

# Information that may be of interest...

## November 2, 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](http://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](http://www.murrayhillnyc.org), scroll down the Also Happening column.

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## Transportation notices

### Changes to overnight bus service

Due to extremely low ridership, the MTA is adjusting overnight bus service on some routes. These changes took effect on Thursday, October 15, 2020, and generally affect service between 1-5am. Overnight service is eliminated on the M34/M34A SBS. Read more at [new.mta.info/coronavirus/overnight/bus-service](http://new.mta.info/coronavirus/overnight/bus-service).

Due to city and state budget constraints and recent service changes, there may be longer waits for buses and subways. Use the new MTA map, tracker and/or [trip planner](#) apps so that you'll know when the next bus or train is expected. MTA website [mta.info/nyct](http://mta.info/nyct).

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There is a new seat belt law going into effect Sunday, November 1st in New York State, which will require seat belts to be worn by all vehicle occupants regardless of age or where they sit. This applies to personal cars, taxis & for-hire vehicles, including app-based trips.

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## Public Service announcements

### Please donate blood if you are able.

The New York Blood Center Murray Hill location: Grand Central Donor Center, New York Blood Center, Chanin Building, 115 East 41st Street. Schedule an appointment at [donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/center/96](https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/center/96). You don't have to log in to schedule an appointment. You can set up an account with the NYBC portal [donate.nybc.org/donor/auth/signin](https://donate.nybc.org/donor/auth/signin). New York Blood Center (NYBC) is one of the largest community-based, non-profit blood collection and distribution organizations in the United States, telephone 800-933-2566.

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### Get your flu shot

The vaccine finder [vaccinefinder.org](https://vaccinefinder.org) can help you find nearby places that offer flu shots. Most of the pharmacy chains offer them. NYC Health + Hospitals clinics, provide no or low-cost flu vaccines. New Yorkers can call 311, or text FLU to 877-877 to find a flu vaccination location. The health department also provides a list of community flu vaccination events at [nyc.gov/flu](https://nyc.gov/flu). Flu vaccine is covered by most health insurance plans without a co-pay. The Health Department recommends people 65 years and older receive the high dose or adjuvanted vaccine.

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## NYC's reopening

New York City is in Phase 4 of the coronavirus reopening. Restaurants can have indoor dining with 25% capacity. Activities with large gatherings are not recommended. Indoor activities pose a higher risk than outdoor activities.

**Due to rising coronavirus levels, New Yorkers are advised to avoid large gatherings.** Individuals travelling into the state for any reason, must follow the State's COVID [Travel Advisory quarantine regulations](#). New Yorkers are urged not to travel during the holidays.

See [murrayhillnyc.org](https://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.

### Micro-cluster strategy to tackle COVID-19 hot spots

[Source: Gov. Cuomo's Coronavirus Update email 10/20/2020.] New York will employ the micro-cluster strategy to take fast and targeted action when a micro-cluster hot spot is detected, including refined detection, specific and calibrated mitigation, and focused enforcement. Targeted closures and restrictions are used to bring down the rate of infection in a micro-cluster. To exit a red zone, the

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coronavirus positivity rate must stay under 3 percent for 10 days. The rates for orange and yellow zones are 2 percent and 1.5 percent, respectively, for 10 days. The city's COVID zone finder [nycgov.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/lookup/index.html](https://nycgov.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/lookup/index.html)  
[NOTE: Murray Hill currently has a low rate of infection and is *not* a cluster hot spot.]

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10/31/2020 [\*\*Governor Cuomo Announces New Guidelines Allowing Out-of-State Travelers to "Test Out" of Mandatory 14-Day Quarantine\*\*](#)

- Travelers Must Get Tested Within Three Days Prior to Landing in New York, Quarantine for at Least Three Days Upon Arrival, and Get a Test on Day Four of Arrival
- If Travelers Receive a Negative Test On Day Four of Quarantine They May Exit Quarantine When They Receive Negative Result
- States that are Contiguous with New York Continue to Be Exempted from Quarantine Protocol — Essential Workers Also Continue to be Exempted
- Travelers Who Were Only Out of State for Less Than 24 Hours Do Not Need to Quarantine but Must Get a Test on Day Four of Arrival Back in NY
- All Travelers Covered by The Advisory Must Continue to Fill Out Traveler Health Form Upon Arrival Into New York State

Essential workers will continue to be exempt. Local health departments will validate tests, if necessary, and if a test comes back positive, will issue isolation orders and initiate contact tracing.

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Beginning 10/30/2020 **Open Storefronts** (executive order by Mayor de Blasio, pending final review by City Law), allows storefronts to do business at their location using sidewalk space. Businesses must complete a simple application and make sure that the sidewalk is unimpeded (8' of space). If the storefront is on an Open Street, it can also use OpenStreet space. Read about siting requirements and more at [www1.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/pedestrians/openstorefronts.shtml](http://www1.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/pedestrians/openstorefronts.shtml). NYC Open Storefronts Program application [nycopensestorefront.s3.amazonaws.com/index.html](https://nycopensestorefront.s3.amazonaws.com/index.html).

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[\*\*'Real Concerns' Over Rising NYC Coronavirus Levels: De Blasio\*\*](#)

October 29, 2020, *patch.com*, by Matt Troutman

The city's positivity rate over a seven-day average reached 1.92 percent...a "meaningful jump" for a measure that has hovered near 1.5 percent for weeks...The growth appears only partially tied to localized coronavirus clusters...roughly 10 percent of new cases are linked to travel and various indoor settings have also contributed...guidance is...wearing a mask, avoiding gatherings, keeping physical distance.

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[\*\*De Blasio Announces Initial Covid Vaccine NYC Distribution Plan\*\*](#)

October 21, 2020, *news.bloomberglaw.com*

Mayor Bill de Blasio's administration announced an initial two-phase framework for distributing Covid-19 vaccines in New York City in a blog post on the city's website. Phase one will provide a

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limited number of doses for healthcare personnel, frontline workers and other vulnerable groups as early as November...Phase two could come in 2021 and will see more availability for the general public.

[NOTE: This announcement was followed by Gov. Cuomo saying that vaccine distribution is the responsibility of the State.]

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## **The MTA launched a new digital map of the New York City subway**

This map features live data streams to show the current status of all subway lines through the NYC Transit System. You can even see trains pull in and out of stations in real time. Remember that mask wearing is mandatory on public transit. If you do not have a mask with you, visit any station manager where you can request a free mask. [map.mta.info](http://map.mta.info)

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The **moratorium on commercial evictions** is extended until January 1, 2021.

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## **Can You Get Covid Twice? What Reinfection Cases Really Mean**

October 28, 2020, *bloomberg.com*, by Suzi Ring and Jason Gale

The questions of whether people have immunity to SARS-CoV-2 after getting it, and if so for how long, have become more acute now that scientists have found a growing number of individuals who've caught the coronavirus twice...A number of factors can allow for repeat infection, including an insufficient response by the immune system, waning immunity, and a mutation of the virus to the extent that people are essentially encountering the latest version for the first time...those who've had Covid-19 should take the same precautions as everyone else against it.

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## **How Safe Is Flying in the Age of Coronavirus?**

October 30, 2020, *bloomberg.com*, by Charlotte Ryan and Naomi Kresge

How safe is it to fly? This remains a troubling question.

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## **The Algorithm That Could Get You Back in the Office**

October 27, 2020, *bloomberg.com*, by Andrew Zaleski

How open is too open? To help employers reduce outbreak risks after bringing workers back, new tech tools can juggle schedules and map office hot spots.

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## **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 who are not in the same household)
- practice good hand hygiene
- stay home if sick

Gatherings are limited to 50 people. Religious gatherings are limited to 50% of capacity.

### **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](https://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](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/get-tested/covid-19-testing.page).

#### **For Murray Hill/Kips Bay**

**Bellevue**, no appointment necessary, but there may be long lines. Be sure that they set up your patient portal so that you can get your results. 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-19 virus test at multiple COVID Express sites** are available by appointment. Test results will be available within 24 hours or less of your visit. COVID-19 tests performed at COVID Express sites will be free to all New Yorkers. The nearest site is in Chelsea at 303 9th Avenue. [www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-rapid-testing.page](https://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, but they may require an appointment, co-pay, and the wait may be long for results.

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## **Policing & criminal justice**

### **(Opinion) [Our Opportunity to End Solitary Confinement in New York City Jails](#)**

October 29, 2020, *gothamgazette.com*, by Keith Powers

Recently, [Councilmember Keith Powers] co-authored a letter with Public Advocate Jumaane Williams that calls for a new model that focuses on reducing violence and changing behavior. Ultimately, solitary must be replaced with a model that is proven effective to reduce violence and improve outcomes. One model is the Clinical Alternative to Punitive Segregation (CAPS) program, which has been effective in reducing violence and lowering rates of self-harm through programming, therapy, and recreational activities...Another promising model is San Francisco's Resolve to Stop the Violence Program (RSVP), which lowered recidivism for participants by nearly 50% and reduced violent incidents.

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**(Opinion) [The NYPD is Undermining Our Ability to Hold Them Accountable. The Mayor Must Act](#)**

October 19, 2020, *gothamgazette.com*, by Dan Quart, who represents parts of Manhattan's East Side in the New York State Assembly. He is a candidate for Manhattan District Attorney.

As an international non-governmental organization, Human Rights Watch (HRW) reports on human rights abuses in every part of the world. Recently, its work brought it to New York City...HRW documented rampant police violence during a summer protest against police brutality, revealing that the NYPD's actions violated international human rights law...Equally as troubling was the NYPD's targeting of legal observers, who are neutral, third-party spectators and do not partake in protest...Not only did many officers fail to wear face masks, many also covered their badge numbers to prevent identification.

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## Business news

### **[MTA Agrees To Reduce Rent For Grand Central Businesses](#)**

October 29, 2020, *patch.com*, by Nick Garber

Struggling retailers in Grand Central Terminal got a bit of relief this week, as the MTA [the new owner of Grand Central Terminal] agreed to a years-long rent reduction package...The reduction will remain in place through January 2023, or whenever ridership bounces back to 75 percent of pre-coronavirus levels...The owners' push for relief won support from State Sen. Brad Hoylman and City Councilmember Keith Powers, who both represent Midtown. Gov. Andrew Cuomo's office also played a role in this week's deal, officials said...The MTA itself is facing a dire revenue shortfall due to the pandemic...The historic terminal's most famous tenant, the Grand Central Oyster Bar, closed indefinitely this month, just 12 days after it was allowed to reopen for indoor dining.

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### **[Retailers Revel as Stuff, Not Experiences, Makes a Comeback](#)**

October 20, 2020, *bloomberg.com*, by Carolina Gonzalez

Cash once spent on trips, meals going toward physical goods. Deloitte study shows some of that money funneled to home decor. Concert tickets in your stocking and a travel itinerary under the tree? No way: It's 2020, and stuff is back in style. While spending on experiences was the rage in recent years -- sparking a number of retailers to rethink their central business strategies -- Covid-19 has disrupted the trend, data from Deloitte's holiday survey confirms.

[www2.deloitte.com/us/en/insights/industry/retail-distribution/holiday-retail-sales-consumer-survey.html](http://www2.deloitte.com/us/en/insights/industry/retail-distribution/holiday-retail-sales-consumer-survey.html). A holiday unlike any other we've seen. This year, health and financial anxieties are reshaping how shoppers approach the season—many are planning to trim in four key areas: spending, in-store purchases, travel and experiences, and time spent shopping...Though COVID-19 is altering holiday traditions, shoppers are still intent on spreading cheer and making the most of celebrating at home.

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**Restaurateurs participating in Open Restaurants can schedule a free virtual compliance consultation** with the Dept. of Small Business Services to help understand reopening guidelines. No non-compliance fines will be issued.  
[www1.nyc.gov/nycbusiness/article/nyc-restaurant-reopening-guide#compliance](http://www1.nyc.gov/nycbusiness/article/nyc-restaurant-reopening-guide#compliance)

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## 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](https://sba.gov/page/disaster-response-jobs-sba).

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## Elections & voting

**NYC Board of Elections website:** [vote.nyc](https://vote.nyc)

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

**The General Election is November 3.**

Look up your registration status at [vote.nyc/page/am-i-registered](https://vote.nyc/page/am-i-registered) and polling place at [findmypollsite.vote.nyc](https://findmypollsite.vote.nyc).

If you have already received your absentee ballot, you can complete it and deliver it to the Board of Elections office at 200 Varrick Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10014-7431. Check their open hours call 212-886-2100 or email [Electioninfo@boe.nyc.ny.us](mailto:Electioninfo@boe.nyc.ny.us). You can deliver your ballot until November 3 at 9pm. This office is for people who are registered to vote in Manhattan. Check the BOE website if you are registered in a different borough. Masks are required in BOE facilities.

**PLEASE BE PATIENT and stay calm.** It will take time to count the absentee ballots, and there are many court cases already filed regarding the election. We many not know the final results until weeks after the election.

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The New York City Board of Elections created a portal to request and track absentee ballots online [nycabsentee.com/tracking](https://nycabsentee.com/tracking).

Please refer to the [General Election Calendar event](#) on the MHNA website for details about absentee voting and election-day voting.

**NEW LEGISLATION: "Curing" an incorrect ballot.** The Board of Elections is required to notify voters when their absentee ballots are on the verge of being thrown out and give them a chance to correct certain potential disqualifications. The county board of elections must now notify the voter, explain why their ballot was rejected, and provide a form through which they may "cure" the mistake. The BOE must send the form through all possible channels, including by post and email, and must begin the process almost immediately after catching the error. The guidelines also say county boards must notify voters even when their ballots are rejected for reasons that are not curable. If the cure itself is rejected before Election Day, administrators are required "to the extent practicable" to inform voters and give information of alternative ways to vote. Other issues don't require a cure according to guidance from the state BOE. That includes wrongly placed signature, incorrect date, use of pencil or pen, extra paper when it is material provided by the BOE, random marks or tears on the envelope that look like the result of mailing.

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### [Macy's flagship store in Midtown boarding up windows to protect against Election Day unrest](#)

October 30, 2020, *nydailynews.com*, by Catarina Lamelas Moura, Thomas Tracy and Leonard Greene  
Macy's is preparing for the mayhem on 34th Street... "They keep saying if Trump wins they're going to riot and destroy Manhattan, so everybody's boarding up," said a worker as he tacked plywood to a Macy's window, one of many being protected around the Midtown megastore...the store will remain open over the weekend and through Election Day.

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## Upcoming events

**November 4 12pm**

### **Segal Center TALKS presents George Bartenieff & Karen Malpede**

A conversation about curating, producing and presenting theatre and performance in the Time of Corona. George Bartenieff co-founded Theater for the New City, co-founded with the late Lee Nagrin and Karen Malpede the Obie-winning Theater Three Collaborative, co-directed and produced Malpede's poetic, social justice plays on themes ranging from the US torture program (Another Life) to climate change (Extreme Whether) to utopian visions for a species Other Than We. George Bartenieff is winner of four Obie-awards for acting and producing. SEGAL TALKS are free, open access, without ads will be live-streamed in English from Monday to Friday on HowlRound Theatre Commons [howlround.com](https://howlround.com) and on the Segal Center Facebook [facebook.com/SegalCenter](https://facebook.com/SegalCenter). Send your questions during the live streaming at [SegalTalks@gmail.com](mailto:SegalTalks@gmail.com). This program is presented in collaboration with HowlRound Theatre Commons, based at Emerson College. All SEGAL TALKS are archived on

HowlRound, and on the Segal Center YouTube Channel. Contact [mest@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:mest@gc.cuny.edu) for more information on SEGAL TALKS. Segal Center is located in the CUNY Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue.

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**November 5 7:30pm**

**(online event) Scientific Discovery: The Revolution in Cell Biology**

Join leading researchers Shana Elbaum-Garfinkle and Stephanie Weber as they discuss a revolution taking place in cell biology about the makeup of living cells, revising two centuries of scientific thinking. Their work shows that cells are made up of separate liquid droplets interacting like oil and water, rather than having solid membranes. Learn about the impact this important research could have on new drugs for cancer, ALS, and COVID-19. Elbaum-Garfinkle is an assistant professor of biochemistry at The Graduate Center and in the Structural Biology Initiative of the Advanced Science Research Center, CUNY; Weber is an assistant professor of biology and physics at McGill University. This event is presented with the Initiative for the Theoretical Sciences and the Center for the Physics of Biological Function, a joint effort of The Graduate Center CUNY and Princeton University. Register at [gc.cuny.edu/All-GC-Events/Calendar/Detail?id=56768](http://gc.cuny.edu/All-GC-Events/Calendar/Detail?id=56768).

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**November 9 2-3pm**

**(Live Webinar) SALT and COVID-19: The Impact on Residency and Taxation**

Presented by Marks Paneth LLP. Due to COVID-19, many individuals and families have left their primary residence in densely populated cities to reside in vacation and/or secondary homes. This has triggered a number of state and local tax (SALT) issues related to residency and income taxation, and those seeking to establish new residency as a result of COVID-19 must be aware of key determining factors. Join leaders from Marks Paneth and Fiduciary Trust International to discuss how states are treating residency and income tax in the wake of COVID-19 and what taxpayers must be aware of as they prepare to file in 2021. Our speakers will cover: Domicile vs. Statutory residency, Double taxation/ state tax crediting provisions, New York's "Convenience of Employer" rule, Issues facing NYC residents, Florida residency requirements, How residency affects your trust income taxation. Featured speakers: James Brower, SALT Partner, Marks Paneth LLP, Jennifer Prendamano, Director, Marks Paneth LLP, Gail E. Cohen, Chair of Fiduciary Trust's Board of Directors and General Trust Counsel, Fiduciary Trust International. [Register and submit your questions](#) in advance or during the live session.

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**November 10 12:30-1:30pm**

**(Zoom Webinar) Financial Challenges That Matter Most**

All are welcome to this Zoom presentation by Kyle Woodward, Associate Managing Director at Prudential Financial. Kyle will address key aspects of financial planning, such as tax issues, planning for retirement, and the importance of wills and estate planning. He will also speak about charitable giving, including making donations of stock. No matter how great or small your assets, everyone will benefit. This free webinar is offered by Church of the Incarnation. Register by emailing [eminder@churchoftheincarnation.org](mailto:eminder@churchoftheincarnation.org).

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**November 16 6:30pm**

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## **(Public Zoom Webinar) CB6 Housing, Homeless and Human Rights Committee meeting**

NYC [Department of Homeless Services](#) (DHS) and NYC [CORE Services](#) will be attending the Community Board 6 meeting of the Housing, Homeless and Human Rights Committee. People can register to attend the meeting on the CB6's website [CB 6 Housing, Homeless and Human Rights Committee meeting calendar page](#) [zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_IO796jPYRaqfz1uR0py9Xg](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IO796jPYRaqfz1uR0py9Xg). The purpose of the meeting is to get all the details on the shelter that will be opening later this year in the former Renwick Hotel at 118 East 40th Street, and work with them to resolve any issues. The community board and members of the community will NOT have an opportunity to support or oppose the new shelter.

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## **Recorded events**

Timely and funny...

### **Finnish National Opera's 'Covid fan Tutte' A fresh spin on a classic opera**

(1 minute trailer) [operavision.eu/en/library/features/covid-fan-tutte-mozart-helsinki#](https://operavision.eu/en/library/features/covid-fan-tutte-mozart-helsinki#). Full opera (1 hour 40 minutes, subtitles) [operavision.eu/en/library/performances/operas/covid-fan-tutte-finnish-national-opera](https://operavision.eu/en/library/performances/operas/covid-fan-tutte-finnish-national-opera). On [operavision.eu](https://operavision.eu).

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## **Kudos to our elected officials!**

### **[City & State's list: Manhattan's Top 10 Elected Officials, October 20, 2020](#)**

The most influential leaders in the heart of New York City.

[The list includes Sen. Brad Hoylman, CM Carlina Rivera, Sen. Liz Krueger, MBP Gale Brewer...]

## **Kudos to neighborhood businesses that are open!**



**Chocolat Michel Cluizel**, 199 Madison Avenue at 35<sup>th</sup> Street, chocolates, coffee and light snacks.

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**Craft + Carry**, 440 3rd Avenue, in the Halloween spirit

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**Hummus Kitchen**, 444 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue (31<sup>st</sup> Street)

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**Van Leeuwen**, ice cream, 432 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue (30<sup>th</sup> Street)

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**Penelope**, 159 Lexington Avenue (30<sup>th</sup> Street)

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## Kudos to Murray Hill public schools (partial listing)!

**COVID-19 Report Card for [PS 116 Mary Lindley Murray](#).** As of October 29, no cases were reported. Total On-site Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=352. Total Off-site Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=170.

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**COVID-19 Report Card for [The River School](#).** As of October 29, only 1 student case was reported through 10/29/2020, and no new cases on 10/29/2020. Total On-site Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=416. Total Off-site Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=106.

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**COVID-19 Report Card for [Murray Hill Academy](#).** As of October 29, no cases were reported. Total On-site Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=241. Total Off-site Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=61.

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## Preservation, urban planning and zoning

**[She Hasn't Skipped a Landmarks Meeting in 37 Years \(Except for a few sick days, that is.\) Christabel Gough may be the quietest influence in New York.](#)**

October 27, 2020, *curbed.com*, by Zoe Rosenberg

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[Not Murray Hill, but shows how any neighborhood can be rezoned. For NoHo/SoHo, the process has begun.]

### **[City Proposals To Rezone SoHo And NoHo Under Further Review In Environmental Assessment Statement](#)**

October 31, 2020, *newyorkyimby.com*, by Sebastian Morris

An Environmental Assessment Statement released by the NYC Department of City Planning reveals how proposals to rezone Manhattan's SoHo and NoHo neighborhoods could permanently alter the area. The actions aim to expand allowable residential density for multifamily buildings, spur the construction of income-restricted and permanently affordable housing, and increase available community facilities. If approved, the upzone could spur the development of more than 3,200 new apartment units, 108,000 gross square feet of retail space, and 35,000 square feet of community facilities. Estimates for residential development include up to 940 affordable apartment units...The proposal is subject to review and approval under New York City's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure. Most of these developments would also be subject to review and approval by the Landmarks Preservation Commission due to the affected areas' location within the SoHo-Cast Iron, NoHo, and the NoHo East Historic Districts.

[Editor's note: The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation is circulating a petition opposing this rezoning

[secure2.convio.net/gvshp/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=245](https://secure2.convio.net/gvshp/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=245). ]

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## [\\$60M Deal Reached To Turn Old UWS Hotel Into Affordable Housing](#)

October 19, 2020, *patch.com*, by Gus Saltonstall

A deal has been reached on a planned \$60 million conversion of an out-of-business and illegal Upper West Side hotel into an affordable housing residence for senior citizens.

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## Changes in the neighborhood



## [Fisher Brothers Completes \\$20M Renovation Project At 299 Park Avenue In Manhattan's Midtown East](#)

November 1, 2020, *newyorkyimby.com*, by Sebastian Morris

Fisher Brothers and Rockwell Group announced the completion of a major renovation project at 299 Park Avenue [between 48th & 49th Street] in Midtown East, Manhattan. The \$20 million project included the installation of the 60-foot-long Living Canvas, a digital LED display that changes throughout the day and gradually over time. Conceived and created by LAB at Rockwell Group, the digital canvas displays real-time, software-generated graphics. Overall, renovation of the surrounding lobby was completed within the lens of creating a hospitality-oriented portal for the modern business client. Photo: *Bloom performers celebrate the debut of 299 Park Avenue's new lobby space – Jenny Anderson*

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## [Additional Rendering Revealed For Future Supertall 343 Madison Avenue \(44th/45th Street\), In Midtown East](#)

October 24, 2020, *newyorkyimby.com*, by Vanessa Londono

According to the Environmental Impact Statement, the development will rise 1,050 feet. Using a 30 floor area ratio (FAR), the structure will contain 55 stories with 5,357 square feet of ground-floor retail and 832,613 square feet of office space. The remaining 87,660 square feet will be used for circulation space and mechanicals. A no-action development can be built as-of-right with a 15 FAR and rise 472 feet.

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## [Rose Hill's Art Deco Exterior Nears Completion In NoMad](#)

October 13, 2020, *newyorkyimby.com*, by Michael Young

Exterior work is getting closer to completion on Rose Hill, a 639-foot-tall residential skyscraper at 30 East 29th Street in NoMad.

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## [Madison House Nears Completion At 126 Madison Avenue In NoMad](#)

October 14, 2020, *newyorkyimby.com*, by Michael Young

Exterior work is still wrapping up on Madison House, NoMad's tallest residential skyscraper at 126 Madison Avenue. Alternately addressed as 15 East 30th Street. Photo: Madison House, by Michael Young.

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## Schools, children & youth programs

### **Blended/in-person learning opt-in form**

Beginning on November 2, families who previously chose remote only learning will be able to opt into blended/in-person learning for the remainder of this school year using this survey [nycenet.edu/surveys/learningpreference](https://nycenet.edu/surveys/learningpreference).

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### **NYC Department of Education: High School Admissions Update**

The high school application is not yet open, and no longer closes on December 4, 2020. You will have additional time to apply. Registration for Specialized High Schools admissions is not yet open, and no longer closes on October 21, 2020. You will have additional time to register. Dates and locations for the high school fairs, the Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT), and LaGuardia High School auditions—as listed in the 2021 NYC High School and Specialized High Schools Admissions Guide—will also change. Sign up to be on the high school admissions email list at [schools.nyc.gov/sign-up](https://schools.nyc.gov/sign-up) and the NYC DOE will notify you when the high school application and

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Specialized High Schools registration opens. You will also get updates, key date reminders, and tips throughout the admissions process.

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## **NYC Department of Education: Middle School Admissions Update**

This year's admissions process will not have the traditional early December application deadline; the deadline will be at a later date. Here's what you can do now: Learn about middle school admissions! Get the latest updates on the DOE website <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/middle-school>. COMING SOON: Watch the new video series [schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/middle-school/middle-school-admissions-video-series](https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/middle-school/middle-school-admissions-video-series) – to learn the steps to apply for middle school in New York City. Learn about programs in detail and search for schools by course offerings, location, sports, and more in the MySchools middle school directory [myschools.nyc/en/schools/middle-school](https://myschools.nyc/en/schools/middle-school).

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## **Stories we are following**

### **[New York Among Top Cities for Relocators During the Pandemic](#)**

October 21, 2020, *bloomberg.com*, by Alexandre Tanzi and Steve Matthews

Contrary to popular belief, more people headed to the New York metro region than moved out during the Covid-19 era, according to an analysis of cell-phone data.

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## **Health tips**

For those of you living with or without chronic illness during these stressful times, food choices and exercise can be challenging.

- Stair walking is a great exercise; you can do it anywhere, anytime, indoors and outside, in all kinds of weather, and you can choose how many steps to do.
- Low calorie, low sugar fruits and vegetables like watermelon, berries, cucumbers, celery and broccoli are just a few of the tasty and versatile choices that can help make your meals and snacks more delicious and healthy.
- Zero calorie, sugar free syrups are a welcome addition to just about anything.

When changing your exercise and food, always check with your healthcare provider first.

—Sharon Kaiser, RN, CDE, and MHNA member

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## Housing, homelessness & affordability

### New Homeless Shelter for Adult Families on 40<sup>th</sup> Street

Please see Upcoming Events above for a public meeting on November 16 about this shelter. This is what Community Board 6 knows as of October 22nd about the new shelter. The Department of Homeless Services has informed CB6 of their plans to open a new permanent shelter in our district at the former Renwick Hotel, 118 East 40th Street, near Lexington Avenue. This will be a shelter for 174 adult family units, such as married couples or parents with adult children. The day-to-day running of the shelter will be handled by CORE Services Group. The target date for opening the shelter is December 2020. This new shelter will be the fifth permanent homeless shelter in Community District 6. More information about the district, including boundaries, is available on our district profile page.

This location will serve and support 174 adult families experiencing homelessness as they get back on their feet. Adult families are comprised of households with children over the age of 18, and can include, for example:

- a young couple trying to make ends meet
- an elderly couple who can't afford rent after decades of living in New York City
- a young person supporting an aging parent, and/or
- an older parent supporting an older child who may have physical or developmental challenges

Residents will not include either single adults, or adults with school-age children.

There will be comprehensive social services and 24/7 security on site. CORE will provide an array of on-site services and off-site service linkages, providing these families with the support that will help them stabilize their lives by returning to and maintaining independent living.

On-site services will include case management, individual and group counseling, permanency planning and housing placement assistance, referrals to medical and mental health services, support groups, independent living and life skills workshops, and residential services and support in finding and securing employment.

CORE will provide case management, employment readiness, and housing search services. In addition to these one-on-one services, CORE will provide group services and programming to help families move out of shelter and achieve long-term stability.

A secure and safe environment is critical to the success of any program facility—and DHS is committed to prioritizing the safety of clients, staff, and community members alike.

CORE will provide on-site security around-the-clock. A minimum of three security officers will be located at the entrance to control building access and to monitor security cameras, which will be located throughout the building and grounds.

There will be a minimum of seven security staff per shift and one supervisor overseeing security staff per shift. As an added measure, a total of 42 security cameras will be installed throughout the building and across the shelter grounds. There will also be a 24-hour open line for the community to provide feedback in a timely manner and to immediately address any concerns that may arise.

There is a 10pm curfew for the residents of this facility. Clients who may be employed with late work hours will receive passes to return to the facility after curfew based on their documented work schedule.

Once the shelter is open, CB6 and local elected officials will be represented on a Community Advisory Board (CAB) so that we can have regular meetings and open lines of communication with the Department of Homeless Services and the shelter operator. If our office, for example, gets numerous complaints about a particular kind of neighborhood disruption tied to the residents, we can bring these up at the CAB meetings and work to have them addressed. We will work to make sure that the shelter and its residents are good neighbors as well as working to make sure that the residents housed at the new shelter feel welcomed into the neighborhood.

CB6 continues to advocate for more systemic solutions to the crisis of homelessness including the development of affordable housing and supportive housing in our district and citywide. Our City is a "right to shelter" city meaning that every unhoused individual or family that seeks shelter must be given shelter. Our city faces a housing and homelessness crisis. Before COVID, there were over 60,000 unhoused New Yorkers. That number has surely gone up during the pandemic. The majority of those in the shelter system are families with children and, as mentioned above, this new site will be a shelter for adult family units.

If you see unneighborly behavior from a temporary shelter resident, permanent shelter resident, or homeless individual living on the street, please call 311. We understand that 311 can seem like a dead-end at times, but it is crucial for the City to have data on concerns submitted. If the matter is an emergency, call 911. Please remember to keep the CB6 office abreast of any issues as well so we can track them and follow up accordingly.

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## Budget & taxes

### [New York City Covid Spending Tops \\$4 Billion, Virtually All Covered by Federal Funds](#)

October 20, 2020, *gothamgazette.com*, by Ethan Geringer-Sameth

The COVID-19 pandemic has cost more than \$4 billion in direct New York City expenses through mid-October, almost all of which the city expects to pay for with federal dollars...While it continues to call for federal funding to fill its budget gap and for additional aid for struggling New Yorkers, businesses, and other entities, the city plans to have 75% of the direct covid expenses, which are constantly growing, reimbursed through FEMA, pursuant to an emergency declaration. Most of the remaining 25% will be covered by federal funding from the CARES Act, the major relief package passed by Congress and signed by the president, with the city paying for the rest.

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### [NYC Will Sue Trump Admin Over 'Anarchist Jurisdiction' Threat](#)

October 22, 2020, *patch.com*, by Matt Troutman

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Three so-called "anarchist jurisdictions" — New York City, Seattle and Portland — will band together in a lawsuit against the Trump administration's threat to pull federal funds...And it appears they recently took "concrete steps" toward stopping the flow of funds, at least according to Jim Johnson, the city's corporation counsel. Johnson said recent applications for federal funds included the "anarchist" label — effectively meaning New York, Seattle and Portland need not apply. "For New York the amounts that are potentially at risk exceed \$12 billion," he said. The lawsuit will argue that the Trump administration's actions illegally infringe into Congress' "power of the purse," are arbitrary and capricious and, finally, violate the federalism by stepping into a space that is uniquely up to cities to decide, Johnson said.

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### **[N.Y. Comptroller DiNapoli recommends NYC come up with post-coronavirus fiscal plan, pans borrowing](#)**

October 29, 2020, *nydailynews.com*, by Denis Slattery

State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli is urging New York City to come up with a common sense fiscal plan to address economic uncertainty caused by the coronavirus pandemic. In a report issued Thursday, DiNapoli panned the city's proposed plan to borrow funds to cover operating costs...Mayor de Blasio has repeatedly sought additional borrowing approval from state lawmakers, arguing that the move is needed to avoid layoffs and service cuts. The proposal faced fierce resistance from Gov. Cuomo and some legislators who say de Blasio has not been clear as to how the funds would be spent, or what other steps the city is taking to address the economic challenges facing the five boroughs...DiNapoli warned against borrowing, cutting services or raising taxes too quickly to make up for lost revenue..."The challenge faced in this scenario calls for...careful evaluation of the decisions to bring the city to structural balance in a new environment."

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### **[New York Is In A Financial Tailspin, Millions Are Suffering. Why Shouldn't Billionaires Pay More Taxes?](#)**

October 29, 2020, *gothamist.com*, by Christopher Robbins and Sidney Pereira

"I think it's outrageous and insulting to continue to put billionaires ahead of working families ...Queens State Senator Jessica Ramos said. According to Kathryn Wylde, who regularly speaks to wealthy and powerful New Yorkers as the president and CEO of the Partnership for New York City, it is this kind of rhetoric that presents the biggest obstacle to taxing the rich...For this story, Gothamist asked 113 billionaires who are listed as New York State residents whether they would be willing to pay more taxes to help the state and its most vulnerable residents during the pandemic. Just four responded to the question...All four said they would pay more in taxes—up to a point.

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### **[Cuomo deficit gamble carries risks for local governments, analysts say](#)**

October 18, 2020, *newsday.com*, by Michael Gormley

Cuomo has said he will wait until after the November elections to enact tax increases, spending cuts and long-term borrowing to contend with what he says is a \$30 billion deficit for the state, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and state aid to local governments and schools over the next two years...E.J. McMahon, of the fiscally conservative Empire Center for Public Policy think tank, said...permanent cuts in state spending must be made now to stem the pain...the administration and the State Legislature borrowed \$4.5 billion in the spring when the federal government delayed the

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deadline to file income tax returns. Payment on that is due Dec. 31, analysts said. The state has \$2.5 billion in its required "rainy day funds" and another \$3.4 billion in other reserves that Cuomo hasn't yet tapped...For counties, budgets must be adopted by mid-December. That will leave little time to act after the presidential election results are final.

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

### **Saving the Civil Service Act**

[Source: Rep. Carolyn Maloney's email of 10/30/2020]

On Tuesday, Rep. Carolyn Maloney joined with Rep. Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Government Operations, and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer to introduce the Saving the Civil Service Act, legislation to reverse President Trump's executive order that would remove important civil service protections. Trump's executive order would replace our current nonpartisan, expert career civil service with one that is loyal only to the Administration.

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## Reports

### **New York By The Numbers: Weekly Economic and Fiscal Outlook**

New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer's email of October 26, 2020

- As of September, New York City private employment was still down 14.5% from February highs.
  - Employment in financial activities is down only 4.9%, but employment in arts and entertainment remains down 64.8%, as theatres and performance venues remain shut.
  - New York City small business revenues are still down 39% from the beginning of the year, a big improvement from late March when they were down as much as 70%, but little improved from early July.
  - MTA weekday ridership has been roughly flat over the last couple weeks. Subway ridership averaged 1.77 million.
  - As of August, average daily yellow and green taxi trips were down 83% while other for hire vehicle trips were down 45%, as compared to August 2019.
  - As of October 21st, preliminary data for the close of FY 2020 shows the City has accrued \$2.62 billion in COVID related expenditures.
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### **Comptroller Stringer Releases Fiscal Year 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report**

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October 30, 2020

Press release and summary [comptroller.nyc.gov/newsroom/comptroller-stringer-releases-fiscal-year-2020-comprehensive-annual-financial-report](https://comptroller.nyc.gov/newsroom/comptroller-stringer-releases-fiscal-year-2020-comprehensive-annual-financial-report).

Full report [comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/comprehensive-annual-financial-reports](https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/comprehensive-annual-financial-reports).

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### **531K Remain Unemployed In NYC Amid Coronavirus, Study Says**

October 21, 2020, *patch.com*, by Matt Troutman

The city's unemployment rate stands at 13.9 percent, compared to 3.5 percent a year ago, according to the state's Department of Labor [labor.ny.gov/stats/pressreleases/prtbur.pdf](https://labor.ny.gov/stats/pressreleases/prtbur.pdf).

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### **Partnership for New York City report: Return to Office Survey Results Released, October 28, 2020**

The Partnership for New York City surveyed major employers between October 15 and October 26 to measure progress in the return of Manhattan's one million office workers. The Partnership found: 10% of Manhattan office employees have returned to the workplace as of late October...Only 15% of Manhattan office employees are expected to return by the end of this year...The total share of employees expected to return by July 2021 decreased from 54% to 48%...Employers expect that an average of 39% of employees who return to the office in 2021 will continue to work remotely at least 50% of the time...The Partnership asked employers to rank factors that they believe will have the greatest influence on the pace of employees' return to the office...The status of COVID-19 ranked as the largest factor...Concerns included vaccine availability, safety of the office environment, a testing strategy for employees and underlying health conditions of employees or their family members...The majority of surveyed employers have offices in Midtown West (37%), Midtown East (35%).  
[The Partnership for New York City is a nonprofit organization of NYC business leaders.]

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### **Center for an Urban Future report, Surviving The Winter: Helping NYC's Small Businesses In The Months Ahead**

With recommendations from city leaders and experts on how the City can help small businesses through the colder months. [nycfuture.org/research/surviving-the-winter-nyc-small-business](https://nycfuture.org/research/surviving-the-winter-nyc-small-business).

- Fill empty storefronts with social infrastructure on a temporary basis to revive street life  
The city could get into short-term leases for testing centers, additional classroom space, or vocational training, bringing life and energy back to the streets and helping local businesses in the process.
- Incentivize landlords to temporarily "lend" vacant storefront spaces to adjacent businesses  
[T]he city could facilitate a standard insurance waiver or coverage.
- Light up commercial corridors  
The most depressing thing about winter in New York is that it's dark. There is no shortage of lighting designers out of work in New York. Partnering with DOT and Con Edison, the city should hire designers to light up commercial corridors in beautiful and attractive ways.  
And more...

[The Center for an Urban Future is a nonpartisan policy organization for smart and sustainable policies that reduce inequality, increase economic mobility, and grow the economy in New York City. ]

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## Scams

### [Scams that start on social media](#)

October 21, 2020, *consumer.ftc.gov*, by Bridget Small, Division of Consumer & Business Education  
Scammers are...using ads and offers to market their scams...In the first six months of 2020, people reported losing a record high of almost \$117 million to scams that started on social media. The biggest group of reports were about online sellers that didn't deliver the goods.

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### **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](https://www.ftc.gov/coronavirus/scams). You can also subscribe to alerts.

### **The Federal Trade Commission has launched a new website [reportfraud.ftc.gov](https://reportfraud.ftc.gov)**

At ReportFraud.ftc.gov, consumers will find a streamlined and user-friendly way to submit reports to the FTC about scams, frauds, and bad business practices. The FTC has long encouraged consumers to report these issues to the FTC when they encounter them, whether or not they lost money to the fraud.

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## Changes to the MHNA Discount Program Removed

[Bella Napoli](#), 130 Madison Avenue (between 30th & 31st Street), 212-683-4510, *closed*.

**Moonstruck on Madison**, 244 Madison Avenue (at 38th Street), 212-867-2545, *closed*. *But we have heard that online orders are being directed to their Kips Bay location.*

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](http://www.cb5.org), 212-465-0907, [office@cb5.org](mailto:office@cb5.org)

**Manhattan Community Board 6:** [cbsix.org](http://cbsix.org), 212-319-3750, [office@cbsix.org](mailto:office@cbsix.org)

**NYC Councilwoman Carlina Rivera, Council District 2:** [council.nyc.gov/carlina-rivera](http://council.nyc.gov/carlina-rivera), 212-677-1077, [District2@council.nyc.gov](mailto:District2@council.nyc.gov)

**NYC Council Speaker, Corey Johnson, Council District 3:** [council.nyc.gov/district-3](http://council.nyc.gov/district-3), 212-564-7757, [SpeakerJohnson@council.nyc.gov](mailto:SpeakerJohnson@council.nyc.gov)

**NYC Council Member Keith Powers, Council District 4:** [council.nyc.gov/keith-powers](http://council.nyc.gov/keith-powers), 212-818-0580, [KPowers@council.nyc.gov](mailto:KPowers@council.nyc.gov)

**Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer:** [manhattanbp.nyc.gov](http://manhattanbp.nyc.gov), 212-669-8300, [info@manhattanbp.nyc.gov](mailto: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](mailto:GetHelp@advocate.nyc.gov)

**Mayor Bill de Blasio:** [www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor](http://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](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/lpc/about/contact-us.page)

**NY State Senator Liz Krueger, 28th Senate District:** [nysenate.gov/senators/liz-krueger](http://nysenate.gov/senators/liz-krueger), 212-490-9535, [lkrueger@nysenate.gov](mailto:lkrueger@nysenate.gov)

**NY State Senator Brad Hoylman, 27th Senate District:** [nysenate.gov/senators/brad-hoylman](http://nysenate.gov/senators/brad-hoylman), 212-633-8052, [hoylman@nysenate.gov](mailto:hoylman@nysenate.gov)

**NY State Assembly Member Dan Quart, Assembly District 73,** [nyassembly.gov/mem/Dan-Quart](http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Dan-Quart), 212-605-0937, [quartd@nyassembly.gov](mailto:quartd@nyassembly.gov)

**NY State Assembly Member Harvey Epstein, Assembly District 74,** [nyassembly.gov/mem/Harvey-Epstein](http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Harvey-Epstein), 212-979-9696, [epsteinh@nyassembly.gov](mailto:epsteinh@nyassembly.gov)

**NY Assembly Member Richard N. Gottfried, Assembly District 75,** [nyassembly.gov/mem/Richard-N-Gottfried](http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Richard-N-Gottfried), 212-807-7900, [GottfriedR@nyassembly.gov](mailto:GottfriedR@nyassembly.gov)

**New York Assembly Upcoming Public hearings** [And archived videos can also be accessed on this page.] [nyassembly.gov/av/upcoming](https://www.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](https://www.governor.ny.gov), contact page on website [governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form](https://www.governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form)

**U.S. Representative Carolyn Maloney, New York's 12th Congressional District:** [maloney.house.gov](https://www.maloney.house.gov), 212-860-0606, email [MaloneyMail@mail.house.gov](mailto:MaloneyMail@mail.house.gov) or website contact form: [maloney.house.gov/contact-carolyn/email-me](https://www.maloney.house.gov/contact-carolyn/email-me)

**U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer:** [schumer.senate.gov](https://www.schumer.senate.gov), 212-486-4430, website contact form: [schumer.senate.gov/contact/email-chuck](https://www.schumer.senate.gov/contact/email-chuck)

**U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand:** [gillibrand.senate.gov](https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov), 212-688-6262, website contact form: [gillibrand.senate.gov/contact/email-me](https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/contact/email-me)

**U.S. President Donald Trump:** [whitehouse.gov/people/donald-j-trump](https://www.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

Connect with The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association



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

Visit the MHNA website [murrayhillnyc.org](https://www.murrayhillnyc.org)  
Contact the MHNA by email at [info@murrayhillnyc.org](mailto:info@murrayhillnyc.org)

