, and a multi-colored backpack.

Williamsbridge: Woman Found with Throat Slashed

Police launched a homicide investigation after a 37-year-old woman was found with her throat slashed in Williamsbridge. They said that on Saturday, June 1, at around 6.08 a.m., officers from the 47th Precinct responded to a 911 call regarding a woman who had been assaulted at 1418 Oakley Street. "Upon arrival, officers observed a 37-year-old female with a slash wound to her neck, unconscious and unresponsive," police said.

They said EMS responded to the location and transported the victim to NYC Health and Hospitals/Jacobi where she was pronounced deceased. Police said there were no immediate arrests, and the investigation remains ongoing. The deceased was identified as Ashley Smith, 37, of East Lincoln Avenue in Mt. Vernon.

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.

Fordham Manor: Man Arrested after Second Man Fatally Stabbed in Neck

By SÍLE MOLONEY, DAVID GREENE & ASHLEY CASTILLO

A 36-year-old man has been arrested for murder after a 25-year-old man was fatally stabbed in a Fordham Manor shelter. Police said that on Sunday, May 26, at around 3.16 p.m., officers responded to a 911 call regarding a person who had been stabbed inside 237 Landing Road.

"Upon arrival, officers were informed a 25-year-old male was stabbed in the neck after a verbal dispute," police said. "EMS transported the victim to St. Barnabas Hospital where he was pronounced deceased." Police said there were no initial arrests and the investigation remained ongoing. The deceased was later identified as Eric Worrell, 25, of 237 Landing Road.

On May 27, police said that pursuant to an ongoing investigation, Christopher Hunt, 36, also of 237 Landing Road, was arrested on May 26 and charged with murder in the second degree. He is presumed innocent

unless and until convicted in a court of law.

According to the BRC website, the apartments located at 237 Landing Road are part of Bowery Residents' Committee (BRC) Inc's supportive housing complex and opened in 2018. The building is a mixed-use facility that combines a purpose-built, 200-bed homeless shelter and 135 units of permanent housing affordable to low-income people.

Norwood News had reported on a prior incident at the same shelter on Dec. 10, 2022, during which a male resident died from a cardiac arrest after complaining of chest pains. We reached out to both BRC and NYC Department of Homeless Services for comment on the latest incident. A DSS spokesperson said, "This is a heart-breaking tragedy. Our deepest condolences go out to all who have been impacted, and we stand ready to provide them with every support we can during this difficult time."

The person added, "Ensuring



Image courtesy of the Citizens' App
POLICE AND EMS respond to the scene after a 25-year-old man was fatally stabbed at 237 Landing Road in the Fordham Manor Section of the Bronx on Sunday, May 26, 2024.

ing the health and safety of shelter residents is a top priority, and we do not tolerate any violence against or amongst clients. DHS and not-for-profit provider staff are trained to take a trauma-informed approach and deploy de-escalation techniques when necessary, and all sites have comprehensive se-

curity staff providing services around-the-clock. As we investigate this tragic incident, we are acting with urgency and working closely with our not-for-profit provider-partner to preserve the continuity of services and wellbeing of all clients on site."

Per NYS Social Services

Law, *Norwood News* was informed that DSS cannot share specifics about client cases and is working with the appropriate authorities/stakeholders to verify the facts. Attempts to reach other residents of the shelter for comment were unsuccessful.



VIOLENCE INTERVENTION & PREVENTION (VIP) PROGRAM

975 Kelly Street Suite 401 Bronx, NY 10459

WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?

Elder Abuse, the mistreatment or harming of an older person, is an injustice that we all need to prevent and address.

- Physical
- Emotional/ Psychological
- Financial
- Sexual
- Neglect



FACTS ABOUT ELDER ABUSE

- About 1 in 10 Americans age 60+ have experienced abuse.
- Without decent health care and public resources, our population becomes more at risk for abuse as we age.
- The impact of elder abuse is felt by people of all ages.
- Elder abuse also reduces older people's participation in the life of our communities.
- Elder abuse creates health care and legal costs that are often carried by public programs like Medicare and Medicaid.



ABOUT US

We provide FREE services and supports designed to promote elder justice by helping them to navigate systems and ensure their safety within the home and their community.



OUR SERVICES

- Advocacy
- Safety planning
- Information & Referral
- Supportive Counseling
- Assistance with Order of Protection & Evictions
- Crisis Intervention
- Security Lock Installation
- Educational Workshops, and more



FOR INFORMATION AND REFERRALS PLEASE CALL (718)542-0006 OR EMAIL US AT INFO@NSHOPP.ORG



PROGRAMA DE INTERVENCIÓN Y PREVENCIÓN DE LA VIOLENCIA (VIP)

975 Kelly Street Suite 401 Bronx, NY 10459

¿QUÉ ES EL ABUSO DE ANCIANOS?

Abuso de ancianos, el maltrato o daño a una persona mayor, es una injusticia que todos debemos prevenir y ayudar.

- Físico
- Emocional/Psicológico
- Financiero
- Sexual
- Negligencia



DATOS SOBRE EL ABUSO DE ANCIANOS

- Aproximadamente 1 de cada 10 adultos mayores de 60 años ha experimentado abuso.
- Sin atención médica decente y recursos públicos, nuestra población corre más riesgo de abuso a medida que envejece.
- El impacto del abuso de ancianos lo sienten personas de todas las edades.
- El abuso de ancianos también reduce la participación de las personas mayores en la vida de nuestras comunidades.
- El abuso de ancianos genera costos legales y de atención de la salud que a menudo corren a cargo de programas públicos como Medicare y Medicaid.



SOBRE NOSOTROS

Ofrecemos servicios y apoyo GRATUITO diseñado en promocionar la justicia para personas mayores, ayudándolos a navegar los sistemas y seguridad en su hogar y su comunidad



NUESTROS SERVICIOS

- Apoyo y defensa
- Planificación de la seguridad
- Información y Referidos
- Consejería a corto plazo
- Asistencia con orden de protección y desalojos
- Intervención en Crisis
- Instalación de Cerraduras
- Presentaciones educativas, y mucho más...



PARA MÁS INFORMACION O HACER UN REPORTE, LLÁMENOS AL (718) 542-0006 O ENVÍENOS UN CORREO ELECTRÓNICO A INFO@NSHOPP.ORG





Letters To The Editor

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

Honoring the Country's Military

I would like to see our Norwood community honor our past members of the military with a military flag and their picture on it. Perhaps the 52nd Precinct Community Council in conjunction with a community group such as the Future of Mosholu Parkland could get the ball rolling. These flags could fly along East 204th Street, Bainbridge Avenue and Mosholu Parkway, as well as on East Gun Hill Road. More info can

be found here: <https://militarytribute-banners.org>. Let us always remember - Freedom is not Free!

**Richard Marias,
Norwood**

Inter-City Monthly Discount Program Expansion?

Why not include NYC Transit Bus, Manhattan, and Bronx Surface Transit Operating Authority (MABSTOA), Bus and MTA Express Bus (the former seven NYCDOT private, franchised, bus operators absorbed by MTA in 2005-2006, which included New York Bus and Bronx Liberty Lines Express) in the Inter-City monthly discount program for Long Island and Metro-North

Railroad commuters traveling within New York City? Combined, they have 79 routes with 1142 bus stops.

Contrast that with 12 Bronx and two Manhattan Metro-North Railroad, along with 21 Queens, three Brooklyn, and two Manhattan Long Island Railroad stops. Staten island commuters have no access to any commuter rail service with direct one seat ride connections to either Brooklyn or Manhattan. Rush hour express bus route fares just like commuter rail fares are also out of reach for many of the same potential riders.

Many more potential new customers can easily access an express bus versus a Metro-North or Long Island Railroad service. It would also be easier to add additional buses rather than

Metro-North or Long Island Railroad trains to meet any significant additional capacity to accommodate any significant number of new riders based upon discounted fares.

**Larry Penner,
Great Neck**

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

By **HELEN MELTZER-KRIM
& ROBERTA TODD**

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul and the legislature took significant steps in the 2024-25 budget to end medical debt and enable more patients living in New York to secure the healthcare they need, without fear of facing financial ruin.

All New York hospitals are non-profit charities under state law and receive \$1 billion plus in Indigent Care Pool (ICP) funds to cover their uncompensated care costs. In exchange for ICP funding, the Hospital Finance Assistance Law (HFAL) requires hospitals to offer discounted care to underinsured low-income and moderate-income patients. The ICP funding is basically allocated on formulas that start with the amount hospitals report as free care — patients without insurance or underinsured.

Over 80,000 New Yorkers have been sued for medical debt since 2015 (source: Community Service Society of New York) and 740,000 are burdened by medical debt (source: Crains New York Business). These New Yorkers suffer the serious consequences of a bad credit score because of medical debt; difficulties securing a job, renting an apartment, buying a car, and securing a loan or a mortgage.

The federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has found that credit reporting of medical debt is rife with errors and not predictive of a consumer's ability to pay future bills. This also is a racial justice issue: medical debt is not an equal opportunity problem with 28% of Black and 22% of Latinx people carrying medical debt, versus 17% of White people.

Medical providers and their collection entities often send unpaid ac-

Opinion

Salute Those Who Advocated to End Medical Debt and Support Health Justice

counts to third-party credit reporting agencies who harass patients. The ICP is not reaching intended recipients: low-income and working-class people who should receive discounted care. Administration of the HFAL across hospitals has been inconsistent with regard to eligibility and discount rates. Now, HFAL provides more generous discounts and closely aligns with the Affordable Care Act.

So far, the 2023-2024 NYS legislation covers several significant reforms to the medical debt problems that the #EndMedicalDebt campaign, a statewide coalition led by Community Services Society of New York, fought hard for, including:

The Fair Medical Debt Reporting Act - Hospitals cannot report medical debt to credit bureaus. In December 2023, the governor signed the Fair Medical Debt Reporting Act (S.4907a/A.6275a) which protects New Yorkers from having their credit ruined due to the reporting of medical debt to credit bureaus.

The Reformed Hospital Finance Assistance Law (HFAL) (S.1366A/A.6027) has been modernized and expanded to cover individuals with incomes 400% below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) i.e. 54% of New Yorkers.¹ The law goes into effect October

2024 and includes many wins.

- All hospitals must conform to HFAL.
- Hospitals are required to provide written notification of hospital financial assistance during intake, registration, and discharge.
- There is no time limit on when a patient can apply for assistance.
- Asset test and immigration status will not be used to determine any patient's eligibility.
- Hospitals cannot sell debt to a third party. This benefits all patients.
- Hospitals cannot deny patients care because they have a hospital bill.
- Payments are capped along with the interest rate to 5%, and an interest rate can be no higher than 2%. The prior law had 10% and the 90-day treasury rate.
- Hospitals cannot sue patients with income below 400% of the FPL. The prior law had NO restrictions on hospital medical debt lawsuits.

Discount schedules are offered based on the FPL. There will be no charge for those with incomes under 200% of the FPL (close to 29% of New Yorkers¹), a charge of 10% of the Medicaid rate will apply for those with income between 201% and 300% below the FPL, and a charge of 20% of the Medicaid rate for those with income between 301% and 400% below the FPL. The prior law discounts were not as generous, and hospitals had greater discretion on discount rates.

Underinsured patients with incomes 400% below the FPL or more, defined as individuals with medical costs exceeding 10% of their gross annual income, are eligible for defined discounts. The prior law did not recognize underinsured patients.

Hospitals are required to report

the race, ethnicity, gender, age, and insurance status of those who apply for, receive, and are denied financial assistance.

The new HFAL bill provides the majority of New Yorkers with a more equitable way to pay hospital medical fees, addressing previous injustices around medical debt. Ultimately, readers, if we had passed the New York Health Act (S7590/A07897), medical debt would no longer be a problem in New York State. All residents and people employed in New York State would be guaranteed comprehensive healthcare.

We applaud those of you who have signed petitions, called, or spoken to elected officials, and done all you can to pass legislation that is bringing New York State closer to health justice. Also, great thanks to our New York State Health Committee chairs, State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33) and Assemblywoman Amy Paulin (A.D. 88) for the progress made in the '23/'24 session. We ask those who have not yet engaged in ensuring health justice for New Yorkers to join the overwhelming majority of New Yorkers who consider health costs a major issue and become active participants in healthcare campaigns.

Helen Krim leads the health justice steering committee of Northwest Bronx Indivisible and Roberta Todd is a health justice leader and vice president of Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition Board.

1- Distribution of Total Population by Federal Poverty Level 2022 <https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/distribution-by-fpl/?currentTImeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>



NEIGHBORHOOD Self Help by Older Persons Project
Helping Older Adults Help Themselves

975 Kelly Street, Suite 401, Bronx, NY 10459

ARE YOU A KINSHIP CAREGIVER?

Are you 55 years of age or older and a grandparent, aunt/uncle, or other family relative or close family friend providing full-time care to a nonbiological child under the age of 18?

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OUR SERVICES

- Advocacy & Assistance
- Information & Referrals
- Family & Educational Resources
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- Educational Workshops
- Supplemental Assistance
- Short Term Respite/Child Care
- And more!



KINSHIP CAREGIVING CAN BE CHALLENGING BUT YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

FOR INFORMATION AND REFERRALS CONTACT US AT (718)542-0006 OR AT CAREGIVERS@NSHOPP.ORG



Find us online.



NEIGHBORHOOD Self Help by Older Persons Project
Helping Older Adults Help Themselves

975 Kelly Street, Suite 401, Bronx, NY 10459

Eres Un Cuidador De Parentesco?

¿Tiene usted 55 años de edad o más y es abuelo, tía/tío u otro pariente de la familia o amigo cercano de la familia que cuida a un niño menor de 18 años que no es su hijo biológico?

Si respondió SÍ, ERES un cuidador familiar y apoyo y servicios GRATUITOS están disponibles para usted en el Programa de cuidadores de SHOPP.

NUESTROS SERVICIOS

- Apoyo y Asistencia
- Información y Referencias
- Recursos Familiares y Educativos
- Consejería y Apoyo Emocional
- Información Legal
- Talleres Educativos y Grupo de Apoyo
- Asistencia Suplementaria
- Respiro a Corto Plazo/Cuidado Infantil
- ¡Y Más!



EL CUIDADO POR PARENTESCO PUEDE SER UN DESAFÍO ¡PERO USTED NO ESTÁ SOLO!

PARA INFORMACIÓN Y REFERENCIAS CONTÁCTENOS AL (718)542-0006 O Envíe un Correo Electrónico a CAREGIVERS_@NSHOPP.ORG



Encuéntrenos en línea

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY ARIEL PACHECO & SÍLE MOLONEY



MMR Vaccine for Children

NYC Department of Health are reminding New Yorkers to have their children receive the MMR vaccine before traveling this summer. They said decreases in measles vaccination rates around the world have led to outbreaks, increasing the chances of unvaccinated travelers from the U.S. getting sick and spreading the virus when they get back home. They said the MMR vaccine is safe, provides 97% protection against measles after two doses, and said to talk to your child's health care provider before traveling.

NYCHA to Open Section 8 Housing Voucher Waitlist

The application period for the NYCHA Section 8 housing voucher waitlist began on June 3 and runs through Sunday, June 9. The waitlist had been closed for nearly 15 years. For more information, visit <https://www.nyc.gov/site/nycha/section-8/applicants.page>.

Stand Up to Violence (SUV) Annual Peace Walk

In recognition of Gun Violence Awareness Month, rain or shine, NYC Health + Hospitals Jacobi + North Central Bronx will join cure violence interrupters, Stand Up to Violence, for the SUV Annual Peace Walk on Thursday, June 13, at 5.30 p.m. at the corner of Astor and Wallace Avenues, Bronx. The group will walk to East 229th Street and White Plains Road. For more information and to register for a free shirt, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/suv-peacewalk-tickets-908259357187>.

Free Housing & Immigration Assistance Clinic

State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33) is hosting a free housing & immigration assistance clinic on Friday, June 14, at 2432 Grand Concourse, Suite 506, Bronx, NY 10458. Appointments are required and can be made

by calling (718) 933-2034.

Low Cost & Free Childcare

NYC Childcare Resource & Referral Consortium, Council Member Kevin Riley (C.D. 12) and partners are offering information on free and low-cost care programs. For more information, call (888) 469-5999 or email info@nycrr.org.

Upcoming Voter Registration & Election Deadlines

The primary elections for Congress, State, and political party positions will be held on June 25. Early voting starts Saturday, June 15, until Sunday, June 23. The last day to register to vote is June 15 in the local primary.

No Parking on West Burnside Avenue

NYC Department of Design & Construction announced that there will be no parking temporarily on West Burnside Avenue between Loring Place and Osbourne Place (south side) until June 29 (24/7). Similarly, there will be no parking on West Burnside Avenue 150 feet between Phelan and Loring Place (south), 50 feet on each side of the intersections of West Burnside Avenue, Hennessy, and Phelan Place until June 29 (24/7). Neither will there be parking temporarily on Phelan Place between Billingssea Terrace and West Burnside Avenue until June 29 (24/7).

Bronx Book Festival Seeks Volunteers

The Bronx Book Festival, hosted by The Bronx is Reading, is looking for organized individuals who work well in a fast-paced environment to help host the 7th Annual Bronx Book Festival on Saturday, June 8, from 6.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. (with a lunch break) on Fordham Plaza. Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/xVePIYYnerphm8jK7>.

New Map of Public Bathrooms

New York City recently launched a google maps layer

showing all public bathrooms across the five boroughs, in parks, libraries, transit hubs etc. You can view the map here: https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?hl=en&mid=15bUbaKsobajdGL6HLMUpmBuZ_6LLtVQ&ll=40.862299492748846%2C-73.87441520074785&z=14.

Participatory Budgeting Voting is Open

All New Yorkers, 11 years and older, regardless of citizenship status, are eligible to vote on which City projects should benefit from \$870,000 of participatory budgeting funding. Each person gets one vote only but can vote on as many projects as they like. Only the top 5 projects will get funded, and voting lasts until Wednesday, June 12. To view and vote on potential projects, visit nyc.gov/pb and use code "BXC7." For more information, contact Karla Cabrera Carrera at kcabrera-carrera@cb.nyc.gov or (929) 496-0748.

Affordable Housing Lotteries

NYC Department of Housing, Preservation and Development (HPD) has opened affordable housing lotteries for housing units at specific Bronx locations. For more information visit <https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/search-lotteries>.

Notice to Readers

Due to unforeseen, personal circumstances, which required some international travel and due to some other technical constraints, we were finally unable to print Vol. 37. No. 11 of the *Norwood News* on May 30, as planned. We apologize sincerely for the change of publication date to June 6. We will publish again exceptionally on June 13.

Síle Moloney

Editor, *Norwood News*

Out & About

Compiled by ARIEL PACHECO & SÍLE MOLONEY

The Bronx Book Festival, hosted by The Bronx is Reading, takes place on Fordham Plaza on Saturday, June 8, until 6 p.m.

The New York Botanical Garden will celebrate **Juneteenth on Bronx Day**, Saturday, June 15, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. with Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson at 2900 Southern Boulevard Bronx, NY 10458. There will be a lively celebration of Juneteenth featuring music, dance performances, arts and crafts, food trucks, and more. NYBG is offering complimentary tickets for Bronx residents to visit on June 15. For more details visit nycgov.org/event/bronx-day.

The St. Peter's Greek Festival will take place on Sunday, June 16, from

noon to 9 p.m. at 3245 Kingsbridge Avenue Bronx, NY 10463. The festival will celebrate Greek culture, cuisine, and tradition. For more information contact st.petergocbx@gmail.com.

MUSIC

The NY Philharmonic will hold its free, annual concert in Van Cortlandt Park on Tuesday, June 11, at 8 p.m. Pack a picnic and bring your own blanket for a lovely evening on the Parade Ground. Fireworks will follow the concert. For more information contact (212) 875-5656.

The Orchestra of the Bronx will play Bartok, Mozart, and Beethoven, with guest pianist Michael Boriskin, on Sunday, June 9, at 3 p.m. at Lehman College's Lovinger Theatre, located at 250 Bedford Park Blvd West, Bronx. Admission is free and no reservations are necessary. For more information, call (929) 222 3973.

DANCE

Bronx Arts Ensemble will host a **Capoeira Performance and Dance** on Saturday, June 15, at 2 p.m. at The Mall at Bay Plaza, 200 Baychester Ave, Bronx, NY 10475. The performance will be led by Moses Kyle McCarter, the founder of Bronx Capoeira, a traditional Capoeira school in The Bronx and modeled in Bahian and Brazilian capoeira traditions. His work seeks to share the concepts and philosophies integral to capoeira. For more information, call (718) 601 7399.

ART

The Bronx Historical Society presents the **Second Annual Bronx Aerosol Arts & Street Jam** on Saturday, June 8, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Museum of Bronx History, 3266 Bainbridge Avenue, The Bronx, NY 10467, with music, food and special guest, MC Sha Rock.

Bronx Community Solutions presents **"Juneteenth Jubilee: Educate & Celebrate the Arts,"** a free event on Wednesday, June 12, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Bronx Library Center, located at 310 East Kingsbridge Road, Bronx, NY 10458. There will be food, giveaways, art, and live performances in celebration of Juneteenth. For more information contact WILLIAMSL@innovatingjustice.org.

MOVEMENT

NYC Parks and Shape Up NYC host **Soca Dance Synergy**, a free dance and fitness class where Soca music meets Afro-Caribbean-inspired choreography on Friday, June 7, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center, located at 3415 Olinville Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467. The class is open to all levels. For more information visit <https://www.nycgovparks.org/events/2024/06/07/soca-dance-synergy>.

Donald Trump hosts Rally in Crotona Park

DAVID GREENE, FAHIMA DEGIA & SÍLE MOLONEY

Two days after the defense rested its case in the historic criminal trial held in a Manhattan courthouse of former U.S. President Donald Trump over the falsifying of business records ahead of the 2016 presidential election, Trump held a rally in The Bronx's Crotona Park on Thursday, May 23.

As a steady stream of supporters wearing red MAGA [Make American Great Again] hats and t-shirts and carrying Trump and American flags slowly streamed through security checkpoints, "Laverne," a neighborhood resident, was crossing Prospect Avenue at Boston Road. "F—k Trump!" Laverne fumed. "He doesn't need to be in office; he needs to be disqualified — period! He breaks a lot of laws and gets away with it."

Meanwhile, Castle Hill resident Shaheem Folomon was seen patiently waiting in line to enter the rally, holding a New York City vanity license plate that read, "Donald Trump." He told us, "I've been with daddy since the '80s. I saw him when he was a young man. I was a little kid. I wanted him to be president."

Asked why he supported Trump, Folomon replied, "Because he has done more for the Black race than the Black race has done for themselves. People in my family don't like me anymore. I don't care. I'm



Photo by David Greene

FORMER U.S. PRESIDENT Donald J. Trump is joined on stage by former Bronx City Councilman and State Sen. Rev. Ruben Díaz, Sr. in Crotona Park in The Bronx on Thursday, May 23, 2024.

with him; he is my family."

"Crockett," a man selling t-shirts for \$20 each, said he worked for "Brothers for Trump," based in Cleveland, Ohio. He said he and his fellow workers follow Trump to all his rallies. Asked how business was in The Bronx, he replied, "Pretty good; Trump keeps people working. Trump's my hero."

Before Trump's arrival on what seemed like quite a low stage, other speakers included Andrew Giuliani, son of former NYC Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Madeline Brame, whose son, Hanson Correa, 35, was stabbed to death in Manhattan in 2018, and former Bronx city councilman and State senator, Rev. Ruben Diaz, Sr.

Díaz told the crowd, "Donald Trump, what he has done today, unite The Bronx." He added, "No one has ever come to The Bronx like this." Trump later greeted supporters, saying, "Hello New York City and hello to all the incredible, tough, strong, hard-working American patriots right here in The Bronx."

The former president stuck to his usual talking points, focusing on crime, illegal immigration, the state of the public education system, and the roads and subways, saying only he could turn things around. "The city has given us so much, and now it's time that we are going to give it back," Trump said. "Together, we are going to make New York City great again and simultaneously, we're going to make America great again." The crowd responded with chants of "U-S-A!" Trump later said that "as soon as" he was elected president, he would call both the governor and the mayor of New York to work with them. Most Democrats had already denounced his visit. Later, seemingly in an attempt at unity, he said, "It doesn't matter if you're Black or Brown, or white, or whatever color you are, it doesn't matter. We are all Americans, and we're going to pull together." Once again, the crowd broke out into spontaneous chants of "U-S-A!"

While recounting how he stepped in to finalize the long-delayed Wollman Skating Rink project in Central Park and recalling the opening which he said had been attended by his parents, Trump jumped off topic at one point referencing his trial. "My parents were there," he said. "Now, they're looking down on us.

They say, 'Wow! That's my son! Can you imagine? He came right into court with a crooked judge, a highly conflicted judge at that.'

Of the Crotona Park crowd size, Trump said, "You know, when I called for this rally, they said, 'Let's just have a meeting. Don't call it a rally,' and so many people showed up. Like it or not, this is a rally!" According to USA Today, the rally had a permit for 3,500 people. The section closest to the stage was restricted, and there were crowds further away that didn't get in.

Trump once vowed to be surrounded by the "best people." Yet, many in his inner circle were later charged with various crimes. His former chief strategist, Steve Bannon, was convicted for contempt of Congress, and Trump's former national security advisor, Gen. Michael Flynn, was charged with lying to the FBI about conversations with Russian diplomats before Trump formally took office. Trump ultimately pardoned Flynn and there was no conviction. Trump, himself, was found guilty by a jury in his Manhattan criminal trial on May 30 on 34 counts of falsifying business records.

"We had great people, but we also had some people I wouldn't have used if I had my choice," Trump said at the rally. "Now I know everybody. I know the smart ones. I know the dumb ones. I know the killers. I know the weak ones. I know them all." The crowd then broke out into a chant of "Drain the swamp!"

Trump invited rappers Sheff G and Sleepy Hollow on stage at one point. Both have been charged in Brooklyn in a drug conspiracy case. It is unknown if Trump knew of their impending case or not. Both are presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

Despite some minor confrontations between Trump supporters and counter protesters and residents, the NYPD reported no arrests after the rally. When asked, the NYPD said they did not estimate crowd sizes. *Norwood News* estimated around 3,000 supporters were present as we made our way to the stage section. Some were not from The Bronx. Meanwhile, the FDNY reported that EMS tended to 12 patients with minor injuries, including heat exhaustion. Free water was handed out by rally organizers in the area closest to the stage. The patients included 11 civilians and one NYPD member. All except one declined further medical treatment.

Earlier that day, coinciding with other planned counterprotests by other groups, Congressman Richie Torres (NY-15), who represents a large north-south section of the borough, City Councilman Oswald Feliz (C.D. 15), who represents Crotona Park, among other neighborhoods, and others organized a rally in the South Bronx in opposition to Trump's rally. "Instead of holding a rally at Crotona Park, Trump should be issuing an apology to the people of The Bronx for the damage that he has done," Torres said.

(continued on page 14)

POTS Part of the Solution

Help
others achieve stability

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Join an active group of volunteers dedicated to serving the local community!

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Public and Community Meetings

The next 52nd **PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meeting will take place on Thursday, June 20, at 6 p.m. at Monroe College, FYE Room, 2501 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, NY 10468. Call the 52nd Precinct Community Affairs office at (718) 220-5824 to be added to the email distribution list.

The next **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7 (CB7)** general board meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 25, at 6.30 p.m. at the New York Botanical Garden, Rose Hall Auditorium, 2950 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, NY 10458. Contact KCarrera@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 on Wednesday, June 26, at 7 p.m. at Wave Hill Public Garden & Cultural Center, 675 West 252nd Street, Bronx (Armor Hall entrance at 249th Street and Independent Avenue). Contact BX08@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list.

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

Donald Trump hosts Rally in Crotona Park

(continued from page 13)

“Donald Trump and his Trump Republicans are intent on deepening poverty and dismantling the social safety net upon which hundreds of thousands of Bronx families depend,” he said. The congressman said House Republicans tried to impose the steepest cuts to the SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) in over three decades.

Torres also said Trump “tells lies about the economy.” He said Trump lost 3 million jobs while in office, leading to a recession, while Biden created 15 million jobs since entering office. [Trump was president in 2020 when the pandemic hit, causing major disruption to the economy.] The congressman said Biden also cut taxes for working families, whereas Trump imposed the largest tax increase in New York in recent history.

He said the loss of the SALT Deductibility Act cost New York City \$15 billion. As a result, he said The Bronx pays more in taxes and receives less from D.C. He also said Trump had done nothing for The Bronx, whereas Biden empowered the federal government to negotiate more

affordable drug prices for seniors on Medicare, including a cap on the price of insulin of \$35 a month for seniors on Medicare.

Feliz spoke of the diversity of the borough, as well as the discrimination suffered by the Hispanic community, the Asian community, and the Muslim community due to Trump’s rhetoric. He also spoke of the judges Trump appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court and the resulting rolling back of reproductive rights.

Norwood News reached out to the Trump campaign for comment on the various points made by Democrats. We did not receive a response. “Tom,” a resident of Morris Park who attended the rally, alleged a cop told him the crowd size was 17,000. “I don’t care if he does another 100,000 rallies. Nothing is going to beat the Crotona Park rally. To me, that was historical, and it will never be matched.”

Outside the rally, some supporters waving Palestinian flags were heard chanting, “Move B**ch! Get out The Bronx!” and holding banners that read, “F**k Trump! F**k Biden! The people of The Bronx, we run this sh*!”



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KHCC Celebrates 50 Years

(continued from page 1)

bridge Heights, KHCC offers a range of services from early childhood learning to youth services, and from adult & family programs to nutrition. Meanwhile, the KHCCConnect program screens participants enrolled in other programs for unaddressed needs and provides help in the form of referrals, intensive case management, or educational opportunities/workshops.

Four KHCC “community champions” were honored on the night, receiving various proclamations from elected officials, after an opening musical performance by kids attending the center, and before guests began bidding for a range of prizes over dinner. Attendees were also treated to a performance by legendary rapper and longtime supporter of KHCC, Darryl “DMC” McDaniels of Run-DMC.

Honoree Jennifer Graham, principal at Perkins & Will, a global design practice, was described in part as a mentor who fostered a supportive work environment who was also passionate about diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), social purpose, and sustainability. KHCC officials, including Raye Barbieri, chief executive officer, said Graham spearheaded corporate community volunteering projects with Perkins & Will, which they said regularly partnered with KHCC, contributing hundreds of hours of community service and leveraging “beautiful,” donated furniture and equipment to the center to support its programs.

Addressing those gathered, Graham thanked those who introduced her to KHCC’s work as well as her colleagues at Perkins & Will. “They’ve supported this community because they know it’s a passion of mine,” she said. “Thank you, KHCC, because you really helped round out my New York City experience.”

Of the next honoree, Margaret Della, former executive director of KHCC, Lisa Lindvall, KHCC chairperson, said Della had spearheaded strategic initiatives that significantly enhanced the organization’s structure and outreach. She commended Della, then a young newlywed when she first took on the role, for having seen the center through some darker times, including layoffs. She said Della’s career was deeply rooted in public service and joked about how it was always clear to her colleagues when

Della wasn’t happy due to her legendary eyerolls.

“Her commitment to leadership development and community engagement during her tenure at KHCC from 2014 to 2023 exemplifies her role as a community champion,” KHCC officials said. Lindvall added, “We’re thrilled that you’re spreading your light to and working your magic with other nonprofits today.”

Addressing those gathered, Della said, “I’m so happy to be here! 50 years! Post-pandemic, pre-apocalyptic...like we’re doing this! We’re out here!” Della talked about her upbringing in community service and how her work at KHCC was made easier through being able to relate to the experiences of those who KHCC serves. “I was entertaining kids at school and at after school programs as a roller-skating clown!” she explained.

Referring to KHCC’s origins in 1974 when the Bronx was literally on fire, she paid tribute to the center’s founders who she said had had the foresight to recognize that The Bronx needed “a place for kids, a place to build our future.” She added, “They changed the trajectory of lives for generations. I’m proud of KHCC staff, volunteers, champions, participants.”

Della continued, “What we’ve all done and what we’ve weathered together and built...150,000 individuals maybe over 50 years...you can only imagine what kind of ripple effect that has...teens, kids, survivors. That’s incredible! Because of all of us, the legacy continues, building a generational resource, aligning stars.” Appealing to donors, she concluded in part, “Let’s build our legacy. Dig deep tonight! I’m talking “clowns in rollerskates” deep!”

Next up was honoree and Democratic District 11 City Council Member Eric Dinowitz. KHCC officials said the councilman represented the Northwest Bronx, though not the exact area where KHCC is located, “with a profound dedication to public service and community welfare.” They commended his support for education, anti-hate initiatives, and his efforts to improve senior accessibility, transit, and voter participation, among others.

The councilman recalled volunteering at KHCC as a child with his father, Democratic Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81), who was also

in attendance, as was fellow Democrat, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson. The councilman recalled distributing meals at Thanksgiving and said even though he did not represent the area where KHCC was located, he still supported its work. “In the city budget, we fight hard to make sure there are hundreds of thousands of dollars allocated for the critical programs that you do at KHCC,” he said.

“Kingsbridge Heights Community Center is there to support everyone, and that’s why it is a no brainer for me that when we are looking for the organization to support, they are the ones that I can rely on, and I know that people in my community can rely on,” he said.

The final honoree of the evening was Democratic State Sen. Robert Jackson (S.D. 31) who represents some of the west Bronx as well as northern Manhattan. Jackson was described as “a formidable advocate for New Yorkers, championing significant legislative reforms and community initiatives.” KHCC officials said his tenure as a school board president was marked by the landmark campaign for fiscal equity lawsuit, which they said secured substantial funding for NYC public schools.

“In the State Senate, he continues to advocate for public education, workers’ rights, and climate justice,” KHCC officials said. Addressing those gathered, Jackson also commended KHCC. “I’ve seen the work they have done. I hear about it all the time, and all you have to do is go there during the day and you see people engaged in all types of things, from gardening to food, and childcare, all of the things that you want.”

Jackson went on to talk about his legislative priorities on the three major issues he said were impacting most of New York City: healthcare, education, and housing. “I’ve said loud and clear education is the key to uplift all families. It doesn’t matter who you are, whether you’re rich or poor, whether you’re Black or White, or Hispanic or Asian. It doesn’t matter; education is an equalizer,” he said.

The assemblyman also used the occasion to pay tribute to KHCC, saying he grew up four blocks from it, recalling its origins and commending cofounder and member **Janet Athanasidy, among others**. He recalled how when the current 50th Precinct building opened, there was a move

to turn the former stationhouse into “something useful” and how it subsequently became KHCC’s home.

The assemblyman later formally presented KHCC with two checks which related to last year’s budget, adding that more funding was in the pipeline for the current year. He said one, for \$20,000, was a member item and the other, for \$250,000, was a special grant that he’d been able to put into the budget. “There’s also capital money. I’ve lost track of all the capital money we’ve been getting, but it’s coming in and that’s a lot of money,” he said in part, adding that it was “important funding to help prevent violence, gang activity, drugs, all the bad stuff.”

Before his performance, McDaniels also paid tribute to KHCC, saying, “Nobody’s going to do it for us. And the blessing, the thing that we need to be confident about, is that when we empower the children, they learn the right messages, they learn the right procedures, and they will continue to do the good works.” He said the negative effects of social media could be countered with education, recreation, and opportunity.

“We are more connected to each other because our relationship to each other isn’t just about flesh and blood, it’s about spirit and soul,” McDaniels said. “And everybody in here that has accomplished something, it wasn’t just for you. You were given everything, you were put in a position, so you are where you are at because we have a responsibility.”

He continued, “Sometimes, there’s difficulties and adversity and obstacles, but we know, and KHCC knows, that regardless of the situations these children are in, the situation doesn’t define who they are. Continue to have confidence because those children are the next great me and yous and sometimes, we got to be there for them.” As the perfect intro to his classic hit, McDaniels concluded, saying, “But along the way.. Charlie, you know this.. my son, he knows this too, it gets a little tricky...”

Meanwhile, during her prepared remarks, Gibson talked about how the work of KHCC yielded tangible results. “We’ve made incredible progress in our borough,” she said. “We’ve seen job growth like never before. We went from 26% unemployment during the height of the COVID 19 pandemic to this day at 6.6%. I need everyone to understand that this is historic. This work makes a difference.”

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