



January

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 Linda Lee - 23rd District
Honorable James Gennaro - 24th District

BOROUGH PRESIDENT

Honorable Donovan Richards

STAFF

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

Help Wanted— Community Service Aide (Part Time)
<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/queenscb8/downloads/pdf/2021/CB8Q-Job-Posting-Community-Service-Aide-2021.pdf>

BOARD MEMBERS BY AREA

Area 1 – Kew Gardens Hills

Mitch Lisker – 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

Area 3 - Hillcrest Estates & Jamaica Hills

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

Area 4 – Flushing Heights, Flushing Suburban, Hillcrest

Jagir Singh Bains—CHAIR, Kenneth Cohen II, Steven Konigsberg, Dilip Nath and Dr. Penny M. Stern

Area 5 – Georgetown Mews, Pomonok, Electchester, Flushing

Mary Maggio – CHAIR, Carolann Foley, Deepti Sharma, Tamika Williams-Moore

Area 6 – Utopia, Fresh Meadows, West Cunningham Park

Maria DeInnocentiis – CHAIR, 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

Happy New Year! Happy New Year! Happy New Year!

December's Virtual Community Board Meeting Re-cap

- The Minutes of the November 10, 2021 Board Meeting were unanimously approved by 42 members.
- Board Member Florence Fisher announced her retirement from the Board after serving a term of 34 years.

Chairperson's Report:

- There was a fatal fire that occurred last night [12/14/21] at 71-02 162nd Street. Two seniors died and there were two other patients with non-life-threatening injuries. The cause of fire is under investigation as per FDNY Fire Marshals. FDNY is planning to host a fire safety/prevention event soon in our district. We'll keep you posted. They will also canvass this area to offer smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to our residents.
- Technological upgrades have been done to the office's conference room recently. We now can have hybrid committee meeting in the office.
- **Elected Officials' Announcements:**
Honorable Council Member Barry Grodenchik – Honorable CM Grodenchik announced his retirement. He thanked Chairperson Martha Taylor, DM Adam-Ovide and the entire Board for the support throughout his journey. He will forever be proud of serving our district for so many years.

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Next CB8 Meeting will be on **Wednesday, January 19, 2021** at 7:30 p.m. **Location/Platform TBD**

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

A Word from the District Manager...

Dear Resident,

What is a community? This is defined as a group of people living in the same place and having a similar characteristic. It is also defined as a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests and goals. Having served as the district manager for close to fifteen years, I am pleased that this community district that we serve is more than just a group of people living in the same place. There is a feeling of fellowship and they share the common goal of ever improving our community.

While in other areas civic groups are dying out, ours are still active. They so care about our community that they continue to volunteer their time even throughout the pandemic. They are in contact with our office about each and every issue that affect the quality of life in their neighborhoods. They organize clean-ups, plant flowers, collect petitions, write letters and are fierce advocates for the residents that they represent.

Additionally, individual community residents from teenagers to nonagenarians also stay in contact with us on transportation, sanitation, parks, and buildings issues. They not only ask to have issues addressed, they ask how they can help. This shows indeed the feeling of fellowship amongst our residents.

Community District 8 residents, you are the best! You make this job so worthwhile. Thank you for your collaboration in the past and thank you in advance for your continued support throughout the new year. **It takes more than City Hall to make New York City great, it takes us all!**

Sincerely,

Marie Adam-Ovide

Early Morning Closures of the Ramp from eastbound Brooklyn-Queens Expressway (I-278) to eastbound Grand Central Parkway in Queens, on or about Tuesday Morning, January 4th and Wednesday Morning, January 5th from 12:01 AM to 6:00 AM Each Morning



December's Virtual Community Board Meeting Re-cap

(Continued from Page 4)

Guest Speaker:

Commanding Officer Kevin Chan – 107th Precinct - The precinct is down 10% in crime; however, there is a spike in grand larceny in the last few months. Thieves are using skimming devices. They caught two of these devices in the area within the past two weeks. He asked that if anyone is using a debit card at any of the local banks/ATM machines, to please be careful. He asked that everyone checks the machine before anything to make sure there is no skimming device attached. He advised everyone to make sure someone is home when waiting for a package. He suggested that individuals install cameras in front of their homes and their surroundings. This will help in monitoring your home while away and keeping track of any unusual activity that may be going on. It is a way of keeping your home and your property safe.

Committee Reports:

T-Building Committee Chair – Seymour Schwartz – Mr. Schwartz spoke about the T-Building. He informed everyone that with the help of the Board and his own efforts, the T-Building is finally being built and its nearing its final completion. It will serve as a residential building with 124 units available for rent to residents at 60-100% of the area median income (AMI). It would also have a community center which will serve for the residents of the area and the entire district. The community center will be run by Common Point which is a community-based organization operating the greater NYC area to bring community programming and support to all *[Report was cut short due to technical difficulties—see full report on Page 4.]*

Health Minute with Dr. Penny Stern, Health Committee Chair:

Dr. Stern spoke about the Omicron variant that is spreading quickly. According to CDC Director Rochelle Walensky, Omicron is more transmissible than the Delta variant. The number of cases is doubling approximately every two days. Going into the holiday season, the expectation is that the cases will continue to grow in the coming weeks. Despite the rapid and widespread, the virulence seems to be much less than what was found with the Delta strain. This means that people is not displaying serious symptoms. There was one reported death in the UK. In the U.S., the Omicron infection seems to result in mild illness. The Delta variant is still here. She encouraged everyone to remain vigilant, to get vaccinated and those who are vaccinated and eligible for the booster, to get the booster. Practice social distance again and keep wearing a mask. For those who remain unconvinced of the seriousness of this pandemic, we have lost 800,000 people in this country to COVID-19. One (1) in ten (10) seniors have died. She encouraged everyone to do their part and keep safe. She wished everyone a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!

Committee Reports:

Kevin Forrestal, Area 3 Chair:

On November 30th, the application for the Bukharian Synagogue of Hillcrest had their public meeting at the BSA. The meeting started off with the Chair complementing the Community Board's meeting minutes of the public hearing from October 2020, being very comprehensive and useful. She went on to say that she noticed some things from the last board meeting and she offered that the staff and/or commissioner come to our Board and address us as to the BSA's process, they recommended that they do so. The chair and all the members of the board noted on the application that it exceeded the character of the neighborhood and directed the applicant to reduce the size of the facility on the application. She personally drafted some alternatives, for example taking out the mikvah which she said is not part of what would be required by the BSA.

The commercial kitchen, she noted is not really needed at all. In conclusion, they stated that the size of the project needs to be diminished, the top floor can be removed entirely as well as the kitchen. The attorney for the applicant stated that he will have to consult with his client and get back to them within 6 weeks with alternative plans. He will keep us posted.

Community Center Coming to T-Building

by Sey Schwartz, T-Building Committee Chair

It has been eight years since the Dunn Development Corporation had announced its plan for the reconstruction of the virtually abandoned T-Building on Queens Hospital grounds into over two hundred affordable rental apartments. In response, Community Board 8Q requested that 8,000 sq. ft. to be set aside as a rent-free community center, with our approval depending upon a few stipulations. Mr. Dunn had gracefully accepted our terms and stipulations.



The project is now moving forward to reality. It has been a process fraught with seemingly insurmountable problems coursing its way through a labyrinth of governmental agencies and stake holders, through the legislative process and with meetings at every level.

The developer has now completed the planned restoration, having honored the stipulations presented by our Community Board, and his contractors are now in the process of removing their presence from the building. The Dunn Organization will shortly make application for the necessary Certificate of Occupancy, with the intent to move awaiting tenants into the building in the spring.

The single greatest obstacle to the creation of the center had proved to be the need to secure the funding for the fit-out of the now 8,600 sq. ft. amounting to then \$1. million. In our long search for a qualified non-profit organization to serve as administrators of the community center we were finally able to secure the services of a highly qualified and respected organization, CommonPoint, with a successful track record in operating the Forest Hills and Samuel Fields centers. It then required an extraordinary effort to secure the funding, now amounting to an estimated \$1.7 million. With the funds finally secured, a 15-year lease arrangement has been signed a few weeks ago and CommonPoint is most comfortable with the re-payment terms. They are about to engage a contractor for the fit-out.

CommonPoint's current plans call for the operational phase of the center to begin on or about July 1st, 2022 and their preliminary plans include the introduction of a youth driven program with young people being involved in all manner of operations. Activities being considered are an occupational training program, senior classes and programs throughout the year, college students will be offered job training programs and there will be fitness, arts and computer classes.

We cannot fail to note our appreciation and admiration to Mr. Dunn who had pursued a cooperating and dauntless effort through these eight years in making all this possible,

to our T-Building committee members Florence Fisher and Susan Cleary who made a tremendous contribution in spirit and effort throughout, and to Wendy Gennaro. In the months and years to come, we, the members of Community Board 8 have much to be pleased with our vision and to be proud of crafting and succeeding in an impossible dream to benefit the residents of all ages of our central Queens community.



Grant Opportunities!!!

Citizens Committee for NYC (aka CitizensNYC) awards micro-grants to community groups and small neighborhood businesses focused on improving neighborhood life and strengthening local leadership.

Two funding opportunities are currently available: the **All in Neighborhood Grant Program** awards up to \$5,000 for community building projects, and the **Neighborhood Business Grant Program** distributes up to \$10,000 for payroll and operations. CitizensNYC gives priority to innovative projects that address critical needs in underserved communities. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis; eligible stakeholders are encouraged to apply as soon as possible! To attend an info session and apply go to:



<https://www.citizensnyc.org/grantmaking>



Lifeguards Wanted!

By Gabriele Fialkoff, Parks Commissioner

NYC Parks started the search for new qualified candidates to participate in their **free lifeguard training program** for the upcoming 2022 season. The starting salary for the first-year lifeguards is \$16 an hour. Most lifeguards work a 48 hour (6-day) week and can make up to \$800 a week.

In order to qualify for the Municipal Lifeguard Training Program, participants must:

- be able to swim 50 yards in 35 seconds with proper form
- have eyesight no worse than 20/30 in one eye and 20/40 in the other
- be at least 16 years of age at the time of employment
- be vaccinated against COVID-19.



The qualifying test is being offered starting now in December and continuing through early January at select pools citywide. A list of testing locations and additional information can be found on their website: www.nyc.gov/parks/lifeguards.

Those who qualify are enrolled in the free Municipal Lifeguard Training Program, which consists of 40 hours of lifeguarding skills and rescue techniques, first-aid and CPR. After completing the course and passing the final exam and background check, new lifeguards are paid for training time once they begin working and have the option to return in future seasons, after a short recertification process.

CIVIC PROGRAM

Community Interactive Videoconferencing

Learn and participate in our upcoming health program:

"Thyroid Awareness Month: Learn More About Your Metabolic Gatekeeper"

Presented by: John Falcone, MD



John Falcone completed his residency training in Internal Medicine and clinical fellowship in Endocrinology at New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. He is board-certified in Internal Medicine as well as Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism. John is currently pursuing clinical research on the use of whole genome sequencing for precision medicine in patients with diabetes and other metabolic diseases. In addition to his research, John cares for patients with a variety of endocrine disorders including diabetes, obesity, and conditions affecting the thyroid, adrenals, pituitary, bones, and both male and female hormones.

WHEN & WHERE?

*Tuesday, January 11th, 2022
10:30am-11:30am*

*Via Zoom:
<https://weillcornell.zoom.us/j/94217213644>*

Or simply scan to join!



For more information, please email aac4003@med.cornell.edu

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, 2021–Jan. 9, 2022**. 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**
Kissena Boulevard and Booth Memorial 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**
51st Avenue and Center Boulevard

- Idlewild Park**
Springfield Lane and 149th Avenue
- John Golden Park**
215th Place and 33rd Avenue
- Juniper Valley Park**
80th Street (between Juniper Boulevard North and Juniper Boulevard South)
- Lawrence Virgilio Playground**
39th Drive between 52nd Street and 54th Street
- Queens County Farm Museum**
73-50 Little Neck Parkway

- 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
- Travers Park**
78th Street and 34th Avenue
- Windmill Community Garden**
39-22 29th St.

GET YOUR FREE BAG OF MULCH!

Take home a tree-mento when you drop your tree off at one of these locations—stop by on Jan. 8 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**
19th 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**
51st Avenue and Center Boulevard

- 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

#Mulchfest

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



sanitation

Community Board 8

Meeting Schedule for 2022

The Community Board 8's monthly meetings are usually held on the 2nd Wednesdays of the month at 7:30 p.m. sharp unless the date falls on a religious or on a major holiday. The meetings are usually held in the auditorium of the Hillcrest Jewish Center located at **183-02 Union Turnpike** in Fresh Meadows. Due to the pandemic and the more infectious Omicron Variant, we will likely meet **virtually** in 2022, out of an abundance of caution. Please call our office to confirm.

Our meetings are open to the public. Anyone who wishes to speak may do so during the **Public Hearing** part of the meeting, provided that he/she signed up for speaking time (*preferably by calling the Community Board at 718-264-7895 no later than 4:00p.m. the day of the meeting*). The speaker will be granted up to three (3) minutes of speaking time. If you are not present when your name is called, you will not be allowed to speak.

January 19th <i>(3rd Wednesday)</i>	February 9th	March 23rd <i>(4th Wednesday)</i>	April 13th
May 11th	June 8th	July No meeting	August No meeting
September 14th	October 26th <i>(4th Wednesday)</i>	November 9th	December 14th

Our guest speaker for Wednesday, January 19, 2022 will be

Neil J. Moore, CEO of Queens Hospital Center.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU!



LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF NEW YORK NEEDS FOSTER PARENTS!

As a reputable, faith-based, non-profit organization,
we welcome foster parents from ALL backgrounds!

Why join us?

*To strengthen lives, families, and communities, and to
be part of a community of foster parents that dedicate their time
to caring for children who need a temporary and loving home.*

How to become a foster parent:

- You must be at least 21 years of age
- You must have your own income
- You must have a home/apartment with an adequate amount of space to accommodate children.

** We invite and encourage you to learn more information during
our ongoing orientations **

Contact Information: April Luna, call (646) 939-6449 or email aluna@lssny.org

Protect Your Water Meter and Pipes 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. Homeowners are responsible for protecting meters and pipes from freezing:

- If the meter freezes and breaks because you failed to take reasonable steps to protect it, DEP will repair or replace the meter and bill you for the cost.
- If the service line or piping freezes and breaks, it is the homeowner's responsibility to have repairs made by a licensed plumber.

Here are some tips and suggestions to prevent freezing

- 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.
- When you are checking to see how cold the area is where your meter and pipes are installed, remember that it is colder near the floors and foundation walls.
- 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. If your meter is installed in an unheated garage, take extra care to ensure the meter is insulated.
- If pipes or the meter are in a closed cabinet against an outside wall, insulate the wall and open the cabinet to allow warmer air to reach them.
- If you are not going to be home for several days during cold weather, arrange to have someone visit periodically and turn on a faucet to ensure that the water is still flowing.



If your service line, pipes, or meters freeze

- Open a faucet near the frozen point to release vapor from melting ice;
- 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.
- If you are unable to thaw the frozen pipes, consult a **licensed** plumber.



LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION (S)

- ◆ **Jamaica 153 Corp - d/b/a Riko**
153-37 Hillside Avenue, Jamaica
Renewal - Wine, Beer & Cider License Application
- ◆ **Jasodra Henry - d/b/a Lovell's Guiding Light**
148-33 Hillside Avenue, Jamaica
Renewal - Full Liquor License Application
- ◆ **Mayflower International Hotel Group, Inc. - d/b/a Wyndham Garden Hotel**
61-27 186th Street, Fresh Meadows
Renewal - Full Liquor License Application

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.

Saturday, January 1, 2022 - New Year's Day Holiday Schedule

- Residents who normally receive **Saturday recycling or curbside compost** collection may place their material out at curbside between 4 p.m. and midnight on Sunday for collection beginning Monday. Residents may experience collection delays, as is common after holidays. We appreciate patience as we work to collect the backlog of material.
- Residents who normally receive **Saturday trash collection** should hold their material until their next trash collection day.



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*..... Sat., Jan. 1st
Three Kings Day.....Thurs., Jan. 6th
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.....Mon., Jan. 17th
Lunar New Year's Eve.....Fri., Jan. 31st

***Parking meters are still in effect except on Major Holidays.**

DEMOLITION NOTICE



75-55 181st Street – Demolition (Garage)
80-50 Kent Street – Demolition (Garage)

VACATE ORDER – 71-48 167th Street

Illegal basement apartment:

- Only one means of egress
- Inadequate light and ventilation
- Window size 2X3 feet



January 2022

Community Board 8, Queens

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						 1
2	3	4 Liquor License Cmte. Virtual 7:30 p.m.	5	6 <i>Three Kings Day</i> 	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 	18	19 CB8 Meeting <i>Public Hearing</i> <i>Location TBD</i> 7:30 p.m.	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

We set resolutions because we want something to change in our life. But if we are not specific and have no detailed plans about how we are going to change it then we can expect things to remain as they currently are. And we will end the year without the resolution accomplished. So rather than set them if we should recognize what we have accomplished in the past year and build on them, where is there the potential to do more, to be more.— Catherine Pulsifer