

Around the Community



Scenes from Young Israel of Plainview's pre-Purim celebration

Episcopal Health Services Celebrates Opening of New Cancer Center

Episcopal Health Services (EHS) recently announced the opening of the new EHS Cancer Center, anchored at the Walsh Ambulatory Pavilion, a state-of-the-art outpatient facility spanning more than 50,000 square feet across five floors and located directly across from St. John's Episcopal Hospital.

The EHS Cancer Center expands access to comprehensive, coordinated cancer care for patients across the Rockaway Peninsula, the Five Towns, South Nassau, and neighboring communities. Medical and radiation oncology services are now offered at the Walsh Ambulatory Pavilion, while surgical oncology services are provided at St. John's Episcopal Hospital, allowing patients to benefit from a seamless continuum of care across the EHS campus. Notably, the opening marks the return of radiation oncology services to the Rockaway Peninsula for the first time in more than a decade.

"The opening of the EHS Cancer Cen-

ter represents a significant step forward in our mission to provide high-quality, comprehensive cancer care for the communities we serve," said Donald Morrish, MD, MMM, President and Chief Executive Officer of EHS. "By investing in advanced technology, new facilities, and expert physicians, we are strengthening our ability to diagnose, treat, and support patients through every phase of their cancer journey."

At the Walsh Ambulatory Pavilion, patients will have access to medical oncology, radiation oncology, hematology, immunotherapy, clinical trials, and a dedicated cancer navigation program, supported by advanced diagnostic and treatment technology. The Cancer Center features a PET/CT scanner for precise imaging, a TrueBeam linear accelerator for highly targeted radiation therapy, and a modern infusion therapy suite designed for patient comfort and efficiency.

In addition to clinical services, patients will benefit from a robust range

of supportive care offerings, including social work services, pastoral and spiritual support, inpatient physical rehabilitation, a specialty pharmacy, and survivorship services — ensuring care that addresses both medical and emotional needs.

"A cancer diagnosis affects every part of a patient's life, not just their health," said Marc Warshawsky, MD, Chief of Hematology and Oncology at EHS. "This Cancer Center allows us to deliver advanced, coordinated care locally, while surrounding patients with the support services they need. Our goal is to simplify the care experience, improve access, and provide a more integrated treatment journey."

"The addition of a TrueBeam linear accelerator and on-site imaging allows us to deliver highly precise, effective treatment while minimizing disruption to patients' daily lives," said Mark Ashamalla, MD, Chief of Radiation Oncology at EHS. "This expansion strengthens our ability



to provide timely care and improves continuity throughout the treatment process."

The EHS Cancer Center is the first specialty service to open at the Walsh Ambulatory Pavilion. Additional outpatient clinical services are expected to begin opening in March 2026.

To schedule an appointment at the EHS Cancer Center, visit ehs.org/oncology or call:

- Medical Oncology: 718-869-7949
- Radiation Oncology: 718-869-7101
- Surgical Oncology: 718-347-3627

Mercanz Mustangs Wrap Up a Winning Season

The Mercanz Mustangs boys' basketball team has just wrapped up their best season yet — a year defined not only by wins, but by growth, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

With the team, made up of fourth, fifth and sixth grade students, racking up four wins, it was the most successful season in the history of the program.

"I'm very happy and we're very proud of what they accomplished," said Coach Anthony Delwey. "Everyone contributed and worked hard, and it showed."

The season began in September, when

the still-raw team began twice-weekly practices with enthusiasm and dedication. Focusing heavily on skills and fundamentals, and encouraged by major support from parents and community, the players improved significantly over the course of the season.

The Mustangs now play excellent defense, compete hard in every game, and recently put up an impressive 48-point performance — their highest-scoring game of the season. The outgoing sixth graders led the way, serving as the team's high scorers and strongest defenders

— and guiding and supporting younger players.

Beyond the scoreboard, the team's positive attitude, school pride, excellent values, and focus on fun set the Mustangs apart.

"They have fun no matter what the score is, and they're excited to be out there playing. They never get upset, and they're always doing their best. Being part of the team makes them feel good about themselves, and proud of Mercanz," shared Coach Delwey.

Following this record-making season,



he said, the Mercanz basketball program looks forward to a bright future. "We're all very proud of what we've accomplished, and we'll continue to grow as a team."