



NEWS FROM COMMUNITY BOARD 8

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District Manager's Report

Covid-19 Vaccines are now available to all New York State residents over the age of 16! All city residents are encouraged to schedule their free vaccination by either visiting www.nyc.gov/coronavirus or calling (877) 829-4692 (877-VAX-4NYC). Vaccines are offered at a myriad of places throughout the city, including all NYC Dept. of Health clinics and local pharmacies such as Rite Aid and CVS.

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### ***GREAT COVID-19 RE-OPENING NEWS***

Stay informed as the State allows more industries to reopen!

As of April 1: **Large performing arts and sports venues are allowed to reopen.** Outdoor venues with 2,500+ capacity are capped at 20%; indoor venues with 1,500+ capacity are capped at 10%. **Proof of a negative Covid-19 test or immunization is required for all attendees.** Venues must follow the guidelines outlined in the New York State Department of Health's Interim Guidance for Large Scale Performing Arts and Entertainment Venues during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

As of April 2: **Small and Medium performances and live entertainment events are allowed to resume.** Indoor venues with a capacity of less than 1,500 attendees can reopen at 33% capacity up to 100 people or 150 people with proof of a negative Covid-19 test or immunization from all attendees. Outdoor venues with a capacity of less than 2,500 attendees can reopen at 33% capacity, with up to 200 people or 500 people with proof of a negative Covid-19 test or immunization from all attendees. Social distancing and face coverings will be required for all attendees, as well as strict adherence to all applicable NYS Department of Health guidance.

As of April 5: The State is lifting the 11 p.m. curfew currently in place for casinos, movie theaters, bowling alleys, billiards halls, gyms and fitness centers. The 11 p.m. curfew for food and beverage establishments and the 12 a.m. curfew for catered events will remain in effect.

**Required Local Health Department Notifications for Live Performance:** If you wish to offer a live performance that exceeds the social gathering limit (but is within the limits established by the State for performances when the audience is COVID-19 tested or vaccinated) you MUST notify the NYC Department of Health at least five (5) days in advance. (The Health Department is updating their form to specifically address live performance, but you may begin using it before those updates are made). For the form, please visit <https://nycdohmh.surveymonkey.com/r/nyceventreg>.

**New York State legislators recently passed the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act, which creates the framework that will build a regulated industry to replace the illegal market.** The full text of the law and a summary of the law are available on the NYS Senate's website (<https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/legislation-allow-adult-use-cultivation-recreational-marijuana-advances>) Guidance from the Mayor's office on this new law and its impact on the hospitality industry will be made available in the coming weeks.

As of April 8<sup>th</sup>: **applications will open for the U.S. Small Business Administration Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) which provides emergency assistance for eligible venues affected by COVID-19.** Sign-Up for application alert at [www.svograntportal.sba.gov](http://www.svograntportal.sba.gov). For more information, read the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant - FAQ page here: <https://www.sba.gov/document/support-faq-regarding-shuttered-venue-operators-grant-svog>, and there is a convenient video from a recently held webinar that can be watched on YouTube.

You can also join any of the many free webinars offered weekly with Curtains Up NYC, which is helping venue operators prepare for re-opening by making understanding the guidelines for re-opening easier to understand. Get ready now to apply with Curtains Up NYC, a City program to provide application assistance to live-performance venues, organizations and workers applying for the SVOG. Information can be found at [www.nyc.gov/curtainsupnyc](http://www.nyc.gov/curtainsupnyc) or by calling 888-SBS-4NYC.

**Fair Share NYC : The U.S. Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) application deadline has been extended to MAY 31.**

To connect New York City's small business owners to federal relief funds, the NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS) has launched Fair Share NYC, offering free webinars, technical assistance and access to lenders to help businesses interested in applying for PPP loans. For more information, visit [www.nyc.gov/ppp](http://www.nyc.gov/ppp) or call 888-SBS-4NYC.

**Open Streets NYC:** NYC's Open Streets program allows communities to embrace new public space. Open Streets prioritize pedestrians and cyclists by transforming streets into public space. These transformations allow for a range of activities, support local businesses, and create opportunities for New Yorkers to gather together safely. The 2021 Open Streets application is now live!

Even if you had an Open Streets application in 2020, you must apply as well as any new location. The Open Streets program will now replace the Weekend Walks and Seasonal Streets program(s).

Visit [www.nyc.gov/openstreets](http://www.nyc.gov/openstreets) for more information and to apply, or email [openstreets@dot.nyc.gov](mailto:openstreets@dot.nyc.gov) with any questions or concerns.

**Outdoor performances continue to roll out in neighborhoods across the city via Open Culture NYC.** The program, which runs through October 31, allows ticketed, socially distanced, outdoor performances at nearly 200 street locations throughout the five boroughs. Learn more and apply at [www.nyc.gov/openculture](http://www.nyc.gov/openculture).

As always, the Covid Pandemic is creating growing pains in areas where none existed before. As such, if you notice an issue with a hospitality industry-related establishment, we encourage you to contact MEND NYC prior to addressing the issue with an oversight agency. MEND NYC is a new citywide initiative that provides free mediation and conflict resolution services to address a number of neighborhood disputes that impact New Yorkers every day. This program is an opportunity to create direct communication and compromise, establishing respectful and ongoing relationships that help New Yorkers co-exist peacefully in their communities while ensuring that small businesses thrive.

MEND NYC helps New Yorkers address issues in their neighborhood that may include:

- Quality-of-life issues between residents and businesses
- Negotiation between commercial tenants and landlords
- Neighboring business to business misunderstandings

Contact MEND first will help to create a smooth re-integration of opening efforts. For more information, please visit <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/oath/conflict-resolution/mediating-establishment-and-neighbor-disputes.page>.

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THE MARIJUANA DE-CRIMINALIZATION BILL BRIEFLY EXPLAINED

While many may have strong opinions on the matter (either positive or negative), the decriminalization of marijuana in the state of New York allows for many discrepancies facing black and brown communities to be rectified. Below are the key tenants of the decriminalization bill.

- Adults who are 21 and up can smoke or otherwise consume cannabis and possess up to 3 ounces.
- New Yorkers with marijuana-related convictions that are no longer illegal will have their records expunged.

- And businesses can apply for licenses to sell recreational marijuana, grow it or set up "consumption lounges."
- Selling marijuana without a state license — like, say, at Washington Square Park or doing at-home deliveries — is still illegal under the law. But anything below 3 ounces falls short of a misdemeanor.

What does this mean for the community and city at large? It could possibly mean many things, none greater than strengthened community-policing relations. Why? Because the smell of marijuana no longer classifies as probable cause, resulting in a mandatory stop and frisk and arrest. Instead, it is a non-starter issue. Will you smell more secondhand marijuana smoke? Likely no more than you were accustomed to smelling on a regular basis. Additionally, just like with cigarettes, marijuana smoking in public spaces like parks and beaches is still prohibited.

Smoking cannabis now falls under the state's clean indoor air act, which effectively makes it legal to smoke anywhere it's legal to smoke tobacco. That means New Yorkers can legally smoke marijuana outside, although it should be noted it's illegal to smoke tobacco in the city's parks. City dwellers can also smoke in their homes, with some notable exceptions. The biggest is NYCHA homes, which as federal projects still ban marijuana.

(This information was culled without much change from multiple community blog and news articles.)

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### ***PROSPECT HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CLEAN UP DAY!***

Team up to clean up Prospect Heights' sidewalks and streets! Prospect Heights community organizations are **hosting a neighborhood wide cleanup on Saturday, April 10, 2021 from 9 AM to Noon (with a rain date for Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>)**. To participate, simply clean in front of your own building or help clean another area. The more neighbors pitch in, the better.

Additionally, you can meet at 9 AM at one of the locations below to target a clean-up of a specific area:

- 535 Dean Street (Bergen, Dean and Pacific Streets near the 78th Precinct)
- Carlton Avenue/Park Place intersection (Q and B subway entrances and Carlton Avenue/Park Place intersection)
- 550 Vanderbilt (Vanderbilt Avenue from Atlantic Avenue to Plaza Street)
- Underhill Playground
- Underhill Avenue/Lincoln Place (Underhill Avenue and environs north of Eastern Parkway)

Bring tools and gloves if you can. Social distancing and masks required.

To volunteer, you can sign up online at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1r964dmiau9Ecl17p90cPYnil2cT8jf\\_aQPS6vJSFVhI/viewform?gxids=7628&edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1r964dmiau9Ecl17p90cPYnil2cT8jf_aQPS6vJSFVhI/viewform?gxids=7628&edit_requested=true)) or email [cleanprospectheights@gmail.com](mailto:cleanprospectheights@gmail.com).

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CELEBRATE EARTH DAY AT BROWER PARK

Join Friends of Brower Park for Earth Day Fun Day! Sunday, April 18th, 2021 3pm to 5pm! Get down in the dirt for Earth Day and turn the compost while learning more in the Bug Storytime, Show & Tell. Get a Bike Safety Check to keep your green transportation rolling this Spring. Help make a Recycled Materials Art Banner while learning about park plants. Bring your extra seeds, seedlings, plant cuttings and garden supplies and join the Community Seed and Plant Swap & Share to outfit your garden or those of your neighbors. And so much more!

Additionally, Friends of Brower Park will be holding Part 2 of its 3 Part Series Discussion on Urban Gardening on April 24, 2021 from 10:30am-11:30am via Zoom. You can participate by going to zoom.com and entering meeting number 590 562 6361 with passcode Brower1891.

For more information on any of the events, email contactus@friendsofbrowerpark.org.

EARTH DAY WITH THE NORTH FLATBUSH AVENUE BID

Join the North Flatbush Avenue BID on Thursday, April 22nd from 4-8pm as they celebrate Earth Day on North Flatbush Avenue! St. Marks Avenue from Flatbush to 6th Avenues will be closed to vehicular traffic to allow the space to be used for live music, fun and educational programming. Programming partners include:

- Batala -- an incredible all female drum troop!
- Balloon animals with Bert Pinock
- Bike helmet giveaway courtesy of 511 RideShare and NYC DOT
- Green Mountain Energy
- FDNY Fire Safety Demo
- Bike registration with NYPD
- Sanitation education table with DSNY
- E-waste collection
- Gait analysis with Brooklyn Running Company

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### ***MTA MASK FORCE: EARTH DAY EDITION***

Please join the MTA for its tenth Mask Force on Earth Day, Thursday, April 22, 2021. Free reusable masks in both adult and kid sizes will be available to send two valuable positive messages: remaining safe during covid and saving the earth!

Participation to-date from elected officials representing all five boroughs as well as volunteers from the community during the on-going Covid-19 Pandemic. Anyone over the age of 18 can sign up to be a Mask Force volunteer, and may do so at <https://new.mta.info/maskforce>.

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 a volunteer's specific district, but all volunteers can get materials from the hub and distribute them at subway stations or buses at whatever location they prefer. 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 themselves as a volunteer.

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SLOAN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING MATH AND SCIENCE

The Sloan Award recognizes creative mathematics and science teachers who achieve superb results and inspire young people to pursue careers in science and mathematics. Each year, seven awards are given. Each teacher receives \$5,000 and the school's science or mathematics department receives \$2,500 to be used to strengthen their program.

To qualify for nomination, a teacher must be a New York City high school math or science teacher for at least five years, must teach at least four periods a day, and demonstrate excellence in teaching and in achieving results. The winners are chosen by an independent panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians and educators.

For more information or to nominate a teacher, visit <https://www.fcny.org/fcny/core/sae/about/>.

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### ***NEWS AND UPDATES FROM COUNCILMAN ROBERT CORNEGY***

Councilman Robert Cornegy is pleased to share many events and updates with the community via his online newsletter. To see what the Councilman is up to and what services he is currently providing, please visit [https://mailchi.mp/00d8c2a49a2a/cornegy\\_news\\_5march21-13412339](https://mailchi.mp/00d8c2a49a2a/cornegy_news_5march21-13412339).

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NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH

The American Heart Association, with support from Kroger Health, is encouraging everyone to focus on heart health by learning to make smarter food choices. During National Nutrition

Month the AHA and Kroger are joining forces to inspire you, too! They have prepared educational content, resources and tools to help you shop, cook and eat healthier all year long.

Content is available on Youtube, by visiting the American Heart Association's page (simply go to www.youtube.com and use the search function at the top for American Heart Association). Content includes meal prep and planning, exercise, educational content for the drawbacks of an unhealthy diet, and much more.

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***DNA LEARNING CENTER ANYTIME CAMP  
SUMMER CAM REGISTRATION***

DNA Learning Center is pleased to re-open its summer camp dedicated to the biological sciences. Camps are available for all ages, with special content depending upon age and grade level as well. For information on scholarships, locations, services, and any other question you may have, visit <https://summercamps.dnalc.org/#>.

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BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE NYPD

Looking to become a part of the change in your community? Join NYPD's FINEST, as they are currently recruiting for the next Police Officer class.

Registration is required and will be open through April 27, 2021. To register for the exam, visit www.nyc.gov/oasys. For more information, contact 212-RECRUIT or visit the [NYPD's website](#).

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We wish the happiest of birthdays to **Ms. Princess Benn-James and Ms. Marva Henry**, who will both celebrate birthdays in the month of April.

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ACROSS THE BOARD is a monthly publication:

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