



NEWS FROM COMMUNITY BOARD 8

JUNE 2021

VOLUME 43, NO 5

District Manager's Report

We would like to welcome (and welcome back) our newly appointed Community Board members:

Ms. Gerri Buchanan
Ms. Aisha Dotson
Ms. Dian Duke
Ms. Frances Langley
Mr. Kwasi Mensah
Ms. Alicia Nosenzo
Ms. Fior Ortiz-Joyner
Ms. Celene Rosado

May your time on the Board be fruitful and rewarding.

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### ***EARLY VOTING***

**Early Voting for NYC Primary elections begins Saturday, June 12, 2021.** This year, voting for city offices will be done completely new! You are all encouraged to review Ranked Choice Voting and how to maximize your voting power by watching this handy Youtube video: <https://youtu.be/jqpst3uY-0w> or visiting [www.voting.nyc/rcv](http://www.voting.nyc/rcv). Learn as much as you can about each candidate for every

office you will be voting for during the Primary (official voting day and last day to vote is Tuesday, June 22, 2021) to avoid disenfranchising yourself. Read about each candidate at <https://www.voting.nyc/meet-the-candidates/>.

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FREE AIR CONDITIONERS

Do you qualify for a free air conditioner? Cooling Assistance Benefit of NYC Human Resources Administration might be able to provide one for you. To find out if you are eligible and to apply, visit <https://access.nyc.gov/programs/cooling-assistance-benefit/#how-it-works>.

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### ***FOOD PANTRIES AND DISTRIBUTIONS***

**Every Tuesday from 9 AM to 12 Noon, St. Matthews RC Church** has a free food pantry (if a month has five Tuesdays, there will be no distribution on the 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday). The pantry distribution site is 1342 Lincoln Place (near Utica Avenue). For more information, call 718-774-6747.

## **Wellness Wednesday Food Distribution with Councilman Robert Cornegy**

June 16<sup>th</sup>: Restoration Plaza, 1360 Fulton Street

June 23<sup>rd</sup>: St. John's Recreation Center, 1251 Prospect Place

June 30<sup>th</sup>: Corner of Nostrand Avenue and Prospect Place

For more information, contact the Councilman's office at 718-919-0740.

## **Weekly Food Distribution with Assemblywoman Diana Richardson**

Every Wednesday from 1:30 to 3 PM at the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council, 899 Montgomery Street (entrance on Schenectady Avenue).

Every Thursday from 10 AM to 12 Noon at Beulah Church of the Nazarene, 1250 St. John's Place (between Troy and Albany Avenues).

Every Saturday from 10 to 11:30 AM at Lenox Road Baptist Church, 1556 Nostrand Avenue (Lenox Road and Linden Blvd).

For more information, contact the Assemblywoman's office at (718) 771-3105.

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MONEY FOR ONLINE LEARNING FOR YOUTHS

Applications are open from now until Monday, June 15, 2021 for youth ages 14 to 24 who reside in certain Covid-19 hard hit communities across the city or on academic probation to **receive a \$1200 stipend to take online classes for 6 weeks this summer**. Do not miss this opportunity to get money simply for

taking online classes. For more information or to apply, visit <https://www.timeout.com/new-york-kids/news/nyc-will-pay-youth-1-200-to-take-online-courses-this-summer-061220>.

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## ***MONEY FOR ARTISTS***

**NYC dedicated \$25 million to support thousands of artists** starting this summer! City Artist Corps Grants will support NYC-based working artists impacted by Covid-19. Working with dozens of art service organizations, the program will **distribute one-time \$5,000 grants** to more than 3,000 artists to help them sustain their practice and engage the public across the city. Artists working in any discipline are eligible to apply. For more information, visit <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dcla/cultural-funding/cityartistcorp.page>.

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EMERGENCY BROADBAND BENEFIT

The Emergency Broadband Benefit is an FCC program to help families and households struggling to afford internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic. This new benefit will connect eligible households to jobs, critical healthcare services, virtual classrooms, and so much more.

The Emergency Broadband Benefit will provide a discount of up to \$50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute

more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price.

The Emergency Broadband Benefit is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per household. A household is eligible if a member of the household meets one of the criteria below:

- Has an income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, or Lifeline;
- Approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision in the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year;
- Experienced a substantial loss of income due to job loss or furlough since February 29, 2020 and the household had a total income in 2020 at or below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program.

Eligible households must both apply for the program and contact a participating provider to select a service plan and there are three ways for eligible households to apply:

- Contact a participating broadband provider directly to learn about their application process. If you are unable to apply through them directly, you will have to apply using option 2 or 3 below, and then contact a participating provider to select an eligible plan.

- Go to www.GetEmergencyBroadband.org to apply online and to find participating providers near you. After you apply, you will have to contact a participating provider to select an eligible plan.

After you received a notice that you have qualified for the program, households must contact a participating provider to select an Emergency Broadband Benefit eligible service plan.

For more information, visit <https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit>.

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### ***CENTER FOR NYC NEIGHBORHOODS***

**The Homeowner Help Desk is now live!** Homeowners can receive support with mortgage services and avoiding foreclosure through legal help; avoid deed thefts and mortgage scammers; financial assistance for home repairs and much more. If you are a homeowner struggling to make ends meet, contact the Homeowner Help Desk today by visiting [www.homeownerhelpny.org/help-desk](http://www.homeownerhelpny.org/help-desk) or by calling 1-855-HOME-456 (855-466-3456).

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NEW YORK STATE EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ERAP)

Applications for the NYS Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) are currently open. ERAP will provide significant economic relief to help low and moderate income households at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability by providing rental arrears, temporary rental assistance, and utility arrears assistance.

To apply, visit <https://on.ny.gov/3z3edSo> (link is case sensitive).

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### ***MTA MASK FORCE***

You are invited to join the MTA on June 17, 2021 as they bring back the MTA Mask Force to subway lines and buses in Brooklyn. Masks are still required on public transit and at stations. You can read more about Mask Force on their website and see photos of the MTA employees and volunteers who have been handing out masks to Transit customers since July 2020.

If this is your first time volunteering, note that there are multiple hub locations and times via the signup link. From the hubs, volunteers fan out on different lines and to different stations, so the closest hub may not be in your district, but you can get materials from the hub and distribute them at subway stations or buses in your district. Each volunteer is given their own KN-95 mask along with gloves, sanitizer, as well as bright yellow Mask Force gear to help customers identify them. Volunteers must be 18 years or older and will work 2.5 hour shifts from ten locations throughout the five boroughs (the locations in Brooklyn will be Atlantic Avenue Barclays Center and Broadway Junction). If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/mask-force>.

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COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR WALK-THROUGH SERIES: UTICA AVENUE

Join the Economic Development Committee of Community Board 8 on **Saturday, June 12, 2021 from 12 PM to**

3 PM for the first installment of the Commercial Corridor Walk through Series: Building Strong Businesses Block by Block. Merchants will have access to information on Business Loans and Grants; Funding and Partnership Opportunities; Public Safety Measures; Keeping Your Business Safe and others. **Participants will meet at Lakou Café located at 195 Utica Avenue (between Park and Prospect Place) at 12 PM sharp.**

This event is brought to you in partnership with: NYC Dept. of Small Business Services; Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce; Kings County District Attorney's Office; 77th Precinct; and Local Elected Officials. Businesses: you are not alone during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

For more information, email CB 8 at brooklyncb8@gmail.com.

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### ***SUMMER ESSENTIAL GIVEAWAYS***

The Healthy Families Healthy Summer Initiative is providing **free summer essentials for children 0 to 5 years old** including swimwear, swim diapers, diapers, wraps, summer footwear, and other summer accessories. **The giveaway will be held on Saturday, June 12, 2021 from 1 to 3 PM at 1585 Fulton Street.** For more information, contact Assemblywoman Stefani Zinerman's office at 718-399-7630.

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ELEVATE TO CELEBRATE OUR YOUTH

Epic Village Community Development Center Inc, in conjunction with the Youth Officers and Neighborhood Coordinating Officers of the 77th Precinct and Bethel Tabernacle AME Church are pleased to

invite you to **“Elevate to Celebrate Our Youth” on Saturday, June 12, 2021 from 11 AM to 3 PM** at 90 Schenectady Avenue (at Dean Street). Enjoy music, games, giveaways, financial advice and planning for children, and more Epic Village Community Development programs. For more information email evdny@epiclifecenter.org or contact Dr. Dave K. Allen at 646.573.6211.

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### ***YOUunity IN THE COMMUNITY***

**Brooklyn Job Corps** is pleased to present their second quarterly virtual event, YOUunity in the Community, where participants can meet with community partners, educators, proprietors, and political figures to address employment, social, political, legal, educational, and economic barriers as they challenge us all. The event will be held via Webex Virtual Meeting platform on **Thursday, June 17, 2021 from 11AM to 12:20 PM**. Join via video via <https://jobcorpsclassroom.webex.com/webex.com/jobcorpsclassroom/j.php?MTID=m0b71e28e3be0257b5de5fce5cee3f44f>, passcode 120 491 4493. You can also call in by dialing 401-418-9388 and using the passcode above.

For mor information, please contact Renee Bracy at 718-623-4012 or email [bracy.renee@jobcorps.org](mailto:bracy.renee@jobcorps.org).

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SAFE SUMMER BLOCK PARTY

On Friday, June 18, 2021 from 11 AM to 3 PM, join the 77th Precinct NCO Sector D officers Napolitano and Rodriguez for a community-based organization meet and greet. Confirmed organizations include the Brooklyn Job Center, Big Apple Leadership

Academy, Quest Youth Organization, Victory Music and Dance Camp, and Brownsville Bombers Little League. The meet and greet will be held at 1483 St. John’s Place. For more information, contact PO Napolitano at 917-376-8807 or PO Rodriguez at 917-756-3285.

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### ***STRIVE MASONRY TRAINING***

**Free 11-week Masonry training begins on Friday, June 18, 2021.** Training entails professional development; OSHA 30, SST, Suspended Scaffold, Silica, and GPRO Certifications; bricklaying, roofing, pointing, green building operation and maintenance, basic plumbing training and much more; remote and in-person classes with social distancing.

For more information, contact [info@strive.org](mailto:info@strive.org), call 212-360-1100, or sign up for a free info session via Zoom on Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 AM (zoom meeting ID 951 5238 1566).

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FREE SHREDDING EVENT

The **Crown Heights North Association (CHNA)** is pleased to bring free shredding back to the community. Join CHNA on **Saturday, June 19, 2021 from 9 AM to Noon (12PM)** at St. Gregory’s RC Church located at 991 St. John’s Place (corner of Brooklyn Avenue). Bring papers with personally identifying information to be discarded safely, old books, and other documents. All paper items can be shredded, but sorry, no metal. Musical entertainment by The Dwayne Cook Broadnax Group featuring Patsy Grant and Stephanie Bates.

Social distancing will be practiced and participants will be required to wear a mask for the safety of all. For more information, call 646-580-8229, visit www.crownheightsnorth.org, or follow on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Crown-Heights-North-Association.

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### ***JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION***

**Celebrate Juneteenth at Brower Park on Saturday, June 19, 2021 from 11 AM to 4 PM.** The event will feature musical performances, visual and spoken word artists, arts and crafts, a bookmobile, produce giveaway, and much more! Enter on Brooklyn Avenue at Prospect Place.

Juneteenth is a holiday remembering the day of June 19, 1865, when the last remaining community of enslaved persons in Galveston, TX were notified that there were actually free—nearly three years after the passage of the Emancipation Proclamation. This will be the first year that Juneteenth is recognized as a holiday in New York State following signed legislation by Governor Andrew Cuomo in October 2020.

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REVIVING OUR COMMUNITY GOSPEL CONCERT

Advent Fellowship Church located at 1666 Bergen Street invites you to a gospel concert on **Saturday, June 19, 2021 from 3:30PM to 7:30 PM** at the Playground of the Kingsboro Houses on Bergen Street near Rochester Avenue. Enjoy live musicians, artists, spoken word, health screenings, and much more.

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### ***SUMMER BASKETBALL PROGRAM***

**Patrol Services Bureau Community Solutions presents Blue Chips: Summer Basketball Program starting June 22, 2021.** Mentoring and career development is open to all youth ages 12 to 17, and 8 week co-ed basketball league is open to all youth ages 13 to 16. Register for free at your local police precinct.

For District 8, the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct is located at 127 Utica Avenue (corner of Bergen Street). The 78<sup>th</sup> Precinct is located at 65 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue (corner of Bergen Street).

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IMMIGRATION Q&A

In partnership with members of the NY City Council, please join CUNY Citizens Now for an **Immigration Q&A on Thursday, June 24, 2021 from 11 AM to 3 PM via Zoom.** Attorneys and paralegals will meet with you in a private zoom room to answer your questions about TPS, DACA, and President Biden's immigration proposal. Contact 646-664-9400 or 212-652-2071 for a zoom appointment or text 929-334-3784.

Constituents will also be screened to see if they are eligible for any additional immigration benefits. Registration for any of the services closes on Tuesday, June 23, 2021.

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### ***NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY***

**Sunday, June 27, 2021 is National HIV Testing Day.** Knowing your HIV status saves lives. Unfortunately, recent years have shown a decline in HIV testing rates and an increase in transmission in certain communities and demographics. You can

help by sharing with your family friends what knowing your HIV status means to you. Your words can empower others to get tested, know their status, learn valuable preventative measures, and obtain treatment. Many facilities across the city offer free confidential rapid HIV testing.

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PROMOTE A (OR YOUR!) SMALL BUSINESS

Are you a small business owner or do you know one? Do you have a favorite small business? Councilman Robert Cornegy's office is seeking to enhance support for local entrepreneurs in the Bed-Stuy and Crown Heights North communities. Complete this form to boost/promote a small business: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe3BWnBSnnRzFro-MwjYhgiWuVNP_guN7E4AalYr3W7K7h4-Q/viewform.

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### ***NYC PARKS IS HIRING 10K WORKERS***

NYC Parks is hiring 10,000 workers to help keep our city clean and green. Become part of the City Cleanup Corps and get paid to help our city thrive. Dozens of jobs are available by visiting <https://www.nycgovparks.org/opportunities/jobs>.

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MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCE GUIDE

The Covid-19 Pandemic, despite coming to an end, continues to cause numerous mental health issues for residents. As such, Councilman Robert Cornegy has put together a Mental Health Resource guide

to help all residents navigate any issues they may be experiencing. To access this guide and all others from the Councilman, visit <https://council.nyc.gov/robert-cornegy/resources-guides/>.

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### ***EXPLORE HEALTH CAREERS***

Neighbors in Action a.k.a. Save Our Streets Brooklyn hosts a week-long micro internship exploring health related careers. Learn about Covid-19 and the vaccine; get CPR Certified for free; participate in distributing PPE and vital resources to community members; learn how to become an EMT; earn up to \$300 for the one week program that takes place June 21<sup>st</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>. Participants must be 16 to 24 years old. For more information contact Edward McWilliams at [mcwilliams@neighborsinaction.org](mailto:mcwilliams@neighborsinaction.org) or 646-975-1440.

Applications due June 16, 2021 and can be accessed by visiting [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdg-KE\\_GZCZHY2uUNk3c9SW0FRHJORsvU32OH0ZwQ6IGtQOMA/viewform?fbclid=IwAR06CdBrvktVa7aUksAKsaAsoJRemeb10Ozk6KXaQNa-yaSL0c6zc-nOJx8](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdg-KE_GZCZHY2uUNk3c9SW0FRHJORsvU32OH0ZwQ6IGtQOMA/viewform?fbclid=IwAR06CdBrvktVa7aUksAKsaAsoJRemeb10Ozk6KXaQNa-yaSL0c6zc-nOJx8).

For more information, visit <http://neighborsinaction.org/youthcenter/>.

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We wish the happiest of birthdays to Community Board members Mr. Brian Saunders, Ms. Ethel Tyus, Ms. Michelle George, District Manager, Mr. Robert Witherwax, Ms. Alicia Nosenzo, Mr. Robert Callahan, who will all celebrate birthdays in the month of July.

We wish the happiest of birthdays to Ms. Vilma Zuniga and Ms. Fior Ortiz-Joyner, who will celebrate birthdays in the month of August.

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We send our heartfelt condolences to longtime community board member Sharon Wedderburn for the loss of her mother Edith.

We also send our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of James Caldwell over his transition. Mr. Caldwell was the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council President for over 20 years.

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ACROSS THE BOARD is a monthly publication:

Ethel Tyus, Chairperson
Michelle George, District
Manager/Editor
Julia Neale, Community Coordinator

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