



NORWOOD NEWS

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Photo by David Greene

MEMBERS OF THE Gates Place-Knox Place community remember the life of COVE founder, Lyn Pyle, seen in a photo on the table, during the "Peace in Our Streets Block Party & Memorial" held on Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024.

By DAVID GREENE

The Community Organized with a Vision of Excellence (COVE) and "Dare to Revitalize Education through Arts" (DREAM), two local Norwood-based nonprofits that merged in 2017, held their first block party in 10 years in Norwood on Saturday, Aug. 10. It was

an occasion for both groups to honor DREAM founding member, longtime community activist, and Norwood resident, Lyn Pyle, who died on Oct. 13, 2023, aged 83.

COVE was propelled by a tragic shooting that took place outside Tracey Towers in 2007. The after-school program cel-

ebrated 25 years in the community in 2014, and was established to offer programming in martial arts, health and beauty, and literacy.

A crowd of more than 200 young children and teens turned out for the "Peace in Our Streets Block Party and Memorial," held along Gates Place, between

West Gun Hill Road and West Mosholu Parkway North in Norwood.

Aisha Norris, co-founder and executive director of DREAM, explained how both groups were growing all the time, and the annual block party had gotten put on the backburner. Norris later

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Bronx Supporter Compares Adams to Jesus Christ

By **SILE MOLONEY**

Three days after New York City Mayor Eric Adams was hit with bribery and other charges by federal prosecutors following an investigation into his 2021 mayoral campaign finances, and two days after he pleaded not guilty to charges relating to his alleged actions going back a decade or so, which he later moved to dismiss, the mayor continued his weekend citywide tour of religious institutions, visiting the Emmanuel Presbyterian Reform Church in Woodlawn Heights on Sunday, Sept. 29, to mark its 25th anniversary.

Before entering the church, the mayor responded to questions from the media at the end of a week that saw more of his senior officials announce their resignations or retirements, including Schools Chancellor David Banks, Health Commissioner Dr. Ashwin Vasan, and public safety advisor, Tim Pearson.

“We have to continue to deliver for the City and I’m going to fight on behalf of the City,” Adams said. “I’ve always stated that that has been my commitment throughout my entire lifetime, and this is a great moment to step up and show all New Yorkers who are going through complexities in their lives how you must remain focused on your agenda, and that’s what I’m going to do.”

Asked if the mayor had spoken to Gov. Kathy Hochul over the weekend and if she had pressured him to resign, Adams said, “I never go into private conversations, but I believe that we have a great chief executive in the State, and I’m going to continue to dialogue with her throughout this entire weekend and going into next week as we continue to deliver.”

Asked why houses of worship had been his focus over the weekend, the mayor said, in part, “Every weekend, this is how I spend my weekends from Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Sabbath observers, synagogues, as well as mosques and particularly the [inaudible] community. This is an African community, the community from Ghana, so this is not new.”

He added, “People who know me know that I am a man of faith, but we’ve done more than just houses of worship.” He said other scheduled weekend events were focused on moving the city forward.

On Friday, Sept. 27, his scheduled events included meeting with senior administration officials, meeting with Schools Chancellor David Banks and staff, participating in a monthly birthday celebration at the Action for the Retired Community (ARC) at Philip Randolph Older Adult Center in Harlem, meeting with members of the Mayor’s Advisory Committee on the Judiciary (MACJ), and an interview with *Giornale Italo-Americano*.

On Saturday, they included deliver-



Photo by Sile Moloney

NEW YORK CITY Mayor Eric Adams speaks to reporters outside Emmanuel Presbyterian Reform Church in Woodlawn Heights on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024.

ing remarks at the installation service for Rev. Stephen Green at Greater Allen AME Cathedral in Queens, and delivering remarks at a “Gospel Explosion Concert” at the Lehman Center for the Performing Arts in Bedford Park.

Asked what he would say to those who no longer had confidence that he could do his job, the mayor replied, in part, “To watch me!” He said there was always a “numerical minority” who were the loudest and sometimes people interpreted them as the majority.

Adams said when he speaks to New Yorkers at townhalls and other events, they are concerned with affordability, housing, and public safety. “They’re talking about educating our children, and that is what is my north star,” Adams said. “They said, ‘Eric, we elected you to move our city forward, and for two years and nine months, you have accomplished that, and we need you to stay focused on that.’”

The mayor said his lawyers would handle the indictment and what he described as “the complexity of the life of a mayor and of an individual.” He added, in part, “My job is to stay focused on running this city.”

Adams said there are always “political operatives who are going to use this as an opportunity for their agenda.” He alleged these were the same “usual suspects” who on his first day in office were against him. “We have been able to ignore their commentary, and say their noise is not going to get in the way of the numbers, and the numbers show we have moved this city forward,” Adams said.

The mayor went on to say that he is going to handle the management of the city, that he was excited to do so, and that what New Yorkers believed in was what America believed in: due process. “We should never get away from that,” he said. “If we get away from due process, we’re getting away from what’s the cor-

nerstone of who we are as Americans.”

The mayor, self-described as a proud son of Brownsville, retired NYPD captain, former State senator and Brooklyn borough president, is charged with bribery, including from foreign business people and at least one Turkish government official seeking to gain influence over him. According to the indictment, Adams sought and accepted valuable benefits, including luxury international travel for favors, including pressuring the FDNY to facilitate the opening of a foreign government’s Manhattan skyscraper that had not passed a fire inspection.

Prosecutors allege the building would have failed the inspection and that in exchange for bribes by a Turkish official, Adams did as instructed. They allege because of Adams’ pressure on the FDNY, a department official responsible for the fire safety assessment of the skyscraper was told he would lose his job if he failed to acquiesce, and after Adams intervened, the skyscraper opened as requested by the Turkish official.

Additionally, the indictment read, in part, that Adams allegedly sought “straw” or “nominee” donations from [third party] U.S.-based contributors, meaning the true contributors paid through such nominal donors who allegedly falsely certified they were contributing their own money. This allowed foreign actors to allegedly circumvent laws designed to prevent foreign influence.

According to the indictment, wealthy individuals also allegedly evaded laws designed to limit their power over elected officials, since the law restricts the amount of money any one donor can donate to a candidate, and businesses allegedly circumvented a ban on corporate contributions by funneling their donations through multiple employees, frustrating a law designed to curb corporate

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power in politics.

They allege Adams went on to use the donations received “to defraud New York City and seek public funds” [taxpayer money]. The City’s matching funds program matches small dollar donations from individual City residents with up to eight times the original amount in public funds. The program was founded to democratize the electoral system to allow greater participation by candidates who do not have wealthy backgrounds.

According to the indictment, Adams applied for public matching funds, fraudulently obtaining as much as \$2,000 in such public funds for each individual illegal contribution made. Adams, and those working at his discretion, allegedly falsely certified compliance with campaign finance rules despite the mayor’s repeated acceptance of straw donations, allegedly relying on the donations’ concealed nature to falsely portray them as lawful.

As a result, prosecutors allege Adams’ 2021 mayoral campaign received more than \$10,000,000 in taxpayer dollars, and allege Adams also sought and received other improper benefits from some of the same co-conspirators who funneled straw donations to his campaigns.

Prosecutors allege Adams and others working at his direction repeatedly took steps to shield his solicitation and acceptance of luxury benefits from public scrutiny. They allege he did not disclose the travel benefits he received in annual financial disclosures he was required to file as a New York City employee.

They also allege sometimes the mayor agreed to pay a nominal fee, creating the appearance of having paid for heavily discounted travel, while other times, he allegedly created and instructed others to create fake paper trails, falsely suggesting he had paid, or planned to pay, for travel benefits that were actually free.

They went on to allege that the mayor

also deleted messages with others involved in his misconduct, including in one instance allegedly assuring a co-conspirator in writing that he “always” deleted her messages.

Appearing in a video shared with the media on Wednesday night, after news of the expected indictment broke, and though his words and posture were defiant, the mayor’s hands were initially trembling until he pressed his fingertips together to make them stop. Since then, at various events, he has presented with an air of confidence and relaxation, at times dancing, laughing, and taking selfies with supporters, including in Woodlawn Heights.

As the mayor was wrapping up his comments in Woodlawn, *Norwood News* asked him what he would say to New Yorkers who were having difficulty reconciling two different stories (hizzoner’s and that of federal prosecutors). He did not respond.

Norwood News spoke to some of the mayor’s supporters, congregants of Emmanuel Presbyterian Reform Church, on Sunday, including Maxwell Kwason and his wife, Sarah Kwason. Maxwell said it was his first time to meet Adams. We asked Maxwell if news of the indictment bothered him or if he had complete faith in the mayor. “Yeah, currently,” he said.

“You know, with New York, it’s not guilty until proven guilty. He has been charged, but we have also heard of stories where people have been charged and have been exonerated. So, we wait to see what happens, but for now, I will say I will support him.”

Asked if he supported Adams to the same degree that he supported him prior to news of the indictment, Maxwell said, “Absolutely, until I hear...we see the evidence and other things that [inaudible], I’ll have a change of mind. I follow the news. I’ve heard what is going on but, as I said, innocent until proven guilty, so I still stand by him.”

Asked if Maxwell had faith in the judicial system, he said, “Sure.” Asked if



Photo by Síle Moloney

MAXWELL AND SARAH Kwason and a colleague pose for a photo outside Emmanuel Presbyterian Reform Church in Woodlawn Heights on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024.

he could share what the mayor said inside the church, Kwason said, “No. Actually, I reserve my comments. I have my reservation, so I think I hold it like that.”

Asked for her opinion, Sarah said, “Until he [the mayor] is proven guilty, we are all in support with everything he’s doing.” Regarding the mayor’s remarks to the congregation, she said, in part, “He said he’s not going to step down. He’s going to move forward because during his time, many homeless people have been given a permanent place for almost two years now, and that is what we want for everybody. The weather is about to change, and it’s not nice to see people in the train, on the roadside.”

She continued, “And so, if you have somebody who has the people’s side, why won’t we support him?” Sarah said sometimes she saw that when some people were moving forward, others who should be supporting [the people] do not do so and instead look for weaknesses in the person moving forward, “sometimes making up stories” to pull the person down.

Sarah said this was not okay, because society needed people who stood up for other “needy, homeless and poor people” to enable them to move forward and help them make the best of themselves. “It may even be fruitful in the society to help other people,” she said.

“Why won’t we support them instead of pulling them down?” she said. “So, I stand to support him that whatever he’s

doing, he should go ahead. If he’s not guilty, he should feel free and continue with what he’s doing, and God is with him in Jesus’ name.”

Asked if she believed the charges, Sarah said, “I’m not going to conclude by saying I’m not, but between him and his God, he knows the truth about everything they are saying about him, and if he’s not guilty, that’s where I’m standing, that I’m supporting him because I’ve seen his good work.”

Sarah added, “So, if he knows in his heart that he’s not guilty about this, he should continue to do whatever he’s doing until the process is done, and then God’s name will be on it.”

Asked if she believed it possible for a person to do good things on the one hand, and also be charged with a crime, Sarah said, “I can say that one person can be good, and then they can charge him, but the charge will not be true.”

She concluded, “The reason is this. Our Lord, Jesus Christ, did so many good things, and the people that envy him and people that were surprised and didn’t believe in God find many faults with him, and they even crucified him. But still, God glorified himself in his life, proving that he sent him to do what he came on earth to do. So, I believe that he [Adams] is doing good, and if he’s not proved guilty, he’s not guilty.”

The mayor, 64, is presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.



Photo by Síle Moloney

NEW YORK CITY Mayor Eric Adams poses for photos with supporters after delivering remarks inside Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in Woodlawn Heights on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024.

INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By **DAVID GREENE**



After Mayor Eric Adams pleaded not guilty to federal bribery charges on Sept. 27, has since moved to dismiss the charges, and on Oct. 1, sought sanctions on the federal prosecutors who charged him, alleging they leaked grand jury material and other sensitive information in “brazen violations” of the rules, we asked readers if, generally, they have faith in the integrity of local elected officials. The mayor is deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.



“I do, because everyone makes mistakes, and everyone deserves a second chance, and because people lie and set people up, and nobody really knows the truth until it comes out in court. So, no one really knows what’s going on yet.”

**Mossamat Akhter,
Burnside**
Photo by David Greene



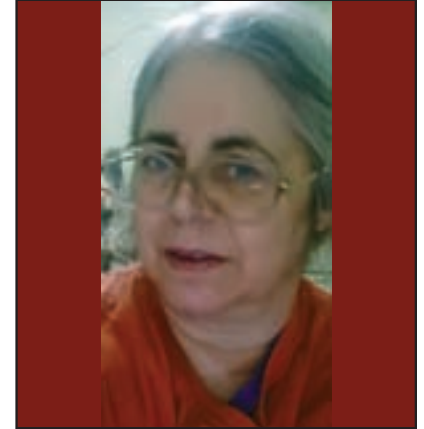
“I really don’t have any faith in the politicians anymore. Honestly, I think it’s really like picking your poison now. You’re left with a choice of picking the better of two evils. I don’t really have trust in any politicians at the moment until we get some new leaders in office. I’m hopeful that it’s possible that somebody out there can get in there, but as of right now, there’s no hope in the near future.”

**Bashiri Walsh,
Allerton**



“To a certain extent, yes. You’ve got to give him a chance, innocent before proven guilty, that’s the way it is in this country. But yes, I can also see the reasons for him to step down. If he’s going to be in court every day, you can’t really run the city that way, but give him a chance.”

**Chris Perkins,
Norwood**



“It’s hard to have faith in our elected officials. After I was assaulted and had an attempted home invasion by the family of a local party leader, I asked some of my elected officials to teach female politicians to treat other women right. The request was completely ignored by a number of them. There’ve been programs set up by our local elected officials to help us with tax questions, but it’s really set up to just file them online, not answer our questions. We give them money and vote for them, and they act like politicians, not public servants.”

**Anne Leighton,
Norwood**
Photo courtesy of Anne Leighton

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Protestors Call for Action re Rikers Island Deaths

By **ARIEL PACHECO & SÍLE MOLONEY**

Community members, elected officials, and advocates held a rally in front of the federal courthouse building in Foley Square in Manhattan on Tuesday, Sept. 10, to demand action and decry the current state of jails across the city, including on Rikers Island.

The rally was prompted by the recent deaths in mid-July of Charizma Jones, 23, a Bronx resident, and on Aug. 20 of Anthony Jordan, 63. Rally attendees say both died after being held in custody on Rikers Island. Jones' family, The Legal Aid Society, and other advocates allege Jones was denied medical care while detained at Rikers. The NY Post reported that this was despite her having suspected scarlet fever in May, though medical reports are inconclusive.

The Post reported Jones had been serving a one-year sentence for a Manhattan slashing from 2023. Chaplain Dr. Victoria A. Phillips said, "Once again, we have to come out here, and let the administration in New York City know that we are serious and that lives cannot continue to be lost on their watch." She continued, "Two New Yorkers, two constituents, have died in the summer of 2024 because of the barbaric conditions at Rikers Island."

Rikers Island is a jail complex that houses local offenders who are awaiting trial, serving sentences of one year or less, or who are temporarily placed there. The jail has long been a hot point of contention among New Yorkers, elected officials and detainee advocates, due, in part, to reports of overcrowding, deaths in custody, drug smuggling, and allegations of mismanagement, lack of adequate medical care, lack of safety, lack of heat, violence, among other issues.

According to July 29 reporting from City & State, at least 19 people died in the city's custody in 2022, the highest number of deaths since 2013, and at least nine people died in 2023. The NY Daily News reported in mid-August that five people had died in custody this year. **Norwood News** asked NYC Department of Corrections (NYC DOC) to corroborate the latest figures but had not received a response as of press date.

At the rally, detainee advocates also called for an end to solitary confinement, citing Local Law 42, which was supposed to ban the policy under a set of



Photo by Ariel Pacheco
CHARIZMA JONES' GRANDMOTHER and mother attend a rally held in Foley Square in Manhattan in support of those held on Rikers Island on Sept. 10, 2024.

rules that would govern how DOC should approach restrictive housing and the confinement of people in custody.

Back at the rally, Phillips said, "Do you know if solitary confinement had truly ended, many people who need access to medical would not have to worry when someone would have mercy on them and pass by their cells? They would know when Charizma Jones actually needed dire medical assistance," said Phillips.

Restricted housing, segregated confinement, special housing units (SHU) and punitive confinement are just some of the terms used by some parties when discussing punitive measures for people held in custody, while others use the blanket term, solitary confinement.

The term "solitary confinement" under Local Law 42 means any placement of an incarcerated person in a cell, other than at night for sleeping for a period not to exceed eight hours in any 24-hour period or during the day for a count not to exceed two hours in any 24-hour period.

Adopted by the United Nations, the Nelson Mandela Rules define "segregated confinement for more than 15 days" as torture. Segregated or solitary confinement typically means people are locked in their cells for 20 to 24 hours a day, with no out-of-cell time and no physical interaction with other inmates.

New York City Council passed the Local Law 42 in December 2023. It was vetoed by New York City Mayor Eric Adams, who, as

reported, pleaded not guilty to federal bribery charges on Sept. 27, and has moved to dismiss the charges. The veto was subsequently overridden by the council, and the mayor later issued an emergency order to stop it from taking effect.

Norwood News reached out to both the mayor's office at City Hall and the city council to ask what the latest status of the bill is. A city council representative replied, saying, "The mayor's executive orders regarding DOC and Local Law 42 are renewed [on an] ongoing basis to continue suspending the law."

The most recent executive orders suspending the law were dated Sept. 30. The representative added, "The Council is continuing to consider our options to get Mayor Adams' administration to comply with the law."

Speakers at the rally also condemned NYC DOC for what they described as a "barbaric" practice of releasing individuals in custody before their deaths to avoid including their deaths in their in-custody records. They said Jones had been transferred from Rikers Island to a hospital where she later died. District 22 City Council Member Tiffany Cabán, who represents parts of Queens, including Rikers Island, spoke at the rally.

"What we saw in Charizma's case is what we are not talking about, that gets buried, is that those deaths are actually a lot more common and a lot higher than we think, because instead of doing their jobs, this administration, this mayor, this department of corrections is spending the time, energy, and resources to bury deaths, to discharge people knowing that they are likely to lose their lives, so that the count isn't part of the official Department of Corrections count," said Cabán.

Rikers is scheduled to close in August 2027, and to be replaced with new city-based jails, with the Bronx County jail slated to open at the former Lincoln Hospital and NYPD compound at 745 East 141st Street. Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark previously told **Norwood News**, in part, in April 2023, "I supported

it [the plan] for smaller jails, and I think it will be a good thing." She added that she wasn't necessarily happy, however, with the new Bronx jail location.

Clark said the new jail should be at the Bronx courthouse like they are in every other borough and that that way family members could [relatively easily] visit their detained family members both when they attend court, and while the family members are detained there, as opposed to having to travel further afield to see them.

Meanwhile, Veronica Vela, a supervising attorney for the Legal Aid Society, told **Norwood News** at the rally that she sent a letter regarding Jones to NYC Board of Corrections on July 22, which read in part, "Ms. Jones' medical records reflect an egregious denial of access to medical care by DOC staff in the weeks before her death."

The letter continued, "The first admission began on or around April 28 and lasted until May 2 or May 3. Although Ms. Jones was on medical isolation during this first infirmary stay, medical staff were able to visit her, take her vital signs, and administer medication. But shortly after her second admission on May 4, DOC began to repeatedly interfere with medical staff's efforts to evaluate Ms. Jones."

The City publication reported that Anthony Jordan was seen by a medical professional a day before his death, before being sent back to his housing unit. It was reported that he too was rushed to a hospital prior to his death. The City publication reported that Jordan had been held on Rikers since April, awaiting trial for the alleged murder of his "longtime friend" Michael Smith, 47, inside an East Harlem apartment on March 17, 2024.

Helen Skipper, executive director of NYC Justice Peer Initiative, said, "At the end of the day, Rikers Island kills people. Not only does it kill people, it doesn't provide anything. We're not having a question about whether we need a system or not. We're not talking about that. We're talking about making sure that this system is humane."

The New York State Commission of Correction and the NYC Board of Corrections, two oversight agencies, have launched investigations into NYC DOC's handling of Charizma Jones while in custody.

Norwood News contacted

NYC DOC both for comment on this story and for details of both Jordan's and Jones's deaths. Regarding Jordan's death, a DOC spokesperson confirmed the death, along with Jordan's name and age. A statement read in part, "The department notified the federal monitor, the State Attorney General's office, the State Commission of Correction, the Department of Investigation, the Board of Correction, the district attorney, and the attorney of record." DOC confirmed that Jordan's next-of-kin had also been notified.

A further statement extract read, "At approximately 5:22 this morning [Aug. 20, we understand] a person in custody was transported from the North Infirmary Command to Mount Sinai Hospital in Queens. Sadly, the individual was pronounced deceased at 6:19 a.m. As with any death of a person in custody, the department will conduct a full investigation and will cooperate with all outside investigative entities."

DOC Commissioner Lynelle Maginley-Liddie said, "On behalf of the New York City Department of Correction, we extend our deepest condolences to Mr. Jordan's loved ones and wish them peace during this difficult time." Regarding Jones' death, the DOC spokesperson said the matter remained under investigation. We did not receive any additional comments on the story.

On Wednesday, Oct. 2, federal prosecutors charged Ghislaine Barrientos,

a former NYC DOC correction officer, with conspiracy to commit honest services fraud, conspiracy to distribute controlled substances, and false statements as part of a scheme to smuggle narcotics into Rikers Island. Barrientos is presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

The mayor is also presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law. On Tuesday, Oct. 1, the mayor sought sanctions on federal prosecutors who charged him with bribery, alleging they leaked grand jury material and other sensitive information in "brazen violations" of the rules.

Meanwhile, Jones' mother and grandmother attended the Foley Square rally. Her grandmother said, "We can't express what we're really feeling at this moment because it is too overwhelming. But one thing we want, we will not let my granddaughter's death be in vain."

Teen Fire Survivor: “Yo! Dad! I love you! I Don’t Want to Die!”

By SÍLE MOLONEY

A young teenager who survived the Bedford Park fire after which seven people were transported to area hospitals and in which at least two others were also injured on Sept. 28 has recounted the terrifying experience, and how his father allegedly broke down the back windows of his apartment and came to the rescue of the teen and his mom.

As reported, the FDNY said they received a call at 5.54 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 28, for a report of residential fire in an occupied multiple dwelling at 15 East 199th Street between Jerome Avenue and the Grand Concourse. They said one patient was treated at the scene, one refused medical attention, and seven were transported to local area hospitals. Their conditions and descriptions were unknown.

They said 12 units comprising 60 fire and EMS personnel responded to the blaze, which the FDNY initially said was located on the third floor of the building, but later confirmed was in a second-floor apartment, 1C. “The door to the fire apartment (1C) was left open and smoke spread throughout the building,” an FDNY spokesperson said, adding that the fire was brought under control at 7.26 p.m. The spokesperson added that fire marshals were investigating the cause, and that e-bikes were found at the scene.

A 16-year-old teen of another second-floor apartment who goes by the name of George told us how his father came to his and his mom’s rescue. “It’s a normal day, chilling in my room, playing the game,” George said, in part. “There’s always this couple arguing. I’m hearing screaming in the building. I’m not sure from which apartment, but I just hear from the hallway and I’m assuming it’s downstairs.”

He continued, “Most of the time, it’s downstairs because there’s like these types of weird people downstairs on the first floor. It got to a point where they start screaming louder and I’m hearing it and I’m thinking somebody just got stabbed or something. Then I hear my fire alarm go off, but I don’t hear the hallway alarm go off.”

George said on opening his door, he was met with a huge cloud of black smoke and closed the door immediately. “In my mind, the adrenaline just kicked in,” he said. “I ran straight to my room. I started screaming for my mother. I told her the building was on fire, that we needed to leave, and then she started

screaming. She was in panic. I had to turn off my game because I don’t know what I was thinking. My mind was just going crazy.”

George said he grabbed his phone to call a friend he knew he could talk to the fastest as he had just texted him and knew he had just been active on social media. “He picked up and I told him to call the cops, to let the emergency [services] know my building is on fire, to help me, that me and my mom are stuck because of the smoke, can’t leave,” he said.

George said he then called his father who was at work and didn’t pick up initially, but then called his son back. George said, “I told him what’s going on and I started screaming to him, ‘Yo! Dad! I love you! My building is on fire! I don’t want to die! Please, come help! Please! The firefighters won’t do what we want. They can’t find us.’”

George said his eyes were hot and burning him from the smoke which had now entered his apartment. “The only safest spot was my mom’s room at the end, so I went to my bedroom and there was a window in my bedroom,” he said. “The fire escape was right next to it. I take my hand out the window and start banging on the safeguard railings for the firefighters.”

George said he saw a firefighter on the fire escape, but the firefighter didn’t notice him and didn’t hear him and continued to climb up to higher floors. “[He] doesn’t even bother to break in my kitchen window to check the second floor,” George said.

He said that was when he called his father, saying, “Yo Pops! They can’t find us! We’re stuck! We’re stuck!” George continued, “And I guess he took it into his own hands, and he came up the fire escape, broke my window. He did what he had to do. I thank God for what he did. Five more minutes in that room with me and my mother, especially my mother, by her age, man...”

George said his mom had some health problems and he worried about her. “I was risking my own life as well, trying to leave the room in order to get the firefighters’ attention to come help us, but they couldn’t,” he said. “They wouldn’t find us.”

He said his father screamed at the firefighters telling them there were people stuck inside George’s second-floor apartment. “That’s when he [father] broke my kitchen window and my bedroom window, himself, with the



Photo by Miram Quiñones

FIREFIGHTERS RESPOND TO a residential fire at 15 E 199th Street in Bedford Park on Saturday night, Sept. 28, 2024, as some residents are seen standing on the fire escape, waiting to be rescued.

firefighters’ tools,” George said. “That’s when the firefighters came inside my kitchen, and he [his father] was telling them where we was at since he already knew what my apartment looks like, and he told [the FDNY] where we was at in my mother’s bedroom.”

George said he told the firefighters if it hadn’t been for his father, nobody would have found him and his mom. We asked George if he could not open his own window in the back from the inside to escape. George said, “I didn’t want to risk opening the window or that smoke would have went inside my apartment and it would have affected my mom and me badly.”

He said his mom was later taken to the hospital. Asked if there were fire drills carried out in the building, George

said, “No, it’s only in my school they do that. I kind of had an idea what to do. My father told me to wet a cloth and put it around my face, but I didn’t have enough time because the bathroom was already filled with smoke, the kitchen was already filled with smoke.”

He said his room and his mom’s room were the least smoke-filled. “I grabbed a shirt, put it around my face,” he said. “From [inaudible], somebody had taught me how to put on a face mask as a shirt, so I put that on my face.” He said he was dressed in only shorts and socks as those were the only things he could grab in time. “By the time we got outside, I was just barefooted the whole time,” he said.

He continued, “My socks were wet. I was stepping on glass, glass falling from

(continued on page 10)

NEWS BRIEFS

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

Hearing Held on School Bus Contracts

On Monday, Sept. 30, New York City Council's Committee on Education and Committee on Contracts held an oversight hearing on school transportation services and rebidding contracts. Under New York City Law, the Department of Education (DOE) is required to provide transportation to all eligible NYC students in public, charter and non-public schools. City officials said that NYC School Bus Umbrella Services (NYCSBUS), a city-controlled nonprofit, currently operates around 835 routes with a contract worth about \$890 million from January 2021 to June 2026.

They said the committees sought to understand how DOE plans to resolve transportation challenges, including examining efforts to provide students with timely bus routes, MetroCards, and rideshare reimbursement. They said the committees sought to understand whether transportation services have improved under NYCSBUS and how the upcoming rebidding of transportation contracts can address school transportation issues.

Bronx BP Pays Tribute to Ozzie Virgil, Sr.

Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson has paid tribute to Ozzie Virgil, Sr. who made history as the first Dominican-born baseball player in American League/National League history, and who has died at the age of 92. The MLB (Major League Baseball) announced the news on Sunday, Sept. 29.

Gibson called Virgil a true pioneer in the world of baseball, a symbol of resilience and hope for the Bronx community, breaking barriers during a challenging time in the nation's history. "His courage to step onto that field inspired generations of athletes, especially here in The Bronx, where baseball is more than just a sport; it's a part of our cultural fabric," she said.

MLB's David Venn wrote, "Nine years after Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball, the Dominican Republic saw one of its own not only make history, but set an entire nation on a path to changing the landscape of baseball forever."

According to Venn, on Sept. 23, 1956, Virgil made his debut with the New York Giants at the Polo Grounds, where he went 0-for-4 against the Phillies while playing third base. He said 68 years later, more than 900 players from the Dominican Republic have donned Major League uniforms, the most of any nation besides the United States.

"Born in the town of Monte Cristi, Dominican Republic, in 1932, Virgil moved with his family to New York as a teenager [in 1947]," Venn wrote. "He attended high school in The Bronx, served in the U.S. Marines and was later signed by the Giants in 1952, one year before his Minor League debut."

Venn said that after playing in parts of nine seasons with the Giants, Tigers, Kansas City Athletics, Orioles and Pirates, Virgil retired in 1969. After his playing career, he said he was a longtime coach at the Major League level, first for the Giants and then under Hall of Fame manager Dick Williams for the Expos, Padres and Mariners. He said he was also a successful Winter League skipper, winning championships in the Dominican Republic and Venezuela.

Last year, Yankees star, Juan Soto, was quoted as saying of Virgil, "He was the first Dominican coming to the big leagues and opened the doors for a lot of Dominicans, and not only Dominicans, for all Latin players. He means a lot."

Meanwhile, Gibson continued, in part, "Ozzie's journey to the highest level of professional baseball serves as a powerful reminder of what is possible through hard work, perseverance, and unyielding spirit. He didn't just break records; he shattered stereotypes, opening doors for future generations of Latino players. As a Bronx Walk of Famer, he showed us that, despite the obstacles, we can succeed and blaze a trail for others."

She said Virgil was also a role model, a figure who represented courage, dignity, and community. "He was an inspiration not only to Dominican Americans but to everyone who believes in the pursuit of a dream against all odds," she said. "His story embodies the values that define our borough: resilience, strength, and the relentless pursuit of progress."

Yankees fans can support Red Cross Hurricane Helene relief efforts by donating at [redcross.org/yankees](https://www.redcross.org/yankees).

Hispanic Heritage Month

A new quarter honoring the life and legacy of Celia Cruz was unveiled at the Lehman College Center for the Performing Arts on Friday, Sept. 27. The United States Mint and the National Women's History Museum, along with the Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music, Lehman College, Telmundo, and the estate of Celia Cruz, celebrated the occasion with an afternoon of performances and engaging conversations about Cruz's impact and role in propelling Latin music to new heights. Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson was also in attendance to honor Cruz's legacy.

Meanwhile, NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) is honoring DOT Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez during Hispanic Heritage Month as the first Hispanic-Dominican to direct DOT. Agency officials said Rodriguez is focused on making New York a safer city for all, and at the same time friendlier to the environment.

Olinville: NYPD Removes Snake from Shopping Bag

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

There were no injuries reported on Saturday, Sept. 28, after police removed a snake from a shopping bag in the Olinville section of The Bronx. An NYPD spokesperson said that police received a call on Saturday at around 2.09 p.m. for a report of a Honduran milk snake in the vicinity of 212th Street and White Plains Road.

Police said officers found the snake inside a shopping cart and proceeded to remove it. Asked if they had any idea how the snake got there, police said they did not. They said it was transferred to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Norwood News reached out to the department for more information and were informed that DEC police officers dropped off the snake to Animal Care Centers of New York City (ACC) to be examined by a herpetologist. The snake was identified as a milk snake, which is non-venomous and native to New York. The condition of the snake was unknown. We also asked ACC for an update on the snake and will share any feedback we receive.

The area where the snake was located is a 5-minute walk from Gun Hill Houses. As reported in May, the Bronx District Attorney's office is investigating reports of alleged arranged pitbull fighting at various locations across The Bronx, Gun Hill Houses among them. Various residents have complained about cruelty to animals (dogs and cats) in the context of the investigation.

According to an article on Seaworld.org, based on information posted to kingsnake.com and written by various authors, Honduran milk snakes are known for their imitation of the markings and behavior of the venomous coral snake. "By such mimicry, they lead potential predators to believe they are dealing with dangerous animals, and are thus left alone," an extract read.

According to the article, milksnakes use quick, jerky movements so that their bands flash, startling predators. Their bright colors signal danger and often confuse predators, making these snakes hard to follow. They are known for eating other snakes and have one of the widest distributions of any snake in the Americas. They reportedly get their name from an old belief that they drink milk from the udders of cows. This myth probably arose because they were commonly spotted in barns and stables, where there is a concentration of rodents.

As reported in June, police removed a python snake from a residential home in Manhattan. In May 2023, Norwood News reported how an abandoned baby alligator left in Brooklyn's Prospect Park which had swallowed a bath stopper and which was taken into care at Bronx Zoo, later died.

Zoo officials later said in part that

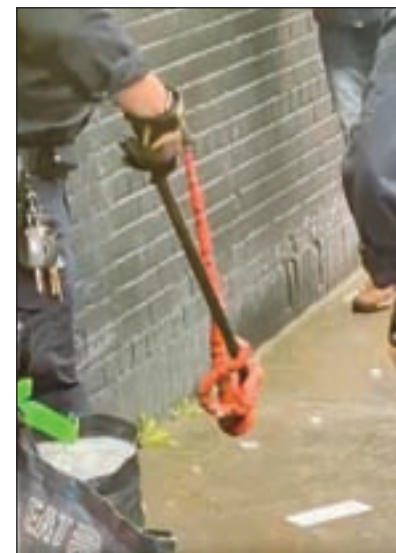


Image courtesy of the Citizens' App
POLICE REMOVE A snake from a shopping cart in the vicinity of 212th Street and White Plains Road on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024.

the reptile had suffered chronic and severe weight loss, extreme anemia, and infections in her intestine and skin. "She also had a chronic ulcer of her stomach caused by the rubber stopper. Despite the intensive care, the alligator was so emaciated, debilitated, and anemic, her immune system was not as strong as it needed to be, and she succumbed to those infections."

Separately, a member of Future of Mosholu Parkland reported seeing a man beating a dog with the belt / leash on Mosholu Parkland and Bainbridge Avenue on Saturday, Sept. 14, at 11.30 a.m. "We cannot turn our heads away, and when this person saw me staring at him, he stopped and I continued to stare at him until he got out of my sight," she wrote, in part.

The member added, "It's a warning to dog owners if you don't treat your dog better than yourself then you shouldn't be owning a dog. This is a community that not only protects each other as humans, but we protect our pets as well."

ACC advise residents to contact their local precinct if they see animal cruelty in process. "Otherwise, they can make a complaint via 311," an official said. "ACC does not have any law enforcement power in New York City."

On Oct. 1, Friends of Pelham Parkway shared a photo of a sad-looking cat crouched under a tree on Wallace Avenue, writing, "Need help. This cat was dumped on Wallace and has been in this spot all day. Any help?" A few hours later, they shared a photo of a dog seemingly tied to a tree, writing, "Someone dumped this dog today in front of 1195 Pelham Parkway North." The group appealed for help assisting both animals. Their email address is Friendsofpelhamparkway@gmail.com.



DIVISION OF BRIDGES

INVITATION FOR BIDS

**PROTECTIVE COATING OF
VARIOUS BRIDGES IN BROOKLYN**
Borough of Brooklyn
Contract No. HB1070BR
NYCPIN: 84122BKBR541
EPIN: 84123B0010

EPIN: 84123B0010 - PIN: 84122BKBR541 - Protective Coating of Various Bridges in the Borough of Brooklyn. This Competitive Sealed Bid (CSB) is being released through PASSPort, New York City's online procurement portal. Responses to this CSB must be submitted via PASSPort. To access the solicitation, vendors should visit the PASSPort Public Portal at <https://www.nyc.gov/site/mocs/passport/about-passport.page> and click on the "Procurement Navigator". This will take you to the Public Portal of all procurements in the PASSPort system.

To quickly locate the CSB, insert the EPIN: **84123B0010**, into the Keywords search field. In order to respond to the Competitive Sealed Bid, vendors must create an account within the PASSPort system if they have not already done so.

Any inquiries concerning this Competitive Sealed Bid should be directed by email to agency contact nkumar@dot.nyc.gov, under the subject line EPIN: 84123B0010.

A pre-bid conference via ZOOM is scheduled for 10/15/2024 at 10:00 am. Those wishing to attend must email the authorized agency contact for a link.

The deadline for the submission of questions is 10/22/2024 by 4:00 pm.

The bid due date (submission via PASSPort) as instructed is due 12/04/2024 by 11:00 am.

Bid opening date via ZOOM is 12/04/2024 at 11:30 am.

This procurement is subject to M/WBE participation goals, the M/WBE goals for this project are 30%.

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

Eric Adams, Mayor
Ydanis Rodriguez, Commissioner



Power-Up Your Body & Mind this Men's Health Month

By **CLAIRE GARON**

In recognition of Men's Health Month this October, let's look at a unique Montefiore study called "Power-Up. Power-Up," a version of the National Diabetes Prevention Program (NDPP) for adult men with pre-diabetes.

NDPP has been shown to reduce the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes by 60 to 70%. Unfortunately, men are usually under-represented in these NDPP

classes. Black and Latino men are at an especially high risk of developing prediabetes and diabetes.

Power-Up was designed by Einstein faculty doctors, Dr. Jeffrey Gonzalez, Dr. Earle Chambers, and Dr. Elizabeth Walker, and is especially for men and run by male coaches. Researchers are currently studying Power-Up to see if it is as, or more, effective than standard NDPP in helping men lose weight, exercise more, and prevent Type 2 Diabetes.

Power-Up modifies the original NDPP content for men, addressing men's health and mental health needs, concerns, and questions (which they may not feel comfortable bringing up in a mixed-gender class). For a recent participant, Power-Up was a turning point after he learned he had prediabetes. The participant noticed something was off when he experienced frequent urination and blurred vision.

His doctors took a blood sample and tested his Hemoglobin A1C, the test that

assesses average blood sugar over several months. The results showed that the participant had prediabetes. It was time to make a change.

In addition to enrolling in the Power-Up program, the participant turned to a nutritionist, personal trainer, and consulted government websites for accurate information. While he had always exercised, the Power-Up program helped him to focus on a healthy diet and provided reliable information and helpful resources.

Programs like Power-Up teach lifestyle changes, not quick fixes. It helps participants see that exercise is a behavior that can benefit overall health, not just to prevent pre-diabetes. Power-Up male instructors are called "coaches" and that's no coincidence.

Power-Up co-designer Dr. Earle Chambers believes in the importance of using intentional and targeted techniques to motivate men and encourage

them in ways they can relate to in order to make and sustain healthy habits.

The most sustainable habits are ones that bring us joy. Research shows that we can make our goals more achievable by making them more enjoyable. For example, some people find cooking to be a joyful activity. The Power-Up coaches share meal modifications that can help to make them healthier, without compromising taste.

This October, take advice from our Power-Up participants and take your health seriously. Be active, eat well, and proactively make positive lifestyle changes that benefit your body and your mind.

If you would like to learn more about the National Diabetes Prevention Program class or Power Up, please call (646) 494 8397.

Claire Garon, MPH, CHES is a health educator at Montefiore's Office of Community & Population Health.

Tim Burton's "Nightmare Before Christmas" Lights Up NYBG

By **ARIEL PACHECO**

The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) is currently home to an exciting light exhibit based on Tim Burton's 1993 musical film, "The Nightmare Before Christmas." Fans of the movie can now visit the new "Light Trail" exhibit which opened to the public on Friday, Sept. 27.

The Trail features over 8,300 feet of light installations, interactive video projection, intelligent LED lighting, and 3D printed sculptures of the film's iconic characters like Jack Skellington, Sally, and Zero.

Jeffrey Sella, co-producer of Burton's "Nightmare Before Christmas Light Trail," said at the launch, "I feel like tonight is the beginning of my birthday party."

Iñaki Fernandez, LETSGO founder and creator of Burton's "Labyrinth," said of the exhibit, "We are very excited! You will be immersed with amazing effects. You will see video projection on the trees."

The light experience runs for nine weeks, concluding on Saturday, Nov. 30. The Light Trail is created by Adventurelive, the producing team behind Broadway's "Hamilton" and LETSGO, the Madrid-based creative team behind Burton's "Labyrinth" and "Lights in Nature."

Tickets start at \$39, and more information can be found at [TheNightmareBeforeChristmasLightTrail.com](https://www.thenightmarebeforechristmaslighttrail.com).



All Photos by Ariel Pacheco

TIM BURTON'S NIGHTMARE Before Christmas Light Trail, as seen on Sept. 25, 2024 in the photos above, is now showing at the New York Botanical Garden through Nov. 30.



Letters To The Editor

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

Support Mayor Adams with Your Vote

Mayor [Eric] Adams was indicted due to his standing up for all New Yorkers against [U.S. President] Joe Biden and the migrant crisis. Show your support by voting against Biden's hand-picked candidate, [U.S. Vice President] Kamala Harris, and consider the other choices of Jill Stein, Chase Oliver, and/or Cornel West who are running as Independent candidates. And remember elections have consequences!

**Richard Marias,
Norwood**

Editor's Note: Norwood News reached out to the Mayor's Office at City Hall to ask if Adams, a Democrat, supported Democratic nominee, U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris for president. We did not receive a response. The mayor pleaded not guilty to the 5-count bribery indictment in federal court on Sept. 27, and on Oct. 1, sought sanctions on federal prosecutors who charged him, alleging they leaked grand jury material and other sensitive information in "brazen violations" of the rules. The mayor is deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

World 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 spoke up for animals on World Day for Farmed Animals. Join in, learn more at dayforanimals.org.

I volunteered 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**

Editor's Note: We received Mr. Neusbaum's letter in September ahead of World Day for Farmed Animals but had, unfortunately, missed it during production for our Sept. 19th edition. We're including it here for information purposes anyway. For more information on reported animal abuse within the dairy industry, visit <https://www.peta.org/issues/animals-used-for-food/factory-farming/cows/dairy-industry/>.

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.

Teen Fire Survivor: "Yo! Dad! I love you! I Don't Want to Die!"

(continued from page 6)

the firefighters breaking the other windows from on top of me. I got hurt, both of my feet. I got cut on the bottom, and then glass fell on my hand and cut my hand a little bit."

Norwood News contacted the FDNY and asked for a comment on George's recounting of his rescue. An FDNY spokesperson said that due to the door being left open in 1C, smoke had traveled throughout the hallways and stairwells



Photo courtesy of George
BEDFORD PARK FIRE survivor, George, as a baby with his parents.

which were "pretty wide open." He said generally when that happens, people go to the fire escape.

He said the fire chief said when the first two fire units of 12 firefighters arrived on scene, they were met with about 15 residents on the front fire escape. "So obviously, we have to send people inside to fight the fire, right?" the spokesperson said. "But we also have firefighters climbing up the fire escapes and assisting people down as they're on their way up to the floor that's on fire."

He added, "Generally, we go to the floor that's on fire first, and we also send people immediately to the floor above, because that's [those two floors] the greatest danger." The spokesperson added, "We had no knowledge of anybody using our equipment to break a window. We can't speak to that. We don't believe that happened. What is possible is that maybe, before we arrived on scene, something might have happened where someone was assisting in the evacuation."

The spokesperson emphasized that the FDNY's recommendation is that if there's a fire escape by a window of an apartment, and residents can't exit out

their front door, to exit from the fire escape. We mentioned George had said he was fearful more smoke would enter through the window if he opened it. The spokesperson said, "Anyway, yeah, our recommendation is always do that."

He added, "When we're faced with 15+ people, our firefighters will assist those who are struggling, but they might have to pass up on somebody who seems like they're okay to climb down themselves in order to reach somebody that's at a greater risk, you know?"

Referencing the tragic Twin Parks fire in Fordham Heights of January 2022, in which 17 people were killed, the spokesperson added, "The biggest safety message we can convey to people is that if there's a fire in your apartment, you need to close the door. It's likely that if the occupant of that apartment [1C] had closed the door, we wouldn't have had 10



Photo by Sile Moloney

THE REMAINS OF an e-bike is seen on the first floor of 15 East 199th Street in Bedford Park on Saturday night, Sept. 28, 2024, after a fire broke out.

injuries."

For our initial story and for more coverage of the fire, visit www.norwoodnews.org. Visit <https://www.fdnysmart.org/> to read FDNY's fire safety tips.



Photo by Sile Moloney

BEDFORD PARK FIRE survivor, George, outside his building at 15 East 199th Street in Bedford Park on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024

"Remembered Pain"

by **VICTOR MASTRO** c. 2008

Remembered pain,
splendid Tuesday,
cruelty attacked.

Felt fears,
tears, and more tears.

Two planes stormed.

Two towers fell.

Blue skies,
dark clouds,
grey dust.

Angels unite,
world witness,
prayers and candlelight.

Shared pain,
hearts of tears,
New York City,
heroes, and volunteers.
Gone, remembered pain.

Editor's Note: We received this poem to coincide with the recent anniversary of 9/11, but unfortunately, didn't have space in previous editions to include it.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY ARIEL PACHECO & SÍLE MOLONEY



Presidential Election Deadlines

The presidential and general elections take place Nov. 5. The last day to register to vote in person and by mail is Oct. 26. Applications to register by mail must be received by Oct. 26. New Yorkers must register to vote to be eligible to vote in general elections on Nov. 5. There are also deadlines for making changes to your registration, such as changes to address or enrollment. Visit <https://vote.nyc.gov/page/all-important-dates> for more information.

Curbside Composting Begins in The Bronx

Curbside Composting is expanding to The Bronx beginning on Sunday, Oct. 6. Bronx residents can order a free NYC Department of Sanitation brown bin by visiting <https://on.nyc.gov/4dspqQ8>.

Youth Hiring Event

BronxWorks will host a youth hiring event with on-the-spot interviews on Wednesday, Oct. 23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1130 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10456. Available positions include maintenance, customer services, direct support, food services, warehouse, and more. Bring copies of your resume and dress for success. For more information, call (929) 581-2660.

National Faith & Blue Weekend

Join local law enforcement and community members for National Faith and Blue Weekend on Friday, Oct. 11, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Masjid Sabor, 2975 Bainbridge Avenue, Bronx, NY 10458. National Faith and Blue Weekend is a collaborative effort to build bridges and break biases. For more information, call (718) 220-5824.

BronxWorks' Excel Program

Join BronxWorks' Excel Program to explore diverse job opportunities and accelerate your career growth. This program is designed to equip you with the skills, strategies, and mindset needed to thrive in today's competitive job market. This program is designed for ages 18 to 24. For more information, call (929) 581-2660.

Local Neighborhood Advisory Board

NYC Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) invites you to join your local neighborhood advisory board. To join, you must be at least 16 years old, a full-time resident of the area you intend to represent for at least 6 months, and have no association with any organization that receives or allocates DYCD funding. For more information, call (718) 547-8854.

Recruitment Campaign

District Council 9 (DC9) Finishing Trades Institute of New York will be conducting a formal glazier apprentice recruitment campaign starting Oct. 8 to Oct. 21, Monday to Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. The recruitment campaign is being conducted at the union's training center at Finishing Trades Institute of New York, 45-15 36th Street, Long Island City, NY, and will cover the New York City, Long Island, and Hudson Valley regions. Apprentice glaziers will be recruited. Visit <https://www.district-council9.net/2024/09/10/upcoming-glazier-recruitment-2024/> for additional information.

G.L.A.M. Program

The Girls, Leaders, Advocates, Mentors (G.L.A.M.) program invites girls between the ages of 8 to 19 for sessions and workshops to become leaders and advocates. Orientation takes place on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 10 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. For more information, call (347) 275-3400.

Paper Shredding Event

Various elected officials, in collaboration with the Emerald Isle Immigration Center, will host a free paper-shredding event on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of Woodlawn Library, 4355

Katonah Avenue. For more information, call (718) 796-5345.

SAFE Disposable Event

Dispose of your Solvents, Automotive, Flammable, and Electronic (SAFE) waste safely at NYC Department of Sanitation's SAFE disposable event on Saturday, Oct. 26, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Orchard Beach parking lot, Bronx, NY 10464. For more information, visit nyc.gov/SafeEvents.

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:

- 2385 Tiebout Avenue, with a deadline of Oct. 7.
- 4720 3rd Avenue, with a deadline of Oct. 11.
- 372 East 194 Street, with a deadline of Oct. 16.
- 3377 Sedgwick Avenue, with a deadline of Oct. 21.
- 285 East 163 Street, with a deadline of Oct. 21.

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

Poor Attendance Impacting Bronx CB7

By ARIEL PACHECO

Bronx Community Board 7 (CB7) voted to approve the only motion tabled during its general board meeting held Tuesday, Sept. 24, at the Sister Annunciate Bethell Senior Center in Bedford Park.

The motion was put forward by the CB7 Budget, Personnel & Ethics Committee, and it was to send an attendance violation letter to seven board members who were found to have violated the board's meeting attendance requirements from January 2024 through June 2024.

Per the motion, Jean Hill, Tayna Peña, Meriyen Parra-Feliz, Jake (Helene) Wilson, Leslie Harrison, Rosalie Leslie, and Gwen Thomas-Steed were in violation of the requirements.

As the motion was passed, a notification was delivered to the board members in question, who have 20 days to send an explanation for their absence to the board's chair, Yajaira Arias, the Budget, Personnel & Ethics Committee chair, Hill, and the district manager, Karla Cabrera-Carrera.

Betty Arce, chair of the Committee on Environment and Sanitation, reminded the community of "two very important issues that are coming up that are going to affect everyone for the most part." These were curbside composting and containerization of trash.

"We need to do something about our environment, and when food waste goes into the landfill, it gives off a gas, methane, and that methane is what is damaging and hurting our environment," Arce said. Arce reminded attendees that curbside composting in The Bronx begins Oct. 6, and for more information or to order a free brown bin, they can visit nyc.gov/dsny.

As for containerization, Arce said, "No longer can you put out your garbage in black bags. It has to be in a container that's covered or closed. Then in two years, you're going to be required to have to use a very specific type of container, because hopefully, the City begins to retrofit the garbage cans. That's still two years away, but for now, you can [use] whatever container

you have."

According to NYC Department of Sanitation's website, <https://www.nyc.gov/site/dsny/collection/containerization/residential-containerization.page>, beginning Nov. 12, all properties with 1 to 9 residential units will be required to use bins, 55 gallons or less, with secure lids for trash set out.

Edgar Ramos, chair of the Traffic and Transportation committee, said the transit bureau of the NYPD attended the committee's September meeting and reported that transit crime in the 52nd Precinct was down. "There are some problems on the transit system with violence, but it has stayed away from our area," Ramos said.

Regarding other updates, Ramos said, "NYC Department of Transportation changed a lot of the parking rates in the municipal parking lots we have. CB7 has one on 190th and Jerome Avenue, and we have one on Gun Hill Road and Jerome. Those are both municipal lots. Those rates will be going up starting in 2025."

Following the Sept. CB7 Parks meeting, *Norwood News* followed up with the MTA to ask if funding needed for the elevator installation at Mosholu Parkway subway station was impacted by the last-minute reversal in June of planned congestion pricing income, and the MTA confirmed it was not.

At the same meeting, *Norwood News* had shared that the Parks department had confirmed that broken lights in the Oval would be repaired, following safety complaints received from a resident. However, they are not yet repaired. We await a further update from NYC Parks. At the same Parks' meeting, board member Tobie Buford raised concerns over trash being allegedly collected elsewhere and dumped in Devoe Park. *Norwood News* asked NYC Parks about this and were informed that the department was aware of the matter, and that new fines were being proposed to curb such dumping. Visit www.norwoodnews.org for a more detailed update on this story.

We also checked with NYCHA on a question raised by Ramos during the CB7 Land Use meeting on whether NYCHA owned any properties in Bronx Com-

munity District 7 (CD7) which were not conventional NYCHA Section 8 projects but were "regular" apartment buildings. We did not receive a response.

NYCHA did confirm that Bailey Houses is the only NYCHA complex in CD7 and that neither Bailey Houses nor Fort Independence Houses are being privatized, as was discussed at the Land Use meeting, but do fall under the PACT program which means private partners have been contracted to carry out necessary repairs, among other responsibilities.

During the Land Use meeting, Parks' chair Barbara Stronzer had 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. *Norwood News* reached out to Camba but did not receive any feedback.

The next Bronx CB7 general board meeting will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 22, at 6.30 p.m. at 2501 Jerome Avenue [Monroe College] in Fordham Manor.

*SÍle Moloney contributed to this story.



Photo by Miram Quiñones

FIREFIGHTERS ARE SEEN in the vicinity of 379 Bedford Park Boulevard in Bedford Park on Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024, following a gas rupture.

Gas Rupture Results in 5 Minor Injuries, Gas Outages

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

Five people incurred minor injuries, according to FDNY officials, after a major emergency services response to a gas rupture was witnessed by residents at 379 Bedford Park Boulevard between Decatur Avenue and Webster Avenue in Bedford Park on Sunday, Sept. 22. Restoration of service to some customers was ongoing following some outages and targeted for completion on Monday, Sept. 23, according to Con Ed.

An FDNY spokesperson said they received a call a 9.40 a.m. on Sunday morning, Sept. 22, for a report of a “gas main rupture/explosion.” Con Edison workers were also seen at the site, assessing the situation.

FDNY said the 2-alarm incident drew 25 units and 106 fire and EMS personnel to the scene, with sections of Decatur Avenue, Webster Avenue, Marion Avenue, Bainbridge Avenue, and East 201st Street all blocked off around Bedford Park Boulevard. Parts of the Grand Concourse had already been sectioned off due to the Bronx 10-mile race which took place the same morning.

Odor of gas and fumes could be smelled in the area surrounding the site of the incident. At 11.10 a.m. on Sunday morning, FDNY officials said, “Hand lines precautionarily stretched and standing by.” They added, “Evacuations of surrounding addresses. No injuries reported at this time.”

The injury count was later updated at 7.36 p.m. to five (all minor). Two people refused medical attention and three were transported to Montefiore Medical Center in Norwood. FDNY officials later

said that valves were shut down, the gas was dissipating, and NYC Department of Buildings (DOB) was on scene. They said the incident was brought under control at 12.55 p.m. and FDNY units remained at the scene.

Norwood News reached out to Con Edison for more information on the incident. Philip O’ Brien said, in part, that following calls placed with the FDNY for reports of gas odors in the area, Con Edison crews were dispatched to make the area safe and to investigate the incident. He said the FDNY reported a gas valve in the street at 379 Bedford Park Boulevard had ruptured. “No explosion – gas main shut off,” he said. “About 38 customers without gas service.”

O’Brien said Con Edison crews remained on scene making repairs. “Work had been going on at that location for a few weeks, prepping to replace the main line with a new, more efficient piping,” he said. “It’s all part of infrastructure improvements to the area.”

O’Brien provided a further update at 9.51 p.m. on Sunday, saying, in part, “We restored one apartment building and the NYBG. Still several more to restore. It’s more complicated to restore gas service. When electricity goes out, once the problem is fixed, it’s a switch and lights come back on. With gas, we are required to do safety checks in each apartment in each building and that takes time.”

John Infante, the superintendent of nearby 2870 Marion Avenue, told *Norwood News* that Con Ed had been working in the area for about six months. “Every time that we think they’re through with it, they come and break again. Con Ed tells the crew to break again because of this and that, and they forgot something.” Infante alleged he knew the crew

Out & About

Compiled by **ARIEL PACHECO & SÍLE MOLONEY**

EVENTS

The **38th Annual Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade** kicks off on Wednesday, October 9, at 11 a.m. starting at East 164th Street and the Grand Concourse. The parade will celebrate the rich cultural heritage of the Puerto Rican community in The Bronx. For more information, email inforprparade@yahoo.com.

Join the Bronx Zoo for **Boo at the Zoo** on Saturday, Oct. 5, and Sunday, Oct. 6, at 11 a.m. at 2300 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, NY 10460. Come enjoy the Bronx Zoo’s annual family-friendly daytime fall festival. Enjoy magic and mind-reading, pumpkin carving demonstrations, costume parades, crafts, and puppet shows. For more information, call (718) 220-5100.

Bedford Park Congregational Church, 3008 Bainbridge Ave. Bronx 10458, will be holding its annual **Fun Fair/ Flea Market** on Saturday, Oct. 26, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with bargains galore! Soup, sandwiches, cakes and more will be on sale. All are welcome. Come and enjoy!

Future of Mosholu Parkland and partners will host the annual **Mosholu Fall Festival** on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (with a rain date of Oct. 19) at Knox Gates Playground, Mosholu Pkwy & Gates Pl, Bronx, NY 10467. There will be refreshments, snacks, music, mime, arts & crafts, doll-making, free books and food distribution. Admission is free.

MUSIC

Michael Spierman, founder/conductor of **The Orchestra of The Bronx**, announces the opening concert of the 2024-25 season. The 40-member orchestra of musicians drawn from other major orchestras and Broadway shows, joined by guest violinist Sharon Gunderson, will perform a program of Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and Mozart, on Sunday, Oct. 20, at 3 p.m. at the Lehman College Lovinger Theatre, 250

Bedford Park Blvd. West, Bronx, NY. Admission is free and no reservations are necessary. For more information, call (929) 222-3973.

ARTS

The Bronx Council on the Arts will host **Comic Culture Powers** on Saturdays, Oct. 5 and Oct. 12, at 1 p.m. and Tuesdays, Oct. 8 and Oct. 15 at 4 p.m. at the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, 3225 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467. Join free art workshops for ages 10 through 19, and learn the magic of cartooning, manga, writing, and self-publishing from professionals. All art supplies are provided. For more information, call (718) 543-8672.

DANCE

NYC Parks, Arts, Culture, and Fun presents the **BE BOLD Afterschool Ballet Program** on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, 3225 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467. The program is free and invites children aged 6 to 12 to join. For more information, call (718) 543-8672.

FILM

The Lehman Center for Performing Arts is hosting **Disney’s Encanto: The Sing-Along Film Concert** on Saturday, Oct. 5, at 8 p.m. Experience the film while singing along with the live band, “Banda de la Casita.” All ages are welcome. For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

MOVEMENT

Join Shape Up NYC for **Gentle Flow Yoga** on Thursday, Oct. 10, at 6:30 p.m. at the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, 3225 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467. Gentle Flow Yoga is a free group fitness program for adults and seniors. For more information, call (718) 543-8672.

Feel your best at **Bronx Fit Fest** on Saturday, Oct. 5, from noon to 4 p.m. at St. James Park, 2550 Jerome Ave, Bronx, NY 10468. Come for free fitness classes, family-friendly games and activities, a silent disco, and more. All ages and abilities are welcome. For more information, email christine.lee@parks.nyc.gov.

working on the re-piping and alleged they shared some information about the project with him.

“That little corner there, this section, there were so many pipes and things going through that it has to be done by hand,” Infante said. “So, only that crew.. there’s two crews there... they do it. They break it by hand and they get 8 feet down, and they replace pipes because there’s too many things going on, so you have electrical, you have gas, you have all kinds of things, so obviously, when they opened that up, they probably capped it up and something was loose ‘cause that’s a 16-inch pipe that got re-

placed with PVC, so you know how much gas...? By the grace of God, this place didn’t blow up. Right there in front of the Church [St. Mary’s Orthodox Church of India] is where the problem is.”

Norwood News contacted Con Ed for further comment on Infante’s remarks. A spokesperson said he would not comment on what another person claimed to know about what Con Ed described as “this complicated work.” He added, “Con Edison has been working in the neighborhood for several weeks replacing main gas lines with new, more efficient piping. It’s all part of infrastructure improvements.”

CRIME FILE

BY SÍLE MOLONEY, DAVID GREENE



Fordham Manor: Man 56 Dies from Baseball Bat Beating

A murder investigation is underway after a 56-year-old man died two days after sustaining injuries during an assault in Fordham Manor. Police said that on Thursday, Sept. 12, at around 7.39 p.m., police responded to a 911 call for reports of the assault in front of 202 East Fordham Road. They said police discovered that two men had assaulted the victim striking him multiple times in the back of his head with a metal baseball bat, before fleeing the location on foot.

Police said the investigation remains ongoing, the victim was removed to St.

Barnabas Hospital in critical condition, later succumbing to his injuries on Saturday, Sept. 14. Cops said two people, Romel Jarrett, 37, of no fixed address, and Terrence Downes, 44, of Queens, were later arrested and charged with attempted murder and first-degree assault. The deceased was identified as Leslie Sanchez, 56, of Grant Avenue in The Bronx. Jarrett and Downes are deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

Bronx District Leader & BOE Employee Charged with Bribery

Nicole Torres, 33, of The Bronx, an

elected district leader for A.D. 81 and a Board of Elections employee was charged with illegally demanding payments from Bronx residents to herself and a local organization in exchange for selecting those individuals as poll workers, federal prosecutors announced on Aug. 28.

They said Torres is also charged with falsifying documents to make it appear that certain people had worked as poll workers on particular dates when they had not, and that she and other members of the scheme allegedly split the fraudulently obtained paychecks issued to the no-show poll workers. They said Torres

was arrested on Aug. 27. Various outlets have reported that Torres is a member of the Republican Party. Norwood News contacted the Party for comment. We did not receive a response. Torres is deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

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.

Another Man Found Dead in Van Cortlandt Park

By DAVID GREENE

An unidentified man was recently found deceased inside Van Cortlandt Park, with one police officer at the scene describing the death as "suspicious," while a police spokesman later said the body showed no obvious signs of trauma. An NYPD spokesman said the unidentified man was found unresponsive between a baseball field and footpath inside the Allen Shandler Recreation Area of Van Cortlandt Park at 2:06 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 22.

The spokesman said, "Police responded to a 911 call for an aided male

in the vicinity of (East) 233 Street and Jerome (Avenue) in the confines of the 50th Precinct. He added, "Upon arrival, officers observed a male unidentified, unconscious and unresponsive in public view. EMS pronounced the male deceased at the scene. The medical examiner will determine the cause of death."

The police official was asked if the man had any obvious signs of trauma. He replied, "It doesn't appear that way." On the day of the discovery, a man located at some nearby bleachers who was stretching his legs was asked if he had heard about the man who died. He

replied, "No, this is the first time I'm hearing sirens and these guys standing around here."

Several police officers, at least one detective, and a pair of workers from the medical examiner's office were observed standing around the victim who appeared to be under a white sheet.

It is not the first time bodies have been found in the area. As reported previously, the body of another man was also discovered inside Van Cortlandt Park, in the area near Mosholu Golf Course on Nov. 24, 2020. At the time, police said the man's death did not appear to be suspicious.

The body of another man was also

discovered inside Van Cortlandt Park at Mosholu Parkway North at West Gun Hill Road on Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022. In November 2023, the body of a deceased man was also found in Van Cortlandt Park near Woodlawn Heights.

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

*SÍle Moloney contributed to this story.

Fordham Manor: Man 33 Fatally Shot on Morris Avenue

By SÍLE MOLONEY

A murder investigation is underway after a 33-year-old man was fatally shot in Fordham Manor and a second man was also shot but survived, police said. An NYPD spokesperson said that on Sunday, Sept. 29, at around 1.07 a.m., police responded to a 911 call regarding a man who had been shot at 2693 Morris Avenue.

"Upon arrival, officers observed a 33-year-old male with a gunshot wound to the left arm and chest," the spokesperson said. "Police also observed a 36-year-old male with a gunshot wound to his left arm and wrist."

The spokesperson continued, "EMS responded and transported the 33-year-old male to St. Barnabas Hospital, where he was pronounced deceased. EMS also transported the 36-year-old male to St. Barnabas Hospital, where he remains in stable condition."

Police said there are no arrests at this time, and the investigation remains ongoing. The deceased has been identified as Alvin Ortiz of Newburgh, NY.

The site of the shooting is on the same block where one-year-old Nicholas Feliz Dominici tragically died one year ago on Sept. 15, 2023, from accidental fentanyl

poisoning inside the now-closed El Divino Niño day-care center, where law enforcement officials later discovered kilos of fentanyl under a trapdoor.

Four people, including the day-care owner, Grei Mendez, were subsequently arrested on drug trafficking and other charges and await their fate. Two have pleaded guilty so far.

One young woman who was in the area on Sunday said her boyfriend told her Sunday's shooting had taken place inside a car.

Most other residents of 2693 Morris Avenue said they did not hear the gunshots and were unaware of what had happened until they saw the police and the crime scene cordoned off later on Sunday morning. One young female resident said she heard three or four shots fired in the early hours of Sunday morning.

Mendez and one other codefendant are presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.



Photo by Síle Moloney
A PHOTO OF Alvin Ortiz, 33, is seen at the site of a makeshift memorial shrine located opposite 2693 Morris Avenue in Fordham Manor on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024. Ortiz was fatally shot at the location earlier on Sunday.

FALL FESTIVAL

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Public and Community Meetings

The 52nd PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL meetings usually take place on the third Thursday of the month, sometimes in person and sometimes online. 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, Oct. 22, at 6.30 p.m. at Monroe College, 2501 Jerome Avenue. 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 on Tuesday, Oct. 8, at 6.30 p.m. at Amalgamated Vladeck Hall, 74 Van Cortlandt Park South. Contact BX08@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list.

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

Police Step Up Presence on Rosh Hashanah

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Police were seen stationed outside the Van Cortlandt Jewish Center at 3880 Sedgwick Avenue in Van Cortlandt Village on Wednesday, Oct. 2, while inside congregants presumably celebrated the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashanah, marking the new year in Judaism.

Meanwhile, New York City Mayor Eric Adams attended an NYPD security briefing, together with leaders from the Jewish community, reassuring them of their safety in the lead up to the first anniversary of the Oct. 7th Hamas attacks in southern Israel. Amid a decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict over territory and human rights, the attack prompted what many regard as a disproportionate military response in Gaza by the Israeli government.

NPR reported on

Oct. 2 that more than 1,200 Israelis, not all of whom were Jewish, died in the Hamas attacks of Oct. 7, and 100 Israelis remain hostages of Hamas. AFP reported that Israel's military bombing campaign in Gaza has killed at least 40,000 people as of August, mostly civilians, according to the Hamas-run health ministry.



Photo by David Greene

A POLICE VAN is seen outside of Van Cortlandt Jewish Center on Sedgwick Avenue in Van Cortlandt Village on Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2024.



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Cove Block Party Returns

(continued from page 1)

found out that before her death, Pyle was in the planning stages of organizing the return of the block party for the community.

"Her sister told me this was what Lyn was about to do, so we got the funding for it, and we made it happen," Norris explained. She said men from the block provided security for the event, as members of DREAM offered facepainting for children as well as laying on different games and events. Both groups now plan to bring it back as a yearly event, once more.

According to the National Council of Elders, Pyle's activism began when she was arrested in the Free Speech Movement at Berkeley, California, and later became a longtime community organizer in The Bronx for most of her adult life. For 44 years, they said she acted, choreographed, and wrote politically provocative plays and documentaries with Mass Transit Street Theater, located at 75 West Mosholu Parkway North.

Pyle, a former member of Bronx Community Board 7, who advocated for the opening to the public of the Croton Water

Filtration Plant project meetings, also wrote open letters to former U.S. President Barack Obama ahead of his address at West Point in 2009, and on another occasion in 2009, together with two other members of Bronx Action for Justice and Peace, Carolyn Eubanks and Dave Wenger, in which they called for an end to the Iraq War which began in March 2002 under Obama's predecessor, former U.S. President George W. Bush.

In 1988, with several neighbors and a group of neighborhood teens, they said she co-founded the referenced Media Arts & Literacy youth program. In 2006, with a group of Bronx young people, she also co-created "AIN'T EASY," a play that told their stories of living with violence. Out of this production evolved "Dare to Revitalize Education thru Arts & Mediation (DREAM!)", training Bronx and Harlem students and their teachers in restorative practice and mediation.

At the block party, there was free food, a dee-jay, as well as candle-lighting in honor of Pyle, whose photo graced one of the tables set up along the sidewalk. Members also paid homage to a former student-member who had died a week



Photo by David Greene

YOUNGSTERS OF ALL ages enjoy facepainting and picture-taking during the COVE / DREAM block party held at Gates Place on Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024.

prior to the party taking place.

Norris said of Pyle, "Lyn was my friend, my business partner, mentor and now she's my guardian angel. Lyn started this program 40 years ago with other community members, and she was one of the cofounders and one of the lead members to transform this base-

ment space, that was full of concrete, into an after-school program during the crack epidemic."

Both groups are now based in that same basement, located at 3418 Gates Place in Norwood. Norris added, "The purpose of it was to give young people a safe haven."

For the last two years DREAM has run a program that focuses on paired mediation and conflict resolution on the Evander Childs Educational Complex, located at 800 East Gun Hill Road in nearby Olinville. According to Norris, the program has helped reduce suspensions at the school by 68% and has reduced serious incidents by 73%.

Pyle told *Norwood News* at COVE's 25th anniversary that there was a need for a program like it in the community

to lure local kids away from drug-taking which was known to be taking place at several corners of the neighborhood. "You can't just say no," she said. "You got to provide something positive that's more fun, more exciting than hanging out with your friends and getting high."

Bedford Park: Man Shot Dead on East 198th Street

By **SÍLE MOLONEY & DAVID GREENE**

A 40-year-old man died following an afternoon shooting in Bedford Park, police said. "On Wednesday, Oct. 2, at around 1.47 p.m., police responded to a 911 call regarding a male shot at East 198th Street and Bainbridge Avenue, within the confines of the 52nd Precinct," a police spokesperson said. "Upon arrival, officers observed a 40-year-old male with gunshot wounds to the chest and leg, unconscious and unresponsive."

Police said EMS responded and transported the victim to St. Barnabas Hospital in critical condition, where he succumbed to his injuries. There are no arrests, and the investigation remains ongoing. The victim was later identified as Kavon Reid from Yonkers.

A woman who used to live at the Yonkers address listed for Reid said it used to be a homeless shelter run by a nonprofit "sharing community," and closed in 2018. We were unable to speak to anyone living at the location now. The woman no longer lives there.

The area of the shooting is a block away from the site of a gas rupture which occurred on Sunday, Sept. 22, at 379 Bedford Park Boulevard by Marion Avenue.

According to a police



Photo by Síle Moloney

POLICE CORDON OFF the crime scene and mark the gunshot fire points with makeshift paper cups as detectives carry out an investigation into the fatal shooting of a 40-year-old man at East 198th Street and Bainbridge Avenue in Bedford Park on Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2024.

source, the shooting suspect is described as male, has a dark complexion, a medium build, and was wearing a grey hoodie, black pants, grey sneakers, and a blue facemask. The source said he was seen fleeing [east-bound] in the direction of Pond Place.

One bystander who asked not to be identified said he spoke to and gave a high-5 to the victim, who he said worked as an Uber driver, just moments before he was shot as he walked down East 198th Street in the direction of Marion Avenue.

A few moments later, the bystander said he saw the man

coming back again in his direction, wounded from the gunshots, and believes someone had been lying in wait for him.

He said the victim had been friendly and normal moments beforehand when he spoke to him. The bystander said he didn't know the victim very well, but just knew him from around the neighborhood. He said the victim reached the corner of Bainbridge Avenue and East 198th Street and then collapsed. The bystander said he immediately called 911 but said he could tell the victim was losing a lot of blood.

Employees at a nearby su-

permarket on the corner of East 198th and Bainbridge Avenue said they saw people rushing by the store moments after the shooting occurred.

Another store employee said she didn't know what happened until customers came in and told her there was a man shot outside on the sidewalk. Other nearby residents said they heard 3 to 4 gunshots.

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



Photo by Síle Moloney

BLOOD IS SEEN on the corner of East 198th Street and Bainbridge Avenue in the Bedford Park section of The Bronx, after a 40-year-old man is fatally shot on Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2024.

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