

Kew Gardens Civic Association

"A COMMUNITY IS WHAT ITS CITIZENS MAKE IT"



SAVE THE DATE!!!

**112TH ANNUAL
KGCA MEETING**

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COMPLICATED
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SAVE THE DATE!!!

**5TH ANNUAL KGCA
LAWN & DRIVEWAY SALE**

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

A lot has changed since our last newsletter not least a transition to a new mayor and administration with a new focus and priorities from the previous mayor and administration.

Mayor Mamdani came into office on a platform of free buses, universal free pre-K child care and frozen rents. All of this was to be paid for by increasing income taxes on the wealthy and on corporations and businesses doing business in the city. However, raising those taxes requires the consent of the state legislature and Governor Hochul has said that she is not in favor of raising taxes. If the legislature and the governor decide not to increase taxes, the mayor must find an alternate source of funding.

The mayor has said that without income tax increases he will be forced to raise property taxes by almost 10 percent. The City Council must agree to raise property taxes and the new Speaker of the Council, Julie Menin, has said that she doesn't want to do it without a hard look at possible savings in the current

PRESIDENT'S LETTER (CONTINUED)

budget. The new Comptroller, Mark Levine (former Manhattan Borough President), has also said the city should look to trim expenses before reflexively raising taxes. All of this is complicated by the fact that there is a budget deficit this year of what seems to have settled in as a \$5 billion figure reflecting decisions made by the Adams administration. The state legislature has funded that deficit for this year but deficits in future years are almost certain and will have to be addressed. Albany may not come to the rescue again.

We remained concerned about two holdover actions from the previous administration. First. Mayor Adams City of Yes program to basically wipe out one-family zoning is still in effect. And second, revisions to the city charter passed in November give the mayor and the heads of mayoral agencies virtually unlimited control over rezoning in effect stripping the City Council of any meaningful right of review. Giving any mayor this kind of power should give us pause. Further, in this newsletter there is an update on two lawsuits filed by KGCA, the Queens Civic Congress and various individuals against City of Yes and the charter revisions.

Finally, this is an election year for federal offices. All of the members of the House of Representatives are running for election or re-election. That includes our Congressman Gregory Meeks. Neither of New York's senators is up for re-election this year.

We urge you to support the KGCA to keep informed on the key issues impacting Kew Gardens and so we can keep fighting for you as we have done since 1914!

Come join us.

Dominick Pistone, President

UPDATE ON LAWSUITS AGAINST CITY OF YES AND CITY CHARTER REVISIONS

KGCA, the Queens Civic Congress, and various other organizations and individuals (collectively the "Coalition") filed lawsuits against the City of New York over the City of Yes legislation and the 2025 City Charter ballot questions. At its base, the point of the lawsuits is that the City failed to follow proper procedures, including implementing required reviews before 1) passing the City of Yes and 2) putting the Charter Revisions on the ballot.

In the fall of 2025 two different judges, Jeffrey Pearlman in the Charter Revisions lawsuit and Lisette Colon in the City of Yes lawsuit, found in favor of the city. However, the attorneys for the Coalition thought that these decisions were in error and there were grounds for appeal to the Appellate Division.

As of July 2025, the Coalition owed its attorneys \$77,000 and it owed two expert witnesses, both experienced city planners, a total of \$18,000. The city planners have put their payment in abeyance until the appeals are filed. The attorneys will do both appeals pro bono if they are paid for their past work. (This does not include anything for the initial lawsuit against the Charter Revisions which was done pro bono by the attorneys).

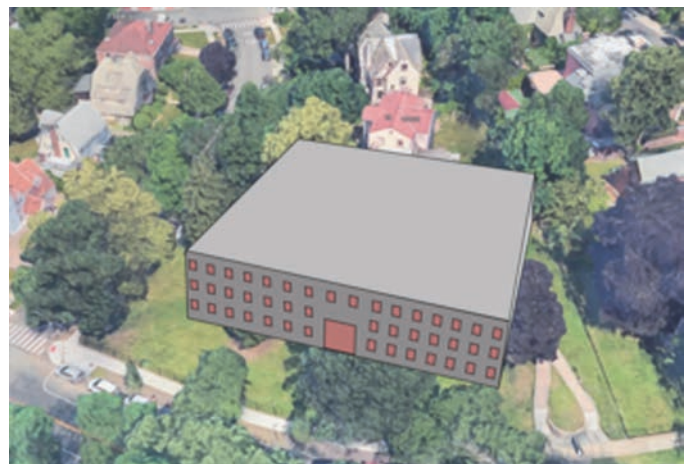
The Coalition attorneys will file the Charter Revision appeal in early April and intend to file the City of Yes appeal in early May. The coalition has so far raised \$61,000 towards the fees owed to the attorneys and needs \$16,000 more to retire the legal debt. While \$77,000 seems like a lot of money, and it is, for the legal work involved in two lower court trials and two appeals to the next level, it is not that much. Given the current administration and makeup of the City Council, revising or eliminating City of Yes and the Charter Revisions is not going to happen. So, litigation is our only hope of stopping them.

Please send a check to help with these appeals, Make your check payable to **Queens Civic Congress**. In the memo line write "Appeals" or "City of Yes Appeals"

Mail to: Queens Civic Congress
c/o Jim Trent, Treasurer
242-33 90th Avenue
Bellerose, NY 11426

Contributions are not tax-deductible.

Please remember: As we have said several times, many of the houses in Kew Gardens have restrictive covenants limiting construction to one family houses. These covenants protect those properties from multifamily housing per the City of Yes. Please look in your deed for any language that restricts use of your property to single family houses. If you find it, please send us a copy. If you are unsure of the language in your deed, send it to us and we will examine for you. Understanding your deed is key to protecting your property.



MAILING IN BALLOTS IS GETTING COMPLICATED

By Dominick Pistone

In a statement dated January 2, 2026, the United States Post Office set out to explain the postmark as it relates to mail-in voting. In sum, a postmark is not necessarily affixed on the same day that you drop off your mail at the post office. This is true even if you do it before "last pickup". Postmarks are affixed mechanically at post office processing centers which may not be the originating post office. For example, this happened to me: a letter from Montpelier, Vermont took five days to arrive, but the postmark wasn't Montpelier, it was Hartford, Connecticut. Evidently there is no processing center in Vermont, so mail is batched up and sent to Hartford for processing. The postmark is the date the mail was processed, NOT the date the mail was dropped off. Mail is no longer hand-cancelled at the local post office. In fact, according to the Post Office statement, the Post Office

does not postmark all mail in the ordinary course of operations. In addition, the postmark was never meant to “prove” anything. It only records the date the office took custody of the mail as well as serving to cancel stamps.

THIS IMPACTS MAIL-IN BALLOTS IF YOU WANT TO ENSURE YOUR VOTE IS COUNTED

So, what do you do if the actual date of mailing is important, as is the case for tax returns or mail-in ballots? If you want a postmark that is the same date as the date you mail your piece, then go to the post office and ask at the counter for the postmark to be manually affixed.

Alternatively, if you want proof of mailing you can send the mail Certified and request a return receipt. This costs a lot more than just a stamp, but it can be worthwhile if proof of mailing by a certain date AND proof of receipt is important. It becomes important with taxing authorities like the IRS where you are wrong until you prove you are right or, guilty until proven innocent. In that case it helps to have proof of mailing and proof of receipt in case of any dispute over whether you filed on time or filed at all.

In summary: if date of mailing is important have it hand postmarked at the post office. If you need to retain proof of the date of mailing, bite the bullet and send it certified with a return receipt.

KEW GARDENS 2026 CIVIC REPORT CARD

Advocating for Kew Gardens with our elected and appointed officials is one of the ways that the KGCA supports our community. The following is a report card on how our electeds have staked positions on various areas of concern to Kew Gardens as well as their responsiveness to the KGCA.

Officials	Kew Gardens Issues			Responsiveness to KGCA**
	Construction of Borough Based Jails	Rehabilitation of Lefferts Blvd Bridge	City of Yes Legislation	
Mayor Zohran Mamdani	Avid Supporter	-	Fully supports	TBD
Mayoral Agencies	Very Poor	-	-	Mixed***
City Council President Julie Menin	Supporter	-	Fully supports	TBD
Comptroller Mark Levine	Avid Supporter	-	Fully supports	TBD
Borough President Donovan Richards	Avid Supporter	Limited	Fully supports	Mixed
Councilmember Lynn Schulman	Vocal opponent	Very Supportive	Voted: For - Economic Bill Against - Housing Bill	Excellent
State Senator Leroy Comrie	[Not a State issue]	Excellent	[Not a State issue]	Excellent
Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi	[Not a State issue]	Supportive	[Not a State issue]	Good
Congressman Greg Meeks	[Not a State issue]	Supportive	[Not a State issue]	Excellent
Community Board 9	-	-	-	Excellent

** Responsiveness to KGCA includes willingness to meet and have in depth discussions, timely returning emails and phone calls, understanding of community issues, and responsiveness to community concerns and complaints. *** **Good** – NYPD 102nd Precinct, Parks Department, **Poor** – Department of Transportation, Department of Buildings, Mayors Office of Community Affairs, Department of Design and Construction, Deputy Mayors

DESPERATE TIMES FOR COOPS

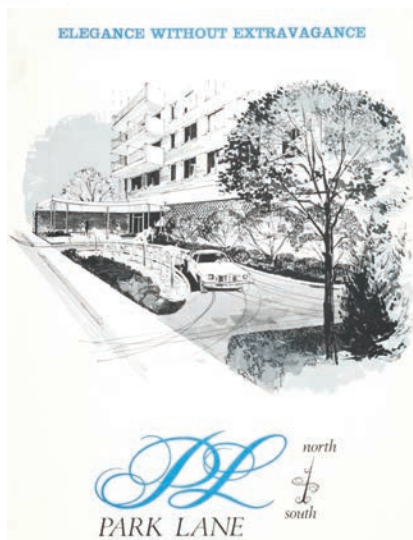
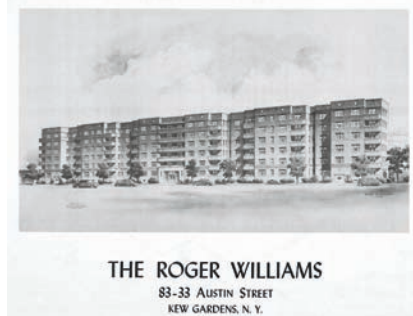
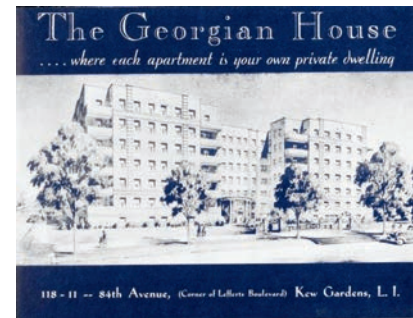
By Andrea Crawford

Cooperative housing corporations (coops) in New York City face numerous financial challenges. The year 2026 presents significant hurdles, including escalating maintenance costs, aging infrastructure (such as Hampton Court, which is 90 years old), and the high expenses associated with complying with unfunded Local Law 97's decarbonization mandates which requires all buildings to significantly reduce carbon output by 2030, or face escalating fines. Additionally, there is a looming threat of a nearly 10% property increase, which could result in tens of thousands of additional costs. These challenges are further compounded by rising insurance rates, substantial debt service on underlying mortgages and lines of credit, and the necessity of undertaking major capital projects due to the aforementioned factors. All of these factors strain shareholder budgets, necessitating substantial maintenance increases and assessments. This does not even take into account a 32BJ strike, the union that covers doormen, porters, and superintendents/resident managers, that may happen when the contract expires midnight April 20, 2026, and how much the new contract adds to maintenance costs!

Many coops have successfully completed the initial phase of the 2019 law (registering and making annual filings from which grades are assigned), and are now focused on the second phase, which involves potential electrification and/or even further reductions in carbon emissions by 2050. Of note, many coops have made the decision that it is cheaper to pay the fines then invest in systems that reduce carbon output. The financial implications of this transition remain a significant concern. It is important to note that coops are self-sustaining networks of apartment owners who already face high mortgage and maintenance payments. When the government enacted these laws, no financial assistance was provided, and instead, coops were targeted as a class that required regulation.

To address these challenges, coops must develop a comprehensive plan to engage City and State officials and secure specialized low-cost financing. This financial support is crucial for coops to remain financially sound while undertaking the electrification process. Without such support, coops risk financial ruin, or many residents may be forced to sell and move to more affordable areas.

In conclusion, coops must prioritize the development of a plan to engage with relevant authorities and secure financial assistance to achieve the goal of decarbonization. This will enable coops to reach their objectives without facing the financial collapse of middle-class coops, leading to further stratification of NYC, as well as ensuring that living in NYC will be unattainable to the majority of residents. It is for this reason that belonging to the Kew Gardens Civic Association is so important, as we are always stronger as a collective, rather than individual buildings.



THE KEW GARDENS JAIL SAGA CONTINUES....

Design of the Kew Gardens jail building behind Boro Hall continues, with an estimated cost of close to \$4 billion. The Kew Gardens Civic Association believes that the Kew Gardens jail, and the entire Borough-Based Jail concept throughout New York City, will neither serve the interests of the confined population nor the communities that will be seriously impacted by construction and operation of the jails. We have had no success in getting City officials to recognize the flaws in the Borough-Based Jail system. We will continue to press for clarification of multiple issues, but we have concerns that the current administration of Mayor Mamdani will have little interest in stopping the jail designs.



History of the Program - The Borough-Based Jails program, which includes Kew Gardens as one of four proposed jails, was conceived during the de Blasio administration as an alternative to the current jail at Rikers Island. The Borough-Based Jail program is deeply flawed as we have explained in previous newsletters. The program was adopted by the City Council over the objections of the KGCA and most civic associations and Community Boards city wide. Karen Koslowitz, our then Councilperson, was lauded by Mayor de Blasio for her efforts in securing the passage of the Borough Based Jail legislation. The current City estimates for the four jails is \$16 billion, which rises to \$27 billion when including the cost of borrowing. This translates to almost \$7 million per bed in the Kew Gardens facility.

Too Many Inmates for the Proposed Jails - The City Council also passed a law requiring that Rikers Island be closed. The de Blasio administration claimed that all confined individuals would fit into the four high rise Borough Based Jails. The Kew Gardens jail will house approximately 1050 individuals, which includes all women jailed in New York City. All four Borough-Based Jails combined will have a total capacity of approximately 4200 confined individuals. Rikers Island continues to have a confined population of between 6000 and 7000 individuals. Projections made in 2019 that the confined population would fall to below 4000 in the early 2020's did not materialize. No New York City agency or official has explained how the shortfall will be accommodated.

KGCA Questions Go Unanswered by the City - To appease Kew Gardens and our neighboring communities, the design-build team held three public "Community Design Workshops" in 2025. Representatives of KGCA and Community Board 9 attended. The design architects and planners described parklike exterior features focusing on the appearance of the building and portraying the jail and the surrounding streets as an asset to the community. They deflected all inquiries regarding the function of the building, including the fact that there are no actual outdoor recreational spaces for the confined individuals. They also gave inadequate responses to questions such as how will jail transport buses to and from courthouses and building service trucks navigate through our community; where will the over 500 staff persons per day shift park during the workday; and where will the more than 240 cars with government issued free parking placards which now occupy the streets surrounding the jails site go. DDC representatives have referred to the environmental impact statement of 2019 and a technical memorandum of 2024 which concluded that there was ample street parking in the neighborhood. They expect that jail staff, along with visitors including family members and attorneys, will find

street parking or use the new parking garage built in anticipation of the jail, even though the cost to park in the garage is \$9.00 for the first hour and \$20 for 10 hours—the cost is higher than any city-owned parking garage.

Traffic Concerns Ignored - Since the 2019 traffic study and the 2024 memorandum, congestion on the streets of Kew Gardens has increased dramatically. Bike lanes on Queens Boulevard constrict traffic, making the service lanes nearly impassable if there is a delivery in progress.

- All traffic approaching Kew Gardens from the southbound Van Wyck Expressway exits onto Union Turnpike and then reaches the intersection of Union Turnpike and Markwood/Park Lane. That intersection becomes completely clogged during the morning and afternoon rush each day, and traffic has now spilled onto Grenfell Street as drivers try to avoid the intersection.
- Westbound traffic from the Grand Central Parkway has the option of joining Union Turnpike to add to congestion at Markwood/Park Lane, or turning on to Queens Boulevard westbound and then looping around in Forest Hills to travel eastbound to Kew Gardens and the jail.
- Anyone who is familiar with our neighborhood knows that street parking during the day is in short supply, particularly on alternate side days.

The design builder has taken the position that traffic and parking are not their problems. Their role is to design a building. Others are responsible for the traffic issues that inevitably will result during the construction and then during operation of the new jail.

We have asked the design-build team to assist in arranging a meeting between the KGCA and the New York City Department of Design and Construction and New York City Department of Transportation to discuss legitimate traffic issues. Our request was submitted in October of last year. We have had no response but will continue to press the issue.

How Can You Help? - For the good of all, it is imperative that City officials recognize the flaws of Borough-Based Jails. Modifications and revisions of the Borough Based Jails concept must be made to make them realistic in terms of the number of confined individuals who can be accommodated, where they should be accommodated, what facilities should be provided that cannot be done within high rise jails on small sites, and what mitigation measures can be provided to ease the impact on surrounding communities, in our case Kew Gardens, Forest Hills and Briarwood.

NO PROGRESS FROM THE STATE OR THE MTA ON LEFFERTS BOULEVARD BRIDGE

After over 8 years of trying to get the MTA to develop a viable plan to rehabilitate the stores on the bridge we are sorry to report that no progress has been made. In December 2024, MHANY Management, the non-profit developer of affordable housing and mixed use developments, withdrew from negotiations with the MTA. Since that time the KGCA has been pushing the MTA to present a viable plan for the bridge. In February we sent a letter to Governor Hochul's deputy secretary Debbie Louis apprising her of our concerns and asking for the Governor's assistance.

In March Debbie Louis was placed on leave after Federal prosecutors began investigating whether Ms. Louis and



her sister, New York City Council Member Farah Louis, accepted bribes or kickbacks in connection with the appropriation of city funds to a migrant shelter provider. Requests for updates on the status of the Bridge from the Governor's office and the MTA at the time of publication have gone unanswered. For updates on this issue please go to our website.



Kew Gardens Civic Association

PO Box 150062

Kew Gardens, NY 11415

February 16, 2026

Debbie Louis
Assistant Secretary Intergovernmental Affairs
NYS Executive Chamber
Via email: debbie.louis@exec.ny.gov

Dear Ms. Louis.

We need Governor Hochul's help resolving a long-standing issue with the MTA involving the Lefferts Boulevard Bridge project in Kew Gardens. Until now, the Kew Gardens Civic Association has worked with elected officials at every level including Senator Schumer and to no avail.

- The MTA has been stonewalling this project in our community since 2018, leaving Kew Gardens without a vibrant commercial main street and hurting small local business owners.
- The KGCA and MHANY Management presented the MTA with a creative and viable plan, but the MTA slow walked and stalled the project at every turn.
- MHANY Management, a seasoned not-for-profit affordable housing and mixed-use developer, was selected in response to the MTA's 2020 Lefferts Boulevard Bridge RFP. Their innovative approach included committing to work with the remaining mom-and-pop store owners, as opposed to the MTA's plans to deliver the stores empty.
- MHANY walked away from this project in 2024, after years of frustrating negotiations and MTA obfuscations, when they realized that the MTA was not committed to, or capable of, crafting a bankable project.
- None of us were surprised given the MTA's insistence that the mom-and-pop store owners pay for both the rehabilitation of the store buildings and the underlying bridge structure. This unrealistic position would require Madison Ave. store rents in a small outer borough commercial strip and is antithetical to the Governor's focus on affordability.
- In February 2025 MTA told us they were working on a revised plan. In June 2025 we were promised that a revised plan for addressing the rehabilitation would be ready in September. Eight months have passed and the KGCA, and our elected officials, are still awaiting a financially viable plan for this project that is responsive to both the community and the storeowners.

The Kew Gardens Civic Association was founded in 1914, and represents the homeowners, coop owners, and renters in Kew Gardens, Queens. This project has been actively followed by our members, and we are all continually baffled by the MTA's inability to develop a financially viable solution to this relatively modest project given the number of complicated capital projects they have successfully undertaken over the years.

We are asking Governor Hochul to help our elected officials, the community, and the bridge's mom-and-pop store owners to craft a viable resolution to this issue that is responsive to all our needs. Please let us know when you are available to discuss this issue on a video call.

Sincerely,

Adam Whiteman
Vice President

Advocating for Kew Gardens Since 1914

www.kewgardenscivicassociation.org

LOOKING BACK 100 YEARS

The Kew Gardens Association Archives has a wealth of historic information. To celebrate the bicentennial in 1976, a committee was formed to collect recollections from old time residents. The following are some of the recollections of Jack Bauer.

My family first came to the Forest Hills – Kew Gardens area from Atlantic City, NJ in June of 1922. The trip was made in our 1917 Dodge touring car, requiring about fourteen hours. Most of the roads in New Jersey were yellow gravel. We proceeded into the NTD area via the Carteret Ferry at the west end of Staten Island, then by the present Staten Island Ferry from eastern Staten Island to Manhattan, then via the Queensboro Bridge and by way of the two-lane Queens Boulevard to the Kew Gardens Inn where my father had reserved a 3-room suite. We arrived at the Inn about 9:30 PM. It was a very long day.



1917 Dodge Touring Car

My first memories of the area were from the vantage point of the Kew Gardens Inn where we stayed for a period of three weeks before renting a house in the Cord Meyer Development. We garaged the car at the Colonial Garage, a commercial garage one block from the Inn on Queens Boulevard.

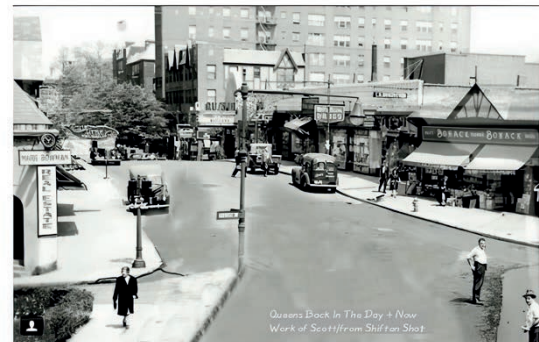


Across the two-lane Queens Boulevard was an old streetcar that had been converted into a lunch wagon where Boro Hall now stands. Union Turnpike was a two-lane road intersecting Queens Boulevard at this point. The road coming toward this intersection from out the Island was of cobblestones and was quite steep. At the bottom of the hill was a stream driven pumping station, part of the Brooklyn Water Works which served this section from artesian wells in the Flushing meadows. The intersection of Queens Boulevard and Union Turnpike was a serious traffic bottleneck. A traffic policeman was stationed there over weekends. Cars would be lined up for blocks in all directions. Across Queens Boulevard and out Union Turnpike were mostly wide open spaces and an occasional farm. The Kew Gardens Inn had two tennis courts. It was on these courts that I was first introduced to the game.



A number of years later, I took my date to the Inn for dancing on Saturday night...During the 20's and 30's they had dancing there to a 5-piece live dance band. This was open to the public at about \$2 per couple. Set-ups were provided, but those wishing to imbibe would have to take their drinks to their car to add any liquor as this was during the prohibition era and none was permitted inside the Inn.

The stores over the railroad bridge in Kew Gardens were built about 1930 on air rights leased from the LIRR. This was a new concept in commercial real estate development. The east side of the bridge was developed by Frank Gload and Charles Cook. They had participated in a number of developments in Brooklyn before coming to Kew Gardens. The west side of the bridge was developed by another man from Brooklyn, possibly a Mr. Miller.



Prior to these stores, there had been a little patch of green grass and gardens walks around the station, sort of a village green. The stores did not enhance the appearance of the town.

I ran a men’s furnishing store on the bridge from 1934-1938. Business was very bad during these Depression years. On one cold winter day my first customer did not come in the door until 5:30 PM. He wanted a collar button. I got out my two trays of collar buttons telling him they were 10¢ and 25¢. He stomped out, slamming the door behind him. Later that evening, a drunk came in and bought a hat for \$5.00 which saved the day!

FOREST PARK “BARKING LOT” RECONSTRUCTION



Forest Park - Barking Lot Dog Run | Schematic Design

Updated 12/15/2025

Forest Park Barking Lot Dog Run reconstruction project is being funded by a \$1.8 million grant secured by Councilmember Lynn Schulman. The project is a comprehensive reconstruction of the existing "Barking Lot," which was previously a temporary space, to make it a permanent, improved amenity. It will include synthetic turf, dog drinking fountains, new fencing, and drainage improvements. Project construction is anticipated to begin in 2027.

FOREST PARK OVERLOOK BUILDING GETS A NEW ROOF

This project will reconstruct the Forest Park Overlook Building Roof that sustained storm damage. The \$1,140,000 project is due to be completed by year end of 2026.

The Overlook, was constructed in 1912 to house the administration of the newly formed and independent Queens Parks. The Spanish Mission style structure was designed by Birchman & Fox and was named for its sweeping view of Forest Park. It was expanded in 1915. Today it houses the Parks Department Queens Borough Commissioner.



Author Henry Miller (1891-1980) - famous for Tropic of Cancer (1934) - was employed by the Queens Parks Department and worked in the Overlook. While employed there he was also a member of the Brooklyn Forest Park Golf Club. Miller got the job through a friend, Jimmy Pasta, in an attempt to make enough money to support his wife, June. He began working as a grave digger, eventually moving up to an office assistant. But June left him for the bright lights of Paris, and on May 21, 1927, he spent a tormented night in the Overlook, typing 32 pages that would serve as the outline for much of his literary work. He eventually went to Paris and continued to support June.

WHO CAN HELP YOU WITH YOUR COMPLAINTS?

Getting city agencies to respond to a problem isn't always easy. Two resources for Kew Gardens residents are Community Board 9 and our City Councilmember Lynn Schulman. Both can help with City issues. The Kew Gardens Civic Association is in regular contact with these offices so if you are a member of the KGCA, let us know and we will see how we can help as well.

Community Board 9 - Queens

James S. McClelland, District Manager, Community Board 9-Q

Phone: 718-286-2686

Email: qn09@cb.nyc.gov

Website: www.nyc.gov/site/queenscb9/index.page

Queens Community Board 9 plays a vital role in serving the neighborhoods of Kew Gardens, Richmond Hill, Woodhaven, and Ozone Park by acting as a direct link between residents and City government. The Board reviews land use and zoning applications, weighs in on liquor license requests, monitors the delivery of municipal services, and advocates for budget priorities that reflect local concerns. Through public meetings and committee hearings, Community Board 9 provides residents with an open forum to raise issues related to public safety, transportation, sanitation, economic development, and quality of life.

Residents experiencing a problem or seeking assistance are encouraged to contact the Board office directly. By elevating community voices and working collaboratively with City agencies and elected officials, the Board helps ensure that decisions impacting the district are transparent, balanced, and responsive to neighborhood needs.

Councilmember Lynn Schulman

Phone: 718-544-8800

Email: district29@council.nyc.gov

Website: www.council.nyc.gov/district-29/

The Councilmember's office strives to serve constituents across District 29 on a wide array of issues including Sanitation, Public Safety, Senior Services, and other quality of life issues. Below is a brief overview of their constituent services work. Please don't hesitate to reach out to them with any concerns after contacting 311.

Navigating City Agencies Their office can assist with navigating and communicating with New York City agencies including NYPD, Sanitation, Transportation, Parks and Recreation, Environmental Protections, Aging, Department of Buildings, Education, among other agencies. They can support in expediting agency response time and directing constituents to the proper agency that can support their concern.

NYPD 102nd Precinct

Precinct: (718) 805-3200

Community Affairs: (718) 805-3215

Crime Prevention: (718) 805-3217

Domestic Violence Squad: (718) 805-3248
 Youth Coordination Officer: (718) 805-3220
 Auxiliary Coordinator: (718) 805-3225
 Detective Squad: (718) 805-3212

Quality of Life Teams – In 2025, the NYPD implemented Quality of Life teams to respond to non-emergency complaints. Per their website: Quality of Life Teams, or Q-Teams, were recently established and are your go-to resource for addressing complaints impacting quality of life concerns in your neighborhood. These officers are building real connections with the community and are focused on developing long-term solutions to these issues. From addressing everyday concerns to tackling persistent problems, your Q-Teams are committed to making your neighborhood a better place to live. To report non-emergency quality of life issues, call 311 or use the app. To connect with a Q-Team member, call or visit your local command.

Domestic Violence Assistance - Domestic Violence Investigators and crime victim advocates are available in the Precinct, to assist any survivor of Domestic Violence or any person involved in a Domestic Incident. Their assistance includes, but is not limited to report taking, obtaining an order of protection through Family Court, safety planning and referrals to essential services, including at NYC Family Justice Centers, legal advice, social services assistance, emergency housing transfers, crisis intervention and counseling support.



NYC
311

NYC 311 SERVICE – HOW YOU CAN HELP KEW GARDENS

311 is your one stop shop for getting problems solved in the neighbor. This covers anything from someone parking in front your driveway to complaining about a pothole or fallen tree branches.

NYC 311, similar to 911, is a free, always-available service that connects residents directly to city agencies. Unlike 911, 311 is for **non-emergencies**.

Why Reporting Matters

Here's something you may not know: Every NYC 311 report is a data point — and data drives dollars. The more a neighborhood reports, the clearer the picture the city has of where help is needed most. Recurring nuisances, any problem that keeps coming back again and again, adds to an official record. This is one of the simplest, most effective things you can do for our community.

How NYC 311 Reports Influence City Funding and Programs

Beyond individual repairs, 311 complaint data plays a meaningful role in how the city allocates resources across all five boroughs. City agencies and the Mayor's Office regularly analyze service request patterns to make informed decisions about where to invest. Here's how your reports contribute to improving Kew Gardens:

- **Funding allocation** — neighborhoods with high volumes of related complaints — such as recurring street damage or widespread rodent activity — are more likely to receive targeted capital investment and repair budgets

- **Program development** — clusters of complaints around a specific issue can prompt the city to launch dedicated programs, such as neighborhood tree planting initiatives, sidewalk repair programs, or targeted sanitation sweeps
- **Infrastructure planning** — repeated reports from the same area inform long-term planning decisions, including which streets are prioritized for repaving, lighting upgrades, or drainage improvements
- **Accountability and transparency** — 311 data is publicly available through NYC Open Data, meaning community advocates, journalists, and elected officials can use it to push for resources on behalf of underserved neighborhoods

SHARE YOUR COMPLAINT WITH KGCA

Filing a 311 complaint is a powerful first step — but sharing a copy of your service request with the **Kew Gardens Civic Association** can multiply its impact. We can often work with agencies to help speed up service requests. When residents pass along their complaint numbers and details to KGCA, it helps in several important ways:

- **Early awareness** — your report may alert KGCA to a problem it wasn't yet tracking, allowing leadership to respond faster and more proactively
- **Strengthening an active case** — if the KGCA is already working on a similar or widespread concern in the neighborhood, your complaint adds weight to the existing record and helps build a stronger case for city action
- **Spotting patterns** — multiple residents reporting the same issue across different addresses signals a neighborhood-wide problem rather than an isolated incident, which carries far more influence with city agencies
- **Coordinated follow-up** — the KGCA can reference multiple service request numbers when communicating directly with agencies or elected officials, demonstrating documented community concern

A simple email message to us at info@kewgardenscivicassociation.org, with your 311 service request or complaint confirmation number and a brief description of the issue is all it takes. That small act of coordination can be the difference between a single complaint and a compelling, community-backed case for change.

EXAMPLES OF POPULAR SERVICE REQUEST CATEGORIES

Noise complaints	Tree conditions	Blocked driveways	Illegal parking
Street conditions	Sidewalk conditions	Illegal construction	Rodent sightings
Sanitation issues	Street lighting	Graffiti	Manholes
Broken curb cuts	Unsanitary conditions	Park vandalism	Recurring nuisances

HOW TO SUBMIT A NYC 311 SERVICE REQUEST: STEP BY STEP

Filing a request takes about 2-5 minutes depending on your complaint. Here's all you need to do:

1. **Choose your method.** Dial 3-1-1 from any phone to call-in a service request, visit **311.nyc.gov** to submit an online request, or download and use the convenient **NYC 311** App on your smartphone.
2. **Select "Service Request."** On the app or website, click "Service Request" to start. On the phone, a live representative will guide you through the same steps.
3. **Pick a category.** Browse or search for the type of issue — noise, sidewalk damage, tree condition, broken streetlight, illegal parking, and so on. The system lists hundreds of specific request types.
4. **Provide the location.** Enter the exact address or nearest intersection. The more precise, the faster the response. The app can use your GPS location automatically, if you allow it.

5. **Describe the issue.** Give a brief, clear description. Include helpful details like the size of a pothole, how long a lamp has been out, or a vehicle's license plate number for parking complaints.
6. **Add a photo (optional but very helpful).** A picture can make all the difference. Attach one directly from your phone's camera when filing through the app or website.
7. **Submit and save your confirmation number.** Hit submit and you will receive a tracking number, status updates, and a clear record of your complaint. Use it to check progress and status updates anytime through the app or website. You can use your email or phone contact – or anonymously in which case you should screenshot and save your detailed report for reference.

LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES IN KEW GARDENS

We have a number of Little Free Libraries including one in Forest Park between the children's playground and the handball courts near the corner of Park Lane and Park Lane South. The other two we are aware of are in front of a school at 82-96 116th Street, and on 82nd Avenue near 123-35 82 Avenue between Queens Boulevard and Kew Gardens Road. You can take a book or leave a book. It's free to all!

The library was conceived and the structure provided by then Kew Gardens resident Santosh Chandrasekaran last year. He worked with Portia Dyrenforth, NYC Parks Administrator of Forest Park, to choose the location and arrange for installation. Santosh has since moved from Kew Gardens, so maintenance and repair has been taken on by the KGCA and KGCRA.

Children's and adult titles have been flowing into and out of the library. Please visit it and share books with our community.

Unfortunately, the library's door has been vandalized several times. We have had to replace the entire door once, and the plexiglass window several times. If you notice any damage to the library structure, please let us know at info@kewgardenscivicasociation.org.



KEW GARDENS CIVIC ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

112TH ANNUAL MEETING!!!!

Join us for a nosh, a drink & the latest news from the Kew Gardens Civic Association & elected officials.

SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 6:30 PM

(program starts at 7:30 PM)

**PLACE: Queens Community House
80-02 Kew Gardens Road, 2nd Floor
Kew Gardens NY 11415**

Invited officials:

Congressman Gregory Meeks

Senator Leroy Comrie

Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi

Assemblyman Mark Weprin

Assemblyman Daniel Berger

Councilmember Lynn Schulman

Captain Pratima Maldonado of the 102nd
Precinct

This is your opportunity to meet with our elected representatives in person and tell them what are the key issues facing our neighborhood!

TO PRE REGISTER FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING - Please scan the QR code on this page to pre-register; your tentative RSVP will help us to prepare for this event. The favor of your reply is requested before Thursday, May 8th. Thank you.

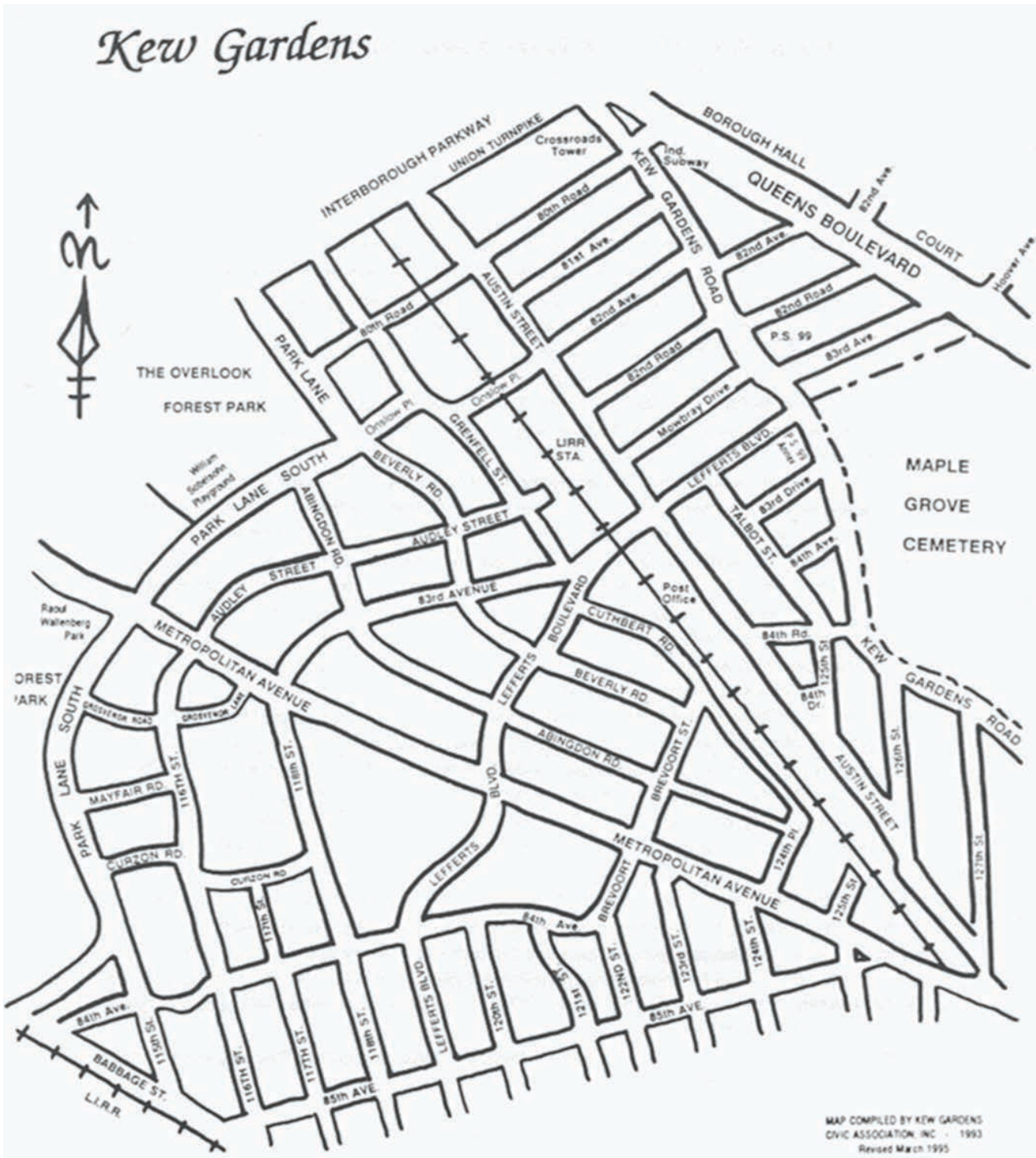


IF YOU DON'T PRE REGISTER YOU CAN STILL ATTEND!

Additional event details:

6:30pm - Check-in/register, welcome reception & social event, serving light snacks refreshment, soft drinks & wine.

7:30PM - Meeting agenda to commence, Board of Governors and guest speakers to address our members, short question/answer opportunity with elected officials.



FIFTH ANNUAL KEW GARDENS CIVIC ASSOCIATION LAWN SALE

WHEN: Sunday, JUNE 7th
 (Rain date - Sunday, June 14TH)
 TIME: 12:00pm – 5:00pm
 WHERE: YOUR FRONT LAWN OR DRIVEWAY

Back by popular demand for a wonderful, fifth year in a row – this fun tradition has become an anticipated Kew Gardens summer ritual! A cheerful neighborhood activity, that promotes staying local, strolling through our tree-lined streets, interacting with neighbors, hunting & recycling pre-loved treasures and being outdoors.



HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

- Event participation is open to active KGCA dues paying households, as well as apartment owners from KGCA Corporate Membership dues paying Condo/Coop buildings.
- If you are a KGCA Member who is on our email list, an email notification with these event details and links will be sent out at the end of April as well.
- Register **beginning on May 1st and until the May 24th deadline** - scan QR code below or alternatively email us to request a registration link info@kewgardenscivicassociation.org
- Event registration fee of \$15, may be paid by ZELLE or check (both preferred) or PayPal \$17
ZELLE: To payee/ID: info@kewgardenscivicassociation.org
Check: KGCA, PO Box 150062, Kew Gardens NY 11415
 (Please make sure this reaches us no later than May 24th)
PayPal: www.paypal.me/kewgardenscivic or scan QR

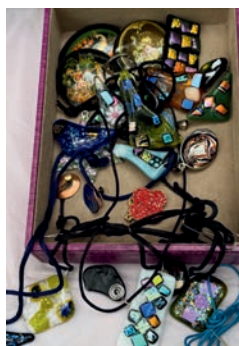
REGISTER



PAYPAL

HOW WILL PEOPLE FIND ME:

KGCA will create a special dedicated Google map, with exclusive link for this event, which assists treasure hunters to find your participating location. We promote our event on our social media pages (Instagram & Facebook), email and post signage throughout our neighborhood for maximum exposure.



MEMBERSHIP & SUPPORT

Membership Email: membership@kewgardenscivicassociation.org

General Inquiry: info@kewgardenscivicassociation.org

Fill & send this form with your payment – or scan QR Code to fill form online

- Renewing Member New Member

Primary Household Contact's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Primary Contact Email: _____

Primary Contact Cell: _____ Home Phone: _____

(If known) Block: _____ Lot: _____

I am the owner or lessee of a 1-family home 2-family home 3-family home

Please include the contact details for one additional member of your household, to receive our email newsletters, important updates & notifications:

Secondary Household Contact's Name: _____

Secondary Contact Email: _____

Secondary Contact Cell: _____

Dues Payment method, select one – Check or ZELLE preferred – Please send ASAP:

Paying Dues by *check*, \$30:

Step 1: Please fill out this membership form or fill one online with QR code below

Step 2: Please post this form along with your check, if not filling online, to –

**KEW GARDENS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.,
PO Box 150062, Kew Gardens, NY 11415-1422**

Paying Dues by *ZELLE*, \$30:

Step 1: Visit the KGCA website Membership page or scan QR code below

Step 2: ZELLE to: Payee/ID info@kewgardenscivicassociation.org

Paying Dues by *PayPal online*, \$32:

Step 1: Visit the KGCA website Membership page or scan QR code below

Step 2: Pay dues online at <https://paypal.me/kewgardenscivic>

HOMEOWNER MEMBERSHIP FORM ONLINE
(If you own or rent a house)



FRIEND OF KGCA MEMBERSHIP FORM ONLINE
(If you own or rent an apartment)



KEW GARDENS CIVIC ASSOCIATION GOVERNING BOARD

Dominick Pistone – President
 Maddy Farooqui– Vice President
 Rosanne Rosano – Secretary

Al Brand - Chairman
 Adam Whiteman – Vice President
 Diana Shaman – Treasurer

Sinetta Avram
 Jaime Chauca
 Andrea Crawford
 Richard Eden
 Matthew Hayes
 Maria Lefkarites
 Donna Melli
 Noelle Nightingale

Alan Bushlow
 Dan Chu
 Caroline Dupraz – Ibarra
 Mara Einstein
 Tia Keenan
 Bjorn Matz
 Kris Monaco
 Phil Ruvelas

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

Sylvia Hack (Kew Gardens Council for Recreation and the Arts & CB9)
 Pam Reinertsen
 Andrew Taranto

BOARD MEMBERS EMERITUS

Renee Levine

In 2022 the Board created 2 new categories of board membership.

Board Members Emeritus are members who have been long term members of the KGCA whose experience and historical knowledge remain great resources for the KGCA.

Honorary Board Members are those allies whom we have partnered with and who have made significant contributions to Kew Gardens. Both new categories are nonvoting membership.



**Kew Gardens
 Then and Now**

**Celebrating 112th Anniversary of the
 Kew Gardens Civic Association**

The Kew Gardens Civic Association advocates for Kew Gardens with all levels of government to preserve our urban village in the big city.

Visit this exhibit on our website and join us to support our work!
www.kewgardenscivicasociation.org

THIS EXHIBIT WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY FUNDING FROM
 COUNCILWOMAN LYNN SCHULMAN, KEW GARDENS CIVIC
 ASSOCIATION, KEW GARDENS COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND
 THE ARTS, FOREST PARK TRUST, AND THE NYC PARKS



**KGCA 3rd Annual Banner
 Exhibit at the
 Overlook Playground
 Grand Opening Ceremony
 11:00 AM Sunday May 31st
 [Rain date June 6th]**

KEW GARDENS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

PO Box 150062
Kew Gardens, NY 11415

Presorted
First Class Mail
US Postage
PAID
Hicksville, NY
Permit #125

Have you been receiving our emails?

[We sure hope so.](#) If not, email us at info@kewgardenscivicassociation.org from your preferred email address. It's that simple.

Also, be sure to follow us on social media:

[Instagram](#) (@kewgardencivic)

[Facebook](#). (@KewGardensCivicAssociation)

