

## Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall February 17, 2022

## **District 61 News**

## **Stapleton Cooking Gas**

I applaud Mayor Adams and NYCHA for working with my office on this quality of life issue faced by the residents at Stapleton Houses. You can be assured that I will continue to work with my colleagues to not only protect NYCHA residents but also ensure that they have adequate living arrangements. Since the summer of 2021, we have been diligently working with the city administration and the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) to expedite and rectify the problem of cooking gas service interruption.

## Rufus Arkoi

In honor of Black History Month this week we recognize the excellence of Mr. Rufus Arkoi. Through his organization Roza, he has dedicated nearly 30 years to our families and our communities in the form of sports, recreation, education, and advocacy. For all he has done, we thank him.



To watch my video acknowledging Mr Arkoi click here.

## **Updates from Albany**

This week Assemblyman Fall questioned MTA Chair and CEO Janno Lieber during the 2022 Joint Transportation Budget Hearing in Albany.

The Assemblyman centered his questions on;

• The North Shore Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) update

• How will congestion pricing effect parts of the newly redistricted 61<sup>st</sup> Assembly District that now has part of lower Manhattan.

"I will remain vigilant on making progress with the implementation of the North Shore Bus Rapid Transit on the North Shore of Staten Island that will free up congestion on our highways, bring more accessible public transportation and roadways and expedite commerce."

Click here to watch the exchange between AM Fall and the MTA.

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

- 1. Governor Kathy Hochul has announced the Environmental Facilities Corporation
  Board of Directors approved \$41 million in funding that includes low-cost loans and
  previously awarded grants, enabling the recipients to access these loan and grant
  funds and move their water and sewer infrastructure projects forward. The Board
  also approved an \$879 million leveraged bond financing to provide capital for various
  wastewater and drinking water projects for the New York City Municipal Water Finance
  Authority (NYCMWFA) and to refund certain prior bonds. Refunding bond sales deliver
  additional savings for EFC's municipal partners by refinancing the original bonds that
  funded their projects at an even lower interest rate. The transaction is estimated to save
  \$18 million for New York City ratepayers over the next 10 years.
- 2. Governor Kathy Hochul today announced that \$17.3 million in state funding was awarded to six projects in four counties that will provide emergency and permanent supportive housing to New Yorkers experiencing homelessness. Supported through the State's Homeless Housing and Assistance Program, these projects include emergency shelter repairs and developments that will create or preserve an additional 120 units serving veterans, survivors of domestic violence, individuals with a history of substance use disorder, and those suffering from serious mental illness.
- 3. Governor Hochul announced that the statewide indoor business mask-or-vaccine requirement will be lifted starting Thursday, February, 10, and will remain optional for businesses, local governments and counties to enforce. This protocol, a temporary measure implemented on December 10 as statewide cases spiked, was an effective tool to address the winter surge and the rise of the Omicron variant. With case counts plummeting and hospitalizations sharply declining, this temporary measure is no longer needed statewide. Counties, cities, and businesses will be able to opt into the mask-or-vaccine requirement if they so choose. View Governor Hochul's Presentation Here
- 4. Governor Kathy Hochul today announced more than \$64 million in federal funding to help struggling New Yorkers with children, multi-generational households, and survivors of domestic violence with their expenses amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Administered through the state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance and the state Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, the Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund will provide one-time payments to help with the cost of diapers for struggling families, cover food expenses for households with both children and older adults, and provide crucial housing and relocation assistance for survivors of domestic violence.

## Crucial Resources to Support and Aid Your Everyday Needs

1. The NYS Homeowner Assitance Fund is available now. You may be eligible for up to \$50,000 in financial assistance.



2. Important: The NYS Department of Labor will mail 1099-G tax forms to all Excluded Workers Fund (EWF) recipients to the address listed on their EWF application. The information from this form must be included in tax filings for the 2021 calendar year. As you may know, payments from the EWF are considered taxable income. Although payments were mailed with state taxes already taken out, they may still be subject to federal income tax. For more information click here.



- 3. 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
- 4. 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 (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 <b>929-270-2181</b>

Sponsored by New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.
SNAP...Parting Healthy Food Within Reach. Visit www.mybenefits.ny.gov to check your eligibility. This material was funded by 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">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">disastercustomerservice@sba.gov</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.



## Feeling uncertain, overwhelmed, Project Hospitality 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 to COVID
  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 M Funded by FEMA



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

quí para hablar | Aquí para escuchar | Aquí 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 estrés realcondac 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 Heal Funded by FEMA

## New York State Emergency Rental Assistance Program

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program assists households behind on their rent that have experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19 and are at risk of homelessness or housing instability. In addition, the program can provide temporary rental assistance and assistance with unpaid utility bills.

- Eligible residents must meet the following criteria:

  Household gross income at or below 80 percent of area median income, which varies by county and household size.

  A member of the household received unemployment benefits or experienced a reduction in income, income significant costs or experienced financial hardship, directly or indirectly, due to the COVID-19 paridente.

  The applicant owes past due rent at their current residence.

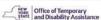
## HOW DOES IT WORK?

This assistance can pay up to 12 months of past due rent and for some households, pay up to 3 months for future rent. The program can also pay for up to 12 months of roture rent. The program can also pay for up to 12 months of overdue electric or gas billis. Please note, payments will always be issued directly to the landlord or utility provider.



Call 929-724-5360 or email erap@projecthospitality org for assistance submitting your application from one of Project Hospitality's ERAP enrollers.

For more information, visit otda.ny.gov/ERAP or call 844-NY1RENT (844-691-7368)



## New York State Emergency Rental Assistance Program

- ¿CALIFICO?

  Los residentes aptos para solicitar la asistencia deben cumplir con los siguientes criterios:

  Los ingresos brutos de la familia son iguales o inferiores al 80% del ingreso promedio del área, que varía según el tamaño del condado y de la familia.

  Un niembro de la familia reclisió subsidios de desempieo o experimentó una reducción en los ingresos, incurrió en costos significativos o sufrió dificultades financieras, directa o indirectamente debdo a la pandemia de COVID-19.

  El solicitante adeuda alquileres en su residencia actual.

¿CUMO FUNCIONA?

Esta asistencia puede pagar hasta 12 meses de renta vencida y, para algumas famillas, pagar hasta 3 meses de akquileres futuros. El programa también puede pagar hasta 12 meses de facturas de electricidad o gas vencidas. Tenga en cuenta que los pagos siempres e emitria miterdamente al propietario o al proveedor de senvicios públicos.

¿CÓMO PUEDO SOLICITARLA?



Llame al 929-724-5360 o envie un correo electronico a erap@projecthospitality org para recibir asistencia con la solicitud de un Enroller de Project Hospitality.

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





10. The BJ House Community - Mobile Pantry will come right to your door. Every first Wednesday of each month, every Tuesday, and every 3rd Saturday of each month.



11. This robust 6-week communitytraining program informs NewYorkers about NYPD policies, activities, and authorities.



12. The Y is now offering new rounds of FREE lifeguard training and certification this spring, including at the Broadway Y. Pre-tests are required for this opportunity and are currently underway, with lots of times and dates at Ys across the city. Experienced swimmers should see <a href="here">here</a> for details and scheduling.



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



## 14. 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 <a href="SBA Learning Center">SBA Learning Center</a>.

## **Useful Events and Opportunities**

1. Urban Faries of S.I.C.O., Beautiful Heartbeats Inc, and Free It Forward Host their 1st Annual Community Baby Shower. February 17th, 6:00PM-8:00PM



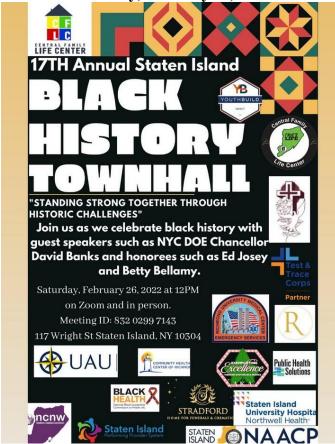
2. Help support your neighborhood schools - For more information click her



3. Put your swimming skill to the ultimate test. Become an NYC Lifeguard – help keep New York's beaches and pools safe and develop skills that will last a lifetime.



- 4. Is everyone ready for the next "Sip and Tea" event?. The ladies from True 2 Life have an amazing guest speaker for you and they are excited to have her come and share with. Click here to attend.
- 5. Central Family Life Center presents their 17th Annual Staten Island Black History Townhall. Saturday, February 26, 2022 at 12 PM.



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