

The Forward Eagle

Compiled Weekly
for
The Riverdale Senior Services Center
Bronx, NY

“Let us endeavor mutually to enlighten one another.”

November 3, 2025

Vol III Number 39

Page 1 of 1

Current events

1.

Professor Michael Oppenheimer of The Princeton School of Public and International Affairs said recently that Bill Gates, of Microsoft fame, has set up a “false dichotomy” that pits international efforts to tackle climate change against foreign aid for the poor.

Professor Oppenheimer reported in an e-mail that despite Gates’s efforts to make clear that he takes climate change seriously, his recent public announcement on the subject is bound to be misused by those who would destroy efforts to remedy the adverse consequences of global climate change.

2.

New York City halted work on its planned roadwork redesign of 34th Street in midtown Manhattan. The work would improve cross town bus service. However, the Trump administration ordered the city to pause the project.

The Federal Highway Administration gave the New York City Department of Transportation notice to pause the 34th Street project citing such concerns as the absence of adequate access for delivery trucks to 34th Street.

3.

A \$2.9 billion commuter rail project to connect New York City’s northern suburbs to Pennsylvania Station faces a three-year delay, according to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA).

The MTA had planned to finish construction to link Metro-North commuter rail lines to Manhattan’s Penn Station by the end of 2027. It will now be completed in the second quarter of 2030. Amtrak, which owns the railroad tracks, has not provided sufficient access to their infrastructure to perform work, said Jamie Torres-Springer, the MTA’s head of construction and development.

Metro-North currently operates from Grand Central Terminal, providing service to the Bronx, Westchester County and Connecticut. When completed, the planned new tracks and signaling will increase transit access for an estimated 500,000 Bronx residents, slashing travel time by as much as 50 minutes from the northern borough. Trips to Connecticut will be 70 minutes faster than existing options.

4.

Urban planners have found that laws limiting vehicle speed are not the best way to keep urban traffic within safe speed limits. Drivers slowed only two to three km/h when speed limits were restricted from 50 to 30 km/h. The design of the streets has proven to be much more effective.

Narrow, enclosed streets in high density urban neighborhoods tended to slow traffic and reduce accidents. Wide and open roads with long sightlines encouraged higher speeds. Design, not legislation, can reduce unsafe high speed driving in cities.

In many countries, particularly Italy, speed limits are considered merely suggestions. Legal changes do not necessarily usher in behavioral changes. In Bologna, speed cameras were recently removed after failing to reduce vehicle speeds. The Italian city’s example proves how difficult it can be to rely on punitive measures to increase traffic safety.



The Leaning Tower, Bologna, c.1826. Pencil, watercolor, and body color on paper by Richard Parkes Bonington (1802-1828)

5.

New York City's congestion tolling has significantly reduced traffic delays within the tolling zone while improving public transit ridership and pedestrian safety. Since its launch in January 2025, the program in lower Manhattan has led to a decrease in vehicle entries, faster average travel times, fewer crashes, and increased ridership on subways, buses, and commuter rails. The toll revenue generated there is also being used to fund public transit improvements.

6.

“An economy that grows as a result of favorable institutions requires a world of well-delineated and respected property rights, enforceable contracts, law and order, a low level of opportunism and rent-seeking, a high degree of inclusion in political decision-making and the benefits of growth, and political organizations in which power and wealth are as separate as is humanly possible.” - Joel Mokyr, 2025 Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences.

Word of the week

false dichotomy

A false dichotomy is a logical fallacy that presents only two options as if they are the only possibilities, when in reality, more choices exist. This “either/or” framing can be misleading, forcing a choice between extremes and ignoring a spectrum of possibilities in between. It's a common tactic to simplify complex issues and can be found in political speeches, advertisements, or everyday conversation.

The Forward Eagle

is published weekly by the Column Press Co., NYC.
Tim Forward Editor

This paper is offered as a review of recent topics taken up by the current events discussion group at The Riverdale Senior Services Center.

Please join us at the Center for Ageless Living, 2600 Netherland Avenue, Bronx, NY each Monday at 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon for Current Events & Discussion

Items in this week’s Eagle were collected and edited from:

1. NYT 10/29/25 | 2. Bloomberg 10/17/25 | 3. Bloomberg 10/27/25 | 4. European Transport Safety Council 01/21/2025 | 5. The Guardian 6/16/25 | 6. *A Culture of Growth*, 2016