



# NEWS FROM

## Speaker of the Assembly **Carl E. Heastie**



Dear Neighbor,

I write to wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season filled with joy and love! As your Assemblyman, this season has brought opportunities to spend time with many residents through local events and continue our work on building a stronger Northeast Bronx.

December marks the turning of another year, a culmination of all we have worked so hard to achieve to make our neighborhoods safe places to live and raise our families. ***This newsletter shares highlights from across our district about local projects and community events I have been hosting.***

As we enter the winter season, I encourage you to check on your neighbors, reach out to your friends and family, and help where you can. Together, we can continue to make the Northeast Bronx the great place it is.

***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

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Birthday Celebrations at R.A.I.N. Boston East.

### Monthly Birthday Celebration Spotlight

In our ongoing commitment to celebrate the wisdom, experience and presence of our senior community, Assemblyman Heastie's office partners with R.A.I.N. Senior Centers to celebrate Monthly Senior Birthdays. Here, we recognize the birthdays of our esteemed seniors, creating a joyous occasion that brings everyone together. These monthly celebrations are more than just for cake and other sweet treats; they are to express our gratitude for the seniors who have for decades fought for the place we call home.

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

Assemblyman Carl E. Heastie, in collaboration with Senator Jamaal Bailey, NYC Councilman Kevin Riley, Congressman

Jamaal Bowman, Congressman Ritchie Torres, the Northeast Bronx YMCA, ICNA, and the NYC District Council of Carpenters, provided turkeys for families in the Northeast Bronx to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday.

"The Thanksgiving Holiday is about communing with family and friends, giving back to your community, and embracing gratitude. Our annual Community Turkey Distribution provides joy for not only those receiving turkeys but all those volunteering."

With turkeys distributed as well as fresh produce, canned goods, and resources for community advancement, this year's event assisted over 400 families in participating in the centuries-old tradition.



Over 400 turkey dinners delivered to local families for Thanksgiving celebrations.



## Assemblyman Heastie hosts a Holiday Toy Giveaway

Assemblyman Carl Heastie hosted a Holiday Toy Giveaway to bring in the joy of the season to more children with more toys to unwrap. The Annual Holiday Toy Giveaway was a festive family event, providing an evening full of holiday music, pictures with Santa, and hot cocoa to keep spirits warm and cheerful.



Member of Assembly Carl Heastie, dressed as Batman, partakes in Halloween Celebration with local families.

## Speaker Heastie hosted a spooktacular Halloween celebration

Assemblyman Carl Heastie hosted a Halloween costume party for children and families at the Bridgefield Civic League. Children of all ages and their families participated, bringing their best costumes – ghosts and ghouls, superheroes, and princesses were well in attendance. Between each activity and laugh, food and snacks were provided by Mello Caribbean Cuisine. 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.



#TeamHeastie reading with neighborhood children during monthly Storytime.

## The New York Public Library Storytime with #TeamHeastie

Several times throughout the year, the Office of Assemblyman Heastie partners with the local New York Public Library (NYPL) branches for Storytime with #TeamHeastie. This event brings out nursery school-aged children, their families, and caregivers to share in small snacks and amazing childhood stories. If you would like to suggest your favorite childhood story, call or email us to let us know so we can bring it to our next storytime event.

## Combatting food insecurity with DJ Funk Flex

This fall, the Office of Assemblyman Heastie partnered with DJ Funk Flex and Grassroot Grocery to address food insecurity for our most vulnerable populations. Addressing food insecurity requires a collaborative effort between elected officials, private entities, and community partners. Through this strategic partnership, hundreds of families were able to access fresh produce, whole grains, and cooked meals. Community-led initiatives, such as food giveaways and food drives, have allowed for an expanded positive impact across our community, allowing for more reach for individuals and families who may be facing hardship.



Speaker Heastie, local elected officials, and Grassroot Grocery leadership with children and families of the Northeast Bronx.

## Speaker Heastie celebrates Carib News' 28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

This year, NY Carib News celebrated its 28<sup>th</sup> year of cultivating excellence and informing so many about the accomplishments of the Caribbean diaspora. As one of the largest Caribbean publications in New York City, Carib News has for years served our community by providing information about the Caribbean nation, which many here in the Northeast Bronx call home – specifically the Island of Jamaica.

This year's conference took place on the beautiful island of Jamaica, providing all in attendance with beautiful weather, culture, and, most of all, an experience like no other. While there, through numerous workshops, networking events, and business-focused think tanks, all conference attendees gained more insight into innovations that have been seen in technology, politics, global demographics, world system integration, climate change and, of course, public health issues that not only impact the Caribbean but also the entire United States.





# 2024 CALENDAR

Speaker Carl E. Heastie

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## 2024 Holidays:

**Jan. 1** New Years Day  
**Jan. 15** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
**Feb. 19** Presidents Day  
**May 27** Memorial Day

**June 19** Juneteenth  
**July 4** Independence Day  
**Sept. 2** Labor Day  
**Oct. 14** Columbus Day

**Nov. 11** Veterans Day  
**Nov. 28** Thanksgiving Day  
**Dec. 25** Christmas Day

## New laws taking effect on December 2023

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

- ✓ **Provide certain protections for victims of real property theft**, including authorizing a stay of foreclosure proceedings pending an investigation into theft or fraud (Ch. 630 of 2023).
- ✓ **Enact Matthew's Law**, which authorizes health care professionals and pharmacists to dispense drug adulterant testing supplies, such as fentanyl testing strips, to any person (Ch. 654 of 2023).
- ✓ Allow pharmacists to administer injectable medications approved by the Food & Drug Administration to **treat mental health and substance use disorder** (Ch. 802 of 2022 and Ch. 5 of 2023).
- ✓ **Increases the standards of monthly need** for aged, blind and disabled individuals living in the community (Ch. 56 of 2023, Part Z).

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

[nyassembly.gov/mem/Carl-E-Heastie/story/104850](https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Carl-E-Heastie/story/104850)



## New bills signed into law

- ✓ **The Clean Slate Act** will help remove barriers and change lives (Ch.631 of 2023).
- ✓ **Diwali is now a NYC school holiday** (Ch. 629 of 2023).
- ✓ **Lunar New Year is now a statewide holiday** (Ch.359 of 2023).

*"New York City is a richly diverse area and it's important we can celebrate and respect that diversity and the faiths of our people."*

*– Speaker Carl E. Heastie*

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248

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## NEWS FROM

Speaker  
**Carl E. Heastie**

*"My wishes for cheer and good health to you and your family this holiday season. As we welcome 2024, I'll keep fighting to bring good jobs, strengthen our schools, and make our streets safer."*

*– Speaker Carl E. Heastie*

