



NORWOOD NEWS

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SEE PAGE 19

Photo courtesy of GSS

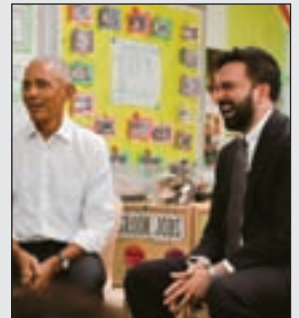
JESSIEH LOMMENEUEL CAMPBELL, one of the students participating in Good Shepherd Services' (GSS) foster care programs chats with representatives from AT&T, and the offices of New York Gov. Kathy Hochul, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33), Assemblywoman Yudelka Tapia (A.D. 86), and Council Member Pierina Sanchez (C.D. 14) during the opening of a new computer lab at GSS's Burnside Avenue center in University Heights on Wednesday, April 15, 2026.



Greek Heritage Month is celebrated in Kingsbridge | pg 2



Bronx Crime Victims Centered at DA's Annual Tribute | pg 13



Obama Makes Surprise Visit to South Bronx | pg 15

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Mosholu Preservation Corporation is a non-profit support corporation of Montefiore Medical Center.



Greek Heritage Month Celebrated

By FAHIMA DEGIA

The sound of clapping echoed through St. Peter the Apostle Greek Orthodox Church in Kingsbridge on Thursday, April 16, as rows of Greek American families turned their attention to a troupe of young dancers. A large blue and white Greek flag hung at the front of the room, while families waved similar smaller flags from their seats.

Children dressed in grey polo shirts which also displayed the Greek flag later moved in circles, performing various dances like the Xasaposervikos, Menousis, Palaos, Ikartiotikos, Koftos, and Sirtos. Along the back wall of the room, a table was filled with Greek desserts like honey-soaked baklava and powdered sweets, adding to a scene that felt both festive and deeply rooted in tradition.

The event, held in honor of Greek Heritage Month and hosted by the Office of the Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson brought together residents, community leaders, and honorees to celebrate the contributions and legacy of Greek Americans in the borough.

Honored this year were Gregory Tsougranis, president of the AHEPA Bronx Chapter 175, associate broker at Keller Williams, and board member of the NYC Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Michael Zoulis, sales representative at Specialty Coffee; Stamatios Katechis, restaurant proprietor of Black Stone Bar and Grill; and Dr. Nick Papaioannou, pharmacist at Crescent Apothecary, along with youth honorees Afroditi Falieros, a student at Fordham University, and Nicholas Capalbo, a student at P.S.19.

Consul General Petros Dorizas also received a surprise award on the night. For many, the gathering was a reflection on community as much as on culture. Kelly Bakas, whose daughter attends the church's school, described her connection to the event saying simply, "I'm Greek, and this is our church, our community."

She emphasized the importance of collective celebration, adding, "It keeps our traditions alive. You know that you



Photo by Fahima Degia

BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT Vanessa Gibson presents an award to Consul General of Greece in New York Petros Dorizas at a Greek Heritage Month celebration at St. Peter the Apostle Greek Orthodox Church, 3245 Kingsbridge Avenue in Kingsbridge, on Thursday, April



Photo by Fahima Degia

THE GREEK NATIONAL Anthem is sung by Elaina Poulus as attendees look on during the Greek Heritage Month celebration at St. Peter the Apostle Greek Orthodox Church, 3245 Kingsbridge Avenue in Kingsbridge, on Thursday, April 16, 2026. Traditional hymns were also sung by Afroditi Falieros at the event.

have to be a community in order to do that. You can't just do it for one or two people. It has to be a community." Bakas added, "I'm a first generation, born in America; we have kept the traditions alive."

Honoree, Falieros, a Fordham University student, pointed to the strong presence of Greek institutions in The Bronx. "There's a big Greek community here, especially here in St. Peter's," she said, while also noting the role of churches in bringing people together. The celebration also drew attendees who were less familiar with the borough's Greek community.

William Stanford attended the event after considering others taking place that day. He had hoped more food would be served but said he enjoyed the performances, adding, "The dancers, the students." Referring to the size of the Greek community in the borough, he com-

mented, "I don't think I knew that part."

Speakers throughout the evening highlighted the historical ties between Greece and the United States, as well as the resilience of immigrant communities generally. Reflecting on those connections, Dorizas said, "This country was built on principles that... stand from that ancient Greek past." He also noted the importance of maintaining cultural identity through language, faith, and education.

The borough president, who sported blue heels for the occasion, underscored its significance and the people behind it during her remarks, saying, "We are here tonight to highlight the contributions of so many of our Greek American leaders that really make us proud."

Gibson went on to describe the borough as "a beautiful reflection of diversity, of culture coming together" and pointed to local institutions as pillars of that legacy. "Places like right here, St. Peter's Greek Orthodox Church, stand as an enduring symbol of legacy, of faith, of foundation, of education, of empowerment," she said.

For honoree, Tsougranis, the recognition was tied to a long history of community service both to the Greek American community and to the wider Bronx community. "The history of Greek Americans goes back very, very... very deep," he said. "So, we're here to celebrate."

As the final dances concluded and applause filled the room once more, the event served both as a tribute to heritage, and as a reminder of a community that continues to shape The Bronx. As Gibson stated, "Tonight, we are all Greek American."

**David Greene contributed to this story.*



Photo by Fahima Degia

BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT Vanessa Gibson presents an award to Gregory Tsougranis at a Greek Heritage Month celebration at St. Peter the Apostle Greek Orthodox Church, 3245 Kingsbridge Avenue in Kingsbridge, on Thursday, April 16, 2026.



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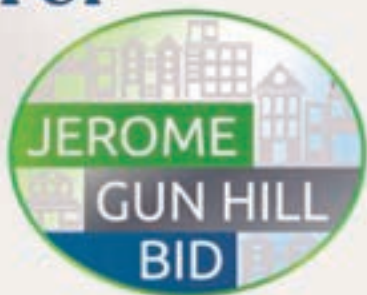
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INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

BY DAVID GREENE & SÍLE MOLONEY



This week, we asked readers their opinions on New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani's veto, on First Amendment grounds, of City Council Bill Intro 0175B, sponsored by City Councilman Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11) that would require the NYPD to establish a plan containing considerations on whether, when, and to what extent security perimeters could be established outside educational facilities.

A similar bill, Intro 0001B, pertaining to protest planning around houses of worship was not vetoed by the mayor. In the context of his veto, the mayor said in part, "The problem is how widely this bill defines an educational institution and the constitutional concerns it raises regarding New Yorkers' fundamental right to protest. As the bill is written, everywhere from universities to museums to teaching hospitals could face restrictions."

Norwood News reported on at least one student protest outside Fordham University in May 2024 in The Bronx in relation to the war in Gaza. In April 2025, we reported that four Fordham University students had their student visas revoked. Meanwhile, the councilman and City Council Speaker Julie Menin (C.D. 5), both of whom are Jewish, had already stressed that the purpose

of the bill was not to infringe on First Amendment rights but to ensure the safety of students.

Since then, a Bronx resident commented that some community board and other public meetings, often attended by elected officials, are frequently held at educational facilities and questioned whether the bill, as written prior to being vetoed, would have impacted upon the right to protest at such meetings. Norwood News asked the city council and the councilman's office for comment on this point.

A representative for the speaker's office responded, reiterating that the bill wouldn't restrict protests at those meetings as it doesn't restrict protests at all, is speech content neutral, and mainly requires the NYPD to be more transparent about their activities, and publicly post a plan of how they propose to respond to protests at educational facilities.

Norwood News was advised that public forum doctrine, among other factors, dictates what is constitutional and what is not when it comes to free speech and other First Amendment rights, and that the city council does not generally prescribe any restrictions on protest activity. We were further advised that Intro 0175B relates to circumstances in which

there is intimidation, physical injury, interference, physical obstruction or harassment at educational facilities.

Norwood News was also advised that the NYPD would typically make any determinations around such harassment or other as described above at such locations, and that their determination in managing protests could be slightly different based on whether there are children present or not, for example.

We were also advised that the NYPD/police commissioner were consulted, and gave testimony, on the draft bill and we were referred to the NYPD for further comment. We reached out to the department and will share any additional feedback we receive.

For further context, during the COVID-19 pandemic in November 2021, anti-vax protestors, some bearing swastikas and Stars of David, showed up to protest at the Office of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81), the councilman's father, over his pro-vaccine stance on vaccine requirements.

The assemblyman had said at the time, "The display of swastikas and yellow Stars of David outside my office today is repugnant and offensive. People are perfectly free to express their opinion on vaccines or any issue, but to openly display Nazi symbols outside the office of a

Jewish legislator is despicable."

Norwood News asked the NYPD at the time, in the context of First Amendment rights, whether the display of swastikas and yellow Stars of David on signs constituted hate speech. We were advised that the NYPD makes clear on its website how hate crimes are defined.

Under the law, a hate crime is a criminal act that is motivated in whole or substantial part by the perceived identity of the victim. For example, when a person calls another person an insulting name, it is just a name and not a crime, even if the name is hateful and offensive. This kind of name calling is generally protected as free speech. In contrast, if someone calls a person a hateful name because of their identity alone and also assaults them, the assault is a crime, and the motivation makes the act a hate crime as well.

The hate crime designation can also apply to other crimes, such as criminal mischief and graffiti, like painting racial slurs or swastikas on public or private property or the desecration of cemeteries associated with particular religious or racial groups. Free speech protections end with the committing of a criminal act, and hateful speech or writing in conjunction with a crime, is a hate crime.



"I think it's 'ludicrous,' to quote Mike Tyson. Most protests in this country have started and gravitate around colleges and universities to begin with and that starts all the problems, so if you really want to put an end to it, that's where you need to start. That's not where you need to finish. As far as children are concerned, I've seen this happen time and time again, where teachers are bringing children outside and have them join protests without the parents even knowing what was going on. I have four children and they're all still going to school. There should never be a protest outside of a school. I don't understand how some of these people are voting."

John Andujar,
Williamsbridge
Photo by David Greene



"I feel we don't need it, because the more protests that we have could help stop this violent crime we are experiencing. I just believe that it's alright if protesters come into the church; we go all over. As long as they're not doing anything to disturb the church, because we have enough people that if they came in, we could monitor and make sure who they are before we allow them to come in."

Pastor Cheryl Singletary,
Mott Haven
Photo by David Greene



"I think that freedom of speech is freedom of speech and it should be allowed. Why not? And you can't stop protests at one but not the other. I understand it because I am a parent, so I wouldn't want stuff happening in front of my kid's school. That's the reality of it."

Cesar Almonte,
Norwood
Photo by David Greene



"Religious spaces are usually not used for nationalistic purposes, so buffer zones seem reasonable. Universities though, can function as places for debate. Jewish students, for example, differ with each other about how antisemitism on campus is framed, and disagree over organizations like Hillel. Moderate Democrats present themselves as prioritizing security but should also protect speech like [NYC Mayor Zohran] Mamdani in my view."

Daniel Falcone,
Manhattan
Photo courtesy of Daniel Falcone



"I find it hilarious that first responders from across the state are now calling for their own 'buffer zone' after that snowball fight in February. This, from the guys who are supposed to fight crime and protect the populace and are still triggered by a snowball. It's spring and all the snow has melted, but the snowball still lives [on] in their heads. I know many cops are conservative, which is extra funny because they're acting like snowflakes to... literal snowflakes."

Tejada Kitedo,
Inwood, Manhattan
Photo courtesy of Tejada Kitedo

Editor's Note: In the context of a boxing fight, boxer Mike Tyson once reportedly said, "I could feel his muscle tissues collapse under my force. It's ludicrous these mortals even attempt to enter my realm."

A large snowball fight erupted in Washington Square Park in Manhattan in February 2026, during which police officers were pelted with snow by residents, reportedly causing lacerations to the faces of two officers. The NYPD sought to file charges of assault. Meanwhile, the mayor downplayed the incident as "a snowball fight that got out of hand," and said he did not believe criminal charges were warranted. He also showed his appreciation for the NYPD's response to the city's snowstorm and said officers should be treated with respect.



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NEWS BRIEFS

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

Fernandez Completes 5K at Bronx Zoo

State Sen. Nathalia Fernandez (S.D. 34) was among those who completed the 5K family fun run at the Bronx Zoo on Saturday, April 25, to help save red pandas and other wildlife. Despite the rain, race day was reportedly enjoyed by participants and included free Bronx Zoo admission, star attractions and rides like Wild Asia Monorail, a DJ, music, cardio dance, games, activities like face painting, photo booths, wildlife characters, red panda T-shirts and medals. The senator later remarked that she was happy with her time, having beaten her record from last year.



Photo courtesy of Marcos Sierra

A FIRE IS seen inside a garbage truck on Decatur Avenue and East 208th Street in the Norwood section of The Bronx on Monday, April 27, 2026.

Discarded Batteries Cause Norwood Garbage Truck Fire

A fire broke out in a garbage truck in the Norwood section of The Bronx on Monday morning, April 27. Resident Marcos Sierra who, as reported, previously ran for City Council in District 11, shared the attached photo of the fire which ignited inside an NYC Department of Sanitation truck. "Be careful what you throw out!" Sierra wrote.

When contacted, Sanitation department officials said a collection truck fire broke out near 3425 Dekalb Avenue, near East 208th and 210th Streets. "Our Sanitation Workers saw smoke while cycling the hopper of the truck," a spokesperson said. "They called 911, and FDNY responded. As is standard practice during collection truck fires, our Sanitation Workers dumped the load of the truck, and FDNY extinguished the fire."

The spokesperson said FDNY determined that several lithium batteries inside a bag caused the blaze. "We are grateful for NYPD's prompt response and that no one was hurt," he added. "We remind New Yorkers that it is il-

legal, irresponsible, and dangerous to throw any type of lithium batteries into trash or recycling, as they have caused dozens of collection truck fires in recent years, putting our workforce at risk. For more information on proper, legal disposal, visit nyc.gov/batteries."



Screenshot courtesy of the Citizens' App

FLAMES BURST OUT of the top of 660 East 187th Street in the Belmont section of The Bronx after a fire broke out on Tuesday, April 21, 2026.

Two Die in Belmont Fire, Building Residents Displaced

Two people died, several others were injured, and residents of the entire building were displaced following a 5-alarm fire at 660 East 187th Street in Belmont, Tuesday, April 21, prompting several GoFundMe fundraisers as follows:

<https://bit.ly/4tNjI3W>

<https://bit.ly/3OAAcMz>

<https://bit.ly/4sZx9wp>

The cause of the fire remains under investigation. After the Red Cross said it had registered 23 households, including 24 children and 53 adults (77 total) for emergency assistance after the fire, the Belmont Catholic Community was among the groups and local residents who helped with relief efforts in the days that followed. A vigil was held on Friday, April 24, for the victims and survivors.

Meanwhile, a female relative of some of the displaced residents alleged NYC Department of Housing, Preservation & Development (HPD) never checked to ensure the building's doors were self-closing, and that HPD had no violations listed on their website in this regard for the affected address. The woman alleged this was despite HPD conducting inspections and issuing violations for other properties. "It seems to me like an egregious oversight to not acknowledge the owner's responsibilities to these people," she said.

Norwood News did find 19 violations listed by HPD for the property, including some relating to the poor state of repair of the fire escape, though it's unclear when the violations were last updated. FDNY officials said residents had not made full use of the fire escapes when evacuating the building and confirmed the two deceased fire victims were located in the interior stairwells.

They added that residential property owners and tenants must adhere to fire safety code, which is regulated by building inspections performed regularly by the FDNY, and are *not* required

to hold fire drills. They added that the building doors were *not* self-closing doors, and some had been left open or propped open, which exacerbated the spread of the fire.

The building is owned by CHT Trust, with a Brooklyn address. *Norwood News* was unable to locate contact information for CHT Trust (with an address in Brooklyn) in order to contact the property owner for comment.

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."

Police Appeal for Help Locating Boy 16 Reported Missing

The NYPD is seeking the public's help locating a 16-year-old boy who is reported missing from Bedford Park. Police said Alexis Pichardo of 170 East 206th Street, Bronx was last seen leaving his home on Tuesday April 14, at around 8 a.m. They said he's de-

scribed as male, Hispanic, is around 6 feet, 1 inch tall, weighs 120 pounds, and was last seen wearing a black sweatshirt and black shoes.

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.

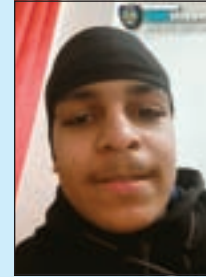


Photo courtesy of the NYPD

ALEXIS PICHARDO, 16, OF 170 East 206th Street in the Bedford Park section of The Bronx is reported missing, police say.

One Injured in Amalgamated Housing Ceiling Collapse

By **DAVID GREENE**

The FDNY said one person was injured after a reported ceiling collapse inside a residential apartment building operated by Amalgamated Housing Corporation in Van Cortlandt Village.

An FDNY spokesperson told *Norwood News* that firefighters responded to a 911 call at 6.57 a.m. on Friday, April 17, to the 9th floor of 120 Gale Place, located between Orloff Avenue and Van Cortlandt Park South. The spokesperson referenced a "person hit with a shower rod," said one victim was removed to Montefiore Hospital and that no other information was immediately

available.

On Tuesday, April 28, *Norwood News* reached out to Amalgamated Housing Corporation and in response to our inquiries, a woman who answered the phone said, "You'd have to call the service department; I don't know anything about it." After being transferred to the service department, and upon being informed of a media inquiry about the ceiling collapse, a second woman said, "Please hold."

After several minutes, the woman, Alexandria, said, "I do apologize but we're not allowed to give you any of

(continued on page 16)



Photo by Steve Bobker

AMALGAMATED HOUSING CORPORATION, located at 120 Gale Place in Van Cortlandt Village is seen in an undated photo.

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Options Wellness Center
The NYPD Community Affairs Bureau Youth Strategies Division has an Options Wellness Center located at Bergen Building, 1932 Arthur Avenue, Bronx, NY 10457, for youth aged 12-19 which offers homework help, a tech lab, gaming, music, chess, videography, fitness, art and young men & women leadership training.

NYCHA Student Scholarships
NYCHA and CUNY are offering \$1,000 scholarships to low-income and middle-income students who are enrolled at CUNY and are NYCHA or NYCHA Section 8 residents. Applications are now open until June 23. Apply at on.nyc.gov/nycha.cuny.

**Bronx Week 2026
Virtual Graduate Fair**
The Office of the Bronx Borough President will host, during Bronx Week 2026, the 2026 Virtual Graduate Fair on May 7, at 5.30 p.m. Learn more about admissions to a broad range of Bronx colleges, financial aid, and more. Email agoud@bronxbp.nyc.gov for more information and to register or call (718) 590-6431.

**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>.

Participate in a Mock Trial
Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark is inviting adults of 18 years and over to participate as a volunteer mock juror in a felony trial training program on Friday, May 8, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Sign up at <https://forms.office.com/g/PvTd8HCJyb>.

**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 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.strong-pawrescue.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 sthenarc@yahoo.com.

Literacy & Immigrant Services
NYC Department of Youth & Community Development (DYCD) offer a variety of services including adult literacy, immigrant services, adolescent literacy, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)/ Civics and more. For more information, call 1-800-246-4646 or email dvcdliteracy&immigrantservices@dycd.nyc.gov.

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.

“Tax the Rich” Rally with Speaker U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders

I find obscene your coverage of Independent U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders speaking at Lehman College on taxing the rich. Sen. Sanders is from Vermont. I couldn't care less about what Sanders has to say here in The Bronx.

Second, in addition to his \$174,000 yearly salary, Sanders is worth approximately \$2.5 million from his best-selling book. Bernie Sanders lives the kind of life the people in his audience can only dream of. I, personally, after years of struggle, am at least paying my bills, but there was a time when I was struggling desperately to make ends meet. Sanders will never know what that is like.

I am not saying Bernie Sanders should take a vow of poverty. I am saying that a senator who does not know what it is like to be poor should stop telling other people what will lift them out of poverty.

Nat Weiner Parkchester

Editor's Note: During his remarks, the senator talked about the ever-growing wealth disparity among Americans over recent decades. He also spoke of his own Brooklyn upbringing, saying that he grew up in a working-class, Flatbush household in a rent-controlled apartment, and that, despite this, 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 was making the point that this was not possible today and added that he was certain the economic stress endured by families today is far more than what it was when he was growing up.

“We Must Learn to Live Together as Brothers or We Will All Die as Fools”

Lion Heart Autographs NY, one of the world's most widely recognized and respected auctioneers of historical autographs and manuscripts, announced April 22 the auction of an incredibly rare and timely document penned by civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Officials said the letter will be offered for auction live on Wednesday, May 20. Officials said King, Jr. wrote he will ‘follow Christ to death’ to achieve racial equality for “the health of Democracy,” echoing his enduring commitment to fighting discrimination through nonviolent protest, public speeches and organized action, principles that have been tested in cities across the nation.

They said his leadership helped drive progress in civil rights and voting rights and affirmed that these rights must apply to everyone. They added that in the 1962 letter, written to Samuel Brent Oliver III, a North Carolina high school student, King Jr. outlined goals that remain as relevant today as they were nearly 65 years ago, as the United States continues to grapple with applying justice fairly and equally.

They said the letter also foreshadows the danger King faced throughout his life, culminating in his assassination in 1968. A copy of the letter is attached, courtesy of the Lion Heart Autographs (NY).

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.



Image courtesy of Lion Heart Autographs
A HISTORICAL LETTER by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to Samuel Brent Oliver III, a North Carolina high school student, in 1962.

Out & About

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

EVENTS

Bronx Week 2026

The Bronx Tourism Council, in partnership with the Bronx Borough President's Office and The Bronx Economic Development Corporation, presents **Bronx Week 2026**, an annual almost one-month celebration of the borough from May 1 to May 17. All events will take place in The Bronx, culminating with the Bronx Ball at Bally's Golf Links on Saturday night, May 16, at 6 p.m. and the Bronx Week 2026 parade and concert on Mosholu Parkway on Sunday, May 17, at 10 a.m. Visit <https://www.ilovethebronx.com/bronx-week-2026> for more information.

Assemblyman John Zaccaro Jr. (A.D. 80) and Wildlife Conservation Society present **“Discover the Wild,”** a family adventure at the Bronx Zoo on Saturday, May 16. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/4ui8jZz>.

Join Kingsbridge Riverdale Van Cortlandt (KRVC) nonprofit for **The Longest Table** neighborhood picnic on Sunday, May 3, from 4 p.m.

to 6 p.m. at West 239th Street between Broadway and Review Place. Tables and chairs will be provided on a blocked-off street area. Bring a dish, converse with neighbors. and enjoy some salsa music and dancing.

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Park Blvd W, Bronx, presents **The Comedy Kings**, featuring Joe Torry, Talent Harris, Capone and Joe Clair, hosted by AG White on Saturday, May 23, at 8 p.m. For tickets, call the Lehman Center box office at (718) 960-8833 or book online at <https://www.lehmancenter.org/events/comedy-kings>.

The **40th Annual Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade Gala** takes place on Wednesday, May 27, at 6 p.m. at Villa Barone Manor at 737 Throggs Neck Expressway, Bronx, and the Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade takes place on Saturday, May 30. Email MASeventsnyc@gmail.com for more information.

MUSIC

Bronx Opera presents Richard Strauss's **Ariadne auf Naxos** (sung mostly in English) on Thursday, May 7, at 7.30 p.m. and on Saturday, May 9, and Sunday, May 10, at 2.30 p.m. at Lehman College's Lovinger Theater, 250 Bedford Park Blvd. West, The Bronx. Visit <https://>

bronxopera.org/ for more information and for tickets.

ART

NYC Parks welcomes adults to join a free **Mother's Day Brunch & Paint** event at the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, 3225 Reservoir Oval East, in Norwood, The Bronx on Friday, May 8, at noon. Enjoy an afternoon of painting, music, and relaxation. Call (718) 543-8672 for more information.

NYC Parks invites adults to join the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, 3225 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY, on Thursday, April 30, at 11 a.m. for a **“Let's DIY Together”** event, a do-it-yourself art event that allows participants to explore and create through different mediums including fabric creation, jewel painting, and drawing. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (718) 543-8672, or email Pamela.Coleman@parks.nyc.gov.

MOVEMENT

Join NYC Parks at NYPL Mosholu Library, 285 E 205th Street in Norwood on Friday, May 1, at 10 a.m. for a free **Low Impact Dance Fitness** class, designed to make you feel energized! There are similar classes each Friday in May. Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/3OIUrIn>.



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Bronx DA Hosts Child Safety Fair & Crime Victims' Tribute

By **DAVID GREENE & SÍLE MOLONEY**

Despite the rain moving the event indoors, a large crowd turned out for the Bronx District Attorney's 9th Annual Child Safety Fair held Saturday, April 25, at Mosholu Montefiore Community Center's Parkside Cornerstone building, located at 2972 Bronx Park East in the Allerton section.

The crowd packed the venue and enjoyed free food, carnival games, and prizes during the 4-hour event. The district attorney (DA) was seen mingling with attendees and randomly selecting the winner of a laptop at one point. A photobooth was also featured, as well as arts and crafts for adults and children alike. The event was held in partnership with MMCC, the NYPD, and the Bronx Zoo.

Earlier, on Tuesday, April 21, to coincide with National Crime Victims' Rights Week, the DA's office hosted their Annual Bronx Crime Victims Tribute, this year, at the Bronx Museum of the Arts in partnership with BronxCare Health System. The moving ceremony featured testimonies by various survivors of crime or their families, including the family of Nicholas Feliz Dominici, the one-year-old infant who died from an overdose of fentanyl at the now-closed El Divino Niño Daycare Center on Morris Avenue in Kingsbridge Heights on Sept. 15, 2023.

As reported, an underground fentanyl ring was being run at the center. Those operating it have since been convicted of various federal and State offenses, including some which gave rise to Nicholas's death, though not intentional, and have been sentenced and imprisoned. Frequently, in the past, Nicholas's father, Otoniel Feliz Samboy, has done much of the speaking at different public events about the impact of Nicholas's death and his family's pursuit for justice.

This time, Nicholas's mother, Zoila

Dominici, in the presence of her husband, other children, and liaison at the DA's office, spoke at length about Nicholas and her family's journey since his death, apologizing at times for breaking down in tears. Councilmember Pierina Sanchez (C.D. 14) and the lead prosecutor who worked on both the federal and State case, Karl Miller, were seated with the family. Clark commended the family who she said attended every day of the trials, despite their grief.

Part of the ceremony involved the reading of the "Survivor's Light" poem and the symbolic lighting of candles. Among other survivors who spoke was Debrina Gayle, who has been left paralyzed after being shot by her former partner and is now a wheelchair user. She shared compelling remarks of her journey as a domestic violence survivor, warning others of the early signs.

Smiling as she thanked her liaison, Thalia Liriano, at the Bronx DA's office, Gayle said in part, "She made sure I was good. She made sure I got counseling." She added with a smile that



Photo by David Greene

A WOMAN PARTICIPATES IN arts and crafts during the Bronx District Attorney's 9th Annual Child Safety Fair held Saturday, April 25, 2026.

she subsequently found out that her ex-partner had been taken into custody for shoplifting.

There was also a poetry recital by Sumbodies Mama and dance performances by Mind Builders, as well as remarks by the DA and others, including



Photo by David Greene

A FAMILY TAKES a photo during the Bronx District Attorney's 9th Annual Child Safety Fair held at the MMCC Parkside Cornerstone on Bronx Park East in Allerton on Saturday, April 25, 2026.

Diane Strom from BronxCare Health System and her colleague who work to prevent human trafficking.

Another survivor, Wanda Swinny, the mother of a gunshot victim, recited a poem about survival. Though crime rates have continued to generally fall across New York City, it's not always the case in The Bronx. Year-to-date murders have increased by 300% both in the 50th and in the 46th Precinct, while rapes in the last 28-day period have increased by 450% in the 52nd Precinct, and by 400% in the 50th Precinct. Other sex crimes have also increased by 300% in the 50th Precinct. See our Crime File on page 16 and 17 for more on this.

On Monday, April 27, the West Bronx Community Safety Partnership, which was modeled on lessons learned from New York State's Project RISE (Respond, Invest, Sustain, Empower) was held at P.S. 340 in Kingsbridge Heights, and was attended by around 100 people, including several elected officials, community members, including some from Bronx Community Board 7.

While it was not open to the press to allow residents greater freedom to speak freely about the solutions they wanted to see implemented to help address crime and violence, a State representative, Kirstan Conley, later confirmed that about 80 percent of attendees were community residents "with participation of those 18 and under; more people from 19 to 21," and "a very good mix of ages and backgrounds."

Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson was due to attend the DA's tribute event but had to cancel as she was held up at a press conference following a 5-alarm, fatal fire in Belmont the same day. All the survivors thanked the district attorney and her team for all their support. Clark said in part, "Fostering safe spaces and actively supporting survivors through advocacy, legal, and community services, my job is to seek justice with integrity."

Visit our website www.norwood-news.org and our YouTube channel @NorwoodNewsBronx for more coverage of this story.



Photo by David Greene

BRONX DISTRICT ATTORNEY Darcel Clark (left) selects a winner of a new laptop during her 9th Annual Child Safety Fair held Saturday, April 25, 2026. Photo by David Greene



Photo by David Greene

A LARGE CROWD packed the MMCC's Parkside Cornerstone on Bronx Park East in Allerton during the Bronx District Attorney's 9th Annual Child Safety Fair held Saturday, April 25, 2026.

Obama Joins Mamdani at South Bronx Daycare Center in Surprise Visit

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

Former U.S. President Barack Obama made a surprise visit to Learning Through Play Pre-K Early Childhood Education Center in the South Bronx on Saturday, April 18, alongside New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani.

The two read a children's book to a group of toddlers and also took time to meet with some families. The two leaders also discussed the mayor's vision for the City, and "the importance of giving New York's Cutest the strongest start possible," in the form of the mayor's roll-out of free childcare. The former president later said of the visit, "Great spending time with New York City's Cutest. And thanks to [@nycmayor](#) for giving me an excuse to break out my best 'Wheels on the Bus.'"

As reported, in what was described as a major step toward universal childcare for children aged six weeks to five years of age, Mamdani and New York Gov. Kathy Hochul announced on March 3 the first four communities to receive free 2-K seats this fall. Included among them is The Bronx's School District 10, which covers Fordham, Belmont, Norwood, Marble Hill, Morris Heights, Riverdale, Spuyten Duyvil, Van Cortlandt Village and Kingsbridge, as well as parts of Kingsbridge Heights, Bedford Park, Mount Hope, Claremont-Bathgate & East Tremont.

To highlight the program's roll-out, the mayor paid a visit to Bronx Community College's early childhood center in University Heights on March 6 and later spoke to *Norwood News* about the program. City officials said the 2-K program is a cornerstone of the mayor's universal childcare initiative and will provide free childcare for two-year-olds in New York City to any family who needs it, regardless of zip code, income or immigration status.

They said the program will launch with 2,000 free seats this fall and expand to full universality within four years. Meanwhile, the former president had previously visited Bedford Park's Lehman College in 2015 to promote My Brother's Keeper Alliance (MBKA), an offshoot of a similar White House initiative of the same name which helps steer young men toward a life of prosperity by focusing on early childhood education.

During Mamdani's mayoral general election campaign, as reported, he was asked what was discussed during a then-recent call he reportedly had with Obama, to whom Mamdani has been compared. The mayor was born in Kampala, Uganda, into an Indian family. His father is academic, Mahmood Mamdani, and his mother, filmmaker, Mira Nair, the director of "Monsoon Wedding," among other movies. Obama's father is from Nyang'oma Kogelo in neighboring Kenya in Central East Africa, a 6-hour drive from Kampala.

"That call happened soon after the primary," Mamdani said at the time. "It was a call that I was honored to receive, and the contents of it were focused on the campaign that we ran, the importance of hope in our politics, and the ways in which we govern to deliver on that. The lessons of that conversation are ones that I hold close to me as we continue to build this campaign to win the general election, and it was an honor to receive that time and those reflections from the former president."



Photo courtesy of Ed Reed/Mayoral Photography Office
NEW YORK CITY Mayor Zohran Mamdani and former U.S. President Barack Obama read to a group of toddlers at Learning Through Play Pre-K Center in the South Bronx on Saturday, April 18, 2026.



Photo courtesy of Michael Appleton/Mayoral Photography Office

NEW YORK GOV. Kathy Hochul, New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani, and the FIFA World Cup 2026™ New York New Jersey Host Committee announced Monday, April 27, 2026, on Staten Island, a free, citywide slate of Official NYNJ fan events across all five boroughs, bringing live match viewings, cultural programming, local businesses, and interactive experiences directly to New Yorkers at no cost.

Free NYNJ World Cup Fan Events Coming to Every Borough

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

Organizers behind this summer's FIFA World Cup 2026™ say fans won't necessarily need a ticket to the NYNJ Stadium, where eight matches will be played over the course of the tournament, to feel the energy. New York Gov. Kathy Hochul, NYC Mayor Zohran Mamdani, and the FIFA World Cup 2026™ NYNJ Host Committee are partnering to bring free, official NYNJ fan events across all five New York City boroughs.

The 82,500-capacity MetLife Stadium, located in East Rutherford, NJ and home of the NFL's Giants and Jets, is rebranding to the "New York New Jersey Stadium" for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. One of the eight World Cup matches to be played at the stadium, a major venue for

concerts and events, includes the World Cup final on July 19.

Meanwhile, Hochul, Mamdani and the FIFA host committee say the carefully curated fan events will incorporate live match screenings, cultural performances, local food, and the kind of atmosphere you only get when thousands of fans come together for a sports event of this scale.

They say what this means is that some of the best World Cup moments may not necessarily happen inside the stadium, but at the various fan events across the city as fans mingle, interact, and cheer on their respective home sides. Anyone who's attended an international soccer game knows that some of the best moments are during the roar af-

ter a goal, during the shared experience with those you came with, and with the thousands of people you've never met, all collectively watching the same play unfold.

The reason the fan events matter, according to organizers, is because they go beyond the matches, and are about supporting local businesses, celebrating culture across the city, and creating moments that bring people together.

Organizers say the 39-day, regional celebration will ensure every New Yorker and visitor to the region can be part of the World Cup experience. In terms of transportation options, they say there will be no general spectator parking on Stadium property on matchdays, and access to the stadium

will be limited to official transportation options.

They also say fans are strongly encouraged to plan ahead, purchase transportation in advance, and follow official guidance. They say a valid FIFA World Cup 2026™ match ticket will be required to purchase transportation and to access matchday services. Transportation tickets are non-transferable, they say, and will be checked prior to boarding.

Fans are encouraged to pick their experience, pick their preferred fan event, plan their matches, show up early and have the time of their lives. For more information, including schedules and free ticketing details, visit <https://nynjfwc26.com/fan-events/>.



Highbridge: Man Sought for Rape of 50-Year-Old Woman

The NYPD is asking for the public's help locating the person seen in the accompanying sketch who they say is wanted for questioning in connection to a rape that occurred in Highbridge. Police said that on Friday, April 17, at around 7 p.m., the victim, a 50-year-old woman, was approached in a building in the vicinity of West 164th Street and Ogen Avenue by an unidentified man who proceeded to sexually assault her.

They said the man then stole \$50 and a yellow metal chain with a metal cross pendant on it from her before fleeing on foot to parts unknown. They said the victim was transported to a local area hospital for treatment. Police said the suspect is described as male, has a dark complexion, is estimated to be between 30 and 40 years of age, is around 5 feet, 7 inches tall, has a medium build, a goatee beard, and was last seen wearing a gray NY Yankee cap.

Wakefield: Woman Sought for Allegedly Assaulting Man on Subway

The NYPD is asking for the public's help locating the woman seen in the accompanying photo who they said is wanted in connection with an assault that occurred in transit in Wakefield. Police said that on Monday, April 20, at around 00.30 a.m., a 27-year-old male victim was aboard a northbound "2" train approaching the East 225th Street subway station when he was approached by an unidentified woman and a verbal dispute ensued.

They said the suspect pepper sprayed

the victim in the face and then got off the train at the 225th Street subway station and fled the location on foot in an unknown direction. They said EMS responded and transported the victim to Montefiore Einstein Hospital in stable condition. Police said the suspect is described as female, has a medium complexion, and was last seen wearing a black jacket, a black sweatshirt, multi-colored pants, black boots, and a black hat.



One Injured in Amalgamated Housing Ceiling Collapse

(continued from page 6)

that information. I hope you have a good day, okay?" Asked if the person was out of hospital, Alexandria said, "I can't tell you anything, Sir. You have a wonderful day. Bye bye."

Later, a female resident of the building told Norwood News, "My apartment's had two ceiling collapses!" Of the latest reported collapse, not in her apartment, the woman added, "Haven't heard anything, no surprise. Co-op is averse to sharing disaster reports. Apartment above me had similar problems, though not a ceiling collapse. This building was built in a shoddy, sloppy, stupid way. No surprise for its problems, plus maintenance is not up to par either."

Meanwhile, following a large FDNY response and evacuation of residents from 18 East 198th Street in Bedford Park on Tuesday, March 31, amid a strong smell of gas, residents of the building, many of whom are elderly, said they had been left without gas or hot water. On

Monday, April 27, a female resident told *Norwood News* her gas and hot water had been reconnected around a week after the incident, and that she believes the same is true for all residents.

A notice to residents advising them of the problem with the gas and hot water seen on the front door of the building in the days after the incident has since been removed. When *Norwood News* followed up with both the property manager and Con Ed immediately after the incident, each party alleged they were waiting on the other to resolve the issue. It was a similar case with residents of 2995 Botanical Square in Bedford Park, some of whom had been without gas since 2024.

A Con Ed representative also shared at the time that "many [Con Ed] customers may be eligible for discounts under Con Ed's expanded Enhanced Energy Assistance Program in the Con Edison "service territory." He added, "Enrollment is not automatic and we want to make sure people are aware that they can apply."

Bedford Park: Man Sought for Firing Gun at Home

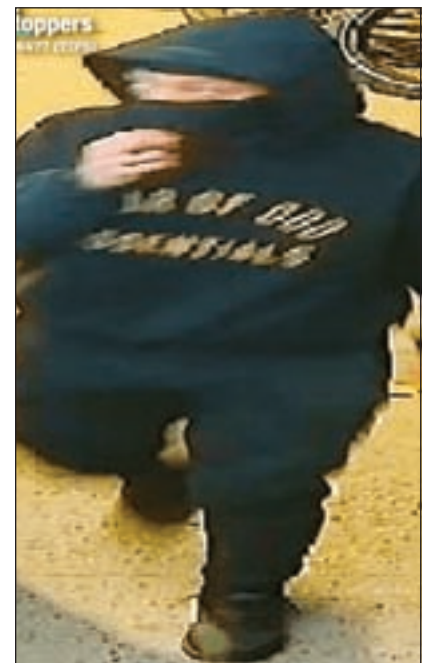
The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the person seen in the accompanying photo who they say is wanted for allegedly firing a gun at a home in Bedford Park, recklessly endangering those inside. Police said that on Monday April 6, at around 11.23 p.m., a 48-year-old female victim was inside her home in the vicinity of East 205th Street and Lisbon Place when an unidentified person discharged a gun causing property damage to her front door.

They said the person then fled the location on foot traveling westbound on East 205th Street and there were no reported physical injuries arising from the incident. They said the suspect is described as male and he was last seen wearing a black face mask, a

black sweatshirt, black sweatpants, and black sneakers. It is unknown if the incident is related to potential domestic violence or stalking. However, local services for those affected by domestic or gender-based violence are available in The Bronx. If you or someone you know needs help in this regard, call 311 and ask to be connected to a NYC Family Justice Center or walk-in Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Bronx District Attorney's domestic violence unit can also be reached on (718) 838 6688. Call the NYC 24/7 Domestic Violence Hotline on 1-800-621-4673 or visit the NYC Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence for more information. Tips on how to combat potential stalking are also available from this office.

The NYPD also has a designated domestic violence unit within each precinct. The Domestic Violence Officer at the 52nd Precinct, which covers some or all of Bedford Park, Fordham, Kingsbridge, Norwood, Bronx Park, and University Heights, can be reached on (718) 220-5843. The 50th Precinct Domestic Violence Officer can be reached on (718) 543-6072 and the 46th Precinct Domestic Violence Officer can be reached on (718) 220-5254.



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.

CRIME FILE - MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



Patrol Borough: Bronx Precinct: 046

CompStat Book Week of 04/20/26 - 04/26/26

	% Chg	28 Day		Year to Date		% Chg	
		2026	2025	2026	2025		
Murder	-100.0 %	1	1	0.0 %	4	1	300.0 %
Rape	0.0 %	5	4	25.0 %	16	14	14.3 %
Robbery	0.0 %	39	39	0.0 %	148	123	18.7 %
Felony Assault	35.3 %	99	57	73.7 %	309	254	21.7 %
Burglary	-16.7 %	16	15	6.7 %	68	51	33.3 %
Grand Larceny	-8.1 %	67	40	67.5 %	214	198	8.1 %
Grand Larceny Auto	-30.0 %	20	28	-28.6 %	59	86	-31.4 %
Total	4.3 %	247	184	34.2 %	816	727	12.2 %
Patrol	2.2 %	240	180	33.3 %	786	711	10.5 %
Transit	-100.0 %	1	4	-75.0 %	12	7	71.4 %
Housing	- %	6	0	- %	18	8	100.0 %
Shooting Victims	-100.0 %	2	8	-77.8 %	5	11	-54.5 %
Shooting Incidents	-100.0 %	2	7	-71.4 %	5	8	-44.4 %
UCR Rape*	0.0 %	7	5	40.0 %	22	19	15.8 %
Other Sex Crimes	0.0 %	8	7	14.3 %	29	22	31.8 %
Petit Larceny	21.1 %	77	89	-13.5 %	345	312	10.6 %
Misc. Assault	73.3 %	95	66	43.9 %	346	258	34.1 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	1	0	- %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	1	0	- %	1	0	- %

All figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision. Oath Summonses as of 6/13/17. Unless otherwise noted, crime statistics reflect New York State Penal Law ("NYSP/L") definitions. * 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 46th Precinct for the 28-day period ending April 26, 2026, compared to last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 46th Precinct as of April 26, 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 04/20/26 - 04/26/26

	% Chg	28 Day		Year to Date		% Chg	
		2026	2025	2026	2025		
Murder	-100.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	4	1	300.0 %
Rape	0.0 %	3	0	- %	14	7	100.0 %
Robbery	- %	13	5	160.0 %	39	32	21.9 %
Felony Assault	166.7 %	29	18	61.1 %	63	71	16.9 %
Burglary	-33.3 %	4	14	-71.4 %	25	50	-50.0 %
Grand Larceny	-60.0 %	35	77	-54.5 %	141	195	-27.7 %
Grand Larceny Auto	-25.0 %	18	24	-25.0 %	79	80	-1.3 %
Total	-13.8 %	102	139	-26.6 %	385	436	-11.7 %
Patrol	-17.2 %	99	137	-27.7 %	367	417	-12.0 %
Transit	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	4	3	33.3 %
Housing	- %	3	2	50.0 %	14	16	-12.5 %
Shooting Victims	-100.0 %	0	4	-100.0 %	7	4	75.0 %
Shooting Incidents	-100.0 %	0	3	-100.0 %	3	3	0.0 %
UCR Rape*	- %	5	1	400.0 %	17	9	88.9 %
Other Sex Crimes	-100.0 %	6	2	300.0 %	40	11	263.6 %
Petit Larceny	-16.7 %	67	106	-36.8 %	331	315	6.1 %
Misc. Assault	100.0 %	33	33	0.0 %	132	109	21.1 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	2	0	- %	5	0	- %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	3	0	- %

All figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision. Oath Summonses as of 6/13/17. Unless otherwise noted, crime statistics reflect New York State Penal Law ("NYSP/L") definitions. * 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 50th Precinct for the 28-day period ending April 26, 2026, compared to last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 50th Precinct as of April 26, 2026, compared to last year (right). This precinct covers some or all of Kingsbridge, Fieldston, Riverdale, Marble Hill, and Spuyten Duyvil.

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Patrol Borough: Bronx Precinct: 052

CompStat Book Week of 04/20/26 - 04/26/26

	% Chg	28 Day		Year to Date		% Chg	
		2026	2025	2026	2025		
Murder	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	3	0	- %
Rape	- %	8	2	300.0 %	16	19	-15.8 %
Robbery	0.0 %	36	37	-2.7 %	152	123	7.3 %
Felony Assault	-15.0 %	87	49	77.6 %	304	248	22.6 %
Burglary	360.0 %	16	14	14.3 %	52	71	-26.8 %
Grand Larceny	-42.1 %	55	68	-18.1 %	243	264	-8.0 %
Grand Larceny Auto	-80.0 %	17	28	-34.6 %	67	84	-20.2 %
Total	-13.1 %	219	196	11.7 %	817	809	1.0 %
Patrol	-13.3 %	216	195	10.8 %	800	798	0.3 %
Transit	0.0 %	3	1	200.0 %	14	11	27.3 %
Housing	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	3	0	- %
Shooting Victims	0.0 %	2	0	- %	5	2	150.0 %
Shooting Incidents	0.0 %	1	0	- %	4	2	100.0 %
UCR Rape*	- %	11	2	450.0 %	21	20	5.0 %
Other Sex Crimes	-25.0 %	11	15	-26.7 %	32	36	-11.1 %
Petit Larceny	9.5 %	174	152	14.5 %	646	542	19.2 %
Misc. Assault	-32.0 %	73	86	-15.1 %	294	268	9.7 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	2	0	- %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	1	0	- %	1	2	-50.0 %

All figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision. Oath Summonses as of 6/13/17. Unless otherwise noted, crime statistics reflect New York State Penal Law ("NYSP/L") definitions. * 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 April 26, 2026, compared to the same timeframe last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 52nd Precinct as of April 26, 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 on the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. either online or in person (TBC). 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 in May (date and venue tbc). 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 on Tuesday, May 12, at 7 p.m. at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 144-146 West 228th 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 next BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 6, at 7 p.m. at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. South in Apt. B1 (lobby floor). For more details, please contact bedfordmosholu@verizon.net.

CORRECTIONS

In our page 4 story in the Norwood News print edition No. 8, dated April 16-April 29, 2026 entitled "Bronxites Mark Good Friday & Easter," in the caption of the photo on the right-hand side, we made an error with Izaiah Barrow's name, the co-founder of the nonprofit Theory 9. We apologize for this error.

Vigil Held for Victims of Belmont Fire



Photo by Síle Moloney

BELMONT RESIDENTS ATTEND a vigil for the residents of 660 East 187th Street in Belmont on Friday, April 24, 2026.



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Fostered Youth Get New Tech Lab

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Bronx youth participating in Good Shepherd Services' (GSS) family foster care program got some welcome news on Wednesday, April 15, as the nonprofit, in collaboration with AT&T, unveiled a new computer lab at its University Heights center at 7 West Burnside Avenue, expanding internet and connected technology access to an underserved community.

Amid ongoing budget negotiations, representatives from the offices of various elected officials, including New York Gov. Kathy Hochul, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33), Assemblywoman Yudelka Tapia (A.D. 86), and Council Member Pierina Sanchez (C.D. 14), were in attendance for the occasion.

According to the event organizers, with schools, services, and even family visitation increasingly relying on digital access, many young people in foster care face daily barriers to staying connected. They said the new computer lab aims to close that gap, providing devices and connectivity so youth can keep up with schoolwork, participate in virtual family visits, and access essential services.

They said the lab provides connectivity and increased access to essential technology for youth in The Bronx's child welfare system, and for families. "For foster youth and families in The Bronx, connection is a lifeline," said Michelle Yanche, president of GSS. "It is essential, not a luxury. We are grateful to partner with an innovative partner like AT&T to ensure this community is connected to have access to resources for learning, support, and employment opportunities."

According to GSS, the initiative aims to remove barriers to technology, close the digital divide, and provide reliable access to computers and internet connectivity, ensuring that the community can participate in online learning and access essential services.

"At AT&T, we have been working to help bring the right resources and the right technology to the right places, so that all New Yorkers can achieve their goals," said John Emra, president of AT&T Northeast. "Our investment in this computer lab at Good Shepherd directly reflects our commitment to get more families connected, and make an impact in the communities we serve. We're grate-



Photo courtesy of GSS

REPRESENTATIVES FROM AT&T, and the offices of New York Gov. Kathy Hochul, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33), Assemblywoman Yudelka Tapia (A.D. 86), and Council Member Pierina Sanchez (C.D. 14) join others from in Good Shepherd Services' GSS during the opening of a new computer lab at GSS's Burnside Avenue center in University Heights on Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

ful for the opportunity to bring this resource to The Bronx, and for the life-changing work done by everyone at Good Shepherd Services."

The event included a tour and a demonstration of the new computer lab which has around five or six computers. After the official opening, *Norwood News* spoke to Robin White, director of external affairs for AT&T New York, who said the company has partnered with GSS several times. "We've done some digital literacy programs with them. AT&T's focus is bridging the digital divide, so we support nonprofits in their work providing digital literacy for the community, whether that be young people or senior citizens, or even adults who are looking for a job," White said. "We've done laptop donations, and another thing that we've done is we've been opening these computer labs called computer learning centers."

White said they've opened several to date all over the State of New York, adding that GSS does incredible work with young people. *Norwood News* mentioned that during the pandemic, some novel initiatives were born out of the need to educate older adults on technology, and how some nonprofits began repairing devices and training older adults how to use them to communicate. We asked if the

partnership with GSS stemmed from a similar experience.

"No, but we do work with nonprofits that do refurbish computers under a separate initiative where they do the refurbishing, and we find nonprofits to donate a chunk of laptops to," White said.

"Last year, we donated over 500 laptops, and this year, we're looking to do at least a thousand, if not more," she added. "We're trying to come at the digital divide from different angles, through computer labs, through laptop donations, and also to make sure that people know how to use them, because you can have the two legs of the stool and if you do have a device and connectivity, if you don't know how to use it, then you're missing that third leg of the stool."

White said AT&T had been mindful to take direction from GSS in terms of what was needed, rather than coming in and dictating what they felt should be done. "They've been really good partners," she said, "They did a wonderful job here." Asked if the lab at the Burnside Avenue location was the first in The Bronx, White said it was not and estimated that it was maybe the third. "The digital divide is really severe here," she said. "We're really happy to help out."

GSS officials say the nonprofit is a leading multi-service organization working to ex-

pand opportunities for children, youth, and families in underinvested NYC communities. As reported, it also runs the Bronx Rises Against Gun Violence (B.R.A.G.) program. They say GSS serves over 30,000 individuals annually, providing academic enrichment, housing, career development, community services, and family well-being support.

"We operate over 90 programs in The Bronx, Brooklyn, and Manhattan, creating opportunities to help participants thrive at school, at home, and in their communities," they said.

Jessieh Lommeneau Campbell, 18, who goes by "Lommeneau," is one of the students at the GSS center who will benefit from the new lab. He said he has been in foster care for a year and currently lives with his sister, adding that they have different dads. We asked Lommeneau, who speaks with such considered reflection and cadence, it beguiles his tender years, where he used to do his homework prior to the lab's opening. He said he has an assistant at GSS called Ubi. "She would print out the resumes for me and when I update it, she would update it as well, so she's been a big support for me before here, and even now," he said.

"I needed a printer to print out my new resume because I started working recently.

I'm working five nights in a row. I'm a cleaner at a café, El Barista. It's very convenient for the time being." Asked if he liked his colleagues, he said, "Yeah, the colleagues are great. They are very good people."

We asked Lommeneau, who turns 19 on May 2, if he was comfortable to share a little of how he ended up in the foster care system. He said he was born in North Carolina but wasn't raised there, though smiling, he added, "I'm a country boy." He continued, "I was taken by my uncle because my mother was in prison and he went to New York, and he took me to Miami as well, and then he took me to Trinidad."

He mentioned that when he lived with his father, he often didn't have enough to eat. "I used to faint because I would be low on sugar," he said, adding that he also worked out a lot and needed to eat more as a result.

Lommeneau continued, "I was raised there [Trinidad] with my grandmother and my other siblings." *Norwood News* mentioned the famous Trinidad festivals, and he said they were really fun. "I'm a dancer," he said. "I love to dance. I'm very open-minded to everything, even poetry, writing books. I read a lot. I read very often. I find myself in books." He added that he also loved new experiences.

In 2022, Lommeneau said he was living in Atlanta, and his mother drove him and his brother from Atlanta to New York and that's how he ended up here. "New York is lovely," he said at one point, adding that he had lived in different boroughs to date.

Asked what his long-term plans were, Lommeneau said, "I'm interested in doing everything I'm capable of," adding that he's already taken various academic tests and was scheduled to take another the following Friday. He said he hoped to take up carpentry and was also interested in learning about the blueprints for buildings. "I've a creative mind," he said.

Asked if there was anything he'd like readers to know about people in foster care, Lommeneau said GSS treated the kids very well. "It's like a family," he said. "It's a very warm atmosphere." He said the therapy services provided were also very good for his mental health. "There's a lot of support everywhere. It's good people." he said.

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