



Murray Hill

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

News for Murray Hill... July 25, 2022

This information is provided by The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association as a service to our members. If this notice does not interest you, please disregard it.

Please share this email with a friend, neighbor or colleague. You can sign up for these emails at www.murrayhillnyc.org, scroll down the Also Happening column.

July is...

Disability Pride Month

Tuesday, July 26 marks 32 years since the Americans with Disabilities Act became law, prohibiting discrimination against individuals with disabilities. Hiring disabled workers can help businesses meet their talent needs while strengthening their competitive edge. During Disability Pride Month and throughout the year, [explore the U.S. Small Business Administration resources](#) to help small businesses find and hire talent and create a more inclusive workforce. There are tax credit programs as incentives.

COVID Test Kits for Blind and Low-Vision individuals

The federal government is working to expand the availability of at-home COVID-19 tests for people who are blind or have low vision. Users with a Bluetooth-enabled smartphone can download a free app to hear audio instructions on how to administer the test and to hear their results. You can learn more about the tests at acl.gov/covid19/tests-people-who-are-blind-or-have-low-vision.

Tests can be ordered online through the United States Postal Service at special.usps.com/testkits/accessible. Households in need of tests for those who are blind or low vision are permitted up to two orders. Each order will contain 12 individual rapid antigen tests. You may also call 1-800-232-0233 to order the tests. There is no charge for these tests and shipping is free.

Transportation and traffic advisories

Please visit www.murrayhillnyc.org Traffic Change Updates section to see the work notices for public projects in the neighborhood: the 2nd Avenue (and surrounding areas) infrastructure replacement project, Pershing Square East, street closure notices, and more.

[Hochul signs bill mandating new NY drivers be tested on cyclist and pedestrian safety awareness](#)

July 15, 2022, *gothamist.com*, by Catalina Gonella

The law takes effect in January of next year...The measure, which aims to “educate drivers about the dangers faced by cyclists and pedestrians ...will create a thoughtful road culture going forward,” according to the bill’s language.

Support local!

NYC Restaurant Week

[Browse restaurants in Murray Hill, Kips Bay, Flatiron](#)

Public service announcements

[Cooling Assistance for Vulnerable New Yorkers](#)

Air conditioners are the best way to stay safe during a heatwave. Did you know that some NYC households might be eligible for a free air conditioner purchase and installation worth up to \$800? Applications for cooling assistance are accepted at local departments of social services until funding runs out. Assistance is provided on a first-come, first-served basis. New York City heap contacts, Department of Social Services: Waverly Job Center, 12 West 14th Street, 2nd Floor, 212-331-3126, Days Open: Monday - Friday (9am - 5pm), Face to Face/Drop Box. Learn more at otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/#cooling-assistance.

Cooling Centers

The New York Public Library branches in Murray Hill are available as cooling centers: Kips Bay Library (3rd Avenue at 31st Street), Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library (5th Avenue at 40th Street), Steven Schwarzman Building (Main Branch at 42nd Street & 5th Avenue).

To find a cooling center, including accessible facilities closest to you, call 311 (212-639-9675 for Video Relay Service, or TTY: 212-504-4115) or visit the City's Cooling Center Finder at maps.nyc.gov/cooling-center.

If you experience electricity outages, call Con Edison at 1-800-752-6633 or text the word "OUT" to 688-243.

Heat waves can be dangerous! A few tips on beating the heat:

- Stay hydrated.
- Reduce strenuous activities.
- Stay indoors if possible.
- Stay out of the sun, especially from 11am – 4pm. Wear a hat that shades your face.
- Keep shades or curtains drawn on the sunny side of your home. Use an air conditioner during hot weather and heat emergencies, try a thermostat setting of 78%.
- Check on your neighbors often during a heat wave, especially if they are seniors, young children, or people with disabilities or special needs.
- Do not leave people or pets in a parked vehicle.
- Conserve energy as much as possible.

Get free emergency alerts and updates by signing up for Notify NYC, New York City's official emergency communications program. Alerts are available in multiple languages and formats. Sign up in the following ways at [NYC.gov/notifynyc](https://nyc.gov/notifynyc), call 311, get the free Notify NYC mobile application, follow @NotifyNYC on Twitter.

The New York State Department of Health reminds New Yorkers that heat is the number one weather-related killer in the United States. Heat-related deaths and illness are preventable.

Symptoms of heat stroke include:

- Hot, dry, red skin
- A rapid pulse
- Rapid and shallow breathing
- A body temperature higher than 105°
- Loss of alertness, confusion, and/or loss of consciousness
- Muscle cramps

Call 911 for emergency assistance if you or someone you know has these symptoms.

Experiencing a mental health crisis?
Call or text 988

The **new 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** can help people dealing with mental health or substance use crises.



When you dial the number, it will connect you to the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

NYS Workplace Harassment Hotline

New York State has launched a workplace harassment hotline to protect workers statewide that have faced sexual harassment and connect them with pro-bono attorneys. Those who wish to file a complaint or be connected to an attorney can call: 1-800-HARASS-3 (1-800-427-2773). Because many employees fear retaliation or punishment if they choose to come forward, this hotline will help workers navigate the complexities of harassment in the workplace. To recruit legal volunteer legal representation, the Division of Human Rights worked closely with the National Employment Lawyers Association of New York, the New York State Bar Association, and several other bar associations. The hotline is free and confidential. Employees can file complaints via telephone or on the Division of Human Rights website at dhr.ny.gov.

Air quality in NYC on July 20, 22, 23, 24 was code Orange (unhealthy for sensitive people) due to ozone. Moderate air quality (code yellow) on the other days. You can get good air quality further upstate. Data taken from the Department of Environmental Conservation website dec.ny.gov/cfm/xtapps/aqi/aqi_forecast.cfm. Learn more about ozone at epa.gov/ozone-pollution-and-your-patients-health/what-ozone.

October 31 (deadline)

Limited waiver for student loan forgiveness ends October 31

Do you have federal student loans? Have you worked in public service (for a government agency, the military, or a non-profit organization)? If so, find out whether you're eligible for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Limited Waiver. Thousands of federal student loan borrowers have used

the waiver to get closer to total loan forgiveness. Learn more at consumer.ftc.gov/consumer-alerts/2022/07/limited-waiver-student-loan-forgiveness-ends-october-31-0. This announcement courtesy of the Federal Trade Commission.

The Department of Motor Vehicles Urges New Yorkers to Get Real ID

The deadline to get a New York State REAL ID, which was delayed due to the pandemic, is set for May 3, 2023. After this date, standard licenses will no longer be accepted for boarding planes or entering federal buildings, unless it is paired with a valid passport.

Many DMV locations across the state currently have same- and next- day appointments available, so now is a good time to upgrade. You can find the most convenient DMV location in Manhattan by using this link: dmv.ny.gov/offices/county-offices?field_county_name_value=NEW+YORK+%28MANHATTAN%29

Learn more about REAL ID, and to see applicable fees and documents needed to apply at dmv.ny.gov/id-card/get-enhanced-non-driver-id-endid.

Ukraine aid

[New York State website with information about resources and aid for Ukrainians](#)

State Department program *Uniting for Ukraine*

To help fulfill President Biden's promise to temporarily resettle 100,000 Ukrainian refugees, the State Department has established Uniting for Ukraine, in which legal residents of the United States can apply to be sponsors of migrants under a process called Humanitarian Parole. Learn more at uscis.gov/forms/explore-my-options/humanitarian-parole. Welcome.US, a humanitarian group for refugee resettlement, has created a [guide to the process](#) (and offers a [mailing list](#)) for people interested in becoming a sponsor. "Sponsors may apply as individuals, as a group, or as a representative of a non-governmental agency. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) lists the [eligibility requirements](#) and the [instructions](#) for completing [Form I-134](#) (the Declaration of Financial Support).

[Source: Council Member Gale Brewer's Update email of 4/28/2022]

Ukrainians in the U.S. since March 1 are eligible for Temporary Protective Status (TPS) for an 18 month period. CUNY's Citizenship Now project is ready to help the Ukrainian community apply for this benefit. Call 646-664-6400.



Donating to help people in Ukraine?

Check out the group or person before sending money — by cryptocurrency or any other payment method.



Start here: [ftc.gov/charity](https://www.ftc.gov/charity)

COVID-19 updates

The COVID-19 page on the NYC Department of Health website states “**COVID-19 is still here. Take steps to protect yourself.**” Data taken on **7/20/2022** at www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-main.page. There is a note on this page that the NYC DOH is re-evaluating the city’s COVID Alert system.

NYC Department of Health Guidance

There are currently high transmission levels of COVID-19 throughout the city. Continue to take the following precautions:

- Wear a high-quality mask in all public indoor settings and around crowds outside.
- Stay up-to-date on [vaccinations](#). Visit the NYC COVID-19 and Flu [Vaccine Finder](#) or call 877-VAX4NYC (877-829-4692) to find a vaccination site.
- [Test before and after travel or gatherings](#), or if you were recently exposed to someone who has COVID-19.
- [Stay home if sick](#).
- Wash or sanitize your hands frequently.

[COVID-19: Prevention and Groups at Higher Risk](#)

[CDC information on Covid-19 community levels](#)

In NYC, masks are required in health care facilities, congregate settings, and on public transportation. Proof of vaccination and masks may be required by employers, businesses and nonprofits.

Trends

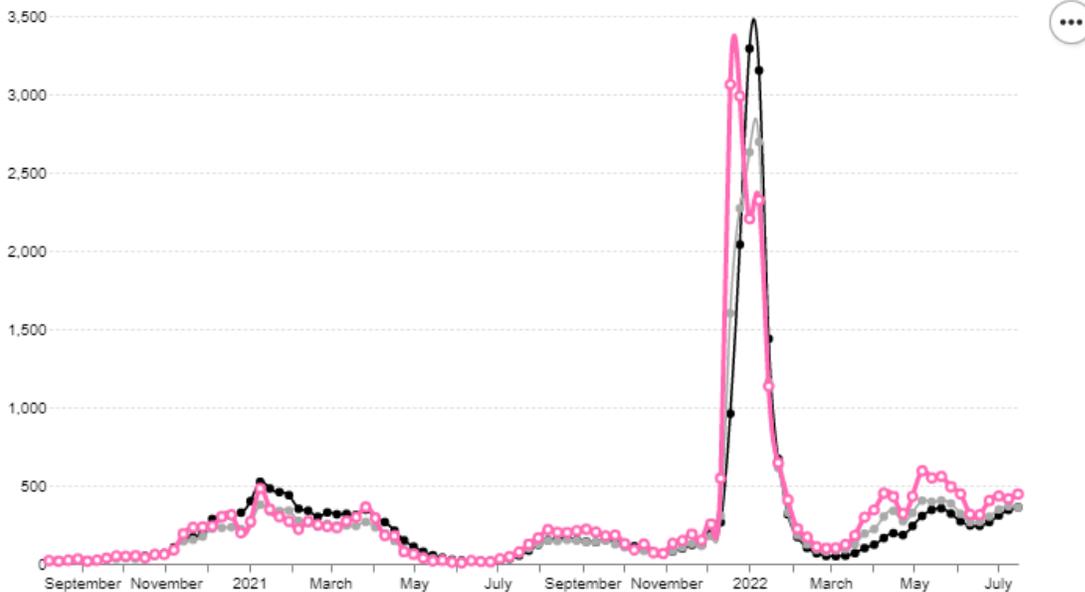
Data taken on **7/22/22** from NYC Department of Health Covid Data page www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data-neighborhoods.page compares case rates for zip code 10016, Manhattan and NYC.

Trends

These charts compare data for your selected ZIP code to your borough and the city. They show whether the pandemic is getting better, getting worse or staying stable. The virus is considered controlled when neighborhoods have a high test rate, low percent positivity and low case rate.

Case rate Test rate Percent positive

Case rate (per 100,000 people) in **10016**, **Manhattan**, and **all of NYC**



Therapies

People age 65+ and immunocompromised people are eligible for the new anti-viral pills. If you have COVID symptoms, take a covid test and contact your doctor within a couple of days, to request a prescription. The anti-viral Paxlovid pill is most effective when prescribed shortly after symptoms begin, and sharply reduces the chances a COVID illness will become severe. It is prescribed as three

pills taken twice a day for five days. Molnupiravir is taken as four pills twice a day for five days. The pills are available for high-risk adults and must be taken soon after symptoms appear.

The monoclonal antibody treatment Bebtelovimab remains approved, and is rated as effective against BA.2.

Free at-home rapid COVID tests from the Federal government (third round) are now available. Order them at [covid.gov/tests](https://www.covid.gov/tests).

Medicare will pay for at-home Coronavirus tests, as many as eight tests per month, under Part B Medicare at participating national pharmacy chains.

New Covid hotline

There's a new state COVID hotline number: 888-TREAT-NY (888-873-2869).

If you test positive, there's Paxlovid and other useful treatment options available. Insured patients will pay a co-pay based on their plan and the NYS Dept. of Health will cover the costs for those without health care coverage. NYC residents who test positive are eligible to be evaluated for treatment by calling the City's hotline, 212-COVID-19 (212-268-4319) or completing an evaluation on the New York State [COVID-19 ExpressCare Therapeutics Access website](#), which includes a telemedicine visit. The hotline is available 24/7 and is operated by experienced professionals who have the clinical training to prescribe treatment and referrals.

Act Now. Get Boosted.

In March 2022, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control recommended a second [COVID-19 booster](#) for adults ages 50 years and older and people ages 12 years and older who have weakened immune systems. So far, only about 28% of adults ages 50 years and older with a first booster dose have received a second booster dose. This means that millions of people are now six or seven months past their first booster and could be more vulnerable to BA.4 and BA.5, the newest lineages of Omicron. The good news is that a new CDC study found that second boosters can restore vaccine protection against hospitalization that might have dropped over time.

If I just had Covid, how long am I in the clear?

Source: Bloomberg Prognosis email, *bloombergbusiness.com*, July 24, 2022

Question: My family all recently had Covid. My husband and I are both vaccinated and double boosted. Assuming we had BA.5, are we in the clear for at least a few weeks?

Answer: “The good news is you are unlikely to get BA.5 again in the future,” says Jessica Justman, an infectious diseases specialist and epidemiologist at the Columbia University Irving Medical Center. “No one can guarantee total protection, but it’s quite unlikely.” A recent preprint of a study from Qatar found that people who had been infected with earlier iterations of the omicron variant (BA.1 and BA.2) had close to 80% protection against infection with a later variant (BA.4 and BA.5). The tougher thing: It’s next to impossible to know for sure what variant you had. And it’s also tough to know when the ever-wily coronavirus has developed a new trick. – Kristen V. Brown

Governor Kathy Hochul’s new COVID-19 preparedness initiatives

Governor Hochul announced the State is working closely with public health experts to craft a Fall Action Plan to address the potential for seasonal COVID-19 surges later this year, as well as strategies to allow students to return safely to school this fall. Governor Hochul also announced a Request for Proposals has been released for an independent After-Action Review to assess the State's COVID-19 response, identify what worked and what did not, and serve as a guide for all local governments planning emergency response efforts...Fall planning will focus on addressing the below, but not limited to:

- A Return to School strategy, including distributing 3 million tests to schools before the beginning of the school year.
- Getting more New Yorkers vaccinated & boosted, including the ability to stand up mass vaccination sites again if the need arises.
- Encouraging New Yorkers to test early, test often.
- Promoting more access to treatment and therapeutics, including a recently launched statewide hotline for New Yorkers who may not have immediate access to healthcare professionals, as well as an ongoing commitment to support New Yorkers struggling with the effects of Long COVID
- Readying stockpile of personal protective equipment (PPE), including 20 million tests ready to deploy where needed.
- Strengthening our hospital systems, including preparations to ramp up the State's Surge Operations Center in the event they are needed
- Coordinating with federal and local partners.

Governor Hochul's presentation on the Fall Action Plan governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2022-07/Gov_Fall_Planning_Slides.pdf.

Request for Proposal (RFP), July 20, 2022 budget.ny.gov/contract/aarrs/aarrs-index.html.

Consultant/Firm inquiries are due by **July 29, 2022**. Proposal Submission Deadline is **August 17, 2022**.

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

Monkeypox

[Governor Hochul Announces Latest Monkeypox Vaccine Distribution Following 2B Allocation From the Federal Government](#)

July 19, 2022, Press Release

All New Yorkers should learn about Monkeypox to protect themselves and prevent spread: visit health.ny.gov/monkeypox. Governor Kathy Hochul today, along with the New York State Department of Health, announced the distribution of the JYNNEOS vaccine in New York, following an additional allocation of 8,822 doses to New York State from the federal government. New York City will receive its own allocation of 23,963 doses directly from the federal government...In this phase of vaccine distribution ("2B"), NYSDOH has allocated 2,000 of its doses to New York City, given the high number of cases concentrated in the area...New Yorkers can sign-up for the text campaign by texting "MONKEYPOX" to 81336 or "MONKEYPOXESP" for texts in Spanish. New Yorkers will be able to provide their zip code to opt-in to location-based messaging, if they choose.

Source: Bloomberg Prognosis email, July 23, 2022

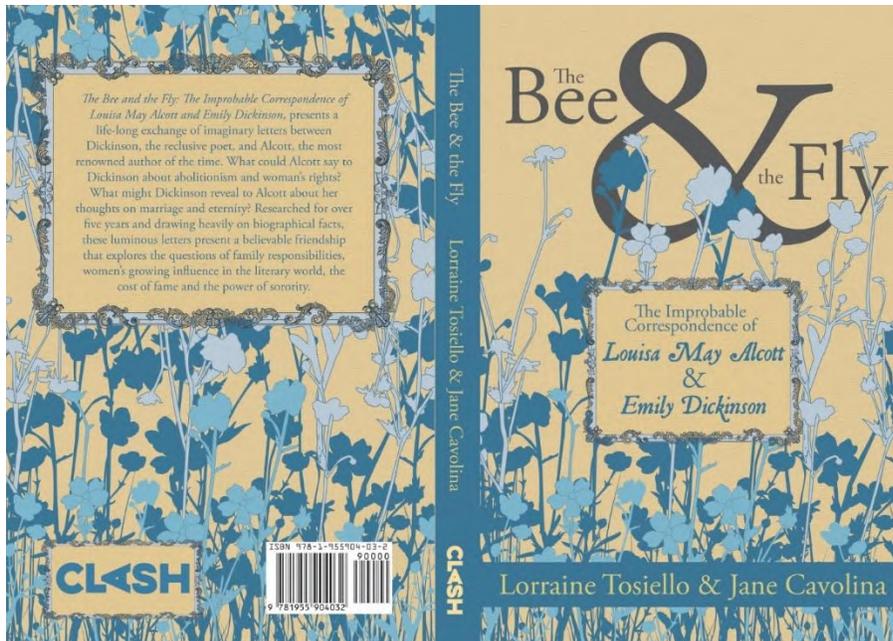
[T]he monkeypox virus was officially declared a global public health

emergency, months after the virus began spreading in Europe and the US. In an unusual move, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the head of the World Health Organization, personally intervened to overrule an expert panel that had voted against the decision...A declaration of a public health emergency from the WHO is important because it paves the way for increased global cooperation to stop the virus, which at this point has now spread to some 75 countries and regions...The pathogen typically causes flu-like symptoms, followed by a rash that often starts on the face and spreads down the belly. The illness can last as long as a month. So far, five deaths have been recorded in Africa, the WHO said.

Kudos!

Murray Hill author, Lorraine Tosiello, publishes new book

Lorraine Tosiello is a Murray Hill resident. Her previous book, *Only Gossip Prospers: A Novel of Louisa May Alcott in New York*, has a chapter called "Murray Hill," and Lorraine presented a lecture on "Louisa May Alcott's Murray Hill" to the MHNA in 2020.



The Bee and the Fly: The Improbable Correspondence of Louisa May Alcott and Emily Dickinson

presents a lifelong exchange of unknown letters between Dickinson, the reclusive poet, and Alcott, the most renowned author of the time. What could Alcott say to Dickinson about abolitionism and women's rights? What might Dickinson reveal to Alcott about her thoughts on marriage and eternity? Researched for over five years and drawing heavily on biographical facts, these luminous letters present a believable friendship that explores the questions of family responsibilities, women's growing influence in the literary world, the cost of fame and the power of sorority.

About the authors: Lorraine and Jane were high school friends. Reconnecting forty years later, they found that they were very nearly the spirit of Louisa and Emily in the world today. **Lorraine Tosiello** read Alcott's *Little Women* in the first grade, and again and again most years of her childhood after that. That set her off on her life journey of reading, working as a physician, motherhood, traveling, and general rabble-raising. Rereading *Little Women* in later adulthood renewed her Alcott enthusiasm and years of study resulted in her first novel, *Only Gossip Prospers: A Novel of Louisa May Alcott in New York*. Lorraine lives with her husband in Murray Hill and at the New Jersey shore. **Jane Cavolina** has been absorbed in a book since her mother signed her up for a book club before she started nursery school. That led to a career in publishing, first as a senior editor at William Morrow, Crown, and Pocket Books, and now as a copyeditor. She is the coauthor of *Growing Up Catholic*, which was on The New York Times bestseller list for forty-weeks, and other works. She has read every Louisa May Alcott book in the Bayside Public Library with the exception of *Little Women*, and has worn out several copies of *Leaves of Grass*, by her other favorite poet, and cherishes her well-flagged copy of *The Complete Poems of Emily Dickinson*.

Published by Clash (clashbooks.com), paperback, \$19.95. Distributed by Consortium. [Purchase the book.](#)

Job and grant opportunities

Ninja Academy is seeking part-time Front Desk Associate

New York City Ninja Academy (in Hell's Kitchen) and Brooklyn Ninja Academy (in Park Slope) are ninja warrior obstacle training centers for kids and adults. A part time Front Desk Associate is needed to greet families, answer questions, handle point of sale, and provide general assistance to gym operations. The job starts in the fall. Learn more about the job description and requirements at nycninja.com/careers. Interested candidates should email their resume and cover letter to ninjanewyorkcity@gmail.com with the subject line "Receptionist." Both businesses are MWBE NYC small businesses, independent and locally owned by a long time Murray Hill resident.

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has job openings for geologists and engineers, local job locations are in Long Island City. Learn more at dec.ny.gov/about/27863.html.

For dancers: New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) offers the Rauschenberg Dancer Emergency Grants, providing professional dancers who are struggling financially because of COVID with one-time grants of up to \$5000. Funds may be requested for emergency expenses for up to a three-month period between March 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022. Applicants must be in "dire financial emergency," which includes (but is not limited to) the lack or impending lack of medicare/healthcare, food, housing, and utilities. Grant Cycle 4 will open on 7/19, and continue through 8/19; Cycle 5 will begin on September 13th and end on October 14th. Questions regarding either grant may be sent to the Rauschenberg Grants Coordinator at emergencyfunds@nyfa.org or call 212-366-6900 x 239. Learn more at nyfa.org/awards-grants/rauschenberg-dancer-emergency-grants.

For artists and choreographers: The New York Foundation for the Arts administers the Rauschenberg Medical Emergency Grants (funded by the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation) which provides one-time grants of up to \$5,000 for recent unexpected medical, dental, and mental health emergencies to artists in financial need who are practicing in the visual arts, film/video/electronic/digital arts, and choreography. This is a competitive grant program; review eligibility requirements and the eligible types of expenses to determine that you are eligible before applying. The grants are not for lost wages, living expenses or medical care for individuals other than the artist. Cycle 14 is now open, with a deadline of Tuesday, August 2, for emergencies occurring December 1, 2021 and later. Learn more at nyfa.org/awards-grants/rauschenberg-medical-emergency-grants.

For students: The American Debate League’s one-week summer debate camps, occurring virtually every week until August 26, has 100 full and partial scholarships available. Offered are courses on speech events (elementary, middle and high school levels), public forum debate (ES/MS and HS), Lincoln Douglas Debate (HS only), and policy debate (HS only). Debaters of all skill levels are welcome. Learn more at americandebateleague.org/summer-camp.html. Apply for a scholarship at americandebateleague.org/leaders-of-tomorrow-scholarship.html –use code “scholarship2022” for a partial scholarship and “adlscholars” for a full scholarship.

How you can help



The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association is seeking new trustees to serve for the 2022-2023 year beginning in September.

As a trustee of MHNA, you will have a voice in decisions that affect your neighborhood:

- Quality of life
- Safety
- Preserving historic Murray Hill

Trustees also will get to know their neighbors, local businesses, and receive regular updates about ongoing issues in the neighborhood.

We will ask that you:

- Be a member of the MHNA
 - Attend monthly board meetings
 - Co-Chair a committee
 - Help with our annual street festival
-

Candidates with interest/skills in website operations, interacting with city and state personnel, and customer service to assist MHNA members are especially invited to apply!

To apply, please send a short bio that includes your ideas for improving Murray Hill, along with your contact information by July 31, 2022 to info@murrayhillnyc.org.

[Flyer](#)

Join a MHNA committee

The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association is an all-volunteer organization. We need your help to keep the Association's work going. Volunteering can be for individual events, such as the Street Festival, and also for ongoing activities, such as Membership. Many administrative activities can be done remotely. [Learn more about the different committees](#). If you are interested in joining a committee, please email info@murrayhillnyc.org.

September 19 (deadline to apply)

ACES is seeking volunteer Public Benefit Counselors

The Advocacy, Counseling and Entitlement Services (ACES) Project of the Community Service Society of New York (cssny.org) is recruiting retired individuals age 55 years or older to serve as volunteer public benefit counselors dedicated to helping financially disadvantaged people. ACES volunteers screen clients for eligibility and assist with completing applications for public benefits. Volunteers must attend a training that begins October 4, 2022 and will be held through webinars. Upon completion, they are placed in agencies in one of the five boroughs to provide information on government benefits to low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities. There are options for in person or remote volunteer assignments. A personal interview, successful completion of the training, and a commitment of six hours per week for one year of volunteer service is required. Applicants must have advocacy, research, and computer skills, in addition to an interest in assisting low-income populations and learning about public benefit programs. No prior benefit experience is required. Your participation in this program gives you a chance to help others in a truly significant way. For more information, please contact Rebecca Haase at 212-614-5482. Learn more and apply at [The ACES Project, Community Service Society of New York](http://cssny.org/programs/entry/the-aces-project) cssny.org/programs/entry/the-aces-project.

Upcoming events

July 25 9am – 6pm (end times are approximate)

Meet & Greet: Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV)

Meet the team which operates NYC Family Justice Centers—providing domestic violence survivors and kids free, confidential services. Once a month at SNFL a representative from the Mayor's Office

to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence will be available to answer questions about their services. ENDGBV operates the New York City Family Justice Centers, service centers which provide vital social services, civil legal and criminal justice assistance, and more—all under one roof. Learn more at nyc.gov/ENDGBV or call 800-621-HOPE (4673) for help. No registration necessary. at Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library (SNFL)

1st Floor Lobby
5th Avenue at 40th Street

through August 30

Pershing Square Sounds

Free lunchtime and happy hour concerts brought to you by Grand Central Partnership.

July 25 5 - 8pm, Bobby Harden & the Soul Purpose Band, Soul, R&B

July 28 4:30 - 6pm, Bobby Harden & his Soul Purpose Quintet, Soul, R&B

See the full lineup at grandcentralpartnership.nyc/pershingsquaresounds.

in Pershing Square Plaza West

Park Avenue (between 41st & 42nd Street)

July 25 at 6PM

(virtual) CitizensNYC: Borough Huddle Series - Manhattan Huddle

Please join CitizensNYC and Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine at their upcoming virtual Manhattan Borough Huddle. We're huddling to:

- Learn about BP Levine's vision for Manhattan
- Hear the top quality of life concerns in Manhattan revealed in CitizensNYC data
- Q&A with attendee/huddlers

Sign up for the event using the form at

citizensnyc.salsalabs.org/mnboroughhuddle2022/index.html. Share your questions and thoughts before the borough huddle at forms.gle/3psTkrQMqUkvVcFW8. For questions contact info@citizensnyc.org, 212-989-0909.

July 26, 2022, 12 - 1:30 PM

(virtual) The New York Public Library Money Matters series: Considering a Financial Caregiver? Know Your Options

Are you caring for an older loved one? Or preparing for a time when you may need help managing your finances or may need to help someone manage their finances? Learn about available resources from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) that can help you explore your options and guide you as a financial caregiver. Register at

nypl.org/events/programs/2022/07/26/considering-financial-caregiver-know-your-options.

July 26 2 - 3pm

(in person) Doing Research at the New York Public Library's Map Division

For history buffs! Learn how to navigate the collection at NYPL's Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division. Participants will learn how maps can be utilized in research and with other materials, how to use the NYPL catalogs to locate maps effectively, and how to search additional cartographic digital databases. Register at nypl.org/events/programs/2022/07/26/navigating-research-map-division.

at Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, Room 216
42nd Street at Fifth Avenue (accessible entrance on 42nd Street)

July 26 7pm

(virtual film screening & panel discussion) *The Story of Plastic: Reusable NYC*

Legislation alert: Plastic pollution is killing the planet! New York City Council Members Marjorie Velázquez and Erik Bottcher will discuss their "Skip the Stuff" bill, which would prohibit food service establishments, couriers who deliver food, and food delivery platforms from providing eating utensils, extra eating containers, condiment packets and napkins to customers for take-out and delivery orders unless the customer requests them. Prior to the panel discussion there will be a screening of the groundbreaking documentary *The Story of Plastic*, a searing exposé revealing the ugly truth behind plastic pollution and the false solution of plastic recycling. Register at oceana.org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0uduyqpzIqGtQB4--J37KdtMSjYpsHvVb2. The link to view this event will be shared with you after you register.

July 27 10 – 10:45am

(in person) Stuffy Storytime at the AKC Museum of the Dog: *Stanley the Dog and the First Day of School* by Bobby Bones

The [AKC Museum of the Dog](https://www.akcmuseum.org) has launched a new story time program that takes place on Wednesday mornings before the Museum opens. Designed for children 2-8 years old with an adult learning partner, participants are encouraged to bring their favorite stuffed dog with them to join in the fun. The program includes listening to a story that highlights a particular breed, visiting the galleries to find artworks showcasing the same breed, and completing a dog-themed craft project. Featured authors include Ree Drummond, Jonathan Graziano, and Karen LeFrak. This program is included with general admission and free for Members. The program will continue through August, 24.

at the AKC Museum of the Dog
101 Park Avenue (40th Street, on the plaza)

July 27 7pm

(in person) Nordic Summer Jazz series at Scandinavia House with guitarist and composer Timothy Johnson

Norwegian guitarist and composer Timothy Johnson with fellow jazz artists Dan Finn (bass), Martha Kato (keyboard), and Christian McGee (drums) Tickets \$10 (Free for ASF Members). Learn more and purchase tickets in advance at goevent.com/ScandinaviaHouse/e/TimothyJohnsonTrio. To receive their complimentary tickets, ASF Members must first log into the Elevent ticketing platform using their member email before adding tickets to their cart. Attendees are required to follow all Scandinavia House safety protocols, including observing social distancing rules in signage.
at Scandinavia House (Volvo Hall)
58 Park Avenue
scandinaviahouse.org

July 28 12 - 1:30pm

(virtual) Millions Lost: The Unrealized Potential of Entrepreneurship and Disability

We often read that people with a disability are especially good at solving problems, have a surplus of resilience, and utilize soft skills—like empathy—to better adapt to the world. If solving problems, resilience, and soft skills—like empathy—are common and requisite traits for entrepreneurs, why are so few people with a disability entrepreneurs, or working with entrepreneurs? What biases and narratives still exist that continue leaving people with a disability out of these opportunities? And what can we do to shift these narratives so that more companies recognize the latent and untapped potential in the disability community to start businesses or help businesses thrive? Join Elaine Pofeldt, Senior Contributor at *Forbes* and author of *The Million-Dollar One-Person Business* and *Tiny Business, Big Money*, as she interviews three entrepreneurs with disabilities (Gustavo Serafini, Kathy McShane, Hoby Wedler) who will share their stories, values, abilities, and their journey of entrepreneurship. This session is the last of a four-part series called BIZABILITY: How Creatives, Entrepreneurs, and Non-profits Are Changing the Way We Understand Human Potential, to commemorate Disability Pride Month at the New York Public Library Business Library. Learn more and register at nypl.org/events/programs/2022/07/28/millions-lost-unrealized-potential-entrepreneurship-and-disability.

through September 17 7 – 8:30pm (Lawn opens at 5pm)

The 2022 season of Picnic Performances at Bryant Park presented by Bank of America

(free) All performances are free to the public and designed to be enjoyed casually – no tickets required—with seating available and free picnic blankets for audience members to borrow. Attendees may bring their own food or purchase from on-site food and beverage vendors near the Lawn.

July 28 - [Ailey II + Ailey Extension](#) (dance) at 6pm a NY Style Mambo Class on the Lawn, led by top instructors from the renowned dance institution.

July 29 - [Carnegie Hall Citywide: The Hot Sardines Featuring Nellie McKay](#)
Learn more and see the full lineup at bryantpark.org/series/bryant-park-picnics.
at Bryant Park
(between 40th & 42nd Street, and between 5th & 6th Avenue, behind the Library)



Important election dates—get involved, learn about the candidates, and vote!

The primary elections are when voters choose who will be the candidates for their party in the General Election. This time around, there are two offices on the ballot: the U.S. House of Representatives and the New York State Senate. Both help create laws that shape the future of our city. Many offices are highly contested in the primaries this year. Help your party win by choosing good candidates in the Primary Election!

NOTE: Voters must be registered with a party to vote to nominate that party's candidate in a Primary Election (the deadline was February 14 to change party affiliation for the upcoming 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, email vote@boe.nyc.ny.us.

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. It is a best practice to check your voter registration status before every election. **This will also show you your Congressional District, Senate District, Assembly District, City Council District, Election District, and Civil Court District. And there is a link on this page to get your poll site information for early voting and the general election.**

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

Request Absentee Ballot vote.nyc/page/absentee-voting-0

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.

[NYC Board of Elections List of candidates](#) for the August 23 primary election (neighborhood races).

Notes: Bill de Blasio has withdrawn his candidacy in the 10th Congressional District due to lack of support. Mondaire Jones has moved to Brooklyn (10th Congressional District).

July 29

August 3

August 8

Deadline to [register to vote for August 23 Primary](#)

Deadline to update your address for the August 23 Primary

Last day to submit an absentee ballot request for the August 23 Primary (online). You must submit an Absentee Ballot request specifically for this primary election.

August 4 - 10

Judicial Convention

August 13 – 21

Early voting

August 23

Primary Election #2 (Congressional & State Senate)

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

August 9 7pm

(free, in person) Film screening of the new Finnish film *Girl Picture*—director Alli Haapasalo will talk after the screening

Film screening at Scandinavia House of the hit new Finnish film *Girl Picture* /Tytöt tytöt tytöt (dir. Alli Haapasalo, Finland, 2022) ahead of its theatrical release on August 12! Director Alli Haapasalo will be present for a film talk and Q&A following the screening. (100 min. In Finnish & French with English subtitles). Learn more and RSVP at scandinaviahouse.org/events/girl-picture.

Scandinavia House, Victor Borge Hall (2nd Floor)

58 Park Avenue (between 37th & 38th Street)

212-779-3587

Penn Station development plan moves forward

New York's Empire State Development Corporation (ESD) approved the Penn Station development plan, which enables state authorities to apply for Federal funds for Penn Station. Final approval of the General Project Plan (GPP) rests with the [Public Authorities Control Board](#) (PACB), a NY state entity. Their next meeting is **July 27 2pm** (in Albany). [Agenda](#) The Penn Station plan is on the agenda with \$NA next to all dollar amounts. Information on how to view the meeting as a webcast at budget.ny.gov/boards/pacb/index.html#mtgNotice.

If you would like to weigh in on the GPP, you can contact the individuals on the board: Robert F. Mujica Jr. – Governor’s Representative and Chairperson (no email for Mujica found on the NYS Dept. of Budget website, contact the governor at governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form), Assemblywoman Amy Paulin – Representative of Assembly Majority (PaulinA@nyassembly.gov), Senator Leroy Comrie – Representative of Senate Majority (comrie@nysenate.gov), Assemblyman Joseph M. Giglio – Representative of Assembly Minority (GiglioJ@nyassembly.gov).

Bringing Public Transparency to Penn Station Plan

Source: State Senator Brad Hoylman’s email of July 22, 2022

Yesterday, NYS Empire State Development Corporation (ESD) approved the General Project Plan (GPP) and associated plans for the redevelopment of Penn Station and the surrounding neighborhood. For several years, I’ve objected to the GPP, which overrides NYC’s authority in the land use review process in favor of State control. (I voted against this project on three separate occasions.) Now that the GPP has been approved, I’ll fight alongside my colleagues, impacted community boards, and stakeholders for greater transparency and community input. With the station’s redevelopment plan, we have the opportunity to not just make cosmetic improvements and expand track capacity, but to also make a serious impact on a myriad of community issues: homelessness, housing, and access to public space. There also are lingering financial questions about the project that need to be answered to protect New York City and State taxpayers. [Learn more about the GPP.](#)

Related: Penn Station Area Redevelopment Plan Wins Key Initial Approval

Gotham Gazette Eye-Opener email, July 22, 2022

New York’s Empire State Development Corporation approved a major redevelopment plan for the Penn Station area that will include the construction of 10 towers in midtown Manhattan and at least \$1.2 billion in subsidies to developers. The unanimous approval from EDC is a win for Governor Kathy Hochul, who championed the project in an altered and expedited form...The project, to be completed by 2033, officials estimate, is meant to ease navigation and raise the ceiling of the cramped and labyrinthine underground station in part using revenue generated from developing the 10 mostly office towers with some residential space. Mayor Eric Adams backed the deal and entered into a financing agreement with Hochul earlier this month that will help fund improvements to the station and surrounding area in midtown Manhattan. But transparency advocates say the board approved a plan with little public information, including key dollar amounts on the potential costs to taxpayers or the justification of massive subsidies to develop the already incredibly valuable real estate. Others have questioned the need for so much new office space given current economic, workplace, and workforce trends coming out of the pandemic. Groups like Reinvent Albany, which recently commissioned a report detailing unanswered questions in the deal and the potential risk to taxpayers, have called on the Public Authorities Control Board, the next entity needed to approve the plan, to withhold support until those questions are answered. The PACB includes state appointees of the governor and state legislative leaders, and will meet next week.

PACB website: budget.ny.gov/boards/pacb/index.html. Their next meeting is July 27 (in person at the State Capitol). **Agenda. 22-UD-1958 : Approving the Pennsylvania Station Area Civic and Land Use Improvement Project:** 1 Pennsylvania Station Area Civic and Land Use Improvement Project – PILOT Agreement \$ N/A GRAND TOTAL \$ N/A.

Related: [The Penn Station \\$7 Billion Fix-Up Moves Ahead: Here's What to Know](#)

July 21, 2022, *nytimes.com*, by Matthew Haag and Patrick McGeehan

The project oversteps local New York City control to allow developers to build bigger buildings than otherwise allowed. Mayor Eric Adams has backed the plan. Many other elected officials and community members have objected to the scale of the redevelopment, the tax breaks and its complex financing structure. Opponents fear that taxpayers would be on the hook if the project fails to generate the revenue supporters expect...Some of the largest buildings would rise on the block south of the existing Penn Station, which spans West 30th Street between Seventh and Eighth Avenues, and would exceed the size of nearly every commercial building in New York City... The M.T.A. is leading the \$7 billion renovation project at the station but New York expects the federal government, Amtrak and New Jersey to contribute most of the money...The tax breaks for developers could be lucrative, a recent analysis concluded, potentially including \$1.2 billion in tax breaks for Vornado, the largest landowner in the area. The city would not benefit from the additional property taxes on the new buildings until the station improvements are paid off... There has been vocal opposition from the outset from many elected officials and community leaders. The opponents include State Senator Liz Krueger, who has questioned the wisdom of betting on office real estate in New York City at a time when the pandemic has upended the way people work and has led companies to shed space at record rates. Also, the new office buildings would compete with Hudson Yards, the newest office district in Manhattan, which has a similarly structured property-tax deal.

Related: [Governor Hochul and Mayor Adams Announce Agreement on Financial Framework to Support Reconstruction, Potential Expansion of Penn Station and Revitalization of Surrounding Area](#)

July 18, 2022, Press release

This agreement also affirms the State's ongoing commitment to rebuilding Penn Station without raising taxes on New Yorkers or fares for transit riders. As part of the agreement, the City and State have committed to establishing a shared city-state governance entity to oversee public realm improvements and ensure comprehensive and coordinated planning and implementation...To ensure that the City maintains its tax revenue stream, the City will continue to collect amounts equal to current taxes on each development site with a 3 percent increase each year. All buildings will return to the City's tax rolls after the agreed contributions to project costs are met, or after a period of 80 years (at the latest)...The plan prioritizes the reconstruction of the existing station while the station expansion and the Gateway Project initiatives—both of which the Governor strongly supports—continue on their federally established timelines...In June, Governor Hochul announced that the Penn Station Reconstruction project had entered the design phase and launched a request for proposals for the design of the new Penn Station. Submissions are due later this month; awards are expected to be announced in the fall.

Related: [80-year itch: Hochul, Adams deal on Penn delays taxes for decades \(paywall\)](#)

July 18, 2022, *therealdeal.com*, by Kathryn Brenzel

It may be the 22nd century before properties return to city's tax roll...New York. City and state officials have come to terms on paying for the renovation and expansion of Penn Station—some of it, anyway. Gov. Kathy Hochul and Mayor Eric Adams announced on Monday an agreement over how the city will collect property taxes from the 18 million square feet of construction planned on sites surrounding the station. As expected, the city will continue to collect the property taxes it receives now on the development sites, increasing by 3 percent each year. It will also get payments in lieu of taxes, or PILOTs, from the developers of each of the 10 future towers; the mechanism allows money to be directed to a specific purpose, in this case Penn Station work, rather than go into the general fund. The property owners will not pay traditional property taxes on the increased value of the land for an extended period of time. The city will not collect the full property taxes on these sites until the agreed-upon contributions to the project are met or after 80 years, at the latest. The PILOTs will cover 12.5 percent of the estimated \$7 billion cost of renovating Penn, and of the possible expansion of the station, reportedly a \$12 billion project. The payments will fully offset the cost of public realm improvements, such as street and sidewalk work, and will take care of 50 percent of the expense of transit work, including underground concourses and new subway entrances...The announcement does not include many details on the expected value of the PILOTs, nor how they will be distributed between the renovation and expansion. It also does not specify how much the state expects to make from the sale of development rights in the neighborhood. State officials released a copy of the financial framework late Monday afternoon. Opponents have complained that the project's finances lack transparency. Elizabeth Marcello, a research analyst with Reinvent Albany, a watchdog group that has been critical of the state's plans for Penn, said the announcement further blurs the lines between the expansion and renovation of the station. "There's still a lot of glaring questions we don't have answers to," she said. Reinvent Albany recently commissioned a report that found the state could come up short of the \$3.4 billion to \$5.9 billion it needs to pay for its portion of Penn-related projects. It also estimated that Vornado Realty Trust, expected to be the primary developer of the sites surrounding Penn, could secure tax breaks worth as much as \$1.2 billion. The deal comes just three days ahead of Empire State Development's expected vote on the general project plan. The GPP paves the way for the state to take over the eight sites and then lease them back to developers, who would build 10 towers. In addition to millions of square feet of new office space, the project could include up to 1,800 residential units, with 540 set aside as affordable. The state still needs to reach separate deals with the developer of each site.

Related: [Vornado debt cut by \\$100M to \\$480M in Penn Station refi](#) (paywall)
June 29, 2022, pincusco.com, by PincusCo Media

Related: [Statement from Governor Kathy Hochul on Gateway Development Commission Board Meeting](#)
July 19, 2022, Press release

Congestion pricing

[As MTA drags feet on setting congestion pricing fee, Manhattan BP offers his own suggestions](#)

July 13, 2022, *gothamist.com*, by Stephen Nessen

Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine is trying to help speed up the MTA's long-delayed congestion pricing program by proposing how much to charge drivers who enter the zone below Manhattan's 60th Street. The discussions are supposed to be conducted by the Traffic Mobility Review Board – a panel made up of six members largely chosen by the MTA – who will also determine fees drivers pay or any exemptions. But the MTA still hasn't formed that panel...While many politicians have called for their constituents to be exempt from the fees, Levine – a supporter of the program that was approved by the state Legislature in 2019 – is the first one to put forth detailed recommendations on how much to charge drivers. Those fees would be funneled back to the MTA to maintain and repair the subway system, buy new buses and install more elevators. "We are in part raising these important policy issues now, because we don't want the fight over these questions to delay us further," Levine said at a press conference in Manhattan...Levine outlined a series of recommendations that included charging drivers a different rate depending on what time they enter and leave the zone, charging more during rush hours and less during off-peak hours. He also suggested charging large vehicles more money than smaller ones. He also offered up a suggestion that should please New Jersey drivers, whose leadership has already complained about the program. He said he wants to ensure vehicles that enter the zone via the Holland or Lincoln tunnels allow that toll to be applied to the congestion pricing fee.

If you would like to weigh in on this issue with Manhattan Borough President Levine, email info@manhattanbp.nyc.gov. Website: manhattanbp.nyc.gov.

[Editor's note: This has implications for the Penn Station development plan and Congestion Pricing plan. Are decision-makers for the plans depending on 'hopes and prayers' for "central business districts," rather than on current realities? More flexible designs need to be developed for these programs to mitigate the risks.]

[Adams: NYC may not have central business districts anymore](#)

July 20, 2022, *therealdeal.com*, TRD Staff

Mayor Eric Adams joined some of the biggest names in business in recognizing remote work isn't going anywhere – and the city has likely consequences on the way. In comments made during a tech event on Monday reported by the New York Post, the mayor said the city should look to define the question of "what does the work week look like" and aim to "build local ecosystems in our community" as New Yorkers' work arrangements shape the city. "We may not have central business districts anymore," Adams admitted. "I don't know that, but we can't stumble into this."... "It sounded to us like the mayor was clear that the economy currently depends on many New Yorkers returning to in-person work," Fabien Levy [A spokesperson for Adams] said... But business leaders have started to accept that remote work is here to stay. IBM CEO Arvind Krishna recently said that only 60 percent of workers for the company would ever return to the office... Sinking attendance rates have had a predictable effect on retail in business districts. As early as October, data showed that businesses in residential neighborhoods were recovering faster than small businesses in central business districts across dozens of metro areas.

Changes in the neighborhood

[Alexandria takes tenant bicoastal at Kips Bay life sciences center](#)

July 22, 2022, *therealdeal.com*, by Holden Walter-Warner

Eikon Therapeutics signed a 25,000-square-foot lease at the Alexandria Center for Life Science in Kips Bay, the biotech company announced Thursday. The space at the Alexandria Real Estate Equities building will be used for clinical development and research. The facility will serve as an East Coast base for Eikon, which is based in Hayward, California. This is old hat for the companies, which recently teamed on a bigger lease on the other side of the country. Eikon last month leased 285,000 square feet at Alexandria's new life sciences complex being built in Millbrae, California... Eikon was co-founded in 2019 by Eric Betzig, who shared the 2014 Nobel Prize in chemistry. The biotech company raised \$517.8 million in a Series B funding round in January and has raised \$668 million overall. Pasadena-based Alexandria, an REIT specializing in life sciences development, has been part of a surge in the sector in New York City. The company reached an agreement in 2018 to build the 550,000-square-foot tower at 430 East 29th Street, part of a 1.3 million-square-foot campus. Black Diamond Therapeutics last year signed an 18,000-square-foot lease at the building, part of a record-breaking surge in life sciences leasing in the city. Then-Mayor Bill de Blasio pledged \$500 million for life sciences development, bringing total investment in the sector up to \$1 billion.

Schools and students

[Lawsuit filed to halt hundreds of millions in NYC school budget cuts](#)

July 18, 2022, *ny.chalkbeat.org*, by Reema Amin

The lawsuit — filed against New York City, the education department, and schools Chancellor David Banks — claims that city officials failed to follow the proper protocols before elected officials voted on the final budget, which took effect July 1. They are asking for a court to invalidate the adopted budget and require the City Council to reconsider and vote again. While they await a hearing and a final decision, the plaintiffs also want a temporary restraining order on implementation of the budget cuts, and city schools funded at the same levels as last fiscal year...The lawsuit comes as pressure has built around the budget cuts, which are a result of declining projected student enrollment...the lawsuit claims that the city skirted proper protocols by failing to allow the Panel for Educational Policy, or PEP — a largely mayoral appointed board that approves major contracts and policies — to approve the department's estimated budget before it went to City Council for a final vote...The PEP voted on the budget in late June, two weeks after the City Council had already adopted it, "depriving the City Council of the benefit of the public hearing, public comments, and vote" by the PEP, the lawsuit argues.

Related: [Judge grants temporary restraining order against NYC public school budget cuts](#)

July 22, 2022, *gothamist.com*, by Jessica Gould

A New York Supreme Court judge has granted education activists a temporary restraining order against budget cuts at city public schools the Adams administration has said are needed to reflect declining enrollment. The city is barred from taking any action related to the budget cuts until after a hearing on August 4th.

School report cards for covid testing

COVID-19 Report Card for [PS 116 Mary Lindley Murray](#). Total Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=464. One-hundred and fifty positive tests were reported since September (108 students, 42 staff). No positive tests in the last 14 days.

COVID-19 Report Card for [The River School](#). Total Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=516. One hundred and ninety-two positive tests were reported since September (153 students, 39 staff). No positive tests in the past 14 days.

COVID-19 Report Card for [Murray Hill Academy](#). Total Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=299. Sixty-one positive tests since September (43 students, 18 staff). No positive tests in the past 14 days.

COVID-19 Report Card for [J.H.S 104 Simon Baruch](#). Total Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=1,108. Three hundred and five positive cases since September (298 students, 7 staff). No positive tests in the past 14 days.

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

Murray Hill in the news

July 21, 2022, **Film shoot at the Church of the Good Shepherd**, 236 East 31st Street. The name of the TV series is [New Amsterdam](#) (medical drama).

[A Studio on the East Side of Manhattan for Less Than \\$500,000? These Were His Options.](#)

July 7, 2022, *nytimes.com*, by Joyce Cohen

Preservation, housing, homelessness & affordability

The Landmark Preservation Commission held its public meeting on the hardship application presented by the landmarked West Park Presbyterian Church [on July 19, 2022]. After questioning the applicant, the LPC decided to continue their investigation and revisit the issue after Labor Day.
[Source: Council Member Gale Brewer's email of July 23, 2022]

Related: [The Fight Over Tearing Down a Landmark Red Church](#)

July 19, 2022, *nytimes.com*, by James Barron

The church wants to go ahead with a deal worth more than \$30 million that would replace the structure with an apartment building. Inside the new structure would be a 10,000-square-foot community center that the congregation could use or rent out

[Illegal Midtown Airbnb Owner Faces Lawsuit From City, Mayor Announces](#)

July 12, 2022, *patch.com*, by Nick Garber

The suit against the owners of a Turtle Bay brownstone is the city's first since a new law made it easier to track illegal rentals... Mayor Eric Adams announced the lawsuit in a news conference outside the building...saying the defendants in the city's lawsuit used Airbnb to "deceive and lure unsuspecting guests into paying for substandard lodging at illegal rental listings. "Not only did they unlawfully pocket millions, but they endangered guests and deprived New Yorkers of an entire building's worth of long-term housing," Adams said.

[Affordable housing in one of NYC's most expensive neighborhoods becomes litmus test in competitive congressional race](#)

July 11, 2022, *gothamist.com*, by Elizabeth Kim

The idea seemed like a pipe dream. But in the highly competitive race for the open 10th Congressional District seat, a grassroots advocacy campaign calling for [100%] affordable housing on an empty, state-owned World Trade Center development site has become an unexpected political test for candidates seeking to represent one of the city's most liberal districts... So far, five of the leading Democratic contenders – former Mayor Bill de Blasio, ex-prosecutor Daniel Goldman, Congressman Mondaire Jones, and Assemblymembers Yuh-Line Niou and Jo Anne Simon – have all signed on in support of the affordable housing campaign run by a group of residents and 9/11 activists called the Coalition for a 100% Affordable 5WTC. While approval of the project rests with Gov. Kathy Hochul, the district's representative in Congress can help push for federal funding to subsidize greater affordability... Supporters of greater affordability argue the costs can be lowered with a redesign that slightly lowers the height of the building. They have also pointed to creative financing mechanisms like using federal Section 8 vouchers or issuing special tax-exempt bonds... The project still needs to go through a lengthy review process that will involve public hearings. Hochul has been noncommittal so far... Still, in a field of more than a dozen candidates, not everyone has jumped on the bandwagon. The most prominent holdout has been Manhattan City Councilmember Carlina Rivera... the Councilmember explained her decision as having to choose between funding a private development and public housing.

[Critics Of Encampment Sweeps Partner With Mayor On New Outreach Plan](#)

July 19, 2022, *patch.com*, by Anna Quinn

Civil rights leader Norman Siegel said he will "keep pushing" Adams to end encampment sweeps as he sets up new teams to help the homeless. The very advocates who criticized Mayor Eric Adams for sending teams to clear homeless encampments have partnered with the city on a new outreach plan – though they haven't convinced the mayor to stop his own. Civil rights attorney Norman Siegel, Coalition for the Homeless founder Robert Hayes and other advocates announced Tuesday that they will work with the city to set up new volunteer teams aimed at helping "hard to reach" homeless New Yorkers get off the streets.

[NYCHA CEO Outlines Next Steps for Recently-Passed Preservation Trust](#)

July 15, 2022, *gothamgazette.com*, by Natalie Rash

"This is a momentous day in the history of public housing in New York City and across the nation...," [New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Chair and CEO Greg] Russ said at the bill-signing. "The trust gives NYCHA the ability to raise billions of dollars in capital funds to be invested in its properties, and provides residents a true voice in the future of their homes."... Founded as a Great Depression era housing program in 1934, NYCHA was created to help alleviate the pressures of the housing crisis at the time, and is considered to be one of the first United States agencies to provide

residents with affordable and publicly-funded housing. The initiative also came before the 1937 Housing Act, which provided federal subsidies to local housing agencies in order to improve the quality of housing and living conditions for low-income families throughout the country... “NYCHA is a prime example of what happens when you put up a really sturdy property—one that in the beginning is designed well, services well—and then you go 60 years without putting deep investment into it,” said Russ...The new trust is promised to allow for the investment of billions of dollars to restabilize participating NYCHA properties via funds raised by through the issuance of bonds and resulting capital for maintenance, renovations, and improvements to the properties...the rent formula for NYCHA eligibility will remain the same, meaning that residents will continue to pay no more than 30% of their adjusted incomes toward rent, and that apartments will continue to be restricted to low-income residents... Russ said that the country’s current administration needs to address the shift toward project-based voucher portfolios that is occurring.

Redistricting

August 15 - 22

(in person and virtual) NYC Council Redistricting Commission hearings

The New York City Districting Commission is charged with redistricting the fifty-one City Council districts according to the 2020 Census and other criteria mandated by the New York City Charter. There will be several more public hearings. Hearings are open to the public. The purpose of the hearings is for the NYC Districting Commission to hear testimony from the public concerning the initial phases of its work in drafting a new districting plan for the 51 New York City Council Districts. According to their announcement, the commission will vote on Council maps July 18, then conduct another round of hearings in August: on the 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th & 22nd, then take a final vote September 15 and submit their plan to the City Council. Draft redistricting maps will be posted on the commission’s website (but are not there as of 7/14/22). Individuals wishing to submit written testimony in connection with this public hearing may do so at

PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov. Individuals wishing to speak at any hearing will be provided up to three minutes of speaking time. Learn more at www1.nyc.gov/site/districting/index.page.

August 15 4pm, TBD

August 16 4pm, TBD

August 17 4pm, TBD

August 18 4pm, TBD

August 22 4pm, TBD

Editor’s note: [take a look at the map](#). District 4 has been redrawn to include part of the west side (it appears to be Times Square to 59th Street – no street numbers on the map). Districts 2, 4 and 5 do not have compact boundaries. Parts of Sutton and the Upper East Side have been combined with District 26, which is mostly Queens, in violation of the City Charter. If you would like to weigh in on this map, email publictestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov.

[City Council Redistricting Process Heads to New Round of Public Input After Draft Map Release](#)

July 21, 2022, *gothamgazette.com*, by Ethan Geringer-Sameth

Unlike the fight over new state legislative and congressional district maps, which focused on partisan lines earlier this year, the effort to redraw New York City's 51 City Council districts has become a battle defined by incumbency and ethnicity. Last Friday, the New York City Districting Commission released a [preliminary set of draft lines](#) that could form the basis of the city's political map for the next decade...Members of the public can submit feedback to the commission any time by email to publictestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov or testify in person or virtually in one of five City Charter-mandated hearings to be held in each borough from August 15-22...The commission has uploaded the preliminary maps to its [website](#) along with a number of interactive features that allow residents to see demographics broken down by ethnicity and voting age...With 8.8 million people – up roughly 630,000 from the 2010 Census – each of the city's 51 City Council districts must have approximately 173,000 residents. State law requires the difference in population between the largest and smallest districts to be no greater than 5%. The commission cannot dilute the power of racial and language groups protected under the Voting Rights Act. The Charter requires the commission to preserve, as much as possible, neighborhood boundaries and so-called "communities of interest" – a vague term shaped largely by the input of members of the public who provide testimony. Districts must also be "compact," avoid crossing borough lines, and avoid splitting voters of the same party.

Elections, voting & appointments

(opinion) [New York Needs to Ban Hybrid Voting Machines Before They Make Our Elections Worse](#)

May 31, 2022, *gothamgazette.com*, by Judith Hertzberg, Jan Combopiano, Julie Kerr, co-founders of Brooklyn Voters Alliance, an all-volunteer, non-partisan organization that works to protect and expand voting rights in New York State

There is a bill before the State Legislature (SS309B/[A1115C](#)) [Relates to construction of voting machines and systems] that needs to pass now – there is no time to lose, our current machines are already overdue for replacement and the NYCBOE (as well as other county BOEs throughout the state) are wanting to replace them with these hybrid machines... New York has complicated elections and bottlenecks do occur. Yes, a non-working scanner slows down the process, but non-working hybrid machines would grind the voting process to a complete halt... Our current ballot bins that receive the scanned ballots need to be swapped out every 2,500 ballot pages, a process that takes about 10 minutes (and the scanners rarely - if ever - get to that amount of ballots). In contrast, hybrid voting machines require the printer hopper to be replaced after every 250 votes.

Current bill status: In Assembly Committee

[NYC real estate industry exerts influence in high-profile congressional race](#)

July 19, 2022, *gothamist.com*, by Elizabeth Kim and David Cruz

New York City's deep-pocketed real estate interests are opening up their wallets in the highly competitive race for an open congressional seat covering Lower Manhattan and parts of Brooklyn, according to a Gothamist analysis of federal campaign data. Donations from the industry were mostly spread among several of the top candidates in the newly drawn 10th Congressional District: ex-prosecutor Dan Goldman, Westchester Congressman Mondaire Jones and Manhattan City Councilmember Carlina Rivera... Running in a district that includes the famously liberal bastions of Greenwich Village and Park Slope, many of the candidates have decried the power of real estate. With the exception of Rivera, all have pledged to support an affordable housing tower at a former World Trade Center site.

[Jerry Nadler Reminds People He's The Son Of A Chicken Farmer](#)

July 19, 2022, *patch.com*, by Gus Saltonstall

Rep. Jerry Nadler egged on Rep. Carolyn Maloney after new filings showed that she lent her campaign nearly \$1 million of her own money in the primary race for Manhattan's 12th congressional district. "I'm the son of a chicken farmer - no fortune over here," Nadler tweeted...A spokesperson for Maloney told the New York Times that the funds came from her House retirement account.

[NYC files appeal in noncitizen voter case, keeping the fight alive to enfranchise nearly 1 million new voters](#)

July 22, 2022, *gothamist.com*, by Brigid Bergin

Last month, a Staten Island judge ruled that the law, which would allow people legally living and working in the city to vote in local elections, violates the state constitution and state election law. Friday, the New York City Law Department filed a notice that it will appeal with the Appellate Division, Second Department.

Reports

[New York by the Numbers: Monthly Economic and Fiscal Outlook](#)

No. 67, July 11, 2022, by NYC Comptroller Brad Lander

- New Yorkers are settling into: spending less time on average in office buildings, transit stations, and retail establishments, and more time near their homes, on bikes, and in parks.
-

- The largest net loss in the number of business establishments was in Manhattan, taking the borough below 50% of the city's businesses for the first time. Or that Brooklyn saw the largest increase in new private businesses, buoyed by growth in the tech and administrative services sectors. Though accelerated by the pandemic, these are longstanding trends. Industry sectors hurting the worst are: other services except public administration, retail trade, wholesale trade, accommodation and food services. Partially offsetting the losses, New York City overall recorded a net gain of 2,285 private establishments in the unclassified sector.
- As of May, the private sector is back to 95% of the February 2020 peak level.
- Information and Health Care and Social Assistance are now well above their February 2020 levels. Accommodation and Food Services, Retail, Arts, Entertainment and Recreation remain well below.
- Median asking rents on Streeteasy.com have now grown by 29 percent over the last twelve months (Chart 4).
- Rental inventory ticked up slightly in May
- The office market continues to underperform in 2022. Vacant space remains at very high levels
- Time at retail and recreation locations remains below pre-pandemic levels.
- Biking continues to be more popular in the city than before the pandemic.
- Weekday ridership on MTA subways, buses, and commuter rails continued to gradually improve in the month of June, as subway ridership reached 58% of pre-pandemic levels
- Vehicle traffic on MTA bridges and tunnels remained close to 100% of pre-pandemic volume throughout the spring.
- In the final four weeks of June, New York City office occupancy averaged 41.8 percent
- Passenger volume at New York City-area airports improved to 91% of pre-COVID levels in May
- Pedestrian volume in Times Square improved to an average of 311,321 per day in May... 17% below the same month in 2019
- Estimated tax payments [which are closely tied to capital gains realizations] were 31% lower than in 2021
- Overall PIT [Personal Income Tax] collections were 5.1% higher year-over year, primarily due to withholding revenue (taxes withheld from monthly wage earners) which were 13.2% higher than in the previous year.

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

The Governor and our elected representatives have been busy putting through legislation.

[Governor Kathy Hochul signed a package of legislation to support residents of public housing and improve conditions in the New York City Housing Authority.](#)

July 20, 2022, Press release. Legislation S.7859-A/A.8612-A requires NYCHA to create and maintain a searchable database of ticket numbers showing complaints filed by residents. Legislation S.72-A/A.9387-A requires that data of outstanding code violations in public housing developments be maintained in the same manner as it is for privately owned housing.

Governor Kathy Hochul today signed eight pieces of legislation to provide support and resources for victims of human trafficking.

July 20, 2022, Press release. These new laws will ensure locations such as airports, bus terminals, hotels and truck stops prominently feature information on human trafficking.

Legislation (S.7360/A.9821) Requires Curriculum Related to Human Trafficking to Be Included in Alcohol Training Awareness

Legislation (S.244B/A.887C) Requires Employees of Lodging Facilities to Be Trained to Recognize Human Trafficking Victims

Legislation (S.8711A/A.9883A) Requires the Thruway Authority to Post Informational Signs and Cards Concerning Services for Human Trafficking Victims in Public Restrooms

Legislation (S.8678/A.9814) Requires Truck Stops to Post Informational Signs and Cards Concerning Services for Human Trafficking Victims in Public Restrooms

Legislation (S.8710/A.9406) Requires Airports to Post Informational Signs and Cards Concerning Services for Human Trafficking Victims in Public Restrooms

Legislation (S.8262/A.9169) Requires Port Authority Airports to Post Informational Signs and Cards Concerning Services for Human Trafficking Victims in Public Restrooms

Legislation (S.8573/A.9410) Requires Port Authority Bus Terminals to Post Informational Signs and Cards Concerning Services for Human Trafficking Victims in Public Restrooms

Legislation (S.3374B/A.7818B) Requires Establishments Serving Alcoholic Beverages to Display Signage Regarding the Offense of Human Trafficking and Assistance Hotline

Governor Hochul announces interagency efforts to help protect New Yorkers from extreme heat risks

July 23, 2022, Press release

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced actions State agencies and authorities will advance to help address the impacts of extreme heat on disadvantaged communities and other New Yorkers vulnerable to the effects of increasingly high temperatures driven by climate change...The interim recommendations released today represent the first phase of a more comprehensive Extreme Heat Action Plan that will identify State-led actions that address the structural drivers of extreme heat and its disproportionate impact on New York's most vulnerable communities.

Read the report: [Interim Recommendations, Preparing for Extreme Heat](#), by the Extreme Heat Action Plan Work Group

Governor Hochul signs legislation to expand pedestrian and bicyclist safety

Governor Kathy Hochul...signed legislation S.1078B/A.5084A, which requires new drivers to learn about pedestrian and bicyclist safety awareness as a component of the pre-licensing exam and as a prerequisite for obtaining a license to operate a motor vehicle.

High Quality, Centralized Cyber Security Resources for Local Governments in NY

July 21, 2022, [Press release](#)

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced the start of New York State's \$30 million shared services program designed to assist counties with cybersecurity for government systems across the state, including tools to protect against ransomware attacks. Today's announcement complements the work of the State's recently announced Joint Security Operations Center in Brooklyn, the nation's first-of-its-kind cyber command center that houses cybersecurity assets from multiple levels of government partners under one roof...The JSOC is taking a centralized approach to managing cyber security risk, as the interconnected nature of the state's networks and IT programs can lead to an attack spreading quickly across the state. By opting-in for these services, counties will contribute to enhancing security of government assets throughout New York State...The JSOC, announced earlier this year by Governor Hochul, is headquartered in Brooklyn and staffed by both physical and virtual participants from across the state. The center is designed to improve defenses by allowing cyber teams to have a centralized viewpoint of threat data, resulting in better collaboration between government partners on intelligence, response times and remediation in the event of a cyber incident.

Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney voted

- For the [Women's Health Protection Act of 2022](#) and [Ensuring Access to Abortion Act of 2022](#), to ensure health care providers have a statutory right to provide abortion care and patients have a right to receive care free from interference from state bans. [These bills still have to pass the Senate.]
- For the **Securing Benefits for New York Veterans**, the [Honoring Our Pact Act](#)
- For the [Active Shooter Alert Act of 2022](#) which would establish a program similar to the AMBER Alert system, allowing law enforcement to effectively and efficiently alert the public during a shooting.
- [Against the National Defense Authorization Act \(NDAA\)](#) because she could not, in good conscience, support a bill which continues to inflate the Pentagon's budget while our government continues to underfund key safety nets and services for children and families. The House passed various [amendments she submitted as part of the NDAA](#).

[AOC, Maloney Arrested In Abortion Protest Outside Supreme Court](#)

July 19, 2022, [patch.com](#), by Nick Garber

The two New York City lawmakers were among at least 16 members of Congress arrested in Tuesday's protest outside the U.S. Supreme Court.

Related: On Thursday, Rep. Maloney voted for the **Right to Contraception Act**, critical legislation that codifies the right to access birth control into federal law and establishes a corresponding right for health care providers to provide contraceptives and information about birth control. [Source: Rep. Maloney’s Weekly Update email of July 22, 2022]

[Editor’s note: Although this bill passed the House, [CBS news](#) thinks it is unlikely to get the 10 Republican votes needed to pass the Senate.]

In addition, Maloney voted for legislation to protect marriage equality at the federal level. In 1986 she introduced the first domestic partnership legislation in New York State history when serving on the New York City Council. Maloney announced that the Oversight Committee advanced her bill, the Ensuring a Fair and Accurate Census Act, which will safeguard the integrity and independence of the Census Bureau.

[Adams Administration Eyes Late 2022 Launch of 'MyCity' Portal for City Services](#)

July 12, 2022, *gothamgazette.com*, by Samar Khurshid

One of Mayor Eric Adams’ main gripes with city government is that it is too inefficient, part of rampant dysfunction that exacerbates inequality and stifles growth...And he’s vowed to ease that access by launching an online portal that will allow people to apply for city benefits, services, and permits at the touch of a button...The MyCity portal is currently under development by the Mayor’s Office of Technology and Innovation (OTI), which Adams created in January to consolidate the city’s various technology-related offices. According to an administration official who spoke on background, the office aims to launch the portal later this year, offering the child care application...OTI officials have spent the last few months scoping out how child care enrollment works in the city through the various agencies that provide it and are now surveying parents and caregivers about how they apply for child care benefits...As the administration moves ahead with MyCity, City Council members are also pursuing efforts at online access...Council Member Julie Menin, a Manhattan Democrat, has proposed a more focused One-Stop Shop NYC Business Portal overseen by the Department of Small Business Services (SBS), to centralize applications, permits, and licenses for small businesses.

Related: (opinion) [Better Late Than Never: Time for the Public Advocate to Convene COPIC](#)

July 18, 2022, *gothamgazette.com*, by Devin Balkind, a nonprofit executive, civic technologist, and startup advisor who ran for Public Advocate as the Libertarian Party nominee.

One function [New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams] has yet to perform, but something all previous Public Advocates have done, is to convene a meeting of the Commission on Public Information and Communication (COPIC)...COPIC was established in the charter revision of 1990 to “make city government more transparent to the citizens it serves and to encourage the public to become more actively involved in government.”...Here are a few ideas for questions Williams can ask of the city administration at his first COPIC convening:

- What work exactly is underway on MyCity, the single city portal...where residents can access all city services? ...
-

- Is work underway on ... “CompStat for all city agencies” project? What will this look like? How will he phase it in? Will the data he uses for this be available on the city’s open data portal? When? How is the city tackling software procurement reform? ...
- What’s the status of the Digital Service Organization launched in the final days of the De Blasio administration? What is its scope of work?...
- If another pandemic hit, how would city agencies use technology differently than they did during covid?...

NYC Rules (rule change adopted):

Minimum Age to Participate in Participatory Budget

August 12, 2022

[Adopted Rule Full Text](#)

Adopted rule summary: The Civic Engagement Commission has adopted rules pertaining to the minimum age requirement for participation in the Citywide participatory budgeting program. The rule sets the minimum age for the citywide PB program at 11 years of age.

Force-fed Products, Open Captioning in Motion Picture Theaters, and Automated Employment Decision Tools

Effective date: August 5, 2022

[Adopted Rule Full Text](#)

Adopted rule summary: The Department of Consumer and Worker Protection is adopting rules to implement Local Law 202 of 2019, Local Law 144 of 2021, and Local Law 37 of 2022. These new rules add penalty schedules for violations related to keeping or selling any force-fed products, open captioning in motion picture theaters, and automated employment decision tools.

[Limitations on the Use of Marijuana](#)

Effective date: August 6, 2022

[Adopted Rule Full Text](#)

Adopted rule summary: New York City’s Smoke-Free Air Act (“SFAA”) prohibits the smoking, including the smoking of cannabis, in a range of locations, with certain other locations being exempt from the smoking prohibition. The New York State Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA) amended section 1399-q of the New York Public Health Law to prohibit the smoking or vaping of cannabis in some of the locations exempt by the SFAA and New York City regulations. To make the exemption provisions consistent between the two laws, DOHMH is amending seven Chapter 10 sections by:

- adding definitions to section 10-01 and,

- amending sections 10-02, 10-04, 10-07, 10-10, and 10-16 to prohibit the smoking and vaping of cannabis in areas that the New York Public Health Law prohibits such smoking and vaping.

Council Member Erik Bottcher (District 3) and State Senator Brad Hoylman, Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, are calling for Midtown Community Court to be fully reopened

Source: CM Bottcher's and Sen. Hoylman's emails of July 22, 2022

Community Board 4, Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine and CM Gale Brewer, Assembly Members Gottfried and Rosenthal, and local stakeholders stand with them. Midtown Community Court (MCC) and its Misdemeanor Mental Health Court, a specialized court targeting low-level offenders living with a serious mental illness related to their criminal justice involvement, are open only one day a week. Before the pandemic, MCC was open five days a week. Over the last quarter century, MCC's model of problem-solving justice has been data-proven to reduce both crime and the use of jail. MCC's drug and mental health court connects individuals with social services and harm reduction programs that can address the root causes of crime, reduce recidivism, and keep our community safer.

Email question@nycourts.gov if you wish to express your views on this issue.

Mayoral appointments: Alexandra Silver serves as the director of the Mayor's Office of Animal Welfare.

Previously, Silver served as a community outreach & engagement manager at Animal Care Centers of NYC (ACC), the city's animal shelter provider. For 10 years, Silver connected with other organizations, stakeholders, and elected officials, working to raise awareness about how all New Yorkers can make a difference for animals. Her experience there afforded her perspective on the breadth of animal issues in New York City. Passionate about animal welfare since childhood and a vegan since 2016, she shares her home with cats Lucas and Freddie Mercury, both adopted from ACC's Manhattan center, as well as the occasional foster animal. Silver received her Bachelor of Arts degree in comparative literature from Princeton University. Silver reports directly to Community Affairs Unit Commissioner Fred Kreizman.

[US agencies temporarily barred from enforcing LGBTQ guidance](#)

July 16, 2022, *apnews.com*, by Mark Gillispie

A judge in Tennessee has temporarily barred two federal agencies from enforcing directives issued by President Joe Biden's administration that extended protections for LGBTQ people in schools and workplaces. U.S. District Judge Charles Atchley Jr. in an order on Friday ruled for the 20 state attorneys general who sued last August claiming the Biden administration directives infringe on states' right to enact laws that, for example, prevent students from participating in sports based on their gender identity or requiring schools and businesses to provide bathrooms and showers to accommodate transgender people.

Useful COVID-19 information

New York State and NYC 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](https://portal.311.nyc.gov).

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.

Vaccination data can be found on www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data-vaccines.page.

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 face coverings if you are unvaccinated or when you are with unvaccinated people
- maintain distance (6 feet between people if unvaccinated)
- 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

[Testing](#)

[Vaccinations](#)

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

NYC Council Member Julie Menin, Council District 5: council.nyc.gov/julie-menin, 212-788-6865, District5@council.nyc.gov.

NYC Council Speaker Adrienne E. Adams (speaker) SpeakerAdams@council.nyc.gov, 718-206-2068 council.nyc.gov/district-28.

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>.

Dan Garodnick, Director, Department of City Planning, 120 Broadway, 31st Floor, New York, NY 10271, Tel. 212-720-3480, Fax. 212-720-3488, Email via website at www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/about/email-the-director.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.

You can also find these weekly newsletters online in PDF (printable) format at www.murrayhillnyc.org in the News section, look for Weekly Eblasts 2022.

[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

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

