

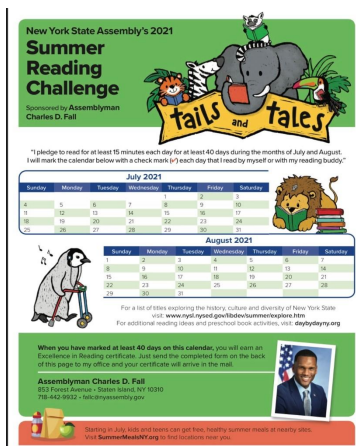
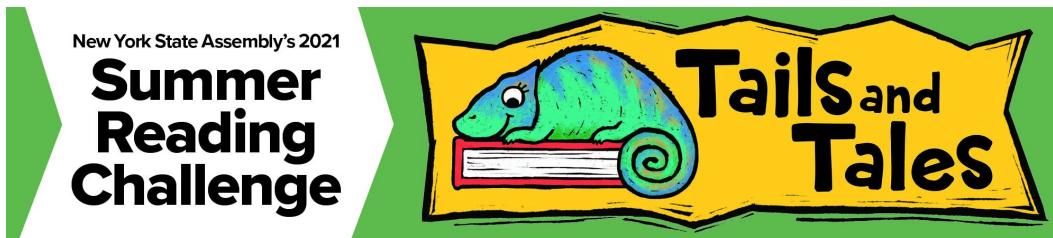


Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall

July 29, 2021

Summer Reading Challenge and Calendar


There is no better way to help kids expand their horizons and keep their minds active than by picking up a good book. This year I am inviting our local youth to participate in the Assembly Annual - Summer Reading Challenge, held in partnership with New York State Libraries. The challenge asks children to read a book for a minimum of 15 minutes a day for at least 40 days during July and August. Children can read on their own or with a partner or caregiver and mark off days on the calendar provided. Once they've completed 40 days or more, they submit the calendar to my office and then receive a certificate in the mail.



Upcoming Events

SIUH Northwell Health Bench Talk

SIUH presents the second installment in their Bench Talk Series. August 4, 2021 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM, come out to 22 Roxbury St. for a conversation with professionals regarding the Covid-19 vaccine.



STATEN ISLAND UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
NORTHWELL HEALTH PRESENTS

BENCH TALK SERIES


AUGUST 4, 2021
10:30 AM TO 11:30 AM
OUTSIDE OF 22 ROXBURY ST

A convention of informative talks and health resources for the community.


VACCINE POP-UP

8:30 AM TO 11:30 AM
OUTSIDE OF 22 ROXBURY ST

Pfizer vaccines available on a first come, first serve basis.



Senator
Diane J. Savino



Roc -A- Natural Free Friday Night Outdoor Films

In partnership with Assemblyman Charles D. Fall's office and other local sponsors, Roc-a-Natural presents "Free Friday Night Outdoor Films." On July 30th and August 6th, Snug Harbor will host this event promoting thought-provoking and empowering films. Review the flyer below for details.



FREE FRIDAY NIGHT OUTDOOR FILMS
TAKING IT TO THE STREETS
JULY 23, 30, AUGUST 6, 2021
DJ. LIVE ENTERTAINMENT & VENDORS

7/23 THE EXPRESS - THE ERNIE DAVIS STORY
7/30 WHAT HAPPENED, MISS SIMONE?
8/6 CONCRETE COWBOY

POP UP SHOP @6:30PM • MOVIE STARTS @8:30PM
SNUG HARBOR CULTURAL CENTER & BOTANICAL GARDEN
1000 RICHMOND TERRACE STATEN ISLAND, NY 10301 (N. MEADOWS) ENTER AT FILMORE AVE PARKING LOT 1)



District 61 News

St. George Theatre and Announcement

Last Friday, July 29th, I had the pleasure of attending the Student Showcase Program at the St. George Theatre and announcing the securing of an additional state-funded allotment of one million dollars for the theatre. It is important that we show up and deliver for the institutions on the North Shore that have given so much over the years. The St. George Theatre has always been a pillar of our community known for bringing people together. This past year has been extremely challenging as we've watched business after business struggle to stay afloat. As we continue to recover from this pandemic, I am proud that Assemblyman Mike Cusick and I could secure \$1 million for the St. George Theatre to continue restoration and prepare for reopening later this year.



Eid Celebration

I want to thank the Muslim Sisters of Staten Island and the Bait-ul Jamaat House of Community for hosting their community celebration of Eid. I was happy to see some old friends and make some new ones.



Mobile Office

I am excited to announce that our Summer Mobile Office is back in full force. Every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday my team will be out in the neighborhoods of the 61st Assembly District supporting our community. If you spot our blue tent, come over and say hello.



Updates From Albany

This week it was announced that the Assembly will hold a hearing on the Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Ways and Means Committee Chair Helene E. Weinstein, Housing Committee Chair Steven Cymbrowitz, and Social Services Committee Chair Linda B. Rosenthal announced the Assembly will hold a hearing on Tuesday, August 10, 2021, to

examine the application process and implementation of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP).

- The ERAP application opened on June 1, 2021, to aid eligible renters with rental arrears, utility and home energy costs or arrears, and future rent.
- New York received \$2.6 billion in federal funding for ERAP through the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act to assist households who have been unable to pay residential rent due to the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The hearing will specifically evaluate how quickly assistance is being distributed to individuals, both tenants and landlords, as well as evaluate the access and submission of the application.
- The hearing will stream live on the Assembly website.

“Thousands of New Yorkers lost their income and fell behind on rent during the COVID crisis and many landlords who depend on rental income found themselves unable to pay their mortgage and meet their monthly expenses.

New Yorkers are counting on the Emergency Rental Assistance Program to deliver them the much-needed relief that was promised by the state using federal funds. This hearing will provide the opportunity to evaluate the process of effectively delivering that relief.”



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

1. [**Governor Cuomo announced that patient-facing healthcare workers at state-run hospitals will be required to get vaccinated for COVID-19 by Labor Day.**](#) There will not be an option to be tested in lieu of vaccination for these patient-facing healthcare workers. The Governor also announced that all New York State employees—about 130,000 people—will be required to get vaccinated for COVID-19 by Labor Day. State employees who do not get vaccinated will be required to be tested for COVID-19 on a weekly basis. New York State is working with state unions to implement the requirement quickly and fairly.
2. [**Governor announced the CUNY Comeback Program, a sweeping plan to eliminate up to \\$125 million in unpaid debt for at least 50,000 students who attended CUNY and suffered financial hardships during the COVID-19 pandemic.**](#) The initiative is one of the nation's largest student debt forgiveness plan of its kind. Additionally, students who did not accrue unpaid tuition and fee balances during the period but experienced financial hardship stemming from the pandemic will receive relief in the form of enhanced Student Emergency Grants. The CUNY Comeback Program will be funded through federal stimulus assistance allocated to CUNY.
3. **Following today's gun violence prevention community meeting for Staten Island, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced 88 jobs will be available for at-risk youth living in ZIP code 10304.** The state will provide funding to create 44 summer jobs for youth aged 15 to 24 in this zone to keep them employed until the start of school this year. The State is also partnering with the Consortium for Worker Education to provide job training and placement into long-term jobs for 44 young people who are out of school and live in this zone. "Gun violence is a crisis that is tearing communities apart while hindering our recovery, and we remain committed to solving it," **Governor Cuomo said.** "These meetings are bringing local leaders to the table and helping us zero in on the specific needs of communities, so we can agree on the solutions that are right for every locality."
4. [**NYS has enacted legislation \(S.4201-A/A.4063\) prohibiting public employers from penalizing employees who use sick leave or compensatory time to quarantine, seek medical treatment, or for other absences related to a COVID-19 diagnosis or contact.**](#)
5. [**The Governor announced that New York State will invest an additional \\$35 million in the QUALITYstarsNY program, delivering resources to improve early childhood care, including staff training. QUALITYstarsNY is New York's quality rating and improvement system, based on 5 stars, with 5 being the highest.**](#) Early childhood programs volunteer to participate and this investment will help programs

improve so they can meet the minimum requirements to qualify.

6. Eligible individuals can schedule vaccine appointments by contacting:
 - **The NYC Vaccine hotline at 877-829-4692 or [clicking here](#)**
 - **The NYS hotline at 888-364-3065 or [clicking here](#)**
 - **SOMOS, a community health provider at 833-766-6769**
 - **Eligible individuals will have to fill out a screening form and attest to being in an eligible category.** Anyone who is NOT eligible for vaccination, should not sign up for an appointment. **Click here to find updated vaccine eligibility lists, vaccine locations near you and to schedule a vaccine appointment when eligible.**
 - **Click here for a COVID-19 vaccine fact sheet.**
7. **Review the State guidelines for travelers arriving in New York State.**
 - View the Test-and-Trace Corps **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 themselves 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.**

Crucial Resources to Support and Aid Your Everyday Needs

1. SCORE Staten Island is a nonprofit association dedicated to helping both aspiring and established entrepreneurs get off the ground, grow and achieve their goals through cost-free education and confidential mentorship. The organization is Chapter 476 of the nationwide SCORE. As a resource partner with the U.S. Small Business Administration, SCORE is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the SBA. It has both local mentors, who have proved to be successful in their fields, and a network of 10,000 volunteer mentors across the country providing web-based seminars and resources. It can provide:
 - Volunteer mentors who share their expertise across many different industries
 - Free, confidential business mentoring in person, via email, phone, or video

- Free business tools, templates, and tips online
 - Inexpensive or free business workshops (locally) and webinars (online 24/7)
 - For additional information, or to schedule an appointment, SCORE-Staten Island may be visited [here](#). Or you call them at 718-727-1221; email at info@scoresi.org and visit on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).
2. **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.**
3. **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.**



DO YOU NEED FREE LEGAL HELP DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS?

Staten Island Legal Services is here to help you and your family get through this together.

- Unemployment Benefits & Employment Issues
- Food Stamps (SNAP), Public Assistance, Medicaid
- Eviction/Illegal Lockouts
- Mortgage Relief & Foreclosure Prevention
- Small Business Advice
- Immigration
- Bankruptcy and Consumer Help
- Student Loan and Debt Collection
- Domestic Violence, Orders of Protection, & Child Support
- Education
- LGBTQ/HIV+


CALL STATEN ISLAND LEGAL SERVICES

Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
We speak your language and serve all 5 boroughs of NYC.

718-233-6480

STATEN ISLAND LEGAL SERVICES NYC
SERVING JUSTICE

legalservicesnyc.org



FORECLOSURE PREVENTION NETWORK

Legal Services NYC
SERVING JUSTICE

Since 2007, Legal Services NYC's Foreclosure Prevention Network has assisted nearly 17,000 New York City homeowners facing foreclosure. With community-based foreclosure prevention projects in our Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island offices, our dedicated team of nearly 40 attorneys and advocates provide critical legal services to homeowners navigating the judicial foreclosure process and fight to help them save their homes. LSNYC Foreclosure Prevention Network partners include non-profit organizations, housing counselors, social service agencies and local government. Our advocates conduct trainings, outreach and education activities in conjunction with community and government partners.

WHAT WE DO

Legal Services NYC's Foreclosure Prevention Network attorneys represent homeowners in foreclosure as well as in state and federal court litigation challenging predatory lending, abusive mortgage servicing, scams targeting vulnerable homeowners, and fair housing and lending violations. We are the largest group of free civil legal services attorneys that help NYC homeowners by:

- Representing homeowners in court-mandated settlement conferences
- Providing legal advice and pro se assistance to homeowners through court-based clinics
- Helping clients negotiate home-saving solutions
- Advocating for fair lending rules, and for better enforcement of laws protecting consumers from predatory practices

CLIENT SUCCESS STORY

Ms. M, a 68-year-old Black homeowner, fell one month behind on her mortgage when she had to pay for her sister's funeral expenses. For one year, her mortgage company continued to accept her payments, but then her servicing was transferred to a new company. The new mortgage company refused to accept Ms. M's payments unless she could catch up on the one missed payment. For three years, Ms. M tried to negotiate with her lender, but it refused to work with her even though she had sufficient income and was caring for her husband, who suffered from Alzheimer's disease. After being sued in foreclosure, Ms. M was able to connect with Brooklyn Legal Services, who helped her negotiate a modification with a lower interest rate and more affordable monthly payment, saving her \$300 per month on her housing expenses and allowing her family to remain in their home.

CONTACT US

Homeowners can talk to an LSNYC foreclosure advocate by contacting our citywide access line at 917-661-4500. For more information about our services, you can reach our leadership team, listed below.

Citywide: Jacob Inwald
Citywide Director of Foreclosure Prevention
jinwald@lsnyc.org

Bronx: Alexis Lorenzo
Director, Bronx Foreclosure Prevention/Community Economic Development Unit
alorenzo@lsnyc.org

Brooklyn: Shabnam Faruki
Intern Director, Brooklyn Foreclosure Prevention Project
shfaruki@lsnyc.org

Queens: Christopher Newton
Acting Director, Queens Homeownership and Consumer Rights Project
cnewton@lsnyc.org

Staten Island: Sara Munnugh
Director, Staten Island Homeowner Defense Project
smunnugh@lsnyc.org

CONTACT US FOR FREE LEGAL HELP AT 917-661-4500

4. Project Hospitality provides a wide range of services to our communities. From vaccinations to mental health guidance to help to apply for rental assistance. See flyers below for more information.

Free COVID-19 Vaccine and Testing Every Month

ID and Insurance Not Required

Choose Pfizer for age 12+, 2 doses
or Johnson & Johnson for age 18+, 1 dose

June - September 2021
Weather Permitting

It's Free!

Every First Tuesday (June 1, July 6, Aug 3, Sept 7)
Help Center: 514 Bay St. Staten Island, NY 10304
9am-1pm

Every Third Thursday (June 17, July 15, Aug 19, Sept 16)
Help Center: 221 Heberton Ave. Staten Island, NY 10302
3pm-7pm

Second and Fourth Tuesdays
(June 8, 22, July 13, 27, Aug 10, 24, Sept 14, 28)
El Centro del Inmigrante
260 Port Richmond Ave. SI, NY 10302
4pm-7pm

Walk-In or Schedule an Apt.
For more info call:
929-202-1492



Need to talk?



NY Project Hope
Coping with COVID

Feeling uncertain, overwhelmed, anxious during COVID?



Here to talk | Here to listen | Here to support

We provide . . .

- 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 Mental Health
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.

DO I QUALIFY?

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, incurred significant costs or experienced financial hardship, directly or indirectly, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 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 overdue electric or gas bills. Please note, payments will always be issued directly to the landlord or utility provider.

HOW CAN I APPLY?

Applications can be submitted online beginning June 1.

Local Community Organization Information:



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

Office of Temporary
and Disability Assistance

(Rev 05/21)

5. 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.](#)

- 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@lespcu.org or apply directly online on their **[website.](#)**
 - TruFund, **[click here for an application](#)** or email Mark Brazier (English) at MBrazier@trufund.org or Marcos Reyes (Spanish) at mreyes@trufund.org.

Useful Events and Opportunities

1. **Port Richmond Food Festival. Free Event for kids, families, and seniors. Saturday, July 31, 2021. 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Veterans Park. See flyer for more information.**



2. You can join your community at the annual National Night Out Tuesday, August 3, 2021 4:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. at Midland Beach (Bet. Hunter Ave & Jefferson Ave on Fr. Capodanno Blvd) Music, Children’s Activities, Resources, Face Painting, Arts and Crafts, FREE Ice Cream, NYPD Crime Prevention safety tips, Rockwall, Free Refreshments, and Hot Dogs grilled by NYPD officers.

3. The Central Family Life Center is now accepting applications for their free Career Training Programs. Call (718) 273-8414 ext.8 and see flyer below for more information.

4. **Stapleton Saturdays beginning June 12th - August 28th. 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Van Duzer St will be closed to traffic for summer activities.**

Public Notice:
 → **Stapleton Saturdays!** ←




On Saturdays from June 12 - Aug 28, 11 AM to 5 PM, Van Duzer Street will be closed to car traffic between Wright St and Beach St! Why?...

 Live Music	 Yoga and meditation
 Face Painting	 Art classes
 Balloon Animals	 And more!

Questions? Comments?
 info@vanduzercivic.org
 or PO Box 40666, SI, NY, 10304




5. [NYC will pay youth \\$1,200 to take online courses this summer. Visit NeON's official site for more information.](#)
6. **Meditation on the lawn at Clear Comfort. On August 16th at 1:00 PM** you can attend free meditation sessions. Bring a yoga mat, water, and towel. See flyer for more information.



MEDITATION
on the Lawn
 at Clear Comfort

Join us this summer for **FREE** meditation sessions on the lawn of Clear Comfort at 1PM. Please bring a yoga mat, water and a towel.

Monday 1PM | June 14 • July 12 • Aug. 16

 **Alice Austen House**
 2 Hylan Boulevard
 Staten Island, NY 10305
NO PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

In case of inclement weather, cancellations will be posted on Be Yoga & Dance's social media: [f](#) [i](#) [t](#) [@BEYOGADANCE](#)
 For more information, contact Be Yoga & Dance via email (beyogadance@gmail.com) or call (718-981-0010)

7. **NYC Parks is looking for volunteers to join Monday morning clean-up projects. See the flyer below for more information.**

Show your park some love and join a Monday Morning Pitch-In!

New York City's parks are being used more than ever before as a result of the pandemic, which often means more litter. You can help!

NYC Parks is looking for volunteers to join Monday morning clean-up projects to help pick up trash after a busy summer weekend. Projects typically last three to four hours and NYC Parks provides all supplies.

Your invaluable help will make parks cleaner, safer, and greener for our families, pets, friends, and neighbors. To sign up, visit nyc.gov/parks/stoplitter.

JOIN A MONDAY MORNING PITCH-IN AT:

Clove Lakes Park, Staten Island
Meet at the parking lot. Dates: June 7, June 28, July 19, August 9, and August 30.

Willowbrook Park, Staten Island
Meet at the comfort station. Dates: June 7, June 28, July 19, August 9, and August 30.

Bloomingdale Park, Staten Island
Meet at the comfort station. Dates: June 14, July 6, July 26, August 16, and September 7.

Time: 9a.m. -12p.m.

Please note: Monday Morning Pitch-Ins will take place on the Tuesday following a Monday holiday.

For more information contact askmyPark@dcfny.parks.foundation.org



8. Attention working parents. The District 31 Parent Working Group recently created a Parent/Guardian Survey pertaining to the current school year and plans for the 2021-2022 school year. They are interested in hearing from everyone, so all voices are heard. [Click here to take the survey.](#)

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**

If you would like to unsubscribe and stop receiving emails from this Assemblymember [click here](#).