



*multiply the good*

**For Immediate Release**

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**Ridgewood Savings Bank Partners With Ariva To Provide Free Tax Preparation Services For Bronx Residents**

Ridgewood Savings Bank is offering eligible Bronx residents free tax preparation assistance this tax season with services provided by the non-profit organization, Ariva. Residents are eligible for tax preparation assistance if they are single with no dependents and earn less than \$30,000, or file with dependents and earn less than \$54,000.

On Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, Ridgewood's Jerome Avenue Branch hosted the first events of the season where over 118 tax returns were completed.

In addition to the Jerome Avenue branch, Ridgewood Savings Bank will host two additional dates at the following convenient Bronx locations:

**Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> 10:00am – 4:00pm** – hosted by the White Plains Road branch, held at Community Board 12 – 4101 White Plains Road at 229<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> 10:00am – 4:00pm** – hosted by the Allerton Avenue branch – 711 Allerton Avenue.

Ariva helps Bronx residents access their refunds and save on commercial fees so that they may begin the process of building savings for their families. In previous years, Ariva has filed more than 70,000 free tax returns, returning more than \$110 million in total refunds to neighborhoods such as the South Bronx.

“This is a service that we feel is very important to the members of the community that we serve,” said Domenico Ciaccio, AVP, Community Relations at Ridgewood Savings Bank. Mr. Ciaccio continued, “Everyone needs to prepare their taxes, and we hope that the rest of the community can see how helpful this service is to those in need.”

“Ariva is grateful to Ridgewood Savings Bank for its long-time sponsorship of these tax days,” said Irene Baldwin, Executive Director, Ariva. “Neighborhood residents know Ridgewood is a trusted partner and they return year after year to the bank to have their taxes done.”

**About Ridgewood Savings Bank**

Founded in 1921, Ridgewood Savings Bank is the largest mutual savings bank in New York State, with over \$5 billion dollars in assets. With 34 branches in the New York area,

Ridgewood Savings Bank continues to serve its communities as it did since 1921 with continued focus always on their customers.

### **About Ariva**

Ariva is a nonprofit financial capabilities provider, headquartered in the South Bronx, whose mission is to empower low wealth New Yorkers with effective tools and resources so they can make informed financial choices and achieve economic stability. Ariva serves hardworking New Yorkers of modest income, helping them save money, pursue their financial goals and achieve their dreams. Each year, it assists more than 10,000 people through its free income tax program and its counselors provide comprehensive financial counseling to more than 2,000 people. Its services are always free.

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