



NEWS FROM COMMUNITY BOARD 8

FEBRUARY 2022

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Greetings from Chairperson Irsa Weatherspoon

Grace and Peace All!

As we've stepped into a new year, we also began the 3rd year under the auspices of COVID-19. We've come through another difficult year that brought about uncertainty. But this too shall pass. We must be resilient, hopeful and steadfast.

We are living in incredibly challenging times where unspeakable crimes have been perpetrated against our fellowman, both young and old, spanning across racial, ethnic and religious groups. Our human, civil and voting rights are being hijacked. Affordable housing continues to be a scarcity, amongst other issues levied upon our community.

Our democracy is being challenged. The philosopher, Edmund Burke said, "***All that is necessary for evil to triumph is that good men (and women) do nothing***". We will not stand idly by, but will engage one another to maintain our community with care and concern for one another.

My faith plays a large role in the work that I do, in that we are taught to care for the least amongst us. We're called to clothe, feed, teach, uplift and protect the disadvantaged and the vulnerable. We must give and serve even when people are not watching. This is our reasonable service to humanity.

We look forward to working with all of our newly elected and tenured officials as we steadily improve our district.

A heartfelt thanks to all of our CB8 staff, board members, the community and our partners for your passion, diligence, hard work and heart of service as we continue to strive for our district's optimal best.

I pray for a prosperous, purposeful and peaceful year to all. I look forward to the opportunity to see you all in person soon.

Warmly,
Irsa Weatherspoon, CB8 Chairperson

Message from the District Manager, Michelle George

Community Board 8 continues to be at your service to ensure that you receive all necessary city services. Staff continues to work diligently to ensure that information is distributed timely, services are rendered, and meetings run smoothly. All CB8 meeting recordings are available on the Board's YouTube page, Brooklyn Community Board 8. We are currently in the process of creating sub pages to make it easier for you to navigate the many meetings that are uploaded. Many meetings are also live streamed concurrently to reach a wider audience. Please don't forget to follow us on Twitter @Brooklyncb8.

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We would like to congratulate the newly elected 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council. Mr. Brian Saunders, a CB8 member and Chair of the Economic Development Committee, has been elected President of the Council, while Ms. Teri Coaxum, a former member of CB 8, has been elected Vice President of the Council. Other Council elected officials include Ms. Monique Nieves, Treasurer; Ms. Kim Robinson, Recording Secretary; and Ms. Sonia Procter, Sergeant at Arms.

We would also like to welcome all of the newly elected Councilmembers representing CB8! Congratulations to Honorable Crystal Hudson, a former CB8 member, who was elected to represent the 35<sup>th</sup> Council District; Honorable Chi Osse, who was elected to represent the 36<sup>th</sup> Council District; and Honorable Darlene Mealy, who was elected back to her old seat in the 41<sup>st</sup> Council District. We look forward to working with you all.

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GAS LINE INSPECTIONS

Gas piping systems in all buildings, except for one- and two-family homes, and other buildings classified in Occupancy Group R-3, must be inspected by a Licensed Master Plumber (LMP), or a qualified individual working for a LMP. All applicable property owners in District 8 must have their gas lines inspected this calendar year and filed prior to December 31, 2022.

To determine the occupancy group classification for your building, please refer to the Certificate of Occupancy (CO) for your building. Follow the instructions on the Department of Building's (DOB) website to search for the CO for your building.

If no CO for your building is available, you may instead refer to the Department of Finance's Building Classification. To identify the Department of Finance Building Classification for your building, enter the address in the Buildings Information System (BIS). If your building is classified under the following classification codes, you do not need to comply with this inspection requirement: A0, A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, B1, B2, B3, B9, M3, M4, or N2.

If your building does not contain gas piping, a Gas Piping System Periodic Inspection Certification, signed and sealed by a Registered Design Professional (a New York State licensed professional engineer or registered architect) or a Licensed Master Plumber, stating that such building contains no gas piping must be submitted to DOB. No further action is necessary.

For more information as well as a handy guide for hiring a plumber, please visit <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/buildings/property-or-business-owner/gas-piping-inspections.page>.

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### ***DISCRETIONARY FUNDS***

Participatory Budgeting is back! After a few years off, residents, community organizations, and non-profit organizations can submit ideas for funding via participatory budgeting. Non-Profits are also encouraged to apply directly for larger discretionary funds grants. The Expense Funding deadline is February 22, 2022 and provides funding for services and programs. The Capital Funding deadline is February 24, 2022 and provides funding for physical infrastructure projects from both the Borough President and the City Council. You can apply directly with your local Councilmember and/or the Boro President's office.

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INCREASES IN FOOD ASSISTANCE BENEFITS

NYS Governor Kathy Hochul announced that all New Yorkers enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will receive the maximum allowable level of food benefits for the month of February. All households participating in SNAP (including those already at the maximum level of benefits) will receive a supplemental allotment later this month, bringing in roughly \$230 million in federal funding into the state's economy.

The emergency assistance supplement is provided to households that do not ordinarily receive the maximum allowable benefit per month on SNAP. Those households already near or at the maximum benefit level of \$835 for a household of four will receive a supplemental payment of at least \$95.

SNAP households in the five-county New York City region should see their benefits post between now and Friday, February 25, 2022.

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### ***MTA FARE CHANGES***

To encourage New Yorkers to get back on subways, buses, and trains, and to reduce the cost and worry surrounding everyday travel, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) has announced a pilot fare program that is more affordable, more flexible and more fair. The temporary promotional changes to fare structures will begin February 28, 2022 for New York City Transit and February 25, 2022 for commuter rail tickets. **The pilot will last for at least four months.**

The creative pilot program will test fare capping to save many riders money and give them more flexibility. Customers no longer have to choose between buying a weekly unlimited pass or paying per ride, as OMNY pay allows them to always get the best deal automatically.

The best weekly fare will be available to all riders who tap with OMNY, without the burden of pre-paying for the week, or having to track their progress. OMNY's technology provides enhanced

flexibility to subway, local bus, and Staten Island Railway customers, so they can start accumulating the benefits weekly without having to sign up. **Anyone with a device or contactless card can start tapping their way to free rides as long as they use the same device or card each time.**

Customers who tap and go with OMNY will be charged the standard \$2.75 pay-per-ride fare for their first 12 trips starting every Monday. Any trips after that through the following Sunday would be free. As a result, no OMNY customer would pay more than \$33.00 per week, which is the current price of a seven-day unlimited-ride MetroCard. This way customers receive the benefits of a seven-day unlimited-ride card without having to decide to pay upfront.

Free transfers between subways and buses will continue to be offered to all customers under this pilot. Two-part trips that are linked by a free transfer between subway and bus are considered one trip toward the 12 needed to reach the free-fare threshold each week.

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ARE YOU A HOMEOWNER INTERESTED IN GOING SOLAR?

Are you a homeowner interested in going solar powered? If so, Barrio Solar will provide you with a FREE solar assessment for your home and an additional \$3,500 in down payment funds. Going solar will not only allow you to save money on energy and heating bills, but can also reduce your tax burden via home tax credits. Additionally, solar energy provides a great benefit to the environment!

Barrio Solar is a non-profit campaign for Brooklyn homeowners, and is working with the Fifth Avenue Committee to spread solar power to Brooklyn owners. Installation is available at a discounted rate. To apply, call 646-820-1301 or visit <https://fifthave.org/affordable-solar/>.

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### ***ACCESSIBLE DISPATCH PROGRAM***

The Accessible Dispatch Program connects the community to wheelchair accessible taxis in all five of the boroughs in New York City. The Accessible Dispatch Program has an app that allows people to book a trip anytime they want as long as they are in the one of the five boroughs. Additional key facts of the Accessible Dispatch Program include:

- You do not have to enroll into the program. Everyone is eligible. You can start using the service right way.
- You can request service via a customer service phone line, an app or through the Accessible Dispatch website
- All drivers are trained in wheelchair securement
- Service is available 24 hours a day
- These taxis are larger than a standard size taxi and is large enough to secure one wheelchair passenger and an accompanying passenger.
- Although these taxis are larger, passengers pay the same fair as they would on a standard size cab.

- Like other rideshare services, passengers can request trips on demand or book future reservations.

To learn more or to download the app, please visit: <https://accessibledispatch.com/>.

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HELPLINE TO REPORT PANDEMIC RELIEF PROGRAMS ABUSE

Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez announced the creation of a new helpline and email address to accept reports of the use or sale of fraudulent vaccination records to combat abuses that can endanger the public. The helpline will also assist the public in reporting the abuse of pandemic relief programs for businesses and individuals including the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL) and unemployment benefits.

District Attorney Gonzalez said, “Falling COVID numbers are very encouraging, but those who selfishly sell or present fake vaccination credentials put our progress, our healthcare system, and the lives of vulnerable people at risk. We have no tolerance for this crime in Brooklyn, and I encourage anyone who has information regarding the use of fraudulent vaccination credentials or abuse of COVID financial relief programs to call our new helpline.”

The new helpline is (718) 250-2255 and the email address is vaxfraud@brooklynda.org. Calls and emails will be answered by trained specialists in the District Attorney’s Action Center and reviewed by a dedicated team.

The District Attorney noted several signs that a vaccine card may be fraudulent to help the public be able to identify them:

- Vaccine card edges that have been cut unevenly with scissors
- The vaccine card contains spelling errors or improper spacing or punctuation in the typed text
- The listed intervals between shots that are less than those indicated by the manufacturers (three weeks for Pfizer-BioNTech and four weeks for Moderna)
- The card is on paper thinner than the cardstock used by the CDC.

Individuals who have lost their vaccine card and were vaccinated in New York City can obtain that vaccine record online from the City’s immunization database at <https://myvaccinerecord.cityofnewyork.us/myrecord/>. Digital proof of vaccination is available through the NYS Wallet app available in the Apple or Android app stores.

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### ***MLK’S LEGACY: THE VALUE OF VOTING***

Join Repair the World on Thursday, February 17, 2022 from 7:00-8:30 PM for a night of learning and schmoozing as they continue the racial justice work they began with MLK weekend through Black History Month and beyond. This event will feature a panel from Generation Vote about voting rights and the legacy of discrimination and disenfranchisement of Black Americans in the US. Sign up at <https://bit.ly/3LnrefP>.

## ***FOOD CART PERMITS***

The NYC Health Department is releasing permits for mobile food vendors to operate Green Carts and Seasonal food carts and trucks.

**Green Cart (Fresh Fruits and Vegetables) Permits:** Allow vending of fresh fruits and vegetables, including prepackaged sliced and cut fruits and vegetables, bottled drinking water, and plain nuts in designated areas. For more information on Green Cart permits, visit [www.nyc.gov/greencarts](http://www.nyc.gov/greencarts).

**Seasonal (Temporary) Permits:** Allow mobile food vending throughout New York City in designated areas allowed by existing regulations from April 1 to October 31.

To apply for a Green Cart or Seasonal permit, you need to apply to get on a waiting list first. This waiting list application period will be open through April 30, 2022. The “Green Cart or Seasonal Permit Waiting List Application Form,” the instructions for the form and their translations are available online at [www.nyc.gov/health/mobilefood](http://www.nyc.gov/health/mobilefood) or call 311 and ask to have the form mailed to you.

Waiting list applications must be submitted by email or postmarked by mail by April 30, 2022.

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RELAUNCH OF WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS

Wellness Wednesdays will continue under Councilman Chi Osse. Fresh food and PPE will be distributed every Wednesday at Restoration Plaza located at 1360 Fulton Street from 11 AM to 1 PM or until supplies run out. Please email district36@council.nyc.gov with any questions or concerns.

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## ***FOOD PANTRY AND PPE WEDNESDAYS***

Councilwoman Darlene Mealy hosts a food pantry and PPE giveaway every Wednesday from 11 am to 2pm at her office located at 400 Rockaway Avenue (near Pitkin Avenue). Fresh and non-perishable foods, as well as face coverings and other PPE will be available for distribution.

On Wednesday, February 16, 2022, Boro President Antonio Reynoso will be on hand to assist with the giveaway.

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IMPORTANT COVID-19 NEWS AND UPDATES

NYS’s Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) has Reopened. This program is for New Yorkers who have been unable to pay rent due to the impacts of COVID-19.

Due to a court order, statewide applications for ERAP are currently being accepted. Total requests for assistance exceed the current available federal funding for the ERAP, therefore, applications will only be reviewed and considered if additional funds become available. It is still important to apply as soon as possible, because an application status of “pending” will provide temporary protection from eviction, regardless of whether the state receives additional funding.

Certain renters in NYC may still be eligible for the state ERAP program, if their income is over 80 percent and up to 120 percent of area median income.

You can direct questions to the State’s ERAP call center: 844-NY1-RENT (844-691-7368) or the hearing-impaired TTY number: 1-833-843-8829.

Eviction moratorium: New York State has an eviction moratorium preventing landlords from evicting tenants who have submitted a hardship declaration. Tenants can submit hardship declarations to their landlords or the courts. The filing of a hardship declaration will stop an eviction from moving forward until the application is approved or rejected. The hardship declaration form can be found at <https://nycourts.gov/eefpa/>.

The Good Cause Eviction bill A5573/S3082 would give tenants the right to a lease renewal in most cases, provide courts with guidance on limiting rent increases for existing tenants, and prevent landlords from removing tenants without an order from a judge in most cases, even if their lease has expired (or there was no lease in place). Under this proposed legislation, “good cause”—like nonpayment—would be necessary to evict tenants. Owner-occupied buildings with 4 or fewer units would be exempt.

Housing Help for Homeowners: The NY State Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) is providing assistance so struggling families can stay in their homes. This is a federally-funded program for homeowners who are at risk of default, foreclosure or displacement as result of a financial hardship caused by COVID-19. The application window is now open and it is first come, first-served so please review this application guide and get your documents together now. For more details and to see if you’re eligible, visit <https://www.nyhomeownerfund.org/> or direct questions to 1-844-77-NYHAF (1-844-776-9423).

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### ***FIRE SAFETY***

In the wake of a deadly fire in the Bronx recently that took 19 lives, the FDNY is ramping up educational efforts. As it has been widely reported that the fire was caused by a space heater, and recent sub-zero degree days has seen numerous residents begin using alternative heating devices to supplement heat in their homes, the FDNY offers the following guidance:

If using a space heater when there are freezing temperatures, keep yourself and your family safe by following these #FDNYSmart tips:

- Be sure to keep your space heater at least 3 ft. from bedding, curtains and other materials.
- Avoid using electric space heaters in the bathroom or other areas where they may come in contact with water.

- Never use an extension cord with a space heater, and turn off/unplug the heater when you leave the room.
- Purchase a space heater with a thermostat and automatic shut-off, and make sure it includes the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Mark.
- The use of kerosene or propane space heaters is illegal in New York City, and the use of these types of space heaters poses a high risk of injury or death.

See more tips at [www.fdnysmart.org](http://www.fdnysmart.org), and access tons of valuable information and resources at <https://www.fdnysmart.org/resources/>.

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CB8'S HEALTH COMMITTEE FIRE SAFETY PRESENTATION

The New York City Fire Department will make a Fire Safety Presentation at the next Health and Human Services Committee meeting on Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 6:15 pm virtually via WebEX. The following topics will be covered: ***Emergency Preparedness Basics, Home Safety and Fire Prevention and What to Do In A Fire/Non-Fire Emergency***. The meeting link is: <https://bit.ly/3rPyp8I>. You can also join by phone by calling 1-646-992-2010 United States Toll (New York City) Access code: 234 323 38893.

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### ***1950 CENSUS PROJECT***

In April 2022, the United States Census Bureau will release the 1950 census to the public for the first time, concluding the 72-year waiting period for this invaluable record.

The 1950 census documents the lives of more than 150 million people, giving a snapshot of each household at the time the census was taken. Anyone wanting to understand what life was like in the United States in 1950 will soon be able to glimpse into the past through this registry.

What Will You Find in the 1950 Census? FamilySearch and Ancestry, working with genealogy societies, other organizations, and an army of volunteers, will create a searchable index to these records. This index will then enable experiences to help you find your own family members in these records. If you were alive in 1950, you will even be able to find yourself and refresh your memory of this time in history.

1950 US Census Community Project will allow you to join thousands of volunteers to work together to provide a rich and detailed index of every person living in the United States in 1950. Starting with a computer-generated index provided by Ancestry, you can help ensure the index is complete and accurate by reviewing and improving what has been done through automation.

Become part of this historic, once-in-a-decade opportunity by joining the 1950 US Census Community Project today! If you are the leader of a genealogy society, group, or other organization, you can sign up as an organization to join the 1950 US Census Community Project.



Be among the first to know when the 1950 US Census is released, so you can find your ancestors and to help make the experience available to others. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/3gxUNgL>.

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2022 ENERGY SUMMIT

The American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE) New York Metro Area Chapter is holding their 2022 Energy Summit: Energy in the 21st Century: Progress, Policy, and Equality, on February 16th and 17th. Admission to the Summit is free, but you must register for the virtual event by visiting <https://summit.aabenymac.org/>.

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### ***BLACK HISTORY MONTH ART CONTEST***

The Youth and Education Committee of Community Board 8 is hosting a young artists Black History Month Art Contest. Artists in grades pre-k-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12 should submit **photos** of their art work under the theme, “Beauty in my Community” to express what they see and love within the confines of District 8.

Submissions are due by February 28, 2022 via email at [CB8BHMArtContest@gmail.com](mailto:CB8BHMArtContest@gmail.com). Winners will be chosen by members of the Youth and Education Committee and announced at the Marth 10<sup>th</sup> Community Board General Meeting and Public Hearing.

If you have any questions, please email the Board at [brooklyncb8@gmail.com](mailto:brooklyncb8@gmail.com).

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

In an effort to foster good health and wellness in the Black community and recognition of Black History Month, you are cordially invited to a discussion on Black Mental Health and Wellness. This conversation with mental health practitioners will focus on Collective Healing During the Pandemic. The historic disenfranchisement of Black people by the medical-industrial complex in America is a truth that must be managed individually and collectively as we focus on the importance of self-care. The Wellness conversation will discuss how we each can make new choices and adopt new methods to navigate ourselves out of the shadows of this ongoing pandemic.

The panel will take place on **Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 6pm**. Participants include Assemblymember Stefani Zinerman, Matthew Canuteson, the Diversity and Inclusion Officer at The Department of Mental Health, Dr. Ernesto Gonzalez, Director of Adult Outpatient Mental Health at Woodhull Hospital, as well as, the founder of BIPOC PEEEK, Sara Taylor and Ashley Watson, a licensed social worker.

Please register at <https://bit.ly/BLKHEALTH56> or feel free to contact Assemblymember Zinerman’s office at 718-399-7630.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 8

Brooklyn Community Board 8 has an open position for a Community Associate. For the complete listing inclusive of responsibilities and how to apply, visit <https://www.brooklyncb8.org/job-listing/job-opportunity-at-brooklyn-community-board-8/>.

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### **CIVILIAN COMPLAINT REVIEW BOARD**

The Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) receives and investigates approximately 5,000 complaints each year. The largest civilian oversight agency in the United States, the CCRB is an independent, non-police agency. It is empowered to investigate, make findings and recommend action on complaints against New York City police officers that allege the use of excessive Force, Abuse of authority, Discourtesy and/or Offensive language also known as F.A.D.O.

CCRB Investigators (Level I) are responsible for investigating civilian complaints against the NYPD alleging police misconduct. A large percentage of this career opportunity includes extensive writing, interviewing witnesses and police personnel, researching, juggling competing priorities, working independently, and drafting compelling closing reports.

To learn more about our Investigations Unit and employee benefits please visit our official website at [www.nyc.gov/ccrb](http://www.nyc.gov/ccrb), job ID 509731.

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NYC LIFEGUARD

Put your swimming skill to the ultimate test by becoming a NYC Lifeguard and helping to keep New York's beaches and pools safe and develop skills that will last a lifetime.

Lifeguarding is a rewarding and challenging job that requires split-second decision making and develops valuable skills that can last a lifetime. Learn valuable leadership and communication skills that will last a lifetime in any profession. Make friends for a lifetime who are also committed to serving the public. Earn your NYC Parks lifeguard certification, and learn CPR, first-aid, and rescue techniques. Get access to all of our City's indoor pools to strengthen your swimming skills.

Lifeguards work five to six days each week and first-year lifeguards earn a minimum of \$16 an hour, for a weekly salary of about \$800. Parks' beaches open on Memorial Day weekend, and pools open in late June; both close the Sunday after Labor Day.

To become a NYC Lifeguard, you must:

- Be at least 16 years of age by the start of employment.
- Have at least 20/30 vision in one eye and 20/40 in the other - without corrective lenses.
- Glasses and contact lenses may not be worn during the eye exam.
- Be able to swim 50 yards in 35 seconds or less, with proper form.

- Provide proof of a full COVID-19 vaccine regimen of a vaccine authorized by the World Health Organization, such as two doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is required.

To reduce capacity, testing groups and appointments will be limited. You are welcome to take the test multiple times. To accommodate other applicants, please register for only one upcoming appointment at a time. Please register for an appointment by visiting <https://www.nycgovparks.org/reg/life-guard-test>.

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### ***MASS VACCINATION SITE COMING TO CENTRAL BROOKLYN***

New York State and FEMA heard the voices of Brooklyn’s residents about not having a large government run vaccination site in the Borough. On February 24, 2022, a new mass vaccination site will open at Medgar Evers College located at 231 Crown Street, Brooklyn 11225.

Vaccination appointments are now being scheduled for eligible Brooklyn residents only! Schedule an appointment online at [www.ny.gov/vaccine](http://www.ny.gov/vaccine) or call 1-833-NYS-4-VAX (833-697-4929). **Appointments are required as this is not a walk-in site.**

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BROOKLYN CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

Brooklyn Conservatory of Music’s Suzuki program is open to children ages 3.5 years and up. It includes private lessons, group classes, theory classes and parent classes in violin, viola, cello, guitar, piano, flute and bass. Parents learn and practice alongside their children, serving as role models and offering support. Financial aid is available.

BKCM has two upcoming Suzuki Prospective Parent Orientations that will inform parents about the Suzuki philosophy, educational approach, and the integral role parents will play in their child’s musical studies. The next one-hour orientations is scheduled for Sunday, March 20, 2022 at 5:15 pm.

Please visit <https://bkcm.org/event/suzuki-prospective-parent-orientation-2/> for more information.

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### ***AABE SCHOLARSHIPS***

The American Association of Blacks in Energy is a professional organization of African Americans in the energy industry. Through its Scholarship Program, AABE seeks to help increase the number of African Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans (underrepresented minorities) in energy related fields. By doing so, they help the nation address a critical need and a challenge to future economic vitality in the world market. Candidates for an AABE scholarship must have an overall “B” unweighted academic average (3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale); be a graduating high school senior who has applied to one or more accredited colleges/universities, and plan to major in business or one of the physical sciences, technology, engineering or mathematics fields in

preparation for a career in the energy sector; and be a member of one of a class or group of individuals who has been historically underrepresented in those areas.

The scholarship application can be accessed by visiting the scholarship page on AABE National's Website, [www.scholarship.AABE.org](http://www.scholarship.AABE.org).

Additionally, the Summer Energy Academy was created to assist in meeting the global energy challenge. In order to prevent the impending energy crisis, it is imperative that students are exposed to the concepts of energy and STEM disciplines at an early age, therefore laying the foundation for future scientists and engineers to develop the needed technology to reduce and change how energy is consumed. To learn more about the SEA Program, visit their website at <https://seaprogram.org/>.

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\$5,000 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS

Encourage your child to apply for a \$5,000 scholarship! High school seniors are invited to apply for an Albert Shanker Scholarship. The process is easier than ever with a new online portal. **Candidates must be financially eligible and be accepted in a full-time, matriculated, degree-granting program at an accredited college or university.** This opportunity will instill a greater sense of belonging as well as motivation for your child to make it through their higher education. **The deadline to apply for a \$5,000 scholarship is Monday, February 28, 2022.**

Encourage your graduating students to apply. For more information and to apply, visit <https://bit.ly/3rPQ4gV>.

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### ***ATLANTIC AVENUE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN***

Councilmember Crystal Hudson, along with Councilmember Chi Ossé, invites you to a discussion about the future of the Atlantic Avenue corridor and surrounding blocks on **Wednesday, February 16, 2022 from 6-7PM**. Since 2015, Community Board 8 has worked on a community plan for the corridor between Vanderbilt and Franklin Avenues (sometimes referred to as the "M CROWN" community plan), and from 2019-2021, five private rezoning applications were approved in this area by the prior Council Members that will collectively bring nearly 1,000 new housing units.

The Councilmembers both agree that with more private developers lining up for ULURP rezonings but no progress yet on city investments or the overdue street redesign of this dangerous and congested corridor, more community conversation is needed on how to best address this long-neglected portion of Atlantic Avenue. They hope you can join them for this important community discussion. Please register for the meeting here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/town-hall-on-the-mcrown-community-plan-tickets-261978493727>. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Councilmember Hudson's office at 718-260-9191.

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***NYC DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION HORTICULTURE HANDS ON
TRAINING/GREENER ROADWAYS TRAINING***

NYC DOT and the City Cleanup Corps, U. Arias Corp is seeking trainees for its Greener Roadway Training Program. This is a program where New Yorkers are paid \$24.50 an hour to care for greenspaces and roadway plantings across Brooklyn and the Bronx.

The program starts in 2022 from March to June. Please apply by February 15th to uariascorp@gmail.com or call 718-874-7217. For more information visit <https://www1.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/greener-roadways-full-time.pdf>.

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***OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION***

**FREE TAX PREP:** You can get free help using NYC Free Tax Prep at most sites if your family earned \$68,000 or less or you are a single filer who earned \$48,000 or less in 2021. IRS certified VITA/TCE volunteer preparers can prepare returns for you or assist you in preparing your own returns online. Find a location or set up a virtual appointment by calling 311 or go to [www.nyc.gov/taxprep](http://www.nyc.gov/taxprep).

**MEDICAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT PROGRAM RECRUITING:** This 13-week full-time training, Monday through Friday 9 am - 4 pm, is for youth ages 17-24 with their High School diploma or HSE who are interested in a career in healthcare. Participants earn their Medical Administrative Assistant Certification from the National Health Career Association and learn medical terminology, basic bookkeeping, communications, telephone techniques, and customer service. Participants will intern in medical offices and receive job placement assistance. Must be 17-24 years old, must have a high school diploma or HSE, not enrolled in school, must be unemployed, U.S work-eligible, must reside in New York City. Must be available Monday-to-Friday, 9am-to-4pm. To apply, email [SGuzman@obtjobs.org](mailto:SGuzman@obtjobs.org), including: the program of interest, whether you meet the criteria requirements and contact information to reach you.

**FRESH FOOD BOXES IN BROWNSVILLE:** Brownsville community members can now receive a weekly supply of cooking greens, salad greens, and popular herbs alongside a unique assortment of locally sourced seasonal fruit and vegetables and shelf-stable items from GrowNYC, Ace Endico, Bowery Farming and local partner Brooklyn Packers. Brownsville Fresh Food Box distributions take place every Saturday from 10:00am - 4:00pm at Collective Fare at the BCCC (located at 69 Belmont Ave). Each Fresh Food Box contains over \$30 worth of fresh fruits and vegetables plus grocery basics that can feed 1-2 people for an entire week for just \$7 when paying with SNAP/EBT or \$10 with cash. Distributions will also feature on-site pre-screening support for SNAP registration from Hunger-Free America trained staff to help more residents easily access healthy food throughout their community. Customers can sign up in advance at [bit.ly/brownsvillefoodbox](http://bit.ly/brownsvillefoodbox), or can walk in during any distribution.

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Precinct Community Council Meetings

The next 77th Precinct Community Council meeting will be held on Monday, February 14, 2022 at 7 PM via Zoom.

You can access the meeting via <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1614270980>

Meeting ID: 161 427 0980

Participate by phone: +1-646-828-7666 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 161 427 0980

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The next meeting of the **78th Precinct Community Council** will take place on Tuesday, February 22 at 7:30PM. The NYPD 78th Precinct is responsible for policing Prospect Heights west of Vanderbilt Avenue.

Join the meeting to hear about policing issues from members of the command, and voice your safety and quality of life concerns by logging on at <https://zoom.us/j/95896505356?pwd=TjRzMVpoaVZSc1NMSnk0V1Y3SDdoZz09>.

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We wish a speedy recovery to Mr. Meredith Staton and Ms. Sharon Wedderburn, both of whom are recovering from surgery.

We wish the happiest of birthdays to Mr. Fred Frazier, Mr. Rob Puca, and Mr. Yves Vilus, all of whom will celebrate birthdays in the month of February.

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***ACROSS THE BOARD*** is a monthly publication:

**Irsa Weatherspoon, Chairperson**  
**Michelle George, District Manager/Editor**  
**Julia Neale, Community Coordinator**

**Community Board No. 8**  
**1291 St. Marks Avenue**  
**Brooklyn, N.Y. 11213**

[www.brooklyncb8.org](http://www.brooklyncb8.org)  
[brooklynccb8@gmail.com](mailto:brooklynccb8@gmail.com)

**Interim phone number: 732- 896-0244**