



# NORWOOD NEWS

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Screenshot by Sile Moloney

**STATE SEN. GUSTAVO** Rivera (S.D. 33) joins Dr. Betty Kolod, chair of PNHP NY Metro, (center) and Dr. Imam Hasan, primary care physician in The Bronx and health justice steering committee leader with NWBCCC, in calling for the passage of the NY Health Act during the 52nd anniversary of the Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition, now renamed as Our Bronx, at Lehman College on Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026.

**By SILE MOLONEY**

State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33) joined two Bronx-based doctors at an event at Lehman College on Saturday, Feb. 28, as he continued his campaign to urge Bronxites to call on their other elected representatives to become champions of The New York Health

Act and ensure its passage during the current State legislative session in Albany.

Rivera was speaking at the 52nd anniversary of the founding of the nonprofit, Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition (NWBCCC), which announced its new name, "Our Bronx," at the

event. "Throughout my 15 years in office, my team and the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition have worked in lock step to invest in our people and address our borough's most pressing concerns," Rivera said.

He continued, "I could not be prouder to partner with

them as they grow into a borough-wide force as Our Bronx. This moment demands urgent state action around healthcare, an issue that Bronxites feel more than other New Yorkers, as they have struggled with barriers to care and high out-of-pocket costs

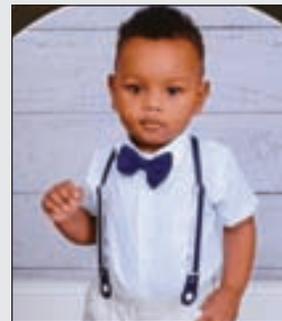
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## Vol. 39, No. 5

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# Torres Hosts Nancy Pelosi at NYBG

By SILE MOLONEY

Rep. Ritchie Torres (NY-15) welcomed Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi (CA-11) back to The Bronx and to the New York Botanical Garden for a fireside chat on Sunday, March 1, to mark the beginning of Women's History Month, and to recognize various women in public service.

His team said the event brought together local leaders and residents from across the borough for a discussion about leadership at the highest levels of government. They said it focused on Pelosi's tenure as the former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and on her journey to breaking one of the highest glass ceilings in American politics.

The conversation covered Pelosi's path to Congress, including her decision to run at age 47 after raising five children, and her rise to the speakership. It also covered what it takes to lead a closely divided House, where margins are tight and every vote matters. Pelosi discussed the realities of building support for major legislation, managing negotiations that can shift by the hour, and on maintaining caucus unity under pressure.

"Speaker Pelosi's leadership of House Democrats marked a historic and consequential moment in the history of this nation," said Torres. "As the first woman to serve as speaker, she assumed a role no woman had previously held and did so with the authority and command of the institution. She led through closely divided majorities and significant legislative fights, such as the painstaking negotiations over the Affordable Care Act."

He added, "She secured votes when the margin for error was slim and moved legislation during moments of national consequence. Her tenure set a new precedent for leadership in the House, and she will be remembered for the immense good she delivered for the American people."

The program also included recognition of various Bronx women whose careers, Torres said, reflect long-term public service. Randi Martos, a lifelong Bronxite who grew up in Riverdale and attended local public schools, was honored for decades of civic and political leadership. She served as female Demo-



Photo courtesy of the Office of Congressman Ritchie Torres

**REP. RITCHIE TORRES** (NY-15) welcomes Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi (CA-11) to the New York Botanical Garden for a fireside chat on Sunday, March 1, 2026, to mark the beginning of Women's History Month.



Photo courtesy of the Office of Congressman Ritchie Torres

**REP. RITCHIE TORRES** (NY-15), right, welcomes Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi (CA-11), second from right, to the New York Botanical Garden for a fireside chat on Sunday, March 1, 2026, to mark the beginning of Women's History Month. Also pictured are City Council Speaker Julie Menin (C.D. 5), center Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81), left, and Assemblyman Landon Dais (A.D. 77), second from left.

cratic district leader for the 81st assembly district from 2006 to 2022 and held senior roles in state government overseeing legislative and district operations. Torres' team said she helped lead the effort that resulted in the creation of The Riverdale Kingsbridge Academy and later became the longest-serving Parents Association President in the school's history.

Torres' team said Miguelina Camilo was recognized for a legal and public service career "rooted in The Bronx and the Dominican community." They said, and as we reported when Camilo ran for State Senate in 2022, that she is the first in her family to graduate from college and become a lawyer. They said she has also held senior positions in City and State government, including serving as counsel to the speaker of the State Assembly, Carl Heastie (A.D. 83) and as an NYC Board of Elections commissioner. As reported, she currently serves as chief of staff to City Council Speaker Julie Menin (C.D. 5), becoming the first woman and first Latina to hold that position.

Torres' team said Simone A. Jones was also honored "for her leadership in city government and political strategy." As reported, she is currently deputy chief of staff and chief equity officer to Menin and supports legislative operations and governance. Earlier in her career, Jones served as chief of staff and land use director to City Council Member Kevin Riley (C.D. 12) and has advised elected officials across New York.

When Pelosi announced in November 2025 that she would not seek reelection and would retire in January 2027, House Minority Speaker Hakeem Jeffries (NY-8) who succeeded her,

said she was "the greatest speaker of all time" and that the country was a much better nation because of her dedication to serving it, its children, and the climate.

He praised her leadership which he said ensured Democrats passed "meaningful legislation that has made life better for the American people, including the Affordable Care Act, the Inflation Reduction Act and the American Rescue Plan."

He added, "During her 20 years leading House Democrats, she fiercely navigated many trials and tribulations, including a once-in-a-century pandemic and a horrific attack on the United States Capitol. Through it all, she led with strength and dignity."

He concluded, "Speaker Pelosi has been an incredible mentor, trusted friend and awesome colleague who has profoundly blessed me with her insights, perspectives and leadership values. As Speaker Pelosi embarks on this new chapter, my prayers and gratitude are with her and her family. Keep the faith."

As reported, Pelosi was previously invited to The Bronx by former Congressman Jamaal Bowman (NY-16) in March 2022 for a community town hall held at the College of Mount Saint Vincent Athletic Center in Riverdale. Among other topics, on that occasion, she discussed the American Rescue Plan and U.S. support for Ukraine amid the ongoing war with Russia.

On that occasion, when asked about her leadership style, addressing the women in the room in particular, the speaker said that politics was not for the faint of heart. "When you get into that arena, you have to be able to take a punch, right? But you have to be able to give a punch too," she said, gesturing with her fist, and later adding with her trademark wide smile and her now famous, raised, index finger "for the children."



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# INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By **DAVID GREENE**



This week, we asked readers for their opinion on U.S. President Donald Trump's State of the Union address held Tuesday, Feb. 24.



"I only saw what was posted on social media, so I just saw a couple of clips here and there. I don't know. I don't trust any politicians. So, I feel like in his speech he's out there to sell whatever he is pushing, and you're going to have a rebuttal that's going to sell what the other side is pushing, so I kind of, like, do my own independent research and get vibes. Look, there's a class issue in our country, on top of a bunch of other issues, racial. I mean there's so many different issues so I kind of just take care of my family and go about my day-to-day thing, and mind my own business, and I get a lot of flak. I didn't vote in the last presidential election, and I didn't vote in the presidential election before that, and I don't vote locally."

**Derrick Fahsbender,**  
Kingsbridge Heights  
Photo by David Greene



"The president of the United States refers to his presidency as the 'golden age' in United States history, but I believe it has yet to be seen. If a golden age is the tearing away of children from families on American soil, then I'd rather be in the dark."

**Sabrina Rocchio,**  
Throggs Neck  
Photo courtesy of Sabrina Rocchio



"Funny you ask that! I was on a TV show last week and asked the same question, except with a twist... They asked me to 'fact check' his economic claims. He was partially wrong in many areas from gasoline to inflation. In my humble opinion, I gave his speech a C-."

**Professor Anthony Rivieccio,**  
Bedford Park  
Photo courtesy of Anthony Rivieccio



"Watching the 2026 State of the Union speech made it clear just how deeply divided our country has become. Without finding common ground and restoring a sense of unity, our future looks far from bright. It was astonishing to see such vivid division when President Trump asked the elected officials to stand if they supported 'citizens first.' We must look past these differences and unite for the good of the nation."

**Arthur Roldan,**  
Staten Island  
Photo courtesy of Arthur Roldan



"President Donald Trump has always been known as a businessman, entrepreneur, and negotiator, but not a politician. His speeches always reflect that. The State of the Union was no exception. Needless to say that our commander-in-chief thinks that going to war means moving toward peace. It, in fact, means moving away from peace. Most importantly, we are facing a major war that has a high risk of coming to the United States via the Middle East. We must have a roundtable of ministers of foreign affairs, where we finally develop a plan of action towards peace and carry it out."

**Dr. Sima Karetnaya,**  
Brooklyn  
Photo courtesy of Dr. Sima Karetnaya

*Editor's Note: Norwood News asked Rivieccio for further clarification regarding his comments of alleged partially incorrect statements by the president during his State of the Union address. He said, "I threw away my notes but in regards to gas, yes, he said \$1.88 when the national average was \$2.70." The president alleged gas prices were below \$2.30 a gallon in most states.*

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# NEWS BRIEFS

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

## City's Cultural Affairs Team Announces \$74.3M in Grants

NYC Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA) announced Friday, Feb. 27, that it is distributing \$74.3 million in grants for 1,171 cultural organizations across New York City through the agency's fiscal year 2026 Cultural Development Fund (CDF). DCLA officials said the FY26 awards represent the largest-ever funding allocation from the CDF and the most-ever grantee organizations.

They said more than half of the recipient organizations are receiving funding as part of a multi-year award cycle following reforms that they said have expanded eligibility for multi-year grants to all organizations, offering greater stability in funding for grantees. DCLA officials said formal award notifications were sent to FY26 CDF grantees in December 2025. They said the application for the FY27 cycle of the CDF opened on Feb. 23, and applications are due in early April. Groups interested in applying can learn more <https://www.nyc.gov/site/dcla/cultural-funding/applying.page>.



Photo by Síle Moloney

**A YOUNG DANCER** busts out some moves at the monthly "Mind Your Beat" dance battle at Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center in Olinville on Saturday, March 4, 2023.

## Espailat Funds Renovation of Lehman College South Field

Lehman College said Lehman Lightning fans will now have more room to cheer, thanks to a what they described as a generous \$820,000 funding allocation from Rep. Adriano Espailat (NY-13). College officials said the funding will transform its South Field adding new bleachers and increasing capacity from 70 to over 1,300 fans. An official

check presentation was held on March 2 in Carman Hall, during which Lehman President Fernando Delgado and CUNY Chancellor Félix Matos Rodríguez thanked Espailat and spoke about the impact of the funding. "This is a real game changer for our student-athletes and their fans," Matos Rodríguez said. "Congressman Adriano Espailat is someone who consistently supports his constituents and delivers for them, and we sincerely thank him for his support." Work will begin in the coming months.



Photo courtesy of Lehman College

**REP. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT** (NY-13) presents a check to Lehman College to renovate its South Field on March 2, 2026.

## Latimer Introduces Election Protection Law

Rep. George Latimer (NY-16), who represents parts of The Bronx and Westchester Counties, has introduced the *Protecting Our Integrity and Nation from Tyranny (POINT) Act*, which he said would prohibit the president, vice president, an employee of the executive office of the president, the attorney general, the director of the FBI, the director of national intelligence, or other cabinet secretary, agency director, or department head from engaging in election interference, or using, providing, or loaning any government property, personnel or resources for the purpose of engaging in election interference.

A violator would be subject to a fine, a prison term of up to 5 years, or both. He said it would also prevent the president from deploying members of the armed forces or exercising federal law enforcement authority in a state where such deployment or exercise of authority would likely disrupt, postpone, delay, prevent, or influence the result of an election, referendum, or ballot question.

Under the bill, there would be a judicial review process for states to bring an action, including but not limited to a demand for emergency injunctive relief, in district court, as well as an expedited process for appeals. In these actions, the president would have the

burden of proving that such a violation did not occur.

If passed, the law would further establish a statutory cause of action by any state resulting from the infringement by the president or congress upon certain rights and powers of the states specified in the U.S. constitution. Under the bill, there would be a judicial review process for states to bring an action, including but not limited to a demand for emergency injunctive relief, in district court, as well as an expedited process for appeals. See our Neighborhood Notes section for details of upcoming primary election deadlines.



Photo courtesy of the New York Yankees Partnership (all rights reserved)

**CC SABATHIA PLAYS** for The New York Yankees in 2011.

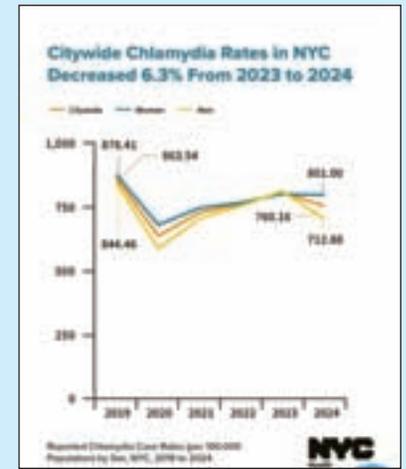
## Yankees to Honor CC Sabathia at Ceremony on Saturday, Sept. 26

The New York Yankees announced Feb. 25 that CC Sabathia will have his place among Yankees legends, cemented with the retirement of his No. 52, and the dedication of a plaque in

his honor in Monument Park. The ceremony will take place on Saturday, Sept. 26, prior to the Yankees' 7.05 p.m. game vs. Baltimore. Fans can purchase tickets at [www.yankees.com](http://www.yankees.com).

## NYC Health Department Releases STI Report

NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene recently released its 2024 STI Surveillance Annual Report and found that from 2023 to 2024, chlamydia rates in NYC decreased 6.3%, with a 12.7% decrease among men, but only a 0.4% decrease among women. Residents can learn more and read the report at [on.nyc.gov/STIreport](http://on.nyc.gov/STIreport).



Source: NYC Health department  
**CHLAMYDIA RATES IN** New York City from 2023 to 2024

# New York Ballet Dancers Visit CHAM Patients



Photos courtesy of Montefiore Health System

**NEW YORK CITY** Ballet dancers visited young patients at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore (CHAM) in Norwood on Monday, March 2, 2026.



## Letters To The Editor

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

### Get a Free Medical Exam while Doing Something Noble

I am sure we would all agree that it is better to catch a disease at Stage 1, rather than at Stage 4, as there is no Stage 5! Please consider donating blood at the new NY Blood Center in The Bronx, located at 815 Hutchinson River Parkway. While it is a noble gesture to help someone else, you also get a free medical exam before donating. This 4-step exam involves checking your pulse, blood pressure, body temperature and hemoglobin levels. If any of these steps are out of normal ranges, you cannot give blood, but you should see a doctor.

However, if your numbers are normal and you do donate blood, your pint is run through eight different tests before it is given to a patient, and if one of those tests comes back with abnormal results, your blood is destroyed and you are notified to see a doctor for further evaluation. All the tests are free and could save your life as well as helping a needy patient. I would urge my fellow Bronxites to google the benefits of donating blood.

Besides feeling mentally good for having helped a stranger, you can potentially help reduce your risk of cancer, heart attacks, and other diseases by potentially catching early warning signs. So, it's a

win-win situation for everyone to donate blood! Details of the new Bronx donation center can be found here: <https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/center/121>.

### Richard Marias, Norwood

#### Norwood News Article on Overcoming Speech Barriers

I am not a Bronx resident, but I am a longtime advocate for child speech therapy and someone emailed your inspiring article, "From Silence to Success: Bronx Kids Overcome Speech and Other Barriers Thru Advocacy of NCB CHW." Community Health Workers Mariam Diakite and Desiree Martinez of NYC Health + Hospitals/North Central Bronx deserve much praise for their efforts in assisting children in receiving the proper and needed speech and occupational therapy services. I am writing this letter to bring to the attention of your readers a program available for children to receive free speech therapy.

It is available to all children enrolled in any school, and immigration status does not matter. The program was born from federal legislation to help children with disabilities over 50 years ago. It should be noted that every child in the U.S. has the right to free speech therapy, from pre-school through high school. All children are eligible for this free speech therapy as it is not an entitlement based

on family income. This benefit covers all the speech problems that children face.

A great resource for parents in navigating this amazing benefit of speech therapy is a downloadable brochure titled "Special Education Law and Children Who Stutter," and it's available on the website of the Stuttering Foundation ([www.StutteringHelp.org](http://www.StutteringHelp.org)). This amazing benefit of free speech therapy encompasses all the types of speech problems faced by children.

I shake my head thinking that the U.S. had a heated and divisive debate over national healthcare policy for nine years from 2008-2017, yet there was never any mention of this policy mandated by federal legislation in the 1970s. If more people knew about this great policy of free speech therapy for all children, more children with speech disorders could be helped. If by publishing this letter, one child in The Bronx is helped, then that is a victory. This is the brochure in question:

<https://www.stutteringhelp.org/special-education-law-children-who-stutter>

### Ed Herrington Naples, FL

#### Supplemental Information in Norwood News Articles

In my humble opinion, Silé Moloney is a neutral, fact-based, honorable journalist/editor who, unlike her peers, accepts criticism but she, like the rest of the media, feels the compulsion to use condescending, patronizing brackets [when quoting someone, filling in words not directly attributable to the person being quoted].

In the article "Eighteen in Custody after Organized 'Takeover' of The Mall at Bay Plaza by Teens Results in Chaos," in one paragraph, you quote the mayor listening to the drill rap artist, Pop Smoke. Then three paragraphs later, you further quote Mamdani, "Many a memory listening to Pop Smoke [drill rap artist]..." You just described Pop Smoke three paragraphs earlier. Do you think your readers are so stupid they won't remember this, and if you are going to use the condescending, patronizing brackets, why not say, "[I have] many memories...?"

In Pamela Sporn's letter on Shai Davida, you say [Councilman] Eric Dinowitz and [Assemblyman] Jeffrey Dinowitz. The Dinowitzes have appeared in this newspaper every week since Noah was building a boat, but even more hilarious, on page 9, you have an article saying exactly who Eric and Jeffrey are. And if you have to use the brackets, why not say "Riverdale Y[MHA]?" Your readers might not under-

stand what Riverdale Y means.

While my complaint may seem trivial, to me, it is indicative of the lack of respect the media has for its readership. (I do not refer specifically to Silé). If the media has no respect for its readership, it will interpret the news the way it feels it should be interpreted.

### Nat Weiner Parkchester

*Editor's Note: I thank Mr. Weiner for his feedback and wish to assure him and all our readers that it's certainly never my intention to come across as disrespectful, condescending or patronizing, and apologize sincerely if any reader has felt disrespected.*

*By way of explanation, while I fully appreciate that many of our readers have been loyal followers of the Norwood News for perhaps close to 40 years, and are well-read and informed residents, I am also conscious that we live in a borough with one of the highest, if not the highest, population of immigrants [myself included]. As such, I always bear in mind that on any given day, a new immigrant arriving from Ghana or Mexico or Ukraine or wherever may pick up our paper for the first time and may not necessarily know who we are writing about in any given section.*

*They also may not necessarily read the paper in full; they may just scan it. This is why we provide titles for elected officials. It is also how journalism schools teach journalism students to report i.e. to include the title of an elected official once in the first instance. As a general rule, the aim is to avoid frustrating the reader with any lack of context or key information.*

*Secondly, I would just add that for close to six years now, since the pandemic, when cuts were made, we've been substantially understaffed. This has continued to impact upon our work every single day, and sometimes, yes, duplications/errors slip through our copy inadvertently. For this, I assume full responsibility of course, apologize, will try to avoid such mistakes going forward, and cannot really say too much more on the matter. Thanks, as always, for reading.*

*Please send all letters to the editor, along with supporting hyperlinked sources, to [norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org](mailto:norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org) or by mail to Norwood News, 3400 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467, by the Friday before each publication day, and marking the email "Letter to the Editor." Letter writers should aim to write no more than 300 words on local issues or in response to published articles.*

### By SÍLE MOLONEY

New York City ballet dancers from the New York City Ballet company visited young patients at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore (CHAM) in Norwood on Monday, March 2.

The artists, Miriam Miller, Charlie Klesa and Anna Snellgrove, stopped by the young patients' bedsides, posed for pictures in the playrooms, and handed out some goodies to help brighten their day.





## From Seat to Feet: My Health Journey Can Inspire Yours!

By JASMINE DAVILA

I don't know about you, but working in an office can take a toll on your body. I recently had the great honor of being promoted to project associate, and with a promotion comes more responsibilities, so guess where I am most of my time? Sitting at my desk, on the computer! Spending many hours sitting, tackling piles of work, can also contribute to piling on the pounds.

Recently, I decided it was time to make some changes. With hard work and determination, I went from 215lbs to 185lbs and I am still losing weight. Here are three tips to help you go from your seat to your feet and help you to achieve your health goals.

### Nutrition

If you want to stay kicking, you have to change what's happening in the kitchen! Good saying, right? This is the truth, my friend! Our eating patterns and the number of calories we eat are the biggest drivers of weight loss! I usually eat breakfast on the go and used to get coffee and a pastelito (a fried empanada) most days. Sooo good, but sooo bad!

I decided to change my first meal of the day. I now make overnight oats, which I eat with boiled eggs. In the evening, I add almond milk or low-fat Lactaid milk to a container of uncooked rolled oats, half a teaspoon of honey and a pinch of cinnamon and put it in the fridge until the morning. Sometimes, I add half a smashed banana. You can eat it cold or warm it in the microwave. I love the sweet and salty tastes of the creamy oats and boiled eggs. I save time and money in the morning and breakfast ISN'T FRIED!!!! Win Win! I'll take it.

### Movement

I'm not sure about you, but I'm on

the computer all day and my body gets really stiff. I got myself a wearable device that reminds me to stand, walk around the office or just walk in place. Going from my seat to my feet has given me the opportunity to get in my steps and prevent stiffness. One goal this year is to get 10,000 steps most days. Please pray for a sister!

If you don't have a wearable device, no worries! Just use your phone or computer calendar to add reminders to stand or walk throughout your day. Choose two or three small gaps in your schedule between meetings or during your lunch break. I also have a mini stepper that I keep at my desk and use during phone calls, zoom meetings, video training courses, or other computer work. I like to use it in 5-minute increments and it improves my circulation.

At home, I also like to do beginner strength training workouts from the YouTube channel Juice and Toya. The pace is good and once I'm done, I feel great! When I started, I did 15-minute workouts and have now progressed to 45 minutes. You can choose workouts with dumbbells/weights or others with no equipment. My tip is to find something you like and plan to do it about one to three times a week. Whether it's biking, running, Zumba, yoga, or strength training, do it!

During this journey, I have realized there are two "hards." The first hard is it's hard to work out; I'm not going to lie! Most of us feel tired, busy, and distracted so we find it difficult to prioritize exercise. The second is it's also hard when you feel tired, weak, and uncomfortable about your body. It's up to you to choose which hard path you want to take.

### Small Changes and A Good Pace

I'm a competitive person, so my saying is "go hard or go home!" But when I do this in day-to-day life, I eventually get tired and need to rest. In the past, I'd eat less healthy food at night and go to bed, not a good combination. Now, I make simple, healthier food and it works for me. I hate cooking (I know it's a harsh word), so I try to do it all at once. I prepare my overnight oats and boiled eggs for breakfast while I'm cooking dinner. Then I can be free and focus on other things for the rest of the night.

Life is not a race! You are not competing with anyone but the past version of yourself! Making small

changes and staying consistent really does work. It took me six months to lose thirty pounds, and another six months to maintain that. These small changes have become part of my lifestyle and I feel great. I have more energy and am getting closer

to my daily goal of 10,000 steps. Join me in choosing small changes, and let's go from your seat to your feet together! Happy Nutrition Month!

Jasmine Davila is a project associate at Montefiore's Office of Community & Population Health.

## Out & About

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

### EVENTS

The Jerome Gun Hill Business Improvement District (BID) will host a free **HOLI festival** in the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, 3225 Reservoir Oval East in Norwood, Bronx on Saturday, March 14, at noon with dancing, music, drummers and more.

Kingsbridge Library, 291 West 231<sup>st</sup> Street, Bronx, NY 10463, will host a series of free **Karaoke Nights** on March 5, 12, 19, and 26 at 5.30 p.m. Singers of all levels are welcome to join and sing in a safe and supportive space.

The Bronx County Historical Society will host "**Rebel Girls of the Early Bronx**," a virtual talk by Dr. Marion Swerdlow about Rebecca Grecht, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn and Vera Buck Weisbord on Sunday, March 8, at 7 p.m. Register at [www.bronxhistory.org/rebelgirls](http://www.bronxhistory.org/rebelgirls).

### MUSIC

Join the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center for a **Free Concert** in The Bronx at Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture, 450 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10451, on Saturday, March 14. It promises to be a dazzling night of wind music from world-renowned classical performers. Visit [www.chambermusicsociety.org](http://www.chambermusicsociety.org) for more information.

### DANCE

The Bronx Music Heritage

Center presents **Xianix Barrera Flamenco Palmas Workshop**, Thursday, March 12, at 7 p.m. at the Bronx Music Hall, 438 E 163<sup>rd</sup> Street, Bronx. Tickets are \$10, and no experience is necessary. For more information, visit [www.bronxmusichall.org](http://www.bronxmusichall.org).

### ART

Bronx River Art Center (BRAC), 1087 E Tremont Avenue, Bronx, is **hosting Spring 2026 Art Classes** from April 13 to June 27. Registration will open later this month, with courses in painting, drawing, ceramics, and more. Visit [www.bronxriverart.org](http://www.bronxriverart.org) for more information, including class times, descriptions, and pricing.

Those who wish to register for art classes but require financial aid can apply for one of BRAC's Community Access Scholarships, which offers partial and full scholarships to weekly classes, plus other discounts.

### MOVEMENT

Sign up for a 5K or 3K family, fun run/walk at the Bronx Zoo on Saturday, April 25, and help save red pandas and other amazing wildlife. Enjoy a day at the Bronx Zoo with 10,000+ animals. Race day also includes free Bronx Zoo admission, star attractions and rides like Wild Asia Monorail, a DJ, music and cardio dance, games, activities and face painting, photo booths and wildlife characters, red panda T-shirts and medals, and free parking. Register here: <https://bit.ly/3OIqtAN>.



181 E Gun Hill Rd, Bronx, NY 10467

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# Bronx Daycare Provider & Husband Get 25 Years to Life for Murder of Nicholas Feliz Dominici

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark announced Wednesday, March 4, that the operator of a Bronx home daycare center and her husband were sentenced to 25 years to life in prison by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Margaret Clancy for the accidental death due to fentanyl poisoning of 22-month-old Nicholas Feliz Domenici on Sept. 15, 2023, and for the exposure of three other children to fentanyl who survived the poisoning.

As reported, Grei Mendez, 38, the daycare operator, and Feliz Herrera Garcia, 37, her husband, both of 2705 Morris Avenue, The Bronx, were found guilty on a State charge of second-degree murder (depraved indifference to human life) on Nov. 21, 2025. Additionally, Mendez was found guilty of the State charge of first-degree assault and Herrera Garcia was found guilty of the State charge of second-degree assault on the same date. Both had previously pleaded guilty in federal court on separate charges relating to the incident.

“A beautiful little boy died and three children aged eight months to two years became seriously ill from fentanyl poisoning,” Clark said on Wednesday after the sentencing. “These babies were shields to protect a narcotics operation. Grei Mendez and her husband, Felix Herrera Garcia showed such depravity that they hid fentanyl under the floor where the children took naps. Little Nicholas paid with his life for their greed; now Mendez and Garcia will spend the rest of their days in prison.”

As reported, and according to facts at trial, on Sept. 15, 2023, in an apartment in 2707 Morris Avenue in the Kingsbridge Heights section of The Bronx, at a licensed daycare named El Divino Niño, four children were poisoned by exposure to fentanyl: 22-month-old Nicholas Dominici died, 2-year-old Abel Garcia suffered respiratory arrest but survived after being revived at a hospital, Abel’s 8-month-old sister, Kiara Garcia, and Jaziel Lino, another 2-year-old boy, suffered acute opioid intoxication requiring hospital treatment. Emergency medical service technicians used Narcan to reverse symptoms of the brother and sister.

The court heard that large quantities of fentanyl were being processed in the daycare center including with the use of kitchen equipment Mendez used to prepare the children’s food. Prosecutors said that when they were sickened,

and before calling 911, Mendez called her husband, who removed drugs and/or paraphernalia from the location. They said Mendez was also heard on the call telling her husband to go out the back of the daycare. Video showed Herrera Garcia fleeing the building through a back alley while carrying weighted plastic bags before police and medical responders arrived.

The court heard that a kilo of fentanyl was found in a closet, and twelve additional kilos of fentanyl, heroin and other narcotic substances were found under a trap door in the floor of the playroom, directly below where the children played and slept. Kilo presses and drug packaging paraphernalia were found in the apartment as well, prosecutors said.

As above, Mendez and Garcia are currently serving 45-year sentences in federal prison after their convictions for narcotics trafficking resulting in Nicholas’s death. The state prison sentence will run concurrently to the federal sentence.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Karl Miller, senior homicide counsel, who also worked on the federal case, and former Assistant District Attorney Izamar Plaza of Trial Bureau 50, under the supervision of Burim Namani, deputy chief of the Homicide Bureau, Christine Scaccia, chief of the Homicide Bureau, and under the overall supervision of James Brennan, deputy chief of the Trial Division, and Theresa Gottlieb, chief of the Trial Division.

Clark thanked David Slott, chief of the Forensic Sciences Unit; Ana Pimentel, homicide advocate supervisor at the Crime Victims Assistance Bureau, and Bronx District Attorney Senior Detective Investigators John Might, Yani Pascale, Kareen Clay and Bronx DA Detective Investigator Dwayne Anderson under the supervision of Chief Frank Chiara, for their assistance in the case.

She also thanked NYPD Detectives Sheldon Smith of the Bronx Homicide Squad, Manuel Cruz of the 52nd Precinct Detective Squad, and Special Agents Edison Serpa and Kyle Harrell of the Drug Enforcement Administration, NYPD Police Laboratory and Latent Print Section, and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Margaret Lynaugh and Brandon Thompson of the Southern District of New York for their work in the case.

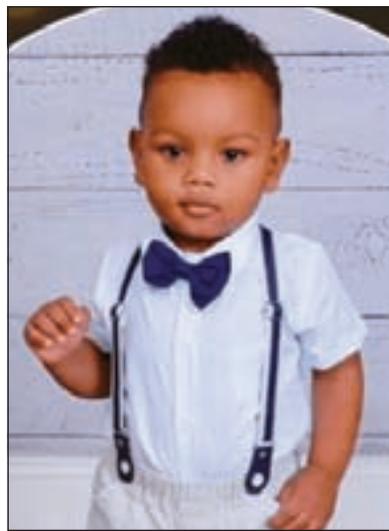


Photo courtesy of the family of Nicholas Feliz Dominici

**NICOLAS FELIZ DOMINICI**, Nov. 17, 2021-Sept. 15, 2023

As reported, earlier this year, the city council passed various laws, sponsored by Council Member Pierina Sanchez (C.D. 14) on daycare inspection training and parents’ rights as regards childcare programs, something Nicholas’s parents had pressed for in the wake of his death. Other protective laws sponsored by State Sen. Gustavo Rivera and others have since passed at State level.

On the first anniversary of Nicholas’s death, Nicholas Feliz Dominici Way was unveiled in his memory at Kingsbridge Terrace

and East Kingsbridge Road in his native Kingsbridge Heights. It followed prior remembrance services.

Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson had previously said she disagreed with those who sought to downplay the severity of the fentanyl crisis in The Bronx. Shocking and tragic as Nicholas’s death was, it was not, unfortunately, the first of its kind.

Asked in November 2025 how the couple’s other children were doing, Feliz Samboy and Dominici said they were doing good. For her part, as she addressed the press in Spanish on that day, Dominici said, “Today is a great day in one way because even though we have a verdict for him today....it’s criminal....but we don’t have our child.”

Breaking down in quiet tears as her husband slipped his arm around her waist, the young mom thanked Clark, Miller and everyone involved. She continued, “We still have our empty space, and it will be empty for the rest of our lives.” Gradually, raising her voice slightly, as if in a show of defiance for her lost son, Dominici added, “Nothing will fill it, but we have justice, the justice that Nicholas deserved!”

NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) provides training and regularly updated information on how to obtain and administer naloxone (Narcan). Visit <https://www.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/naloxone.page> for more information.

## Montefiore Nurses Seek Arbitration following Return after Strike

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

Following the longest nurses strike in New York City history, which lasted 5 weeks between January and February this year, New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA) said they are pursuing arbitration with the management team of Montefiore Health System following allegations of intimidation against some Montefiore nurses since their return to work on Feb. 14, after a deal was struck between the parties ending the strike.

According to NYSNA, the arbitration also relates to allegations that hospital management allegedly delayed the return-to-work date of some of the Montefiore nurses beyond Saturday, Feb. 14, after the strike ended, and alleged that this sabotaged their work schedules so

that the impacted nurses couldn’t return to work when they wanted to.

NYSNA said a hearing with an independent arbitrator was due to be held March 2 on the matter. In the meantime, *Norwood News* reached out to Montefiore for comment on the arbitration point. We were informed by a Montefiore spokesperson that no hearing took place, they had no information on any future scheduled hearing, and the hospital had no further comment.

At the end of the strike in mid-February, NYSNA members celebrated a deal which they said maintained enforceable safe staffing standards and increased the number of nurses to improve patient care, protected the health benefits that they alleged hospitals threatened to drastically cut, protected nurses from

# NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

## Yankees Youth Leadership Award

Bronx Community Board 7 and The New York Yankees are inviting youth leaders aged 14 to 18 to apply for the Yankees Youth Leadership Award by March 22, at noon for a chance to win a stipend of \$750 and be recognized on the field at Yankee Stadium at a pre-game ceremony. For more information, visit [bit.ly/4sBACIG](http://bit.ly/4sBACIG).

## Free Legal Services NYC

Those in need of free legal services covering immigration and asylum, rental and housing assistance, tax issues, domestic violence, student debt, and more can call (917) 661-4500 Monday to Friday from 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. for help. The service is also available in Spanish.

## Bronx Walk of Fame

### People's Choice Culinary Arts

The Office of Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, The Bronx Tourism Council, The Bronx Economic Development Corporation and the Business Initiative Corporation are seeking nominations in the context of Bronx Week 2006 for the Bronx Walk of Fame People's Choice Recipient in Culinary Arts. For more information, visit [www.ilovethebronx.com/bronx-ball-2026](http://www.ilovethebronx.com/bronx-ball-2026).

## State Department Travel Updates

The U.S. Department of State has issued updated travel risk warnings following recent overseas military actions

by the U.S. and other countries. They advise American residents not to travel to Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria or Yemen; to reconsider travel to Bahrain, Israel (West Bank: Level 3, Gaza: Level 2), Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates; and to exercise increased caution in Egypt.

## NYC Parks Lifeguard Qualifying Test

All potential lifeguards must pass the Lifeguard Qualifying Test, which includes a vision and swim exam. To qualify, you must be at least 16 years of age by July 18, 2026, have at least 20/30 vision in one eye and 20/40 in the other, without corrective lenses. (Glasses and contact lenses may not be worn during the eye exam.) and be able to swim 50 yards in 50 seconds or less, with proper form. For more information, visit the Become an NYC Parks Lifeguard page here: <https://www.nycgovparks.org/opportunities/jobs/lifeguards>.

## Upcoming Union Apprenticeships

Union apprenticeships taking place in March / April 2026 include NYCDCC Carpenters (opens March 11), LU#12 Heat & Frost Insulators (opens March 27), DC9 Structural Steel Painters (opens March 30), LU#7 Tile, Marble & Terrazzo Workers (opens April 13). Visit [www.bandana.com/b/nyunion](http://www.bandana.com/b/nyunion) for more information.

## ABNY Community Grant Program

## for FIFA World Cup 2026

On Feb. 17, the Association for a Better New York (ABNY) announced "World Cup for All," a collaboration with the FIFA World Cup 2026 New York/New Jersey Host Committee. The World Cup Community Grant Program, a \$250,000 fund, will award competitive grants between \$5,000 and \$15,000 to New York City community-based nonprofit organizations for community fan engagement activations and youth recreation programming tied to the World Cup.

Priority consideration will be given to project applications that center historically underserved communities and neighborhoods, projects with a robust community outreach and engagement strategy to residents, and projects that are free and open to the public. Eligible organizations are encouraged to apply online by March 13, at <https://bit.ly/4cl2hXx>. Applications and grant guidelines are provided in English, Spanish, and Chinese. Interested applicants are also invited to attend a virtual information session on Thursday, Feb. 26. Register at: <https://bit.ly/4aVWQrM>.

## Domestic Violence

### Community Conversation

Bronx Community Board 7 and Council Member Oswald Feliz (C.D. 15) are hosting domestic violence community conversations in the near future (dates TBC) to help plan, develop and execute DV awareness, prevention and support programming in the district. Be part of the conversation and sign up at [bit.ly/4akOkSQ](http://bit.ly/4akOkSQ).

## Summer Youth Employment Program Extended

The application timeframe for the Summer Youth Employment Program has been extended to March 13 for City residents aged between 14 and 24. SYEP provides career exploration opportunities and paid work experience. Find more information and to submit your application, visit [on.nyc.gov/YouthEmp-loj](http://on.nyc.gov/YouthEmp-loj).

## Higher Education College Fair

Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson in conjunction with Bronx Higher Education Task Force will host a Higher Education College Fair March 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Hostos Community College, C Building / East Academic Complex, 450 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10451 to showcase the academic and support services available at Bronx institutions of higher learning. Email [agaud@bronxbp.nyc.gov](mailto:agaud@bronxbp.nyc.gov) to learn more or call (718) 590-6431.

## Primary Elections Key Dates

The change of address deadline so you can vote at the correct polling location is Monday, June 8. The voter registration deadline is Saturday, June 13. The mail ballot request deadline (requested online or by mail) is Saturday,

June 13. Early voting begins Saturday, June 13.

The in-person mail ballot request deadline is Monday, June 22. The mail ballot postmark deadline is Tuesday, June 23. Primary Election Day is also Tuesday, June 23. Only voters enrolled in a political party can vote in that party's primary. The mail ballot receipt deadline is Tuesday, June 30, meaning this is the last day by which the Board of Elections can receive your mail ballot and have it counted.

## When to Contact 988

Call or text 988, or visit [nyc.gov/988](http://nyc.gov/988) for free, confidential mental health support in the following situations: if you or someone you know is worried about the negative impact drugs or alcohol is having; if you are feeling stressed, overwhelmed or struggling with daily activities; if you are looking for mental health or substance use providers in your area; if you are having thoughts of hurting or killing yourself; or if you are concerned about changes in the behavior of someone you care about.

## Heat Season

The NYC Mayor's Public Engagement Unit is reminding New Yorkers that heat season runs from Oct. 1 to May 31 in New York City and landlords must meet legal requirements to keep homes safe and livable. Tenants in New York City have the right to heat and hot water. Water must be at least 120°F at all times. From 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., apartments must have heating of at least 68°F when the outdoor temperature falls below 55°F, and at nighttime, from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., the temperature in apartments must be at least 62°F, regardless of the outdoor temperature.

## NYC Public Interest

### Technology (PIT) Pop-Up

The NYC PIT Pop-Up will be open January through April, Tuesdays–Thursdays from noon to 6 p.m. at the Oculus World Trade Center Transit Hub in Lower Manhattan, continuing to host interactive exhibits, demonstrations, and community programming. Plans are in the works to host CUNY-based, open data projects at the Pop-Up in support of Open Data Week in March 2026, and a week focused on Sonic Spaces in April 2026. The NYC PIT Pop Up is organized by the CUNY PIT Lab in partnership with BetaNYC, with support from the Public Interest Technology University Network (PIT-UN) and the CUNY Office of Research. For more information visit: <https://nycpitpopup.org>.

## Affordable Housing Lotteries

NYC Department of Housing, Preservation and Development (HPD) has open, affordable housing lotteries for housing units in The Bronx. Visit <https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/searchlotteries> for more information.



Photo by Síle Moloney

**FORMERLY STRIKING MONTEFIORE** nurses are seen on the picket line on Jan. 19, 2026, outside Montefiore Medical Center at East 210<sup>th</sup> Street in Norwood, The Bronx.

workplace violence, and protected migrant and trans patients and nurses. They said it also safeguarded against artificial intelligence in their contracts for the first time, increased salaries by more than 12% over the life of a 3-year contract to recruit and retain nurses for

safe patient care, beat back what they alleged were aggressive takeaways on healthcare and safe staffing enforcement, and returned all nurses to work after ratification. Montefiore did not issue any statement following the end of the strike.



### Norwood: Arrest Made in Armed Robbery inside Laundromat

The NYPD said they have made an arrest following a gunpoint robbery that occurred in Norwood on Valentine's Day. Police had been asking for the public's help identifying the two people seen in the accompanying image who they said were wanted for questioning in connection with the robbery.

Police said that on Saturday, Feb. 14, at around 6.40 p.m., two unidentified people entered a business located at 3601 Bainbridge Avenue, a laundromat, and approached a 28-year-old male victim and a 29-year-old male victim. "One of the individuals pointed a firearm at the 28-year-old male victim and forcibly removed his wallet and keys," police said. "The other individual then pointed a firearm at the 29-year-old male victim and forcibly removed his jewelry and currency."

Police said the two suspects fled on foot to parts unknown, and no injuries were reported following the incident. They said the first suspect is described as male, is around 5 feet, 7 inches tall,

weighs around 160 pounds, and was last seen wearing a black face mask, a black, hooded jacket, black pants, and black sneakers.

They said the second suspect is also described as male, is also around 5 feet, 7 inches tall, also weighs around 160 pounds, and was last seen wearing a black face mask, a black, hooded jacket, black pants, blue gloves, and black sneakers.

Pursuant to an ongoing investigation, on Monday, Feb. 23, police said Wanderlin Mateo, 18, from Belmont was arrested on Feb. 20, at around 9.37 p.m. within the confines of the 49th Precinct. They said he was charged with robbery and criminal possession of a weapon [a loaded firearm]. He is presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

### Bedford Park: Victim of Alleged Gang Assault Leaves Station Prior to Arrival of Police

Following some posts on social media which made reference to an alleged group assault on a person at Bedford Park Boulevard subway station, serving the B/D trains in the Bedford Park section on Thursday, Feb. 19, at around 8.45 p.m., *Norwood News* followed up with the NYPD to ask if the incident was founded, and if they had any additional information. We were subsequently informed that the victim left the station prior to the arrival of officers on scene and that there is no report on file.

### Fieldston: Man & Female DOE Employee Charged following Murder near 242nd Street Subway Station

Police said they've arrested two people following the fatal shooting of

a 44-year-old man and the hospitalization of a 35-year-old man after a double shooting in Fieldston on Sunday, Jan. 25. As reported, police said that on that Sunday morning at around 2.50 a.m., officers responded to a 911 call regarding an assault at the intersection of West 242nd Street and Broadway, the site of the 242nd Street subway station and roughly adjacent to a section of Van Cortlandt Park where the Van Cortlandt Park public swimming pool is located.

"Upon arrival, officers observed a 35-year-old male with a gunshot wound to the knee, and a 44-year-old male with a gunshot wound to the chest," police said. "EMS responded and transported the 44-year-old male to St. Barnabas Hospital where he was pronounced deceased and the 35-year-old male to St. Barnabas Hospital in stable condition."

Police said there were no arrests at this time, and that the investigation was ongoing. The deceased was identified as Keon Gill, 44, of Middletown, NY. On March 3, pursuant to an ongoing investigation, police said Naya Brown, a 26-year-old female (no address provided) was arrested and charged with murder the same day at 7.55 a.m. in the confines of the 50th Precinct. In a separate police report, the NYPD disclosed that an off-duty, 26-year-old, NYC Department of Education employee had been arrested and charged with murder on March 3 in the confines of the 50th Precinct, and they named Brown as the employee.

Police also said that Pernel Warren, 37, of Bedford Park had been arrested on Feb. 1, at 9.45 p.m. also in the confines of the 50th Precinct. They said he was charged with murder, manslaughter, and criminal possession of a weapon. Both Warren and Brown are deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a

court of law.

*Norwood News* reached out to the DOE to ask what position Brown held within the department and to ask if the department had any comment. A DOE spokesperson said, "NYC Public Schools takes all matters involving employee conduct extremely seriously. The alleged behavior is deeply disturbing, and upon learning of these allegations, this individual was immediately suspended. If the allegations are confirmed, we will pursue termination." We were informed that Brown is employed as a community coordinator and has worked with the agency since 2022.



Photo by Síle Moloney

**A DOUBLE SHOOTING** took place at the intersection of 242nd Street and Broadway in the Fieldston section of The Bronx on Sunday morning, Jan. 25, 2026. Pictured are some nearby businesses in the area.

*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.nypd.org/>, or on Twitter @NYPDTips. All calls are strictly confidential.*

## Fordham Manor: Man Shot near St. James Park

By SÍLE MOLONEY

A 35-year-old man was hospitalized following a shooting in Fordham Manor near St. James Park on Tuesday morning, March 3. Police said that at around 9.38 a.m., officers responded to a 911 call reporting a person shot near Creston Avenue and East 192nd Street. A police spokesperson said, "Upon arrival, officers were informed that a 35-year-old male had been shot in the abdomen by an unidentified individual."

The spokesperson added, "The victim was transported by private means to Bronx Care Hospital where he was listed in stable condition." Police said the suspect fled in an unknown direction, no arrests have been made, and the investigation remains ongoing.

The area is known for prior shootings, including one on July 6, 2023 in which two youths opened fire in front of dozens of people, and another on July 11, 2023, in which four people were shot including two kids. The latter took place three days after a local "Peace" barbe-

cue was held at the location.

Local cure violence group, Bronx Rises Against Gun Violence (B.R.A.G.) frequently host barbecues and other events in the area in efforts to build better community relationships and prevent further retaliatory violence. As reported, B.R.A.G. members were honored in December 2025 by former NYC Mayor Eric Adams for their work on gun violence prevention.

*Norwood News* spoke to a group of local people who declined to be identified at the scene of the latest shooting on March 3. They said they didn't witness it. When asked for their reaction, one man quoted a line from Uncle Murda's rap song, "Cam'ron Voice," saying, "Ni\*\*\*s get shot every day." Asked if he felt safe in the neighborhood, the man said generally he did.

Another member of the group said he didn't understand why people just shot other people like that [in broad daylight] when there are cameras everywhere. Local elected officials frequently hold

community events in the park including Easter Egg Hunts, Fall Festivals, and more.

Meanwhile, Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch announced March 2 that, citywide, the NYPD delivered the fewest shooting incidents, shooting victims, and murders in recorded history for the first two months of 2026, adding that for January and February combined, the city had 83 shooting incidents and 97 shooting victims, beating the previous all-time lows of 92 and 105, set in 2025 and 2019, respectively.

She said year-to-date, the city recorded 32 murders, beating the previous all-time low of 38 set in 2018. However, year-to-date crime statistics for The Bronx, compared to the same timeframe last year, increased.

"Once again, the NYPD is demonstrating how targeted, data-driven policing is reducing crime and keeping communities safe," said Tisch in part, thanking every member of the department. "The men and women of the NYPD



Photo by Síle Moloney

**POLICE RESPOND TO** a shooting at Creston Avenue and East 192nd Street by St. James Park on Tuesday morning, March 3, 2026.

brought major crime down in every borough and there were 1,100 fewer reported crimes than last year. From our public housing, which had historic lows in crime, to our streets and subways, we will always stay focused on keeping New Yorkers safe."

The commissioner went on to say that the department's Winter Violence

*(continued on next page)*

# CRIME FILE - MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



Patrol Borough: Bronx Precinct: 046

CompStat Book Week of 02/16/26 - 02/22/26

	28 Day			Year to Date			
	% Chg	2026	2025	% Chg	2026	2025	% Chg
Murder	0.0 %	1	0	- %	2	0	- %
Rape	- %	4	2	100.0 %	5	3	66.7 %
Robbery	60.0 %	31	36	-13.9 %	61	60	1.7 %
Felony Assault	125.0 %	63	57	10.5 %	122	110	10.9 %
Burglary	33.3 %	12	12	0.0 %	30	19	57.9 %
Grand Larceny	137.5 %	50	43	16.3 %	81	64	-3.6 %
Grand Larceny Auto	-50.0 %	9	13	-30.8 %	22	30	-26.7 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>65.7 %</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>4.3 %</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>5.6 %</b>
Patrol	84.6 %	160	150	0.0 %	306	301	1.7 %
Transit	50.0 %	7	2	250.0 %	10	2	400.0 %
Housing	- %	3	1	200.0 %	7	3	133.3 %
Shooting Victims	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	2	1	100.0 %
Shooting Incidents	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	2	1	100.0 %
UCR Rape*	- %	5	2	150.0 %	7	3	133.3 %
Other Sex Crimes	0.0 %	4	4	0.0 %	12	9	33.3 %
Petit Larceny	-11.8 %	78	64	21.9 %	156	126	23.0 %
Med. Assault	33.3 %	72	47	53.2 %	134	105	27.6 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %

- All figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision. Data Summaries as of 6/13/17.  
 - 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 Feb. 22, 2026, compared to last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 46th Precinct as of Feb. 22, 2026, 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

CompStat Book Week of 02/16/26 - 02/22/26

	28 Day			Year to Date			
	% Chg	2026	2025	% Chg	2026	2025	% Chg
Murder	0.0 %	1	0	- %	4	0	- %
Rape	0.0 %	1	2	-50.0 %	3	4	-25.0 %
Robbery	100.0 %	7	10	-30.0 %	19	17	11.8 %
Felony Assault	100.0 %	24	13	84.6 %	30	32	-6.3 %
Burglary	- %	4	12	-66.7 %	13	19	-31.6 %
Grand Larceny	10.0 %	37	37	0.0 %	65	70	-7.1 %
Grand Larceny Auto	-25.0 %	21	19	10.5 %	37	31	18.4 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>23.5 %</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>2.2 %</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>-1.2 %</b>
Patrol	42.9 %	89	86	1.1 %	163	161	1.2 %
Transit	0.0 %	1	0	- %	2	2	0.0 %
Housing	-66.7 %	5	5	0.0 %	6	10	-40.0 %
Shooting Victims	0.0 %	3	0	- %	7	0	- %
Shooting Incidents	0.0 %	1	0	- %	3	0	- %
UCR Rape*	0.0 %	1	2	-50.0 %	3	5	-40.0 %
Other Sex Crimes	100.0 %	10	2	400.0 %	24	4	500.0 %
Petit Larceny	41.2 %	62	68	-8.8 %	152	128	18.8 %
Med. Assault	333.3 %	40	24	66.7 %	53	48	10.4 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	1	0	- %
Traffic Fatalities	- %	3	0	- %	3	0	- %

- All figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision. Data Summaries as of 6/13/17.  
 - 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 Feb. 22, 2026, compared to last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 50th Precinct as of Feb. 22, 2026, compared to last year (right). This precinct covers some or all of Kingsbridge, Fieldston, Riverdale, Marble Hill, and Spuyten Duyvil.

(continued from previous page)

Reduction Plan deploys up to 1,800 uniformed officers to nightly foot posts across 64 zones in 33 precincts, public housing, and the subway system, and that since its inception in January, major crime is down 23.1% and shootings are down 66.7% in those zones.

Police said that in February, the number of reported rapes increased by 1.9% [161 vs. 158] compared to February 2025. They said the rise since September 2024 is partly attributed to legislative changes which they said rightfully broadened the legal definition of rape in New York State to now include additional forms of sexual assault. The department said it continues to encourage survivors of sexual assault to come forward and report these incidents.

They said a decline in retail theft reflects what they described as the NYPD's "focused approach: identifying the patterns driving these crimes, concentrating resources at high-propensity locations during peak hours, and shifting from pass-through enforcement to sustained investigation."

Below ground, the NYPD said transit crime increased 18.5% [192 vs. 162] in February, a difference of 30 incidents. They said the increase coincided with record cold temperatures and snow in February, when ridership patterns shifted and the department paused ejections from the transit system for violations of the rules during the extreme weather. They said February saw a 61% de-

crease in ejections compared to January, and added that in response to transit crime increases, the NYPD deployed around 140 additional cops a day into the transit system.

Department officials said the NYPD also continues targeted efforts to protect young people across the city. *Norwood News* recently reported on the tragic murder of 16-year-old Christopher Redding in Kingsbridge last month. They said at the start of the school year, the NYPD implemented its School Safety Plan, modeled after its Violence Reduction Plan.

They said these zones focus on the areas where young people are most at risk i.e. commuter corridors, bus stops, and routes to and from school. *Norwood News* witnessed the NYPD on Thursday, Feb. 26, parked outside Popeye's on Jerome Avenue near Mosholu Parkway in Norwood where, typically, school kids are seen hanging out after school. Cops were heard gently directing kids to keep the sidewalk clear for passing pedestrians.

The shooting of Christopher in the Kingsbridge section also took place in an area where kids typically hang out after school. As also recently reported, police said 18 people were taken into custody on Monday, Feb. 16, after an estimated one hundred to five hundred teens participated seemingly in an organized "takeover" of The Mall at Bay Plaza in Baychester.

The NYPD said that since inception,

(continued on page 14)

Patrol Borough: Bronx Precinct: 052

CompStat Book Week of 02/16/26 - 02/22/26

	28 Day			Year to Date			
	% Chg	2026	2025	% Chg	2026	2025	% Chg
Murder	0.0 %	1	0	- %	1	0	- %
Rape	-33.3 %	4	10	-60.0 %	6	12	-50.0 %
Robbery	75.0 %	29	24	20.8 %	64	46	39.1 %
Felony Assault	-8.3 %	66	62	8.7 %	122	106	16.2 %
Burglary	-50.0 %	8	11	-27.3 %	21	26	-19.2 %
Grand Larceny	46.7 %	66	67	1.5 %	118	120	-1.7 %
Grand Larceny Auto	0.0 %	11	19	-42.1 %	23	35	-34.3 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>17.8 %</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>-2.1 %</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>3.2 %</b>
Patrol	17.8 %	184	189	-2.6 %	343	338	1.5 %
Transit	0.0 %	4	4	0.0 %	9	6	50.0 %
Housing	0.0 %	1	0	- %	3	0	- %
Shooting Victims	0.0 %	1	0	- %	1	1	0.0 %
Shooting Incidents	0.0 %	1	0	- %	1	1	0.0 %
UCR Rape*	0.0 %	5	10	-50.0 %	7	12	-41.7 %
Other Sex Crimes	- %	8	3	166.7 %	11	8	37.5 %
Petit Larceny	17.2 %	135	122	10.7 %	252	240	5.0 %
Med. Assault	23.5 %	72	48	50.0 %	139	92	51.1 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	1	0	- %	1	0	- %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %

- All figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision. Data Summaries as of 6/13/17.  
 - 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 Feb. 22, 2026, compared to the same timeframe last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 52nd Precinct as of Feb. 22, 2026, compared to last year (right). This precinct covers some or all of Bedford Park, Fordham, Kingsbridge, Norwood, Bronx Park, and University Heights.

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## Public and Community Meetings

The 52<sup>nd</sup> PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL meetings usually take place on the third Thursday of the month either virtually or in person. 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, March 24, at 6.30 p.m. at KIPP Jerome Campus, 2720 Jerome Avenue, Bronx. Contact [KCabreraCarrera@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:KCabreraCarrera@cb.nyc.gov) to be added to the distribution list. All meetings are in person unless otherwise notified by Bronx CB7.

The next BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8 (CB8) general board meeting will be held Tuesday, March 10, at 7 p.m. at In Tech Academy, 2975 Tibbett Ave., Bronx. To join via Zoom or phone, visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2114033690> or call +16465588656, and enter the Meeting ID 2114033690#. Contact [BX08@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:BX08@cb.nyc.gov) to be added to the distribution list, and check <http://www.nyc.gov/bronxcb8> for any updates.

The BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION monthly meetings are usually held on 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](mailto:bedfordmosholu@verizon.net).

## Fordham Manor: Man Shot near St. James Park

(continued from page 13)

in September 2025, overall youth-related crime is down 56.7% [109 vs. 252], shooting incidents are down 71.4% [4 vs. 14], and shooting victims are down 75% [4 vs. 16] in the zones during deployment hours.

NYPD officials also said that previously, the department reported alleged hate crimes that were still under review, but now, they will report hate crimes that have been investigated and officially confirmed as such by the Hate Crimes Task Force. They said this updated methodology will provide a more accurate representation of confirmed hate crimes in the city. In February, the NYPD recorded 38 hate crimes citywide.

As reported, the police commissioner recently announced the division of The Bronx into two new patrol boroughs, Bronx North and Bronx South, in further efforts to address crime. As also reported, Deputy Inspector Asif Iqbal was recently appointed the commanding officer of the 52nd Precinct, which covers the Bronx neighborhoods of Bedford Park, Fordham, Kingsbridge,



Photo by Sile Moloney

**POLICE VEHICLES ARE** seen outside Popeye's fast-food restaurant on Jerome Avenue in Norwood on Feb. 26, 2026. The location is often frequented by youth after school.

Norwood, Bronx Park, and University Heights.

Anyone with information regarding these incidents is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1-800-577-TIPS (8477) or, in 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.



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# Pass The NY Health Act!

(continued from page 1)

for too long. The New York Health Act is a common-sense solution that would guarantee quality healthcare for all New Yorkers, regardless of age, wealth, or immigration status.”

With nearly two-thirds of Bronx residents relying on Medicaid, NWBCCC, now Our Bronx members said local impacts of federal policy and funding decisions could hit the borough especially hard. They said they have partnered with healthcare worker organizations, including SEIU1199, the New York State Nurses Association, and Physicians for a National Health Program, alongside Rivera, in reaching hundreds of Bronx residents through town halls calling for state action on healthcare.

Meanwhile, Rivera said the New York Health Act would also protect the State from the federal administration’s Medicaid cuts and what he described as its “draconian” coverage eligibility changes that he said will go into effect over the next few years. “As lead sponsor of the NY Health Act, I am committed to working with Our Bronx to make universal health coverage a reality that will transform the lives of so many in our borough and across New York State,” the senator said.

Though Rivera commended his colleagues in government who were sponsors of the NY Health Act, he explained that this was not sufficient and urged them to garner the political will to become champions of the bill.

“Our Bronx” is a common refrain which has often been cited by NWBCCC / Our Bronx members during their various campaigns for community ownership over public lands. The new name marks the organization’s borough-wide expansion and what members described as a deepened commitment to building power for racial justice and economic democracy across borough.

“Our Bronx is what we’ve been building toward for more than 50 years,” said Sandra Lobo, executive director of the NWBCCC, now Our Bronx. “From tenant organizing and community land trust work, to shaping borough-wide economic strategy, to setting new standards for what development must deliver, we’ve proven that when Bronx communities organize, we can win real power, real accountability, and real ownership.”

As reported, Our Bronx first announced its borough-wide expansion at its 50th anniversary gala, alongside its merger with the Bronx Cooperative Development Initiative. Our Bronx members said the merger brings together more than five decades of organizing “with deep planning and development expertise, strengthening a vehicle for long-term economic transformation in the borough.”

They said that integration helped catalyze major initiatives, including Our Bronx’s collaboration with the Bronx Economic Development Corporation (BXEDC) to create the borough’s first federally certified Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). They went on to say that in 2025, Our Bronx, BXEDC, and the Bronx-wide Coalition gathered input from more than 700 Bronx residents, workers, and small business owners to shape the plan, which they said will help channel investment and institutional decision-making toward shared ownership, quality jobs, and environmental resilience.

Members said that in 2026, partners will continue soliciting public feedback to finalize the Bronx CEDS and unveil it at the Bronx Economic Development Summit on June 5 and 6. More than 200 community members, faith and labor partners, and elected officials gathered to celebrate major 2025 milestones at the event, including an unprecedented package of agreements relating to the redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory: a development and legally-binding community benefits agreement, (CBA) which, together, secured a 20% community ownership stake, commitments to community space, affordable commercial and manufacturing space, strong environmental sustainability standards, and family-sustaining jobs.

Signed by 32 Bronx institutions, Our Bronx members said the CBA is a crowning achievement in a campaign spanning three decades to deliver a community-driven future for the Armory. Lobo said, “The Kingsbridge Armory agreements, our growing community land trust pipeline, and the Bronx CEDS are all part of the same story: we are building the infrastructure for economic democracy. As Our Bronx, we are stepping into our next phase, expanding borough-wide, deepening cross-sector partnerships,

and scaling models that keep our people here, create family-sustaining jobs, and put decision-making in community hands - for us, by us.”

A core theme of the evening was the power of long-term, cross-sector partnerships, which Lobo and others credited for recent victories including the passage of the Construction Justice Act, advanced by a broad coalition of labor, community, and faith organizations. The bipartisan bill, championed in the Bronx by Council Member Carmen De La Rosa (C.D. 10), Laborers Local 79, and Our Bronx, set a \$40-per hour compensation standard for workers on city-funded affordable housing projects. Under the standard, at least \$25 per hour must be dedicated to wages, with the balance available for wages, healthcare, or other benefits.

“The Construction Justice Act matters because it helps ensure workers receive a dignified wage and strong benefits so the jobs that build our city can actually sustain a family,” said Karla Cruz, executive director of Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust (LECET).

Meanwhile, Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson said in part, “For years, the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition has been laying the groundwork for long-term support of economic growth and opportunities for the Bronx, and this Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy provides an important analysis of the borough that will identify strategies and priorities for how the Bronx can thrive,”

The Bronx CEDS builds on the long-term vision of the Bronx-wide Coalition, a cross-sector collaboration of community, labor, and faith partners working together since 2019 to advance community wealth and ownership.

For her part, City Council Member Pierina Sanchez (C.D. 14), said in part, “From securing a development deal at the Kingsbridge Armory that creates community ownership and good jobs for local residents, to transitioning 2201-05 Davidson Avenue out of negligent ownership and on the road to rehabilitation, our partnership has delivered historic victories for our Bronx.”

On the topic of healthcare, Dileta Pina, board member of NWBCCC /

Our Bronx, and a retired City worker, previously talked of her experience of worrying about her 57-year-old son, Robert, who last year underwent a kidney transplant. “This is not pleasant for me,” she said in part. “First and foremost, I’m a mom. These Medicaid cuts have made me scared and angry and feeling all kinds of emotions. My firstborn was born 57 years ago. You will see him and you will see a grown man, but when I look at him, I see my baby that I held in my arms 57 years ago.”

Pina said Robert was going to need anti-rejection medication for the rest of his life in order for his organ not to fail. “We don’t know what’s going to happen,” she said if the Medicaid cuts took effect, which they did. “He may not be able to afford the anti-rejection medication and even if I were to give him all of the money that I have from my pension [...], every penny may not cover the anti-rejection medication that he needs to stay alive. So, this big murder bill that they passed in Washington is really going to affect a lot of us.”

She said many others were in similar situations to her and Robert, but added that the cuts would also affect people like the 1199 members who work in healthcare who she said may lose their jobs, along with home help aides who take care of seniors and people with disabilities. “Hospitals are going to close, health centers are going to close,” she said. “It’s going to be disastrous and this is why I’m here passionately advocating for the New York Health Act to pass because that will cover everybody in the State, no copayments, no [inaudible] will be included, hearing, vision, dental.”

She added, “One important thing is when the people lose their job or go to another job, they still have their healthcare, they don’t have to worry about staying with a bad boss and losing their healthcare. Also, people who are undocumented *and* documented will be covered and that’ll help all of us, because all of us are going to be healthy if we all have universal healthcare.”

*Norwood News* previously asked the governor’s office for comment on the potential cost to the State of passing the NY Health Act and were advised that her office did not comment on pending legislation.

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