

# THE QUEENS TIMES

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25 CENTS

## The Queens Times CONSUMER ALERT

### NYS Division of Consumer Protection Urges NY Families to Follow Guidance to Help Minimize The Risk of Child Identity Theft

National Child Identity Theft Awareness Day was Recently Established to Generate Awareness of a Growing Trend Affecting Families and Children

In recognition of National Child Identity Theft Awareness Day on September 1st, the Division of Consumer Protection (DCP) urges parents to take preventative actions to safeguard their children's identities. Child Identity Theft is a growing problem. According to recent data from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), identity theft for those under 19 years old grew 60% in three years.

"Child Identity Theft is a disturbing trend as children are 35 times more likely to become victims of identity theft than adults," said Secretary of State Robert J Rodriguez, who oversees the Division of Consumer Protection. "The widespread adoption of technology products has introduced new challenges to parenthood. Parents must now also learn the behaviors that put children more at risk, how to protect them, and what to do

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## Governor Hochul Honors Heroes on One Year Anniversary of Hurricane Ida



On the one year anniversary of Hurricane Ida, Governor Kathy Hochul honored seven New Yorkers for their heroic actions in the aftermath of the storm, which flooded homes and roads, caused billions of dollars in damages and killed 18 New Yorkers. Gov. Hochul presented proclamations to Maynel "Junior" Moreno; Jenniffer Moreno; Tom Grech, President, Queens Chamber of Commerce; Tafadar Sourov Laborers Local 79 organizer; Reverend Patrick Young, First Baptist Church; Yoselin Genao-Estrella, Executive Director, Neighborhood Housing Services and Saeeda Dunston, Executive Director, Elmcor Youth and Adult Activities and was joined by US Rep. Grace Meng, NYS Senator Toby Ann Stavisky, and Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr. See story on page 4.

## Meng Commemorates Anniversary of Hurricane Ida



U.S. Rep. Grace Meng, visited the homes of the Hurricane Ida victims in Queens, commemorating the 1-year anniversary of the storm making landfall in New York City with Assemblywoman Nily Rozic and NYS Senator Toby Ann Stavisky. See story on page 2.

## New York City Council Calls For Department of Education to Restore \$469 Million to School Budgets

The New York City Council on Tuesday passed a resolution calling on the mayor and schools chancellor to immediately reverse the Department of Education's cuts to school budgets. The resolution calls for the DOE to restore \$469 million.

At the ended in 2016 school year, New York City schools saw an enrollment of 1,049,335 students, but that number shrank to 1,007,610 students during the school year that ended in 2021, according to numbers maintained by the state Education Department.

Advocates have repeatedly called on the mayor to restore the funding, but a spokesperson for Adams' office pointed out that the City Council agreed to the budget during negotiations earlier this summer.

Mayor Adams and Chancellor



David Banks commented through a spokesperson who wrote in an emailed statement that "Mayor Adams and Chancellor Banks are

committed to providing students with the best education possible

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# Park Side Restaurant Queens' Finest Italian Restaurant



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## NYS Division of Consumer Protection Urges NY Families to Follow Guidance to Help Minimize The Risk of Child Identity Theft

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when children become targeted.”

Today's children have been raised in a digital world and unlike past generations, their exposure to these technologies starts very young and makes them vulnerable to the dangers that lurk in technology's shadows. The scale of the issue keeps growing under the increasing influence of digital technology, excessive screen time, social media, remote learning, and digital purchases in our lives. Products used by children are not nearly as privacy protected as they should be and contribute to the growing problem of Child Identity Theft. According to the FTC, Child Identity Theft occurs when someone uses a child's personal information to wrongfully get services or benefits, or to commit fraud.

The Impact of Child ID Theft: Child ID fraud is expensive and detrimental. According to a study by Javelin Strategy and Research, fixing child identity theft takes longer to resolve than fraud against adults and costs the average U.S. family \$372 out-of-pocket on top of any fraudulent charges. In one year, fraud losses linked to child identity theft totaled \$918 million. The crime of child identity theft may go on longer than other types of identity theft, because young children are less likely to use credit or take steps to help protect their identities. Someone whose identity is stolen as a child can feel the effects for years resulting in financial losses and missed opportunities. As a young adult, they may encounter problems securing a student loan, a first credit card, apartment, or utilities. The best approach is to prevent it and look for warning signs to protect your child's credentials.

Warning Signs to Look For:

- Pre-approved credit offers in your child's name: this is a sign that someone else has used your child's social security number to fraudulently obtain credit
- Any communication addressed to your child from the IRS
- Collection calls or past-due notices in your child's name
- Marketing offers for products and services that arrive in your child's name

Tips For Parents/Guardians to Safeguard Children's Identities:

- Consider freezing your child's credit. Security freezes are free but must be placed separately with each of the three nationwide credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion). The process varies between credit bureaus, but it's not difficult and takes far less time and effort to freeze your child's credit than to remediate a fraud case after the fact.
- Make ID theft prevention a habit. Securely store all your child's foundational identity documents (birth certificate, Social Security card, insurance cards) away from people in your circle. Any paper or electronic record that includes your child's Social Security number should be stored securely, whether that means in password-protected, encrypted cloud storage or a locked file cabinet or safe.
- Set reasonable boundaries around technology and monitor online activities. For many children, the line between the physical and virtual worlds is already blurry. Children with unrestricted and unmonitored internet access are at greater risk of experiencing the exposure of their personal information. Children's information is collected in many places, including social media platforms, smart devices, video games and

mobile applications are also gathering their information. Given the rise of data breaches, children's identities are increasingly at risk of being exposed on the dark web and online forums where identities are illegally bought and sold.

- Make sure that kids are registered as under 13 on the sites and applications they use. This limits the data that can be collected on them and the content they see.
- Take hardware and software seriously. Buy products only from reputable companies, installing software updates immediately when available and restricting data collection to the strictest settings a service allows.
- Secure Your Child's Cell Phone: If you've trusted your child with a smartphone, make sure their device is as secure as possible by adjusting settings for location, screen time, passcodes, and more.
- Online Games: ensure kids play in disguise with a cool safe game name and don't share personal information on gaming account profiles
- Internet Connected Toys: Parents must be present when toys are being set-up. Some toys come equipped with microphones, voice recognition, GPS enabled wearables and artificial intelligence that allow software interaction between the child and the toy. Many can put a child's privacy at risk. For tips on privacy precautions with technology toys, please see information from this December 2020 Consumer Alert.
- Social Media: Make sure your social media account is set to 'private'. Most social media is public by default. Empower children to practice online safety:

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## Meng Commemorates Anniversary of Hurricane Ida

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*The congresswoman observed the anniversary by visiting three homes in her district and attending a press conference held by Governor Hochul.*

U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY) visited the homes of the Hurricane Ida victims in Queens, commemorating the 1-year anniversary of the storm making landfall in New York City. Stopping at the home of the Lama family in Woodside, Yue Lian Chen in Elmhurst, Darlene Hsu in Forest Hills and the home of Hong Sheng Leng in Flushing.

The congresswoman attended a press conference hosted by Governor Hochul where she highlighted some of the efforts she has led in the last year, to further protect constituents from similar extreme weather events in the future. The congresswoman also highlighted additional work that still needs to be addressed to prevent similar loss of life during future storms and hurricanes.

“One year ago, Hurricane Ida made landfall in New York. In

its wake the storm left residents across the city with billions in damage. Queens was one of the hardest hit boroughs and my district tragically lost six constituents. The aftermath of the storm will be felt in our community for years to come,” said Congresswoman Grace Meng. “But in the year since the destruction of Hurricane Ida we have made numerous steps to make sure that Queens residents and the rest of the city don't suffer the same fate as last year. I have worked on the federal level, in conjunction with my state colleagues and alongside local officials to get Queens and New York City residents the funds and assistance they needed immediately after the storm and in the months since. While we have done a lot to help the community return to its prosperous state before the storm, there is still much more to be done. I look forward continuing my fight on the federal level to make sure Queens and the rest of the city has everything it needs to protect itself against the next major storm.”

In the immediate aftermath

of the storm the congresswoman helped launch a Disaster Recovery Center to provide essential daily resources for residents. Also securing over \$11 billion in disaster relief for the city from the federal government.

In the year since the storm hit New York the Congresswoman helped pass both the \$1.2 trillion federal infrastructure bill and the Water Resources Development Act in the House. While the WRDA bill would authorize the Army Corps of Engineers to spend almost \$120 million for infrastructure upgrades in Queens, the congresswoman has repeatedly called on the city and state to allocate part of the infrastructure bill funding for additional upgrades in some of the most heavily affected areas in the district.

Many of the district's sewers, catch basin, rain and flooding overflow systems have not been upgraded in decades, and while there have been important efforts to make sure the district is better suited for the next extreme weather event, there is still much more work to be done.



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Web Site: www.queens-times.com  
email: editor@queens-times.com

James C. Lisa .....Publisher/Editor  
Lew Scala ..... Associate Publisher/Webmaster  
Lou Duro .....International Correspondent  
Nicole Rescigno.....Office Manager  
Joseph V. Dorsa .....Photo Journalist  
Joseph Natalie .....Photojournalist

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## Council Passes Resolution Calling on Mayor and Chancellor to Reverse Reductions to School Budgets

During a special Stated Meeting, the New York City Council unanimously passed Resolution 283-A, sponsored by Speaker Adrienne Adams, calling on the Mayor and the Chancellor of the Department of Education (DOE) to immediately reverse the DOE's reductions to school budgets. The resolution calls on the DOE to restore \$469 million that it removed from school budgets. It also calls for the Chancellor to submit updated school budgets to the Panel for Educational Policy reflecting the restoration and a full accounting of unspent federal stimulus funds, which has never been provided to the public.

"Our resolution directs the Mayor and Chancellor to facilitate DOE restoring the \$469 million it has removed from school budgets, an amount that is nearly three times greater than any

reductions in the city budget," said Speaker Adrienne Adams. "This resolution focuses attention on how DOE implements its \$37 billion budget, with its actions increasingly occurring outside of public accountability and transparency. These unaccountable actions must cease to truly support our students and school communities, and DOE must reverse them. The answer to declining enrollment cannot be simply for DOE to take money from schools."

The resolution clarifies that the Department of Education removed nearly three times more from school budgets than was indicated in the city budget. Within the city budget, the Administration indicated \$215 million in reductions to DOE as a result of declining enrollment, with \$131.5 million attributed to

reductions in school budgets (the remaining \$83.1 million was associated with fringe cost savings to DOE's central budget). These city budget actions were associated with enrollment declines to be achieved through the elimination of 1,449 vacant positions in schools. Yet, the reductions to school budgets totaled over \$360 million for all schools and \$469 million for schools that were provided lower Fair Student Funding allocations. The resolution states that "[t]hese school budget reductions have gone far beyond the elimination of vacancies within the city budget to impact existing teachers and programming in schools." A substantial portion of the reductions to school budgets do not even save the city money, but rather represent DOE shifting money around its \$37 billion budget.

## New NYC Ferry Discounts and Fare Changes

**Beginning on September 12th NYC Ferry to expand discount program to offer \$1.35 one-way tickets for seniors, people with disabilities and participants in the Fair Fares NYC program**

**Launching a new 10-trip bundle for regular riders to lock in the low fare of \$2.75, while single ride tickets will increase to \$4.00 for occasional riders**

This month, NYC Ferry will launch exciting new changes to make the system even more accessible, fiscally sustainable, and convenient for New Yorkers.

Beginning on September 12th, NYC Ferry will expand its discount program to offer \$1.35 one-way tickets for seniors, people with disabilities, and participants

in the Fair Fares NYC program. Eligible New Yorkers will be able to apply at ferry.nyc or by mailing in an application. Once verified, eligible riders can buy discounted tickets through the NYC Ferry app or at Pier 11/Wall Street from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily.

To promote the expanded discount program, NYC Ferry will be sending out two free ferry vouchers in the mail for new app users to residents who live at some 60 New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments within one mile of a ferry landing. Tickets can then be accessed through the NYC Ferry App. Additionally, NYC Ferry, in partnership with NYCHA is conducting targeted outreach to NYCHA residents to encourage first time riders to explore and enjoy the ferry.

Also, starting on September 12th, NYC Ferry will launch a new 10-triple bundle for \$27.50, enabling commuters and other frequent riders to access the lowest one-way fare of \$2.75, while single-ride tickets will increase from \$2.75 to \$4.00 per ticket.

NYC Ferry will also eliminate the current \$1.00 bike fee across the entire NYC Ferry system to help encourage environmentally sustainable multi-modal transportation. While bike capacity onboard is limited, New Yorkers are more encouraged to bike to and from the ferry, while also taking a mode of transportation that decreases commuters' reliance on cars and simultaneously reduces the city's carbon footprint.

To learn more about these changes, visit ferry.nyc

## Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato Announces Halfway Mark of 2022 Mobile Office



Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato (D-South Queens) has been throughout the 23rd Assembly District as she hosts her mobile office and continues to bring resources to the community. This week the Assemblywoman and her team completed the 9th of her 17 mobile office events that have already attracted a record number of constituents.

"It's always great to see people face-to-face and that's why I bring my mobile office to you - I want to hear all your concerns and talk to you! From Ozone Park

and Lindenwood, through Broad Channel, to the tip of Breezy Point and all the way to the end of Far Rockaway, my office has and will be there for you," said Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato.

The Assemblywoman's mobile office has been praised as a way to bring even more information to residents. The Assemblywoman has commissioned brochures for senior citizens programs, safety tips for children, ways to help reduce energy bills and outlining benefits for our veterans - all in a way to make access to these programs as simple as possible. In addition, the Assemblywoman and her staff are prepared to assist in constituent services and work to resolve situations.

Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato's remaining mobile offices include:

- Monday, September 12th 5:30pm-7pm Bayswater Jewish Center, 23-55 Healy Ave, Bayswater (Before Bayswater Civic Association Meeting)
- Tuesday, September 13th 11am-12:30pm JASA Senior

Center—Brookdale Village, 131 Beach 19th Street, Far Rockaway

- Thursday, September 15th 2:30pm-4pm Food Emporium, Lindenwood Shopping Center, 82-35 153rd Ave, Howard Beach

- Thursday, September 22nd 12pm-1:30pm JASA Senior Center, 106-20 Shore Front Parkway, Rockaway Park

- Thursday, September 29th 3pm-4:30pm Tudor Park, 82nd Street & 133rd Avenue, Ozone Park

- Thursday, October 6th 3pm-4:30pm Howard Beach Library, 92-06 156th Avenue, Howard Beach

- Tuesday, October 11th 4:30pm-6pm Wavecrest Shopping Center, 239 Beach 20th Street, Far Rockaway

Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato has hosted her mobile office every year since elected in 2017 and has increased the amount of locations every year. "I will never do the bare minimum, as my focus is working with you and trying to help find solutions to the problems you are facing," said the Assemblywoman.

## NYS Division of Consumer Protection Urges NY Families to Follow Guidance to Help Minimize The Risk of Child Identity Theft

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- Involve kids in routine privacy practices, such as creating safe passwords in a password manager or keeping up with online safety news.
- Remind kids that they can come to you when a questionable situation arises when they are online.
- Talk to kids about keep everything updated: make sure that all devices, software, and firmware are up to date.
- What to do if your child is a victim of ID theft:
  - If you notice fraudulent activities on your child's credit report, don't waste time. Immediately file an identity theft report with the FTC at identitytheft.gov and your local police department. The police are required to provide identity theft victims with one free copy of the incident report.
  - Contact each credit reporting agency to report the theft and place a freeze on your child's credit record to prevent further damage.

- Contact every business where your child's information was mis-used, ask to close the fraudulent account and flag it to show it is a result of identity theft.
- Contact the NYS Division of Consumer Protection's Identity Theft Prevention and Mitigation Program, which serves to help victims by walking through the steps necessary to recover from the damages of identity theft.

The New York State Division of Consumer Protection provides resources and education materials to consumers on product safety, as well as voluntary mediation services between consumers and businesses. The Consumer Assistance Helpline 1-800-697-1220 is available Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm, excluding State Holidays, and consumer complaints can be filed at any time at [www.dos.ny.gov/consumer-protection](http://www.dos.ny.gov/consumer-protection).

For more consumer protection tips, follow the Division on social media at Twitter: @NYSConsumer and Facebook: [www.facebook.com/nysconsumer](http://www.facebook.com/nysconsumer).

## New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli Statement on NYC Finances

New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli issued the following statement today after giving remarks at the New York City Financial Control Board:

"Federal relief and higher revenues in City Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 allowed the city to build reserves and other budgetary cushion, but many of the potential fiscal issues facing the city remain out of its direct control. The city faces substantial fiscal risks in the coming years that will require fiscal discipline and preparation.

"The enormity of these risks requires the city to continue to identify areas for revenue enhancement, cost efficiencies and savings, track how its services are delivered amid changing staffing levels and build additional reserves to guard against fiscal pressures.

"With over \$8 billion in reserves and other funds in its health trust, the city has made progress in buffering against uncertainty while maintaining the programs necessary to foster a recovering economy. But reserves must keep up with spending growth. New York City is in a better place than it was two years ago, but clear steps must be taken to protect its fiscal position from eroding."

DiNapoli also highlighted the understated importance of fiscal planning, consistency and transparency, which are fundamental components of the Financial Emergency Act. He encouraged the city to recognize the important role fiscal governance has in projecting confidence to credit markets and develop a reserve policy that systematizes how it builds up funds for a rainy day.

## New York City Council Calls For Department of Education to Restore \$469 Million to School Budgets

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and every single student in our school system remains at 100% Fair Student Funding; and, all federal stimulus dollars to critical programs and needs have been allocated. We look forward to opening our schools with the resources they need to ensure our students thrive."

However, after hearing concerns about the agreed-upon budget, the administration also made \$150 million available to schools to help schools fill teacher vacancies.

Council members suggested that if the city didn't restore the funding it could open up the need for a budget modification fight between Adams and the Council.



## Governor Hochul Honors Heroes on One Year Anniversary of Hurricane Ida (Continued from page 1)

On the one year anniversary of Hurricane Ida, Governor Kathy Hochul honored seven New Yorkers for their heroic actions in the aftermath of the storm, which flooded homes and roads, caused billions of dollars in damages and killed 18 New Yorkers. Governor Hochul also issued a proclamation honoring September 1, 2022 as Hurricane Ida Remembrance Day. The event took place at Elmcour Youth & Adult Activities in Queens alongside local community leaders and partners in government.

"Ida brought unthinkable devastation to Queens, but in its wake we also saw countless acts of heroism from the community," Governor Hochul said. "In New York, we come together and lift each other up in times of devastation and despair, and I applaud these individuals for dedicating themselves to others who were hurting. In the worst of times, they showed us the best of humanity — and the best of New York."

The Governor honored the following individuals at the ceremonial event: Maynel "Junior" Moreno and Jenniffer Moreno; Tom Grech, President, Queens Chamber of Commerce; Tafadar Sourov Laborers Local 79 organizer; Reverend Patrick Young, First Baptist Church; Yoselin Genao-Estrella, Executive Director, Neighborhood Housing Services and Saeeda Dunston, Executive Director, Elmcour Youth and Adult Activities.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Ida, New York State government agencies at all levels worked together with the federal government, private sector organizations, and community volunteers responding to the storm, saving lives and protecting the health and safety of people during this emergency. This partnership has produced enhanced efforts that increased the state's preparedness, planning, training, and cooperation.

Earlier this spring, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced an allocation of \$3 billion in CDBG-DR funds to help communities equitably recover from disasters, including Hurricane Ida, and build resilience to climate change. GOSR was allocated \$41.2 million to support various proposed programs.

Governor Hochul secured an Emergency Disaster Declaration and a Major Disaster Declaration from President Biden following the devastation caused by Hurricane Ida and its unprecedented, historic rainfall. The counties covered by the declarations include: Bronx, Dutchess, Kings, Nassau, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester.

Last week, Governor Hochul announced the release of a proposed Action Plan by the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery to recover from Hurricane Ida to strengthen the resiliency of communities in future storm events. The proposed plan includes \$41.2 million in federal funding to support initiatives that will help

residents outside of New York City adapt to the effects of climate change while prioritizing historically underserved communities.

The Governor also announced that the State will be collecting public input on a variety of proposed programs that will remediate Ida-related damage to residential homes, improve resiliency to reduce risk of future flood damage, and to focus on recovery in low- to moderate-income communities. New Yorkers are outside of New York City are invited to provide feedback on the plan by September 28, by attending the in-person public hearing on September 8 at 6:30 p.m. at New Rochelle City Hall, or the virtual hearing on September 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Congresswoman Grace Meng said, "Hurricane Ida devastated my district and the Queens community. A year ago, homes were flooded, property was destroyed, and lives were tragically lost, including six of my constituents. While we continue to face challenges in rebuilding Queens and NYC, I am honored to stand alongside Governor Hochul as she recognizes local heroes during the aftermath of the storm that went above and beyond to help their neighborhoods. Since Hurricane Ida hit New York City, we have made a number of strides to further protect our community from the destruction of last year, but much more must be done. I look forward to continuing to work at the federal level and in conjunction with local officials to protect the residents of Queens and New York so that this devastation and loss of life never happens again."

NYS Senator Toby Ann Stavisky said, "Today we remember the lives lost after this tragic storm where 11 people from Queens perished. During Governor Hochul's first week in office, we visited those who experienced devastating effects, including the death of loved ones. We also honor those who volunteered and served our neighbors during their greatest time of need. A year ago Governor Hochul promised to return. Promise made, Promise kept."

Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr. said, "One year ago today, thousands of Queens residents from Flushing to Hollis and beyond saw their lives change in an instant. But from the scenes of devastation across Queens came stories of neighbors helping neighbors — and even complete strangers stepping up to help clothe and feed families who lost so much. Today, we honor those who lost their lives during this catastrophe, and we honor all those heroes who lent a hand in one of our borough's times of greatest need."

First Baptist Church Reverend Patrick Young said, "Last year Hurricane Ida shook our communities to its core, but during that time our neighbors united together. I thank Governor Hochul for her leadership and working hand-in-hand with our church to provide resources and help us get back to normal."

Maynel Moreno said, "One year ago Hurricane Ida struck my

community of East Elmhurst, destroying homes and businesses. In the aftermath our neighbors throughout the community joined together in the relief effort. I am thankful for Governor Hochul for coming to the neighborhood and helping get our neighbors back to normalcy."

Neighborhood Housing Services of Queens CDC Executive Director Yoselin Genao Estrella said, "We commend Governor Hochul and her team for bringing resources to our communities that were devastated by Hurricane Ida and Covid 19 Pandemic and the recognition of our work. We are grateful to our neighbors for allowing us to serve them in their time of need. They have shown us that no storm or pandemic can stop Queens' residents from moving forward. I myself a Super Storm Sandy survivor makes the work I do very personal. I am blessed to work at NHS of Queens alongside colleagues with unparalleled commitment to improve the lives of our neighbors by providing programs and services in a dignified way. Our tiny but mighty organization has been instrumental in bringing in resources, volunteers, and other partners to invest in and strengthen Queens. Since the day after the hurricane, NHSQ staff knocked on doors of neighborhoods affected to ensure that individuals and families were safe and accessing relief services. We can only do our work by working in partnership and it takes a village to do the work. The road to recovery is a long one and we look forward to continue working in partnership to bring more sustainable, pragmatic, dignified, resilient programs and investments in Queens."

Elmcour Youth and Adult Activities Executive Director Saeeda Dunston said, "Our community has been hit severely with COVID, Overdose and then came IDA. One year after the storm we remember those who lost their lives, homes and stability. One of our Older Adult Centers was flooded and destroyed which displaced our participants for 10 months. We happy to say we are back open today. Elmcour staff stepped up as they have for decades and will continue to work for the people."

Neighborhood Housing Services Executive Director Yoselin Genao-Estrella said, "Hurricane Ida devastated many neighborhoods in our city last year. As union members we live and breathe a sense of responsibility to our city and our communities, so we took action to help those who were devastated by the flooding. We thank Governor Hochul for recognizing our volunteer disaster relief efforts, and for standing with the affected communities to ensure resiliency in the face of changing climate patterns."

Queens Chamber of Commerce President Tom Grech, said, "I am honored to be a part of this group recognized for our efforts during the aftermath of Hurricane Ida. My role at the Queens Chamber of Commerce is not a job but a passion, and I am grateful for Governor Hochul's support."

## Council Member Julie Won Encourages District 26 to Register For Rain Barrels

On Saturday, September 17th, Council Member Julie Won will distribute rain barrels to residents in partnership with NYC Department of Environmental Protection and Sunnyside Community Services. To reserve a rain barrel, residents should fill out the Google Form (<https://forms.gle/BPvSJht34w4GzLZ8>) by Friday, September 9th. Rain barrels are used to provide relief for rainwater runoff, and that extra water can be used to water your gardens or for other outdoor chores.

WHEN: Friday, September 9th (deadline to register)

Saturday, September 17th from 12-4 pm (to pick up rain barrels)

WHERE: Pickups at Sunnyside Community Services at 43-31 39th St.

WHO: Council Member Julie Won  
NYC Department of Environmental Protection  
Sunnyside Community Services

For inquiries, please contact: Jenna Laing, [JLaing@council.nyc.gov](mailto:JLaing@council.nyc.gov), 646-771-3240

## Community Arts Day Returns to Kew Gardens

If you are looking for a large, commercial art show, then this is not the event for you. But if you prefer a full day of art experiences that celebrate the rich diversity of Queens, then mark your calendar and come to the urban village of Kew Gardens on Saturday, September 10, 2022, 11:00am-6:00pm (rain date Sunday, September 11) to enjoy Kew Gardens Community Arts Day 2022.

At the centerpiece, you will find a wonderful art show Kew Gardens Outdoor Art Fair (located on Austin Street, Lefferts Boulevard, 83 Avenue & Grenfell Street) that will showcase an eclectic mix of fine art. In 2012, the organizers, a group of local artists, had a vision for Kew Gardens; to bring together talented Queens painters, potters, photographers, glassmakers, jewelry artists, illustrators and fiber artists and that is exactly what was accomplished. Expect the 8th year of an open and welcoming, very professional art show with a small-town feel!

The entire neighborhood will be turned into an art experience at Kew Gardens Community Arts Day 2022!

NYC concrete will be transformed into intricate, wild works of art through vibrant colorful designs at the Sidewalk Chalk Art Festival (adults & children welcome to draw), learn how culture influences art from demonstrations by multicultural artists at several of the Outdoor Art Fair tables and practice these art forms and other projects at the Art Zone and meet Brad at his easel giving painting demonstrations by Roast n Co Café. In Kew Gardens Cinemas Park (on Austin Street/off Lefferts Blvd, 12:30pm-5:30pm) sit back and be entertained by Kew Gardens Musicians at an outdoor show that will feature a popular mix of music genres. Walk to the

Potter's Wheel on 83 Avenue to explore your creative side while donating to families in need at the pottery bowl painting tables "Let's Paint a Bowl to Fill Some Empty Bowls" a fundraiser for the River Fund our local food pantry. At 1:00 Kew & Willow Books will be setting up a book sale and display of the bestselling title "Once Upon A Time In Kew Gardens" as well as readings by the contributors of the book. Chat with a group of very committed public service organizations on Grenfell Street at the Voter Education table, Kew Gardens CSA (Community Supported Agriculture—a local, grassroots organization in Queens whose members receive weekly and biweekly pickups of vegetables, fruit, eggs, meat and other products), Queens Parks & Recreation for a nature activity, learn about NYC Sanitation Department's upcoming Curbside Composting in Queens AND be sure to go home with Maple Grove Cemetery's very exciting list of upcoming cultural events.

Pick up a listing of the day's happenings "What's Going on In Kew Gardens Today?" at the Information Table and Check out local businesses for promotions and demonstrations. Don't miss out! Bring your friends and family on Saturday, September 10, 2022, 11:00am-6:00pm (rain date Sunday, September 11) to enjoy Kew Gardens Community Arts Day 2022 and discover an exciting arts community located in Kew Gardens, Queens!

This event is sponsored by a Grant awarded by NYC Council Member Lynn Schulman to the Kew Gardens Council for Recreation and the Arts, Inc

Info: [kewgardensarts@gmail.com](mailto:kewgardensarts@gmail.com), (917) 881-3358, [www.kewgardensarts.com](http://www.kewgardensarts.com), E, F Train, Q10 bus

## Remembering 9/11 - 21 Years Later Statement from Senator James Sanders Jr.



State Senator James Sanders Jr. said: "This weekend, it is with a heavy heart that we look back on the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. It was a day that started out with so much promise and ended in unspeakable tragedy. Although it is said that time heals

all wounds, we still as a country bear the scars inflicted on us that day, even now, 21 years later. We will never forget the thousands of innocent people who died senselessly in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C., nor will we forget our first responders, courageous men and women in uniform who risked their lives, and in some cases, gave their lives, to save others. We lift up in prayer the families of our fallen brothers and sisters and resolve to protect our American values and freedom."



### Governor Hochul Reveals Wider, Brighter LIRR Concourse at Penn Station



33rd Street Concourse Approximately Doubled in Width

18-Foot-High Illuminated Ceiling Runs from Seventh Avenue to Eighth Avenue Subways

Entire LIRR Concourse Project Will Be Complete Spring of 2023

Governor Kathy Hochul has unveiled a dramatically more spacious Long Island Rail Road Concourse at Penn Station. Crews have widened the concourse to 57 feet from the previous 30 and have raised the ceilings to 18 feet. The concourse stretches from Seventh Avenue near the 1/2/3 subway to Eighth Avenue near the A/C/E subway and now features 9,500 square feet of programmable color changing LED ceiling lights. The

reopening of the concourse - on time and on budget - is a step toward the full-scale reconstruction of Penn Station into a modern, spacious, world-class single-level terminal that is open to natural light. The reconstruction of the Penn Station LIRR concourse is one of three major projects that is transforming the experience of LIRR riders in the coming months, along with opening of service to Grand Central Madison and the opening of a new Main Line third track.

"Penn Station isn't just the busiest transit hub in North America, it is also the beating heart of New York City, and for too long it hasn't provided an experience worthy of New Yorkers," Governor Hochul said. "Today, we're raising the roof on Penn Station — literally and

figuratively - and paving the way for a better future as we unveil a wider, brighter Long Island Rail Road concourse. We're one step closer to making Penn a world-class transit hub and making New York an even more livable, and lovable, city."

Each day, more than half of Penn Station's 600,000 users pass through the LIRR concourse, including the vast majority of Penn Station's over 200,000 daily LIRR riders. When the LIRR Concourse project is complete in early 2023, the customer experience at Penn Station will also be greatly enhanced by:

- New mechanical systems that allow for better air circulation and an expanded volume of fresh air.

(Continued on page 9)

### Meng Issues Statement on Stranger Yelling Anti-Semitic And Racist Messages Outside The Gates of Queens College



U.S. Rep. Grace Meng issued the following statement in response to the despicable anti-

Semitic and racist incident outside the gates of Queens College. "I was disgusted to learn of the awful incident outside the gates of Queens College this week where a stranger, unaffiliated with Queens College, was yelling anti-Semitic & repulsive racist messages over a megaphone. This kind of language & ideology has no place in Queens nor in the rest of our diverse nation. I want to thank the NYPD for moving quickly to remove that person. I will continue to monitor the situation in coordination with Queens College and the police."

### CM Julie Won Statement on Restoring Education Budget



to fight for schools across the city to be funded adequately. For schools that were identified as under enrolled, we are happy to share that we now have an increase of students and the budget adjustments for those schools are going to be made adequately through the appeals process.

Since taking office, I have allocated \$3,500,000 in capital investments for schools as well as \$75,000 for every single school in discretionary investments. Within my first quarter, I visited every single school in the district and will continue to work closely with our principles to ensure that our students have the best education experience they deserve. For schools that have seen a perpetual decline in student enrollment, we are mapping out a long-term plan to attract more families by increasing capital investments to improve school infrastructure as well as discretionary investments for competitive programming in our schools.

On September 5th, the Council passed resolution 283-A mandating the mayor to restore the education budget in its entirety. Mayor Adams and the DOE must provide transparency about how city education funds are allocated and spent, including the unspent federal stimulus funds. The DOE must reform their outdated fair student funding formula (FSF) which heavily relies on headcount on student enrollment for school funding.

Although most of our district's schools are not impacted because we are at target enrollment or over enrolled, our office will continue

(Continued on page 9)

### Queens Tech Council Members Gather For Roundtable With Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

Sen. Gillibrand touched on her current work in the cybersecurity realm before participating in a roundtable discussion with attendees



On Wednesday, August 31, dozens of tech, business and community leaders gathered at the Bulova Corporate Center in Queens for a roundtable conversation with United States Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), who currently sits on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. The event was hosted by the Queens Tech Council and the Queens Chamber of Commerce.

"Technology impacts the lives of all people, including the lives of our small business owners across the country who work tirelessly to try and protect customer information and their

intellectual property. The work I am doing in cybersecurity is not only imperative for our nation's security, but also for the private sector. My proposal for a state-of-the-art Cyber Academy would focus on the training of qualified personnel and would provide civic-minded young people with a free, unparalleled postsecond-

ary technological education and a way to serve their country outside of the military," said U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand.

Attendees heard opening remarks from Tom Grech, President and CEO of the Queens Chamber of Commerce, introduced

(Continued on page 11)

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## Queens Carnival 2022 Drew Thousands to Far Rockaway And Featured Superstars of Soca & Reggae Music

It was definitely the party of the year as the Queens Carnival (formerly the Rockaway Caribbean Carnival) returned for a fourth year with a full day of activities taking place on August 27, 2022 and drawing thousands of people to the beach.

State Senator James Sanders Jr. (with Assembly Member Khaleel Anderson and City Council Majority Whip Selvena N. Brooks Powers) hosted the Queens Carnival.

It kicked off with a parade featuring 10 floats stacked with speakers blasting music and featuring DJs including Hot 97's Massive B (Bobby Konders and Lando) and DJ Koolkat. It started at Mott Avenue and Beach 21st Street in Far Rockaway and ended on the boardwalk at Beach 17th Street.

Once at the beach, the area was filled with masqueraders wearing mas costumes, singers, dancers, island food, sand castle building contest, fireworks display and much more.

The main stage featured an all-star lineup of Soca and Reggae performers starring Denise Belfon, and including DJ Cheem, Beniton aka Jack Frostt, Ajala, and General Grant.

DJ Cheem gave a knock-out, energy-packed performance including some of his greatest hits like "Ba Ba Ben" and even inviting attendees to join him on stage to dance with him and show off their costumes.

"The party was in Far Rockaway but it felt more like the Caribbean as we brought together the people and cultures that make Queens an iconic melting pot and the most diverse borough in the city," Senator Sanders said. "It was great seeing people in attendance with their family, friends, children, grandchildren. All were



Senator James Sanders Jr., center, hosted an action-packed day of carnival fun.

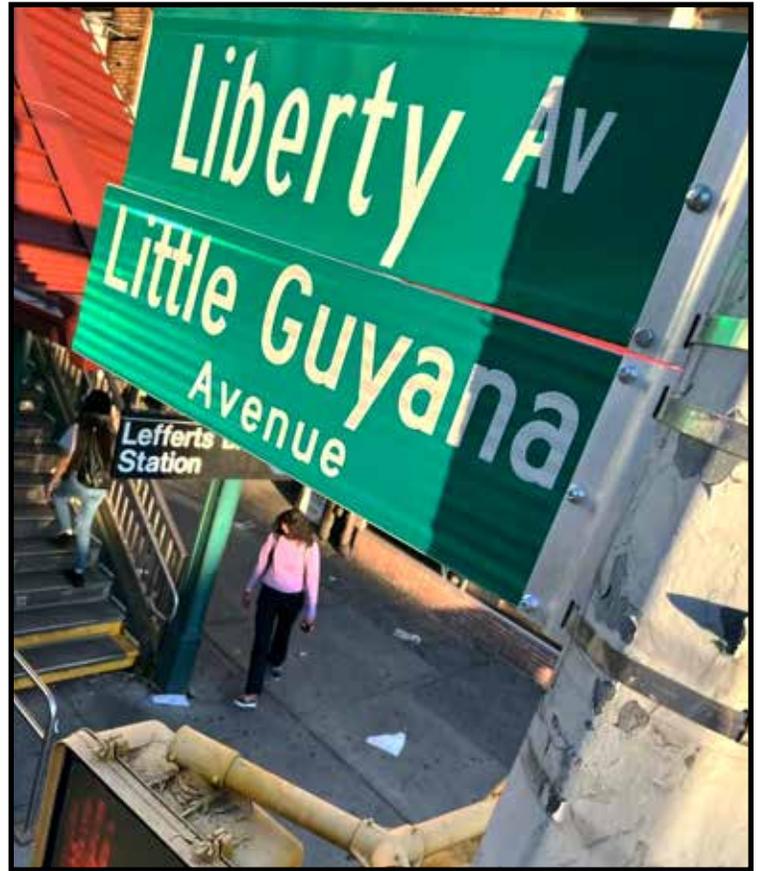
welcome."

Matt Long of Can You Dig It Sand Tools built an amazing sand sculpture of a masquerader sponsored by Cross River Bank and the evening concluded with an amazing fireworks display overlooking the water sponsored by City Council Majority Whip Selvena N. Brooks Powers.

We thank the Queens Carnival Committee for all of their hard work and extra special thanks to Rockaway Revitalization & Development Corporation (RDRC) for their overwhelming support.

We would like to thank our sponsors: Arverne By the Sea, The Tides at Arverne by the Sea, PSEG Long Island, National Grid, Resorts World, Cross River Bank, Queens Defenders, Emblem Health, Rock Safe Streets, St. John's Episcopal Hospital, DredSurfer Grill, West Indian American Day Carnival Association (WIADCA), Rockaway Business Alliance, The Wave newspaper, REMA4US, The Campaign Against Hunger, New York Career Training School LLC, and Queens Royal Priest Hood.

## Am Jenifer Rajkumar Reports Little Guyana Sign is Replaced



Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar is proud to report that, following her speaking with DOT Commissioner Ydannis Rodriguez yesterday, DOT

replaced the "Little Guyana Avenue" sign this morning. She thanks DOT for their quick work and attention to the Richmond Hill community.

## One Year Later, Still No Help For Ida Victims



insurance.

Senator John Liu stated, "We are already well into Hurricane season and Queens residents are in no better position than they were a year ago when Hurricane Ida destroyed homes, property and took the lives of 11 of our neighbors. Despite endless promises, many homeowners today still face the same crushing repair bills they faced a year ago when Hurricane Ida flooded their homes and caused unimaginable damage. The city and states' long-awaited recovery plans are welcome news, but way past overdue and still fail to address the most pressing needs of Ida victims. Without releasing funding to help victims pay for costly damages, too many constituents feel forgotten, left out and lied to, only to pray it won't rain again. Unfortunately, these action plans fall short of real action when it comes to making families whole."

One year after Hurricane Ida's devastating impact on flood prone areas in Queens like Hollis, Whitestone, Fresh Meadows, and Flushing, Senator John C. Liu today called on city and state governments to expedite their efforts to assist victims of the catastrophic storm, many of whom are thousands of dollars in debt because they have been denied all forms of aid from government and

## CM Won statement on one-year anniversary of Hurricane Ida

On the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Ida, we remember our neighbors in Woodside, Sunnyside, Long Island City, and Astoria who experienced severe damage from the flooding. We mourn the innocent lives lost and grieve with the families who remain. Our residents who lived in basement apartments fought for their lives trying to escape.

Our restaurant owners in Sunnyside along Queens Blvd had basements that flooded — damaging their equipment and supplies. On Roosevelt Ave aboveground, sewage came into Woodside restaurants, damaging the furniture and contaminating food and groceries.

Even our NYCHAS suffered great losses. Our Woodside Houses neighbors had to live without heat and hot water for a whole year after Hurricane Ida flooded the outdated heating plant. Their senior center got completely flooded and every piece of furniture was discarded because it was contaminated by sewage. Queensbridge Houses has experienced multiple water main breaks along Vernon Blvd leading to many of their



(Continued on page 9)



# IT'S IN QUEENS

(Sept. 2 to Sept. 8)

It's a busy week in Queens with National Honey Month celebrations, a full moon-inspired event, street festivals galore, a new play, and an international water show.

- Sept. 9, Queens County Fair, Sept. 11. This 39th annual event includes pie-eating and corn-husking contests, hayrides, carnival rides, and midway games. Add live music, craft vendors, food vendors, and the Con Edison Ecology booth. Schedule: Sept. 9 from 3:30 to 8:30 pm; Sept. 10 and Sept. 11 from 11 am to 6 pm. Queens County Farm Museum, 73-50 Little Neck Pkwy., Glen Oaks.

- Sept. 9, Life Lessons, Oct. 2. A teacher and an uneducated fishmonger engage in a duel of personalities through juicy parent-teacher school meetings in this drama/comedy by Spanish playwright Eduardo Galan. She's contemplating retirement. He has a troubled son. English shows are Fridays at 8 pm and Saturdays at 3 pm. Spanish shows are Saturdays at 8 and Sundays at 4 pm. Thalia Spanish Theatre, 41-17 Greenpoint Ave., Sunnyside.

- Sept. 9, CinemaLIC, about 8 pm. Watch the 2021 animated film Encanto with Midtown Manhattan in the background. A Colombian teenage girl faces the frustration of being the only family member with no magic powers. Rooftop Films uses a 30-foot inflatable screen with enhanced video projection. Hunters Point Park South, vicinity of Center Boulevard and 51st Avenue, Long Island City.

- Sept. 9, Mid-Autumn Moon Festival Walk, 7 pm. Stroll along moonlit trails with lanterns, finishing with some quality rabbit time. Alley Pond Environmental Center, 224-65 76th Ave., Oakland Gardens.

- Sept. 9, White Wedding, 8 pm. A totally radical 1980s tribute band. Resorts World New York City, 110-00 Rockaway Blvd., South Jamaica.

- Sept. 10, NYC Honey Fest, 11 am. A free, all-day bonanza of bees, beach, beers, and bites with vendors and activities of all stripes. Rockaway's 106th Street Boardwalk.

- Sept. 10, Moon Festival, 2 pm. Costumes. Shopping. Dance. Music. Cake. Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company will offer a ribbon-and-feather fan dance that's inspired by an Asian legend about a fairy in the moon. Then MISS, an all-female band dedicated to promoting Asian instruments, will present a live show. Moon Cake DIY workshops will begin on Level 6 at 4 pm. The Shops at Skyview, 40-24 College Point Blvd., Flushing.

- Sept. 10, Flushing BID Annual Street Festival, 10 am. Live music, entertainment, shopping and savory food. More than 40 vendors have signed up so far. They include Mochiido (mochi donuts), Ding Ding (Malaysian homemade food), YiFang (fruit teas), and Shanghai You Garden (Dim Sum).



FTH Jazz



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- Sept. 10, Opening Reception: Gift Box, 4 pm. Sui Park's solo exhibition showcases site-specific installation of colorful cable ties in plant-based abstract forms that represent sentiments, aspirations, and memorable moments. The installation repurposes disposable cable ties into the form of the art, demonstrating reuse, recycling, and sustainability. The show is up until Oct. 9. The Garage Art Center, 26-01 Corporal Kennedy St., Bayside.

- Sept. 10, Bio-Plastics Fashion Show, 11 am. An environment-loving workshop followed by a fashion show. Socrates Sculpture Park, 32-01 Vernon Blvd., Long Island City.

- Sept. 10, Community Day, noon. This second annual scavenger hunt involves 28 stores along Metropolitan Avenue in Forest Hills. More than 150 prizes, including a \$100 gift certificate.

- Sept. 10, Larger Than Life, 8 pm. This original 1990s boyband performs all kinds of music these days. Resorts World New York City, 110-00 Rockaway Blvd., South Jamaica.

- Sept. 11, Jubilee Street Feast, 2 pm. Owners Jerry and Patricia Crisci celebrate Armondo's Italian Restaurant's 50th anniversary with live entertainment, a selfie station, film, and food, including their famous chicken parmigiana. Northern Boulevard between 73rd Street and 74th Street, Jackson Heights. The roadway will be closed in both directions.

- Sept. 11, New York Classical Players, 2 pm. This chamber orchestra is comprised of highly gifted professional musicians committed to bringing free, high-level concerts to diverse audiences. Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.

- Sept. 11, Apples & Honey Day, noon. Celebrate harvest season with apples, honey, crafts, tastings, local beer, and cider. Don't miss the Pollinator Parade.

Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main St., Flushing.

- Sept. 13, New York 2022 Music Hall of Fame Awards, 6 pm. A recognition of the music industry's best DJs, artists, producers, promoters, executives, technicians, songwriters, publishers, publicists, radio personalities, historians, and others. Queens Theatre, 14 United Nations Ave. S., Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

- Sept. 13, Madam: The Biography of Polly Adler, Icon of the Jazz Age, noon. Debby Applegate discusses her book on the most infamous and influential madam in Jazz Age New York. A "good Jewish girl" from a Russian shtetl immigrated to Brooklyn and rose to become the "female Al Capone." Her brothels were underworld salons that catered to everyone from Vanderbilts and Rockefellers to Frank Sinatra, Desi Arnaz, the Algonquin Roundtable, and Meyer Lansky. Commonpoint Queens Sam Field Center, 58-20 Little Neck Pkwy., Little Neck.

- Sept. 14, 36.5/New York Estuary, 7:27 am. This large-scale event involves several hundreds of people around the world. Sarah Cameron Sunde will stand in water for 12 hours, 39 minutes, a full tidal cycle, inviting the public to participate by joining her in the water and/or marking the passing of hours from shore. Collaborators will create interventions and installations to amplify the performance. The Cove, 31-10 Vernon Blvd., Long Island City.

- Sept. 14, Monthly Jazz Jam, 7 pm. On the second Wednesday of the month, musicians hone skills and jam with peers and the house band. Don't play? Don't worry! Listen! Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.

- Sept. 15, Honey Presentation & Tasting, 6:30 pm. Master beekeeper Nick Hoefly of Astor Apiaries celebrates National Honey Month with a tasting and talk. Alley Pond Environmental Center, 224-65 76th Ave., Oakland Gardens.

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## The Shops at Skyview is Celebrating September's Hunger Action Month

*Shoppers can participate in The Giving Table and Feed the Plate to help families in the community who suffer from food insecurity*

The Shops at Skyview is shedding light on an important cause during September's Hunger Action Month. Throughout September, the shopping center is hosting The Giving Table, a food donation drive which will benefit the Cultural Food Pantry hosted by Queens Museum and La Jornada. In addition, Feed the Plate, an educational craft-based event scheduled for September 23, will feature an onsite art installation by local artist, Niceli Portugal, built to educate and help those in the community who suffer from food insecurity.

"Our corporate philanthropic initiative is fighting hunger," said Wesley Sin, Marketing Manager at ShopCore Properties. "We are dedicated to eliminating the growing problem of childhood hunger by feeding young bodies and minds through our corporate initiative, CoreGiving. We are honored to team up with noteworthy local partners like La Jornada and the Queens Museum to collect donations from

the community to combat childhood hunger in Queens. We believe that no child should experience hunger and its negative effects."

Positioned near the Skyview entrance, the Giving Table offers convenient drop off for shoppers to donate non-perishable food items to give back to the local community.

"The Giving Table is a powerful visual representation of one in six children in the United States who go hungry," continued Sin. "A striking orange table with six chairs will be strategically placed at the center's main entrance. The sixth chair will be white, showcasing a stark fact—that every sixth child experiences some form of food insecurity."

On Friday, September 23 from 6 to 8 p.m. a "Feed the Plate" event will educate children about nutrition, hunger, and food insecurity through hands-on activities such as complimentary kids coloring and arts and crafts. Participants will also have the opportunity to donate nonperishable food items during the event while watching a live art installation by artist, Niceli Portugal, who also serves as support coordinator for the Cultural Food Pantry.

For the event, Portugal and fellow food pantry volunteers will explore ways to connect with food and fight hunger while embracing the diversity across Queens, providing resources, information and encouraging the community to open space for art in their lives.

The Shops at Skyview is a multi-level shopping destination located in Flushing, N.Y. featuring a growing mix of national retailers and local favorites, including leading brands such as Target, Uniqlo, SkyFoods, Marshalls, and locals like Gong Cha and Royal Beauty. The Shops at Skyview is accented by an abundance of signature events, family centric experiences, and so much more. The shopping destination, conveniently located in Queens, N.Y., features a mix of premier national retail stores for women's, men's and children's apparel, shoes, electronics, home furnishings, entertainment, cosmetics, groceries and more.

For more information about The Shops at Skyview and September's Hunger Action Month activities, please visit [theshopsatskyview.com](http://theshopsatskyview.com) or follow Skyview's social media @theshopsatskyviewny.

## CM Won statement on one-year anniversary of Hurricane Ida

(Continued from page 7)

vehicles being totaled.

Our residents have no protections. FEMA and the comptroller have denied their claims, and flood insurance coverage does not exist for New York City residents and Queens, because this is not a flood zone. Year after year, residents continuously have to eat up the cost for flood damages.

No one should not have to fear dying or face thousands in damages every time it rains. I call on the American Red Cross, FEMA, NYC Emergency Management and NYC Department of Environmental Protection to provide relief to our community for the damage that was caused by the hurricane. I want to see the money actually trickle down for infrastructure investments. DEP must make infrastructure changes to ensure that our catch basins, sewers and pipes have capital investments to ensure we avoid flooding in the future.

Last year we witnessed Red

Cross hand immigrant neighbors who were victims of flooding pieces of intake paper only in English. We must provide language-inclusive materials. It is not acceptable that these forms were not provided in the native language of my residents, like Nepali, Bangla, and Tibetan, during such a traumatic time.

As Council Member, I have introduced a package of legislation for language access, Intro 136 and Intro 137 along with \$5 million in funding to create the first-ever language co-op for the country to ensure culturally competent language translations are provided for our city, especially in times of need like natural disasters and emergencies.

We mourn the lives lost and the damages our neighbors have incurred and we will continue to fight for better flood protections, resiliency infrastructure development, and updates to our sewage and plumbing infrastructure to avoid disasters such as this in the future.

## Governor Hochul Reveals Wider, Brighter LIRR Concourse at Penn Station

(Continued from page 6)

- Enhanced accessibility including a new elevator entrance, the replacement of four elevators and new elevator communication systems.

- Intuitive wayfinding.
- More retail and dining options.

MTA Chair and CEO Janno Lieber said, "This wider, brighter LIRR concourse is just a glimpse of what is coming -- not only LIRR riders but for all New Yorkers. Governor Hochul has prioritized fixing Penn Station, and this project shows the MTA is ready to finish transforming the crummy terminal New Yorkers have been suffering with for 50-plus years into a world-class facility."

Long Island Rail Road Interim President and Metro-North Railroad President Catherine Rinaldi said, "The LIRR has taken another step towards its transformation into a modern, more flexible and more accessible railroad. The new elevated ceilings, bright lights, better air flow and improved accessibility create a more comfortable and welcoming space for everyone."

MTA Construction and Devel-

opment President Jamie Torres-Springer said, "The MTA continues to reach project milestones on-time and the unveiling of new, higher ceilings and the wider concourse is a sign of things to come at Penn Station when we finish this project and move on to the full reconstruction of the station. This is just the beginning of the substantial enhancements Penn Station riders will experience starting this fall."

This unveiled LIRR Concourse project features \$380 million in state funding with 30 percent of the contracts awarded to minority and women owned businesses. The total cost of the corridor amounts to \$559 million.

Construction began on the East End Gateway in June of 2019 which opened to the public in December 2020.

In March 2022, seven massive low-hanging ten-ton beams informally known as "Head Knockers" - that historically limited the heights in Penn Station passageways to 6 feet, 8 inches were removed. The structures above Penn Station are now supported by an innovative structural framing system, installed by Skanska/AECOM.

## Rideshare Drivers Rally Outside MTA to Slam Congestion Tax Proposal

*Justice for App Workers coalition calls on Governor Hochul and MTA to stop making hard-working immigrant drivers foot the bill for congestion pricing*

*App drivers already hit with record gas prices, rising expenses, and an existing congestion fee say newest tax would be devastating to their jobs and families*

Facing the prospect of yet another congestion tax, rideshare drivers with the Justice for App Workers coalition rallied outside the MTA headquarters this morning to demand that the agency, Governor Hochul, and State lawmakers stop targeting hard-working immigrant drivers who are already paying their fair share in congestion taxes and struggling to get by with low wages and rising expenses.

"When the city wants money, we become the easy target. We know the MTA needs money, but that cannot come at the expense of low-income people of color and immigrants. This tax proposal will destroy working families!" said Adalgisa Payero-Diarra, leader of UTANY, one of the nine coalition groups that represent Justice for App Workers' 100,000 members in New York.

Thousands of app drivers have

already spoken out to protest this devastating second tax of up to \$23 per trip to Manhattan. Hundreds testified at a series of MTA virtual hearings that concluded this morning, and more than 23,000 Uber and Lyft drivers submitted comments to the MTA. As they gathered in front of the MTA building, Justice for App Workers called for app drivers to be exempt from the latest fee, as rideshare drivers are already the only ones paying a congestion tax of \$2.75 per trip. Drivers noted that heaping another cost on low-income drivers who are primarily immigrants and people of color would disproportionately impact the most vulnerable New Yorkers and their families.

"The app companies take a huge cut of our earnings. We pay for car maintenance, gas, and insurance, and the city keeps piling all these fees on us. There are other ways for the city to get their money," said Naomi Ogutu, President of NYC Rideshare Club and Co-Chair of Justice for App Workers. "We've already paid \$1 billion in congestion fees, what happened to that?"

Justice for App Workers members have been stationed outside the MTA headquarters all week, educating drivers and riders about the significant impact of congestion pricing on rideshare drivers'

wages and access to affordable rides for low-income and outer borough customers.

"We want our customers to know that this tax is a lose-lose. Drivers would lose our livelihoods, and riders who rely on us would be stranded," said Sonam Lama, member of Justice for App Workers coalition group the Independent Drivers Guild. "If the MTA thinks we'll take this lying down, they're wrong!"

According to polling of drivers and delivery workers in the tristate area conducted by Justice for App Workers in 2021, 77% of app worker respondents said they struggle to make monthly payments like rent, utilities, car payments, and other bills. By the MTA's own estimate, an additional congestion fee would reduce taxi and for-hire vehicle trips to and from Manhattan's Central Business District by as much as 40%, leaving many app drivers without jobs.

Rideshare drivers and delivery workers who are part of the Justice for App Workers coalition include members of NYC Rideshare Club, Black Car Mafia, UzBER, Independent Drivers Guild, Long Island Uber and Lyft Network, NYC Drivers Unite, UTANY, International Alliance of Delivery Workers, and United Delivery Workers Association.

## Senator James Sanders Jr. to Host Free Mini Golf Event in Recognition of Senior Appreciation Month

Senator James Sanders Jr. (D-Rochdale Village, Far Rockaway) will host a free afternoon of mini golf for seniors in recognition of September as Senior Appreciation Month.

"I am proud to recognize Senior Appreciation Month, which will feature many great activities for the golden members of our society,"

Sanders said. "It is important that we as a community recognize our seniors and show our unwavering commitment to them as a thank you for paving the way for the next generation and providing steadfast guidance during the troubling times of today."

Senator Sanders' free mini golf event will take place on Wednesday,

September 14, 2022 at 1 p.m. at the Five Towns Mini-Golf and Batting Range, located at 570 Rockaway Turnpike in Lawrence, NY. You must wear sneakers. You must RSVP to attend by scanning the QR code on the flyer or by calling Senator Sanders' Office at 718-327-7017 or 718-523-3069. Do not leave a message on the answering machine.

## CM Julie Won Statement on Restoring Education Budget

(Continued from page 6)

Our children deserve answers regarding why their education experience vastly differs by the median income level for their

neighborhood — Mayor Adams must take action immediately to reform FSF and ensure every single school in the city has adequate funding to care for our students.

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## CUNY Receives High Praise on 'Best Colleges' Lists

**City College Named Third-Best National University; Other Senior and Community Colleges Earn Recognition on National Rankings**

The City College of New York is the third-best national university, only narrowly beaten by Princeton and Stanford, and the top-ranked public college in the nation, according to a new study by the education research organization DegreeChoices, which also named five CUNY colleges as the nation's top Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), with Lehman College leading the way, and seven among the top 10 best schools in New York State, with Baruch College taking the No. 1 spot.

Five CUNY colleges also made The Princeton Review's "The Best 388 Colleges: 2023 Edition," a selection featuring only about 14% of senior colleges in the U.S. and based on annual surveys of 2,000 college administrators about their institutions' academic offerings.

Additionally, WalletHub ranked Queensborough Community College first on its list of the state's top community colleges, with all seven CUNY two-year schools among the top 25 on a list that evaluates schools based on cost and financing; education; and career outcomes.

"We are elated to have further affirmation of CUNY's success in providing students with an affordable education that will open the door to a prosperous career," said Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez. "We take great pride in knowing that CUNY outperforms many of the nation's leading universities when it comes to delivering a top-notch education that leads our students to successful careers."

The University's high placement in these rankings anchors the start of a historic academic year, which began at most CUNY colleges last Thursday. The new term also features 250 new full-time faculty, expanded availability of the state's Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) for part-time students and an additional \$1 billion in capital funding.

Top Economic Outcomes The DegreeChoices study listed five CUNY colleges as the nation's top HSIs for providing superior

economic outcomes after graduation. The rankings examined the length of time it takes students to repay the costs of their college education and how much they earn 10 years after they start college in comparison to the weighted average salary from schools in the same state. The first of the metrics is comparable to that used by Third Way, a public policy organization that earlier this year recognized 10 CUNY senior colleges as leaders in economic mobility for low- and moderate-income graduates.

Under this methodology, after the No. 1 ranked Lehman for HSIs comes City College, Hunter College, John Jay College of Criminal Justice and Queens College in the top five.

The focal point of the DegreeChoices rankings is the national universities, colleges considered to be doctoral universities. City College not only ranked third overall but is the highest-ranked "affordable" university on the national listing.

CUNY colleges also feature prominently among DegreeChoices' best in New York state, with Baruch ranked No. 1 followed by Lehman (2), City College (4), Hunter (5), Brooklyn College (6), John Jay College (7) and Queens College (8).

5 Among 'Best 388'

Five CUNY colleges — Baruch College, Brooklyn College, City College, Hunter College and Queens College — are included in The Princeton Review's "The Best 388 Colleges: 2023 Edition." The book does not numerically rank colleges, but rather, lists selected colleges in alphabetical order.

The book includes other lists of bests; a detailed collection from CUNY's selected colleges is below:

The City College of New York

- Best Northeastern Region
- Green Colleges  
Baruch College
- No. 8 Best Value Colleges (Public Schools)
- No. 15 Best Value Colleges w/o Aid (Public Schools)
- No. 19 Best Alumni Networks (Public Schools)
- Best Value Colleges
- Best Northeastern Region  
Brooklyn College
- No. 12 Best Schools

for Financial Aid (Public Schools)

- No. 39 Best Value Colleges (Public Schools)
- Best Northeastern Region
- Best Value Colleges
- Green Colleges  
Hunter College
- No. 5 Best Schools for Financial Aid (Public Schools)
- No. 35 Best Value Colleges (Public Schools)
- Best Northeastern Region
- Best Value Colleges
- Colleges That Create Futures  
Queens College
- Best Northeastern Region
- Best Value Colleges  
Community College

CUNY's seven community colleges, serving 73,000 students, all made WalletHub's list for the top community colleges in New York State. After Queensborough in first, the top 25 list highlights Guttman (2), LaGuardia (5), Hostos (11), Kingsborough (17), Bronx (23) and Borough of Manhattan Community College (25).

The City University of New York is the nation's largest urban public university, a transformative engine of social mobility that is a critical component of the lifeblood of New York City. Founded in 1847 as the nation's first free public institution of higher education, CUNY today has seven community colleges, 11 senior colleges and seven graduate or professional institutions spread across New York City's five boroughs, serving over 243,000 undergraduate and graduate students and awarding 55,000 degrees each year. CUNY's mix of quality and affordability propels almost six times as many low-income students into the middle class and beyond as all the Ivy League colleges combined. More than 80 percent of the University's graduates stay in New York, contributing to all aspects of the city's economic, civic and cultural life and diversifying the city's workforce in every sector. CUNY's graduates and faculty have received many prestigious honors, including 13 Nobel Prizes and 26 MacArthur "Genius" Grants. The University's historic mission continues to this day: provide a first-rate public education to all students, regardless of means or background.

## Commissioner Ulrich Announces New Leadership Team Appointment For DOB Enforcement Operations

Department of Buildings Commissioner Eric Ulrich announced the appointment of Joseph J. Esposito, one of the city's preeminent public safety experts, as Deputy Commissioner for Enforcement. He joins the Department after decades serving at the highest levels in New York City Government. Esposito recently served as Commissioner of the New York City Emergency Management from 2014 to 2019, where he led the City's emergency planning and response operations. He worked closely with the Department of Buildings responding to major

buildings-related incidents, including the 2015 East Village Building Explosion, the 2016 Chelsea Bombing Terror Attack, and the 2018 Flatiron Steam Pipe Explosion. He also holds the distinction of being the longest-serving Chief of Department in NYPD history, leading the uniformed members of the NYPD during some of the City's most trying times, including in the aftermath of 9/11 and Hurricane Sandy.

"Enforcement at the Department of Buildings prioritizes protecting the safety and wellbeing of our fellow New Yorkers," said

Commissioner Ulrich. "Joe Esposito brings decades of City government experience to the Department and is the right person to lead our enforcement efforts."

"It is an honor to continue my service to the people of New York City at the Department of Buildings," said Deputy Commissioner for Enforcement Joseph J. Esposito. "The safety of everyone who lives, works and visits in our City will continue to be my top priority in this new role, leading the agency's efforts to rigorously enforce our City's building and construction regulations."

## Attorney General James Successfully Defends New York's Gun Control Laws

**Federal Judge Dismisses Gun Lobby's Challenge to New York's New Gun Laws, Clears the Way for Gun Safety Regulations to Take Effect**

New York Attorney General Letitia James successfully defended New York's gun control laws from baseless attacks by the gun lobby. A federal judge in the U.S. Northern District Court of New York today denied a motion for a preliminary injunction by Gun Owners of America, clearing the way for the newly passed Concealed Carry Improvement Act (CCIA) to take effect on September 1. Attorney General James released

the following statement in response to the decision in the case *Antonyuk v. Bruen*:

"As gun violence continues to impact communities across the country, today's decision is a victory in our efforts to protect New Yorkers. Responsible gun control measures save lives and any attempts by the gun lobby to tear down New York's sensible gun control laws will be met with fierce defense of the law. We will continue to defend the constitutionality of our laws to protect all New Yorkers," said Attorney General James.

The CCIA was passed during an extraordinary session of the Legislature

and signed into law by Governor Hochul earlier this summer, in the wake of the Supreme Court's ruling in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen*. The legislation strengthens requirements for concealed carry permits, prohibits guns in sensitive locations, allows private businesses to ban guns on their premises, enhances safe storage requirements, requires social media review ahead of certain gun purchases, and requires background checks on all ammunition purchases to protect New Yorkers. The CCIA goes into effect on September 1 after Attorney General James successfully defended its constitutionality.

## Queens Chamber of Commerce And US-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry Announce Partnership to Promote Trade And Business Cooperation

**Partnership will boost businesses in both Queens and Bangladesh**

The Queens Chamber of Commerce, the borough's oldest and largest business association, and the US-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry (USBCCI), an organization designed to enhance prosperity for Bangladeshi and American businesses both here and in Bangladesh, announced that they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at promoting trade and business cooperation between businesses in Queens and the South Asian country.

"Queens is the most diverse community in the world. Not only does our borough boost an unprecedented number of businesses owned by immigrants, but companies from around the world have customers in every Queens neighborhood," said Tom Grech, President and CEO

of the Queens Chamber of Commerce. "We are excited to begin this partnership with the US-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry, which we are confident will be beneficial to members of both of our organizations and look forward to participating in the upcoming USBCCI Business Expo."

As part of the partnership, the Queens Chamber will support the USBCCI Business Expo, which is taking place September 23 through 25, at the LaGuardia Airport Marriott in Queens. The event will celebrate 50 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and Bangladesh. You can learn more about the USBCCI Business Expo at [usbccibusinessexpo.com](http://usbccibusinessexpo.com).

"Queens is home to a thriving Bangladeshi community, including many small businesses owned by immigrants from Bangladesh. We are excited to work with the Queens Chamber

of Commerce to foster relationships that will benefit businesses in Queens and in our homeland," said Liton Ahmed, President of the US-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

"Building relationships that will encourage trade between New York City and nations from around the world is vital to our local economy. We congratulate the Queens Chamber of Commerce and the US-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry for this partnership and applaud them for their efforts to create jobs and support businesses here in New York City and abroad," said Dilip Chauhan, Deputy Commissioner for Trade, Investment and Innovation for the NYC Mayor's Office of International Affairs.

About the Queens Chamber of Commerce - The Queens Chamber of Commerce is the oldest and largest

(Continued on page 11)



**LEGAL NOTICES**

Notice of Formation of Trip Hospitality New York LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/24/22. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Intertrust Group, 200 Bellevue Parkway, Ste. 210, Wilmington, DE 19809. Purpose: any lawful activity. 8/4,11,18,25,9/1&8/2022

2137 REEDS MILL LN LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/28/22. 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, 170 Old Country Road, Suite 308, Mineola, NY 11501. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 8/4,11,18,25,9/1&8/2022

Notice of formation of OAKS 8 LLC Arts of Org. filed with the Secretary of State of New York SSNY on 08/01/2022. Office location: QUEENS. SSNY design. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy to 3621 32ND STREET, ASTORIA, NY, 11106, USA. Purpose: any lawful activity. 8/4,11,18,25,9/1&8/2022

Notice of Formation of AKAN 3 ART LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 08/03/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 152-11 89th Avenue, #235, Jamaica, NY 11432. Purpose: any lawful activities. 8/11,18,25,9/1,8&15/2022

Notice of Formation of BUTTERFLY SENIOR DAY CARE LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/15/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 3716 73rd Street, Suite 401, Jackson Heights, NY 11372. Purpose: any lawful activities. 8/25,9/1,8,15,22&29/2022

Notice of Formation of LILIES OF EDEN, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/19/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 97-28 57th Avenue, Apt.4c, Corona, NY 11368. Purpose: any lawful activities. 8/11,18,25,9/1,8&15/2022

Notice of Formation of SIMSI INTERNATIONAL LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/17/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 11811 Sutphin Blvd, 98166, Jamaica, NY 11434. Purpose: any lawful activities. 8/11,18,25,9/1,8&15/2022

**LEGAL NOTICES**

Vito G. Clarizio DMD, PLLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 5/21/2022. Cty: Queens. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 149-21 14th Ave., Whitestone, NY 11357. Purpose: Dentistry. 8/11,18,25,9/1,8&15/2022

VINELAND JS LLC. Filed 6/14/2022. Office: Queens Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 6135 DRY HARBOR RD, MIDDLE VILLAGE, NY 11379. Purpose: General. 8/18,25,9/1,8,15,&22/2022

CTSQ 3311 LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 8/11/2022. Cty: Queens. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 3636 Main St., #CS, Flushing, NY 11354. General Purpose. 8/18,25,9/1,8,15,&22/2022

Notice of Formation of ROSAS STUDIOS LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/22/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 47-15 47th Street, Queens, NY 11377. Purpose: any lawful activities. 8/18,25,9/1,8,15&22/2022

6517 Ave Management LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 1/31/2022. Cty: Queens. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 3636 Main St., #CS, Flushing, NY 11354. General Purpose. 8/18,25,9/1,8,15&22/2022

BRRM LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/10/2022. Office loc: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Ross Mignoli, 81-38 263rd Street, Glen Oaks, NY 11004. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. 8/25,9/1,8,15,22&29/2022

CASA 34 STREET LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 05/19/22. 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, 14-38 31st Drive, Astoria, NY 11106. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 9/1,8,15,22,29&10/6/2022

Notice of Formation of WAGMI ENTERPRISES LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/09/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 14728 90th Avenue, Apt 2F, Jamaica, NY 11435. Purpose: any lawful activities. 9/1,8,15 22,29&10/6/2022

**LEGAL NOTICES**

Notice of Formation of RESUMING FORWARD LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/25/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 1050 Neilson Street, 2A, Far Rockaway, NY 11691. Purpose: any lawful activities. 9/1,8,15 22,29&10/6/2022

Notice of Formation of OPTIMIZED NUTRITION, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/31/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 7514 60 Lane, #1, Ridgewood, NY 11385. Purpose: any lawful activities. 8/11,18,25,9/1,8&15/2022

Notice of formation of THE MUNCHZ SPOT LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/17/22. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to: 35-07 Broadway, Astoria, NY 11106. Purpose: any lawful act. 8/25,9/1,8,15,22&29/2022

CRUGER MANAGEMENT LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 5/26/22. Office in Queens Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 66-10 149 St., Apt. 2D, Flushing, NY 11367. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 8/4,11,18,25,9/1&8/2022

154 RIVERSIDE LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/25/22. 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, 26-07 166th Street, Flushing, NY 11358. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 9/1,8,15,22,29&10/6/2022

Notice of Formation of LE BEST SITTER LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/04/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: PO Box 45-43, 44th Street, Sunnyside, NY 11104. Purpose: any lawful activities. 9/8,15 22,29,10/6&13/2022

Notice of Formation of J&S HOME MAKEOVERS, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 08/27/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 61-48 71st Street, Basement, Middle Village, NY 11379. Purpose: any lawful activities. 9/8,15 22,29,10/6&13/2022

**LEGAL NOTICES**

Notice of Formation of SOULFIT ATHLETICS, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/17/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 13904 Glassboro Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11435. Purpose: any lawful activities. 9/8,15 22,29,10/6&13/2022



**Alley Pond Environmental Center's Welcome Autumn Concert Saturday, September 17th at 4pm**

Our outdoor concert features the band "The Boomer Brothers" highlighting family friendly folk music. With a background as diverse as New York City itself, The Boomer Brothers are a multifaceted band that really just want you to have a good time! As a trio they perform cover songs in their own unique way. As well as some originals. But don't worry, you will recognize the popular songs. They may just sound a bit different, hopefully better than the originals in some cases.

Bring a lawn chair and your picnic as well as help support a vital nonprofit organization.

The concert is on Saturday, September 17, 2022 at 4pm in the shady grove just to the north of our current building's location at 224-65 76th Avenue in Oakland Gardens, NY. There is a large, free parking lot.

Tickets and more in-

formation can be found at <https://www.alleypond.org/welcome-autumn-fundraiser-concert-2022.html>.

The Alley Pond Environmental Center (APEC), a nonprofit environmental education organization, is dedicated to educating children and adults in the New York metropolitan area, protecting and preserving Alley Pond Park, open spaces and waterbodies, and advocating for sustainable environmental policies and practices. APEC has been an educational oasis for environmental studies for 50 years.

The past year has been tough for us financially and this looks to be a fun evening to help raise some desperately needed funds to help us continue to offer our wide range of programming.

For more information: Please call: 718-229-4000 weekdays.

**Queens Tech Council Members Gather For Roundtable With Senator Kirsten Gillibrand**

(Continued from page 6)

Gillibrand and served as a moderator for the conversation which focused mainly on the Senator's dedication to cybersecurity, including a proposal for the creation of a Cyber Academy.

"Throughout her years in government, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand has dedicated herself to being both accountable and transparent to her constituents. Her attendance at our event to discuss the ways we can better protect ourselves in this digital world highlighted that dedication," said Tom Grech, President and CEO of the Queens Chamber of Commerce. "The Queens Chamber of Commerce knows that supporting a strong tech ecosystem requires more than just attracting the world's most prominent tech companies to Queens, but also protecting their private data and information from threats, both domestic and abroad. Through our innovative

programming, including the launch of our Queens Tech Incubator, we remain dedicated to training individuals in the most sought-after areas of technology, including the cybersecurity realm."

The Queens Tech Council, which was launched in February 2021, focuses on building an economy that embraces innovation and promotes tech adoption, from existing giants in established industries to start-ups working on cutting edge applications. This means ensuring Queens is producing the talent that companies need to compete and thrive in the years to come.

"The persistent gaps in our federal tech workforce call for bold, innovative so-

lutions to sustainably bring in young talent, build out our digital capabilities, and maintain our strength and influence in cyberspace. Many of these leaders will go on to work in the private sector, where they will take the skills they learned in government to protect businesses across the country, including here in New York. Queens is a hub for diversity and education, and it was wonderful hearing from leaders in the area and their ideas on how we can build a secure future for all," Sen. Gillibrand added.

About the Queens Chamber of Commerce - The Queens Chamber of Commerce is the oldest and largest business association in Queens, representing more than 1,400 businesses and more than 150,000 Queens-based employees. Its mission is to foster connections, educate for success, develop/implement programs and advocate for members' interests. [www.queenschamber.org](http://www.queenschamber.org)

**Queens Chamber of Commerce And . . .**

(Continued from page 10)

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About the US Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry - U.S. Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry ("USBCCI") is

an organization designed to enhance prosperity for Bangladesh and American Businesses in USA & Bangladesh, also committed to serving the needs of the growing business community. U.S. Bangladesh Chamber prides itself on bringing people together for the purpose of bringing unity to the Bangladesh-speaking community, bridging ties between Bangladesh and American businesses and creating an entrepreneurial environment where companies grow, individu-

als succeed and the community benefits. Through their continued efforts, U.S. Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry has become the "go to" source for information, support, cultural events, festivals, business referrals, networking, socializing and much more. Due to USBCCI's extensive involvement and dedication to helping people and businesses, many refer to U.S. Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry as the trusted voice in the Bangladeshi community.

### Queens Public Library Resource Fair



The Queens Public Library in Flushing hosted a resource fair for local residents and patrons in an effort to close the achievement gap in communities with high concentration of families with limited English language proficiency. Members of QDA Katz's staff, including Assistant

District Attorneys, were on-site to provide information about the office in several languages.

More than 30 languages are spoken by the our staff - including English, Spanish, Chinese, Russian and Vietnamese. If you need help, don't hesitate to reach out.

*Giornale Italo Americano*

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FRIENDS OF FRANCIS LEWIS PARK PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR **SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> MEMORIAL**

Sunday, September 11, 2022 at 7:30 PM  
AT FRANCIS LEWIS PARK  
3rd Avenue and 147th Street • Whitestone, NY

★ NEVER FORGET ★

UGO the UNFORTUNATE URBANITE

YANKEE STADIUM

HOME RUN!!!  
\*CHEER\*

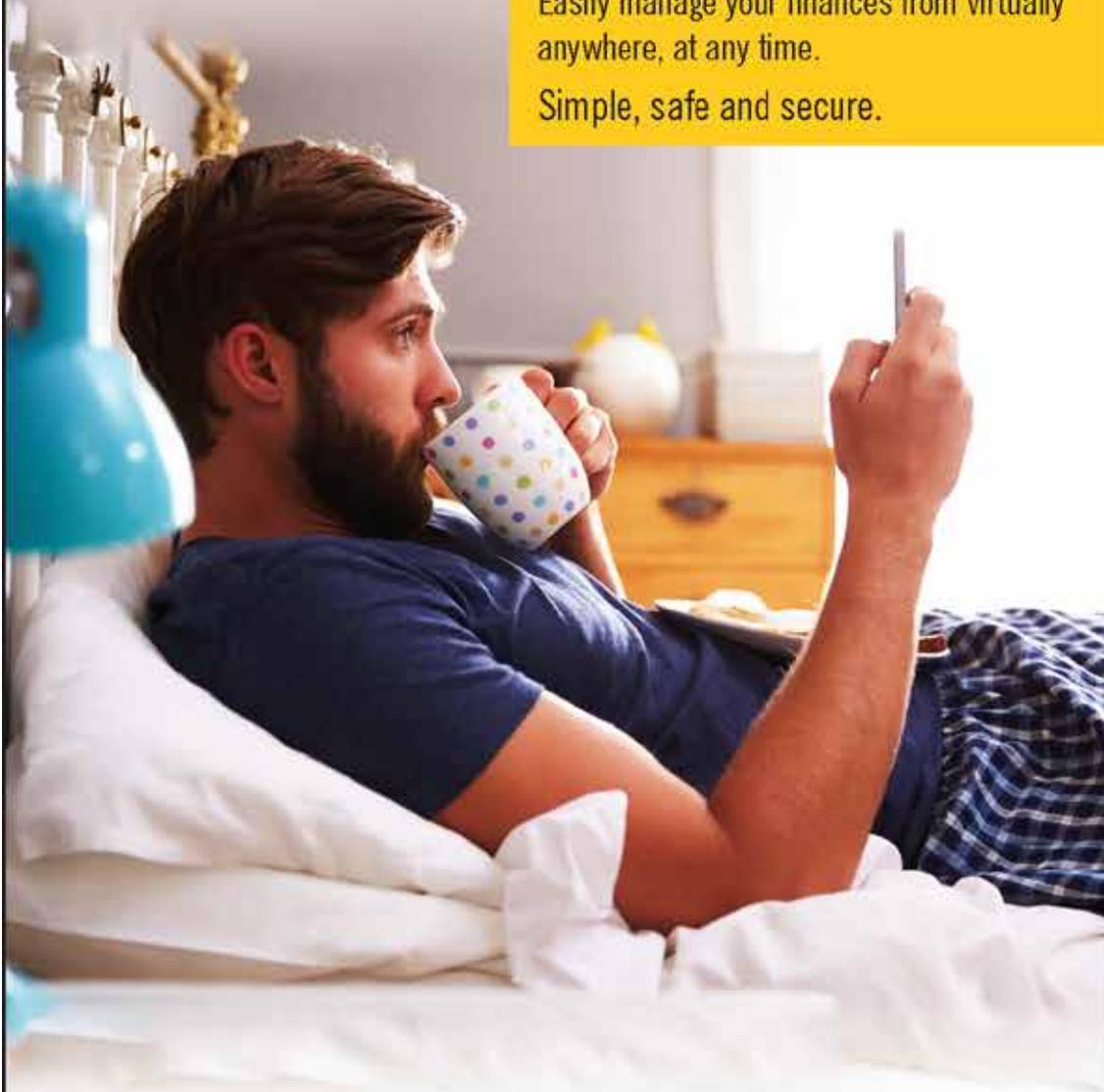
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