



# NORWOOD NEWS

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## BOWMAN LOSES SEAT



**(L) DEMOCRATIC REP. JAMAAL** Bowman (NY-16) speaks to supporters and the media outside the Susan E. Wagner Pre-school on East 229th Street in Edenwald, The Bronx on Election Day, Tuesday, June 25, 2024, and **(R)** primary challenger and Westchester County Executive George Latimer declares victory in the NY-16 Democratic Primary on Election Night, June 25, 2024.

**By SÍLE MOLONEY, DAVID GREENE, MIRIAM QUIÑONES & ASHLEY CASTILLO**

Progressive Democrat, Rep. Jamaal Bowman (NY-16), a former teacher who first won his NY-16 seat in 2020 amid the heightened tensions of the Black Lives Matter protests over police brutality, conceded defeat to his Democratic chal-

lenger, George Latimer, on Election Night, June 25, in one of the most closely watched and expensive congressional primaries in the history of the country, according to various media reports.

"This race was never about me and me alone," Bowman told his supporters on Election Night. "It was never about this

district and this district alone. It was always about all of us," he added, alluding to the race that both Republicans and Democrats view as a litmus test for the future direction of the Democratic Party. The latter is clearly divided over hot-button issues, not least of which is U.S. military support for Israel amid the ongoing Is-

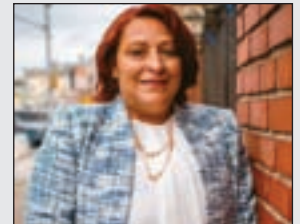
rael-Hamas War.

Progressives like Bowman have repeatedly called for a ceasefire in Gaza while moderates continue to repeat the refrain of Israel's right to defend itself amid ongoing criticism over the scale of that response in the context of Palestinian

*(continued on page 19)*



**NY AG Letitia James** attends Lehman College Spring Fling | pg 6



**Former DL Sandra Pabon** to be honored with Street Co-Naming | pg 7



**Two University Heights businesses** destroyed in fire | pg 13

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# NORWOOD NEWS

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# Large Park Tree Branch Fall Sends Kids & Mom with Stroller Running

SÍLE MOLONEY

Around ten kids and a young mom with a baby and another young child in a stroller narrowly escaped injury on Saturday night in Fordham Manor's St. James Park after a heavy tree branch suddenly broke off its trunk and crashed to the ground, sending those underneath scrambling to safety, an eyewitness said.

FDNY / EMS officials told *Norwood News* emergency services were called to 2550 Creston Avenue / St. James Park at around 7.56 p.m. on Saturday, June 22, for a report of a downed tree and "people trapped." Upon arrival, EMS said while there was a downed tree branch at the location, nobody was found to be pinned underneath and there were no resulting injuries.

The park was pretty full when *Norwood News* arrived at the scene at around 8.28 p.m., with what appeared to be a number of family gatherings still in full swing, with balloons, tents, and musicians seen in one area, while other people were seen playing sports. The incident took place just behind the tennis courts close to the Jerome Avenue side of the park. We estimate there were about 200 people in the park by the time we arrived.

Speaking in Spanish, one female witness, Zoraida Fadean, described the mother and her two kids who had been underneath the tree just before it fell, saying one of the kids was in a stroller and the other was being held by the hand. She said people ordered the mother to run to one side. "I thought maybe there was someone under the tree but there was nobody, thanks be to God," she said. "The family was ok. It was about 50-60 meters [they had to run]."

Fadean said she, herself, had children but they hadn't been in the park at the time of the tree branch fall. We asked her if she was nervous about other tree branches potentially falling and injuring her kids. "Yes, we're never sure," she said. "They should check the trees to ensure the same thing doesn't happen."

Some other trees in the park appear somewhat lopsided and are seemingly growing at an angle. Look at this one," Fadean added, gesturing to another tree nearby close to the children's playground. "That alone could cause a lot of damage to children." She added, "When it [the branch fall] happened, it [the break] made a strange sound. Everyone came running to see if anyone was hurt."



Photo by Sile Moloney

**A HEAVY BROKEN** tree branch is seen lying in St. James Park in Fordham Manor after it broke off from its trunk and fell on Saturday night, June 22, 2024, sending kids and a mom with a stroller and two young kids running to safety.

Another female witness, Luljan Ortega, also speaking in Spanish, told us, "We were here, seated, and there was a large number of people present, children underneath the tree." She continued, "I still feel a little bit in shock. Suddenly, I heard a noise and I started to look around to see where it was coming from and then I saw people looking up and the branch started to fall down quickly."

Ortega added, "I saw the kids running and there was a mother with a stroller with a baby and she had another child [by the hand] and she was running quickly, and thanks be to God, they escaped because it was just at the point where the branch fell."

Ortega continued, "I ran over afterwards when I saw the kids running to see if anyone was hurt but thanks be to God, nobody was." With all of the foliage, Ortega said it was difficult to see initially if there was anyone trapped underneath. "The paramedics and the ambulance and the police arrived quickly but nobody was injured," she said.

She added, "It's important to say that it's very unsafe to pass time in the park." She explained that branches from the other nearby trees blocked the broken tree branch and slightly broke its fall to the ground. We asked how long it took in total to fall. She said, "From the sound of the first noise of the break, it lasted about 11-12 seconds. Someone shouted to the ten or so kids in that area around the tree, some of whom were in strollers, 'Run! Run!'"

We also spoke to one male park cyclist

called Ivan who told us a friend of his who was in the park at the time the tree fell called him and told him to come to the park. Speaking in Spanish, Ivan said, "When I arrived, I was surprised to see the tree branch on the ground. It shocked me." He said he wondered if there were people underneath it.

We asked if there had been and he said at that time (after the incident), there were not. He said there were, however, people who had gathered around the tree. "It was amazing [nobody was injured] with all the people who had been here playing and coming to the park and with this tree branch that is so big," he said. He said the emergency services had arrived at that point, including an ambulance, FDNY and police.

We asked if there had been much rainfall around the time the tree branch fell, and the man said, "A bit of light air like it is now [which was not much]" he said, adding that the breeze had only been like that for a little while. He also said many people approached the tree to see if anyone was trapped underneath. "Thanks be to God, there was nobody there," he said.

*Norwood News* reached to the Parks department for comment on the incident. We were informed that Parks' staff were dispatched early Sunday morning to address the condition and remove the tree limb, described as an Oak, and that the area has since been cleared. We asked again about residents' concerns regarding the possibility of other tree branches falling and will share any feedback we receive.

BRONX, MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION, SPONSORED CONTENT

By ARIEL PACHECO

# Queen of Tacos

Queen of Tacos is a family-owned, Mexican restaurant that has served the community since 2003. Lizeth Echevarria and her family have created an environment that not only serves freshly made authentic Mexican food to the Norwood community and beyond but one that is family friendly.

“The community is family-oriented, so we have a lot of families coming in,” Lizeth said. “I feel like food brings people closer. We just want customers to enjoy their meal in a nice and friendly environment, that they’re taken care of.”

Lizeth says that tacos are the most popular order, but customers also love their Pozole soup and Mole Poblano. The menu is filled with a variety of options including burritos, tortas, sandwiches, quesadillas, seafood, and salads.

“We try to make everything as fresh as possible. We have our own butcher, so everything is cut in our store, seasoned in-store, and freshly made in our store,” she said.

Queen of Tacos recently received their liquor license and now hosts karaoke nights on weekends, when they are open until 4 a.m. They also serve homemade horchata and desserts like *Tres Leches*.

“We have a nice environment for anyone where they can sing and they can choose whatever music they want, or they could sit there and watch everyone sing,” said Lizeth.

Queen of Tacos has also long been an active participant in the community, participating in events with the Children’s Hospital at Montefiore, BOLD Cancer Wellness Program at Montefiore Einstein, and the Earth Day event hosted by the Jerome Gun Hill Business Improvement District (BID).

Queen of Tacos also recently partnered with the BID’s “Beyond Survival” initiative which assists small businesses thrive in a post-pandemic world, and hosted a wellness event where the restaurant created healthier options for students in local schools.

“Our main major thing is that people enjoy the food, that it’s freshly made, and that we try to keep the prices as low as possible,” said Lizeth.

Queen of Tacos is open 7 days a week and is located at 9 E Mosholu Parkway North, Bronx, NY 10467. Come in to try some of the best food in the area!

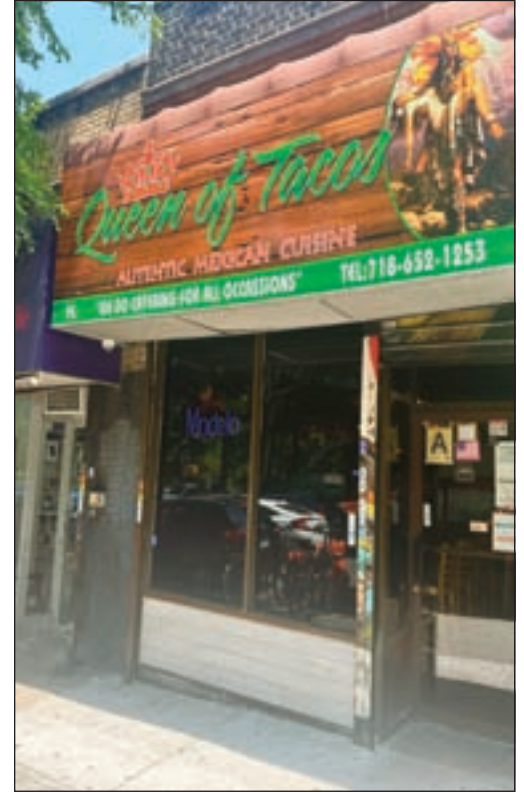


Photo by Ariel Pacheco

(LEFT) THE BAR AT Queen of Tacos, located at 9 E Mosholu Parkway in Norwood on June 18, 2024.

(RIGHT) QUEEN OF TACOS storefront, located at 9 E Mosholu Parkway in Norwood on June 18, 2024.



Photo by Ariel Pacheco

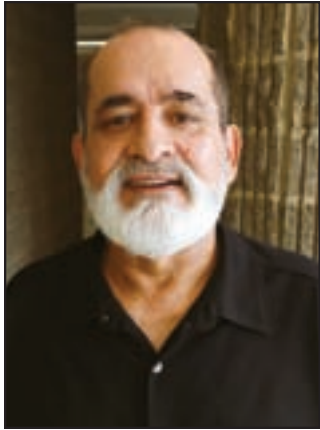
QUEEN OF TACOS storefront, located at 9 E Mosholu Parkway in Norwood on June 18, 2024.

# INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By **DAVID GREENE**



This week, we asked readers if in their opinion, the City of New York adequately prepares residents for heatwaves.



"No, I don't think they do because you still see the people opening the (fire hydrant) pumps to stay cool from this heat. I don't see them doing much on that. The subways don't even have bathrooms for you to go in the subway. They're not going to put anything in to cool the subways, unless you're on the train. What do I do to beat the heat? All I can do is just go in the shade."

**Harry Laguna,**  
Tracey Towers



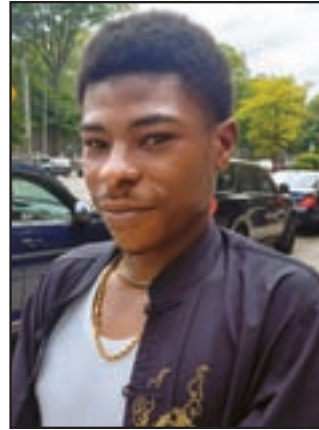
"I believe the people need more cooling centers because to be at home, you have to pay your electricity bill; it's high. Cooling centers, I believe, people need [them]. They need to help us, the people, who work and pay taxes. Out of everyone, we need help. They need to lower rents. I stay home with my fan, but I need a cooling center we can walk over to."

**Agnelli Aldano,**  
Jerome Park



"I think the City does as much as they can. You can always do more, but they do as much as they can, given the financial restraints. This is going to be a long, hot summer. Cool thoughts are where it all starts. Mental words tell you how you're going to deal with the condition. Stay cool."

**Jay Stone,**  
Van Cortlandt Park West



"I feel like there should be mandatory checkpoints. Like, maybe little water spots or something, cooling stations. It's getting really hot, and I'm seeing a lot of people out here without homes and stuff in this type of weather, whether it be hot or cold. But specifically, right now with the heat, it's not good to be out here unprepared. I stay hydrated and drink my smoothies and stay as cool as possible."

**Elrick Smith,**  
Ft. Independence Houses



"As a New York City citizen for my entire life, I believe the trains are air conditioned, but they are too cold! I also think they're not doing as much as they could be doing like providing more AC units in NYCHA buildings. I feel like they put a lot of the money into the wrong things. Typically, low-income households can't purchase ACs. It would be nice if they came with the apartment."

**Alison Puentes,**  
Kingsbridge

*Editor's Note: For tips on how to beat the heat, including discounts available from the City of New York for the installation of air conditioning units, visit: [https://www.nyc.gov/assets/em/downloads/pdf/heat\\_brochure\\_english.pdf](https://www.nyc.gov/assets/em/downloads/pdf/heat_brochure_english.pdf).*

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# Spring Fling Swings In

By **EMILY SAWAKED**

Bedford Park's Lehman College hosted its annual gala and fundraiser on Wednesday, June 12, though this year it took on another moniker, the "*Spring Fling*." The change in name was to make the event feel less "stuffy," according to Lehman College President Dr. Fernando Delgado. This is the second year that the college has held an annual gala dedicated to raising money for scholarship funds and other facets of college life that require funding.

Previous galas have been held at Bedford Park's New York Botanical Garden on Southern Boulevard. This year's gala honored two guests, Soo Kim, chairman of Bally's Corporation, and managing partner and chief investment officer of Standard General, and The Hon. Letitia A. James, New York attorney general and proud alum of Lehman College's Class of '82.

The event, much like the president hoped, was indeed more informal than in previous years and in different ways. Rather than sitting down to eat while listening to various speeches, guests were invited to move around, help themselves to food and refreshments and mingle with other partygoers.

"What better way to show donors what we give to our students?" said Rene Rotolo, CFO and vice president for administration and finance, in reference to the change of venue. "What better way to introduce donors to our students, to see where they're actually studying, where they're learning," Rotolo added.

The precise venue for the event was a luscious green quad in the center of the college campus next to the Arts building, which was decked out with crisp white tables under white umbrellas and centered around a stage in preparation for the second change to this year's gala: "Lehman's Got Talent."

Students of diverse backgrounds, who had auditioned and rehearsed ahead of the event according to Kelly Brown, one of the organizers of the event, were welcomed to the stage to perform choreographed dances, songs, and the like for the guests.

"They started out as video auditions and then they were pulled down to live auditions and several rehearsals," said

Brown. "We had a committee that got to vet each of the students. We were just thrilled with the depth of talent."

Beyond the performances, the garden party also sought to represent some of the most prominent cultures from across The Bronx, another way of highlighting the diverse backgrounds of the student body. Three vendors from the borough were invited to cater the event: Arthur Avenue, Golden Krust (Lehman College alums), and Salsa.

Putting together the event was months long work, according to several of the organizers, including Delgado. They said it typically takes about four to six months to plan the finer details of the event completely. However, the president said the primary event organizers start planning the next gala two weeks after the last one ends.

"We try to identify who [are] going to be our honorees," the president said. "We work with the [college's] foundation to make sure they're comfortable with the concept, the targets, and the goals..... obviously lock in a date. We start going out to our key donors and community, and business partners and start, if you will, selling tables."

The need for fundraising events like the gala was highlighted by Delgado, especially considering the increase in the cost of living in New York City. Following a survey conducted by a specialized center in Manhattan, the president said, "Twenty-eight percent of our students report experiencing food insecurity at least one day a week during the school year."

He added, "So, that's a quarter of our students, 14% of the time, having food insecurity. The number is probably higher in terms of frequency of days. It may not be in terms of percentage of students [but] it's still a pretty high percentage."

"We're constantly cognizant about the support, financial and otherwise, that we can provide our students and trying to anticipate those things that make it difficult for them to persist," Delgado continued.

He said the driving force behind each year's gala is to ensure that despite the daily stresses that come with increased cost of living and food insecurity, college does not become an unattainable goal for



Photo by Emily Sawaked

**NEW YORK ATTORNEY** General Letitia James delivers remarks at Lehman College's annual Spring Fling on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, on the college campus.

students, financially.

James was later ceremoniously introduced by emcee Dr. Joseph Fera before taking to the stage to "Girl on Fire" by Alicia Keys. The attorney general noted that despite her statewide successes, which include the Juul settlement and legislation restricting the use of social media algorithms that target minors, her roots are in The Bronx and at Lehman College.

The Juul campaign settlement repre-



Photo by Miriam Quiñones

**ASHLEY SINGH, YASHIRA** Rodriguez, Jazmin Rodriguez, and Lourdes Deda, all financial aid coordinators attend the Lehman College FAFSA Completion event on Saturday, June 15, 2024, helping students navigate the FAFSA application process.

sents \$27 million to combat youth vaping and stems from a lawsuit against the e-cigarette giant, Juul. "It was right here in The Bronx, taking the D train where I found my calling," she said. "It was here [at Lehman College] where my passion for social justice was nurtured. [Lehman] brought out that warrior in me and it brings out the greatness in all of you."

On Saturday, June 15, a Lehman College FAFSA [Free Application for *Federal Student Aid*] Completion event was held in the College's Carman Hall. The free event was held to help students navigate the FAFSA application process for the fall, with financial aid counselors providing support to the roughly 20 students who attended.

Back at the Spring Fling, the attorney general dubbed Lehman College the "university of opportunity" and an anchor for the community, and called for students attending Lehman, as well as Lehman alums, to advocate and strive for change, calling on them to "defend those rights and defend them now." James concluded, "It's you. It's all of you who can transform their lives and this community."

*\*Miriam Quiñones contributed to this story.*



Photo by Emily Sawaked

**STUDENTS PERFORM A** choreographed dance at Lehman College's annual Spring Fling on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, on the college campus.



Photo by Emily Sawaked

**GUESTS MINGLE AND** enjoy refreshments at Lehman College's annual Spring Fling on the college campus on Wednesday, June 12, 2024.

# NEWS BRIEFS

By **SÍLE MOLONEY & ASHLEY CASTILLO**

## Ocasio-Cortez Campaign Workers Ratify Strongest Union Contract Yet

Workers for “Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress” announced on June 10 the ratification of a new collective bargaining agreement. They said the wall-to-wall bargaining unit, represented by the Campaign Workers Guild (CWG), includes all non-managerial staff, including employees in part-time, hourly, and full-time roles.

They said the new three-year contract is the strongest collective bargaining agreement since workers first unionized in 2020. Highlights include raising the salary floor by almost \$1,000 to \$5,250/month for full-time workers; expanded vacation leave; protections from working odd hours; DACA renewal fees covered; end-of-year employment for temporary election year workers; and expanded health and safety protections.

The contract also maintains key existing protections and benefits including health, vision, dental, and life insurance; disciplinary protections; caps on hours worked; language protecting immigrant workers and standardizing gender neutrality.

Diego de la Vega, campaign communications coordinator for Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress and CWG bargaining team member described the new agreement as one that raises the bar for all campaign workers nationwide. “With this contract, we live our values,” he said. Ocasio-Cortez, who represents parts of The Bronx and Queens, declared victory in the NY-14 Democratic primary on Election Night, June 25.

## B.R.A.G. Senior VP Honored as Trailblazer

Cure violence interrupters, Bronx Rises Against Gun Violence (B.R.A.G.), announced in late May that City & State publication recognized David Caba, senior vice president with Good Shepherd Services, the nonprofit which runs the B.R.A.G. program, on its Nonprofit Trailblazers list. “Thank you for all of your hard work!” B.R.A.G. members wrote in response to the news.

In recognizing Caba, City & State wrote, “David Caba brings invaluable experience in the private and nonprofit sectors to Good Shepherd Services, which serves over 30,000 children, youth and families through nearly 100 programs. After working for various Fortune 500 companies in accounting, marketing, and advertising, Caba spent over two decades in human and social services, specifically anti-violence, criminal justice, and addiction. Since 2014, Caba has been senior vice presi-

dent and anti-violence subject matter expert for Good Shepherd Services’ training department, its community-based division, and its Bronx Rises Against Gun Violence programs.”

The recognition was timely ahead of Gun Violence Awareness Month, and also served to counterbalance some recent bad press for the B.R.A.G. program, given two of its former members, Michael Rodriguez and Jermaine Greene, were arrested on various illegal gun and other charges in recent months. Rodriguez has since been sentenced, while Greene awaits trial. He is deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.



Photo courtesy of Bronx Rises Against Gun Violence

**DAVID CABA, SENIOR** vice president with Good Shepherd Services, is joined by colleagues in recognition of being honored with a trailblazer award from City & State publication in May 2024.

## Fire at 2690 Morris Avenue

FDNY Officials confirmed that firefighters were called to respond to a report of a fire on the third floor of an occupied, multiple dwelling at 2690 Morris Avenue, between East Kingsbridge Road and East 196<sup>th</sup> Street in Fordham Manor on June 1, at 7.59 p.m. They said 12 units, comprising 60 fire and EMS personnel responded to the scene, and there was one minor civilian injury. They said the fire was brought under control at 8.36 p.m. and the cause is under investigation by FDNY fire marshals.

## Sandra Pabon Street Co-Naming

District 11 City Councilman Eric Dinowitz announced on June that the late Sandra Pabon, former female district leader for A.D. 80, who died in June 2023, will be honored at a street co-naming ceremony at a date to be announced by the councilman’s office in the near future. The street co-naming will officially be held at Bainbridge Avenue and East 204<sup>th</sup> Street in Norwood, an area close to where Pabon frequently volunteered at various food, coat, and toy giveaways alongside her friend and now State Sen. Nathalia Fernandez (S.D. 34), when the latter was the assemblywoman for A.D. 80.



Front page photo via social media **SANDRA PABON, DEMOCRATIC** State Committeewoman has died.

## New Dementia Diagnosis May Help Address Diagnostic Inequity

Montefiore Health System researchers announced in early June that it has created a three-fold improvement in diagnosing people with dementia, especially among Black and Hispanic/Latino patients. A June 4<sup>th</sup> article, “Non-literacy biased, culturally fair cognitive detection tool in primary care patients with cognitive concerns: a randomized controlled trial,” published on the website, <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-024-03012-8>, outlines the new testing approach called 5-Cog paradigm.

Montefiore officials said the new approach enhances the diagnosis of mild, cognitive impairment and dementia by using a rapid five-minute assessment tailored for primary care settings, which is integrated into electronic medical records and can be administered by staff (no doctors needed).

Officials said according to research, Black and Hispanic/Latino patients have a higher likelihood of missed/delayed dementia diagnosis. They said the latest research can help improve diagnosis rates and more equitable access to care, adding that the 5-Cog paradigm has the potential to transform dementia care delivery and outcomes for underserved populations.



Screenshot courtesy of the Citizens’ App

**FIREFIGHTERS RESPOND TO** a fire at 2690 Morris Avenue in Fordham Manor on June 1, 2024.

# Two injured in Jerome Avenue Crash

By **DAVID GREENE**

Two people were injured in the Fordham Manor neighborhood in an early morning crash when a vehicle struck a pillar of the elevated subway line along Jerome Avenue, City officials said.

According to an FDNY/EMS spokesperson, the crash was reported at 3:52 a.m. on Sunday, June 23, outside St. James Park on Jerome Avenue, between East 190<sup>th</sup> Street and East 192<sup>nd</sup> Street.

Both the NYPD and FDNY/EMS said that two victims were transported to St. Barnabas Hospital in an unknown condition.

At the scene of the crash, a half dozen MTA workers were seen examining the train pillar that was struck by the vehicle. Of the impact of the crash to the elevated train tracks, Meghan Keegan of the MTA told *Norwood News*, “There was no damage as a result of this incident and no impact to [the subway] service.”



Photo by David Greene

**POLICE OFFICERS AND** MTA workers are seen at the scene of an early morning crash on Jerome Avenue and East 192<sup>nd</sup> Street in Fordham Manor on Sunday, June 23, 2024.

# CRIME FILE

BY SÍLE MOLONEY & DAVID GREENE



**Fordham Manor: 23-Year-Old Man Shot**

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the people seen in the accompanying photo above who they say are sought in connection with a shooting of a 23-year-old man that occurred in the early hours of Tuesday, June, 18, in Fordham Manor.

Police said that at 00.36 a.m. on Tuesday morning, officers received a 911 call regarding a male who had been shot in front of 2600 Decatur Avenue. "When officers arrived, they found shell casings and blood in front of the location," police said. "A short time later, a 23-year-old male shot once in the right bicep walked into St. Barnabas Hospital for treatment."

Police said the victim confirmed he had been at the said location when an unknown perpetrator shot him. "The victim is in stable condition and is expected to recover from his injuries," police said.

The NYPD later released a photo of the suspects, adding that one had acted in concert with another who was waiting nearby on the moped.

companying photo below left, who they identified as 32-year-old Jalessa Richardson, in connection with the incident.

Police said that on Saturday, June 1, at around 6.08 a.m., officers responded to a 911 call regarding a woman who had been assaulted at 1418 Oakley Street. "Upon arrival, police observed a 37-year-old female with a slash wound to her neck, unconscious and unresponsive," police said. "EMS responded to the location and transported the victim to NYC Health and Hospitals/Jacobi where she was later pronounced deceased. There are no arrests at this time and the investigation remains ongoing."

The deceased was later identified as Ashley Smith, 37, of East Lincoln Avenue in Mt. Vernon, NY. On June 11, police said that pursuant to an ongoing investigation, detectives had identified an individual sought in connection with the murder, who they identified as Richardson. They said she was last seen fleeing the scene on foot northbound on Oakley Street.

On June 12, police said that pursuant to an ongoing investigation, Richardson, of Walton Avenue in the Mt. Eden section of The Bronx, was arrested earlier that morning at 1.10 a.m. in The Bronx. She has been charged with murder in the second degree, manslaughter in the first degree, and fourth degree criminal possession of a weapon. She is presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.



**Person Sought for Cellphone Robbery Pattern**

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the person seen in the accompanying photo above taken in Fordham Manor on June 2, who they say is wanted in connection to a robbery pattern identified across the 43rd and 52nd Precincts in The Bronx.

Police said the first incident occurred on Sunday, June 2, at around 12.15 p.m. when a 32-year-old female victim was walking in front of 2860 Decatur Avenue in Fordham Manor and was approached by an unidentified individual on a moped who grabbed her cellphone out of her hands before fleeing on the moped to parts unknown. They said there were no injuries reported following the incident.

Police said the second incident occurred on Wednesday, June 5, at around 8.55 a.m. when a 38-year-old female victim was walking in the vicinity of Watson Avenue and Beach Avenue in Soundview and was approached by an unidentified individual on a moped who, again, attempted to grab her cellphone out of her hands before fleeing on the moped northbound on Beach Avenue. Police said there were no injuries reported following the incident.

Police said a third incident took place on Tuesday, June 11, at around 12.15 p.m. when a 22-year-old female victim was walking in the vicinity of Perry Avenue and East Bedford Park Boulevard in Bedford Park, and was, again, approached by an unidentified person on a moped who grabbed her cellphone out of her hands before fleeing on the moped southbound on Marion Avenue. Again, police said there were no injuries reported after this incident.

Police said a fourth incident occurred on Wednesday, June 12, at around 9.58 a.m. when a 41-year-old female victim was walking in the vicinity of the Grand Concourse and East 199th Street and was approached by an unidentified individual on a moped who grabbed her cellphone out of her hands before fleeing on the moped toward East 198th Street. Again, police said there were no injuries reported following this incident.

Patrol Borough: Bronx		Precinct: All		Week of 06/17/24 - 06/23/24				
CompStat Book		28 Day			Year to Date			
	% Chg	2024	2023	% Chg	2024	2023	% Chg	
Murder	-66.7 %	8	14	-42.9 %	51	64	-20.3 %	
Rape	200.0 %	41	24	70.8 %	208	188	10.6 %	
Robbery	0.0 %	386	403	-4.2 %	2,300	2,143	7.3 %	
Felony Assault	-10.1 %	735	707	4.0 %	3,865	3,766	2.6 %	
Burglary	-25.8 %	204	216	-5.6 %	1,349	1,446	-6.8 %	
Grand Larceny	5.3 %	671	619	8.4 %	4,204	3,603	13.8 %	
Grand Larceny Auto	7.6 %	335	383	-12.5 %	1,924	2,531	-24.0 %	
<b>Total</b>	<b>-3.2 %</b>	<b>2,360</b>	<b>2,366</b>	<b>0.6 %</b>	<b>13,901</b>	<b>13,833</b>	<b>0.5 %</b>	
Patrol	-0.5 %	2,246	2,197	2.2 %	12,965	12,844	0.9 %	
Transit	-66.7 %	15	32	-53.1 %	157	150	4.7 %	
Housing	-35.1 %	119	137	-13.1 %	779	839	-7.2 %	
Shooting Victims	-31.3 %	36	40	-10.0 %	176	165	6.7 %	
Shooting Incidents	-50.0 %	30	38	-21.1 %	143	140	2.1 %	
UCR Rape*	35.7 %	56	53	5.7 %	331	333	-0.6 %	
Other Sex Crimes	31.8 %	111	85	30.6 %	598	527	13.5 %	
Petit Larceny	-31.1 %	1,073	1,484	-27.7 %	7,652	8,481	-9.8 %	
Med. Assault	12.3 %	964	899	10.7 %	5,230	4,977	5.1 %	
Hate Crimes	-100.0 %	3	1	200.0 %	14	11	27.3 %	
Traffic Fatalities	-100.0 %	6	5	20.0 %	22	21	4.8 %	

**Williamsbridge: Police Seek Public's Help after Three Men are Shot**

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the person seen in the accompanying



photo above who they say is sought in connection with a multiple shooting in Williamsbridge. Police said that on Monday, June 17, at around 6 p.m. in the vicinity of 221st Street and Bronxwood Avenue, an unidentified male fired multiple times into a crowd, "causing a grave risk of death and serious physi-

cal injury to multiple people including children gathered at a barbecue at the location."

They said a 27-year-old man was shot in the right hand, a 21-year-old man was shot in the back and left armpit, and a 33-year-old man was shot twice in the right leg. They said the 33-year-old was taken to Jacobi Medical Center in Morris Park by private means and is in stable condition.

They said the 27-year-old and the 21-year-old were both transported by EMS also to Jacobi in stable condition and added that an unidentified male fled the location in a dark-colored SUV. June marks Gun Violence Awareness Month. Bronx major crime statistics including shooting incidents and shooting victims as of June 23, accompanying this story.

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.



**Williamsbridge: Woman Arrested after 2nd Woman Fatally Slashed**

Police have arrested a 32-year-old woman following the fatal stabbing of a second 37-year-old woman from Mt. Vernon in Williamsbridge, police said. The NYPD had been appealing to the public to help locate the woman seen in the ac-





## 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
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- Assistance with Order of Protection & Evictions
- Crisis Intervention
- Security Lock Installation
- Educational Workshops, and more



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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

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## Letters To The Editor

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

### Willie Mays

How sad to learn of the passing of baseball legend Willie Mays. In NYC, during the '50s, it was a three-way rivalry between the American League Bronx Yankees, the National League New York Giants, and the Brooklyn Dodgers. All three teams claimed to have the best center fielder in baseball. On street corners all over town, citizens would ar-

gue whether the Giants' Willie Mays, the Yankees' Mickey Mantle or the Dodgers' Duke Snider was champ.

Most everyone could afford a bleacher, general admission, reserve, or box seat. Hotdogs, beer, other refreshments, and souvenirs were reasonably priced. Residents of the era sat outside on the neighborhood stoop listening to games on the radio. Baseball fans would also look for their favorite sportswriter in the morning, midday, and late afternoon newspaper editions, available at thousands of newsstands. Television was a relatively new technology.

**Larry Penner**  
Great Neck

**Editor's Note:** According to Wikipedia, Willie Mays, nicknamed "the Say Hey Kid," died on June 18, 2024, aged 94. He played 23 seasons in Major league Baseball (MLB). Widely regarded as one of the greatest players of all time, Mays was a five-tool player who began his career in the so-called "Negro leagues," playing for the Birmingham Black Barons, and spent the rest of his career in the National League (NL), playing for the New York / San Francisco Giants and New York Mets.

Mays won numerous awards throughout, was an All-Star 24 times, tying for the second-most appearances in history, and was inducted

into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1979. His over-the-shoulder catch in Game 1 of the 1954 World Series is one of the most famous baseball plays of all time. Mays was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by former U.S. President Barack Obama in 2015.

Please send all letters to the editor, along with supporting hyperlinked sources, to [norwoodnews@norwood-news.org](mailto: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.

# Opinion

Ruth Mullen Riverdale  
Huddle Denounce Ben  
Franklin Democratic Club's  
Negative Mailer re A.D. 81

By RUTH MULLEN RIVERDALE HUDDLE

We, of the Ruth Mullen Riverdale Huddle, were deeply offended by the Democratic Team – 81st A.D. mailer, as community members, voters, and activists who care about truth and decency in political discourse in our community. The mailer violated both principles and revealed the brand of leadership that (Assemblyman) Jeff Dinowitz (A.D. 81) and his slate have and will provide.

The candidates of the "Dinowitz Team," particularly Ben Jackson, had said that they don't want to dwell on the past, but want to focus on the future. Yet their mailer distorted the past, was untruthful, and continued its history of groundlessly accusing its opponents of using antisemitic tropes and being opposed to public safety – in an effort to frighten voters into supporting them. Accusing an opponent of "antisemitic tropes" also is divisive to the Jewish community and the broader community. It must be condemned.

In contrast, District Leaders Abigail Martin and Ramdat Singh shared the values of the Northwest Bronx and kept their promises to open politics to new ideas and new ways of engaging voters. And the truth is that they have led The Unity Democratic Club, in successfully campaigning since its inception – on be-

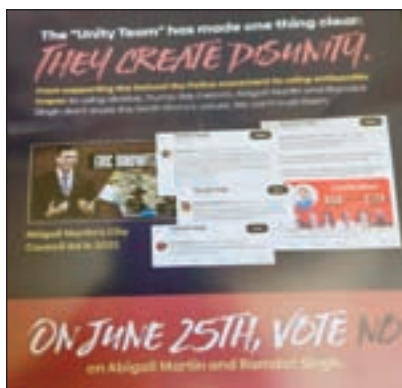


Photo courtesy of the Unity Democratic Club  
**THE NEGATIVE CAMPAIGN** mailer sent to residents of A.D. 81 and paid for by the Benjamin Franklin Democratic Reform Club.

half of Democratic candidates including U.S. President Joe Biden, Democratic Congressman Pat Ryan (NY-18), and Anthony Parisi, the (latter) the first-ever Democrat elected as Dutchess County DA.

They also strongly supported public safety by advocating for investment in community resources as means of decreasing crime.

The significant amount of money that was spent in support of the Benjamin Franklin Reform Democratic Club challengers did not confuse us into supporting entrenched officials who are closing their ranks to beat a new power base and new ideas that will help all the communities in the 81st Assembly District.

Ruth Mullen Riverdale Huddle (Sue Ellen Dodell, Ellen Chapnick, Dale Wolff, Judith Minkoff-Grey, Julie Marcus, Annemarie Golden, Helen Krim, Jean Bresler, Madeline Ritter, Morgan Evers,

By AJ RAMOS

As someone who has spent many an hour, day, and literally years advocating for the Norwood / Bronx LGBTQIA+ community to finally be represented locally, witnessing a group of people film themselves commit a hate crime by destroying the rainbow balloons and decor which decorated a nationally registered historic place, the Williamsbridge Oval

# Opinion

Northwest Bronx Indivisible  
Committee Offended by Ben  
Franklin Democratic Club's  
Mailer re A.D. 81

By the NORTHWEST BRONX  
INDIVISIBLE COMMITTEE

We the undersigned members of the steering committee of Northwest Bronx Indivisible are deeply offended by the Ben Franklin Democratic Reform Club's 81st A.D. mailer. As community members, voters, and activists, we care about truth and decency in political discourse. The mailer violates both principles through its inflammatory accusations that The Unity Democratic Club candidates use antisemitic tropes and disregard public safety. We condemn the mailer. We believe it distorts truth.

Inflammatory political advertising causes real harm to our community. Such rhetoric divides us when it implies that Unity Democratic Club candi-

dates don't share "North Bronx values." We believe North Bronx values include truth and democracy, not innuendo and demonization. The members of the Unity Democratic Club slate have consistently campaigned for Democratic candidates' ballot access – U.S. President Joe Biden, Democratic Congressman Pat Ryan (NY-18), and Anthony Parisi, the (latter, the) first-ever Democrat elected as Dutchess County DA.

We call on all candidates to refrain from negative campaigning.

Helen Krim, Ellen Tremper, Silvia Blumenfeld, Betty Golomb, Dan Guenzburger, Stephen Real, Kathryn Solomon, Carol Foresta, and Ellen Tremper are members of the Northwest Bronx Indivisible Committee

**Editor's Note:** This op-ed was first published on [www.norwoodnews.org](http://www.norwoodnews.org) before Election Day. Norwood News reached out to the Benjamin Franklin Democratic Reform Club, Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81) and Councilman Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11) for comment. The councilman and assemblyman have endorsed the Benjamin Franklin Democratic Reform Club slate of candidates. We did not receive any feedback.

Elizabeth Cooke-Levy)

**Editor's Note:** This op-ed was first published on [www.norwoodnews.org](http://www.norwoodnews.org) before Election Day.

Ruth Mullen tragically lost her life in a traffic accident on the Bronx's Johnson Avenue on Sept. 7, 2021. She was, according to Bronx resident, Stephanie Coggins, a woman of great community spirit and as someone who participated in local

politics. She was a member of the Riverdale Huddle.

Norwood News reached out to the Benjamin Franklin Democratic Reform Club, Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81) and Councilman Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11) for comment. The councilman and assemblyman have endorsed the Benjamin Franklin Democratic Reform Club slate of candidates. We did not receive a response.

# Opinion

## The Grinches Who Stole Pride

during the inaugural Norwood Pride festival this past June 23 was heartbreaking.

The staff [who organized the event] had just placed the decor there and not even an hour later, the vandals attacked. If anyone saw the "Grinches who stole pride," please contact the police, the *Norwood News*, or me on social media at @MRAJTHEARTIST. Norwood, The

Bronx, and Bainbridge is not the place for hate crimes. Outside is for everyone.

With that being said, Mosholu Preservation Corporation, State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33), Jerome Gun Hill Business Improvement District (BID), & all other vendors or sponsors, the event was amazing! Representation matters and to

(continued on page 17)

# BronxNet Hosts Students for Launch of New Eco Show

By **ARIEL PACHECO**

BronxNet hosted second-grade students from Claremont Village’s C.S. 55 The Benjamin Franklin School on May 21 at BronxNet’s South Bronx Media + Technology center for the launch of “Eco-Leaders,” a new environmental TV show for children created by local Bronx puppetry artists.

The show’s target audience is children, and centers around time-traveling puppets who return to The Bronx from the year 2088 as they seek to learn what happened to a destroyed earth.

Students were given a behind-the-scenes look at how the show was created and filmed, and also got the opportunity to ask the show’s creators and actors questions. The interactive tour of BronxNet’s facilities concluded with the announcement that the students themselves would appear in a future episode of “Eco-Leaders.”

BronxNet’s executive director Michael Max Knobbe said of the day, “This is ‘behind the scenes.’ It’s about the process. We have the tools



Photo by Ariel Pacheco

**THE CAST AND** crew of “Eco-Leaders” take questions from students from C.S. 55 The Benjamin Franklin School at BronxNet’s South Bronx Media + Technology center on May 21, 2024.

and technology that we’ve integrated into these spaces at BronxNet for our community, for digital storytelling, filmmaking, movie making, journalism, documentaries, game development, and more.”

The show’s cast and crew include actress and voiceover

artist Paola Poucel, director Alba Garcia, puppeteer Kevin Peralta, and actor Logan Alarcon-Poucel. The show also features puppets LeTron James, Cardi G, and JP Ocho.

Peralta said, “Creating ‘Eco-Leaders’ has been an incredible journey, and it’s truly

special to share its premiere with the young minds of C.S. 55. By combining storytelling, puppetry, and the theme of climate action, we hope to empower kids to believe in their ability to make a difference.

He continued, “Programs like ‘Eco-Leaders’ that are

made and broadcast in The Bronx are crucial because they reflect and celebrate our community’s unique culture and stories. Seeing the students’ excitement and engagement today reminds us why we do what we do. We’re excited for everyone to join us on this adventure and explore the possibilities for a better future together.”

“Eco-Leaders” was made possible through funding from Creatives Rebuild New York, an artist economy development initiative.

C.S. 55 Principal Luis Torres, Bronx Week 2023 People’s Choice honoree in education, said, “Today, we showed that with the right support, our students can thrive and excel in creative and educational endeavors. We are proud to partner with BronxNet and Creatives Rebuild New York to inspire our students and cultivate their passion for learning and environmental stewardship.”

“Eco-Leaders” had its broadcast premiere on Friday, May 31, and can be watched on Bronxnet.tv.



Photos by Ariel Pacheco

**STUDENTS FROM C.S. 55** The Benjamin Franklin School watch the premiere episode of “Eco-Leaders” at BronxNet’s South Bronx Media + Technology center on May 21, 2024.

# Out & About

Compiled by ARIEL PACHECO

## EVENTS

The Office of Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, along with the Bronx Tourism Council and other partners, is hosting **The Bronx Fireworks Extravaganza** on Thursday, June 27, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Orchard Beach Section 5, by the handball courts. For more information, contact [webmail@bronxbp.nyc.gov](mailto:webmail@bronxbp.nyc.gov).



## MUSIC

**Bronx Summer Jam** will host its third annual music celebration featuring a cast of emerging artists and DJs on Sunday, June 30, from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. at 2141 Bronx Park East, Bronx, NY 10462. For more information, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bronx-summer-jam-24-tickets-880519326007>.

The Bronx River Art Center is hosting its 21st Annual **Bronx River Sounds Performing Arts Festival** at 1087 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY 10460 on Friday and Saturday, June 28 and 29, at 7.30 p.m. Doors open at 6.30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors, \$10 for students, and \$8 for Garden Terrace seating. To buy

tickets and for more information, visit <https://www.bronxriverart.org/events-detail?recordID=310>.

## ARTS

Norwood's Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, located at 3225 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467, will host **Summer Monsters Manga Arts Program for Kids** on Saturday, July 6, from 1 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. Kids ages 8 to 16 are invited to join Ivan Velez, a cartoonist and teaching artist, to learn how to draw and create their own comics. For more information, call (718) 543-8672.

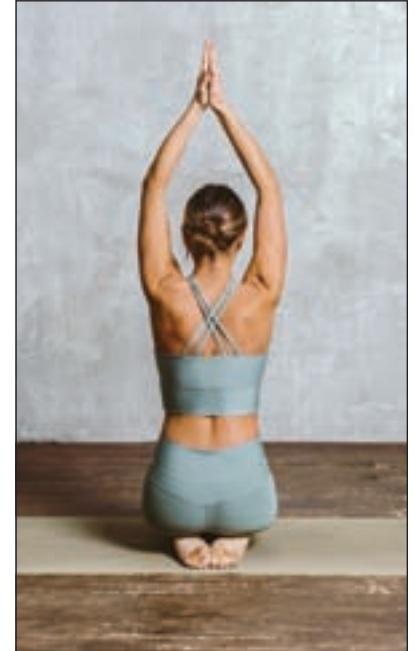
The Bronx Public Library is hosting **Diaspora**, an exhibit opening by painter, Danelle Rivas, at the Center's Latinx & Puerto Rican Cultural Center, located at 310 East Kingsbridge Road, Bronx, NY 10458, on Friday, July 5, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. The exhibit will feature paintings that are inspired by Rivas' childhood memories. For more information, call (718) 579-4244.

The New York Botanical Garden, located at 2900 Southern Blvd., Bronx, NY 10458-5126, is offering free admission to **Wonderland: Curious Nature** exhibition for children under 12 who arrive dressed in Wonderland-inspired costumes during the "Mad for Summer Family Weekend" taking place on Saturday and Sunday, June 29 and 30. The exhibition is inspired by *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass*, and *What Alice Found There*. It will feature a flower show, art installations, family-friendly

activities, and photo opportunities. For more information call (718) 817-8700.

## MOVEMENT

Join the Bronx Historical Society for **Health and Fitness at Poe Cottage**, located at 2640 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10458, on Thursday, July 11. Margarita Deida, whose surrealist visual art is featured in an exhibit at Poe Cottage, will teach yoga and qigong classes at 1 p.m., and help organize belly dancing classes at 2 p.m. For more information, reach out to [education@bronxhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:education@bronxhistoricalsociety.org).





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# Popular Deli, Discount Store Destroyed in Fire

By DAVID GREENE

A fire that broke out inside a popular University Heights deli and that spread to an adjacent 99 Cents store took firefighters more than 90 minutes to extinguish, FDNY officials said. The fire caused a lot of damage to the two businesses, leaving a shell of the one-story structure remaining.

According to an FDNY spokesperson, the fire broke out inside the B&M Deli, a 24-hour business located at 16 West Fordham Road, at 9.43 a.m. on Sunday, June 23. Sixty firefighters and EMS personnel fought to control the blaze at the southeast corner at Davidson Avenue, the spokesperson said.

The fire was brought under control at 11.09 a.m. according to the FDNY, and EMS reported no injuries. The spokesperson added that the cause of the fire remains under investigation.

A man who answered the telephone on Monday, June 24, at Capsule, BX, NYC, a business located at 14 West Fordham Road, said his store suffered no damage. He told *Norwood News*, "It was the deli and the 99 Cents store." He added, "There was a lot of damage, but not totally destroyed."

The phone for the Dollar Fare discount store at 18 West Fordham Road was not in service and according to Google the shop is "temporarily closed."



Photos by Paulette Pryce

**(RIGHT) FDNY FIREFIGHTERS** WITH Tower Ladder 33 battle a fire that broke out at B&M Deli, located at 16 West Fordham Road in University Heights, from above the Dollar Fare Discount store, located at West Fordham Road and Davidson Avenue, which was also damaged, on Sunday, June 23, 2024.

**(ABOVE) FDNY OFFICIALS SAID** a fire broke out inside B&M Deli, located at 16 West Fordham Road in University Heights on Sunday, June 23, 2024.

## STORMVILLE AIRPORT



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## Public and Community Meetings

The 52<sup>nd</sup> PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL meetings usually take place on the third Thursday of the month sometimes virtually and sometimes in person. Call the 52nd Precinct Community Affairs office at (718) 220-5824 to be added to the email distribution list.

The next regular BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7 (CB7) general board meeting will be held in September, after the summer hiatus, unless a special meeting is held before then. The monthly meetings are held at various locations in the district. Contact [KCabreraCarrera@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:KCabreraCarrera@cb.nyc.gov) to be added to the distribution list. All meetings are in person unless otherwise notified by Bronx CB7.

The next BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8 full board (hybrid) meeting will be held in September after the summer hiatus. Contact [BX08@cb.nyc.gov](mailto: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). The group usually takes a summer hiatus and will meet again in September. For more details, please contact [bedfordmosholu@verizon.net](mailto:bedfordmosholu@verizon.net).

## New “Norwood” Mural Repainted

by SÍLE MOLONEY

The “Norwood” mural which is located on East 207<sup>th</sup> Street and Bainbridge Avenue in Norwood, which had been vandalized/tagged last year, has since been repainted. Laura Alvarez, the artist, who organized a fundraiser to repaint the mural, had asked community members to join her in various brainstorming sessions in recent months to come up with a new design for the mural, and also to arrange to participate in its repainting. The mural was repainted over various days in June and is now finished.



Photo by Miriam Quiñones

**VOLUNTEERS JOIN ARTIST**, Laura Alvarez, in repainting the beloved ‘Norwood’ mural located on the corner of East 207<sup>th</sup> Street and Bainbridge Avenue in Norwood on Sunday, June 2, 2024.



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# Andy's Produce

By **ARIEL PACHECO**

**A**ndy's Produce, owned by Richie, has quickly become a local Norwood favorite for its wide range of offerings and exceptional customer service since Richie took over last year.

Andy's Produce has a wide selection of produce and meats by design. Richie says it's because the neighborhood is so diverse, the selection must match that. "We're in a diverse neighborhood," he said. "You could say it's almost like a little international store."

When Richie bought the store last year, he promptly added in the meat department and frozen food to update the store's products. Richie says it has something for everyone, regardless of where they're from.

"We did make a big turnaround in the store to accommodate the neighborhood," Ritchie said. "Just because we're on Jerome Avenue, I'm still going to make the store look like it belongs in Beverly Hills. We definitely have big potential in this neighborhood to uplift it."

In addition to the store's diverse selection of products, Andy's Produce prides itself on convenient pricing for

high-quality products. "You establish a relationship in the neighborhood that's not just for the money," Ritchie said. "My perception is that I never lose with the customers in the long run."

Richie said his favorite part of owning Andy's Produce is the interaction with the customers to get a better understanding of their needs. "Customers can sometimes walk in and they're having a bad day. All you have to do is give them a little customer service, put a smile on their faces, and you can leave an impression on that customer's face, and they'll know they are appreciated in our store," he said.

He added, "They have so many choices in the neighborhood and to choose my store, that's an honor for me. It makes me feel good when I can give an extended hand to someone in need. We're here for everybody's needs if we can fulfill them. We always listen to everybody, and we always take everything into consideration."

Andy's Produce is open 7 days a week from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. and is located at 3425 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, New York 10468. Come in and visit today!



Photo by Ariel Pacheco

**ANDY'S PRODUCE STOREFRONT**, located at 3425 Jerome Avenue in Norwood, is seen on June 19, 2024.



Photo by Ariel Pacheco

**FRESH PRODUCE IS** seen outside Andy's Produce, located at 3425 Jerome Avenue in Norwood on June 19, 2024.



Photo by Ariel Pacheco

**THE INSIDE OF** Andy's Produce, located at 3425 Jerome Avenue in Norwood, is seen on June 19, 2024.

# NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY ARIEL PACHECO

## Teen Summer Program at Bronx Museum

NYC Teens ages 14-19 are encouraged to apply for the Teen Summer 2024 program at The Bronx Museum. Teen Summer is an art intensive program that engages participants in exploring and contributing to the creative culture of The Bronx and the City of New York. The summer 2024 session runs from July 23 to August 15, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit <https://bronxmuseum.org/event/teen-council-spring24/>.

## Free Summer Membership Program for College Students

Civic Hall has launched a new initia-

tive aimed at providing an opportunity for college students to learn from tech enthusiasts, social entrepreneurs, and industry leaders. Civic Hall is accepting applications until spots are filled and is offering free summer memberships for up to 100 college students. To apply and learn more about the program, visit <https://www.civichall.org/trial-membership>.

## Free Immigration Services

State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33), in collaboration with Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation, is hosting a free immigration services clinic on Friday, July 12, from 10 a.m. to noon at 2432 Grand Concourse, Suite 506, Bronx, NY 10458. Appointments

are required. For more information, call (718) 933-2034.

## Small Business Digital Ready Program

Verizon and Mosholu Preservation Corporation (MPC) are providing free courses, mentorship, networking, and grants for small businesses. Any small business can register for free, and no Verizon commitment is required. For more information, visit <https://tr.ee/1UTE8bzot>.

## Free Community Health and Fitness Fair

Bronx Community Board 7 is hosting a free community health and fitness fair on Saturday, June 29, from

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Poe Park, located at East Kingsbridge Road and 192nd Street. This is a community event providing resources from vendors and fitness/wellness classes. For more information, contact [info@orishawhole-ness.org](mailto:info@orishawhole-ness.org).

## Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center Open House Event

Get a tour of Norwood's Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, located at 3225 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467, participate in fitness classes, or speak to youth professionals on Thursday and Friday, June 27 and June 28 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Saturday, June 29, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 543-8672.

# Opinion

## Response to Ben Franklin Club VP Club Saying: "We Put Joe Biden on the Ballot"

By DANIELLE GUGGENHEIM

When you're the local political boss (so reminds me of Tammany Hall) and have called the shots for as long as [Assemblyman] Jeff Dinowitz [A.D. 81] has, you may forget that it is "We the people." I read with great concern the claims by Ira Bigeleisen in last week's Riverdale Press that "Team Dinowitz" got U.S. President Joe Biden on the ballot this year.

Let's be clear – the efforts of every Democrat throughout the country who has helped President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris' re-election efforts have been critical and will continue to be critical through November. But Dinowitz' claim that his political club, "put Joe and Kamala on the ballot" is a whole other level of hubris and leaves out the average people in neighborhoods outside of Riverdale like mine, Norwood.

I am disappointed, but I'm not surprised. One-time reformer Jeff Dinowitz is exhibiting bully tendencies that I can only attribute to "power corrupts." (Maybe we need to start talking about term limits for assembly members.) Dinowitz might personally take credit for the Biden campaign's success, and everything else under the sun, but when I researched Dinowitz's career, I found a growing abuse of his power in his role as a public servant.

Here is just a sample. Several years ago, Dinowitz [allegedly] admitted in a 2018 deposition that he had never hired an African American staffer in his en-



Photo courtesy of the Unity Democratic Club  
**MEMBERS OF THE** Unity Democratic Club join "Bend the Arc" in Newburgh and Middletown to get out the vote for now Congressman Pat Ryan (NY-18), State Sen. James Skoufis (S.D. 42), and NY Gov. Kathy Hochul on Oct. 30, 2022.

tire career. It is shameful that someone who considers himself a leader in the Democratic Party in The Bronx refused to hire any Black people to work in his office.

That same year, the City paid \$230,000 to settle a lawsuit that claimed Jeff Dinowitz [allegedly] tried to stop children of color from enrolling in P.S. 24 in South Riverdale.

In 2021, Jeff Dinowitz [allegedly] engineered a special election for City Council to make it easier for his son, Eric Dinowitz, to get elected.

Soon after that, son Eric Dinowitz began allocating a total of \$15,000 in public funds to a local nonprofit. This year, Dinowitz used that nonprofit's offices as a pseudo election headquarters to collect signatures to get "Team Dinowitz" candidates on the ballot. It's a classic pay-to-play scheme.

I care about The Democratic Party, I care about our community, I care about The Bronx and all of her residents. I know that for our democracy to survive, it is going to take all neighborhoods, all Democratic organizations, and more voter engagement.

Jeff Dinowitz might have meant well when he was elected three decades ago, but now I respectfully feel that he could benefit from learning The Five Demo-

cratic Life Skills (Dan Gartrell) I teach my kindergartners:

- DL1: Finding acceptance as a member of the group and as a worthy individual;
- DL2: Expressing strong emotions in non-hurting ways;
- DL3: Solving problems creatively, independently, and in cooperation with others;
- DL4: Accepting differing qualities in others;
- DL5: Thinking intelligently and ethically;
- \*DL6: And above all else – just being kind.
- \*I added DL6

I am so proud to be a founding member and vice president of The Unity Democratic Club. We truly reflect what America is. Vote for Ramdat Singh, Abigail Martin, Aaron Stayma, and the rest of the Unity Democratic Club endorsed candidates.

*Danielle Guggenheim is a Norwood resident and vice president of the Unity Democratic Club.*

*Editor's Note: This op-ed was published on [www.norwoodnews.org](http://www.norwoodnews.org) before Election Day.*

*The referenced Letter to the Editor published in The Riverdale Press on June 16 is included further below.*

*According to Wikipedia, Tammany Hall was an American political organization founded in 1786. It became the main local political machine of the Democratic Party and played a major role in controlling New York City and New York State politics.*

*Norwood News reached out to the assemblyman's team for comment on this op-ed. We did not receive a response.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

[of The Riverdale Press]

We put Joe Biden on the Ballot

Posted June 16, 2024

To the Editor,

Over the winter break, you will have encountered members of the Benjamin Franklin Reform Democratic Club petitioning to get Joe Biden on the primary

ballot. Getting excellent candidates on the ballot is one of the Ben Franklin Club's essential tasks.

Over the past two years, the Ben Franklin Club is the only organization in greater Riverdale to get every Democrat endorsed by the club on the ballot.

It is Ben Franklin Club members who are responsible for getting the best candidates elected. It's not big money — it's average people like you and me, working together day by day, talking to our neighbors about the issues and the candidates that gives us the best chance to elect the best people.

It takes organization to accomplish this, and, luckily, we have a great team under the leadership of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz and Councilman Eric Dinowitz. District leader candidates Ben Jackson and Emily Hausman, and state committee candidates Michael Heller and Johanna Brujan Edmondson lead our volunteers.

It takes competence and organization to win elections.

You saw other Ben Franklin Club members and me asking you to put Joe and Kamala on the ballot. Now we ask you to elect the Dinowitz team of Ben Jackson, Emily Hausman, Michael Heller and Johanna Brujan Edmondson, and the whole Ben Franklin Club team of judicial delegates and Bronx County Committee members.

They are running in the June 25 primary only. Early voting starts June 15.

We need them to get Biden re-elected in November. We ask you to consider carefully our record of accomplishment. Consider also the record of our opponents who, sadly, failed to get a single signature to put Biden and Harris on the ballot.

In this critical election year, we ask every Democrat to join us to return Joe Biden and Kamala Harris to the White House. Vote for the Dinowitz team on Tuesday, June 25.

Ira Bigeleisen

*The author is vice president of the Benjamin Franklin Reform Democratic Club*



# Mother Arrested for Allegedly Leaving Kids in “Hot Car”

By DAVID GREENE

An unidentified mother was arrested on the first day of summer in the University Heights section of The Bronx after she allegedly left her two kids in a double-parked vehicle that was turned off as the temperature hovered around 90 degrees, outside the vehicle.

The incident was reported at 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 20, outside of 86 West 183rd Street at University Avenue. Officers from both the 46<sup>th</sup> Precinct and the 52<sup>nd</sup> Precinct responded and upon arrival, were observed talking to the children, a boy and a girl. [At 10 a.m. on Thursday, the outside temperature was 85 degrees according to AccuWeather, but it felt like 93 degrees.]

According to one witness at the scene, the mother, who was wearing what looked to be hospital scrubs, had earlier been observed leaving the vehicle double parked and walking west along West 183rd Street.

Later, as police talked to the mother, *Norwood News* observed her young daughter hysterically crying, leaving the car and running to hug her mother. The mother was then observed walking the young girl back to the car and speaking with paramedics before again joining the five police officers. The officers then walked her to the corner, where she was placed in handcuffs and put in a patrol vehicle.

Detective Greg Greene of the NYPD's press office later told *Norwood News* in response to some follow-up questions on the incident, “It was a lady; she was arrested. There were two children in the car, a 7-year-old, and a 10-year-old. The A.C. in the car was not on at the time.”

According to Greene, a call to 911 from a “third-party” brought EMS to the scene who arrived at 9:50 a.m., and police arrived 10 minutes later. Greene continued, “Eventually the mom came back to the scene. Both children were taken to the hospital for precautionary reasons to St. Barnabas (Hospital.)” He added, “Everything was fine; nothing was wrong with the children.”



Photo by David Greene

**A CHILD PLACES** her hand on the window after she was allegedly left inside a hot car along West 183rd Street and University Avenue in University Heights on Thursday, June 20, 2024.

Asked how police got into the apparently locked vehicle, Greene responded, “I don’t think it was open. I think it was locked and then not too clear on how they got it open. I don’t know if it was one of the kids.”

When asked how long the kids were left in the car alone, Greene replied, “I’m not sure how long before EMS got there. I know that we were there shortly after EMS.”

Greene could not immediately say what the mother was charged with, adding, “The charges should be coming down in a few minutes.”

The location of the incident is less than a half a mile away from the James J. Peters Veterans Affairs Medical Center on West Kingsbridge Road in Fordham Manor, where on July 26, 2019, Juan

Rodriguez, a Rockland County resident mistakenly left his two children in an unattended car. Luna and Phoenix Rodriguez, both 1, were declared dead at the scene several hours later, as reported.

On July 23, 2020, the Bronx District Attorney announced that Rodriguez pleaded guilty to second degree reckless endangerment and was given a one-year conditional discharge, as also reported.

*Norwood News* was unable to reach the mother for comment prior to her arrest. One male bystander at the scene of the incident said, “She left the kids inside the car; that’s dangerous.”

Another male resident of the block added, “She left the car right there and it looked like she was going to work.” He added that the woman walked west along East 182nd Street. Another resident driver said the woman double-parked her vehicle, and other cars could not pass. The driver apparently spotted the kids alone in the vehicle and flagged down EMS.

In attempting to reach the mother for comment on the incident, we connected with a former female resident of a Westchester-based address where the mother now lives. Explaining what had happened, the former resident said, “Oh my God, what a horrible human being.”

She added, “That’s insane. I hope they prosecute her for attempted murder or something because you can’t do something like that.”

*Norwood News* later managed to speak with the mother, who we are not naming, by phone on Sunday, June 23, and asked if she wished to comment on the incident. “No, I don’t have anything to say,” she said. Asked if she could even confirm where she had gone to on the day of the incident, she said, “I cannot tell you anything, I’m sorry.”

Asked if she had retained an attorney who could speak on her behalf, the mother said, “I cannot say anything, I’m sorry.” We asked if her kids were ok. She replied, “The kids are okay. The kids are fine.” She asked not to be contacted further.

An edited surveillance video of the incident obtained by *Norwood News* shows the mother exiting her vehicle at 9.52 a.m. on June 20. EMS reported being alerted at 10.04 a.m. The surveillance video picks up again at 10.10 a.m., the moment when police officers arrive at the scene.

## Opinion

### The Grinches Who Stole Pride”

(continued on page 10)

see so many families, kids, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community gathering locally, and not “below 14<sup>th</sup> street” or the piers is an amazing step towards progress and representation for us, Norwoodians & Bronxites, in the outer boroughs.

*AJ Ramos is a Norwood resident, a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, and recently graduated from The CUNY School of Professional Studies*

*in Manhattan with a B.A. in communications and media.*

Editor’s Note: June marks Pride Month. Mr. Ramos confirmed to *Norwood News* that he did not report the incident to police at the time it occurred. He did share some photos with us taken on the day of the Pride event of the people suspected of damaging the Pride display. However, we are precluded from publishing these photos unless they have been identified as suspects by police.

The latest Bronx-wide hate crime statistics are included in the Crime File section of this edition on page 8. They show an increase of 200 percent in the last 28 days as of June 23, and of 27 percent since the beginning of the year.

*To report a hate crime in progress or any emergency, call 911. Non-emergencies should be reported to the local precinct.*



Photo by David Greene

**AN UNIDENTIFIED MOTHER** speaks with police officers after she allegedly left two children inside a locked vehicle at West 183rd Street and University Avenue in University Heights, as the outside temperature hovered around 90 degrees on Thursday, June 20, 2024.

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# Galaveritas Antojitos

By **ARIEL PACHECO**

**G**alaveritas Antojitos is a family-owned, Mexican, fast-food restaurant that recently opened its doors to the Norwood community, offering a delightful array of dishes that stand out from typical Mexican restaurants.

Located at 79 East Gun Hill Road, and open from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. 7 days a week, Galaveritas Antojitos has quickly become a neighborhood favorite. “The neighborhood has been really good to us,” said AI, one of the owners of the restaurant. “They’ve supported us a lot.”

At Galaveritas Antojitos, all essential workers including nurses, police officers, social workers, and firefighters can enjoy a 10% discount as a token of appreciation for their hard work serving the community. AI said that the restaurant has a variety of plates that can only be found in the City of Mexico.

One of the standout items on the menu is the *Bombazo*, a meal comprising mashed potato with sausage on a red bun, topped with sour cream and cheese. He said it’s part of Galaveritas Antojitos’ commitment to authentic-

ity and quality. “It’s something that no other Mexican restaurant that I’ve been to has, but we sell it here,” said AI.

He said the *enchiladas* at Galaveritas Antojitos are another favorite with the community. Unlike the typical green or red sauce varieties, AI said their *enchiladas* are made with *mole* that is crafted from scratch. In addition, customers can also get *aguas frescas* and *horchata* at Galaveritas Antojitos.

“We want customers to get a new experience, a new feeling where they experience the food and see that it’s something really unique,” AI said. Galaveritas Antojitos is a family-friendly restaurant with a “Day of the Dead” feel that is colorful, he added.

It is also an open concept restaurant, meaning customers can see their food being prepared and AI said they can buy their produce fresh every single morning. “How you see it being cooked is how you’re going to get it,” AI said.

Galaveritas Antojitos has a special Taco Tuesday promotion where all tacos are 1\$ off. Come in today to try authentic Mexican food!



Photo by Ariel Pacheco

**GALAVERITAS ANTOJITOS STOREFRONT**, located at 79 East Gun Hill Road in Norwood, as seen on June 20, 2024.



Photo by Ariel Pacheco

**SEATING INSIDE OF** Galaveritas Antojitos, located at 79 East Gun Hill Road in Norwood, has a view of the neighborhood, as seen on June 20, 2024.



Photo by Ariel Pacheco

**THE OPEN CONCEPT** at Galaveritas Antojitos, located at 79 East Gun Hill Road in Norwood, as seen on June 20, 2024, allows customers to watch their meals being prepared

# Bowman Loses Seat

(continued from page 1)

deaths since Oct. 7, 2023.

Regarded as a so-called “Squad” member and congressional ally of Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (NY-14), Bowman saw strong support (83 percent of the vote) on Election Night in The Bronx portion of his district, which also covers areas of Westchester, but trailed Latimer overall after poll closure with 40.14 percent to Latimer’s 59, based on unofficial results.

Latimer later declared victory, tweeting, “As a working-class kid in Mt Vernon, I watched my parents strive to give me the best life possible. When I graduated high school on Memorial Field, my mom cried. She never dreamed I would be here, but tonight, the voters spoke and I’m proud to be your Democratic Nominee for #NY16.”

He added, “I grew up walking across town to get to the pool because I couldn’t afford bus fare. I was the first in my family to graduate high school. I worked in Mount Vernon’s Section 8 office. Every day, I wake up ready to do the hard work of improving these communities that raised me.”

Latimer continued, “While this race garnered a lot of headlines, tomorrow we turn a new page. We must come together, united to defend our Democratic values from MAGA extremism. We will work together to defeat Trump and re-elect Biden. We will work together to take back the House. And we will work together to deliver [#RealResultsNotRhetoric](#).”

The disappointment of Bowman’s loss sinking in, already on Election Night, one constituent proposed still voting for him as a write-in candidate in the general election, a terrifying prospect for Democrats wishing to keep the NY-16 seat blue.

One NY-16 constituent, Mary Shaughnessy, told *Norwood News* after Election Day that a group of Bronx voters (4400 blocks) was reportedly told by NYC Board of Elections (BOE) there was no primary in their area. Shaughnessy said she was informed by a representative from Rep. Ritchie Torres (NY-15) that the BOE was using congressional maps due to take effect in January 2025. Meanwhile, she said Bowman’s website was still using the old district lines. *Norwood News* has reached out to the referenced parties for comment.

Ocasio-Cortez, who won her own congressional race in NY-14, leading with 81% of the vote after poll closure, declared victory over her challenger Marty Dolan, writing, “Wall Street came for us again, and the people prevailed. Thank you to the Bronx and Queens for choosing me to be your Congresswoman. It is the honor of my life to fight for working families and everyday people. To receive this level of support is deeply moving. *Pa'lante* [Onwards].”

The district covers parts of The Bronx and Queens. Neither Bowman nor Ocasio-Cortez accepts corporate donations. Speaking in the Edenwald section of The Bronx earlier on Election Day, Bowman said, “They’re trying to

buy this seat from the people, which is crazy, all because I called for peace, all because I called for a ceasefire, all because I called for an end to the genocide.”

Since Oct. 7, 2023, the Israel-Hamas war has cost the lives of 37,718 Israelis and Palestinians and has resulted in 86,377 wounded, according to the latest reporting from Al Jazeera. Israel was charged with genocide via the International Court of Justice on Dec. 29 due to the Israeli Defense Forces’ unrelenting bombing campaign in Gaza. It followed the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks on Israel by the terrorist group, Hamas, in which around 1,200 Jewish civilians were killed, and several others were assaulted and kidnapped, including some children and seniors. Some have since been released.

In the months leading up to the primary, Bowman was reportedly outspent 10-1 by Latimer, who had the backing of the powerful AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee] Super Pac. According to independent U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, who campaigned in The Bronx for Bowman with Ocasio-Cortez on June 22, Latimer received over \$14 million in campaign donations from AIPAC.

Seemingly in reference to donors, Bowman added on Election Night, “Now, our opponents — not opponent — may have won this round, at this time, in this place, but this will be a battle for our humanity and justice for the rest of our lives.”

Later, on June 26, Ocasio-Cortez wrote, “[@JamaalBowman](#). Son of a single mother. Grew up in public housing. Dedicated his life to teaching. Became a school principal. Founded a prized school to serve Bronx youth. Elected as the 1st Black Congressman for NY16. Never took a dime in corporate money. A true public servant.”

Meanwhile, Bowman’s nemesis, MAGA Republican Marjorie Taylor Greene (GA-14) relished in the congressman’s defeat on social media, and vowed to take legal action against him for previously setting off a fire alarm in the U.S. Capitol, allegedly to stall a congressional vote several months ago.

Back in The Bronx, Rev. Ruben Diaz Sr., a former Democratic Bronx city councilman who recently campaigned in The Bronx with former Republican U.S. President Donald Trump, posted on X of Bowman’s loss on June 26, “The strategy of keeping @AOC, money and Troops, busy in her District and not being able to send them to help @Rep-Bowman payed [sic] out big time. One down still more to come. @ErickSalgadoNYC @LattinaBrown @Oswald-Denis5 @cafecitobreak @CurtisSliwa @SquarePegDem @JCCats2013 @fud31 and”

Meanwhile, the BOE reported that at three hours before poll closure on Election Night, 20,946 voters had shown up to vote in The Bronx, and 148,355 across the City. In the State Committee 81st Assembly District (A.D. 81) Democratic primary, the Benjamin Franklin Democratic Reform Club’s slate of can-

didates, Michael Heller and Johanna Edmondson, led with 36.30 and 36.93 percent of the vote respectively on Election Night.

They had received the backing of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81) and his son, Councilman Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11), as part of the “Dinowitz Democratic Team” slate. Both broadly represent much of the northwest Bronx.

According to the Bronx Democratic Party, two state committee members represent voters within their respective assembly district, and are charged with attending and voting at their respective political party’s state convention and annual meetings.

“A strong State Committee Member also serves as a liaison between the community, local elected officials, city government, and political candidates,” an extract from the website reads. State committee members are unpaid elected party officials who serve two-year terms and must reside within the district they represent, according to the Party.

Aaron Stayman of the Unity Democratic Club, who was backed, along with other fellow Unity Democratic Club candidates in other primaries, by local progressive Democrat, State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33), Democratic State Sen. Robert Jackson (S.D. 31), who represents parts of The Bronx and Manhattan, and local Democratic State Committeewoman for A.D. 81 Morgan Evers, ranked third in the race. Evers is also a member of the Unity Democrats.

As reported by The Riverdale Press in May, Evers was removed from this year’s primary election ballot due to a typing error related to her address. Meanwhile, *Norwood News* recently reported on allegations that Edmondson used her non-profit to collate signatures in the lead up to the primary election. When asked for comment, the allegation was not denied by the Ben Franklin club, nor by the Dinowitz Democratic team, nor by Edmondson.

In the A.D. 81 District Leader Democratic primary, the Unity Democratic Club’s Abigail Martin, a former city council candidate, led with 32.03 percent of the vote for the female district leader position, while Ben Jackson of the Ben Franklin Club, led with 21.7 percent of the vote for the male district leader position, the latter also part of the Dinowitz Democratic Team.

“I would like to thank all of the Unity Democrats across our community, including our candidates, club members, and the incredible volunteers who spent countless hours fighting an uphill battle this entire campaign,” Martin said. “Despite being widely outspent by our opponents, we had many important victories and continue to build for the future. I’m proud of our team and the work we’ve done to re-energize the Democratic Party in the northwest Bronx.”

She added, “I look forward to working with all those who won their elections yesterday to make sure we build a more inclusive and welcoming party in our community. I also look forward to now turning our attention to this fall’s races to make sure we re-elect the Biden-Harris Team, pass the NY Equal Rights Amendment, and take back the House of Representatives.” Ben Franklin members had ac-

cused Unity Democrats via negative mailers of not pulling their weight in terms of canvassing for fellow Democrats.

According to the Bronx Democratic Party, two district leaders represent voters within each assembly district, and their duties include electing the chair of the county party, appointing election workers at local poll sites, selecting the Democratic nominees for vacant Civil Court judgeships, and working with assembly members in organizing political activities in their districts (voter registration drives, community engagement, etc.), according to the Bronx Democratic Party. They are unpaid elected party officials who serve two-year terms and must reside within the district they represent, according to the Party.

The Party had previously confirmed that in A.D. 80, which covers parts of Norwood, Bedford Park, Olinville, Bronx Part East, Parkside Housing Project, Allerton, Pelham Parkway, Little Yemen, Indian Village, Morris Park, and Pelham Gardens, the female district leader position is still vacant.

It was previously held by the late Sandra Pabon who died in June 2023. Democratic Assemblyman John Zaccaro Jr. represents A.D. 80. The Party said the male district leader position in A.D. 80 is Remysell Salas and that he had not sought re-election.

A Party spokesperson added, “Currently running unopposed is Christine Culpepper for female district leader [in A.D. 80] and Ardhimir “Ardy” Malziu for male district leader.” Culpepper is already the incumbent State Committeewoman for A.D. 80. The Party previously confirmed that an elected official is also allowed hold a second role within the Party.

We asked the Party, in the spirit of democracy and wider representation, to clarify the purpose of having the same person hold two different roles within the Party. We will share any updates we receive.

In the Delegate for the Judicial Convention for A.D. 81 Democratic primary, the Eric Dinowitz led with 9.54 percent of the vote. Nine positions are available in this race. In the Alternate Delegate for the Judicial Convention for A.D. 81 Democratic primary, Jeffrey Dinowitz led with 10.16 percent of the vote. Nine positions are available in this race.

Glad Tidings Church, which has been used as a polling station in the past and which is located at 2 Van Cortlandt Avenue East in Bedford Park, was closed on Election Day. A few people who were passing by did not know where to go and vote.

One male resident who lives a few blocks away from the church wanted to vote but said there was no sign displayed on the church of where to go. He started to walk back home down Jerome Avenue. We’ve reached out to the Board of Elections for comment. A spokesperson replied, saying, “We had no primary in the area. Hence – no polling sites open.” The spokesperson added, “Also, it has not been a poll site since 2023, [a] decision of the church to remove themselves due to their restructuring. We do stay in contact with them and hope to get them back soon.”

For more election coverage, including reaction from voters, visit [www.norwoodnews.org](http://www.norwoodnews.org).

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