



# September

## COMMUNITY BOARD # 8 NEWSLETTER

### DISTRICT OFFICE

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### OFFICERS

**CHAIRPERSON:** Martha Taylor  
**1st VICE CHAIR:** Michael Hannibal  
**2nd VICE CHAIR:** Seymour Schwartz  
**3rd VICE CHAIR:** Mary Maggio  
**EXEC. SECRETARY:** Bhitihara-Martha Fulton  
**TREASURER & BUDGET DIRECTOR:** Harbachan Singh

### CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Honorable Sandra Ung - 20th District  
Honorable Linda Lee - 23rd District  
Honorable James Gennaro - 24th District

### BOROUGH PRESIDENT

Honorable Donovan Richards

### STAFF

**DISTRICT MANAGER:** Marie Adam-Ovide  
Soleil Griffin, Community Assistant  
Nettie Norris, Community Assistant  
Naima Hernandez, Community Service Aide

### BOARD MEMBERS BY AREA

#### Area 1 – Kew Gardens Hills

**Mitch Lisker – CHAIR,** Heather Bennett-Idels, Joshua Glikman, Jennifer Martin, Tobias Paris, Simon Pelman, Israel Peskowitz and Jacob Weinberg.

#### Area 2 – Briarwood

**Seymour Schwartz – CHAIR,** Allen Eisenstein, John Gebhard, Elke Maerz, Mohammad Rahman, and Douglas Sherman.

#### Area 3 – Hillcrest Estates & Jamaica Hill

**Vacant – CHAIR,** Dilafriz Ahmed, Saaif Alam, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, Wendy Gennaro, Ahsan Habib, Mohammed “Delwar” Islam, Hersh Parekh and Frances Peterson.

#### Area 4 – Flushing Heights, Flushing Suburban, Hillcrest

**Dr. Penny M. Stern – CHAIR,** Kenneth Cohen II, Marva Dudley and Dilip Nath.

#### Area 5 – Georgetown Mews, Pomonok, Electchester, Flushing

**Mary Maggio – CHAIR,** Neeta Jain, Jenna Citron Schwab and Deepti Sharma.

#### Area 6 – Utopia, Fresh Meadows, West Cunningham Park

**Maria DeInnocentiis – CHAIR,** James Gallagher, Caitlin Marziliano, Alan Ong, Tamara Osherov, Amy Tse and Steven Villaran.

#### Area 7 – Jamaica Estates & Holliswood

**Howard Fried – CHAIR,** Edward Chung, Michael Hannibal, Nikolas Michael, David Mordukhaev, Jesse Rosenbaum, Aliyah Salim, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin and Mayer Waxman.

# Welcome Back to School!

## IN MEMORIUM



**Kevin J. Forrestal**

**Community Board 8 Member and Civic Leader Kevin Forrestal** passed away recently after an eighteen month battle with Leukemia. He served on CB8 for 24 years. He was the Area 3 Chair, and worked on issues affecting the neighborhoods of Hillcrest and Jamaica Hill. He was also the Committee Chair for Sanitation and DEP. He also served admirably on many committees: Capital & Expense Budget, Health, Zoning, Transportation, and Executive Committee.

He served as president of the Queens Civic Congress and president of Hillcrest Estates Civic Association for many years. Our hearts go out to his family, friends and all those who knew him and served with him on all civic matters.

Mr. Forrestal had one of the best attendance records at the Board. He rarely missed a CB8 meeting and was a strong advocate for his community. He was always available to help getting new CB8 members acclimated or assist a fellow committee chair. He often volunteered to research community issues to brief his fellow members. He was always courteous and treated the members of the staff well.

He will be missed.

## A Word from CB8...

Dear Resident,

You probably noticed that the concrete center traffic medians have not been maintained as they should this year. These medians are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Sanitation [ i.e. Hillside Avenue, Francis Lewis Boulevard, Utopia Parkway and Union Turnpike, etc.), as opposed to those with grass [ i.e. 75th Avenue.] that are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

In the past, the city contracted a private company to spray the weeds on these center medians with herbicide and the DSNY crew along with individuals directed by the courts to do community service would come out and remove the dead plants. The city stopped having the weeds sprayed with herbicide due to environmental concerns a few years ago. Regrettably, the agency failed to have a Plan B. The Department of Sanitation could no longer easily remove the weeds, as they were no longer dead.

In May this year, Chairperson Taylor and District Manager Adam-Ovide met with several agencies [ DOT, DSNY, Parks] and gave a proposal to address this problem. We asked that DSNY remove the weeds; install a weed membrane followed by covering them with mulch. The cost of the weed membrane barrier was negligible and the mulch would be free. The Department of Parks and Recreation regularly chips tree trunks right here at Cunningham Park. Regrettably, the agency's personnel complained that they were not equipped with weedwhackers and/or gardening tools to remove the weeds. In addition, some of these tasks are not part of their duties under contract. This could not move forward.

We continued to request that the medians be cleaned by contacting the DSNY superintendent on duty without success. We filed many 311 complaints and they were closed by the agency without taking any action to address the issue. Finally, we joined the Honorable Donovan Richards, Queens Borough President, at a press conference along with other community board leaders, civic leaders and residents to bring attention to this matter. We understand that the Borough President is working with Council Member Linda Lee to introduce legislation so that all medians fall under the jurisdiction of one agency equipped to address this issue.

Since Mayor Eric Adams promised to dedicate 1% of the City's budget to the Department of Parks and Recreation a few years ago, we hope that it comes to fruition. If this occurs, our city will be on par with other major cities in funding our parks. With the additional funding, that agency would be able to properly maintain the medians under a regular schedule, maintain the New York City trees before they cause injury, property damage and liability to the city.

Sanitation recently started to clean up the medians on Main Street, Union Turnpike and Utopia Parkway. We will continue to advocate to ensure that all of them are all done within our district.

Please share this information with your friends and neighbors. **It takes more than City Hall to make New York City great, it takes us all!**

Sincerely,

*Marie Adam-Ovide*  
District Manager

*Martha Taylor*  
Chairperson



**Council Member  
Linda Lee  
Presents:**




# Fall Health Fair

Cunningham Park  
196-10 Union Turnpike  
Queens, NY (In Parking Lot Next to Down to Earth  
Farmer's Market)  
Sunday, September 29th 12 PM - 3 PM  
**Join Us For:**

- Blood Pressure Screenings
- Pilates
- Meditation
- CPR Demonstration
- Mental Health Resources
- And Much More!
- New York Blood Center will be present to collect blood donations!



 **New York  
Blood Center**



Scan code to sign up  
to donate blood from  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM!

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH**



**Senator  
Toby Stavisky**



**Assembly Member  
David Weprin**



**Assembly Member  
Nily Rozic**



## Community Engagement Forum with NYC DOT Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez



**Join us for a discussion on transportation  
priorities in your community.**

**Date:** Wednesday, September 18, 2024

**Time:** 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

**Location:** The Atrium at Queens Borough Hall  
120-55 Queens Boulevard at  
One Claire Shulman Way  
Kew Gardens, NY 11424

**RSVP:** [ebueno@dot.nyc.gov](mailto:ebueno@dot.nyc.gov)

***Your voice matters! Help shape a better transportation system.  
We appreciate your commitment to the community!***

Sign language and Spanish interpreters available.



Eric Adams  
Mayor



Ydanis Rodriguez  
Commissioner

**State University of New York**  
**University Center for Academic & Workforce Development**  
**QUEENS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER**  
Administered by York College - City University of New York  
158-29 Archer Ave. Jamaica NY 11433 | 718-725-3320

SUNY Queens EOC is enrolling NOW for its **TUITION-FREE** college preparation program, Pathways to College:

**Pathways-to-College (College Preparation): - 8 weeks in-person**

Classes meet in-person/day session from 9:00 AM - 1:15 PM, Monday - Friday. Courses include Reading for College, Pre-College Math, English Composition, Computing for College, Research Paper Writing, Master Student Seminar. Must possess a High School/High School Equivalency diploma for admissions consideration. Excellent, experienced Instructors prepare students for the rigors of entering college as first-year Freshman college students.

**SUNY Queens EOC College Fair - October 17, 2024 - 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM**

*(2nd Floor of the EOC)*

Meet representatives from various colleges and universities that will provide valuable information about colleges/universities and the admissions process.

Obtain answers to financial aid questions, state grants, scholarships, and on-campus aid, and much more.

Learn about various majors/minors, campus life, research projects, daycare on campus, counseling, advisement, clubs and activities etc.

Get valuable information on college "Opportunity Programs" in CUNY, SUNY, Private colleges, and others. For example, the SEEK program, College Discovery, HEOP, EOP, ASAP, etc. Enrollment in one of these programs in colleges can drastically reduce your college costs while earning a valuable degree in the field of your choice. College is affordable; come to the fair to learn more...

For consideration in the above college preparation program, you must complete the EOC online application to start the admissions process. Please visit the Queens EOC website at <https://queenseoc.net>

Please select the APPLY ONLINE button to complete the application.



## **School is open. Drive safely!**

The first day of school is on **Thursday, September 5, 2024** and our community should do everything possible to keep our children safe. Please obey all traffic regulations, especially near our schools. Here are a few tips from the NYC Police Department and Community Board 8Q:

- Always **Drive Slowly** in school zones. Aggressive driving and speeding drastically reduces the time you have to avoid a road hazard. Poor weather conditions reduce visibility and increases stopping distance.
- Always be **Mindful of Children**, especially when visibility and space is diminished by double parked cars. Children may cross the street between cars. Pedestrians may not be paying attention; they may be distracted and not see you. Children may run out in the street at anytime.
- **Be a Defensive Driver!** Watch out for distracted drivers that may pull out without signaling or looking first.
- **Never Double Park!** Double parking creates blind spots for drivers and pedestrians.
- **Never Block Crosswalks!**
- **LOOK** before moving! Be mindful of small children behind your vehicle or aggressive drivers passing double parked cars.
- **Be Courteous** to others and don't block the street. Allow yourself additional time to find a safe spot to drop off your child and avoid stress due to traffic delays.
- **ALL** vehicles **MUST** stop when the school bus light is flashing **RED** - Most school bus-related deaths and injuries occur while children are crossing the street after leaving the bus, not in collisions involving school buses.

## **NOTICE**

### **Fiscal Year 2026 Capital & Expense Budget**

In preparation for the Fiscal Year 2026 Capital & Expense Budget, Community Board 8 is soliciting **new** items from our residents. Please submit any new capital and/or expense budget needs by September 11, 2024. All budget items (old and new) will be placed in priority order. A vote will be taken at the October 23, 2024 Community Board 8's Public Hearing/Meeting then they will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) by October 31, 2024.

# CANNABIS/LIQUOR LICENSE NOTIFICATION (S)



**Compass Group USA, Inc**  
174-10 Union Turnpike, Jamaica  
**Renewal - Full Liquor License**

**Maria Restaurant Food Corp.**  
172-37 Hillside Avenue - Jamaica  
**Renewal - Full Liquor License**

**Royal Skewers. Inc.**  
190-11 & 190-13 Union Turnpike - Fresh Meadows  
**NEW - Full Liquor License & Temporary Retail Permit**



*Any complaints about establishments with liquor licenses should be sent to Community Board 8 **in writing**. Unless a signed, **written** notification is received at our office, we cannot follow up. You must also include your address and telephone number.*



## No Trash, Compost or Recycling on Labor Day, Monday, September 2, 2024.

Residents who normally receive Monday trash, curbside compost or recycling collection should place their material at the curb **Monday evening** for collection starting **Tuesday, September 3, 2024.**

## CANNABIS/LIQUOR LICENSE

### Committee Meeting

**Tuesday, September 17, 2024**

**7:30 p.m.**

Please submit written testimony in support or against any **new applications** by the end of the day on Monday, September 16, 2024.

If you have complaints about illegal cannabis shops, please contact the Office of Cannabis Management at:

<https://cannabis.ny.gov/report-an-incident>  
or call 1-888-OCM-5151 (1-888-626-5151).

## CONSTRUCTION NOTICE (S)



- 86-63 Clio Street – Garage Only
- 158-11 79th Avenue – Excavation
- 182-23 Aberdeen Road – Excavation
- 144-46 68th Road – Demolition
- 138-34 78th Road – Demolition

## NYC DOT Scooter Program



Any scooters blocking pedestrian right of way can be reported to 311 or the vendors directly:

Veo: [opsnyc@veoride.com](mailto:opsnyc@veoride.com) [855 836-2256]  
Bird: [BirdNYC@bird.co](mailto:BirdNYC@bird.co) [866 205-2442]  
Lime: [help-new-york@li.me](mailto:help-new-york@li.me) [888 546-3345]

For more information about the scooter program:

Frequently Asked Questions | Shared E-Scooter Program  
([nycdotscootershare.info](http://nycdotscootershare.info))

## CITY PARKING RULES

The City suspends alternate side parking regulations for both street cleaning purposes and traffic flow, on legal and/or religious holidays.



\*Labor Day .....Mon., September 2nd

*(Parking meters are still in effect.  
\* Except during major holidays)*

# September 2024

## Community Board 8, Queens

| SUN   | MON  | TUE   | WED  | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|---|--|-----|-----|-----|
| 1   | 2<br><br><b>LABOR DAY</b><br>We're Closed | 3   | 4<br>Executive Cmte. Meeting<br>7:30 p.m.<br>CB8 Office  | 5   | 6   | 7   |
| 8   | 9  | 10  | 11<br>Board Meeting<br>Public Hearing<br>7:30 p.m.<br>Hillcrest Jewish Center<br>183-02 Union Turnpike | 12  | 13  | 14  |
| 15  | 16   | 17<br>Liquor License Cmte. Meeting<br>7:30 p.m.<br>CB8 Office | 18   | 19  | 20  | 21  |
| 22<br> | 23   | 24  | 25<br>Transportation Cmte. Meeting<br>7:30 p.m.<br>CB8 Office  | 26  | 27  | 28  |
| 29  | 30   |   |  |     |     |     |

*"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you."*

– B. B. King