

**October Committee Meetings @ QCB13 Board Office**

- Land Use 10.1.18 @ 7:30 pm
- Public Safety 10.3.18 @ 7:00 pm
- Seniors (SSSSNC) 10.4.18 @ 7:00 pm
- Youth, Education and Libraries 10.9.18 @ 7:30 pm
- Economic Development 10.10.18 @ 7:00 pm
- Transportation 10.11.18 @ 7:00 pm
- Parks and Environment 10.16.18 @ 7:30 pm
- Health 10.18.18 @ 7:00 pm

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

Monday, September 24, 2018 @ 7:30 PM

Bellerose Assembly of God — 240-15 Hillside Avenue, Bellerose, NY 11426

AGENDA

1. Community Time
2. Meeting Called to Order
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Elected Officials — Welcome
5. Presentation
Congress Member Thomas Suozzi
6. Chairman's Report — Clive Williams
7. District Manager's Remarks — Mark McMillan
8. Committee Reports
9. NYPD Report — Inspector Netis Gilbert, Commanding Officer, 105 Precinct
10. Roll Call
11. Approve Minutes — June 2018
12. Public Speaking Time
13. Adjournment

NEXT GENERAL BOARD MEETING, Monday, October 22, 2018

Bellerose Assembly of God 240-15 Hillside Avenue, Bellerose, NY 11426



Queens Community Board 13

219-41 Jamaica Avenue
Queens Village, NY 11428
718.464.9700
Fax: 718.254.2739
qcb13.org



Melinda Katz
Borough President

Vicky Morales-Casella
Director of
Community Boards

Clive Williams
Chair

Mark McMillan
District Manager

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – September 2018

Meetings Canceled:

District Service Cabinet
Health Committee
Seniors & Special Needs Committee
Transportation Committee
Youth, Education & Libraries Committee

Events/Meetings Attended:

September 5, 2018: Attend and participate in Public Safety Committee Meeting
Chaired by **Michael O'Keeffe** and **Vice Chaired by Robert Glover**. Details will be shared
in their report.

September 11, 2018: Walk-Thru of Farmers Boulevard and Guy R. Brewer Boulevard
between that intersection and 147 Avenue to assess needs for revitalizing with **Board
Member Curlene Nelson**.

September 12, 2018: Attend and participate in Economic Development Committee
Meeting Chaired by **Curlene Nelson** and Vice Chaired by **Richard Hellenbrecht**. Details
will be shared in their report.

September 13, 2018: Attend and participate in "Healthy Community Day" planning
meeting held at Creedmoor Psychiatric Center. **Board Members Bonnie Huie and Jerry
Wind** were in attendance.

Attend and participate in Land Use Committee Meeting Chaired by **Richard
Hellenbrecht** and Vice Chaired by **Bess DeBetham**. Details will be shared in their report.

September 14, 2018: Queens Borough Consultations FY2020. Agencies appearing were:

- Department of Sanitation (DSNY)
- Administration for Children's Services (ACS)
- Department of Youth & Community Development (DYCD)

- Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

September 17, 2018: Queens Borough Consultations FY2020. Agencies appearing were:

- Department of Social Services – Human Resources Administration (HRA)
- Department of Homeless Services (DHS)
- Department of Education (DOE)
- School Construction Authority (SCA)
- Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)
- Department for the Aging (DFTA)

September 18, 2018: Attend Queens Borough Cabinet Meeting. Topics:

- I. **Overview of the New York State Liquor Authority** by Vincent C. Bradley, Chairman, Michael Jones, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
- II. **Presentation on "Culture Pass"** by Jonathan Chung, Director, Government Affairs, Queens Public Library and Jordan Bullard, Brooklyn Public Library, Culture Pass Manager.

Attend and participate in Parks & Environment Committee Meeting Chaired by **Fay Hill** and Vice Chaired by **Peter Richards**. Details will be shared in their report.

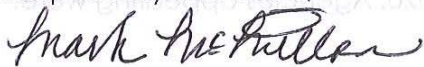
September 19, 2018: Springfield Park Walk-Thru re: signage around Springfield Park with **Queens DOT Commissioner Nicole Garcia**, Borough Planner Craig Chin, **Board Members Fay Hill, Curlene Nelson** and Barbara Brown participated.

September 21, 2018: Queens Borough Consultations FY2020. Agencies appearing were:

- Department of Buildings (DOB)
- Department of Housing, Preservation & Development (HPD)
- Police Department (NYPD)
- Fire Department (FDNY)

September 22, 2018: "QCB13 Healthy Community Day" at Queens Village Veterans Plaza. Board Members on the Planning Committee for this event are **Bonnie Huie, Michael O'Keefe** and **Jerry Wind**.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark McMillan
District Manager



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DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – Summer 2018

Events/Meetings Attended:

June 27, 2018: Attend Queens Borough President's Community Board Awards at Queens Borough Hall. Awardees were **James Delaney** (45 Years of Service), **Verdell Boncoeur** (15 Years of Service) and **Kangela Moore** (10 Years of Service). Other Board Members present were **Chair Clive Williams** and **Lorraine Gittens-Bridges**.

June 28, 2018: Meet with the new Commanding Officer of the 105 Precinct, **Deputy Inspector Netis Gilbert**, at her precinct office.

June 29, 2018: Attend and speak at "Quality of Life" Presser convened by **Council Member I. Daneek Miller**. Other elected officials in attendance included **Council Members Adrian Adams, Costa Constantinides. Chair, Clive Williams**, attended and spoke.

July 2, 2018: Attend DEP Presser, convened by **DEP Commissioner Vincent Sapienza** re: "Improving Jamaica Bay Plan". Elected officials attending included **Council Members Donovan Richards, Adrian Adams, and Costa Constantinides**.

Meet **Board Member Robert Glover** (wearing his hat as President of Federated Blocks of Laurelton) to assess a remedy for lack of curbing at center mall on Francis Lewis Boulevard off Merrick Boulevard.

July 9, 2018: Attend and participate in "Joint Meeting of Borough Board and Borough Cabinet" at Queens Borough Hall. **Chair Clive Williams** was also part of this meeting. Agenda items were:

July 10, 2018: Attend and participate in Land Use Meeting Chaired by **Richard Hellenbrecht** and **Vice Chaired by Bess DeBetham**. Details will be shared in their report.

Meet with EDC re: Bartlett Dairy site adjacent to JFK Airport.

July 11, 2018: Attend and participate in "FAA Workshop of Hazards & Obstructions" convened by Barbara Brown, President of JFK Airport Roundtable Committee, at the FAA Building.

July 17, 2018: Attend meeting convened by the **Port Authority of New York & New Jersey** entitled, "*The Future of JFK Airport*," held at Challenge Charter Middle School in Far Rockaway.

July 18, 2018: Host District Service Cabinet Meeting at QCB 13 office.

Attend Patrol Borough Queens South "Harmony Picnic" at Roy Wilkens Park.

Attend **Belmont Park Community Coalition Meeting** re: Belmont Redevelopment Project at Elmont Library. Board Members in attendance included **Richard Hellenbrecht**, **Michael O'Keefe** and **Steven Taylor**.

July 21, 2018: Attend and have a table at "Rosedale Walks Street Fair" on 243 Street with **Community Coordinator Maxine Brannon**. Board Members participating include **Marcia O'Brien**, **Sam Elliott** and **Jackie Campbell**. Board Members who attended included **Chair Clive Williams** and **Board Member Kangela Moore**. Elected officials who visited included **State Senator James Sanders, Jr.** and **Assembly Member Alicia Hyndman**.

July 24, 2018: Attend and participate in Public Safety Committee Meeting Chaired by **Michael O'Keefe** and Vice Chaired by **Robert Glover**. Details will be shared in their report.

July 26, 2018: Along with Community Coordinator Maxine Brannon, attend training on "Voter Registration" by NYC Campaign Finance Board at 100 Church Street, Manhattan.

Attend "Charter Revision Committee Hearing" held at Queens Borough Hall. Board **Chair Clive Williams** testified, as did **Board Member Lorraine Gittens- Bridges**. Other Board Members in attendance included, **Bryan Block**, **Bess DeBetham** and **Anup Ramnauth**. **Board Member Kyle Bragg** was on the dais as a Mayoral Appointee.

July 31, 2018: Attend and participate in "Healthy Community Day" Planning Meeting. Board members in attendance were **Bonnie Huie**, **Michael O'Keefe** and **Jerry Wind**.

August 7, 2018: Attend and have a table at "National Night Out." **Community Coordinator Maxine Brannon** manned the table with me. **Board members** in attendance were the **Chair Clive Williams**, **Bryan Block**, **Verdell Boncoeur**, **Jackie Campbell**, **Barbara Clements**, **Bess DeBetham**, **Robert Glover**, **Fay Hill**, **Rhonda Kontner**, **Curlene Nelson**, **Michael O'Keefe**, **Anup Ramnauth**, **Lourdes Villanueva-Hartrick**. Elected officials in attendance were **State Senator James Sanders, Jr.**, **Assembly**

Member Clyde Vanel, City Council Member Donovan Richards, and Assembly Member Alicia Hyndman.

August 11, 2018: March in the "India Independence Day Parade." Board Members marching (in the rain) included **Delroy Dawkins, Anthony Kuncheria, Michael O'Keeffe, Ashok Satkalmi, Jerry Wind. Chair Clive Williams** and **Board Member Verdell Boncoeur** met the marchers at Padavan-Preller Field at the finish.

August 15, 2018: Attend and participate in Land Use Meeting Chaired by **Richard Hellenbrecht** and **Vice Chaired by Bess DeBetham**. Details will be shared in their report.

August 26, 2018: Attend **Assembly Member David Weprin's "Annual Community Barbeque Party"** at his home in Holliswood. Board Member Jerry Wind was in attendance. Elected officials passing through included **NYS Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, State Senator James Sanders, Jr., and City Council Members Barry Grodenchik and Donovan Richards.**

August 27, 2018: Meet members of VFW Post xxx at Memorial location near Hillside Avenue on 239 Street. **Board Member Jerry Wind** (wearing his hat as President of Bellerose-Hillside Civic Association) attended, as did representatives from Congressman Tom Suozzi's City Council Member Barry Grodenchik's office. DOT sent its specialist on dealing with the NYC Public Design Commission.

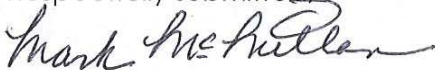
Attend **City Council Member I. Daneek Miller's "Backyard BBQ"** held in the backyard of his District office. Elected officials in attendance included State **Senator Leroy Comrie, Assembly Member Vivian Cook** and **City Council Member Barry Grodenchik.**

August 28, 2018: Attend and participate in "Belmont Community Advisory Committee Meeting." Update given on the progress of the Belmont Redevelopment Project.

August 29, 2018: Meeting with DDC Project Team for Springfield Project # SE823 and community leaders regarding construction timeline and individual property disruptions. **Board Members** in attendance were **Jackie Campbell, Fay Hill** and **Curlene Nelson.**

Meet with **State Senator Leroy Comrie** re: Belmont Redevelopment Project.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark McMillan
District Manager

What You Need to Know About the NYPD's New Marijuana Enforcement Policy

Marijuana is illegal in New York City.

Here's what you should know:

1. Smoking marijuana in public **OR** possessing any amount of marijuana in public view is still illegal in New York City. You can be arrested and charged with a crime.
2. Under the NYPD's new marijuana enforcement policy, smoking marijuana in public or possessing up to 25 grams of marijuana in public view for personal use may result in a summons rather than an arrest, if you are eligible.
 - You are **NOT** eligible for a summons if you lack proper ID, are the subject of an active warrant, are wanted for another crime, or are being charged with certain other crimes.
 - Even if you are eligible for a summons, you may still be taken to the police precinct rather than be released from the scene.
 - You may still be arrested for smoking marijuana in public if you are on probation, parole, are a known violent offender, or if your behavior is an immediate threat to public safety.
 - Receiving a summons requires you to appear in Court on the date specified on your summons. You may face a fine up to \$250, be sentenced up to 15 days in jail, or both.

NYPD

IF YOU DO NOT APPEAR IN COURT ON THE DATE SPECIFIED ON YOUR SUMMONS, A WARRANT MAY BE ISSUED FOR YOUR ARREST.

3. In all cases, your marijuana will be seized by the police and vouchered as evidence.

You should also be aware:

1. State and federal law enforcement officers may arrest anyone in New York City for possession of any amount of marijuana.
2. Driving under the influence of marijuana is a dangerous crime and is aggressively prosecuted. Your car may also be seized.
3. If you violate the law and then provide the police with false information regarding your name and address, you can be arrested and may face additional charges.

If you are concerned you have a substance use problem or need a referral for treatment: Speak to your doctor or health professional, or call **1-888-NYC-WELL (1-888-692-9355)**, a free, confidential help line for NYC residents.

 NYPD PRINTING SECTION
SP 527 (8-2018)



YOUR TAX DOLLARS

THE MONEY MONITOR



PETER A. RICHARDS

Sometimes you just get lucky. Like when you can't find your keys after searching for an hour. Then, you flop down on the sofa in disgust and the darn keys hit the floor. Never mind where they came from. They're there.

Or, you have just missed your bus and you're sure you are going to be late for work— - again! Then, just a minute or two later, a familiar car pulls up and a familiar voice yells: "Yo! Want a lift? I'm going right past your office".

About two year ago, SQPA's chief fiscal officer gave notice that he was leaving his job to take a better paying position with the New York City Council. A few months later, Solomon Goodrich, SQPA's former president, gave notice of his desire to retire after having spent more than twenty-six years "developing a dream." That was when the search for replacements began in earnest. And that was when SQPA's luck showed its smiling face.

The last issue of *SQPA News* contained a brief profile of William Nelson, the very competent individual selected to replace Sol Goodrich. This issue, we are going to tell a bit about our new chief fiscal officer— - or perhaps, we should use his official title— our new vice president of administration.

His name is Peter A. Richards and he was no stranger to SQPA. He was a member of SQPA's Board of Directors, representing Community Board 13 for a couple of years prior to his selection to be one of our organization's vice presidents. Helping to make his selection an even easier decision is the fact that Peter is also the chairman of Community Board 13's Parks and Environment Committee.

Although Peter Richards' volunteer activities have made him knowledgeable about our community, and especially about the parks in our community, what made him an even more attractive candidate for the "money monitor"

position at SQPA, were his years of experience in the financial field. That experience included eight years as a New York Stock Exchange Manager responsible for monitoring and assessing the compliance of member businesses and stock exchange employees with the Security and Exchange Commission's rules and regulations governing behavior and personal involvement of such individuals in their dealings with, and within, the Stock Exchange. Obviously, things like preventing "insider trading" were very high on Richards' list of concerns.

In addition to his years with the Stock Exchange, Peter Richards also worked five years as an internal auditor at Mocatta Metals Corporation, a commodities brokerage house specializing in gold, silver platinum and copper, as well as US Treasury Bonds, options and government guaranteed mortgages.

Mr. Richard's last position prior to his retirement from the field was that of a vice president of the Dime Savings Bank. There, among other duties, he headed the Asset Quality Division responsible for ensuring that the bank maintained reserves sufficient to protect itself against delinquent mortgage loans.

Peter A. Richards has a Bachelor of Science Degree earned at Queens College where he majored in Economics and Finance. He also has a Master's Degree in Business Administration earned at the Bernard Baruch Graduate School of Business.

Finally, but of the greatest importance, Peter is happily married to Beverly and the proud father of Peter, Jr., Julian and Ashley.

Yes, SQPA is lucky. Darn lucky!

IT TAKES TEAM WORK

(Continued from page 2)

Painting the 6,000 square foot Bunker will be a tough job, but our guys are ready for the task. They are a happy crew. And they work so well together.

As a youngster once described them: "They're like Four of the Three Musketeers."

Laurelton residents poll the public once again seeking improvements to local rail station

Queens Courier, QNS.com | Thursday, September 13, 2018

By: Emma Miller



The Federated Blocks of Laurelton distributed a survey on Wednesday morning asking commuters if there should be an elevator or escalator at the Laurelton LIRR station.

Ten volunteers from the Federated Blocks handed out about 400 surveys and received 248 responses from participants.

This was the second time the group distributed surveys. Back in May, they handed out about the same number of surveys and got 320 responses.

Robert Glover, president of the Federated Blocks of Laurelton, said that there are many handicapped people in the neighborhood that have to go to Rosedale or Valley Stream to get on the train.

"Almost every station has an elevator but this station," he said.

Glover pointed out that there are 41 steps at the Laurelton station, making it difficult for the elderly, parents with strollers and people with luggage to get to the platform.

The Federated Blocks of Laurelton plans to pitch the idea of an elevator to state Senator Leroy Comrie and Governor Andrew Cuomo once the survey results are tallied, Glover said.

"We have already had two meetings with a representative from our senator," he said. This led to the survey being linked on Comrie's website.

The Federated Blocks has also sent a letter to the governor, Glover said.

The survey asks customers how often they ride the LIRR and if they think an elevator or escalator is needed. It also has a section where they can mark if they are disabled, elderly, carry bags or strollers, or are a daily commuter.

Glover said that survey results should be available by the end of September.

The MTA has declined to comment until they receive survey results.



health

5 Ways to Give Your Body a Boost Inside and Out

Balancing work and life is no small proposition, and when things heat up, it can be easy to let your normal self-care habits slide. While a busy lifestyle may not allow for luxurious weekly trips to the spa to rejuvenate, you can still steal moments to promote the wellbeing of your mind and body.

Wake up with water. Staying properly hydrated is an important way to keep your body in top condition. Proper hydration can help keep all your body's systems functioning like a well-lubricated machine. Some studies have even shown

that starting the day with a cold glass of water can help jumpstart your metabolism and curb cravings. Carry water with you throughout the day so you can sip whenever the urge hits you and aim for at least 64 ounces a day.

Take care of your skin. Hydration is important for your skin. Bring the bliss of a spa experience into your shower with a body wash like Softsoap Hydra Bliss Hydrating Body Wash, which is crafted with rejuvenating scents like Coconut Water and Blueberry or Cucumber Water and Mint. These formulas help retain

your skin's natural moisture, which can leave your skin feeling soft and smooth. Follow up with a moisturizing lotion to leave skin silky and soft all day long.

Make drive time your zen time. Instead of using your morning commute to run through your to-do list and mentally prepare for your work day, give yourself permission to let those duties wait until you reach your desk. Instead, take a mental boost by listening to some of your favorite music or enjoying an audiobook.

Eat for energy. Food has one true purpose: fueling the body. At mealtime, put your wellbeing first and load up on foods that deliver nutrition your body needs. Look for proteins, a moderate amount of carbs and essentials like fiber that promote good digestion. Avoid feeling deprived by allowing yourself to enjoy occasional treats, but generally avoid unnecessary calories and sugary snacks.

Wash away your worries. After a rough day, there are few things like a warm shower or bath to help wash it all away. Allow soothing aromas to envelop your senses as you lather your skin for a relaxing clean. Experience the essence of seren-

ity with an option like Softsoap Pure Zen Relaxing Body Wash. Choose from tranquil scents of Rosewater and Lotus Flower or Jasmine and Watermint for a relaxing sensory experience.

Explore more ways to take better care of your body inside and out at softsoap.com.



Courtesy Family Features



Photos courtesy of Getty Images

Group makes suggestions on how to improve health in 'food swamp' areas of Queens

BY SUZANNE MONTEVERDI
smonteverdi@qns.com / @smont76

After deeming three Queens neighborhoods "food swamps" earlier this year, a health group is giving local shop owners tips on how to make healthier food options more accessible to people living in the neighborhood.

Public Health Solutions, a health nonprofit serving New York City, recently concluded that Jackson Heights, Corona and Jamaica are food swamps, or areas where unhealthy food outlets outnumber healthy alternatives. These neighborhoods had only one supermarket for every five fast-food restaurants and six corner stores, according to the organization.

This limited access to healthy food choices impedes residents' ability to achieve optimal health, the group concluded.

To counteract these conditions, the nonprofit studied food stock at 139 corner stores and bodegas in Jamaica, where



Photo via Flickr/Elvis Batiz

they discovered only 26 percent of businesses displayed fresh fruits or vegetables that were visible within five seconds of entering the store. In contrast, 76 percent of stores had packaged snacks on front display.

The group then conducted an "intervention" at nine of these businesses, pro-

viding them with signage, food preparation equipment and education on how to source healthier items.

Stores also aggregated their selection of healthy food items, such as nuts, healthier granola bars, water bottles and fruit, and moved them toward the front of the store in countertop, floor or flat dis-

play baskets near the place of purchase or deli areas.

After the study, more than half of the stores reported increased fruit sales and 63 percent reported they now stock more healthy foods. The "low-cost interventions" implemented at the Jamaica locations can be replicated in other communities facing limited healthy food options, the group determined.

"After our first report revealed a prevalence of fast food restaurants and bodegas in Queens neighborhoods, we knew we needed to test interventions aimed at shrinking the massive gap in access to healthier foods," said Lisa David, president and CEO of Public Health Solutions. "Through our work in underserved communities, we've seen that increasing access to more nutritious food options for children can have immense impacts on their development and reduce their health risks as adults. It was encouraging that our low-cost interventions made tangible differences for community members and corner store owners."

wellness

A Surprising Solution for Stress Relief

From finances and health concerns to lengthy to-do lists, there are numerous sources of strain in the lives of most people.

According to a survey conducted by Wakefield Research, 68 percent of people feel stress on a weekly basis and 32 percent are stressed every day. Women, in particular, are impacted, as 25 percent surveyed reported experiencing stress multiple times a day. However, today there is a surprisingly simple way to relieve stress: flowers.

New research from the University of North Florida's Department of Public Health shows that living with flowers can significantly alleviate daily stress. These findings follow decades of behavioral research studies conducted by researchers at universities including Harvard, Rutgers and Texas A&M that demonstrate flowers' ability to make people happy, strengthen feelings of compassion, foster creativity and even provide boosts of energy.

The study, titled *The Impact of Flowers on Perceived Stress Among Women*, concludes that adding flowers to indoor environments results in a statistically significant and meaningful reduction in stress.

"There is a growing body of research that illustrates how environmental design positively impacts health," said lead researcher Erin Largo-Wight, Ph.D., associate pro-

fessor of the University of North Florida's Department of Public Health. "Now it is both intuitive and scientifically known that adding elements of nature, like flowers, to interiors promotes well-being."

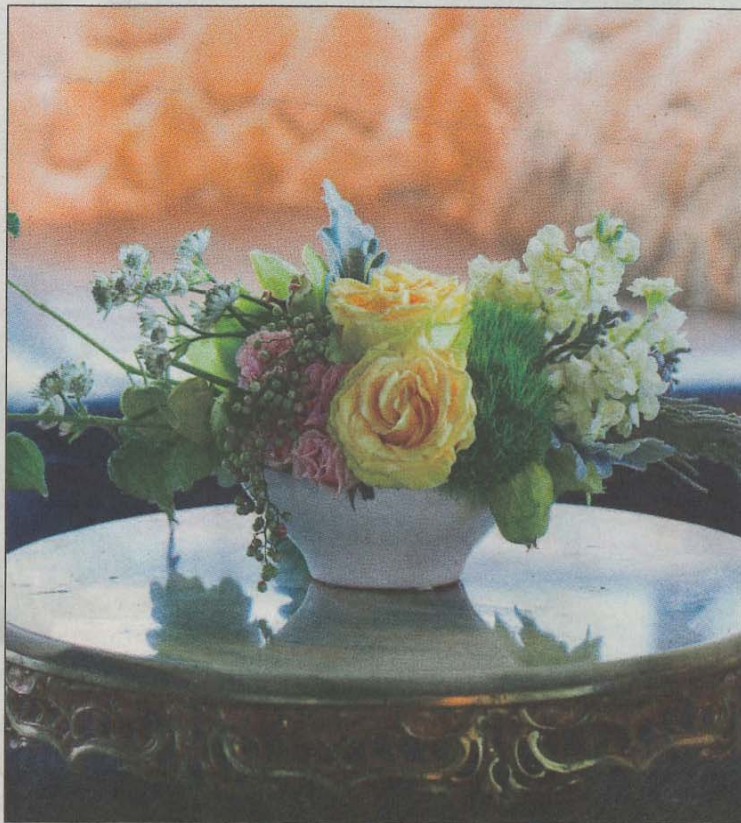
The specific results include:

- The average reduction in stress among women who received and lived with flowers was minus-5.5 points on the perceived stress questionnaire, a significant statistical decrease in stress.
- Flowers are a unique gift with the proven potential to reduce stress among women, likely because flowers provide the opportunity for nature contact, an established health-promoting environmental exposure.
- Participants who received flowers overwhelmingly reported that flowers improved their moods.

"Our findings are important from a public health perspective because adding flowers to reduce stress does not require tremendous effort to generate a meaningful effect," Largo-Wight said. "When life seems to be in a constant state of frenzy, flowers can provide a much-needed moment of calm."

For more information about the study, along with tips on relieving stress, visit aboutflowers.com/stressless.

Courtesy Family Features



The surprising health benefits of decluttering

Getting your house in order can be a struggle, especially as we age. Sorting through decades of belongings is often emotional and stressful, as questions and decisions pile up: Is this jewelry valuable? What should I do with all these tools I no longer use? Will this china set have sentimental value to my children?

But while it can be exhausting, this effort to declutter and simplify can be worthwhile, not only for our homes but also for our health.

The advantages of decluttering

Getting rid of things you no longer need or want may have a positive effect on mental health and can also make for a safer environment. It's a sobering fact that every 12 seconds, according to the CDC, someone over age 64 will fall and end up in the emergency room. Decluttering can help keep paths clear and obstacles to a minimum.

A study at Indiana University showed

that people with clean houses are healthier than people with messy houses. Regular household chores like vacuuming and washing windows can be great physical activity. A tidy home can also mean we're more likely to invite people over - prompting interactions that can help alleviate feelings of depression and isolation that can accompany aging.

Tips to get started

With these tips, decluttering doesn't need to be a dreaded task:

- Don't judge yourself. It's harder to decide what to do with items that have been in the family for generations than it might be for millennials to decide what to do with items from their college years.
- Take it one room at a time. According to a study by Moen, the most-cluttered areas of a home are the garage, kitchen and home office. The kitchen is a

good place to start the decluttering process, because throwing away chipped dishes and expired spices isn't as taxing as wading through boxes of potentially important paperwork or personal items. Take everything out of the fridge and cupboards and spread it all out on a counter or table so it's easy to review. Give shelves a good wipe-down and restock them with the necessities, putting go-to things within easy reach, and donating or storing appliances and dishes that are used less often.

Once you feel good about your progress in the kitchen, move on to tackle the garage, office and other spaces where belongings tend to pile up. Like closets!

- Keep only what you wear the most. Pick a handful of favorite outfits for everyday wear, social outings and special occasions, seasonal wear and wardrobe staples, and donate the rest. If it's hard to part with handmade or other sentimental

items, consider finding creative ways to remember them, such as making a memory quilt of old T-shirts or photographing special items for an album and then letting them go.

- Stop the build-up before it begins. Keep a recycling bin handy for unwanted credit card offers and coupon packs before they enter the house, and unsubscribe from magazines and newspapers if they pile up unread. Eco-Cycle has some tips to cull the tide of junk mail, and mobile apps like Evernote can help collect and digitize recipes, warranties, instruction manuals and memorabilia to clear away more piles of paper.

At the end of the day, it's OK to hang on to belongings that are near and dear to you. But for items that don't hold sentimental or functional value, kick-start a decluttering mission today so you can enjoy a tidier, safer home tomorrow.

Courtesy BPT

BUILDING NYC: DDC HEAD ON NEW CHALLENGES

BY BENJAMIN FANG

For 25 years, Astoria native Lorraine Grillo has helped New York City find sites to build schools.

Starting as a community relations specialist, Grillo worked her way up to become president and CEO of the School Construction Authority (SCA). She has led the authority since 2010.

In July, Mayor Bill de Blasio appointed Grillo as the new commissioner of the Department of Design and Construction (DDC), the city agency that oversees public capital projects. Coincidentally, the two organizations are located in the same building in Long Island City.

Now wearing two construction hats, Grillo said she's excited about the challenge of leading both the SCA and DDC.

"There are a lot of people at DDC who work very hard, and they don't get the credit that they deserve," she said. "I think it's less about the work ethic and much more about the process that needs to change, so that they can really get the projects delivered in a timely and efficient way. That's my goal."

Though both are capital construction agencies, Grillo noted that the SCA, as an authority,



has some advantages. For instance, it is exempt from the Wicks Law, a 1912 regulation that mandates any local government construction project costing more than \$3 million to separately bid plumbing, HVAC and electrical contracts.

The SCA also has its own 45-day process, rather than going through a land use review process, which can take up to a year, if not longer.

DDC, meanwhile, has faced challenges with project delays and cost overruns. Grillo said while the agency has different rules as a city entity, none of them are insurmountable.

"I do think, however, that a clear path has to be laid out for them on each of their projects,

DDC COMMISSIONER TO HOST QCC BUILDING AWARDS

and I think that's the goal," she said.

What's currently lacking at the agency, which takes on a wide variety of projects, is a uniform structure that goes from point A to point B and beyond, she said.

"Even though they're different, the process is the same," Grillo said. "And I think that really needs to be changed. We've done it here at the SCA, it works really well here."

Grillo said she will also bring a culture of enthusiasm from the SCA to her new role.

"People really have to feel good about what they do," she said. "Every September, when school opens, our staff is out in the street, we're watching the little ones walk into a brand new building in awe

and that makes you feel really good. There are ways to do that at DDC as well."

It won't be an easy task, particularly overseeing and rebuilding the city's old infrastructure. The SCA has a five-year capital budget

"I LOVE BEAUTIFUL DESIGNS AND BEAUTIFUL BUILDINGS,

BUT I THINK YOU CAN DO THOSE THINGS

AND STILL DO THEM IN AN EFFICIENT, CONSTRUCTIBLE WAY."

of \$15.9 billion, and DDC has a similar budget, Grillo said. But she credited the de Blasio administration with putting a "great deal of time and money" into the needs of the city's infrastructure.

One of the problems she has faced over the years is actually a lack of contractors to bid on jobs.

"We fight to get good contractors to work," she said. "We have

to entice them by paying them on time and making life as easy as we can for their business, and to grow their business."

Grillo said she's excited about several projects in the pipeline in Queens, including converting an old Sports Authority site on Northern Boulevard in Woodside into a large high school.

much harder to find sites for schools. But she loves what's happening to Queens neighborhoods.

"I think it's only made them better and richer and more exciting," Grillo said, "and change is good."

Grillo will emcee the Queens Chamber's Buildings Awards in December, which every year honors

excellence in design among the borough's architects and developers. As the leader of two construction agencies, she said she's

"all about functionality" and efficiency.

"I love beautiful designs and beautiful buildings, but I think you can do those things and still do them in an efficient, constructible way," Grillo said.

"It will serve so many kids and it's in such a great location," she said. "To have something like that coming, it's amazing."

Noting the changes in her home borough — Grillo now lives in Manhattan — she said now it's

City set to drop the hammer on illegal dumping and truck parking woes in southeast Queens and beyond

BY EMILY DAVENPORT
edavenport@qns.com / @QNS

New legislation passed by the City Council last week aims to address two problems that have plagued southeast Queens for years: commercial waste dumping and illegally parked trucks.

In order to improve the quality of life in southeast Queens neighborhoods, Councilman I. Daneek Miller announced the City Council's passage of Introduction 656, which will toughen the current civil penalties and criminal fines for unlawful commercial dumping. The mayor is expected to sign it soon.

"Unlawful dumping and illegally parked 18-wheel trucks are two nagging quality-of-life issues that have been especially troublesome for my Southeast Queens constituents," Miller said. "Introduction 656 will send a clear message that there will be steep consequences for those who dare to dump their garbage wherever they please, and the 'Commercial Truck Abuse Act' will serve to make the cost of doing business more than the companies that own these vehicles can afford to bear, which they have been all too willing to do at the expense of our commu-



Photo courtesy of the Office of Councilman I. Daneek Miller

nity, but we're determined to change that attitude."

Under Introduction 656, criminal fines for unlawful dumping will start at \$4,000 for first offenses and will raise to \$9,000 for each subsequent offense. Matching civil fines and an \$18,000 penalty will be imposed if subsequent offenses take place within 18 months and fines for dumping near public litter baskets adjusted to \$300

and \$400 for second and third offenses.

Vehicles that are impounded twice may be subject to forfeiture, and civil penalties can be imposed regardless of relationship between owner and operator. Additionally, the DSNY will now be able to presume culpability of a person or business for the improper placement of waste near a basket if its contents bear the name of that individual or owner.

"Ask anyone in the 29th Assembly District and they'll tell you the issues of illegal dumping and commercial vehicle parking are tremendous nuisances," Assemblywoman Alicia Hyndman said. "My colleagues and I are seeking to apply greater penalties and fines for those who violate common courtesy owed to our neighbors. Actions such as these are by no means minor steps in ensuring the cleanliness of our streets."

The new bill will join two pieces of legislation that make up Miller's "Commercial Truck Abuse Act." The bills would reduce the amount of time that a tractor-trailer can be legally parked from three hours to 90 minutes. Fines would also be increased for a first violation to \$400, and \$800 for subsequent violations within a six-month period.

"Quality [of] life concerns such as illegal dumping and illegal commercial truck parking are some of the issues that lead to the highest volume of complaints in Southeast Queens," Councilman Donovan Richards said. "We must work together to find better solutions than we currently have at our disposal. That's why these pieces of legislation are so critical to addressing these concerns."

Lancman eyes possible run for Queens DA next year

BY SUZANNE MONTEVERDI
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Councilman Rory Lancman, who represents areas including Fresh Meadows, Jamaica and Kew Gardens in City Hall, is eyeing the Queens District Attorney's seat that Richard A. Brown has held for 27 years.

"We're in desperate need of reforming our criminal justice system," Lancman told QNS in an interview. "We need to make it more fair and equitable for everyone." This includes an increased focus "on issues that matter to women and working people," he noted.

Brown ran unopposed for re-election in 2015. He is currently serving his seventh term in office.

Earlier this year, Lancman, an attorney, was selected to lead the City Council's Committee on the Justice System, which has oversight of the city's courts, district attorneys and legal service providers, as well as the mayor's Office of Criminal Justice. The newly formed committee also assumed the jurisdiction of the Committee on Courts and Legal Services, which the councilman chaired in his previous term.



Photo via Facebook/Rory Lancman

In the role, Lancman and his colleagues "have explored almost every aspect of the criminal justice system," including broken windows policies, wage theft and policies relating to the opioid crisis.

The councilman has spoken in favor of criminal justice reforms involving cash bail, marijuana enforcement and prosecution policies and Rikers Island, an institution "beyond reform and repair." He spoke in favor of reducing the population of Rikers and placing smaller jails adjacent to the city's existing courthouses.

"Rikers is a horrible nightmare and a tremendous waste of taxpayers' money," he said. "No one should be sitting on Rikers because they're too poor to pay bail."

Earlier this year, Lancman introduced

a bill that would require bail bond businesses to post signage designed by the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) that would disclose the maximum premium or compensation that can be charged for giving bail bond or property as bail. It would also establish a complaint mechanism for consumers at the Department of Consumer Affairs should a premium or compensation charged conflict with the state's insurance law.

The bill passed the City Council on July 18 and awaits the mayor's signature.

Lancman was one of the sponsors of the Criminal Justice Reform Act, which passed the City Council in 2016. The bill decriminalizes certain low-level offenses (i.e. open container of alcohol, littering, public urination). Offenders are instead sent to civil court.

The councilman was also the prime sponsor of a bill that criminalized "revenge porn" — the practice of spreading X-rated content of an individual without their consent online — in New York City, effective December 2017.

"We've tried to move the system to focus on the things that really matter," he said.

The next election for Queens District Attorney takes place in 2019.

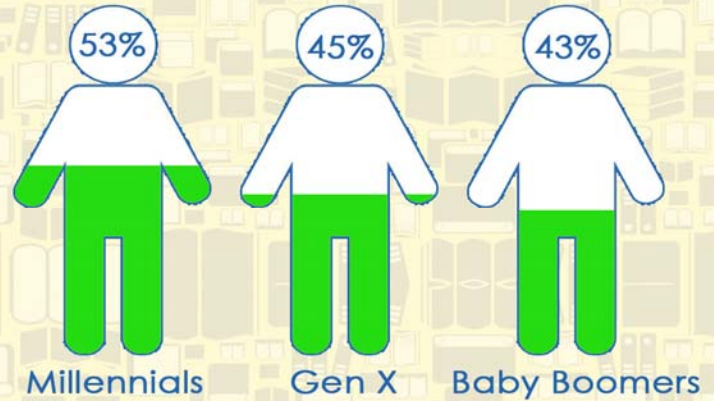
Magic Between the Pages

How public libraries are cherished and challenged



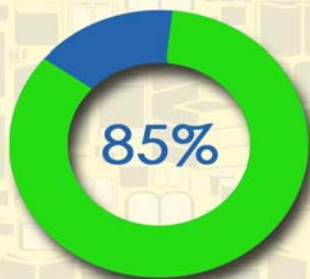
% in each generation who visited a public library/ bookmobile in the past 12 months

Millennials in America are more likely to have visited a public library in the past year than any other adult generation.

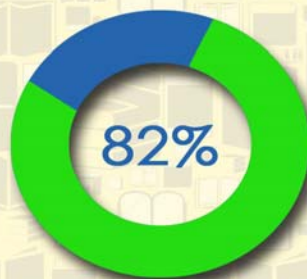


What does the perfect library look like?

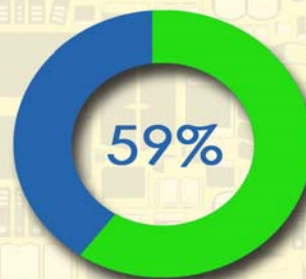
According to the Pew Center, Americans believe libraries should include:



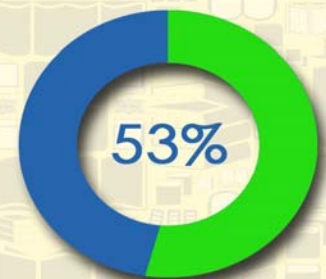
Closer coordination with local schools



Free literacy programs for young children



Comfortable spaces for reading, working and relaxing



A broader selection of e-Books

How are libraries valued?

In 2014 the American Library Association found that communities appreciate that libraries provide:

95% - promote literacy and love for reading

94% - improves quality of life

81% - had to find services

"Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation." —Walter Cronkite

By Corey Ince

Sources

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"The public values libraries' deepening community engagement" ala.org, April 2014, State of America's Libraries Report 2014

Queens pols to Labor Dept.: Raise tipped workers to full minimum wage

BY EMILY DAVENPORT
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Two Queens representatives are calling on the state to put tipped workers on the same level as other workers at City Hall on Tuesday.

Councilman Francisco Moya was joined by Assemblywoman Ari Espinal, organized labor groups and worker's rights organizations on Sept. 4 to call for the Department of Labor to eliminate tipped credit and raise all tipped workers to the state's full minimum wage.

"The livelihoods of restaurant servers, car wash workers, nail salon employees or any tipped worker should not be dependent on tolerating sexual harassment and discrimination but our two-tiered minimum wage system incentivizes silently suffering these indignities," Moya said. "It's time for New York to join the seven other states that have eliminated the tipped credit and providing tipped workers with the stability that comes from being guaranteed a living wage."

According to Moya, tipped workers are twice as likely to live in poverty than other working New Yorkers and less likely to have health insurance than those working in the private sector. The service industry also records more sexual harassment complaints from workers than any other industry in the country.

For these reasons, Moya will introduce a resolution on Sept. 12 that will not only help tipped workers earn a stable living

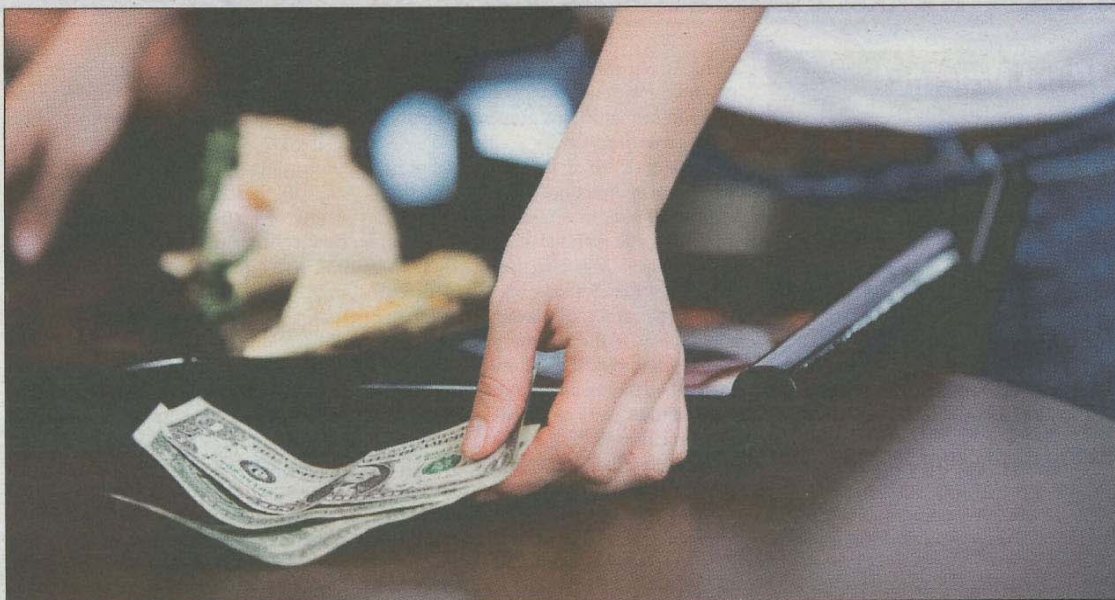


Photo: Shutterstock

wage, but also allow them to take advantage basic worker's rights like protections against misconduct including wage theft and harassment.

"New York's two-tiered wage system fuels poverty, harassment, discrimination and wage theft. Forcing restaurant, car wash and nail salon workers to rely almost entirely on tips to survive is simply wrong. Fortunately, there is a better way," said Catherine Barnett, direc-

tor of Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York. "New York must be a leader in the fight for One Fair Wage and join the seven states that have already phased out the tipped subminimum wage - resulting in gains for workers across the board. We applaud Council member Moya and his colleagues on the New York City Council for their leadership on this issue."

"No worker should have their livelihood threatened because they didn't smile

enough or prostrate themselves before a customer," said Deborah Axt, co-director of Make The Road NY. "We've heard enough horror stories about the conditions tipped employees are forced to work under to know that this two-tiered system must end. We thank Council member Moya for his long-standing work on this issue and for standing up today to call on the Department of Labor to bring all tipped workers up to the full minimum wage."

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QUEENS QUICKLY

Solar advocates push ambitious goal



A coalition of industrial, environmental and energy advocates are calling on state leaders to support the goal of powering 1 million New York households with solar energy by 2023.

EmPower Solar is opened an office in Long Island City over the summer.

"Solar and batteries in Queens are going to transform the community," said CEO David Schieren. "The incentives are among the best in the country, electricity costs are high, local officials support the industry, and the community has the collective desire to improve air quality for better public health."

Currently, New York has more than 200,000 households powered by solar energy, and 9,000 workers in the industry, the coalition said. Advocates said reaching the 1 million mark would create jobs, lower

utility bills and curb harmful air pollution.

The Million Solar Strong Campaign has two road maps to achieve its goal, including policy recommendations such as fair customer compensation, facilitating affordable financing for solar growth and expanding access for low-income and underserved communities.

Tom Grech, president and CEO of the Queens Chamber of Commerce, said the chamber is excited about the growing presence of solar in the borough.

"As the largest geographic borough in New York City, Queens is ripe for greater development of solar power," he said. "Having our member EmPower Solar open an office and have a direct presence in Queens County is a major step forward."

(BENJAMIN FANG)

When to use a financial advisor

True or false: You need to be wealthy to use a financial professional. It's a common misconception, but in fact there are financial professionals that can help at various stages in life, whether you're just starting out or nearing retirement.

It can be a huge benefit to sit down with one to discuss options, investments, savings and retirement.

No matter where you are in your life - new to the workforce, starting a family, in your big earning years or nearing retirement - some guidance from a financial professional can give you the road map toward a financial future.

Here are some of the top reasons for seeing a financial professional.

- You don't have much saved for retirement. More than half of Americans have less than \$10,000 saved for retirement, according to the American Payroll Association.

- But even if you're flirting with 50 and don't have much saved, it's not too late to start building wealth for your future. A financial professional will assess your situation and help develop a financial strategy with the goal of a comfortable retirement in mind.

- You're nearly ready to retire. Saving for retirement and knowing how to use that money wisely in retirement are two different animals. A financial professional can help you build a strategy that aims to use



your retirement savings, help it grow and help it last.

- Your parents are aging or ill. Caring for an aging or ill parent is tough emotionally, and ambiguity or strife around finances only makes it worse. Elder care is an expensive business, and how best to use mom and dad's money to make sure they get the best care possible can be a complicated quagmire, especially if siblings are at odds about what to do.

- Sitting down with a financial professional is a great way to sort this all out with a neutral third party whose focus is most appropriately using the funds that are available.

- You're going through a life transition. Getting married, divorced, starting a family or dealing with a death in the family can affect your finances as well as your emotions.

When you're about to walk down the aisle, for

example, nobody wants to think about budgets and bills, but financial disagreements can be one of the top causes of marital problems. A session with a financial professional can be a pre-emptive strike against future money troubles.

- You want to start investing. Finding a financial professional who understands your situation, and can help design solutions for your day-to-day financial concerns, can go a long way toward building financial peace of mind. You might be tempted to DIY, but a financial professional can work with you to create a strategy based on your timeline, risk tolerance and goals.

Bottom line? You don't need to be a millionaire to benefit from the services of a financial professional, but working with one just might put you on the road to setting and achieving your financial goals.

Community Currency: Kim's Innovative Plan

This is Queensborough | September 12, 2018

By: Benjamin Fang



Assembly Member Ron Kim discussing his plan.

When the Great Recession struck in 2008, the national and world economy went crashing down. Homes were foreclosed, people lost their savings and unemployment soared.

But in Flushing, the local economy not only survived, but showed signs of growth.

Some credited the neighborhood's ability to withstand the financial crisis to the work ethic of hardworking immigrants, but one local lawmaker doesn't buy that stereotype. He instead pointed to another significant factor.

"When you peel the layers away, it's because we have a community that traditionally never really relied on conventional currency systems to begin with," said Assemblyman Ron Kim. "We have a very robust and strong peer-to-peer system and lending circles, and all of this existed in our community. When things are going bad up here, we're still able to borrow money from our peers that we have on the ground."

According to Kim, communities that typically have access to conventional institutions like global banks are vulnerable when the world economy tanks.

However, in a place like Flushing, which didn't have the same kind of access, communities have to create their own local system.

That concept led Kim to propose legislation in Albany to create an Office of Financial Resiliency. Learning from the pitfalls of the 2008 crash, the Flushing legislator wants a state office to help neighborhoods throughout New York create cooperative and peer-to-peer economies, and even come up with their own local currencies.

He believes these mechanism will help neighborhoods survive when the next financial crisis is upon us.

By Kim's count, there are already more than 4,000 community currencies around the world. The idea has been in practice in the Berkshires of western Massachusetts, in Ithaca and as close as the Hudson Valley.

The whole point of these local currencies, Kim said, is to keep money circulating within neighborhoods. With the influx of big box stores and sharing-economy apps like Uber, Lyft and Airbnb, money is being "extracted" out of local neighborhoods and into corporate companies.

But with a community currency, not only would money stay in the neighborhood, which would boost the local economy, but there would be incentives for customers to participate.

Kim said in the Berkshires, for example, residents use a point system where they can trade in a dollar for points. In other words, the more they spend locally the more points they earn.

That idea isn't new to consumers who earn points for shopping with credit cards, fly using a certain airline, or stay at a hotel chain.

"Except when we use that, we just stay local to corporate brands," Kim said. "What if we direct people to stay loyal to local shops?"

According to Kim, the community currency doesn't necessarily have to be a point system. There's no "cookie-cutter way," he said, and it depends on the needs of each neighborhood.

Kim's idea is to have the Office of Financial Resiliency, which would hire a chief cooperative economist and a chief financial resiliency officer, to work with local leaders and find the best model for that specific neighborhood.

The second bill in that package of legislation would pilot up to ten community currency programs in the state. Kim said he would want Flushing to be one of those neighborhoods.

"If we were to apply this pilot in a place like Flushing, it would be easier to transition into because people are used to QR codes," he said. "There's a culture that's used to going cashless that's already ingrained in our community."

Many Chinese and Korean-American residents have already transitioned into using apps like WeChat to purchase goods just by tapping their smartphones. When Kim visited China last year, he saw that people in the suburbs or farm markets were already going cashless.

Instead of using WeChat's currency, which is tied to a Chinese bank, Flushing's residents can use a more local currency to retain that economic spending in the community.

"In a place like Flushing, to be honest, we don't need as much help with designing a community currency," Kim said. "A lot of local merchants do business here, live here, eat here. They keep recirculating their dollar organically without us giving incentives to do so."

This is where cryptocurrency comes in. Kim wants these currencies to be backed by blockchain technology, which would decentralize the system, make peer-to-peer transactions safe and take any intermediaries out of the equation.

Every transaction would be verified by peer-to-peer networks, so users can't lie about how much money they have or owe.

"It's going to be on record, a permanent ledger, for eternity," Kim said.

The lawmaker argued that type of system would actually make it easier for government to understand and evaluate the local economy. He said instead of just regulating it, government should compliment its growth.

Community currencies could bump up against obstacles, especially from economists who question whether they undermine the national currency. Kim asserted that they don't, and there are thousands of examples to prove it.

"What they've proven is it actually compliments the dollar because we're actually making our communities robust from the bottom-up," he said. "We're not competing against the dollar. We're actually complimenting the growth of that dollar."

Another barrier is getting community buy-in, which Kim acknowledged would be needed for a system like this to be enacted. To that end, the assemblyman has been meeting with local chambers of commerce and business improvement districts to sell the idea.

Kim is spending the rest of his time before the new legislative session starts in Albany meeting with as many potential stakeholders as possible.

When he's back in Albany, he will work to pass the two bills, both of which are in the Banks Committee now. Kim said he already has a State Senate sponsor from Brooklyn.

While a measure like this may seem far off, the next economic crash could be around the corner. Local communities can figure out innovative ways to defend their economies from going down with it.

"It'll take some time for everyone to understand it and feel comfortable with it," Kim said. "But I'm getting positive feedback so far, especially from the younger generation. They're all into it."



Restoring Urban Neighborhoods, LLC ("RUN") is accepting applications for 24 affordable homes (23 are in Southeast Queens and one is in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn) now under construction through the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development's Small Homes Rehab—NYCHA Program.

If you are interested in applying, the application can be downloaded at www.neighborhoodrestore.org. You can also obtain a paper application by sending a self-addressed and stamped envelope to: **RUN LLC, 150 Broadway, Suite 2101, New York, NY 10038.**

Please note that completed paper applications must be sent to the Post Office Box indicated on the application, postmarked by October 2, 2018. Applications received after this date will not be considered. Applicants may not submit more than one application per household.

Home Address	Home Description	Number of Units	AMI	Household Size		Total Annual Income* Range Minimum** - Maximum		Asset Limit (\$182,525 + required down payment amount)	Estimated Sales Price
				Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum		
147-06 SUTTER AVENUE	2 Bedroom	one family	80%	2	5	\$ 58,858	\$ 90,160	\$ 197,525	\$ 300,000
129-23 135TH PLACE 130-15 135TH PLACE	2 Bedroom	one family	80%	2	5	\$ 59,623	\$ 90,160	\$ 197,775	\$ 305,000
116-02 139TH STREET 117-31 135TH STREET	2 Bedroom	one family	80%	2	5	\$ 61,153	\$ 90,160	\$ 198,275	\$ 315,000
130-16 149TH STREET 111-14 169TH STREET 115-41 147TH STREET	3 Bedroom	one family	80%	3	7	\$ 62,683	\$ 103,520	\$ 198,775	\$ 325,000
150-22 118TH AVENUE 167-08 110TH AVENUE 145-36 111TH AVENUE	3 Bedroom	one family	80%	3	7	\$ 63,448	\$ 103,520	\$ 199,025	\$ 330,000
133-16 VAN WYCK EXPRESSWAY	3 Bedroom	one family	120%	3	7	\$ 64,978	\$ 155,280	\$ 199,525	\$ 340,000
131-15 SUTTER AVENUE 114-47 INWOOD STREET	3 Bedroom	one family	120%	3	7	\$ 66,508	\$ 155,280	\$ 200,025	\$ 350,000
102-47 187TH STREET	2 Bedroom	one family	120%	2	5	\$ 70,333	\$ 135,240	\$ 201,275	\$ 375,000
107-34 PRINCETON STREET	2 Bedroom	one family	120%	2	5	\$ 73,393	\$ 135,240	\$ 202,275	\$ 395,000
133-18 134TH STREET	2 Bedroom	one family	120%	2	5	\$ 74,158	\$ 135,240	\$ 202,525	\$ 400,000
129-59 135TH STREET	2 Bedroom	one family	120%	2	5	\$ 77,983	\$ 135,240	\$ 203,775	\$ 425,000
89-24 168TH PLACE 103-16 PLATTWOOD AVENUE 129-41 135TH STREET	3 Bedroom	one family	120%	3	7	\$ 77,983	\$ 155,280	\$ 203,775	\$ 425,000
110-60 WOOD STREET	4 Bedroom	one family	120%	4	8	\$ 77,983	\$ 165,240	\$ 203,775	\$ 425,000
210-33 113TH AVENUE	4 Bedroom	one family	120%	4	8	\$ 81,807	\$ 165,240	\$ 205,025	\$ 450,000
580 LAFAYETTE AVENUE	Owner's Unit: 3 Bedroom Rental Unit 1: 1 Bedroom Rental Unit 2: 1 Bedroom	three family	120%	3	7	\$ 85,796	\$ 155,280	\$ 218,275	\$ 680,000

New rules for non-tobacco hookahs

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, on April 10, 2018, adopted rules for the use of non-tobacco hookahs that will require owners to obtain a permit for any establishment that generates 50 percent or more of its annual gross sales from the on-site sale of non-tobacco smoking products. Non-tobacco smoking products are any product not containing tobacco or nicotine that is designed for human use or consumption through inhalation of smoke, including pipes, water pipes, and rolling papers. The new rules also prohibit the sale to persons under 21 years of age of non-tobacco smoking products, including shisha, a substance which is typically composed of tobacco and/or other flavored or unflavored herbal substances. Hookah establishments must also post signs stating that no person under the age of 21 may purchase tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, non-tobacco smoking products, and smoking paraphernalia.

Hookah smoking, even with non-tobacco shisha, poses a health risk to smokers and those exposed to secondhand smoke. When smoking a hookah or a water pipe the smoker heats shisha over burning charcoal to create smoke that travels through a pipe immersed in cooling water before the smoker inhales the smoke through a mouthpiece. Non-tobacco hookah emits carbon monoxide, fine particulate matter, and various toxicants from burning charcoal, all of which pose a health risk.

The new rules discourage smoking and reduce exposure to secondhand smoke for nonsmokers. They add to the City's extensive efforts to discourage smoking, reduce tobacco dependence, and prevent persons younger than 21 from congregating in establishments where non-tobacco hookah smoking takes place.

CityRecord, April 10, 2018 at 1779.

Dead vehicle storage violation upheld

Property owner stored unregistered vehicles in residential area as part of his automotive hobby. On April 7, 2017, the Department of Buildings charged Juan Castillo, a property owner in an area zoned for residential use, with illegally operating an auto body mechanics shop in a garage on his premises, and with permitting the dead storage of vehicles.

At the hearing, Castillo argued that he did not operate an auto body shop; rather he fixed cars and motorcycles as a personal hobby. Castillo testified that the vehicles in his garage and yard were all owned by him and his two tenants. Even if some of the vehicles were unregistered, Castillo argued, the vehicles were privately owned by Castillo or his tenants and were therefore permitted to be stored in an area that was zoned for residential use.

A OATH hearing officer sustained the charge of dead storage of vehicles in violation of a zoning resolution, but dismissed the charge that Castillo was operating an auto body shop in his garage.

The OATH Appeals Board affirmed the hearing officer's decision. The Board ruled that the zoning resolution only permitted residential parking to be used for the long-term storage of private vehicles used by the occupants of a residence. Castillo's vehicles were without license plates or valid registrations, and could not be operated on the street. Because the vehicles could not be "used by the occupants" of a residence, the vehicles constituted prohibited dead storage.

NYC v. Juan Castillo, OATH Appeals Board. Appeal No. 1701082 (Dec. 14, 2017).

CHANGE at CREEDMORE

Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything. --*George Bernard Shaw*

Background

Creedmoor Psychiatric Center stands on land that was a farm owned by the Creed family. The history of the hospital and its campus, which occupies more than 300 acres and includes more than 50 buildings, reflects both the urbanization of the borough of Queens, and a series of changes in psychiatric care.

Responsibility Change

The State Commission in Lunacy from 1895 to 1912

The New York State Department of Health from 1912 to Present



Usage Change

In the early 1870s, New York State purchased land from the Creeds for use by the National Guard and by the National Rifle Association (NRA) as a firing range. Several international rifle tournaments and technical improvements resulting in longer range bullets resulted in numerous complaints from surrounding residents. In 1892, as a result of declining public interest and mounting noise complaints from the growing neighborhood of Glen Oaks, the NRA deeded its land back to the state. As a result the range was abandoned until 1912

Founded in 1912 as a Farm Colony of Brooklyn State Hospital, the Creedmoor Psychiatric Center in Queens became, by mid-century, a world unto itself. At its peak (1959), it housed some 7,000 mentally ill patients. They tended gardens and raised livestock on the hospital's grounds. The hospital contained gymnasiums, a swimming pool, a theater, a television studio, and giant kitchens and laundries where patients were put to work.

In 1975, the land in Glen Oaks formerly used to raise food for the hospital was opened to the public as the Queens County Farm Museum. Another part of the campus in Glen Oaks was developed into the Queens Children's Psychiatric Center.

In 1980's, the Queens County Cricket League, President, Mervyn Richards requested a cricket field adjacent to the soccer field.

In 2004, the remaining part of Creedmoor land in Glen Oaks was developed into the Glen Oaks public school campus, including The Queens High School of Teaching.

By 2006, the inpatient census went down to 470. With the development of antipsychotic medications came a trend toward deinstitutionalization. A dwindling patient populations led to the closing of farm colonies and asylums across the United States.

Today there are several unused buildings on the property, including the long-abandoned Building 25 and most parts of the Creedmoor campus have been sold. The campus is underutilized, housing only a few hundred patients and providing outpatient services.

Where Do We Go From Here?

Promote awareness of the severity of mental illness, Prevent & identify the nature of mental illness, and Prohibit the old saying, "Out of sight, out of mind" .

At least one in five adult New Yorkers is likely to experience a mental health disorder in any given year. ThriveNYC can help. The Thrive Learning Center (WEB Based) was created to train people with the tools and resources for caring for their communities. Thrive LC is a source of mental health information to help you be more effective in your community, by showing you how to help people with mental health challenges. Including: substance use, depression, trauma, anxiety & psychosis.

Prevention is a possibility, so, increase funding for research of the genetic influences and environmental exposures that lead to mental illness.

Mixed use development of the Creedmoor Campus will benefit the patients and community. Creedmoor and the community are fundamentally linked. 1st, protect the open space with walking, biking and hiking trails. 2nd, reserve areas for civic activities and gatherings and 3rd, create tourist attractions for Creedmoor.

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Fay Hill

Curlene Nelson



Eighty-one people died in traffic accidents through the first six months of the year in New York City, the lowest-ever six-month period since records have been held (1910). *[The Queens Tribune, July 12, 2018—Record-low Traffic Fatalities Through First Half of 2018]*

Also, in 2017, Queens had the fewest traffic fatalities ever!
[Curbed New York, January 8, 2018—NYC's Pedestrian Fatalities Reach an all-time low in 2017]

Vision Zero's push for lower speed, more enforcement and improved street design all help to keep New Yorkers that much safer.

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