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NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY GROWS



Photo by Sile Moloney

(L TO R) EURIN HERNANDEZ LOPEZ, Bruce Sanchez and Jamar Rowe pose for a photo after being inducted into the National Honor Society on March 23, 2025, during a ceremony held at the Bronx School of Law and Finance on the John F. Kennedy campus located at 99 Terrace View Avenue in The Bronx.

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Despite what was a rainy Monday afternoon, there were smiles all around on March 23, as seventeen students at the Bronx School of Law and Finance, located on the John F. Kennedy campus in Marble Hill, were joined by fellow students, parents, friends, and faculty for their induction into the National Honors Society during a ceremony held at the school.

Dr. Jessica Goring, principal of The Bronx School of Law and Finance, welcomed the attendees to the school for the occasion, which consisted of the pledge of allegiance, recitals and speeches, a candle-lighting ceremony, the swearing of an oath by new members, and certificate and pin presentations, followed by food and refreshments.

“I want to begin by emphasizing the first word in the title: national,” Goring said as she addressed the honorees. “This is not a recognition that is class-wide, or schoolwide, or even citywide,” she said. “This organization is one that spans across the country, and so to be formally inducted into the National Honor Society means to be formally recognized on a national level for your academic achievements, your leadership, and your degree of service.”

Goring, who appeared to know the name of every student she passed in the corridor as she made her way around the school, added, “Every student across the country who is inducted into the National Honor Society has met these standards, and it is important to place yourself and this achievement on that play-

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Photo by Sile Moloney

(L TO R) SCHOOLS DISTRICT 10 Superintendent Roberto Hernandez, P.S. 94 Principal Diana Baez, City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams, and City Councilman Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11) join students of P.S. 94 on Thursday, March 27, 2025, for a check presentation of \$1 million to finance the upgrade of the school's cafeteria.

Kings College School Gets \$1M for New Cafeteria

By SILE MOLONEY

Students at Norwood's P.S. 94 Kings College School got a special visit by City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams (C.D. 28) on Thursday, March 27, along with the Schools Superintendent for School District 10, Roberto Hernandez, as they joined local, Democratic, City Council Member Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11) for the presentation of a check for \$1 million to renovate the school's cafeteria.

The speaker, who is running for mayor in the upcoming June Democratic primary, was met at the front door of the school, located at 3530 Kings College Place, by an impromptu welcoming committee of little kids, as the councilman crouched down and hid behind them at one point.

School officials, including Principal Diana Baez later gave the speaker a tour of the building, during which Adams interacted with students and teachers alike. News of the funding was received with cheers and applause from parents, kids, and attendees, and was followed by a brief inspirational talk by Hernandez.

"Our job is to help people by making rules that are fair for everybody, and by making sure that the taxes that your parents pay go to really important things," Dinowitz explained in part to the kids. "Every single one of you is the future of our city, and your education is important."

For her part, after complimenting the students on the various projects she had witnessed on the tour, Adams asked one smiling student how news of the cafeteria upgrade made her feel. The student replied, "One million times better."

Later, we spoke to the councilman and asked him for his thoughts on President Trump's executive order dismantling the U.S. Department of Education (U.S. DOE). Dinowitz said the move was an attack on children, resulting in less

funding for schools, and children with disabilities not getting the services they need.

"To take a department where all that was centralized, and not only make it disjointed, but to reduce the funds, and to fire the people who know what they're doing to actually get the funds to places like New York City, our children are going to be hurt by this decision," he said, adding it was important that Congress stand up to prevent the abolishment of the U.S. DOE.

The councilman, a former special needs teacher and current chair of the higher education committee, and the committee on education, said it wasn't just about funding, and some functions of the U.S. DOE were set to move to different federal agencies as well.

For the last 20 years in New York City, under State law, "mayor control" gives the mayor of New York City the power to select a schools chancellor and appoint a majority of members to the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP), a city board that votes on major education policy proposals and contracts. We asked the councilman if the dissolution of the U.S. DOE would impact upon this mandate.

In reference to the mandate more broadly, Dinowitz said, "It's been a real challenge for the Council to pass the legislation needed to support our children. It's not that he [the mayor] has a veto. We don't have the authority to legislate like we do for certain other agencies, and so despite that, we've done incredible things for our kids."

He referenced the million-dollar investment in P.S. 94 as an example, adding it was on top of a half a million dollars he had secured for a school garden. "When they [students] were talking about the garden, they weren't just planting things. It's encapsulated in the education of growing and math, but even better, they

were talking about getting the food into the hands of people who need it."

He said, "The garden, like our school, is not just about teaching our kids, but it's about the community, and what we provide for the community, and that's what they are doing with the garden."

He mentioned previous legislation he had championed in the council to ease the transition for kids with disabilities from high school to college by electronically transferring their individualized education programs (IEPs).

"We are now working on budget items for CUNY to centralize their disability services," he said. "So, despite the attacks on our education system by the Trump administration, we are doing what we can in the City to uplift and support our students, the future of New York City."

Being unfamiliar with the impact of the dissolution of the U.S. DOE on each state, we asked if there was any upside to it for New York City, in light of the specific mayoral control arrangement e.g. if potentially it might mean more control for New York State over education policy.

"There is not more control being given to the State," Dinowitz said in part. "That is absolutely not what it is. It's a great line, but when you say returning authority to the states, it is completely the opposite of what Trump actually wants to do."

He continued, "Trump wants to threaten funding if districts don't do exactly what he wants to do. That is not transferring authority and power to the states. The states already have control over things like curriculum. The City already has control over how the schools function, so they have free reign to continue to do that."

He added, "The president, Donald
(continued on next page)

Regal Movie Theater Opens at Concourse Plaza

By **ARIEL PACHECO**

The Regal Concourse movie theater held its grand opening on March 18 at the former site of Multiplex Cinema, which closed in May 2024, on Concourse Plaza in the Concourse section of The Bronx. The latest opening now brings the number of movie theaters in the borough to a grand total of two, the other being The Mall at Bay Plaza in the East Bronx.

Speaking at the grand opening, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson said, "This is not just a movie theater, but it is going to be a space of entertainment, of job growth, of tourism, revitalizing our community, of making sure we get back to basic family fun."

The theater has been revamped with reclining seats, surround sound, and incor-

porates 10 screening rooms. Recently, Regal Cinemas has hosted some charity screenings at just \$3 a ticket, with proceeds going to the Police Athletic League and Turn 2 Foundation.

John Curry, senior vice president of Regal Cinemas, said, "It's us that really have to thank you all for welcoming us to the community. We're proud to be here in The Bronx, and we want Regal Concourse to be your home for movies and entertainment."

Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson told *Norwood News*, "Generations of families have come to this multiplex movie theater here at Concourse Plaza and it was a part of our fabric. When we learned about its closure last year, we were heartbroken."

She added, "We got a lot of feedback, good and bad, about what it meant, and it felt like we were losing movie theaters in The Bronx. We were down to one, the Mall in Bay Plaza, but also the memories that were created, and that the next generation would not get to experience that was really heartfelt, and I felt that."

Of Regal, she added, "They took a chance and they're investing in us." She said the borough had to now show Regal that it was a worthy investment. "We have to show them with our actions, we have to show up, we have to engage, and we have to spread information that we will make this not just an important investment, but we will capture that family fun activity for this generation of young people."

Hibachi Grill, located above

the theater, is a buffet-style restaurant with ample seating for those wishing to grab a bite either before or after a movie, and Concourse Plaza is also home to a number of stores.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, many Hollywood and other film stars have spoken in recent years of their wish for movie-goers to experience their movies in a traditional cinematic setting rather than at home, not just because of the big screen, but also for the joy of going on a collective emotional journey and sharing that communal experience with fellow movie lovers.

Academy award winner Cillian Murphy, who won an Oscar in 2024 for his portrayal of the theoretical physicist, Robert Oppenheimer, recently bought, along with his wife, a local

movie theater in a small town in Ireland, rather than see it shutter.

Andrew, a Bronx resident in attendance on the night of the opening, shared his thoughts on the new venture, saying, "We had to go all the way to Bay Plaza or down to Manhattan to watch a movie. We needed this back open."

Meanwhile, Bronx Independent Cinema Center is launching the first of its "Friday Film Screening" series at the Andrew Freedman Home, 1125 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10452, on Friday, April 4. Doors open at 6 p.m. for a 7 p.m. screening.

Regal Concourse is located at 214 East 161st Street, Bronx NY 10451. Regal Crown members get a free popcorn treat with a ticket purchase.



Photo by Ariel Pacheco
BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT Vanessa L. Gibson attends the Regal Concourse Grand Opening at Concourse Plaza at 214 East 161st Street on March 18, 2025.

Photo by Ariel Pacheco
BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT Vanessa L. Gibson presents a Citation of Merit to Regal Cinemas on March 18, 2025, at the group's new Concourse Plaza location at 214 East 161st Street.

Photo by Ariel Pacheco
REGAL CINEMAS STAFF at Concourse Plaza open the ceremonial first tickets to the Regal Concourse movie theater at 214 East 161st Street on March 18, 2025.

Photo by Ariel Pacheco
THE REGAL CINEMAS Concourse Plaza movie theater exterior is seen on March 18, 2025.

Kings College School Gets \$1M for New Cafeteria

(continued from previous page)

Trump's not giving the states anything except less money. He is threatening funding left and right, including to school systems if they don't do what he wants them to do. That is not giving more power and authority to the states."

On April 2, Dinowitz presented another check, this time for \$100,000, to The Matilda Avenue School located at 4520 Matilda Avenue in Wakefield for new computers, tablets, and smartboards. On April 3, he joined Literacy, Inc. (LINC) at the Kingsbridge Library to celebrate their 'Diversity Through Literacy' pro-

gram, an initiative that fosters a love of reading and promotes diverse voices in children's literature.

The councilman's office said he has championed early childhood literacy through his ongoing support of LINC NYC, securing \$10,000 in discretionary funding to help expand its reach in the Bronx. They said LINC NYC also receives over \$1.3 million in funding from the City Council in support of the 'City's First Readers' initiative.

Meanwhile, elected in January 2022 by her colleagues, Adams leads the most diverse and the first women-majority council in New York City history. She represents parts of Queens, for which she has secured record funding according to her biography. It also states she is the daughter of two proud union workers. Adams is the first-ever African American elected as council speaker.

In a March 17 public matching funds report released by NYC Campaign Finance Board (CFB), the speaker was not

listed, while NYC Mayor Eric Adams was, along with Dinowitz and others running for office. The voluntary public matching funds program matches small campaign contributions made by NYC residents to candidates running for election, using taxpayer dollars.

Participating candidates can receive up to \$2,000 in public funds per eligible campaign contributor but are required to submit certain filings on an ongoing basis, before such monies can be released to them. Part of the federal probe into the mayor's campaign finances for his 2021 mayoral run related to this matching funds program.

The U.S. Department of Justice announced on April 2 that the bribery and corruption charges case brought against the mayor under the Biden administration had been dropped with prejudice, meaning the case cannot be brought against the mayor in the future. Opinion was divided on whether the decision was the result of the mayor's seemingly ever-

growing closeness with Republican President Donald Trump in recent months.

Both the mayor and the councilman are participating in the matching funds program, have filed a disclosure statement with the CFB, but had not demonstrated eligibility for payment as of March 17, for different listed reasons.

We took the opportunity of the speaker's visit to The Bronx to ask her why she is running for mayor. "I'm running for mayor because New York City needs a change. We need to have someone who actually cares about the people of the City of New York, like you see this great work that Councilman Dinowitz and I have done today," she said.

She continued, "I have made it my business to put our families first, our children first; we need somebody to put the people of this City first. I feel that I am that person, and I am so excited to run for mayor."

Check out our *Inquiring Photographer* feature on page 4 for more on this topic.

INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE & SÍLE MOLONEY



This week, we asked readers their opinions on President Trump's executive order dismantling the U.S. Department of Education (U.S. DOE). On March 20, White House officials said that since 1979, the U.S. DOE has spent over \$3 trillion "with virtually nothing to show for it." They said despite per-pupil spending increasing by more than 245% over that period, there has been "virtually no measurable improvement in student achievement."

They said math and reading scores for 13-year-olds are at the lowest level in decades, six out of ten fourth graders and nearly three-quarters of eighth graders are not proficient in math, seven out of ten fourth and eighth graders are not proficient in reading, while 40% of fourth grade students don't meet basic reading levels. They said standardized test scores have remained flat for decades and U.S. students rank 28 out of 37 OECD member countries in math.

They said education belongs with individual states which they said are "best positioned to administer effective programs and services that benefit their own unique populations and needs." They added, "Instead of a bloated federal system that burdens schools with regulations and paperwork, the Trump Administration believes states should be empowered to expand educational freedom and opportunity for all families."

White House officials went on to say that the U.S. DOE currently manages a student loan debt portfolio of more than \$1.6 trillion, and the Federal student aid program is

roughly the size of one of the nation's largest banks, Wells Fargo. They said although Wells Fargo has more than 200,000 employees, the U.S. DOE has fewer than 1,500 in its Office of Federal Student Aid.

They said U.S. DOE is not a bank and "must return bank functions to an entity equipped to serve America's students." They later announced that, going forward, student financial aid would be managed by the U.S. Department of Small Business Administration (SBA).

During a subsequent interview with U.S. DOE Secretary Linda McMahon on CNN, anchor Dana Bash discussed how the dismantling of U.S. DOE would require the approval of congress. Meanwhile, McMahon said funding for students with disabilities would likely be managed, going forward, by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS).

McMahon said U.S. DOE "does not educate one child, does not establish any curriculum in any state, doesn't hire teachers, doesn't establish programs. What it is, is more of a pass through of funding, which is appropriated by Congress."

Bash questioned a potential lack of education spending oversight by the DOE under the new proposed model. McMahon said the goal was to ensure education-related funding, appropriated by Congress, would continue "in the departments where it needs to be," but to allow states to be "innovative and creative with their teaching."

She said "a lot of current funding to states comes with a lot of red tape" and the goal, going forward, was to allow States to spend funding where they deemed it appropriate e.g. hiring teachers, increasing salaries, etc. McMahon said the president wanted to ensure there would be equal access to quality education for every student in the country and that that was why he was a proponent of school choice. "He doesn't believe that any child should be trapped in a failing school," she said.

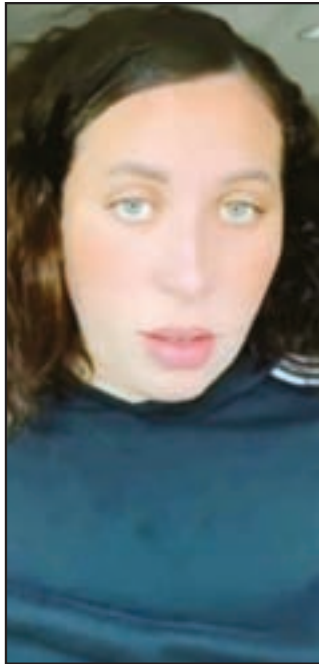
A 2025-2026 Strategic Planning Report by New York City Public Schools, based on School District 10 data, shows enrollment at different school types by age-group (see attached graphs). Meanwhile, a 2018 Center for New York Affairs/New School report, "The Paradox of Choice: How School Choice Divides NYC Elementary Schools," found that in higher-income areas, parents' satisfaction with their local schools was often higher, so the proportion of children enrolled in their zoned schools tended to be high.

The report also cited the following "New York Appleseed" conclusion on zoning and school choice: "Zones provide families of means with exclusive access to the schools they like, while choice allows them to flee the ones they don't (2013)." Norwood News reached out NYC DoE for a comment on how school choice affects public school funding. We had not received feedback by our print deadline, but will share any feedback we receive.



"It's ridiculous! A lot of states won't be able to provide funding for education. They (the Trump administration) say they will fund the Pell Grants and other things, but do you believe them? And fund special education, but do you believe them? I really don't know about mismanagement because my nieces and nephews have been out of school for many, many years but you hear about kids not learning. I'm not hopeful about what they are doing."

A.C. Pressley,
Parkchester
Photo by David Greene



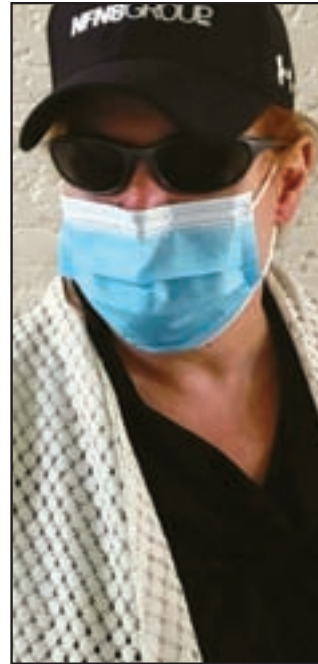
"Shutting down the [U.S.] Department of Education would have far-reaching consequences, impacting various aspects of higher education. The department plays a crucial role in doling out billions of dollars to students each year. If the department is eliminated, it's unclear what would happen to these programs. Another significant impact would be on the department's office for civil rights that investigates complaints of discrimination on college campuses ensuring students' rights are protected."

Maggie Sweet,
L.A. CA., via Locust Point
Photo courtesy of Maggie Sweet



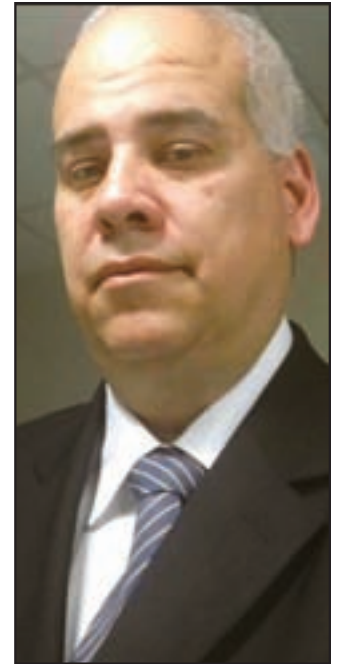
"I have a son, Richard, who is 8 years old, and he is on the autism spectrum. He is not verbal, so these cuts will greatly affect my son's education and mental state. He currently does not have all the things that they should be able to provide. These cuts will dramatically decrease the help he is receiving and desperately needs. Children like him need all the help they can get."

Hanifa Cooper,
Morrisania
Photo courtesy of Hanifa Cooper



"I feel the [U.S.] Department of Education needs to be disbanded because it has been taken over by woke, socialist, Marxist whack-a-doodles who want to push the Marxist agenda to indoctrinate our school children. We do not need our children learning such nonsense as male toxicity, new pronouns, climate change, antisemitism, and anti-Americanism and other nonsense."

Kathleen Jones,
Co-Op City
Photo courtesy of Kathleen Jones



"I believe that the appropriations should go to the states, but the oversight for financial aid, and special education, and school lunches must remain under federal control."

Efrain Gonzalez III,
Westchester Square
Photo courtesy of Efrain Gonzalez III

Editor's Note: Federal Pell Grants are usually awarded to undergraduate students who display exceptional financial need and have not earned a bachelor's, graduate, or professional degree. According to Merriam Webster, socialism means any of various egalitarian, economic and political theories or movements advocating collective or governmental ownership and administration of the means of production and distribution of goods. Meanwhile, Marxism is the political, economic, and social principles and policies advocated by Karl Marx, a German-born philosopher, political theorist, economist, journalist, and revolutionary socialist. We also asked NYC Department of Education if there was any evidence to suggest the [U.S.] Department of Education had been "taken over by woke, socialist, Marxist whack-a-doodles who want to push the Marxist agenda to indoctrinate our school children." We also asked if children were learning about male toxicity, new pronouns, climate change, antisemitism, and anti-Americanism. We had not received a response by our print deadline. Check out our page 2 story in which we further discuss the abolition of the U.S. DOE.

INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER - CONTINUED

Pre-K-to-Kindergarten Articulation - Table

	2018-19 to 2019-20		2021-22 to 2022-23	
	#	%	#	%
District 10 Schools	2,237	60%	1,529	55%
Other District Schools	335	9%	173	6%
D75 Schools	8	0%	17	1%
Charter Schools	154	15%	539	19%
Non-Public Schools	27	1%	21	1%
Out of NYC	58	2%	32	1%
Other	480	13%	436	16%
Total	3,699	100%	2,767	100%

* For All-Local enrollment, "Other" includes students discharged to Non-Public Schools and out of NYC. Data is from 2021-22 to 2022-23 because 2021-22 to 2022-24 articulation data is not available. See Appendix 2 to compare to other districts.

- 55% of District 10 pre-K students stayed within the district for kindergarten in the 2022-23 school year.
- 37% of District 10 pre-K students left NYC or enrolled in non-district school options for kindergarten in the 2022-23 school year.
 - This is an increase (6%) from the 2019-20 school year during which 31% of District 10 pre-K students left NYC or enrolled in non-district school options for kindergarten.
 - Overall, enrollment **choices** after pre-K in District 10 have remained relatively stable over the past three years.

Source: A 2025-2026 Strategic Planning Report by New York City Public Schools

BREAKDOWN OF SCHOOL Enrollment for Pre-K to Kindergarten across different year ranges for School District 10.

Grade 5-to-6 Articulation - Table

	2018-19 to 2019-20		2022-23 to 2023-24	
	#	%	#	%
District 10 Schools	3,218	79%	2,472	73%
Other District Schools	235	6%	210	7%
D75 Schools	7	0%	2	0%
D79 Schools	1	0%	0	0%
Charter Schools	279	7%	354	11%
Non-Public Schools	59	1%	61	2%
Out of NYC	197	5%	163	5%
Other	36	1%	28	1%
Total	4,052	100%	3,296	100%

See Appendix 2 to compare to other districts.

- 75% of District 10 5th grade students stayed within the district for 6th grade in the 2023-24 school year.
- 19% of District 10 5th grade students left NYC or enrolled in non-district school options for 6th grade in the 2023-24 school year.
- Enrollment **choices** after 5th grade in District 10 remained about the same over the past four years.

Source: A 2025-2026 Strategic Planning Report by New York City Public Schools

BREAKDOWN OF SCHOOL Enrollment for Grade 5 to 6 across different year ranges for School District 10.

Grade 8-to-9 Articulation - Table

	2018-19 to 2019-20		2022-23 to 2023-24	
	#	%	#	%
District 10 Schools	1,496	40%	1,318	46%
Other District Schools	1,590	42%	1,281	38%
D75 Schools	2	0%	2	0%
D79 Schools	2	0%	3	0%
Charter Schools	329	9%	254	8%
Non-Public Schools	91	2%	101	3%
Out of NYC	208	6%	143	4%
Other	29	1%	29	1%
Total	3,747	100%	2,909	100%

See Appendix 2 to compare to other districts.

- 46% of District 10 8th grade students remained in the district for 9th grade in the 2023-2024 school year, up 6% in the past 5 years.
- 38% of District 10 8th grade students enrolled at a high school in another district for 9th grade.
- Enrollment **choices** after 8th grade in District 10 remained about the same over the past four years.

Source: A 2025-2026 Strategic Planning Report by New York City Public Schools

BREAKDOWN OF SCHOOL Enrollment for Grade 8 to 9 across different year ranges for School District 10.

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Fired VA Employee Returns to Work

By DAVID GREENE

An employee of the James J. Peters Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center (Bronx V.A. Hospital), located on West Kingsbridge Road in Fordham Manor, says he was fired by email, reinstated, then placed on administrative leave, and has NOW returned to his job.

On Thursday, March 20, Luke Graziani, 45, a resident of Woodside, Queens, was still on administrative leave when *Norwood News* asked him how many employees of the Bronx V.A. Hospital had been let go to his knowledge in the context of dismissals recommended by the U.S. Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) starting in February.

"I do not have any numbers," Graziani said. "I was terminated on Valentine's Day, recently 'reinstated' but placed on administrative leave, and have not yet returned to duty."

Norwood News learned in March that, according to an internal VA memo, 80,000 employees are due to be terminated. We reached out to the VA to ask if the latest layoffs were in addition to or part of the previously announced 1,400 layoffs, and if they would affect the Bronx VA Hospital.

We were provided with a video in which U.S. VA Commissioner Doug Collins sought to present the layoffs as beneficial to servicing veterans' needs in terms of targeted efficiency. Collins said the aim was to bring VA numbers down to "2019 levels" from 470,000 to 398,000.

He did not reference where across the country, or when, the cuts would take effect. We therefore asked the VA again if this could be confirmed. A VA spokesperson replied on March 19, saying, "Apologies. We do not have any information for you right now, but we are working on your request."

After the initial layoffs in February, the VA told *Norwood News* on Feb. 27, "Bronx VAMC has dismissed a small number of probationary staff this month. This decision will have no negative effect on Veteran health care, benefits or

other services and will allow VA to focus more effectively on its core mission of serving Veterans, families, caregivers, and survivors."

As reported, NY Gov. Kathy Hochul encouraged former VA employees to apply to become New York State employees since it is currently hiring for a range of positions. Check out <http://ny.gov/wewantyou> for details. In reference to a comment made by Collins in the video we were sent about 300,000 mission-critical positions, a VA spokesperson later clarified that, broadly speaking, the VA continues to recruit to keep around 300,000 mission-critical positions filled at any given time, but this does not mean the VA has 300,000 open mission-critical positions currently.

When we asked if these 300,000 mission-critical positions fall within the target VA department number of 398,000 employees, we were informed that the situation is fluid, that they cannot be more precise currently, and that more information will be shared in the next few months.

Graziani, a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Army, who was deployed twice to both Iraq and Afghanistan, retired with the rank of Sergeant First Class. The father of four was five weeks shy of his first year probationary period at the Bronx V.A. Hospital when he received the termination notice.

In a follow-up interview on March 29, Graziani said, "I have now been reinstated, and as of Thursday, March 27, I have returned to duty."

Looking back on his nearly six-weeks of being stuck in limbo, Graziani said, "The whole ordeal has been very stressful for me and my family. Until very recently, I was under the impression that I may not get my job back and I'd have to pursue other employment options. We were also looking at the possibility of needing to pack up and leave New York City."

Asked about internet rumors that DOGE employees have already visited the Bronx V.A. Hospital, Graziani said, "Around the time I was terminated, there was some chatter in the building about people from DOGE being there, but I don't know how true that is."

Graziani, a public affairs officer who holds the only position in his department, said of his work, "From day one I have felt like I play a crucial role in communicating to our veterans, to stakeholders, and to the public all the great things the Bronx VA is doing." He added, "I love that I can continue to serve and be a part of my fellow veterans' lives in any way that I can."

Graziani, who had been in contact with staff members at the Office of Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY-14), who represents parts of The Bronx and Queens, and who met with Rep. Ritchie Torres (D-NY-15), who represents a large section of The Bronx running from the northwest to the south, was asked if he voted for U.S. President Donald Trump.

He responded, "I did not vote for



Photo by David Greene

AT LEAST ONE fired employee of the Bronx V.A. Hospital is back at work at the James J. Peters Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, pictured Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025, while members of DOGE continue their efforts to fire 80,000 employees.

Trump. I want to be very clear about my political stance. However, as a federal employee, I swear an oath to serve and defend the Constitution."

Graziani concluded, "I might be affected by the policies of whoever might be sitting in the seat of president, but ultimately all I care about is doing my job to the best of my abilities and having the support I need to do that. The person in that seat just needs to do the right thing for our country."

Meanwhile, while picking up a relative at the Bronx VA Hospital on Wednesday, March 26, a female family member fumed, "They need to leave the workers alone so they can keep doing what they're doing. That's what this family thinks."

Balford Moore, who lives on the Castle Hill-Throggs Neck border, had a doctor's appointment at the Bronx V.A. Hospital on March 26. Asked if he had noticed any changes to his care during his visit, Moore replied, "I really didn't take notice, but they were awfully nice to me."

Referring to Trump's inauguration speech, Moore said, "I heard about the cuts a couple of weeks ago, when he first got in. He started talking about doing this and doing that and it's not right. You know we served the country and he shouldn't cut the staff." He added, "It's not right for us."

Moore, who left the Army in 1966, concluded, "The V.A. has been very good to me, and all of a sudden they're backing up now," referring to the impending cuts. He added of the Bronx V.A. Hospital, "That's the only place I believe in."

On Monday, March 10, the president signed a continuing resolution (CR) that will fund the government until September 30, avoiding a government shutdown. Democratic Sen. Minority Leader Chuck Schumer received some

heat for agreeing to that arrangement, but defended his decision saying the alternative would have been much worse for everyday Americans.

After the bill passed, Ranking Member Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) said, "This continuing resolution is a blank check for Elon Musk and creates more flexibility for him to steal from the middle class, seniors, veterans, working people, small businesses and farmers to pay for tax breaks for billionaires."

DeLauro added, "Veterans will suffer with higher housing costs, poor quality of health care at the VA, and no advanced funding for treatment from exposure to toxic chemicals."

According to the latest statistics from DOGE, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs currently has 486,522 employees, 797 locations, and the total wages paid to employees currently stands at \$50.4 billion annually. According to U.S. Sen. Kristen Gillibrand (D, NY-20), Trump plans to fire 80,000 VA employees, including 20,000 veterans.

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Doug Collins spoke to Katlin Collins on CNN on Wednesday, March 26. She asked him about the potential 80,000 firings at the VA. Collins responded, "It's a goal, that's exactly what it is. Fifteen percent, you've got the 80,000 number."

Collins defended the cuts, adding, "If we get to that number that will be something we take into account that will actually improve our service to our veterans on our health care side and benefits side."

Collins then asked about the role Musk was playing with regard to the cuts at the VA. Collins replied, "Elon Musk hasn't been to the VA. We've got VA employees who are DOGE liaisons and they've been helping us look through the contracts and look through organizational structure."



Photo courtesy of Luke Graziani via X
LUKE GRAZIANI, WHO was initially fired from the James J. Peters Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, seen in this photo dated Thursday, March 20, 2025, is now back at work.

NEWS BRIEFS

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

Mt. Hope: HPD Launches Housing Lottery

NYC Department of Housing, Preservation & Development (HPD) have launched a housing lottery described as affordable for units 130 East 177th Street, a 12-story residential building in Mount Hope, The Bronx. Designed by Marin Architects and developed by HMC Inc, the structure yields 78 residential units. Available on NYC Housing Connect are 24 units for residents at 130 percent of the area median income (AMI), ranging in eligible income from \$84,309 to \$218,010. For more information, visit <https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/details/5632>.

Gibson Secures Ballot for Reelection

Democrat and incumbent Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson announced Monday, March 31, that her campaign collected and submitted more than 20,000 signatures to the NYC Board of Elections, securing her place on the Democratic primary ballot for the Bronx borough presidency primary election in June 2025. "I am deeply humbled by the overwhelming support from Bronx residents who believe in our vision for the borough," said Gibson in part.

The borough president was subsequently endorsed by 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, the largest and fastest growing healthcare union in New York and nationwide, representing over 200,000 healthcare workers in New York City, over 300,000 members in New York State, and over 450,000 members along the East Coast.

The political director for the Downstate New York region of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, Dell Smitherman, said in part, "1199SEIU is proud to support Vanessa L. Gibson for re-election as the Bronx Borough President; she is a true champion for working families with a deep and unwavering connection to the communities she represents across the Bronx."

Local Students Unveil Mural at Montefiore Einstein

Local elementary students from Throgs Neck's P.S. 72X Dr. William Dorney gathered at Montefiore Einstein's Hutchinson campus in Pelham Bay on Thursday, March 27, to unveil a new mural entitled "Celebrating the Bronx" in the hospital's Cochlear Implant Room. Created

by the school's fifth-grade students, Montefiore officials said the mural was a collaboration with "Studio in a School NYC," a visual arts organization that partners with public schools and community organizations to enrich young lives.



Photo courtesy of Montefiore-Einstein
(L TO R) STUDENTS FROM P.S. 72X, School Principal Greta Ratjen, Studio in a School's Artist Instructor, James Reynolds, and Dr. Richard Smith, professor and chair of otolaryngology at Montefiore Einstein, pose for a photo in front of a new mural at the hospital's Hutchinson campus at 1250 Waters Place, Bronx, on Thursday, March 27, 2025.

They said the mural reflects on what makes life in The Bronx special and the many reasons to be proud of being a part of the community. "Having the mural in the Cochlear Implant room is especially impactful as it brings a calming and creative presence to patients during a vulnerable period where they might learn of hearing loss or begin to hear for the first time," hospital officials said, adding that the children all received replica mugs of their artwork.

New Law Restricts Harmful Chemicals in Menstrual Products

NYS Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie (A.D. 83) and Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal (A.D. 67) announced on Thursday, March 27, the passage of a new law that makes menstrual products safer by restricting the inclusion of certain chemicals like lead, mercury and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), among others, in their production.

The legislation will restrict the inclusion of these chemicals within menstrual products, and by January 1, 2029, require the NYS Department of Health and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to set a minimum safe level for these chemicals which will give manu-

facturers guideposts to follow when dealing with substances that may not be feasible to totally eliminate from the product.

When *Norwood News* photographed some menstrual products in a Bronx store on Thursday, March 27, we found that most listed the product's ingredients. Some also included a bar code which consumers could use to find more information about the product.



Photo by Síle Moloney
A U BRAND menstrual product, seen on sale in a Bronx store on Thursday, March 27, 2025, lists the product's ingredients.

Lawsuit Filed Challenging Kingsbridge Armory RFP Selection

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

Agallas Equities announced on March 28 the filing of a lawsuit against NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC), Andrew Kimball as CEO of EDC, 8th Regiment Partners LLC, a joint venture of Madd Equities and Joy Construction, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, and Deputy Bronx Borough President Janet Peguero over what it alleges was "the controversial selection" of a rival, chosen developer for the Kingsbridge Armory redevelopment project.

The court documents allege "a troubling pattern of political interference, procedural violations, and apparent intellectual property theft that [allegedly] corrupted what should have been a fair and transparent [Request for Proposal (RFP)] public process."

Manny Tavaréz of Agallas Equities, said the filed complaint reveals how, according to Agallas Equities, "EDC [allegedly] improperly awarded the project to 8th Regiment Partners LLC [.] despite [alleged] glaring irregularities in the procurement process and compelling evidence that the winning team [allegedly] stole key elements of their proposal from rival bidder, Agallas Equities."

Agallas' lawsuit seeks to nullify the contract awarded to 8th Regiment Partners, compel disclo-

sure of all records about the selection process, refer evidence of any misconduct to city, state and federal law enforcement, and award the project through a new, transparent process.

Asked if Agallas Equities had prior formal contact with the opposing legal parties to the lawsuit before the court filing, Tavaréz said, "Yes." Tavaréz is also the principal officer of the nonprofit, International Salsa Museum Corp, which had sought to base the museum in the Armory some years ago.

The chosen development plan envisions an event venue space, sports fields, cultural and commercial space, over 25,000 square feet of community space, an educational facility, and affordable rental housing adjacent to the armory.

Norwood News reached out to the impacted parties for comment. 8th Regiment Partners said, "We are proud of the restorative plan we have put forward for the historic Kingsbridge Armory – a plan that includes many community priorities that were laid out during the public visioning process. In line with our long-standing, successful track record executing public-private projects in New York City, we look forward to continuing to work with the Bronx community over the coming months and years

to deliver the jobs, housing and economic benefits of this City-supported project."

The Office of the Bronx Borough President said in part, "It is not uncommon with large projects like this to have some litigation. There is a great deal of time and money invested in the bidding process, and only one applicant can be successful. There have been no valid claims made involving The Office of the Bronx Borough President, and it is evident that the Office was named merely in an attempt to generate news and attention."

The statement continued, "The redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory is a long-overdue investment in The Bronx, promising thousands of jobs, hundreds of affordable housing units, and numerous safe community spaces. Attempting to obstruct this development for selfish business and political reasons is nothing short of disgraceful."

An EDC representative said, "After a rigorous evaluation of all proposals, NYCEDC selected El Centro Kingsbridge's proposal, which is consistent with the values of the Kingsbridge Vision Plan and the requirements of the RFP," the department wrote. We were informed that due to pending litigation, EDC was unable to comment further.

CRIME FILE - MAJOR CRIME STSTISTICS

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



Patrol Borough: Bronx		Precinct: 046					
Comptrol Book		Week of 03/24/25 - 03/30/25					
		28 Day		Year to Date			
	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg
Murder	-100.0 %	0	4	-100.0 %	0	7	-100.0 %
Rape	300.0 %	7	2	250.0 %	11	4	175.0 %
Robbery	0.0 %	15	24	-37.5 %	76	70	8.6 %
Felony Assault	-35.3 %	74	46	60.9 %	190	173	9.8 %
Burglary	-100.0 %	10	18	-44.4 %	31	60	-48.3 %
Grand Larceny	-14.3 %	55	60	-8.3 %	156	174	-10.3 %
Grand Larceny Auto	200.0 %	23	14	64.3 %	57	48	18.8 %
Total	-5.9 %	154	166	9.5 %	521	536	-2.8 %
Patrol	-6.8 %	179	163	9.8 %	509	521	-2.3 %
Transit	0.0 %	1	1	0.0 %	3	7	-57.1 %
Housing	-100.0 %	4	4	0.0 %	9	8	12.5 %
Shooting Victims	-100.0 %	1	6	-83.3 %	2	9	-77.8 %
Shooting Incidents	-100.0 %	1	5	-80.0 %	2	8	-75.0 %
UCR Rape*	100.0 %	10	4	150.0 %	14	10	40.0 %
Other Sex Crimes	-60.0 %	8	7	14.3 %	17	22	-22.7 %
Pett Larceny	-21.6 %	68	104	-15.4 %	234	265	-11.7 %
Misd. Assault	-27.3 %	67	85	-21.2 %	202	280	-27.9 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %

* Unless otherwise noted, crime statistics reflect New York State Penal Law (NYSP/L) definitions.
* Uniformed Crime Reporting (UCR) Rape consists of all crimes defined in the FBI UCR definition of rape.

Source: NYPD

MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS for the 46th Precinct for the 28-day period ending March 30, 2025, compared to last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 46th Precinct as of March 30, 2025, compared to last year (right). This precinct covers some or all of Fordham, University Heights, Morris Heights and Mt. Hope.

Patrol Borough: Bronx		Precinct: 050					
Comptrol Book		Week of 03/24/25 - 03/30/25					
		28 Day		Year to Date			
	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg
Murder	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %
Rape	0.0 %	3	0	- %	7	1	600.0 %
Robbery	-66.7 %	7	6	16.7 %	27	41	-34.1 %
Felony Assault	33.3 %	15	16	-6.3 %	53	40	32.5 %
Burglary	300.0 %	12	10	20.0 %	31	29	6.9 %
Grand Larceny	-50.0 %	35	63	-44.4 %	112	195	-42.6 %
Grand Larceny Auto	-20.0 %	21	22	-4.5 %	56	98	-42.9 %
Total	-28.1 %	93	117	-20.5 %	266	405	-39.4 %
Patrol	-20.7 %	89	111	-19.8 %	270	386	-30.1 %
Transit	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	2	0	- %
Housing	-100.0 %	4	6	-33.3 %	14	19	-26.3 %
Shooting Victims	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %
Shooting Incidents	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %
UCR Rape*	0.0 %	3	0	- %	8	4	100.0 %
Other Sex Crimes	100.0 %	4	8	-50.0 %	9	15	-40.0 %
Pett Larceny	-33.3 %	67	82	-18.3 %	212	262	-19.1 %
Misd. Assault	-28.6 %	22	31	-29.0 %	76	77	-1.3 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %

* Unless otherwise noted, crime statistics reflect New York State Penal Law (NYSP/L) definitions.
* Uniformed Crime Reporting (UCR) Rape consists of all crimes defined in the FBI UCR definition of rape.

Source: NYPD

MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS for the 50th Precinct for the 28-day period ending March 30, 2025, compared to last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 50th Precinct as of March 30, 2025, compared to last year (right). This precinct covers some or all of Kingsbridge, Fieldston, Riverdale, Marble Hill, and Spuyten Duyvil.

CRIME FILE BY SÍLE MOLONEY



Kingsbridge Heights: Man Sought for Slashing Incident

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the person seen in the accompanying photo above who they say is sought in connection to a Kingsbridge Heights assault. Police said that on Thursday, March 27, at around 4.43 p.m. inside 263 West Kingsbridge Road, the assailant got into a dispute with a 43-year-old male victim, approaching the victim and slashing him with an unknown object.

They said the assailant then fled the scene on foot, traveling southbound on Bailey Avenue to parts unknown. "The victim sustained a minor laceration but was not hospitalized," police said. They

added that the suspect is described as male and was last seen wearing a black baseball cap, a black hooded sweatshirt, blue jeans, and white sneakers.



University Heights: Older Woman Assaulted

The NYPD is asking for the public's help finding the person seen in the accompanying screenshot above who they say is wanted in connection with a University Heights assault. Police said that on Friday, March 21, at 3 p.m. in front of 2260 University Avenue, a 63-year-old female victim was approached by an assailant who punched her in the face in

(continued on page 11)

Patrol Borough: Bronx		Precinct: 052					
Comptrol Book		Week of 03/24/25 - 03/30/25					
		28 Day		Year to Date			
	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg
Murder	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %
Rape	-100.0 %	4	6	-33.3 %	17	16	6.3 %
Robbery	125.0 %	35	26	34.6 %	84	124	-32.3 %
Felony Assault	60.0 %	74	46	60.9 %	196	155	26.5 %
Burglary	500.0 %	22	9	144.4 %	54	47	14.9 %
Grand Larceny	0.0 %	57	62	-8.1 %	195	176	10.8 %
Grand Larceny Auto	-57.1 %	17	15	13.3 %	59	85	-30.6 %
Total	23.1 %	209	164	27.4 %	605	604	0.2 %
Patrol	26.3 %	208	156	33.3 %	597	588	1.5 %
Transit	-100.0 %	1	8	-87.5 %	8	15	-46.7 %
Housing	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %
Shooting Victims	-100.0 %	1	2	-50.0 %	2	11	-81.8 %
Shooting Incidents	-100.0 %	1	2	-50.0 %	2	7	-71.4 %
UCR Rape*	-100.0 %	4	7	-42.9 %	18	23	-21.7 %
Other Sex Crimes	-100.0 %	8	12	-33.3 %	21	27	-22.2 %
Pett Larceny	-25.0 %	127	148	-14.2 %	396	489	-19.0 %
Misd. Assault	69.2 %	78	65	20.0 %	186	212	-12.3 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %
Traffic Fatalities	- %	2	0	- %	2	1	100.0 %

* Unless otherwise noted, crime statistics reflect New York State Penal Law (NYSP/L) definitions.
* Uniformed Crime Reporting (UCR) Rape consists of all crimes defined in the FBI UCR definition of rape.

Source: NYPD

MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS for the 52nd Precinct for the 28-day period ending March 30, 2025, compared to the same timeframe last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 52nd Precinct as of March 30, 2025, compared to last year (right). This precinct covers some or all of Bedford Park, Fordham, Kingsbridge, Norwood, Bronx Park, and University Heights.

CALL US AT (929) 318 6595 TO ADVERTISE

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY ARIEL PACHECO



Prom Dress Donations

The Tracey Towers Tenants Association President Jean Hill and the 52nd Precinct Community Council President Brenda Caldwell-Paris are accepting prom dress donations on Saturday, April 5, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Tracey Towers Community Room B, 40 Mosholu Parkway South, Bronx. Dresses will be distributed to the Bronx District Attorney's Office as part of a wider prom dress collection. For more information, call (718) 220-5824.

Photography Workshop

Green Canvas Productions is hosting a photography workshop on Saturday, May 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Bryan Park East, at Fordham Road & East Kingsbridge Road, Bronx, NY 10458. For more information, visit <https://green-canvasproductions.com>.

Resource Fair

P.S. / M.S. 20, in partnership with the Office of Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson and the Mosholu

Montefiore Community Center, is hosting The Innovative Resource Fair on Friday, May 16, from noon to 3 p.m. at 3050 Webster Ave, Bronx, NY 10467. Free resources will be available on education, health care services, basic needs, employment, food resources, and more. For more information, email IFischer@schools.nyc.gov.

Chancellor's Day Holiday Trip

Registration is open for the Mosholu Montefiore Community Center Chancellor's Day Holiday Trip on Thursday, June 6, from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. for kids ages 5 through 12. The cost is \$135. Join for a fun adventure at Big Kahuna's Water Park. To register and find more information, visit https://mmcc.campmanagement.com/p/request_for_info_m.php?action=enroll.

Applications Open for Paid Internship Program

Apply now for the Dr. Beverly J. Robinson Community Folk Culture Internship Program for youth ages 14-21. This

is a 5-week, paid summer internship that gives a chance to develop skills while working with artists and community leaders. The internship runs from July 8 through Aug. 8. The application deadline is April 30. For more information, call (718) 652-6256.

Give Feedback on Citi Bike Station Locations in Bronx Community District 7

Citi Bike service is expanding in Norwood and Riverdale beginning Fall 2025. An online feedback portal is available for residents to identify locations where they would like as well as where they would *not* like to see Citi Bike locations. The portal is open until mid-April. For more information, visit <https://nycdotprojects.info/project-feedback-map/suggest-station-bronx-cb7-cb8>.

Primary Election Day June 24, 2025

Primary Election Day in New York is Tuesday, June 24. Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Early Voting runs from June 14-22. To be eligible to register to vote, a

person must be a U.S. citizen; be 18 years old on June 24; a New York State resident for at least 30 days before the election; not be in prison for a felony conviction; not be adjudged mentally incompetent by a court; and not claim the right to vote elsewhere. The last day to register to vote in person is June 14, and applications to register to vote by mail must also be received by June 14. For more information, visit <https://vote.gov/register/new-york>.

Affordable Housing Lotteries

NYC Department of Housing, Preservation and Development (HPD) has open affordable housing lotteries for housing units in The Bronx, including the following:

- 3095 Webster Avenue, with a deadline of April 7
- 62-66 West Tremont Avenue, with a deadline of April 21
- 3641 Johnson Avenue, with a deadline of March 24

Visit <https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/searchlotteries> for more information.

Out & About

Compiled by ARIEL PACHECO

EVENTS

Join Woodlawn Cemetery and Conservatory for a book sale, **Pages of the Past** on Sunday, April 6, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 4199 Webster Avenue, Bronx, NY 10470. This will be a community day packed with history, books, and community. Explore a treasure trove of books on subjects like the biographies of celebrated people buried at Woodlawn, New York history, American cemeteries, jazz, vaudeville and early Broadway, and the Gilded Age. For more information, call (718) 920-0500.

The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts presents **Peking Acrobats** on Saturday, April 5, at 6 p.m. at 250 Bedford Park Boulevard West, Bronx, NY 10468. The Peking Acrobats perform daring maneuvers and display their technical prowess at trick-cycling,

precision tumbling, juggling, somersaulting, and gymnastics. They are often accompanied by live musicians who play traditional Chinese instruments. For more information and to purchase tickets, call (718) 960-8000.

The Bronx Historical Society presents the exhibit **Historias: The Stories Behind the Images** until Sunday, April 6, at 3266 Bainbridge Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467. This exhibit is an interactive multimedia exhibition that explores the collective's early documentary photographs of The Bronx as well as those of friends and colleagues. For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, NY 10458, is hosting **"The Orchid Show: Mexican Modernism"** until Sunday, April 27, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Take a journey where the fusion of tradition and contemporary artistry takes center stage amid awe-inspiring displays of orchids. Tickets and more information can be found

at <https://www.nybg.org/>.

LITERATURE

Join Norwood Community Library for its first-ever, in-person **Book Club** on Saturday, April 19, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. To receive an invitation and a book, dm @ [norwoodcommunitylibrary](https://www.instagram.com/norwoodcommunitylibrary) on Instagram.

KIDS

Join the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center for its annual **Spring Egg Hunt** on Saturday, April 19, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 3225 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467. There will be egg races, potato sack races, arts & crafts, Easter Bunny pictures, and more. For more information, call (718) 543-8672.

Join Mosholu Public Library at 285 East 205th Street, Bronx, NY 10467, for **Game Day** on Friday, April 4, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Show off your skills and challenge your friends to gaming matches and tournaments. The event is geared at teens ages 13 to 18. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

FAMILY

Join the St. James Recreation Center for **Senior Games** on Friday, April 4, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 2530 Jerome Ave, Bronx, NY 10468. Participate in billiards, chess, bingo, card games, dominoes, and socialize with others. For more information, call (718) 367-3657.

The Jerome Park Library is hosting a **Family Movie Day** on Saturday, April 12, at noon at 118 Eames Place, Bronx, NY 10468. Join for a viewing of "Mulan" and refreshments, followed by an arts and crafts activity. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

MOVEMENT

Join NYC Parks for **Gentle Flow Yoga** on Thursday, April 17, from 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. at the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, 3225 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467. End your day with a gentle, low-impact practice to help improve flexibility, release tension, and energize the body. This event is ideal for all levels. For more information, call (718) 543-8672.

CRIME FILE - CONTINUED

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



(continued from page 8)

an unprovoked attack. They said the victim lost consciousness and sustained a serious injury to her nose. They said the assailant fled the location on foot to parts unknown.

Edenwald: Kingsbridge Heights Man Arrested in Murder Case

The NYPD said a Kingsbridge Heights man is one of four arrested for murder after a 32-year-old man was fatally shot in Edenwald on Thursday, March 20. They said the incident occurred at around 4.05 p.m. when police responded to a 911 call regarding a man who had been shot inside 1101 East 231st Street. "Upon arrival, a 32-year-old male was discovered unconscious and unresponsive with gunshot wounds to the head and abdomen," police said. They said EMS responded and transported the aided male to NYC Health and Hospitals/Jacobi where he succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased. Police said there were no initial arrests, and the investigation remains ongoing.

The deceased was identified as Xavier Goodson, 32, of Edenwald. On Saturday, March 22, the NYPD said that pursuant to an ongoing investigation, Jahiem Pasco, 22, of Williamsbridge, Jaire Drakes, 20, of Edenwald, Naesean Jackson, 20, of Bridgeport, CT, and Kelvin Woods, 20, of Kingsbridge Heights were arrested on Friday, March 21, in The Bronx. They said they were each charged with second-degree murder, first-degree manslaughter, and two counts each of criminal possession of a weapon in the second degree. They are all presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

threw a glass bottle at the victim, causing lacerations to the right hand, and attempted to forcibly remove a necklace for him," police said. They added that the group then fled on foot, traveling southbound along Jerome Avenue, and EMS responded and transported the victim to St. Barnabas Hospital in stable condition.

University Heights: Male Driver Dies in Hit & Run Car Crash

Police said a 39-year-old man has died following a hit & run collision in University Heights. They said the incident occurred on Saturday, March 22, at around 3.46 a.m. when police responded to a 911 call regarding a vehicle collision in the vicinity of the Major Deegan Expressway and West Fordham Road. "Further investigation by the NYPD Highway District's Collision Investigation Squad determined that a 39-year-old male was operating a disabled Ford Crown Victoria sedan on the southbound Major Deegan Expressway," police said. "The vehicle was stopped when a Mercedes-Benz CLS 450 sedan that was traveling southbound on the Major Deegan Expressway, collided with the rear of the Ford."

Police said EMS responded to the location and transported the 39-year-old male driver to St. Barnabas Hospital in critical condition, where he was later pronounced deceased. They said the unidentified driver of the Mercedes-Benz fled the location on foot, there were no arrests, and the investigation remains ongoing by the NYPD Highway District's Collision Investigation Squad. Police said the deceased was identified as Darryl Mathis, 39, of Elizabeth, NJ. With collision investigations, the NYPD said police handle all criminal aspects of the investigation, while NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) reviews the street design at the locations of such crashes.

PA Man Busted for Gun Possession in Norwood

A Pennsylvania man is facing illegal gun possession charges after he was apparently chased down by police, then disarmed and apprehended. The NYPD said the incident unfolded by East 211th Street and Perry Avenue in Norwood on Monday, March 17, at 9.50 p.m. "Pursuant to an ongoing investigation, the following individual was arrested and charged on March 17," police said, identifying Unique Johnson, 19, of Stroudsburg, PA, who they said was charged with criminal possession of a weapon.

According to Breaking News Network, police had reportedly been in pursuit of two suspects, and alleged one suspect was subsequently removed to a local hospital by EMS. However, when *Norwood News* queried this with emergency services, they did not immediately respond to our request and therefore, we are unable to confirm if removal of a suspect to a hospital took place or not. We are following up and will share any updates we receive.

Meanwhile, on March 26, the Su-

preme Court of the United States upheld the U.S. Agency for Tobacco & Firearms (ATF)'s ghost gun rule, affirming that ghost gun kits are legally firearms, which means they must have serial numbers, and can only be sold by licensed sellers after a background check. As reported, ghost guns are firearms/weapons, the component parts of which can be purchased online and assembled at home without serial numbers.



Bedford Park: Man Sought for Home Robbery

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the person seen in the accompanying screenshot below who they say is wanted in connection to a burglary that occurred in Bedford Park. Police said that on Saturday, March 22, at around 2.20 a.m., an unidentified person entered a residential building in the vicinity of Villa Avenue and East 204th Street. They said the person stole a bicycle and construction tools before fleeing the location on foot to parts unknown.



Fordham Manor: Driver Sought for Alleged Assault

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the person driving the vehicle seen in the accompanying photo above who they say is wanted in connection to an assault that occurred in Fordham Manor. Police said that on Tuesday, March 18, at around 8.20 p.m., police attempted to conduct a lawful car stop for an unidentified vehicle, whose driver ran a red light in the vicinity of West Fordham Road and Grand Avenue.

They said the person driving a gray, four-door, sedan Honda Accord bearing

North Carolina plate #LDH1987 struck a marked police vehicle's passenger side door while attempting to flee from the NYPD. "The vehicle fled the location, traveling eastbound on West Fordham Road to parts unknown," police said, adding that the police officers occupying the vehicle sustained minor injuries and were taken to an area hospital in stable condition.



Norwood: Person Sought for Theft in Montefiore Medical Center

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the person seen in the accompanying photo above who they say is wanted in connection to a theft that occurred in Norwood. Police said that on Thursday, March 6, at around 1.50 p.m., a thief entered an office inside Montefiore Hospital located at 111 East 210th Street. They said there, the person stole a wallet belonging to a 52-year-old female victim, which contained some credit cards. They said the thief then fled on foot to parts unknown.

Police said the thief later used the victim's credit cards to make unauthorized transactions totaling around \$800 at various locations. They said no injuries were reported during the incident, and added that the person sought is described as female, has a dark complexion, glasses, and black hair. They said she was last seen wearing a gray jacket, a burgundy shirt, light-colored pants, white sneakers, and was carrying an apple laptop.

Norwood: Two Sought for Slashing of Teen

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the two people seen in the accompanying photos on page 12 who they say are wanted in connection with a robbery that occurred in Norwood. They said that on Monday, March 10, at around 5 p.m. inside 3325 Reservoir Oval West, an 18-year-old male victim was approached by the two assailants who displayed a sharp object, slashed the victim about the body and removed his chain. They said the two then fled southbound on Decatur Avenue to

(continued on page 12)



Kingsbridge Heights: Group Sought for Assault & Robbery of Man

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the person seen in the accompanying screenshot above who they say is wanted in connection with an attempted robbery that occurred in Kingsbridge Heights. Police said that on Saturday, March 15, at around 3.36 a.m. at the intersection of West 195th Street and Jerome Avenue, a 40-year-old male victim was approached by three unidentified people.

"The individuals, acting in concert,

The New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

Notice of Needs Assessment Public Comment Period To Provide for Input on the Development of The New York State Plan for the 2025-2026 Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

In accordance with the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, as amended, the State of New York provides for input on the development of the 2025-2026 New York State Plan for the Home Energy Assistance Program.

The current 2024-2025 HEAP State Plan may be found online: <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/stateplan.asp>

Comments:

Written, e-mailed, or faxed comments on the development of the 2025-2026 New York State Home Energy Assistance Program State Plan will be accepted through close of business on April 30, 2025. Comments must be received by the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 30, 2025, to be included in the Needs Assessment process.

Written comments should be addressed to:

**NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
HEAP Bureau
40 North Pearl Street, 11B
Albany, New York 12243**

E-mailed comments should be sent to:

NYSHEAP@otda.ny.gov

Faxed comments should be sent to:

**NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
HEAP Bureau
(518) 473-0497**

**The needs assessment period will include public hearings to submit verbal comment.
Four public hearings will be held online via Webex:**

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

- 10:00am to 11:00am via WebEx

To attend the April 15, 2025, 10:00am to 11:00am WebEx please use the following link:

<https://meetny-gov.webex.com/meetny-gov/j.php?MTID=m6450737a7da042239d1bc35ad025c556>

To join the April 15, 2025, 10:00am to 11:00am WebEx using audio only, please dial 1-929-251-9612 and enter the Event number:
2818 229 0847

- 5:00pm to 6:00pm via WebEx

To attend the April 15, 2025, 5:00pm to 6:00pm WebEx please use the following link:

<https://meetny-gov.webex.com/meetny-gov/j.php?MTID=mdef3161423f77da6543a98f1226c2593>

To join the April 15, 2025, 5:00pm to 6:00pm WebEx using audio only, please dial 1-929-251-9612 and enter the Event number:
2828 913 0049

Thursday, April 17, 2025

- 10:00am to 11:00am via WebEx

To attend the April 17, 2025, 10:00am to 11:00am WebEx please use the following link:

<https://meetny-gov.webex.com/meetny-gov/j.php?MTID=m9027f8494e6d94bd0b5b6e3bd61be9b4>

To join the April 17, 2025, 10:00am to 11:00am WebEx using audio only, please dial 1-929-251-9612 and enter the Event number:
2819 609 4125

- 5:00pm to 6:00pm via WebEx

To attend the April 17, 2025, 5:00pm to 6:00pm WebEx please use the following link:

<https://meetny-gov.webex.com/meetny-gov/j.php?MTID=m30014476cabfded0bafd33d0c4ce4b6c>

To join the April 17, 2025, 5:00pm to 6:00pm WebEx using audio only, please dial 1-929-251-9612 and enter the Event number:
2825 755 3655

Individuals and organizations wishing to present their views must limit their testimony to five minutes and may submit a written copy of their statement. Additional time may be allotted after all participants have had a chance to provide oral comments. Any comments exceeding five minutes may also be submitted by mail, email, or fax.

CRIME FILE - CONTINUED

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



(continued from page 10)

parts unknown.

Police said the victim sustained multiple lacerations to the neck and shoulder and was transported by private means to Montefiore Medical Center in Norwood in stable condition. They said the first suspect is described as male, has a light complexion and a slim build, and was last seen wearing a black, hooded sweatshirt, light-colored jeans, white sneakers, and a black face-mask. They said the second suspect is also

described as male, has a light complexion and a slim build, and was last seen wearing a red, hooded sweatshirt, black pants and black 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.



Understanding Public Health & Celebrating its Achievements

By LIZ SPURRELL-HUSS

This year marks the 30th anniversary of National Public Health Week, (<https://www.nphw.org/>), which takes place from April 7-13, 2025. This year's theme is "It Starts Here." Each day of the week, the American Public Health Association (APHA) will identify ways that each of us can make a difference. Think of public health as "an invisible force that protects our safety and wellbeing" as we live, work and enjoy life. Public health is about much more than restaurant inspections!

The 30th anniversary of National Public Health Week is an opportunity to celebrate the many public health achievements reached over the past several decades. These include large declines in vaccine-preventable dis-

eases like rotavirus, tetanus, pertussis, measles and more.

It also includes reductions in tobacco use by outlawing indoor smoking, banning flavored cigarettes, and restricting tobacco access from young people. We can also celebrate declines in motor vehicle deaths due to safer roadways and vehicles, better licensing policies for teens, and safety laws around the use of seatbelts and child car seats.

In recognition of National Public Health Week, here are a few ways we can become involved in public health efforts. Remember, **it starts with you!**

Reach Out to Neighbors

Having a strong community helps us to be and stay healthier for longer. Being a good neighbor could mean offering to run errands for someone with limited mobility or someone who has a new baby. Even just checking in to say hello is a nice thing to do!

Support Mental Health and Wellbeing

If you or someone you know needs mental health services, contact the national helpline (<https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/helplines/national-helpline>) at 1-800-662-HELP. You can also

call, text, or chat 988 to connect with a trained counselor through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at <https://988lifeline.org/current-events/the-lifeline-and-988/>.

You can also check out the website of the National Alliance on Mental Illness at <https://www.nami.org/> to learn more about mental health.

It starts with Communities and Neighborhoods!

Promote Physical Activity and Healthy Eating

Another way to strengthen community bonds is to participate in local physical activities, like Shape Up NYC, walking challenges and walking groups, charity walks or participating in online fitness classes together.

In your place of work, school, or faith community, advocate for policies and practices that support health. For example, at work, challenge your co-workers to commit to drinking no-sugar beverages for the next month. Or within your faith community, advocate to include fruits and vegetables at all events for the next six months.

Becoming involved in a community garden helps to increase access to healthy foods in a community and enhances social connections.

Improve Public Spaces in Your Community

Parks and green spaces foster healthy communities for all. Consider volunteering with NYC Parks in your area to do cleaning, trail maintenance, or guiding and orienting visitors.

Get to know your local elected officials and ask them to support legislation that improves community infrastructure, including parks, sidewalks, and bike lanes.

It Starts with City & State

Build a Strong Public Health Infrastructure

Work with public health officials, healthcare providers, educators, and business owners to champion legislation that supports safe, affordable housing, access to healthy food, safe and reliable transportation, equal access in education, and employment opportunities for all.

This Public Health Week, get to know the "invisible force" of public health! When public health is a priority at every level of society, we all have the opportunity to thrive.

Liz Spurrell-Huss, MSW, MPH is director of community & population health at Montefiore Health System

Bomb Squad Called to Bedford Park Home to Remove Weapons

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Police said the NYPD Bomb Squad were called to a Bedford Park residential building on Saturday, March 29, to remove some weapons reportedly discovered inside an apartment.

Around four to five different NYPD vehicles were seen on Saturday at around 6.30 p.m. including a bomb squad van and an emergency services vehicle, outside 3130 Grand Concourse by East 205th Street, where a section of the Grand Concourse was already cordoned off for roadworks.

When contacted, the NYPD said that a person had died in one of the apartments earlier this month and when "they" were cleaning out the apartment, they located some

weapons, and police were called to dispose of them. Asked what type of weapons, police said they were guns.

Some people who may have been residents of the building were seen sitting at the building's entrance during the operation. Prior to calling the NYPD press office to ask for the reason for the police presence at the building, Norwood News asked two different people at the scene if they knew what had happened but neither had any information.

According to NYPD, 21,088 guns have been removed from the City's streets since the beginning of the Adams administration on Jan. 1, 2022, while 1,328 guns have been taken off the City's streets since Jan. 1, this year.



Photo by Síle Moloney

AROUND FOUR TO five different NYPD vehicles were seen on Saturday, March 29, 2025, at around 6.30 p.m. including a bomb squad van and an emergency services vehicle, outside 3130 Grand Concourse by East 205th Street in Bedford Park, after police said they were notified to remove some guns found inside an apartment in the building.

Seven Major Felony Offenses

OFFENSE	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
RAPE	1525	1351	1299	1205	1373	1420	1445	1379	1352	1438	1436	1449	1794	1755	1427	1491	1617	1456	1748
ROBBERY	23739	21809	22401	18601	19486	19717	20144	19126	16539	16931	15500	13856	12913	13371	13106	13031	17411	16910	16580
FELONY ASSAULT	17309	17493	16284	16773	16956	16482	19381	20297	20207	20270	20847	20052	20208	20898	20572	22835	26063	27876	29481
BURGLARY	23143	21762	20725	19430	19600	18720	19168	17429	16705	15125	12960	12663	11687	10783	15479	12811	15746	13773	13070
GRAND LARCENY	49675	44934	44342	39580	37835	38501	42497	45368	43602	44026	44279	43150	43558	43250	35505	40870	51565	50588	48450
GRAND LARCENY OF MOTOR VEHICLE	15745	13174	12482	10670	10220	9314	8693	7400	7964	7332	6327	5676	5426	5430	6037	10415	13749	16795	14199
TOTAL SEVEN MAJOR FELONY OFFENSES	123,002	111,000	111,320	106,726	109,118	108,689	111,147	111,326	106,722	106,463	101,718	96,688	96,943	95,696	96,993	122,741	126,689	126,798	123,995

Source: NYPD

HISTORICAL MAJOR FELONY Crime date in New York City over the last two decades approximately.



Letters To The Editor

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

Bronx DA Has it All Wrong

Ms. Darcel Clark, the Bronx District Attorney (DA) testified before the NYC Council recently that she does not want to see the "Broken Windows" policy of policing used (again) to address quality of life issue such as urinating in public or fare evasion, but rather address the root causes of crime. Ms. Clark failed to state what those root causes are. Let me help her.

It's the breakdown of the all-American family where Mom and Dad sit down before meals and set an example by saying Grace before eating. It's a united family that reads the Good Book, not Facebook, which is the Holy Bible. It's the father who sets the example of how to treat a woman and be a provider for his family. It's the family that attends Church, Synagogue or a Muslim Temple on a weekly basis together. In that family, youngsters learn to obey the law and that there are consequences if you litter, urinate in public, sell illegal drugs or shoplift. It's knowing what the 10 Commandments are on such topics as stealing or committing adultery, or murder.

Mc. Clark, if you want to address the root causes of crime, I suggest you put a copy of the 10 Commandments up in front of the Bronx Courthouse or in your Office and spread the word about it.

**Richard Marias,
Norwood**

Editor's Note: According to common-jstice.org, the so-called "broken windows" policy of policing was popularized in the 1990s by former NYC Mayor Rudy Giuliani. "It is based on the theory that visible signs of disorder, such as a broken window, encourages a decline in respect towards the law, people's rights, and especially property," a site extract reads. "Ultimately, the fear is that crime will become contagious and endemic in the urban environment. Under Giuliani, the NYPD identified neighborhoods in which to crack down on minor crimes."

The site extract continues, "Not only did broken windows policing fail to reduce crime, but it also provided cover for a deliberate targeting of Black and brown communities. Eventoday, plainclothes and anti-gun police units, which were deemed unconstitutional, and disbanded in 2020, have made a return to Harlem. A recent report has shown that at least one in four stops are unconstitutional, and that 97 percent of those stopped are Black and / or Latin, despite making up less than half of New York City's population."

The attached chart shows historical major felony crime data in New York City over the last two decades approximately.

Hochul's Proposed Mask Restrictions

I write this letter regarding Gov. Hochul's proposed mask ban, which she seeks to bundle into New York's upcoming

state budget (due to be finalized by March 31). As a disabled Jewish woman who engages in activism, I find the possible codification of this measure to be a horrific violation of human and civil rights, in multiple ways:

Firstly, all humans have a right to protect their health, and one of the essential tools to do so is masking (preferably N95). COVID-19 is still prevalent, as are the measles, H5N1, and other viruses. Even if they weren't, physical vulnerabilities differ from person to person.

There are New Yorkers who are asthmatic, immuno-suppressed, aged, have vulnerable family members at home, and/or simply wish to take precautions from viral infections and/or air pollution.

They must be free to do so without the burden of having to find a doctor to document their preference, or to "convince" an inherently unqualified police officer that their health concerns are "justified."

Secondly, over the last year, I, as a Jewish woman, have found myself, and friends, repeatedly threatened at protests by Israeli supporters who wished death and sexual assault on us. This is commonplace and a danger we have a RIGHT to protect ourselves against, with face coverings.

The proposed measure would empower such verbally violent individuals to "dox," harass, and potentially act upon threats. Though ironically (and inaccurately) framed as a "safety" measure, it would put thousands in unnecessary danger. As such, it is unacceptable.

I passionately urge all voters to call Hochul and their respective state representatives to oppose the mask ban. Such is a must to defend healthcare, safety, and civil rights. For more information on the bill and other details, I recommend readers visit "Jews for Mask Rights" at <https://www.jewsformaskrights.com>.

**J.Goodman,
Norwood**

Editor's Note:

The Times Union reported that as the finalization of NYS Budget for Financial Year 2026 was missed on March 31, the State Legislature agreed to pass an extender that will keep state workers paid and the government funded through Thursday, April 3. However, the outlet reported that lawmakers expect to miss that deadline too.

NYC Mayor Eric Adams previously spoke about how police investigations into various store robberies, for example, are more difficult to solve when perpetrators wear masks as the resulting security footage doesn't help in identifying those committing the robberies.

Please send all letters to the editor, along with supporting hyperlinked sources, to norwoodnews@norwoodnews.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.

The Return of the Rollin' Colon

By SÍLE MOLONEY

The Rollin' Colon, a 10-foot-high inflatable colon, returned to Montefiore Einstein on Friday, March 28, to educate the community about colorectal cancer. Montefiore Einstein officials said the event, highlighting Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, which takes place each March, was interactive and the goal was to educate Bronx residents on how to prevent and treat the disease.

"We closed out Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month with the Rollin' Colon!" Montefiore Einstein officials later wrote on X. "Attendees stepped inside an oversized inflatable colon to see firsthand why early detection matters and how new screening options are making it easier."

The hospital team said colorectal cancer is on the rise in younger populations and represents the second-leading cause of cancer death in New York City. They said the event offered access to the hospital's clinical

team, as well as helpful resources and literature on the importance of early colorectal cancer detection and treatment.

The team stressed that unlike other cancer screening tests, colonoscopies are the only form of cancer screening where during screening, early stages of cancer can be both detected and removed before the cancer spreads. Montefiore Einstein officials said its Comprehensive Cancer Center offers the most advanced colon cancer care, support and access to clinical trials, in the Bronx community.

They added that newer initiatives discussed at the event included FIT testing i.e. safe painless tests shared with patients to look for signs of colorectal cancer at Montefiore Einstein primary care locations. Others included AI-powered, virtual patient navigators that engage people missing their colonoscopy appointments, and virtual colonoscopies, which they said are now covered by Medicare.



Photo courtesy of Montefiore Einstein
MONTEFIORE EINSTEIN TEAM members pose with the Rollin' Colon, a 10-foot high, inflatable colon, on Friday, March 28, at a Montefiore Einstein campus to educate the community about colorectal cancer.



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Public and Community Meetings

The 52nd PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL meeting usually takes place on third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. either in person or on Zoom. 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 Tuesday, April 22, at 6.30 p.m. at Monroe University's King Hall, Mintz Auditorium, 2501 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, NY 10468. 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 (CB8) full board (hybrid) meeting will be held Tuesday, April 8, at 7 p.m. at the Riverdale Y, 5625 Arlington Avenue, Bronx. Contact BX08@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list.

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



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MDG Design + Construction is currently seeking New York City Housing Authority Section 3 Certified Businesses for Eastchester Gardens project located in the Bronx, NY.

Section 3 Certified Businesses are invited to submit a resume for the work in the following trades:

- Metals - Security Gates; Stairs
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- Masonry
- Roofing
- ACM - Asbestos
- Elevator
- Plumbing
- Cabinets and Countertops
- Interiors - Carpentry
- Sitework-Landscaping

Eligible businesses may need to demonstrate that they are responsible and have the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of proposed contracts.

If you would like to receive the Bid Package, please identify trade listed above that you would like to bid for and email to Ana Lopez at alopez@mdgny.com. Please see the Bid Package Documents for more information.

National Honors Society Grows

(continued from page 1)

ing field," she said.

Smiling proudly at the honorees, Goring said the school's students had strengths in many areas, mentioning athletes, artists, performers, and comedians. "But the starting element that distinguishes someone as eligible to apply for NHS is scholarship," she said.

She continued, "This is first and foremost an organization that believes in intellectual achievement, and it is not enough to be bright. You have to be committed to participating in class, to doing your work, to performing well on exams. This is the culmination of academic skills, as well as the drive to achieve."

Goring added, "Still, without being good people, without character, and without the calling to serve your community and others, you would not be standing here today. We are happy that you have integrity, as well as intellect, and we are proud that you represent our school."

The four pillars of the Society: scholarship, service, leadership and character were described by various students and "The Road Not Taken," by Robert Frost was also recited. Assistant Principal Tyrone Iton thanked all faculty members for supporting the students with their studies. The ceremony program was put together by Goring, Iton, Lisa Coxson, AP, and Rosa Rodriguez, parent coordinator.

The new inductees are Lia Baez, Yeromi Dela Cruz, Torei Dembele, Mariana Devis, Eurin Hernandez Lopez, Ricardo Ives, Ermin Kolasinac, Rylan Martinez, Robinson Mata, Thomas Ozuna, Julyana

Patricio, Jamar Rowe, Bruce Sanchez, Jayrie Sanchez, Jonel Shal-Aponte, Najaye Smith, and Mariel Tejada.

Goring concluded, "Congratulations to all of you on being chosen! It is truly a privilege and an honor to welcome you to our chapter of the National Honor Society!"

Afterwards, we spoke to Jamar, dressed in a smart black suit for the occasion, and accompanied by his proud mother, Griselda. "It feels good to have an achievement that's mine, that no one helped me with," he said. "Like I did this on my own."

He continued, "I'm a very independent young man. I like doing things on my own. I don't like asking for help and for this, I did it all on my own. No one helped me. I did all the interviews. I did everything by myself. Only thing my mom helped me with was dressing me!"

Jamar said he was studying criminal law in school, and the honor was for his overall studies, including having an above average GPA. "I'm a very, I guess, above-average kid for my grade," he said, adding that eventually he would like to study to become a psychiatrist.

We also spoke to Jamar's buddy, Bruce, who told us he wants to ultimately study finance, as he's good with numbers. "I really enjoy my math class, and I really enjoy working with money and numbers, so I think finance would be the best situation for me."

Of the honors, Bruce said, "It's a big achievement for me. I'm very happy, very glad to be here, very excited, and very glad to make my parents proud, and especially the friends that helped me to reach here. I've had a lot of support throughout the years. I've had a lot of people help me. It's been a struggle, especially for the first few years, recovering from COVID and things like that."

He continued, "I'm a really social



Photo by Sile Moloney

SOME OF THE students at the Bronx School of Law and Finance, located at 99 Terrace View Avenue in The Bronx, who were inducted into the National Honor Society on March 23, 2025, pose for a photo after the ceremony was held at the school with Assistant Principal, Tyrone Iton.

person so COVID really brought me down, but recovering and now doing better, and feeling myself, and seeing myself grow as a person is really one of the most amazing things I've ever done, seeing all my friends from freshman to now junior year, seeing them grow, it really has been amazing, especially seeing myself grow."

Bruce added, "At least, I'm able to do something great. Knowing that will really be an amazing accomplishment, and knowing that will also help me to grow in the future, and hopefully be amazing and great, and hopefully leave a footprint in this world."

Asked if he had any words of advice for those who might be struggling in school, he said, "It's all a mental game, honestly, so you have to be calm, calm-minded to think through the decisions you make, and whether the situations you're going through are really solv-

able, and if they are, then try to change and be better. Try to promise yourself, to hold it within yourself to be accountable, and to do the things that you want to do, and to change and be better."

Bruce continued, "Because you want to want it to change, because if you don't want to, and you stay struggling, then it's not going to change and it's going to stay the same, because if you want change, and you're really going to work towards it and put in the work, then you can accomplish anything."

We also spoke with Eurin, also a friend of Jamar and Bruce, who said, "I'm honored to be a Honors Society [honoree]. It takes a lot of effort to get in here. You got to put in the hard work. You got to stay consistent, and for anyone who needs tips out there, I just say, 'Focus on what you got to do, and really try to work on yourself and be a better you every single day.'"



Photo by Sile Moloney

DR JESSICA GORING, principal of the Bronx School of Law and Finance, located at 99 Terrace View Avenue in The Bronx on the JFK campus, presides over a ceremony for students inducted into the National Honor Society on March 23, 2025.



Photo by Sile Moloney

JAMMAR ROWE AND his mom, Griselda, pose for a photo with Assistant Principal of the Bronx School of Law and Finance, Tyrone Iton, located at 99 Terrace View Avenue in The Bronx, after Jamar was inducted into the National Honor Society on March 23, 2025, during a ceremony held at the school.

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