

Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall December 16, 2021

Bobbie Lewis Jr. Playground Renaming

I am thrilled that we were able to honor Bobbie Lewis Jr. legacy by renaming the newly renovated playground at the heart of Mariners Harbor after him. I want to thank Parks and Recreation for working swiftly and diligently with my office to make this possible. Bobbie impacted the lives of countless kids with his basketball programs, including my own, so it is only right that now a new generation of kids will grow up playing basketball at a playground named after him. I look foward to sharing the memories I have of Bobbie when I bring my kids here.





Upcoming Events

2021 North Shore Winter Wonderland Toy/Coat Giveaway









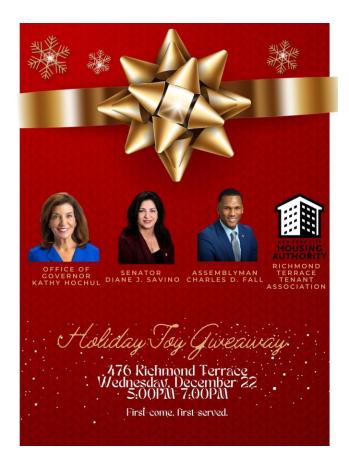
Van Duzer Street Civic Association Holiday Tree Lighting in Tappen Park



Holiday Toy Giveaway - Port Richmond



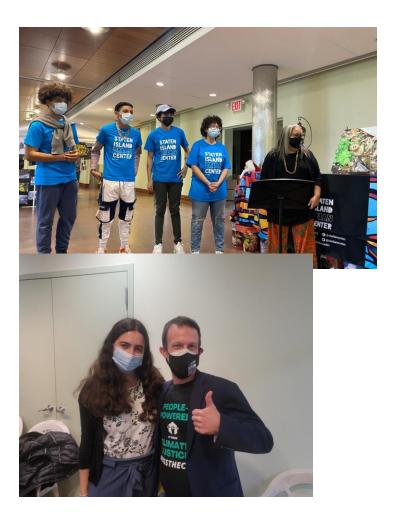
Holiday Toy Giveaway - New Brighton



District 61 News

SIUC Environmental Justice Mixed Media & Environmental Justice Award Project

I want to congratulate all the deserving honorees and inspiring youth leaders highlighted at the SI Urban Center environmental justice awards project.



Central Family Life Center Holiday Giveaway

I am so proud that my office had the opportunity to be a part of The Central Family Life Center's coat and toy giveaway last weekend. The families of our community were met with amazing volunteers and staff that provided food, drinks and presents for the children. I want to thank the center and all who worked to put this together.





Updates from Albany

Governor Hochul this week announced masks will be required to be worn in all indoor public places unless businesses or venues implement a vaccine requirement. This is a major action to address the winter surge comes as COVID-19 cases and hospitalization have spiked recently to be in alignment with the CDC guidelines for communities with substantial and high transmission.

- This determination is based on the State's weekly seven-day case rate as well as increasing hospitalizations.
- The new business and venue requirements extend to both patrons and staff.
- This measure is effective Dec. 13, 2021 until Jan. 15, 2022, after which the State will reevaluate based on current conditions.
- The new measure brings added layers of mitigation during the holidays when more time is spent indoors shopping, gathering, and visiting holiday-themed destinations.

• Since Thanksgiving, the statewide seven-day average case rate has increased by 43% and hospitalizations have increased by 29%. While the percentage of New Yorkers fully vaccinated continues to increase—gaining 2% from Thanksgiving weekend to now—the uptick is not fast enough to completely curb the spread of the virus, particularly among communities with low vaccination coverage.

Business/Venue Proof of Vaccination Requirement

Businesses and venues that implement a proof of vaccination requirement must ensure that anyone 12 years of age or older is fully vaccinated before entering indoors. Businesses/venues can accept <u>Excelsior Pass Plus</u>, SMART Health Cards issued outside of New York State, full-course vaccination through NYC COVID Safe app, a CDC Vaccination Card, or another official immunization record.

In accordance with CDC's definition, fully vaccinated is defined as 14 days past an individual's last vaccination dose in their initial vaccine series (14 days past the second shot of a two-dose Pfizer-Biotech or Moderna vaccine; 14 days past the one-shot Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccine). The State also accepts WHO-approved vaccines for these purposes. Parents and guardians can retrieve and store an Excelsior Pass and/or Excelsior Pass Plus for children or minors under legal guardianship.

Vaccines for children ages 5-11 have only been available since November 2021. Therefore, in order to enter a business or venue that implements a proof of vaccination requirement, children ages 5-11 only must show proof of having had at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccination.

Vaccines have been available for 16–17-year-olds since April 2021 and for 12—15-year-olds since May 2021. At the time of the determination, 63% of the 12-17 age group has been fully vaccinated in New York State.

Business/Venue Mask-Wearing Requirement

Businesses and venues that implement a mask requirement must always ensure all patrons past their second birthday and medically able to tolerate a face covering wear a mask while indoors outside of physical eating or drinking.

Continued Masking Requirements

Unvaccinated individuals continue to be responsible for wearing masks, in accordance with <u>federal CDC guidance</u>. Further, the State's masking requirements continue to be in effect for <u>pre-K to grade 12 schools</u>, public transit, homeless shelters, correctional facilities, nursing homes, and health care settings per CDC guidelines.

New York State and the State's Department of Health continue to strongly recommend mask-wearing in all public indoor settings as an added layer of protection, even when not required. Children 2 - 5 who remain ineligible for vaccination must wear a proper-fitting mask.

COVID-19 vaccines and <u>booster doses</u> are free and widely available statewide. New Yorkers can visit vaccines.gov, text their ZIP code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233 to find nearby locations.

• To schedule an appointment at a state-run mass vaccination site, New Yorkers can visit the Am-I-Eligible site. New Yorkers can also contact their health care provider, county health departments, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), rural health centers, or pharmacies.

"I realize that we all have been in this tireless fight for well over a year. We must all remain vigilant and follow the suggested guidelines and recommendations from the healthcare and viral pandemic professionals as we continue this fight to get back to normalcy."



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

- Governor Kathy Hochul Signed Package of Legislation to Support Small Businesses.
 Governor Hochul signed a package of legislation to increase State agency support of
 small businesses in New York. The legislation will create a small business liaison with
 the Departments of Agriculture and Markets, Environmental Conservation, Labor,
 Transportation, and Taxation and Finance.
- 2. 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. <u>Click here to find updated vaccine eligibility lists,</u> <u>vaccine locations near you, and schedule a vaccine appointment when eligible.</u>
- Click here for a COVID-19 vaccine fact sheet.
- 3. 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.
 - <u>Click here for a full list of NYC Health + Hospitals walk-in testing sites</u> 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. 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 P.M. Saturday: 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Call 212-709-3222 or Text "PLC" to 43961
- 2. The New York State Homeowner Assistance Fund (NYS HAF) is a federally funded program dedicated to assisting homeowners who are at risk of default, foreclosure or displacement as result of a financial hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program will begin accepting applications January 3, 2022.

In the meantime, we encourage you to review the **Application Guide** which includes a **list of documents** you may need when you are ready to submit your application.

Administered by the New York State government's affordable housing agency, NYS Homes & Community Renewal (HCR), in partnership with a non-profit, Sustainable Neighborhoods, an organization dedicated to foreclosure prevention and homeownership preservation.

3. 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.

4. Free SNAP Assistance - See the flyer below





Free SNAP (Food Stamps) Assistance ASISTENCIA GRATIJITA DE SNAP

ASISTENCIA GRATUITA DE SNAP (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 929-270-2181
Mon, Thurs, Fri Lunes, Jueves, Viernes 9:00am — 4:30pm	Virtual Services (Remote) Servicios Virtuales (Remoto)	Florence Lanipekun	Call Llamar al 929-270-2181

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

SWAP. Putting Healthy Food Within Reach. Visit swow mybenefits ny gov to check your eligibility. This material was funded b
USDA'S Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. SNAP.



- 5. 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 DisasterLoanAssistance.sba.gov or they may email DisasterLoanAssistance.sba.gov or they may email DisasterCustomerService@SBA.gov for more information on SBA's disaster assistance program. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance.
- 6. 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.

7. **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.**



8. 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.



Feeling uncertain, overwhelmed, anxious during COVID?



Here to talk | Here to listen | Here to support

- Information
 Education
- Emotional support Links to resources

We can provide virtual presentations on:

- Recognizing common reactions on:
 Building coping skills for the recovery process
- Managing COVID-related stress
 Identifying and meeting children's needs

Contact Us! (718)608-7900 HOPE@ProjectHospitality.org

We are here for YOU.

Free, anonymous & confidential

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



Necesitas Te sientes incierto, agobiado, ansioso durante COVID?

Aquí para hablar | Aquí para escuchar | Aquí para apoyar

Nosotros Proporcionamos...
Información
Educación

- Apoyo emocional
 Enlaces a recursos

- Proporcionamos presentaciones virtuales sobre:

 Reconcociendo las resciones comunes de COVID

 Desarrollando habilidades de afrontamiento para el proceso de recuperación

 Manejando estritis 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









9. 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.



THE CENTRAL FAMILY LIFE CENTER YOUTHBUILD

IMPACT

Now Accepting Applications for our FREE Career Training Programs Please Call (718) 273-8414 ext. 8

QUALIFICATIONS: 17-24 years old, No HS diploma, Out of School, Not Working During the Day, and Live on Staten Island

Let's Get It!!

Get Paid, Get your High School Equivalency Diploma, Get Certified and Get a Job! For more info visit us at www.centralfamilylifecenter.org/youthbuild-impact

117 WRIGHT STREET, STATEN ISLAND, NY 10304

10. Learn to Save Lives. Teens ages 16 and up can receive a free YMCA lifeguard confidentian



11. St. Ann's Creative Learning Center has open enrollment right now. Call 718-273-5371 for more information.



12. 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. Roc-A-Natural Holiday Pop-up-Shop. Shop Small Businesses for the perfect gifts.



2. The BJ House Community and Friends - Community Feed up and Winter Coats Distribution. Saturday, December 18th at 12PM. Located at 49 Tompkins ave, SI, NY.



3. Saturday, Dec 18th, at Noon, wreaths will be laid on Veterans graves throughout our country, by request of Congress. Join our community in Port Richmond to honor 40+ Veterans who fought in the American Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War -- who gave us this nation we love.



4. December 21st and 22nd join Metroplus Health and La Colmena for a Coat and PJ Giveaway



5. MetroPlusHealth would like to take this opportunity to invite everyone to their NYC Residence Career Fair & Health Awareness Event in partnership with Policy Research International, Jobs-Plus, EQUUS, WFS and Muslim Sisters of Staten Island.





6. 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