

Information that may be of interest...

October 19, 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.

Traffic notice

DOT to Install Protected Bike Lane on Second Avenue

NYCDOT will implement safety improvements on 2nd Avenue between 34th Street and 43rd Street, starting in October. The improvements include the installation of a protected bike lane, dedicated double left turn lanes, and painted pedestrian islands. [Flyer](#).

NYC's reopening

New York City is in Phase 4 of the coronavirus reopening. High risk activities with gatherings of people are being phased in slowly and cautiously. Indoor activities pose a higher risk than outdoor activities.

See murrayhillnyc.org for additional COVID-19 information, including

[Reopening](#)

[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](#)

and more.

Update on NYC's Localized Restrictions. [As of 10/19/2020 Murray Hill is not affected by these restrictions.] The City is taking steps to slow the spread of COVID-19 in neighborhoods where cases continue to rise. Three zones have been identified by the State— red, orange, yellow. To find a zone and restrictions, visit nyc.gov/COVIDZone. Starting October 8, certain closure and stay-at-home restrictions will be in place in these neighborhoods. Restrictions will be lifted if the rate of infection drops to low levels.

Restaurants, bars, and other establishments participating in the Open Restaurants Program are now authorized to utilize temporary outdoor heaters in their outdoor dining areas.

The City released guidelines which include three options for the use of heating devices www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/715-20/recovery-agenda-new-york-city-releases-winter-outdoor-dining-guidance:

- **Electric radiant heaters** will be allowed in sidewalk and roadway seating setups. Full guidance from the Department of Buildings www1.nyc.gov/assets/buildings/bldgs_bulletins/bb_2020-018.pdf.
- **Natural gas radiant heaters** will be allowed on the sidewalk only. Full guidance from the Department of Buildings www1.nyc.gov/assets/buildings/bldgs_bulletins/bb_2020-020.pdf. Natural gas radiant heaters must also comply with the Fire Code.
- **Portable heaters fueled by propane** will be allowed on the sidewalk only. Propane heating will be regulated by the Fire Department, with requirements for safe handling, use and storage. Full guidance from the Fire Department www1.nyc.gov/site/fdny/business/support/restaurant-help.page.

Starting Friday, October 16, most restaurants and bars will be allowed to add a Covid-19 Recovery Charge to their bills.

legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3486106&GUID=475A15A2-0BE6-4C36-B282-C7AFDF585A2C&Options=ID%7CText%7C&Search=823.

Businesses are not required to implement the charge; it is optional. In other parts of the country surcharges of this type have helped businesses sustain operations and pay for added expenses like personal protective equipment and outdoor dining equipment. The restrictions on this charge as are as follows:

- Maximum of 10% of the total bill
- Subject to sales tax
- Cannot be added to takeout or delivery orders
- Must be clearly disclosed in English and any other languages used on menus on all menu pages, chalkboards, and websites
- Total amount of the charge must be clearly added to all receipts
- Must be referred to as “COVID-19 Recovery Charge” or “COVID Charge”
- This is not a gratuity, and that must be explained clearly
- May not be used as an added charge for a banquet, special event or package deal
- May not be added by a food service establishment that is part of a chain with 15 or more locations nationally

9/20/2020 **Event permits**. Mayor de Blasio extended Executive Order 148 www1.nyc.gov/assets/home/downloads/pdf/executive-orders/2020/eo-148.pdf, which sets **limitations on event permits through December 31, 2020**. Frequently asked questions about the about Executive Order 148 can be found at www1.nyc.gov/assets/counseltothemayor/downloads/Event-Permits-FAQ.pdf.

webinar, Culture in Public Spaces: **A Webinar with Outdoor Event Permitting Agencies** is available to view on the Department of Cultural Affairs YouTube Channel www1.nyc.gov/site/dcla/index.page, and features a discussion on current procedures and best practices for applying for event permits in public streets, sidewalks, plazas and parks during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Mayor's Office of Citywide Event Coordination and Management, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Department of Transportation, and MOME presented on the process and rules for different types of public event permits currently allowed during the pandemic, and shared examples of successful permit execution and use.

Apply for street permits at www1.nyc.gov/site/cecm/about/sapo.page and parks permits at nyceventpermits.nyc.gov/parks/Login.aspx.

IMPORTANT: There is still no cure or vaccine for COVID-19. To prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- wear face coverings when you are with people who are not in the same household
 - maintain distance (6 feet between people)
 - keep your hands clean
 - stay home if sick
-

All New Yorkers can get tested for coronavirus.

Sites run by New York State are free coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you. You can also check with your doctor, pharmacies and walk-in urgent care to find out if they do testing and if there will be charges. NYC testing sites: www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/get-tested/covid-19-testing.page or call 212-268-4319.

For Murray Hill/Kips Bay

Bellevue, no appointment necessary, but there may be long lines. Be sure that they set up your patient portal correctly so that you can get your results as soon as they are released. Test results usually come back in 1-2 days. If you don't get your results timely, call and ask to speak with a clinician; they can check your file.

Free rapid COVID Express sites are available throughout the city by appointment. Test results will be available within 24 hours or less of your visit. The nearest site is in Chelsea at

303 9th Avenue. www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-rapid-testing.page. Appointment slots are difficult to get.

Walk-in urgent care offices, pharmacies and your personal doctor also may do COVID-19 testing. Check with them if they require an appointment, charge a co-pay, and how long you will have to wait for results.

CDC's guidance for in-person holiday celebrations

Gatherings with *higher risk* are:

- indoors
- in a room with poor ventilation
- with large numbers of people
- with people who are coming from other states or countries that have higher rates of infection
- with people who do not wear masks or practice social distancing (prior to or during the gathering)

Do not attend in-person gatherings

- if you are sick with COVID-19 or have been exposed to people who are sick
 - if you have higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19
-

A herd mentality

An untested, highly controversial approach to Covid-19 has been gaining political momentum...as a strategy for getting back to normal. Basically the concept is this: Let the virus loose and let people do what they want; those who are at risk or concerned should stay out of circulation. Of course, that means more people will get sick and die...A group of 80 scientists writing in the medical journal the Lancet Wednesday called it a “dangerous fallacy unsupported by scientific evidence.” [Source: Bloomberg Prognosis email, 10/18/2020]

What the NBA Bubble Can Teach Us

The Los Angeles Lakers took home the NBA championship this week. But the close of the season also marked a big victory for the league itself. The NBA played its finals in a unique environment that came to be known as the bubble. Players were frequently tested and social distancing was heavily enforced. And, the experiment worked. The NBA did not report a single positive coronavirus case from players or staff. Reporters Emma Court and Brandon Kochkodin describe how the league did it, and whether other organizations can replicate its success.

FDA banned (unsafe or ineffective) hand sanitizers [fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-updates-hand-sanitizers-consumers-should-not-use#products](https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-updates-hand-sanitizers-consumers-should-not-use#products)

Short Video from *Emojiland* (a musical)

[youtube.com/watch?v=gThfosYz6k0&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gThfosYz6k0&feature=youtu.be)

Original *Emojiland* Off-Broadway cast members Natalie Weiss and Felicia Boswell are joined by members of the Weston Drama Workshop and AMDA College of the Performing Arts for a live performance of the song "Stand For" during the 2020 pandemic. [Emojiland.com](https://www.emojiland.com)

Local business and nonprofit news

Shop the Grand Central Market, get a free tote!

[Grand Central Market](https://www.grandcentralmarket.com) is giving away free, reusable totes when you shop there on Tuesdays for the rest of October (20th and 27th) from 11am–2pm. Make any purchase in the Market, show your receipt at the table just outside the main interior Market entrance, near Track 19, and they've got a tote for you. Each bag contains a unique code for \$10 off your first order at [Mercato.com](https://www.mercato.com), the Market's home delivery partner.



NEW YORK TOUGH
SMART · UNITED · DISCIPLINED · LOVING
GALLERIA ON THIRD ♥ ONE ANOTHER

Galleria on Third is offering a free signed print with any framing job and also to front-line medical workers. You are encouraged to make an appointment or call before you go.

Galleria on Third

529 Third Avenue (between 35th & 36th Street)

212-683-2886 galleria3rd@gmail.com

galleriaonthird.com



through November 3 (deadline to submit your art)

[Museum of the Dog Autumn Artist Showcase](#)

Submissions are now open for the Museum of the Dog's next virtual artist showcase! This virtual exhibition will highlight autumnal-themed dog art on their social media channels, email, and website. All mediums are accepted! They encourage all artists to apply. What kind of artwork are they looking for? Anything that makes you think "fall"! A painting of a dog curled up by the fire, a photograph of your pooch jumping into a pile of leaves, a gloomy charcoal drawing of a dog on a foggy day, a piece featuring warm autumnal colors... the possibilities are endless! Submissions will be accepted through November 3. The virtual showcase will run from November 9-25. If you have any questions about the showcase, email info@museumofthedog.org. Are you an artist interested in showcasing your work at this event? Submit your application at museumofthedog.org/events-and-education/calendar/autumn-artist-showcase#autumnArtForm.

The Census surveys are closed as of October 16, 2020

[Supreme Court Allows Trump Administration To End Census Early](#)

October 13, 2020, *npr.org*, by Hansi Lo Wang

For businesses

IMPORTANT BUSINESS SURVEYS

The Grand Central Partnership is asking Midtown East Businesses to take these Surveys to Help COVID-19 Relief Efforts.

NYCEDC Return to Work Occupancy Survey

nycedc.formstack.com/forms/nyc_return_to_office_survey_copy_copy

The NYC Economic Development Corporation is interested in more deeply understanding post-COVID return to office patterns to gauge the pace and health of New York City's economic recovery and implications for long-term planning.

NYC Hospitality Alliance October Rent Survey 2020nycalliance.typeform.com/to/EgiWvQvq

Restaurant, bar, and lounge operators: complete this survey about your October rent payments. The Alliance will use survey results to guide their industry advocacy efforts.

CovidWatcher Small Business Survey covidwatcher.dbmi.columbia.edu/small-business-survey

CovidWatcher, a project of Columbia University and other NYC community partners, seeks to identify the challenges facing small business owners as a result of COVID-19 so that resources can be targeted to the real needs of small businesses.

Job opportunities, volunteering and internships

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is still hiring temporary employees to assist with disaster relief efforts during these unprecedented times.

The positions include:

- Call Center Customer Service Representative
- Document Preparation/Legal Review/Loan Closings
- Loan Processing/Credit Analysis/Mortgage Underwriting
- Program Support

Apply today at sba.gov/page/disaster-response-jobs-sba.

NYC Department of Education (DOE) is hiring Substitute Teachers!

They are looking for committed, compassionate, positive educators who are ready to make a difference for NYC students. Substitute teachers who work in person during the period of September 29 to October 30 are eligible to receive a financial incentive in addition to the contractual rate of \$193.47 per day: \$100 per day for up to five days of in person substitute service for a total of up to \$500. An additional \$500 for a total of 15 or more days in person during this period for a total of \$1,000. If you are interested in becoming a substitute teacher, you can apply using this form drive.google.com/file/d/1fnr_VleQf1-5UQKAPlzKOhYBYjn6oiRK/view. Your application will be reviewed and you will be notified about next steps.

Elections & voting

The New York City Board of Elections absentee ballots

NYC Board of Elections website: vote.nyc

Telephone: 1-866-Vote-NYC (1-866-868-3692) or TTY-212-487-5496

REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

October 27, 2020 is the last day to request an absentee ballot by any means other than in person.

Registered voters who live in the five boroughs can now request an absentee ballot if they are concerned about COVID vote.nyc/page/absentee-voting. You have to enter your name exactly as it appears on your voting registration. This page also lists other ways of applying for an absentee ballot.

To request and track your ballot use the link **To Apply for a Ballot > Online**, and tap the link **Online > Click Here**

Absentee ballots are being sent on a rolling basis.

THE ABSENTEE BALLOT PACKAGE

- You will receive an **absentee ballot** with the heading “Official Absentee Military Ballot.” This is the correct ballot to use. Do not put any stray marks on the ballot, which may prevent it from being scanned properly.
- Two envelopes are included with the ballot.
 - The envelope marked **Official Absentee Ballot Envelope** should have your correct name and address on it.
IMPORTANT. If the name and address are *not* correct, notify the Board of Elections and request a new absentee ballot. **DO NOT USE AN INCORRECT ENVELOPE.** Hang on to the ballot and envelope that is addressed to the Board of Elections (just in case the

BOE only sends the corrected envelope). Here are emails for the BOE Apply4Absentee@boe.nyc or

- Return envelope with the Board of Elections address on it. Note that it needs a stamp. One stamp should be sufficient.

FILLING OUT YOUR BALLOT

Completely fill in the oval (in black or blue ink) that marks the candidates of your choice. Do not put any stray marks on the ballot.

When you have completed the ballot, place it in the envelope marked **Official Absentee Ballot Envelope**.

- Sign and date the envelope in ink (VERY IMPORTANT). The date line is in small print below the signature line.
- Seal the envelope with the adhesive provided (usually a peel-off strip and self-adhesive). Don't use any other adhesive.

The Official Absentee Ballot Envelope goes into the envelope addressed to the Board of Elections.

- Make sure that the bar code shows through the window on the envelope. This will make your ballot easier to track.
- You must affix a stamp to the mailing envelope if you are going to mail it.

DELIVERING YOUR BALLOT

An absentee ballot must be postmarked by Election Day and must reach the Board of Elections no more than 7 days after the election to be counted.

Absentee ballots can be:

- Mailed through the US postal service to the Manhattan Board of Elections at 200 Varrick Street, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10014-7431. The envelope must be stamped.
- Dropped off at an early voting polling place between October 24 and November 1 or dropped off at an Election Day polling place. Deposit your ballot in the **Poll Site Absentee Ballot Collection Box**. Use the **Find Your Polling Place** tool to find your early voting place and your polling place for the general election voterlookup.elections.ny.gov. The early voting place will not be the same as your regular polling place. Hours are shown with the early voting polling place information [Example, for me it's Hunter College Brookdale Dorm, 440 East 26 Street, New York, NY 10010, and there is another early voting place at Madison Square Garden - Lobby, 4 Pennsylvania Plaza 10001]. You can also view a sample ballot from this page.
- Delivered in-person to the Board of Elections office at 200 Varrick Street, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10014-7431. Check their open hours, call 212-886-2100 or email Electioninfo@boe.nyc.ny.us.

TRACKING YOUR BALLOT

- use the link nycabsentee.com/absentee
- Fill out the form, entering your name as it appears on your voter registration

Absentee Ballot status may look something like this

TRACKING HISTORY

Date	Status
10/15/2020	Voter Mailed Ballot
09/30/2020	Out for Delivery
09/29/2020	Ballot Mailed
09/17/2020	Application Approved

This information is also posted on the MHNA website as an event in the General Election, November 3 event.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

[How to Create an Inclusive Hiring and Workplace Culture at Your Small Business](#)

October 06, 2020, *sba.gov*, by Zina Sutch

Businesses can take advantage of [financial incentives](#) to make reasonable accommodations

Plastic bag ban begins October 19

Bring your own reusable bag when you shop. Stores can charge 5 cents if they provide a bag.

Upcoming events

October 20 6pm

How News Literate Are You?

(Zoom panel discussion) How news literate are you? With more Americans receiving their news from social media, false information is being shared at an alarming rate, such an incredibly perilous trend against the backdrop of a pandemic and an election year. Media thought-leaders share how to be your own critic and check content for truth and accuracy before you share it. Featuring: Michelle Ciulla Lipkin, Executive Director, National Association for Media Literacy Education; Jane Lytvynenko, Reporter, BuzzFeed News; Aimee Rinehart, Deputy Director, First Draft; Brandy Zadrozny, Investigative and Features Reporter, NBC News; Moderator: Brian Stelter, Anchor, Reliable Sources, Chief Media Correspondent, CNN. RSVP (free)

us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_J4BOoVtjQ4WoTs5bRUgpmg.

October 21 2:30pm

Free Lunchtime Concert featuring local jazz duo *Acute Inflections*

Open air concert series, sponsored by the Rudin Family.
at 345 Park Avenue

October 21 3:30-4:30pm

A USPTO Speaker Series fireside chat with Dr. Marian Rogers Croak

See and hear inventor Dr. Marian Rogers Croak at the next all-virtual installment of the USPTO (U.S. Patent and Trademark Office) Speaker Series. Dr. Croak, USPTO Director Andrei Iancu, and the audience will discuss her decades of work on advanced technologies for voice and data networks and the internet. The conversation will cover her career, what inspired her, and the future of innovation. Register for this special event and watch the discussion online. Dr. Croak holds more than 200 patents and has more than 100 pending patent applications. Dr. Croak is now vice president for site reliability engineering at Google, Inc. If you would like to submit a question to Dr. Croak in advance, please send it to directorspeakerseries@USPTO.GOV. Register at eventbrite.com/e/a-uspto-speaker-series-fireside-chat-with-dr-marian-rogers-croak-tickets-124105562077.

October 21 5-6pm

Post-COVID Manhattan: What Have We Learned and What Does the Future Look Like?

(webinar) What is Manhattan's role in reviving NY's economy, when significantly fewer people are commuting into work? How is the borough faring with the census, when some of the wealthiest residents still haven't returned from their second homes? What will be the impact of ranked choice voting in 2021? Discuss these issues and more with elected officials next week. Speakers:

Congressman Adriano Espaillat, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, State Senator Liz Krueger, State Senator Brian Benjamin. Free. Register at cityandstateny.com/events/post-covid-manhattan-what-have-we-learned-and-what-does-future-look.

SPEAR Physical Therapy online webinars

eventbrite.com/o/spear-physical-amp-occupational-therapy-16754990647

Recorded event: Virtual Senior Resource Fair

youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBqVCGvSHcOHEiReTalCMZ08DdFgAiFsQ

or

facebook.com/statesenatorlizkrueger

Upcoming events for small businesses

October 20 12pm-1:30pm

The Office of Nightlife will host a multi-agency Town Call for restaurants and bars on the City's New Indoor/Outdoor Dining Guidelines & Regulations

Representatives from City agencies will provide information and answer questions about the latest indoor and outdoor dining rules and changes related to the extension of the Open Restaurants program. Topics include:

- Health & Safety Guidelines (Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - DOHMH)
- Outdoor Dining (Department of Transportation - DOT)
- Business Resources (Department of Small Business Services - SBS)
- Fines, Summons and Trials (Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings - OATH)
- Inspections and Enforcement (Office of Special Enforcement - OSE)
- Air Filtration and HVAC (Department of Buildings - DOB)
- Outdoor Heaters (Fire Department - FDNY)

Advance registration required: bit.ly/diningtowncall.

October 23 9am

Manhattan Chamber of Commerce Town Hall Meeting: Rent Relief for Manhattan's Small Businesses

The Governor's eviction moratorium for commercial tenants is set to expire on October 20, exposing many small businesses to further devastation. This discussion will focus on solutions now under consideration, including two major legislative proposals and other available resources. Several elected officials, community leaders, small business owners, lawyers and other experts are confirmed to speak. Register at app.livestorm.co/manhattan-chamber-of-commerce/townhall-meeting-rent-relief-for-manhattans-small-businesses.

Midtown East Businesses: Take these Surveys to Help COVID-19 Relief Efforts

NYC EDC (Economic Development Corporation) Return to Work Occupancy Survey – EDC is interested in more deeply understanding post-COVID return to office patterns to gauge the pace and health of New York City's economic recovery and implications for long-term planning.
nycedc.formstack.com/forms/nyc_return_to_office_survey_copy_copy?mc_cid=2efbcadf1f&mc_eid=edaf61814b

NYC Hospitality Alliance October Rent Survey – restaurant, bar, and lounge operators: complete this survey about your October rent payments. The Alliance will use survey results to guide their industry advocacy efforts.
2020nycalliance.typeform.com/to/EgiWvQvq?mc_cid=2efbcadf1f&mc_eid=edaf61814b

CovidWatcher Small Business Survey – CovidWatcher, a project of Columbia University and other NYC community partners, seeks to identify the challenges facing small business owners as a result of COVID-19 so that resources can be targeted to the real needs of small businesses.
covidwatcher.dbmi.columbia.edu/small-business-survey/?mc_cid=2efbcadf1f&mc_eid=edaf61814b

Free flu shots

October 19 – Monday, October 26

You can walk in for a free flu shot (regular and senior dosage flu shots) at:

Lenox Hill Hospital Hearth Room

130 E. 77th Street

New York, NY 10075

Contact State Senator Liz Krueger's District Office for information: 211 East 43rd Street, Suite 1201 | New York, NY 10017 | (212) 490-9535 | Fax: (212) 499-2558.

For seniors: Remember, [the flu shot is covered for people with Medicare](#) from providers that accept Medicare or your Medicare plan. You can safely get a flu shot at multiple locations, like at your doctor's office or pharmacy.

PAUSE extended for Broadway

[Broadway To Remain Dark Through May 2021](#)

October 9, 2020, *patch.com*, by Nick Garber

The shutdown of Broadway theaters will now last at least a full year, after Friday's announcement extending the closures through May 2021.

Broadway League press release broadwayleague.com/press/press-releases/broadway-update-on-performance-cancellations. Theatregoers holding tickets for dates through May 30, 2021 should contact their point of purchase for details about exchanges and refunds.

Kudos to Murray Hill public schools (partial listing)!

COVID-19 Report Card for [PS 116 Mary Lindley Murray](#). As of October 16, no cases were reported. Total On-site Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=352. Total Off-site Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=170.

COVID-19 Report Card for [The River School](#). As of October 16, no cases were reported. Total On-site Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=416. Total Off-site Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=106.

COVID-19 Report Card for [Murray Hill Academy](#). As of October 16, no cases were reported. Total On-site Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=241. Total Off-site Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=61.

Murray Hill in the news

[Florida Was Nice, but This Couple Was Ready to Come Home to New York](#)

September 17, 2020, *nytimes.com*, by Joyce Cohen

Seeking cooler weather and 'the pulse of the city,' Glenn Snider and Allen Sistrunk put their \$500,000 budget to the test in Manhattan...The city was fully present at the Kips Bay studio, as was the light they sought. "When you open the front door, the light just floods the apartment," Mr. Sistrunk said. "The brightness was essential to me, to come home to that." They offered \$395,000 and settled at \$415,000.

Changes in the neighborhood

GCP reports that 70% of street-level businesses in the GC BID have reopened

The Grand Central Partnership reported on September 24 that as of last week, 70% of the street-level businesses in the Grand Central Business Improvement District were open and operating. Visit their website for a list of businesses grandcentralpartnership.nyc/calendar/get-outdoor-takeout-delivery-midtown-east.



Photo courtesy of Google Maps

[Manhattan's Roosevelt Hotel is closing its doors for good](#)

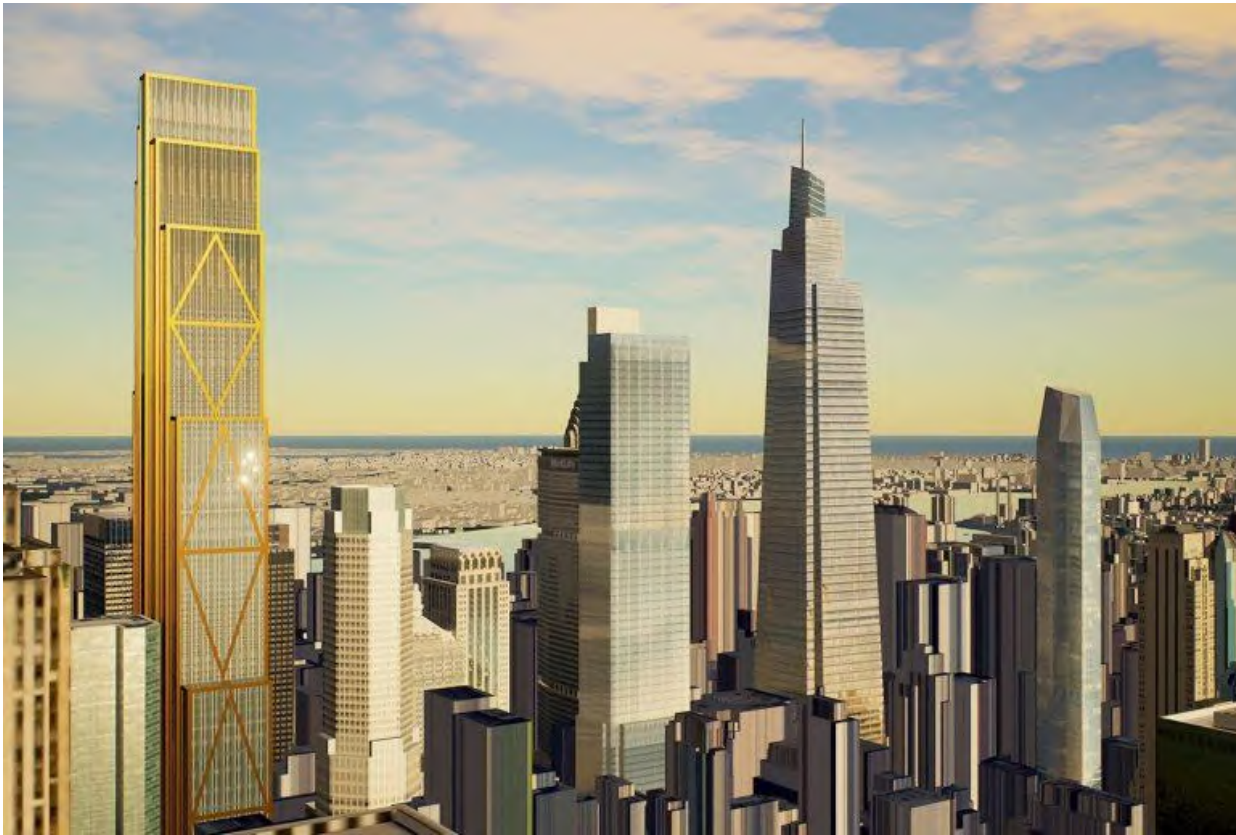
October 9, 2020, therealdeal.com, TRD Staff

Another New York City hotel has succumbed to the struggling economy. The Roosevelt Hotel at 45 East 45th Street is shuttering after nearly a century in operation, Reuters reported. The 1,015-key hotel is owned by Pakistan International Airlines and managed by United Hotels Company...The 18-story building, which was constructed in 1924, also has 22,000 square feet of ground-floor retail.

[Watch the Bryant Park winter transformation as the park gets ready for the Bank of America Winter Village](#)

Learn more about the Winter Village bryantpark.org/amenities/bank-of-america-winter-village-at-bryant-park. New this Year: Ice skating at Winter Village is now a fully outdoor experience, and the Holiday Shops have a reconfigured layout with fewer shops to allow for more spacious walkways. Visitors must wear a face covering at the Holiday Shops and maintain social distance while circulating through the park. October 30, 2020 – January 3, 2021. Monday – Friday: 11am-8pm, Saturday and

Sunday: 10am-8pm, Many Shops are open on holidays and keep later hours after Thanksgiving. The Lodge Deck will be open from October 30, 2020 – March 7, 2021, 8am-10pm (till 10:30pm holiday hours).



[Exclusive Renderings Revealed For KPF's Supertall 343 Madison Avenue, In Midtown East](#)

October 15, 2020, *newyorkyimby.com*, by Vanessa Londono

Rendering depicts three future towers that will change the Midtown skyline. JPMorgan Chase's 270 Park Avenue on the left, 343 Madison Avenue in the middle, and 520 5th Avenue on the far right. Image courtesy of YIMBY Forumer rgarri4

The first renderings have appeared online for Kohn Pedersen Fox's planned 925,630-square-foot supertall at 343 Madison Avenue in Midtown East...The supertall is planned to rise in place of the former Metropolitan Transportation Authority headquarters. YIMBY reported in July that Boston Properties is developing the 1,050-foot-tall project, which will yield 832,613 square feet of Class A office space above 5,357 square feet of ground-floor retail space. Mechanicals will occupy 84,593 square feet...The development site has frontage along Madison Avenue and both East 44th and 45th Streets. The office tower will fit in with the surrounding commercial high-rises consisting of hotels and office space near Grand Central Terminal. According to a drafted Environmental Impact Statement released this summer, the building will also offer pedestrian access to Grand Central Terminal and the LIRR East Side Access concourse, currently in the works. Excavation for 343 Madison Avenue is expected to begin in 2022, with construction complete by 2026. Demolition is supposed to begin this month, but no announcements have been made as to whether the timeline has changed.

Traffic, travel and transportation

[New Virus-Capturing Air Filtration System Being Tested On Metro-North Could Roll Out To Subway System](#)

October 16, 2020, *gothamist.com*, by Stephen Nessen, WNYC

The MTA is piloting a new air filtration and purification system that the manufacturer claims can capture and kill 99.9998% of viruses and other germs through a three-stage process...Researchers with the Environmental Protection Agency will work with the MTA to test the technology and determine its effectiveness. The new technology, created by Knorr Brake Company, is incorporated into the existing ventilation systems, and will "filter and purify air inside rail cars using an electrical field to generate a wave of ionized particles that destroy airborne viruses, bacteria and particulate matter, including COVID-19," according to the MTA. The system will also enhance in-car air filtration, "which already filters air 30 times an hour or once every 120 seconds, exceeding CDC standards" for everything from certain medical facilities to restaurants..."Not only will this kill COVID-19, but it's going to kill other viruses and other bacteria as well."...In September, a new study [gothamist.com/news/new-study-finds-no-direct-link-between-subway-covid-19-spread](#) found that there is no direct correlation between public transit use and COVID-19 spread, including in New York City. As long as people wear masks, and trains and buses are well-ventilated, the authors concluded public transit is relatively safe.

[Without Federal Aid, NY State Comptroller Predicts "End Of Public Transit As We Have Known It"](#)

October 13, 2020, *gothamist.com*, by Stephen Nessen, WNYC

State comptroller Thomas DiNapoli sounded the alarm on Tuesday, following the release of a bleak report on the MTA's finances...According to the report, it's not expected to return to pre-pandemic levels until 2023...DiNapoli's report comes as the agency is preparing to present next year's...The budget is expected to include service cuts of up to 50 percent on commuter rails, and 40 percent on subways and buses, with thousands of layoffs, as well as fare hikes...Currently, ridership on subways is still down between 63 to 70 percent of pre-pandemic levels, while buses are down about 50 percent...The losses are not just from a drop in ridership. The state comptroller expects MTA revenue from dedicated taxes and subsidies will be \$5.5 billion lower than expected through the end of 2023...the extra cleaning costs associated with the coronavirus and overnight shutdowns will reach an extra \$1 billion by the end of the year...the extra cleaning costs associated with the coronavirus and overnight shutdowns will reach an extra \$1 billion by the end of the year...Senate Majority leader Mitch McConnell is blocking the way forward on any federal relief deal for states, and the MTA.

Schools, children & youth programs

[Only 15 percent of NYC's in-classroom students have consented to COVID-19 tests](#)

October 16, 2020, *nypost.com*, by Selim Algar

Only about 15 percent of families who opted for classroom learning this year have consented to COVID-19 tests for their kids so far, Schools Chancellor Richard Carranza revealed Friday... [NY City Council education committee chairman Mark] Treyger raised concerns about the outstanding forms and asked how many schools did not have enough to meet minimum testing thresholds...The DOE will not allow families to accompany their kids during the in-school tests or accept results from private doctors...Schools are aiming to test between 10 and 20 percent of their population...each month to guard against coronavirus outbreaks...DOE officials said during the hearing that 19,000 city teachers – or 25 percent of their total number – have been granted coronavirus exemptions that allows them to work from home this year...In addition, 231 city principals have been given the same accommodation – 14 percent of their total...Overall, 34,000 DOE employees have been granted coronavirus medical exemptions this year and will not have to report to their buildings, according to the DOE.

[77,000 Requests for Remote Learning Devices Still Unfulfilled, City Says](#)

October 16, 2020, *ny1.com*, by Vivian Lee New York City

The city's schools chancellor says the system still needs 77,000 devices like iPads or laptops for students learning remotely.

Housing, homelessness & affordability

Welcome to the New York City Tenant Resource Portal

www1.nyc.gov/content/tenantresourceportal

The goal of this portal is to help tenants across the city maintain stable housing and to find the resources you need in one place. The eviction prevention tool was designed by the Mayor's Office to Protect Tenants (MOPT) and the Mayor's Public Engagement Unit's (PEU) Tenant Support Unit (TSU) to help renters navigate public and private resources that can stabilize their housing situation. A tenant seeking help will be taken through a series of questions and directed to the most useful resources based on their responses. MOPT and PEU have included resources from multiple city agencies, Legal Service Providers, and Community Based Organizations. If you are a Legal Service Provider or Community Based Organization, please submit your recommendations for additional resources via the online feedback form.

(Opinion) [A Simple Way New York Can Help Renters and Owners](#)

September 29, 2020, *gothamgazette.com*, by Zachary Kerr, president of the Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP)

In June 2019, state lawmakers significantly altered a provision of the rent stabilization laws called preferential rents. It was the ability for a housing provider to offer a rent that was lower than the legal limit, where such limits apply. Under the change in law, tens of thousands of tenants with preferential rents are locked in to rent increases that can never be more than what is determined by the Rent Guidelines Board annually. But there are two sides to a coin. Rent-stabilized tenants struggling because of the COVID-19 emergency are asking their housing providers for a break on rent. If the building owner grants it, it becomes the new legal rent for as long as the tenant lives there—potentially 20 years after the pandemic is over.

(Opinion) [Affordable Housing is the Key to New York’s Recovery](#)

October 5, 2020, *gothamgazette.com*, by Daniel M. Cohen, candidate for City Council in the 7th district.



Grants and loans

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) loan is still available

If you are a small businesses, non-profit organization of any size, or a U.S. agricultural business with 500 or fewer employees that have suffered substantial economic injury as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, you can still apply for the COVID-19 EIDL (Economic Injury Disaster Loan). This loan applies to all businesses based in any U.S. state, territory, or the District of Columbia. This is a SBA disaster assistance loan. Learn more at sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance

Simpler loan forgiveness application for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans

The U.S. Small Business Administration, in consultation with the Treasury Department, released a simpler loan forgiveness application for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans of \$50,000 or less. This action streamlines the PPP forgiveness process. sba.gov/article/2020/oct/08/sba-treasury-announce-simpler-ppp-forgiveness-loans-50000-or-less

Hello Alice in partnership with DoorDash are providing \$5,000 grants to small businesses

Selected through an application process in select cities across the US, the grants are part of DoorDash’s Main Street Strong blog.doordash.com/announcing-main-street-strong-our-commitment-to-helping-restaurants-on-the-road-to-recovery-3d5dff6b649b initiative to help restaurants recover

and succeed amidst COVID-19 related challenges. The application once live will be active until November 6, 2020. Grant winners will be selected via a panel and will be notified by the end of December. Eligibility Requirements: Must have 3 stores or fewer currently operating, must have \$3M or less in 2019 annual revenue per store, must employ 50 people or fewer per store. Official rules terms.helloalice.com/doorash. Also see doorash.helloalice.com.

Policing and justice

Harvard University's Justice course with Michael Sandel

“We need to rediscover the lost art of democratic argument.” –Michael Sandel. Professor Sandel teaches political philosophy. His books, *What Money Can't Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets* and *Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?*, were international best sellers and have been translated into 27 languages. His course “Justice” was the first Harvard course to be made freely available online and has been viewed by tens of millions. View all eight lectures at justiceharvard.org

(Recorded video) American Scandinavian Foundation panel discussion on policing and police reform in the Nordic countries

Three panelists from the Nordic countries discussed policing and police reform in those countries: Lars Holmberg (Professor of Law, JUR Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies of Law, University of Copenhagen), Kimmo Himberg (Rector, the Police University College, Tampere, Finland), and Margrét Valdimarsdóttir (Assistant Professor of Police Science at the University of Akureyri). With ASF Fellow Vanessa Barker (Professor of Sociology, Stockholm University and Editor of *Punishment & Society*) as moderator. The panelists discuss Nordic policing systems, public attitudes towards police, and the ways in which debate has spurred reform over the years. They contrast Nordic and U.S. policing policies as well as approaches to weapons use, training, and deployment. View the October 7, 2020 panel discussion on YouTube

youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=ICl7As5c7HM&feature=youtu.be&mc_cid=1419dde507&mc_eid=9b44fd8c63

Budget & taxes

The Mayor announced the City will expand furloughs to all managerial and non-represented City employees. These expanded furloughs will impact nine thousand employees and save \$21 million. The City is facing an enormous budget challenge, a \$9 billion toll on City revenue, and has already cut \$7 billion from the budget between February and the Fiscal Year 2021 Adopted Budget announced in June. The City continues to work with labor groups to find savings and prevent layoffs. The Administration has made historic moves to make the City fiscally responsible and prepared for adversity, including:

- Increased reserve levels every year and increased general reserve to record levels,
- Created first ever Capital Stabilization Reserve,
- Achieved billions of dollars in savings every year, even when revenue was strong,
- At the height of the pandemic, achieved the largest savings plan of this Administration (\$5.8 billion in FY20 and FY21 and \$1.7 billion recurring),
- Saw our bond rating increased last year due to strong fiscal management,
- Created New York City's first-ever Rainy Day Fund.

[Source: State Senator Liz Krueger's email, 9/25/2020, Coronavirus updates]

Reports

[How Important is Sales Tax to a Local Government? A Lot](#)

By Nick Reisman City of Albany

Local governments in New York are heavily dependent on sales tax revenue, which has all but disappeared amid the coronavirus pandemic as people stay home and shop less, a report released on Wednesday by Comptroller Tom DiNapoli found.

The Regional Planning Association study — "New York's Next Comeback"

rpa.org/work/reports/new-yorks-next-comeback#short-term-disruptions

Key Findings

Section I Outlines five common mistakes that can lead to bad policy choices

Section II Summarizes what the evidence tells us thus far

Section III Outlines the biggest threats that could lead to a deeper downturn and widening disparities

Section IV Offers five reasons to bet on the New York region's future if we take the actions needed to address these threats

The final section draws from RPA's Fourth Regional Plan to align actions that address the immediate crisis with a longer-term strategy to make the city and region more livable, just and resilient.

From providing affordable internet service for all to reforming government agencies to reduce costs and address racial inequities, actions that we take today can minimize the threats we face while positioning us to rebuild better. The formula for success must be a partnership that includes federal funding, good local governance, and collaboration from business, labor, civic institutions and communities across the region.

Stories we are following

[New Students at U.S. Colleges Drop, Worsening Campus Crisis](#)

October 15, 2020, *bloomberg.com*, by Janet Lorin

(Opinion) [Performing arts are near the point of no return. Conservatives should rescue them.](#)

October 2, 2020, *washingtonpost.com*, by Ali Wambold and Charles Segars (Ali Wambold is a trustee emeritus of the American Ballet Theatre and a director of Ovation TV LLC. Charles Segars is the CEO of Ovation TV and a trustee of Ford's Theatre.)

Ninety percent of the member organizations of the National Independent Venue Association polled in a recent survey warned that, without government aid, they will close permanently in a few months.

[AT&T plans thousands of layoffs at HBO, Warner Bros., rest of WarnerMedia](#)

October 9, 2020, *arstechnica.com*, by Jon Brodtkin

AT&T's WarnerMedia cuts jobs, blames pandemic's impact on entertainment industry.

[Pandemic Puts N.Y.C. Hotels on the Brink: 'A Complete Washout'](#)

September 21, 2020, *nytimes.com*, by Patrick McGeehan

Representatives of the Hilton Times Square, the Omni Berkshire Place and the Courtyard by Marriott hotels on 35th Street and Fifth Avenue, all of which are closing permanently, did not respond to requests for comment.

[Covid Gives Tourism Chance to Curb Future Environmental Damage](#)

October 14, 2020, *bloomberg.com*, by Michelle Jamrisko, Randy Thanthong-Knight, and Siegfried Alegado

A plunge in visitors allowed nature to recover at overrun hotspots. Now, some countries don't want to go back to the destruction of mass tourism, even when Covid ends.

(Opinion) [How to harness NYC's creative destruction](#)

October 6, 2020, *cityandstateny.com*, by Tom Allon, president and publisher of City & State.

New York City should come up with a plan for adaptive reuse and regeneration...New York City is now entering a period of "creative destruction," where age-old business models and industries will have to adapt or perish. Just as it did during the deindustrialization and flight to the suburbs that challenged New York from the 1960s to 1980s, the pandemic and its aftermath will require enlightened

leadership to help guide the city's business and real estate community through this highly disruptive revolution.

[New Yorkers With 'Long-Haul' Symptoms Are Upending the Narrative About COVID-19](#)

September 27, 2020, *gothamist.com*, by Caroline Lewis

Long-haulers experience a wide range of symptoms they believe to be linked to COVID-19 after contracting the disease, often persisting for months after they initially get sick...Resources for Long-Haulers:

Post-COVID-19 Care Clinics in Manhattan. Note: In some cases, patients may need a referral from a hospital or primary care doctor.

Mount Sinai Center for Post-COVID Care (Manhattan) mountsinai.org/about/covid19/center-post-covid-care

Online Support:

Survivor Corps helps connect COVID-19 survivors to research opportunities

survivorcorps.com/research

Body Politic Slack group wearebodypolitic.com/covid19

COVID-19 Long Haulers Discussion Group on Facebook facebook.com/groups/COVIDLongHaulers

COVID-19 Longhauler Advocacy Project on Facebook

facebook.com/groups/Covid19LonghaulerAdvocacyProject

ClearHealthCosts Q&A about short-term disability, long-term disability and Social Security

clearhealthcosts.com/blog/2020/09/coronavirus-covid-19-and-disability-how-to-do-it-with-a-disability-specialist-who-has-gone-through-it-herself

Scams

There are an unprecedented number of coronavirus-related scams circulating.

Stay abreast of the latest Coronavirus-related scams by visiting the Federal Trade Commission's webpage ftc.gov/coronavirus/scams. You can also subscribe to alerts.

[Fake news most likely done to take your money](#)

October 16, 2020, *politico.com*, by Mark Scott

Linked Facebook pages stoke both sides of political divide

The MHNA Discount Program

Please be prepared to show proof of membership when you ask for a discount. Full list of discounts at the links below.

[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: www1.nyc.gov/site/lpc/about/contact-us.page

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

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

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

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

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

New York Assembly Upcoming Public hearings [And archived videos can also be accessed on this page.] nyassembly.gov/av/upcoming

New York Assembly Upcoming Public hearings calendar <https://www.nyassembly.gov/leg/?sh=hear>

Governor Andrew Cuomo, New York State, governor.ny.gov, contact page on website governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form

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

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

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

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

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If you are not a member
or your membership has lapsed
please [join/renew](#) now

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And, don't forget to tag **@MHNAnc**
in your Murray Hill-inspired Instagram photos!

Visit the MHNA website murrayhillnyc.org
Contact the MHNA by email at info@murrayhillnyc.org

