

Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall October 21, 2021

Trick or Treat in the Park

In partnership with PR Strong, the NYPD, RCDA and MetroPlusHealth my office will be hosting "Trick or Treat in the Park" on October 30th. From 11:30 AM - 3:00 PM, families can come out for games, candy and resources at Veterans Park located on Park Ave. and Bennett Street.





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



able 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

Encuentre más información en fema.gov/disaster-fraud

Correo electrónico: StopFEMAFraud@fema.dhs.gov

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



Early Voting

Early voting is from October 23rd - October 31st. Click here to find your early polling site.



District 61 News

Richmond University Medical Center held its annual Breast Cancer Awareness Ceremony last Friday outside the Breast and Women's Center, located at 1161 Victory Boulevard. A moment of silence was paid to remember those lost to breast cancer. October is Breast Cancer Awarness month and RUMC and its staff are providing our community with resources and support. Which is why they are offering FREE mammograms at this very same center. Appointments must be made before November 1st. See flyer below for more details.





Staten Island Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting

This week The Staten Island Chamber of Commerce hosted over 200 small business owners for its annual meeting. It was great opportunity for their members to connect with business owners from across our borough. During 2021, the organization has been celebration 125 years of excellence and the expansion of business opportunities.



Updates from Albany

This week Governor Hochul signed two bills passed by the Legislature last session that calls for more transparency from government entities.

Governor Hochul, this week signed two pieces of legislation boosting transparency for state and local governments.

- The first piece of legislation requires documents that are going to be discussed at open meetings to be made available on request or posted on the government's website at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.
- The second piece of legislation requires the MTA to publish its data in formats that are easily accessible and can be easily downloaded and used by the public.

Making Documents Available Prior to Open Meetings (S.1150-A/A.1228-A) (Passed Assembly, 150-0)

- This legislation makes documents to be discussed at open meetings available to the public at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.
- The Open Meetings Law is intended to empower the public through the accessibility of meetings of public bodies.
- The law requires them to make available to the public relevant documents, such as any proposed rule, regulation, or resolution.

- However, the current law only requires documents to be made available prior to
 meetings "as determined by the agency or department." This standard has resulted in
 some government bodies failing to make materials available in advance of meetings,
 reducing transparency.
- This legislation requires any proposed resolution, law, rule, regulation, policy, or amendment to be made available upon request and to be posted to the body's website at least 24 hours in advance of their discussion at an open meeting, giving the public access to these important documents in advance.

Requiring the MTA to Publish Data in Easily Accessible Formats (S.4625-A/A.1442-B) (Passed Assembly, 146-1)

- This legislation requires the MTA to publish its data in open data formats, which can be easily accessed, downloaded and manipulated by the public.
- The MTA will have to designate a data coordinator and will have 180 days to publish as much of its data as is feasible and legal within three years.
- This bill codifies Executive Order No. 95 of 2013, "Using Technology to Promote Transparency, Improve Government Performance and Enhance Citizen Engagement", into law.

"From day one, I've always strived to have transparency and accountability from all facets of government and its agencies. Public participation in open meetings is a cornerstone of our democracy and a vital opportunity for citizens to have their concerns heard and addressed by their representatives. I am proud to have voted for both bills that have been recently enacted by Governor Hochul."

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

- 1. 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.
- 2. 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.

- 3. Construction permit fees as high as \$1,200 to be waived for NYC homes and businesses affected by Ida. Mayor de Blasio signed an executive order that waives permit fees related to storm-related reconstruction and improvements.
- 4. Governor Kathy Hochul today allocated \$59 million for the new Clean Green Schools initiative, which aims to advance clean energy and energy efficiency solutions that will improve indoor air quality and reduce emissions for more than 500 public and private Pre-K-12 schools in disadvantaged communities across the state. As part of the program, the State will convene education leaders this fall, including school superintendents, administrators, and educators, to inform the initiative launching in early 2022 to address climate justice issues and create improved, healthier learning environments for students. Today's announcement supports New York's nation-leading goal of an 85 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act).
- 5. 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.
- 6. 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.
 - <u>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 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 BJ House of Community offers a variety of resources for our community! See the flyers below to learn more about their services.







2. Applications will now be accepted for the *Landlord Rental Assistance Program* (*LRAP*), which provides rental assistance for landlords whose tenants are unwilling to apply for Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), including where the tenant has left the rental property. Assistance may be provided for households with rent up to 150 percent of the fair market rent (FMR) for the county where the property is located. Landlords seeking assistance under this program may apply here.

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 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

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

SNAP.—Putting Healthy Food Within Reach. Visit www.mybenefits.my.gov to check your eligibility. This material was funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - SNAP.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



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 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





Las solicitudes se pueden enviar en línea a partir del 1 de junio. Para más información, visite otda.

Para más información, visite otda.ny.gov/ERAP o llame al 844-NY1RENT (844-691-7368)



(Rev. 05/21)





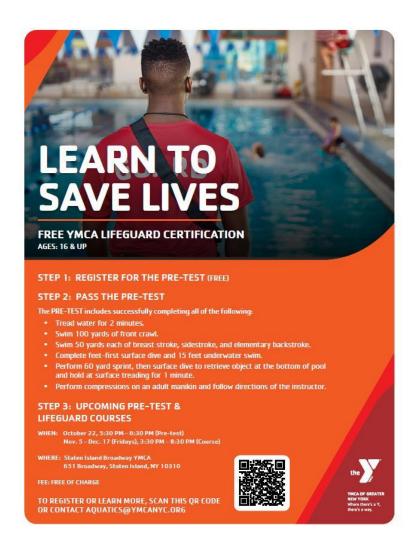
9. Small Business Resources:

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. The Richmond County Domestic Violence Task Force presents a community response to domestic violence. Join the effort on Day 2: Friday, October 20, 2021 - 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM. See flyer below for more details or contact smarder@lsnyc.org, courtney.chase@rcda.nyc.gov or lisa.thompson@rcda.ny.gov

THE RICHMOND COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TASK FORCE PRESENTS

TOGETHER WE CAN: A COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

JOIN US AS WE ADDRESS MYTHS, OFFER RESOURCES AND ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN REPORTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

Day 1: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 1:00-2:30PM - Criminal Justice Response

Speakers from the Richmond County District Attorney's Office, New York City Police Department and the Staten Island Family Justice Center.

Zoom Meeting ID: 541 006 3107

Day 2: Friday, October 22, 2021 1:00-2:30PM - Civil Court + Community Response

Speakers from the Staten Island Family Justice Center, Staten Island Legal Services, Urban Justice Center, Safe Horizon, Centra Family Life Center, and Community Agency for Senior Citizens.

Zoom Meeting ID: 366 240 5154

For questions or more information, contact smarder@lsnyc.org, courtney.chase@rcda.nyc.gov or lisa.thompson@rcda.nyc.gov.

RECOGNIZE. REPORT. PREVENT. SUPPORT.



LIFE CENTER

3. Visit have to sign up for Literacy Inc's October programs!



4. 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.**

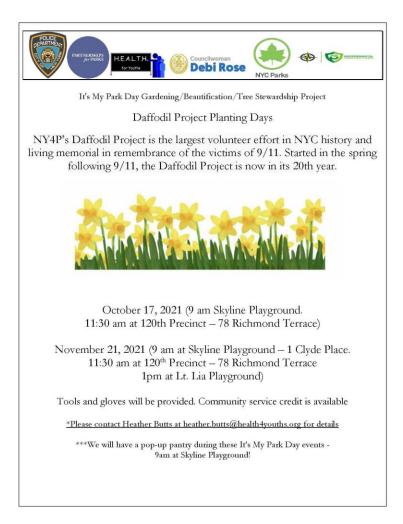
Must make an appointment and be at least 18 years old. Click here for more details.



5. 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.



- 6. The NYS Department of Public Services has partnered with ECC Technologies to request consumers' help in better understanding their experience with broadband access in the state. Please take the brief survey here.
- 7. 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.



8. 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

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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