

WOODSIDE HERALD

SERVING SUNNYSIDE-WOODSIDE AND LONG ISLAND CITY

VOL. 88 NO. 2

WOODSIDE, L.I.C., N.Y. FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2021

FREE



BUILDING MOMENTUM FOR NEW YORK HERO ACT

Bill Would Mandate Enforceable Safety Standards in Workplaces and Establish Worker Safety Committees to Monitor and Report Compliance

Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris and Assembly Member Karines Reyes announced the New York HERO Act (S.1034), a critical bill requiring businesses to have enforceable safety standards to prevent further spread of the coronavirus, has 15 co-sponsors across the Senate and Assembly. The state legislature began their annual session this week.

Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris said, "Too many workers have already sacrificed their health for our community's benefit. The New York HERO Act will honor their efforts by giving workers the tools to protect themselves while on the job. I appreciate the support for this proposal from my colleagues in both houses."

The NY HERO Act, or the New York Health and Essential Rights Act, would require the Departments of Labor and Health to implement enforceable minimum standards for workplace safety. The regulations must include protocols on testing, PPE, social distancing, hand hygiene, disinfection, and engineering controls. Employers would be permitted to establish individual regulations for their businesses that exceed state requirements.

Workers would also be given a direct role in monitoring and reporting violations through workplace health and safety committees that would be empowered to raise complaints and report violations. The bill would protect employees from retaliation for utilizing their rights under the law.

The NY HERO Act is supported by more than 100 labor, community, and safety organizations.

Senate co-sponsors include Senate Labor Committee Chair Jessica Ramos and Senators Brian Benjamin, Andrew Gounardes, Robert Jackson, Rachel May, Julia Salazar, James Sanders, and Diane Savino

Assembly co-sponsors include Assembly Members Chris Burdick, Carmen De La Rosa, Richard Gottfried, Donna Lupardo, Michael Montesano, Nily Rozic, and Rebecca Seawright.



Hunters Point Civic/Long Island City Astoria Lions Club was worried they wouldn't be able to do their annual food drive this year, but thanks to so many people, not only did they, they were able to collect and deliver a little over 4000 pounds of food and critical items to our local food pantries. Deliveries were made through last week.

This year the food went to the food pantries of Hour Children, Inc. in Long Island City and the food pantry at the Mosaic West Queens. "Thank you to our partners at Long Island City Astoria Lions Club, all the drivers, all the building managers, especially Emerald Guild and Hibernia Provident Society, Padded Wagon - all who helped us get boxes in buildings and all those who contributed. Special thank you Alyssa Rodriguez, Karesia Batan, William Sadd, Denis Venturino, Brian Clements, Carli Braithwaite, Diana Manalang, Dr Laura, Kirmayer and Quinn, Seth G. Slade, Kathleen Warnock, Sofia Marmonstein, Simon Heron, Rob Basch, Clodagh Fraccari, Sarah Kam, William Jourdain, and Lollys Learning.



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EXTENSION PROGRAM
COVID RENT RELIEF

The COVID Rent Relief Extension Program new application period will be open from Friday, December 18th through Monday, Feb. 1, 2021. The program will provide eligible households with a one-time rental subsidy that will be sent directly to the household’s landlord. Applicants will not need to repay this assistance. Applications will be accepted throughout the application period. HCR will prioritize eligible households with “greatest economic and social need.”
To apply, please visit <https://hcr.ny.gov/rfp>.

NYS HOMES AND
COMMUNITY RENEWAL

APPLICATIONS FOR COVID RENT RELIEF PROGRAM
ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [HTTPS://HCR.NY.GOV/RRP](https://hcr.ny.gov/rfp)

Previous applications do not have to reapply to receive consideration. NYS Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) announced the COVID Rent Relief Program will be reopened for application with expanded eligibility criteria in an effort to serve New Yorkers who may have not had the opportunity to initially apply and those who may have been previously ineligible. Applications will be accepted through Monday, February 1, 2021. Residents who need help or have questions about their application can contact HCR’s COVID Rent Relief Program Call center for assistance at 1-833-499-0318 or email covidrentrelief@hcr.ny.gov.



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writers
wanted

VOLUNTEER POSITION

YOU ARE NOT ALONE
WE ARE HERE TO HELP.

QDA's Domestic Violence Helpline
(718) 286-4410

NYC Domestic Violence Hotline
1 (800) 621-HOPE

If you have access to the internet
but cannot make a telephone call:
<http://safehorizon.org/safechat> is available
Monday through Friday from 9:00AM to 6:00PM



MELINDA KATZ
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

VOLUNTEER WRITERS WANTED
TO COVER LOCAL STORIES
Looking for coverage of community events
and community outreach stories
Ssabba@woodsideherald.com

WOODSIDE HERALD
43-11 Greenpoint Ave., Sunnyside, NY 11104
Telephone (718) 729-3772

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A TALE OF TESTING

by Dr. Sharon M. Cadiz

I have become nostalgic for the times when I could walk a couple of blocks and find a COVID testing site without lines and complete with a ready group of individuals prepared to administer the test for free. Even as time passed and the site mysteriously closed seemingly because people rarely went there, I was still able to find another place for testing at Riis Center in Queensbridge. Next, I was surprised to find testing available on the grounds of the former Sports Authority on Northern Blvd. in Woodside and went there with ease to have tests done on two separate occasions following a brief waiting time. Well, it seems that the “golden age” of easy COVID 19 testing has passed and we are in the stage that begs the question; “*Do you feel lucky?*”

I am, by nature, a resourceful and optimistic person; however, for the entire month of December I was frustrated by the challenges and impediments to getting tested. The familiar Northern Blvd. testing site has become one endless line of people waiting for their turn. For young people or doggedly determined individuals without other options, this might be doable, but for me it is a barrier to care.

My husband and I got lucky in November when we happened to spy a “pop-up” testing site on the corner of Broadway and 46th Street. We never found it again, so my search began as I saw lines forming *everywhere* including City MD and other urgent care facilities throughout the holiday season. Then I was introduced to the “walk-in” versus “appointment” distinctions that further puzzled me adding to my lingering feelings of frustration. When I walked into an urgent care site, I was told that testing was by “appointment only.” Being stunned by disbelief about how unlucky I felt, I simply left without requesting an appointment.

Another change in the process was the fact that now I needed to give my insurance information to receive the test. One Saturday while on a local shopping trip, I saw a sign that seemed to be the answer to a prayer. It boasted that they provided free testing with rapid results. I wrote down the address that took me to what appeared to be a medical or laboratory setting. There were people milling about outside, so I stood with them until one person said, “You have to go inside to sign the list.” So I promptly went inside where I saw two people seated behind a reception desk. I was told to sign in. At the time, it was about 1:20pm and I was told to return at 3:00pm. Nervously, I asked do I come inside when I come back and the person said: “Yes.” One would assume that I had just made an appointment. I returned at 3:00pm, made my presence known and was told to wait outside with the others who, by this time, had been divided into two lines; one for “walk-ins” and one for “appointments.” Although one should never assume, I took the plunge and assumed that I had an appointment. It was only after standing outside for about an hour behind a disgruntled young man who lamented that he was trying to be seen since 11:30am, that I went inside to discover that I, in fact, did not have an appointment and was considered a “walk-in.” Furthermore, I was told that my wait time could not be determined.

Since that fateful day, I have explored other leads, even one that I got from checking *nyc.gov* for local testing sites. This led me to a nearby pharmacy. I called ahead and was told that there was only one

person in front of me. I rushed over and when I arrived I was told that the next available appointment was two weeks away and that rapid testing could be done for \$60. I left this scene with a feeling of failure, once again. This past Friday, as I struggled to re-energize my search, I saw a comprehensive list of local testing sites and I used it to form a new plan of attack. I considered going to Elmhurst Hospital, but I saw a photo that pictured another instance of long lines. I opted instead to travel with my husband and two friends on Saturday to go to the LaGuardia Airport parking lot testing site. We were excited to think that we might finally be able to get tested. As we pulled into the parking lot, we saw a very long line and when we inquired about the wait, a security guard told us: “It’s about a two hour wait.” Our collective hopes were dashed by this news because none of us could see ourselves standing in line for that length of time, which likely would be even longer.

When Monday, January 4th arrived, I got on the telephone to call my primary care physician for an appointment and COVID testing. I was given an appointment for January 26th and told that they only did the “antibody” test. Well, I have an appointment, so I feel like something was accomplished. At that point, after unsuccessfully trying to get an appointment for COVID testing at the Floating Hospital presumably because there are many locations, my husband suggested that I call “311” which I did. A wonderful operator named Elliot outlined a process for getting results that he himself “tested,” and I was elated. I felt an immediate feeling of support because he seemed to understand my plight. He clearly wanted to help. We reviewed the process and when it was clear that I “got it,” he let me know that if I had any trouble, I could call back for help. I followed his instructions; got the number to the Floating Hospital; spoke to a kind scheduler and I am pleased to say that she gave me an appointment for Wednesday, January 6th.

I have shared my personal story of COVID testing to illuminate the fact that there is a need to problem solve this maze of confusion about testing and access. When demand was low, there were many more sites. Now that the demand is high, there are fewer sites. Also, there seems to be no accommodation for seniors or vulnerable populations in need of testing. Finally, as a neighbor of mine captured it, the COVID 19 response has been a political response, not a public health one. As we enter a new phase related to vaccinations, I believe that we will probably face challenges similar to what I have described. Let’s call for solutions and better ways to manage what is already a stressful situation. If you are in need of navigation through the testing process, I gladly offer some of the help I received from “311.” Use the number 855-48 on your cell phone and text COVID TEST (all capital letters). A list of testing sites will be sent to your phone after you provide some basic information and your zip code. The Floating Hospital located at 41-43 Crescent Street seemed to be the most convenient, so I called for an appointment. You can also reach them directly by calling 718-784-2240, ext. 107. I am sending you my best wishes for health and success in your efforts to get tested. I refrain from wishing you “good luck” because this kind of help should not be based on *luck*.





PODCAST

The Divine Spark

Available at

- Apple
- Spotify
- Stitcher
- Buzzsprout
- Podcast Addict
- Podchaser

- Deezer
- Listen Notes
- COMING SOON
- Google Podcast
- iHeart Radio
- Pandora

IN-CHURCH SERVICES
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SUNNYSIDE, N.Y. 11104



DISCARDING YOUR HOLIDAY TREE FOR MULCHING

Sanitation: Curbside collection Jan. 4 - 15.
Take decorations off. Do not wrap.

Sites below: Drop off your tree till Jan. 9
Blue below: Same, plus chipping Sat. Jan. 9
(bring bag to take home mulch)

Queensbridge Park
Vernon Blvd. & Queensbridge Park Greenway

Windmill Community Garden
39-22 29th Street

Sunnyside Gardens

Woodside
Windmiller Park
Lawrence Virgilio Playground
34th Drive & 54th St.

Hunter's Point South Park
51st Avenue and Center Blvd.
Sat. Jan. 9 chipping

Travers Park
78th St. & 34th Ave
Sat. Jan. 9 chipping

Weather permitting, DSNY will collect clean Christmas trees through Friday, January 15, 2021.

HOLIDAY TREE MULCHING

Trees are chipped, mixed with leaves and recycled into rich compost for NYC’s parks, institutions, and community gardens. Remove all lights, ornaments, tinsel, stands and plastic bags from your tree.

ARTIFICIAL TREES


Donate or sell used artificial trees in good condition at donateNYC.
Or, if possible, take apart your tree to recycle the base and trunk (pole) with your metal, glass, plastic and cartons. Remove all lights, ornaments and tinsel before placing at the curb.
Otherwise, set it out as garbage on regular collection day(s). If the tree is greater than 4 feet, you should make a bulk pick-up appointment. To schedule a bulk pick-up appointment, visit the Bulk Item Disposal page or call 311.

MAKE YOUR OWN MULCH

Use evergreen boughs and branches from your Christmas tree as mulch to enrich the soil in your garden or street tree beds. Just cut off the smaller branches of your Christmas tree and remove the twigs from evergreen boughs. Lay three to four inches of these trimmings over the bare soil around street trees or in your garden. After removing the branches for mulch, you can take your tree to MulchFest or leave it out for our collection.

MulchFest


Remove all ornaments, lights, tinsel, and stands from natural trees and take them to MulchFest for free chipping.



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Hours

Tues.	10-7
Thurs.	12-7
Wed. / Fri. / Sat.	10-5


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718-672-3421
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EAT LOCAL THIS YEAR AND
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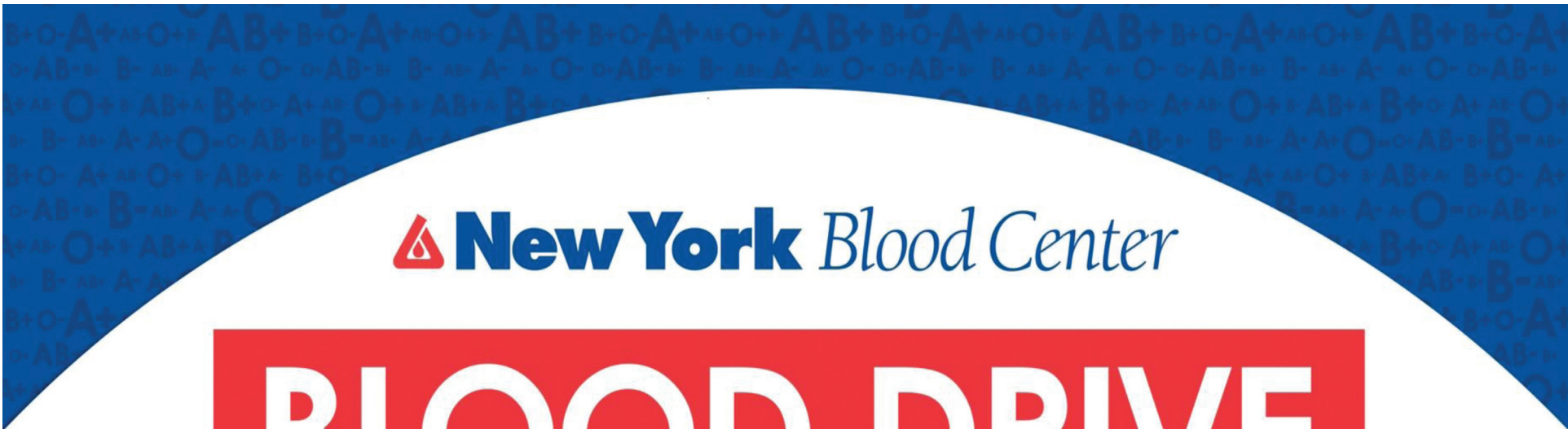
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BLOOD DRIVE

To remain in compliance with the federal guidelines for social distancing
APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED Walk-ins welcome if drive capacity permits.



SUNNYSIDE COMMUNITY SERVICES

January 28, 2021
9am – 3pm

43-31 39th Street
Sunnyside, NY 11104
Queens

DO YOUR PART, NYC!
learn about our SWEEPSTAKES



#GIVEBLOODNYC





DONORS PRESENTING:

- Must wear a mask or face covering
- Will have their temperature taken
- Must be 14 days symptom free if recovered from COVID-19

- May **NOT** donate if they have a positive diagnostic test or experienced symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 14 days
- May **NOT** donate if they are currently on self-quarantine restrictions per NYS guidelines

Please be aware that we **do NOT test for COVID-19**. You should contact your health care provider if you want to be tested.

www.nybc.org/coronavirus

1.800.933.2566



CON EDISON

SMELL GAS. ACT FAST.

1. **SMELL**- Natural gas smells like rotten eggs.
2. **GAS**- If gas is in the air, a spark could cause an explosion. Don't light a match, smoke, flip a switch, ring a doorbell or touch appliances or electronics including phones.
3. **RUN**- If you suspect a gas leak, get everyone out immediately.
4. **CALL**- When you're safe, call 911, Con Edison (1-800-75-CONED) or National Grid (1-718-643-4050)
Don't assume someone else has already called. You can report leaks anonymously. www.coned.com/gassafety

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Health and Hospitals hiring 500 non-clerical staff to help with patient transport, clerical work and cleaning. No medical background is required and hiring will be expanded to thousands soon. Please visit www.nyc.gov/getwork for more information and to apply.

NYC.GOV FOOD ASSISTANCE


Visit www.NYC.gov/GetFood for COVID-19 food assistance resources. Visit www.FoodHealpNYC to find a location near your home distributing meals for free, including food pantries and Grab & Go meals at NYC Schools, available for all children or adults in need.

COVID BURIAL ASSISTANCE

The Human Resources Administration will provide financial assistance to individuals in need of assistance to meet funeral expenses. www1.nyc.gov/HRA

SUNNYSIDE & WOODSIDE MUTUAL AID FOOD PANTRIES

SATURDAY BETWEEN 1-2:30PM
Rain or Shine! Please spread the word!
LOTS OF NUTRITIOUS PRODUCE!
- 46th Street-Bliss station, - 61st Street station
- Woodside Houses (49th & Broadway)



Please join

Community District Education Council 30

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

VIRTUAL KNOW YOUR RIGHTS FORUM
5:30PM
Learn about immigrants' rights, along with various services that are available to the community!

Virtual Calendar & Business Meetings
6:30PM

School Construction Authority
Briefing on the Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2020 – 2024 Five Year Capital Plan

District Planning
District 30 Needs and Priorities

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://zoom.us/j/99686138915?pwd=bHZEZ1Z3S3dXMHh5UE9CZm5PTjVXQT09>
Passcode: 586983

Telephone:
Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):
US: +1 646 876 9923 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 408 638 0968 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782
Webinar ID: 996 8613 8915
Passcode: 586983

Spanish Interpretation: Call [+1 347-966-4114](tel:+13479664114), Conference ID: 458 258 92#

Selfhelp

Stuck at Home? Join an Online Community

Selfhelp's Virtual Senior Center (VSC) connects older adults to live, interactive online classes from the comfort of their home.



CONNECT with new friends online, learn and discuss new things, and explore what the internet has to offer

PARTICIPATE in stimulating classes on exercise, art, history, current events, music, museum tours, and more!


ENJOY a flexible class schedule offered 7 days/week, 365 days/year including holidays

- Relieves boredom & decreases isolation
- Must own tablet/computer with video chat features + internet access
- Easy-to-use website
- Remote computer & set up support available

Sign up today!
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Contact: Foon Tong ftong@selfhelp.net | <http://vscm.selfhelp.net>



Office of Assemblymember Brian Barnwell

BENEFITS FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

Army Fee Assistance (AFA)

- Army Fee Assistance (AFA) was created to assist qualifying Army Sponsors with the cost of off-post child care, allowing families to pay fees comparable to those charged at an installation.
- The benefit is available to children from birth through 12 years of age.
- Children must be enrolled in child care for a minimum of 16 hours per week in order to qualify for AFA.
- The AFA will be paid directly to the Sponsor's child care provider.
- For more information:
 - Call Child Care Aware of America at: 1-800-424-2246
 - Or visit their website at: <https://www.childcareaware.org/fee-assistancerespite/military-families/army/>

Operation Military Child Care

- The National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (NACCRRRA) can assist with child care program fees for civilian child care centers, family child care homes, and after-school programs.
- This program is for families/child guardians of National Guard & Reserve Service Members who are activated/deployed families/child Guardians of deployed Active Duty Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines who are unable to access child care on military installations during the deployment period and for 60 days after the return of the Military Parent.
- For more information:
 - Call 1-800-424-2246
 - Or visit: <https://www.childcareaware.org/>

ID Cards

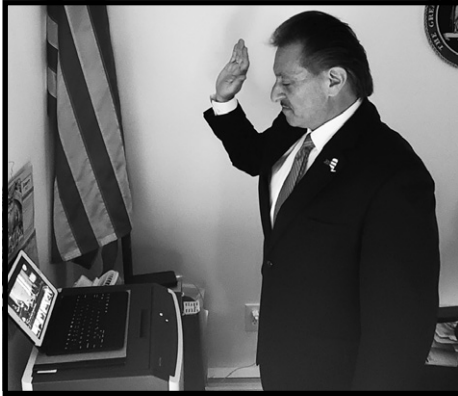
- Spouses and eligible children should be enrolled in Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS) for benefits such as:
 - Speeding up authorization of Tricare during mobilization or periods of active duty of more than 30 days;
 - Shopping at any U.S. Military Post Exchange/Base Exchange;
 - Use of military services such as guest housing and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) discounts.
- For more information:
 - Visit: <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/>

Financial Assistance

- American Red Cross
 - Can provide financial assistance to eligible applicants 24/7/365 for things such as emergency travel, burial of a loved one, emergency food, emergency shelter, etc.
- Call 1-877-272-7337
- Or visit: <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/military-families/financial-assistance.html>

For more information...

- Visit: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/veterans/index.page>
- More resources available for veterans and military families.




SWORN IN FOR 7TH TERM

On Tuesday, January 6, 2021, State Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr. was virtually sworn in via Zoom for his 7th term as State Senator representing the 15th District.

OPTIMISM AFTER ACCEPTANCE OF MOBILE SPORTS BETTING

“It is encouraging to hear that Governor Cuomo will embrace mobile sports betting in his State of the State Address. By legalizing mobile sports betting, New York will be able to reap the benefits of the economic gains it will create and help the state rebuild after the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to increasing educational funding, addressing illegal activity in the state and assisting those with gaming addictions. I look forward to working with the Governor and his office to efficiently implement mobile sports betting for the people of New York,” said Senator Addabbo.



PAID SICK TIME is now available

The Assembly Majority established paid sick leave for New Yorkers in the 2020-21 State Budget.

The law requires employers with five or more employees or with a net income of more than \$1 million to provide paid sick leave to employees and for employers with fewer than five employees and a net income of \$1 million or less to provide unpaid sick leave to employees.

Covered employees began accruing sick leave on September 30, 2020, at a rate of one hour for every 30 hours worked. As of January 1, 2021, employees may use this accrued leave.

Who's eligible?

All private-sector employees in New York State are covered, regardless of industry, occupation, part-time status, and overtime exempt status.

For more information on eligibility, permitted use of time or other related issues, please visit ny.gov/programs/new-york-paid-sick-leave



WE'RE OPEN AND HERE TO SERVE OUR QUEENS COMMUNITY

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The demand at local food pantries will grow as 2021 begins. Already, supplies run out before the end of the lines. So, instead of collecting for winter street lights & festival this year, we decided to donate to four local food pantries. Join us! Any amount is welcome! We are glad to still be here and for our own daily bread. Donate today! ❤️



- ❤️ St. Teresa's Food Pantry, led by Norberto Saldana
- ❤️ St. Raphael's Food Pantry, led by Richard O'Connor
- ❤️ Mosaic Covenant Church Pantry led by Sofia Moncayo
- ❤️ Sunnyside Community Services' two pop-up pantries, on 39th St. and Woodside Houses.

SCS receives no \$ for food pantries. Support so far is from their own staffers and board.

Donate on line at: tinyurl.com/yaf2yg93 This link will be posted on Sunnyside-Chamber.org homepage. Or, checks should be drafted to "Sunnyside Chamber of Commerce" with a notation for "Food Fund," and mailed to Sunnyside Chamber, P.O. Box 4129, Sunnyside, NY 11104.

OTHER WAYS TO HELP: Join the Food Fund committee. Contact Howard Brickman, team leader, at HLBrick@aol.com, Manny Gomez at 718-909-4806, Melissa Orlando at info@accessqueens.com, Oumaya Saab at SunnysideArtists@gmail.com, Mike Vaz at mikejvaz@hotmail.com, Pat Dorfman at atpdpictures@earthlink.net. To be a major sponsor on this poster, contact any of the above.

