



Murray Hill

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Information that may be of interest...

December 28, 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.

Holiday Closures

COVID-19 Testing Site Holiday closures

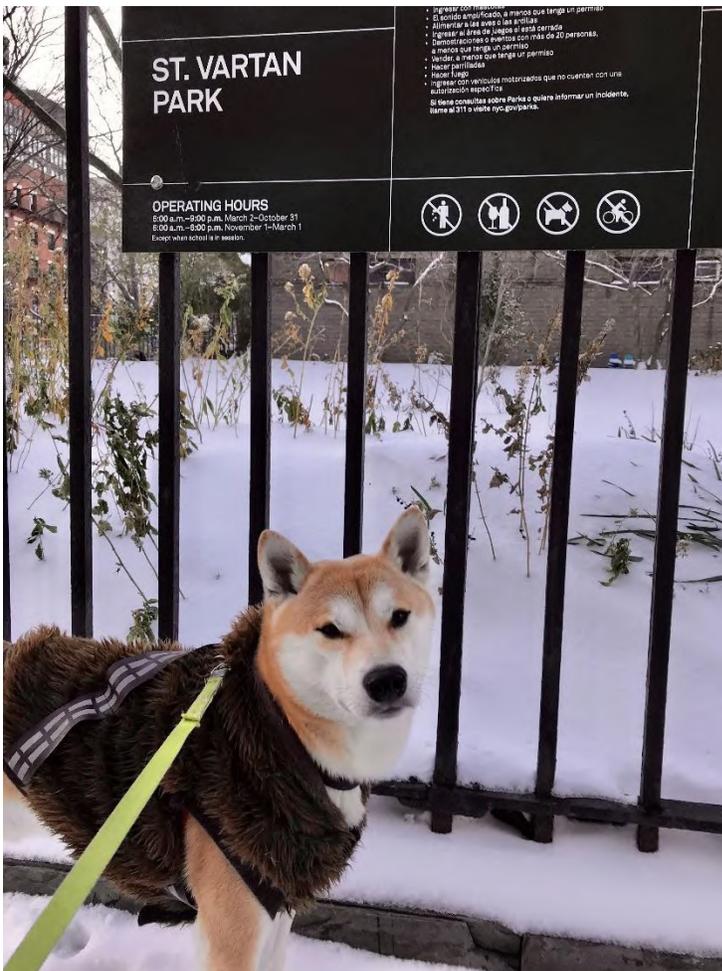
Source: Notify NYC: Due to the holidays, COVID-19 testing sites will close at 2pm on December 31. Sites will be closed January 1, 2021: nyc.gov/covidtest.

State Senator Liz Krueger's office will be closed until Monday, January 4th for the Christmas and New Year holidays. They will be checking email and voicemail. Also refer to Sen. Krueger's resource guide docs.google.com/document/d/122aJffPGtMpzeY9O7N2SPBrpqui4iNk4KiafKnZu-kQ/edit.

Blood Donations Are Urgently Needed

The NYC blood supply is at a very low level. If you want to donate, a nearby blood center is:
New York Blood Center - Grand Central (please make an appointment)
115 East 41st Street
Phone: 800-933-2566
nybloodcenter.org

Photo gallery



Neo Ichiro enjoyed the recent snowfall. Photo by Lance Zakin. Follow Neo Ichiro on Instagram [Instagram.com/SuperShibaDog](https://www.instagram.com/SuperShibaDog)

For artists

Stonehenge NYC has opened applications for **Still Standing Artist Residencies**, an initiative they've begun in response to the pandemic, which provides free housing to 20 creative artists for one year. Applications close on January 10, 2021-- submission and residency details can be found on the [Stonehenge NYC website](https://www.stonehengenyc.com). Recipients will live rent-free in a Stonehenge one-bedroom apartment, in exchange for commissions of their work, beginning in March 2021.

Artists are invited to apply for the [Experimental Projects Residency Program](#) from Alfred University's [Institute for Electronic Arts](#). Apply at blog.alfred.edu/iea/apply.

NYC's reopening

The spread of the virus and the rate of hospitalizations are increasing throughout the city, state and country. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the state and the city advise us not to travel and to avoid indoor gatherings with people who are not in your household. People in the high-risk categories are advised to stay at home and go out only for essential errands. Read more at cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays/winter.html.

New York City is in Phase 4 of the coronavirus reopening.

Indoor dining is paused.

New metrics by which micro-cluster focus zones will be determined to help control COVID-19 spread and protect hospital capacity. [Learn more](#).

[Travel restrictions](#).

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.

[Safe protocols for the holidays](#).

In the country, state and city and neighborhood, the rate of positive covid-19 infections has been increasing. **The rate in Murray Hill (zip code 10016) has gone down since we last checked.**

Map **Table** By borough

10016

ZIP	Neighborhood	7-day percent positive	New people positive	Median daily test rate (per 100,000)	Adequate testing sample?	Date range
10016	Kips Bay/Murray Hill/NoMad	 2.91%	97	 990	 Yes	December 17-December 23

About the data for this table. Get the data.

The above data is from the NYC Department of Health website COVID-19 tracker

www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data.page

The view is the 7-day Percent Positive and Test Rate by ZIP code (for Zip code 10016).

New York State COVID-19 tracker forward.ny.gov/percentage-positive-results-county-dashboard.

The Moderna vaccine has been approved. Shipments to New York state have begun. The Moderna vaccine also requires two doses, but does not require super-cold storage.

NYC Vaccine for All. New York City is committed to keeping everyone safe and healthy by ensuring that access to COVID-19 vaccines is fair and equitable. COVID-19 vaccines will likely be available for most New Yorkers by mid-2021. Answers to some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about the COVID-19 vaccine www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/covid/covid-19-vaccines-faq.pdf.

Is the vaccine free? Yes. The COVID-19 vaccines will be available at no cost in New York State. Learn more about vaccines at covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/frequently-asked-questions.

[A Guide to Your Questions About the New Covid Vaccines in the U.S.](#)

December 14, 2020, *nytimes.com*, Reporting contributed by: Abby Goodnough, Carl Zimmer, Rebecca Robbins, Apoorva Mandavilli, Denise Grady Katie Thomas, Tara Parker-Pope, Noah Weiland, Natasha Singer, David Leonhardt, Roni Caryn Rabin, Julie Bosman, Reed Abelson and Richard Pérez-Peña
Vaccines are rolling out to health workers now and will reach the arms of the rest of us by spring.

Surge and Flex Protocol for Hospitals

Gov. Cuomo directed the New York State Department of Health to begin implementing a "surge and flex" protocol: all hospitals must expand their bed capacity by 25 percent to further prepare hospitals for a future COVID-19 surge. Hospitals had previously been preparing plans for this action as part of New York's Winter COVID Plan. Additionally, the Governor issued a call to all retired doctors and

nurses urging them to return to service if they are able to do so. A registration will be renewed at no cost for an individual who completes the questionnaire through the volunteer portal, set up by the state Department of Health. Hospitals must maintain a 90-day supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). In addition, hospital systems that have many hospitals in the system should redirect patients to other hospitals if a hospital reaches capacity.

Health Insurance changes during the “surge and flex” requirement for hospitals

The Governor announced the issuance by the Department of Financial Services of a [circular letter](#), developed in collaboration with the insurance industry and hospitals, directing insurers to suspend certain preauthorization and administrative requirements to help hospitals implement New York State's "surge and flex" protocol. The protocol, which mandates all hospitals to begin expanding their bed capacity to prepare for a COVID-19 surge, is part of New York State's winter COVID-19 Plan recently announced by the Governor. This will enable hospitals to quickly transfer patients between hospitals and, when appropriate, discharge patients to skilled nursing facilities or their homes to increase bed capacity and balance patient load. [Source: State Sen. Liz Krueger's Covid update email of 12/24/2020.]

Mayor de Blasio announced Wednesday that **New York City will require employers to expand sick leave benefits** – a necessity during the pandemic – guaranteeing some workers up to 56 hours of paid sick leave, up from 40 hours. Learn more at www1.nyc.gov/site/dca/workers/worker-rights.page.

Governor Cuomo announced he has signed an Executive Order providing additional support for two of the groups hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic - vulnerable homeowners and the restaurant industry. Under [Executive Order 202.83](#), local governments can continue to provide property tax exemptions for low-income senior citizens and persons with disabilities who own property through 2021 by lifting an in-person renewal requirement which would put vulnerable New Yorkers at risk of infection from COVID. Additionally, the sales tax deadline for restaurants in orange zones which have been required to suspend indoor dining will be extended until March.

12/21/2020 Some good news for the performing arts in the bipartisan stimulus deal (awaiting Pres. Trump's signature)

[Save Our Stages Act](#) (S.4258 - SOS Act)

This bill authorizes the Small Business Administration (SBA) to make grants to eligible live venue operators, producers, promoters, or talent representatives to address the economic effects of the COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) pandemic on certain live venues. Specifically, the SBA may make (1) an initial grant of up to \$12 million dollars to an eligible operator, promoter, producer, or talent representative; and (2) a supplemental grant that is equal to 50% of the initial grant. An initial grant must be used for costs incurred between March 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020, but a supplemental grant may be used for expenses incurred through June 30, 2021. Such grants shall be used for specified expenses such as payroll costs, rent, utilities, and personal protective equipment.

IMPORTANT: There is still no cure for COVID-19, and it will take months to administer the vaccine(s) to enough people to have herd immunity.

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 (and seek care if you feel seriously ill)

Private gatherings are not recommended.

The CDC advises that holiday travel and gatherings will be high risk for some people [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html).

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.

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.

New tool to check NYC Health + Hospitals waiting times to get tested

testandtrace.nyc or nyhealthandhospitals.org/test-and-trace/testing

Tap Check Testing Wait Times on the Test & Trace Corps page

or check @NYCHealthSystem on Twitter for updates three times a day on wait times.

Find a testing location near you www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/get-tested/covid-19-testing.page.



Traffic, transportation & travel

[De Blasio To Albany: Let NYC Turn Speed Cameras On 24/7](#)

December 22, 2020, *gothamist.com*, by Christopher Robbins

Pandemic unemployment insurance is running out for New York's taxi drivers

Source: December 10, 2020, City & State Coronavirus Update email

Cab drivers gathered in Lower Manhattan to embark on a multi-state caravan to Washington, D.C., where drivers rallied outside the U.S. Capitol for an extension of the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program – a federal unemployment benefits program for self-employed workers and independent contractors. That program, which provides assistance to more than 1.5 million people in the tri-state area, is set to expire at the end of this month.



New protected bike lane on 38th Street

As promised, a new protected bike lane is being installed on 38th Street (an eastbound street). This section shown in the snapshot is between Lexington & Park Avenue. It is on the north side of 38th Street. No parking or standing is permitted in the bike lane. A similar protected bike lane is being installed on 39th Street (a westbound street) on the south side of the street.

[US to require negative COVID-19 test from UK travelers](#)

December 25, 2020, *apnews.com*

The United States will require airline passengers from Britain to get a negative COVID-19 test before their flight, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced late Thursday.

[\(opinion\) Travel bans aren't an effective response to the new Covid variant](#)

December 23, 2020, *theguardian.com*, Angela Rasmussen

Find more tips at [FTC.gov/Charity](https://www.ftc.gov/Charity) [ftc.gov/charity](https://www.ftc.gov/charity) and in these videos

youtube.com/playlist?list=PLM0VFPSPoWJO4kn4Agf9GBLUSHR5KNgct. If you spot a bogus charity, report them to reportfraud.ftc.gov.

Kudos!

The Bellevue Literary Review

Bellevue Hospital puts out a literary journal called *The Bellevue Literary Review*, a journal of humanity and human experience. See **Issue 39 Reading the Body**; it's powerful! blreview.org/table-of-contents/issue-39. You can subscribe to a holiday special at blreview.org/product/blr-2-year-subscription.

For businesses and nonprofits

The commercial eviction/foreclosure moratorium is now extended through January 1, 2021.

Applications are now open for the Cultural Arts Capital Loan Fund

twitter.com/FundforNYC/status/1336641744667086853 from the Fund for the City of New York fcny.org/fcny. This loan initiative provides bridge financing to assist small and mid-sized nonprofit cultural arts organizations with their capital project expenses, with a priority to groups that have capital grants from the Borough President, City of New York and Dept. of Cultural Affairs. BIPOC-led organizations are strongly encouraged to apply. Fill out this inquiry form to start an application fcny.wufoo.com/forms/q1myrvnl0hi5udm.

PPP Loan Forgiveness

The Small Business Administration (SBA) reminds businesses that if you received a Paycheck Protection Program loan, you may be eligible for loan forgiveness. Here are four steps to apply for loan forgiveness.

1. Contact your lender and complete the correct form
 2. Compile documentation
 3. Submit the forgiveness form and documentation to your lender
 4. Communicate with your lender throughout the process
-

Learn more about loan forgiveness sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program#section-header-5

New York Forward Small Business Lease Assistance Partnership.

Recognizing the economic impact of COVID-19, this program will provide small businesses and their landlords with informational resources and pro bono assistance to help both parties reach mutually-beneficial lease workout agreements. This service is available to all New York State small businesses and landlords, and participation is voluntary. Over the next year, the partnership has the capacity to serve thousands of small businesses statewide. governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-launch-new-york-forward-small-business-lease-assistance-partnership.

Job opportunities, volunteering and internships

Apply to join your Community Board, the most grassroots form of local government. The Boards are pivotal in shaping their communities and work to enhance and preserve the character of the city's many unique neighborhoods. **Applications close Monday, February 1, 2021.** Application form manhattancommunityboards.wufoo.com/forms/w881xp40o7uf2h.

The MHNA is seeking a social media volunteer

The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association is seeking a computer and social media savvy volunteer to:

- Create timely social media content that advances the profile of the MHNA on social media channels
- Learn about the overall mission and programs of the MHNA and implement social media to support the MHNA
- Collaborate and brainstorm ideas with MHNA Board members and partners for social media and other relevant communication channels

We are also open to ideas for new posts or features as suggested by our volunteers. This work can be done remotely, and is estimated to take approximately 2 hours per week. If interested, please contact info@murrayhillnyc.org. Learn more about the MHNA's social media at [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Upcoming events

December 31

New Year's Eve at Times Square

No public viewing and many street closures and pedestrian checkpoints around Times Square all day. Check your TV channels for virtual show times or watch the webcast online at **Mobile Streaming (FREE):** TimesSquareNYC.org, NewYearsEve.nyc, TimesSquareBall.net

WATCH ON SOCIAL MEDIA

[Facebook.com/TimesSquareNYC](https://www.facebook.com/TimesSquareNYC), [Twitter.com/TimesSquareNYC](https://twitter.com/TimesSquareNYC). Additional details at cb5.org/cb5m/announcements/new-year-s-eve-2021-in-times-squ.

through January 9

Mulchfest for your holiday trees

Drop off your tree at any Mulchfest location between December 26 and January 9
Chipping Saturdays on Saturday, January 2 and Saturday, January 9

nycgovparks.org/highlights/festivals/mulchfest

Join NYC Parks and the New York City Department of Sanitation in the NYC holiday tradition of recycling your Christmas tree! **Please remove all lights, ornaments, and netting before bringing the tree to a Mulchfest site. Bring your own bag if you wish to take some free mulch home.** Mulch is available at the sites marked with an asterisk (*) below. They'll chip your tree into wood chips that will be used to nourish trees and make NYC even greener. Please wear a face covering and practice social distancing by remaining at least 6 feet apart from others.

Chipping Saturdays. Saturday, Jan. 2 and Saturday, Jan. 9 10am – 2pm. Bring your own bag so you can take home some mulch to use in your backyard or to make a winter bed for a street tree.

How to Volunteer. Volunteer with the Stewardship Team to help spread mulch from Mulchfest around trees to insulate them from the cold weather. Find a site near you, and help give back to our trees! Register at nycgovparks.org/reg/stewardship. Do you still have any questions about becoming a steward? You can reach out to stewardship@parks.nyc.gov or at 718-392-5232.

Nearest Mulchfest Locations:

Union Square Park at East 15th Street and Union Square West - Drop-off only,
Stuyvesant Town* at East 20th Street at 20th Street Loop (east of First Avenue) - Chipping.

January-April 2021

360 Health Healing Journey

Join Michele Risa on a healing journey which includes two parts: **90-Day Health Program** where you experience time-tested, energy-based, alternative approaches to deeply heal all levels within you – self-paced, with an "accountability buddy" to help you stay on track; **6 live Zoom Health Sessions with 6 different healers** on January 20 and 27, February 17 and 24, March 24 and 31 (from 3-5pm). You will **benefit from healers** who each have decades of experience and success; **tap the stronger, wiser and more resilient you** while you weave the divine feminine qualities of nurturing, compassion and self love; and **discover each facet of your "360 Health"** and connect to what uplifts! **Michele Risa**, is CEO & Founder, Collaborative Solutions, Inc. and has worked with companies such as Viacom, Forbes, Barclays, Nasdaq, Mitsubishi, United Healthcare and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Care Center. Michele is an award-winning co-author of *Conscious Entrepreneurs: A Radical New Approach to Purpose, Passion & Profit*, and she has been a TV producer since 1998. Michele was formerly President, Manhattan Holistic Chamber of Commerce, and is President of Only The Source. She is

honored to be invited to the Conscious Business Synergy Circle, a project of Deepak Chopra's Evolutionary Leaders. Learn more at collaborativesolutions.global/360-health. Suggested donation of \$225 (scholarships available).

January 5 5-6:30pm

The New York Public Library presents: Reinvigorating Your Career.....Jumpstarting for Success in the New Year

About the Presenter: Jim Arnoff is a Television Packaging Agent representing New York production companies (reality, documentary, non-fiction and scripted) in developing and selling original programming to the networks and new media. He is an entertainment lawyer and Certified Life/Career Coach to the entertainment industry. He also provides agent consulting in the industry, including starting your own production company, creating powerful sizzle reels, developing original series and becoming an on-air talent.

Learn more and register at nypl.org/events/programs/2020/01/05/reinvigorating-your-career

January 6 12 -1:30pm

The New York Public Library's Money Matters online: **Wills vs. Trusts**

Learn more and register at nypl.org/events/programs/2021/01/06/wills-vs-trusts

January 7 1pm

Webinar: Announcing *Ascent* small business learning platform for women business owners

Join U.S. Small Business Administration Administrator Jovita Carranza on Thursday, for a live webinar to announce the launch of Ascent. Ascent is a first-of-its-kind digital online learning platform geared to help women-owned small businesses grow and scale their existing business. With Ascent, female entrepreneurs will be able to utilize this platform that brings a modern, e-learning experience specifically targeted for women business owners. Register at eventbrite.com/e/launch-of-ascent-digital-learning-platform-for-women-tickets-132835864647

February 1 (deadline)

COVID rent relief program expanded

[Cuomo unveils revamped COVID rent relief after two-week wait, advocates call for 'blanket' eviction moratorium](#)

December 17, 2020, *nydailynews.com*, by Denis Slattery

Gov. Cuomo unveiled a revamped rent relief program meant to help tenants struggling amid the coronavirus pandemic on Thursday, just two weeks before federal funds for the measure are set to expire...New applications will be accepted...through Feb, 1, 2021...Applicants must have lost income between April 1 and July 31 and household income pre-pandemic must have been at or below 80% of the Area Median Income. hcr.ny.gov/RRP

Recorded events

NYC Office of Nightlife Town Call for Hospitality Workers on December 17, 2020 [youtube.com/watch?v=44F7iDFs28E&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=44F7iDFs28E&feature=youtu.be)

Topics: COVID-19 updates, health and safety measures, Labor laws, gatherings, and live performance regulations, Employment resources, and unemployment benefits, Physical and mental healthcare, Public aid including food and housing assistance, Residential rent mediation and more

Recorded webinar: **How to Run Great Virtual Events**

Presented by SCORE/U.S. Small Business Administration. score.org/event/how-run-great-virtual-events-recorded-webinar Duration: 1 hour.

Recorded webinar: **2020 Year-End Tax Planning for Your Business**

Presented by SCORE/U.S. Small Business Administration score.org/event/2020-year-end-tax-planning-your-business Duration: 1 hour.

Kudos to Murray Hill public schools (partial listing)!

COVID-19 Report Card for [PS 116 Mary Lindley Murray](#). As of 12/26/2020, 1 positive test cases was reported on 12/23/2020. Total On-site Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=305. Total Off-site Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=170.

COVID-19 Report Card for [The River School](#). As of 12/26/2020, no new cases and only one case (a teacher) reported in the last 14 days. Total On-site Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=397. Total Off-site Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=106.

COVID-19 Report Card for [Murray Hill Academy](#). As of 12/26/2020, no cases were reported. Total On-site Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=30. Total Off-site Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=61.

Murray Hill in the news



[Ambitious crooks rob ritzy NYC condo, tossing electronics and furniture into U-Haul parked outside](#)

December 19, 2020, *nydailynews.com*, by Thomas Tracy

(including a video) A crooked quartet...raided a ritzy Manhattan condo of practically everything that wasn't nailed down — including \$17,000 in electronics, clothing, furniture and kitchenware, police said...Video released Friday shows three women and a man using hotel-style luggage carts to transport the loot to an awaiting U-Haul parked in the garage of the Murray Hill condominium at E. 37th St. and First Ave...The 42-year-old condo resident told police that he was away but had left a contractor in the home. The contractor apparently left the door unlocked when he left, the victim told cops.

Changes in the neighborhood



[Korean Cultural Center's Distinctive Form Taking Shape At 122-126 East 32nd Street In Murray Hill](#)

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

Photo of The Korean Cultural Center of New York. Rendering by SAMOO Architecture.

Construction is continuing on the Korean Cultural Center of NYC, a highly distinctive 120-foot-tall building at 122-126 East 32nd Street in Murray Hill. Designed by SAMOO Architecture PC for Level Group, the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea, NY, purchased the property for \$15.8 million in March 2008, including the use of nearly 4,500 square feet of air rights. The project, which broke ground in June 2018, is planned to yield 36,500 square feet...YIMBY estimates that the Korean Cultural Center could finish toward the end of 2021 or sometime in 2022.



Photo 122-126 East 32nd Street by Michael Young

[Editor's note: Some people who have commented on this article are advocating to preserve the old ads painted on the adjoining building.]

[MTA And SL Green Debut Grand Central Subway Entrance At One Vanderbilt Avenue](#)

December 16, 2020, *newyorkyimby.com*, by Sebastian Morris

[T]he MTA and SL Green debuted a new entrance to the Grand Central-42nd Street subway station at One Vanderbilt Avenue, a 77-story supertall office skyscraper in Midtown. The new entrance is the latest component of SL Green's \$220 million transit improvement project bundled into development of the commercial project. SL Green worked in close collaboration with Stantec to design and deliver these improvements as required by the MTA. This included strict ADA, fire, and life safety compliance, coordination with multiple MTA agencies, and collaboration with stakeholders to ensure full integration between the new tower, Grand Central Terminal, the 42nd Street subway station, and the Grand Hyatt New York Hotel.

[Madison House Reaches Final Stages Of Construction At 126 Madison Avenue In NoMad](#)

December 19, 2020, *newyorkyimby.com*, by Michael Young

Exterior work is still wrapping up on Madison House, an 805-foot-tall residential skyscraper at 126 Madison Avenue in NoMad and... [one] of the tallest projects under construction in the city. Alternately addressed as 15 East 30th Street, the 62-story tower is designed by Handel Architects and developed by Fosun Group and JD Carlisle...[T]he 199 condominiums...will all sit atop an additional 7,500 square feet of ground-floor retail space.

[YIMBY Scopes Views From Rose Hill At 30 East 29th Street In NoMad](#)

December 9, 2020, *newyorkyimby.com*, by Michael Young

Rose Hill is planned to be fully completed by next month.

[Ornamental Elements Installed On Nearly Finished Turkevi Center At 821 First Avenue In Turtle Bay](#)

December 2, 2020, *newyorkyimby.com*, by Michael Young

Number 30...of the tallest projects under construction in New York is the Turkevi Center, a 563-foot-tall mixed-use skyscraper at 821 First Avenue in the Midtown East neighborhood of Turtle Bay. Designed by Perkins Eastman, the 35-story tower will serve as the consulate for the Republic of Turkey...Construction on 821 First Avenue is expected to be finished in the second half of 2021.



Census

12/18/2020 **Undocumented immigrants and the Census count.**

[Source: Rep. Caroline Maloney's Weekly Update email 12/18/2020]

The Supreme Court dismissed a challenge to the Trump Administration's plan to exclude undocumented immigrants from the U.S. Census. In this decision, the Court reaffirmed that Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross must take an "actual enumeration" of every person in the United States. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court did not address whether President Trump may or may not exclude undocumented immigrants from the Census count.

Elections & voting

[Electoral College makes it official: Biden won, Trump lost](#)

December 14, 2020, *apnews.com*, by Mark Sherman

The Electoral College formally chose Joe Biden on Monday [December 14] as the nation's next president, giving him a solid electoral majority of 306 votes and confirming his victory in last month's election...all the electoral votes allocated to Biden and the president in last month's popular vote went officially to each man...Trump...had 232 electoral votes...On Election Day, the Democrat topped the incumbent Republican by more than 7 million in the popular vote nationwide...Former President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, whom Trump defeated four years ago, were among New York's 29 electors for Biden and Harris.

[New York Could Lose Up to 2 House Seats](#)

December 23, 2020, *nystateofpolitics.com*, by Nick Reisman

New York could lose up to two congressional seats in the coming round of reapportionment, further diluting the state's influence in Washington.

City lawmakers voted to re-appoint Board of Election commissioners Miguelina Camilo, Patricia Anne Taylor, and Tiffany Townsend.

Schools, children & youth programs

12/16/2020 **Not a snow day, a remote learning day.** With our first big snow storm, Mayor de Blasio announced that there will be no in-person learning in school buildings on Thursday. But Thursday wasn't a snow day, it was a remote learning day.

12/18/2020 [Source Mayor de Blasio's media availability]

More school funding will be distributed to schools that have been lacking in resources.

Advanced Placement (AP) courses will be offered in all high schools.

Policing

12/18/2020 Mayor de Blasio's press conference

The New York City Department of Investigation issued a report: *Investigation into NYPD Response to the George Floyd Protests*.

During his press conference, Mayor de Blasio discussed some of the policing decisions and mistakes that were made during the George Floyd protests. He also discussed decisions that were made as a reaction to the incidents of violence and looting that took place at the same time of the protests, but were unrelated to the peaceful protests. While pointing out the difficulties and complexities of the situation at that time, the mayor took responsibility for his mistakes in leadership as well as some of the mistakes in policing strategy. He agrees with the recommendations in the report and also said that any people in leadership roles who do not agree with the recommendations should not be in leadership.

New York City Department of Investigation Report: Investigation into NYPD Response to the George Floyd Protests, December 2020

www1.nyc.gov/assets/doi/reports/pdf/2020/DOIRpt.NYPD%20Reponse.%20GeorgeFloyd%20Protests.12.18.2020.pdf

[New York Lawmakers Demand NYPD Halt Undercover Sex Trade Stings](#)

December 16, 2020, *propublica.org*, by Joaquin Sapien and Joshua Kaplan

A dozen city and state officials also called for the disbandment of vice, the primary division that polices the sex trade; some want investigations into misconduct allegations against the unit, including withholding of evidence.

(opinion) [The cruelty of parole in New York](#)

November 19, 2020, *nydailynews.com*, by Darcel Clark, Eric Gonzalez and Cy Vance

Here in New York, the Less Is More Act has been proposed to incentivize good behavior by people on parole, reduce the number of people imprisoned for non-criminal violations, and shorten how long they can be incarcerated for crimeless missteps...Clark, Gonzalez and Vance are district attorneys of the Bronx, Brooklyn and Manhattan, respectively.

Housing, homelessness, zoning & affordability

[NYC moves forward with plan for special hotel permits](#)

December 21, 2020, *therealdeal.com*, by Kathryn Brenzel

The Department of City Planning on Monday released its long-awaited proposal for requiring special permits for new hotels and expansions throughout the city. It would apply to all zoning districts where hotel construction is permitted as-of-right, and would take the place of special permits already required in Midtown East, the Garment District and light manufacturing zones...The special permit will give City Planning the opportunity to determine the “appropriateness of hotel development in commercial and mixed-use districts,” according to the proposal.

[Struggling renters face avalanche of evictions without federal aid](#)

December 25, 2020 , *washingtonpost.com*, by Jonathan O'Connell and Anu Narayanswamy
Landlords filed hundreds of thousands of eviction notices during the pandemic. The federal eviction ban expires Dec. 31.

[\(opinion\) New York City has enough vacant apartments to house the homeless: It's time to do it](#)

November 19, 2020, *bxtimes.com*, by Ben Kallos, New York City Council Member and Co-Founder of the Eastside Taskforce for Homeless Outreach and Services (ETHOS), and Frederick Shack, Chief Executive Officer at Urban Pathways, a nonprofit serving approximately 3,700 at-risk and homeless New Yorkers each year through a full continuum of services including street outreach, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing residences.

New York is not dead, but tens of thousands of apartments here are empty. This presents an unprecedented opportunity to house every New Yorker experiencing homelessness. As a city we have a moral mandate to permanently house our homeless now. We can do so by creating tens of thousands of affordable housing units in existing empty apartments, including in our tallest buildings and wealthiest neighborhoods. No matter what neighborhood we live in, we can all welcome unhoused New Yorkers onto our block and into our buildings...Where some see New York City as dead with thousands of vacant apartments, we see the opportunity to permanently house our homeless. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity. We can wake up in a city that is full and thriving, with housing occupied by families, children, and grateful neighbors. That's a city we want to live in.

[NYC Residential Sales Take A Big Nose Dive In 2020, Study Finds](#)

December 24, 2020, *patch.com*, by Nikki Gaskins

Residential sales across New York City dropped 32 percent year-over-year in 2020, according to a new report by Property Shark...New York City rents have also fallen more this year than they did during the Great Recession, according to StreetEasy's November 2020 Market Reports.

[Related: \(opinion\) 2021 NYC Housing Predictions: What New Yorkers Should Expect Next Year and Beyond](#)

December 11, 2020, streeteasy.com, by Nancy Wu, StreetEasy Economist

Lower real estate prices all around will shift the character of the borough, making it less branded and less gilded, but more equitable, more diverse, and perhaps even more liveable.

Related: [November 2020 Market Reports: NYC Rent Declines Surpass Those of the Great Recession](#)

December 16, 2020, streeteasy.com, by Emily McDonald

PropertyShark Report: [Pandemic Causes Sales to Plunge 85% in Hudson Yards, NYC's Priciest Neighborhood & Prices to Dip 8% in Manhattan](#), December 22, 2020

[Audit Report on the Safety and Wellbeing of Infants Residing in Sampled Department of Homeless Services Shelters](#)

NYC Comptroller's Office, December 21, 2020

The mission of the New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS) is to prevent homelessness, address street homelessness, provide safe temporary shelter, and connect New Yorkers experiencing homelessness to suitable housing. To accomplish these goals, DHS collaborates with not-for-profit partners to provide temporary shelter and various services that homeless New Yorkers need to transition to permanent housing. These providers connect homeless families and individuals with a range of resources, including case management, housing placement assistance, mental health services, and other critical types of assistance. According to DHS, approximately 50 infants in New York City die from preventable, sleep-related injuries each year...Audit Findings and Conclusions. The providers of sampled homeless shelters for families with children do not adequately ensure the safety and wellbeing of infants residing at their shelters.

Economy, budget & taxes

State Senator Brad Hoylman explains the Pied-a-Terre tax proposal

[Source: Sen. Hoylman's email of 12/14/2020]

As the lead sponsor of S.44-B, the "pied-a-terre tax," I can assure you that the bill is in no way targeted at the middle class.

The pied-a-terre tax will have no impact on the vast majority of New York City homeowners. Under my proposal, the tax would only apply to second-or-third homes located in New York City that meet a certain value threshold. For 1-3 family homes, the threshold is a sales-based market value of \$5 million or more. For condos and co-ops, the threshold is an assessed value of \$300,000 or more. Because of the outdated way that New York City assesses condos and co-ops, an assessed value of \$300,000 roughly translates to a sale price of \$5 million or more.

Even in the limited circumstances in which this tax would apply, my bill allows for a number of exemptions from the tax if the property is occupied on a full-time basis by a tenant or an immediate family member of the owner.

The only owners who would need to obtain appraisals for their properties are people who own a condo or co-op that is (a) not their primary place of residence and (b) is assessed at \$300,000 or higher, if the owner thinks that the appraisal will show that the condo or co-op has a fair market value of less than \$5 million and therefore is exempt from the pied-a-terre tax.

Co-op owners who don't themselves have a second home won't be liable for this tax being incurred by another owner's pied-a-terre in their building. My legislation creates a procedure by which the obligation for the tax is levied only on the co-op owner whose unit is being taxed, similar to the way in which property tax rebates are distributed to individual co-op owners who are eligible to receive them.

Furthermore, the pied-a-terre tax wouldn't create any additional burdens on most homeowners to prove their permanent residences. New York City already has that information for the purposes of city income taxes, the STAR property tax program, the condo and co-op tax abatement, and other programs and benefits that are conditioned upon primary residency.

Misinformation about my bill is being circulated by powerful real estate interests who are concerned that this tax will slow the ultra-luxury real estate market that has been their cash cow in recent years. Rather than come to the table to be part of conversations about how the wealthiest New Yorkers can help pay their fair share in the midst of a financial crisis, they are resorting to cheap scare tactics.

New York State Budget

[Source: Gov.Cuomo's 12/18/2020 media availability]

New York State has a \$15 billion deficit.

Option 1 - tax increases now \$1-3 billion tax increase, goes with a budget that will have layoffs.

Option 2 - do budget in April when we know what Washington will give us. Supported by labor leaders and Cuomo. Less disruption. (Cuomo's preferred approach)

New York State Department of the Budget spokesperson Freeman Klopott said in [a statement](#) that the state provides regular fiscal updates to the Legislature and entities affected by the withheld funds, as well as in quarterly state financial plan updates. "The Executive Budget for FY 2022 will be released by January 19, 2021 and include a complete accounting of all withholds and planned permanent reductions," he added.

[Source: New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer's weekly email *New York By The Numbers: Weekly Economic and Fiscal Outlook of 12/21/2020*]

The Numbers that Defined 2020

879,182: New York City lost 879,182 private-sector jobs between February and April. Job losses were concentrated in lower-wage service industries, such as hotels, restaurants, bars, hair salons, and retail stores. Since April, the city has recovered 308,003 jobs, leaving citywide employment 14% below pre-pandemic levels.

20.3%: The city's unemployment rate rose from a record low of 3.4% in February to a record high of **20.3%** in June. As of November, the unemployment rate stood at 12.1% — still higher than the highest previously-recorded figure of 11.6%, dating back to 1992.

34%: As of November, 34% of employed New Yorkers worked from home due to COVID, compared to **27%** of employed New York State residents and 22% nationwide. The city share was down from 50% in May.

71%: As of the week ending December 11, weekday ridership on the New York City subway averaged 71% below the same period last year. Average weekday inbound crossings on MTA bridges and tunnels were down 17%.

\$5.3 Billion: New York City has committed to or incurred spending of nearly \$5.3 billion related to the pandemic, including \$1.1 billion on medical, surgical and lab supplies and \$691 million on food assistance.

\$2.2 Billion: From March through October, total New York City tax collections were \$2.2 billion below the same period in 2019. Hotel tax revenue was cut by 66%, while real property transaction taxes were down 41% and sales tax revenues were down 24%.

64%: As of November 30, small business revenue was down 64% in Manhattan. Losses were smaller yet substantial in the other boroughs: 35% in Queens, 34% in the Bronx, 33% in Brooklyn, and 23% in Staten Island.

Full Comptrollers report comptroller.nyc.gov/newsroom/new-york-by-the-numbers-weekly-economic-and-fiscal-outlook-no-29-december-21-2020.

COVID Relief and Omnibus Spending Bill passed Congress, awaiting Pres. Trump's signature

[Source: Rep. Carolyn Maloney's email: COVID-19 & Weekly Update for NY-12, 12/23/2020

[The bill includes \$900 billion in COVID-19 relief and a \$1.4 trillion omnibus spending agreement]

The bill provides billions of dollars to accelerate the free and equitable distribution of vaccines, tax credits for paid sick leave, and \$4 billion for GAVI, the international vaccine alliance, because we cannot ensure that Americans are safe from COVID-19 until the whole world is, too. It supports small businesses by: adding another \$284 billion to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) – businesses that have already taken a PPP loan will be able to take a second forgivable loan, and sets aside funding specifically for very small businesses through community-based lenders. It provides workers who have already lost their jobs with an additional \$300 per week in unemployment insurance. It extends of the critically important Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program for gig workers and the self-employed. Important for NYC are \$25 billion for rental assistance, the extension of the eviction moratorium, and enhancements to the low-income housing tax credit. \$15 billion in grants for the live venues and cultural institutions that are so central to life in New York City, and which have been struggling since the start of the pandemic. \$4 billion for the MTA, which meets the MTA's immediate funding needs while we continue to work for the full \$12 billion in federal assistance it will need over the next two years. \$13 billion in increased SNAP and child nutrition benefits, much needed funding to help schools repair and replace HVAC systems to mitigate the spread of the virus so that we can safely reopen classrooms, and \$10 billion for childcare assistance for parents heading back to work. Not to be overlooked is the inclusion of a bipartisan, bicameral agreement to end surprise billing [for medical services.]...[W]e will avoid another government shutdown, but [did not

get Republicans to agree to] funding for state and local governments and to meet the needs of the American people through [larger] stimulus payments — \$600 is simply not enough

Related: [\(opinion\) Congress's 5,593-page porky 'relief' bill is essence of the swamp](#)

December 22, 2020, *thehill.com*, by Joe Concha

Related: [U.S. Families, Economy, Government in Limbo as Trump Remains Mum on Covid-19 Aid Bill](#) (paywall)

December 25, 2020, *wsj.com*, by Andrew Restuccia

President has neither vetoed nor signed aid, spending bill, a day before pandemic-related unemployment benefits expire. The president called on lawmakers to increase the direct payments to \$2,000 for individuals from \$600 per adult and per child, the current level in the bipartisan bill. He also criticized the spending portion of legislation, which includes routine funding for foreign allies and international programs.

Related: [Millions set to lose jobless benefits amid Trump standoff with Congress](#)

December 25, 2020, *thehill.com*, by Ian Swanson

Related: [\\$900B COVID relief bill passed by Congress, sent to Trump](#)

December 22, 2020, *apnews.com*, by Andrew Taylor

The bill combines coronavirus-fighting funds with financial relief for individuals and businesses. It would establish a temporary \$300 per week supplemental jobless benefit and a \$600 direct stimulus payment to most Americans, along with a new round of subsidies for hard-hit businesses, restaurants, and theaters and money for schools, health care providers and renters facing eviction...The measure would fund the government through September...On direct payments, the bill provides \$600 to individuals making up to \$75,000 per year and \$1,200 to couples making up to \$150,000, with payments phased out for higher incomes. An additional \$600 payment will be made per dependent child, similar to the last round of relief payments in the spring...Republicans were most intent on reviving the Paycheck Protection Program with \$284 billion, which would cover a second round of PPP grants to especially hard-hit businesses. Democrats won set-asides for low-income and minority communities. The sweeping bill also contains \$25 billion in rental assistance, \$15 billion for theaters and other live venues, \$82 billion for local schools, colleges and universities, and \$10 billion for child care...The governmentwide appropriations bill was likely to provide a last \$1.4 billion installment for Trump's U.S.-Mexico border wall as a condition of winning his signature. The Pentagon would receive \$696 billion...It also would carry numerous clean-energy provisions sought by Democrats with fossil fuel incentives favored by Republicans, \$7 billion to increase access to broadband, \$4 billion to help other nations vaccinate their people, \$14 billion for cash-starved transit systems, \$1 billion for Amtrak and \$2 billion for airports and concessionaires. Food stamp benefits would temporarily be increased by 15%.

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

Gov. Cuomo signed legislation (S.6829/A.8829-A) banning the most harmful uses of trichloroethylene, or TCE, a toxic chemical used in industrial and commercial processes. The

legislation bans TCE's use as a vapor degreaser, an intermediate chemical in the production of other chemicals, a refrigerant, an extraction solvent or in any other manufacturing or industrial cleaning process or use.

Gov. Cuomo signed the Jonah Bichotte Cowan Law (S8525A /A2770C) to establish requirements for treatment when an expectant mother presents at a general hospital with concerns about being in pre-term labor.

Gov. Cuomo signed the New York Automatic Voter Registration Act of 2020 (S.8806 / A.8280C) into law, requiring designated State agencies to establish an automatic voter registration system as proposed by the Governor in State of the State in 2019 and 2020. This will expedite voter registration for New Yorkers applying for services at designated agencies. The law will help increase voter turnout while reducing administrative barriers to processing voter registration applications.

Gov. Cuomo signed legislation (A6787-D/S5140-B) suspending the use of facial recognition technology and other kinds of biometric technology in schools, directing a study of whether its use is appropriate in schools and issuing recommendations. The legislation places a moratorium on schools purchasing and using biometric identifying technology until at least July 1, 2022 or until the report is completed and the State Education Commissioner authorizes its use, whichever occurs later. It applies to both public and private schools in New York State.

[Governor \[Cuomo\] grants clemency for two women imprisoned for killing abusive boyfriends](#)

December 25, 2020, *nydailynews.com*, by Chris Sommerfeldt

A couple of women convicted of killing their abusive boyfriends were among nearly two dozen inmates granted sentence commutations and pardons by Gov. Cuomo.

The Council passed two bills related to termination of fast-food employees

Int. 1415-2019 (Enacted, Mayor's Desk for Signature) **Wrongful discharge of fast food employees.**

Prohibits fast-food employers from terminating the employment or substantially reducing the hours of a fast-food employee in the absence of the fast-food employee's demonstrated failure to satisfactorily perform job duties or misconduct; in other words, without just cause. Employers would be required to give employees a written reason for the termination of their employment.

Int 1396-2019 (Enacted, Mayor's Desk for Signature) **Laid off fast food employees** would also be entitled to schedule pay premiums for shifts lost due to termination and provides for remedies including reinstation, back pay, and civil penalties.

The Council passed two bills related to remote learning in New York City public schools.

Int 2058-2020 (Enacted, Mayor's Desk for Signature) **Requiring the DOE to report on remote learning attendance** requires the New York City Department of Education (DOE) to post student attendance data on its website monthly during the use of remote learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Int 2104-2020 (Enacted, Mayor's Desk for Signature) **DOE to report on metrics regarding remote learning** during the COVID-19 pandemic. Requires the DOE to report on a series of metrics whenever the DOE is engaged in remote learning due to the pandemic, including language access and support provided for English language learners; steps the DOE took to ensure incarcerated students received remote instruction; and details on internet enabled devices ordered and distributed to students.

Int 1770-2019 Local Law. (Enacted, Mayor's Desk for Signature) **Whistleblower protections.** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to whistleblower protections for individuals subject to alleged adverse personnel actions. Proposed Int. No. 1770-A. The deadlines were extended for installation of carbon monoxide detectors in commercial spaces. **Int. No. 2171-A extends the Local Law 191 compliance deadline** by six months, until July 1, 2021.

NYC Council speaker Corey Johnson introduced a bill for comprehensive city planning. Planning Together: A New Comprehensive Planning Framework for New York City summarizes the issues and describes the proposed legislation to have a comprehensive long-term plan and a 10-year comprehensive planning cycle council.nyc.gov/news/2020/12/16/planning-together.

[**Pandemic complicates Council's latest push to reform street vendor industry**](#)

December 22, 2020, *politico.com*, by Janaki Chadha

[D]ecades-old restrictions governing the industry...have pushed many vendors into a black market, where permit owners charge a huge markup to actual vendors. City Council legislation that has been circulating for years would, over the next decade, almost double the 5,100 or so vending permits currently allowed—an effort to legalize vendors who don't have the proper certification and to overhaul the regulatory structure that governs them. But longstanding opposition from restaurants and shops has only intensified, as brick-and-mortar businesses endure the devastation of pandemic occupancy limits and a year of virtually no tourism...Andrew Rigie, executive director of the New York City Hospitality Alliance, agreed vendors shouldn't need to rent permits for exorbitant sums, but warned against creating a tougher landscape for restaurants when many are already on the brink. Enforcement mechanisms and other issues need further study before the number of permits is expanded, he said...Jessica Walker, president of the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce, said the Council should not “[rush] through a bill” that was conceived years before the coronavirus crisis hit. She said she's seen an “explosion in the number of street vendors” since the beginning of the pandemic and said the issue needs a fresh look.

Reports

The Music Workers Alliance, an association of independent musicians and DJs, released a report on December 17, 2020 showing that of roughly 300 musicians and DJs surveyed, 71% had lost

three-quarters or more of their income during the pandemic, and that fewer than 20% were working in some online or streaming capacity. Most musicians are offered little or nothing for such performances.

musicworkersalliance.org/howarewesurviving

Public service announcements

[Increase in Fatal Drug Overdoses Across the United States Driven by Synthetic Opioids...](#)

December 17, 2020, distributed via the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) Health Alert Network
Drug overdose deaths...increased...10% to 19% in...New York City... State and local health department reports indicate that the increase in synthetic opioid-involved overdoses is primarily linked to illicitly manufactured fentanyl... overdose deaths involving psychostimulants, such as methamphetamine, have been increasing...Recommendations...Expand the provision and use of naloxone and overdose prevention education...Expand access to and provision of treatment for substance use disorders...Intervene early with individuals at the highest risk for overdose...Improve detection of overdose outbreaks due to fentanyl, novel psychoactive substances (e.g., fentanyl analogs), or other drugs to facilitate an effective response.

['Tis The Season For Exploding Manholes](#)

December 26, 2020, *gothamist.com*, by Jake Offenhartz

The phenomenon typically happens after a major winter storm, as de-icing salt seeps into the ground, corroding subterranean wires and unleashing gas, which in some cases sparks fires and blows the several-hundred-pound manholes straight into the sky...If you spot a smoking manhole, contact Con Ed or the FDNY as soon as possible. [call 311 or [ConEd](#)]

[Giving wisely in the time of COVID](#)

November 30, 2020, *consumer.ftc.gov*, by Rosario Méndez, Attorney, Division of Consumer and Business Education, FTC

Many charitable organizations are faced with greater demand for their services, but less in donations as people have less to give. Now, more than ever, it's important to make sure that your donation will be used wisely and well...four tips for giving wisely:

- Search online for the cause you care about — like “help COVID victims” or “homeless kids” — plus phrases like “best charity” or “highly rated charity.” Once you find a specific charity you're considering giving to, search for its name plus “complaint,” “review,” “rating,” or “scam.” If you find red flags, it might be best to find another organization.
- Check out the charity's website. Does it give information about the programs you want to support, or how it uses donations? How much of your donation will go directly to support the programs you care about? If you can't find detailed information about a charity's mission and programs, be suspicious.
- Use one of these organizations to help you research charities: BBB Wise Giving Alliance <https://www.give.org>, Charity Navigator <https://www.charitynavigator.org>, CharityWatch

<https://www.charitywatch.org>, and GuideStar <https://www.guidestar.org>. The IRS's Tax Exempt Organization Search <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/tax-exempt-organization-search> tells you if your donation would be tax deductible.

- See what your state's charity regulator has to say about the charity. Don't know who that is? Look it up at nasconet.org.

Donating on social media or through a crowdfunding campaign? Don't assume solicitations on social media or crowdfunding campaigns are legitimate — even posts that are shared or liked by your friends. Do your own research. Contact your friends offline to ask them about the post they shared. And remember that crowdfunding campaigns are not tax deductible.

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



Beware of Malicious COVID-19 Phishing

Protect yourself from identity theft and fraud during pandemic recovery.

Confirm any SBA disaster assistance emails by contacting **(800) 659-2955**, TTY **(800) 877-8339**, or **disastercustomerservice@sba.gov**.

Avoid scams and fraud, visit **sba.gov/COVIDfraudalert**

SBA U.S. Small Business Administration

[More money from the government?](#)

December 22, 2020, *consumer.ftc.gov*, by Jennifer Leach, Associate Director, Division of Consumer & Business Education, FTC

Congress has just passed another bill to help the people whose finances are taking a beating from the pandemic. Once again, some of us will be getting money by check or direct deposit. The timing and details are still TBA, but here's what we know:

1. The government **won't** ask you to pay anything up front to get this money.
-

-
2. The government **won't** call, text, email, or contact you on social media to ask for your Social Security, bank account, or credit card number.
 3. There's no such thing as getting your money early, or faster.

We know from the early days of the CARES Act that scammers will be using numbers 1, 2, and 3, above, as part of their playbook. So, if you spot someone who says any of these things, you know they're a scammer.

The MHNA Discount Program

Changed

Rossini's, Open for delivery and take out Monday to Friday 12 - 8pm and Saturday & Sunday 2 - 8pm. *15% off takeout/delivery orders, excludes tax and gratuity. Use code MHNA to receive the discount.* rossinisrestaurant@yahoo.com, rossinisrestaurant.com, 108 East 38th Street, 212-683-0135. Check their website for updates.

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>

[Read our Privacy Statement](#)

**The MHNA
Better Together!**

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
Contact the MHNA by email at info@murrayhillnyc.org

