

Information that may be of interest...

May 4, 2020

This information is provided by The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association. We are sharing it as a service to our members. If this notice does not interest you, please disregard it.

You can also find these weekly newsletters online in PDF (printable) format at www.murrayhillnyc.org in the News section, look for Weekly Eblasts 2020.

Please share this email with a friend, neighbor or colleague. You can sign up for these emails at www.murrayhillnyc.org, scroll down the Also Happening column.

Coronavirus updates

Neighborhood restaurants El Parador and Sarge's have reopened for delivery. See [MHNA COVID-19 webpage](#) for additional information.

5/3/2020 Starting May 6th, the NYC subway system will be closed daily for four hours from 1-5am. This will allow the MTA to disinfect every subway car every 24 hours to help prevent the spread of the virus. Source: Gov. Cuomo email of 5/3/2020.

4/30/2020 Former Mayor Michael Bloomberg is putting together the test and trace program. Mayor de Blasio is also working with Bloomberg on test and trace. This data is needed to reopen New York State and City.

Related article: 5/1/2020 State Sen. Brad Hoylman will be introducing legislation requiring the MTA restore 24/7 subway service as soon as the coronavirus crisis ends. Source: Sen. Brad Hoylman's email of 5/1/2020. nysenate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/brad-hoylman/senator-hoylman-announces-plans-mandate-full-247-mta-subway.

5/3/2020 COVID-19 Test kit manufacture is now being done in NYC

Source: De Blasio's press conference of 5/3/2020

Three physical parts are needed for test collection: swabs, transport medium, containers. Swabs are now being manufactured using 3D printers. The medium can be made here, but needs to be validated. NYC has the containers. There is also the step of the actual testing, which is done in labs. NYC needs federal help to increase lab capacity.

[NOTE: Pharmacies have been given authorization do do test collection.]

NY State needs you to donate blood if you have recovered from COVID-19

To help develop an antibody test, Gov. Cuomo is asking all New Yorkers who have recovered from COVID-19 to contact the state and donate blood. Individuals who tested positive and then recovered

from the virus may have convalescent plasma in their blood, which has antibodies against the virus and could help with the development of a treatment for the virus. More information about how to donate <https://nybc.org/donate-blood/convalescent-plasma-covid-19-donor-request-form>.

5/3/2020 Pharmacies and some medical practices are now doing COVID-19 diagnostic and antibody testing.

4/25/2020 Gov. Cuomo announced programs to expand testing. Diagnostic testing: pharmacies will be allowed to collect the samples. Then they send the samples to the state labs. Pharmacies will decide if they will participate in the program. Antibody testing: several hospitals will be able to do it, including Bellevue. Front line workers will have priority.

Related article: [World Health Organization \(WHO\) says there's 'no evidence' recovered coronavirus patients won't get reinfected](#)

April 25, 2020, *thehill.com*, by Morgan G Stalter

[Editor's note: This is just to remind us that we should still wear a mask and practice social distancing, even if we have had coronavirus and recovered.]

[IRS launches web tool to help non-filers get their coronavirus rebates](#)

April 10, 2020, *thehill.com*, by Naomi Jagoda

The Treasury Department and IRS announced...a web tool to help...people who are not typically required to file tax returns receive their coronavirus relief payments...Additionally, the IRS said that Social Security recipients with children could use the tool to claim their \$500 per child payment, since they will only automatically receive payments of \$1,200. Web tool: irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here. A number of lawmakers have been urging Treasury to allow recipients of Supplemental Security Income and Veterans Affairs benefits to also automatically receive their economic impact payments. The IRS said that ...people who receive these benefits can either use the new IRS web tool or wait while the IRS continues to examine its automatic payment options. Track payment at irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment.

5/3/2020 Process for claiming paid sick leave due to COVID-19

Health Commissioner Dr. Oxiris Barbot issued a Commissioner's Order detailing the process for New Yorkers who missed work because they tested positive for COVID-19 or were sick with COVID-19 to claim paid sick leave from their employer under New York State's COVID-19 paid sick leave law. www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/covid-19-paid-sick-leave-order.pdf. The order applies to health care workers, essential employees, and nonessential employees. An FAQ on the Order can be found here (PDF). New Yorkers can check if they are qualified to claim paid sick leave and obtain the documentation they need by calling the Health Department at 855-491-2667. Visit paidfamilyleave.ny.gov/covid19 for more information about the State law. All New Yorkers can also call 311 to be transferred to receive the documentation needed to qualify for paid sick leave.

5/3/2020 AARP resource for those who have loved ones in senior facilities - Six key questions to ask: states.aarp.org/north-carolina/covid-19-and-nursing-homes-questions-you-need-to-ask

5/3/2020 [Insurance Companies to Waive Out-of-Pocket Costs for Mental Health Services for Frontline Essential Workers During COVID-19](#)

Source: Press Release, 5/2/2020 NY State Department of Financial Services

New York State Department of Financial Services (DFS) issued an emergency regulation following Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's announcement that DFS will require New York State-regulated health insurers to waive out-of-pocket costs, including cost-sharing, deductibles, copayments and coinsurance, for in-network mental health services for New York's frontline essential workers during COVID-19.

4/29/2020 **Hotel Isolation Program:** Community healthcare providers can now refer clients who are COVID positive or COVID-symptomatic and unable to isolate where they live to the hotel isolation program. This is for individuals who do not require medical care and can self-isolate with basic services, including: onsite medical and social services, meals, laundry, phone, internet, daily check-in calls by medical staff, and transportation to and from the hotel as needed. To learn more about the program, visit nyc.gov/covid19hotel.

U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) guidance about sterilizing PPE fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/counterterrorism-and-emerging-threats/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19

Collecting #CovidStoriesNYC: Open Call via Social Media for Images Documenting a Socially-Distanced NYC. For nearly a century, the Museum of the City of New York has been documenting New York City's stories. The Museum wants to share your stories as experienced through the lens of this COVID-19 crisis. MCNY invites everyone to share photos, taken from an appropriate social distance, documenting personal experiences during this challenging time. Post those images on Instagram using the hashtag #CovidStoriesNYC, and tag @MuseumOfCityNY. Museum staff will review the images on a rolling basis, selecting images that reflect on the impact of this event on life in this dense, creative, and resilient city to repost on our social media feed and other digital channels.

5/1/2020 **Gov. Cuomo announced new targeted efforts to further reduce the number of new hospitalizations per day**, which has remained steady at approximately 1,000 over the last several days. This new effort will gather additional information and data from hospitals about the individuals who are being hospitalized for COVID-19, including if they are essential workers, where they work, how they commute, where they live and other demographics. This specific information and data from the hospitals will be used to come up with a new strategy more tailored to the reduction of new daily hospitalizations.

Source: Gov. Cuomo's email of 5/1/2020

New York State is under a Stay-at-Home (PAUSE) directive until May 15

What is "Stay-at-Home" or PAUSE?

In general, this means that people should not leave their homes except for essentials such as groceries and medicine or emergencies. When outside, cover your nose and mouth with a scarf, bandanna or mask and practice social distancing (6' between people). Businesses that do not provide essential services must close and send workers home. Businesses considered essential could include grocery stores, restaurants that do take out service, pharmacies, organizations that provide services for vulnerable populations, first responders and hardware stores. Public transportation continues to operate to get nurses, doctors, law

enforcement officers, and other essential personnel where they need to go. Everyone else: Limit the use of public transportation to only when necessary.

The situation changes by the hour as new information and directives come out. As much as possible we are trying to provide links to trusted source information so that you can check the most up-to-date information. Read more about:

[Preventing novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and medical information](#)

[Directives for gatherings and facilities](#)

[Transportation and travel](#)

[Legislation and executive orders](#)

[Assistance \(and jobs\) for individuals, homeowners, artists, workers, the unemployed \(and pets\)](#)

[Food assistance resources](#)

[Medical resources and calls for medical professionals and volunteers](#)

[Small business and nonprofits assistance and resources](#)

[Schools and children](#)

[Government offices and resource lists](#)

[Volunteer and donation opportunities](#)

[Online entertainment, culture & learning \(including recorded Town Halls and forums\)](#)

[Neighborhood houses of worship, museums, educational and cultural institutions](#)

[Neighborhood restaurants, food & spirits that are open for delivery & pickup](#)

[Neighborhood retail, health care \(including pets\) & services that are open](#)

[Neighborhood businesses that are closed until further notice](#)

CDC/White House Guidance, Opening America [whitehouse.gov/openingamerica](https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica)

[New York's plan to reopen](#)

May 1, 2020, *cityandstateny.com*, by Amanda Luz Henning Santiago

COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths are declining but the state needs more testing, supplies and federal funding to safely reopen...New York's "Pause" order, which forced non-essential businesses to close their offices and storefronts, is scheduled to end on May 15...Cuomo said that the executive order may need to be extended further for other parts of the state with higher COVID-19 infection rates...Gov. Andrew Cuomo has been discussing his 12-step plan to gradually reopen the state soon after the order lifts...governor.ny.gov/new-york-forward/phased-plan-re-open-new-york#phased-plan-to-re-open-new-york...New York announced that it was in the beginning stages of creating a test and trace program with the help of former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who will be manning the project...Another problem facing the state is its lack of designated quarantine and isolation centers in which to place sick individuals or those who have been exposed to the virus...Even if the state does manage to suppress the virus through social distancing measures and minimal testing, it's likely the virus will return with a vengeance this fall..."If the hospital system exceeds 70% capacity or rate of transmission of the virus hits 1.1%, those are danger signs," the governor said.

5/3/2020 **COVID-19 data tracker for New York State** covid19tracker.health.ny.gov

Free streaming video of Murray Hill landmarks

Free Streaming video of the Murray Hill landmarks walking tour is now available

View the video, "Walking Tour of Historic Murray Hill," brought to you by the MHNA's Preservation & Design Committee. The film includes fascinating and lively historical background on Murray Hill and architectural commentary on 14 New York City landmark buildings, as well as spectacular footage of our scenic neighborhood. Running time approximately 1 hour. This offer will be available during the COVID-19 stay-at-home at murrayhillnyc.org/landmarksvideo.

A coronavirus poem

Metamorphosis by Polly Guerin

Imagine a rare bird in a gilded cage
We remain confined with silent rage

Cabin fever takes its toll in spurts
Then soldiering on is the new alert

Fraying nerves set the heart on fire
In a lock down city weary of desire

Let's shed our shell of discontent
By metamorphosis is what I meant

Like a cocoon that becomes a butterfly
Why not morph yourself and try

To remove any layers of deep sadness
And renew yourself with new gladness

Your inner wisdom is the main source
Chose colorful patterns to reinforce

Lifelong learning is an added plus
Do it now---In yourself do trust

Look for life lessons to improve
Put yourself in a brand new groove

Release limits shine with an inner glow

Your positive presence everyone will know

Claim a clean slate and spread your wings
Uncover your true self and the joy it brings

When we emerge from this virus stage
Morph yourself for the "all clear" age.

Census reminder

Respond to the census, if you haven't already done so!

The response rate in our district, NY-12, is only 45.4%. We are still below the New York State rate of 50.3% and the nationwide rate of 56%. An accurate count will affect our representation in Congress and how Federal funds are distributed for education, infrastructure and other programs. Respond to the Census survey at <https://www.census.gov>.

Upcoming events

Starting Monday, May 4

DOS's Brown Bin (curbside compost) collections will be suspended

The New York City Dept. of Sanitation's residential organics curbside collection program (or "brown bin" collections), will be suspended in response to COVID-19 budget cuts. Learn more at www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/site/resources/press-releases/nyc-sanitation-announces-service-changes-related-to-covid-19-budget-cuts. The City Council may discuss restoring the program as part of budget discussions.

Starting Monday, May 4 11am

[The NYC Department of Education's Let's Learn NYC](#)

A new educational public television program produced by the WNET Group in partnership with the DOE. It features lessons for children in 3K through second grade that will supplement remote learning. The series is being broadcast commercial-free on THIRTEEN, New York City's PBS station, which is available for free to over 99 percent of city residents. The program is also available to live stream on the station's website.

May 4-8

Teacher Appreciation Week

Here are a few ways you can celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week. Use and share the "Thank You Tool" surveygizmo.com/s3/5537629/708fb2258d8e to send a customized appreciation email to any DOE

teacher. There is no limit to how many teachers you can thank using the tool, and it is open to anyone. Please encourage students, school staff, parents, families, and other community members to use the tool. Share your message on social media. Join the celebration online! Use the hashtag #ThankATeacherNYC or #DOEConnected to share your appreciation for teachers across the DOE. Send an email to teachers that have added meaning to your life.

May 4 5pm

Survive & Thrive, a digital chat

Join Mayshad Women in the City and Michelle Risa for a chat on how we all survive and thrive (glass of wine in hand). Cheers! Join the event at joinmayshad.com and look for events at the bottom of the page.

Mondays: 6:30–8:30pm

Lectures on the Lives and Principles of the Founding Founders

These online lectures will explore the evolution in the thinking of six American Founding Fathers, with an emphasis on their views toward rights of property in land. Discussion is anticipated and encouraged. The Lecturer, Edward J. Dodson is a former financial sector executive and a long time faculty member of the Henry George School of Social Science. (4 classes remaining in the series) 4/27, 5/4, 5/11. Free, and registration fees are waived during the health crisis. Register at eventbrite.com/e/lectures-on-the-lives-and-principles-of-the-founding-fathers-tickets-100966214666.

May 5

Giving Tuesday for COVID-19

During these unpredictable times, one thing is certain: charitable organizations are struggling to make ends meet. To meet this emerging reality, GivingTuesday announced #GivingTuesdayNow as an emergency response to the unprecedented need caused by COVID-19. #GivingTuesdayNow will take place on May 5, 2020, to serve as a global day of giving and unity.

May 5 12pm deadline

[Economic Impact Payments: May 5 deadline for some SSI and VA beneficiaries with kids](#)

April 29, 2020, *consumer.ftc.gov*, by Seena Gressin, Attorney, Division of Consumer & Business Education, FTC

Are you an SSI or VA beneficiary? If you didn't file a tax return for 2018 or 2019 and have dependent children, you must register with the IRS by noon Eastern Time on May 5 to get an additional \$500 economic impact payment for dependents — or else you'll have to wait until you file your 2020 tax return to get the money. Fill out a non-filer form now irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here.

May 5 2-4pm

Free masks for those who need them

The City will be distributing over 100,000 face coverings in parks across the city, free of charge. The nearest location is Asser Levy Recreation Center at the FDR Drive and 24th Street, and practice safe social distancing when you visit.

May 5 3pm

Roundtable discussion, "Public Banking: An Alternative Solution to Restart the Economy Post COVID-19"

Join City & State with State Senators James Sanders Jr., Brian Benjamin, Leroy Comrie, Tim Kennedy, John Liu, Rachel May, Kevin Parker, Roxanne Persaud, Julia Salazar, Luis Sepulveda and Assembly Member Tom Abinanti. Panelists include Public Banking Institute members Emma Chappell and Dr. Amara Enyla, and Todd Scheuermann, Secretary to the Senate Majority Finance Committee. RSVP on Eventbrite eventbrite.com/e/public-banking-an-alternative-solution-to-restart-the-economy-post-covid19-tickets-103857917828. Join the meeting at Facebook.com/StateSenatorJamesSandersJr/.

Tuesdays 7:30-8:30pm

Get your COVID-19 questions answered LIVE by Councilwoman Carlina Rivera + a special guest: COVID-19 Conversation: Struggling With Mental Health and Family Well-Being?

Facebook Live every Tuesday with Councilwoman Carlina Rivera. Answered LIVE by NYC Councilwoman Carlina Rivera + Dr. Lauren Knickerbocker, including coping strategies for parents and kids and recommended resources. To submit your questions in advance, send an email to district2@council.nyc.gov, or send a message or comment on Carlina's posts on Facebook or Twitter facebook.com/CouncilwomanCarlinaRivera.

Thursdays 6:30-8:30pm

Rethinking Economics

Today, the general consensus is that economics as a discipline is in need of a major rethink. This 5-session online course, challenges the dominant neoclassical paradigm and explores new perspectives that capture the complexity of current economic reality. The course will be based on Kate Raworth's Doughnut Economics. Recommend that participants familiarize themselves with the material before the beginning of classes. Instructor: Dr. Marty Rowland. Free and registration fees are waived during the health crisis. Dates 5/7, 5/14 (it's OK to register after 4/16). Link will be shared after registration. Register at eventbrite.com/e/rethinking-economics-tickets-101569914348.

May 6 3pm

Secrets to Manifesting As A Leader Post 2020, a digital event

Join Michele Risa for the premier launch of a monthly series in partnership with Mayshad Women in the City. Now, more than ever we need conscious leaders to help guide us through uncertainty. This is the challenge. This is the vision. This highly interactive workshop explores how to: Redefine Your Leadership: Learn how to stay connected and anchored to the truth of who you are, Leverage Ancient Wisdom: Forge your path with conviction, intuition and vision to your inherent destiny, Create the New Normal: Balance IQ with EQ to optimally respond - from reactive to proactive, Realize the ROI of

Gratitude: Build your resilience and adaptability as you reshape yourself and your focus. Co-create magic with them. Register at joinmayshad.com/event/michele-risa-5-6-20.

Thursday, May 7 1pm

Online discussion with Historian Lars Tragardh: Sweden's Response to the Coronavirus

American-Scandinavian Foundation invites you to an online discussion with Swedish historian, author, and social commentator Lars Trägårdh regarding the nation's response to the coronavirus. In conversation with ASF President Edward Gallagher, Trägårdh will explore the nation's strategies, the rationales behind them, and the controversy they have engendered. Please send audience questions ahead of the discussion to info@amscan.org. Select questions will be chosen for a Q&A following the conversation. The discussion will later be available to stream on YouTube youtube.com/user/scandinaviahouse. View the Scandinavia House website scandinaviahouse.org for more online activities.

Thursday, May 7 7pm

You're Invited! The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association's Virtual Happy Hour!

Meet your fellow Murray Hill neighbors in our virtual happy hour on Zoom! * Serve yourself your favorite cocktail and join us in the comfort of your own home * Join via Zoom with your laptop, phone, or computer * Feel free to invite your fellow neighbor. RSVP:

zoom.us/meeting/register/u5YlceihqTMrCbR5xxNc_99qjOHQYWnfPw.

See you then! murrayhillnyc.org, info@murrayhillnyc.org.

Thursday, May 7 7–8pm

State Senator Liz Krueger's Town Hall: Our Mental Health: The Impact Of COVID-19 On Our Emotional Wellbeing

With Lisa Furst, LMSW and MPH, Assistant Vice President, Center for Advocacy, Policy and Education, Vibrant Emotional Health, for a discussion of how COVID-19 impacts all of our mental health, common symptoms we may experience, when we may need to seek professional help, and resources to enhance resiliency and help us cope. Please register and submit questions in advance at lizkrueger.com/virtual-town-hall-rsvp-our-mental-health. To view the event visit facebook.com/statesenatorlizkrueger.

Tuesday, May 12 6-7pm

The NYC SBA and Council Member Ben Kallos town hall with SBA Commissioner Gregg Bishop

Featuring Small Business Administration Commissioner Gregg Bishop and CM Kallos's office will give reports and updates on relevant points and then will open up for questions from those in attendance. Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney will also be there. You must RSVP to submit questions or participate on Zoom benkallos.com/event/town-hall-nyc-small-business-administration-commissioner-gregg-bishop or 212-860-1950. Facebook Live: Skip the RSVP and watch the stream at Facebook.com/BenKallos.

May 29 Deadline

New York Recycles! Poster Contest for NYS Students

All kindergarten through 12th grade students in New York State public and private schools and youth organizations are invited to showcase their artistic talent and their commitment to the environment by participating in the 18th Annual New York Recycles! If a student's school or classroom is not participating, a student may still submit an individual entry. Poster Contest sponsored by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the New York Recycles! Steering Committee. For more information see dec.ny.gov/education/32506.html.



***Black and White* exhibit at Gallery35 is online!**

To see in color is a delight for the eye but to see in BLACK AND WHITE is a delight for the soul.

— Andri Cauldwell

Eleven Gallery35 artists present work in black and white using a variety of media including monoprints, photography and stained glass. Works by Marsha Peruo, Pat Gericke, Ingrid Sletten, Juanita Gilmore, Ellen Mandelbaum, Virginia Asman, John Devaney. Take a virtual tour at gallery35nyc.com. All works are available for purchase. Gallery35, 30 East 35th Street, gallery35ny@gmail.com, 917-566-0708.

New Virtual Course offered by the Henry George School of Social Science: Understanding Our Political Economy

The purpose of this course is to study fundamental economic principles and to apply them in solving today's economic problems: poverty, wealth inequality, unemployment, the boom – bust cycle, high taxes, inflation, etc. The textbook used is Henry George's masterwork, *Progress and Poverty*. Though this book first appeared in 1879, it is fully applicable to today's conditions since the principles with which it deals are both timeless and universal. The instructor, Edward J. Dodson is retired financial sector executive and a long time faculty member of the Henry George School of Social Science. Students can watch the lectures and complete all the quizzes and assignments online at their own pace.

hgss.org/understanding-our-political-economy.

Traffic notice

Park Avenue Tunnel Restoration Project

Test pits will be dug on 34th Street, starting May 4. [Flyer](#)

Calls for donations

Help purchase PPE for front line medical staff

Murray Hill's **Kalvig & Shorter Veterinary Associates** (KSV) are purchasing KN95/ N95 masks, gloves, gowns, face gear, and other important PPE supplies for direct delivery to NYC heroes in human healthcare who are fighting COVID-19 every day with dedication, bravery, and great risk to their lives. You can help by donating to this fund gofundme.com/f/wa5nrb-donate-a-mask-to-the-front-line. Every dollar will go to help our NYC heroes on the front line in the fight against COVID-19. As an essential health care facility, the KSV veterinary hospital has continued to operate with strict safety protocols for staff and public safety during this difficult time. They will continue to help their canine and feline patients in need, their clients, and our community however they can.

Changes in the neighborhood

[Excavation Begins At 509 Third Avenue In Murray Hill, Manhattan](#)

April 23, 2020, *newyorkyimby.com*, by Michael Young

Excavation activity has begun at 509 Third Avenue in Murray Hill for what will become a 35-story mixed-use residential development. Situated at the corner of East 34th Street, the site has been cleared following the demolition of multiple five-story buildings that once occupied the property. Ismael Leyva Architects is the architect of record and Kevin Lalezarian under the Third and Thirty Four LLC is listed as the owner behind the applications for the 386-foot-tall structure, which will yield 229 units...509 Third Avenue is expected to yield 166,917 square feet, with 158,685 square feet designated for residential space. The 229 residences, most likely rentals, will average 692 square feet apiece. There will also be 8,253 square feet for commercial space and a 30-foot-long rear yard...An estimated completion date for 509 Third Avenue has not been announced.

Traffic and transportation

[L Train Tunnel Project Is Complete Ahead Of Schedule, Cuomo Says](#)

April 26, 2020, *gothamist.com*, by John Del Signore

Cuomo announced the L train tunnel between Brooklyn and Manhattan was officially finished...Cuomo said the project is done today under budget and ahead of schedule, after 12 months of work to repair damage caused by Superstorm Sandy..."Additional project elements" are still being finished as well, and some work will still continue into the fall of 2020, according to the MTA. Read more new.mta.info/l-project.

Schools

[It's official: NYC relaxes grading policies in wake of massive shift to remote learning](#)

April 28, 2020, *chalkbeat.org*, by Alex Zimmerman and Christina Veiga

The new policy...takes into account that students may be experiencing trauma and have difficulties accessing online learning...For elementary school students, teachers will evaluate whether a student is "meeting standards" or "needs improvement," based on writing samples, projects, or other assignments. The same procedure is in place for middle school students in grades 6-8 with one addition: They can also receive a "course in progress" [instead of a failing grade] on their report cards, which means they will automatically be enrolled in summer school...High school students will continue to receive normal letter grades, with the exception that no one will receive a failing grade. They will have the option to convert their grade to a "pass" rating, which would not affect their GPA...Many New York City middle and high schools admit students based on their academic records, but the pandemic has forced the city and state to suspend the most commonly used measures. Attendance no longer counts towards enrollment decisions, the state has canceled standardized tests, and now, traditional grades have been dramatically altered for students vying for competitive middle and high schools. The education department is still developing guidance on how the middle and high school admissions process will work, according to Schools Chancellor Richard Carranza.

Related: Chancellor Carranza's Message for [Families https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learn-at-home/chancellor-s-message-for-families](https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learn-at-home/chancellor-s-message-for-families)

4/24/2020 What The CARES Act Means For Your Student Loans:

[npr.org/2020/04/24/844048425/what-the-cares-act-means-for-your-student-loans](https://www.npr.org/2020/04/24/844048425/what-the-cares-act-means-for-your-student-loans).

5/3/2020 Launch of Remote Learning Technical Support Ticket System for Families: The DOE is launching a family-facing Remote Learning Technical Support ticket system schools.nyc.gov/learn-at-home/technical-tools-and-support/technical-support-for-families. Families (or someone on their behalf) can submit requests for technical support for a broad range of issues, including application support, lost, stolen, or broken devices, and delivery status, though the Technical Support for Families page. Note that when families select a topic and issue in the ticket submission form, the form will automatically list common resolutions to technical support problems; if the suggested resolutions do not resolve the family's issue, they can continue to submit a tech support ticket by completing the form

idm.nycenet.edu/remotelarningsupportticket/index.html. This family-facing system, and the DOE staff remote learning support ticket system, is intended to replace emails to the SchoolDevices@schools.nyc.gov inbox.

Budget

Cuomo warns of \$8.2 billion in cuts to localities

April 26, 2020, *cityandstateny.com*, e-newsletter of 4/26/2020

Gov. Andrew Cuomo plans to slash aid to localities by \$8.2 billion and cut state agency budgets by 10% unless new federal aid comes through in the coming weeks, according to an updated state financial plan released Saturday <https://www.budget.ny.gov/pubs/archive/fy21/enac/fy21-enacted-fp.pdf>...“On May 1, we'll know exactly what the revenues are,” state Budget Director Robert Mujica told reporters on Sunday. “We'll know exactly where we are with Washington and whether we have more money.” Related: “Call Washington.” – Gov. Andrew Cuomo, at Sunday press conference, in response to a question about what local officials should do after his administration floated \$8 billion in cuts to localities unless more federal aid is secured.

Related article: Read the NYC Executive Budget: <http://on.nyc.gov/executivebudget>

Legislation

[NYC Storefront Registration Requirement](#)

Local Law 157 of 2019 requires the Department of Finance (DOF) to implement a storefront registry within one year of the effective date of the law (November 21, 2019). Under the new law, owners of ground-floor or second-floor commercial premises that are visible from the street and accessible to the public directly from the street or from the interior of a building are required to file an annual registration statement providing information about the spaces. The requirement applies to commercial premises that are occupied or used, or could be occupied or used, for the purpose of offering or selling goods at retail. This includes restaurants and service-sector firms operating in storefront spaces. Additionally, all class two and four owners of ground-floor or second-floor commercial premises who meet the registry filing requirements must file a supplemental registration to report any vacancies or ownership changes for the period from January 1 through June 30 of the year in which the storefront registration statement is filed. The supplemental registration is not required to be filed by designated class one property owners. If you are required to register your storefront, visit nyc.gov/rpie.

Elections

COVID-19 Changes to elections

All New Yorkers will be able to vote by mail in the June 23 primary election. Postage paid applications for absentee ballots and ballots will be mailed to all voters. There will be no Presidential primary on June 23.

Public service notices & scams

The NYPD has informed us of a **new scam targeting business owners**. If you receive a phone call, email, or text message instructing you to purchase a prepaid merchant gift/debit card, cryptocurrency, or money order to pay any of the following, just hang up – it's a scam! The fake caller may say they are Law enforcement for bail, IRS for owed taxes, Utility company to avoid service interruption, Immigration officials to avoid deportation/arrest, Social Security officials for fraudulent activity/warrant/arrest involving your Social Security number, Ransom, Hospital for emergency treatment of a loved one. For more information and quick tips, follow the NYPD Crime Prevention Division on Twitter using handle @nypdcpd.

4/30/2020 The NYPD has informed us about a series of **new COVID-19 themed scams** targeting businesses and individuals. Observed scams have included selling fraudulent personal protective equipment (PPE), hawking fake cures and tests, spreading disinformation, phishing campaigns, and other related scams. Read this NYPD brief for more information and tips on identifying COVID-19 related scams grandcentralpartnership.nyc/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/20200422-COVID-Fraud-EXTERNAL_SHIELD_FINAL-1.pdf. Also, follow the NYPD Crime Prevention Division on Twitter @nypdcpd.

[Not every COVID-19 testing site is legit](#)

April 30, 2020, consumer.ftc.gov, by Ari Lazarus, Consumer Education Specialist, FTC

You probably know that COVID-19 tests are in short supply. But did you know there's no shortage of scammers setting up fake COVID-19 testing sites to cash in on the crisis?

Not sure if you need to get tested? Try the CDC's self-checker. cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/testing.html

[Scam emails demand Bitcoin, threaten blackmail](#)

April 29, 2020, consumer.ftc.gov, by Bridget Small, Consumer Education Specialist

You may get one of these messages because your email was exposed in a recent data breach. The scammers may say they have access to your computer or webcam, or installed clever software to defeat you. That's all talk. But they may really know one of your old – or recent – passwords, and they include it in the message to prove it. When you see that, you know it's time to update your password on that account, and consider updating other passwords, too.

[Editor's note: I got this scam as a popup window on my browser and the followup emails. There may be some malware connected with this scam, as my browsers then became useless and couldn't connect with the internet. I ran the browser diagnostics to test network connectivity and one of the suggestions

was to check your device's Firewall to see what applications are allowed. I had to remove my Google Chrome browser and then put it back. After doing that, everything ran well, although there was some setup to get the browser back the way it used to be. I also changed the passwords that the email said were compromised. Passwords are considered strong if they have at least 8 characters, upper and lower case alpha characters, numeric characters and special characters.]

Stories we are following

5/1/2020 Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney and other representatives launched the bipartisan **Postal Preservation Caucus to continue to highlight the severity the financial situation at the Postal Service**. They appealed to House Postal Preservation Caucus to continue to highlight the severity of and Senate leadership urging swift passage of bipartisan legislation to give the Postal Service the assistance it needs to keep functioning on behalf of the American people. Without immediate help from Congress and the Administration, the Postal Service—a vital staple of American society since 1775—could cease to function by this summer.

[‘Recovery Strategy Group’ Eyes Future of Work in Post-Coronavirus New York Economy](#)

April 27, 2020, gothamgazette.com, by Samar Khurshid

A group of experts from the public and private sectors is hoping to create a roadmap to recovery that will help the state emerge stronger from the most challenging socio-economic crisis it has faced in modern times...The group includes representatives from business coalitions, nonprofits, labor groups, policy think tanks, and academia...[T]he NY Workforce group aims to find specific long-term solutions to future problems, focusing on four key areas: supporting small business and entrepreneurship with grants, loans and workforce development programs; identifying large-scale public works projects that can put large numbers of people back to work; maintaining the educational and job training ecosystem for youth and adult learners; promoting equity for the most marginalized workers and providing them with individual relief...Roughly 18.9% -- or 1.6 million people -- of New York City residents were living in poverty as of July 1, 2019, according to U.S. Census Bureau data.

(Opinion) [Renters are Facing an Unprecedented Emergency; We Need a Federal Answer, Not a Rent Strike](#)

May 01, 2020, gothamgazette.com, by Jolie Milstein, president and CEO of the New York State Association for Affordable Housing

This problem will require a multifaceted solution set, but must be centered around direct assistance to renters in the form of flexible emergency rental assistance and far more robust stimulus payments.

(Opinion) [Sirens and Suffering: Rethinking the Soundtrack of the Coronavirus Crisis](#)

April 21, 2020, gothamgazette.com, by Julia Vitullo-Martin

Manhattan City Council Members Carlina Rivera and Helen Rosenthal have already started, introducing a bill to require the gradual introduction of high-low sirens, and to mandate a maximum sound level not to exceed 90 decibels, which would constitute an enormous change.

Petition 'Save Restaurants' launched by the James Beard Foundation and other high-profile chefs. They want to present it to Congress saverestaurants.com.

5/3/2020 **Have you noticed that there are many fewer robocalls lately?**

Thanks to Senator Kirsten Gillibrand who cosponsored the bipartisan TRACED Act which was signed into law this past year. This legislation broadens the authority of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to levy civil penalties of up to \$10,000 per call on people who intentionally disregard telemarketing restrictions. The bill also extends the window for the FCC to catch and take civil enforcement action against intentional violations to three years after a robocall is placed. In addition, this bill requires voice service providers to adopt call authentication technologies, and brings together all relevant federal agencies including state attorneys general and other non-federal entities to identify and report to Congress on improving deterrence and criminal prosecution at the federal and state level of robocall scams. Finally, the bill directs the FCC to initiate a rulemaking to help protect subscribers from receiving unwanted calls or texts from callers.

Sorting It Out: Symbols and Labeling Myths and Facts about Recycling

Source: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation email of 4/26/2020

Recycle where facilities exist, return to retail, eco-friendly, #7, #1, contains recycled content, recyclable, bio-based, chasing arrows with a number, chasing arrows without a number, 50 percent PCR, and what's that little green leaf!? Symbols and text on products and packaging can be confusing, especially when we're trying to figure out how to properly recycle, compost, or dispose of something in the trash. Read on to learn how to sort it all out!

Know Your Program, Myth or Fact? It's too hard to figure out how to recycle products or packaging.

Myth. Your municipality or hauler can provide you with an "accepted" and "not accepted" list for your home recycling bin to take out the guess work. Your local recycling coordinator [Bridget Anderson Deputy Commissioner, Bureau of Recycling and Sustainability, NYC Department of Sanitation, 44 Beaver Street, New York, NY 10004, 212-437-4672, banderson@dny.nyc.gov, www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/site/home] can answer questions and help you figure out what to do with items requiring special drop-off programs for recycling such as textiles, rechargeable batteries, plastic bags and films, electronics or items that may be household hazardous waste.

[Editor's note: In my opinion, this should have been labelled "Fact"!]

The MHNA Discount Program

Please be prepared to show proof of membership when you ask for a discount.

[Restaurant and Food Discounts](#) [General Discounts](#)

Our government representatives

When contacting your representative, be sure to state your address so that they know that you are a constituent. You can see the District maps and sign up for their emails on their websites.

Manhattan Community Board 5: www.cb5.org, 212-465-0907, office@cb5.org

Manhattan Community Board 6: cbsix.org, 212-319-3750, office@cbsix.org

NYC Councilwoman Carlina Rivera, Council District 2: council.nyc.gov/carlina-rivera, 212-677-1077, District2@council.nyc.gov

NYC Council Speaker, Corey Johnson, Council District 3: council.nyc.gov/district-3, 212-564-7757, SpeakerJohnson@council.nyc.gov

NYC Council Member Keith Powers, Council District 4: council.nyc.gov/keith-powers, 212-818-0580, KPowers@council.nyc.gov

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer: manhattanbp.nyc.gov, 212-669-8300, info@manhattanbp.nyc.gov

Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, #GetHelp, The Office of the Public Advocate assists with complaints and inquiries involving government-related services and regulations. Telephone Hotline: 212-669-7250, email: GetHelp@advocate.nyc.gov

Mayor Bill de Blasio: www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor, 311, online message: <https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/mayor-contact.page>

Landmarks Preservation Commission: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/lpc/about/contact-us.page>

NY State Senator Liz Krueger, 28th Senate District: www.nysenate.gov/senators/liz-krueger, 212-490-9535, lkrueger@nysenate.gov

NY State Senator Brad Hoylman, 27th Senate District: <https://www.nysenate.gov/senators/brad-hoylman>, 212-633-8052, hoylman@nysenate.gov

NY State Assembly Member Dan Quart, Assembly District 73, www.nyassembly.gov/mem/Dan-Quart, 212-605-0937, quartd@nyassembly.gov

NY State Assembly Member Harvey Epstein, Assembly District 74, www.nyassembly.gov/mem/Harvey-Epstein, 212-979-9696, epsteinh@nyassembly.gov

NY Assembly Member Richard N. Gottfried, Assembly District 75,
www.nyasembly.gov/mem/Richard-N-Gottfried, 212-807-7900, GottfriedR@nyasembly.gov

U.S. Representative Carolyn Maloney, New York's 12th Congressional District:
<https://maloney.house.gov>, 212-860-0606, website contact form:
<https://maloney.house.gov/contact-carolyn/email-me>

U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer: www.schumer.senate.gov, 212-486-4430, website contact form:
<https://www.schumer.senate.gov/contact/email-chuck>

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand: www.gillibrand.senate.gov, 212-688-6262, website contact form: www.gillibrand.senate.gov/contact/email-me

U.S. President Donald Trump: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/people/donald-j-trump> website contact form: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>

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