



NEWS FROM

Speaker of the Assembly Carl E. Heastie



Dear Neighbor,

I write to extend my warmest wishes to you and your family during this wonderful holiday season, filled with joy and love! As your Assemblyman, I have been fortunate to spend time with many residents through various local events with the mission of building an even stronger Northeast Bronx. From block parties to health screenings, our district has been full of smiles and vitality. This newsletter features highlights from across our district about local projects and community events that I've hosted, many of which you've attended.

As we enter the winter season, marking the end of another year, the change of season illustrates just how hard we have worked to make our neighborhoods safe places to live and raise our families. As the leaves fall and usher in the cold weather, I encourage you to check on your neighbors, reach out to your friends and family, and help where you can as this time can be difficult for many. Together, we can continue to make the Northeast Bronx even greater.

In the Assembly and here at home, I will keep fighting to bring necessary resources for the improvement of our community. As always, if there is any way that I can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me. My office is here to serve you.

With Love and Hope,

Carl E. Heastie
Speaker of the Assembly
1446 E. Gun Hill Road • Bronx, NY 10469 • 718-654-6539 • speaker@nyassembly.gov



Speaker Carl E. Heastie partners with local elected officials and community partners to provide turkeys for Thanksgiving dinner



Speaker Heastie, Borough President Gibson, Congressman Torres, Senator Bailey, Councilman Riley, Members of the District Council of Carpenters and the Bronx Foundation came together to distribute turkeys for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Assemblyman Carl E. Heastie, in collaboration with Senator Jamaal Bailey, NYC Councilman Kevin Riley, Congressman Ritchie Torres, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, the Northeast Bronx YMCA, and the NYC District Council of Carpenters, provided turkeys for families in the Northeast Bronx to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday.

"The Thanksgiving Holiday is a time for families and friends to come together, a time to give back, and for expressing gratitude. Our annual Community Turkey Distribution brings immense joy to the community at large – providing family meals as well as joy to volunteers," said Heastie.

During the annual event, over 700 turkeys were distributed, ensuring that families had the opportunity to participate in the century's old tradition at home with their loved ones.

Assemblyman Heastie Hosts a Holiday Toy Distribution

Designed to bring joy to children and families, the Annual Toy Distribution provided free toys to children in our community, ensuring all children have the opportunity to experience the joy of opening a gift during the holiday season.



Bi-Annual Community Holiday Party a Success

This year's Community Holiday Party was a resounding success, bringing neighbors together for a heartwarming celebration of the season. Festive decorations, delicious food, and music, created the perfect atmosphere for dancing, singing, and of course laughing the night away. The Biannual event fostered a sense of togetherness with everyone sharing stories and holiday cheer. The residents of the 83rd who were in attendance made this gathering a memorable occasion.



Constituent and Community Leader Al De Castro during Bi-Annual Holiday Party.



Students from One World Middle School Orchestra (Education Through Music Program) Performing during Bi-Annual Holiday Party.



#TeamHeastie hosted Annual Spooktacular Halloween celebration

On October 31st, Assemblyman Carl Heastie and staff hosted a Halloween costume party for children and families. The annual celebration took place at the Bridgefield Civic League and was widely attended. Joined by community partners like the American Debate League, The Bronx Children's Museum, and the Northeast Bronx YMCA, the event was BOOOO-tastic.

Children of all ages and their families participated, bringing their best costumes and dance moves. The event showcased the unity of our community by bringing together family and friends to create a safe and memorable environment and day for our youngest residents.



Party goers enjoying the Halloween Spooktacular.



Speaker Heastie dressed as a Cowboy football Player and Staff at Annual Halloween Spooktacular.

Assemblyman Heastie co-hosts Community Clean Up

On November 3rd Assemblyman Heastie hosted a community cleanup event alongside ASEZ STAR Student Volunteers from the Church of God. By collecting bags of garbage along the Gun Hill Road corridor, a significant impact was made towards keeping the 83rd clean. Volunteers of all ages participated, serving as a reminder that together we can work towards creating a cleaner and greener community.



Community Cleanup of the East Gunhill Road Corridor with ASEZ STAR.



Speaker Heastie Secures Additional Funds to ensure Community Safety

Following investment from Speaker Heastie, ARGUS cameras have been installed to support law enforcement agencies throughout the district. To further enhance community safety following concerns raised about the intersections of 218th and Bronxwood as well as 218th and Barnes Ave., Heastie allocated additional funds to install additional eyes in the sky.

Safe Streets means Safer Neighborhoods

Safe streets are a shared responsibility between responsible drivers and vigilant pedestrians. Thanks to the tireless advocacy of families, organizations, and community members, new rules have been implemented to lower speed limits on many of our roads to increase safety. Following the enactment of "Sammy's Law" during last year's legislative session, speed limit reductions from 25mph to 20mph will target select schools, Open Streets, Shared Streets, and other areas. Additionally, new 'Regional Slow Zones' have been established in each borough of NYC.

In the Northeast Bronx, you may have already noticed a designated slow zone surrounding Haffen Park. This means the speed limit in this area has decreased to 20mph.

Lavelle School for the Blind is awarded Over \$3 million in State Funds

On December 18th Speaker Heastie and Senator Bailey presented the Lavelle School for the Blind with over \$3 million in state funding for much-needed capital projects, with a specific focus on the reconstruction of their track area. This investment will ensure that the school grounds remain safe and accessible to students for years to come.



2025 CALENDAR

Speaker Carl E. Heastie
1446 East Gun Hill Road, Bronx, NY 10469
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2025 Holidays:

Jan. 1 New Year's Day
Jan. 20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Feb. 17 President's Day
May 26 Memorial Day

June 19 Juneteenth
July 4 Independence Day
Sept. 1 Labor Day
Oct. 13 Columbus Day

Nov. 11 Veterans Day
Nov. 27 Thanksgiving Day
Dec. 25 Christmas Day

New laws taking effect in December 2024

Speaker Heastie fought for new laws that are taking effect this month, including measures that:

- ✓ Provides for availability of ambulance services and advanced life support first response services to store and distribute blood and initiate and administer blood transfusions, which expands current provisions for air transport to apply additionally to motor vehicle-based ambulance services (**Ch. 316 of 2024**).
- ✓ Requires state agency websites to be mobile friendly (**Ch. 45 of 2024**).
- ✓ Provides that nursing home facilities display postings which include ratings for health inspections, staffing and quality measures (**Ch. 336 of 2024**).
- ✓ Establishes Brendan's law: Requires child day care centers and certain other facilities installing new or replacement window coverings to install cordless window coverings; requires existing window coverings to meet safety standards (**Ch. 792 of 2022 and Ch. 80 of 2023**).

To read more about all the laws taking effect each month, visit:

nyassembly.gov/mem/Carl-E-Heastie/story/104850



The Minimum Wage is going up!

On January 1, 2025, the minimum wage will increase to \$16.50 in New York City. While many New Yorkers struggle to make ends meet, this significant step will address the cost of living, ease the financial crunch and lay the foundation for a greater, more prosperous New York.

Stay Warm This Winter!

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) can help eligible New Yorkers heat their homes and make energy efficient upgrades. Applications are now open, so don't delay applying for assistance! The Emergency HEAP Benefit, which can help eligible applicants facing an impending utility shutoff or loss of fuel, opens on January 2, 2025. To learn more and apply, visit ny.gov/services/apply-heating-and-cooling-assistance-heap.



New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248

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NEWS FROM

Speaker
Carl E. Heastie

*"I wish you and your loved ones a warm and joyful holiday season and the highest hopes for the new year. **As we move into 2025, I remain committed to keeping our streets safe, our economy strong and our great state a place where everyone can thrive.**"*

– Speaker Carl E. Heastie

