



## ***NEWS FROM COMMUNITY BOARD 8***

**DECEMBER 2020**

**VOLUME 42, NO 8**

### ***GREETINGS FROM CB 8 CHAIRPERSON, ETHEL TYUS***

I would like to extend Holiday Greetings to the Residents and Business Owners of Community District 8!

This year has been a trying time for all of us. Since we are still here, we are the lucky ones. As such, we need to plan for a brighter, safer future knowing that there is a light at the end of this tunnel. An effective and safe vaccine is on the horizon. By March 2021, it should be widely available to us for free at our local City and State Hospitals including Kings County, Downstate, Woodhull, and Interfaith.

If anything good has come from this trial, it's that it has shown us that we are not quitters. This community has come together over the past year, using whatever means necessary to attend to the welfare of those less fortunate and to maintain focus on what is happening in the District and what might be coming down the pike.

We are grateful for your continuing civic engagement and wish you a very happy and safe Holiday and a safe and healthy New Year.

***Ethel Tyus, Esq.***

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### ***DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT***

Did you know that all meetings organized by Community Board 8 during the Covid Pause are recorded and available on our website and our YouTube Channel? Most meetings are also live-streamed to YouTube in case you are unable to join via Webex. To search YouTube, just search for Brooklyn Community Board 8. For easier access, visit the videos page of our website at <http://www.brooklyncb8.org/downloads/videos/>.

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## ***ADA ACCESSIBILITY AT EASTERN PARKWAY/BROOKLYN MUSEUM RIBBON CUTTING***

The MTA will be hosting a ceremony to celebrate the opening of the ADA elevators at the Eastern Parkway-Brooklyn Museum 2/3 station on **Thursday, December 17, 2020 beginning at 1:30 p.m.** As the community knows, this was a project long in the making. We hope many of you will attend.

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## ***COVID UPDATES FROM NEW YORK CITY AND NEW YORK STATE***

**NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) has compiled a list of resources related to the Covid-19 Pandemic from which many in the community can benefit.** For the latest information to all of their COVID-19 resources listed below and in additional languages, please visit: [www.nyc.gov/DCWPAAlerts](http://www.nyc.gov/DCWPAAlerts).

The Pandemic has not interrupted NYC Workplace laws. There have been new amendments to the NYC Paid Safe and Sick Leave Law that will take effect in 2 Phases. Learn more about employee rights and employer responsibilities here: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dca/downloads/pdf/workers/Complying-with-NYC-Workplace-Laws-During-COVID-19.pdf>.

Information for Workers on the Paid Safe and Sick Leave Law can be found here: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dca/workers/workersrights/paid-sick-leave-law-for-workers.page>. If you are an employee and believe your employer is violating these laws, please contact the DCWP Worker Protection Hotline by calling 311 and saying "Worker Protection Hotline" if you have questions about reopening, health, and safety guidelines for the workplace, or to report an employer that is not following reopening requirements.

The deadline to file a 2019 tax return was October 15, 2020. If you were required to file a return, NYC Free Tax Prep can assist you if you meet income requirements; however, be aware that late filing penalties and late payment penalties may apply. Eligible New Yorkers are encouraged to use these NYC Free Tax Prep services. Options include In-person Tax Prep, Drop-off Service, Virtual Tax Prep, and Assisted Self-Prep for **free**. For more information, visit [www.nyc.gov/taxprep](http://www.nyc.gov/taxprep).

The professional financial counselors at NYC Financial Empowerment Centers can help New Yorkers manage their bills and credit amidst the coronavirus crisis, understand student loan repayment options, and more in a confidential setting. For the health and safety of our providers and clients, most Financial Counseling sessions will be conducted over the phone. Book an appointment at [www.nyc.gov/talkmoney](http://www.nyc.gov/talkmoney).

If you have a Student Loan and your income or family size changed, you are urged to access important information about payments and resources, which can be found at [www.nyc.gov/studentloans](http://www.nyc.gov/studentloans). Here, you can learn about Income-Driven Repayment (IDR) plans that can lower your monthly payments. Book an appointment for free financial counseling to [www.nyc.gov/talkmoney](http://www.nyc.gov/talkmoney).

If you are being called by Debt Collectors, please note that DWCP has created a joint letter template that you can fill out and mail (required by federal law) so debt collectors cannot contact you until the State of Emergency in New York City has ended. More information can be found at <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dca/downloads/pdf/consumers/DCA-Template-Cease-Debt-Collection-Communication-Letter-for-Consumers.pdf>. There is no need to be further strained by debt collection calls on top of everything else going on in the world.

COVID-19 Scams and Safety Tips: Important Information that describes common COVID-19-related scams and tips to stay safe. For an updated list of scams and how to report being a victim, visit <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dca/downloads/pdf/consumers/COVID-19-Scams-and-Safety-Tips-English.pdf>. Be vigilant about protecting yourself and your family.

As covid continues to wreak havoc on life in the United States, many are faced with the daunting task of burying their loved ones that succumb to the deadly disease. If you have any questions about Funeral Planning During COVID-19, important Information for New Yorkers who have lost loved ones can be found at <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dca/downloads/pdf/consumers/Funeral-Planning-During-COVID-19-English.pdf>.

**NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene** has put together a compilation of guidance for dealing with the continued covid pandemic from face masks to how to properly document your eligibility for NYS Emergency Paid Sick Leave. The document can be found at <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-main.page>.

**The NYC Human Resources Administration** continues to work to assist cash strapped eligible New Yorkers receive assistance and services. Cash Assistance is available in the form of an emergency cash grant if it will meet certain special needs. For more information call HRA's Infoline at 718-557-1399 or please visit: <https://a069-access.nyc.gov/accesshra/>.

Funeral and Burial Guidance and Assistance is available through HRA as well, as the agency can provide financial assistance to individuals who need assistance to meet qualifying funeral expenses. For more information, visit: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hra/help/burial-assistance.page>.

Food Resources are available through the GetFoodNYC Emergency Home Food delivery program to provide food for coronavirus (COVID-19)-vulnerable and food-insecure New Yorkers not currently served through existing food delivery programs. Visit <https://cv19engagementportal.cityofnewyork.us/#/display/5e84f1edb99951020e7fef1f> for more information.

New Yorkers are still encouraged to get regular covid tests. There are multiple sites for free testing offered by NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC). Testing is free, quick, easy, and entirely painless. Know your status; save a friend or loved one. Wait times are very short if there is even a wait at all, and certain locations have rapid testing with results in 2 hours or less. For testing locations, please visit <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/get-tested/covid-19-testing.page>.

Mayor's Office to Protect Tenants has launched the Tenant Resource Portal: New York City's first-ever online Tenant Resource Portal created to help residential renter's access free public and private resources to help prevent evictions and keep tenants stably housed if they have been impacted by covid. Visit the portal at <https://www1.nyc.gov/content/tenantresourceportal/pages/>.

New York residential renters can receive legal advice, counseling, and access to other relevant resources based on their specific needs via the Tenant Helpline. Tenants can reach the Helpline by calling 311 and asking for the "Tenant Helpline". Tenants can also reach out by filling out the "Contact Us" form on their website to be connected with a specialist by visiting <https://www1.nyc.gov/content/tenantprotection/pages/contact-us>.

NYC Care is a health care access program for people who are not eligible for or cannot afford health insurance. It is now available in every borough. To learn more, visit [www.nyccare.nyc](http://www.nyccare.nyc).

The New York Forward Loan Fund (NYFLF) was created to address the capital needs of New York's small business owners, nonprofits, and small landlords created by the COVID-19 economic crisis. The Governor's Office launched this Fund with The Community Preservation Corporation (CPC) as its Small Landlord CDFI Partner. Building owners experiencing reduced cash flow due to tenants impacted by COVID-19 may apply for NYFLF loans with assistance from CPC and local CDFI partners. Under the program, the loan size is flexible to maximize the volume of small-dollar loans to meet the unique financial needs of small rental buildings. The maximum loan size available under the program is \$100,000, with no limit on the minimum amount.

Eligible properties include:

- Small property owner with no more than 200 units under ownership
- No single property greater than 50 units
- Properties must be located in a Community Reinvestment Act ("CRA") eligible census tract or meet a rent test where the property rents are affordable to tenants at, or below, 100% AMI

For more information about the program's terms and qualifications and how to apply, please visit CPC's COVID Resources page at: <https://communitycp.com/covid/> or visit the NYFLF homepage at: <https://www.connect2capital.com/partners/new-york-forward-loan-fund/>.

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#### ***UPDATE FROM CONGRESSWOMAN YVETTE CLARKE'S OFFICE***

Congresswoman Yvette Clarke is pleased to announce legislation she recently co-sponsored to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to treat the lease for a dwelling unit under certain federally assisted housing programs as a simultaneous application for voter registration in elections for Federal office, to designate owners of dwelling units under certain federally assisted housing programs as voter registration agencies for purposes of such Act, and for other purposes.

For more information on H.R. 8924, visit <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/8924/cosponsors?pageSort=lastToFirst&loclr=cga-member&searchResultViewType=expanded>.

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### ***WINTER SERVICES FOR SENIORS***

Seniors living in Bed-Stuy and Crown Heights might be eligible for upcoming services through a "Naturally Occurring Retirement Community" (NORC) set up by Councilman Robert Cornegy. Those 60 years and older who live in the 36<sup>th</sup> Council District 36 can take part in the "NORC," a designation that lets seniors stay in their homes while accessing a host of city-funded services, like healthcare, classes or outings.

The NORC, set up with the help of Brooklyn Neighborhood Services, released its schedule for the winter season, including a series of webinars focused on generational wealth retention, financial literacy and help accessing online services like personal shopping assistance, emergency home repair grants and home maintenance assistance,

The first webinar will focus on "using home equity and insurance to protect family assets" and will be held through Zoom using this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81048008700?pwd=TkVnWm42eE92Q2Y0VFVLQ2xxa3gvdz09#success>.

Upcoming webinars include:

**Dec. 15:** 1 p.m. Planning Ahead: Using home equity and insurance to protect family assets

**Jan. 12:** 1 p.m. Home Repair Grants And Maintenance Services

**Jan. 21:** 1 p.m. Wills & Trust Part I; Meet The Wills & Trust Team: Schedule Appointments To Discuss A Will And Health Proxy

**Jan. 26:** 1 p.m. How To Spot Scammers: Awareness Of Deed Theft And Financial Fraud

**Feb. 9:** 1 p.m. Part 1: Connecting Seniors To Technology; Accessing Senior Services

**Feb. 16:** 1 p.m. Part 11: Connecting Seniors To Technology; Accessing Senior Services

For more information, contact Andrea Green, Community Outreach and Special Projects Coordinator at 718-919-2100, email [agreen@bnscdc.org](mailto:agreen@bnscdc.org) or visit [info@bnscdc.org](mailto:info@bnscdc.org). Visit the BNS website at [www.bnscdc.org](http://www.bnscdc.org).

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### ***KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WORKSHOP***

Join Council Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo and lawyers and advocates from Brooklyn Defender Services' Housing Team for a Know Your Rights workshop on **Monday, December 14, 2020 from 4PM to 5:30 PM** for a Tenants' Rights during the COVID-19 Crisis: A Virtual Workshop.

Topics will include:

- Eviction Moratorium ("Is there still a moratorium on evictions?")
- Rent ("Are there any protections in place for the millions of New

- Yorkers who missed rent payments during the pandemic?")
- Shelter ("Does the shelter system have new policies in place during the pandemic for anyone who does need to access shelter?")
- Relocation ("Advice for apartment hunting and moving in our current state of partial shutdown?")
- Benefits, NYCHA, and more...

Join via Zoom or FB Live. Via Zoom: <https://bit.ly/TenantsKYR>. Via FB Live: <https://www.facebook.com/BrooklynDefenderServices>.

For more information, contact the Majority Leader's office at 718-260-9191.

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### ***BROOKLYN BAR ASSOCIATION: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!***

The Brooklyn Bar Association is committed to helping Brooklyn residents navigate the health crisis with FREE recorded webinars with Brooklyn's Best on a variety of topics including:

- Medicaid Overview 2020: The Changing Legal Landscape – Presented by Fern Finkel, Esq.
- Essential Healthcare Directives – Presented by Fern Finkel, Esq.
- Financial Organizing and Easy Planning Tips During the Pandemic – Presented by Fern Finkel, Esq.
- Financial Advance Directives – Presented by Fern Finkel, Esq.
- Collecting Assets from Small Estates – Presented by Daniel R. Antonelli, Esq.
- Foundations of Bankruptcy – Presented by Richard Klass, Esq.
- Guardianship and Elder Law – Presented by Lola Oguntunde, Esq. and Daniel R. Miller, Esq.
- Unemployment Insurance - Presented by Jacob Korder, Esq.

The Brooklyn Bar Association has established the Access to Justice Task Force to ensure that all residents of the Brooklyn community have equal access to the criminal and civil justice systems in New York. The mission of the Task Force will be even more critical during the current pandemic. It will provide the members of our community with critical information that is needed to navigate the numerous legal challenges caused by the health crisis. In addition, the Task Force will advocate for equal access to our courts and mutual respect for all, irrespective of wealth and status.

Visit <https://brooklynbar.org/access-to-justice/> for more information, a list of resources, and access to their growing webinar series.

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### ***HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE WITH BROOKLYN DISTRICT ATTORNEY ERIC GONZALEZ***

From now through December 21, 2020, Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez is collecting holiday gifts to benefit the children of Brooklyn during the holidays. New and even



gently used toys are being collected including sports equipment, dolls, watches, handbags and jewelry, trading cards, jump ropes, stuffed animals, etc.

Donations can be mailed or dropped off to the District Attorney's office at 350 Jay Street, Downtown Brooklyn. If mailing, please address to the 19<sup>th</sup> Floor; if dropping off, you may do so in the lobby from Noon to 2 PM each Monday.

For more information, please call 718-250-3888.

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### ***WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS FOOD DISTRIBUTION WITH COUNCILMAN ROBERT CORNEGY***

Councilman Robert Cornegy is sponsoring good giveaways while supplies last at various locations in the 36<sup>th</sup> Council District.

Wednesday, **December 16th at 11 AM** until supplies last, food will be distributed at the Utica Avenue A/C Train Station (at Fulton Street).

Wednesday, **December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11 AM** until supplies last, food will be distributed at Stuyvesant I & II located at 150 Malcolm X Blvd (corner of Gates Avenue).

Wednesday, **December 30<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM** until supplies last, food will be distributed at Albany Houses located at 162 Troy Avenue (corner of Prospect Place).

For more information, contact the Councilman's office at 718-919-0742.

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### ***IMPERIAL BIKERS FREE HOLIDAY MEALS TO GO***

Imperial Bikers located at 652 Franklin Avenue (corner of St. Marks Avenue), is pleased to present its annual holiday meal...but with meals to go. You get a great meal for a cause on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> from 2 PM to 5 PM. For more information, email [imperialbikersmc@aol.com](mailto:imperialbikersmc@aol.com).

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### ***CROWN HEIGHTS NORTH ASSOCIATION HOLIDAY LIGHTING COMPETITION***

The Crown heights North Association is hosting its annual Holiday House Lighting Contest. Homeowners of Crown heights North (from Eastern Pkwy to Pacific Street, Franklin Avenue to Albany Avenue) are invited to compete in the competition. Applications are due by December 23<sup>rd</sup> and only one application per address is accepted. 1st Prize is \$150; 2nd Prize is \$75; 3rd Place winner gets a bottle of Champagne.

Additionally, merchants along the Nostrand Avenue corridor from Atlantic Avenue to Eastern Pkwy are invited to compete in a holiday storefront lighting competition. Prizes are available for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

Mail completed applications to Crown Heights North Association, c/o Ms. Gail Muhammad, 1236 Dean Street, Brooklyn, NY 11216.

Judging for both homes and merchants will be completed on Sunday, December 27th from 7-10 PM. The date in the event of inclement weather is December 29th.

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### ***EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES***

**CORE Services**, a community-based human services organization that applies a culturally sensitive, holistic, and integrated approach to addressing the needs of its clients, including families with children, youth, and adults, is hiring. They are seeking registered nurses, certified nursing assistants, case managers, housing specialists, recreation specialists, shift supervisors, residential aides. Send your resume to [recruitment@coresvcs.org](mailto:recruitment@coresvcs.org).

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**The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)** is hiring maintenance workers. Starting salary is \$29.98/hour plus benefits for qualified candidates. Individuals with three or more years of maintenance experience are strongly encouraged to apply. To apply, and also obtain more information, go to [www.on.nyc.gov/mw-job](http://www.on.nyc.gov/mw-job).

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### ***77<sup>TH</sup> PRECINCT COUNCIL MEETING***


The next meeting of the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council will be held on **Monday, December 14, 2020 at 6 PM via zoom**. To join, go to [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com) and enter meeting ID 219-322-2143 and the password 8dgRfa. Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams will be the guest speaker.

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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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