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THE MAGAZINE OF THE QUEENS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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# Summer Events Add To Queens Economy

**A**lthough it started out rainy and hasn't really gotten too hot, I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. In some ways, the best part is yet to come. While Queens plays host to some great attractions every day, August brings some special, once-a-year events that really have an impact on our local economy.



**From The QCC President  
Albert F. Pennisi**

Two summer events will draw a combined more than 800,000 visitors to Flushing Meadows-Corona Park – one of the most beautiful venues in the entire city. First, during the weekend of August 8-9, the Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival in New York will attract nearly 50,000 for a weekend of racing, great food and free entertainment. The event, which the Queens Chamber of Commerce has been a longtime supporter of, also brings many different cultures to Queens – the most diverse place in the country.

Later that month, the final Grand Slam Tennis Tournament of the year will come to the Billie Jean National Tennis Center and bring more than 750,000 people to the borough. Did you know that the economic impact from the U.S. Open Tennis Championships is greater from their two weeks of play than from full seasons of both of our major league baseball teams?

Think about it. Local hotels around LaGuardia airport are filled to capacity by players, fans and media. Local restaurants in communities like Flushing and Jackson Heights are packed with tourists. Local retail shops along Roosevelt Avenue are bustling with souvenir and bargain hunters. When an event draws overnight stays and people from outside the immediate area, many businesses benefit.

In addition to the economic activity for our local businesses, the U.S. Open also provides jobs for local Queens residents. The United States Tennis Association hires between 800 and 1,000 people specifically for the event – with some jobs lasting three weeks, but others lasting for months either leading up to the event or continuing after the event is complete. Meanwhile, many of the food servicing jobs, security and other related industries hire more people for the event.

As we head into the month of August, make sure you mark your calendars for both the Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival and the U.S. Open. Both events are sure to hit – both for Queens and the business community.

Have a great rest of the summer... in Queens.

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