



# April

## 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](mailto:qn08@cb.nyc.gov)  
Website: [www.nyc.gov/queenscb8](http://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:** 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

**PART-TIME HELP WANTED!** See Page 4.

### BOARD MEMBERS BY AREA

#### Area 1 – Kew Gardens Hills

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

#### Area 2 – Briarwood

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

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

**Kevin Forrestal** – CHAIR, Dilafroz Ahmed, 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, 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, Alan Ong, Tamara Osharov and Amy Tse.

#### Area 7 – Jamaica Estates & Holliswood

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

*We Welcome Our New CB8 Members:*  
**Saaif Alam, Marva Dudley, Joshua Glikman, Caitlin Marziliano, Michael Nikolas, Aliyah Salim, Israel Peskowitz and Steven Villaran!**

### March’s Community Board 8 Public Hearing/Meeting

- The minutes of Wednesday, January 10, 2024, were unanimously approved by 27 members.
- **Chairperson’s Report:**  
Chairperson Taylor extended her condolences to Heather Bennet-Idels on the passing of her grandmother. May her memory be a blessing.

Congratulations to Board Member Steven Konigsberg on his promotion as Court Attorney-Referee with the office of Court Administration! As a result, he had to resign as a CB8 member last week. Steve served on the board on behalf of his community for 28 years. He was one of our best members and we wish him well. He was our Land Use and Zoning Chairperson. He did a magnificent job. As a good member, a good person and someone we respected, it will be hard to replace him.

Community Board 8 will have representatives from the Department of Buildings’ Administrative Enforcement Unit (AEU) in our office next Friday, March 15, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to address unresolved DOB violations. If you are aware of anyone who needs this service, please encourage them to call and sign-up for assistance. If this event is not well attended, we may no longer be able to provide such services again.

Congratulations to Dilip Nath for the publication of his book. LaGuardia Airport is now the number one on the list of airports. Congratulations to the Port Authority and anyone else who is affiliated with it!

*(Continued on Page 3)*

**Next Public Hearing/Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 10, 2024**

Minutes of Board Meetings are available *usually* within two weeks on our website.

<https://www.nyc.gov/queenscb8>

## A Word from CB8...

Dear Resident,

We are planning Community Board 8's Annual Health Fair for Friday, June 28, 2024 this year. It will be at the same venue as in previous years - Cunningham Park. It is scheduled from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Please save the date!

For those who would like to participate as a vendor, please contact our office by calling or emailing us by Wednesday, May 22, 2024. After that date, we cannot guarantee a canopy, a table and/or chairs. To participate, your organization/company must provide a free health related service (s) to our residents at the health fair. You may also provide giveaways. This is the perfect opportunity to showcase the services that you provide while rendering a valuable community service.

In the past, through our health fairs, we have promoted healthy eating and portion control. We've had Zumba to promote exercise by having fun. In addition, our vendors were able to detect glaucoma, blockages, high blood pressure and other ailments. This prevented blindness, heart attacks and/or strokes.

We are looking forward to a great event again this year and everyone is welcome!

Sincerely,

*Marie Adam-Oride*

District Manager

*Martha Taylor*

Chairperson

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!**

### Community Board 8 Meeting/Public Hearing

Please go to our website to find our Proposed Agenda

<https://www.nyc.gov/assets/queenscb8/downloads/pdf/2024/Proposed-Agenda-April-10-2024.pdf>

for our next scheduled Public Hearing/Meeting: for **Wednesday, April 10, 2024**.



All monthly meetings will be held at the  
**Hillcrest Jewish Center**  
183-02 Union Turnpike in Fresh Meadows.  
Please enter through the parking lot.

(Continued from Page 1)

The Department of Parks and Recreation is looking into converting at most 3 of the 6 handball courts at Farm Playground into pickleball courts. These courts have low usage. They would keep the wall so that one side could be used for handball and the other side would be pickleball. They could always convert them back if necessary. This is not yet funded. *We will not replace any tennis courts at Cunningham Park for pickleball.*

### **Guest Speakers:**

- **Anthony Iuliano – Mayor Community Affairs Unit**

The application to join the Neighborhood Support Team is open. This gives members of the community boards, community-based organizations, council members and business improvement districts an opportunity to push projects that affect quality of life. The deadline for the application is April 4th.

The mayor's office is working with the Sheriff's Department to target smoke shops that are selling cannabis. There were fifty (50) cease and desist notifications that were released throughout the five (5) boroughs to property owners who lease to smoke shops. Assemblymember Jenifer Rajkumar is trying to pass a bill to give the city more tools to combat the smoke shops.

- **Shubhbra Datta – representing Borough President Donovan Richards**

Announced that the Community Board application process is closed. The Borough President's office received 592 new applications throughout the borough and 843 reapplicants. If anyone has any questions, they can reach out to the Director of Community Boards, Kahleel Bragg.

The Borough President is also hosting a few events that could be found on their website at [queensbp.org/rsvp](http://queensbp.org/rsvp).

- **MTA Public Hearing – Lucille Songhai representing MTA**

The MTA reviewed a few bus routes that affect CB 8. They informed the community that the proposed Q73 bus route is no longer in the MTA plan. The MTA will post in-person open houses in the coming months. If anyone has any suggestions on how to improve the bus routes, please email Community Board 8 at [qn08@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:qn08@cb.nyc.gov).

- **Gaming Text Amendment – Scott Solomon representing Department of City Planning**

The text amendment would allow New York City to be considered as a possible location for a Gaming Facility when the State looks to approve up to three casino licenses in the Downstate region (NYC, Long Island, and Westchester, Putnam, Rockland counties). Gaming facilities, such as casinos and racetracks, are not currently, legally permitted in the city.

- **Capital & Expense Budget Committee – Harbachan Singh**

Budget Director, Harbachan Singh, requested that the board members review CB8's response to the Mayor's Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2025. Community Board 8 members were unable to vote on the response due to lack of quorum. They will vote on it during the April board meeting.

- **BSA Calendar 2023-64BZ – Block 9702 Lot 10 - AKA 144-08 87th Avenue**

The BSA will be voted on during the April Community Board meeting due to lack of quorum.

- **Health Minutes with Dr. Penny Stern**

March represents colorectal cancer awareness month. Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer diagnosed in both women and men globally. The occurrence of colorectal cancer has increased in people under 50. Among this younger population, patients are being diagnosed at later stages.

There are different types of screening tests. You can do the stool-based tests, which can detect cancer early, such as Fit and Cologuard, and they can be done in the comfort of your home. However, the only screening test that both prevents and detects colorectal cancer early is a colonoscopy. Colorectal cancer is a highly preventable disease and survival is highest when it is found early. Get screened to protect you and your family.



## *Better Late Than Never*

Community Board 8Q Second Vice Chair Seymour (Sey) Schwartz had to wait nearly 80 years, but recognition for his World War II service came with a bang lately.



First came the award by the U.S. Secretary of the Army of the Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service, presented to him by an Army honor guard at the Queens Civic Congress annual Legislators Reception. After training as a combat engineer followed by specialized schooling, he was detached from the Army and re-assigned to the Navy's Admiral Chester Nimitz, Commander of the Pacific Ocean Area, and placed on the staff of the Commander of the 5th Amphibious Force which had planned and led the invasions of a series of Central and South Pacific Japanese-held islands.

This was followed recently by a letter from the U.S. Secretary of Defense designating Sey as an Atomic Veteran, accompanied by a Commemorative Service Certificate and Medal for his services while performing significant official military duties during the war. Following the dropping of the atomic bomb on Nagasaki and the anticipated Japanese surrender, Sey was involved in organizing the occupation, leading to his exposure to atomic radiation in Nagasaki.

Upon completion of the unit's mission, T/3 Schwartz was re-assigned to the Army until his discharge from service in 1946.

## *Join Our Team!*

We are looking for a Part-Time Community Service Aide to join our team. We are looking for a candidate with excellent computer, communication, organizational and writing skills. Knowledge of City Government is a plus! We will train.

**Salary range: \$17.56 to 21.09/Hour** *(including full NYC Benefits)*

Please send resume and cover letter via certified mail return receipt to:

Community Board 8 Q  
197-15 Hillside Avenue  
Hollis, NY 11423

*Attention: District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide*

Please go to our website for more information:

<https://www.nyc.gov/assets/queenscb8/downloads/pdf/2024/CB8Q-Job-Posting-Community-Service-Aide-2024.pdf>

**Community Board 8Q and the City of New York are equal opportunity employers.  
No telephone calls, please.**

# Department of Parks and Recreation Notice

- Flushing Meadows Aquatic Center Temporary Closure

- To improve the aquatics center experience for our Flushing Meadows Corona Parks Aquatics Center members, **the center will be closed for at least six weeks beginning on Sunday, March 31, 2024** so that capital repairs can be made on the indoor pool.

We value our members and remind you that your valid NYC Parks recreation center membership can be used at any of our 36 centers citywide. We encourage you to explore programming at our other Queens centers, including:  
Roy Wilkins Recreation Center (177 Baisley Boulevard, Jamaica, N.Y. 11434)

- Amazin' Mets Foundation // Adopt A Park // Field 11

- We are excited to share that the Amazin' Mets Foundation has once again committed to an Adopt A Park agreement with NYC Parks to refurbish Field 11 in Flushing Meadows Corona Park located just south of the Queens Zoo in the World's Fair West District of FMCP. This will be their second refurbishment in the park in as many years.

- The refurbishment will include improvements to the infield, including the installation of a new drainage system, upgrades to the dugouts and backstop fencing, and a redesign of the area surrounding the field to ensure the dugouts and spectator areas are fully accessible.

- The project is expected to begin May 1st and the fields ready for play by mid-July.

- Tide Gate Bridge Reconstruction

- Starting this May/June the Tide Gate Bridge, which crosses over Flushing Creek in FMCP will be going under capital reconstruction by the DDC. This is a long-anticipated project that will not only address the bridge conditions but rebuild the tide gates which help protect the park from tidal storm surges.

- Effective immediately, the weight capacity of the Tide Gate Bridge has been reduced to 14,000 lbs. (7 tons), so while many passenger vehicles can still utilize the bridge, heavier vehicles may be redirected.

- While the bridge is under construction traffic across the bridge will be reduced to a **single eastbound lane only**. While this may cause some inconvenience, motorists simply should use Meridian Road to circumvent the construction area, which will hopefully only add a few minutes to their commutes.

- The Tide Gate Bridge project is currently scheduled to last three years, until June 2027.

- Governors Ball Returning in 2024

- As many of you may have already seen, Governors Ball will be returning to FMCP this June 7-9. Founders Entertainment will be posting notification signage once again to alert our patrons of the impact and closure schedule for the areas that will be affected for the events production. We hope to continue to work to tweak the footprint and minimize the disruption felt by our patrons while we look to host this premiere event for Queens and NYC.

- Dinkins Circle Mosaic Removal

- Inlaid in 1997 as part of a larger capital project, the Passerelle Plaza Mosaics have adorned what is now known as Dinkins Circle for 26 years. Over that time, the natural elements have not been kind to these decorative flourishes, which were designed to recognize certain people and elements of the 64'-65' World's Fair, including, the NYS Pavilion, Salvatore Dali, The Fountain of the Planets and the Queens Museum. In fact, they have seen such disrepair that they present a safety hazard in the area of Dinkins Circle, causing uneven footing and loose mosaic tiles as daily tripping hazard.

- In 2009, Parks secured the expertise of a mosaic art studio to analyze and provide recommendations on restoring and maintaining the mosaics, however, they determined the mosaics are not salvageable and stated in-ground, skyward facing mosaics cannot survive our environmental conditions and would not recommend recreating them.

- After much deliberation, and continued deterioration of the mosaics, NYC Parks has determined the best course of action will be to remove the mosaics and replace with pavers similar to the surrounding plaza, making the grade even and thereby addressing the tripping hazards currently created by the pieces.

- In lieu of this, NYC Parks, in conjunction with the Alliance for FMCP will ensure that the Alliance's Art in the Park Grant will prioritize Dinkins Circle as a location for at least one of these installations each year the grant is funded. The Alliance for FMCP Art in the Park Grant annually supports two local artists with a \$10,000 grant to display a yearlong installation within Flushing Meadows Corona Park. This will ensure that Dinkins Circle remains a venue where people can go to experience art, culture and history, within our vibrant park network.

Work to remove the mosaics would take place in early Summer 2024 and the next Art in the Park Installation will be slated for Fall 2024.



## Did you know?



We recently received complaints about the lack of cleanliness in front of the shops along our commercial strips. There is also an issue with them cleaning eighteen inches into the street and not cleaning the catch basins. This may lead to flooding, especially as we get a lot of rain in April. If you are aware of any such locations where this is the case, please contact us so they can be addressed. The regulations are listed below:

### §16-118(2)(a) & §16-118.1

Commercial Premise Enforcement Routing Under the Enforcement Routing Program, enforcement agents patrol all commercial and industrial blocks at specified times focusing on violations for dirty sidewalks and failure to clean 18 inches into the street. During the enforcement routing time, when enforcement agents observe a dirty sidewalk or an 18 inch violation in front of/adjacent to a commercial or industrial premise, a notice of violation will be issued. Although enforcement agents will issue notices for dirty sidewalk or failure to clean 18 inches into the street violations only during the specified 2 one-hour daily routing time periods, they may issue notices for all other violations at any time. Although the commercial routing times vary by Sanitation District/Section where the business is located, all commercial premises should be maintained (the sidewalk and the area 18 inches from the curb) at the beginning and end of the day. This makes good business sense and helps keep the community clean. For more information about the specific commercial enforcement routing times, for a particular location, call the New York City Customer Service Center at 311.

**FINE: \$100-\$300**

## *Chometz Burning Stations & Sanitation Bin Locations in Community Board 8, Queens*

**Date:** Monday, April 22, 2024

**Time:** Approximately 6 a.m. to approximately noon

- In front of the Young Israel of Holliswood located at 86-25 Francis Lewis Blvd
- In front of the Young Israel of Kew Gardens Hills located at 70-11 150<sup>th</sup> Street
- In front of the Young Israel of Jamaica Estates located at 83-10 188<sup>th</sup> Street
- In front of the Young Israel of Queens Valley located at 141-55 77<sup>th</sup> Avenue, near the parking lot
- In front of the Kehilat Sephardim located at 150-62 78<sup>th</sup> Road.



In addition, remember to place your garbage out  
**the night before** for the special collection.

**Happy Pesach From Community Board 8, Queens**

# CANNABIS/LIQUOR LICENSE NOTIFICATION (S)



**ENE Hospitality, Inc.**  
 d/b/a Bravo Pizza  
 69-26/28 Main Street  
**NEW - Full Liquor 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.



Passover (1st / 2nd Days).....Tues./Wed. April 23-24  
 Idul-Fitr (Eid Al-Fitr).....Wed./Thurs. April 10-11  
 Passover (7ht / 8th Days).....Mon./Tues. April 29-30

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

## CONSTRUCTION NOTICE (S)



- 138-25 Union Turnpike – Garage Only
- 153-01 Hillside Ave – Demolition
- 148-43 61st Road – Excavation
- 75-71 185th Street – Excavation & Foundation

## Register Now!

### Saturday - April 13, 2024

A 5K Run/Walk/Roll fundraising event to benefit the more than 1200 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Queens.

## FOOTSTEPS for PROGRESS

Queens Centers for Progress

**REGISTRATION FOR TIMED  
5K RUN IS \$35.00**

- Includes a dri-fit shirt for the first 100 registered runners

**WALKERS REGISTER FOR FREE**

- Event t-shirts will be distributed to walkers who donate or fundraise \$35 or more

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**NEW LOCATION**

**Alley Pond Park**  
 76th Ave and Springfield Boulevard  
 8:00 am - Registration  
 9:00 am - Event Start

**AAR and Uber drop off address:**  
 224-40 76th Avenue  
 (adjacent to the park)

SCAN ME

**REGISTER  
ONLINE HERE**

www.tinyurl.com/  
24QCPFootstepsRegistration



Queens Centers for Progress      www.queenscp.org      718.380.3000

## CANNABIS/LIQUOR LICENSE Committee Meeting

**Tuesday, April 16, 2024**  
 7:30 p.m.

Community Board 8 Office  
 197-15 Hillside Avenue  
 Hollis, NY 11423

Please submit written testimony in support or against new Liquor License and/or Cannabis applications by the end of business day on **Friday, April 12, 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).



# April 2024

## Community Board 8, Queens National Lawn & Garden Month

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Executive Cmte. Meeting 7:30 p.m. CB8 Office	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  Eid Al-Fitr MUBARAK	<b>10</b> Board Meeting Public Hearing 7:30 p.m. Hillcrest J.C. 183-02 Union Tpke Fresh Meadows	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Cannabis/ Liquor License Cmte. Meeting 7:30 p.m. CB8 Office	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  Earth day  Happy Passover	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  Celebrate Arbor Day Plant A Tree	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				

*"The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul."—Alfred Austin*