
Information that may be of interest...June 1, 2020

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

Please share this email with friends, neighbors and colleagues.

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Coronavirus updates

The COVID Stay-at-Home (PAUSE) directive has been extended to June 27. NYC is the only New York State region that has not met all of the reopening criteria. Mayor de Blasio and Gov. Cuomo have announced that **NYC's Phase 1 reopening can begin as early as June 8. Test & trace begins on June 1.** You may begin to receive calls from contact tracers who will ask questions about your contacts and their telephone numbers. Contact tracers should not be asking for any of your personal information or ask for money. If they do, hang up! They are scammers.

Read more about the businesses that can reopen in Phase 1 forward.ny.gov/phase-one-industries. Reopening is expected to bring 200,000-400,000 additional people to NYC. For more information about reopening see the MHNA [Reopening page](#). Businesses and individuals must keep up with the requirements for the different Phases of reopening.

With the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the situation changes by the hour as new information and directives come out. As much as possible we provide links to trusted source information so that you can check the most up-to-date information.

NYC will not issue permits for street events in June.

Until NYC reopens on June 8 it is still in "Stay-at-Home" (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.

NYC Department of Health website: www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/index.page

New York State Department of Health website: coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home

Centers for Disease Control website for advice on how to prevent COVID-19
cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention.html.

You can help NYC reopen by following guidelines: wear a mask when you are with people outside of your household, practice social distancing, wash or sanitize your hands often, stay at home as much as possible.

5/27/2020 Gov. Cuomo signed an Executive Order that **businesses will have the right to refuse admission to customers who are not wearing face masks.**

If you have symptoms of coronavirus, get tested! (also self-quarantine as much as possible and wear a mask) Sites run by New York State are free. Check with the others and with your doctor to find out if there will be charges coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you. New Yorkers who have symptoms or questions about Coronavirus (COVID-19) can call 1-844-NYC-4NYC to connect to a medical provider free of charge seven days a week from 9am - 9pm.

Read more about:

- Preventing novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and medical information
- Directives for gatherings and facilities
- COVID Reopening guidelines for New York State (NY Forward) NYC is still in Stay-at-Home (PAUSE)
- 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, jobs and donation opportunities
- Online entertainment, culture & learning
- 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

These links are also posted on the MHNA website murrayhillnyc.org.

The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association will follow Federal, NYS and NYC guidelines during the COVID19 outbreak and will update our website and other channels of communication if there are any changes. All events are canceled until at least the fall.

The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association extends an offer to members: contact us if you need assistance during the COVID-19 outbreak, email info@murrayhillnyc.org or call 212-886-5867.

For Small Businesses

The New York Forward Loan Fund is a new New York State \$100 million economic recovery loan program aimed at supporting NYS small businesses, focusing on minority and women-owned businesses that did not receive federal COVID-19 assistance, especially those with 20 or fewer employees and less than \$3 million in gross revenues. Learn more on how to apply at esd.ny.gov/nyforwardloans-info

The U.S. Small Business Administration and Department of the Treasury have released the **Paycheck Protection Program Loan Forgiveness Application** to help small businesses seek forgiveness at the end of the eight week period following the receipt of the loan. Your business has to meet the eligibility requirements to get loan forgiveness. If you would like assistance with the application, make an appointment at sbdc@pace.edu or visit the Pace Small Business Development Center pacesbdc.org/ppp.

EBT Cards

Applicants approved for Cash Assistance & SNAP benefits will receive an EBT card in the mail. Call EBT Customer Service at 888-328-6399 for account information or to request a replacement card to be received by mail otda.ny.gov/workingfamilies/ebt.

Creatives for Kitchens

This new nonprofit is a collective of volunteer art directors, designers, developers, and writers offering their services pro bono to small restaurants impacted by the COVID-19 lockdown. Specifically, creative professionals will help with light creative design & development work, e.g., updating menus, flyers, website copy, signage, etc. To date, over 350 creative volunteers have signed-up. For more information please follow this link: creativesforkitchens.org.

REOPENING BUSINESSES

Businesses must prepare plans for Phase 1 reopening if your business is eligible. As NYC reopens, all businesses must adhere to specific hygiene, distancing, and health protocols. The City will require Phase 1 businesses to post reopening safety plans in the workplace. The Department of Buildings, Department of

Consumer and Worker Protection and Small Business Services will educate, conduct outreach and provide support to businesses.

Basic rules for all sectors:

Social Distancing - Require 6 feet of distance unless safety or core function of the work activity requires less, Reduce occupancy to under 50%, limit confined spaces to 1 person (elevators, behind cash registers, etc), Limit all in-person gatherings and meetings, and only hold them in large, well-ventilated areas with social distancing.

PPE - Provide employees with free face coverings or, if warranted, face shields or other proper protective equipment. Require face coverings if employees cannot keep 6 feet of distance due to safety or core work function.

Hygiene - Ensure frequent cleaning and disinfecting of any shared surfaces

Health Screenings - Implement mandatory health screenings for employees, including questionnaires, temperature checks.

Communication - Create distance markers, post signage throughout the workplace reminding personnel to adhere to phase 1 guidance and rules.

Find more guidance from NYS here: [forward.ny.gov/industries-reopening-phase](https://www.forward.ny.gov/industries-reopening-phase).

Curbside and In-Store Pickup Retail Guidelines for Employers and Employees, the official New York State reopening document, put together by the Madison Avenue BID governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/CurbsideIn-StorePickupRetailShortGuidelines.pdf.

New York State Department of Health NY Forward Safety Plan (essential document) Template governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/NYS_BusinessReopeningSafetyPlanTemplate.pdf. Each reopening business must develop a written **Safety Plan** outlining how its workplace will prevent the spread of COVID-19. A business may fill out this template to fulfill the requirement, or may develop its own Safety Plan. This plan does not need to be submitted to a state agency for approval but must be retained on the premises of the business and must be made available to the New York State Department of Health (DOH) or local health or safety authorities in the event of an inspection.

New York State Department of Health Interim Guidance for Curbside and In-Store Pickup Retail Business Activities During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (essential document) governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/CurbsideInStoreRetailMasterGuidance.pdf. To open, a responsible party from your business must "affirm that you have read and understand your obligation to operate in accordance with this guidance" by clicking through a link provided at the end of this document. The document covers items including physical distancing, gatherings in enclosed spaces, workplace activity, movement and commerce, protective equipment, hygiene and cleaning, phased reopening, screening and testing, tracing and tracking, and employer plans.

For more details, see this [MHNA reopening page](#).

FoodHelp NYC Locator map maps.nyc.gov/foodhelp/#map-page

Masks can be shipped to you

For those concerned about leaving their homes (e.g. older, immunocompromised and/or disabled New Yorkers) you can request to have masks shipped to you using this form from the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities. a002-irm.nyc.gov/EventRegistration/RegForm.aspx?eventGuid=5c6b9250-3729-4021-8241-650a0d1eecf4.

Distribution of Infrared Thermometers

FEMA Fact Sheet, May 26, 2020

The federal government will distribute non-contact infrared thermometers (NCIT) to support phased reopening of the Nation's workplaces. New York State will get 24,538 thermometers to distribute. Temperature checks are one way to detect if someone has COVID-19. Note that some people with the virus do not show symptoms.

All NYC Public School Families Will Receive \$420 Per Child For Food Benefits Through Federal Coronavirus Relief Effort

May 22, 2020, patch.com, by Chalkbeat

The City Human Resources Administration has released the application for the Cooling Assistance benefit

This benefit helps eligible households buy and install an air conditioner or fan up to a cost of \$800. access.nyc.gov/programs/cooling-assistance-benefit **Deadline to submit applications is August 30, 2020.**

FREE COVID-19 Contact Tracing online course (required for all who want to be hired as contact tracers), developed in partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies. coursera.org/learn/covid-19-contact-tracing

End of Life Choices New York, in collaboration with *The Completed Life Initiative* completedlife.org, has developed *The Healthcare Proxy Helpline* endoflifechoicesny.org/helpline (212-726-2034). This FREE service was created to provide support to New Yorkers as they complete the New York State Health Care Proxy Form. In this time of COVID-19, it is essential to appoint someone you trust as your Health Care Agent to communicate your medical wishes if you lose the ability to do so yourself. By completing this form, and discussing your wishes with your Health Care Agent, you ensure your wishes will be known and honored.

Sewage testing gives clues of coronavirus

May 28, 2020, thehill.com, by Reid Wilson

Schools

Pre-K seats are still available. To apply, visit myschools.nyc/en or call 718-935-2009.

NYC Department of Education Updates

For elementary and middle school students who are required or recommended to attend summer school, the program will start one week earlier and will run from Monday, July 6 – Tuesday, August 11. There is no change to the duration or structure of the program.

For high school students who are attending summer school, courses will also start one week earlier and will run from Monday, July 6 – Friday, August 14. There is no change to the duration or structure of this program either.

For students with 12-month Individualized Education Plan (IEPs) services, there will be no change to the calendar. Our teachers start on Wednesday, July 1 and students are expected to participate from Thursday, July 2–Thursday, August 13.

Resources and summer-specific activities at schools.nyc.gov/summer in the coming weeks.

Upcoming events

through September 30

Art Unlocked! Gallery35's new summer virtual exhibit!

This online exhibit features work created by 14 artists before and during the pandemic! Enjoy the video preview and artist galleries! All works are available for purchase. Gallery35, [30 East 35th Street](#), email gallery35ny@gmail.com, 917-566-0708.

Visit gallery35nyc.com.

through June 4

Lincoln Center At Home - one week of dance performances and classes

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts is devoting one week of its online streaming content to dance, airing ballet performances and streaming live classes. Lincoln Center will be streaming a performance from a renowned dance company each night at LincolnCenter.org and on the center's Facebook page. Some broadcasts have not been seen in decades. For more information about the classes, visit LincolnCenter.org/PopUpClassroom.

Joshua Tuason Dancing a Snippet of 'The Inside Story' a

coronavirus dance piece for video by Ellen Cornfield, Cornfield Dance, cornfielddance.org. See the snippet (32 seconds) at vimeo.com/419046437/d31a96cf60.

June 1 3pm

June 10 7pm

June 16 11am

Tenants Rights Information Sessions via Zoom

New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer and The Legal Aid Society will speak at this event. Hear from housing experts and bring your questions. RSVP at NYCComptrollerTenants2020.eventbrite.com or call 212-669-4466. The link will be provided when you RSVP. Please request

interpretation services upon RSVP at least two days before each session.

June 1 6-8pm

Department of Education "Listening Event" - Admissions to

Middle & High Schools

You will have an opportunity to share with the policy makers your thoughts about how Admissions to Middle and High Schools should look next year. In Manhattan, the event will be held with Executive Superintendent Marisol Rosales. Registration required [learndoe.org/face/](https://www.learndoe.org/face/) and sign up to speak. The DOE promises to engage with parents, school leaders, students, and other stakeholders to collect ideas and perspectives on admissions for Fall 2021. You are also invited to email your thoughts, ideas and concerns to: EnrollmentFeedback@schools.nyc.gov. Updated information will be posted at schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/admissions-engagement as it becomes available.

June 1 8pm

***We are One Public*, a virtual benefit show in lieu of The Public Theater's annual fundraising gala**

The New York Public Theater will be putting on a virtual show with performances and appearances from some of the community's biggest stars. The event will be hosted by Jesse Tyler Ferguson, a Broadway alum and former "Modern Family" star. The theater has a long list of big name attendees, including Meryl Streep, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Sting, Glenn Close, Jane Fonda, Audra McDonald, Martin Sheen and many others. This year's event will honor Audrey and Zygi Wilf and actor Sam Waterston. Viewers can watch the show via live stream on the Public's website, Facebook and YouTube pages. Those who donate or RSVP in advance will be entered into a raffle to win a \$100 Seamless eGift Card. For more information visit publictheater.org. RSVP publictheater.org/support-us/events-benefits/virtual-event/weareonepublic

June 1 9am

Registration opens to testify live at the NYC Rent Guidelines Board (RGB) public hearings

Register at rentguidelinesboard.cityofnewyork.us/registration. The hearings are scheduled for **June 10** and **June 11** rentguidelinesboard.cityofnewyork.us/meetings/2020-meetings-and-hearings. The RGB has proposed a rent freeze for one-year renewals and, for two-year renewals, a rent freeze for year 1 and a 1% increase for year 2. You may submit written, audio or video testimony to the RGB in advance of the hearings at the Testimony Submissions webpage rentguidelinesboard.cityofnewyork.us/testimony. The deadline to submit comments is June 11.

June 1 4-8pm

***Day of Musical Action*, a live musical webcast in support of the Music Lives Forever Kaufman Relief Fund**

The 6-8pm portion of the event will feature husband-and-wife *Frozen* songwriters Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez, among others. Watch on Facebook Live facebook.com/KaufmanMusicCenter and YouTube youtube.com/channel/UCtXp-S-s88dAq7rIByaVyvA.

June 1 6pm

Lincoln Center for “Memorial for Us All,” a musical webcast featuring the names of those lost to COVID-19

This Sunday’s broadcast, the fifth in the program, will feature opera star Ailyn Pérez. For the sixth broadcast next Sunday (June 7), please submit names by this Monday (June 1) at 6pm at <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=n0FMik9R1UG28q0eX7MGR8wPrVweAd5AgHixOxWjEnBUQzZMUVIFRVBBWE9WUE1JUVNMS1IUTzNERC4u>

June 2 2:30-3:30pm

Preserving NYC Theaters, Supporting this industry through COVID-19 and beyond

COVID-19 has upended all of our daily lives, shuttering New York City’s many beloved institutions and offering an opportunity to reflect on the places we value, and miss, the most. The Municipal Art Society will lead a conversation virtually, exploring how we can support this industry through the current crisis and beyond. Note: You must RSVP to receive a link to join the webinar my.demio.com/ref/EIzpNoCnfOUMARIH.

June 2 4–5pm

New Tech for Architecture and Design

Video-conferencing software, workflow management tools, new BIM plugins, and even social networking for designers—the pandemic has brought about many changes in how architecture and design is practiced today. How have leading A&D firms adapted their technology strategies, and what do they have their eye on for the future? Panelists: Don Weinreich, Partner, Ennead Architects, Michael Beneville, Founder & CEO, Beneville Studios, Rob DeMillo, Chief Technology Officer, SOM. CEU accreditation. Register at metropolisforum-newtech.splashthat.com.

June 2 5pm

Webinar: Resumes and Interviews During COVID-19

In this virtual, interactive session, Amy Geffen, President of Geffen Careers, discusses strategies to help you prepare for the most important elements of a current job search or career change during this time. This program is presented by the New York Public Library. Register at nypl.org/events/programs/2020/06/02/resume-interview and receive a confirmation email with more information to join this webinar.

June 2 6pm

Vocalist, Gina Morgano performs selections from the American Songbook

The program includes 'I Could Have Danced All Night' and 'Someone to Watch Over Me.' Gina performs with the National Chorale at Lincoln Center’s David Geffen Hall and has sung at numerous venues, including Carnegie Hall, Feinstein’s/54 Below, and St. Patrick’s Cathedral. To access the concert, log in at: us02web.zoom.us/j/89661259566pwd=ZVM3R3JqQm1rcGJ0c0JRUTJleUE3UT09, Meeting ID: 896 6125 9566, Password: 970499.

June 3, 10, 17 & 24 7pm-8:15pm

St. George's Choral Society 'Summer Sings' June 2020 via Zoom

On four Wednesdays, explore masterworks from the choral repertoire with the choir! Led by

Artistic Director Matthew Lewis, each session begins with a vocal warmup, followed by a rehearsal/reading of the given movements. Scores are available by PDF, emailed to participants. Free, donations encouraged. Email info@stgeorgeschoralsociety.org to RSVP

June 3 Mendelssohn: *Elijah* ("Yet doth the Lord see it not," "He, watching over Israel")

June 10 Vaughan Williams: *Serenade to Music*

June 17 Dvorák: *Stabat Mater* ("Eia Mater, fons amoris")

June 24 Brahms: *Ein deutsches Requiem* ("Selig sind, die da Leid tragen")

There is no charge for participation, but donations are encouraged. Email info@stgeorgeschoralsociety.org to add your name to the invitation list. A Zoom link will be sent at 6:45pm, prior to the session. stgeorgeschoralsociety.org/concerts. A NYC treasure, the choir has operated continuously since its founding in 1817.

June 4 7-8pm

State Senator Liz Krueger's Virtual Town Hall: Housing Issues Part 2 - Coop Shareholders, Condo Owners, & Small Homeowners

Join Sen. Krueger and Coop/Condo attorneys Kevin McConnell and Rose Marie Cantanno for a discussion about the issues faced by coop shareholders, condo owners, and small homeowners during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. McConnell is a partner at Himmelstein, McConnell where he concentrates on cooperative and condominium law. Ms. Cantanno is Associate Director of the Consumer Protection unit at NYLAG, where she advocates for property owners at the state and city level. Discussion topics will include: mortgage payments, maintenance, assessments, property taxes, foreclosure prevention, and boards of directors. View the event online via Facebook or listen by calling in. You do not need a Facebook account or profile to view the event. Please view the event through Facebook if you have internet access. To view the virtual event, visit facebook.com/statesenatorlizkrueger. Once you register you will receive a confirmation email with the call-in information. Callers will remain muted during the Town Hall. If you have questions about mortgages, maintenance and assessments, property taxes, foreclosure prevention, or coop or condo boards, please submit them when you register. Attendees will also be able to submit questions through Facebook during the event. Register at tinyurl.com/virtualtownhall-housingpart2.

June 5 7:30 pm

Piano on Park presents Lea Lu - singer / songwriter

Swiss Singer-Songwriter Lea Lu plays a selection of previously unreleased songs from her upcoming album. Her original acoustic songs spin tales of loneliness, of freedom, and of the joy of encounters all over the world. pianoonpark.com/concerts

June 9 7:30pm

Councilwoman Carlina Rivera's Tuesday COVID-19 conversations

On Facebook Live: facebook.com/CouncilwomanCarlinaRivera. Submit questions in advance, email district2@council.nyc.gov.

AT&T Summer Learning Academy registration has opened for their free online certificate program for college students with 80 hours of coursework in business subjects. Learn more at inside.att.jobs/externship.

The City's Department of Small Business Services is hosting a series of free webinars and mentor sessions for small business owners and entrepreneurs on topics ranging from QuickBooks, to content creation, to pandemic resources.

TechConnect Virtual Classes

The New York Public Library's TechConnect classes are now online. TechConnect helps people of all ages develop their computer skills. Find classes on protecting your privacy online, shopping safely on the web, and navigating the basics of coding in HTML and CSS to build your own website. See schedule and register at nypl.org/events/calendar/online?topic=4261

Census

The Census Bureau has been mailing paper questionnaires to homes that have not yet responded. If you have not already responded, please complete and return your form as soon as you receive it. If you prefer, you have the option of responding online at my2020census.gov or by phone. Manhattan has only a 50% response rate. With so many people sheltering in places OTHER than Manhattan, if you can, please complete census forms using the Manhattan address. If you put down a non-Manhattan address you can resubmit your census form at my2020census.gov. You do NOT need a code; click the "do not have census code" link below the login button. The census system usually removes duplicates, as long as all answers remain the same except the address. The final census numbers help determine federal aid to states and cities for the next 10 years--hospitals, schools, food aid, transit, etc. Manhattan needs you to be counted! Thank you if you have already responded!

Famous people who lived in the neighborhood: Typhoid Mary

In this time of coronavirus, it is interesting to learn how New York City handled past epidemics and how approaches to public health have evolved. Published in the Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine, October 15, 1939, the article "The Curious Career of Typhoid Mary" by George A. Soper tells the story of Mary Mallon (1869-1938), aka Typhoid Mary, America's first identified asymptomatic typhoid carrier. She has ties to our neighborhood. Controversy regarding the balance between personal freedom vs. public health was as heated in those days as it is today. Typhoid Mary was quarantined against her will. By the time of her death, more than 400 asymptomatic carriers of typhoid had been identified. Mary Mallon was the only one forced into quarantine. [Read More.](#)

Free Streaming video of Murray Hill landmarks

Join the more than 500 people who have viewed the streaming video, *Walking Tour of Historic*

Murray Hill, brought to you by the MHNA's Preservation & Design Committee. The film includes lively historical background on Murray Hill's notable residents 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.

Kudos!

Congratulations to the New York Public Library on its 125th anniversary!

Visit nypl.org to take advantage of their digital offerings. There are many current books that are available to download for e-reading, online talks and workshops, book club discussions, etc.

Changes in the neighborhood (also NoMad)



Ritz Carlton Nears Topping Out At 1185 Broadway In NoMad

May 26, 2020, newyorkyimby.com, by Michael Young
Construction is approaching the pinnacle of the NoMad Ritz Carlton Hotel at [1185 Broadway](#). Located at the northern intersection of West 28th Street and Broadway, the superstructure will culminate 580 feet above Midtown, yielding 150,000 square feet and 250 guest rooms. The 40-story skyscraper is designed by Rafael Vinoly and developed by Marriott, Ritz Carlton Hotels, and Flag Luxury Properties. The interiors are being designed by Yabu Pushelberg...[1185 Broadway](#) is one of several construction projects currently rising in NoMad, which has seen a major influx of hotels and residential towers in the past several years.

Photo The Ritz-Carlton New York, NoMad by Marriott International, Inc.

Curtain Wall Of CetraRuddy's Rose Hill Approaches Completion In NoMad

May 30, 2020, newyorkyimby.com, by Michael Young

Exterior work is moving along on Rose Hill, a 639-foot-tall residential skyscraper at [30 East 29th](#)



Street in NoMad. Designed by CetraRuddy Architecture and developed by Rockefeller Group, the 45-story tower will contain 123 condominiums marketed by CORE Real Estate....Sales for homes ranging from one- to four-bedroom units already launched...Rose Hill is slated to be completed in January 2021.



Exterior Hoist Comes Down For Virgin Hotel At 1225 Broadway, In NoMad

May 27, 2020, newyorkyimby.com, by Michael Young
Façade work is nearing completion on the Virgin Hotel at 1225 Broadway in NoMad. Designed by Stantec and developed by Lam Group, the 38-story, 476-foot-tall structure will yield 300,000 square feet with 460 hotel rooms. Sir Richard Branson of Virgin Group will be in charge of managing the property, which is the first Virgin Hotel in New York City...The base of the building will house the main lobby and 90,000 square feet of retail space, with an underground 22,000-square-foot golf store called Swingers: A Crazy Golf Club. An outdoor swimming pool for guests will sit on top of the podium. Located at the intersection of Broadway and West 30th Street...A revised completion date for the Virgin Hotels hasn't been announced yet, though it's safe to estimate sometime in 2021. Virgin Hotel at 1225 Broadway. Rendering by Stantec.

An observation deck is coming to the Chrysler Building

May 20, 2020, ny.curbed.com, by Caroline Spivack

The Landmarks Preservation Commission unanimously approved plans this week for the viewing deck, which requires erecting glass on the north and south terraces of the 61st floor. When all is



said and done, the observation deck will offer sweeping views of the city mere feet from the building's famed Art Deco eagles on the corners of the 61st floor...The plan, which lacks a clear timeline, comes just over a year after Aby Rosen's RFR Realty purchased the Jazz Age landmark for a steal at \$150 million with plans to restore the skyscraper to its former glory.



The Marche Madison on 37th Street and 1st Avenue was burglarized during the night of May 28.

Budget

It's increasingly likely that New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio is not going to get his requested \$7 billion in new lending authority anytime soon. The bill has stalled in the state Legislature and both Gov. Andrew Cuomo and city Comptroller Scott Stringer are withholding support for the idea of letting the city borrow to overcome a \$9 billion budget shortfall caused by the pandemic. Both officials have to sign off before the mayor would be able to access such funding through the New York City Transitional Finance Authority. "Borrowing for operating expenses is a risky proposition," the governor told reporters at a Thursday press conference. The governor said Thursday that the timing is also wrong for the legislation, which state Sen. Liz Krueger and Assemblyman Edward Braunstein reportedly sponsored at the mayor's request. [Source: City & State Coronavirus Update email May 28, 2020].

Comptroller's FY21 Executive Budget

Presentation comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/comptrollers-fy21-executive-budget-presentation

Scott Stringer's roadmap to a balanced budget

May 28, 2020, [cityandstateny.com](https://www.cityandstateny.com), by Jeff Coltin

New York City still has a \$1.6 billion budget gap, but city Comptroller Scott Stringer has a plan to help close it – though it means making budget cuts that city agencies “have not yet performed.”

The City's Independent Budget Office (IBO) has released a report analyzing the Mayor's Executive Budget for 2021, issuing a call for concern among growing job losses and a continuing recession. ibo.nyc.ny.us/iboreports/tumbling-tax-revenues-shrinking-reserves-growing-budget-gaps-new-york-city-faces-substantial-fiscal-challenges-in-the-weeks-and-months-ahead-may-2020.pdf

De Blasio Delay Plus Pandemic Means Property Tax Reform Appears Off the Table This Year

May 29, 2020, gothamgazette.com, by Ethan Geringer-Sameth

Affordability and housing

(Opinion) It's Actually the Perfect Time for City Government to Invest in Housing

May 21, 2020, gothamgazette.com, by Ted Houghton, President of Gateway Housing, the former Executive Deputy Commissioner of New York State Homes and Community Renewal and former Executive Director of the Supportive Housing Network of New York

[N]ow is exactly the time to create more affordable and supportive housing, as well as high-quality shelter. Doing so can sharply reduce exorbitant spending on emergency homeless hotels, create good-paying jobs when we need them most, and end the terrible damage homelessness has inflicted on a generation of children...the city should stick to the mayor's original vision and keep providing rental vouchers to homeless households. It must redirect capital dollars to acquire newly available distressed properties. And it should build housing for the people who need it most: homeless, senior, and very poor New Yorkers.

Transportation & parking

Alternate side of the street parking has resumed at least through June 7.

The MTA will pilot the use of proven UV light technology to kill COVID-19 in subway cars and crew facilities. The MTA currently cleans and disinfects trains every day.

New York State will fast-track the construction of the new Empire Station at Penn and the new LaGuardia Airport while rail ridership and air traffic is down.

Legislation

Pending legislation at the State level (selected items):

S.8415, Bailey / A.10446A, Quart: This legislation will repeal an archaic prohibition on the wearing of costumes and masks in public, which would advance the public effort to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

S.8182A, Hoylman / A.10508A, Paulin: This legislation will allow licensed pharmacists to administer a vaccine for COVID-19 no sooner than 90 days once a vaccine has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research and after the Department of Health and State Education Department certify that having pharmacists administer the vaccine is in the best interest of public health.

S.8419, Kavanagh / A.10522, Cymbrowitz: This legislation will enact the “Emergency Rent Relief Act of 2020” to establish an interim residential rent relief program for low-income tenants. The program will issue a subsidy for tenants who were rent burdened prior to the COVID-19 pandemic – or are paying more than 30 percent of their income toward rent – and are now experiencing an even greater rent burden due to a loss of income.

S.8192B, Hoylman / A.10290B, Dinowitz: This legislation will prohibit the eviction for nonpayment of rent of residential tenants who have suffered financial hardship and were in arrears on rent while New York on PAUSE imposed restrictions in their county. The tenant would remain liable for the rent owed, but this legislation will ensure New Yorkers are not made homeless due to these extraordinary circumstances.

S.8243C, Kavanagh / A.10351B, Rozic: This bill will require New York State regulated banking institutions to grant 180 days of mortgage forbearance, with the option for an additional 180 days, on a residential mortgage on their primary residence to any mortgagor who can demonstrate financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

S.8122B, Comrie / A.10241A, Hyndman: This legislation will extend the application and renewal deadline to file for real property tax exemption or abatement programs until July 15, 2020 due to the COVID-19 declared State of Emergency.

S.8417, Krueger / A.10492, Thiele: This legislation will provide financial and budgetary flexibility to local governments as they continue to operate and provide essential services and finance COVID-19 related costs by extending the rollover period for bond anticipation notes, authorizing local governments and school districts to utilize reserved funds for COVID-19 expenses and extending the repayment time frame of inter-fund loan advances made for COVID-19 expenses.

S.8412, Benjamin / A.10498A, Paulin: This legislation will enable businesses, nonprofits and religious institutions to conduct board meetings and actions through electronic and/or audio-visual technologies. This legislation will help these important institutions continue operations and the services they provide New Yorkers, despite prohibitions on in-person meetings due to the COVID-19 declared State of Emergency.

S.8411, Jackson / A.10519, Weinstein: This legislation decouples the City of New York from certain provisions in the unincorporated business tax, the general corporation tax, and the business corporation tax from recent federal changes.

S.8400, Benjamin / A.9789A, Braunstein: This legislation will enable New York City to establish a ‘rainy day fund.’

Public service notices

Make sure that your children are getting their regular vaccinations

Free vaccinations for children are available at more than 1,000 health care centers through New York City's *Vaccines for Children Program* and its public hospitals. Parents can make an

appointment for their child to receive a free vaccine by calling 844-NYC-4NYC. Or make an appointment with your child's pediatrician.

Prepaid Debit Cards for Economic Impact Payments

The Treasury and the IRS began sending out nearly 4 million payments using a new method: A new prepaid debit card. [The prepaid debit cards, issued by MetaBank and on the Visa network, are called Economic Impact Payment (EIP) Cards.] DO NOT THROW IT AWAY, it is not junk mail. Speak to a banker or expert if you are not sure. It is important that you do not discard these even after withdrawing or spending this money. If another stimulus is issued, they will refill that card or charge you for another one. [Source: State Sen. Liz Krueger's email Coronavirus (COVID-19) Updates 5/29/20] [Forbes magazine has released an article](#) with advice for these debit cards. [Learn more.](#)

Coronavirus and your student loan debt

May 4, 2020, [consumer.ftc.gov](#), by Ari Lazarus, Consumer Education Specialist, FTC
If you have student loan debt, you've probably heard that the new Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act gives some flexibility to federal student loan borrowers. Understanding these options can help you make more informed decisions about paying your bills and prioritizing your debts. The program is open from March 13th through September 30, 2020...The CARES Act gives temporary payment relief to borrowers with qualifying federal student loans...If you want to keep making payments on your qualifying federal student loan through September 30, the interest rate is now 0%...If your federal student loans are in default, the Department of Education has stopped making collection calls, and sending letters or billing statements through September 30, 2020...You can get a complete list of your private and federal student loans by pulling your credit report...To confirm which of your loans are federal, log into FSA or call the Federal Student Aid Information Center (FSAIC) at 1-800-433-3243.

Credit reports are now free, every week

May 18, 2020, [consumer.ftc.gov](#), by Cathlin Tully, Attorney, Division of Privacy and Identity Protection

[E]veryone is eligible to get free weekly credit reports from the three national credit reporting agencies: Equifax, Experian, and Transunion. To get your free reports, go to [AnnualCreditReport.com](#). The credit reporting agencies are making these reports free for the next year...If you're one of the many Americans struggling to pay your bills right now because of the Coronavirus crisis, here's what you can do: contact the companies you owe money to. Ask if they can postpone your payment, put you on a payment plan, or give you a temporary forbearance.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) tips on dealing with COVID-related job loss, trouble paying bills (e.g., mortgages, car payments, and student loans), and your rights in debt collection. [consumer.ftc.gov/coronavirus/financial-impact](#).

NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) launches Remote Free Tax Prep Services

Tax Day is July 15, 2020. If you didn't file yet, there are two ways you can file for free from the safety of home. New Yorkers who earned \$64,000 or less in 2019 are eligible for free Virtual Free Tax Preparation where an IRS certified VITA/TCE volunteer preparer will video conference with filers to prepare their tax return. New Yorkers who earned \$69,000 or less in 2019 are eligible for free Assisted Self-Preparation where filers complete their own tax return online and can receive help from of an IRS certified VITA/TCE volunteer preparer by phone or email. Learn more at [nyc.gov/taxprep](#).

COVID Scams

COVID-19 contact tracing text message scams

May 19, 2020, consumer.ftc.gov, by Colleen Tressler, Consumer Education Specialist, FTC

You've probably been hearing a lot about contact tracing. It's the process of identifying people who have come in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, instructing them to quarantine and monitoring their symptoms daily. Contact tracers are usually hired by a state's department of public health. They work with an infected person to get the names and phone numbers for everyone that infected person came in close contact with while possibly infectious. People who had contact with someone infected with COVID-19 may first get a text message from the health department, telling them they'll get a call from a specific number. At the end of the call, some states ask if the contact would like to enroll in a text message program, which sends daily health and safety reminders until the 14-day quarantine ends. **But tracers won't ask you for money or information like your Social Security, bank account, or credit card number.** Anyone who does is a scammer... scammers, pretending to be contact tracers are also sending text messages...that ask you to click a link...**Don't click on the link!** Clicking on the link will download [malware] software onto your device, giving scammers access to your personal and financial information. Ignore and delete these scam messages.

COVID-19 scams targeting college students

May 27, 2020, consumer.ftc.gov, by Ari Lazarus, Consumer Education Specialist, FTC

Hey college students: even though you're likely far from campus, scammers are still trying to find you. Maybe you or your friends have gotten an email claiming to be from the "Financial Department" of your university. The email tells you to click on a link to get a message about your COVID-19 economic stimulus check — and it needs to be opened through a portal link requiring your university login. *Don't do it. It's a phishing scam.* If you click to "log in," you could be giving your user name, password, or other personal information to scammers, while possibly downloading malware onto your device.

The MHNA Discount Program

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

[View all 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.nyassembly.gov/mem/Richard-N-Gottfried, 212-807-7900, GottfriedR@nyassembly.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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