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INSIDE



Thousands celebrate
St. Patrick's Day at
27th annual parade
in Throggs Neck

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Bally's foundation bids \$8.5M for Preston High School property, but Sisters reject offer

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The Castle Hill BID celebrated Ramadan by hosting a lighting ceremony.

Castle Hill BID hosts lighting ceremony to mark beginning of Ramadan

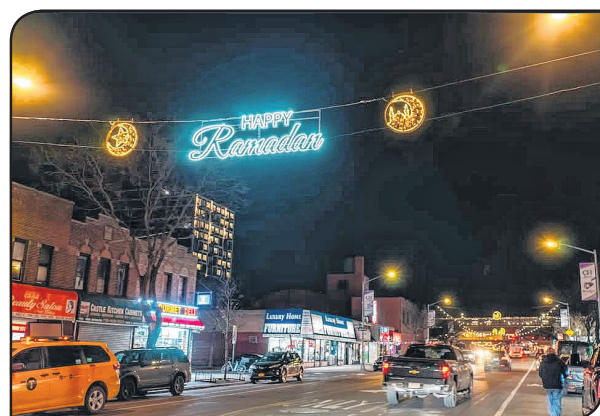
The Castle Hill BID hosted a lighting ceremony to celebrate the beginning of Ramadan on Friday, Feb. 28, in front of 1381 Castle Hill Ave.

This marked the BID's first-ever lighting ceremony for the holiday. The event was meant to celebrate the vibrant diversity within the Castle Hill BID.

"[The lighting ceremony] marks the beginning of our continued efforts to honor and showcase our communi-

ty's rich cultural tapestry," Castle Hill BID Executive Director Sasha Y. Ortiz said. "Together, we don't just make a difference – we are the difference."

A small BID grant from New York City Small Business Services, along with support from New York City Council Member Amanda Farias, whose district includes Castle Hill, helped to make this celebration possible.



Photos by Khiry Evanson/Office of Council Member Amanda Farias

BronxWorks delegates join over 300 workers in Albany to advocate for fair wages

A delegation from the Bronx-based non-profit service provider BronxWorks joined over 300 workers, service providers and others to advocate for fair wages in New York State at the State Capitol in Albany on Monday, March 10.

The BronxWorks delegates and the other participants called for a 7.8% investment in all New York State human services contracts. All those gathered participated in "Human Services State Advocacy Day." The gathering was organized by the Human Services Council, which works to better the lives of New Yorkers so they get the

opportunity to reach their full human potential.

Among those on hand representing the BronxWorks delegation were BronxWorks Chief Executive Officer Eileen Torres, Chief of Staff and Strategy Christopher Francis and Director of Advancement and Communications Gianna Dell'Olio. While in Albany, they also met with multiple elected officials to discuss the initiative calling for the investment in human services contracts. Some of the elected officials they spoke with included State Senator Anthony Palumbo and Assembly Member Phil Ramos.



Delegates from BronxWorks took part in Human Services State Advocacy Day at the New York State Capitol in Albany.

Photo courtesy of BronxWorks

Community Justice Connect hosts second resume workshop in series of career-focused sessions

Community Justice Connect (formerly Legal Hand), a neighborhood-based network that trains volunteers to provide free legal information, resources, and referrals for those facing civil legal challenges, hosted its second resume workshop on Wednesday, March 5, at 3213A Third Ave. The event was part of a series of career-focused sessions aimed at empowering job seekers.

Titled "Resume Series Part 2: Stand Out and Get Noticed – Crafting Resumes, Cover Letters, and References," the workshop provided attendees with strategies to create resumes that capture employers' attention. Rachelle Brown led the session, just as she did for the first installment of the series, guiding community members, interns, and volunteers through the essentials of crafting compelling job applications.

One of the key topics discussed in the workshop, "A Targeted Resume," focused on tailoring resumes to specific job roles. Brown provided attendees with practical examples, demonstrating when and how to create a targeted resume. She emphasized the impor-



Rachelle Brown led the workshop. Photo by Jewel Webber

tance of incorporating keywords from the job description into both the resume and cover letter to increase visibility and improve hiring prospects.

Other topics Brown went over included utilizing clean fonts, maintaining font sizes of 10-12 points, making sure relevant information is included in the resume and more.

Those in attendance also had the opportunity to ask questions and share their own inputs.

The third meeting of this workshop series, "Mock Interview Sessions to Perfect Your Elevator Pitch," will cover mastering interviews and portfolios. It is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, April 2.

Villa Maria Academy celebrates Career Day with alumni

Villa Maria Academy held its annual Career Day celebration on Friday, March 7.

The school, located at 3335 Country Club Rd., invited several alumni who now work in various professions to share their experiences with the Junior High School students.

Among the notable alumni on hand were Sean McKenna, who graduated in 1989 and now works as a cameraman for WCBS, Tyson Valentin, who also graduated in 1989 and is now an emergency room nurse, NBA Player Development Program Manager Anna Savino Granger, who works as an NBA development program manager after graduating from Villa Maria Academy in 2011, and Philip Paoliello, a graduate from the class of 2012 who is currently a biomedical engineer.



(Left to right) WCBS Cameraman Sean McKenna (class of 1989), Emergency Room Nurse Tyson Valentin (class of 1989), NBA Player Development Program Manager Anna Savino Granger (class of 2011) and Biomedical Engineer Philip Paoliello (class of 2012). Photo courtesy of Villa Maria Academy