

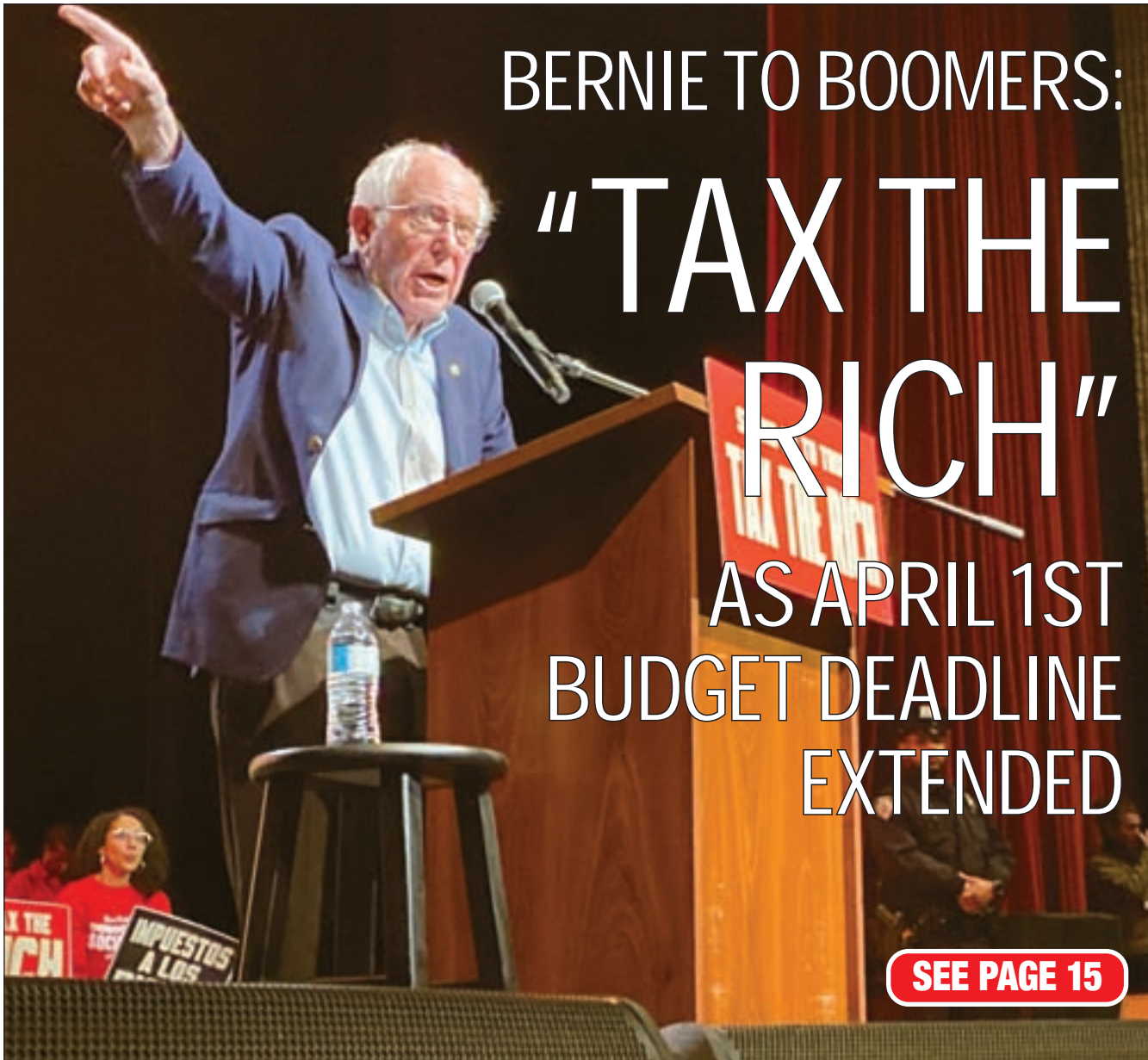


NORWOOD NEWS

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BERNIE TO BOOMERS:
"TAX THE RICH"
AS APRIL 1ST BUDGET DEADLINE EXTENDED

SEE PAGE 15

INDEPENDENT U.S. SEN. Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont) addresses the crowd as the keynote speaker at a Bronx "Tax the Rich" rally organized by the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) on Sunday, March 30, 2026 at Bedford Park's Lehman College, The Bronx.

Photo by Síle Moloney



Warmer Weather Sees Rise in Car Crashes
pg 2



Marble Hill High School Student Dylan released by ICE | pg 4



Fire Breaks out at Fire Engine 79's Firehouse
pg 5

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Warmer Temps Sees Rise in Car Crashes

By SÍLE MOLONEY & DAVID GREENE

As Bronxites finally start to feel warmer weather, the change has unfortunately coincided with a spate of local car crashes. Three people were hospitalized following a car accident in Norwood on Tuesday, March 17, St. Patrick's Day, according to EMS. An FDNY/EMS spokesperson said the accident happened at 38 West Gun Hill Road near Gates Place at 5.08 p.m. and involved two cars.

Images posted to the Citizens' App show two white, damaged saloon vehicles, one of which had flipped and was seen on its side, along with police and EMS units on scene. The EMS spokesperson said three people were taken to local area hospitals. Their descriptions and conditions were unknown.

On Sunday, March 22, two people were hospitalized following a single-vehicle car accident also in Norwood. An FDNY / EMS spokesperson said the department responded to a 911 call for a report of an accident at 6.14 p.m. at Jerome Avenue and East Mosholu Parkway North. They said the conditions and descriptions of the victims were unknown.

Police, EMS and FDNY were seen speaking to a group of young people sitting on the sidewalk in front of a gray car which had crashed into one of the pillars holding up the elevated train tracks over Jerome Avenue close to Mosholu Parkway subway station. One young girl was seen holding her head forward in her hands and another was seen resting her head on the shoulder of her colleague. It appeared that some were cut a little on their foreheads.

One young girl also appeared to have thrown up. A nearby store employee who said he exited his store



Photo by Sile Moloney

A GRAY VEHICLE is seen wrapped around a pole holding up the elevated train tracks near Mosholu Parkway subway station after the car crashed at East Mosholu Parkway North and Jerome Avenue in the Norwood section of The Bronx on Sunday, March 22, 2026.

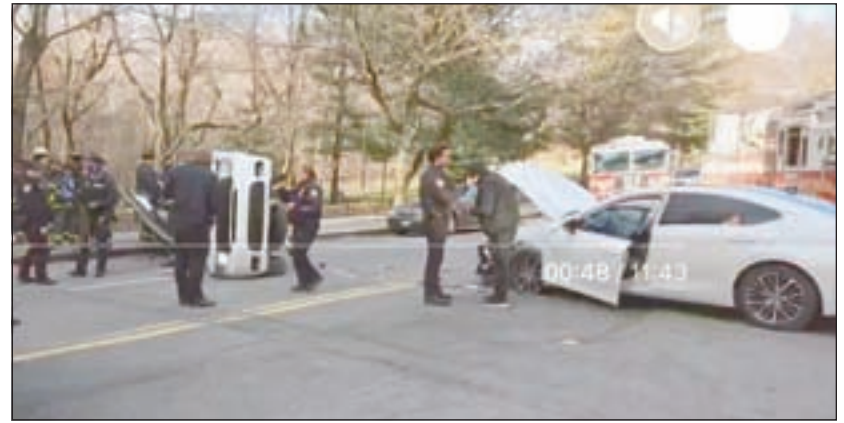


Image courtesy of the Citizens' App

TWO WHITE CARS are seen damaged, one on its side, following a two-vehicle collision at 38 West Gun Hill Road by Gates Place in the Norwood section of The Bronx on Tuesday, March 17, 2026. Police, bystanders and EMS/FDNY units and personnel are also seen on scene.

when he heard the bang surmised the cuts were due to the impact of the car's airbags expanding though *Norwood News* cannot confirm this. He said he had experienced something similar in the past.

Speaking in Spanish, one female resident said the car involved in the crash had been descending at speed in a southwesterly direction along East Mosholu Parkway North towards Jerome Avenue and had attempted to turn left on Jerome Avenue but crashed into the pillar as it did so. "They took the little girl out of the backseat because there was a lot of smoke," the woman said.

Speaking in Spanish, another local female employee, who said she exited her store when she heard the collision, said the driver of the car, who she described as wearing a brown top, got out using the driver's door. "Some of the occupants exited out the back [of the car]," she said. "The one who seems to be the most bruised is the little one who



Photo by David Greene

AT LEAST TEN people traveling in three separate vehicles that were involved in a crash at just before 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 22, 2026, on the Major Deegan Expressway just past East 233rd Street, incurred no injuries, officials said.

was in front," she added.

The woman said the driver had shown her driver's license to police. She added that nobody had been trapped inside the vehicle. *Norwood News* attempted to speak to one of the female members of the group as they sat on the sidewalk near the scene of the crash to ask if they wanted to explain what had happened either then or later. She declined to comment. What looked like gas from the vehicle was seen spilled on the street close to the vehicle.

Norwood News reached out to the NYPD press office for more information on the incident and were informed they didn't yet have any information on it. When we called back around an hour later, an NYPD spokesperson said they are usually only notified of vehicle collisions if there is a serious injury or death.

On the same day, miraculously, none of at least ten occupants involved in a separate, three-vehicle, chain-reaction crash in Van Cortlandt Park on the Major Deegan Expressway were injured, officials said. Police said the crash was reported on the left lane of the southbound Major Deegan Expressway, just beyond Exit 11 at East 233rd Street. The FDNY said the crash took place at 4:42 p.m. on Sunday.

They said the incident closed the left and center lanes, slowing traffic for miles into Westchester County, and added that the crash was cleared and the highway was reopened at 9:51 p.m. According to one police official, Vehicle #1, a white minivan with several child occupants, was "stopped due to traffic" when Vehicle #3, a black SUV, struck Vehicle #2, a white van, which
(continued on next page)

Residents Tense after Two Murders in Three Days

by SÍLE MOLONEY

Two young men were murdered in two separate incidents in Norwood over the weekend, while another remains critical in hospital, making residents nervous that we're launching into another summer of violence.

On Thursday morning, March 26, a 21-year-old man was shot in the head outside Woodlawn subway station in Norwood and died. Police said they've made one arrest following the incident. A police spokesperson said it occurred at around 9.48 a.m.

"Police responded to a 911 call of a person shot in the vicinity of Jerome Avenue and Bainbridge Avenue, within the confines of the 52 [Precinct]," an NYPD spokesperson said. "Upon arrival, officers were informed that a 21-year-old male was shot in the head by an unidentified individual. EMS responded and transported the victim to St. Barnabas Hospital in critical condition. There are no arrests and the investigation remains ongoing."

Police later said that upon arrival, officers had discovered the victim "unconscious and unresponsive" with a gunshot wound to the head. They said that after he was transported to St Barnabas Hospital, he succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased. They said a person of interest was taken into custody and the investigation remained ongoing.

They said the deceased was identified as Assam Alshai of Nereid Avenue in Wakefield. They later confirmed that pursuant to an ongoing investigation, Jadore Reid, 18, also of Wakefield, was



Photo by Chris Perkins

A POLICE OFFICER stands near a backpack lying on the sidewalk on Thursday, March 26, 2026, near a pool of blood on Bainbridge Avenue and Jerome Avenue, Norwood, The Bronx, where a man was shot multiple times earlier that morning, and a suspect was reportedly taken into custody, according to one eye witness.

arrested at 8 p.m. in The Bronx and has been charged with murder, manslaughter, and two counts of criminal possession of a weapon.

Police had cordoned off the crime scene on Thursday morning which is located next to the veterans' memorial beside Woodlawn subway station and across the street from Woodlawn Cemetery. A male eyewitness told *Norwood News* that the shooting occurred at around 9.49 a.m. on Thursday, at Bainbridge Avenue and Jerome Avenue and that the gun was tossed on the traffic island at the intersection of the two streets.

"We heard a bang, I turned and then

I saw the guy standing over the body and he shot him at least two more times while he was on the ground," the eyewitness said. "I saw two guys running and one guy ran up into the subway." He continued, "The guy ran up into Woodlawn Station and came down the other side and tried to get on the #4 bus to Getty Square. We shouted him down and told the cops he was on the bus. They evacuated the bus and they got the guy on the bus."

When *Norwood News* asked the NYPD press office earlier on Thursday if they could corroborate this account of the incident, the spokesperson was unable to. We will share any additional details we

receive. A large pool of blood and a backpack was seen at the crime scene, along with the later-unoccupied bus.

Two days later, on Saturday, March 28, a 35-year-old man was stabbed to death on Webster Avenue in Norwood following a night-time stabbing on Webster Avenue, police said. An NYPD spokesperson said that at around 9.52 p.m., police had responded to a 911 call regarding a man who had been stabbed opposite 3210 Webster Avenue, located parallel with Parkside Place, and near East 205th Street.

"Upon arrival, officers observed a 35-year-old male unconscious and unresponsive with a stab wound to the torso," a police spokesperson said. "EMS responded and transported the victim to St. Barnabas Hospital, where he was pronounced deceased. There are no arrests, and the investigation remains ongoing."

The victim was later identified as Ramon Vasquez from the Tremont / Crotona section of The Bronx. Next to some blood stains at the crime scene, a bloodied pole was seen lying underneath a weed truck. *Norwood News* asked the NYPD if the victim had been bludgeoned as well as stabbed and a spokesperson at the press office was unable to confirm.

A gas station and auto repair shop are located across the street from where the truck was located. An employee at the gas station we spoke to on Sunday said he had not been working the previous night. He said he knew nothing about the incident though he had viewed the security footage from the previous evening.

(continued on page 12)

Warmer Temps See Rise in Car Crashes

(continued from previous page)

then crashed into Vehicle #1. "All parties refused medical attention on scene," police said.

On Monday, March 30, police said there were minor injuries reported following a two-vehicle car crash in Bedford Park. A police spokesperson said the incident, which occurred in the northbound lanes of the Grand Concourse between East 204th and East 205th Street, took place at 4.39 p.m., adding, "Two vehicles with two people with minor injuries."

Norwood News attempted to speak to both drivers involved but both declined

to be interviewed. The male driver of a black vehicle did say that he worked for "Biz," which we understand to be a cab service company. The other driver of a gray-colored vehicle was a woman. Police and an ambulance were seen at the scene. *Norwood News* contacted FDNY/EMS for details of the injured but have not yet received a response. We will share any updates we receive.

Later, we spoke to a female witness called Carolina and asked if she could describe what happened. Speaking in Spanish and referring to the female driver of the gray vehicle, she said, "She was coming in the front, and she stopped at the light, and he hit her from behind."

Carolina continued, "They got out. The lady was very shocked and the gentleman also." Gesturing with her hands indicating a west to east direction, she then alleged, "But for me, the car... the woman was coming in this lane and the gentleman was in the other lane and



Photo by Síle Moloney

POLICE ARE SEEN at the scene of a two-car collision on the Grand Concourse between East 204th Street and East 205th Street in the Bedford Park section of The Bronx on Monday, March 30, 2025.

the lady entered the lane, and that was when the collision happened because she braked."

The airbags had been released inside the black-colored vehicle, and the hood had incurred significant damage.

Carolina said there were two female teenagers in the car belonging to the male driver and that they appeared slightly injured. Asked if they were cut, she said, "No, there was no blood." She said one was hurt in the foot, and they both had gotten a fright. "They were really shocked," she said. Asked how old they were, Carolina said around 15 or 16. Another male witness at the scene declined to be interviewed.

Norwood News has reached out to the NYPD for more information on some of the referenced crashes, where we have not yet received a full report and will share any further details we receive on www.norwoodnews.org.

With collision investigations, the NYPD handles all criminal aspects of the investigation, while NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) reviews the street design at the locations of such crashes. An overview of traffic accident data is included in our latest Crime File in this edition.

Governor & Mayor Welcome Dylan Lopez Contreras Home after ICE Release

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul, NYC Mayor Zohran Mamdani, The New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC), New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG), ROCC-NYC, allies, elected officials, including City Councilman Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11), among others, and immigrant New Yorkers held a press conference on Thursday, March 19, at Middle Church, Manhattan to welcome home Marble Hill High School student Dylan Lopez Contreras after he was detained in ICE [U.S. Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement] custody in May 2025.

NYLAG officials said Dylan, a student of ELLIS Prep High School, was released from Moshannon Valley ICE Processing Center in Philipsburg, Pennsylvania the previous day, after being “kidnapped” by ICE at a court hearing at 290 Broadway in Manhattan on May 21, 2025. They said, as reported previously, that he was the first high school student in New York City known to be abducted by ICE since U.S. President Donald Trump took office for a second time. The young man looked pale and a bit overwhelmed as he hugged his mom and briefly spoke to the media in Spanish, broadly calling for support for those like him who are still detained, in his view, unjustly by ICE.

“All New York families belong together. Nearly a year after Dylan was tricked and disappeared by ICE, and

shipped to a detention center far away from his family and support system, Dylan is finally home,” said Murad Awawdeh, president and CEO of New York Immigration Coalition, in part.

The governor said earlier in March, she had met with federal officials to make an appeal for ICE and federal law enforcement to focus on real threats and to stop the attacks on law-abiding people who call New York home. “As part of this meeting, I urged the release of Dylan Lopez Contreras, a young public-school student who was unjustly taken by federal immigration agents last year,” she said. “Today, after ten long, painful months in ICE detention, Dylan is finally being reunited with his family. While I am relieved that Dylan has been released, we cannot stop here. The federal government must work with New York to return all those who have been wrongfully taken and separated from their families.”

For his part, the mayor said the City was overjoyed that Dylan has finally been released from detention and would be back home with his loved ones in The Bronx. “What should have been a time for him to focus on finishing high school instead became ten long months of isolation, after he was taken into custody at what was supposed to be a routine immigration hearing last May,” he said. “Throughout this injustice, Dylan has shown remarkable strength, resilience, and courage. I wish him a smooth and

joyful return to his life, his community, and his future here in New York City. He is a New Yorker, and our city is glad to have him home.”

NYC Council Speaker Julie Menin, (C.D. 5), said, “Dylan is home, and that’s exactly where he should have been all along. Detaining a high school student for 10 months without cause is outrageous. He was robbed of time, stability, and a sense of safety that no young person should ever lose. We are grateful to every advocate and elected leader involved for their relentless advocacy in bringing him home. Today we celebrate, but we also commit ourselves to fighting for every New Yorker’s right to due process and dignity.”

Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson said, “After 10 months of unjust detention, we are relieved to hear that Dylan Lopez Contreras has been released by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and is returning to his family here in New York City. Dylan’s experience in custody is beyond unacceptable, and his story reflects a disturbing pattern of unfair enforcement by federal authorities that has harmed countless families across our nation.”

She added, “A person’s immigration status is never an excuse for human rights abuses, and we condemn any practice by this federal administration that treats our residents as less deserving of dignity or protection. The Bronx is proudly a borough of immigrants, and we will continue to fight for the rights and protections of our immigrant communities regardless of any action taken to undermine their safety and security.”

State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33) said in part, “I’m relieved to learn that Dylan Lopez Contreras has been finally released from ICE detention in Pennsylvania and that he is back with his family..”

He added, “I want to thank the New York Legal Assistance Group for providing Dylan with free legal representation. I want to also recognize the dedicated advocacy of Principal Norma Vega and of so many of my Bronx neighbors who raised their voices in support of Dylan and his family.”

He concluded, “The ‘trump’ administration is unjustly targeting people like Dylan who came to our country looking for a safe place to live. Thousands of children remain in detention across the country, and they should also be reunited with their families and communities. We must continue to resist this cruel administration, stay connected to local groups to protect each other, and pass New York for All to end coordination between local and state law enforcement and ICE.”

Melissa Chua, director of the immi-



Screenshot by Sile Moloney

NEW YORK GOV. Kathy Hochul (who had to leave the press conference early), NYC Mayor Zohran Mamdani, The New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC), New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG), ROCC-NYC, allies, elected officials, including City Councilman Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11), among others, and immigrant New Yorkers held a press conference on Thursday, March 19, 2026 at Middle Church, Manhattan to welcome home Marble Hill High School student Dylan Lopez Contreras, at podium, after he was detained in ICE custody in May 2025.

grant protection unit at the New York Legal Assistance Group, said, “Dylan’s legal team and all those who have supported him are deeply grateful to finally secure his release and bring Dylan back home to his family and community. We want to thank Sen. Schumer, Mayor Mamdani, and the many elected officials who have offered their unwavering advocacy and vocal support over the past year. As legal advocates, we know all too well just how many more people are still out there, remain unjustly detained, risk separation from loved ones, or spend each day living in fear and uncertainty under this current political climate. That is why we remain committed to fighting day after day on behalf of Dylan and so many others like him to restore justice by keeping families together and upholding the rights of all people, regardless of immigration status.”

Power Malu and Candice Braun, co-directors of ROCC NYC, said, “Dylan’s life was unjustly interrupted by no fault of his own by a broken immigration system that tore him from his family. Dylan is an exceptional human. His extraordinary grit, fortitude and resilience in the face of this horrific situation have inspired us all. ROCC NYC is humbled by the trust Dylan has in us and thankful for our incredible community of volunteers, partners and supporters. Today felt like a giant hug for Dylan from NYC and we are grateful to every single person who helped Free Dylan. Por Fin.”

The New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC) is an umbrella policy & advocacy organization that represents over 200 immigrant and refugee rights groups throughout New York.

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Bedford Park: 14 Firefighters Injured following Firehouse Blaze

By SÍLE MOLONEY

At least three fires were reported within and close to Bronx Community District 7 in the last week or so, one fatal, and including one at the Bedford Park firehouse resulting in its temporary closure, though FDNY officials assured residents there would be ample coverage in the event of an emergency during this time.

Fourteen firefighters were injured following the early morning blaze in Bedford Park, the FDNY said, adding that the department received a call at 6 a.m. on Friday, March 27, for a report of a fire at 2928 Briggs Avenue, a two-story (50X120) firehouse and headquarters of Engine 79/Ladder 37, located near East 200th Street and East 199th Street.

They said there was fire on two floors, all members had been accounted for and that as of 8.47 a.m., 14 firefighters were being evaluated for minor injuries. They said the fire had been brought under control by 7.36 a.m. and fire marshals were investigating the cause and origin.

FDNY Commissioner Lillian Bon-signore was on scene on Friday morning holding a press conference following the incident. "We had quite the morning," she said, adding that all the firefighters on duty at Engine 79/Ladder 37 were inside the firehouse on Friday morning working when one of them noticed there



Photo by Síle Moloney

A DAMAGED FIRE truck is seen at 2928 Briggs Avenue, a two-story (50X120) firehouse and headquarters of Engine 79/Ladder 37 in the Bedford Park section of The Bronx on Friday, March 27, 2026, after an early morning fire.

was a fire on the first floor.

"He immediately alerted everyone in the building to give them the opportunity to get out," she said. "They called for extra help. We had some firefighters on the second floor of the building who could not get out through the stairway so they did exactly what we ask everybody to do, exactly what we teach, was to shelter in the front room and to close the door behind them, which gave them the opportunity and bought them time for another fire unit to come and help evacuate them from the building."

She continued in part saying everyone was more or less ok. "We're grateful for that," she said. "I will just tell the folks in this neighborhood that fire service will continue, not to worry. We are here and we'll continue to serve this area."

FDNY Chief of Department John Esposito then said at 6 a.m. the house watchman in the firehouse became aware of a fire on the first floor and alerted everyone. "The cause and where it started is under investigation, but the fire did extend to the apparatus; Fire Engine 79's fire truck was involved with fire. That fire was spreading up the stairs and members on the second floor had difficulty getting downstairs," he said.

Esposito said Ladder 56 arrived quickly and was able to remove members from those second-floor windows by portable and aerial ladders. He said about 60 fire and EMS units, comprising

165 fire and EMS personnel responded to the fire, which, he said was a normal response for a third-alarm fire of that nature. "We're also in the process with our facilities folks to figure out where these fire companies are going to be moved to ensure we have appropriate fire protection for the neighborhood while the fire house is being repaired," he said.

In response to a question on how the fire spread, Esposito said, "Where the engine is parked is adjacent to the stairwell to the second floor, so as the fire spread to the fire truck, the fire then was extending up the stairs, similar to what you would have in a regular residential building or a private dwelling... that the fire is going to go up any enclosures."

Norwood News spoke to Eva Santos Veloz, a local resident, at the scene and asked her for her recollection of the events. "What woke me up was the smell of the smoke 'cause we live on the seventh floor, so the smell of the smoke woke me up," she said. "I thought the fire was happening inside the apartment."

She continued, "And then I'm looking next door and the last thing on my mind is that it's going to be the fire station on fire! And then I saw all the smoke [and] breaking of the windows. It was really scary. It was a lot of smoke and a lot of things happening."

The previous day, Thursday, March 26, one person died and nine people were injured following a fire in Belmont. The FDNY said they received a 911 call at 5.30 a.m. for a report of a fire on the top floor, in the cockloft, and in the roof of a 5-story, non-fireproof, multiple dwelling located at 505 East 184th Street, located between Bassford Avenue and Bathgath Avenue.

"The cockloft is a space above the top-floor ceiling and below the roof line so it's very difficult to access that fire," FDNY Chief Kevin Woods later said. FDNY officials said a second alarm was raised at 5.37 a.m., and units arrived

in around 4 minutes. They said a third alarm was raised at 5.46 a.m., a fourth alarm at 6.17 a.m. a fifth alarm at 7.24 a.m. and that 84 fire and EMS units, comprising 270 fire and EMS personnel responded to the scene.

They said the final update of death and injuries following the blaze was that one person had died, and nine people were aided, including 6 firefighters and two civilians, all of whom they said incurred minor injuries. They said all were transported to area hospitals, and the fire was brought under control at 8.12 a.m.

Woods said the deceased person was found dead in the apartment where the fire broke out, and that the impacted firefighters had incurred minor, non-life-threatening injuries i.e. heat exhaustion and minor sprains. He said there was heavy damage to the building, and the roof had collapsed into the top floor.

Woods continued, "There was also extensive collapse of the cornice. The cornice is a decorative portion of the exterior wall. It is non-structural in nature, but we can only access it from the exterior. We had heavy fire in the cornice; that cornice did collapse." He said the cause was under investigation by fire marshals.

Local Councilman Oswald Feliz said of the fire, "Deeply saddened to learn of this fire, which claimed the life of a member of our community. I've been in close contact with the @FDNY and @nycemergencymgt, and I am praying for the victims. This is horrible."

The Red Cross later said 23 households (56 individuals) were assisted with housing and more after the fire. State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33) also shared his condolences, thanked first responders, and offered his office's assistance to those affected.

Earlier the same morning, no injuries were reported following a separate residential fire in Kingsbridge Heights FDNY officials said. The FDNY said they received a 911 call at 1.45 a.m. for a report of a fire on the top floor of a building located at 2756 Creston Avenue, located between East 197th Street and East 196th Street.

They said 21 units, comprising 79 fire and EMS personnel responded to the scene, there were no reported injuries, and the fire was brought under control at 2.31 a.m. They said the cause is under investigation. The Red Cross said four households (four individuals) were helped with housing and more after the fire.

On Saturday morning, March 28, a male driver survived injury after his car ignited when he turned the key in the engine as it was parked in an elevated parking lot in Norwood. An FDNY spokesperson said the department received a 911 call at 11.47 a.m. for a report of a car fire at 3510 Jerome Avenue, a parking lot located between East 212th Street and East Gun Hill Road and re-

(continued on page 11)



Photo courtesy of Eva Santos Veloz

FIREFIGHTERS RESPOND TO a firehouse blaze that broke out on Friday morning, March 27, 2026 at 2928 Briggs Avenue, Engine 79/Ladder 37 in the Bedford Park, Bronx

NEWS BRIEFS

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

Colon Cancer Awareness Event Held

Members of the colorectal cancer screening program at Montefiore Einstein Comprehensive Cancer Center (MECCC) recently held their annual “Rollin’ Colon” event to raise awareness about the importance of screening for colon cancer for people who are 45 years or older. They said unlike other screening tests, early stages of colon cancer can be both detected and removed. Learn more about the screening program and MECCC resources by calling (718) 920-7183.



Photo courtesy of Montefiore Einstein
MEMBERS OF THE colorectal cancer screening program at Montefiore Einstein Comprehensive Cancer Center (MECCC) recently held their annual “Rollin’ Colon” event to raise awareness about the importance of screening for colon cancer for people who are 45 years or older.

United Nations Returns to Lehman College

Lehman College welcomed United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres and U.S. Ambassador Michael Waltz, along with members of the United Nations Security Council, to the Bedford Park-based college on Tuesday, March 24, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Council’s first U.S.-based meeting. College officials said the milestone event brought together global leaders and Lehman College students, faculty, and leadership for a day of reflection and engagement.

They said the program opened with a private fireside conversation between Waltz and Lehman College students, after which Waltz joined the Security Council ambassadors for a tour of the Old Gym Building, the original site of the 1946 meetings. Led by Rula Hinedi, chief of the United Nations guided tours unit, and Lehman College Professor Emeritus Duane Tananbaum, the tour took participants back in time to the campus’s historic 1946 Security Council meetings.

College officials said the day

concluded with a private session of the United Nations Security Council, joined by Guterres, and added they were proud to welcome world leaders to the campus for the historic occasion and to continue what it described as its tradition of global impact.

The United States recently voted against a U.N. resolution to name slavery the greatest crime against humanity and to call for reparations.



Photo courtesy of Brian Hatton Photography
LEHMAN COLLEGE WELCOMED United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres and U.S. Ambassador Michael Waltz, along with members of the U.N. Security Council, to its campus on Tuesday, March 24, 2026 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Council’s first U.S.-based meeting.

Norwood: Police Appeal for Help Locating Missing Man

The NYPD is appealing to the public for help locating a 25-year-old man reported missing from Norwood. Police said Avery Nilan of 3095 Webster Avenue, Bronx was last seen leaving his home on Wednesday, March 11, at around 10.27 a.m. He is described as male, White, 6 feet, one inch tall, and weighs around 140 pounds.

They said he was last seen wearing a white t-shirt, green pants, green boots, and a tote bag. Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call the NYPD’s Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1-800-577-TIPS (8477) or for Spanish, 1-888-57-PISTA (74782). The public can also submit their tips by logging onto the CrimeStoppers website at <https://crimestoppers.nypdonline.org/>, or on X @NYPDtips. All calls are strictly confidential.



Photo courtesy of the NYPD
AVERY NILAN, 25, FROM Norwood is reported missing, police said.

Montefiore’s Hutchinson Metro Center Campus Features Art by NYC Students

Second grade students from The Bronx’s P.S. 152X took a special trip on March 31 to The Gallery of ARTful Medicine at Simone Development Company’s Hutchinson Metro Center to view artwork by New York City students as part of the “Studio in a School” program. After viewing the exhibit, visiting students from Bronx P.S. 152X participated in a sketching exercise led by “Studio in a School” art teacher, Toto Feldman. The current exhibition, *Young Perspectives: Art by Students from the Five Boroughs*, is on display through April 30 at the gallery, located in the lobby of Tower One, Hutchinson Metro Center at 1250 Waters Place, Bronx



Photo courtesy of Montefiore Einstein
SECOND GRADE STUDENTS from The Bronx’s P.S. 152X took a special trip on March 31 to The Gallery of ARTful Medicine at Simone Development Company’s Hutchinson Metro Center to view artwork by New York City students as part of the “Studio in a School” program.

The Kid Mero Inspires Lehman College Students

by **SÍLE MOLONEY**

This year, the 56th Annual Herbert H. Lehman Memorial Lecture celebrated The Bronx’s very own writer, comedian, television host, actor and internet personality, The Kid Mero, who brought his humor, insight, and Bronx pride to Lehman College on Monday, March 31.

According to Wikipedia and various other sources, Mero rose to prominence alongside fellow Bronx native, Desus Nice, with their Complex TV, 46-episode podcast, Desus vs. Mero, which first premiered on Dec. 18, 2013. The writer/actor was also a cast member of “Guy Code with Desus Nice,” and the co-host of Viceland’s “Desus & Mero” talk show alongside Desus until June 2018. Mero also co-hosted “Desus & Mero,” which premiered on Feb. 21, 2019, on Showtime.

On Monday, the actor, whose real name is Joel Armogasto Martinez, sat down with Lehman students, Julisha ‘JuJu’ Evans, a film major and journalism minor, and Molly Varillas, a business administration major, for a conversation entitled, “A Bronx State of Mind.” Together, they explored Mero’s career journey, storytelling, and the importance of community.

According to Lehman College officials, Mero not only left an impression on the students, he left one that will stay on campus for years to come. They said he also showed off his graffiti skills by tagging a mural entitled “Concrete Conversations,” created by Lehman art students Stephanie Quiroz, Rumarie Denizard, and Tasheba Gallimore, under the guidance of Gina Dominique Hersey, chair and associate professor of art. The students followed suit, adding their own flair to Mero’s design.



Photo courtesy of Lehman College
THE KID MERO was this year’s invitee at Lehman College on Monday, March 31, 2026, for the 56th Annual Herbert H. Lehman Memorial Lecture.

Dominican Heritage Month Marked at Bronx Borough Hall

By SILE MOLONEY

Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson hosted her annual Dominican Heritage Month celebration on Wednesday, March 18, at the Grand Slam Banquet Hall, located at 478 East Tremont Avenue in the Tremont section of the borough.

“As we celebrate Dominican Heritage Month, we honor a community whose culture, resilience, and contributions are deeply woven into the fabric of our borough,” said Gibson. “The Bronx is home to the largest Dominican population in the country, and this celebration reflects the pride, excellence, and lasting impact of Dominican leaders, families, and young people who continue to shape the future of our borough.”

Officials from the borough president’s office said the event honored “the rich heritage, culture, and contributions of the Dominican community in The Bronx,” and was sponsored by Ponce Bank and Helix LED & Design. This year, the celebration was emceed by Dominican American News 12 reporter Brittney Cadet and featured music by DJ Lex (Stylistics).

It also included what was described as a powerful rendition of both the Dominican Republic and the United States national anthems, performed by Tesoro Estrella, along with “a vibrant, energetic performance” by Las Mariposas, directed by Ingrid Valenzuela. An invocation was delivered and a benediction given by Rev. Joselyn Rodriguez of One Way Church, The Point, along with a keynote address by Shadie Tineo from the community affairs division of the Institute of Dominicans Abroad at the Office of the Consul General of New York.

The program also recognized “distinguished” honorees including Afra Rosa, vice president and director of Human Capital Development at Ponce Bank; the Hon. Bianca Perez, president of the New York State Association of Justices of the Supreme Court of the State of NY; Shino Aquakate, on-air personality on La Gozadera Morning Show at La X 96.3 FM; and Zoe Trinidad, a student at The Young Women’s Leadership School of The Bronx, who received the youth award.

From music and dance to community leadership and public service, officials from the borough president’s office said the evening showcased “the energy, vibrancy, and influence of Dominican culture across The Bronx.” They said the celebration united residents, leaders, and community partners in a shared



Photo courtesy of the Office of Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson

DOMINICAN HERITAGE MONTH is celebrated at an event hosted by the Office of the Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson at the Grand Slam Banquet Hall, located at 478 East Tremont Avenue in the Tremont section of the borough, on Wednesday, March 18, 2026.

moment of pride, “reinforcing the borough’s identity as a place where all cultures are celebrated and uplifted, with community at the heart of everything we do.”

Local City Council Member Pierina Sanchez (C.D. 14) who represents some or all of the West Bronx, marked Dominican Independence Day, celebrated annually on Feb. 27, at an event at City Hall last month. Writing later in Spanish, she said, “Happy Dominican Independence Day!” adding in English, “I am a proud Afro-Dominicana who grew up in and now represents District 14 in the Northwest Bronx. I carry this pride every day, but today especially, I celebrate my roots.”

In 2022, State Sen. Luis Sepúlveda (S.D. 32) announced an official visit by the New York State Senate delegation to the Senate of the Dominican Republic. The strong ties between D.R. and New York City were also evident when The Bronx stood in solidarity with the island and mourned the victims of the Jet Set nite-club roof collapse in Santa Domingo last year.

As also reported, the Bronx Dominican community showed up in huge numbers to celebrate the 36th Annual Bronx Dominican Day Parade on July 27, 2025. Earlier that morning, former NYC Mayor Eric Adams held a press conference at the 42nd Precinct in the Melrose section of the South

Bronx, to discuss major wins in the fight against gun violence before later marching in the parade. Later that

evening, violence erupted as several people were shot or otherwise injured close to the parade route.

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Community Action Creates Healthier Lives

By LIZ SPURRELL-HUSS

National Public Health Week 2026 is a time to recognize the power of prevention, the importance of community, and the responsibility we all share in building healthier, more equitable communities. Celebrated each April, and led by the American Public Health Association, the week highlights important issues such as mental health, access to care, environmental health, and the social factors that shape well-being.

The 2026 theme, “Ready, Set, Action!” calls on individuals, organizations, and communities to move beyond awareness and take meaningful steps to improve health. It reminds us that while public health progress has led to longer life expectancy and stronger communities, continued action is needed to address ongoing and emerging challenges our communities face that can threaten our ability to live living longer, healthier lives.

Public health is more than hospitals and clinics; it’s about the conditions that allow people to live healthy, fulfilling lives. From safe housing and nutritious food to clean air and strong social connections, public health touches every aspect of our daily lives. National Public Health Week is an opportunity to both celebrate progress and acknowledge the work that remains to ensure health equity for all.

This is especially relevant in The Bronx. Despite its rich history of community organizing and advocacy, The Bronx is considered New York State’s unhealthiest county. According to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s County Health Rankings, since 2009, The Bronx has ranked 62 of New York State’s 62 counties in both health outcomes and health factors.

Health outcomes include things like length and quality of life, while health factors include things like smoking, cancer screening, poverty rate, and housing problems. This means that The Bronx is overburdened by chronic diseases like diabetes, cancer, and asthma, and over-

all quality of life for Bronx residents is poorer. Community members play a vital role in advancing public health. Getting involved can take many forms. Here are some ideas to get started:

Attend local events such as health fairs, educational workshops, or community forums about health. For example, check out this paid opportunity, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KSDLB2P>, from our Montefiore department of community and population health to participate in zoom discussion groups about Dementia and Alzheimer’s disease. These conversations will help the medical system identify and develop the resources families and communities need most.

Volunteer with local food pantries, mutual aid groups, or organizations addressing housing and environmental issues to directly support community well-being. Check out this community resource tool to find organizations close to you: <https://montefioreeinsteinfundhelp.com/>. For example, you might volunteer with a wonderful food aid organization called Grassroots Recovery at <https://www.grassrootsgrocery.org/join-us-saturday>.

Advocacy is another powerful tool. Contacting local representatives, supporting policies that promote health equity, and raising awareness about issues affecting your community can drive meaningful change. This can be as local as your workplace. Challenge your coworkers to drink more water and avoid sugar-sweetened beverages for the next month. Alternatively, within your faith community, encourage leaders to serve fruits and vegetables at all events for the next six months.

You can also contribute by sharing accurate health information, checking in on neighbors, and fostering connections that strengthen community resilience. For example, an in-person parent support group on select Wednesdays takes place run by The Bronx Health Link

Click here for details: <https://bit.ly/3PHGLhf> for more information. There is also a weekly Zoom group for parents of kids one year or over run by Just Birth Space. More details can be found at <https://bit.ly/4uUfisK>.

For more information, visit <https://www.apha.org/initiatives/national-public-health-week>.

This National Public Health Week, take action, because healthier communities start with all of us!

Liz Spurrell-Huss LCSW, MPH is director of community health programs in the department of community and population health at Montefiore Einstein.

Out & About

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

EVENTS

The Kingsbridge Historical Society is holding a fundraiser for the Society and Van Cortlandt House Museum with Live Tavern Music, Drinks, and Entertainment on Sunday, April 19, at 4.30 p.m. at Van Cortlandt House Museum, 6036 Broadway, Bronx. Discounted tickets are available for early birds. Visit <https://bit.ly/4tlvTUQ> for more information.

KIDS

NYC Parks & partners will host an **Annual Spring Egg Hunt** on Saturday, April 4, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Williamsbridge Oval Park, 3225 Reservoir Oval East in Norwood. The egg hunt for kids aged 4 to 6 begins at 11.30 a.m. and for kids aged 7 to 9, at 12.30 p.m. There will also be games, and arts & crafts.

MUSIC

The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Park Boulevard West, Bronx, NY 10468, presents **McDonalds GospelFest** on Saturday, April 11, at 8 p.m., featuring Hezekiah Walker, Jennifer Holliday, and Le’Andria Johnson. Described as an unforgettable evening celebrating the power, joy, and tradition of gospel music, the event brings together artists and audiences for a night of praise, inspiration, and soul-stirring performances that honor gospel’s enduring impact on music and culture.

Tickets can be purchased by calling (718) 960-8833 or (718) 960-8835 in

Spanish Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and beginning at 4 p.m. on the day of the concert, or through online access at <https://www.lehmancenter.org/events/eddy-herrera-returns>.

ART

Lehman College Art Gallery, 250 Bedford Park Boulevard West, Bronx is hosting **a Free Inclusive Family Program** on Sunday, April 26, from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Make some art, and experience an inquiry-based, inclusive family tour of the exhibition, *The Painted Word*. Create your own drawing based on the work of Scott Covert. Visit <https://bit.ly/4v5nV3P> for more information.

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/3OIgtAN>.

Bronx River Alliance and Transportation Alternatives are hosting **the Bronx River Greenway Bike Ride** on Saturday, April 4. Meet up at 10.30 a.m. at Shoelace Park, 227th Street Playground. (Enter the park near Bronx Blvd & 226th St.). Wheels down at 11 a.m. The bike ride ends at Concrete Plant Park at 1 p.m. Sign up at www.bit.ly/greenway-bike-ride.

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NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY



NYBG: Crazy for Composting 2026: Composting as Resilience

The New York Botanical Garden, 2950 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, will host a Crazy for Composting event on Saturday, April 4, from 9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. at its Ross Hall & Watson Education Building. Get ready for an inspiring, action-packed day at NYBG's annual conference bringing together compost enthusiasts, environmental advocates, and community leaders from across the five boroughs!

This year's theme, Composting as Resilience: Community Composting for Our Collective Future, will highlight how local composting efforts build stronger, more sustainable communities in the face of climate change and environmental injustice. Enjoy presentations, interactive workshops, and opportunities to connect with people who are turning food scraps into fertile soil, and community action into lasting change. Visit

<https://bit.ly/4v4cV6O> for more information.

Clothing Prom Drive for Bronx Teens

Bronxworks is hosting a clothing prom drive for Bronx teens. Drop off donations of new, unworn, or freshly cleaned (and in dry cleaning bags) dresses, suits, and ties on weekdays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1130 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY or at 60 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx. Learn more at <https://bronxworks.org/prom2026>.

2027 Cultural Development Fund

NYC Cultural Affairs has announced its fiscal year 2027 cultural development fund application for NYC not-for-profit arts and cultural organizations. The department will consider proposals in every cultural discipline, and from every area of the City, for services that are provided in the five boroughs and within the City's fiscal year 2027 (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027). Find out more at <https://tinyurl.com/y638as9w>.

Butler Summer Camp

NYC Department of Youth & Community Development and Directions for our Youth will host a free Butler Summer Camp at 1368 Webster Ave.,

Bronx from July 6 to Aug 28, Monday to Friday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for children aged 5 to 12 years of age. Activities include arts & crafts, trips, games and more. Call (718) 303 8997 to speak to Ms. Kim or Ms. Kimberly. [NYCHA Priority Week runs from April 6 to April 17.]

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.

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 LU#12 Heat & Frost Insulators (opens March 27), DC9 Structural Steel Painters (opens March 30), and LU#7 Tile, Marble & Terrazzo Workers (opens April 13). Visit www.ban-dana.com/b/nyunion for more information.

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.

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 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 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.

Free Haircuts

SUNY Bronx Educational Opportunity Center, 2467 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, is giving free haircuts (walk-ins welcome) Monday to Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the center in Room 3036, 3rd Floor. Call (718) 530 7043 for more information.

Free Pest Control Services

NYC health department offers free services on pest control for children with asthma living in The Bronx. For more information, call (718) 508 0643.

Pet Food Pantries of NYC

Pet Food Pantries are available in The Bronx at the following locations: Strong Paw Rescue at www.strongpawrescue.org/pet-pantry, Animal Care Centers of NYC on (212) 788 4000 or at info@nycacc.org, and at Church of Saint Helena on (718) 892 7713 or at sthelenarc@yahoo.com.

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.



Letters To The Editor

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

Hochul's Gaffes

Only our current governor, Kathy Hochul, would go into a Black Church last fall and tell the worshippers not to spend their rebate check in liquor stores. Would she say that to Jews during High Holy Days in their synagogues? Her latest antic is spending millions of dollars to replenish sand at the infamous homosexual enclave called Fire Island. Think of what good those millions would do here in our beloved Bronx. My dear sister sent me pictures of these gays, frolicking in the sand and surf out there in the Pines and Cherry Grove.

The following extract from a New York Post article also makes reference to a previous gaff made by the governor. "This is not the first time Governor Hochul has demeaned Black communities with her words. Last year, she claimed young Black kids in The Bronx didn't even know what the word 'computer' was." If you love our beautiful Bronx and our hamlet of Norwood, do not vote for Kathy Hochul this November.

Richard Marias, Norwood

Editor's Note: Destination Tomorrow, located at 452 E 149th St 3rd floor, Bronx, is The Bronx's dedicated LG-BTQ+ Resource Center. Information and resources can be accessed at www.destinationtomorrow.org or by phone on (646) 723 3325.

See links below for further context:

<https://nypost.com/2025/09/10/us-news/gov-hochul-criticized-for-telling-black-churchgoers-not-to-buy-booze-with-inflation-refund-checks/>

<https://www.fireislandnews.com/environment/new-york-state-authorizes-1-7-billion-to-fund-fire-island-to-montauk-point-storm-resilience/>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-68971655>

UPDATE Build-up Surrounds End of Trump Trial and Planned Crotona Park Rally & Counter Protest - Norwood News

[wood News](#)

Following the referenced remarks by the governor to Black churchgoers and the subsequent article on the topic written by the New York Post, the pastor of the church in question defended Hochul and she, herself, characterized her earlier remark as a "lighthearted joke".

As reported by Norwood News in 2024, during a Milken Institute Global Conference in California on May 6, 2024, while being interviewed on stage in front of the business community, the governor had said, "Right now, we have young Black kids growing up in The Bronx who don't even know what the word 'computer' is. They don't know, they don't know these things." Hochul was roundly lambasted for the remarks by many both within her own party and by the opposition.

Hochul later said she regretted her choice of words. Back in New York, when one reporter informed her "as a black kid from The Bronx" he had received a computer at age three, she responded, saying, "I'm glad you did. I chose the wrong words. I know I've hurt a lot of people. I took full responsibility for it. I've said that before. I said that the first day, and I'll continue to say that."

Asked by the same reporter what she had been trying to say while speaking in California, the governor responded, "I was focusing on disparities in education that I'd had conversations with elected leaders about when I visited schools in The Bronx, and it was concerning to me, but like I said before, I chose the wrong words to articulate my concerns about children."

Norwood News reached out to the governor's office for comment on this letter. We did not receive an immediate response but will share any feedback we receive in a future edition.

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, 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.

Bedford Park: 14 Firefighters Injured following Firehouse Blaze

sponded to the scene. The car was seen with severe damage to the engine, hood, and inside dashboard.

The fire was on the top floor of the parking garage and the FDNY said no injuries were reported and the incident was closed at 12.45 p.m. Speaking to *Norwood News*, the male driver of the car, Marttise H, said, "My car is a total loss. I was on my way to church, started the engine, heard a pop and got out, checked under the hood, and saw the flames, closed the hood, and called the fire department." He said he recently had had his car serviced.

"Thank you to the FDNY for coming here in a timely manner and doing what they do best and keeping us safe, and doing their best for the property," Marttise H said. "Those guys are real heroes. They were true professionals, polite, courteous and I'm just grateful that they kept me safe and that everybody else's car is safe. You know cars can be replaced, lives cannot and I'm grateful to still be able to be here and talk to you."

Given the fire at Engine 79/Ladder 37's firehouse two days earlier, *Norwood News* asked the responding firefighters on scene if they were from the unit and they said they were not. *Norwood News* asked the FDNY press office if ordinarily Engine 79 would have responded to the car fire in Norwood and a spokesperson said, "Engine 79 would not have been first due to this location and that one engine and ladder from the first due assignment responded to put out the car fire. No other companies were needed."

We asked the FDNY for a status update on Engine 79's firehouse reopening, but had not received a response by our print deadline. As reported, two injuries were reported following a residential fire on Norwood's Decatur Avenue on March 13, and thirteen people were injured following an afternoon residential fire in Kingsbridge on March 17 in a six-building complex which houses around seven daycare centers. The Red Cross registered four households (13 adults/3 children) for emergency assistance and

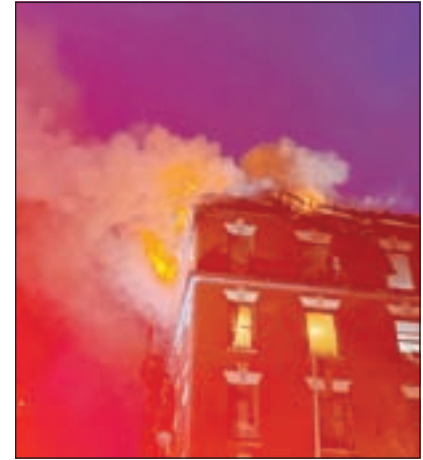


Photo courtesy of the FDNY

FLAMES BURST THROUGH the building located at 505 East 184th Street between Bassford Avenue and Bathgath Avenue in the Belmont section of The Bronx in the early hours of Thursday, March 26, 2026, after a fire broke out on the top floor and in the cockloft.

more after the fire.

That incident followed another large fire, as reported, where several small businesses were damaged on East Gun Hill Road in the Laconia section of the East Bronx on March 6. Read more on this and other fires on www.norwoodnews.org.

The FDNY and the Office of the Bronx Borough President had run a series of fire safety workshops throughout March to help residents with fire prevention and safety awareness.

Visit <https://www.fdnysmart.org/> to read FDNY's fire safety tips. "During a fire, always close the door behind you!" fire officials say. "It helps contain smoke and flames, giving you precious time to escape."

Generally, if any residents are not home when a fire breaks out in their building and they need help with housing and have not connected with the Red Cross, they should call 1-877-RED CROSS (877-733-2767) and select Option 1.



Photp by Síle Moloney

A BURNED-OUT CAR is seen at 3510 Jerome Avenue parking lot in Norwood on Saturday, March 28, 2026.



TrafficStat		Week of 03/16/26 - 03/22/26					
		28 Day			Year to Date		
	% Chg	2026	2025	% Chg	2026	2025	% Chg
Collisions							
Collisions	10.0 %	85	88	-3.4 %	271	266	1.9 %
Injury Collisions	-9.1 %	39	31	25.8 %	98	92	6.5 %
Total Injuries	20.0 %	56	43	30.2 %	127	136	-6.6 %
Motor Vehicle+	15.4 %	39	31	25.8 %	95	93	-2.6 %
Pedestrian	0.0 %	8	5	60.0 %	20	27	-25.9 %
Traditional Bicycle	0.0 %	2	2	0.0 %	5	7	-28.6 %
Motorized Two-Wheeler+	100.0 %	7	5	40.0 %	17	9	88.9 %
Fatalities							
Total Fatalities	-100.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %
Motor Vehicle+	-100.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %
Pedestrian	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %
Traditional Bicycle	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %
Motorized Two-Wheeler+	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %
Collisions+							
Collisions	10.0 %	85	88	-3.4 %	271	266	1.9 %
Injury Collisions	-9.1 %	39	31	25.8 %	98	92	6.5 %
Total Injuries	20.0 %	56	43	30.2 %	127	136	-6.6 %
Car	-12.5 %	16	18	-11.1 %	38	58	-34.5 %

SUV	40.0 %	22	13	69.2 %	44	34	29.4 %
Other MV	0.0 %	1	0	0.0 %	3	1	200.0 %
Pedestrian	0.0 %	8	5	60.0 %	20	27	-25.9 %
Traditional Bicycle	0.0 %	2	2	0.0 %	5	7	-28.6 %
E-bike	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	4	3	33.3 %
Stand-up Scooter	0.0 %	4	2	100.0 %	4	2	100.0 %
Moped	0.0 %	3	1	200.0 %	8	3	166.7 %
Motorcycle	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	1	0	0.0 %
Off Road (Dirt Bike/ATV)	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %
Other Device	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %
SUV	40.0 %	22	13	69.2 %	44	34	29.4 %
Other MV	0.0 %	1	0	0.0 %	3	1	200.0 %
Pedestrian	0.0 %	8	5	60.0 %	20	27	-25.9 %
Traditional Bicycle	0.0 %	2	2	0.0 %	5	7	-28.6 %
E-bike	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	4	3	33.3 %
Stand-up Scooter	0.0 %	4	2	100.0 %	4	2	100.0 %
Moped	0.0 %	3	1	200.0 %	8	3	166.7 %
Motorcycle	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	1	0	0.0 %
Off Road (Dirt Bike/ATV)	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %
Other Device	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %
Off Road (Dirt Bike/ATV)	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %
Other Device	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT STATISTICS in the 52nd Precinct for the 28-day period ending March 22, 2026, compared to last year (left), and year-to-date traffic accidents in the 52nd Precinct as of March 22, 2026, compared to last year (right). This precinct covers some or all of Bedford Park, Fordham, Kingsbridge, Norwood, Bronx Park, and University Heights. *Note: The data presented on this page are preliminary and subject to change. Reasons for this may include re-classifications of deaths later determined to be unrelated to traffic collision, or delays in determining a death from traffic collision that occurred on a date subsequent to the actual crash. A comparison of current and previous year data may not be valid or statistically meaningful.*

Residents Tense after Two Murders in Three Days

(continued from page 3)

He said, to him, it looked like some people dressed in jackets with an ICE logo on them were present at the crime scene along with police. *Norwood News* asked ICE for comment and a spokesperson replied Monday, saying, "ICE NYC confirms that they were not involved here." Meanwhile, an employee at the auto repair shop said they had closed the previous evening at around 6 p.m. prior to the stabbing.

A local female resident who declined to be identified later told *Norwood News*, "I was sleeping and I heard some noises like cops going. I thought it was something... was on it right here [in her building, which is located near the crime scene]. She continued, "There was a lot of them [...] but I didn't come downstairs. So, it was a lot of cops. They caught two guys, and the one who was stabbed... I didn't come down though. I don't like to come down here and then somebody else might come and do something, you know?"

Asked if she saw the police place two people in handcuffs, she said she did, gesturing with her hands behind her

back. Asked what they looked like, she said, "I don't know. I just saw it from up here. I think it was like Mexican or something. I don't know." She continued, "It was like two ambulances, one here and the other side. One of them took the guy to the hospital."

Asked if she had heard anything like screams prior to that, she said, "No, nothing, nothing, nothing, 'cause I was upstairs and sometimes, you never know around here what happened and then, people stay quiet, and people don't say nothin' So I was like ok, maybe something happened. Let me see if I can go downstairs but then I see a bunch of cops, so I was like let me get upstairs because they're going to ask me what happened."

The woman continued, "So, the guy with the ambulance, they took him, and then they took two guys, arrested, a young guy and the other one." Later, on Sunday night, when the police crime scene unit arrived to carry out their investigation, they marked a separate smaller weapon, which was beside a wheel of the truck, as evidence and placed it in a bag. The larger weapon seen next to the blood stains was not



Photo by Kyle Mazza / Norwood News

THE POLICE CRIME scene unit arrives at the scene of a fatal stabbing at 3210 Webster Avenue in the Norwood section of The Bronx late on Sunday night, March 29, 2026, to carry out their investigation after a 35-year-old man was fatally stabbed the previous night.

taken into evidence.

Asked how many cops she saw, the woman said, "I don't know. Maybe five or six." The woman added, "This block never be like that before." The employee at the gas station also said there was never usually any trouble in the area either. *Norwood News* had previously reported on a car fire at the same location.

We followed up with the NYPD and asked if anyone had been taken into custody and a spokesperson said they were unable to confirm.

The next day, a 21-year-old man was shot in the head inside a residential building in Morris Heights, just south of the University Heights border. He was hospitalized and remained in critical condition, police said Monday, March 30. A police spokesperson said that on Sunday, March 29, at around 10.51 p.m., officers responded to a 911 call regarding an assault in progress inside 1930 Harrison Avenue, close to Burnside Avenue.

"Upon arrival, officers observed a
(continued on next page)

CRIME FILE - MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



Patrol Borough: Bronx		Precinct: 046					
CompStat Book		Week of 03/16/26 - 03/22/26					
		28 Day		Year to Date			
	% Chg	2026	2025	% Chg	2026	2025	% Chg
Murder	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	2	0	- %
Rape	200.0 %	5	4	25.0 %	10	7	42.9 %
Robbery	120.0 %	34	21	61.9 %	95	81	17.3 %
Felony Assault	11.1 %	69	71	-2.8 %	192	181	6.1 %
Burglary	-20.0 %	20	16	25.0 %	50	35	42.9 %
Grand Larceny	-26.3 %	50	62	-19.4 %	135	146	-7.5 %
Grand Larceny Auto	-50.0 %	15	17	-11.8 %	37	47	-21.3 %
Total	1.9 %	193	191	1.0 %	521	497	4.8 %
Patrol	7.5 %	189	184	2.7 %	500	485	3.1 %
Transit	0.0 %	1	1	0.0 %	11	3	266.7 %
Housing	-100.0 %	3	6	-50.0 %	10	9	11.1 %
Shooting Victims	-100.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	2	2	0.0 %
Shooting Incidents	-100.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	2	2	0.0 %
UCR Rape*	0.0 %	5	8	-37.5 %	13	11	18.2 %
Other Sex Crimes	-50.0 %	8	3	166.7 %	19	12	58.3 %
Petit Larceny	26.3 %	90	59	52.5 %	245	185	32.4 %
Med. Assault	-4.5 %	92	78	17.9 %	227	183	24.0 %
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 Summary 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

Patrol Borough: Bronx		Precinct: 050					
CompStat Book		Week of 03/16/26 - 03/22/26					
		28 Day		Year to Date			
	% Chg	2026	2025	% Chg	2026	2025	% Chg
Murder	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	4	0	- %
Rape	-50.0 %	5	3	66.7 %	8	7	14.3 %
Robbery	-66.7 %	5	9	-44.4 %	24	26	-7.7 %
Felony Assault	-50.0 %	17	16	6.3 %	47	48	-2.1 %
Burglary	100.0 %	5	11	-54.5 %	18	30	-40.0 %
Grand Larceny	-41.7 %	39	38	2.6 %	102	108	-5.6 %
Grand Larceny Auto	-80.0 %	23	21	9.5 %	60	52	15.4 %
Total	-52.9 %	94	98	-4.1 %	263	271	-3.0 %
Patrol	-50.0 %	68	93	-5.4 %	249	254	-2.0 %
Transit	-100.0 %	2	1	100.0 %	4	3	33.3 %
Housing	-100.0 %	4	4	0.0 %	10	14	-28.6 %
Shooting Victims	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	7	0	- %
Shooting Incidents	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	3	0	- %
UCR Rape*	-50.0 %	5	3	66.7 %	8	8	0.0 %
Other Sex Crimes	- %	6	3	100.0 %	30	7	328.6 %
Petit Larceny	55.6 %	90	66	36.4 %	242	194	24.7 %
Med. Assault	-25.0 %	33	22	60.0 %	87	70	24.3 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	1	0	- %	2	0	- %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	1	0	- %	3	0	- %

- All figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision. Data Summary 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 / Compstat

Source: NYPD / Compstat

MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS for the 46th Precinct for the 28-day period ending March 22, 2026, compared to last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 46th Precinct as of March 22, 2026, compared to last year (right). This precinct covers some or all of Fordham, University Heights, Morris Heights and Mt. Hope.

MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS for the 50th Precinct for the 28-day period ending March 22, 2026, compared to last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 50th Precinct as of March 22, 2026, compared to last year (right). This precinct covers some or all of Kingsbridge, Fieldston, Iverdale, Marble Hill, and Spuyten Duyvil.

(continued from previous page)

21-year-old male with a gunshot wound to the head," a police spokesperson said. "EMS responded and transported the victim to St. Barnabas Hospital [in Belmont] in critical condition."

Police said there are no arrests, and the investigation remains ongoing. When *Norwood News* visited the location on Monday morning, three different sets of neighbors said they heard no shots, no arguments, and no disturbance of any kind, including one resident on the same floor as where the shooting occurred.

One elderly female resident said she heard a lot of commotion later, which she believes was the police arriving but nothing before that. A large pool of blood was seen outside one of the doors on the fourth floor, where a police officer guarded the scene. He mentioned the NYPD were awaiting receipt of a warrant to enter the affected apartment.

A short distance away on the same block, a mural was seen dedicated to a young man who had previously died. Another female resident said the area was generally quiet, and nothing like the shooting had happened before. The weed truck was later photographed by a resident opposite the 52nd Precinct station-house by a resident who alleged police were dusting it for fingerprints.

At least two anti-gun violence rallies have been held in recent weeks in

the north Bronx, following a spate of other recent non-fatal shootings, which unlike the general downward trend, seen across the City, have gone up in The Bronx. As reported, Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch recently announced that the borough would be split into two distinct patrol borough commands to meet the needs of the community.

Anyone with information regarding any of 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 CrimeStoppers website at <https://crimestoppers.nypdonline.org/>, or on X @NYPDTips.



Photo by Síle Moloney

A LARGE POOL of blood is seen outside a fourth-floor apartment inside 1930 Harrison Avenue in the Morris Heights section of The Bronx on Monday, March 30, 2026, after a 21-year-old man was shot in the head the previous night and was hospitalized. He remains in critical condition.

Patrol Borough: Bronx		Precinct: 052					
CompStat Book		Week of 03/16/26 - 03/22/26					
		28 Day		Year to Date			
	% Chg	2026	2025	% Chg	2026	2025	% Chg
Murder	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	1	0	- %
Rape	0.0 %	2	5	-60.0 %	8	17	-52.9 %
Robbery	40.0 %	25	30	-16.7 %	89	78	17.1 %
Felony Assault	15.0 %	81	73	11.0 %	204	178	14.6 %
Burglary	-62.5 %	9	26	-65.4 %	30	52	-42.3 %
Grand Larceny	-37.5 %	50	63	-20.6 %	167	183	-8.7 %
Grand Larceny Auto	75.0 %	19	22	-13.6 %	42	57	-26.3 %
Total	-5.6 %	186	219	-15.1 %	541	563	-3.9 %
Patrol	-5.6 %	184	215	-14.4 %	527	553	-4.7 %
Transit	0.0 %	2	4	-50.0 %	11	10	10.0 %
Housing	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	3	0	- %
Shooting Victims	-100.0 %	1	1	0.0 %	2	2	0.0 %
Shooting Incidents	-100.0 %	1	1	0.0 %	2	2	0.0 %
UCR Rape*	0.0 %	3	6	-50.0 %	10	18	-44.4 %
Other Sex Crimes	0.0 %	8	13	-30.8 %	20	21	-4.8 %
Petit Larceny	9.4 %	167	114	46.5 %	420	354	18.6 %
Med. Assault	-25.0 %	79	67	17.9 %	217	159	36.5 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	1	0	- %
Traffic Fatalities	-100.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %

- All figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision. Data Summary 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 / Compstat

MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS for the 52nd Precinct for the 28-day period ending March 22, 2026, compared to the same timeframe last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 52nd Precinct as of March 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 52nd PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL meetings usually take place at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month, either in person or virtually. 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 28, at 6.30 p.m. at Monroe University, Mintz Auditorium, 2501 Jerome Avenue, Bronx. Contact KCabreraCarrera@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list. All meetings are in person unless otherwise notified by Bronx CB7.

The next BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8 (CB8) general board meeting will be held Tuesday, April 14, at 7 p.m. at CSAIR Synagogue, 475 West 250th Street, 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 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.

Hundreds Turn Out for 3rd 'No Kings' Rally at Lou Gehrig Plaza



Photo by David Greene

ON A COLD and blustery day on Saturday, March 28, 2026 several hundred Bronxites packed Lou Gehrig Plaza in the Concourse section of The Bronx, across the street from Bronx Borough Hall at East 161st Street and the Grand Concourse, to be part of history. Organizers of the nationwide "No Kings" movement said at least 8 million people turned out across the country at more than 3,300 locations for a third national protest the same day.



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Bernie to Boomers: “Tax the Rich” as April 1st Budget Deadline Extended

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Independent U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont), the keynote speaker at a recent Bronx “Tax the Rich” rally organized by the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), brought his usual passion, this time, to Bedford Park’s Lehman College, as he appealed to both Gen X and Boomer legislators alike to help the next generation live an affordable life of dignity.

At the event, held Sunday, March 29, two days before the April 1st deadline to agree the next State budget, the message from Sanders, a former presidential candidate, the progressive wing of the New York Democratic Party, members of NYC-DSA, labor unions, and advocates was clear, and was directed at New York Gov. Kathy Hochul and New York lawmakers: “Tax the Rich” and wealthy corporations to fund the current gap in the City budget.

As reported, New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani had already outlined two paths to closing the current City Budget gap during a press conference held last month – tax the rich or have the middle class foot the bill. Sanders highlighted the importance of raising taxes on the rich, standing up to U.S. President Donald Trump’s economic and political agenda, and decried the disparity of wealth distribution in America. Organizers of the rally said the wealthiest New Yorkers will save \$12 billion dollars this year due to Trump’s tax cuts for the wealthy.

Sanders said the impact of the election of Mamdani was reverberating not just across the country, but all over the world and commended those responsible for their campaign efforts. “You have given America hope,” he said, adding that ordinary people knocking on doors can defeat oligarchs, no matter how much money the oligarchs have.

Sanders lamented that Trumpism and authoritarianism were not, in his view, the only issues facing Americans. He warned that “oligarchs like [Elon] Musk and [Jeff] Bezos” were pushing AI and robotics, which, he said, would be disastrous for the working class.

The senator, who previously ran unsuccessfully for president despite having huge support, went on to say that one issue which didn’t get enough attention in Congress or in the media was the “enormous level of income and wealth inequality” and said the reason it wasn’t discussed much was because the majority of those elected to serve were bought by powerful special inter-

ests, who he said paid for their campaigns. He added that corporate media was also owned by a small number of billionaires.

“The American people are catching on, and they know that never before in American history have there been so few people who hold so much wealth and so much power,” he said, adding that it was worse than the Gilded Age and that campaign contributions were completely out of control.

Sanders questioned whether Americans are still living in a democracy when Musk can spend \$290 million to elect U.S. President Donald Trump and warned that similar spending would happen ahead of the midterm elections this year. “Never before have we seen the kind of greed, arrogance, and irresponsibility that we are seeing today in the billionaire class,” he said, adding that the oligarchs don’t see themselves as being the same as everyone else but as “elites with a God-given right to rule.”

“They’re pretty open about it,” he added. “Right now, you are living in a country where the top 1% owns more wealth than the bottom 93%. One man, Mr. Musk, owns more wealth than the bottom 53% of American households. That is insane! Today, the CEOs of large, profitable corporations now make 350 times more than their average worker.” He said it used to be 20 times more or 50 times more.

“After receiving the largest tax break in history from Donald Trump’s Ugly / Beautiful Bill, 938 millionaires became \$105 trillion richer,” he said. “In New York City, the top 1% earns 44% of all income, which means the bottom 99% share 56% of all income. One out of every four residents in this City is living in poverty.”

Sanders said the richest people in America never had it so good based on one economic reality in America, but he added that there was another. “The working class of America is being decimated and has been under attack for many, many years,” he said. “Over the last many decades, there has been an explosion in technology.” He said workers today were more productive than ever, and yet “the average American worker is making about \$20/week less today than he or she did 53 years ago after adjusting for inflation.” He said according to one conservative research group, over the last 50 years, \$79 trillion



Photo by Síle Moloney

NEW YORKERS GATHER at a Bronx “Tax the Rich” rally organized by the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) on Sunday, March 30, 2026, at Bedford Park’s Lehman College, The Bronx.

in wealth has been redistributed from the bottom 90% to the top 1%.

Sanders said he grew up in a working-class Flatbush household in a rent-controlled apartment, both he and his brother went to high quality public schools, and the family were able to survive on his dad’s sole salary. He said that was not possible today and added that he was certain the economic stress endured by families today is more than what it was when he was growing up. “We should be going forwards, not backwards,” Sanders said. “Bottom line, the American economy today is clearly not working for us,” he said, adding that 60% of Americans were living paycheck to paycheck.

The senator said people could not afford the basics of life in the richest country in the history of the world and that America had the highest rate of childhood poverty and senior poverty of almost any major country on earth. “Nearly half of older workers have nothing saved for retirement,” he said. Sanders said the younger generation were on track to have a lower standard of living than their parents. “We will not allow this to happen,” he said.

Sanders said 85 million Americans were underinsured and that half a million Americans every year go bankrupt due to medical debt. He said the U.S. tax code system was totally rigged and was written by lobbyists to benefit the wealthy. He quoted Warren Buffett from 2006, who he said, said, “There’s class warfare alright, but it is my class, the rich class, that’s making war and we are winning.” He said Buffett admitted he had a lower tax rate than

his secretary, and still today, pays one tenth of 1% in taxes.

He said a few years ago it was estimated that Elon Musk paid an effective tax rate of less than 3.3% last year in tax, while the average truck driver in America paid 8.4%. Meanwhile, he said Jeff Bezos paid an effective tax rate of less than 1% in tax while the average firefighter paid 8.7%. Sanders said Michael Bloomberg, the wealthiest man in New York, paid an effective tax rate of 1.3% while the country’s average registered nurse paid 13.3%.

He said after Trump’s latest tax cuts, Space X, Tesla, Palantir, and Ticketmaster paid zero in federal income taxes. Sanders said last year, combined, these companies earned \$2.7 trillion, and earned \$50 billion in profit. He said it was high time for large corporations to pay their fair share. He said New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani was fighting for people earning more than \$400,000/year to pay more in taxes, and a two-percentage point surcharge on New York City millionaires, which he said was less than 0.7% of total New York City taxpayers. He said that this would generate \$300 million annually.

“What the mayor is proposing is popular,” Sanders said in part during his remarks after he was greeted at the event by thunderous applause and cheers. “The widely respected pollsters at Siena [a polling company] found that 54% of New York State voters supported Mayor Mamdani’s tax increase, and the numbers were much higher in New York City. Today, I would ask Gov. Hochul to listen to where people are at,” he said.

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