

#### Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall November 4, 2021

If you or a loved one has been affected by the storm click here to reach out to our office

#### See more resources below:

- Click here to apply for FEMA if you have not done so already or call (800) 621 3362.
- Tips for Appealing Decision from FEMA
- American Red Cross in Greater New York is providing temporary shelter for those affected 877.RED.CROSS.
  - College of Staten Island, Gymnasium Building R1 2800 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10314 is our local Disaster Recovery Center and will be open from 10 AM - 7 PM Monday - Saturday and closed Sunday until further notice.





#### FEMA DISASTER ASSISTANCE

To apply and get answers to your questions, call:

#### 800-621-3362

711/VRS (Video Relay Service)

#### Please have the following available:

- · Your address with Zip code
- Condition of your damaged home
- · Insurance information, if available
- · Social Security number
- Phone number where you can be contacted
- Address where you can get mail or email address to receive electronic notifications

**Direct Deposit:** Disaster assistance funds can be sent directly to your bank account. Please provide your bank account type, account number and bank routing number.

Stay in touch with FEMA: When you apply, you will receive a FEMA registration number. Save it. You will need the number whenever you contact FFMA





Disaster Assistance • gov

Disaster assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status.



### Beware of Fraud and Scams

After a disaster, scam artists often attempt to take advantage of disaster survivors. We encourage survivors to watch for and report any suspicious activity.

#### **Ways to Report Fraud**

Email: StopFEMAFraud@fema.dhs.gov

Call: 1-866-223-0814 Fax: 202-212-4926

For more information visit fema.gov/disaster-fraud





## Fraude por desastres

Después de un desastre, los estafadores frecuentemente intentan tomar ventaja de los sobrevivientes del desastre. Exhortamos a todos los sobrevivientes a mantenerse alertas y reportar cualquier actividad sospechosa.

#### Maneras para reportar fraudes

Correo electrónico: StopFEMAFraud@fema.dhs.gov

Teléfono: 1-866-223-0814 Fax: 202-212-4926

Encuentre más información en fema.gov/disaster-fraud







#### **District 61 News**

#### **Turkish American Society Independence**

I was proud to honor the Turkish American Society as they celebrate 98 years of independence. They were presented with a proclamation for their tremendous work. Turkish Americans have proudly shared their culture, heritage, and contributed greatly to our community on Staten Island.



#### **Fast Ferry Rally**

As we have seen from our newly added NYC Fast Ferry to Staten Island, the service it offers has only been met with praise. It is time we expand this service. A route from SI to South Brooklyn would not only shorten commutes but also allow people to frequent our small businesses and fully experience all that the North Shore has to offer. I look forward to working with our community and government partners to make this a reality.



#### **Updates from Albany**

"We may know someone who has been impacted by gun violence. There is no doubt that gun violence is a menace on our communities that has claimed far too many lives."

- To fight back, the Assembly Majority has worked to put an end to gun violence with comprehensive, commonsense measures that protect New Yorkers.
- This new legislation builds on previous laws that the Assembly Majority championed, such as allowing courts to prohibit individuals who are a threat to themselves or others from having a firearm and barring people convicted of domestic violence crimes from owning firearms (Ch. 19 of 2019; Ch. 60 of 2018).
- The new measures to tackle gun violence, which were recently signed into law by Gov. Hochul, ban the possession of unfinished firearm frames and receivers, ghost guns weapons made from untraceable gun components and firearms disguised as toys (A. 2666-A; A.613-A; A.6522).
- These laws target illegal activity, not responsible gun owners, and will help curb gun violence.



Assemblyman Charles D. Fall co-sponsored family paid leave expansion legislation is signed into law.

Governor Hochul this week signed a bill (S.2928-A/A.6098-A) that expands New York State's Paid Family Leave legislation to allow caring for siblings.

- Under the previous law, employees could not take leave to care for a sibling with a serious health condition.
- The expansion builds upon the Paid Family Leave legislation that was enacted in 2016, which created one of the most comprehensive paid family leave programs in the nation.

- In effect since 2018, New York's Paid Family Leave program is employee-paid insurance that provides workers with job-protected, paid time off to bond with a newly born, adopted or fostered child; care for a family member with a serious health condition (which may include severe cases of COVID-19), or assist loved ones when a member of the family is deployed abroad on active military service.
- Paid Family Leave may also be available in some situations when an employee or their minor, dependent child is under an order of quarantine or isolation due to COVID-19.
- Eligible workers may take up to 12 weeks off at 67% of their pay (up to a cap) to care for family members in times of need.
- Previously, Paid Family Leave care covered spouses, domestic partners, children and stepchildren, parents, parents-in-law, grandparents and grandchildren with a serious health condition.
- Through legislation (S.2928-A/A.6098-A), the definition of "family members" expands to include siblings. This includes biological siblings, adopted siblings, stepsiblings and half-siblings. These family members can live outside of New York State, and even outside of the country.
- The bill will go into effect on January 1, 2023.



"I am certainly proud to have co-sponsored and voted for this legislation that further strengthens New York's comprehensive Paid Family Leave, that will now afford even more hard-working New Yorkers access to job-protected, paid time off so they may provide critical support to a sibling with a serious health condition."

#### Critical Updates, New Policies, and Testing Locations to Protect You and Your Community

- 1. Governor Kathy Hochul today New Yorkers on the state's progress combating COVID-19. "New Yorkers have made tremendous progress in the fight against COVID, but make no mistake our work is not done," Governor Hochul said. "We all remember the spike in infections last winter and it's now on all of us to ensure it doesn't happen again. As we move towards colder months and more opportunities for people to gather indoors, the vaccine has become even more important. There's no reason to wait it's free, it's available and it's the right thing to do, so get your shot today.
- 2. Governor Hochul announced that the MTA's nationally celebrated program to mentor local minority-owned, women-owned and disadvantaged businesses (MWBE) has helped participating companies win a total of \$500 million in MTA contracts since the state's program was founded in 2010. A \$2 million contract to Alliance Tri-State Construction, Inc., of Staten Island was the decisive award that put the total over the half billion mark. It is the 485th contract to be awarded to a participating business since the start of the program. MTA Chief Diversity Officer Michael Garner and his team, working closely with MTA Construction & Development and the MTA's Office of Construction Oversight, have led the Authority to an unprecedented pace of activity in recent years, with hundreds of millions of dollars in contracts awarded.
- 3. Governor Hochul and Mayor Blasio announced \$27 million is available to provide relief to undocumented survivors of the storms and flooding caused by the remnants of Hurricane Ida. This funding will be distributed through grants to an established network of community organizations and provided to New Yorkers who are not eligible to receive storm recovery assistance through the FEMA Individual

  Assistance Program or other means. When I saw the devastation of Hurricane Ida, I pledged that we would do everything in our power to help impacted communities recover, and this funding is a fulfillment of that promise," Governor Hochul said. "With these resources dedicated to undocumented New Yorkers who are ineligible for FEMA relief and partnerships with organizations on the ground, we can close gaps in aid and help New Yorkers in need. I urge eligible New Yorkers to apply to get the funding they need to rebuild.
- 4. Governor Hochul announced a series of changes to both attract more applications and accelerate payments within New York State's Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Under the Governor's direction, the state will invest an additional \$1 million in marketing and outreach efforts to raise awareness about the rent relief program, the available funding, and the strong tenant eviction protections in place for those who apply. The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, which administers the program, will analyze application data to target areas of the state with relatively low numbers of applications.
- 5. Eligible individuals can schedule vaccine appointments by contacting:
  - The NYC Vaccine hotline at 877-829-4692 or clicking here
  - The NYS hotline at 888-364-3065 or clicking here
  - SOMOS, a community health provider at 833-766-6769

- Eligible individuals will have to fill out a screening form and attest to being in an eligible category. Anyone who is NOT eligible for vaccination, should not sign up for an appointment. Click here to find updated vaccine eligibility lists, vaccine locations near you, and schedule a vaccine appointment when eligible.
- Click here for a COVID-19 vaccine fact sheet.
- 7. Review the State guidelines for travelers arriving in New York State.
- View the Test-and-Trace Corps <u>COVID-19 Wait Times Dashboard</u> for estimated wait times for NYC Health + Hospitals COVID-19 testing locations. This wait time information is updated by site staff every two hours.
  - Use the DOH map to find all State-run testing sites.
  - Click here for a full list of NYC Health + Hospitals walk-in testing sites available at no cost to you on the North Shore.
  - Use the Phone-a-Clinician program with Health + Hospitals, by calling (844) NYC-4NYC. Call to connect with a medical provider free of charge seven days a week from 9 AM 9 PM.
  - Individuals that are unable to safely isolate themselves at home may be afforded a free temporary hotel room. <u>Click here to learn more</u> or call (844) 692-4692. Please click here if you have any further questions.

#### **Crucial Resources to Support and Aid Your Everyday Needs**

1. The Staten Island Business Outreach Center is hosting several events in November to help incoming business owners and entrepreneurs. <u>To register click here.</u>



# First Steps Towards Entrepreneurship Webinar



#### November 8, 2021 3 PM - 4 PM

#### You will learn:

- wny would an investor be interested in your company
   What qualities are you looking for in an investor
   How much is your business currently worth
   How much are you willing to give up
   Buy/Sell agreements what is the purpose of this · Why would an investor be interested in your



https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_Tv0dzJI9TPS

(718) 816-4775 siboc.org

wbcsi@siboc.org





Join Our Next FREE Webinar

### **MWBE** Certification

#### Are you a Minority or Woman Business Owner?

If you've ever thought about selling to the government, now is the time! Come learn about the resources and benefits as well as what it takes to become certified.

Beyond gaining valuable access to city contacting opportunities, certified MWBEs are provided with the tools and training to advance their potential:

- Invitations to exclusive networking events
- · Free advertising in a searchable online directory
- Free one-on-one guidance on selling to the government

November 15, 2021 12pm

Register Today! https://www.eventbrite.com/e/191909064177







- 2. Our children have faced many challenges throughout the pandemic. Now they're back at school and being asked to return to normalcy, but this school year is anything but normal. That's why the UFT's Positive Learning Collaborative (PLC) is offering free, confidential mental health sessions to students and to parents calling on their children's behalf. Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 12 a.m. Saturday: 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Call 212-709-3222 or Text "PLC" to 43961
- 3. COJO will be hosting a chanukah food pantry distribution extravaganza. November 18th, 2:00 PM 4:00 PM at the Bernikow JCC, 1466 Manor Rd. See flyer for more

#### details.



#### 4. The 2021-2022 Regular HEAP Benefit opened October 1, 2021

What is HEAP? The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps low-income people pay the cost of heating their homes. How does it work? If you are eligible, you may receive one regular HEAP benefit per season and could also be eligible for an emergency HEAP benefit if you are in impending danger of running out of fuel or having your utility service shut off. Are HEAP benefits available year-round? No, the application period normally begins in early to mid-November and continues into the winter, until funding for the program runs out.

5. Free SNAP Assistance - See the flyer below





## Free SNAP (Food Stamps) Assistance ASISTENCIA GRATUITA DE SNAP

ASISTENCIA GRATUITA DE SNAF (Cupones de alimentos)

MetroPlus Health Staten Island Community Office 238A Port Richmond Ave. Staten Island, NY 10302 SNAP enroller is on site **2 DAYS** a week. Check below for our hours!

Los especialista de SNAP estan disponbile los **2 dias a la semana**. ¡Revisa a continuación nuestros horarios y ubicaciones!

Day & Time Dia y Hora	Location Ubicacion	SNAP Enroller Especialista de SNAP	How to Schedule Como Programar
Tues, Wed Martes, Miercoles 9:00am – 4:30pm	In Office En la Oficina	Florence Lanipekun	Walk-in or call Orden de llegada o Llamar al <b>929-270-2181</b>
Mon,Thurs, Fri Lunes, Jueves, Viernes 9:00am – 4:30pm  Virtual Services (Remote)  Servicios Virtuales (Remoto)		Florence Lanipekun	Call Llamar al <b>929-270-2181</b>

Sponsored by New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.

SMAP. \_Putting Healthy Food Whitin Reach, Vist www.mybenefits.my.gov to check your eligibility. This material was funded b
USDAs Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - SNAP.



- 6. It's important to submit an SBA Loan Application After you apply for disaster assistance from FEMA, you may be referred to the U.S. Small Business Administration. If you are referred to SBA, you should complete and submit the application. If your application is approved, you are not obligated to accept the SBA disaster loan but failure to submit the application may disqualify you from other possible FEMA assistance, such as disaster-related car repairs, essential household items and other expenses. SBA disaster loans are the largest source of federal disaster recovery funds for survivors. In planning your recovery, give yourself the widest possible set of options. Submitting the application makes it possible for homeowners and renters to be considered for additional FEMA grants. Applicants may apply online using SBA's secure website at <a href="mailto:DisasterLoanAssistance.sba.gov">DisasterLoanAssistance.sba.gov</a> or they may email <a href="mailto:DisasterCustomerService@SBA.gov">DisasterCustomerService@SBA.gov</a> for more information on SBA's disaster assistance program. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 or email <a href="mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov">disaster assistance</a> for more information on SBA disaster assistance.
- 7. If you're a renter having trouble paying your rent, utilities, or other housing costs or if you're a landlord trying to stay afloat with tenants in this situation help may be available. State and local programs are distributing billions of dollars in rental assistance to help renters stay housed during the pandemic. Visit the CFPB's Rental Assistance Finder to find out what this means for you and what you can do. The CFPB's site also includes resources to help renters and landlords

understand other resources to help navigate various financial hardships related to the pandemic.

8. **Staten Island Legal Services wants to help you**. If you need **free legal** help during the COVID-19 crisis, for matters of immigration, foreclosure, small business advice, and more, **call them at 718-233-6480.** 



9. Project Hospitality provides a wide range of services to our communities. From vaccinations to mental health guidance to help applying for rental assistance. See flyers below for more information.





#### Te sientes incierto, agobiado, ansioso durante COVID?

Aguí para hablar | Aguí para escuchar | Aguí para apoyar

Nosotros Proporcionamos...
Información
Educación

- Apoyo emocional
   Enlaces a recursos

- Proporcionamos presentaciones virtuales sobre:

  Reconcociendo las reacciones comunes de COVID

  Desarrollando habilidades de afrontamiento para el proceso de recuperación

  Manejando estrás relacionada con COVID

  Identificando y satisfaciendo las necesidades de los niños

¡Contáctanos Hoy! 718-608-7900 HOPE@ProjectHospitality.org

Estamos aqui para USTED.

Gratis, anónimo y confidencial

A program of the NYS Office of Mental Health Funded by FEMA











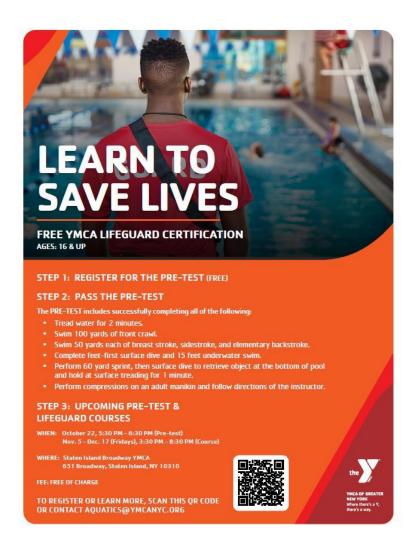
#### 10. Small Business Resources:

For counseling and help services through SBS click here.

- Procurement Center Representatives (PCRs) help small businesses win federal contracts. PCRs view many federal acquisition and procurement strategies before they're announced. This enables them to influence opportunities that should be set aside for small businesses. PCRs also conduct market research, assist small businesses with payment issues, provide counseling on the contracting process, and more.
- <u>Subcontracting Program Assistance (SPA)</u> can help you with subcontracting questions after a contract is awarded. SPA can help you with tools to match prime contractors and subcontractors, help small businesses market their services to prime contractors, and more.
- SBA Learning Center. The SBA offers free online courses to help small businesses understand government contracting. You can find these video classes in the SBA Learning Center.

#### **Useful Events and Opportunities**

1. The Broadway Y is excited to offer a FREE lifeguard training and employment program starting in November, with pre-tests happening this Friday. This opportunity is particularly suited to high school seniors and college students who already have swimming skills. **Contact aquatics@ymcanyc.org** 

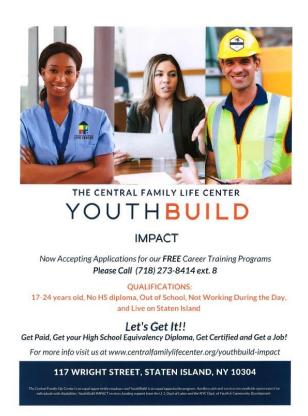


- 2. State parks and historic sites are staffed by a core of permanent employees who work year-round to maintain these precious resources. During the peak of our operating season (May through September) the permanent staff is supplemented by several thousand seasonal employees who work to ensure that our patrons have a positive and safe experience when visiting our sites.
  - Be a part of the premier park system in the United States with more than 250 state parks, historic sites, golf courses, swimming pools, beaches, campgrounds, marinas, trails, and museums and nature centers.
  - Work in some of the most beautiful, scenic, and historic places New York State has to offer.
  - Make a tangible impact on your community. Parks are for everyone, and all are welcome here: People of every age, ability, color, or creed belong here without exceptions yourself included! People of every kind come visit us in order to have experiences and at OPRHP, we get to be part of these special times in truly meaningful ways. See how you can make a difference as a part of Team OPRHP! To learn more about seasonal or permanent employment click here.

3. Snow season is coming! Become a paid emergency Snow Laborer to help us clear snow from steps, streets, crosswalks and fire hydrants after winter storms. **Earn \$15/hour.** 



4. The Central Family Life Center is now accepting applications for their free Career Training Programs. **Call (718) 273-8414** ext.8 and see the flyer below for more information.



5. The Bait-UL Jamaat House of Community's focus is to help the underserved families in the neighborhoods where they live - and with supporters such as yourself who help strengthen the fabric of Staten Island as a whole, they are able to accomplish this starting with our home base - Staten Island! Your continuous contribution to the community does not go unnoticed and the organization would like to express our many thanks. This event will allow Bait-ul Jamaat to continue its mission in addition to launching our Youth Sports Program & additional signature program. See the flyer below for more details.



6. The Daffodil Project is the largest volunteer effort in NYC history and living memorial in remembrance of the victims of 9/11, now in it's 20th year. See the flyer below for dates and more information.



7. The Forest Ave. Comeunity Fridge is a group from Mariners Harbor looking to help out our community with Food Insecurity.

#### @FORESTAVECOMEUNITYFRIDGE

#### WHO ARE WE?

We are a collaborative group, born and raised on the North Shore, who are passionate about addressing the health food disparity in our neighborhood of Mariners Harbor. The foundation of our initiative is "take what you need, leave what you don't" and "we keep us fed and healthy!" – in hopes of creating a culture of unity, interdependence, community restoration and empowerment in Mariners Harbor.

#### WHAT IS A COMMUNITY FRIDGE?

A Community Fridge is a fridge that provides free and healthy food for community members. The fridges offer access to fresh produce, healthy grains and perishable items to communities that do not have a lot of access to healthy food options.



#### **HOW CAN MY BUSINESS HELP?**

Your business can help by donating surplus food to our fridge or allowing us to purchase food at reduced costs. WHY SHOULD MY BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION CARE ABOUT A COMMUNITY FRIDGE?

In recent political and racial events, many businesses and organizations are looking for ways to fight against racial inequity. Community fridges represent mutual aid – the idea that solidarity not charity is what communities need in order to become fairer and stronger. By donating food to our fridge, your business will be taking part in our ongoing movement for creating justice – first within our communities.

Sincerely,

Charles D. Fall Member of Assembly

ALBANY OFFICE: Room 534, Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248. 518-455-4677, FAX 518-455-5946

DISTRICT OFFICE: 853 Forest Avenue, Staten Island, New York 10310. 718-442-9932, FAX 718-442-9942