

# QUEENS TIMES

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25 CENTS

## 4 Red-Hot Scams in 2022

### 1. Google Voice Scam

Let's say you've posted a notice online — an item for sale, for example, or a plea to find a lost pet — and included your phone number. In this scam the crook will call you, feign interest, but say they want to verify first that you aren't a scammer. They tell you that you are about to get a verification code from Google Voice (their virtual phone and text service) sent to you, and ask you to read it back. What's really going on: They are setting up a Google Voice account in your name. "They can go on to perpetrate scams and pretend to be you, hiding their footprint from law enforcement," says Eva Velasquez, CEO of the Identity Theft Resource Center.

How to stay safe: "Never share verification codes with anyone," Velasquez says. If you have fallen for this scam, you'll find steps to reclaim your account at the Google Voice Help Center.

### 2. Rental Assistance Cons

As eviction bans in cities and states expire, renters should be on the lookout for rental assistance scams, says Deborah Royster, assistant director at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Over 583,000 older adults were behind on their rent in mid-2021, opening the door for scammers to impersonate government or nonprofit employees and to request personal info and money up front for applications.

How to stay safe: Apply only to legit rental assistance programs run by government or nonprofit groups, Royster says. Find programs in your area at [cfpb.gov](http://cfpb.gov).

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## Can CON(gress)MAN George Santos Be Removed?

Both New York politicians and voters are calling for the newly elected "Con(gress)Man George Santos resign or removed from Congress following revelations he fabricated his background and other details of his life.

Unfortunately New York's 3rd Congressional District voters, who elected Santos as their representative in November 2022, cannot directly force him out of office until the next election, in November 2024.

It appears that Santos, who beat Democrat Robert Zimmerman during the 2022 midterm election, has woven a web of lies about his personal and professional background, some of them touching on major historical and tragic events. Santos falsely claimed, for example, to have Jewish ancestry and said that his maternal grandparents fled to Brazil during the Holocaust. He also said that the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks seemingly "claimed" the life of his mother — who actually died



in 2016.

Santos said he graduated from Baruch College in the top 1% of his class and from NYU's Stern School of Business — but he never attended either institution, nor did he graduate from college.

He also lied about his work experience, falsely claiming Citigroup

and Goldman Sachs as former employers.

Santos has since admitted to embellishing parts of his résumé and said that he has not worked for CitiGroup or Goldman Sachs — and does not have a college degree.

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## Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz Raises \$600,321 in Six Months

For Re-Election Campaign With \$1,175,665 On Hand



*Katz's broad base of financial support sets her up for the race ahead*

Ahead of the January Periodic campaign financial disclosure, District Attorney Melinda Katz has announced that she's raised

\$600,321 in the last six months and that she has \$1,175,665 on hand as her re-election year kicks off. This strong base of support will ensure that the District Attorney has the resources she'll

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## Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration at Queens College



Queens College's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day commemoration, Photo by Myles S. Jackson. See story on page 3.

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# 4 Red-Hot Scams in 2022

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### 3. Fake-Job Frauds

Scammers harvest contact info and personal details from résumés posted on legit job websites like Indeed, Monster and CareerBuilder. Then, pretending to be recruiters, they call, email, text or reach out on social media with high-salary or work-at-home job offers. Sometimes the goal is to get additional info about you; other times it's to persuade you to send money for bogus home-office setups or fake fees.

How to stay safe: Use a separate email address just for job hunting,

and set up a free Google Voice phone number that rings on your phone but keeps your real number private, says Alex Hamerstone, advisory solutions director for the information security company TrustedSec. If you get a sudden job offer, independently call the company's human resources department to verify it is real, suggests Sandra Guile, spokeswoman for the International Association of Better Business Bureaus.

### 4. Fake Amazon Employees

One-third of business-impostor fraud complaints involve scammers claiming they're from Amazon, the Federal Trade Commis-

sion (FTC) reports. Older adults are four times more likely to lose money and get hit harder — losing a median of \$1,500, versus \$814 for younger adults — in such scams. "Amazon is the biggest, best-known company in the [online sales] space," Hamerstone says. So the impersonator scams "feel real" to people.

How to stay safe: Ignore calls, text messages, emails and social media messages about suspicious account activity, raffles or unauthorized purchases. If you think you may have a real account problem, contact Amazon customer support at 888-280-4331.

## Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz Raises \$600,321 in Six Months

(Continued from page 1)

need to run a robust campaign and it highlights the broad support she's received from those who want to see Queens continue going in the right direction under her stewardship.

"I am so honored and humbled by the broad base of support that's represented in this filing. My entire career led me to this position and the support I've received for re-election is a strong signal that the office is heading in the right direction," said District Attorney Melinda Katz. "This filing is just the start of our campaign where

I will highlight the work that the office is doing - to take illegal guns off the streets, to hold human traffickers and domestic abusers accountable, and to build a criminal justice system that prioritizes public safety, justice, and fairness for all - because our office shows that you can have safety in the streets and fairness in the courtroom."

Campaign Financial Disclosure Statistics

- Total Raised: \$600,321
- Cash on Hand:\$1,175,665.88
- Number of Contributors: 284
- Number of Contributions: 317
- 35 Unique Contributions from

Organized Labor Organizations  
 Melinda Katz was elected District Attorney in 2019 and inaugurated in 2020. Despite taking office in the most turbulent of times, she's provided a steady hand as she's worked to keep Queens families safe and taken on crime head on. She's led the effort to take illegal and ghost guns off the streets and held human traffickers and domestic abusers accountable. DA Katz launched Queens' first-ever Conviction Integrity Unit to ensure justice for those wrongfully convicted. And she's taken a community-first approach to public safety.

## District Attorney Katz Creates New Prosecutorial Division, Announces Senior-Level Appointments

District Attorney Melinda Katz announced the creation of a division in her office that will be dedicated to investigating and prosecuting criminals who prey on society's most vulnerable. The Special Prosecutions Division, comprised of the Special Victims and Domestic Violence Bureaus and the Juvenile Prosecutions Unit, will be led by newly appointed Executive Assistant District Attorney Joyce Smith, a veteran prosecutor and former acting district attorney of Nassau County.

District Attorney Katz said: "Launching the new Special Prosecutions Division and putting it in the very capable hands of EADA Smith marks an important moment in the history of the office of the Queens District Attorney. I look forward to the important work she and the Special Prosecutions team will be doing on behalf of the people of Queens."

District Attorney Katz also announced the promotion of Assistant District Attorney Shawn Clark to Executive Assistant District Attorney of the Major Crimes Division, and the appointment of Albert Teichman as Director of Special Projects.

District Attorney Katz said: "I will be working closely with them on policies and programs to improve public safety in Queens. Their vast experience and deep commitment will be valuable resources."

EADA Smith most recently served as Executive Assistant District Attorney for the New

York County District Attorney's Office as lead of its newly created Special Victims Division, comprised of specially trained, experienced staff and dedicated comprehensive resources. In this role, she oversaw the design and development of the division and worked to enhance the office's response to vulnerable victims. EADA Smith previously served as Acting Nassau County District Attorney, managing more than 450 attorneys, investigators, and administrative staff, and overseeing the prosecution of more than 30,000 cases a year and a budget of more than \$50 million. During her tenure as Acting District Attorney, Smith enacted Nassau's first pre-arrest diversion program, initiated significant investigations to combat violent crime, promoted enhanced services to the victims of gender-based violence, led initiatives to improve the diversity and inclusiveness of the office, and championed legislation to increase juror pay.

EADA Clark takes over as Executive Assistant District Attorney of the Major Crimes Division, where he most recently served as bureau chief of the Career Criminal Major Crimes Bureau. In addition to CCMCB, Clark will also oversee the Homicide, Hate Crimes and Forensic Science bureaus. EADA Clark began his career in the Queens District Attorney's Office in 1996. He worked in various bureaus, including Criminal Court, Intake, Homicide Investigations, Homicide Trials, Narcotic Trials

and Supreme Court Trial Bureau, where he was promoted to Deputy Chief. Clark later transferred to CCMCB as Deputy Chief and was promoted to Bureau Chief.

Assistant District Attorney Teichman brings a wealth of prosecutorial experience to the office. During a lengthy tenure at the Nassau County District Attorney's Office, he served as Chief Assistant District Attorney, overseeing a team of 250 attorneys and 200 support personnel who handled more than 30,000 cases a year. Teichman also served as CADA and EADA in the Kings County District Attorney's office over a period of 20 years. There, he planned and managed a \$60 million budget and directed the daily operations of an office of more than 500 attorneys and 600 support personnel. Director Teichman led initiatives to increase efficiency in case intake processes and improved the responsiveness of the 24-hour Major Case Response Program.

EADA Smith, EADA Clark and Director Teichman join the Executive Staff for the Queens District Attorney, which also includes Chief ADA Jennifer Naiburg, Counsel to the DA John Castellano, Counsel to the Chief ADA Vincent Carroll, EADA of Community Partnerships Colleen Babb, EADA of Investigations Gerard Brave, EADA of Appeals & Special Litigations Johnette Trill, EADA of Criminal Practice and Policy Theresa Shanahan and EADA of the Supreme Court Trial Pishoy Yacoub.

## Meng, Velázquez And Gillibrand Announce Relief For Victims of SNAP Theft From Skimming Scammers

After working to help those who had their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits stolen through skimming scams, U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY), Rep. Nydia Velázquez (D-NY) and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) announced today that relief has been provided in the new federal government spending bill signed into law by President Biden.

The 2023 omnibus appropriations legislation includes two years of benefit reimbursements for SNAP recipients who had money stolen from their benefit cards on or after October 1, 2022.

Administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service, SNAP provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of needy families so they can purchase healthy food and move towards self-sufficiency.

The reimbursements were included after Meng urged that they be added to the bill. It also followed a letter that the three lawmakers recently led to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture calling for the restoration of benefits, and better protection of SNAP funds.

Over the last few months, several states, including New York, have reported an increase of SNAP benefits being stolen due to skimming scams. This past year, scammers stole hundreds of thousands of dollars from SNAP beneficiaries in New York.

"Stealing vital SNAP benefits from vulnerable individuals and families and forcing them to possibly go hungry is unconscionable," said Congresswoman Meng. "After fighting for reimbursements for stolen benefits, I'm pleased that this assistance has been included in the 2023 spending bill. While there are more individuals who have been affected before October 1, 2022 that we must not forget about, this relief will help thousands who have been victims, and I remain committed to fighting for reimbursements for all who were recently impacted. I am grateful for the partnership of my colleagues and we will continue to keep up the fight against this despicable benefit theft, and ensure the integrity of the SNAP program for the millions that rely upon these benefits."

"For so many, SNAP is a crucial resource that helps working families put food on their table," said Congresswoman Velázquez. "The scammers that have stolen thousands from some of the most vulnerable families truly have no morals. I am so proud to have fought with Congresswoman Meng and Senator Gillibrand to ensure the funds that were stolen from SNAP recipients will be given back to them. However, there are still more Americans that have fallen victim to scammers and I will continue to work with my colleagues to not only prevent these types of scams but

reimburse those who have had their benefits stolen."

"I'm proud that our bill to reissue SNAP benefits to those who had them stolen was included in this year's omnibus bill," said Senator Gillibrand. "SNAP provides a lifeline for millions of New Yorkers. No one should have to choose between paying their bills or feeding their family because of the actions of unscrupulous people preying on our most vulnerable communities. I will continue fighting to protect families relying on this benefit from falling victim to identity theft or a skimming scam."

Skimming can occur when criminals place a "skimming" device on an ATM or POS (point of sale) device to capture a person's PIN information and the data stored on the magnetic strip of the SNAP EBT (Electronic Benefits Transfer) card. This allows thieves to use that information to duplicate the EBT card and access the benefits in the SNAP beneficiary's account, even without the original card. Unlike credit card, debit card and pre-paid cardholders who are covered by the federal Electronic Fund Transfer Act (EFTA) and Regulation E against losses from unauthorized electronic transactions, SNAP EBT beneficiaries are not afforded the same protections. Additionally, SNAP benefit theft can occur through identity theft and hacking.

## Assemblymembers Colton And Lee Urge Passage of The Bill to Create Asian Lunar Year as a New Public Holiday in NYS

Assemblyman William Colton (D - Gravesend, Bensonhurst, Bath Beach, and Dyker Heights) introduced Bill #9541 in the 2021-22 assembly session to create Asian Lunar Year as a new public holiday in New York State.

"Asian Americans have played a vital role in shaping our nation while continuously facing

discrimination and violence. This holiday is one of the most important traditional holidays amongst the Asian community and is widely celebrated in the U.S.," Colton stated.

"Today together with the Asian Community Leaders and a newly elected Assembly member Grace Lee of the 65 AD I will be holding a press conference at 2:00

pm. at the Chinese Benevolent Association (CCBA) at 62 Mott Street in Manhattan to promote my Bill #9541 which I introduced in the 2021-22 session. I believe that creating a public holiday such as Lunar New Year will promote and increase awareness of Asian history and tradition not just in our community but nationwide," Colton added.

## Meng And Schumer: Meng Legislation to Help Combat Flooding in Queens Signed Into Law

**Enactment follows devastating flooding in the borough from Ida and other storms; will authorize nearly \$120 million for Army Corps of Engineers to address the problem**

U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Queens) and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) announced today that Meng's legislation seeking to help combat flooding in Queens has been signed into law by President Biden.

The measure, which follows unprecedented flooding that Queens experienced from Hurricane Ida as well as flooding from other storms, authorizes the Army Corps of Engineers - in working with the City of New York - to spend nearly \$120 million on upgrading environmental infrastructure in the borough. These include projects to help improve water and wastewater infrastructure, storm water management, and combined sewer overflows.

The legislation was signed as part of the National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 7776), which is Congress' annual defense spend-

ing bill. It was signed after passing the House and Senate last month.

"During Hurricane Ida in September 2021, severe flooding wreaked havoc on Queens, hitting my congressional district especially hard," said Congresswoman Meng. "Lives were lost and homes and property sustained extensive damage. In addition, our borough was impacted further over the past year by heavy rainfall that caused additional flooding in our communities. Addressing this problem has got to be a top priority, and the signing of my legislation into law brings us one step closer toward developing solutions and upgrading the infrastructure we need."

"Hurricane Ida devastated communities across New York, and Queens in particular suffered immense damage to its roads, businesses and homes, and lives were tragically lost," said Senator

Schumer. "I visited Queens after the storm with Representative Meng and we worked together to deliver this valuable federal support to improve flood protection and upgrade our water and sewer systems. Now, we are another important step closer to improving water infrastructure and management to help combat future flooding."

Meng's legislation allows the Army Corps to spend the money to address the problem of flooding, and now that the measure has been enacted, Congress must allocate the funding for it so that the Corps can move forward with needed improvements.

Congresswoman Meng is New York's senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, which provides funding to federal agencies and programs including the Army Corps of Engineers.

## Can CON(gress)MAN George Santos Be Removed?

(Continued from page 1)

Although a local weekly newspaper raised questions about his background in September, the story did not gain traction until The New York Times published its own story in December 2022. If the voters had known about these lies before the election, Santos might have lost.

It is important that voters understand their limited options at this point. Forty states provide for the recall of state and local elected officials. But there is no federal recall law that could lead to the removal of someone like Santos from Congress.

The Nassau County Republican Committee and other local offices in Santos' Long Island district are calling for him to step down. Several Republican House members have joined the chorus.

Santos said that he will not resign, "I was elected by 142,000 people. Until those same 142,000 people tell me they don't want me, we'll find out in two years".

The Constitution says that members of Congress can be impeached and removed for treason, bribery or other offenses. The Constitution does not specify grounds for expulsion, or actually removing someone from office, leaving that to each chamber of Congress to determine.

The Constitution also says nothing about recall elections.

The Supreme Court has also never specifically addressed the legality of a federal recall, but two other rulings suggest that such a law would be unconstitutional. The court first determined in 1969 that Congress may not refuse to seat a duly elected member who meets the constitutional qualifications for office. And it also ruled in 1995 that states may not impose term limits on members of Congress, because that would add an additional qualification for membership beyond the citizenship, age and residency requirements mentioned in the Constitution.

Even if a federal law authorizing the recall of members of Congress were adopted and survived a legal challenge, the legislative and legal processes would consume virtually all of Santos' two-year term. So recalling Santos is not a promising option, even if it were legal.

Critics might also try to get the House to expel Santos. But expulsion is exceedingly rare. The House has expelled only five members in its entire history, most for joining the Confederacy during

the Civil War.

Santos would not be committing any crime simply by telling lies. Maybe he did other things that violated the law; state, federal and Brazilian authorities are currently investigating whether he used campaign funds for personal expenses, and whether he committed fraud in Brazil by using someone else's checkbook to pay his bills.

But Santos will not automatically lose his office even if he is convicted of any crime. The House does not require members to forfeit their office in those circumstances, or even if they go to prison.

Santos' case, however, does raise ethics concerns that members of Congress can address. Two House Democrats from New York have filed ethics complaints against Santos with the House Ethics Committee regarding incomplete financial disclosure forms.

This bipartisan committee investigates alleged law violations by Congress members and makes recommendations to the full House. Ethics Committee recommendations are not legally binding. The House itself must consider them, though. In any event, this process probably would extend far into or beyond Santos' term.

Santos might also resign if the Ethics Committee recommended his expulsion. That has happened on several occasions. In 1986, Sen. Harrison Williams resigned when facing an Ethics Committee's recommendations that he be expelled because of corruption. In 1995, Sen. Robert Packwood left his post for the same reason.

Santos would be able to serve most or all of his term even if the House did ultimately vote to expel him. But there are additional complications. The Constitution requires a two-thirds vote to expel a member of Congress. Such a supermajority is unlikely, especially in a House with a narrow majority in which every vote counts and when Republicans might be hard-pressed to win a special election to fill Santos' vacancy.

Voters who are appalled by George Santos' apparent lies have little direct leverage to force him out of office quickly. Their first and best opportunity will come in 2024 if Santos decides to seek another term. Voters could defeat him in the Republican primary, where he surely would face opposition. And if he somehow survived the primary, he would still have to face a Democrat in the general election.

New York politicians and voters can only hope.

## Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration at Queens College

(Continued from page 1)

One of the most highly regarded events of its kind in the city—Queens College's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day commemoration, held this year on January 15—honored Jelani Cobb, PhD, fifth from left in the attached photo, dean of the Columbia Journalism School and staff writer for The New Yorker. Jazz vocalist Samara Joy, third from left, a 2023

Grammy-nominee whose voice has inspired comparisons to Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughn, performed at the event. Queens College President Frank H. Wu, at left, hosted. New York City Council Speaker Adrienne E. Adams, second from left, and Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr., at right, brought greetings. Sandra Wilkin, vice chair of the Board of Trustees of the City University of New York, is fourth from left.

## Gillibrand Leads 15 Senate Colleagues in Push to Include 12 Weeks of National Paid Family And Medical Leave in President Biden's Budget

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) has led a coalition of 16 senators to call on the Biden administration to remain firm in its commitment to paid leave by advancing a national paid family and medical leave program in the FY2024 budget. In the letter, the senators call for the inclusion of \$547 billion in mandatory spending over 10 years to guarantee up to 12 weeks of paid parental, family caregiving, and personal medical leave to all working people in the United States. Gillibrand is joined in her letter by Senators Baldwin (D-WI), Blumenthal (D-CT), Booker (D-NJ), Brown (D-OH), Casey (D-PA), Duckworth (D-IL), Hirono (D-HI), Markey (D-MA), Merkley (D-OR), Padilla (D-CA), Sanders (I-VT), Van Hollen (D-MD), Warren (D-MA), Whitehouse (D-RI), and Wyden (D-OR).

"We thank President Biden for his commitment to expanding paid leave and urge that the administration's FY24 budget request meaningfully reflect that commitment. The United States is the world's only industrialized nation that does not guarantee workers paid leave, even though nearly all workers will need to take time away from work at some point to address a serious illness or to care for a new child," wrote the senators. "It is of the utmost importance that we invest in our nation's workers and families through paid family and medical leave programs to provide much-

needed financial security, cost-savings for businesses, reductions in government public assistance expenditures, and stimulation for local economies. We look forward to working together on this important issue to promote the financial well-being of working families and the vibrancy of the economy."

"We applaud the Biden Administration for including paid leave in its economic agenda and its previous budgets, and we were so encouraged to hear the President commit to a renewed push on paid leave for all workers in all industries last month. As we start a new year and mark a new Congress and state legislative sessions, we are thrilled that state legislators, governors, and members of Congress are putting paid leave at the top of their agenda, unions are making it a priority, and support from voters has never been higher. We are optimistic about paid leave's momentum and hope that will be reflected in the FY24 budget et." —Dawn Huckelbridge, Director at Paid Leave for All

"All U.S. workers deserve the security of knowing they will have paid family and medical leave no matter their job or employer, the state they live in, or their serious care need. Today, only a minority of workers have this assurance. Paid leave strengthens families, builds a stronger and more diverse labor force, and boosts businesses. The Senators' request today to

the Office of Management and Budget to propose fully-funded permanent, national paid leave in its Fiscal Year 2024 budget reflects a serious commitment to facilitate the support that workers, families, businesses and our economy need." —Vicki Shabo, Senior Fellow for Paid Leave Policy and Strategy, Better Life Lab at New America

"Everyone at some point in their lives will need time to care for themselves or their families, yet 30 years after the Family and Medical Leave Act, many workers still must make the impossible choice between caring for themselves or their loved ones and their livelihoods. Paid leave is a racial, gender, and disability justice issue. It keeps workers in the labor force, reduces turnover and increases consumer spending. At a time when women's labor force participation has declined, despite a strong job market, we need policies that will help women workers stay in the workforce without putting their families or their own health at risk. If U.S. women participated in the labor force at the same rates as our peer countries, we could add \$650 billion to the economy annually. A budget is a moral document, and it is imperative that the administration reaffirm its commitment to a national paid family and medical leave program by including it in its FY2024 budget." —Jocelyn Frye, President, National Partnership for Women & Families

## Statement From Speaker Adrienne Adams And Finance Chair Justin Brannan on Fiscal Year 2024 Preliminary Budget

"As our city continues to recover from the pandemic, we must prioritize smart investments that maintain essential services to keep all New Yorkers healthy and safe. We also must prioritize solutions to the staffing challenges that have hindered city agencies in delivering key services to New Yorkers, such as housing and food assistance. To that end, many of our concerns with the Mayor's November Plan

remain with the Fiscal Year 2024 Preliminary Budget. The Council will be more closely examining the details of this Preliminary Budget and holding oversight hearings on agency budgets and the efficiencies in current city spending as it relates to the overall priorities of New Yorkers. We intend to be a partner in efforts to secure additional funding support at the federal and state levels for the City's response to asy-

lum seekers and other critical services. Our vision for an equitable New York includes commitments to funding CUNY, libraries, early childhood and K-12 education, and critical health and social safety net services that make New York City a cleaner, healthier, and safer place for all New Yorkers. This Council is deeply committed to protecting the essential services that help us achieve that important goal."

## REMINDER: MTA to Begin Construction on Accessibility Project at Queensboro Plaza; Six Weekends of 7 Line Closures

Project will Add Two Elevators and Other Accessibility Enhancements

#7 Line Service to be Suspended Between 34 St-Hudson Yards and Queensboro Plaza for Six Weekends This Winter and Spring; Free Shuttle Buses Provided

First Weekend with #7 Line Service Outage Is Saturday, Feb. 4, from 12:15 a.m. through 5 a.m. Monday, Feb. 6

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) has issued a reminder that it will begin construction in about two weeks to install two elevators to make the Queensboro Plaza a fully accessible station. This includes an elevator at the southern entrance of the station and an elevator between the mezzanine and the two platforms. The station is a busy

transfer point in Queens that served approximately 70,000 riders on an average weekday in November 2022 – this estimate includes both customers who swipe in at this station and those who are transferring between the , and . The work will be completed in phases and will require weekends of service changes beginning with service outages on the line at 12:15 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 4 and later, in May, on the line.

Queensboro Plaza is a station with high ridership and in the center of a rapidly growing neighborhood, rendering it a complex construction project, involving work to be done over the busy, 11-lane wide approach to the Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge, two of which are bike lanes. This project is also in coordination with the construction of a redundant accessible entrance on the north side

of the station under a Zoning for Accessibility (ZFA) project.

"The improvements coming to Queensboro Plaza will greatly benefit tens of thousands of riders," said NYC Transit President Richard Davey. "Accessibility is such an integral part of mass transit, especially for a city like New York where mass transit is essential for many. When complete, the project will provide critical accessibility upgrades, security updates, and customer experience improvements throughout the station."

"Building in dense urban environments, with infrastructure that dates back more than 100 years, is complex and challenging," said MTA Construction and Development President Jamie Torres-Springer. "But making our system accessible is essential and so we are

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## QBP Donovan Richards to Host Inaugural "Queens Tech Fair: Breaking Barriers to Entry"

Saturday, January 21 from 10am to 1pm in Jamaica

There is no industry growing in New York City as rapidly as the technology industry, but despite Queens' unparalleled diversity, significant disparities exist within our burgeoning tech workforce. To break down those barriers preventing underrepresented communities from attaining jobs in the tech industry, Borough President Donovan Richards Jr. will host his inaugural Queens Tech Fair this Saturday, January 21, from 10am to 1pm in Jamaica.

"My administration is committed to realizing the potential of our borough by making Queens a thriving hub of technology and innovation. That cannot happen, however, until the jobs being created in this sector every day are truly accessible to residents who would have otherwise been shut out," said Borough President RICHARDS. "I couldn't be more excited to bring the first-ever Queens Tech Fair to Southeast Queens and help unlock the unlimited potential of our borough. If you have an interest in the technology industry, please join us on Saturday."

Held at the Greater Jamaica Development Corporation's state-of-the-art new Greater Nexus co-working space, located at 89-14 Parsons Blvd., the Queens Tech Fair will feature a litany of resources and interactive workshops geared toward Queens residents from disadvantaged communities with an interest in breaking into the industry, including:

- A free job skills assessment, in partnership with JobsFirstNYC and powered by leading artificial intelligence firm Skyhive;
- Individualized education and workforce training services, in partnership with All Star Code, Emergent Works, Girls Who Code, Per Scholas, Pursuit and Urban Upbound
- An individualized hiring station, in partnership with entities looking to hire Queens residents, including Google, JetBlue, the Long Island City Partnership, Microsoft and T-Mobile
- Interactive technology workshops in virtual reality, gaming and more, in partnership with All Star Code, Tech: NYC, Unisphere Ideas and VEDX.
- One-on-one mentoring op-

portunities, in partnership with Cornell Tech

- A "breaking barriers to entry" workshop, courtesy of Nigeria's Lagos State Ministry of Science and Technology

Queens residents interested in participating in the Queens Tech Fair can register by visiting [bit.ly/queentechfair](http://bit.ly/queentechfair).

Underscoring the importance of ensuring equitable access to the tech field are the stark demographic and gender disparities that currently exist in the New York City tech industry workforce. Nearly 30 percent of city residents are Latin and 24 percent are Black, but Latin and Black residents hold just 12 percent and 11 percent of New York City tech jobs, respectively, according to a 2020 study by analytic firm HR&A Advisors. Meanwhile, half of New York City's population identifies as female, but just 35 percent of tech jobs are filled by women.

"Historic economic disinvestment across many of our Queens communities has held far too many families back for generations, but the days of being disadvantaged are done," said Deputy Borough President EBONY YOUNG. "The Queens Tech Fair is a down payment on our push for change."

The Queens Tech Fair is the fulfillment of a multi-pronged pledge Borough President Richards made in his 2022 State of the Borough address last June to build a borough economy on the cutting edge of innovation, all while expanding industry opportunities all Queens residents, regardless of race, gender identity, ZIP code or socioeconomic status.

In October 2022, Borough President Richards and Deputy Borough President Young launched the Queens Tech + Innovation Challenge (QTIC) in partnership with the Queens Economic Development Corporation. The multi-month competition for Queens-based entrepreneurs — offering free businesses classes, mentorship opportunities and networking sessions, as well as \$20,000 in seed funding for five winning local start-ups — has already received more than 70 applications with more than six weeks still to go before the March 1 application deadline.

Interested start-ups are encouraged to apply for a spot in the QTIC by clicking here or visiting [www.queensstartup.org](http://www.queensstartup.org).

## Council Member Julie Won Raises \$83,071.20 for First Filing Deadline

Council Member Julie Won announces that her re-election campaign is fully funded through Election Day, having raised \$83,071.20 in advance of the first fundraising deadline on January 17th. Council Member Won's campaign expects to qualify for full matching funds, bringing her total re-election war chest to \$267,071.20.

As the first woman, immigrant, and person of color to represent District 26, Council Member Won's grassroots donors reflect the communities she

serves: two-thirds (67%) of all donors are people of color, and half of all donations are \$50 or less. With an incredible level of local support, the campaign expects to qualify for full matching funds; 91% of all donors are NYC residents, and 144 donors are residents of District 26. Council Member Won's campaign does not accept donations from big real estate, fossil fuel interests, lobbyists, and corporate PACs.

"I am incredibly grateful

(Continued on page 11)

*Queens Times Weekly ...*  
**HOROSCOPE**   
 For the Week of ... 1/19/23 - 1/25/23

*For Entertainment Purposes Only*

**ARIES**  
 (Mar. 21 - April 20)  
 Financial losses may be likely if you lend money. You can make new connections if you play your cards right. This is a great week for a trip. Your lucky numbers are 8,5,3/

**TAURUS**  
 (Apr. 21 - May 21)  
 Try redecorating your surroundings. Don't let people with get rich schemes talk you into a financial deal that is not likely to be successful. Your lucky numbers are 5,4,9.

**GEMINI**  
 (May 22 - June 21)  
 Your co-workers may try blaming you for work related mistakes. Exercise your talents and present your ideas to your boss. Your lucky numbers are 9,3,2.

**CANCER**  
 (June 22 - July 22)  
 Be aware that minor accidents may prevail if you are preoccupied. Be honest in your communication and don't lose your cool. Your lucky numbers are 7,3,2.

**LEO**  
 (July 23 - Aug 22)  
 Put your energy into home renovations or redecorating your surroundings. Make plans that with friends you haven't seen in awhile. Your lucky numbers are 6,7,8.

**VIRGO**  
 (Aug. 23 - Sept. 23)  
 You are best to stick to yourself this week. Friends that you're affiliated with may want you to contribute more cash than you can afford. Your lucky numbers are 2,9,1/

**LIBRA**  
 (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)  
 Money problems will get worse if you haven't been playing by the rules. You are better off visiting friends than entertaining at home. Your lucky numbers are 5,9,6.

**SCORPIO**  
 (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)  
 Don't believe everything you hear. This will be a good week to invite friend over to visit. Try to get out and socialize. Check your investments. Your lucky numbers are 1,4,7.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
 (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)  
 Put your energy into your work project. Try joining a club to work off that excess energy. Consider ways of spending less money. Your lucky numbers are 1,9,4.

**CAPRICORN**  
 (Dec 22 - Jan. 20)  
 Financial losses are likely if you take high risks. Try to avoid issues that you think may hurt someone's feelings. You need time to relax. Your lucky numbers are 4,7,9.

**AQUARIUS**  
 (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)  
 You need to find something constructive to do with your spare time. Someone may confide in you. You must keep it a secret. Your lucky numbers are 9,1,7.

**PISCES**  
 (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20)  
 You should be open-minded to a family member's view of religious ideas. Children may pose a problem if they don't like suggestions. Your lucky numbers are 6,4,7.

**Did You Know?**

- about 90% of the worlds population kisses
- Coca-Cola originally contained cocaine
- the Internet was originally called ARPANet (Advanced Research Projects Agency Network) designed by the US department of defense
- toilets use 35% of indoor water use
- the fortune cookie was invented in San Francisco
- Koalas sleep around 18 hours a day
- the first Burger King was opened in Florida Miami in 1954
- all insects have 6 legs
- the croissant was invented in Austria
- In eastern Africa you can buy beer brewed from bananas
- African Grey Parrots have vocabularies of over 200 words
- a giraffe can clean its ears with its 21 inch tongue
- Australia was originally called New Holland
- 'Lonely Planet' for travelers is based in Melbourne Australia
- the sentence "the quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter in the English alphabet
- the Grand Canyon can hold around 900 trillion footballs
- all the blinking in one day equates to having your eyes closed for 30 minutes
- your foot has 26 bones in it
- the average human brain contains around 78% water

**Answer to Last Weeks Puzzles**

**"Sudoku"**

1	6	5	2	3	9	7	4	8
7	8	2	4	1	6	5	9	3
9	3	4	5	7	8	6	1	2
8	9	3	7	5	2	4	6	1
2	4	7	8	6	1	9	3	5
6	5	1	9	4	3	8	2	7
3	1	9	6	8	5	2	7	4
4	2	8	1	9	7	3	5	6
5	7	6	3	2	4	1	8	9

**"Crossword Puzzle"**

T	R	A	M	P	C	H	I	P	C	A	B	S	
S	A	B	E	R	L	U	N	A	O	V	E	N	
A	G	R	E	E	E	N	V	Y	N	I	L	E	
R	E	I	T	E	R	A	T	E	S	T	O	L	E
N	E	V	E	R	M	I	N	E	R				
S	N	A	P	V	E	R	S	I	O	N			
W	O	R	R	I	E	D	E	N	T	E	R	E	D
A	S	T	E	R	N	S	E	N	A	T	E		
M	E	S	S	A	G	E	D	U	S	T	P	A	N
U	T	E	N	S	I	L	S	E	T	S			
E	L	O	P	E	G	L	E	A	M				
C	A	R	P	P	R	O	T	R	A	C	T	E	D
T	R	I	O	L	A	V	A	N	O	R	S	E	
A	G	E	S	E	V	E	R	G	O	O	S	E	
D	E	L	E	D	E	N	Y	O	L	D	E	R	

**"Try And Find"**

U	L	H	S	P	K	P	A	D	I	P	A	L	K
X	V	K	B	S	D	W	O	R	C	A	D	C	F
I	A	O	H	P	A	R	G	O	E	R	O	H	C
B	W	V	C	O	L	R	F	C	R	U	S	H	U
O	N	P	O	H	Y	N	N	U	B	N	D	I	X
O	N	Y	D	B	O	C	S	I	D	O	G	J	H
G	T	A	R	W	U	N	X	L	F	T	D	B	B
I	S	S	C	T	I	M	P	O	B	S	B	E	G
E	L	A	E	N	N	O	P	S	M	E	R	R	N
A	P	P	H	T	A	U	J	O	P	L	E	C	A
U	S	O	H	C	N	C	O	V	S	R	A	O	G
I	E	S	L	O	A	O	F	C	Z	A	K	X	N
Q	Y	E	O	K	P	H	C	L	H	X	L	O	C
B	K	D	Y	B	A	H	C	Y	R	C	V	B	C

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**TRY AND FIND**

NATHSUEIOOCHMSKIZVLP  
 OVB DORI IYECCULUFTUEZ  
 DBBYRVFQITEJJ ECLNKZS  
 QUSAU IIBHELKKVMG SQER  
 EBMFLPFRZKLFQOWWOTET  
 BMOAQLB TCNSHHHKHTDRI  
 NRAGQBBAKALJNSMFWJFV  
 MWIISZAWFLURRYHODPCE  
 VWFRFINIJBSTLZPPAPGB  
 EAQMSCKMXFHIUGDOTCAQ  
 GUVITDCMIPAECTIYDKZW  
 SQUALLJCFHTQUEWDGRVP  
 ZKDFLAKEZMPOHDMLDPCQ  
 MHDOHAUGRGEETEILZLIL  
 WILFRMNOUTGGBLIZZARD  
 BIOIYKTCITBQGSLOHQQA  
 ASYCZSFHHR TDAMTVAKYJ  
 AASUZQWSLEETGHHPVXJC  
 OLSOMLWJNFCIFUDYYQEB  
 ITLTTIVFALLNRAZYULHU

Avalanche	Drift	Hail	Sleet
Ball	Fall	Powder	Slush
Bank	Flake	Salt	Squall
Blanket	Flurry	Shovels	Storm
Blizzard	Freeze	Sled	Whiteout

**SUDOKU**

				3		8	4	
	5	2						
6								
	9			4	8	5		
		1	7	3		4		
				1				
	7					3		
		2		7		5		
	8					9	7	

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20					21						22			
				23						24				
25	26	27	28		29				30					
31				32				33				34	35	36
37								38						
39						40			41					
			42					43			44			
45	46	47				48					49			
50						51					52	53	54	55
56						57					58			
59						60					61			
62						63					64			

- ACROSS**
1. Sword
  6. Coarse file
  10. Jury member
  14. Devotee
  15. European volcano
  16. Anagram of "Real"
  17. Sea
  18. Put away
  19. Nights before
  20. Chastisement
  22. Greek district
  23. Jarring surprise
  24. Stay with as a guest
  25. Quash
  29. A poison
  31. Lift
  33. A shoulder muscle
  37. Ancient ascetic
  38. Grow older
  39. A used automobile tire
  41. Absolute quiet
  42. Large tuna
  44. Not alive
  45. Debate
  48. Funnel shapes
  50. Gloomy
  51. Mental representation
  56. Pair
  57. Citrus fruit
  58. Immense
  59. Wash
  60. Not under
  61. Ready for anything
  62. Distinctive flair
  63. We are (contraction)
  64. Affirmatives
- DOWN**
1. Alliance
  2. Slang term meaning insane
  3. Assert
  4. Darling
  5. Anagram of "Sneer"
  6. Mend
  7. Area under roofs
  8. A form of pool
  9. Stooze
  10. Based upon
  11. Roof overhangs
  12. Lacquer ingredient
  13. Adjust again
  21. French manor house
  24. Critical
  25. Swerve
  26. Otherwise
  27. Exam
  28. Load with excessive weight
  30. Candidate
  32. Bless with oil
  34. Musical phrase
  35. Whale
  36. Marsh plant
  40. Mislead
  41. Earnest
  43. Previous
  45. Confuse
  46. Regal
  47. Tropical fruit
  49. Spread out
  51. Farm equipment
  52. Story
  53. Angers
  54. Beast
  55. Trawling equipment



## Homeowners Benefit & NOPV Information Session

Thursday, January 26, 2023 | 2:00 p.m – 4:00 p.m.  
 Korean Community Services Center  
 203-05 32nd Avenue, Bayside, NY 11361

S P O N S O R E D B Y :

State Senator John Liu



Assemblyman Edward Braunstein



### HOME, CONDO, AND CO-OP OWNERS: Learn how to Lower Your Property Taxes

- ▶ Learn about benefit programs for home, condo, and co-op owners, including eligibility and how to apply
- ▶ Learn about your annual notice of property value (NOPV)
- ▶ Learn how to submit questions to the Department of Finance

**Thursday, January 26, 2023**  
**2:00 p.m – 4:00 p.m.**  
 Korean Community Services Center  
 203-05 32nd Avenue, Bayside, NY 11361  
**For more information:**  
 email [events@johnliusenate.com](mailto:events@johnliusenate.com) or call 718-765-6675

## Queens Theatre Presents “The Monkey King: A Kung Fu Musical”



On Saturday, February 11th and Sunday, February 12th, Queens Theatre presents *The Monkey King: A Kung-Fu Musical*, an original production by real-life dynamic duo husband and wife team and theatre artists from Forest Hills, Queens, Kimbirdlee and Jonathan Fadner. *The Monkey King: A Kung-Fu Musical* is based on a legendary mythical figure from one of the greatest Chinese novels, “Journey to the West,” by Wu Cheng’en, but with a twist - the beloved main character is a woman! Kimbirdlee and Jonathan Fadner came up with the idea of changing the gender of the main character after noticing that there were few roles in musical theatre written specifically for Asian-American women.

“I love the world of possibilities of musical theatre. Through this story-telling medium, we explore many genres - rock, jazz, classical, hip hop, folk, and any setting - a barren stage, an opera house, a puppet show, a street corner,” said writer, composer, and music director Jonathan Fadner. “That being

said, there are gaping cultural holes in the musical canon. We wrote this empowering show to fill those holes with principal roles for Asian women in musical theatre.”

Don’t miss the adventure as the first-ever female Monkey King battles against Heaven and Earth’s most treacherous foes to save her tribe and achieve immortality. With a cast of memorable characters, a mix of classical and rock music, and kung-fu style choreography - this is an action adventure come to life, a heartfelt and inspiring story perfect for the entire family!

“Writing “*The Monkey King A Kung-Fu Musical* with Jonathan is my single most meaningful project that highlights my own culture, empowers my world as an Asian woman, and creates much needed opportunities for the Asian theatre community here in New York City and beyond,” said co-writer Kimbirdlee Fadner, who plays *The Monkey King*.

For more details, visit [www.queentheatre.org](http://www.queentheatre.org) or call the Box Office at (718) 760-0064.



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# Projected Interborough Express

The Interborough Express is a transformative rapid transit project that would connect currently underserved areas of Brooklyn and Queens.

The Interborough Express is a transformative rapid transit project that would connect currently underserved areas of Brooklyn and Queens. It would substantially cut down on travel times between the two boroughs, reduce congestion, and expand economic opportunities for the people who live and work in the surrounding neighborhoods.

The project would be built along the existing, LIRR-owned Bay Ridge Branch and CSX-owned Fremont Secondary, a 14-mile freight line that extends from Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, to Jackson Heights, Queens. It would create a new transit option for close to 900,000 residents of the neighborhoods along the route, along with 260,000 people who work in Brooklyn and Queens. It would connect with up to 17 different subway lines, as well as Long Island Rail Road, with end-to-end travel times anticipated at less than 40 minutes. Daily weekday ridership is estimated at 115,000.

Using the existing rail infrastructure means the Interborough Express could be built more quickly and efficiently. It would also preserve the Bay Ridge Branch's use as a freight line, providing an opportunity to connect to the Port Authority's Cross-Harbor Freight Project.

After extensive planning,



analysis, and public engagement, Light Rail was chosen because it will provide the best service for riders at the best value. It also announced a preliminary list of stations and advanced other important planning and engineering analysis of the project.

What the projected benefits are:

A direct public transit option between Brooklyn and Queens; Connections with up to 17 subway lines and Long Island Rail Road; A faster commute end-to-end rides are expected to take 40 minutes; A new transit option in underserved locations where more than a third of residents are below the federal poverty line.

## Flushing Town Hall Celebrates Lunar New Year With Chinese Theatre Works' Hao Bang-ah, Rabbit!

On Sunday, January 29, Flushing Town Hall welcomes Chinese Theatre Works to its stage for two family-friendly performances at 1 PM and 3 PM to celebrate the Year of the Rabbit with Hao Bang-ah, Rabbit!, featuring traditional budaixi-style puppetry and live music. Both performances will be followed by hands-on workshops for children.

Lunar New Year, the most important traditional festival in Asian cultures, marks the start of a new year following the moon cycle. Each year is represented by one of twelve zodiac animals and 2023 is the Year of the Rabbit, commencing January 22. The Rabbit is known to be the luckiest out of all twelve zodiac animals, symbolizing such character traits as creativity, compassion, and sensitivity.

"Hao Bang Ah!" is a common Chinese expression meaning "Great!" or "Well done!"

Each year, Chinese Theatre Works celebrates the Lunar New Year season with an original "budaixi," which is a traditional Chinese glove-puppet production that features the twelve animals of the Chinese zodiac. This year's show stars the Rabbit, who will preside over a jolly selection of wild puppet skits, dances, popular songs, and well-known Chinese sayings that celebrate the wit and wisdom of the zodiac animals.

Special guests include the Jade Rabbit on the Moon and other



all-star members of the zodiac puppet ensemble. Sing-alongs, games, and hands-on post-show demonstrations will make the Chinese bilingual cultural experience accessible to even the youngest audience members.

Queens-based Chinese Theatre Works (CTW) was created in 2001 out of the merger of two nonprofit institutions with long histories of bringing traditional and innovative, contemporary Chinese performing arts to local New York City, national and international audiences. CTW has won the highest honor in U.S. puppetry, a Citation of Excellence from UNIMA-USA for their show Toy Theater Peony Pavilion. The company has also been featured at many festivals and conferences across the world, including the Puppeteers of America's National Festival; Puppet Power in Calgary, Canada; the DALA Festival in Seoul, South Korea; Taipei Children's Theater

Association's Festival in Taiwan; and the Puppeteers of America's Northeast Regional Festival.

The play Hao Bang-ah, Rabbit! was written and directed by Kuang-Yu Fong and Stephen Kaplin, and Stephen Kaplin is responsible for puppet design and construction. You can see a parade of their zodiac animals here.

"We are excited to welcome Chinese Theatre Works' talented team to Flushing Town Hall to teach our young audiences about Lunar New Year traditions as we ring in the Year of the Rabbit," says Flushing Town Hall's Executive and Artistic Director Ellen Kodadek. "Flushing, home to diverse Asian American and immigrant communities, is the best place in New York to celebrate one of the most joyful Asian holidays first-hand, and we highly recommend eating at

(Continued on page 10)

## Attorney General James Releases Statement on U.S. Supreme Court Decision Allowing Concealed Carry Gun Law to Remain in Effect



New York Attorney General Letitia James has released the following statement after the United States Supreme Court ruled to allow New York's Concealed Carry Improvement Act (CCIA) to remain in effect pending appeal. The Supreme Court upheld a stay that was issued by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in Antonyuk v. Nigrelli in December 2022.

"We have a right to enact commonsense measures to protect our communities, and I am pleased

with the Supreme Court's decision to allow New York's concealed carry gun law to remain in effect. Too many New Yorkers are plagued by gun violence, and we know that basic gun laws help save lives every day. My office will continue to use every tool at our disposal to protect New Yorkers and defend our responsible gun laws."

As a result of today's decision, the full CCIA is in effect. The CCIA took effect in September 2022, in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen. The law strengthens requirements for concealed carry permits, prohibits guns in sensitive places, requires individuals with concealed carry permits to request a property owner's consent to carry on their premises, enhances safe storage requirements, and requires background checks on all ammunition purchases.

## Celebrating The Legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Recently the Queens District Attorneys Office held a very special event celebrating the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. co-sponsored with York College and St. Albans Congregational Church.



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# IT'S IN QUEENS

## It's In Queens! (Jan. 20 to Jan. 26)

There's a Lunar New Year theme to this week's Queens fun. But just like the borough, they're diverse with concerts, a fashion show, parades, workshops, and restaurant deals. There's also some great Latin dance, French cheese, and Israeli music.

- Jan. 20, Snubbed: Great Movies, No Nominations, March 12. Twenty-four films that the Oscars didn't consider for awards. The lineup includes works by Spike Lee, Charlie Chaplin, and Martin Scorsese. Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria's Kaufman Arts District.

- Jan. 20, Three Nights of Dance, Jan. 22. The Take Root program presents Rebecca Lloyd-Jones, whose work explores the complexity and contradictions of human relations, and Selma Trevino, whose work swings between gestural representation and abstract physicality, on Jan. 20 and Jan. 21 at 8 pm. Then, the Fertile Ground New Works Showcase provides a venue for various emerging artists to showcase pieces on Jan. 22 at 7 pm. Green Space, 37-24 24th St., Ste. 211, Long Island City.

- Jan. 20, LIC Lunar New Year, Feb. 19. Long Island City stores offer deals, cultural groups present events, restaurants make special menus, and facilities host celebrations related to Lunar New Year.

- Jan. 20, On the Morning You Wake to Nuclear Threat, Feb. 12. Co-presented by Games for Change, this exhibition features screenings of the eponymous virtual reality documentary at the center of a global nuclear disarmament campaign. Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria's Kaufman Arts District.
- Jan. 20, Eternal Spring, 3 pm. Queens Public Library streams a conversation with filmmaker Jason Loftus and illustrator Daxiong. The main topic is Eternal Spring, a 2022 Canadian documentary directed by Loftus and based around Daxiong's animation. Join on Facebook or YouTube.

- Jan. 20, Swing Sabroso, 8 pm. Talented artists get the crowd dancing with new and traditional Latin music. Resorts World New York City, 110-00 Rockaway Blvd., South Jamaica.

- Jan. 21, Lunar New Year with Asian In NY, 1 pm. Celebrate the Year of Rabbit with a Lion dance, Chinese dances, K-Pop, live DJ music, crafts, storytelling, and a fashion show. Queens Center, 90-15 Queens Blvd., Elmhurst.

- Jan. 21, This Home, Feb. 26. Featuring NYC-based photographers Janice Chung, Cindy Trinh, and An Rong Xu, this Lunar New Year exhibition tells a visual story of the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.

- Jan. 21, Young Artists Showcase, 7:30 pm. A Musica Reginae showcase of students at top NYC conservatories. Evan Katsefes



(tenor), Jennifer Robinson (soprano), and Nick Fanara (piano) perform Beethoven, Liszt, Mozart, and others with pianist Barbara Podgurski. The Church-in-the-Gardens, 50 Ascan Ave., Forest Hills.

- Jan. 21, The Redemption of Music, 2 pm. An afternoon of classic music by violist Neesa Suncheuri Sunar, who shares her personal story of survival as an autistic woman with schizoaffective disorder. She performs work by Bach, Paganini, Telemann, and others. King Manor Museum, 150-03 Jamaica Ave., Jamaica.

- Jan. 21, Cheese Writing for Children, 4 pm. Cheesemonger Katie Machen looks at cheddar, brie, and bleu cheese, especially what they look, smell, and taste like, in a course designed for youth aged 8-13. The Queensboro, 80-02 Northern Blvd., Jackson Heights.

- Jan. 21, Winter Solstice Forest Bathing, 11 am. Certified guide Linda Lombardo leads a meditative forest bathing walk as per the Japanese Shinrin-Yoku tradition. The goal is to inspire connections to nature for a range of health benefits. Alley Pond Environmental Center, 224-65 76th Ave., Oakland Gardens.

- Jan. 21, Sondheim: The Early Years, 2 pm. Plaza Theatrical Productions presents this show about famous lyricist Stephen Sondheim. Seaside Branch Library, 116-15 Rockaway Beach Blvd.

- Jan. 21, Sensory Perception Hike, 11 am. NYC Urban Park Rangers lead a walk that engages touch, smell, sight, and hearing in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. Meet at Mauro Playground, 73-02 Park Dr. E., Kew Garden Hills.

- Jan. 21, Thump Thump, 3 pm. Artist and curator Stephanie Lee leads this rabbit-coloring workshop inspired by 19th century Korean folk art. Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.

- Jan. 21, Paper Lanterns Workshop, 2:30 pm. Children celebrate Lunar New Year by making paper lanterns. Lewis Latimer House Museum, 34-41 137th St., Flushing.

- Jan. 21, Mi Gente Live, 8 pm. This energetic Latin pop show features authentic performers who do hits by Selena, Ricky Martin, J-Lo, Enrique Iglesias, Shakira, Maluma, Pitbull, Gloria Estefan, Romeo Santos, Carlos Vives, Prince Royce, and others. Resorts World New York City, 110-00 Rockaway Blvd., South Jamaica.

- Jan. 21, Disco Divas, 3 pm. Carol Williams recreates the 1970s Disco scene with songs like

"Boogie Oogie Oogie," "Native New Yorker," "Hot Stuff," and other favorites. Briarwood Branch Library, 85-12 Main St.

- Jan. 21, Create A Tiered Serving Tray, 1 pm. Expert crafters Denise Rizzuto and Lisa Wilson provide hands-on instructions for assembling and painting a serving tray. Supplies and materials are included. Bayside Historical Society, 208 Totten Ave., Fort Totten.

- Jan. 21, Qui Jiongjiong, Jan. 29. Seven films by Chinese painter and director Qiu Jiongjiong, one of his country's most daring and innovative artists. Most of his works are infused with the sounds and sights of traditional Chinese opera. Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria's Kaufman Arts District.

- Jan. 22, Cencienta: A Bilingual Cinderella Story, 1 pm + 3 pm. Ten-year-old Belinda recreates the Cinderella tale using everyday objects like teapots and napkins while in a basement preparing for a party upstairs. In Spanish and English, Belinda confronts her stepmother and stepsisters and learns to embrace her love of poetry and stand up for herself. Queens Theatre, 14 United Nations Ave. S., Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

- Jan. 22, The Music of Israel, 3 pm. The David Glukh Klezmer Ensemble performs traditional Klezmer music along with special fusions. Bayside Historical Society, 208 Totten Ave., Bayside.

- Jan. 23, Indoor Lunar New Year Parade, 11 am. The public is invited to celebrate in a warm environment before the outdoor parade kicks off on 37th Avenue. Tangram, 133-33 39th Ave., Flushing.

- Jan. 23, Open Rehearsal, 7:30 pm. Try out for the Oratorio Society of Queens, a community chorus that performs around the borough. Temple Beth Shalom, 172nd Street and Northern Boulevard, Flushing.

- Jan. 26, Disco Divas, 6 pm. Carol Williams recreates the 1970s Disco scene with songs like "Hot Stuff," "Car Wash," and other favorites. South Jamaica Branch Library, 108-41 Guy R. Brewer Blvd.

- Jan. 26, Tao Lin, 6 pm. Taiwanese author Tao Lin discusses Taipei, Leave Society, her new book about a writer working to balance all his lives—artist, son, loner—as he spins the ordinary into something monumental. This Queens Public Library event is virtual. By phone: +1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 2340 994 7208.

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## Senate Majority Leader Schumer, Senator Gillibrand & Queens Representatives Secure Over \$9 Million in Federal Funding For Queens

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer and U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, along with Queens members of the House of Representatives, has announced they secured over \$9 million in funds for the borough as part of the final omnibus funding package for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023.

The senators secured a total of \$9,874,245 for projects across the borough, which include funds going toward mental health programs for the Variety Boys & Girls Club of Queens, vocational training at CUNY LaGuardia Community College for underemployed Queens residents, and equipment upgrades at Jamaica Hospital Medical Center.

"I'm proud to bring home these investments that I fought to secure on behalf of all Queens residents," said U.S. Senator Gillibrand. "These funds will not only bolster initiatives such as the Variety Boys & Girls Club of Queens mental health programs and youth leadership and workforce programs at Haitian Americans United for Progress, but will also go toward upgrading the borough's health care services, helping to provide Queens residents with affordable and accessible quality health care."

"I'm proud to secure \$9 million in federal funding for these projects to support Queens residents and strengthen our communities," said U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer. "These funds included in the federal budget bill will advance healthcare equity, bolster a food relief network, support people of color-owned businesses, workforce development training and adult literacy, as well as fund youth leadership and mental health programs. I won't stop fighting to deliver the resources needed to better our communities and the organizations that help them flourish."

"I am pleased to provide millions of dollars in federal funding to local projects in Queens," said Congressman Gregory W. Meeks (NY-5). "The investment will guarantee that constituents are receiving the resources needed to live and thrive. The federal funding will aid several priorities including assisting residents interested in pursuing a higher education and workforce training, along with access to affordable healthcare programs, services for senior citizens and youth support and enrichment programs."

"As New York's senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, I am proud to work with Senate Majority Leader Schumer and Senator Gillibrand to help make sure these critical initiatives and programs in Queens get the funding they need to improve The World's Borough," said Congresswoman Grace Meng (NY-6). "Queens and its residents deserve their fair share, and I am looking forward to this new session of Congress to continue making sure that happens."

Organizations receiving funds include:

- Jamaica Hospital Medical Center (\$4,305,000)
- Jamaica Hospital assists some of the borough's neediest communities by operating the busiest Level 1 Trauma Center in New York City, the closest acute care hospital and Level 1 Trauma Center to JFK, and a critical Stroke Center and STEMI Program. As a financially distressed safety net hospital, Jamaica Hospital serves a high volume of low-income individuals covered by Medicaid.

To ensure Jamaica Hospital patients have access to state-of-the-art surgical equipment and equitable health care, the funds would go toward purchasing and installing critically needed surgical robotics equipment, including the da Vinci Xi Single Console System, da Vinci SimNow Simulator, E-100 generator and da Vinci Xi Integrated Table Motion.

These advanced surgery systems will enable Jamaica Hospital Medical Center to successfully perform more complex surgeries for patients whose health has decreased significantly due to the inequalities they face in health care, advancing health equity in the community.

- The Floating Hospital, Inc. (\$1,040,489)

The Floating Hospital offers health care to medically underserved communities in Queens, including homeless families and those living in public housing, as well as families living in shelters and domestic violence safe houses throughout New York City. The funds attained will provide seed funding to bring comprehensive eye care, dermatology, gastroenterology, and mammogram screening to The Floating Hospital's primary care setting in Long Island City.

- NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst - Queens (\$1,000,000)

The Infectious Disease Clinic at Elmhurst provides care, support and prevention services for often underserved and marginalized persons, including patients with tuberculosis, chronic Hepatitis C, and HIV. The funds will be used to modernize the clinic, bringing the space up to current code and improving both the patient experience and the clinical caregiving environment.

- Arts Business Collaborative, Inc. (\$650,000)

Funding will be used to improve access to capital, networks, and knowledge for arts businesses of color.

- Queens Economic Development Corporation's Queens Together Program (\$500,000)

The Queens Economic Development Corporation will use the funds to continue to build a Queens-wide food relief network of restaurants and community groups and invest in local businesses by educating stakeholders through peer-to-peer and expert knowledge to help small business owners work smarter and improve profits.

- Variety Boys & Girls Club of Queens, Inc. (\$502,250)

Variety Boys & Girls Club of Queens will use these funds to

help implement a Mental Health program at its Teen Academy, which offers free college and career readiness training to underserved high school students living in Queens. Recognizing the mental health impacts of the pandemic on youth, between the loss of loved ones and extended periods of remote learning, this funding will allow Variety Boys & Girls Club to hire social workers and other mental health counselors/professionals to support young people in achieving their goals.

- LaGuardia Community College - CUNY (\$404,774)

LaGuardia Community College's Plumbing 1, Electrical 1 and HVAC 1 Training Programs connect people living in poverty with skilled employment opportunities through skills-building training that prepares students for in-demand occupations. However, the college does not currently have the internal capabilities to deliver these skill trainings on-site and to scale.

This funding will allow LaGuardia Community College to establish a Workforce Development Training Center on campus, which would give LAGCC the needed flexibility to begin offering more of these classes and serve more students.

- Make the Road New York (\$400,000)

Funds will be used to sustain and enhance Make The Road New York's Adult Literacy program for low-income immigrant New Yorkers. Through adult literacy instruction, students will access better career opportunities and advance their language, literacy, and digital literacy skills to enable them to participate more fully in civic life. Funding will also enable MRNY to purchase technology to integrate digital literacy skill building into class instruction in FY23 and beyond, in order to address the widening technology gap that left low-income communities even further behind during the nationwide pivot to virtual platforms during the pandemic. Additionally, MRNY will assess program participants' urgent needs and connect them with survival services and other key resources.

- Haitian Americans United for Progress (HAUP) (\$364,558)

HAUP will use the funds to support its youth leadership and youth workforce programs aimed at serving the needs of immigrant communities in the borough. HAUP's programming provides youth participants with employment, training, and skills-building opportunities.

- AABR, Inc., College Point (\$382,174)

AABR, Inc., one of the largest service providers for individuals with developmental disabilities in the region, will use the funds to provide services to the 400+ individuals in its congregate care and Day Habilitation settings.

- Joseph P. Addabbo Family Health Center, Inc. (\$325,000)
- The Joseph P. Addabbo Family

(Continued on page 10)

## Southeast Queens Emergency Town Hall Feedback Survey & Press Release

Senator James Sanders Jr. hosted an Emergency Town Hall Meeting on January 5, 2023 at Goldie Maple Academy in Arverne to address the devastating damage caused by Winter Storm Elliott.

"Southeast Queens is the Lower 9th Ward of New York City (reference to Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans)," Senator Sanders said. "If it was a little bit colder in New York City during Winter Storm Elliott, Southeast Queens would have been another Buffalo disaster—where dozens of people died in blizzard conditions. What are the City's emergency and evacuation plans for Southeast Queens? Like my neighbors, I want to know. We need to have one, otherwise we will become another Buffalo."

During the meeting, Senator Sanders addressed what actions are being taken to aid in recovery in Southeast Queens. He was joined by federal, state, and city agencies, as well as various elected officials, to provide an assessment of the flooding and other damage.

The Town Hall was co-hosted by U.S. Representative Gregory W. Meeks, NYC Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams, Queens Borough President Donovan Rich-

ards, Assembly Member Stacey Pheffer Amato, Assembly Member Khaleel M. Anderson, NYC Council Majority Whip Selvena N. Brooks-Powers, and NYC Council Member Joann Ariola. Numerous community organizations also co-sponsored the event.

The following government agencies participated: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Federal Emergency Management Agency; NYS Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services; NYS Department of Environmental Conservation; NYC Office of Emergency Management; NYC Department of Transportation, NYC Department of Design and Construction, NYC Department of Sanitation; NYC Department of Environmental Protection; NYC Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery Services; PSEG Long Island; and National Grid.

If you attended the meeting, we would like to hear from you and get your feedback on what was discussed and what you would like us to address moving forward (your answers will be anonymous). Please take our online survey at the link below.

<https://forms.gle/g2niB1h9Ub2w-wkRGA>

## Riders Respond to Mayor's Preliminary Budget, Urge Low-Income Fare Discounts And Faster Bus Service

*Riders Alliance Policy & Communications Director Danny Pearlstein said:*

"Mayor Adams should invest in everyday New Yorkers by promoting equity and affordability in our public transit system. The mayor should work with the City Council to negotiate a budget that expands Fair Fares and speeds up buses, ensuring compliance with the Streets Plan law.

"By expanding Fair Fares to New York families living at up to 200%

of the federal poverty line and following the Streets Plan law to speed up buses, Mayor Adams can target city resources to improve access to jobs, education, healthcare and other essential opportunities.

"By transforming Fair Fares so that it reaches its full potential and building at least 30 miles of bus lanes and busways across the city this year, Mayor Adams will also ease the immense fiscal pressure on MTA operations, which move several million New Yorkers each day."

## REMINDER: MTA to Begin Construction on Accessibility Project at Queensboro Plaza; Six Weekends of 7 Line Closures

(Continued from page 4)

finding creative ways to meet that challenge. Queensboro Plaza is a perfect example, taking advantage of private investment to maximize the benefit for riders while minimizing cost to the MTA."

"So many of our customers will benefit from the new elevators, which will provide an accessible entrance to the station, as well as an accessible transfer at this crucial Queens connection," said MTA Chief Accessibility Officer Que-

muel Arroyo. "Riders with disabilities, caregivers with strollers, visitors with luggage, and many others rely on elevators. Beginning work on another new station brings us one step closer to a fully accessible system."

On Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2022, Jamie Torres-Springer and Deputy Chief of Staff Cathy Li delivered a presentation on the costs and complexities of MTA infrastructure projects, including the challenges of building elevators in often constrained spaces.



## Velázquez, Goldman Introduce Legislation to Address Public Housing Repairs Nationwide

Nydia M. Velázquez (D-NY) and Rep. Dan Goldman (D-NY) have introduced the Public Housing Emergency Response Act, which would allocate \$70 billion in funding for public housing capital repairs and upgrades throughout the country. As damaged living conditions threaten the health and safety of public housing residents, this bill will increase the investment for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Public Housing Capital Fund to eliminate the capital repair backlog and improve overall living conditions for public housing residents. \$32 billion of the allotted aid would be expected to flow directly to the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), the nation's largest Public Housing Authority (PHA).

"The public housing system was created to serve as an affordable lifeline for working families across this country," said Congresswoman Velázquez. "However, many public housing units are in poor conditions contributing to a broad range of infectious diseases, chronic diseases, injuries, childhood development complications, nutrition issues, and mental health challenges. This situation demands bold action. The bill I am introducing today with Congressman Goldman would provide substantial funding for capital repairs and upgrades, taking a concrete step towards renewing our nation's commitment to public housing residents."

Nationwide, countless public housing buildings remain neglected, forcing many residents to live in accelerating substandard

living conditions. Disinvestment in public housing has been linked to long-term health issues in inhabitants.

"We have an obligation to ensure that public housing residents are living with the dignity and respect they deserve," said Congressman Goldman. "The conditions that far too many tenants are forced to endure are simply unacceptable, and the first step to tackling this urgent crisis is to fund capital repairs and eliminate backlogs. This bill takes an important and meaningful step in the right direction, and I will continue to fight tirelessly for public housing tenants in New York and across the country. I am honored to partner in this effort with Congresswoman Velázquez, who has been a generational leader on these issues."

"We have been clear since day one of this administration that NYCHA residents deserve the same quality of life as every New Yorker, but decades of federal disinvestment from public housing has made that nearly impossible," said New York City Mayor Eric Adams. "The Public Housing Emergency Response Act, with \$32 billion for NYCHA, would reverse this disturbing pattern and – alongside our record investments in public housing and successful passage of the NYCHA Trust – would fund the critical repairs that NYCHA residents have been denied for too long. I applaud Rep. Velázquez and Rep. Goldman for introducing this bill in Congress and look forward to supporting their efforts to pass it."

"Our clients and all public

housing residents across New York deserve housing that is safe and dignified, and for their homes and buildings to be appropriately repaired in a timely fashion. The Public Housing Emergency Response Act would help ensure that NYCHA receives the funding necessary to address their repair backlog, and we thank Congresswoman Velázquez for championing the bill." Judith Goldiner, Attorney in Charge, Civil Law Reform Unit, The Legal Aid Society.

"For decades, Congress has turned its back on its obligations to public housing residents, forcing seniors, people with disabilities and families with young children to live in some public housing homes that are in severe disrepair – with mold, no heat or running water, or leaky ceilings and toilets," stated Diane Yentel, president and CEO of the National Low Income Housing Coalition. "This bill would right this wrong by investing the \$70 billion needed to make vital repairs to the nation's deteriorating public housing stock. The pandemic has made clear the inextricable link between housing and health care, and ensuring public housing is safe, decent, and affordable for all current and future residents should be a top priority for Congress. NLIHC looks forward to working with Representative Velázquez and Senator Warren to see this bill enacted."

This bill is also cosponsored by Reps. Gregory Meeks, Ritchie Torres, Grace Meng, Alexandria Ocasio Cortez, Adriano Espaillat, Jerrold Nadler, Jamaal Bowman, and Yvette Clarke.

## Senate Majority Leader Schumer, Senator Gillibrand & Queens Representatives Secure Over \$9 Million in Federal Funding . . .

(Continued from page 9)

Health Center (JPAFHC) will use the funds to establish a Diabetes Wellness Center. The Wellness Center will provide a comprehensive array of diagnosis, engagement, education, peer support groups, culturally and ethnically sensitive nutrition education and guidance, diabetes management tools, and a coordinated provision of appropriate primary services (podiatry, dental, cardiology,

ophthalmology, etc.) to primarily a low-income and disenfranchised community that suffers from an exceptionally high rate of Type 2 diabetes often left undiagnosed.

Outreach will be conducted throughout the community and referrals will be accepted into the program with JPAFHC serving as a medical home. Culturally targeted behavioral change strategies will also be utilized to improve the outcome for patients diagnosed with diabetes or pre-diabetes.

## Flushing Town Hall Celebrates Lunar New Year With Chinese Theatre Works' Hao Bang-ah, Rabbit!

(Continued from page 7)

one of the outstanding local Asian restaurants while you are in the neighborhood."

Flushing Town Hall will be celebrating the Lunar New Year all month long. Additional programs preceding Chinese Theatre Works' presentations earlier this month include the "Thump Thump" Rabbit Coloring Workshop on Saturday, January 21 at 3 PM and a special Lunar New Year Photo Exhibition which opens with a reception on January 21 and is on display until February 26.

Chinese Theatre Works will present two 40-minute perfor-

mances of Hao Bang-ah, Rabbit! on Sunday, January 29 at 1 PM and 3 PM. Each performance is followed by a 45-minute post-performance workshop at 1:45 PM and 3:45 PM. Tickets (Performance ONLY) are \$15/\$10 for members, seniors, students, and children under 12. Tickets (Performance PLUS Workshop) are \$22/\$17 for members, seniors, students, and children under 12. All ages are welcome. Workshop space is limited (25 participants max). Tickets can be purchased here.

For more information:

- www.flushingtownhall.org
- (718) 463-7700 x222
- 137-35 Northern Blvd. Flushing, NY 11354

## New York State Department of Labor Receives \$9.1 Million Grant to Break Barriers to Unemployment Insurance For Underserved Communities

The New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL) has announced that it was awarded a \$9.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) to promote equitable access to New York's Unemployment Insurance (UI) program. The equity grant, part of the American Rescue Plan Act, will fund projects designed to break down barriers to UI services. Potential barriers to be addressed specifically include those related to race, ethnicity, language proficiency, literacy, disability status, socioeconomic status, geographic location, or other systemic barriers. The funding will help NYSDOL continue its ongoing effort to make sure all New Yorkers, especially those in underserved communities, are able to tap into critical support and have access to UI benefits.

"I thank the Biden Administration for providing this equity grant to help us ensure that every New Yorker is able to access the services they need during tough economic times," said New York State Department of Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon. "This grant will provide critical funding to advance our ongoing efforts to

modernize our Unemployment Insurance system and enhance the customer experience to ensure we break down potential barriers to benefits."

NYSDOL will use the funding to build on its ongoing equity and accessibility projects to make it easier for New Yorkers to discover, learn about, and access UI services. NYSDOL will also review application instructions and simplify language to reduce confusion and prevent improper payments. There will also be a focus on improving access for those who are hearing and visually impaired. NYSDOL continuously strives to be inclusive and accessible for all New Yorkers.

This grant was administered by USDOL's Employment and Training Administration and corresponds with USDOL's August 2021 announcement of the availability of up to \$260 million in grants for states to promote equitable access to unemployment insurance benefits. To date, USDOL has announced \$166 million in funds awarded to 32 states and the District of Columbia.

For more information, visit USDOL's Employment and Training Administration webpage.

## Statement From Speaker Adrienne Adams and Finance Chair Justin Brannan on Council's Decision on November Plan Budget Modification ahead of Preliminary Budget's Release

"The budget vision put forward by the Administration to cut funding for CUNY, libraries, social services, early childhood education, and other essential services for New Yorkers is one this Council cannot support. The city is facing multiple crises that require smart investments, and the approach in the November Plan only undermines the health, safety, and recovery of our city. We also reject the false choice in this budget modification of having to choose between cuts to city agencies or cuts to non-profit organizations providing services on the frontlines in our communities to underserved and vulnerable New Yorkers. Over \$17 million in funding for non-profits is on the line – including funds that expand services for community safety and crime victims, increase direct

access to abortion care for those who cannot afford it, and provide mental health care, workforce opportunities, and student support services. For this reason, we will not vote on the budget modification with an understanding of the negative consequences in all potential options – we will not reject our own support for vital services to New Yorkers. This decision is intentional, and does not accept the vision put forward in the Mayor's November Plan.

"The Council is focused on investing in the services that our communities rely on to be safe and healthy. The City must address the root causes of our greatest challenges, not create a harmful cycle by cutting essential services. The understaffing and underfunding of city agencies have left New Yorkers without access to basic benefits,

like federal food assistance. These are not outcomes we can or should accept. They increasingly leave New Yorkers more reliant on our non-profit partners, who become stretched by shouldering more work in caring for New Yorkers. We should find ways to safeguard our essential services, instead of decreasing them.

"The Administration must take a different approach in its Preliminary Budget being released today, and the entire budget process, to have a constructive partnership with this Council. We will not allow our city to be damaged by the undermining of city agencies and services that meet the essential needs of all New Yorkers. We are committed to delivering for New Yorkers, and we are prepared to fight to realize our vision in this year's budget."

## Record-Breaking NYC Parks Mulchfest

Nearly 60,000 Trees Chipped During Mulchfest 2023 – Almost Doubling Past Average

Parks chipped and recycled a record 58,309 trees during Mulchfest 2023 – mulch to be repurposed in city parks and gardens only

NYC Parks declares Mulchfest 2023 a smashing success, with 58,309 trees collected for tree-cycling during this year's event, set-

ting a new Parks record – 50,934 were recycled during Mulchfest 2021 – doubling the average collection in years past! Mulchfest, part of New York City's holiday tradition, encourages New Yorkers to make greening a family activity – turning holiday trees into mulch that is repurposed by

the Agency in parks and for gardening citywide

"I'm thrilled to announce that New Yorkers have gone above and beyond in their tree-cycling efforts this year and set a new Mulchfest record," said NYC

(Continued on page 11)



**LEGAL NOTICES**

Notice of Formation of TRESIA'S LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 08/05/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 204 Astoria Blvd, Apt 6E, Astoria, NY 11102. Purpose: any lawful activities. 12/15,22,29/2022,1/5,12&19/2023

APEKS GROUP LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/12/2022. Office loc: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Denis Khari, 41-20 39th Street, Long Island City, NY 11104. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. 12/15,22,29/2022,1/5,12&19/2023

Notice of Formation of SAVAGE SAGE LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/21/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 341B Park Cres. College Point, NY 11356. Purpose: any lawful activities. 12/22,29/2022,1/5,12,19&26/2023

1876 PALMETTO STREET LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/01/22. Office: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 1876 Palmetto Street, Apartment 1R, Ridgewood, NY 11385. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 12/15,22,29/2022,1/5,12&19/2023

Notice of Formation of DIAMOND LUXE HOMES LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/03/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 14729 235th St., Rosedale, NY 11422. Purpose: any lawful activities. 12/15,22,29/2022,1/5,12&19/2023

Notice of Formation of HEATING & COOLING DOCTOR, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/30/22. Office location: Queens County. Princ. office of LLC: 90-17 Corona Ave., Elmhurst, NY 11373. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, c/o Lawrence H. Schoenbach, Esq., Law Offices of Lawrence H. Schoenbach, 111 Broadway, Ste. 901, NY, NY 10006. Purpose: Construction. 1/12,19,26,2/2,9&16/2023

**LEGAL NOTICES**

Notice of Formation of 41-04 159th Street LLC amended to 41-04 & 41-08 159th Street LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/26/22. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 29 West Main St, Oyster Bay, NY 11771. Purpose: any lawful activity. 12/29/2022,1/5,12,19,26&2/2/2023

182 JMC LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/21/2022. Office loc: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 18230 Jamaica Ave, Hollis, NY 11433. Reg Agent: Fuqun CPA, P.C., 94 Oxford Blvd., Great Neck, NY 11023. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. 12/29/2022,1/5,12,19,26&2/2/2023

162ND STREET FRESH MEADOWS, LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/21/2022. Office loc: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 14-26 136th Street, College Point, NY 11356. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. 12/29/2022,1/5,12,19,26&2/2/2023

Notice of Formation of HORIZON MAINTENANCE INC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/18/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 23-64 92nd Street, Flushing, NY 11369. Purpose: any lawful activities. 12/29/2022,1/5,12,19,26&2/2/2023

2467 CAMBRELENG NY LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/24/22. Office: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 144-20 69th Ave, Flushing, NY 11367. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 1/5,12,19,26,2/2&9/2023

Notice of Formation of HERRERA DISTRIBUTORS LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/09/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 14825 89th Avenue, 30, Jamaica, NY 11435. Purpose: any lawful activities. 1/12,19,26,2/2,9&16/2023

**LEGAL NOTICES**

Legal notice of formation of Bluejacket Strategies, LLC. Art. Of Org. Filed with the SSNY on 12/22/2022. Office loc: Queens County. Corporation Service Company is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served at 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 1/12,19,26,2/2,9&16/2023

Notice of Formation of MADAM SARA(H) CHARCUTERIE & GRAZING, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/27/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 92-19 190th Street, Apt 3, Hollis, NY 11423. Purpose: any lawful activities. 1/12,19,26,2/2,9&16/2023

Notice of Formation of ERIC ONLINE, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/08/2023. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 13543 95th Street, Ozone Park, NY 11417. Purpose: any lawful activities. 1/19,26,2/2,9,16&23/2023

QB138 LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/11/23. Office: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 140-25 Queens Boulevard, Briarwood, NY 11435. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 1/19,26,2/2,9,16&23/2023

Notice of Formation of NY IT SERVICE LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/17/2023. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 8150 102nd Road, Ozone Park, NY 11416. Purpose: any lawful activities. 1/19,26,2/2,9,16&23/2023



**Council Member Julie Won Raises \$83,071.20 for First Filing . . .**

(Continued from page 4)

to all my neighbors and grassroots donors for their overwhelming support," said Council Member Julie Won. "I ran for office to be a voice for the vulnerable and marginalized – for the working class,



**Donovan Richards Jr.**  
QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT



**Lunar New Year Celebration**

Join Borough President Donovan Richards Jr. for a joyous celebration of Lunar New Year, as Queens welcomes the Year of the Rabbit. Come to Queens Borough Hall for a festive evening of cultural performances, food, honors for outstanding community leaders and more.

*In conjunction with Healthfirst, Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, Coalition of Asian-American IPA, BLIA NY-Buddhas' Light International Association, Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, and Korean American Family Service Center.*

**Thursday, January 19, 6–8pm**  
Helen Marshall Cultural Center

[RSVP at queensbp.org/rsvp](https://queensbp.org/rsvp)

Queens Borough Hall 120-55 Queens Boulevard, Kew Gardens, NY 11424 | 718.286.3000 | queensbp.org

**Record-Breaking NYC Parks Mulchfest**

(Continued from page 10)

Parks Commissioner Sue Donoghue. "Thank you to everyone who made this event happen and contributing to our city's sustainability efforts. Here's to breaking the record again at Mulchfest 2024!"

- The sites in each borough with the most trees chipped:
- Bronx: Co-Op City with 2,020
  - Brooklyn: Marine Park

- with 3,404
- Manhattan: Carl Schurz Park with 2,340
- Queens: Hunter's Point South Park with 668
- Staten Island: Clove Lakes Park with 320

Mulchfest 2023 ran from December 26 through January 8, with 73 total drop-off sites – 34 being chipping sites – across the five boroughs, including city parks and GreenThumb gardens. For more than 20 years,

Parks has collected and mulched trees to help planting beds and community gardens around the city grow. Mulch maintains the health of our trees and plants citywide by deterring weeds, retaining moisture, preventing compaction, adding nutrients to the soil, and keeping roots warm. Prior, on average Parks has mulched between 25,000 and 30,000 on average annually.

**Queens District Attorney's Office Returns \$40,000 To Rent Scam Victims**



Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz returns more than \$40,000 secured by her Housing and Worker Protections Bureau to rental scam victims in her office on January 17, 2023.

immigrant families who may struggle to make rent every month. In just a year, we have accomplished incredible things together: from negotiating and approving over 1,600 units of affordable housing, to rolling out free WiFi for all NYCHA residents, and

delivering nearly \$50 million in vital funding for our neighborhoods. I am deeply humbled to have my community and neighbors' support as I seek reelection. Thanks to their generosity, my campaign is fully funded through Election Day, all without

taking a dime from big real estate, fossil fuel interests, and lobbyists. Our people-powered campaign will continue the fight to end the affordable housing crisis, comprehensively re-imagine our land use process, and ensure access and equity for all."



### 11th PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING



Council Member Vickie Paladino thanked the 11th precinct for having her at their monthly Community Council Meeting. Paladino said "I am so proud of the hard work and dedication of the NYPD. Meeting new officers and acknowledging heroes fighting crime is an honor and a privilege."

 **NYS SENATOR JOHN C. LIU**

**LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION**  
YEAR OF THE RABBIT

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 20**  
**6 PM - 8 PM**  
TANGRAM  
133-33 39TH AVE  
FLUSHING, NY 11354

Come join us for a Lunar New Year celebration!  
Register at <https://bit.ly/LunarNewYearJohnLiu>  
or by phone at 718-765-6675  
For more information email [events@johnliusenate.com](mailto:events@johnliusenate.com)  
or call 718-765-6675



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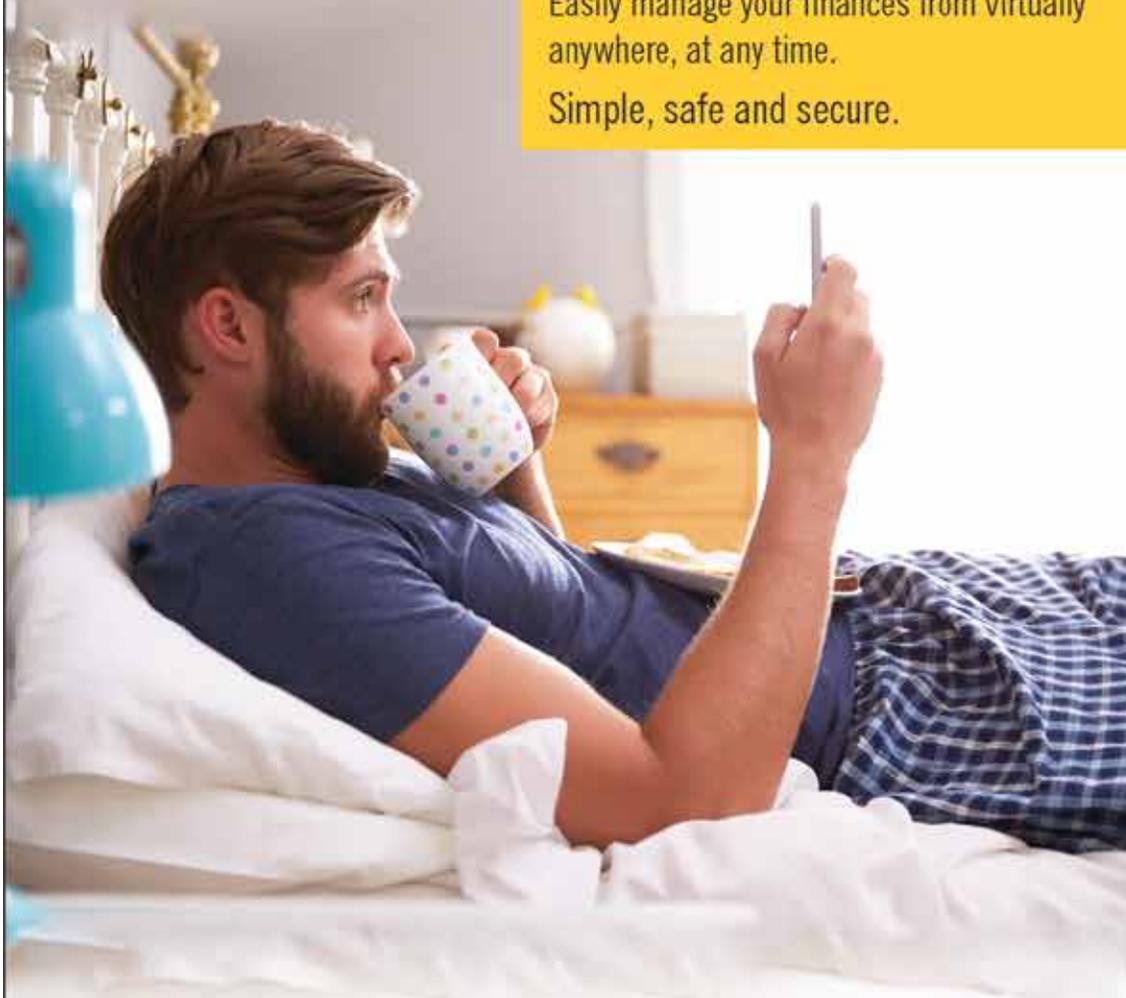
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