



NEWS FROM COMMUNITY BOARD 8

OCTOBER 2020

VOLUME 42, NO 6

000 District Manager's Report

CENSUS 2020

There is still time to be counted in the Census, and it is urgent that all New Yorkers do just that. Two weeks ago, U.S. District Judge Koh of the Northern District of California ordered that the census must continue through October 31st, a decision that was upheld. We cannot wait for the final decision to play out in the courts; our fair share of \$1.5 trillion, as well as our political future, are on the line.

~~~~~

### ***VOTER INFORMATION***

This November, we encourage New Yorkers to cast their vote in the general election. While we understand that Covid-19 remains a threat and might influence whether or not you vote in person, this year you have the option of voting by mail and are encouraged to do so. The deadline to request an absentee ballot to vote by mail is October 27<sup>th</sup>. To request an absentee ballot, go to [www.vote.nyc](http://www.vote.nyc) and complete the form as soon as possible. The Board of Elections (BOE) will then mail you a ballot. If you have received an absentee ballot with a return envelope listing the wrong person, DO NOT return your ballot. Instead, the BOE will automatically mail affected voters a corrected ballot packet and instructions.

Recognizing the uncertainty with the United States Postal Service due to interference at the federal level, you are advised to request and submit your ballot as soon as possible and earlier rather than later to avoid delay. If you prefer to vote in person, we recommend voting early to dispel long lines and unnecessary risk. You can find your early voting and Election Day poll sites [and a sample ballot] by visiting [www.nyc.pollsitelocator.com](http://www.nyc.pollsitelocator.com).

**Finally, sign up to be a poll worker.** The New York City Board of Elections is actively seeking poll workers for the upcoming election. **You can earn up to \$2800** by working up

to ten days during early voting and on Election Day. To apply to be a poll worker, visit <https://nyc.electiondayworker.com/start.aspx>.

~~~~~

INDOOR DINING IS BACK!

Indoor dining in most of New York City has resumed as of Sept 30th at 25% Capacity. There are some restrictions, however, and certain hotspot zip codes are under partial strict restrictions again. Current indoor dining limitations in areas eligible are:

- One person per party has to leave their contact information.
- Masks must be worn at all times
- Tables must be at least six feet apart
- No one is allowed to sit at the bar
- Restaurants must close by midnight

If New York City hits 2% in COVID-19 positivity rates, the City will immediately reassess. Once indoor dining begins, the public will be able to call 833-208-4160 to make a report or text VIOLATION to 855-904-5036.

~~~~~

### ***MUNICIPAL SERVICES UPDATE***

Budget cuts have severely hampered certain services that city residents have come to expect and rely on. Some agencies have experienced a reduction in funding of over 15% and sometimes much more. Services eliminated or reduced until such time as the budget gap is closed are:

- No new speed humps approved and installed
- Organics collection discontinued in most areas and expansion to new areas ceased for at least one year
- SAFE disposal events suspended for at least one year
- Curbside electronics collection eliminated
- Graffiti removal program suspended
- Parks Dept. funds severely limited and 371 Parks Dept. staff members relieved of employment, reducing cleaning and pruning in parks and playgrounds
- Recreation centers remain closed and Parks Dept. led activities severely reduced
- Senior centers closed for recreational activities
- Basement Apartment Conversion program with HPD paused indefinitely
- Numerous projects by the Economic Development Corporation suspended as the agency focuses on PPE and obtaining funds from the federal government
- Significant reduction in corner litter basket collection frequency
- 30% reduction in vacant lot cleaning

We should all remain mindful of our individual personal accountability for our actions. If you live next door to an elderly property owner or an absentee owner and recognize that no one is sweeping the front of the property 18 inches into the gutter as required by law, if you have the means to do so, please help out. Take turns rotating cleanup duties with your neighbors to ensure that your block is clean. If you live near a corner basket and notice that it is often overflowing, volunteer to adopt a basket. The Dept. of Sanitation will provide the bags necessary for changing. If you recognize certain garbage strewn streets in your immediate vicinity, organize a two-hour street cleanup. If you utilize parks and playgrounds, take your trash with you when you leave rather than leaving it behind. If a corner basket is overflowing, do not continue throwing garbage into it and instead hold it until you find one with space or toss it when you get home. If you toss it when you get home, you will be able to recycle as well. If you see people littering, use it as a teachable moment and let them know how harmful littering is and then be a role model and discard it where it belongs. If we all rise up and lead by positive example, we will see great changes in and for our community.

Additionally, October 1<sup>st</sup> marked snow season with the Dept. of Sanitation. As such, there is a revolving late night pickup as trucks are readied for snow and salt duty. You are encouraged to put your garbage curbside by 6 PM the day prior to your regularly scheduled pickup day to avoid missing pickup, which can be done on any shift starting at midnight. If you elect to place your garbage out early morning, you run the risk of missing pickup. There is no longer a guarantee that a truck will be available to gather your rubbish on the same day if you miss pickup.

~~~~~

FIRE SAFETY MONTH

October is Fire Safety month with the FDNY. The end of this month begins their campaign-Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery, a time when the FDNY Fire Safety Education Unit will be distributing fire safety literature and 9-volt batteries to constituents throughout the five boroughs. Have a working smoke alarm in your home saves lives. Change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms when you change your clocks on October 31st.

~~~~~

### ***BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM***

Over the weekend COVID-19 rates in Brooklyn continued to rise. Unfortunately, this means that the Brooklyn Children's Museum will **not** reopen its indoor exhibits on October 10th as planned. There have been no COVID cases on BCM's site, and the CB 8 community remains open for business; however, the Museum is acting with an abundance of caution to keep the community as safe as possible.

**They are pleased to share that their outdoor events are still happening, and they are planning MORE outdoor programming throughout the fall and winter.** They are leading in innovation of how to think differently about what it means to visit a museum while wearing jackets and masks, but still having fun.

Below are a few of the programs they have planned over the next few weeks.

### **October 9: Member Day with The Little Orchestra Society**

Members are invited to join us at no charge for music and art workshops on BCM's roof. Members have been sent an invitation – if you didn't receive it, reach out to [hello@brooklynkids.org](mailto:hello@brooklynkids.org).

### **October 12: Indigenous Peoples' Day**

Learn about and celebrate Native American cultures on BCM's roof with programs and performances in partnership with the National Museum of the American Indian, Taino storyteller Bobby Gonzalez, and dancer Ty Defoe (Giizhig), Oneida and Ojibwe Nations. [Buy tickets here for \\$5 per person](#). BCM Members are free!

Do you have an idea about how Brooklyn Children's Museum can be a resource to families in the borough? Don't keep it to yourself! As a whole, the nation is navigating uncharted territory and all suggestions are welcomed. If you have any suggestions, ideas, thoughts, questions or comments, please email them to [swilchfort@brooklynkids.org](mailto:swilchfort@brooklynkids.org).

~~~~~

HELP CLEAN UP ST. JOHN'S PARK!

The Friends of St. John's Park is hosting a park cleanup event under the "It's My Park Day" umbrella on **Saturday, October 10, 2020 from 10:30 AM to 1 PM**. If you are interested in participating, volunteers are asked to meet at 10:15 AM in front of the St. John's Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place (between Troy and Schenectady Avenues). Help beautify the park by weeding, clearing litter, and planting bulbs! For more information, email friendsofstjohnspark@gmail.com.

~~~~~

### ***POWER OF THE VOTE 2020***

The Brooklyn Women's Bar Association invites you to join a panel discussion on **Tuesday, October 20, 2020** on the Vote 2020 campaign. Invited panelists include NYS Attorney General Letitia James, Dr. Hazel Dukes, President of the NAACP New York State Conference, and Gloria Browne-Marshall, Professor of Constitutional Law at John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Register by October 16<sup>th</sup> at [www.brooklynwomensbar.org](http://www.brooklynwomensbar.org) to reserve your place in the conference.

~~~~~

FREE SHREDDING EVENT

The Crown Heights North Association is hosting a free shredding event on Saturday, October 24, 2020 from 9 AM to Noon at St. Gregory's RC Church located at 991 St. John's Place, corner of Brooklyn Avenue. Shred your papers, documents, books. Social distancing will be practiced and masks are required. Gloves are encouraged.

~~~~~

### ***FRESH FOOD VOUCHERS***

Nourish NY coupons are available for the Harvest Home Farmers Market (HHFM). HHFM is a pioneer in bringing farmers' markets to low-income New Yorkers and underserved neighborhoods, and operates locations throughout the city, and serves more than 250,000 shoppers a year.

For more information or to obtain vouchers for distribution, please contact Ms. Maritza Owens, Chief Executive Officer for Harvest Home Farmer's Market at (212) 828-3361.

The Farmers Market Brower Park is every Thursday from 8am - 3pm at Brooklyn Avenue & Prospect Place, next to Brooklyn Children's Museum until November 19, 2020.

~~~~~

We wish the **happiest of birthdays to Mr. Yves Vilus**, who will celebrate a birthday in the month of October.

~~~~~

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

**Ethel Tyus, 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)  
[brooklyncb8@gmail.com](mailto:brooklyncb8@gmail.com)

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