





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

CHAIRPERSON: Martha Taylor
1st VICE CHAIR: Michael Hannibal
2nd VICE CHAIR: Seymour Schwartz
3rd VICE CHAIR: Mary Maggio
EXEC. SECRETARY: Carolyn Brown
TREASURER: Harbachan Singh
BUDGET DIRECTOR: Marc A. Haken

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Honorable Barry Grodenchik - 23rd District Vacant - 24th District

BOROUGH PRESIDENT

Honorable Donovan Richards

STAFF

DISTRICT MANAGER: Marie Adam-Ovide Jatnna Reyes, Community Associate Izabela Szczepanska, Community Assistant

BOARD MEMBERS BY AREA

<u> Area 1 – Kew Gardens Hills</u>

Mitch Lisker – (interim) **CHAIR**, Heather Bennett-Idels, Susan D. Cleary, Florence Fisher, Joshua Glikman, Jennifer Martin, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Simon Pelman and Jacob Weinberg

Area 2 - Briarwood

Seymour Schwartz - CHAIR, Carolyn Brown, Solomon Davydov, Allen Eisenstein, John Gebhard, Elke Maerz, Wendy Phaff, Mohammad Rahman, Charlton Rhee, Douglas Sherman and Albert Willingham

Area 3 - Hillcrest Estates & Jamaica Hills

Kevin Forrestal - CHAIR, Dilafroz Ahmed, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, Paul Lazauskas, Hersh Parekh and Frances Peterson

<u>Area 4 – Flushing Heights, Flushing Suburban, Hillcrest</u> <u>Jagir Singh Bains—CHAIR</u>, Kenneth Cohen II, Steven Konigsberg, Dilip Nath and Dr. Penny M. Stern

Area 5 – Georgetown Mews, Pomonok, Electchester, Flushing Mary Maggio – CHAIR, Carolann Foley and Frank Magri

<u>Area 6 – Utopia, Fresh Meadows, West Cunningham Park</u> <u>Maria DeInnocentiis – CHAIR</u>, James Gallagher, Jr., Tami Hirsch, Alan Ong and Tamara Osherov

Area 7 – Jamaica Estates & Holliswood

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

We Wish You a Happy & Healthy New Year 2021

Virtual Community Board Meeting Re-cap

December 9, 2020

- The Minutes of the November 20, 2020 Board Meeting were unanimously approved by 41 members.
- Chairperson Martha Taylor expressed condolences to Board Member Marc A. Haken on the passing of his sister, Clair, on behalf of the entire Board.
- Elected Officials' Announcements:

Honorable Borough President Donovan Richards thanked everyone for their support. He was recently sworn-in and he is honored to serve this borough. He looks forward to working with each and everyone. QBP Richards offered his condolences to Board Member Marc A. Haken on the passing of his sister last week. He thanked all the Board Members for their service to our community.

He encouraged everyone to continue to get tested for COVID-19. Cases are still on the rise in Queens and one way to bring those cases down is getting tested and make sure everything is okay. He invited everyone to take advantage of the Health & Hospitals Corporation sites to get tested. He will be doing a tour at all Hospitals across the Borough to check on the status or where we are at and make sure everyone has enough PPE. Now that a vaccine is coming along, he will be one of the first one in line. He understands there are a lot of concerns about the vaccine, but he encouraged everyone to consider getting vaccinated. Queens was one of the epicenters of the virus, and we should be prioritized in a lot of different aspects. QBP Richards stressed the need for small business relief to the Governor and Mayor's office. They are working hard on grant programs.

(Continued on Page 3) ———-

Next Community Board 8 Meeting will be held *virtually* on <u>Wednesday</u>, <u>January 20</u>, <u>2020</u> at 7:30 p.m. https://zoom.us/j/95295589764?pwd=Ni96bis3SjlPdVJFS2d1ME9IZ1NaQT09

Minutes of Board Meetings are available on our website: <u>www.nyc.gov/queenscb8</u> within two weeks.

A Word from the District Manager...

Dear Community Board 8 Resident:

In 2018, over 70% of New Yorkers voted to have "Ranked Choice Voting" in special and primary elections for local offices, including Mayor, Public Advocate, Comptroller, Borough President, and City Council.

As you may be aware, Council Member Rory Lancman resigned to take a position with the New York State Government. Mayor Bill De Blasio has called a special election scheduled to fill the 24th Council District seat to be held on Tuesday, February 2, 2021. Additionally, there are nine (9) <u>Early Voting Days</u> starting Saturday, January 23rd, 2021 through Sunday, January 31, 2021 at Queens College. Ranked Choice Voting will be used for the first time for that Special Election. It will also be used for the Primary Election on June 22, 2021.

Here is how it works according to the Campaign Finance Board 's website:

You can rank up to five candidates in order of preference, instead of choosing just one. If a candidate receives more than 50% of first-choice votes, they are the winner. If no candidate earns more than 50% of first-choice votes, then counting will continue in rounds. At the end of each round, the candidate with the fewest votes will be eliminated. If you ranked that candidate first, your vote will go to the next highest ranked candidate on your ballot. This process will continue until there are two (2) candidates left. The candidate with the most votes wins.

Community Board 8 will have a guest speaker at our Wednesday, January 20, 2021 monthly meeting scheduled for 7:30 p.m. - via Zoom. She will explain this further. I urge you to attend, especially if you reside within the 24th Council 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

P.S. If you would like an email version or to receive the Newsletter earlier, please contact us at 718-264-7895 and provide your email address. This information is also available on our website: www.nyc.gov/queenscb8.



MTA Fare Collection Resumes

Beginning **Tuesday, January 19, 2021**, MTA New York City Transit will resume fare collection on all Access-A-Ride services.

The Access-A-Ride fare is \$2.75 per trip (the same as the full fare on public transit) and is collected in cash. Customers must have exact change ready at boarding as Paratransit operators do not provide change or accept round-trip payment. MetroCards cannot be used as payment but customers may pay their fares using Access-A-Ride TransitCheck Coupons. Each coupon is good for full payment on one trip. As always, for those eligible, Personal Care Attendants may accompany Access-A-Ride passengers free of charge.

For more information about Access-A-Ride Paratransit Service, visit: https://new.mta.info/accessibility/paratransit

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Guest speaker - Frank LaChapelle

Mr. LaChapelle spoke about Reconnect NYC. It is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization which is mainly focused on engaging young adults ages 17-25 who are not in school nor working into a positive pathway for their future. They are located at the Bishop Malloy Retreat House at 86-45 Edgerton Boulevard in Jamaica. They projected to hire 15-20 young people a year with a 3-month employment, 20 hours a week with a salary of \$15.00/hr. Their model is community, formation and preparation. Essentially, the youth disengagement pre-COVID was estimated at 172-200,000 disconnected youth throughout the City. Within District 8, there is 10% of the youth disengagement rate. That number has increased since a lot of organization have lost funding during this crisis. They are in good standing as other organizations/foundations have funded their program.

Committee Reports:

Health Committee - Health Minute with Dr. Penny M. Stern, Health Committee Chair

Dr. Stern spoke about mRNA Vaccines. Messenger RNA vaccines (mRNA vaccines) which will soon be available for use. These vaccines cause an immune response and build immunity to the virus that causes COVID-19. mRNA vaccines do not use weakened or inactivated versions of a virus or parts of a virus. mRNA vaccines use strands of genetic material called mRNA inside a special coating. The coating protects the mRNA from being broken down by enzymes. It also helps the mRNA enter muscle cells near the vaccination site. It provides the 'instructions' for the cell on how to make a piece of the "spike protein" that is unique to the COVID virus. Since only a piece of the protein is made, it doesn't harm the person being vaccinated in any way. It just elicits an immune response, which causes antibodies to be produced and T-cells to be activated. These antibodies are specific to the COVID virus and protect against future infection. Main points about the vaccine:

- Like all vaccines, COVID-19 mRNA vaccines were rigorously tested for safety prior to use in the United States.
- mRNA technology is new to many people, but not to research scientists. It has been studied for many years.
- mRNA vaccines do not contain a live virus and do not carry a risk of causing disease in the vaccinated person.
- mRNA from the vaccine never enters the nucleus of the cell and does not affect or interact with your DNA.

She hopes this information has been useful information to understand about the COVID-19 vaccines. She encouraged everyone to continue to practice social distancing, wear a mask and wash their hands, even after receiving the vaccine.

*This update on the mRNA Vaccines provided by Dr. Stern was based on CDC and FDA documents and information.

Committee Reports:

Area 2 Committee - Seymour Schwartz, Area 2 Committee Chair

Mr. Schwartz stated that he, Chairperson Taylor, and DM Adam-Ovide attended a virtual meeting with representatives of the Department of Homeless Services (DHS), elected representatives and Westhab. They learned that a homeless shelter is being proposed to be built at 138-50 Queens Boulevard. It will accommodate 175 single male residents. It is to be a permanent facility designed to serve all populations, including those with substance abuse. DHS will select the clients with preference for residents of Briarwood. The plan calls for up to 40 personnel with 6 or 8 on each shift. They expect clients to move in around September of 2022. The operator may consider extra community patrols. A community advisory board will be created to assure community participation. The Community Board 8 Executive Committee met and discussed this issue. It recommended that the full Board oppose this homeless shelter on Queens Boulevard in Briarwood.

Marc A. Haken made a motion to approve the proposed homeless shelter for single men, many of whom may be substance abusers as presented seconded by Mitch Lisker.

A roll call vote was taken. Count in favor: 2 Opposed: 39 Abstained: 0

Members who voted in favor: Dilafroz Ahmed and Kenneth Cohen II.

Parks Committee - Bhitihara Martha Fulton, Parks Committee Chair

The Parks Committee met on November 30th via Zoom webinar to discuss the NYC Soccer Initiative and the creation of 50 mini soccer fields. Vleigh Playground/P.S. 165 has been selected recently. This is under the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, a not-for-profit organization committed to promoting private sector and government partnerships. This is privately funded with \$3M They have already built 37 fields with free programming (24 weeks out of the year) and a maintenance fund of \$600,000 dollars. Three of those fields are already in CB8 [Pomonok Playground/P.S. 201, Utopia Playground, , Fresh Meadows Playground/P.S. 173Q]. Letters of support were received from the PTA and the Principal of P.S. 165Q.

Carolann Foley made a motion to approve the installation of a mini soccer field at Vleigh Playground/P.S. 165Q seconded by Marc A. Haken. **Count in favor: 41 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0**



Protect Your Pipes from Freezing

Homeowners are responsible for protecting pipes and water meters from freezing. Most water meters and pipes are in basements, crawl spaces, and other unheated areas, where cold winter temperatures could cause them to freeze.

If a meter freezes and breaks because the homeowner did not take reasonable steps to protect it, DEP will repair or replace the meter and bill the homeowner for the cost. If a service line or pipe freezes and breaks, it is the homeowner's responsibility to have repairs made by a licensed plumber.

Cold Weather Tips to Protect Your Pipes and Meters

- Repair broken and cracked windows, doors, and walls
- Install storm windows on basement windows
- Tightly close doors and windows to the outside
- Insulate outside walls
- Eliminate drafts from crawl spaces
- Turn off the water to outside faucets, remove hoses, and drain the pipes
- Ask your local plumbing supplier about materials to insulate pipes and meters
- Take extra care to ensure your meter is insulated if it is installed in an unheated garage
- Insulate the wall and open cabinets if pipes or meters are in a closed cabinet against an outside wall to allow warmer air to reach them

Arrange to have someone turn on a faucet periodically if you are going to be out of town during cold weather.

What to Do When Your Pipes or Meters Freeze

- 1. Open a faucet near the frozen point to release vapor from melting ice.
- 2. Direct a hair dryer or heat lamp at the frozen section, or put a small space heater nearby; and, **NEVER** thaw a frozen pipe or meter with an open flame. This is not only a fire hazard, but could also cause a steam explosion.

IT'S TIME TO SAY FIR-WELL.

Wrap up the holiday season by saying goodbye to your tree at Mulchfest! Put on your boots and haul your tree to one of the locations below from Dec. 26, 2020-Jan. 9, 2021. We'll convert it into mulch to make NYC even greener.

Queens Drop-Off Locations

Astoria Park 19th Street and Hoyt Avenue

Captain Mario Fajardo Playground ssena Boulevard and Booth Memorial Avenue

Cunningham Park Union Turnpike and 1961 Place

Forest Park

Woodhaven Boulevard and Forest Park Drive

Francis Lewis Park

Third Avenue and Whitestone Expressway

Hunter's Point South Park 51st Avenue and Center Boulevard

Idlewild Park

Springfield Lane and 149th Avenue

Juniper Valley Park

80" Street (between Juniper Boulevard North and Juniper Boulevard South)

Lawrence Virgilio Playground 39" Drive and 54" Street

Queensbridge Park

Vernon Boulevard and Queensbridge Park Greenway

Rockaway Beach

Shore Front Parkway and Beach 94th Street

Roy Wilkins Park

Merrick Boulevard and Foch Boulevard

78th Street and 34th Avenue

Windmill Community Garden

TAKE HOME SOME FREE MULCH!

Bring your own bag to fill up at any of these locations on Jan. 2 or 9 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Please wear a face covering and practice social distancing by remaining at least 6 feet apart from others.

Astoria Park

19" Street and Hoyt Avenue

Cunningham Park Union Turnpike and 196th Place

Forest Park

Woodhaven Boulevard and Forest Park Drive

Francis Lewis Park

Third Avenue and Whitestone Expressway

Hunter's Point South Park

Idlewild Park

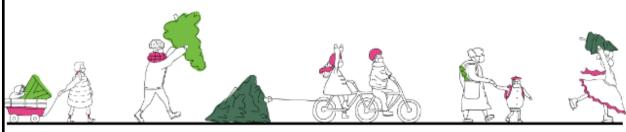
Springfield Lane and 149th Avenue

Juniper Valley Park

80th Street (between Juniper Boulevard North and Juniper Boulevard South)

Travers Park

78th Street and 34th Avenue



Mulchfest

For more information and additional locations, isit nyc.gov/parks/mulchfest or call 311.





What New Yorkers Need to Know About COVID-19 Vaccines

New York City is committed to keeping everyone safe and healthy by ensuring that access to COVID-19 vaccines is fair and equitable. **COVID-19 vaccines will likely be available for most New Yorkers by mid-2021.** Some people, such as health care workers, essential workers who cannot separate from others, and older adults and other people at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 will have access to the vaccine sooner.

When you get vaccinated, you are helping to protect yourself and your family and friends. You are also helping to make your community safer. We know New Yorkers care about their communities, including health care workers and small business owners.

Do the vaccines work?

 Two COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna) have been approved for emergency use by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). In clinical studies, both vaccines were more than 94% effective at protecting participants from COVID-19.

Are the vaccines safe?

- Yes. You cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine.
 The vaccine does not contain the virus. It teaches your body's immune system how to fight the virus, so it can fight the virus if you are exposed to it.
- The COVID-19 vaccines have gone through large clinical studies involving tens of thousands of people of various ages, races and ethnicities. The evidence from those studies was closely reviewed by the FDA and independent organizations.
- Researchers have been working on vaccines for coronaviruses for years, so they did not start from scratch.

Are there side effects?

- It is normal to experience side effects after the first or second dose of the vaccine. Common side effects include soreness in the arm where you got the shot, tiredness or a headache.
- If you have any questions or concerns, call 311 or talk to your health care provider.
- Side effects can be unpleasant, but getting vaccinated helps protect you and other New Yorkers.



Who can get a vaccine and how much will it cost?

- All New Yorkers age 16 and older will have access to a vaccine once it is more widely available.
 We have already started vaccinating people at increased risk, such as health care workers.
- The vaccine is free for everyone. If you have insurance, it may be billed but you will not be charged a copay or other fee.
- You do not need to share your immigration status to be vaccinated. Getting vaccinated is not
 a public benefit under the public charge rule.
- When you receive the vaccine, your privacy will be protected. There are strict laws in place to
 ensure confidentiality of your personal information.

Where can I get a vaccine?

- When the vaccine is more readily available, you will be able to get a COVID-19 vaccine where
 you normally get vaccines, such as at your health care provider's office, pharmacies, clinics and
 urgent care centers. Additional community vaccination sites will be set up throughout the city.
- There will be a vaccination site map on the NYC Health Department's website.

Should I get a vaccine if I already had COVID-19?

Yes, since it is possible to get COVID-19 again, you should be vaccinated. Also, the vaccine
is safe and may boost the protection your body has already built up. However, if you tested
positive for COVID-19 within the past 90 days, consider waiting to get the vaccine, since it
is very unlikely that you will get COVID-19 again during this time. Talk to your health care
provider if you have guestions.

When I get vaccinated, can I stop physical distancing and wearing a face covering?

- No. We do not have enough information to say if or when it will be safe to stop physical
 distancing and wearing face coverings. Until we understand more about the protection that
 COVID-19 vaccines provide, everyone must continue the key prevention measures:
 - Stay home if you are sick, have COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.
 - Maintain at least 6 feet of distance from people who are not members of your household.
 - Wear a face covering (over your mouth and nose) when outside your home.
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water or clean with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

It is understandable that some people may be nervous about getting a COVID-19 vaccine or may have more questions. To learn more, talk to your health care provider, call **311**, or visit nyc.gov/covidvaccine or cdc.gov/covidvaccine.





We're planning for snow. Are you?

By preparing for snow we can keep Open Restaurants going strong all winter long. The NYC Dept. of Sanitation (DSNY) has been training to remove snow on streets with Open Restaurant structures.

Protect your patrons, staff and property:

- ✓ Use snow sticks to increase visibility of your Open Restaurant.
- ☑ Be prepared to consolidate and remove items when a Winter Operations Advisory or Snow Alert is issued.

Watch for two levels of advisories:

Winter Operations Advisory:

- · Winter weather is possible.
- Roadway dining may continue, but take steps to protect your patrons, staff and property.
- DSNY may spread salt and/or brine to prevent freezing.

Snow Alert:

- · One or more inches of snow are possible.
- . Roadway dining MUST CLOSE by the time indicated in the Alert.
- Remove or secure furniture, and remove electric heaters. Remove the tops of your structures if possible.*
- Remove snow and ice from your sidewalk. If you're on a corner, clear a
 path to crosswalk.
- . Do not to block fire hydrants.
- It is illegal to push snow into the street. Snow may be placed at the curbline, against the building, or on private property.
- DSNY may begin spreading salt and/or brine on the roadway up to 48 hours before an Alert begins.

The City will announce when the snow alert is over and in-street dining may safely resume.

Sign up for snow alerts and updates via nyc.gov/Notify or @NotifyNYC on twitter.

nyc.gov/dsny
☐ ¥
☐ NYCsanitation



^{*} If the forecast calls for 12" of snow or more, remove or consolidate your structures, including barriers, to take up as little space as possible. This makes plowing easier and protects your property.

Queens Boulevard Work Schedule Update

Excerpt from Lucille Songhai's Update

Upcoming Schedule:



- Jan 4-8: Weeknights-- CANCELLED E trains run between Jamaica Center and Roosevelt Av. F trains run in two sections (between 179 St. and Roosevelt Av.; between 21 St-Queensbridge and Coney Island).
- Jan 8-11: Weekend (9:30PM Friday to 5AM Monday) Queens bound E trains will operate via 53 Street Tunnel. F service operates via 53 St. in both directions per the Sandy Rutgers project. There will be no Queens-bound service between 57/6 and 21/Queensbridge.
- Jan 18-29 Weeknights (10PM to 5AM)E and F service operates local between Roosevelt Av and Queens Plaza in both directions and via 53 Street Tunnel. Shuttle bus service will replace service between Roosevelt Island and Queens Plaza.

Service Plans:

WEEKENDS* and the Extended Closure:

From 9:30 PM Fridays to 5 AM Mondays except during the Extended Week Closure which runs continuously from 5 AM December 26 to 5 AM January 4.

Overnight subway service remains suspended until further notice between 1 AM and 5 AM

- •E trains will run via the F line between Roosevelt Av and West 4 St. stations.
- •E trains will not stop at: Queens Plaza, Court Sq-23rd St., Lexington Av/53rd St., 5 Av/53rd St., 7 Av, 50 St, 42nd St/Port Authority, 34th St-Penn St, 23rd St or 14th St.
- •During the Extended Week Tunnel Closure, weekday M service will operate between Forest Hills -71 Av. in Queens and Essex St. in Manhattan only.

*NOTE: Jan 8-11 Weekend has the following plan:

From 9:30 PM Friday to 5 AM Monday, Queens-bound E trains will operate via 53 Street Tunnel. F service operates via 53 St in both directions per the Sandy Rutgers project. There will be no Queens-bound service between 57/6 and 21/Queensbridge.

WEEKNIGHTs Jan 18-29:

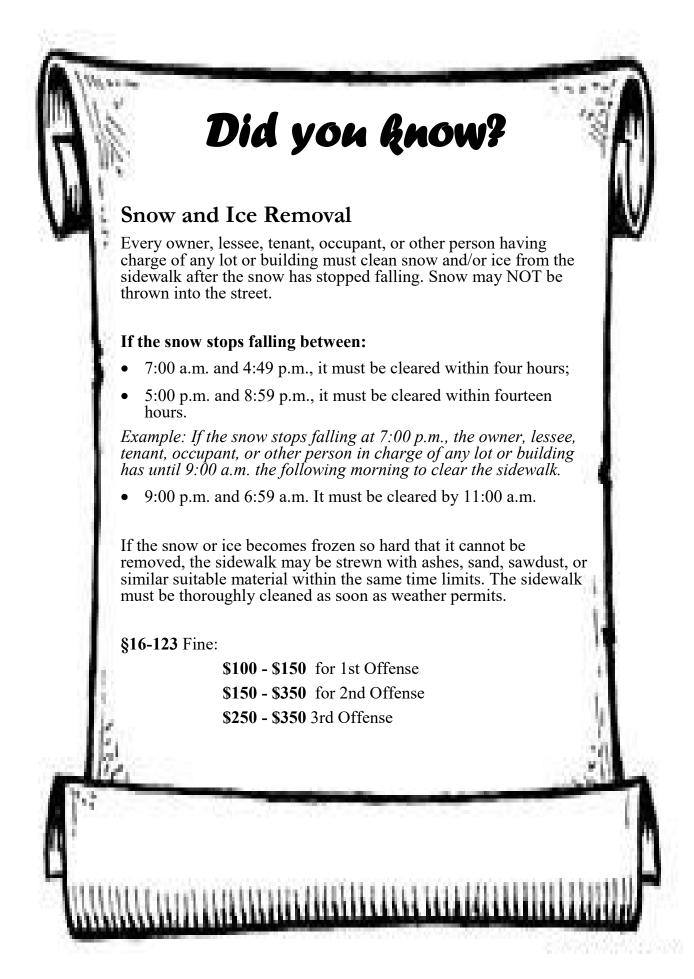
From 10 PM-1 AM

Overnight subway service remains suspended until further notice between 1AM and 5AM

- E and F service operates local between Roosevelt Av and Queens Plaza in both directions and via 53 Street Tunnel.
- Shuttle bus service will replace service between Roosevelt Island and Queens Plaza.

There will be additional dates scheduled in 2021.

We will keep you informed as they are scheduled. All dates are subject to change. We will post both print and digital signage in stations, along with announcements in stations and on trains ahead of the scheduled work. Customer service notifications including travel alternatives will be made on trains, posted at affected stations and posted on the MTA website, the MYmta app and social media. Customers can also sign up for text and email alerts at www.myMTAalerts.com.





LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION (S)

- ◆ <u>Nikko Hibachi Steakhouse & Bar, Inc.</u> d/b/a Nikko Steakhouse Restaurant & Lounge 177-21 Union Turnpike in Fresh Meadows *Renewal of Full Liquor License*
- ♦ New Empire Deli & Grocery Corp. d/b/a Empire Deli 178-19 Union Turnpike in Fresh Meadows - Renewal of Wine, Beer and Cider License

Any complaints about establishments with liquor licenses should be sent to Community Board 8 <u>in writing</u>. Unless a signed, <u>written</u> 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.



New Year's Day......Friday, January 1st Three King's Day......Wednesday, January 6th MLK Jr's DayMonday, January 18th

Parking meters are still in effect

DEMOLITION/EXCAVATION NOTICE



None received.

A message from



careers businesses neighborhoods

Dear Business Owners,

\$284 billion was just allocated for another round of the <u>Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)</u>, a forgivable business loan offered through the federal government's <u>Small Business Administration (SBA)</u> that helps businesses keep their workforce employed during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.

The first round of funding ran out fast, and many businesses who were not prepared ahead of time were unable to successfully apply for funding. Although guidelines and applications are not live yet, we recommend preparing now so you are ready to apply as quickly as possible.

Please go to the link below for more information:

https://www1.nyc.gov/nycbusiness/article/paycheck-protection-program-ppp



January 2021

Community Board 8, Queens

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	three kings	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. Day	19	Virtual Community Board 8Q General Mtg. 7:30 p.m.	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	Virtual Transportation Cmte. Meeting 7:30 p.m.	29	30
31						

[&]quot;It is never too late to be what you might have been." — George Eliot