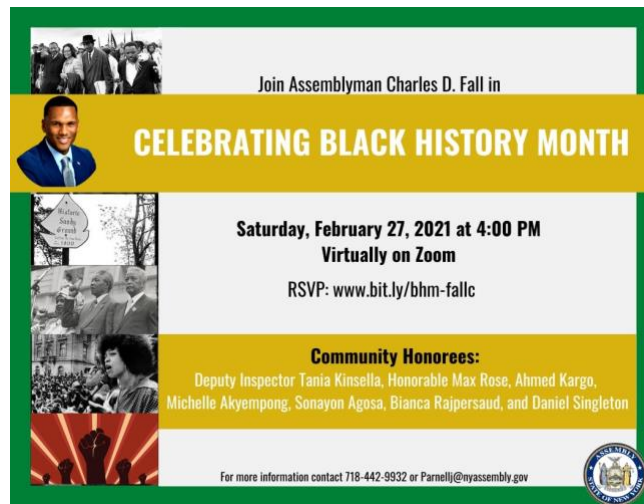




**Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall**  
**February 25, 2021**

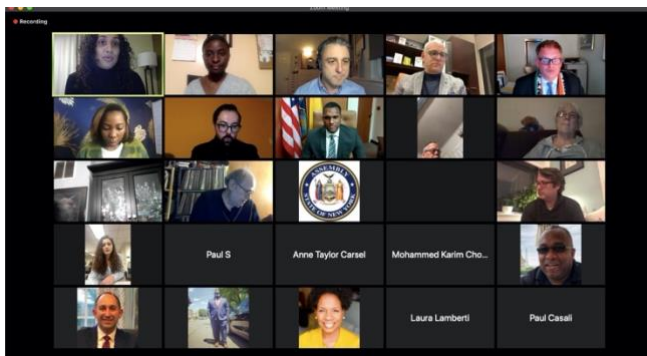
Join me **this Saturday, February 27, 2021 at 4:00 PM** for my **2nd annual Black History Month Celebration**. This year's virtual event will celebrate several community leaders making positive impacts on the Staten Island community. **[Click here to RSVP and receive the zoom link.](#)**



**District 61 News**

**Ranked Choice Voting 101**

**This Tuesday** I had the pleasure of co-hosting an event with Bianca Rajpersaud and the North Shore Democratic Club, entitled NYC 2021 Election: Ranked-Choice Voting 101. The community information session was attended by Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, Executive Director for Public Affairs to the NYC Campaign Finance Board, Eric Friedman, Debbie Louis from Rank the Vote and moderated by Jon Del Giorno. Attendees were educated on the ins and outs of ranked choice voting and left the meeting feeling confident in the future of voting in New York. See my Updates from Albany section for more information. **[Click here to watch the full meeting.](#)**



## Virtual Hamantaschen Tasting

Last week I was excited to participate in the JCRCNY's Virtual Tasting event. I was sent a box of delicious treats to taste along with a few of my colleagues from across the boroughs while we discussed the celebration of the joyous holiday of Purim, which commemorates the saving of the Jewish people more than 2000 years ago from death. It was a wonderful experience to be able to participate in a event unlike any other and to learn so much.



## Updates From Albany

### Assemblyman Charles D. Fall hosts a community information session on Ranked-Choice Voting.

The people of New York City have spoken. The measure is slotted to bring more choices, civility and less negative campaigning and more diverse representation to New York City's election process. But we must make sure that the electorate is educated on this new way of voting, especially our first time and senior voters. By holding our Ranked Choice Voting information session, we are taking the first steps in that process.

- In a 2019 ballot measure, 73.5 percent of New York City voters, voted yes for Ranked-Choice Voting.
- New York City will use ranked choice voting for primaries and special elections for municipal offices such as Mayor, Public Advocate, Comptroller, Borough President and City Council.
- There is state legislation, **A.4495** – which would establish a ranked choice voting method for general elections, special elections and primaries within the state – under consideration.
- How it will work is that the ballot will have columns, 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> that will allow the voter to rank candidates in their order of preference.
- Voters first choice will go in column 1, second in column 2 and so on.
- The voter can rank as many or as few candidates as they like.
- For more information on Ranked-Choice Voting visit [info@rankthevoteny.org](mailto:info@rankthevoteny.org)

The image shows two presentation slides side-by-side. The left slide is titled "How Did We Get Here?" and features a timeline of events from 2009 to 2021. The right slide is titled "What's Changing?" and describes the implementation of Ranked Choice Voting starting in 2021, including details about runoff elections and the number of candidates voters can rank.

**How Did We Get Here?**

- 2009** A costly, low turn-out runoff election is held for Public Advocate and Comptroller prompting a debate over the use of runoff elections.
- 2010** City Council Member Gale Brewer introduces the first Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) bill.
- 2010 & 2018** Charter Revision Commissions Both explore RCV for local elections but conclude more time is needed to make a decision.
- 2019** Charter Revision Commission puts RCV before NYC voters and the referendum passes with nearly 75% of the vote.
- 2021** First RCV elections!

**What's Changing?**

Starting on January 1st, 2021 all local primary and special elections for City Council, Borough President, Public Advocate, Comptroller and Mayor will be Ranked Choice Voting elections.

- Runoffs are eliminated & candidates will need to win with at least 50% + 1 of the vote.
- Voters will now have the option to rank up to 5 candidates (including a write-in) if they choose.

The image shows a presentation slide with a blue background and white text. The title is "Why Should Voters Use Their Rankings?". Below the title is a list of four bullet points explaining the benefits of ranked choice voting for voters.

**Why Should Voters Use Their Rankings?**

- More choice, more power!
- Even if your favorite candidate doesn't win, you still have a say in who's elected.
- You can vote your conscience without worrying that you're wasting your vote.
- Ranking a 2nd, 3rd, etc. choice will never hurt your favorite candidate.

1. **Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced that the COVID-19 positivity rate was 2.85 percent yesterday, the lowest since November 21.**
2. **MTA approves toll increases, eliminates Verrazzano carpool discount**  
“Even with additional federal aid in the pipeline, we must continue to take action to protect our extremely fragile budget,” said MTA Chairman and CEO Pat Foye. “We don’t take the thought of raising tolls lightly, but the planned increase will help us maintain essential services throughout the MTA system.”
3. **New Yorkers with comorbidities and underlying conditions can begin making appointments at state-run mass vaccination sites.** Excess vaccine supply meant for hospital workers can be used to open eligibility for New Yorkers with comorbidities and underlying conditions. Local health departments will determine how, where and when to schedule appointments in their jurisdictions.
  - To show they have comorbidities or underlying conditions, New Yorkers must provide documentation as required by the facility where they are getting vaccinated which must be either a doctor's letter, medical information evidencing comorbidity, or signed certification.
4. **NYC schools have welcomed back blended learning students in grades 6-8 for in-person learning Thursday, February 25.** Here are the protocols to keep schools open:
  - **Weekly Testing:** All schools will have 20% of students and staff randomly tested on a weekly basis.
  - **Student Consent:** All students are required to provide consent for testing by their first scheduled in-person learning day. Families can submit consent using NYCSA or a paper form.
  - **Staff Consent:** All staff are required to provide consent by the first day they report to their school building. Staff can submit consent using the daily Health Questionnaire or using this paper form.
  - **Situation Room:** The Situation Room remains schools’ main points of contact for any possible cases of COVID-19 in school buildings, and will continue to guide schools through any COVID-19 cases occurring in their buildings.
4. **Effective March 15, marriage receptions can be held under limited state guidelines.** Events must be approved by the local health department and there will be mandatory testing of all guests before an event. Capacity at weddings and receptions will be limited to no more than 150 people or no more than 50% of the venue's capacity, whichever is lower. All patrons must be tested prior to the event.
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 to schedule a vaccine appointment when eligible.**
  - **Click here for a COVID-19 vaccine fact sheet.**
6. **Veterans enrolled in the VA Care system can call and schedule an appointment to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Call 1-877-877-9267. If you are not yet eligible call 877-222-8387 to enroll.**

# Attention NYC Veterans

VA New York Harbor Healthcare System is working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other federal partners to provide COVID-19 vaccines to Veterans and VA health care personnel.

At this time, VA New York Harbor is offering the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to **Veterans 65 years of age and older currently enrolled in VA Healthcare.**

The vaccine is being administered at the following locations by appointment only:

- *Manhattan VA Medical Center*
- *Brooklyn VA Medical Center*
- *St. Albans Community Living Center*
- *Staten Island Community VA Clinic*

Eligible Veterans must schedule an appointment by calling  
**1-877-877-9267**

Veterans who are not yet enrolled in VA Healthcare may visit [www.va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply/](http://www.va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply/) or call 877-222-8387 for more information on how to apply.

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

7. Review the State guidelines for travelers arriving in New York State.

- View the Test-and-Trace corps **COVID-19 Wait Times Dashboard** 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 at home may be afforded a free temporary hotel room. **Click here to learn more** or call **(844) 692-4692**. **Please click here if you have any further questions.**

## STATEN ISLAND COVID-19 TEST SITES

Week of **2/22/2021 - 2/28/2021**

H+H test site updates: [bit.ly/NH\\_testsites](https://bit.ly/NH_testsites) / H+H wait times: [bit.ly/NH\\_waittimes](https://bit.ly/NH_waittimes)

- No-Cost tests.
- ID/Insurance are not required.
- For age 2 & older, unless otherwise noted.



### NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS TESTING SITES (ONGOING) - DAYS AND TIMES VARY

#### Goldman Health, Vanderbilt

165 Vanderbilt Avenue  
Staten Island, NY 10304  
844-NYC-4NYC  
Also offers Antibody Tests  
Mon - Sun  
8:30am-4:30pm

#### Staten Island Ferry Terminal

1 Bay St, Retail Space 103  
(Level 1 of the Terminal, next to the North Shore Esplanade exit)  
Staten Island, NY 10301  
Also offers Rapid Molecular Test  
Rapid testing is sometimes limited  
Mon-Sun, 9am-7pm

#### Greenbelt Recreation Center

501 Brielle Avenue  
Staten Island, NY 10314  
Also offers Rapid Molecular Tests  
Rapid testing is sometimes limited  
Mon-Sun, 9am-7pm

#### Mariners Harbor Library

205 South Avenue  
Staten Island, NY 10303  
Also offers Flu Shots  
Mon-Sun, 9am-7pm

#### Former St. John Villa HS

57 Cleveland Place  
Staten Island, NY 10305  
Mon-Sun, 9am-7pm

### H+H MOBILE TESTING VAN Mon-Fri (9:30am-4:30pm)



Tottenville  
Conference House  
Park Corner of Satterlee St. & Hylen Blvd.  
Staten Island, NY 10307

### NYC HEALTH DEPT. COVID-19 EXPRESS Mon-Fri (9am-5pm)

by appointment only: [nyc.gov/health/covidexpress](https://nyc.gov/health/covidexpress)

Central Harlem  
Central Harlem Center  
2238 Fifth Ave.  
New York, NY 10037

Riverside  
Chelsea Health Center  
160 W. 100th St.  
New York, NY 10025

Washington Heights  
Washington Heights Center  
600 W. 181st St, 3rd Fl. New York, NY 10032

Chelsea  
Chelsea Health Center  
303 Ninth Ave.  
New York, NY 10001

### PARTNER MOBILE TESTING VANS (Age 4 and older)

Due to parking issues, vans may be within 1-2 blocks away. Rapid/PCR tests are available. Days and times vary.

#### Stapleton

Monday only  
Feb. 22, 8am-7pm  
NYCHA Stapleton  
Driveway Entrance at 212 Broad Street  
Staten Island, NY 10304

#### Arrochar

Wed-Sun  
Feb. 24-26, 8am-7pm  
NYCHA South Beach  
Driveway Entrance at 212 Broad Street  
Staten Island, NY 10304

#### Brighton Heights

Tuesday only  
Feb. 23, 8am-7pm  
Tompkinsville Park  
45 Victory Blvd  
Staten Island, NY 10301

#### Port Richmond

Mon-Sun  
Feb. 22-26, 8am-7pm  
NYCHA West Brighton I & II  
Parking lot entrance at 820 Henderson Ave.  
Staten Island, NY 10310

### SELF TEST SITES (Age 4 and older)

Days and times vary. Please verify on the website: [bit.ly/NH\\_testsites](https://bit.ly/NH_testsites)

Not available at this time.



TO FIND PUBLIC/PRIVATE TESTING SITES ACROSS NYC:  
Call 212-COVID19 or go to [nyc.gov/covidtest](https://nyc.gov/covidtest)

VS. 2/08

NYC  
HEALTH+  
HOSPITALS

Test & Trace  
Corps

## Crucial Resources to Support and Aid Your Everyday Needs

1. The Staten Island Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) has released a 'COVID Supplies and Other Needs Assessment Survey' to assess how they can best assist communities and

organizations on Staten Island respond to COVID-19. **Click here to complete their five-minute survey.**

- Middle school and high school application deadlines have been extended to ensure families have enough time to thoughtfully complete applications.
  - The High School Application deadline is extended from Tuesday, 2/23 to Monday, 3/1.** LaGuardia registration deadline is extended for families from Tuesday, 2/23 to Monday, 3/1. The audition submission and internal assessment deadline is extended from Monday, 3/1 to Monday 3/8.
  - The Middle School Application deadline is extended for families from Tuesday, 2/9 to Tuesday, 2/23.**
- The Department of Education has also launched the 2021 Citywide and Community Education Council election application**, which is held every two years. **The application process for candidates runs through February 28, and voting will take place in May.** Education Councils help shape public education in NYC schools and make a difference for their school community! For this year's election, parents of all students are eligible to vote and parents must sign up for an NYC Schools Account to run for a seat or vote in the election. **Click here to learn more.**
- Need free tax assistance? **Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation offers a free tax preparation program** that provides NYC residents with assistance filing their returns and maximizing their credits and refunds. Call NAMIC's hotline **Monday – Wednesday 11am – 7pm** and **Saturday and Sunday 9am – 5pm.** Contact Maria Guzman-Colon at [taxhelp@nmic.org](mailto:taxhelp@nmic.org) or [929-415-8745](tel:929-415-8745) with any questions.
- Small Business Resources:**
  - Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) provides loans to help businesses keep their workforce employed during the Coronavirus crisis.** The PPP application for all lenders is now open. There are limited funds, so applicants are advised to apply early! **Click here for more information and to find the right application for your business.**



## NYC FREE TAX PREP



### FREE TAX PREPARATION

January 23 – April 15, 2021

Please be prepared with:

- Photo ID (New York State ID preferred)
- Social Security card
- Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) for all family members
- W-2s for all jobs you held during 2020
- Any other tax-related documents
- Your bank account number and routing number (if you want to direct deposit your refund)

\*If you are filing jointly, your spouse must be present with photo ID.\*

**When?**  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 11AM - 7PM  
Saturday, Sunday 9AM-5PM

**How do I sign up?**  
Book an appointment online at [www.nmic.org/taxes](http://www.nmic.org/taxes)

**Who is eligible?**  
People who earned less than \$68,000 in 2020

**Additional questions?**  
Contact us at [taxhelp@nmic.org](mailto:taxhelp@nmic.org) or (929) 415-8745

**NMIC**  
45 Wadsworth Avenue  
New York, NY 10033  
[www.nmic.org](http://www.nmic.org)  
212-822-8300

In collaboration with:  
**NYC** Consumer and Worker Protection  
**FREE TAX PREP**



## NYC FREE TAX PREP



### PREPARACIÓN GRATUITA DE IMPUESTOS

ENERO 23, - Abril 15, 2021

Por favor esté preparado con:

- Identificación con foto (se prefiere la identificación del estado de Nueva York)
- Tarjeta de seguridad social
- Contribuyente Individual Número de Identificación (ITIN) para todos los miembros de la familia
- W-2 para todos los trabajos que tuvo durante 2020
- Cualquier otro documento relacionado con impuestos
- Su número de cuenta del banco y número de ruta (si desea su reembolso por depósito directo)

\*Si presenta una declaración conjunta, su cónyuge debe estar presente con una identificación con foto.\*

**¿Cuándo?**  
Lunes, Martes y Miércoles de 11 AM a 7 PM  
Sábado, Domingo 9 AM - 5PM

**¿Cómo me registro?**  
Haga una cita en línea en [www.nmic.org/taxes](http://www.nmic.org/taxes)

**¿Quién es elegible?**  
Personas que ganaron menos de \$ 68,000 en 2020.

**¿Preguntas adicionales?**  
Contáctenos [taxhelp@nmic.org](mailto:taxhelp@nmic.org) o (929) 415-8745

**NMIC**  
45 Wadsworth Avenue  
New York, NY 10033  
[www.nmic.org](http://www.nmic.org)  
212-822-8300

In collaboration with:

**NYC** Consumer and Worker Protection  
**FREE TAX PREP**

- In preparation for your application, gather your documentation. For a complete list of required documents and additional PPP information, [click here](#).
- **List of participating lenders:**
  - Lower East Side People's Credit Union- North Shore Branch, for PPP inquiries, email [lending@lespfcu.org](mailto:lending@lespfcu.org) or apply directly online on their [website](#).
  - TruFund, [click here for an application](#) or email Mark Brazier (English) at [MBrazier@trufund.org](mailto:MBrazier@trufund.org) or Marcos Reyes (Spanish) at [mreyes@trufund.org](mailto:mreyes@trufund.org).
- **Free Digital Ordering Program**, food businesses who join Ritual ONE through **March 31**, 2021, will have their commission, credit card processing fees, and subscription fee waived. [Click here to apply](#).
- **NYC Restaurant Week To Go' has been extended through February 28!** Help support a local restaurant by bringing home your favorite meal for take-out and delivery. Register your Mastercard to get deals. [Click here to find out which local eateries near you are participating in restaurant week](#).

# NYC RESTAURANT WEEK<sup>®</sup>

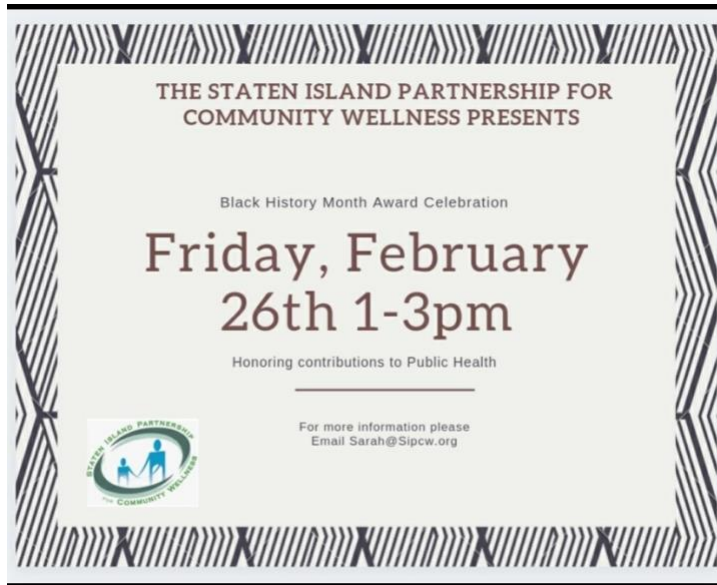
EXTENDED 'TIL FEB 28

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## Useful Events and Opportunities

1. **The Staten Island Partnership for Community Wellness Presents their BHM Award Celebration. Friday, February 26th 1:00PM. Email [Sarah@SIPCW.org](mailto:Sarah@SIPCW.org) for more information.**





2. Join me and my colleagues of the New York State Association of Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic Asian Legislative Caucus **on Saturday, February 27 from 10 AM to 3:30 PM** for the *Tomorrow's Leaders Youth Conference*. This year's theme is resilience with a vision of brilliance. **Click here to register youth for this free youth conference.**
3. The National Council of Negro Women, Staten Island Section, presents their **2021 High School Achievers Award** to students currently attending a high school in New York City or New Jersey who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and community involvement. **For more**

Meet The Leaders of The  
**TOMORROW'S LEADERS  
YOUTH CONFERENCE**  
Saturday February 27th, 2021 10 AM – 3:30 PM  
*Resilience With A Vision of Brilliance*

 SENATOR Jamaal T. Bailey	 ASSEMBLY MEMBER Chantel Jackson	 ASSEMBLY MEMBER Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas
 ASSEMBLY MEMBER Charles Fall	 ASSEMBLY MEMBER Kenny Burgos	 ASSEMBLY MEMBER Khaleel M. Anderson

TO REGISTER CLICK THE BELOW LINK  
<https://Virtual2021.nysabprlinc.org>

 New York State Association  
of Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic  
& Asian Legislators Inc.  
[www.nysabprlinc.org](http://www.nysabprlinc.org)

*Celebrating*  
**50** YEARS OF GOOD  
*Trouble*

information, email [ncnws@gmail.com](mailto:ncnws@gmail.com) or [chaplain.ncnws@gmail.com](mailto:chaplain.ncnws@gmail.com).

## National Council of Negro Women Staten Island Section

*Proudly presents*



2021  
HIGH SCHOOL  
ACHIEVERS  
AWARD

### Award Eligibility:

- \* Currently attend a High School within NYC or the State of New Jersey
- \* Outstanding Academic Achievement
- \* Demonstrate Community Involvement
- \* Obtain a letter of recommendation



For more information, email:  
[ncnws@gmail.com](mailto:ncnws@gmail.com)  
or  
[chaplain.ncnws@gmail.com](mailto:chaplain.ncnws@gmail.com)

4. **BJ House of Community and the Office of the DA are hosting three Human Trafficking Workshops. On 2/23, 3/02, and 3/09 you can join them on Zoom or Facebook live from 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM. Use ID: [836 733 5299](https://www.facebook.com/join?id=8367335299) and password: Not4Sale. For more information, contact [718-442-0923](tel:718-442-0923) or email [info@baituljamaat.com](mailto:info@baituljamaat.com)**

**BJ House of Community & Office of District Attorney  
Richmond County Presents  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING WORKSHOP  
I AM NOT FOR SALE**

**Topics of Discussion:**  
2/23 - Human trafficking 101  
3/2 - "What you should do now that you know about human trafficking"  
3/9 - Human trafficking & immigration

**Join Zoom & Facebook Live**  
ID: 836 733 5299  
Pass: Not4Sale

**Moderator:**  
Jamilah LaSalle

**Facilitator:**  
Genesis Gonzalez  
Immigrant Affairs Community  
Event Team  
Immigrant Affairs Unit Chief

**Feb. 23rd  
Mar. 2nd  
Mar. 9th  
5:30-6:30 pm**

**For more Info Contact:** [info@baituljamaat.com](mailto:info@baituljamaat.com)  
(718)-442-0923

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#)

5. **Students volunteers from Wagner College - Are you a non-profit organization looking for volunteer support from a dedicated student? Students from Wagner are searching for volunteer/internship opportunities as part of their senior capstone class. Please send your job posting or volunteer**

information to Tara Chiari at this email [cace@wagner.edu](mailto:cace@wagner.edu) so she can help connect with the students to apply.

6. **During these difficult times, the Northfield Bank Foundation is offering a grant opportunity for COVID-19 emergency related requests for health and wellness and feeding the hungry initiatives.** The mission of the Northfield Bank Foundation is to promote charitable purposes within the communities in which Northfield Bank operates - Staten Island, Brooklyn and Central New Jersey. **Click here to learn more about the grant process.**
7. **Richmond County Savings Foundation - Nonprofit organizations may request funding for program or project support, journal ad or event sponsorship.** Grant requests are reviewed throughout the year for amounts up to \$5,000. Please use the quick link to complete a Grant request and submit this request on-line. You will be required to submit your IRS 501(c)(3) Determination Letter and the first page (signed / dated) of your current year's CHAR 500 with the New York State Attorney General Charities Bureau or The New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs. **Staff may contact you if they require additional information. See here for more information.**
8. **LiteracyINC hosts a Virtual Bee Program every Friday until February 26, at 12 PM.** During this weekly series parents and caregivers will discuss fun and engaging ways to include early literacy in their daily routine. **Click here to register now and for a list of more events by LINC.**



Literacy Inc. (LINC) Presents

## LINC Virtual Bee Program

### Winter 2021 Series

Fridays, January 22 - February 26, 12:00pm

Virtual Bee is a six-part series for parents/caregivers and their babies and toddlers\* Join us in this weekly series as we discuss fun and engaging ways for families to include early literacy in their daily routines. Each week will feature a different theme, music and movement, caregiver conversations, and a read-aloud!

Register now: [www.lincnyc.org/events](http://www.lincnyc.org/events)

\*program designed for 0-3 year olds, all ages are welcome!

 @literacyinc  @linc\_nyc  @lincnyc  Literacy Inc.  Literacy Inc.

5030 Broadway, Suite 641 • New York, NY 10034 • 212-620-5462 • [www.lincnyc.org](http://www.lincnyc.org)

Sincerely,



Charles D. Fall  
Member of Assembly

ALBANY OFFICE: Room 534, Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY [12248. 518-455-4677](tel:518-455-4677), FAX [518-455-5946](tel:518-455-5946)  
DISTRICT OFFICE: 853 Forest Avenue, Staten Island, New York [10310. 718-442-9932](tel:718-442-9932), FAX [718-442-9942](tel:718-442-9942)