



NORWOOD NEWS

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NICHOLAS'S WAY UNVEILED

Photo by Miriam Quiñones

A YEAR AFTER one-year-old Nicholas Otoniel Feliz Dominici died from fentanyl poisoning at Divino Niño Daycare Center in Kingsbridge Heights on Sept. 15, 2023, the infant's family, surrounded by friends, clergy, community members, elected officials, and the NYPD, gathered for a street co-naming ceremony in his honor at the intersection of West Kingsbridge Road and Kingsbridge Terrace in Kingsbridge Heights on Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024.

By **SÍLE MOLONEY & ARIEL PACHECO**

A year to the day after one-year-old Nicholas Otoniel Feliz Dominici tragically died from fentanyl poisoning at Divino Niño Daycare Center in Kingsbridge Heights on Sept. 15, 2023,

the infant's family, surrounded by friends, clergy, community members, elected officials, and the NYPD, gathered for an emotional street co-naming ceremony in his honor at the intersection of West Kingsbridge Road and Kingsbridge Terrace

on Sunday, Sept. 15.

Wearing white t-shirts with a photo of Nicholas printed on the front, his parents, Otoniel Feliz Samboy and Zoila Dominici, also parents to other young children who were also present, addressed those gathered with

dignity and grace. The pain of losing their son still evident on their faces, the couple spoke lovingly about Nicholas and of how his death impacted not only their family, but the community and country at large.

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Bronxites Remember the September 11th Attacks



Photo by David Greene

DURING A CEREMONY held outside the 49th Precinct in Morris Park on Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024, surrounded by members of the 49th Precinct Clergy Council, Captain Tawee Theanthong, the Precinct commanding officer, reads the names of the 23 police officers from New York City who died in the September 11th Attacks in 2001.

By DAVID GREENE

Bronxites across the borough gathered once again on Wednesday, Sept. 11, to remember those who were killed and injured during the September 11th attacks on America in 2001.

Outside the 49th Precinct station-house on Eastchester Road in Morris Park, Captain Tawee Theanthong,

the recently appointed commanding officer, gathered with more than a dozen officers and members of the 49th Precinct Clergy Council, for the occasion. Theanthong read the names of the 23 police officers from across New York City who died that day in the line of duty.

They were Sgt. John Coughlin,

Sgt. Michael Curtin, Sgt. Rodney Gillis, Sgt. Timothy Roy, Det. Claude Richards, Det. Joseph Vigiano, Police Officer John D'Allara, Police Officer Vincent Danz, Police Officer Jerome Dominguez, Police Officer Stephen Driscoll, Police Officer Mark Ellis, Police Officer Robert Fazio, Police Officer Ronald Kloepfer, Police Officer Thomas Langone, Police Officer James Leahy, Police Officer Brian McDonnell, Police Officer John Perry, Police Officer Glen Pettit, Police Officer Moira Smith, Police Officer Ramon Suarez, Police Officer Paul Talty, Police Officer Santos Valentin, and Police Officer Walter Weaver.

Seventy-two law enforcement officers died in total in the attacks. Elsewhere, at the September 11th Memorial at Jacobi Hospital, also in Morris Park, hospital officials were once again joined by staff members, local elected officials, and members of the public as they paid homage to the Bronxites killed in the attacks.

In Allerton, on the same day, at St. Catherine Academy on Williamsbridge Road, the entire student body was taking part in a flag-raising ceremony when a police officer cruising past the school decided to stop and join the students.

On Thursday, Sept. 12, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson
(continued on next page)



Photo courtesy of the Office of the Bronx Borough President

A HUGE AMERICAN flag flies over Lou Gehrig Plaza in the Concourse section of The Bronx on Thursday, Sept. 12, 2024, during the Bronx Borough President's "9/11 Day of Remembrance" ceremony.



Photo by David Greene

MORE THAN A dozen police officers salute the American flag outside of the 49th Precinct in Morris Park on Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024, as they honor the 23 police officers killed during the September 11th attacks on America in 2001.

(continued from previous page)

joined members of the FDNY, the NYPD, family members, elected officials and others for her office's annual "9/11 Day of Remembrance" ceremony held on Lou Gehrig Plaza in the Concourse section of the borough.

The September 11th attacks were a terrorist attack on the United States that occurred on Sept. 11, 2001. As widely reported, 19 al-Qaeda hijackers seized control of four jetliners. Two of the planes were flown into the World Trade Center in New York City, a third into the Pentagon in

Arlington, Virginia, and the fourth into a field in western Pennsylvania. The attacks killed almost 3,000 people and injured over 6,000 more.

The FDNY lost 343 firefighters from across New York City in the attacks. On Sept. 4, the FDNY added the names of 32 additional members to the FDNY World Trade Center Memorial Wall at FDNY headquarters in Brooklyn. The total number of firefighters who have died from 9/11-related illnesses now stands at 360. The FDNY ceremony can be viewed online at <https://www.nyc.gov/site/fdny/index.page>.



Photo by David Greene

WHITE CARNATIONS ARE placed on one of two memorial markers bearing the names of Bronxites killed in the September 11th attacks on America in 2001 during the memorial service held at the September 11th Memorial at Jacobi Hospital in Morris Park on Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024.



Photo by David Greene

STUDENTS OF ST. Catherine Academy in Allerton pose for a photo with an unidentified police officer who had been driving by the school on Sept. 11, 2024, and stopped to join the students for their 9/11 memorial service.

During his address, Theanthong said in part, "The NYPD responded to the World Trade Center Buildings in a show of strength and courage that earned us the respect of the world. Twenty-three brave members did not return from Ground Zero. We honor them daily by protecting the American way of life, for which they did on that day. They, and each

of you, personify what is best about this city, this country, and our ideals."

He added, in part, "Take pride in knowing that history will remember that the New York City Police Department demonstrated the highest principles of service and humanity in our response that day. May events never require us to do so again."

INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By **DAVID GREENE**



This week, we asked readers their opinion on the abrupt resignation of now former NYPD Commissioner Edward Caban after his home, along with the homes of First Deputy Mayor Sheena Wright, Schools Chancellor David Banks, and Deputy Mayor Philip Banks, David Banks' brother, were raided by federal agents on Sept. 4. Caban said the raids "created a distraction" and the NYPD deserved someone who could "solely focus on protecting and serving New York City." No charges have been announced. We also asked readers their thoughts on the new acting Police Commissioner Thomas Donlon, who grew up in Norwood.



"My thoughts on the commissioner are, honestly, he hasn't really been here for the community. I just feel like he was there just for the money, and the new commissioner, I feel like he's actually going to do what he's supposed to, and he's going to enforce the laws and regulations."

Annah Lee,
Fordham Manor



"It's a good thing he [Caban] is resigning. He shouldn't have done what he allegedly did, and now we have a new police commissioner. If he was innocent, he wouldn't have resigned. I hope the new commissioner runs the department well."

Steven Banks,
Fordham Manor



"Oh, I'm not sure if he did it. I haven't been following the developments but hey, I hope it all works out well for him. I knew he was the first Latino commissioner, so it bothers me a little bit. We don't know too much about the new commissioner. Let's see what he does. Maybe he'll do something better. It's his neighborhood here; he grew up here, so maybe he'll look out for it and put some thought into it."

Tony Enamorato,
Norwood



"Of course, his resignation is disappointing and not only that, but he was appointed by a minority mayor, a former policeman, and to hear that he may have engaged in corruption is saddening. Where there is smoke, there's fire like they say. That's interesting; I did not know he [Donlan] was from here. I do not know him. I don't know his background. Anti-terror? That's a good thing."

Americo Galindez,
Jerome Park



"I don't agree with his resignation, I don't think he should have stepped down so fast because there is no evidence. I don't believe that he committed a crime nor has Mayor [Eric] Adams, or any of his people because there's no evidence. And they [the FBI] have been raiding the homes of his people, his house, family members, and not finding anything. I think there's a hidden agenda with that. I believe they're good people. It doesn't matter where Donlan is from. It matters what's in his heart, and what he will do to help the people, not just in The Bronx but everywhere."

Francis Garcia,
Morrisania resident visiting Kingsbridge



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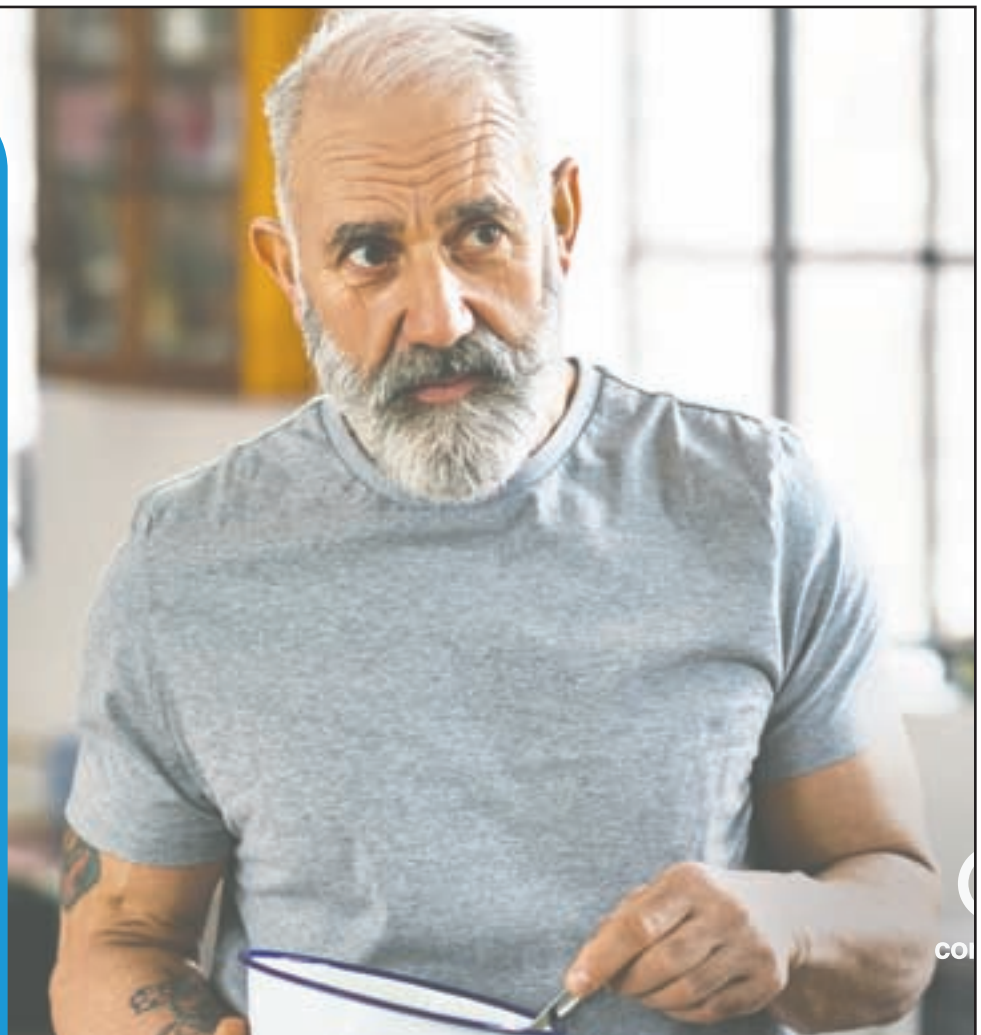
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Bedford Park: Two Residential Fires Result in One Minor Injury

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

One firefighter incurred a minor injury after a residential fire broke out on Friday, Sept. 13, in Bedford Park, according to FDNY officials. An FDNY spokesperson said the department received a call at 2.06 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 13, for a report of a fire at 2824 Morris Avenue, located between Jerome Avenue and East 196th Street.

They said 12 units comprising 60 firefighters and EMS personnel responded to the scene of the multiple-story dwelling. A large group of residents was seen outside looking on as firefighters tackled the fire, which the FDNY said was brought under control at 2.55 p.m., with just the one minor injury reported.

Norwood News reached out to the Red Cross for details of any displaced residents and Frederic Klein from the Red Cross provided us with the following statement:

“After the fire on Morris Avenue in the Bronx, the American Red Cross has registered one household (three total individuals, including one child and one older adult) for emergency assistance, including temporary lodging and financial assistance. Our casework team will follow up with these residents in coming days to connect them with longer-term recovery resources from non-profit and/or gov-



Image courtesy of the Citizens' App

FIREFIGHTERS AND EMS personnel respond to a fire that broke out on Friday afternoon, Sept. 13, 2024, at 2824 Morris Avenue, located between Jerome Avenue and East 196th Street in Bedford Park.

ernment partners.”

Klein added, “Any residents impacted by this fire who need help with their recovery and have not already connected with the Red Cross should call 877-RED CROSS (877-733-2767).”

Another fire broke out in Bedford Park on Tuesday night, Sept. 10, at Oliver Place, and resulted in no injuries, FDNY officials said. A fire department spokesperson said the FDNY received a call on Tuesday evening at

7.49 p.m. for a report of fire / smoke at 398 Oliver Place between Decatur Avenue and Webster Avenue.

The fire was located on the third floor of the 6-story residential building. FDNY officials said 12 units, comprising 60 firefighters and EMS personnel responded to the scene and several fire trucks, along with police vehicles were seen along Oliver Place, Decatur Avenue and Webster Avenue.

The fire department officials said

the fire was brought under control at 8.21 p.m. and the cause was under investigation. *Norwood News* spoke to some affected residents at the scene who said the fire department seemed to have difficulty opening the door of the affected apartment where the fire started and when they did, thick black smoke engulfed the corridors. Some said they had to feel their way down the stairway using only their hands to feel their way, including one older adult in his early eighties.

We also reached out to the Red Cross for details of any displaced residents and a representative informed us that the Red Cross registered one household (three children, two adults, and one cat) for emergency assistance, including temporary lodging and financial assistance, after the fire.

“Our Greater New York Disaster Action Team also provided care items, such as toiletries, water, snacks and blankets,” said Frederic Klein of the Red Cross. “Caseworkers will reach out to impacted residents in coming days to help connect them with longer-term recovery resources from non-profit and/or government partners.” Anyone in need of help should contact the Red Cross at the number listed above.

To read FDNY’s fire safety tips, visit <https://www.fdnysmart.org/>.

Man Arrested in Norwood Killing

By **DAVID GREENE & SÍLE MOLONEY**

The NYPD said the 29-year-old man who was recently arrested and charged for a third-degree assault in Norwood on a 58-year-old man in August, has since been charged with first-degree manslaughter. The victim was assaulted and hospitalized last month but one month later, he succumbed to his injuries and died.

Police said that on Sunday, Aug. 4, at around 5 p.m., police responded to a 911 call regarding an assault in progress at 7 West Mosholu Parkway North. “Upon arrival, police were informed that a 58-year-old male had been punched in the head by another individual, causing him to fall to the floor,” a police spokesperson said.

“EMS responded and transported the male to St. Barnabas Hospital,” the spokesperson added. “On Saturday, September 7, 2024, the 58-year-old male succumbed to his injuries. The incident has now been deemed a homicide by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.”

Police said that pursuant to an ongoing investigation, Dequan Jackson, 29, with an address in Claremont Village, The Bronx was arrested on Aug. 4, at 5.41 p.m. They said he was initially charged with third degree assault. On Tuesday,



Photo by Síle Moloney

L TO R, GUADALUPE JACINTO, JOSE Gutierrez and Pedro Roldan pose for a photo on Thursday, Sept. 12, 2024, close to the site of a memorial they erected in the vicinity of West Mosholu Parkway North by Jerome Avenue in Norwood in tribute to their late friend, Benjamin Bernal, from Highbridge.

Sept. 17, police said Jackson was charged the same day with first-degree manslaughter and listed a different Norwood address for him.

Meanwhile, the deceased was identified as Benjamin Bernal of Anderson Avenue in Highbridge, The Bronx. Jackson is deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

Norwood News visited the site of the assault on Thursday, Sept. 12. A memorial had been erected opposite the assault site in tribute to Bernal. There, we spoke to some of his friends, Guadalupe Jacinto, Pedro Roldan, and José Gutierrez, who told us Bernal often sat in that

area by West Mosholu Parkway North and Jerome Avenue and that this was why they had decided to place the memorial there. Speaking in Spanish, Jacinto confirmed Bernal had indeed been assaulted in August.

“We were great friends,” he said. “We all hung out together.” Asked if he was with Bernal at the time of the assault, he said he was not as he had gone to work. We asked if Bernal had been alone when he was assaulted. He said no, that he had been with another friend who he said had also been beaten up by a group of three or four others who he described as “dark.”

Asked if he knew what had prompted the assault, Jacinto said he didn’t. He said it had been raining and he and the other friend had gone into a nearby deli where the group assaulted them. “I think one [of the group] was fighting with his wife, and I don’t know why they attacked them,” Jacinto said.

Asked if Bernal was married, Jacinto said he had been and that he also had grown-up children. Holding back tears, Roldan added, “I am a great brother of his and I’m suffering a lot.”

Separately, elsewhere in Norwood, the NYPD released photos of two men sought in connection with a nonfatal shooting of a third man in the back along East 207th Street in Norwood on Tuesday, Sept. 10.

Police said they were called to 245 East 207th Street at 1:01 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 10, where they discovered a 41-year-old male shot once in the lower back. The

victim was transported to Jacobi Hospital by EMS in “stable” condition.

Police had been canvassing for video of the incident. The suspects were described as both wearing dark clothing and black ski masks, who fled eastbound towards Perry Avenue after the incident. One shell casing was recovered at the scene.



Photo courtesy of the NYPD

THE NYPD IS asking for the public’s help identifying and locating the person seen in this photo who they say is sought in connection with a non-fatal shooting which took place on Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2024, at around 1 a.m. in front of 245 East 207th Street in the Norwood section of The Bronx.

CRIME FILE

BY SÍLE MOLONEY & DAVID GREENE



Fordham Manor: Man Sought for Robbery and Assault

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the person seen in the accompanying photo who they say is sought in connection to a robbery that occurred in Fordham Manor. Police said that on Sunday, Aug. 18, at around 9.45 p.m., a 23-year-old male victim was inside a Nissan van, parked in front of 305 East Kingsbridge Road with the unidentified sus-

pect when the suspect stabbed the victim with a sharp object several times.

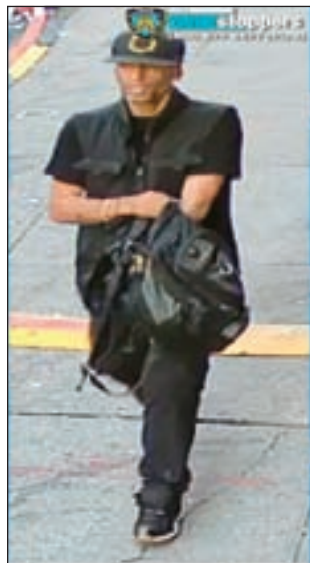
They said he then robbed the victim of some cash before exiting the vehicle and fleeing eastbound on East 188th Street to parts unknown. They said the victim was taken to St. Barnabas Hospital in stable condition. They said the suspect was described as male, has a dark complexion, and was last seen wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt, black pants, a black backpack, and white and black sneakers.

Bedford Park: Girl 14 Robbed at Gunpoint

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the person seen in the accompanying photo who they say is wanted in connection to an armed robbery that occurred in Bedford Park. Police said that on Wednesday, Sept. 11, at around 7.06 a.m., a 14-year-old female victim was in front of 213 East 198th Street, when a person approached her from behind and snatched her necklace. They said that when the victim turned around, the suspect displayed a gun, and the victim dropped her cell-

phone.

They said the suspect took the cellphone and fled the location on foot, traveling northbound on Valentine Avenue. Police said the stolen items are valued at around \$2,600, and there were no injuries reported finally. They said the suspect is described as male, has a medium complexion, and is around 27 to 33 years old and was seen wearing all black clothing.



Fordham Heights: Man Sought for Armed Robbery

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying and locating the person seen in the accompanying photo who they say is sought in connection with an armed robbery that occurred in Fordham Heights. Police said that on Tuesday, Aug. 13, at around 7.20 p.m., a 34-year-old male victim was approached by an unidentified person in front of 2384 Grand Concourse. They said the suspect and the victim had agreed on Facebook Marketplace to meet up to follow through on the purchase of a chain.

However, they said the suspect approached the victim, displaying a knife before snatching the chain from the victim's hand. Police said the suspect then fled the location in a gray Honda Accord, traveling northbound on the Grand Concourse to parts unknown. They said the victim did not sustain any injuries. Police said the suspect is described as male, has a medium build, a dark complexion, and was last seen wearing a white baseball cap, a black t-shirt, black jeans, and white sneakers.



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.

Bronx CB7 Assess Latest District Needs

By SÍLE MOLONEY

There was poor community turnout when Bronx Community Board 7 (Bronx CB7) reconvened in September to assess the district's latest needs relating to housing, land use, economic development, parks, recreation and cultural affairs during the first committee meetings held since the annual summer hiatus.

The community board, which covers the neighborhoods of Bedford Park, Fordham, Jerome Park, Kingsbridge Heights, Norwood, and University Heights, held their housing, land use, and economic development meeting on Sept. 10, and their parks, recreation, and cultural affairs meeting on Sept. 11. Excluding the media, there were around 10 people present at each meeting.

The housing committee met quorum, and the agenda revolved around planning for the City's fiscal year 2026 and Bronx CB7's statement of needs. City agency responses to Bronx CB7's various capital and ex-

pense requests for fiscal year 2025, were discussed.

The list included requests from all Bronx CB7 committees. "As we all know, we went through it diligently and effectively so that we can get responses," said Bronx CB7 chair Yajaira Arias, who also serves as chair of the housing committee. "For the most part, we did get responses to our requests, and now we have to do the same for the fiscal year 2026," she added.

The capital and expense requests made by the various Bronx CB7 committees last year ranged from more housing; more schools and more inspections to correct housing code violations by landlords to upgrades to Devoe Park in Fordham Manor to prevent flooding and other issues; a new community garden at Oliver Place in Bedford Park; more tunnel lighting on East Kingsbridge Road in Kingsbridge Heights and on Bedford Park Boulevard; the expansion of veteran programs; more

home-delivered meal services; and free overdose prevention kits.

Other requests included more outreach for the unhoused community; education and services around obesity, STIs, and family planning; expanding emergency food programs; a bus service from Fordham Road to LaGuardia Airport; more school safety agents; more sanitation enforcement; fitness equipment for St. James Park Recreation Center in Fordham Manor; a new 52nd Precinct or sub-precinct stationhouse in Norwood to cope with the growing number of officers (300) who work there; ADA upgrades to the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center in Norwood; surveillance cameras in all Community District 7 (CD7) parks; the renovation of Mosholu Playground in Bedford Park; and elevators at Mosholu Parkway subway station.

Local runners have long complained about precinct vehicles blocking the sidewalk along Mosholu Parkway close to the 52nd stationhouse on Webster Avenue due to police vehicle overflow. Meanwhile, the agency responses to many of the requests were fairly noncommittal e.g. "Further study by the agency [...] is needed" or "Please contact

the Agency directly [...] for more information." Other requests were deferred to local councilmembers. In other cases, the response was that funding for the request was uncertain.

A discussion ensued around rearranging the various housing-related requests in the latest order of priority. In relation to expanding rental subsidies, Sandra Erickson, housing committee vice chair, said, "Even the owners/managers are pushing for this, so I kind of have tenants and owners on the same page."

It was also agreed that ongoing rental assistance was needed to help address homelessness. In relation to improving public housing maintenance and cleanliness, Arias mentioned that she believed "Bailey Houses" were the only NYCHA complex in the district, and that they are being privatized. "I'm not sure how we can still be helpful to them if they're being privatized," she said.

A discussion followed on whether any NYCHA projects were planned for the district. No committee members were aware of any, but they agreed to double-check with the agency. It was mentioned that NYCHA also owned some regular properties that were not necessarily used

as NYCHA housing complexes. *Norwood News* has reached out to NYCHA for more information.

Erickson requested that a request relating to pest control and better sanitation also be prioritized since it impacted upon housing also. Other requests included additional resources for NYC Department of Buildings to enforce building code violations from a safety standpoint, addressing fire hazards like e-bike storage, and low-cost finances for job creation and retention.

Barbara Stronzer asked if the nonprofit, CAMBA Housing Ventures (CHV), was still overseeing the two large housing developments that went up on East 202nd and 203rd Streets in Bedford Park in recent years, and whether all their units were rented. She said many neighbors had concerns when they were first built about congestion in the area, which has narrow streets, and now a new Girls Prep school opening nearby. *Norwood News* has reached out to Camba and will share any feedback we receive.

Erickson mentioned that some property owners cannot currently afford to upgrade vacant units to comply with the law and

(continued on page 11)

NEWS BRIEFS

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

New Interim Police Commissioner Grew Up in Norwood

The new Interim Police Commissioner Thomas Donlon, who was sworn in on Friday, Sept. 13, grew up on Perry Avenue in Norwood. According to Wikipedia, based on prior media reports, Donlon, a former special agent with the FBI where he led the National Threat Center, put together the FBI's "Guardian" system, a centralized terror threat database. He also "managed the FBI's Terrorism Watch List." Donlon also ran the FBI/NYPD Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) and served in the FBI's New York counter-terrorism division. While assigned to the JTTF, he shared the responsibility of investigating the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, which led to five federal court convictions.

After retiring from the FBI, Donlon became a global security director at two financial corporations, and between 2009 and 2010, he served as the director of New York's Office of Homeland Security. In 2020, he founded a security firm called Global Security Resolutions, which produced an event series called "Focus Under Pressure," featuring Joe Pistone, a former FBI agent who went undercover to investigate organized crime.

New Fire Commissioner Appointed

Robert Tucker was appointed as the new fire commissioner of the FDNY and was sworn in on Aug. 12. He is the 35th person to hold the position. City officials said, previously, Tucker worked for the Queens DA's office and was CEO of a private security and cyber intelligence company, T&M Protection Resources. They said he also worked at the FDNY, though never as a firefighter, served as secretary of the FDNY Foundation, and was also a past honorary fire commissioner. "I can think of no higher calling than serving as the fire commissioner for the City of New York," he said.

Laura Kavanagh recently stepped down as commissioner, having been the first woman to lead the department since its creation in 1865. Mayor Eric Adams praised Kavanagh for overhauling the department's recruiting and retaining methods and creating a more diverse force. Tucker now oversees the day-to-day administration of the agency's 17,000 employees and a \$2 billion budget.

Council Moves to Address Impact of Slavery & Racial Injustice

Linda Tigani, chair and executive director of the Commission on Racial Equity released a statement after New York City Council passed Int. No. 242 and Int. No. 279, which establish munic-

ipal efforts to acknowledge and address the legacy and impact of slavery and racial injustices in New York City.

"Introduction 242-A, sponsored by Council Member Crystal Hudson, would require the NYC Commission on Racial Equity (CORE) to establish a Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation process in connection with the City's historic involvement in slavery and its present-day legacies.

"Introduction 279-A, sponsored by Council Member Farah Louis, would require CORE to work with subject-matter experts to study the historical and present-day role of New York City government in perpetrating or perpetuating slavery and related racial injustices, and to consider reparative measures for such injustices.

"To achieve justice, we must transform our systems," Tigani said. "Racial bias, discrimination, and violence against Black New Yorkers and the entire BIPOC community must come to an end. We are honored to lead this work in partnership with the community members that continue to fight for reparations, with our city and state leadership, and all who are committed to racial equity and social justice. CORE is committed to ensuring that New Yorkers directly affected by these issues remain at the heart of these processes."

Torres Calls for Regulation of Election Betting

Democratic Congressman Ritchie Torres (NY-15) has written to the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) to call for the regulation of political election betting on the stock market. Axios has reported that stock market (futures) trading in investment bets on the outcome of political elections, have recently been declared legal in the U.S., though an appeals court has blocked their availability for the time being.

Torres encouraged the CFTC to embrace the apparent growth in **regulated** election betting and to work with **regulated** parties to facilitate trading in these types of investments, rather than seeking to block their use by investors via the courts. He said the CFTC's efforts would be better spent working with **regulated** registrants to promote election integrity and protect consumers from what he said were "the dangers posed by the widespread adoption of illegal and **unregulated** election markets."

MPOX Research Update

The National Institutes of Health's (NIH) National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) has released an update on its priorities for mpox research. Officials said the NIAID mpox research agenda focuses on four key objectives: increasing knowledge about the biology of all strains of the virus that causes mpox, including how the virus is transmitted and how people's immune systems respond to it; evaluating dosing regimens of current vaccines to stretch the vaccine supply and developing novel vaccine concepts; advancing ex-

isting and novel treatments, including antivirals and monoclonal antibodies; and supporting strategies for

detecting the virus to facilitate clinical care and epidemiological surveillance.

Wakefield Library Gets Funding of \$360K

By **ARIEL PACHECO**

Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson and District 11 City Council Member Eric Dinowitz were at New York Public Library's Wakefield branch on Sept. 3 to present a check for \$360,000 for infrastructure upgrades and increased accessibility for people with disabilities.

Speaking at the event at 4100 Lowerre Place, Gibson said, "This investment reflects our collective commitment to ensuring that every resident can fully access and benefit from all of our libraries." Gibson and Dinowitz will each provide \$180K in funding from their respective offices to complete the upgrades, which will include an accessible, ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant entrance on the main floor and an ADA upgrade to the restroom near the entrance.

Gibson added "Right here in The Bronx, our libraries are essential resources for education, personal growth, and community engagement. They provide access to a wealth of information and offer vital services that really extend beyond what traditional libraries have always been about. For many of our educational programs, job training, cultural celebrations, digital resources, our libraries are really critical in empowering individuals to strengthen our communities."

Gibson continued, "The true value of our libraries extends beyond fostering inclusivity, creativity, and accessibility. Every person, every New Yorker, every resident should have equal access to our libraries. That is why making libraries accessible is not just a priority, but it's really a moral obligation that we all have, and a civic responsibility."

Initial City budget plans included a proposed slashing of \$58 million from public library funding across the city but the proposed cuts were finally restored following lobbying by various pressure groups and arguments made by some elected officials. Of the Wakefield library, Dinowitz said, "This is a really special place, this library, and in the City Council, we believe that all of our libraries are very special. That is why we fought tooth and nail to ensure that this year, our libraries were not cut."

The councilman added, "So often in our city, we know that our resources aren't truly accessible to everyone, so we look around the city. There are people with disabilities who can't access the great resources our libraries have, but it's not just people with disabilities. We know the disability community is at the forefront of ensuring accessibility, and there are many other communities who reap the benefits."

Dinowitz mentioned parents with strollers, those with physical injuries, and older adults as examples of individ-



Photo by Ariel Pacheco

BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT Vanessa L. Gibson and District 11 City Council Member Eric Dinowitz present a check for \$360,000 to Wakefield Library on Sept. 3, 2024.

uals who benefit from increased accessibility. The check presentation concluded with Gibson and Dinowitz taking a tour of the library.

Chantae Albright, who has been the Wakefield library's manager for five years, told the *Norwood News*, "This is an opportunity, with the ADA project coming on, for more people to be able to enter to utilize our resources and participate in the programs we have."

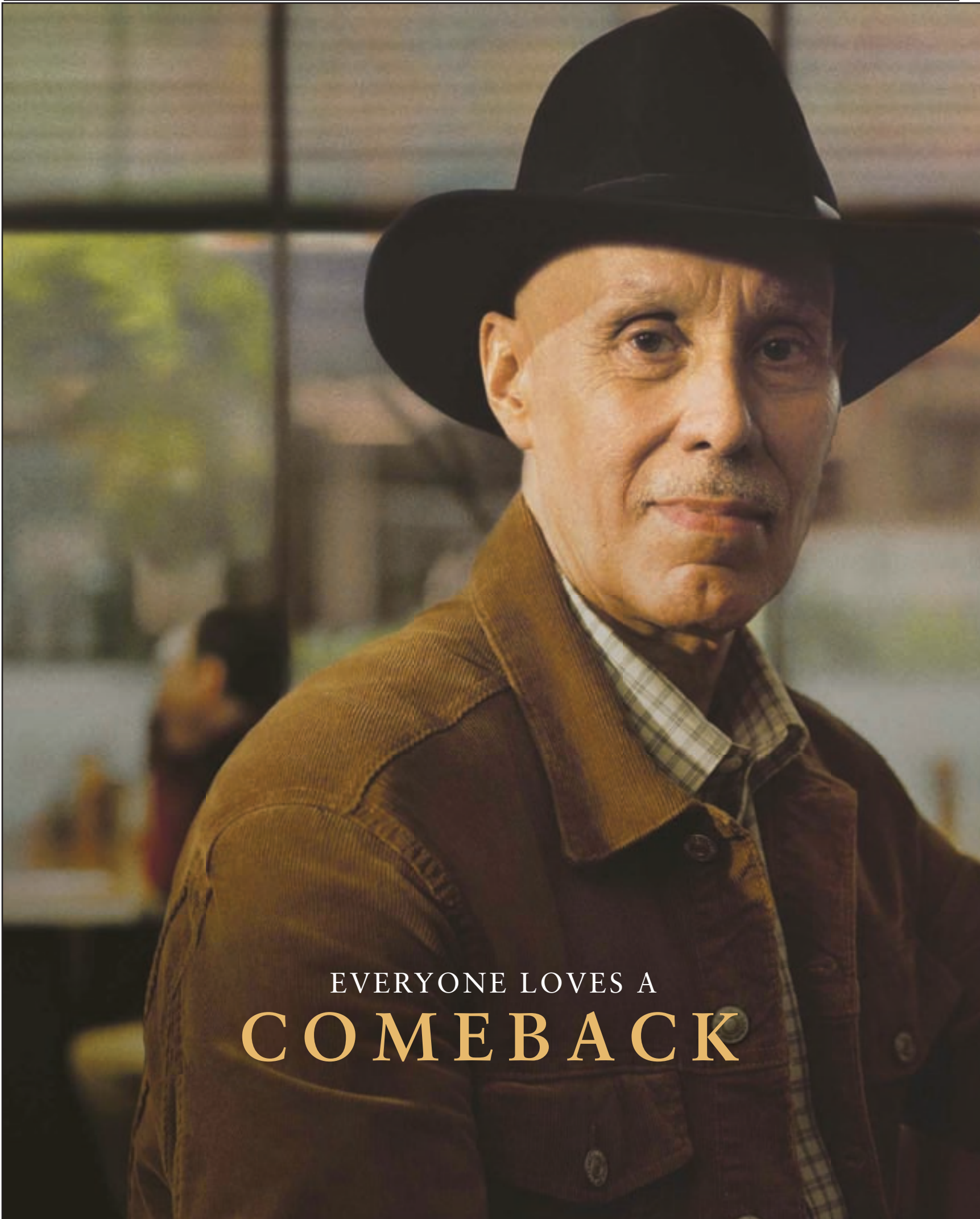
Wakefield Library was built in 1938 and was designed by architect Thomas Dunn. The library has two floors, with the first floor holding the main reading room and collections, and the ground floor containing the library's program rooms. The library does currently have an exterior accessible entrance, but officials say it lacks an intermediary landing.

According to the Center for Independence of the Disabled (CIDNY) New York, in New York City, as of June 2011, there were 889,219 people living with disabilities, representing 11 percent of the population. The Bronx, at 13.7 percent, had the highest percentage of people living with disabilities relative to its population of all five boroughs, while Brooklyn and Queens had the highest actual numbers of people with disabilities.

Albright said, "We do have a ramp but it's kind of difficult. Staff will have to go downstairs and open the door so this will be a great opportunity and make it easier for our patrons to come in."

Dawn Chance, associate director for East Bronx Libraries said, "Libraries are free and welcoming resources for all New Yorkers. Patrons of all ages rely on their local libraries for resources and services that enrich their lives, whether for traditional services, such as book borrowing and computer use, or to participate in our programs, from early literacy programs for our youngest readers that foster lifelong learning."

*Sile Moloney contributed to this story.



EVERYONE LOVES A
COMEBACK

Paul Rivera got a *new lung and a new life.*

Paul was one of those hardworking citizens who keep our fair city going. But then he got struck with pulmonary fibrosis, probably as a result of chemical exposure on the job. It was untreatable; his only hope was a lung transplant. And only one hospital, Montefiore Einstein, showed up to help. They got Paul a new lung, and they gave him a new life.



See Paul's Story at
[MontefioreEinstein.org/PaulRivera](https://montefioreeinstein.org/PaulRivera)

Montefiore Einstein
NATIONAL LEADER IN TRANSPLANT





Letters To The Editor

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

Day for Farmed Animals

Factory farms are destroying the environment and harming animals on a massive scale. Their waste pollutes our water, harms sea life, and creates awful conditions for people living nearby. And now, these big U.S. meat companies are moving their operations to developing countries, which will hurt local farmers, food supplies, and the environment there, too. It's like "meat colonialism," and it's not okay.

We have to care; this impacts global resources and the lives of people and animals everywhere. On Oct. 2, people across the world will be speaking up for animals on World Day for Farmed Animals.

Join in and learn more at dayforanimals.org. I am volunteering this year to hand out vegan food samples. There are options in every restaurant and grocery store to replace animal products with plant-based foods. We can all do our part to make a difference.

Niles Neusbaum
Williamsbridge

National Car Free Day Every Day

Why not show your support by participating in the "12th Annual Car Free Day" on Sept. 22 and every day, when possible? Millions of Americans today, including many Bedford Park, Fordham, Norwood, University Heights and other nearby Bronx residents are utilizing and returning to various public transportation alternatives. They include local and express bus, para transit van, ferry, jitney, light rail, subway and commuter rail services. All these systems use less fuel and move far more people than conventional single occupancy vehicles. Most of these systems are funded with your tax dollars.

Depending upon where you live, consider the public transportation alternative. Try riding a local or express bus, para transit or commuter van, ferry, light rail, commuter rail or subway. Leave your car at home when possible. For local trips in the neighborhood, walk or ride a bike. Our New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority has various operating agencies, including NYC Transit subway, bus and Metro North Railroad. There is also Westchester Bee Line Bus.

They use less fuel and move more people than cars. In many cases, your employer can offer transit checks to help subsidize a portion of the costs. Utilize your investments and reap the benefits. You'll be supporting a cleaner environment and be less stressed upon arrival at your final destination.

The ability to travel from home to workplace, school, shopping, entertainment, medical, library etc. is a factor when moving to a new neighborhood. Economically successful communities are not 100% dependent on automobiles as the sole means of mobility. Seniors, students, low and middle-income people need these transportation alternatives. Investment in public transportation today contributes to economic growth, employment, and a stronger economy. Dollar for dollar, it is one of the best investments we can make.

Larry Penner,
Great Neck

An Answer to Today's Problem in The Bronx, in America, and in the World

In these uncertain times, here in NYC, within America, and throughout the world, let us never give up on our faith in God. For my fellow Bronxites, and especially those in our beautiful hamlet of Norwood, I would urge those parents with children to enroll them in the religious program at St. Brendan's.

I would also urge any adult that wants to learn about the true faith - the Catholic Church - to please consider registering at St. Brendan's for RICA which stands for Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Deacon Paul will be leading these classes, and he is well known as an excellent teacher. Please consider signing up and my best wishes to all. Here are the details:

Register for Classes 2024-2025

Religious Education Office
260 E. 207th St. - Bronx, NY 10467

- *Sundays*, Sept. 8, 15, and 22, after 10 a.m. mass until 1 p.m. (sharp!)
- *Tuesdays*, Sept. 10, 17, and 24 from 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.
- *Wednesdays*, Sept. 11, 18, and 25 from 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.
- *Thursdays*, Sept. 12, 19, and 26 from 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.

For more information, contact Judith Cordero at (718) 654-6424 or via our parish website at <https://saintbrendanchurch.org/ccdclasses>.

Please note parents must present the following documents upon registration:

- Active registered parishioner envelope #,
- Birth certificate,
- Certificate of baptism, and
- Certificate of first communion.

New Neighbors

On Wednesday, Sept. 4, a small group of representatives from local

community organizations met with representatives of Westhab, the management of the new migrant shelter to be called Waldo Sanctuary on West 238th Street in Fieldston. The meeting was arranged by Lois Harr, recently retired from Manhattan University, and included representatives from the Riverdale Y, Northwest Bronx Indivisible, the Riverdale Clergy Council, and the Riverdale Huddle. Westhab will manage the facility as a sanctuary shelter.

The occupants are characterized by Westhab as strivers, people seeking a better life for themselves and their families. Most, 90%, are Spanish-speaking with increasing numbers coming from Venezuela, and a few from Africa. The facility will house only families, no single individuals, and will provide services including helping occupants find permanent housing, working papers, and employment, school registration for children, and childcare for working parents.

We asked why the facility was not meant to provide permanent housing. Westhab answered that often families wanted to move to be closer to their employment. The facility will provide accommodation for 91 families with private cooking and bathing facilities. They will also provide communal meals. There will be a manager on call 24/7, and the facility maintains 24-hour security and a curfew, with exceptions for people returning late from work.

Most of the staff have long experience working with Westhab and appear to be well qualified for the job. We asked for and will be provided with a list of the needs of our new neighbors, from English teachers to toiletry kits. Let's welcome them.

Helen Krim
North Riverdale

Parks Issues Requiring Action

After attending the recent Bronx Community Board 7 Parks committee meeting held at the Oval Recreation Center in Norwood on Wednesday, Sept. 11, I left feeling disillusioned and disheartened. The meeting was poorly attended, with no quorum and only seven community members present. Additionally, there were no Parks department representatives on hand. Instead, responses from NYC Park to questions were read out by the Bronx CB7 Parks committee chairperson, and offered no new solutions. Indeed, some of the responses actually brought up new issues. Everything is going to take longer e.g. the environmental review process for Frisch Field, though needed, is going to further delay the completion of the project.

The budget review was equally troubling, with written responses [from NYC Parks department] to proposals consistently citing budget cuts or deferring to local council members for feedback and providing little hope

for addressing our concerns. As a non-profit organization (FOMP), working closely with NYC Parks, we find it difficult to address both immediate issues and planning for long-term needs.

Effective management can achieve a lot, even with limited resources, but the frequent use of generic responses has become a way to sidestep the real issues. I do want to thank Ms. Allyson Jackson, NYC Parks supervisor locally in Bronx CD7, for her proactive approach in handling immediate, current concerns and Robert Madera from Partnership for Parks, for his help during the summer youth program.

My key concerns and priorities are:

- microplastics from shredded litter on Mosholu Parkway caused by mowers and weed-whackers, harmful to the environment and public health;
- shredded litter left behind by NYC Parks after they mow and weed-whack the area;
- urgent renovations needed for Mosholu Playground, French Charlie Playground, and Knox-Gates Playground, all of which are environmentally disadvantaged [the playgrounds no longer fit the kids' needs];
- more and cleaner trash bins needed along Mosholu Parkway and a "no litter" campaign to boost public involvement;
- missing publicly available doggie bags and dog poop collection canisters on Mosholu Parkway that screw onto the dog stations like the one seen at Bainbridge and E 210th Street; and
- an educational campaign on pollution to address climate issues in Norwood and Bedford Park e.g. no littering to avoid blocking the sewer grates on the parkway which causes flooding.

To avoid receiving the same standard responses that offer no solutions, I will hold off on formally submitting these complaints to NYC Parks for now.

Elizabeth Quaranta
Bedford Park

Editor's Note: Elizabeth Quaranta is executive director for Future of Mosholu Parkland.

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.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY ARIEL PACHECO & SÍLE MOLONEY



Election Deadlines - National Voter Registration Day!

Sept. 17 marked National Voter Registration Day. In New York, eligible voters can register to vote in the Nov. 5 general election until Oct. 26 but are encouraged to register asap. Oct. 26 is also the deadline to request an absentee or early mail ballot (*online*), and it also marks the first day of early voting, which ends Nov. 3. The deadline to request an absentee or early mail ballot (*in person*) is Nov. 4. Polls close on Election Day (Nov. 5) at 9 p.m. The deadline by which to return (by mail) an absentee or early mail ballot is also Nov. 5. Visit <https://elections.ny.gov/voter-registration-process> for more information.

Environmental Justice Fair

Join State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33) for an Environmental Justice Fair to learn about local solutions to climate change and actions you can take in your neighborhood. There will be free food, free eco arts and crafts, and free activities. The fair will take place at the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, 3225 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467. For more information, call (718) 933-2034.

Community Conversation

District 12 City Councilmember Kevin C. Riley is hosting a community conversation on education with NYC Public Schools to discuss the 2024-2025 school year and how the community and schools can work together to ensure student suc-

cess. The conversation will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 24, at 6 p.m. at the Northeast Bronx YMCA, 1250 East 229th Street, Bronx, NY 10466.

SAT Prep Program

BronxWorks is hosting an in-person SAT Prep Program every Saturday from October through March from 10 a.m. to noon at the BronxWorks Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center, 1130 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10456. Parents and students must attend a virtual information session, and the student must be a high school junior. For more information, call (718) 508-3214.

Official NYC Bin Countdown

Order an official NYC Bin by Oct. 1 for delivery by the implementation deadline of Nov. 12. The NYC Bin is the official bin exclusively for properties with 1-9 residential units (including single-family homes to 9-unit apartment buildings) to set out their trash. It is available for purchase at a significantly lower price than similar bins at retail stores. To purchase or find more information, visit www.bins.nyc.

Curbside Composting Begins in Bronx

Curbside Composting is expanding to The Bronx beginning on Sunday, Oct. 6. Bronx Residents can order a free Department of Sanitation brown bin by visiting <https://on.nyc.gov/4dsqpq8>.

Affordable Housing Lotteries

Affordable Housing Lotteries NYC Department of Housing, Preservation and Development (HPD) has open affordable housing lotteries for housing units at the following locations, among others:

- 4720 3rd Avenue, with a deadline of Oct. 11.
- 2385 Tiebout Avenue, with a deadline of Oct. 7.
- 3056 Decatur Avenue, with a deadline of Sep. 30.
- 3545 White Plains Road, with a deadline of Sep. 26.

HPD frequently extends the announced deadlines. Visit <https://housing-connect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/searchlotteries> for more information.

MTA Mobile Bus

The MTA will be bringing the Metro Card Bus to assist residents in refilling their card. Mobile sales are cash only. You can still buy a MetroCard using cash or transfer value from a Reduced-Fare MetroCard. The MTA Mobile bus will be at the Woodlawn Heights Library on Wednesday, Oct. 2, from noon to 2 p.m.

NYPD Cadets Upcoming Paid Internship

The @NYPDCadets is a paid internship that provides qualified college students a chance to experience a career within the NYPD.

The next orientation for the NYPD Cadet Corps is being held on Saturday, Sept.

21, at 10 a.m. at NYPD Candidate Assessment Division at 235 East 20th Street, New York, NY 10003. To attend, visit: NYPDCadets.org.

Reminder of School Zone Speed Limits

School is back in session and the NYPD is reminding drivers to be careful when driving and to be mindful of the school zone speed limit, which is 20 mph. "Slow down, yield to all pedestrians, and be sure to stop for school buses," they said.

Rental Listing Scam Alert

The NYPD is reminding New Yorkers of an ongoing rental listing scam, whereby a person portrays themselves as a real estate agent and collects payment from an apartment seeker, without owning the listing or premises. The transaction can occur in person, by phone or email with original contact being made through an online posting on third party sites like Craigslist.

When apartment hunting, keep the following tips in mind. Do not give an advance payment prior to viewing the available listing. Do not wire money or use Green Dot Money Pak as a form of payment. Do not complete an application providing personal information prior to viewing the available listing. Never complete an application without seeing the apartment / premises. If the offer sounds too good to be true, it probably isn't true.

Bronx CB7 Assess Latest District Needs

(continued from page 6)

are instead just choosing to keep them empty and avoid any potential lawsuits.

On the cost of managing rentals, she said, "Fordham Bedford [Housing Corporation] had eight people evicted, and they don't want to evict. But they [tenants] stopped paying and owed maybe \$400,000 in owed rent, and very low rents by the way. So just to give you a picture of what it's like on both sides, it's becoming harder and harder to manage." She said the hope was that both tenants and owners could work together via a new New York Apartment Association, led by former Assemblyman Kenny Burgos, to avoid such evictions.

Later in the meeting, Edgar Ramos talked about how some private developers who own "sliver"

buildings comprising very small units had worked together on common piping systems in situations where each building was limited in terms of pipe installation space, all with the aim of finalizing projects faster and maximizing profits. The date of the next Bronx CB 7 housing & land use meeting will be Tuesday, Oct. 8.

During the Bronx CB7 Parks committee meeting, before discussing the district's needs, Barbara Stronczer, parks' committee chair, said NYC Parks & Recreation are looking for bids for the operation of concessions for the sale of food from mobile food units at various NYC Parks locations, including in Bronx CD7. "If you know of anybody interested, we have any information," she said. "They have until Oct. 21."

Stronczer said NYC

Parks district manager, Joe Magneri was unable to attend the meeting but provided her with various updates, including that for the fall, he has 27 staff members to cover all 11 parks in Bronx CD7. Regarding the repairs to Harris Field in Bedford Park, he told her the field is often used for soccer and the artificial turf on it is not in good shape. He said a pre-construction meeting was held, and NYC Parks is currently awaiting a repair contract to be signed.

Regarding Webster House on Webster Avenue and Mosholu Parkway in Bedford Park, Stronczer said she needed to follow up to check the status as CB7 were informed in June it was due to be opened but added that she doesn't see much activity there. Regarding the renovation of Frisch Field in Norwood, she said Magneri said an [assessment?] contract is in place, but NYC Parks were recently informed of

some engineering-related work identified which is impacting upon the project scope and timeline.

Reading a statement from Magneri, Stronczer said, "We are diligently coordinating with DEP and engineers to complete the design work by October 31." She added, "By the time it goes out to bids and whatever, it usually takes four or five years to get a Capital A project done."

In terms of the budget, Bedford Park resident and former CB7 member Anthony Riviuccio said he understood that NYC Parks didn't always have money to do everything residents wished, like patrolling the area regularly and not picking up the garbage regularly. "But that also means that it's [littering] going to be continued, in my opinion, by many new residents that have moved in over the course of the last five to ten years that have no awareness of rules and regulations when it comes to our parks, right?"



Photo by Síle Moloney

BRONX CB7 HOUSING, LAND Use & Economic Development committee hold their monthly meeting at CUNY on the Concourse on Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2024.

Riviuccio proposed educating newer residents on park rules to address the situation, possibly by handing out fliers in conjunction with "Friends of" groups. Stronczer said she agreed that education was needed and added that those who come to the CB7 Parks meetings were not the culprits. Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky proposed reaching people where they were e.g. on Instagram and added that the Sanitation department refuse to empty public trash

cans filled with household garbage. Stronczer said the committee would review Riviuccio's proposal.

Norwood News mentioned that the Parks department confirmed that broken lights in the Oval would be repaired, following safety complaints received from a resident. Tobi Buford raised concerns over trash collected elsewhere allegedly being dumped in Devoe Park. *Norwood News* is following up and will share any feedback we receive.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Notice of Complete Application

Date:09/05/2024

Applicant:MONTEFIORE MEDICAL CENTER 111 E 210TH ST BRONX, NY 10467-2401 Facility: MONTEFIORE MEDICAL CENTER - NORTH DIVISION 600 E 233RD ST BRONX, NY 10466

Application ID:2-6002-00085/00002

Permits(s) Applied for:1 - Article 19 Air State Facility

Project is located:in BRONX COUNTY

Project Description:

The Department has prepared a draft permit and has made a tentative determination, subject to public comment or other information, to approve a permit renewal application, Renewal 1 Air State Facility (hereinafter referred to as "Renewal"), submitted by Montefiore Medical Center for their existing Montefiore Medical Center – North Division Facility (the "Facility") located at 600 East 233rd Street, Bronx, NY. The Facility is a medical center which operates a combustion installation consisting of three (3) Foster Wheeler boilers with a heat input capacity of 21 mmBtu per hour each firing natural gas or No. 2 fuel oil. The facility also operates one (1) exempt emergency generator. The Renewal will continue an existing facility NOx emissions limit of 24.9 tons per year, a federally enforceable cap, to avoid major stationary source classification pursuant to Part 201. Records demonstrating compliance with this cap will be kept in accordance with the permit special conditions.

The facility is subject to the provisions of State Facility requirements specified under 6NYCRR 201-7. The Air State Facility Renewal 1 permit contain a listing of the applicable federal, state, and compliance monitoring requirements for the facility.

Availability of Application Documents:

Filed application documents, and Department draft permits where applicable, are available for inspection during normal business hours at the address of the contact person. To ensure timely service at the time of inspection, it is recommended that an appointment be made with the contact person.

State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Determination:

Project is not subject to SEQR because it is a Type II action.

SEQR Lead Agency:

None Designated

State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA) Determination:

The proposed activity is not subject to review in accordance with SHPA. The application type is exempt and/or the project involves the continuation of an existing operational activity.

Coastal Management:

This project is located in a Coastal Management area and is subject to the Waterfront Revitalization and Coastal Resources Act.

DEC Commissioner Policy 29, Environmental Justice and Permitting (CP-29):

It has been determined that the proposed action is not subject to CP-29.

Availability For Public Comment

Comments on this project must be submitted in writing to the Contact Person no later than 10/18/2024 or 30 days after the publication date of this notice, whichever is later.

Contact Person

DENISE L GRATTAN – NYSDEC

47-40 21st St, Long Island City, NY 11101-5401. (718) 482-4997

Out & About

Compiled by ARIEL PACHECO

EVENTS

Join the Bedford Park Congregational Church, the Presbyterian Church of Ghana, and the Seventh Day Adventist Church for an **Open Mic Night** on Saturday, Sept. 21, at 5 p.m. at 3008 Bainbridge Avenue, Bronx, NY 10458. All are welcome. For more information, call (718) 733-3199

The Norwood Community Library is hosting a **Book Giveaway** on Saturday, Sept. 21, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Museum of Bronx History, 3266 Bainbridge Ave., Bronx, NY 10467. For more information, visit @norwoodcommunitylibrary on Instagram.

The Lehman Center for Performing Arts is hosting a **Celia Cruz Celebration** on Friday, Sept. 27, at 1 p.m. at 250 Bedford Park Blvd. West, Bronx, NY 10468. The event will celebrate the life and legacy of Celia Cruz, an internationally acclaimed singer also known as the "Queen of Salsa." For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

Join the Woodlawn Conservancy for **The Lambs and Broadway Greats Trolley Tour** on Sunday, Sept. 29, at 2 p.m. at 4199 Webster Avenue, Bronx, NY 10470. Woodlawn Cemetery is the final resting place for more than 100 members of The Lambs, the oldest professional theatrical organization in the country. Tickets are \$20 for students, seniors and members and \$25 for adults. For more information, call (718) 920-050.

Join the New York Botanical Garden for the opening night of **Disney and Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas Light Trail** on Friday, Sept. 27, at 6:30 p.m. at 2900 Southern Blvd., Bronx, NY 10458. Tickets are \$39 for kids \$49 for adults. For more information, call (718) 817-8700.

FILM

Join the Moshulu Library for a **Movie & Discussion** on Friday, Sept. 27, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at 285 East 205th Street, Bronx, NY 10467. Pixar's "Coco" will be screened, followed by a discussion on the film. No registration is required, and the event is open to everyone. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

The Bronx Library Center is hosting a

James Baldwin and Nikki Giovanni Screening and Talkback Event on Friday, Sept. 20, at 6 p.m. at 310 Kingsbridge Road, Bronx, NY 10458. The conversation will explore Black life in America, the struggle for racial justice, and evolving gender roles. For more information, call (718) 579-4244.

ARTS

Executive Artistic Director Victor Vauban Junior presents "**T.R.U.T.H.**", a play focused on the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of two different families in New York City on Friday, Oct. 4, at 4 p.m. and on Saturday, Oct. 5, at 4 p.m. at Poe Park Visitor Center, 2640 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10458. Admission is free. For more information, call (718) 365-5516.

MOVEMENT

The **30th Annual Tour de Bronx 2024** takes place on Sunday, Oct. 6, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. starting at 161st Street and Grand Concourse and concluding at the New York Botanical Garden. The cycling event highlights Bronx greenways, residential neighborhoods, historical districts, waterfronts, and tourist attractions. For more information, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tour-de-bronx-2024-tickets-1000093696167>.

Visit Norwood's Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center for **Kripalu Yoga** on Thursday, Sept. 26, from 10 a.m. to 10.45 a.m. at 3225 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467. The program will be taught by instructor Michele Griffin and is a gentle, slow-paced class that is open to all levels. For more information, call (718) 543-8672.

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is hosting its annual **Out of The Darkness Walk** on Sunday, Sept. 22, from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Lehman College, 250 Bedford Park Boulevard West, Bronx, NY 10468. The walk is to raise awareness and funds for suicide awareness and prevention. For more information, email walks@afsp.org.

Join NYC Parks and The Bronx River Alliance for **Gardening Tuesday** on Tuesday, Sept. 24, from 10 a.m. to noon at Shoelace Park, East 233rd Street & Bronx River Parkway, Bronx, NY 10467. All gloves and tools will be provided for stewardship activities such as litter removal, weeding, mulching, watering and planting at different rain gardens, and newly planted tree sites along the Bronx River. For more information, call (718) 542- 4124.

CRIME FILE

BY SÍLE MOLONEY, DAVID GREENE



Patrol Borough: Bronx Precinct: 046

CompStat Book Week of 09/09/24 - 09/15/24

	28 Day			Year to Date			
	% Chg	2024	2023	% Chg	2024	2023	% Chg
Murder	- %	4	3	33.3 %	22	10	120.0 %
Rape	- %	2	3	-33.3 %	20	16	25.0 %
Robbery	0.0 %	36	31	16.1 %	280	239	17.2 %
Felony Assault	156.3 %	88	65	35.4 %	629	585	7.5 %
Burglary	50.0 %	12	12	0.0 %	150	117	28.2 %
Grand Larceny	-9.1 %	46	51	-8.8 %	478	404	18.3 %
Grand Larceny Auto	20.0 %	13	25	-48.0 %	151	203	-25.6 %
Total	64.9 %	201	190	5.8 %	1,730	1,574	9.9 %
Patrol	71.4 %	197	185	6.5 %	1,692	1,534	10.3 %
Transit	-100.0 %	1	4	-75.0 %	15	19	-21.1 %
Housing	- %	3	1	200.0 %	23	21	9.5 %
Shooting Victims	300.0 %	14	7	100.0 %	49	43	14.0 %
Shooting Incidents	300.0 %	10	7	42.9 %	39	33	18.2 %
UCR Rape*	- %	2	5	-60.0 %	32	42	-23.8 %
Other Sex Crimes	-80.0 %	8	10	-20.0 %	72	60	20.0 %
Petit Larceny	-40.7 %	63	86	-26.7 %	679	748	-9.2 %
Misd. Assault	-22.7 %	71	90	-21.1 %	620	687	-7.6 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	3	4	-25.0 %

All figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision. Oath Summonses as of 6/13/17. Unless otherwise noted, crime statistics reflect New York State Penal Law (NYSP/L) definitions.

Source: NYPD

MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS in the 46th Precinct for the 28-day period ending Sept. 15, 2024, compared to the same timeframe in 2023, and (right) year-to-date major crimes in the 46th Precinct as of Sept. 15, 2024, compared to the same timeframe in 2023.

Patrol Borough: Bronx Precinct: 050

CompStat Book Week of 09/09/24 - 09/15/24

	28 Day			Year to Date			
	% Chg	2024	2023	% Chg	2024	2023	% Chg
Murder	-100.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	1	5	-80.0 %
Rape	-100.0 %	0	2	-100.0 %	8	8	0.0 %
Robbery	-33.3 %	8	12	-33.3 %	104	113	-8.0 %
Felony Assault	-62.5 %	17	11	54.5 %	175	155	12.9 %
Burglary	25.0 %	18	9	100.0 %	116	106	11.3 %
Grand Larceny	-35.7 %	47	61	-23.0 %	558	478	16.7 %
Grand Larceny Auto	12.5 %	27	30	-10.0 %	238	246	-3.3 %
Total	-30.0 %	117	126	-7.1 %	1,202	1,111	8.2 %
Patrol	-27.8 %	111	120	-7.5 %	1,149	1,042	10.3 %
Transit	0.0 %	1	1	0.0 %	4	7	-42.9 %
Housing	-50.0 %	5	5	0.0 %	49	62	-21.0 %
Shooting Victims	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	3	4	-25.0 %
Shooting Incidents	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	3	4	-25.0 %
UCR Rape*	-100.0 %	0	2	-100.0 %	16	20	-20.0 %
Other Sex Crimes	-50.0 %	1	3	-66.7 %	37	23	60.9 %
Petit Larceny	-10.7 %	75	100	-25.0 %	783	798	-1.9 %
Misd. Assault	75.0 %	22	19	15.8 %	231	226	2.7 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	2	2	0.0 %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	1	2	-50.0 %

All figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision. Oath Summonses as of 6/13/17. Unless otherwise noted, crime statistics reflect New York State Penal Law (NYSP/L) definitions.

Source: NYPD

MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS in the 50th Precinct for the 28-day period ending Sept. 15, 2024, compared to the same timeframe in 2023, and (right) year-to-date major crimes in the 50th Precinct as of Sept. 15, 2024, compared to the same timeframe in 2023.

Patrol Borough: Bronx Precinct: 052

CompStat Book Week of 09/09/24 - 09/15/24

	28 Day			Year to Date			
	% Chg	2024	2023	% Chg	2024	2023	% Chg
Murder	-100.0 %	0	5	-100.0 %	8	9	-11.1 %
Rape	0.0 %	1	5	-80.0 %	28	26	7.7 %
Robbery	-27.3 %	50	36	38.9 %	381	329	15.6 %
Felony Assault	-29.4 %	64	56	10.3 %	577	465	19.0 %
Burglary	0.0 %	20	11	81.8 %	141	160	-11.9 %
Grand Larceny	35.7 %	83	59	40.7 %	595	519	14.6 %
Grand Larceny Auto	-33.3 %	27	34	-20.6 %	254	249	2.0 %
Total	-12.5 %	245	208	17.8 %	1,964	1,777	11.0 %
Patrol	-7.7 %	240	202	18.8 %	1,944	1,740	11.7 %
Transit	-50.0 %	5	4	25.0 %	36	32	12.5 %
Housing	-100.0 %	0	2	-100.0 %	4	5	-20.0 %
Shooting Victims	- %	1	1	0.0 %	31	14	121.4 %
Shooting Incidents	- %	1	1	0.0 %	17	11	54.5 %
UCR Rape*	-50.0 %	1	10	-90.0 %	44	45	-2.2 %
Other Sex Crimes	0.0 %	7	11	-36.4 %	64	73	-15.1 %
Petit Larceny	-48.5 %	142	247	-42.5 %	1,322	1,648	-28.5 %
Misd. Assault	42.9 %	63	68	-7.4 %	624	600	4.0 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	2	0	- %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	3	4	-25.0 %

All figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision. Oath Summonses as of 6/13/17. Unless otherwise noted, crime statistics reflect New York State Penal Law (NYSP/L) definitions.

Source: NYPD

MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS in the 52nd Precinct for the 28-day period ending Sept. 15, 2024, compared to the same timeframe in 2023, and (right) year-to-date major crimes in the 52nd Precinct as of Sept. 15, 2024, compared to the same timeframe in 2023.

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Public and Community Meetings

The next 52nd *PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL* meeting will take place on Thursday, Sept. 26, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the first-floor game room of the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, 3225 Reservoir Oval East in Norwood.

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, Sept. 24, at 6.30 p.m. at 243 East 204th Street, The Bronx. Contact KCabreraCarrera@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list. All meetings are in person unless otherwise notified by Bronx CB7.

The next *BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8* full board (hybrid) meeting will be held in October (date to be confirmed). Contact BX08@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list.

The next *BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION* meeting will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 2. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. South in Apt. B1 (lobby floor). For more details, please contact bedfordmosholu@verizon.net.

CORRECTIONS

In both the May 2-15, 2024, and in the July 11-24, 2024, editions of the *Norwood News*, in the Letter to the Editor sections, the word “shandeh,” when spelled in Yiddish, appeared incorrectly (backwards). The Yiddish word was copied and pasted from a third-party translation source, and the error on both occasions arose from a technical issue which we are unable to resolve, and for which we apologize.



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Photo courtesy of the 52nd Precinct

AMONG THOSE PRESENT at the 52nd Precinct Clergy Coalition Breakfast held on Aug. 22, 2024, were Deputy Inspector Chase Maneri, commanding officer of the 52nd Precinct, 52nd Precinct Community Affairs Officer Stephen Echevarria, 52nd Precinct Community Affairs Officer Jessalyn Capo, Brenda Caldwell-Paris, president of the 52nd Precinct Community Council, Candido Gonzalez, vice president of the 52nd Precinct Clergy Coalition, and Melissa Figuero, secretary of the 52nd Precinct Clergy Coalition. The event was organized by Virginia Tavez of St. Brendan Church, Norwood, who was also present. “We would like to thank all of our clergy members who attended our 52nd Precinct Clergy Coalition Breakfast,” Maneri said. “Like our officers, they are also on call 24/7.”

Nicholas's Way Unveiled

(continued from page 1)

Speaking in Spanish, Feliz Samboy said, "Thank you to everyone who came today to support our family in our community. This loss destroyed everyone. If it destroyed the community, imagine how it destroyed our family. It's been difficult for us to get up every day, for my kids, for my wife. We remember the pain we carry inside of us."

He went on to thank the various authorities who, he said, from the first moment had fought to hold accountable those responsible for his son's death. "Thank you to the police who have not let go of our hands," he said. "They have always been with us in every single one of the difficult moments. Thank you, NYPD."

He continued, "Thank you, Pierina Sanchez, who, in every moment, has been here, to the Bronx DA, for always providing us with your support, to the members of the federal government that always give us a call and communicate with us, for being attentive to our safety. Thank you so much, Adriano Espaillat for being present, to all the members of congress, for the federal, state, and local laws that have made a change in how our kids are cared for in daycare centers."

Sanchez, representing Council District 14 where Nicholas lived and sadly died and whose voice broke at times as she emceed the ceremony, is currently expecting another baby, and attended the event with her older child. "This tragedy has shaken our community and spurred action to address gaps in government oversight that failed to protect him [Nicholas]," Sanchez said in part. "As a mother, I feel the pain of Nicholas' parents, Otoniel Feliz and Zoila Dominici, who entrusted their child to licensed care but were let down by our systems."

She added, "In the past year, we've worked to move local, state,

and federal measures to improve child-care safety and accountability. While nothing can ever replace Nicholas, we honor his memory today, recommitting ourselves to ensuring that all children are safe in our community. His life will not be forgotten, and this street renaming marks our collective commitment to continue fighting to prevent such tragedies from happening again."

The councilwoman led chants of "We are all Nicholas" at different intervals during the ceremony. Since the tragedy, area elected officials have introduced several legislative measures and budgetary initiatives to enhance safety and oversight at daycare facilities and reduce drug violence. At the State level, the law has passed in the senate but not in the assembly, according to State Sen. Gustavo Rivera.

Also present for the co-naming was Espaillat, congressman for NY-13, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark, State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33), State Sen. Robert Jackson (S.D. 31), Assemblywoman Yudelka Tapia (A.D. 86), and Assemblyman George Alvarez (A.D. 78), each of whom also spoke at the event.

Deacon Wilson Martinez, Deputy Inspector Chase Maneri, commanding officer of the 52nd Precinct, NYPD Community Affairs Officer Stephen Echevarria, NYPD Community Affairs Officer Jessalyn Capo, other members of the NYPD and Chad Royer, 2nd vice chair of Bronx Community Board 7, were also in attendance.

The street co-naming ceremony, which preceded a memorial mass for Nicholas at Our Lady of Angels Church on nearby Webb Avenue, was also organized with the support of the Consul General of the Dominican Republic.

Feliz Samboy went on to say that it was sad that his son died in a place



Photo by Síle Moloney

OTONIEL FELIZ SAMBOY comforts his wife, Zoila Dominici, as she addresses those gathered for a street co-naming ceremony in honor of the couple's one-year-old son, Nicholas Otoniel Feliz Dominici, at the intersection of West Kingsbridge Road and Kingsbridge Terrace in Kingsbridge Heights on Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024.

where kids are supposed to be safe. "We hope that children can be safe in our community," he said. "We have asked for changes to the written laws but we, as a family, don't see change. A real, resounding change that can be seen to make a difference, we don't see it."

He continued, "We need more for our community, not for my family, but for our community. Children can't defend themselves, especially when they are alone and can't communicate the danger they recognize in their mind. We need to do more for the safety of our kids. There still exist daycares in basements; that can't continue. All the hazards that our kids face in daycares need to be eliminated."

The grieving father went on to describe how sometimes he would see drug addicts in the neighborhood. "Just seeing the effects of drugs on them, you can only imagine what our child went through; it's horrible," he said. "A kid should never have to go through that."

He continued, "I want to thank our community for giving us this corner, this street, where my son Nicholas was born. It's an honor for us to have a street named after a member of our family, but I, as a man and a father, would have preferred the street to be named after someone in our family because of a great achievement and not because of their death."

Nicholas's father added, "Thank you for dedicating this small piece of The Bronx to my family, my son Nicholas. It's hard for me, as a father, to be standing here, but for the honor that my son deserves. I am here instead of being home, crying and praying. I am here honoring my child."

Three other infants, in addition to Nicholas, were also poisoned by fentanyl at the now-closed daycare center at 2707 Morris Avenue, but survived. Three men, Felix Herrera Garcia, 35,

Renny Antonio Parra Paredes, 38, and Carlisto Acevedo Brito, and one woman, Grei Mendez, 36, owner of the daycare center and wife of Herrera Garcia, were arrested following the fentanyl poisoning incident, and face various State and federal charges, including murder and drug trafficking.

Large quantities of fentanyl were found under the floorboards of the daycare center by authorities. At least two of the men, Herrera Garcia and Parra Paredes have pled guilty and await sentencing in federal court. *Norwood News* contacted federal prosecutors for the status of Mendez's and Acevedo Brito's cases and will share any updates we receive. They are deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

Tears welling in her eyes at various times during the ceremony as her husband put his arms around her and rested his chin on her shoulder, Nicholas's mom also addressed those gathered. Speaking in Spanish, she said, "I don't know how I've endured the past year without my son, but I think the reason is the four kids that I have here."

Dominici continued, "Every day, I look at them and tell myself my kids would not feel good if I left them to be with my other child, because what I would have wanted was to be with my son in the cemetery, because I feel like it was my fault for taking him to a daycare where they didn't take care of him."

The young mother added, "I feel like it's my fault, but I am here with my husband because I want Nicholas to save the lives of others. I want Nicholas to be an example so that other kids aren't exposed to the things that killed my son. We are people who work hard, and I don't know how I've lost so much time, but I miss him. I want to thank, Pierina, the police, for giving me so much support. Thanks for being here. Nicholas, I miss you."



Photo by Miriam Quiñones

THE FAMILY AND friends of one-year-old Nicholas Otoniel Feliz Dominici, pose at the intersection of West Kingsbridge Road and Kingsbridge Terrace in Kingsbridge Heights, co-named in his honor, with Councilwoman Pierina Sanchez (C.D. 14) on Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024,

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