



NEWS FROM COMMUNITY BOARD 8

FEBRUARY 2021

VOLUME 43, NO 1

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

Did you know that all Webex Virtual 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 at the time of the meeting. 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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### ***INDOOR DINING RETURNS!***

After an extended break, indoor dining will return to New York City restaurants on February 12<sup>th</sup>! Restaurants will be able to seat patrons at 25% capacity. Same restrictions and requirements as previously held will be in place again. Patrons will need to remain masked when not eating or drinking, adhere to social distancing, one member of the group must leave contact information, and temperatures will be taken.

Additionally, sports and music arenas will be open to spectators at 10% capacity starting on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. To be eligible to re-open for spectators, venues must be considered large-scale and must hold more than 100,000 souls. While each venue will produce its own safety plan, they must include requirements to adhere to a 10-percent capacity limit, assigned seating for social distancing, temperature checks, negative PCR tests within 72 hours of the event and face coverings among other things.

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COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

Covid-19 vaccines are available to all New Yorkers age 65 and older. Please call (877) 829-4692 (877-VAX-4NYC) and give your zip code for a location and date for your vaccination shot. This service is provided by NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation.

Additionally, pharmacies are also beginning to receive the vaccine for distribution to the public. Walgreens is now offering the Covid-19 vaccine locally and you can search for an appointment directly on their website. You will need to first create a Walgreens account and then search for Covid-19 vaccine and follow prompts.

Residents aged 65+ unable to travel for their vaccine are eligible for free vaccine transportation services to and from City vaccination sites with Curb-powered taxi services.

Call (877) 829-4692 (877-VAX-4NYC) to make an appointment at a City-operated vaccination site. After making an appointment to get vaccinated, participants will be screened and directed to Curb's 24/7 call center to book their trips, Access-a-Ride, or ambulette services as appropriate.

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### ***NYC FREE TAX PREP***

If you earned \$68,000 or less in 2020, you can file your taxes for free with the help of an IRS certified VITA/TCE volunteer preparer. Preparers can help you file your taxes safely now and transmit the returns to the IRS when they open the tax season on Friday, February 12, 2021. You can file safely from the comfort of your home or in person.

Services are available in English, Spanish, Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, and Russian. Additional languages are available through phone interpretation.

Learn more at [www.nyc.gov/taxprep](http://www.nyc.gov/taxprep) or call 311 and ask for tax preparation assistance. Services are offered by the NYC Dept. of Consumers and Worker Protection (former Dept. of Consumer Affairs).

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SHAPE UP NYC VIRTUAL CLASSES

Shape Up NYC is launching new virtual classes in February and a special chair yoga session for seniors in March. The goal is to create opportunities for adults and seniors to get some physical activity even if they are unable to go outside. As the Covid-19 Pandemic wages on, it is still important to get necessary exercise and physical activity. Sunlight is also important. Allow Shape UP NYC to help you get the physical activity you need in the comfort and safety of your home.

To register for the February Virtual Class Series, visit <https://sunyc virtual2021.eventbrite.com>.

To register for the March 2nd Senior Chair Yoga, visit <https://shapeupnyc virtualeseniorchairyoga.eventbrite.com>.

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## ***DONATE A SUIT***

The Brooklyn Bank and its partners are requesting gently used suits and professional work wear to benefit individuals transitioning into the workforce. Donations are being accepted from now through February 26<sup>th</sup>, and can be dropped off at 896 Dekalb Avenue, Brooklyn. For more information, call 646-706-6055.

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PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

It is now easier than ever to apply for property tax exemptions! The City of New York offers property tax exemptions for seniors, veterans, clergy members, people with disabilities, and other select homeowners. These benefits can reduce property taxes by up to 50% and save homeowners thousands of dollars each year.

Income limits for seniors and persons with disabilities (SCHE and DHE) is \$58,399. Additionally, the STAR program is available to homeowners with annual salaries less than \$500,000 (must apply with the state), and Enhanced STAR is available for seniors 65 and older with annual incomes of \$90,550 or less.

Those that serves in the US military during designated periods of conflict, their un-remarried surviving spouses, and Gold Star parents are eligible for tax exemptions. Additionally, active and retired members of the clergy or their un-remarried surviving spouses can receive tax exemptions.

For more information or to apply, call 311 or visit www.nyc.gov/contactdof. The deadline to apply is March 15, 2021, and if approved, your tax exemptions will begin on July 1st. You can also apply online directly, or renew if you currently receive the tax exemptions, at www.nyc.gov/dofsmartfile.

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## ***SENIORS SHARING NETWORK***

One Community has created a Sharing network for seniors, bringing fun and interesting conversation groups to a phone line near you! Pick a group that interests you from R&B and Soul; chair yoga; women's fellowship; baseball; civil rights history and experiences; international friendship; bible study; family life LGBTQ issues; comedy; hair and fashion; La Vida Neoyorquina (en Español), and many more! Each conversation group meets on the phone for one hour a week, and you can join as many groups as you like.

There is no obligation to try. For more information, call 347-733-4768.

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ALBERT SHANKER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND OF THE UNITED FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

Each year, the United Federation of Teachers proudly awards \$1 million in undergraduate and graduate scholarships to academically excellent and financially eligible students from New York City public schools. Scholarship winners are living proof that excellence can thrive in New York City schools. Their hard work, and the dedication of all the educators who worked with them, enable them to achieve academic distinction.

For more information on the scholarship including eligibility requirements, please visit: <https://www.uft.org/your-union/uft-programs/uft-scholarship-fund>.

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## ***BROOKLYN QUEENS LAND TRUST***

The Brooklyn Queens Land Trust (BQLT) is seeking candidates to serve as members of the BQLT Board of Directors. Experience and specific skills such as property management, community organizing, accounting, promotions and marketing, finance or banking, environmental science, property law, horticulture and/or fundraising and grant-writing would all be valuable assets for the Board.

One of the largest urban land trusts in the United States, BQLT is always looking for individuals who can help them continue to grow and prosper, help lead and inspire people in and around their gardens and beyond, and bring innovative strategies to help them improve and better serve communities.

If you or anyone else you know is interested, please apply. Download applications at [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PsqZtDacV9q8P3RQTNLxFXwVeEl2uuAM/view?mc\\_cid=76769253d8&mc\\_eid=f475186f99](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PsqZtDacV9q8P3RQTNLxFXwVeEl2uuAM/view?mc_cid=76769253d8&mc_eid=f475186f99) and email it back to [BQLTNominations@bqlt.org](mailto:BQLTNominations@bqlt.org). Applications are due by February 19, 2021.

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CONGRESSWOMAN YVETTE CLARKE STATE OF THE DISTRICT ADDRESS

Join Congresswoman Yvette Clarke on February 18, 2021 for her Annual State of the District Address. This year's event will be virtual, and you can RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/repclarkestateofdistrict>.

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## ***VIRTUAL LEGAL CLINIC***

You are cordially invited to join Antioch Development Corporation at their Virtual Legal Clinic on Thursday, February 25, 2021. Each attendee will have the opportunity to consult with an attorney in private and various topics of law will be covered. Anyone interested may also register here: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/free-virtual-legal-clinic-brooklyn-new-york-registration-137815384525?keep\\_tld=1](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/free-virtual-legal-clinic-brooklyn-new-york-registration-137815384525?keep_tld=1).

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

The Brooklyn Children's Museum is open to the public on weekends, select school holidays, and also has a **Thursday afternoon Pay-What-You-Wish session from 2pm to 5pm**. Weekend hours have changed in order to provide longer sessions for visitors.

Cultural Festivals continue with **Lunar New Year on Saturday, February 13, Black Future Festival on Saturday, February 20 and Sunday, February 21**, and **Purim on Thursday, February 25**. BCM will also be open on **February 12, 15 and 19** during the New York City public school holiday.

In addition, the Museum is helping visitors [thank their civic leaders](https://www.brooklynkids.org/civic-engagement/thank-civic-leaders/) with a letter writing template and a Guide to Brooklyn Elected Officials. For more information or to participate, visit <https://www.brooklynkids.org/civic-engagement/thank-civic-leaders/>.

In order to ensure safe occupancy levels and physical distancing, tickets must be purchased online in advance for cultural festivals and all regularly scheduled **Play Sessions** and **ColorLab** art making workshops. The Museum is open for a 10am to 1pm session, and a second public session from 2pm to 5pm. Visit [www.brooklynkids.org/tickets](http://www.brooklynkids.org/tickets) to purchase.

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WEEKSVILLE HERITAGE CENTER

In celebration of Black History Month, Weeksville Heritage Center is hosting The Black Liberation Convening 2021: L is for Liberation. Liberation is our Legacy. Saturday, February 13, 2021.

The program will focus on collectively organizing around how African Americans free themselves, and at Weeksville Heritage Center, the understanding is that this freedom begins with understanding that history and knowledge are tools for liberation.

Join their celebration to conceptualize ancestral and future courses of action to move collectively towards the African American legacy.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit <https://www.weeksvillesociety.org/>.

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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 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>.

The final webinar of the series will be held on **Feb. 16 at 1 p.m.:** 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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We send our heartfelt condolences to Ms. Glinda Andrews, who lost her sister in January.

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We wish the happiest of birthdays to Ms. Igenie Harris-Blenman, who celebrated a birthday in January; Ms. Dorothy Bembry-Guet, one of the most active community residents that is not an appointed member of Community Board 8, who recently turned 79 years strong on February 7th; and the happiest of February birthdays to the following CB 8 members: Mr. Fred Frazier, Mr. Robert Puca, and Mr. Yves Vilus.

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We welcome our newest 77th Precinct Community Affairs officers, PO Stravinsky Jeanbart and PO Khalida Wallen. They have replaced Detective Pierre-Louis and PO Green, both of whom have been transferred to 1 Police Plaza. Please note that the new telephone number to the 77th Precinct Community Affairs office is 718-735-0658. Their email addresses are strainvsky.jeanbart@nypd.org and khalida.wall@nypd.org.

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

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