



# March

## COMMUNITY BOARD # 8 NEWSLETTER

### DISTRICT OFFICE

197-15 Hillside Avenue  
Hollis, NY 11423-2126  
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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:** Carolyn Brown  
**TREASURER:** Harbachan Singh  
**BUDGET DIRECTOR:** Marc A. Haken

### CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Honorable Barry Grodenchik - 23rd District  
Honorable James Gennaro - 24th District

### BOROUGH PRESIDENT

Honorable Donovan Richards

### STAFF

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

### BOARD MEMBERS BY AREA

#### Area 1 – Kew Gardens Hills

**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

#### 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 and Frank Magri

#### 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 Women History Month!

### Virtual Community Board Meeting Re-cap

February 10, 2021

The Minutes of January 20, 2021 Board Meeting were unanimously approved by 41 members.

#### Chairperson's Report – Michael Hannibal, 1st Vice Chair:

Mr. Hannibal invited Jesse Rosenbaum, Chair of the Transportation Committee, to speak on the drag racing issue in the community.

**Jesse Rosenbaum** – Mr. Rosenbaum stated that they have had a series of complaints of hot rodders driving through the neighborhood making a lot of noise with their mufflers speeding through private streets. Assemblywoman Nily Rozic introduced the Furious Act bill. The bill will amend the vehicle traffic law to allow New York City to operate speed cameras at any time in the school speed zone. The City has identified some areas with special concerns for illegal speed racing. A letter of support from the local Community Board is being requested.

**Marc A. Haken made a motion to approve the letter of support of Assemblywoman Nily Rozic's Furious Act Bill seconded by Mary Maggio.**

A vote was taken.

In Favor: **41**                      Opposed: **0**                      Abstain: **0**

The motion passed unanimously.

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Next Community Board 8 Meeting will be held *virtually* on **Wednesday, March 10, 2020** at 7:30 p.m.  
<https://zoom.us/j/91239540872?pwd=S0c4bFltMGJTUkhPMnl5cjJrUk9uZz09>

Minutes of Board Meetings are available on our website: [www.nyc.gov/queenscb8](http://www.nyc.gov/queenscb8) within two weeks.

## *A Word from the District Manager...*

*Dear Community Board 8 Resident:*

*We are pleased to announce a special service Community Board 8 has arranged with the Department of Sanitation. This service will assist the Jewish residents of our district by providing a special pre-Passover trash pickup for all homeowners living within the neighborhoods of Hillcrest, Utopia Estates, Jamaica Estates, Holliswood and Kew Gardens Hills.*

*To ensure that all houses in these areas receive the curbside trash pickup, collection will be between 4 p.m. Thursday, March 25, 2021 and through Friday, March 26, 2021. **Be sure to have all your trash/chometz out at the curb in front of your house for pick up by 4 p.m. on Thursday.***

*We, at Community Board 8, continue to follow the New York State guidelines to stop the spread of the virus. Out of an abundance of caution, we **will not** set up burning stations nor the huge collection bins to prevent gatherings of individuals. We hope to resume these services next year when the pandemic is behind us.*

*Given the ever evolving nature of the COVID-19 situation, while DSNY will be running some extra trucks on Friday March 26<sup>th</sup>, we ask the communities to also begin now to place Passover related material out for collection after 4 p.m. the evening before for collection on their regular trash and recycling collection days as well. In order for the Department of Sanitation to do their job as efficiently as possible, please remember following:*

- Trash should be placed in heavy duty securely tied plastic bags;*
- Do not mix trash and recycling;*
- Cardboard boxes should be broken down, bundled or securely tied or placed in clear recycling bags.*

*We wish to thank Mayor Bill de Blasio and the Department of Sanitation for their cooperation. For further information, please call Community Board 8 at 718-264-7895.*

*Sincerely,*

*Martha Taylor, Chair*

*Marie Adam-Orsini, District Manager*

*Please share this information with your friends and neighbors. It takes more than City Hall to make New*

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### **Honorable State Senator Leroy Comrie**

Honorable State Senator stated that they are having budget hearings. The Governor has put out his executive budget. He announced that York College will be open as a vaccination site. They are looking to vaccinate at least 1,000-2,000 people per day. They are pushing to get additional sites within the community to combat this virus quickly. Council Member Grodenchik and other elected officials have also joined this taskforce. As a former land use chair of the City Council's Land Use Committee, he had a chance to look at this zoning amendment "Planning Together Proposal". He stated that this will actually give more power to Community Boards to make sure that they are detecting and being more aggressive about illegal homes in the area. His office is doing tax preparation services and HEAP application assistance. They are also working with the NYU School of Medicine dentistry program. Anyone interested in these programs can contact his office for more information at: 718-765-5369 or reach out to him via email at: [info@leroycomrie.org](mailto:info@leroycomrie.org).

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**Guest Speaker – George Hadjiconstantinou – Queens Chamber of Commerce** – Mr. Hadjiconstantinou spoke about a new program the Queens Chamber of Commerce is offering to help businesses deal with the pandemic. Here is a brief summary of the presentation:

The organization is partnering up with all of other Chamber of Commerce in New York City to create resources to help them cope with the pandemic. They help in marketing, building strategies, technological support, legal counsel etc. It is very easy to sign up by visit their website at: <https://www.nycsmallbusinessresourcenetwork.org/> or alternatively you can reach out to him at [ghadji@queenschamber.org](mailto:ghadji@queenschamber.org) or at 516-900-6280 (he covers zip codes: 11433 and 11432) or his colleague Jesse He at: [jhe@queenschamber.org](mailto:jhe@queenschamber.org) or 516-669-3946 (she covers zip codes: 11365, 11366,11367). They have some ambitious goals for the next year which are: reaching to 20,000 businesses Citywide, specifically 5,000 in Queens. Over half of them should be MWBE (Minority Women Business Enterprise).

### **Committee Reports:**

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

Dr. Stern announced that New York State will allow those with certain underlying medical conditions to make appointments for COVID-19 vaccinations. These are the conditions in adult New Yorkers that will qualify for the vaccine beginning February 15, 2021:

cancer, chronic kidney disease, pulmonary disease, intellectual and developmental disabilities, heart conditions, immunocompromised state, severe obesity (BMI 40 kg/m<sup>2</sup>), obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or higher but < 40 kg/m<sup>2</sup>). pregnancy, sickle cell disease or thalassemia, type 1 or 2 diabetes mellitus, cerebrovascular disease, neurologic disease and liver disease.

**Capital and Expense Budget Committee - Marc A. Haken, Committee Chair** - The budget requests were submitted. The City answered all budget requests. The Capital & Expense Budget Committee met and discussed the responses. He stated that it is the board's responsibility to respond to their responses that are asked year after year. A letter was drafted to be sent to the Mayor on the responses.

***Kevin Forrestal made a motion to approve the letter as presented, seconded by Jacob Weinberg.***

**Count in favor: 41      **Opposed: 0      **Abstained: 0**      The motion passed unanimously.****

**Zoning Committee – Steve Konigsberg, Committee Chair** - Mr. Konigsberg stated that there was a Zoning Committee meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup>. They had a presentation from the City Council by Annie Levers on the “Planning Together Proposal”. These are some key points on the presentation:

Essentially this is a new direction in terms of policy and planning from the city council in an attempt to help focus many of the things of the proponent of this plan feel that the City is being deficient over the many years since it's been operating under the zoning resolution which was passed since 1961.

In this proposal they will attempt to propose that there be better planning, better oversight, better coordination. In essence, have more input. That is the way that it was presented.

This plan does not require or make any changes to the zoning resolution, it does not require a trigger to any types of rezoning. It does not propose or support the elimination of single-family zoning within the City of New York. It also does not amend or eliminate Community Boards' role in future re-zoning processes all of which will remain subject to ULURP.

(side comment) Although this is a tool for planning, none of this itself is subject to ULURP. This is something that if the City passes, will be totally out of the control or without an input other than a general legislative process for input.

***Kevin Forrestal made a motion to approve this plan and the zoning committee be authorized and delegated to write a statement, resolution or a letter stating why that was done seconded by Jacob Weinberg.***

A roll call vote was taken.



# Try out now for your chance to become an NYC lifeguard!

**Qualifying tests for summer 2021 begin this winter. [Click here to sign up and receive updates on the test schedule.](#)**

Every summer, dedicated lifeguards help to protect the millions of visitors to New York City's eight beaches and 53 outdoor pools.

Lifeguarding gives people the opportunity to work in a rewarding and challenging environment during the busy summer months. It requires split-second decision making that could mean the difference between life and death and helps develop valuable skills—a strong work ethic, teamwork, leadership, and communication—that will last a lifetime in any profession. Help build on the exemplary safety record our lifeguards have set over the years.

#### THE BASICS

Our beaches open on Memorial Day weekend, and pools open in late June; both close the Sunday after Labor Day. Lifeguards work 48 hours each week and first-year lifeguards earn a minimum of \$15 an hour, for a weekly salary up to \$800.

To qualify for the training you must:

- Be able to swim 50 yards in 35 seconds with proper form.
- Have a minimum of 20/30 vision in one eye and 20/40 in the other without corrective lenses.
- Be 16 or older when the position begins.

You will need to provide a certificate of good health on doctor's stationery. You must successfully complete 40 hours of training, CPR and First Aid courses and pass written, swimming, and skills tests to become certified as a New York City lifeguard. After completing the course and passing the final exam and background check, lifeguards will be paid for time spent in training once they begin working as a lifeguard. Conditioning classes will also be available for individuals who need some help strengthening their swimming skills. Candidates will be issued a pass that will allow them to practice at any of NYC Parks' indoor pools.

#### SIGN UP NOW FOR A GREAT SUMMER JOB

Visit [nyc.gov/parks/lifeguards](http://nyc.gov/parks/lifeguards) or call 311 for more information and come to one of our training locations to be tested. All you need is a bathing suit, towel, lock, and photo ID. Goggles are optional.

Due to COVID-19, social distancing precautions will be followed. This may include limited testing groups and appointments.





Join **Queens DA Melinda Katz**  
and panelists for a seminar on

# Scam Awareness and Fraud Protection

**Wednesday, March 10**

Live Zoom program starts at **6:00PM**

Please register at **[www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org)**



## QDA Legal Experts

Joseph Conley, *Chief, Frauds Bureau*  
Christine Burke, *Section Chief, Elder Fraud Unit*

## Partner Tax Advocates and Specialists

Brenda Stuart-Luke, *Communications & Stakeholder Liaison, IRS*  
Darol Tucker, *Taxpayer Advocate, IRS*  
Eunkyong Choi, *Head of the Taxpayer Advocate Office, NYC Department of Finance*  
Nickie Cheng, *Senior Engagement Specialist, NYC Department for the Aging*  
Robert Smith, *Director of External Affairs, NYS Department of Taxation and Finance*  
Margaret Neri, *Deputy Commissioner & Ethics Officer, NYS Office of the Taxpayer Rights Advocate*

Free Resources and Contact Info for Taxpayers, Scam Fraud Victims will be provided.

@QueensDAKatz QueensDAKatz @QueensDAKatz [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org)

# ***Did you know?***

## **Local Law 196**

The moratorium on storefront signage enforcement was due to expire this year on February 6<sup>th</sup>; however, the City Council has extended the moratorium to 2023.

## **Local Law 152**

This requires 3+ family homes and commercial properties to have inspections of exposed gas piping hallway, cellars and basements to test for leaks. They are currently doing CB1, 3 & 10. Date Range for Inspection Buildings in Community Districts:

- January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020\*  
CD1, 3 and 10 in all boroughs
- January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021\*  
CD2, 5, 7, 13 and 18 in all boroughs
- January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022\*  
CD4, 6, 8, 9 and 16 in all boroughs
- January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023\*  
CD11, 12, 14, 15, 17 in all boroughs

\* and no later than December 31 within every fourth calendar year thereafter.

**Note: The deadline for buildings in Community Districts 1, 3 and 10 in all boroughs has been extended to June 30, 2021! These buildings are not required to submit their Gas Piping System Periodic Inspection Certifications until June 30, 2021**



## LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION (S)

- ◆ **Cuzco Peru BBQ Chicken, Inc.**  
138-13 Queens Blvd. in Briarwood - *Renewal of Full Liquor License*
- ◆ **PJ Cardivan, Inc.**  
189-25 Union Turnpike in Flushing - *Renewal of Full Liquor License*
- ◆ **Rubsub, Inc.** d/b/a **Kin'd**  
192-03 Union Turnpike in Fresh Meadows - *Upgrade to Full Liquor License*
- ◆ **Compas Group USA, Inc.**  
65-30 Kissena Blvd. in Flushing - *Renewal of Wine, Beer and Cider 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.....(Sun.—Mon.) Mach 28 - 29

### DEMOLITION/EXCAVATION NOTICE



76-01 160th Street - Demolition (garage only)

### [NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection \(DCWP\)](#)

The department urges eligible New Yorkers to file their 2020 tax return safely and for free with NYC Free Tax Prep services:

**Virtual Tax Prep** is an end-to-end service where an IRS certified Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)/Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) volunteer preparer will video conference with you to help prepare your 2020 tax return using a secure digital system.



Note: Volunteer preparers can also assist non-filers with stimulus payments.

**Assisted Self-Preparation** allows you to complete your tax return online on your own and an IRS certified VITA/TCE volunteer preparer will be available by phone or email to answer your questions.

**Drop-off Service** allows you to drop off your tax documents at a site and pick up the completed return later.

**In-Person Tax Prep** allows you to sit down with an IRS certified VITA/TCE volunteer preparer who will help prepare your 2020 tax return.

Families with income of \$68,000 or less in 2020 and single filers with income of \$48,000 or less in 2020 are eligible for NYC Free Tax Prep. IRS announced that the tax season will begin on **Friday, February 12, 2021**.

For assistance go to : [www.nyc.gov/taxprep](http://www.nyc.gov/taxprep)



# March 2021

## Community Board 8, Queens

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	 Virtual Community Board 8Q General Mtg. 7:30 p.m.	11	12	13
14	15	16	 Happy St. Patrick's Day	18	 Saint Joseph	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	 HAPPY PASSOVER
 Palm Sunday	29	30	31			

*"Because I am a woman, I must make unusual efforts to succeed. If I fail, no one will say, 'She doesn't have what it takes.' They will say, 'Women don't have what it takes.'" - Clare Boothe Luce*