

Information that may be of interest...

July 13, 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

NYC's Reopening

NYC's Phase 3 businesses may open on or after July 6.

Industry guidance forward.ny.gov/phase-three-industries.

NYC's Phase 2 businesses and nonprofits may reopen on or after June 22. Small Business Services guidance www1.nyc.gov/nycbusiness. **Phase 2 industry guidance** forward.ny.gov/phase-two-industries

NYC's Phase 1 businesses and nonprofits may reopen on or after June 8. These are the businesses that can reopen in Phase 1 forward.ny.gov/phase-one-industries.

All New Yorkers can get tested for covid-19. 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.

See the MHNA [Reopening page](#) for more details.

Remember the Core 4 to prevent the spread of COVID-19

- wear face coverings when in public
 - maintain distance
 - practice good hand hygiene
 - stay home if sick
-

More details at the links below

- [Reopening guidelines for New York State \(NY Forward\)](#) NYC is still in Stay-at-Home (PAUSE) for industries that have not reopened. (updated)
- [Preventing novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and medical information](#)
- [Test, trace & take care \(COVID-19 testing\)](#)
- [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](#)
- [How you can help - volunteer, suppliers, jobs and donation opportunities](#) (updated)
- [Online entertainment, culture & learning](#)
- [Neighborhood houses of worship, museums, educational and cultural institutions](#)
- [Neighborhood restaurants, food & spirits that are open for delivery & pickup](#) (updated)
- [Neighborhood retail, health care \(including pets\) & services that are open](#) (updated)
- [Neighborhood businesses that are closed until further notice](#)
- [COVID-19 scams and public service announcements](#)

NYC Test and Trace Corps: NYC Health + Hospitals is operating the [NYC Test and Trace Corps](#). If you test positive for COVID-19, you will receive a call from the Test and Trace Corps. These calls will either appear on caller ID as "Test and Trace", or a 212 number. Contact tracers will never ask for your Social Security number, your immigration status, any private financial information, or a credit card number.

Mental health resources: NYC Well, a confidential 24/7 helpline, staffed by trained counselors. They can provide brief counseling and referrals to care in over 200 languages. Call 888-NYC-WELL (888-692-9355), text "WELL" to 65173, chat at nyc.gov/nycwell. The state's hotline is 844-863-9314 to get free emotional support, consultations and referrals to a provider. New Yorkers can access additional mental health resources at headspace.com/ny.

Domestic violence resources: All domestic violence shelters are operating and hotlines are available 24/7. National Domestic Violence Hotline, call 1-800-799-7233 (TTY: 1-800-799-7233), log onto thehotline.org, or text LOVEIS to 22522, Safe Horizon call 1-800-621-HOPE or visit [Safehorizon.org/SafeChat](https://safehorizon.org/SafeChat) to speak with an advocate. The state hotline is 800-942-6906.

Pet hotline: Animal Care Centers of NYC (ACC) is a member of the City's Animal Planning Task Force, which is now providing a COVID-19 Pet Hotline and supportive services for NYC residents with pets. If you have a COVID-19 pet-related issue call the hotline at 877-204-8821 (8am to 8pm daily).

Large events requiring a NYC event permit will be canceled through September 30

The city will be prioritizing open spaces for public use. Permits also will be denied for all events larger than one block, stage/video events that require amplification, street fairs, and events in parks.

What's the biggest obstacle to our economic comeback? Child care

July 2, 2020, *lohud.com*, Kathy Hochul

Sufficient child care is critical to a successful economic reopening. Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul explains in an op-ed how New York State is investing in child care in response to the COVID pandemic.

The NYC annual tax lien sale will be postponed until September 2020

as the city continues its recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Property owners who are facing hardships making their property tax payments can take advantage of several existing DOF programs. These include exemption programs to lower the amount of taxes owed, standard payment plans, or a new Property Tax and Interest Deferral (PT AID) program, for those who qualify. DOF also provides a monthly property tax billing service to facilitate budgeting for property owners billed on a quarterly or semi-annual basis. More information on those programs can be found on the agency's website.

www1.nyc.gov/assets/finance/downloads/pdf/20pdf/hardship-programs-press-release.pdf

DOB Announces FISP Amnesty Program

July 1, 2020B, *cooperator.com*, by Steven Tingir

Buildings That Didn't File Cycle 8 Reports Get More Time.

Facade Inspection and Safety Program: Cycle 9 Amnesty Program for Non-Compliant Owners – Cycle 8 Owners Only.

A hyper-local plan to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The City will deploy resources and supportive services into neighborhoods where data shows low testing rates and a high percentage of positive tests. The City will also provide 10 million dollars in grants to community-based organizations—ranging from \$50,000 to \$750,000—in these hard hit areas to encourage the communities they serve to get tested and engage with contact tracing.

Related: 68% Have Antibodies in This Clinic. Can a Neighborhood Beat a Next Wave?

July 9, 2020, *nytimes.com*, by Joseph Goldstein

At a clinic in Corona, a working-class neighborhood in Queens, more than 68 percent of people tested positive for antibodies to the new coronavirus. At another clinic in Jackson Heights, Queens, that number was 56 percent...Dr. Ted Long, the executive director of the city's contact-tracing program, said that while much remained unknown about the strength and duration of the protection that antibodies offer, he was hopeful that hard-hit communities like Corona would have some degree of protection...[And] the fact that 68.4 percent of tests taken at an urgent care center in Corona came back positive does not mean that 68.4 percent of residents had been infected.

Grants for small businesses

The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) is extended to August 8, 2020.

New York State's New York Forward Loan Fund program (NYFLF)

7/20/2020 The NYFLF is still accepting applications. The loan program targets small businesses that did not receive federal loans (PPP or EIDL) from the Small Business Administration, especially women and minority-owned businesses, and very small businesses with 20 or fewer full-time equivalent employees, nonprofits and small landlords that have seen a loss of income or rental income. If approved, these loans will need to be paid back over a 5-year term with interest. Learn more at esd.ny.gov/nyforwardloans. Priority will be given to industries and regions that have been reopened. Apply at esd.ny.gov/nyforwardloans-info.

The Federal Reserve has established the Main Street Lending Program

This program supports small and medium-sized businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program will operate through three facilities, including: Main Street New Loan Facility (MSNLF), Main Street Priority Loan Facility (MSPLF) and Main Street Expanded Loan Facility (MSELF). For more information, including how it works, term sheets and how to get started visit bostonfed.org/supervision-and-regulation/supervision/special-facilities/main-street-lending-program/main-street-lending-program-overview.aspx.

SOGAL iamsogal.com will award three \$10K and five \$5K cash grants to Black women and nonbinary entrepreneurs. For more information and to apply iamsogal.com/black-founder-startup-grant. These grants are in partnership with Winky Lux, bluemercury, and twelvenyc.

Traffic & Water Shutdown notices

Park Ave Tunnel temporary lane closures

[murrayhillnyc.org/photos/News/Park Avenue Tunnel 20200706.pdf](https://murrayhillnyc.org/photos/News/Park_Avenue_Tunnel_20200706.pdf)

Water Shut Downs during July

The NYC MED607 Infrastructure Upgrade project along 2nd Avenue and Surrounding Areas will be shutting down water to transfer and connect services from the old lines to the new water mains. The water shut downs will take place during July on East 35th Street between 2nd Avenue and 3rd Avenue. The first shut down at night will be to tie in the new water main installed on East 35th Street between 2nd Avenue and 3rd Avenue to the existing water main on 2nd Avenue and on 3rd Avenue. The next water shut down would be during the day and would last 1 hour per building. This shutdown is to transfer water services to each building from the existing water main to the new water main. Prior notification for both occurrences will be email distributed and hand delivered to the affected buildings. All building contacts on the two blocks have been informed.

East 30th Street between Madison Avenue and Park Avenue South. This street will be closed Saturday from 8am to 6pm and Sunday from 9am to 6pm through 7/19/20 to facilitate crane operation.

Photo gallery

Macy's 4th of July Fireworks

Photos taken from the TV presentation.





Elections & counting the absentee ballots

[The Board of Elections has set its timeline to finally start counting absentee ballots.](#)

June 30, 2020, *cityandstateny.com*, by Kay Dervishi

[T]he New York City Board of Elections [was] flooded with requests for more than 700,000 absentee ballots...Finalizing New York City's primary election results are contingent on the speed with which the Board of Elections can count absentee ballots—a process that must be done by hand...it could take two to three weeks for the results to be finalized...In some cases, the process may be even more drawn out if there are further legal challenges contesting the results.

Related: [When to expect the Board of Elections to count absentee ballots](#)

July 8, 2020, *cityandstateny.com*, by Kay Dervishi

The overall process of garnering results will take longer than usual, because of the volume of ballots that have come in. Democratic voters in New York City returned 379,614 ballots this year...Not all the submitted absentee ballots will be counted, however. They may be thrown out because voters failed to sign their envelope or chose to vote in-person, as happens every year. One issue that is likely to be particularly pertinent this year is missing postmarks.

Related: (Op-Ed) [Voting by mail must be expanded to fix existing problems](#)

July 8, 2020, *amny.com*, by Councilmember Carlina Rivera

[W]e see the same problematic deficiencies each [Election Day] cycle...they reoccur like clockwork. The time has come to use the important expansion of vote-by-mail to finally fix these consistent problems...the governor must immediately sign an executive order to extend those provisions that expanded absentee voting for the primary to the General Election...The City Council's oversight is unfortunately limited, but the state and city Boards can be made responsive by public scrutiny and vocal leadership. While the Board [of Elections]'s structure and operations needs to be reformed in Albany.

Related: (opinion) [New Yorkers deserve to know if their absentee ballots were counted](#)

July 8, 2020, *nydailynews.com*, by State Senator Brad Hoylman and Assembly Member Dan Quart
New York doesn't have any meaningful system in place to help voters track their absentee ballots...Albany should pass [legislation \(S441\)](#)...to require local Boards of Elections to provide each voter with written documentation or online confirmation that their ballot has been received. Further, the BOE would be required to provide voters with a reason if their ballot was rejected, and an opportunity to correct it.

through July 17

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Poll observers needed for the absentee ballot count!

Carolyn Maloney's campaign office is recruiting volunteers to attend ballot canvassing—the process of examining and verifying absentee ballots at a Board of Elections counting sites. Safe social/physical distancing and proper protective measures will be taken at each site. They're currently signing people up for shifts at 10am-1pm and 1pm-5pm, with additional shifts to be added according to the Board of Elections schedules in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens. Given the volume of absentee ballots received, the order of the count is fluid, so your flexibility is greatly appreciated. Sign up at docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe6QoSzVw0DeU9WOOaSlw9STGMjmgPCUp7cFuiSFTratZrug/vjwform for shift times through July 17, and they'll reach out with more information on training and the rest of the process! Contact Kendra Uhl, Maloney for Congress 720-789-4753.

[Editor's note: It's a very close race between Carolyn Maloney and Suraj Patel.]

Census 2020. It's Your Community. Help Shape Its Future.

Completing the 2020 Census is easy, secure, and important. The future of cities, towns, and states across the country depends on everyone raising awareness and encouraging people to respond to the census. This once-a-decade population count of everyone who lives in the United States is mandated by the U.S. Constitution, and everyone is required to participate. Responses from the census help determine how many Congressional representatives NY gets, and how federal funds are allocated for critical public services and programs in communities around the country for the next 10 years. If you haven't responded yet, respond now: online at 2020census.gov, or by calling 844-330-2020, or you can mail back the paper questionnaire sent to your home. Census workers will be contacting people who have not responded.

Upcoming events

30th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The New York City Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD) is facilitating a month of fully online programming to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the passage and signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Events include a disability history exhibit, digital accessibility workshops, and panels on a variety of topics such as advocacy, tourism, employment, and transportation. On July

26th, the anniversary of the signing, MOPD and members of the disability community are hosting Disability Unite, a four-hour live-streamed event full of music, dance, discussion, live gaming, and more. A full calendar of City-run and community events can be found at [NYC.gov/ADA30](https://www1.nyc.gov/ADA30). Calendar of the month's events www1.nyc.gov/site/mopd/events/ada-30-events.page.

Ongoing

"Get Tested" day

You can get tested for covid-19 any time.

Testing sites: www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/get-tested/covid-19-testing.page

For Murray Hill

Mount Sinai Doctors, 55 East 34th Street, New York, NY 10016, 212-252-6000.

Midtown New York Doctors Walk-In Urgent Care, 205 Lexington Ave, New York, NY 10016, 212-684-4700.

New York University Langone Tisch Hospital, 570 1st Ave, New York, NY 10016, 212-263-6906.

NYU Langone-Manhattan, 550 First Avenue, Ground Floor, Manhattan, NY 10016, 646-987-3525.

Pharmacies and your personal doctor also may do COVID-19 testing, but they may require a co-pay.

Ongoing

The Great Debaters Online greatdebatersonline.org

A nonprofit in NYC dedicated to providing free public speaking, debate and writing programs for youth of all ages - Elementary, Middle, High School and College. All programs are free. Their July Speech Tournament is on Nelson Mandela Day (July 18). The topic is for youth to select a problem in the world and how they would solve that problem.

Wednesdays and Saturdays noon-1pm

Tuesdays 6pm-7pm

[In-person Juggling Returns to Bryant Park](#)

Free juggling classes are a hit with newbies and experts alike, and all skill levels are welcome to join in. Equipment is provided, and sanitized between each use.

at Bryant Park

(between 40th & 42nd Street/5th & 6th Avenue, behind the Library)

Wednesday & Friday 4-5pm

[Virtual Kids Yoga Classes Online](#)

Keep your child active this summer with Kids Yoga Online with Yogi Beans. This fun, interactive class is a great way to engage kids with yoga through games, props, and songs. Classes are held virtually.

Donations are encouraged.

July 15

Income Tax Filing Deadline

The filing deadline for income tax returns has been extended to July 15. You may request an extension, but you must pay taxes you owe by July 15. Information from the IRS

irs.gov/newsroom/payment-deadline-extended-to-july-15-2020. IRS live phone assistance is

extremely limited at this time. [irs.gov/help/telephone-assistance](https://www.irs.gov/help/telephone-assistance). Face-to-face service unavailable until further notice.

Get help: The [NYC Department of Consumer Affairs](#) (DCA) is offering NYC [Free Virtual Tax Prep](#) to reflect the new tax filing deadline on July 15, 2020. This service is available for families earning \$64,000 (or less) in 2019 and single filers earning \$45,000 (or less). [List of providers](#), including a [checklist of documents](#) needed before filing your taxes.

July 16 1-2pm

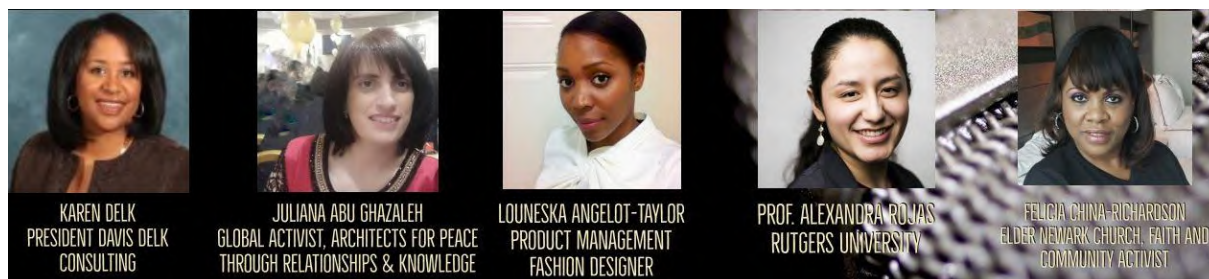
[Webinar: Ready to Restart: Main Street Lending Program Update](#)

Presented by Marks Paneth LLP. The Main Street Lending Program, established as part of the federal government's response to the economic impact of COVID-19, is anticipated to provide \$600 billion dollars of low-interest loans to small and medium-sized businesses. In conjunction with opening this program to lenders and participants, the Federal Reserve has issued recent incremental guidance pertaining to the application, requirements and restrictions of the program. Marks Paneth LLP's *Ready to Restart: Considerations for Reopening Your Business* webinar series, invites you to an in-depth conversation about the Main Street Lending Program with leaders from the accounting, legal and financial services industries: Howard Hoff, Partner-in-Charge of the Commercial Business Group at Marks Paneth, Kyle Miller, Partner, Pryor Cashman and Mary Ellen Bianco, Senior Vice President and New York Market Manager for Flushing Bank. Join this live webinar to deepen your understanding of the new lending program and determine whether it is suitable for your business as you navigate the financial impact of COVID-19. Topics include: Who qualifies for the Main Street Lending Program, Program overview and restrictions, Reporting requirements for lenders and borrowers. Marks Paneth LLP, 685 Third Avenue (Entrance is on E. 44th St.), 212-503-8800

Beginning July 16, every Thursday at 5pm

Baryshnikov Art Center (BAC) free video series

Weekly broadcasts from BAC's rich archive of live performances. The new six-week lineup spans nearly all of their 15-year history. PlayBAC presentations feature dance works by Stefanie Batten Bland, Trisha Brown, and Doug Elkins; a concert by Quodlibet Ensemble; and a poetry reading by Laurie Anderson, Lou Reed, Patti Smith and more. Beginning July 16, every Thursday at 5pm, a new video will be available to watch at bacnyc.org/explore until the following Tuesday at 5pm. PlayBAC videos include introductions by Founder and Artistic Director Mikhail Baryshnikov and the featured artists. Baryshnikov Arts Center, 450 West 37th Street, info@bacnyc.org, bacnyc.org.



July 18 1pm

What Leadership Looks Like in a COVID-19 World—Voices of Women Leaders in Our Midst

This online conversation brings together a diverse panel of outstanding women leaders in the business community, creative arts, higher education, faith and social justice communities. They will share their reflections, followed by a conversation on the vital role women leaders play as we face the challenges of the Coronavirus Pandemic with faith and hope. Speakers: Karen Delk, President, Davis Delk Consulting; Juliana Abu Ghazaleh, Global Activist, Architects for Peace Through Relationships & Knowledge; Louneska Angelot-Taylor, Product Management, Fashion Designer; Prof. Alexandra Rojas, Rutgers University; Felicia China-Richardson, Elder, Newark Church, Faith and Community Activist. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4894157954?pwd=bFdKZlUcWpFWkRPRmtiTjhoclJRdz09> Meeting ID: 489 415 7954, Password: 542954, Dial by your location +1 929 205 6099 US (New York), Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4894157954?pwd=bFdKZlUcWpFWkRPRmtiTjhoclJRdz09>. For information email Rev. Cornell Edmonds (caeedmonds57@gmail.com) or Barbara Edmonds (bjjedmonds54@gmail.com) or call 212-697-3185. Organized by The Church of the Covenant, 310 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017, covenantchurchnyc.com.

July 22 11am

Online Art Workshop: Shape Studio for Tots

Pure forms and colors will inspire tiny artists in this playful online art workshop. Join Scandinavia House's art educators with your toddler to learn about shapes and colors in fun and playful ways. They will present sample activities using standard household crafts materials, and show you how to set up your own color and shape exploration. Take your tiny one on a fascinating multi-sensory learning and playing adventure from the comfort of your home! This event will take place as a Zoom webinar; register at scandinaviahouse.org/events/shape-studio-tots-online-art-workshop

July 23 1-4pm

Technology and Innovation Toolkit for NY's Government

Are you interested in discussing the role of technology and data in uplifting the health and safety of New York's communities? Join top information leaders and elected officials by taking advantage of free registration to *Virtual Digital New York!* **REGISTER NOW at** us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gqLEQz2MQo-LDyAR6-Ghag. For more information email Lissa Blake at lblake@cityandstateny.com. Keynote Speaker Jessica Tisch, Commissioner, Citywide Chief Information Officer, Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications. Speakers: Joshua Breitbart, Deputy Chief Technology Officer at Mayor's Office of Chief Technology Officer, City of New York; Assemblyman Clyde Vanel, Chairman, Internet and Technology Committee; Patrick A. Murphy, Commissioner, NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services; Tariq Habib, Chief Information Security Officer, MTA; Deshard Stevens, Chief Information Officer, New York City Commission on Human Rights.

Through August 2

Celebrate Summer with the Murray Hill Scavenger Hunt Competition!

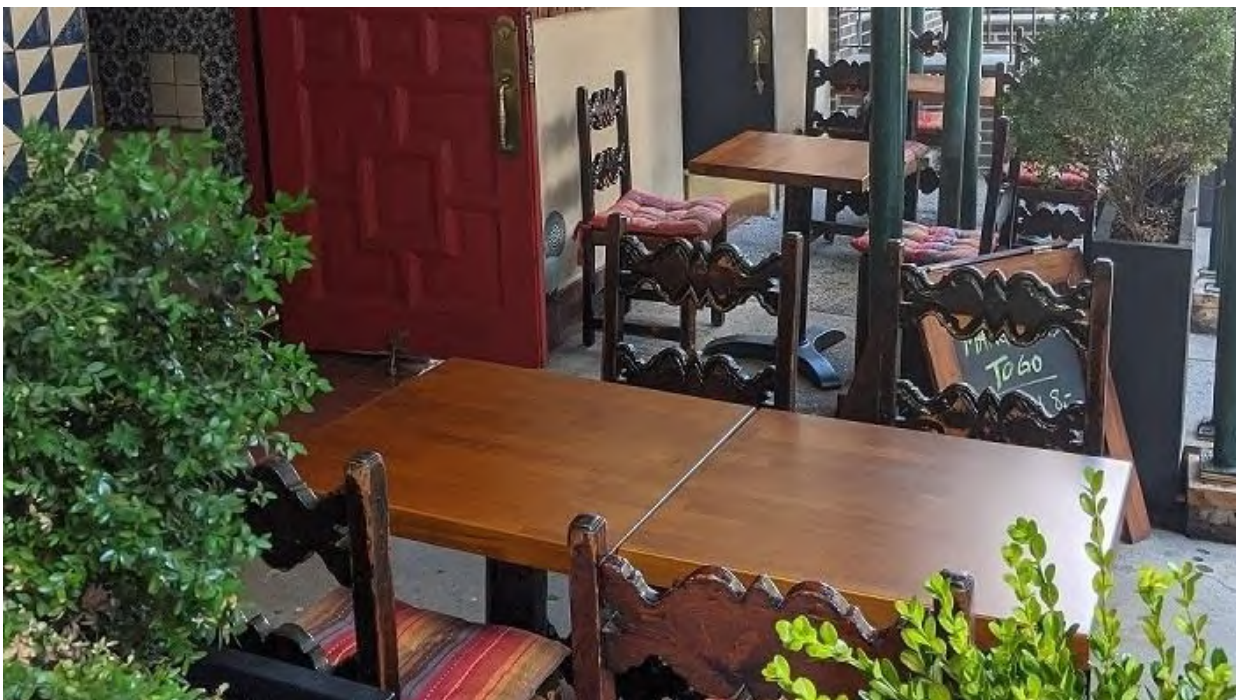
To celebrate the summer and New York City's re-opening, The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association's Preservation & Design Committee has developed a fun and safe way to emerge from our homes, and explore the beautiful Murray Hill Historic Neighborhood...and maybe even win a prize! Because our guided tours are on hold, we have put together a scavenger hunt which will guide you through the neighborhood in search of various historic items, 22 in all. The hunt will take you from 33rd Street to 38th Street and from Third Avenue to Madison Avenue, and as you explore Murray Hill's historic streets and buildings, you will be asked to document with a photo the various spots along the way. First prize winner - the entry with the most correct items found (drawing in case

of tie). First prize: one-night stay at the Shelburne Hotel & Suites by Affinia. Second prize: \$50 gift certificate to a local restaurant of your choosing. All participants will receive a MHNA t-shirt (while supplies last). [Contest rules \(webpage\)](#). [Contest rules \(PDF\)](#).

Child Care Expansion Incentive

Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that \$65 million in federal CARES Act funding is available for child care providers statewide through the New York Forward Child Care Expansion Incentive program governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-65-million-ny-forward-child-care-expansion-incentive.

Kudos!



El Parador Café's patio is open

They have room for 20 people, from noon to 11pm, serving full lunch and dinner menus. First come, first served, 325 E 34th Street (2nd Avenue), 212-679-6812, elparadorcafe.com.



Le Parisien Bistrot is open

163 East 33rd Street, 212-889-5489. Open 7 days a week at 5pm for dinner. Call 212-889-5489 for pick up. Delivery on Grub Hub starting July 14 at 5pm. They are planning to serve brunch starting July 18. Outdoor seating area. leparisiennyc.com.



Fine & Rare is opening July 14

9 East 37th Street (between Madison & 5th Avenue), 212-725-3866, fineandrare.nyc. Open for outdoor dining from 5pm till 11pm, Tuesday through Saturday. They will also be offering curbside pickup and delivery. Photo of their Take-out Meal Packages. Takeout menu fineandrare.menu/pickup. Reservations for dinner at opentable.com/r/fine-and-rare-new-york.

Murray Hill in the news



[Murray Hill Building Collapse Hurts 1, FDNY Says](#)

July 8, 2020, *patch.com*, by Brendan Krisel

MURRAY HILL, NY — One person was hurt after the top of a Murray Hill building crumbled into the sidewalk Wednesday afternoon...The parapet of a five-story garage on East 38th Street and Third Avenue collapsed shortly before 12 p.m. Wednesday...The person who was hurt suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

Changes in the neighborhood



Rendering Hyatt Centric 39th & 5th - Gene Kaufman Architect

[Hyatt Centric Hotel To Debut This Summer At 16 East 39th Street In Midtown](#)

July 9, 2020, *newyorkyimby.com*, by Sebastian Morris

A 22-story Hyatt Centric hotel in Midtown, Manhattan is on track to open this summer according to a recent update from the project team. The new building is located at 16 East 39th Street...Designed by Gene Kaufman Architect and developed by McSam Hotel Group, the 244-foot-tall building comprises approximately 77,858 square feet. The hospitality component includes 162 guest rooms accompanied by a curated collection of modern artwork throughout. Hotel amenities will include a rooftop lounge and a ground-floor restaurant with indoor and outdoor seating area.

Traffic, travel and transportation

[Travel restrictions to NYS](#). Travelers to NY State, NJ and CT from states with more than 10% positive COVID-19 infections must self-quarantine for 14 days. **List of restricted states:** coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory#restricted-states.

6/30/2020 **New York State employees who voluntarily travel to high-risk states will be ineligible for COVID-19 paid sick leave.** (Gov. Cuomo executive order that makes New York employees who voluntarily travel to specified states after June 25 ineligible for this benefit.)

6/29/2020 **[NYC Alternate Side Parking \(ASP\) Reform](#)**. Residential streets that have multiple ASP days will be cleaned – with vehicles required to be moved – only on the latest day in the week on each side, through Labor Day. Parking meters remain in effect.

7/8/2020 **[Community Board Backs Plan To Close Last Gap Of 2nd Ave Bike Lane](#)**
July 7, 2020, *patch.com*, by Brendan Krisel
Community Board 6 committee voted unanimously Monday to approve a city Department of Transportation plan to create a new bike lane on Second Avenue that spans East 34th to 43rd streets, a section that includes the entrance to the Queens-Midtown Tunnel...The "partially-protected" lane will only be parking-protected during off-peak hours, but not during rush hour when vehicles are prohibited from parking on the easternmost lane of Second Avenue. Special signals will be implemented near the entrance of the Queens-Midtown Tunnel to reduce conflict between bikes and cars turning into the tunnel, according to Streetsblog...Community Board 6 also voted in favor of protected crosstown bike lanes on 39th and 38th streets.

Schools, children & youth programs

Remote summer school began on July 6

Over the next few weeks, students will use iLearnNYC, which has 13 language options for translation. Visit schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/summer-school-2020 for more information about summer school for all students (elementary, middle and high school). If you need technology support, contact the iLearnNYC helpdesk call 1-888-995-9866, Monday through Friday from 8am-8pm or Saturday through Sunday from 8am-5pm. You may also email iLearnNYCsupport@d2l.com.

Related: [Nearly a week into NYC's virtual summer school, 36% of students have yet to log on](#)

July 9, 2020, *ny.chalkbeat.org*, by Alex Zimmerman

Days after summer school launched in New York City, tens of thousands of students — more than one-third of those enrolled — have yet to log in to the education department's virtual platform. At least 43,224 students who were recommended or required to attend summer school have not signed in to iLearnNYC, the department's online hub.

7/13/2020 **The City's Board of Health voted to reopen childcare in NYC on Monday, July 13.**

This will apply to about 3,000 childcare programs in NYC with a capacity of around 150,000. Guidelines: limit group size to 15 children, classrooms must be changed to enable social distancing, face coverings required for children over 2 and adults, daily health screenings, frequent cleaning and disinfecting, limited sharing of toys and supplies. Checklist for Child Care Program Guidelines (PDF) <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/covid/businesses/covid-19-reopening-child-care-checklist.pdf>

Reopening New York City: **Frequently Asked Questions—What Child Care Programs Need to Know** (PDF) www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/covid/businesses/covid-19-child-care-reopening-faq.pdf.

Schools reopening

Source: Gov Cuomo's Press Conference 7/8/2020, Mayor de Blasio's Press Conference 7/8/2020

New York State

- Everybody wants schools to open safely. The safety concerns are for the entire school community, students, teachers, staff. The state is also looking into HVAC filtration systems to make indoor activities safer. MERV13, 12, 11 filters take the virus out of air.
- The State will issue guidance for the school districts by July 13.
- School districts, private and charter schools must submit their plans to the State by July 31.
- The State will decide the week of August 1-7 whether schools reopen, based on infection rates and what is going on.
- There may be separate decisions on a regional basis and based on the school's plans.

Gov. Cuomo also responded to President Trump's tweets about withholding funding if schools don't completely reopen. Cuomo's response is that NY cannot be bullied ("Love works"). NY's education budget is \$70 billion. \$3 billion is from Federal sources. NOTE: Schools are chartered by the State. The Governor has legal authority to say when schools can open.

New York City

NYC has largest school system in country. NYC submitted its plan in broad strokes. **NYC will have blended learning, with students going in-person to school on alternate days, and remote learning on the other days. Parents can choose for their child to have fully-remote learning.** There will be quarterly opportunities to change to fully-remote learning. All spaces in the schools will be used (cafeteria, gym, auditorium). Lunch will be served in classrooms, or with assigned seating in cafeterias. **In school, face coverings and social distancing are required. There will be nightly deep cleanings and cleanings during the day. All spaces will be used in school, including cafeterias, gyms, auditoriums, etc.**

- The first milestone is July 15, when the parent portal opens.
- After that there will be info sessions.
- August 7 will be the first deadline to decide on remote only education.

The city is working on providing child-care for working parents who can't supervise their kids during the day. Students with disabilities can get in-person instruction if wanted. Teachers and staff can apply for accommodations, if they have health issues, to work from home. Questions remain on what coronavirus testing policies may be in place, how an outbreak will be handled, and how child care will be handled for employees.

The City's Dept. of Education has set up a **Return to School 2020** page schools.nyc.gov/school-year-20-21/return-to-school-2020 with the latest updates on reopening public schools and specifics on hybrid learning and the first day of school. Chancellor Carranza also released a letter schools.nyc.gov/about-us/news/chancellor-s-message-for-families-for-NYC-school-families.

New York City's Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS) developed a network of virtual programming organizations that will offer training in youth leadership and organizing, career readiness, financial empowerment, web development and coding, urban planning, music and film

production, civic engagement, and more. This program is supported by the Young Men’s Initiative (YMI).

[New bill seeks to repeal state law governing admissions to NYC’s specialized high schools](#)

July 9, 2020, *ny.chalkbeat.org*, by Christina Veiga

State lawmakers are trying a new approach to help enroll more Black and Latino students at New York City’s elite but segregated specialized high schools. A group of Assembly members filed a bill this week to repeal the state law governing admission to the schools, which would then give the city control.

Due to recent changes in NYS law, CEC Presidents will elect a member to the Panel for Education Policy (PEP) in July 2020. You must be a parent of a child in an NYC public school to apply. Application form: drive.google.com/file/d/1nzn5aK4dklFVK2bDqbZgvs4GyCNdRgzC/view. Applications must be submitted to FACE at CCECInfo@schools.nyc.gov.

Addressing Gun Violence

Anti-Gun Violence Employment Program (AGVEP) offering employment and enrichment opportunities to approximately 700 young people was launched. Starting July 13, AGVEP will employ New Yorkers between the ages 14 and 24 living in neighborhoods and NYCHA housing developments most significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants will engage in 10 to 15 hours of activities for a 6-week period, with the potential to earn a stipend of \$850 to \$1,200. For questions about AGVEP email OPGV@cityhall.nyc.gov for more information. This program was announced by New York City’s Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS). They will help guide participants through enrichment activities held virtually and in socially distanced in-person settings with local organizations in their communities.

[De Blasio unveils plan to combat NYC’s surge in gun violence](#)

July 10, 2020, *nypost.com*, by Nolan Hicks, Craig McCarthy and Bruce Golding

[The plan] will rely in part on unarmed civilians who will hit the streets to help “break the cycle of violence.” During a City Hall briefing at which NYPD officials were noticeably absent, de Blasio said his “Take Back the Block” initiative would kick off in hard-hit Harlem later in the day...De Blasio said his plan would increase the police presence on more than 20 of Harlem’s high-crime blocks and in the neighborhood’s housing projects...An NYPD spokesperson said the department “constantly evaluates where its resources are most needed and redeploys in real time.” “we are strengthening uniform police presence at critical locations including subway platforms and locations identified as having a high potential for violence based on ongoing analysis, active investigations and input from the community,” the spokesperson added.

New York City's Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS), which is part of the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ), oversees the Office to Prevent Gun Violence (OPGV) www1.nyc.gov/site/peacenyc/index.page and the Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety (MAP) map.cityofnewyork.us. They will help guide participants through enrichment activities held virtually and in socially distanced in-person settings with local organizations in their communities.

Housing, homelessness & affordability

New Housing Connect Portal for affordable housing lottery applications

The City's Dept. of Housing Preservation and Development has opened a new portal: housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb. Important note: account profiles from the prior Housing Connect site WILL NOT carry over; you must visit the site to make a new account. Learn more www1.nyc.gov/site/hpd/services-and-information/housing-connect-rentals.page.

NYC Rental Market Pushed to Breaking Point by Tenant Debts

July 8, 2020, *bloomberg.com*, by Prashant Gopal

A quarter of the city's apartment renters haven't paid since March, according to the Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP), a group that represents mostly landlords of rent-stabilized buildings...Some landlords, with their own bills to pay, are running out of savings, so the city is bracing for hundreds of millions of dollars in delinquent property tax payments. A new state law prohibits evictions of tenants who face financial hardships while any social-distancing rules are in effect...More than 700,000 of [renter households] lost income as a result of the pandemic, according to New York University's Furman Center...With no federal relief in sight, New York state enacted the Tenant Safe Harbor Act <https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/brad-hoylman/tenant-safe-harbor-act-sponsored-senator-brad-hoylman-signed> last month to stop evictions. It supersedes a previous eviction ban that would have lifted on Aug. 20...For landlords, the problem isn't just nonpaying tenants. It's harder to find replacements for the ones that are leaving...The only buyers with enough money to wait for New York's economy to recover are private equity firms.

Budget & taxes

NYC's \$88.19 billion Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 budget began on July 1.

[Source [New York City Council Press Release 6/30/2020](#)]

[The NYC budget] includes \$837 million in cuts and transfers to the New York Police Department (NYPD) expense budget...The \$88.19 billion budget, which is on time and balanced, was negotiated with a focus on achieving equity, particularly for low-income communities of color... \$700 million...will go towards **helping our young people, schools, seniors, and low-income communities of color...Public Schools..College Students...Prevent Food Insecurity...Maintain Culture and the Arts...Support Libraries...Protect Survivors of Domestic Violence...Strengthen Small Businesses and Workers...Seniors...Provide Housing...Assist Immigrants...Promote Criminal Justice.**

Related: 6/30/2020 Letter from Council Member Keith Powers: Mayor's Proposed Budget

NYPD Budget. The budget...reduces the budget for police in the following ways:

- Reducing headcount by more than 1,000 uniformed positions
- Eliminating hundreds of millions of dollars in overtime
- Moving School Safety Officers, School Crossing Guards, and homeless engagement out of NYPD jurisdiction (see below on this topic)
- Reducing the footprint of police in the Department of Homeless Services
- Instituting a hiring freeze on certain positions
- The budget also comes with an additional cut of \$500 million to the capital budget for the NYPD that will be redirected toward new community centers and public housing.
- Ultimately, the goal was to reduce the footprint of policing, reallocate funding from policing to social services, and address the role of officers in the delivery of services that should be provided by other city agencies. These changes are only the beginning of a long-term conversation that needs to happen, but these are short-term, impactful measures that help put us on track to do that.
- School Safety and Homeless Services

The City Council saved a number of important programs:

- Summer Youth Employment (SYEP): \$115.8 million
- CUNY Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP): \$34.3 million
- Fair Student Funding: \$100 million
- Single Shepherd Guidance Counselors: \$11.6 million
- LGBTQ Curriculum in Public Schools: \$1.8 million

...my goal is to continue to push for transparency and accountability in policing, reduce the role of the NYPD in social services, and honor calls for racial justice.

Related: [DiNapoli: Local Governments Face 'Profound' Fiscal Challenges](#)

July 9, 2020, *spectrumlocalnews.com*, by Nick Reisman

New York State Comptroller Report: [Under Pressure: Local Government Revenue Challenges During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

Government, executive orders, legislation, rules, policies (including pending)

Bills passed by the New York City Council

Source: [Press Release of 6/25/2020](#)

- legalizing the use of electric bikes and scooters throughout the City;
- requiring the creation of an online, public database to track city expenditures related to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- authorizing lower interest rates for certain property owners who can't pay their property taxes on time as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- requiring the City to develop policies and protocols for the safe reopening and operation of city agencies;
- codifying into law the City's outdoor dining program, which was first proposed by the City Council in May as way to help restaurants and bars get back on their feet again; and
- requiring short-term rental platforms, such as Airbnb, to provide data about hosts who may be violating short-term rental laws to the Mayor's Office of Special Enforcement.

Health care employers are prohibited from penalizing employees for making complaints of employer violations (S.8397-A/A.10326-A). This new law will provide medical professionals with greater protections and allow them to speak more freely about their working conditions and employee or patient safety in the workplace.

Credit reporting for people facing hardships due to COVID-19

The New York State Department of Financial Services has reached an agreement with New York's credit reporting industry to help New York consumers facing hardship caused by COVID-19 to avoid unjustified negative impacts on consumers' credit reports. DFS also urges New York State-regulated financial institutions to furnish credit information in ways that minimizes negative impacts on consumers.

Preliminary Report: [New York City Police Department's Response to Demonstrations Following the Death of George Floyd](#)

New York State Office of the Attorney General, July 2020

After the public release of a video showing a police officer killing George Floyd, an unarmed Black man, thousands of people gathered across New York City to protest police brutality and systemic racism in law enforcement. On May 30, after reports of violent clashes between the New York City Police Department (NYPD) and protesters, Governor Andrew Cuomo requested that the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) investigate NYPD's response to the protests...This report addresses proposed police reforms that should be enacted quickly after further consultation with appropriate stakeholders, including communities of color most impacted by policing policies. These measures are aimed at improving transparency and accountability, ensuring public participation in major decisions by NYPD, redefining appropriate roles for the police, and codifying when officers can use force against the public. Adopting these reforms would go a long way toward mending the relationship between the police and community and solidifying the appropriate role of police in New York.

Mayor de Blasio announced that **Juneteenth** (19th of June) will become an official holiday in the city next year.

The Preparation for a Pandemic Act, which includes parts of her Made in America bill, was introduced by Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney. Having strong domestic production of PPE is absolutely essential to keeping Americans safe in the midst of a global pandemic. This bill will guarantee an adequate stock of PPE in the Strategic National Stockpile at all times and establish domestic supply chain incentives that put Americans to work building the skills and materials we need to sustain us.

Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney asked the House and Senate Committees on Armed Services to include parts of her **Corporate Transparency Act** in the Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The United States is the only advanced country in the world that doesn't already require disclosure of beneficial ownership information. Without these provisions, we will continue to facilitate global corruption by remaining a financial safe haven for human traffickers, drug cartels, terrorists, corrupt foreign officials, illegal arms dealers, and other bad actors. Anonymous shell companies enable them to access money, and therefore, enable their existence. By adding transparency to financial flows, we would greatly weaken the threats that we spend so much energy fighting.

Public service announcements

[Activate your EIP Visa debit card now](#)

July 7, 2020, *consumer.ftc.gov*, by Cristina Miranda, Consumer Education Specialist, FTC
Did you get an Economic Impact Payment VISA debit card in the mail from the U.S. Department of the Treasury? If you did, you might get a letter from Treasury this week, reminding you to activate your card.

FDNY Advice to Small Business on Reopening

As the city reopens, building owners and occupants may be unfamiliar with fire and life safety hazards linked to extended closures. The Fire Department is committed to identifying these hazards and alerting businesses of unsafe conditions. For FDNY related questions please call 311 and ask for FDNY Business Support or visit nyc.gov/fdny.

Scams

Beware of Scams and Fraud Schemes

The Office of Inspector General recognizes that we are facing unprecedented times and is alerting the public about potential fraud schemes related to economic stimulus programs offered by the U.S. Small Business Administration in response to the Novel Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19). The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the largest financial assistance bill to date, includes provisions to help small businesses. Fraudsters have already begun targeting small business owners during these economically difficult times. Be on the lookout for grant fraud, loan fraud, and phishing. sba.gov/document/report--sba-programs-scams-fraud-alerts

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.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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