

ACROSS THE BOARD

FEBRUARY 2024

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COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!



Ms. Xeerxeema Jordan

was appointed to the Board in 2005 and currently is an active member of nine of the Board's 11 committees as well as the 77th Precinct Community Council. She also remains an active block association president.

Ms. Jordan states, "I joined the Board because I wanted to get more information about the community: how it runs, what we as residents can do to help change our experience and living environment, and to inform my neighbors in our own terms of what is going on in the community. My goal of being so active is to share information and try to get more people involved. Most of my neighbors come from another country like I do, and so it can be difficult at times for us to understand certain things. However, involvement is key to bridging this gap and improving community."

During her tenure on the Board, Ms. Jordan is proud to have worked to achieve speed humps for her block of Lincoln Place, a 15-year endeavor to have a traffic light installed at the corner of Lincoln Place and Schenectady Avenue, and several other little wins for her immediate area. She states that while she is ready to step down as a member of the Board after serving for 19 years, she will remain as active as ever, "waiting to see what happens and hoping for the best".

District Manager's Report

JOIN COMMUNITY BOARD 8!

Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso has begun accepting community board membership applications. The application period will run through February 19, 2024, and prospective members are encouraged to apply early and attend meetings to familiarize yourself with community boards. Current members up for renewal are encouraged to submit their reappointment application early as well. To apply, go to <https://www.brooklynbp.nyc.gov/community-boards/>.

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### **MANDATORY COMMERCIAL GARBAGE CONTAINERIZATION**

Starting March 1, 2024, all businesses in New York City must use bins with secure lids. If your business does not use a bin with a secure lid, it will be **FINED**. Keep bins inside, outside facing the building, or within three feet of the building line. Set bins out after 8 PM, or an hour before your business closes.

Use a secure lidded bin to avoid a fine and keep rats away. For more information, visit [www.nyc.gov/usebins](http://www.nyc.gov/usebins) or call 311.

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CONGESTION PRICING COMMUNITY HEARINGS

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) has announced details of a public review process of the tolling structure that has been proposed for Central Business District Tolling, New York's congestion pricing program. The agency will accept written and audio comments until March 11, 2024. They will also be holding four hybrid public hearings (virtual and in-person options) in February and March.

Members of the public may submit written comments online, by email, mail, or fax, and may submit audio comments by leaving a voicemail message.

Online: <https://contact.mta.info/s/forms/CBDTP>

Email: cbdtfeedback@mtabt.org

Mail: CBD Tolling program, 2 Broadway, 23rd Floor, New York, NY 10004

Phone: 646-252-7440

Fax: Send to (212) 504-3148 with Attention to CBDTP Team

The hearings will begin on Thursday, February 29th and conclude on March 4th. Members of the public who wish to speak at the hearings are required to register in advance online, in-person or by calling the Public Hearing Hotline at (646) 252-6777. The meetings will take place in person at 2 Broadway, New York, NY 10004 in the William J. Ronan 20th Floor Board Room. People may also register to participate remotely via Zoom or telephone. All public hearings will be livestreamed on the MTA YouTube

channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChiDdbxhuZPymSZfIBylApA>) as well as on the project website (<https://new.mta.info/project/CBDTP>).

The meetings will be held on these dates and times:

- Thursday, February 29th at 6:00 PM
- Friday, March 1st at 10:00 AM
- Monday, March 4th at 10:00 AM
- Monday, March 4th at 6:00 PM

To learn more, please visit <https://new.mta.info/project/CBDTP>.

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## **CHANGE YOUR PIN IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE AN EBT CARD**

Following a rash of EBT fraud targeting the Crown Heights community over the last week, tens of community members have been defrauded out of SNAP benefits via “skimming machines” that access card information making it easy for fraudulent activity. To help combat the fraud and prevent yourself from becoming victimized, all EBT card holders are encouraged to change their PIN numbers IMMEDIATELY!

Also, if you have been victimized and scammed out of EBT benefits in this fashion, please file a complaint via this link: <https://bit.ly/49tOLak> and contact your local state assemblymember or state senator’s office.

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Municipal Services Update

The Department of Sanitation cleanliness rating of our streets, better known as the “scorecard” rating, was 92.3% for clean streets for the month of January.

We continue to urge everyone to adhere to the Dept. of Sanitation’s residential enforcement routing times of 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Please clean in front of your properties and 18 inches into the gutter area of the street. All sweepings must be bagged and disposed of properly. Thank you for your assistance in helping to keep the District clean.

The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 01/29/2024 through 02/04/2024.

	Year-to-Date		
	2024	2023	%Chg
Murder	1	1	***
Rape	0	6	-100
Robbery	19	18	5.6
Felony Assault	24	31	-22.6
Burglary	17	10	70
Grand Larceny	26	40	-35
GL Auto	11	16	-31.2

The overall change year-to-date is **-19.67**.

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***HELP IDENTIFY SMOKE SHOPS***

To date, there have not been any cannabis licenses issued in Community Board 8 for retail sale of THC containing cannabis products. As such, if you see any shops or storefronts, mobile vans, and the like advertising THC containing cannabis or “weed,” they are operating illegally, and we need your help in identifying the unlicensed smoke shops in District 8. If there is a smoke shop near you, please email the name, address, and hours you witnessed activity of the shop, and any other details to [BrooklynCB8@gmail.com](mailto:BrooklynCB8@gmail.com).

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WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP DURING A DISASTER OR EMERGENCY?

New York City Community Emergency Response Teams (NYC CERT) is now recruiting for dedicated volunteers who help to prepare their neighbors and communities for different types of disasters.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members receive intensive training in emergency preparedness, fire safety, light

search and rescue, disaster medical operations, and more.

Two classes are scheduled to begin in February. One class will meet on a Mon/Wed schedule and the other on a Tues/Thurs. The 11-session training will be delivered as a hybrid training.

If you are 18 or older and want to join NYC CERT, please complete the online application: <https://nyc.gov/cert>

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***FREE COMMERCIAL LEASE ASSISTANCE***

The law firm of Rha Kim Grossman & McIlwain, LLP is working as part of NYC’s Commercial Lease Assistance Program with Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A (also known as BKA) to offer **free legal help** for commercial tenants. They are offering the following services:

- Reviewing and signing a new lease
- Amending, renewing, or terminating a current lease
- Drafting/negotiating lease terms
- Rent arrears
- Repair issues
- Any other commercial-lease-related issues

If you are in litigation, they can provide you with advice and guidance but cannot represent you in court. In such cases, you’ll be advised on the next steps to be taken, and if necessary, provide you with a list of low-fee attorneys.

If you have any questions or would like additional details, please contact Janey Byun at 718-321-9797 or via email at [jbyun@rhakimlaw.com](mailto:jbyun@rhakimlaw.com).

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FREE TRANSPORTATION FOR OLDER ADULTS

Councilmember Crystal Hudson has teamed up with Self Help to provide free transportation to medical appointments for older adults. To reserve a car, please call (718) 559-4352. Rides are available Monday to Friday between 9:00am-12:00pm. Requests must be made at least one day in advance of the trip. Eligible participants include older adults who reside in City Council District 35 (Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, Crown Heights, and Prospect Heights). Travel is restricted to the five boroughs and western Nassau County.

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### ***FIRE SAFETY PREVENTION AND TIPS***

In an effort to inform New Yorkers about the dangers of fires and how best to act if in one, the FDNY has published the following 8 tips:

1. Never use an extension cord with large current appliances such as a space heater, air conditioner or refrigerator. Extension cords can cause home fires by overheating due to overloading the outlet. Always plug these types of appliances into a grounded wall outlet.
2. Never smoke while lying down, especially if drowsy, medicated or have been drinking. Completely douse cigarette butts with water before discarding. Smokers are seven times more likely than nonsmokers to have a fire in their home.
3. Stay in the kitchen while cooking and wear short or tight fitting sleeves. Unattended cooking accounts for thirty-three percent of home fires.
4. Installing and maintaining a smoke alarm will reduce your chances of dying in a fire in half. Install smoke alarms on every floor and in bedrooms for extra protection. 70% of fire deaths occur in homes with an inoperable smoke alarm or no smoke alarm present. The majority of the deaths are children and older adults.
5. Plan and practice a fire escape plan. Do not attempt to fight the fire yourself. Get out

and **CLOSE THE DOOR** behind you. Call 911 from a safe location. Smoke and fire kills! You may have less than three minutes to get to safety.

6. Store matches and lighters out of reach and sight of children. Provide close continuous supervision of children. Toddler fire deaths are most often due to children playing with matches or utility lighters.
7. Never leave burning candles unattended. Half of the people killed by candle fires in the home were younger than 20 years of age.
8. BUY only e-bikes or other mobility devices that are CERTIFIED by nationally recognized testing laboratory. Look for symbols such as UL, ETL and CSA. USE the original battery, power adapter and power cord supplied with the device, or a manufacturer-recommended and/or a testing laboratory-certified replacement, and make sure to plug them into a grounded wall outlet or charge them in a safe charging facility and not your home if possible.

Following these simple 8 tips could save your life and others as well as protect your property. Be aware, be smart, and most importantly, be safe.

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HUNGER AND BODY ISSUES: SILENT KILLERS

For many Americans, the prospect of a full stomach is but a mere dream. The latest numbers indicate that at least 1 in 7 Americans are hungry (the numbers might even be higher for those families and individuals not eligible for food stamps), and the majority of the hungry are either children or the elderly. In New York City, hunger is a legitimate threat. Quality affordable healthy food is scarce in many underserved and less wealthy communities, and “food deserts” prevail in many areas across the city.

On the opposite side of the spectrum are those that have access to food and willingly put themselves in a position to be hungry because of an eating disorder due to negative body and self-images. Eating disorders have reached new heights as new and almost impossible to reach beauty standards have become normalized by society. Such standards apply equally to all, and no one is exempted.

So what can we do to combat both hunger and eating disorders? The first thing we can do is recognize the problem to start creating solutions. With SNAP benefits and Meals on Wheels at risk of being further reduced at the Federal level and are losing their funding, we must put pressure on our federal elected officials to make an end to hunger in the United States as much of a priority as they place on ending hunger in countries around the world.

Second, we need to stop stigmatizing those that may not be as blessed as some of us financially. Many people that are hungry are too afraid to come forward, and children are even chastised by their peers for needing free school lunch. Educate your children that differences abound, yet we are all equal. No one chooses to be hungry due to poverty and resultant food insecurity, and children have no way to remediate their family's financial condition.

Third, parents: observe your children, both male and female. Males are not exempt from eating disorders, contrary to popular belief. Make sure they are eating. If they are exhibiting signs of ill health for no apparent reason (ashen skin, sunken eyes, lethargy, emotional distance, changes in mood, etc.) or do not seem to be consuming a decent amount of sustenance daily, **do not be afraid to ask questions!** Take an active role in your child's life. If you notice changes in eating patterns, notice that your child goes to the bathroom immediately after every meal, eat smaller than normal portions, or simply refuses to eat at all, get help immediately as they may be showing indications of an eating disorder. Psychological

counseling should not be scoffed at, and your child should not be ashamed to seek it.

We must all do our part in stopping hunger related issues, whether because of poverty or poor body and self-images. We can donate to our local food banks, not criticize the poor, check in on seniors to make sure they have enough to eat or help them enroll in a program such as Meals on Wheels, and speak to youth to make sure they are doing well and know with certainty that there is nothing wrong with them as they are and that they do not have to fit this "normalized beauty standard" to be considered beautiful. Hunger is the silent killer that many of us ignore. Ignorance is not bliss, however. Let us work together to stop hunger.

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### ***NATIVE PLANTS FOR LOCAL ECOSYSTEMS WEBINAR***

Passionate about native plants and pollinators? Interested in nurturing resilient ecosystems in our local parks? If so, join experts from Partnerships for Parks and NYC Parks on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 from 6PM to 7:30 PM for a webinar to discuss the importance of native plants for local ecosystems, share best practices for choosing and caring for native plants, get inspired by community groups with established native plant gardens, and find out more about how a park garden can be designated an NYC Parks Pollinator Place.

At this webinar you will learn:

- The advantages of native plants for local ecosystems
- Best practices for planting and caring for native plants in NYC Parks
- How to use iNaturalist to identify and track pollinators

To register or to find out more information, visit: <https://bit.ly/3HRLpqn>.

**SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM**

Applications for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) are currently being accepted. SYEP is the nation's largest youth employment program, connecting NYC youth between the ages of 14 and 24 with career exploration opportunities and paid work experiences each summer. Participants receive the opportunity to explore their interests and career pathways, develop workplace skills and engage in learning experiences that help to develop their social, civic and leadership skills. By participating in structured project and work-based opportunities, NYC youth are better prepared for careers of the future.

Applications will be accepted through March 1, 2024. Selection into SYEP is based on a lottery.

For more info, visit <https://on.nyc.gov/3SQlp0h>. For questions about SYEP, contact Community Connect at (800) 246-4646.

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40 ACRES: WEEKSVILLE

Join the Weeksville Heritage Center on Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 7 PM for the highly anticipated opening of Sandy Williams IV's multi-dimensional exhibition: 40 ACRES: Weeksville.

Williams' 40 ACRES pays homage to the memory of Freedmen communities and acknowledges histories and social oppressions that are often unseen and paved over. Dive deeper into Sandy's artistic journey and the making of 40 ACRES: Weeksville during an intimate screening and discussion with the artist and Erica Harper, Weeksville's Vice President of Learning and Engagement. You will also hear from some of the community members featured in the film, as well as a drum performance to close out the event.

To RSVP, visit <https://bit.ly/3HRLpqn>.

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**NYC GREEN FUND GRASSROOTS GRANT PROGRAM**

Looking for funding to activate a local park or open space? We're excited to announce that another round of the NYC Green Fund Grassroots grant program is now open! The NYC Green Fund Grassroots grant program provides funding support up to \$40,000 per year along with the option of two-year funding for returning grantees to better sustain projects long-term. This is your go-to for all grassroots funding from Partnerships for Parks!

Community groups may apply for funding for open space stewardship, environmental action, organizational development, youth development, health and wellness, and arts and culture projects benefiting local parks or open spaces.

To learn everything you need to know about applying for this grant, attend an upcoming info session from the list below:

- Mon, February 12 from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
- Thurs, February 22 from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
- Weds, February 28 from 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm
- Weds, March 6 from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
- Mon, March 11 from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

To register for any of the above, visit <https://cityparksfoundation.org/nycgreenfund/>.

The application deadline is March 15, 2024 at 11:59pm. Applications can be downloaded at <https://cityparksfoundation.org/nycgreenfund/>.

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PROSPECT PARK YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Prospect Park Alliance offers two robust youth employment programs for teens to gain hands-on training and mentorship. The hourly rate for the Woodlands Youth Crew and Park Youth Representatives is \$16.50.

Park Youth Representatives lead nature walks, engage the community in nature education activities at the Audubon Center and throughout the park, and care for the Audubon Center’s live animal collection. The program runs from April to November.

The Woodlands Youth Crew help sustain and restore the park’s 250 acres of woodlands by completing trail maintenance, creating rustic pathways; planting to create a thriving forest, removing invasive weeds and much more. The program runs from April to October.

Learn more and apply at www.prospectpark.org/YouthEmployment.



LEGISLATIVE BUS TRIP TO ALBANY

NYS Assemblymember Stefani Zinerman is pleased to invite you to the Annual Legislative Bus Trip to Albany on Saturday, February 17, 2024 from 5:30 AM to 6 PM.

Buses will depart from Restoration Plaza located at 1368 Fulton Street. To reserve you seat, contact the Assemblymember’s office at 718-399-7630 or visit www.Bit.ly/56CaucusBusRSVP2024.



KING’S DREAM DISABILITY JUSTICE

NYC Public Advocate and Assemblymember Stefani Zinerman are pleased to invite you to attend King’s Dream Disability Justice: Charting the Way Forward – Strengthening

Disability Awareness and Advocacy within the African American Community.

The event will take place on Saturday, February 24, 2024 at 11 AM at Medgar Evers College, 1638 Bedford Avenue, 1st Floor. For more information, contact Assemblymember Zinerman’s office at 718-399-7630.



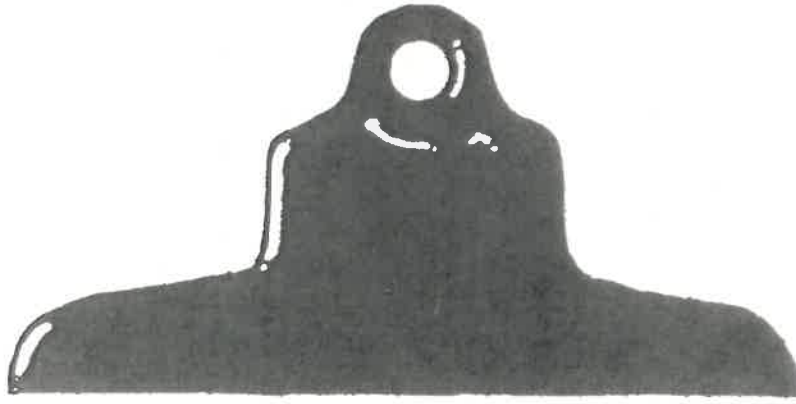
SPRING CREEK TOWERS AFFORDABLE HOUSING LOTTERY WAIT LIST RE-OPEN

As of February 1, 2024, Spring Creek Towers (formerly Starrett City), Management Office located at 1390 Pennsylvania Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, 11239, has re-opened its Project Based Section 8 Waiting List. Qualifications will be based on Section 8 Federal guidelines and below is a chart showing income limits. Rent charged will be 30% of household income for each unit size.

Interested persons may obtain an application by:

- Mail: sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to: P.O. Box 70457, Brooklyn, NY 11207
- Via e-mail: send email requesting an application to applySCT@springcreektowers.com.
- In Person: Applications will be available for pick up Monday-Friday from 10am-3pm from the Management Office located at 1390 Pennsylvania Avenue, 2nd Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11239.
- Applicants can download the PDF version of the application from the website at <https://www.springcreektowers.com>.

Completed applications will only be accepted via USPS mail sent to the address listed on the application. Emailed applications will not be accepted. Applications will be processed in order received, first come, first served and must be fully completed upon receipt.



We wish the happiest of birthdays to CB8 members, Mr. Benny Faygen and Mr. Robert Puca, who will celebrate birthdays in the month of February.

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We sadly announce the passing of Ms. Julia Boyd, one of the Board's funniest members. Ms. Boyd will be remembered for her in-session unintentional comedy and her blunt attitude.

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We send our heartfelt condolences to the family of CB8 member Brian Saunders, who recently lost his mother, another former long-time CB8 member and Vice President of the 77th Precinct Community Council, Ms. Marlene Saunders.

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Congratulations to Dr. Frederick Monderson, a former long-time member of CB8, on his recent appointment as President of the Society of Old Brooklynites.

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The next 77th Precinct Council meeting will be held on Monday, February 12, 2024 at Calvary Community Church located at 1575 St. John's Place (corner of Buffalo Avenue) at 7PM.

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**The next 78<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council meeting** will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 7:30 PM at the 78<sup>th</sup> Precinct stationhouse located at 67 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. For more information, please call Community Affairs at 718-636-6410.

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The next **Community Board 8 general meeting** will be held on **Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 6:30 PM** at the Brooklyn Children's Museum located at 145 Brooklyn Avenue (corner of St. Marks Avenue).

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

**Irsa Weatherspoon, Chairperson**  
**Michelle George, District Manager/Editor**  
**Julia Neale, Community Coordinator**  
**Zoie Moses, College Aide**

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