

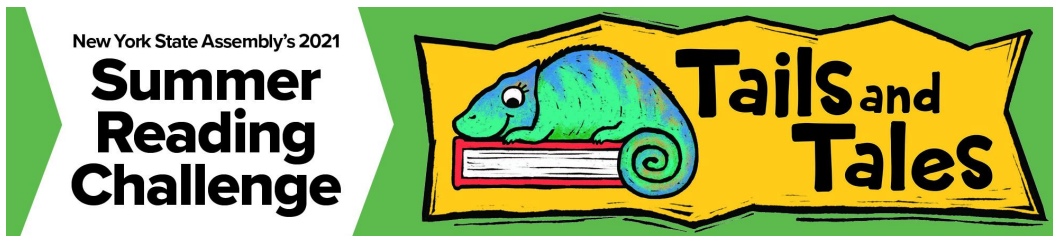


## **Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall**

**June 17, 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.



New York State Assembly's 2021

# Summer Reading Challenge

Sponsored by Assemblyman Charles D. Fall



"I pledge to read for at least 15 minutes each day for at least 40 days during the months of July and August. I will mark the calendar below with a check mark (✓) each day that I read by myself or with my reading buddy."

July 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



For a list of titles exploring the history, culture and diversity of New York State visit: [www.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/explore.htm](http://www.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/explore.htm)  
For additional reading ideas and preschool book activities, visit: [daybydayny.org](http://daybydayny.org)

When you have marked at least 40 days on this calendar, you will earn an Excellence in Reading certificate. Just send the completed form on the back of this page to my office and your certificate will arrive in the mail.

Assemblyman Charles D. Fall  
853 Forest Avenue • Staten Island, NY 10310  
718-442-9932 • [fall@nyassembly.gov](mailto:fall@nyassembly.gov)



Starting in July, kids and teens can get free, healthy summer meals at nearby sites. Visit [SummerMealsNY.org](http://SummerMealsNY.org) to find locations near you.

New York State Assembly's 2021

# Summer Reading Challenge

Sponsored by Assemblyman Charles D. Fall



## New York State Assembly Excellence in Reading Certificate

### Information form

Child's name # \_\_\_\_\_

School # \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian name # \_\_\_\_\_

Address 1 # \_\_\_\_\_

Address 2 # \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email # \_\_\_\_\_

Number of days completed #  Minimum of 40 days needed to receive your certificate.

Favorite book read this summer # \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years of participation in the Summer Reading Challenge # \_\_\_\_\_

To receive your certificate, just send the completed form above to my office and your certificate will arrive in the mail.



In cooperation with Summer Reading at New York Libraries  
[www.summerreadingnys.org](http://www.summerreadingnys.org)

## **District 61 News**

Last Friday, I had the pleasure of speaking at RAZA'S 40th anniversary Gala. RAZA and its members have tirelessly worked over the decades to ensure the success of so many children in the African community. They have received opportunities their families might not even have imagined possible. It is important that we continue to support this organization and rejuvenate all the programs and resources they can offer our children.



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## **Business of the Week**

Amira Cafe and Bistro is a recently opened eating establishment in the Stapleton area. Located at 837 Van Duzer the bistro has spacious outdoor seating or cafe-style indoor tables. The Latin American restaurant features a wide variety of options for all tastes. As always, let's continue

to support our local businesses as Covid-19 restrictions are lifted and our lives go back to normal.



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### Updates From Albany

**In the final days of the 2021 Legislative Session, the Assembly passed a package of critical consumer credit protection legislation**

- **A.2383:** This legislation would create new stringent lawsuit requirements for debt collectors pursuing litigation against consumers and would also reduce the statute of limitations on consumer credit actions from six to three years, to avoid lawsuits on stale debt.
- **A.6474-A:** Would help alleviate the hardship placed on New Yorkers in debt by cutting the interest rate on uncollected consumer debt, including medical debt, from nine percent to two percent
- Earlier this year, the Legislature passed (**A.6617-A**) and the Governor signed legislation to exempt federal stimulus money from debt collection.
- Guardianship petitions transfer an incapacitated person's legal rights to make financial and personal care decisions to someone appointed by the court. These petitions are generally filed by family members to help them meet the personal or property management needs of an incapacitated relative. However, nursing homes have increasingly been using these petitions solely for the purpose of collecting unpaid bills or to coerce settlement of bill disputes with residents. Legislation passed by the Assembly would ensure that nursing home facilities are not able to file guardianship petitions for that purpose (**A.2536**).



There is no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic created greater economic hardships for all New Yorkers and made the passage of these bills ensuring that New York residents are protected from predatory practices that threaten their ability to pursue financial freedom and overcome debt, even more essential to our long-term recovery.



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

1. [As of Tuesday, June 15 COVID-19 restrictions in NYS have been lifted immediately as 70 percent of New Yorkers aged 18 or older have received the first dose of their COVID-19 vaccination series.](#) The State's health guidance and New York Forward industry specific guidelines—including social gathering limits, capacity restrictions, social distancing, cleaning and disinfection, health screening, and contact information for tracing—are now optional for retail, food services, offices, gyms, and fitness centers, amusement and family entertainment, hair salons, barbershops and personal care services, among other commercial settings.
2. [Last week it was announced that \\$3.5 billion in assistance for renters and small businesses experiencing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The rental assistance program makes up to \\$2.7 billion in emergency rental assistance available for struggling New Yorkers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.](#) Applications for the program have started as of June 1 for eligible New Yorkers who are behind on their rent and have suffered financial hardship due to COVID-19. Administered by the state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, the New York State Emergency Rental Assistance Program will assist with up to 12 months of

past-due rent, 3 months of prospective rental assistance, and 12 months of utility arrears payments to eligible New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status. The program is expected to serve between 170,000 and 200,000 households.

3. [It was announced that Broadway will fully reopen its doors this September, in accordance with the State's health and safety guidance. Beginning May 6, and throughout May, tickets for Broadway shows - which begin September 14, 2021 - will be made available for sale at 100 percent of theater capacity.](#) This announcement builds upon the reopening of performing arts and live entertainment venues at limited capacities last month and further sets the stage for Broadway shows to return to theaters throughout the fall.
4. [It was announced last week that two new vaccination sites will come online in New York City on June 11. The Empire State Building Observatory site, established in partnership with SOMOS Community Care, will operate from Friday, June 11 to Sunday, June 13, and the first 100 individuals who get vaccinated at the site will receive a free ticket to the Empire State Observatory.](#) **Additionally, the College of Staten Island site, established in partnership with Northwell Health, will operate from Friday, June 11 to Thursday, June 17, and will participate in the State's ['Vax & Scratch' Program](#). Based on demand, sites may be extended beyond this initial time frame.**
5. 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.](#)**
6. **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 workshop (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](mailto:info@scoresi.org) and visit on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).
2. **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.

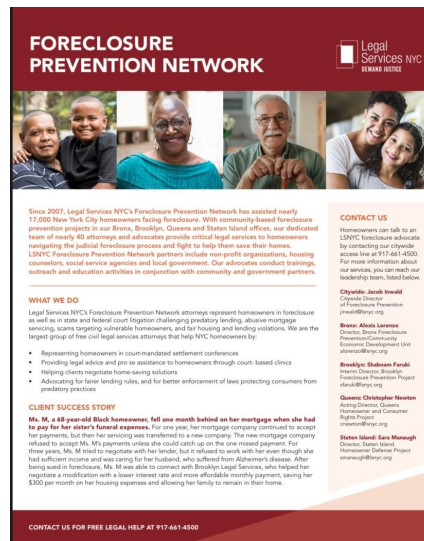
- Unemployment Benefits & Employment Issues
- Food Stamps (SNAP), Public Assistance, Medicaid
- Eviction/Illegal Lockouts
- Mortgage Relief & Foreclosure Prevention
- Small Business Advice
- Immigration
- Bankruptcy and Consumer Help
- Student Loan and Debt Collection
- Domestic Violence, Orders of Protection,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

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 12,000 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's 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 for 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 48-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 sold 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 payments, 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 Israel**  
Citywide Director of Foreclosure Prevention  
[jacob@lscnyc.org](mailto:jacob@lscnyc.org)

**Bronx: Abiola Lorenese**  
Director, Bronx Foreclosure Prevention/Community Economic Development Unit  
[abiolalorenese@lscnyc.org](mailto:abiolalorenese@lscnyc.org)

**Brooklyn: Shaquana Farukh**  
Senior Director, Brooklyn Foreclosure Prevention Project  
[shaquana@lscnyc.org](mailto:shaquana@lscnyc.org)

**Queens: Christopher Neenan**  
Acting Director, Queens Homeowner and Consumer Rights Project  
[christopher@lscnyc.org](mailto:christopher@lscnyc.org)

**Staten Island: Sara Manough**  
Director, Staten Island Homeowner Defense Project  
[saramanough@lscnyc.org](mailto:saramanough@lscnyc.org)

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

3. **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](mailto: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](mailto:MBrazier@trufund.org) or Marcos Reyes (Spanish) at [mreyes@trufund.org](mailto:mreyes@trufund.org).

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**Useful Events and Opportunities**

1. **The Harriet Tubman Purple Hat Society presents The 5th Annual Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday, June 19th, 2021, 7-11 PM at The Hilton Garden Inn, Staten Island, NY 10310.**



THE HARRIET TUBMAN PURPLE HAT SOCIETY, INC.  
P. O. BOX 20473  
Staten Island, New York 10302

President Nancy Ashon- Poku

Founder- Ms. Thomasina Williams

Presents



The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday,  
June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 7-11PM

at The Hilton Garden Inn, Staten Island, NY 10303

Honorees: Sarah Blas/Edna Greenwich/ Laura Owens

Dinner, Entertainment and Dancing

Thomasina Williams Scholarship Awards

\$100.00 Donation/ no tickets sold at door

Limited capacity due to strict CDC/NYS Mandatory Catered Events Covid-19

Guidelines. These guidelines will be strictly enforced.

Everyone must always wear a mask, except while seated.

All guests must present a negative covid test within 72 hrs. of the event or a full vaccination card completed 14 days prior to the event date to be admitted to this event.

Tables will be 6 feet apart- Maximum 8 per table.

All guests must sign in with contact information.

This event will be registered with the NYC Department of Health

For Tickets Contact: Co- Chairs: Sherry Powell 917-327-9889/Janet G. Robinson 347-855-2759

African-Centric dress optional






2. **Stapleton Saturdays beginning June 12 - August 28. 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Van Duzer St will be closed to car 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



Van Duzer Street Civic Association

3. [NYC will pay youth \\$1,200 to take online courses this summer. Visit NeON's official site for more information.](#)
4. **Celebrate the 45th Anniversary of Jody's Club Forest Saturday June 19th. 372 Forest Ave, SI, NY 10310.**

COME CELEBRATE



**45th ANNIVERSARY**

*Good Times Never Seemed So Good*

**SATURDAY, JUNE 19TH**

SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY  
 @7:30pm

**SCREAMING BROCCOLI**

372 FOREST AVE, STATEN ISLAND, NY 10301

5. **Port Richmond High School is hosting a Tailgating Festival on June 19!** From 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM, you can enjoy raffles, vendors, food, and entertainment. See the flyer below for more info.

**Port Richmond High School**  
**TAILGATING FESTIVAL**  
 Basket Auction And Community Resource Fair

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**OUR BIGGEST EVENT EVER!!!!**  
**FREE ADMISSION!** 

GRAB A LAWN CHAIR AND JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF RAFFLES, VENDORS, FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT

**DATE: JUNE 19, 2021**  
 RAIN DATE JUNE 20, 2021  
**TIME: 11AM - 3PM**

**PLACE: PORT RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL**  
**85 ST. JOSEPH AVE S.I., NY 10302**  
**LOWER PARKING LOT**

*BASKETS, GIFT CERTIFICATES, DOOR PRIZES, 50/50,  
 BIRTHDAY BOARD, FOOD TRUCKS, VENDORS, MUSIC*

TO FOLLOW SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES WE ASK THAT YOU BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS. PICK THE PERFECT SPOT TO SIT WITH YOUR GROUP AND LEAVE SPACE BETWEEN OTHER GROUPS. SEATING WILL NOT BE PROVIDED. MASKS MUST BE WORN WHEN NOT SITTING.

Special Guest MC Vinnie Medugno will sing his way through raffle baskets while spinning the best music from every generation. 

6. **Bounce Ball and Laser Tag. Ages 12 and under at The Center 157 Branbrant St after 6:00 PM.**



UNITED  
ACTIVITIES  
UNLIMITED

FUNDING PROVIDED BY  
  
 Department of  
Youth & Community  
Development

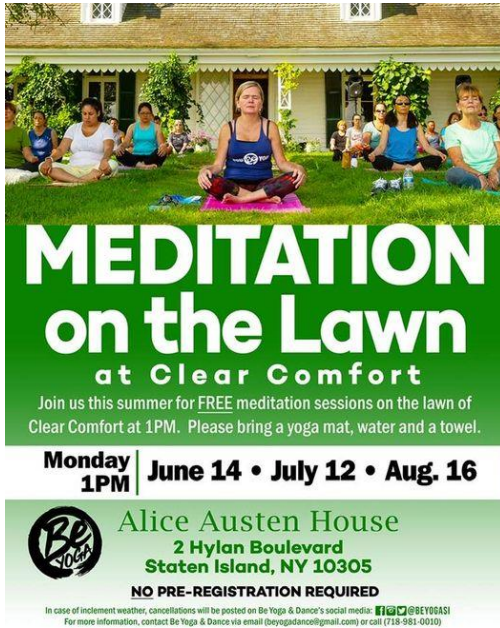



**BOUNCE BALL** JULY  
 12 and up &  
**LASER TAG** 11  
 12 and under

**Registration Required**

After 6 p.m.  
 @ The Center  
 157 Brabrant Street

7. **Meditation on the lawn at the Clear Comfort. June 14, July 12, August 16 at 1:00 PM** you can attend free meditation sessions on the lawn of Clear Comfort. Bring a yoga mat, water, and towel. See flyer for more information.



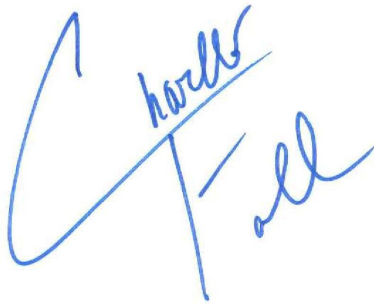
8. **NYC Parks is looking for volunteers to join Monday morning clean-up projects. Help keep our parks litter-free. See the flyer below for more information.**



9. 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles Fall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and "F".

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](#).