



February 2016

COMMUNITY BOARD # 8 NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT OFFICE

197-15 Hillside Avenue
Hollis, NY 11423-2126
Tel # (718) 264-7895
Fax # (718) 264-7910
E-Mail: qn08@cb.nyc.gov
Website: www.nyc.gov/queenscb8

OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN: Alvin Warshaviak
DISTRICT MANAGER: Marie Adam-Ovide
1st VICE CHAIR: Stanley Weinblatt
2nd VICE CHAIR: Martha Taylor
3rd VICE CHAIR: Seymour Schwartz
EXEC. SECRETARY: Carolyn Baker-Brown
TREASURER: Harbachan Singh
BUDGET DIRECTOR: Vacant

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Honorable Barry Grodenchik
Honorable Rory Laneman

BOROUGH PRESIDENT

Honorable Melinda Katz

STAFF

Joseph Marziliano, Jatna Pimentel and Alma Karassavidis.

BOARD MEMBERS BY AREA

Area 1 – Kew Gardens Hills

Dr. Allen J. Bennett – CHAIR, Susan D. Cleary, Florence Fisher, Joshua Glikman, Bright Limm, Mitch Lisker, Jennifer Martin, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Simon Pelman, Michael Sidell and Jacob Weinberg

Area 2 – Briarwood

Seymour Schwartz - CHAIR, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Allen Eisenstein, Elke Maerz, Charlton Rhee, Douglas Sherman and Albert Willingham

Area 3 - Hillcrest Estates & Jamaica Hill

Kevin Forrestal - CHAIR, Dilafroz Ahmed, Fakrul Islam Delwar, Paul Lazauskas, Frances Peterson and Samuel Rodriguez

Area 4 – Flushing Heights, Flushing Suburban, Hillcrest

Jagir Singh Bains – CHAIR, Kenneth Cohen II, Steven Konigsberg and Alvin Warshaviak

Area 5 – Georgetown Mews, Pomonok, Electchester, Flushing

Mary Maggio Fischer – CHAIR, Monica Corbett, Carolann Foley, Sylvia Hernandez, Frank Magri, Steven Sadofsky and Stanley Weinblatt

Area 6 – Utopia, Fresh Meadows, West Cunningham Park

Maria DeInnocentiis – CHAIR, James Gallagher, Jr., Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch and Tamara Osherov

Area 7 – Jamaica Estates & Holliswood

Mark Lefkof – CHAIR, Dr. Robert Block, Edward Chung, Howard A. Fried, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Jesse Rosenbaum, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor and Mohammed Tohin

**Community Board 8, Queens
Hillcrest Jewish Center
183-02 Union Turnpike (Auditorium)
Fresh Meadows, NY 11366**

- The December 9, 2015 Community Board 8 Minutes were unanimously approved by 32 members.
- CB8 sent a letter to the Department of Homeless Services regarding Par Central Inn located at 82-85 Parsons Boulevard. The Board was not notified that this location was being used as an emergency homeless shelter. CB8 was notified after the fact and the letter expresses displeasure with that.
- Cornerstone Facility on 164th Street and Union Turnpike made a request for a letter of support for two additional beds. The Executive Committee decided to send a no objection letter, as the history with them has been quite good.
- **Councilman Barry Grodenchik** stopped by to give an update with his efforts at the beginning of his term. At a hearing on hunger he learned that only a sum of \$12 million is allocated for hunger emergency services per year in New York’s annual budget. It is unacceptable to have so many hungry people in our nation’s wealthiest city. Councilman Grodenchik is also sponsoring a bill that would allow the City to place security guards in private schools with enrollment of over 300 students. This proposal will cost the City approximately \$2.50 per New Yorker per year and will begin on April 1st.

Next Community Board 8 Meeting will be on WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

*** Minutes of Board Meetings are available on our website: www.nyc.gov/queenscb8

A Word from the District Manager ...

Dear Resident:

Did you know that property owners who receive the Enhanced School Tax Relief (ESTAR) must confirm their eligibility every year? This is done by submitting documents to verify your income annually.

*The New York City Department of Finance has automatically enrolled property owners that receive the Enhanced STAR in the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance's income verification program to automatically confirm their eligibility. Current ESTAR recipients will be receiving a letter informing them of the process and their right to opt-out of the program. For homeowners who want to continue to have their incomes automatically verified by the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance, they do not need to respond to this letter. For those who wish to opt-out of the program, they will have to send a renewal application **every year** in addition to documents verifying their income to continue to receive ESTAR.*

You have until March 16, 2016 to send your application with the documents to verify your income. If you have questions you can call 311, send an email to recertify@finance.nyc.gov or visit www.nyc.gov/ownerexemption.

*If you meet the following, you probably qualify to receive the Enhanced School Tax Relief (ESTAR) and receive approximately a **\$600** tax reduction:*

- All owners must be 65 years or older by the end of the calendar year in which the exemption begins, unless they are the spouse or sibling of an owner who is 65 or older by that time. For example, if you own the property and are applying for an exemption that will begin on July 1, 2016, you or your spouse or sibling must be 65 or older by December 31, 2016.*
- The combined income of all owners and of a resident owner's spouse cannot be more than **\$84,550**. Income is federal adjusted gross income minus the taxable amount of total distributions from annuities or individual retirement accounts (commonly known as IRAs). Income documents will be required to establish your eligibility for this program.*
- The property must be the primary residence of at least one owner. Married couples can only have STAR on one property unless they are divorced or legally separated and can provide documentation to support their claim.*

The Community Board office can mail you an application or you can download one at:

http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/finance/downloads/pdf/payment_operations/exemptions_appl.pdf

Please share this information. It takes more than City Hall to make New York City great, it takes us all!

Sincerely,

Marie Adam-Ovide

P.S. If you would like an email version, please contact us at 718-264-7895 and provide your email address.

This information is also available on our website: www.nyc.gov/queenscb8. Remember to "Like" us on

facebook

Help for your business is coming soon...

ONE STOP SUPPORT CENTER ...in Jamaica

We'll Keep you posted.



Assemblyman **DAVID WEPRIN**

and NYS Department of Taxation and Finance
are hosting a **Facilitated Self-Assistance Tax Preparation Site.**

2016

- FEBRUARY**
- Wednesday, **February 3**
- Wednesday, **February 10**
- Wednesday, **February 17**
- Wednesday, **February 24**

- MARCH**
- Wednesday, **March 2**
- Wednesday, **March 9**
- Wednesday, **March 16**
- Wednesday, **March 23**
- Wednesday, **March 30**

- APRIL**
- Wednesday, **April 6**
- Wednesday, **April 13**



Volunteers from the Department of Taxation and Finance will be at the following location to assist residents in electronically filing their tax returns:

Queens Library at Lefferts

103-34 Lefferts Boulevard
Richmond Hill, NY 11419

All sessions will be held from
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
on the dates listed on the left.

No Appointment Necessary

Household income must be less than \$62,000 in order to be eligible for this service, including those filing Single, Married filing joint, Head of household, Married filing separate, or as a Widow(er) with a child.

For more information about this or any other local issue, please contact **Assemblyman Weprin's office** at 718-805-2381.



New York City Comptroller

SCOTT M. STRINGER

cordially invites you to attend a

FAITH BASED TAX WORKSHOP

Come and hear from:

- The U.S. Internal Revenue Service
- New York City Department of Buildings
- New York City Department of Finance
- New York City Department of Environmental Protection

Presentations will address the following:

- New York City property taxes and exemptions
- New York City DEP exemptions

Municipal Building
1 Centre Street North
Mezzanine Level
New York, NY 10007

Thursday, February 4, 2016

Doors open 8:30 am
Breakfast from 8:30-9:30 am
Workshop from 9:30-11:00 am

Please RSVP by January 28, 2016

To RSVP, please email Meetings@comptroller.nyc.gov or call (212) 669-4466.

If you need language translation services or special accommodations, please call (212) 669-4315.

♿ Accessible facility

The HRA Office of Child Support Enforcement's

Strong Families Studio

Presents

A New Series of Free Workshops

Information from experts on topics that matter to you and your community

Who: Everyone! All workshops are free and open to the public.

When: 5:30-7:00 pm
The first Tuesday of every month

Where: Office of Child Support Enforcement
Customer Service Walk-In Center
151 West Broadway, 5th floor
Manhattan

Nearby subway stations include Chambers Street, for the 1, 2, 3, A, C, J, or Z trains and Brooklyn Bridge/ City Hall Station, for the 4, 5, or 6

Light refreshments will be served.

RSVPs appreciated but not required.

Email questions or RSVPs to:
ocsevents@dfa.state.nyc.gov



Winter/Spring 2016 Schedule

- Feb. 2, 2016** Child Support Debt: How to Get Rid of It and How to Avoid It in the First Place
- Mar. 1, 2016** Child Support Basics for Moms and Dads
- Apr. 5, 2016** Custody and Visitation
- May 3, 2016** Child Support: What Happens When I Don't Pay?

Upcoming Topics

- financial empowerment
- nutrition
- child development
- healthy relationships

NYC Human Resources Administration
Department of Social Services
Office of Child Support Enforcement



Thank you
to our wonderful
men and women
in uniform
(DSNY, FDNY & NYPD)
for the marvelous
job they did during
the snowstorm of
the century in our
district!





*As New York City Residents we must obey a gamut of regulations. We realize that most residents want to do the right thing and obey the rules. However, they often break them, as they are **unaware** of their existence. So...*



Did you know???

Landlord's Duty of Repair

Landlords of multiple dwellings must keep apartments and the building's public area in "in good repair" and clean and free of vermin, garbage or other offensive material. Landlords are required to maintain electrical, plumbing, sanitary heating and ventilating systems and appliances landlords install, (*such as refrigerators and stoves*), in good and safe working order. All repairs must be made within a reasonable time period. Such time period may vary depending upon the severity of the repairs. In New York City, the landlord is required to maintain the public areas in a clean and sanitary condition (*NYC Administrative Code Section 27-2011*). Tenants should bring complaints to the attention of their local housing officials (*Multiple Dwelling Law Section 78 and Section 80*).

Bus Stop Snow Removal

Who is responsible to remove the snow from bus stops?

It depends...

Bus Stops with Shelters - NYC Department of Transportation is responsible for the removal and a company named Cemusa has the contract to maintain the shelters (i.e. repair broken glass, lighting). This includes snow removal.

Bus Stops I/F/O Private Property (w/o Shelter) - It is treated just like any sidewalk and the property owner is responsible for the snow removal.

Fire Hydrants—Property owners are also responsible to remove snow from the hydrants. **You may save a life... and that life may be your own!**

Muni-meters - Business owners are responsible to make a path to the muni-meters.

LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS



- ◆ **Lbella Pizzeria & Restaurant Inc.**
69-26/28 Main Street in Flushing, ***Renewal application for a Wine and Beer License.***
- ◆ **Jamaica 153 Corp. d/b/a Riko**
153-37 Hillside Avenue in Jamaica, ***NEW application for a Wine and Beer License.***
- ◆ **Zen Fusion Cuisine, Inc..** in Flushing
79-28 Parsons Boulevard, ***Renewal application for a Liquor, Wine and Beer License.***
- ◆ **Cheap Shots NY LLC**
149-05 Union Turnpike in Flushing ***Renewal application for a Liquor, Wine and Beer License.***
- ◆ **PJ's Dance Charisma Inc.**
71-46 Main Street, in Flushing ***Renewal application for a Liquor, Wine and Beer License.***

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.

CITY PARKING RULES

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



Asian New Year.....Monday, February 8th
Ash Wednesday.....Wednesday, February 10th
Lincoln's Birthday.....Friday, February 12th
Washington's Birthday.....Monday, February 15th
Remember parking meters are still in effect!

Queens Interagency Council on Aging

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.



Digital Technology Demo & Discussion

Designed for Beginners From "Soup to Nuts!"

Free and open to the Public

Limited seating—Pre-registration advised

Continental Breakfast Provided!

RSVP to (718) 268-5954 or by email to qica@aol.com

DEMOLITION/VACATE NOTICE



- ◆ **None for the month of February. If you notice a demolition without permit, please contact 311 or your Community Board.**

Borough President Katz

invites you to attend her

African American Heritage Month Event

Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Queens Borough Hall (The Forum)

120-55 Queens Boulevard in Kew Gardens

*Community leaders will be recognized and
graduating high school seniors will be
awarded scholarships.*



February

Community Board 8, Queens

February is African American History Month!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Happy Groundhog Day! 	3	4	5	6
7	8 <i>Lunar New Year</i> 	9 Liquor License Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m. CB8 Office 197-15 Hillside	10 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 	11 Public Hearing 7:30 p.m. Mayor's Preliminary Budget CB8 Office 197-15 Hillside	12	13
14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> 	15 <i>Office Closed</i> 	16	17 Board Meeting 7:30 p.m. Hillcrest Jewish Center 183-02 Union Turnpike	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Transportation Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m. CB8 Office 197-15 Hillside Ave	25	26	27
28	29					

“Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.” — Frederick Douglass