

NEWS FROM

[JUNE]

Gale A. Brewer

MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

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East Midtown rezoning process announced.

The framework by which the “East Midtown” area near Grand Central Station will be redeveloped and rezoned has been set.

The five-block stretch of Vanderbilt Ave. on the western edge of Grand Central will begin a rezoning and ULURP process immediately and, if approved, will result in major transit and pedestrian improvements in the short term.

A new community planning task force will be headed by B.P. Brewer and Councilmember Dan Garodnick to address long-term needs in the remaining Greater East Midtown area, which stretches from Madison Ave. to 3rd Ave., and 39th Street to 57th Street. This process will actively engage a broad range of stakeholders to collectively identify long-term needs and goals for the neighborhood by next spring.

This collaborative planning process will help us to come up with a plan for Greater East Midtown that puts the needs of the public at the top of the agenda. This process is consistent with the pre-planning process our office promotes on other projects in the borough. Any new development must help strengthen infrastructure and create new open space.

Brewer urges DOE to disclose summer lunch sites now.

The City’s summer food program for school kids has long been riddled with incomplete information, lack of comprehensive site planning, and without strong inter-agency coordination when it should be a front-line effort in combating hunger.

The City’s summer food program provides free and nutritious breakfasts and lunches to children at sites across the City and is a critical resource for low-income families— especially for those who benefit from reduced price and free meals during the school year. Yet only one-third of emergency food program participants reported that their children participated in the summer food program, according to the Food Bank for New York City’s 2013 Hunger Safety Net report. The most commonly-cited reason for not participating? Families simply did not know about it. That’s no surprise. Last year, the DOE announced its locations two days before the program began!

That’s why I’ve proposed a new process for DOE to follow to increase participation in this summer’s program-- including making all locations and details immediately available online and via the 311 information line and expanding the DOE/NYCHA partnership for site location-- and forming a task force this fall to better plan the summer 2015 effort.

Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption expanded.

Mayor de Blasio has signed into law a two-year expansion of the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption program known as SCRIE, on the heels of a budget agreement in Albany which allows cities to increase the current income cap and thus expand eligibility.

The income cap had been set at \$29,000 per year and will be raised to \$50,000 beginning in July, and is estimated to benefit 6,000 more seniors living in rent-regulated housing citywide. To qualify, those applying must be at least 62 years of age, live in a rent-stabilized or -controlled apartment, spend more

than one-third of monthly income on rent and with income below \$50,000 in the previous year. Applications will soon be updated and available on the city's Department of Finance website, but do not apply before the new regulations take effect July 1st or your application will likely be denied.

Contemporary Artists Guild opens "Surface & Image" at my office gallery on Thursday June 5.

"Surface & Image" is on view at the office gallery this month, until June 27, with works by over a dozen painters and sculptors. Please join us on June 5 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM for an opening reception or during regular business hours during the rest of the month of June.

New staff.

Patricia Ceccarelli has joined the staff as a Community Liaison for Community Boards 2, 3, and 5. Patricia previously worked at Faith in New York. She earned a B.A. from the University of Michigan, where her senior thesis was on the Tea Party . . . David Dodge has joined the staff as a Policy Analyst, focusing on transportation, accessibility and food issues. David previously worked in communications at the Innocence Project, and as a research associate with the Urban Justice Center. He holds a B.A. from NYU, and a M.P.P. from Harvard's Kennedy School.

[EVENTS CO-SPONSORED BY BP BREWER]

**JUNE
5**

Environmental justice Town Hall on the 135th St. Marine Transfer Station.

West Harlem Environmental Action joins B.P. Brewer in hosting a town hall to seek community input on how to best use the MTS facility. Learn more about how the 'trash to treasure' initiative will help blend MTS into surrounding parkland. Thursday, June 5, 6:30 pm–8:15 pm, Manhattan Pentecostal Church, 541 West 125th St. (bet. Broadway & Amsterdam) RSVP at <http://weact.nationbuilder.com/mts> or Charles Callaway at (212) 961-1000 x 309

**JUNE
6**

A Summer Night with Greenmarket chefs.

GrowNYC and B.P. Brewer present a fun evening featuring fresh seasonal produce, local restaurants, live music and family activities. Join us at the market to watch cooking demonstrations, trade recipes with neighbors and learn about locally-grown food. Friday, June 6, 4pm–8pm, Union Square (South Side of Square at 14th St.). Look for our table there!

**JUNE
11**

Father's Day Pledge against domestic violence.

Calling all fathers and men! Show the whole world that you choose to renounce domestic violence, once and forever. Co-sponsored with CONNECT, an organization dedicated to the creation of safe families and peaceful communities by putting an end to all forms of domestic violence. Wednesday, June 11, 12 noon, City Hall steps.

**JUNE
17**

Superstorm Sandy Oversight Hearing.

Share your concerns and questions regarding Sandy recovery and relief at this event co-sponsored by NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer in an initiative meant to hold government accountable in the rebuilding effort. Tuesday, June 17, 7 - 9 PM, Goldie Chu Community Room at 82 Rutgers Slip.

**JUNE
21**

Make Music New York is back!

To mark the first day of summer, discover and partake in 1,000+ free concerts citywide. Listen to musicians of all ages, instruments and genres on the longest day of the year. The Carl Schurz Park Conservancy and B.P. Brewer are cosponsoring a concert on Saturday, June 21, 4:00 pm–8:00 pm, Carl Schurz Park (Enter on East End Ave. at 86th St.). Visit www.makemusicny.org for more information and other locations citywide. Come hear great music, enjoy some snacks, and chat with Gale and her staff!

**JUNE
24**

Vision Zero Town Hall with State Senator Liz Krueger

Every year, over 4,000 New Yorkers are seriously injured and over 250 are killed in traffic accidents. Join co-sponsors State Sen. Liz Krueger, Councilmembers Dan Garodnick and Ben Kallos and reps from the city DOT for a presentation and discussion about improving street safety. Tuesday, June 24, 6:30 pm–8:30 pm, Lang Recital Hall, 4th Floor, Hunter North Building, Hunter College (69th St. bet. Lexington and Park)