



NEWS FROM COMMUNITY BOARD 8

MAY 2020

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DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

Staff at Community Board 8 hopes that everyone is staying safe and is healthy at this time. Please remember to stay home and stay safe if you can. As we learn to navigate the new normal, here is some helpful information to have on hand in case you cannot stay home:

- All New Yorkers are required to wear a mask or face covering when out in public and in situations where a 6-foot distance from others cannot be maintained. To assist with this, NYC will be distributing 100,000 face coverings.
- Please wash your hands.
- Please keep distance, especially when talking to strangers. Covid-19 is transmitted mainly through droplets, which are expelled from the nose and mouth during coughing, breathing, sneezing, and yes, talking. Droplets can stay suspended in the air and travel quite a distance. Be mindful; keep covered.
- Please open your windows for cross breezes to eliminate suspended particles and droplets. If you live in a multiple dwelling unit, you are advised to keep hallway windows open to provide circulation of air. This will aid in air flow and disruption of suspended droplets and particles.
- Please do not wear your outside shoes in the house or sit on your furniture with outside clothes **especially** if you've utilized any public transportation or a vehicle that is not your own.

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### ***CENSUS 2020***

Census 2020 is in full swing! Every household should have received a census form in the mail by now. We encourage you to please fill it out online if possible to avoid having to endanger the lives of door-to-door census workers trying to get as close to an accurate count as possible. Please check on your younger relatives, friends, and neighbors--who might not

know the importance and value of the census, and who might also be hesitant to complete the form since they believe the government already knows this information about them and they do not want to give any more.

The Census is an even more important and valuable tool for identifying the needs of the community, and the response and fears regarding hospital beds in the city and state around COVID-19 are no greater examples of that. Help New York get its fair share of money and services. Do your part and complete your census form today.

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YOU MIGHT BE OWED MONEY!

NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer recently discovered that numerous contract employees are owed money. He launched a phone banking campaign to connect workers with \$2.5 million in unclaimed prevailing wages/funds. The Bureau of Labor Law recoups unpaid wages with interest for workers regardless of their immigration status, whether they still live in New York City or have moved to another state or country. The bureau enforces prevailing wage and benefit rates for construction and building service workers employed by contractors on City public work projects. When companies on these public contracts fail to pay the proper wages and benefits, the Comptroller enforces the law to recover the money owed to workers and ensure that they receive the money through outreach.

If you were a contractor on a city project, please look out for a call from the Comptroller's office in case you are owed wages. Visit <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/newsroom/>.

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### ***VOTING AND CORONAVIRUS***

Protect your health, and the health of our democracy. Make sure your voice is heard in upcoming elections! All voters with a primary election on June 23<sup>rd</sup> will be eligible to vote in the election by absentee ballot. Sign up to receive email and text message updates at [www.nycvotes.nyccfb.info/vote\\_smart](http://www.nycvotes.nyccfb.info/vote_smart), or text VOTESMART to 917-979-6377.

The presidential primary in New York has been canceled, as well as the special elections for the city. All other primary elections for Congress, state Assembly, or state Senate will proceed as planned.

Vote by mail by requesting an absentee ballot. Anyone registered to vote in NYC can cast their ballot in the election by mail. On April 24, Governor Cuomo announced that the Board of Elections (BOE) will **automatically mail every eligible voter an absentee ballot application, which voters must complete and return to request their mail-in ballot.** Voters should indicate that the reason is "temporary illness" (the definition of which has been expanded to cover the risk of contracting the coronavirus). Visit the BOE's How to Vote page and click "Vote Absentee" for more details on absentee voting. Updates, including information

on when you can expect to receive your mailed application from the Board of Elections, will be added on their site when available.

The request deadline for the primary & Special Elections is June 16<sup>th</sup>. For more information, visit <https://www.nycfb.info/nyc-votes/coronavirus/>.

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MENTAL HEALTH IS PART OF OVERALL HEALTH

Just as you tend to your physical health, so must you attend to your mental health.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for mental health services has never been greater, and the call is being answered. If you know of anyone that is experiencing difficulty coping at this time, please encourage them to seek assistance and guidance.

An infectious illness outbreak such as COVID-19 can be stressful to you, your loved ones and your friends. It is natural to feel overwhelmed, sad, anxious and afraid. You may also experience other symptoms of distress, such as trouble sleeping.

To reduce your stress and help manage the situation:

- Try to maintain a positive attitude.
- Remind yourself of your personal strengths.
- Connect with friends and loved ones.
- Go outside and get exercise, if you are not sick. Remember to practice good hygiene and physical distancing. Walking, running and bicycling are healthy activities that do not require close contact with others or shared equipment.
- Identify what you are feeling and use healthy coping skills.
- Recognize feelings of loss are normal and there are ways to cope.

Visit NYC Well's website, which offers a number of well-being and emotional support applications that can help you cope. If your symptoms of stress become overwhelming, contact NYC Well to speak with a trained counselor 24/7 in over 200 languages.

Call the New York State's COVID-19 Emotional Support Helpline at 844-863-9314 to talk to specially trained volunteer professionals. They will be there to listen, support and offer referrals from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week.

Visit <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-mental-health.page> for more information.

Additionally, New Yorkers can access free meditation and mindfulness information with headspace. Visit www.headspace.com/ny for more information.

Transcendental Meditation offers free guided daily meditation calls to anyone interested in guided meditation at 7 AM and 9:15 AM weekday mornings and 6 PM, 8 PM and 9 PM daily;

and 8:30 AM, 9:15 AM and 10 AM weekends. You do not have to practice TM to participate on the call. Dial in number 929-205-6099; access code 177-174-913.

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### ***RESOURCES FOR SURVIVORS OF RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE***

Home is not always a safe haven. During the COVID-19 pandemic, if you are home and it is not safe or you know someone in an unsafe environment, resources are available for your assistance to help those experiencing dating, domestic or gender-based violence. For immediate safety planning, shelter or civil legal assistance, or counseling, call NYC's 24-hour Domestic Violence hotline at 800-621-4673 (TTY: 866-604-5350). For emergencies, call 911.

For more information visit:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/ocdv/get-help/covid-19-update.page>

or

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/ocdv/get-help/resources-for-survivors-during-covid-19.page>.

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BLOOD SHORTAGE

The high number of COVID-19 cases in a short time span has generated a massive blood shortage. Anyone eligible to donate blood is encouraged to donate to help those in need of transfusions.

Also, the New York Blood Center (NYBC) is now increasing the nation's supply of convalescent plasma. NYBC will collect and process the plasma from recovered COVID-19 patients for infusion, and maintain a bank for hospitals to treat patients with serious or immediately life-threatening COVID-19 infections.

To find a location to donate today, visit <https://nybloodcenter.org/>.

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### ***REVISED GUIDELINES FOR BLOOD DONATION***

Towards the end of April, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued revised guidelines on blood donation eligibility, which include changing the deferral period for men who have sex with men (MSM) and making individuals who spent time in numerous European countries, or on military bases in Europe, eligible to donate.

These changes are very timely as the covid-19 pandemic has led to an immense blood shortage. Increasing the number of eligible donors is crucial to maintaining an adequate blood supply during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, and these new guidelines will do just that.

Additional changes include:

- MSM donor deferral period changing from 12 months to 3 months.
- Female donors previously deferred for having sex with a man who had sex with another man deferral period changing from 12 months to 3 months.
- People with recent tattoos and piercings deferral period changing from 12 months to 3 months.
- Travelers to malaria-endemic areas (and those who are residents of malaria non-endemic countries) deferral period from 12 months to 3 months, and the guidance provides notice of an alternate procedure that permits the collection of blood and blood components from such donors without a deferral period, provided the blood components are pathogen-reduced using an FDA-approved pathogen reduction device.
- People who have spent time in certain European countries or on military bases in Europe who were previously considered to have been exposed to a potential risk of transmission of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) or Variant CJD, the recommended deferrals will be eliminated, and reentry of these donors is recommended.

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FREE FACE COVERINGS

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams is giving away free masks and face coverings. If you are in need, please contact Borough Hall at 718-802-3700 to make arrangements to get a mask.

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### ***FREE PRIVATE BEREAVEMENT SPACE***

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams is making space available at Borough Hall for grieving families. For more information, contact Borough Hall at 718-802-3700.

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MTA CHANGES

The MTA is implementing multiple changes to help combat the spread of COVID-19. They announced the filing of new emergency regulations to strengthen its Code of Conduct applicable to all customers. The following changes have been put in place:

- No person is permitted to remain in a station for more than an hour.
- During a public health emergency declared by the state, no person can remain on a train or on the platform after an announcement that the train is being taken out of service.
- Wheeled carts greater than 30 inches in length or width, including shopping and grocery carts, are banned.

Additionally, beginning Wednesday, May 6, at 1 a.m., there will be no subway service from 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. while trains and stations are disinfected. Overnight transportation for essential workers will be available via the Essential Connector program.

Find out more and plan a trip at <https://new.mta.info/coronavirus/overnight>.

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### ***PROJECT CUPID***

Marriage licenses can now be obtained online with Project Cupid since offices of the City Clerk – NYC Marriage Bureau will be closed until further notice.

Project Cupid is a joint effort between the Office of the City Clerk and the New York City Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DoITT) to transition the marriage licensing process fully online.

Project Cupid which will integrate videoconferencing technology into the marriage license process. All couples who want to get married in New York State must obtain a Marriage License. The new system will allow couples to virtually schedule and attend an appointment with the City Clerk's office, securely upload required documents for the marriage license to the City Clerk's office, and upload the signed license for submission to the City Clerk once the ceremony is complete.

The site will be available in 11 languages and Language Line will be available to provide on-demand translation services to any couple in need of translation services. Couples will be able to electronically pay their fee using the City's secure electronic payment service, CityPay.

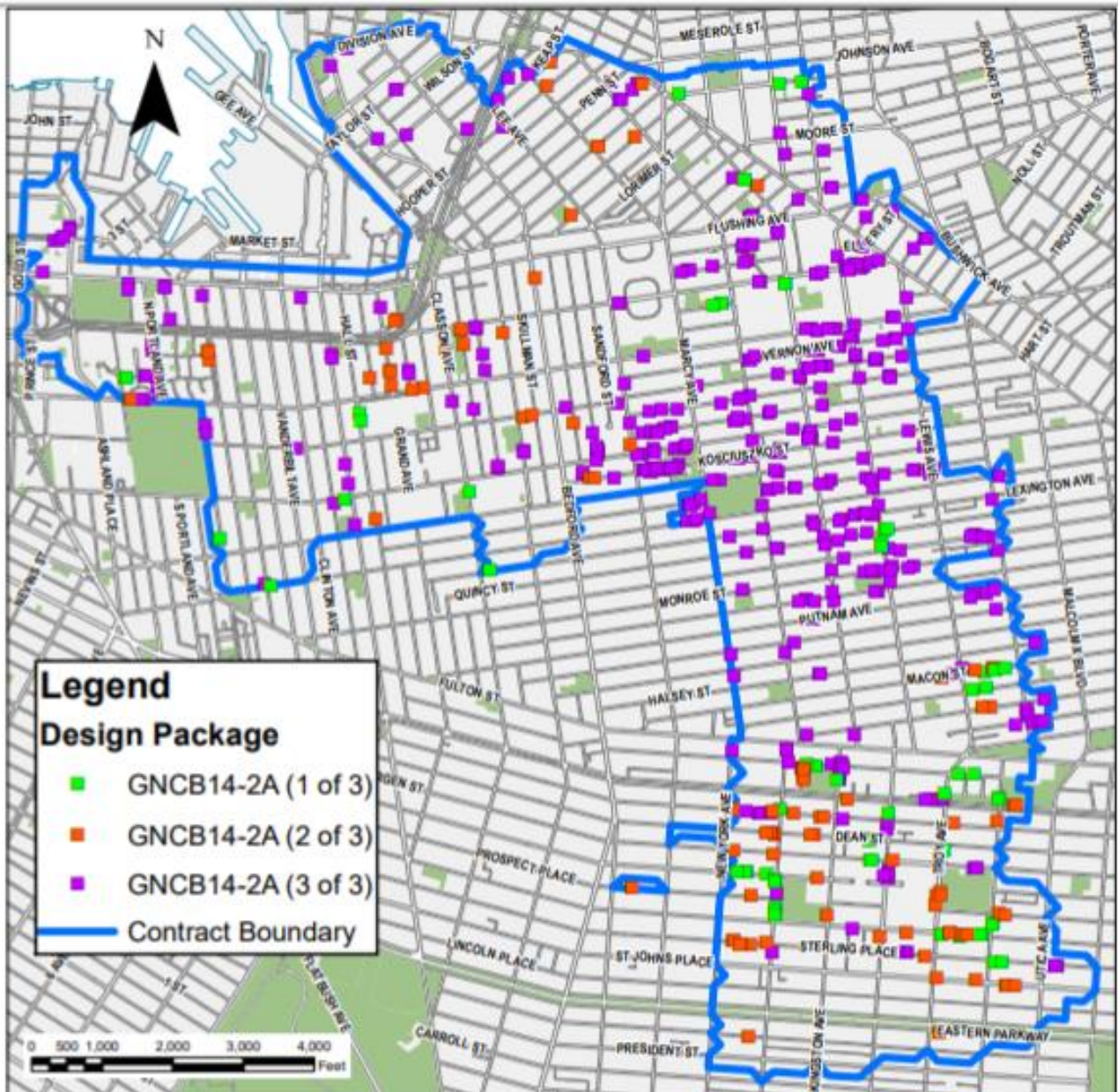
The system is expected to go live this week. New Yorkers who would like to obtain a marriage license will soon be able to do so by visiting [www.nyc.gov/Cupid](http://www.nyc.gov/Cupid) or [www.cityclerk.nyc.gov](http://www.cityclerk.nyc.gov).

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GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

A green infrastructure project to install green infrastructure infiltration basins (e.g., bioswales) at various locations district wide begins this week. This project will restrict and limit on-street parking on affected blocks of the project site. This is an ongoing as-of-right project with many locations. Please use the map below to see the project area.

For more information, if you have any concerns, or you discover an issue with an installed project, please call Christopher Taylor, Community Construction Liaison (CCL) at Phone: 718-223-5258 or via email at gncb142accl@gmail.com.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

COVID-19 has brought major changes to our city’s economy and disrupted many of the businesses New Yorkers work for and rely on. Here are some programs and resources for New Yorkers who have lost their jobs or experienced reduced income due to the pandemic.

If you have been impacted by COVID-19, please click here to find out what benefits you may be eligible for.

For more information, visit <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/services/for-the-public/covid-resources/financial-support-for-individuals/>.

TAX RELIEF FOR COLD WAR VETERANS

Cold War Veterans (veterans that served from September 2, 1945 and December 26, 1991) are eligible for property tax relief with the NYS Dept. of Taxation and Finance. The Cold War Veterans Exemption is available on a veteran's primary residence. If you're a veteran, see Eligibility requirements to learn whether you're eligible.

Benefits include:

- 10 or 15% reduction in assessed value (as adopted by the taxing jurisdiction)
- additional reduction for veterans who incur service-connected disabilities, equal to one-half of the service-connected disability rating Cold War period

To apply, complete Form RP-458-b, Application for Cold War Veterans Exemption from Real Property Taxation (instructions) and file the form with your municipal assessor.

Annual exemption renewal is not necessary, except in instances where veteran's service-connected disability rating changes.

For more information, visit <https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/exemption/coldwaroverview.htm>.

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## ***COVID-19 TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES***

- NYC is hiring 1,000 Contract Tracers immediately to help trace, isolate and support all New Yorkers with confirmed COVID-19. For more information, including required skills, visit <https://fphnyc.org/about/careers/>.
- As a part of the GetFoodNYC deliver program, Licensed TLC Drivers can sign-up here to deliver meals: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/sbs/careers/find-a-job.page>.

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OPEN LAUNDROMATS IN DISTRICT 8

(as reported by community residents)

- Laundromat, 630 Vanderbilt Avenue between Park and Sterling Places
(718) 398-8728
- Laundry City, 632 Grand Avenue at Prospect Place
(718) 622-3939
- N and k Express Laundromat, 88 Rogers Avenue, corner of Park Place
(718) 484-0314
- King Fan laundromat, 112 Kingston Avenue between Dean and Bergen Streets
(reported at open between 9 AM and 4 PM)
(718) 778-1738

- Kingston Laundromat, 129 Kingston Avenue corner of Bergen Street
(347) 663-5100
- Sparkle Wash, 1580 St. Johns Place between Buffalo and Ralph (right at the B15 bus stop)
(347) 435-0886
- 168 Cleaning and Laundromat, 558 Vanderbilt Avenue between Dean and Bergen Streets
(718) 638-2284
- Clean Rite, 155 Utica Avenue between St. Marks Avenue and Prospect Place
(718) 771-7222
- Clean Rite, 1936 Atlantic Avenue between Buffalo and Ralph Avenues
(347) 529-1192
- Jin Shan Laundromat, 671 Franklin Avenue between St. Marks Avenue and Prospect Place
(718) 636-0780
- Dynamo Duo Laundromat, 610 Nostrand Avenue at Pacific Street
(718) 604-3165
- Ahmed Laundromat, 108 Albany Avenue between Dean Street and Pacific Street
(917) 294-9297
- Gold Five Star Laundromat, 264 Schenectady Avenue between St Johns Place and Lincoln Place (no number listed in white pages)
- Bubbles Laundromat, 203 Schenectady Avenue between Park and Sterling Places
(718) 756-2721

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