



Murray Hill

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Information that may be of interest...

February 7, 2022

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 2021.

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February is Black History Month: Murray Hill's role in the Civil War and desegregation

Desegregation of New York City public transit. In 1855, 24-year old lawyer, **Chester A. Arthur** successfully represented Elizabeth Jennings Graham, a black woman who had been denied a seat on a Manhattan streetcar due to her race. The case led to the desegregation of public transportation in New York City. Arthur joined the Republican Party, which was established by anti-slavery activists. Arthur was a fighter for social justice and racial equality, although he also has been criticized for signing the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 after he became President. Arthur lived in a townhouse at 123 Lexington Avenue (28th Street) before his presidency, and he died there 2 years after his single-term presidency ended. This building is a National Historic Landmark, designated by the National Parks Service. It now houses Kalustyan Specialty Foods. [Learn more](#)

In 1863, the **Union League Club** of New York was formed as a Republican club to support the Union during the American Civil War. The Club was involved with forming and outfitting African-American military units during the war. The 26th Regiment United States Colored Troops, also called the 26th Regiment New York Infantry (Colored) was an African American combat unit. The unit drew African-Americans from throughout the state and country and was organized in February 1864. The Union League club formed three such regiments, which were all deployed in the South. The Union League Club moved to its current location at 38 East 37th Street (Park Avenue) in Murray Hill in 1931.

In 1872, **Victoria Woodhull**, a Murray Hill resident, formed the Equal Rights Party and ran for President (women couldn't vote at that time). Woodhull nominated prominent African-American reformer and orator Frederick Douglass as her running mate, without his permission. Douglass never acknowledged that he had been nominated, and remained a loyal Republican, backing Ulysses

S. Grant for a second term. Grant was a Civil War military hero, and as president, he advanced the rights of freed African Americans, supporting several Civil Rights acts during the Reconstruction. Grant won a second term by a large margin. Learn more about [Frederick Douglass](#).

Grant Monument Association. On March 3, 1885, President Chester A. Arthur nominated Grant as (four-star) General on the retired list; Grant died later that year. At the time of his death Grant was the most popular man in America, credited with winning the Civil War and saving the Union. Immediately following the death of Ulysses S. Grant, New York City Mayor, William Russell Grace sent a telegram to Grant's widow Julia, offering New York City as the burial ground for both Grant and Julia. W.R. Grace was a businessman, founder of the W.R. Grace Company, twice the Mayor of New York City from 1881-82 and 1885-86, and Murray Hill Resident at [31 East 38th Street](#) from 1880 – 1893. On the [Grant Monument Association board](#) were President Chester A. Arthur, chairman, Grant's Secretary of State Hamilton Fish and NYC Mayor W. R. Grace, vice chairmen, J.P. Morgan, Treasurer, and **Richard Theodore Greener**, an African-American, as secretary.

Richard Theodore Greener (1844-1922) was the first African American to graduate from Harvard College. Greener briefly took a job as associate editor of *The New National Era* in April 1873, working under editor Frederick Douglass. Later that year he became the first African-American professor at the University of South Carolina. At the University of SC, he also served as a librarian helping to reorganize and catalog the library's holdings which were in disarray after the Civil War. He wrote a monograph on the rare books of the library. Greener graduated from the law school at the University of South Carolina and was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of South Carolina in 1876. In June 1877, following the end of Reconstruction in South Carolina, the University was closed,

Reconstruction was the period (1865–1877) during which the states that had seceded to the Confederacy were controlled by the federal government before being readmitted to the Union.

and Greener moved to Washington D.C. where he was admitted to the Bar of the District of Columbia. He took a position as a professor at Howard University Law School and served as dean from 1878 to 1880. During that time, he also worked on several famous legal cases. From 1880 until February 28, 1882, Greener served as a law clerk of the Comptroller of the United States Treasury. In 1883, Greener and Frederick Douglass debated on what political path African-Americans should take. Greener and the rising generation of black leaders advocated moving away from political parties and white allies. They questioned Douglass's loyalty to the Republican party, which allowed Jim Crow laws in the South to reverse advances made by African Americans during the Reconstruction. From 1885 to 1892, Greener served as secretary of the Grant Monument Association. He is credited with having led the initial fundraising effort that eventually brought in donations from 90,000 people worldwide to construct Grant's Tomb. During that time he was also chief examiner of the civil service board for New York City and County. His connection with Murray Hill is his association with many prominent Murray Hill residents. [Learn more about Richard Greener](#).

Belle da Costa Greene (1879-1950) was the first Director of The Morgan Library & Museum, and held that position from 1924-1948. Belle was born in Washington, D.C. as Belle Marion Greener. Her father was Richard Theodore Greener, and her mother was Genevieve Ida Fleet, a music teacher and member of a well-known African-American family in Washington, D.C. Her parents separated, and Belle's mother moved to New York City with Belle and her siblings. At that time they changed their names and began to self-identify as white. Belle began working at the Princeton University Library, where she learned cataloguing and referencing and developed a knowledge of rare books. She

met Junius Spencer Morgan II while working at the Princeton library; he later introduced her to his financier uncle J.P. Morgan. Morgan hired Belle in 1905 to organize and catalogue his collection. They shared the goal of wanting to build a pre-eminent collection. By 1908, Morgan had given her authority to spend millions of dollars, she became known for her astute bargaining prowess as well as for her expertise, and she played an active role in building the collection by traveling to Europe to purchase rare books and art objects. She made a very good salary for the time, of \$10,000 per year (equivalent to \$250K today). Morgan died in 1913, stipulating in his will that she should continue working for the library, and he also left her \$50,000 (equivalent to \$1.4 million today). In 1924, when the library transitioned from a personal collection to a public institution, she was named director of the Pierpont Morgan Library and worked there until she retired in 1948. Belle launched The Morgan Library's program of exhibitions and public programming that exists to this day. In recognition of her professional stature, Belle was one of the first women named as a fellow of the Mediaeval Academy of America and was a fellow in perpetuity with the Metropolitan Museum of Art. [Learn more.](#)

Murray Hill in Midtown Manhattan, a place for protests



Black Lives Matter protest on Lexington Avenue, summer of 2020

[The Silent Parade of 1917: Why the Forgotten March Matters](#)

June 20, 2019, *blackexcellence.com*, BExcellence Team

On July 28th, 1917, NAACP organized the Silent March down Fifth Avenue, New York, that included about 10,000 Black men, women, and children. The protesters marched behind a row of drummers and carried banners calling for justice and equal rights. The only sound heard was the sound of muffled drums. [Flyers read: We march because we are thoroughly opposed to Jim-Crow Cars [segregated railway cars], Segregation, Discrimination, Disfranchisement, Lynching, and the host of evils that are forced on us.]...The parade also had a dress code that created a scene of unity. Kids led the protest and were dressed in white. They were followed by women, who were also dressed in white. Men wore dark suits and followed at the rear.



The Silent Parade of 1917 passing 42nd Street and 5th Avenue, courtesy of blackexcellence.com

The Equal Rights Amendment

(opinion) [Why Can't We Make Women's Equality the Law of the Land?](#)

January 28, 2022, *nytimes.com*, by Jesse Wegman

[T]here's a good chance you didn't realize that the United States Constitution grew 58 words longer this week. Those words, which begin, "***Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex,***" are the text of the Equal Rights Amendment. Section 3 of the amendment states that it takes effect two years after its ratification, which happened on Jan. 27, 2020, when Virginia became the 38th state to sign on. By its own terms, then, the 28th Amendment went into force on Thursday. American women are, at long last, equal to men in the eyes of the law...Or maybe not...New printings of the Constitution will not include a 28th Amendment. The Supreme Court will not treat it as part of the nation's fundamental law...The argument that the E.R.A. is now the law of the land is straightforward and compelling. Under the explicit terms of Article V of the Constitution, an amendment "shall be valid to all intents and purposes" when two-thirds of both houses of Congress approve it, followed by three-quarters of the states. The E.R.A. easily passed Congress in the early 1970s, and it has been ratified by 38 states, or just over three-quarters of 50..."The Constitution is clear: You need to do two things. We did it," Representative Carolyn Maloney of New York, a longtime E.R.A. proponent, told me. Indeed, no amendment that has cleared Article V's two high bars has ever been excluded from the Constitution — until now. The technical reason for this is that the archivist of the United States, David Ferriero,

has declined to certify the Equal Rights Amendment...His refusal is based on a 2020 memo by the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel, which provides legal advice to the executive branch. The memo contended that the E.R.A. is no longer valid because it failed to meet the seven-year deadline that Congress initially set and then, when the ratification effort fell three states short, extended until 1982...The O.L.C. memo also noted that five states that approved the amendment later tried to back out by rescinding their ratifications...As a result of the missed deadline, the memo said, the E.R.A. "has expired and is no longer pending before the states." If its supporters want it ratified, they need to start over....The supporters' retort: The Constitution says not a word about either deadlines or rescissions. It says two-thirds of Congress and three-quarters of the states, nothing more...Take the legal questions first. Does Congress have the power to set a time limit for ratification? ..."Why is this so difficult?" Representative Maloney asked of the long struggle to pass the E.R.A., the first version of which was introduced nearly 100 years ago...The quick answer: abortion...That is why widespread public support in the present day is key. "Until the world is clamoring for this, the world will do nothing".

Related: Carolyn Maloney's Weekly Update email of October 22, 2021: It's Time to Pass the ERA

Rep. Maloney held an Oversight Committee hearing to explore the current status of the ERA and examine the final steps necessary to certify and publish it as an amendment to the Constitution. Ahead of this hearing, she sent letters to President Biden and Vice President Harris, as well as Archivist of the United States David Ferriero, calling for the withdrawal of a faulty legal memo from the prior Administration blocking action on the ERA, and for the Archivist to certify and publish the ERA as the 28th Amendment to the Constitution. She has introduced ERA resolutions 13 times during her career in Congress, and is committed to seeing this Amendment adopted as part of our Constitution now. Read her letters oversight.house.gov/news/press-releases/ahead-of-hearing-on-equal-rights-amendment-chairwoman-maloney-urges-archivist.

Related: Carolyn Maloney's Weekly Update email of January 28, 2021

This week, we commemorated the two-year anniversary of Virginia becoming the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, the final step that was needed to finally add the ERA to the U.S. Constitution. I used this monumental anniversary to reignite this fight and I'm urging the Archivist to certify the final states & publish this critical amendment-- officially recognizing women's equality is the law! ...Thursday January 27, 2022 marked two years since Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) – the 29th amendment to the United States Constitution. The ERA has been ratified by 38 states, completed the required waiting period, and met all constitutional requirements for ratification. It should be added to the Constitution immediately. Following my request, the Biden Administration's Justice Department has now revisited a flawed Trump-era legal memo that tried to block recognition of the ERA's ratification. The Justice Department's new analysis acknowledges serious weaknesses in the Trump-era memo and clarifies that Congress—not the executive branch—is in control of amending the Constitution. I also joined Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA) to unveil a resolution recognizing that the ERA has met all legal requirements to be recognized as the 29th Amendment to the Constitution. The Equal Rights Amendment has been nearly one hundred years in the making and would ensure that all people who face discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual violence, workplace harassment, pregnancy discrimination, and unequal pay are finally given full and equal standing under the law.

How you can help

Nationwide Blood Shortage

The need for blood has never been higher. If you would like to donate blood, you can schedule an appointment with the New York Blood Center at nybc.org/donate-blood/my-landing-page. Two locations in the neighborhood:

Grand Central Donor Center, Chanin Building, 115 East 41st Street, 800-933-2566.

NYPD 13th Precinct (mobile blood donor center), 230 East 21st Street, 212-477-7411.

March 1 5pm (application deadline)

Join a Community Board! The 2022 application is now open

Community Boards are the voices of their communities—the most grass-roots form of local government. The Boards are pivotal in shaping their communities and work to enhance and preserve the charter of the city’s many unique neighborhoods. Community Boards are composed of 50 volunteer members serving staggered two-year terms—thus, 25 members are appointed (or reappointed) each year. Learn more and apply at

manhattancommunityboards.wufoo.com/forms/p2a2s130qjma1g.

Council Member Keith Powers (Council District 4) is seeking your input for this year’s budget season

Council members are beginning another budgeting cycle in New York City. This year, Keith Powers’ office is soliciting ideas from constituents for projects our community wants to be funded. District 4 constituents can propose a capital project, which requires a minimum budget of \$50,000, for something that a City agency can build or improve in the district that will last for an extended period of time. Consider submitting ideas to improve our community’s parks, schools, libraries, and more. Once a constituent proposes a project idea, the council member’s staff will check with City agencies to see whether it is feasible to fund. If so, then CM Powers will designate funding to that agency for the capital project. If not, my staff will be happy to work with anyone to figure how we can solve the problem at hand. To submit a project, please [fill out this form](#).

Join a Murray Hill Neighborhood Association committee

[Learn more about MHNA committees](#). If you are interested in joining a committee email info@murrayhillnyc.org.

Surveys

Broadband Availability Survey

The New York State Department of Public Service is circulating a survey to collect data on broadband availability, reliability, and cost throughout the state. This survey is designed to assist the Department in the reporting and mapping effort required under the Comprehensive Broadband Connectivity Act that was enacted in May of 2021. Please help the State gather this important information by completing the survey at empirestatebroadband.com.

NYC Speaks

Shape the future of your city alongside thousands of fellow New Yorkers
Last chance to take the survey at nycspeaks.org. This is Mayor Adams's survey to amplify the voices of New Yorkers, strengthen neighborhoods, make good on the promise of democracy.

Traffic & transportation advisory

The M15 Bus Stop at First Avenue and 31st Street will be moving temporarily

To allow for construction at NYU Langone, the M15 bus stop at First Avenue and 31st Street will be moved for the duration of the project, which is expected to last 2 1/2 years. The temporary bus stop will be located at the pedestrian island near the entrance to NYU Langone's Main Lobby (at the crosswalk north of 1st Avenue and 31st Street). The construction will begin at the end of January or beginning of February 2022.

Kudos!

Met Council - Manhattan Fulfillment Center and Food Pantry

171 Lexington Avenue (between 30th & 31st Street), New York, NY 10016, metcouncil.org. The Met Council Manhattan Fulfillment Center provides free monthly groceries to anyone in need of food, while recognizing the importance of providing culturally competent food for kosher and halal communities. Once enrolled, you can place your order online and book an appointment for pickup at the Manhattan Fulfillment Center. Clients select from a range of kosher food, including fresh protein and dairy products, fresh produce, and shelf stable pantry staples. Open pantry hours are between 1 – 3pm on Wednesday afternoons, by appointment only. Please call the pantry at 917-841-1250 or email fulfillmentcenter@metcouncil.org to enroll. With their online ordering system, you can order your monthly food order remotely and they will prepare it in advance of pickup. Met Council is America's largest Jewish charity dedicated to serving the needy. In the fight against poverty, they serve immigrants, seniors living on fixed incomes, the un- and underemployed and anyone else in

need. An organization founded on Jewish values, they serve everyone with dignity and empathy, regardless of race, ethnicity or religion, using a strengths based approach that empowers their clients to confront their crises. Caseworkers conduct a thorough assessment with the client to create an effective intervention plan and develop a resolution. They maintain a “no wrong door” policy, serving all of a client’s needs, regardless of the point of entry to Met Council. This holistic approach addresses both immediate and lasting needs in a client’s fight against poverty.



Amuneal x Empire State Building

You may know Amuneal for their bespoke brass shelving, custom metal kitchens, finely tuned bar cabinetry, and their attention to even the smallest details on display in their 13th floor showroom at 200 Lex (The New York Design Center). You might not know that you can see their finely crafted handiwork on a much larger scale at the one and only Empire State Building. In 2017, Empire State Realty Trust made plans to relocate the visitor entrance into the Empire State Building and create a compelling and interactive experience for the nearly 5,000,000 visitors each year. Amuneal was chosen by Architect, Corgan; Contractor, Skanska USA; exhibition designer, Thinc Design, as well as Empire State Realty Trust to partner with the team to create an entryway staircase worthy of the landmark location...The highly detailed feature was designed to be durable enough to handle the millions of annual visitors while celebrating the strength and design details on display in the 1931 Art Deco Skyscraper. You can visit the Amuneal showroom on the 13th floor of 200 Lex in Suite 1314 (for the trade). Source: The New York Design Center (200 Lex), 200 Lexington Ave. New York, NY 10016, Phone 212-679-9500, nydc.com. You can see the stairway and observatory at the Empire State Building, 5th Avenue at 34th Street.

Special offers and news from our neighborhood businesses

Docks is offering 20% off delivery and take-out through February 27

Use code **winter** (the code is case-sensitive). Order online at app.docksoysterbar.menu/docksdelivery. Docks is located at 633 3rd Avenue, 212-986-8080, docksoysterbar.com.

Enjoy 35% off during Astro Gallery of Gems Valentine's Day Sale!

Check out Astro Gallery's incredible assortment of hearts for that special someone or find unique Natural History gift ideas from Astro Gallery of Gems. Use promo code "CUPID35" at checkout to SAVE. astrogallery.com.

Galleria On Third wishes you a very Happy Valentine's Day. A big thanks to all for your immense love and support. In this season of love, we are here to help the community. We are offering a sale on selected artworks (Limited Edition: 10 pieces available; 8"x10", signed by the artist (Shadin Hossain), custom made with high-quality Roma Moulding frames). Those who are willing to support us can purchase artworks at a reasonable price while helping us in making contributions to a humanitarian cause. Fifty percent of the proceeds of the selected artworks sold will be donated to the New York Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. View the collection galleriaonthird.com/shop/nyc-limited-edition. Galleria on Third, 529 Third Avenue (35th - 36th Street), 212-683-2886, galleriaonthird.com. Call before you go to the store to ensure that someone is there.

Wattle Cafe is now offering delivery on direct orders

Wattle Cafe is excited to announce both pickup and delivery are now available for orders placed directly on their website. Once you have chosen which store is closer to where you are, just select "Delivery" at checkout to have your order delivered to your location. Ordering directly through them, instead of using third-party apps or marketplaces, helps support them so they can keep serving you! ORDER ONLINE wattlecafe.com. Not Sure What to get that Special Someone? Why not buy them a Wattle eGift Card! Wattle Café, 519 3rd Avenue (between 34th & 35th Street), 646-490-5020.

Pandemic updates

Covid-19 rate of transmission for Murray Hill and surrounding areas (zip codes 10016, 10017) is **high**. The virus is considered controlled when neighborhoods have a high test rate, low percent positivity and low case rate. We are not there yet. The data is from the NYC Department of Health website COVID-19 tracker www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data.page. Data taken on **February 5, 2022**.

Updated MTA (State-Run) Testing Sites - COVID-19 PCR Testing at MTA Subway Station Pop-Up

At this time, walk-in PCR COVID-19 testing is available 7 days a week at the following locations:

Time Square-42nd Street subway station, Monday-Sunday, 8am – 2pm

Grand Central Terminal, Monday-Sunday, 3pm – 8pm

Penn Station, West End Concourse, Monday-Sunday, 3pm – 8pm

[Source: State Senator Liz Krueger’s weekly email of February 3, 2022]

Free home delivery of Covid therapeutics

The Mayor announced over the weekend that free home delivery of prescribed therapeutics Paxlovid (manufactured by Pfizer) and Molnupiravir (manufactured by Merck) will be available for eligible NYC residents for treatment of COVID-19. Eligibility criteria include individuals who:

- Are age 12 or above
- Have tested positive for COVID-19
- Have experienced symptoms for 5 days or less
- Are at risk for severe illness from COVID-19

If you believe that you are eligible, you can contact your health care provider to discuss being prescribed the medication. If you do not have a health care provider, you can click this link to Virtual ExpressCare ondemand.expresscare.video/landing for a phone or video visit, or call 212-COVID19 (212-268-4319) and press 9. Learn more www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-providers-treatments.page#refer. **IMPORTANT:** If you are approved for free home delivery of therapeutics, you will receive a call or text message from Alto Pharmacy and you must respond to schedule the delivery.

Updated Child Care Program Quarantine and Isolation Guidance

[Source: State Senator Liz Krueger’s weekly email of February 3, 2022]

The NYC Health Department has issued updated guidance. Children who attend a NYC child care program may now return to the program when all of the following are met:

- It is after Day 5 (where Day 1 is the day after their last close contact).
 - They have no COVID-19 symptoms.
 - They test negative for COVID-19 on Day 5 or later (if using at-home tests, they must take two tests at least 24 hours apart on days 4 and 5 or later).
 - They are able to consistently wear a well-fitting mask.
-

See the Health Department guidance document for complete details
www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/covid/exclusion-guidance-child-care.pdf.

COVID-19: What to Do When Sick www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-symptoms-chronic-health-risks.page.

Each household in the U.S. can now have four free COVID-19 at-home tests shipped directly to their home at no cost! Order them online at covidtests.gov. You only need to provide your contact information and mailing address. Or you can call the federal government's vaccine hotline to place an order by phone at 1-800-232-0233.

Omicron Subvariant BA.2 Is Gaining Ground

Bloomberg Prognosis email of February 5, 2022, *bloombergbusiness.com*

Two years into the pandemic, a mutated version of the omicron variant, known as BA.2, has become the latest challenge to taming Covid-19. The subvariant, detected in at least 57 countries, appears to spread even more easily than the original. But so far it doesn't seem to cause more severe disease and booster shots remain an effective shield.

Related: Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports that there are four lineages designated as Omicron: B.1.1.529, BA.1, BA.2, and BA.3. Currently, the BA.1 lineage is predominant in the United States. CDC weighted estimates for the week ending January 15 indicate the proportion of BA.2 in the United States is less than 1%; however, the proportion of BA.2 has been steadily increasing. Source: cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/covidview

Federal student loan forgiveness program fulfills an elusive promise: To erase debts

January 27, 2022, *nbcnews.com*, by Chelsea Stahl

The Biden administration in October began relaxing stringent rules around Public Service Loan Forgiveness, which launched in 2007 to help teachers, health care workers, military members and other public servants earn debt relief on their federal loans. As of last week, more than 70,000 borrowers qualified for debt forgiveness, amounting to about \$5 billion in relief, the Department of Education said.

Governor Hochul Announces New Resources to Aid Workers with Long-Haul COVID-19 Workers' Compensation Claims

Those with a work-related injury or illness have two years from the date of becoming injured or ill to file a workers' compensation claim, so the deadline is approaching for workers who contracted COVID-19 due to their employment in the early days of the pandemic. Filing a claim is important because workers' compensation benefits in an established claim include lifetime medical care for the treatment of the work-related injury or illness. Even workers who have had a good outcome after COVID-19 can file a claim to protect their future rights to these medical benefits, should they ever need them. Workers should know that while not all claims will be accepted, there is no risk or harm in filing a claim, even if it ends up getting denied.

Informational webinars (links to register at governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-new-resources-aid-workers-long-haul-covid-19-workers-compensation).

February 23 12 - 1pm

March 9 12 - 1pm

April 13 12 - 1pm



Insurance Coverage for At-Home Rapid Tests

The Biden-Harris Administration announced that effective January 15, private insurance companies are required to cover over-the-counter, at-home COVID-19 rapid tests that are authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The following are some of the key details, and please review this CMS FAQ sheet: "How to get your At-Home Over-The-Counter COVID-19 Test for Free" for more complete information. Important: Before purchasing any at-home rapid tests for reimbursement, please call your health insurance provider to verify that it is offering this benefit. Private insurance plans are required to cover 8 individual at-home over-the-counter COVID-19 tests per month for each individual on the plan. That means a family of four can get 32 tests per month for free. The test will either be free directly at the point of sale, if your health plan provides for direct coverage, or by reimbursement if you are charged for your test. Be sure to keep your receipt if you need to submit a claim to your insurance company for reimbursement. Learn more at

[cms.gov/files/document/11022-faqs-otc-testing-guidance.pdf](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/11022-faqs-otc-testing-guidance.pdf) and at [cms.gov/how-to-get-your-at-home-OTC-COVID-19-test-for-free](https://www.cms.gov/how-to-get-your-at-home-OTC-COVID-19-test-for-free).

A couple of neighborhood locations for rapid testing, found on the NY State testing search tool coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you. You can search for your zip code on this page. Be sure to ask whether there is a charge for the testing and if they accept your insurance.

Healthsource Pharmacy II, 120 East 34th Street, New York, NY 10016, 212-481-6600, Rapid Testing Results in 0-60 Minutes, Appointment Required, Antibody testing icon Testing Available for Children 3+ Years Old. Book convenient, safe, and secure testing at myrx.io from your mobile device or prescriptive.com/individual-myrx-io. FDA authorized testing from your local trusted clinician.

Midtown New York Doctors Walk-In Urgent Care, 205 Lexington Ave, New York, NY 10016, 212-684-4700. Rapid Testing Results in 15 Minutes.

In-Home Testing for Immunocompromised New Yorkers and Those Ages 65 and Older

Those who are 65 and older or are immunocompromised can schedule a free at-home COVID test. You can find more information about the program at nychealthandhospitals.org/pressrelease/nyc-test-trace-announces-at-home-testing-for-immunocompromised-and-those-ages-65. According to the website, appointments for at-home testing are available seven days per week, from 9am – 7pm. New Yorkers may schedule an appointment by calling 929-298-9400. Please answer your phone if you make an appointment. Testers will want to confirm the appointment, and their phone number may not indicate that they are testers calling. One MHNA member told us that he had to be very persistent to get the appointment and PCR test results.

More Covid-19 information for Murray Hill (zip codes 10016, 10017) towards the bottom of this newsletter.

For businesses and nonprofits

Get noticed in the MCC Small Business Shopping Guides

The Manhattan Chamber of Commerce Foundation, with support from Wells Fargo, is announcing an initiative to help small businesses reach out to a larger group of potential customers. Local

businesses can submit information about a discount offer or special product they want highlighted in one of Manhattan Chamber's **Small Business Digital Shopping Guides**. [Sign up for this free offer](#). Below are the five guidebooks to be distributed in 2022 and the deadlines to submit your information:

Black History Month (February): Highlight Black-owned businesses in New York City. Deadline for submission: **February 11**.

Women's History Month (March): Highlight woman-owned businesses in New York. Deadline for submission: **March 11**.

Pride Month (June): Highlight LGBT-owned businesses in New York. Deadline for submission: **June 10**.

Hispanic Heritage Month (September): Highlight Latinx-owned businesses in New York City. Deadline for submission: **September 16**.

Small Business Saturday/Holiday Guide (November): Highlight small businesses located throughout New York City with a special section to showcase legacy businesses that have been here for 50 years or more. Deadline for submission: **November 4**.

February 8 2pm

(virtual) COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program

\$800MM in grant funding is now available for eligible NY small businesses. Learn more about the NYS Small Business Recovery Grant Program at this compelling webinar! [Learn more and register](#).

February 9 (deadline to apply)

Women of Color Grant Program

New York Women's Chamber of Commerce, the Fearless Fund and The Tory Burch Foundation, along with The Cru. Together they have partnered to launch the Women of Color Grant Program. They will award up to 150 deserving small businesses \$10,000- \$20,000. Apply at fearless.fund/tory-burch-foundation.

February 10 1pm

(webinar for small business owners) The 7 Secrets to Mastering Your Sales Pitch

Most sales pitches fail in the first meeting, but even worse, they absolutely collapse when your audience tries to "re-tell" your message to other key decision makers at the vital "second meeting." You must engineer your communication in a way that will make it more robust and memorable in the first meeting and allow it to survive the "re-tellability test." WHAT YOU WILL LEARN: How to transform your sales and marketing messaging from complex and sender-oriented, to simple, memorable, and easily "re-tellable." How to frame your message using a small number of powerful ideas that will allow your value proposition to really take hold in your audiences'/customers' brains. How to use improved messaging to drastically shorten sales cycle times, increase sales close rates, and ensure that your value proposition is consistently delivered, regardless of channel or medium.

Presenter: Tim Pollard. Presented by SCORE. (free) Register at readytalk.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1521761&tp_key=b15d90c773.

February 17 1pm

(virtual) IRS Small Business Workshops, Northeast Area: CT, MA, VT, NH, ME, NJ, NY, RI

The IRS is hosting Zoom meetings for small business organizations and owners in February and March, especially those that conduct business in languages other than English. These 2-hour events will include presentations from IRS leadership covering the top tax issues affecting small business owners regarding income, deductions, employment taxes and recordkeeping. Additional topics: getting ready for the 2022 filing season, tax scams targeting small businesses and how the IRS is reorganizing to better serve small business taxpayers. These events will include a listening session to hear your concerns, feedback and suggestions. How can the IRS improve your experience as a small business owner? Learn more and see full schedule of all workshops at irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/webinars-for-small-businesses

The Manhattan Chamber of Commerce releases resource guide on small business grants

The MCC released a resource guide outlining the eligibility requirements for various grants currently available for small businesses. In addition, small businesses may book a free one-on-one consultation with the Chamber's Grant Specialist, Mo Luan, to learn more about these grants and receive help with the application processes. These on-line appointments can be made on a first come, first-served basis. [Learn more](#)

Deliveristas

New rights give deliveristas more transparency about their wages and control over their deliveries. Know-your-rights guides for delivery workers in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Bengali. Learn more at the NYC Consumer and Worker Protection webpage www1.nyc.gov/site/dca/workers/worker-rights.page.

For Buildings

Co-ops Excluded From Rental Regulations, Finally

January 26, 2022, *cooperatornews.com*, by A.J. Sidransky

Fees, Escrow, & Other Tools Back in Boards' Toolbox...Back in the fall of 2019, the New York State Legislature passed a new and stringent law meant to protect and defend the rights of rental tenants. Because co-op boards technically fall under the legal umbrella of 'landlord', they were

subject to many of the new law's restrictions and requirements...On December 22, 2021...Governor Kathy Hochul amended the law to make exceptions for co-ops...The issue with the tenant law was rooted in the unique ownership structure of a residential co-op. Unlike single-family home and condominium unit owners, co-op owners are shareholders in a corporation that owns their building - not outright owners of real property...most importantly, co-op boards can once again condition their approval of a purchase on the posting of a maintenance escrow. Maintenance escrows have been a common tool for ensuring the financial health of co-ops for decades...The other changes eliminate requirements and restrictions on late fees and other charges, re-establish long standing co-op community management methods, such as board discretion in setting application fees, reasonable late fees...the ability to collect fees and charges in non-payment default cases, and notifications of delinquency consistent with the terms of their proprietary lease.

Transportation & travel

[MTA launches Online Application for Reduced Fare Metrocards](#)

Seniors and people with qualifying disabilities can now apply online for reduced subway and bus fare metrocards at reducedfare.mta.info. The reduced fare is half the base fare. The base fare for subways and local buses is \$2.75, so the reduced fare is \$1.35. Reduced fares can be used on the subway and on local buses at any time. On express buses and commuter railroads, reduced fares are eligible any time excluding rush hour. To learn more about reduced fares, visit new.mta.info/fares/reduced-fare.

[MTA 'tap-and-go' OMNY fare rollout is over budget and behind schedule](#)

January 24, 2022, *nypost.com*, by David Meyer

The MTA's OMNY tap-and-go fare system is millions of dollars over budget and 15 months behind schedule, transit officials conceded on Monday. The project cost spiked from \$591 million last June to \$772 million, the MTA said. As a result, vending machines and single-ride OMNY tickets will not begin installation until September — eight months behind schedule, MTA new fare payment systems director Amy Linden told board members...Under the new schedule, OMNY rollout will wrap up on buses and subways in the first quarter of 2024.

[MTA spends more to run transit in NYC than other global cities](#)

January 23, 2022, *nydailynews.com*, by Clayton Guse

New York spends more to run its mass transit than nearly any other city in the world, according to a report published by the MTA last month. The report — mandated by state lawmakers in 2019 — compares how much the Metropolitan Transportation Authority spends to run trains and buses against other transit agencies across the globe, including systems in Taiwan, Paris and London...“We have to make progress and are focused on specific opportunities for improvement, including addressing longstanding declines in employee availability rates and sharp increases in

health care costs and workers' compensation claims and payouts," said MTA spokesman Tim Minton.

Job opportunities, volunteering and internships

February 14 10am

(virtual information session) NYC Civil Service is hiring

Information session about the City of New York's career opportunities and pathways for growth. Learn to navigate the exam process and determine which exam(s) you should take. Register at us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CfHKySU2ReqVEM7BJFnsIq. If you require a reasonable accommodation, please contact Maricela Brea at mbrea@mopd.nyc.gov by close of business on Friday, February 4, 2022.

Internships at The New York Times

There has never been a more exciting time to work at The New York Times Company. The 10-week, paid program takes place at NYT Co. headquarters in New York City. As an intern, you will have the opportunity to help New York Times consumers better understand the world. You will work closely with teams—including Technology, Advertising, Marketing, Product and Design, and Data—attend sessions with leaders from across the organization and more importantly, make a significant contribution to NYT products. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. View openings and apply at nytimes.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/Intern-Biz.

March 4 (application deadline)

Discovery Communications, Digital Distribution & Strategy Internship (Hybrid)

The Distribution team are the team negotiating with companies for carriage of apps, networks, and shows. Working in this group exposes you to new things every day, a fast-paced environment, and a unique opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes look at the scale of the media industry. In close collaboration with many teams, the Distribution team represents roughly half of Discovery's overall revenue and is a key driver in the future growth of the company. The Digital Distribution group works closely with the biggest companies in the world (Apple, Amazon, Google, etc.) to evolve the way people consume television and movies. An intern will be exposed to every aspect of the media industry, including: conducting market research & analysis to track and compile industry trends; maintain an understanding of the competitive marketplace (e.g., positioning of other networks and services), brainstorm creative ideas to help gain more eyeballs on Discovery's shows and brands. This opportunity is hybrid position located in New York City. Interns will be expected to come into

their designated office location about 3 times a week. The application deadline for Summer 2022 is Friday, March, 4th. Learn more and apply at jobs.discovery.com/careers-home/jobs/31440.

Upcoming events

Budget Season in New York

[Source: State Senator Liz Krueger's weekly email of February 3, 2022]

The NYS Senate and Assembly are in the midst of holding Joint Budget Hearings on the Governor's Executive Budget proposal. Below is the schedule of upcoming budget hearings. If you are interested in listening to any of the budget hearings, they are livestreamed and recordings of the hearings are posted on the NYS Senate website. To view the livestream or a recording, please go to the New York State Budget web page nysenate.gov/new-york-state-budget and click on the Public Hearings tab. Click on a hearing name and you will be taken to the hearing web page, where you will find the livestream or video, list of individuals and groups providing testimony, and written testimony.

Public testimony is welcome. If you want to submit a request to provide testimony during a hearing, please go to the 2022 Joint Legislative Budget Hearing Witness Request web page nysenate.gov/webforms/2022-joint-legislative-budget-hearing-witness-request for additional information and deadlines. Please note that we are receiving many requests to testify at each budget hearing; even if you are unable to testify in person, you can still submit written testimony.

February 7 11am Higher Education

February 8 9:30am Health/Medicaid

February 9 9:30am Local Government Officials/General Government

February 14 11am Mental Hygiene

February 15 9:30am Transportation

February 16 9:30am Economic Development

February 16 1pm Taxes

These hearings have already been held:

Public Protection

Elementary & Secondary Education

Workforce Development

Housing

Environmental Conservation

Human Services

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays 6am - 6:45am

Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays 7am - 7:45am

Hone Your Skills at Early Morning [Freestyle Skate at Bryant Park](#)

Sometimes you just want a quiet piece of open ice to practice that new move or gain a little confidence on your own two skates. The Rink recently expanded its early morning Freestyle Sessions to four days per week, with 6am-6:45am slots on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, and 7am-7:45am sessions on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. More information on

how to schedule your slot is available at bryantpark.org/?/amenities/bank-of-america-winter-village-at-bryant-park.

February 7 7pm

(virtual) Manhattan Community Board 6 Transportation Committee Meeting

Agenda: Application from HJ Opco, LLC for an Inter-City Bus Stop at 340 Lexington Avenue between 39th and 40th Streets, Review of Manhattan Community Board Six's street co-naming process, Continued discussion of pedestrianizing the Grand Central Terminal area, Report from the NYC Department of Transportation, and more. Register at zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bmUOoTfuS9WHR27c37Uymw.



Photo by Jane Kratochvil

February 8 and 9 8am - 12pm

(in person) Bryant Park Throw and Go Curling Clinic

Learn to throw, sweep, and score, a quick how-to Curling lesson for beginners. Brooklyn Curling will show you how to push off from the hack, throw a stone, sweep the lane, and keep score. Note - this free mini-clinic is the real deal, on the ice rink! Pre-registration is encouraged at bryantpark.org/programs/throw-and-go-curling-clinic.

at the skating rink in Bryant Park

(between 5th & 6th Avenue, and between 40th and 42nd Street)

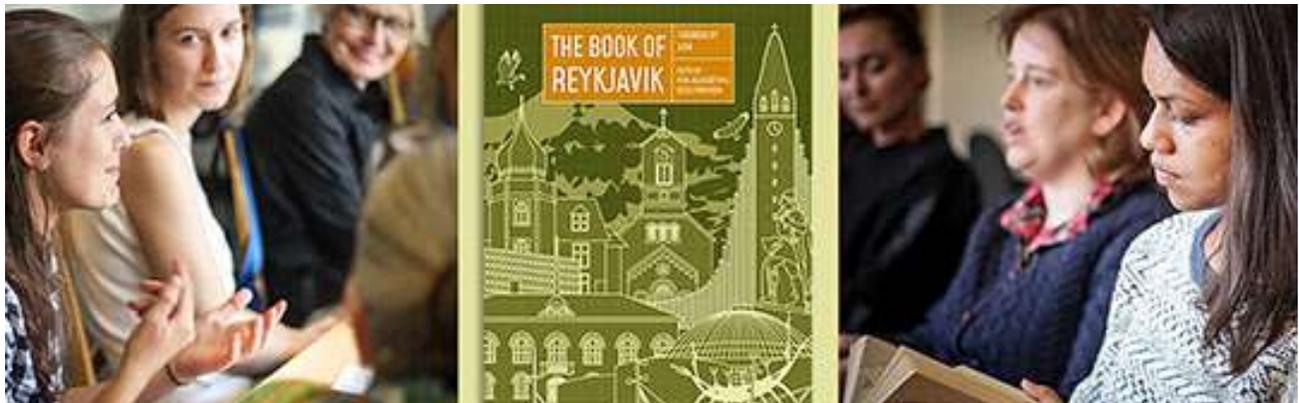
February 8 10am

(virtual) Public hearing on making the city's Open Restaurants program (outdoor dining) permanent

The NYC Council Committee on Consumer & Worker Protection and Subcommittee on Zoning & Franchises is hosting a public hearing on making the city's Open Restaurants program (outdoor dining) permanent. Register to testify at council.nyc.gov/testify (you can testify in person, online, or you can email it directly to testimony@council.nyc.gov). Written testimony will be accepted up to 72 hours after the hearing has been adjourned. Watch the livestream at council.nyc.gov/live. New York City Council's Committee on Consumer and Worker Protection, chaired by Council Member Marjorie Velázquez, and the Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises, chaired by Council Member Kevin Riley, will hold a remote public hearing on the following items in relation to establishing a permanent outdoor dining program in New York City:

Preconsidered Introduction - By Council Member Velázquez (by request of the Mayor) - A Local Law to amend the New York city charter and the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to granting licenses and revocable consents for sidewalk cafes and roadway cafes, to repeal subchapter 6 of chapter 2 of title 20 of such administrative code, relating to granting licenses and revocable consents for sidewalk cafes, to amend section 2 of local law number 114 for the year 2020, relating to the establishment of a permanent outdoor dining program, in relation to the commencement of such program, and to amend section 1 of local law number 77 for the year 2020, relating to establishing a temporary outdoor dining program, in relation to the expiration of such program.

Preconsidered Land Use Application - Application No. N 210434 ZRY (Open Restaurants Text Amendment) submitted by the New York City Department of Transportation and the New York City Department of City Planning, pursuant to Section 201 of the New York City Charter, for an amendment of the Zoning Resolution of the City of New York, removing Article I, Chapter 4 (Sidewalk Cafe Regulations) and modifying related Sections, Citywide.



February 8 6pm

(virtual) Nordic Book Club: The Book of Reykjavik: A City in Short Fiction, an anthology edited by Becca Parkinson & Vera Juliusdottir

(free) Featuring stories by Friðgeir Einarsson, Kristín Eiríksdóttir, Þórarinn Eldjárn, Einar Már Guðmundsson, Björn Halldórsson, Fríða Ísberg, Auður Jónsdóttir, Guðrún Eva Mínervudóttir, Andri Snær Magnason & Ágúst Borgþór Sverrisson, as well as an introduction by award-winning Icelandic

author Sjórn, *The Book of Reykjavik* has been hailed as “a fine anthology of tales that illuminate the character of the city, urban identity, the complications of life, dysfunctional relationships, second beginnings, looking for love and the impressions of the past” (NB Magazine). Register at scandinaviahouse.org/events/book-of-reykjavik. Presented by Scandinavia House, 58 Park Avenue, scandinaviahouse.org.

February 9 7pm

(virtual) Antisemitism Town Hall

In the light of multiple recent anti-Semitic incidents in NYC, Council Member Julie Menin and the Simon Wiesenthal Center are convening a Town Hall on Antisemitism and Hate Crimes. In this town hall, learn from different law enforcement agencies, government departments, and nonprofits about the reporting and prevention of anti-Semitic hate crimes. Cosponsors of the event include the Office of City Council Member Julie Menin, Simon Wiesenthal Center, NYPD, NYS Attorney General's Office, and NYC Commission on Human Rights. Register at museumoftolerance.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tHWZ20f3S0iYDly8G24m3Q.

February 10 6pm

(virtual) Community Board 5 Full Board Meeting

Vikki Barbero, Chair, Nick Athanail, 1st Vice-Chair. Members of the public are encouraged to speak to the Board on a topic relevant to the CB5 community. Community topics include the Penn Station redevelopment proposal, making open restaurants permanent, etc. Speaking time is 2 min. per speaker. Register for the meeting at zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HEcK1m62Q6KQCIDVyxvMuw.



Hans Holbein the Younger (1497/98 - 1543) A Lady with a Squirrel and a Starling (Anne Lovell?) ca. 1526 - 28

Opening at The Morgan Library!

February 11 - May 15

Holbein: Capturing Character

Hans Holbein the Younger (1497/98–1543) was among the most skilled, versatile, and inventive artists of the early 1500s. He created captivating portraits of courtiers, merchants, scholars, and statesmen in Basel, Switzerland, and later in England, and served as a court painter to Tudor King Henry VIII (1491–1547). Enriched by inscriptions, insignia, and evocative attributes, his portraits comprise eloquent visual statements of personal identity and illuminate the Renaissance culture of erudition, self-fashioning, luxury, and wit. Learn more at themorgan.org/exhibitions/holbein. There are lectures and tours (virtual and in person) on aspects of the exhibition. Tickets are required for admittance to The Morgan Library (members free). Purchase tickets at themorgan.org/visit . Fridays from 5 - 7pm free themorgan.org/visit#plan.
The Morgan Library & Museum
225 Madison Avenue

February 11 6pm **rescheduled from January 21**

Metropolitan Synagogue Shabbat Services

Metropolitan Synagogue is excited to return to in-person Shabbat services with Sephardi virtuoso and singer Avram Pengas at their new location, Scandinavia House. Join them for a musically uplifting Shabbat service and a time to meet and greet friends, old and new. All are welcome and bring your friends! Please email inquiries@metropolitansynagogue.org if you will be in attendance and have any questions. Proof of vaccination required for entry. metropolitansynagogue.org.
at Scandinavia House
58 Park Avenue (between 37th & 38th Street)

through February 13

NYC Restaurant Week

Browse local restaurants in Murray Hill, Kips Bay, Midtown East, Nomad and Flatiron and make a reservation at nycgo.com/restaurant-week/?neighborhood=flatiron-district,kips-bay,midtown-east,murray-hill,nomad

NYC Broadway Week

NYC Broadway Week returns this winter with its signature deal: 2-for-1 tickets to some of the best musicals and plays on stage right now. Prefer to splurge? Opt for upgraded seats at \$125 per ticket. Browse shows and book tickets below. Book tickets at nycgo.com/broadway-week. 2-for-1 Tickets Promo Code: BWAYWK. Upgraded Tickets Promo Code: BWAYUP.

NYC Must See Week

NYC Must-See Week returns this winter with 2-for-1 tickets to many of the iconic activities right in our backyard, including attractions, museums, tours and performing arts. Browse the lineup and book tickets nycgo.com/must-see-week.

NYC Hotel Week

A new promotion offering 22% off stays at some of the city's top hotels. Browse the participating hotels at nycgo.com/nyc-hotel-week.

Important election dates

NOTE: Voters must be registered with a party to vote to nominate that party's candidate in a Primary Election. Use the *Voter Registration Form* to indicate your party when you register to vote, if you would like to change your party affiliation or to change your address. We recommend using the online forms where possible. Election rules are set by the State.

New York City Board of Elections website vote.nyc

New York State Board of Elections website elections.ny.gov

Check your voter registration status at vote.nyc/page/am-i-registered or call 1-866-868-3692.

Register to vote (Voter Registration Form) at vote.nyc/page/register-vote

Political calendar from the state Board of Elections

elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/law/2022PoliticalCalendar.pdf

NY State BOE Voting Deadlines calendar elections.ny.gov/VotingDeadlines.html.

February 14	Deadline to change party affiliation for the Primary Election (use the <i>Voter Registration Form</i> to change party)
March 1 - April 7	Petitioning period for Primary candidates
June 3	Deadline for voter registration for Primary Election
June 8	Deadline for change of address for Primary Election
June 13	Deadline to request Absentee Ballot
June 18 - 26	Early voting
June 28	Primary Election
August 4 - 10	Judicial Convention
October 14	Deadline for voter registration for General Election
October 18	Deadline for change of address for General Election
October 24	Deadline to request Absentee Ballot
October 29 - November 6	Early Voting
November 8	General Election

through February 28 Middle School applications

through March 1 High School applications

ongoing Elementary School, 3K and EarlyLearn enrollment

Kindergarten applications are now closed.

NYC Public School applications

Middle schools won't be allowed to use academic screens, but high schools can. The only screening criteria will be first semester grades from this school year and a work sample (no attendance or state test scores). The screening process will also be managed centrally, rather than by individual schools. "Sibling priority" can be requested for Middle School. High schools will be allowed to use borough and zone geographic priorities. Offers will be sent in May. Learn more at schools.nyc.gov, at schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade and at MySchools NYC myschools.nyc/en (other languages are available), by phone at 718-935-2009 or at a Family Welcome Center schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enrollment-help/family-welcome-centers. EarlyLearn is for toddlers to 2 years old and is available for eligible families. Learn more at schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/earlylearn-nyc.



through April 24

Hugh Hayden: *Brier Patch*

Artist Hugh Hayden has realized his most ambitious installation to date with a new public artwork commissioned by Madison Square Park Conservancy. Presented across four separate lawns in the park, *Brier Patch* features a total of one-hundred wooden elementary school-style desks that erupt with tree branches...with complex and layered meanings. The accumulations of desks summon the grid arrangement of classroom seating. Referencing folklore traditions around the world, the work calls on the notion of the brier patch as a place protective for some and dangerous for others. Learn more at madisonsquarepark.org/art/exhibitions/hugh-hayden-brier-patch.

at Madison Square Park

Between Fifth Avenue & Madison Avenue, 23rd Street - 26th Street

Changes in the neighborhood (including proposed)



February 10 6pm (virtual) Community Board 5 Full Board Meeting

Vikki Barbero, Chair, Nick Athanail, 1st Vice-Chair. Members of the public are encouraged to speak to the Board on a topic relevant to the CB5 community. Community topics include the Penn Station redevelopment proposal, making open restaurants permanent, etc. Speaking time is 2 min. per speaker. Register for the meeting at zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HEcK1m62Q6KQCIDVyxvMuw.

February 22 5pm

Deadline for public comments on the proposed Pennsylvania Station Area Civic and Land Use Improvement Project

The hearings are finished, but there is still time to **comment on the GPP and the revisions proposed by ESD staff and the DEIS are requested**. Comments must be delivered by **February 22 at 5pm**. They may be delivered in writing to ESD, 633 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10017 (Attention: Stacey Teran); or sent by e-mail to empirestation@esd.ny.gov or pennstationarea@esd.ny.gov. Written or e-mailed comments received after **5pm on Monday, February 22, 2022** will not be considered. Learn more about the ESD at esd.ny.gov/penn-station-area and at esd.ny.gov/sites/default/files/Penn-Station-Public-Hearing-Notice-publish-121621-corrected-link.pdf.

[Letter from the NYC Planning Commission](#) to the Empire State Development Corporation, January 27, 2022.

[Community Board 5 Resolution](#) regarding the Penn Station Empire Station Complex GPP DEIS.

The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association Preservation & Design Committee sent a letter to Governor Hochul opposing the Penn Station area redevelopment plan that would demolish several blocks surrounding Penn Station. [Read the letter](#)

Related: [Hochul's Penn Station Plan Is the Worst Kind of Urban Renewal](#)

January 26, 2022, *curbed.com*, by Justin Davidson

Related: [10 new towers may not fund Penn Station expansion](#)

October 27, 2021, *therealdeal.com*, by Kathryn Brenzel

Related: [Real estate showers Hochul with cash](#) (paywall)

January 20, 2022, *therealdeal.com*, by Suzannah Cavanaugh

The receipts are in for real estate's gubernatorial favorite and it's Gov. Kathy Hochul by a landslide. With at least \$4.6 million from prominent New York building owners and developers...All of the top real estate donors have business interests that depend directly or indirectly on state support...Among the city's real estate titans, donors affiliated with Vornado Realty Trust, Related Companies and the Haugland Group shelled out the most. Donations associated with each firm came in at over \$209,100. To rank the top 20 donors to Hochul's campaign, TRD [The Real Deal] grouped donations made by firm associates and included those made by C-suite spouses.

Learn why preservation groups oppose this proposed complex: [PennForAll.org](#), on Instagram at [instagram.com/stopthevornadotornado](#) or on Twitter at [twitter.com/StopVornado](#).

In Memoriam: Rick Eggers, Former CB6 Chair

Rick was a member of CB6 for almost 14 years. During his time as a CB6 Member, from 2008 until his death last month, he served in numerous leadership positions: as Chair of the Budget & Governmental Affairs Committee, Chair of the Special Committee on Bylaws, First Vice Chair of the board, and, from November 2015 to October 2017, as Chair of CB6. He was dedicated to his service on CB6 until the end, even serving a second term as Chair of the CB6 Budget & Governmental Affairs Committee from September of 2020 until his death.

Rick was remembered by those who knew and worked with him for his contributions to CB6: his oversight of the annual budget request process as Chair of the Budget & Governmental Affairs Committee; his leadership the last time the CB6 Bylaws went through major changes in 2014; his mentorship of newer members; and his steady hand when the Board went through a period of transition that included changes in offices, office staff, and Board leadership. In all of his work, Rick was passionate, thoughtful, committed to what he believed was right yet able to collaborate with others; a leader, yet self-effacing, and possessed of a positive spirit to the end. He will be missed.

On Saturday, February 12 at 11am, CB6 will be holding a virtual memorial for Rick, to celebrate his life and share the memories of him. All are welcome, please RSVP by February 10 at [airtable.com/shra115XBilPOnFZo](#).

Elections & voting

Drawing the new District maps following the 2021 Census

Summary

1. The New York State Legislature rejected the two sets of partisan maps produced by the Independent Redistricting Commission.
2. The Independent Redistricting Commission did not meet the extended deadline to produce one revised set of maps.
3. The New York State Legislature (with Democratic majorities) drew their own maps.
4. Gov. Hochul approved the maps.
5. Republicans are challenging the maps in court, and other groups are considering challenges.

Maps must have final approval by March 1, because ballot petitioning for the June 28th primary is scheduled to begin March 1st. Mail-in ballots listing the names of candidates have to be finalized by mid-April.

Related: [Here's How Republicans Are Hoping To Overturn NY's Congressional Maps](#)

February 4, 2022, *gothamist.com*, by Jon Campbell

Republicans wasted no time filing a legal challenge Thursday to New York's new congressional seats, which the state Legislature's Democratic majorities approved on Wednesday after drawing them in a manner that gave the party an edge in 22 of 26 districts...The suit relies heavily on changes to the state constitution that just went into effect for this redistricting cycle, which for the first time included a clause meant to specifically bar the type of partisan gerrymandering that had been used by both parties in New York for generations...Democrats say they are confident all of the lines will be upheld in court...the Republican lawsuit claims the state constitution required the Legislature to vote down a second, revised set of proposals before being able to make their own changes. And that never happened because the IRC never sent them over...The 2014 constitutional amendments laid out a series of requirements for the IRC, including that they draw districts that are contiguous and are "compact as possible."..."Districts shall not be drawn to discourage competition or for the purpose of favoring or disfavoring incumbents or other particular candidates or political parties"...The lawsuit asks Steuben County Supreme Court Justice Patrick McAllister to toss the maps and have new ones drawn. That's similar to what happened in 2012, when the Republicans who controlled the Senate at the time and the Democrats who controlled the Assembly couldn't reach an agreement and a court appointed a special master to draw lines.

Related: ["Designed To Fail" – NY's Redistricting Mess Was A Decade In The Making](#)

February 3, 2022, *gothamist.com*, by Jon Campbell

All states are required to redraw their congressional and state legislative districts every 10 years to account for population changes identified by the most recent Census. Prior to Wednesday, the last time the lines were redrawn was 2012...At the time, good-government organizations that had long been pushing for change were split. Some thought it was an important step, positive movement toward removing lawmakers from the redistricting process. But others, including Common Cause New York, opposed the plan. The commission was destined for gridlock, they argued...[Susan

Lerner, Common Cause's executive director] pointed to states like California and Michigan as the gold standard for independent, citizen-led redistricting...the state is on the clock: Ballot petitioning for the June 28th primary is slated to begin March 1st and districts need to be in place well before then, to ensure candidates are collecting signatures in the right place...The congressional lines will now go to Democratic Gov. Kathy Hochul to approve or veto, as will the state legislative lines after they're passed Thursday. She's widely expected to sign them into law.

[**NY expands absentee voting after defeat of ballot measure**](#)

January 21, 2022, *apnews.com*, by Marina Villeneuve

New Yorkers can again choose to vote by absentee rather than face the risk of catching COVID-19 at polling sites through the rest of 2022 under a bill that Gov. Kathy Hochul signed Friday...The new law again amends the definition of illness to include when a voter can't go to a polling place because of the risk of contracting or spreading a harmful disease. New York first passed such legislation in 2020.

[**NYC Board of Elections requests state to review non-citizen voting law**](#)

January 21, 2022, *nypost.com*, by Carl Campanile, Nolan Hicks and Rich Calder

The city Board of Elections wants the state to "review" whether the Big Apple's controversial new non-citizen voting law is legal...A group of New York Republicans filed a lawsuit recently seeking to block the law, which would allow about 800,000 legal non-citizens to vote in local elections...the state panel keeps the official tallies of registered voters, and therefore would have to approve adding non-citizen city voters to the rolls...the city BOE must have a plan in place to accommodate non-citizen voters by July 1.

[**Assembly Member Richard Gottfried announces retirement**](#)

December 13, 2021, *cityandstateny.com*, by Zach Williams

The Manhattan Democrat has served longer than any other state lawmaker in history. His retirement at the end of the term ending next year will be the first open primary in the district – which covers parts of Manhattan including Chelsea, Hell's Kitchen and Times Square.

Schools and students

Schools are no longer as safe from covid as they were previously. The omicron variant is causing high numbers of cases among students. Data from **February 5, 2022**.

COVID-19 Report Card for [PS 116 Mary Lindley Murray](#). Total Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=464. Eighty-five positive tests were reported since September 2020 (63 students, 22 staff). One positive test in the last 7 days (improving).

COVID-19 Report Card for [The River School](#). Total Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=516. Ninety-four positive tests were reported since September (77 students, 17 staff). Five positive tests (students) in the past 7 days (improving).

COVID-19 Report Card for [Murray Hill Academy](#). Total Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=299. Forty-six positive tests since September (34 students, 12 staff). No new positive tests in the past 7 days (improving, and desired results!).

COVID-19 Report Card for [J.H.S 104 Simon Baruch](#). Total Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=1,108. One hundred sixty-five positive cases since September (165 students, 7 staff). Six new positive tests in the past 7 days (improving).

February 28 11:59pm ET (entry deadline)

The Cooper Hewitt 2022 National High School Design Competition

A challenge to high school students around the country to join in envisioning the future we want to live in and designing for a more peaceful and just world. The design competition is open to all teens ages 13 through 19 who are high school students in grades 9 through 12, or who are homeschooled students working toward a high school degree anywhere in the United States. You can enter as an individual or as a team of up to three people. Learn more and enter the competition at cooperhewitt.org/design-competition-design-challenge.

March 4 5pm (deadline for submissions)

The Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes (OPHC) HeARTwork Against Hate Contest

New York City students in grades 3-12 are invited to use artistic expression as an outlet to show respect and stand up for others. It gives youth an opportunity to take a stand against all forms of bias, discrimination, and hate and use their creativity to communicate the positive values that make New York City great. Learn more about the rules and money prizes for HeARTwork Against Hate at www1.nyc.gov/site/stophate/resources/heartwork.page.

[NYC Education Department Quietly Opens Door For Teachers To Allow More Remote Learning](#)

January 14, 2022, *gothamist.com*, by Sophia Chang

The New York City Department of Education has updated its attendance policy to give educators discretion on allowing students to learn remotely during the current COVID surge, and to count those students as present for attendance purposes — a possible sign of movement towards a remote option for all students...Attendance was 77.09% across the system Thursday, meaning more than 214,800 students out of the system's 938,000 students missed class. In pre-pandemic times, attendance averaged 91% across the system for the 2019 school year...The DOE previously spelled out specific circumstances wherein it would allow remote learning: a full classroom or school closure, a positive test result, Election Day and snow days. Now, the updated policy says "staff may provide asynchronous remote instruction and Office Hours ... to students who are absent for reasons other than those stated above..." based on staff willingness and the approval of their supervisors. These students may also be counted as remotely present for class for attendance purposes.

[75% of NYC public schools enrolled fewer students this year. Here's a breakdown of every school.](#)

January 28, 2022, *ny.chalkbeat.org*, by Alex Zimmerman and Thomas Wilburn

The state figures show that overall enrollment in the city's traditional public schools dropped 5.6% this year among students in grades K-12 to roughly 821,000 students, according to a Chalkbeat analysis. Since the pandemic hit in the 2019-2020 school year, K-12 enrollment has dropped by 9%...The state statistics don't reveal what is causing the declines, which have persisted since well before the pandemic, though the drop has accelerated over the last two years. Some caretakers may have opted to home-school their children out of fear of the coronavirus or the disruptions that classroom quarantines have caused. Others may have opted for charter schools, which have seen enrollment increase. Some families may have left the city entirely. City officials also said that declining birth rates are playing a role.

[NYC To Send COVID Test Kits Home With Every K-12 Student Ahead Of Midwinter Break In February](#)

January 28, 2022, *gothamist.com*, by Sophia Chang

The city Department of Education plans to send a COVID test kit home with every K-12 public school student before the midwinter break from February 21st to the 25th...It was not immediately clear if the DOE will require students and staff to show a negative test result before returning to school on February 28th.

[NYC Public Schools Will Start "Vegan Fridays" This Week](#)

February 3, 2022, *gothamist.com*, by Jessica Gould

[C]ity schools will debut "Vegan Fridays" with an inaugural meal of veggie tacos, broccoli, and carrot and lemon salad. The city is phasing in the shift and plans to offer cheese sandwiches as a backup;

officials said non-vegan items will be available by request. One school indicated that vegan breakfasts will consist of bagels and jelly, and cereal. Beverages appear to be exempt from the new rule, and milk will still be offered.

NOTE: Vegan diets are exclusively plant based. An exception will be made for milk (as a beverage).

Policing & police reform

Weekly crime reports

17th precinct

www1.nyc.gov/assets/nypd/downloads/pdf/crime_statistics/cs-en-us-017pct.pdf

13th Precinct

www1.nyc.gov/assets/nypd/downloads/pdf/crime_statistics/cs-en-us-013pct.pdf

[Bragg Walks Back Some Stances In Maligned Policy Memo Amid Pressure](#)

February 4, 2022, *gothamist.com*, by Gwynne Hogan

Newly-installed Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg walked back some of his policy changes, after four weeks of relentless tabloid coverage calling him “soft-on-crime” as well as pressure from police and Governor Kathy Hochul...One policy Bragg definitively walked back was how certain robbery charges were prosecuted...He reverted back to the office’s original position Friday in the latest memo saying, “commercial robbery at knifepoint, or by other weapon that creates a risk of physical harm, will be charged as a felony.” The memo also walked back a promise to halt prosecutions of “resisting arrest,” which had drawn ire from police unions...Bragg also clarified his stance on gun prosecutions saying, “the default in gun cases is a felony prosecution.”

Related: [Manhattan Shoplifting To Be Tackled By New 'Alliance,' Bragg Says](#)

January 27, 2022, *patch.com*, by Nick Garber

Amid complaints of rising shoplifting, D.A. Alvin Bragg is convening a new small business task force in an effort to tackle the trend.

President Biden visited New York City to discuss gun violence prevention and community violence intervention initiatives and programs. New York State and City government officials joined him to speak on this topic. Illegal gun trafficking across state borders and handling of ghost guns (plastic guns that are shipped as parts, with no serial number) require Federal involvement. Safety officials promised more coordination between agencies and precision policing to find and incarcerate the small percentage of criminals that account for most of the gun crimes.

Mayor Adams Releases Blueprint to End Gun Violence in New York City

Blueprint to End Gun Violence: www1.nyc.gov/assets/home/downloads/pdf/press-releases/2022/the-blueprint-to-end-gun-violence.pdf

January 24, 2022, Press Release

Mayor Adams' roadmap calls for both intervention and prevention to end the gun violence epidemic affecting New York, and calls on the federal government and New York state to partner with his administration and other city entities to take immediate action to reduce gun violence. Over the longer term, Mayor Adams also plans to transform New York City and address the root causes that lead to gun violence by growing economic opportunities, improving the education of city children, providing greater access to mental health support, and more. In addition, the Mayor asks for some changes to the Bail Reform law, including allowing judges to take dangerousness into account and demanding accountability and transparency from our system by making public the judges' decisions.

NYPD Officers Should Live In NYC, Mayor Says

January 25, 2022, *patch.com*, by Kathleen Culliton

"I want you here in this city," Adams told police Monday. "Your children should be in our schools." New York City's 35,000 police officers should be required to live in the five boroughs, Mayor Eric Adams said Monday. "I want you here in this city," Adams said. "Your children should be in our schools."...The Mayor argued New Yorkers are effectively paying for police to protect areas outside the city because officers are required to respond to emergency at all hours and are therefore never off duty.

Mayor Adams' Statement on Suspect in Officer Shooting Being Released on Bond

January 28, 2022, Press Release, NYC Mayor's Office

NEW YORK – New York City Mayor Eric Adams today released the following statement after the suspect in last week's shooting of Police Officer Kaseem Pennan in the Bronx was released on bond: "New Yorkers should all be outraged that a repeat offender, accused of shooting at a police officer, is today walking free on bond because judges are precluded from even considering danger to the community, like every other state and our federal courts. It is further proof that our current system is failing us. Today of all days, with the city in mourning over the deaths of Detective First-Grade Jason Rivera and Police Officer Wilbert Mora, we all must come together and agree that changes are needed. We cannot allow those who carry guns to walk free – we can pursue safety and justice at the same time, and we must, for the safety of all of us."

Housing, homelessness, zoning & affordability

Governor Hochul announced that the New York State Homeowners Assistance Fund (NYHAF) portal is now accepting applications from eligible homeowners at risk of default, foreclosure, or displacement due to COVID-related hardship. Those who qualify can receive financial assistance to catch up on missed housing payments, reduce mortgage debt to make monthly mortgage payments more affordable, and receive up to six months of future housing payments. Learn more at hcr.ny.gov/homeowners. Apply at nyhomeownerfund.org or call 1-844-77-NYHAF (a sole-purpose call center with live operators who speak multiple languages).



At Risk of Eviction?

Do not self-evict!

Even if you did not sign a lease, you are protected against a lockout if you have lived in the same place for 30 days or more.

Call 311 and ask for the Tenant Helpline to get free legal advice.



[Hochul proposes 421-a 2.0](#)

January 19, 2022, *cityandstateny.com*, by Rebecca C. Lewis
In her State of the State address, Gov. Kathy Hochul promised to end a controversial tax break to incentivize developers to build affordable housing in New York City. The 421-a program will expire this year, so lawmakers simply have to do nothing for it to go away. But Hochul pledged she would replace the program with something else, something she said would better use state dollars to stimulate more affordable housing construction...Absent from her briefing book, she included details of the new program in the Education, Labor and Family Assistant budget bill, page 193)...Dubbed the Affordable Neighborhoods for New Yorkers tax incentive – or the ANNY program – the proposal would create a new 485-w section of the state property tax law.

Related: [Statement from \[NYC\] Comptroller Brad Lander on Governor Hochul's Proposed 421-a Reforms](#)

January 20, 2022

NYC Comptroller Brad Lander issued the following statement in a response to Governor Hochul's proposed reforms to the 421-a tax abatement program: "The 421-a program is an obscene tax giveaway for market rate housing in the name of affordability, and slightly altering its numbers and letters won't change that," said Comptroller Brad Lander. "It makes sense to offer tax incentives for affordable units, but providing full 25-year tax breaks to four luxury units for every one affordable unit, without an underwriting analysis to see if it's even needed, results in tax giveaways that are far too large... There is a better way forward. First, we should end 421-a. Second, we should reform our property tax system to create parity between rentals and condo developments. Developers are right that our current system strongly disincentivizes new, multi-family rental development in New York City—we can and should fix that."

[The Pandemic Scramble to Legalize Home-Based Businesses](#) (paywall)

January 31, 2022, *bloomberg.com*, M. Nolan Gray

Many entrepreneurs starting companies in kitchens and garages find that city zoning codes can subject home businesses to unworkable standards—or ban them altogether...As a result, many home-based businesses simply go underground, unable to grow and forever at risk of code enforcement. It's a broken system, and one that especially disfavors the women and people of color, who—often excluded from traditional labor markets and access to capital—disproportionately run home-based businesses...In mid-2021, Florida policymakers engaged in some state preemption and passed a bill requiring that all municipalities allow home-based business in residential zones. Arbitrary rules and steep fees were banned, limiting cities and suburbs in the Sunshine State to regulating home-based businesses based on actual impacts, like noise or traffic...It's easy to write off the plight of the home-based business as a minor issue. But more often than you might think, they mature into the kinds of traditional brick-and-mortar businesses so desperately needed to fill the vacant storefronts plaguing many U.S. cities. Sometimes they even grow into major corporations like Microsoft and Amazon, which were both famously launched from garages...home-based businesses call into question a zoning system that assumes that different parts of our lives must play out in different places. It's a planning paradigm that has turned the American city into a segregated and unwalkable mess of office parks, strip malls, and residential subdivisions...Until industrialization transformed urban life and municipal planners imposed strict guidelines separating housing from manufacturing and office districts, running a business from home was the norm...Land uses casually intermingled, supply chains were less labyrinthine, and daily necessities were within walking distance. Novel though this arrangement might seem today to most Americans, the resurgence of the humble home-based business could signal a return to this more accessible kind of city—if zoning rules let it happen.

M. Nolan Gray is a professional city planner and the author of *Arbitrary Lines: How Zoning Broke the American City and How to Fix It*.

[Can NYC Successfully Convert Hotels and Offices to Affordable Housing?](#)

January 25, 2022, *commercialobserver.com*, by Rebecca Baird-Remba

[Related: State's \\$100M program to convert hotels into housing drew just one applicant](#)

February 4, 2022, *politico.com*, by Janaki Chadha

Experts say costly and burdensome regulations are to blame for the plan's failures...Developers, housing advocates, and other experts interviewed by POLITICO say the measure establishing the program did not address zoning and building code issues that continue to pose a logistical and financial obstacle to successful conversions...Some proponents of hotel conversions are worried the window for creating new housing could pass before New York is able to fully take advantage of it.

[Related: To Some, They're An Outrage – But Homeless New Yorkers Relieved To See Hotels Converted To Shelters](#)

February 1, 2022, *gothamist.com*, by Chau Lam

Since 2016 – after a policy overhaul first laid out by Mayor Bill de Blasio – the city has focused on opening more single-room, transitional housing and so-called stabilization beds in buildings such as hotels. Unlike congregate shelters, which offer dorm-style living, these types of accommodation have more privacy and fewer restrictions, which homeless advocates said are more appealing to long-term street homeless individuals...the pandemic may have created a brief window of opportunity for the city to open more locations as hotel owners search for new revenue sources for their shuttered properties...The latest is the former The Hotel @ New York City, at Lexington Avenue and East 30th Street, which once touted itself as a “chic boutique” hotel “in the refined Murray Hill neighborhood,” according to its website. In late December, city officials announced it had converted the 117-bed hotel to a stabilization facility to serve single homeless men. The city hired the Bowery Residents Committee – a non-profit that operates six other transitional shelters in Manhattan, the Bronx, and Brooklyn – to run the shelter. Mario G. Messina, president of the 29th Street Neighborhood Association, which has 600 members from Kips Bay and Midtown South, said the group opposes the city opening the shelter for single men in a community that he said already has more than a dozen shelters serving various homeless populations...Community Board 6, which includes Murray Hill and Kips Bay, is home to four traditional shelters, according to the Department of Social Services (DSS), not including the new hotel conversion at 161 Lexington. DSS said the department has increased the number of specialized beds dedicated for homeless individuals from approximately 600 in 2013 to well over 2,000 today across the city...New York City had more than 107,00 homeless adults and children living in the Department of Homeless Services' shelter system in 2021, according to the advocacy group Coalition for the Homeless. The group said homelessness in the city has reached the highest levels since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

[Related: Hotels launch ad campaign after omicron sinks occupancy](#)

January 31, 2022, *therealdeal.com*, by Lois Weiss

Attacked by virus and city government, owners renew call for help...With occupancy back down to 42.5 percent, the city's hotel owners launched a web and TV campaign Monday to tug at the hearts and minds of elected officials. Specifically, they want financial aid and a break on late tax payments...By debt relief, the hotel owners mean a lower interest rate than 13 percent – they would prefer zero – on overdue property taxes...The association is already suing the city in federal court to strike down a law mandating severance pay of \$500 per employee for 36 weeks for hotels that did

not re-open by November. “It’s money that the hotels simply don’t have”... The city delivered a blow to hotel developers as well by requiring a special permit to build hotels.

[Administrative Obstacles Jam Up Moving Process for NYC Shelter Residents](#)

January 31, 2022, *citylimits.org*, by David Brand

CityFHEPS, the city’s rental subsidy, can be a life-changing resource for thousands of families and individuals and a crucial intervention for addressing homelessness, stakeholders say. But the administrative process for voucher holders to get approved for permanent housing is an onerous one that undermines the program’s successes.

[Hochul, Lawmakers Look to Override NY’s Exclusionary Zoning Amid Housing Crunch](#)

February 4, 2022, *citylimits.org*, by David Brand

New York lawmakers are heading for a showdown over single-unit zoning, a policy that has limited legal homes in the suburbs and, reform advocates say, artificially suppressed the state’s housing stock during a deep shortage. At a legislative budget hearing Monday, state leaders and housing advocates went to bat for bills that would override local “exclusionary zoning” rules that prohibit homeowners from renting out basements, top floors, carriage houses or other potential residences known as accessory dwelling units (ADUs) on their property. They have a powerful ally: During her State of the State speech last month, Gov. Kathy Hochul backed a plan to allow ADUs in areas zoned for single-unit homes. Her accompanying capital plan would direct money to municipalities and nonprofits to help homeowners get their extra units up to code.

Budget, finances & taxes

“I’m not raising taxes, by the way. Not raising taxes. Not raising taxes. Not raising taxes.” – Gov. Hochul, during a breakfast talk hosted by the Citizens Budget Commission yesterday.

Where Can I Get Free Tax Help with My Return?

This IRS website page provides information about free tax preparation assistance [irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/earned-income-tax-credit/free-tax-help-with-my-return](https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/earned-income-tax-credit/free-tax-help-with-my-return). The IRS also has online versions of the Federal tax return for basic tax returns, and you can submit the forms electronically. Usually we also hear of free tax help at the New York Public Library. All library branches are closed to in-person events until February 14, due to the pandemic. We’ll keep you updated.

File Your Taxes with NYC Free Tax Prep

Changes to tax credits mean more money for New Yorkers when they file! Earned Income Tax Credit. Child Tax Credit. Child and Dependent Care Credit. Claiming even one could return thousands of dollars to families and individuals in 2022. NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) is excited to coordinate the City's Annual Tax Season Initiative. For more information about NYC Free Tax Prep services and eligibility for tax credits, visit www1.nyc.gov/site/dca/consumers/file-your-taxes.page. Eligible New Yorkers use NYC Free Tax Prep to file for free and keep their whole refund.

[A First for New York: Balanced Budgets for the Next Five Years](#)

January 19, 2022, *bloomberg.com*, by Martin Z Braun

Thanks to a gusher of federal pandemic aid, a booming Wall Street and a tax increase on millionaires, New York is projecting balanced budgets for the next five years, the first time ever that the Empire State has published a financial plan without a deficit...To be sure, while Wall Street is thriving, Main Street's pandemic recovery is sluggish. As of November, the state's unemployment rate was 6.6%, compared with the national rate of 4.2%. Lower-paying leisure and hospitality jobs have been the slowest to return.

Related: [What does Hochul's budget do for New York City?](#)

January 18, 2022, *cityandstateny.com*, by Annie McDonough

The governor's first proposed budget would extend mayoral control of New York City schools for four years...Casinos in the five boroughs. Hochul wants to open up a request for proposals for three new casino licenses in New York state and end a moratorium on casinos in New York City until early 2023 to allow them to build in the five boroughs sooner...New opportunities for affordable housing. Included in an overall \$25 billion five-year housing plan are several measures to expand housing supply in New York City, including repealing a limit on the maximum density of the residential area of city buildings and making it easier to convert hotels into permanent housing.

[Tax Lien Sales Tick Toward Expiration Date Without Alternative in Sight](#)

January 27, 2022, *thecity.nyc*, by Samantha Maldonado

New York City's controversial tax lien sales system for collecting unpaid property and water debts expires at the end of next month — without any clear path toward what comes next. Mayor Eric Adams and City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams have both come out against the longtime practice of selling off tax liens to investors, which generates tens of millions of dollars each year and steps up pressure on property owners to pay their bills...But neither Adams nor Adams has unveiled specific plans.

NYC's Adams Wants \$19 Billion Boost to City Borrowing Power

January 12, 2022, *news.yahoo.com*, by Martin Z. Braun

(Bloomberg) – New York City Mayor Eric Adams plans to seek state legislation to boost the city's borrowing capacity by \$19 billion, a move opposed by City Comptroller Brad Lander, a fellow Democrat. The city wants to raise the amount of bonds issued by the Transitional Finance Authority that won't count against the city's general debt limit to \$32.5 billion, according to an offering statement for a \$1.2 billion bond sale slated for this month. The TFA was set up in 1997 to help the city avoid exceeding its debt limit. The mayor's request would give a significant boost to New York's debt capacity, which is now around \$43 billion and is projected to tumble in coming years. Lander, who shares management of debt issuance with City Hall, said the move by the Adams administration wasn't necessary or fiscally prudent...New York City projects a budget gap of almost \$3 billion for the fiscal year beginning July 1, reflecting the scar on its finances from the pandemic. The coronavirus has hobbled tourism and left the future of the office market in doubt. The nation's most-populous city has recovered roughly half of the more than 900,000 private-sector jobs lost when the pandemic began...Ultimately, it would be up to the state legislature to decide on the mayor's request, which could go forward despite opposition from the city comptroller...TFA bonds are rated AAA by S&P Global Ratings and Fitch Ratings, and Aa1 by Moody's Investors Service, second-highest.

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

Manhattan Officials Ask City To Bring Back Pre-Pandemic Garbage Pickup Service, Expand Composting

January 31, 2022, *gothamist.com*, by Sophia Chang

Council Member Erik Bottcher and other elected officials in Manhattan recently sent a letter to the city calling for the restoration of slashed funding to the Department of Sanitation so that street cans can be picked up more frequently, street sweeping returned to twice-a-week in residential neighborhoods, and a faster rollout of the composting program...According to Bottcher, before the pandemic, Manhattan was served by an average of 736 Sanitation trucks. In 2020, that was cut to 272 trucks – and service is currently still lower than normal, with 440 trucks working in the borough...A sanitation department spokesperson said the street cans are cleaned and districts seeing heavier volume can lobby their council members to pay for additional pickups with their discretionary budget...Bottcher said the discretionary funds each Council member receives are nowhere close to the millions of dollars he's asking the city to return to the sanitation budget.

NYS Transportation Committee passes Sammy's Law (pending)

This week, the New York State Senate Transportation Committee passed Sammy's Law (S.524-A/A.4655-A) sponsored by State Senator Brad Hoylman and Assembly Member Richard Gottfried. Sammy's Law would allow New York City to lower speed limits to 20 mph citywide and as low as 5 mph on streets with traffic calming measures like those participating in NYC's Open Streets

program. “Sammy’s Law” is named after Samuel Cohen Eckstein, a 12 year-old who was killed by a driver on Prospect Park West in 2013. The bill now goes to the full Senate and Assembly, and then to the Governor.

Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2022 (pending)

Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney joined Rep. James Comer (R-KY) to introduce the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2022. This legislation aims to improve the federal government’s cyber defenses following a string of high-profile cyberattacks, including SolarWinds and the Microsoft Exchange Server hack, as well as vulnerabilities discovered in common Apache Log4j software.

Amending the Street Vendor laws (pending)

January 27, 2022, Street vendors from across New York City, elected officials, and allied organizations march from Herald Square to Times Square, demanding the opportunity to be part of the city’s formalized economy, and the immediate passage of [S1175A/A5081](#), nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/s1175

[Proposal would overhaul home care in New York \(pending\)](#)

February 4, 2022, *nystateofpolitics.com*, by Nick Reisman

Home care would be considered as a primary alternative to institutionalized care for New York’s most vulnerable residents under a proposed measure by Assembly Health Committee Chairman Richard Gottfried.

[New York’s Landmark Water Testing Law Hinges on State Health Department](#)

January 27, *nysfocus.com*, by Peter Mantius

The law leaves key decisions to an agency with a history of dragging its feet on implementing water quality legislation.

Stories we are following

[New Yorkers wagered more than \\$1 billion on mobile sports betting in January](#)

February 4, 2022, *nypost.com*, by Ariel Zilber

Intense demand for sports wagering has observers predicting that New York could set a one-day record on Super Bowl Sunday.

Public service announcement

[Did you get an email or letter about the Equifax settlement?](#)

February 4, 2022, *consumer.ftc.gov*, by Jennifer Leach, Associate Director, Division of Consumer and Business Education, FTC

Lots of people recently got an email or letter about free credit monitoring through the Equifax settlement. That's because the settlement with Equifax was just approved by a court. Legitimate emails about this settlement will come from Equifax Breach Settlement Administrator <info@equifaxbreachsettlement.com>. The administrator will not call you about the settlement, but you can reach the administrator by phone at 1-833-759-2982. So now, if you signed up for credit monitoring as part of that settlement, you can take a few steps to switch it on. The email or letter tells you how [and provides an activation code]. Learn more at the FTC's official site for information about the Equifax settlement, ftc.gov/Equifax. You don't have to pay for credit monitoring as part of this settlement, and nobody will call, text, or email out of the blue to ask you for your credit card or bank account numbers, or to "help" you get your free credit monitoring. Anyone who does is a scammer, so please tell the FTC at reportfraud.ftc.gov.

[Editor's note: Be very careful that you are visiting the correct Equifax site as you will be asked to provide a lot of personal information.]

[Is a credit freeze or fraud alert right for you?](#)

February 3, 2022, *consumer.ftc.gov*, by Seena Gressin, Attorney, Division of Consumer and Business Education

Credit freezes and fraud alerts can help reduce your risk of identity theft. Both are free and make it harder for identity thieves to open new accounts in your name...A credit freeze...prevents potential creditors from accessing your credit report...If you need to apply for new credit, you can lift the freeze temporarily to let the creditor check your credit...A fraud alert doesn't limit access to your credit report, but tells businesses to check with you before opening a new account in your name...A fraud alert lasts one year and you can renew it for free. If you've experienced identity theft, you can get an extended fraud alert that lasts for seven years.

NYC's reopening

New York State and NYC reached the goal of a 70% vaccination rate for adults during the summer of 2021, and the community rate of infection, hospitalizations and deaths were low. As a result, most of the covid restrictions have been lifted.

For information about specific NY agencies, check with the agency's website. Federal guidelines are still in effect. Learn more at the links below.

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) covid webpage [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)

Federal laws and regulations regarding covid [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cdcresponse/laws-regulations.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cdcresponse/laws-regulations.html)

CDC Interim Guidance for Fully Vaccinated People [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html)

U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) webpage on covid vaccines [fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-vaccines](https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-vaccines)

U.S. Department of State COVID-19 Travel Guidance for U.S. Citizens
travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-information1.html

Federal resources for small businesses that are impacted by covid covid-sb.org.

New York State reopening guidance for businesses [forward.ny.gov](https://www.forward.ny.gov) and [governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2021-05/NYS_CDCGuidance_Summary.pdf](https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2021-05/NYS_CDCGuidance_Summary.pdf). **Learn more at** [forward.ny.gov/active-industry-guidance](https://www.forward.ny.gov/active-industry-guidance).

New York State information about reopening, covid rates and zones, vaccination program, covid restrictions and guidance, travel advisory, etc. [coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home](https://www.coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home).

NYS travel advisory [coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory](https://www.coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory).

New York City covid webpage (for individuals and businesses)
www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/index.page.

New York State Business Pandemic Recovery Initiative. The Empire State Development page with information about grants, tax credits, and technical assistance programs for businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn more at [esd.ny.gov/business-pandemic-recovery-initiative](https://www.esd.ny.gov/business-pandemic-recovery-initiative).

New York City Department of Health (DOH) covid webpage www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-main.page

The NYC Citywide Information Portal with resource guides for businesses and individuals, including COVID-specific resource guides for New Yorkers
www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/resources/resources-for-new-yorkers.page and **311**
portal.311.nyc.gov.

Covid-19 rate of transmission for Murray Hill and surrounding areas (zip codes 10016, 10017) is **high**. The virus is considered controlled when neighborhoods have a high test rate, low percent positivity and low case rate. We are not there yet. The data is from the NYC Department of Health website COVID-19 tracker www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data.page. Data taken on **February 5, 2022**.

New York State COVID-19 tracker [forward.ny.gov/percentage-positive-results-county-dashboard](https://www.forward.ny.gov/percentage-positive-results-county-dashboard).

Your Neighborhood: 10016: Kips Bay/Murray Hill/NoMad

Transmission data shows us how much the virus is spreading. Recent transmission in your ZIP Code and surrounding area:

- **High** transmission
- **268.4** new cases per 100,000 people in the last seven days.

Your Neighborhood: 10017, 10165, 10167, 10168, 10169, 10170, 10171, 10172, 10173, 10174, 10177: East Midtown/Murray Hill

Transmission data shows us how much the virus is spreading. Recent transmission in your ZIP Code and surrounding area:

- **High** transmission
- **268.4** new cases per 100,000 people in the last seven days.

Vaccinations

Vaccines are now readily available and are free. **The NYC Vaccine Finder** tells you everywhere in NYC that vaccinations are available and the type of vaccination offered vaccinefinder.nyc.gov.

Walgreens, RiteAid and CVS participate in the Federal vaccination program, as well as some independent pharmacies. They will be listed on the vaccinefinder.nyc.gov app. Check with your pharmacy to find out if they are offering vaccinations. You can also check with your primary care physician.

Vaccination data is from www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data-vaccines.page on **February 5, 2022**.

Kips Bay/Murray Hill/NoMad

ZIP Code(s): 10016
Estimated population: 50912.11

99% with at least one dose
54681 residents with at least 1 dose

93.07% fully vaccinated
47382 residents fully vaccinated

East Midtown/Murray Hill

ZIP Code(s): 10017
Estimated population: 15613.27

99% with at least one dose
20629 residents with at least 1 dose

99% fully vaccinated
16248 residents fully vaccinated

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 free testing locations: www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/get-tested/covid-19-testing.page, call 212-COVID19, or text COVID TEST to 855-48.

For Murray Hill/Kips Bay

Bellevue, First Avenue at 26th Street, (free) no appointment necessary; wait times are unpredictable. Be sure that they set up your patient portal so that you can get your results quickly. Test results usually come back in 1-2 days.

IMPORTANT: There is still no cure for COVID-19. To stop the spread take a layered approach:

- get vaccinated
 - wear a mask
-

- socially distance
- practice good hand hygiene
- stay home if sick (seek care if you feel seriously ill)

When community rates of infection are high, limit non-essential activities, travel and indoor gatherings with people who are not in your household.

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

[Reopening](#)

[Testing](#)

[Vaccinations](#)

[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](#)

The NYC Citywide Information Portal

www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/resources/resources-for-new-yorkers.page and 311 portal.311.nyc.gov have created COVID-specific resource guides for New Yorkers. These resource guides contain information related to emotional well-being, rent and housing, NYCHA residents, and more. Get information and resources to help protect yourself and others from COVID-19 <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-main.page>.

The MHNA Discount Program

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

[**Restaurant and Food Discounts**](#)

[**General Discounts**](#)

Our government representatives

When contacting your representative, be sure to state your address so that they know that you are a constituent. You can see the District maps and sign up for their emails on their websites.

Manhattan Community Board 5: www.cb5.org, 212-465-0907, office@cb5.org

Manhattan Community Board 6: cbsix.org, 212-319-3750, office@cbsix.org

NYC Councilwoman Carlina Rivera, Council District 2: council.nyc.gov/carlina-rivera, 212-677-1077, District2@council.nyc.gov

NYC Council Member Erik Bottcher, Council District 3: council.nyc.gov/district-3, 212-564-7757, District3@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 Mark Levine: 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 Eric Adams: www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor, 311, online message: <https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/mayor-contact.page>.

NYC Planning Commission: Dan Garodnick, chair (appointed 1/19/2022). www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/about/commission.page

Landmarks Preservation Commission: www1.nyc.gov/site/lpc/about/contact-us.page

Schedule of hearings, sign-up forms to attend and more.

New York Senate website nysenate.gov.

New York State Assembly website nyassembly.gov.

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 Kathy Hochul, 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 Joseph Biden: website contact form: whitehouse.gov/contact

The White House site whitehouse.gov is once more a trusted source for news on legislation, press releases, White House press briefings, and more. Presidential actions whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions.

[Read our Privacy Statement](#)

**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 @MHNAnyc
in your Murray Hill-inspired Instagram photos!

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

You are receiving this email as a member of
The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association
or because you have signed up to receive our emails.

To be removed from this list,
send an email to info@murrayhillnyc.org
with "Remove" in the subject.

