

MANHATTAN PLAZA TENANTS ASSOCIATION

A VOICE FOR THE PEOPLE

www.mptenants.com

October 2020 Newsletter

From the MPTA President

Greetings neighbors!

These past few months have been some of the most challenging times of our lives. If you are an artist or anyone who's been out of work for months fearing what's to come, know you are not alone. If you are a parent or guardian of small children experiencing full-time remote learning, I feel your pain. During times like these, we don't take for granted how lucky we are here at MP. The ability to adjust our rent payments has been, in some cases, a life-saving opportunity. If you fear your income will not reflect your earlier projections, call the rent office ASAP to file an interim recertification. They are ready and willing to make any adjustments necessary. Although rent is not the only expense many are struggling to make, it's at least comforting to know that our landlords have the ability to work with us during these uncertain times.

Several weeks ago, we received a notice under our doors that created confusion about the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) many of us have received. We had been told that the additional \$600 a week included in our unemployment would not be counted towards rent, and then this letter stated otherwise. After several phone calls with ownership and elected officials, we are happy to report that only the portion that an individual would have ordinarily received would be counted as income (not the \$600 PUA). There may be a few of you who would not have otherwise qualified for unemployment who may be subject to additional rent charges so if you are at all unsure, please call the rent office for clarity. Please note that the MPTA is not able to lend assistance to any individual regarding their rent or recertification.

One saving grace in this time of isolation has been the performance of art by some of the incredibly talented musicians and entertainers who live among us. For an artist, the ability to share their acting, music and dance is akin to breathing. Without this outlet, life can be dark and sad and hopeless. The long legacy of Manhattan Plaza as a place for artists is a true gift to this community. We helped to organize an outdoor concert series with extreme caution in order to follow CDC guidelines for social distancing. For this reason, we did not advertise these events widely. We know that some neighbors have been upset that they had missed concerts, while others were surprised and disturbed by the disruption. We apologize for any hurt or inconvenience this may have caused and ask for your

understanding that we undertook this unexpected task to bring joy to the community. Over the years, we have always enjoyed outdoor parties and concerts at MP, so we were thrilled when residents asked if they could share their art. Thank you to all of our brilliant performers for bringing music and joy to an otherwise dreary time, and we hope to keep this series going.

Starting this month, we will highlight some small businesses in Hell's Kitchen. Though we have lost some, many have survived, and we want to be sure that you know who and where they are. If you have any special places you love in the neighborhood, please drop us an email so we can be sure to amplify!

Special thank you to the parents who have generously donated to our music, art, and athletic youth program and to Related for sponsoring. Most of this programming offered throughout the city and schools has tragically been suspended due to COVID-19, and we are thrilled to be able to provide these vital services here. We hope that the City will realize how important music, art, and athletics are to the lives of children and figure out how to provide them again.

We share the concerns about safety on our streets. The challenges are complex. The MPTA continues to advocate the security needs of our residents to Management, and we continue to work with District Leader Marisa Redanty and the Hell's Kitchen Action Committee to hold elected officials accountable for the condition of our neighborhood. As a reminder, if you witness a crime, call 911. The NYPD regularly reviews call log analytics to determine high crime areas. If they see an uptick in crime on any given street, they will provide additional resources.

Finally, I am proud to partner with the NYC COVID Coalition who now offer free food delivery for those in need of assistance. This program will continue through October 24th, so please call them at (929) 506-9565 if you are in need!

As always, feel free to drop a note in our lobby boxes or send us an email with any questions or suggestions.

Thank you for your continued support.

MPTA President,
Aleta LaFargue

Leave us a note or suggestion in the MPTA Mailbox located in the lobby.

mptenants@gmail.com

www.mptenants.com

www.facebook.com/MPTenants

Hell's Kitchen Neighborhood Coalition

The Hell's Kitchen Neighborhood Coalition (HKNC) was formed by residents and small business owners to address the dramatic change to our community in the wake of COVID-19. Because HK is a historic neighborhood in the heart of Manhattan and plays a vital role in the life of our city, HKNC believes that the city leadership must ensure public health and safety throughout the district for all permanent and temporary residents and guarantee that vulnerable residents receive the social services they need. HKNC advocates shelter operator accountability; street safety; providing social services to those in need; and partnering with local organizations, elected officials, and city agencies to ensure the health and well-being of Hell's Kitchen's residents.

We at MPTA join HKNC in being proud members of a community that has long welcomed one of the city's greatest concentrations of permanent social service facilities and supportive housing. At our next MPTA meeting on October 19, we hope to discuss how the MPTA can interact with HKNC to improve the quality of life in Hell's Kitchen.

Halloween 2020

The MP Children and Families Committee has been working hard to make a spooktacular Halloween happen for our kids! We plan to host a safe Halloween trick-or-treating party on the outdoor MP playground with music, pizza, a magician, and culminating with a scary R-rated movie beginning once the little ones are home (after 7:30pm).

There will be safely-distanced "spooky spots" for people to pass out candy. To RSVP and/or volunteer, please complete [our survey](#) by 10/21. This event will be open to all MP residents to enjoy, participate, and volunteer. Due to safety guidelines for crowd control, we sadly can not invite non-residents.

Date: Saturday, October 31st

Time: 4pm - 7pm , outdoor movie begins 7:30pm

Location: MP playground

*Rain Date: Sunday, November 1st .

More details: www.tinyurl.com/MPhalloweenInfo

Volunteer/RSVP: www.tinyurl.com/MPhalloweenSurvey

Compost collection at Pier 84

There is a collection site for compost at Pier 84 at W 44th St. near the dog park. Open from 7am-7pm daily. Thank you to the Hudson River Park Trust. For more information, go to:

www.tinyurl.com/Pier84compost

State and Federal election: November 3

The Ellington Room will be open for voting on November 3 from 6am - 9pm.

* Early voting begins October 24. MP residents' early voting site is Madison Square Garden, 4 Penn Plaza. Below are the early voting hours of operation:

Saturday	October 24	10:00AM - 4:00PM
Sunday	October 25	10:00AM - 4:00PM
Monday	October 26	7:00AM - 3:00PM
Tuesday	October 27	12:00PM - 8:00PM
Wednesday	October 28	12:00PM - 8:00PM
Thursday	October 29	10:00AM - 6:00PM
Friday	October 30	7:00AM - 3:00PM
Saturday	October 31	10:00AM - 4:00PM
Sunday	November 1	10:00AM - 4:00PM

* The deadline to request an absentee ballot is October 27, but ballot delivery to your home may take longer than advertised, so request ASAP if you want an absentee ballot

* To request an absentee ballot, click here:

<https://absenteeballot.elections.ny.gov/> or call 1-866-VOTE-NYC (1-866-868-3692)

* If you request an absentee ballot and it does not arrive in time, you can still vote in person.

* To submit an absentee ballot, you can:

* Place it in the mail postmarked by November 3

* Drop off at any early voting site (without waiting)

* Drop off at any election day site (without waiting)

* schlep it to the Board of Elections 200 Varick St.

* Absentee ballots come with tracking numbers that one can use to verify that they are delivered

* It is legal for a person to collect the absentee ballots of consenting family, neighbors, etc. to deliver to voting sites on their behalf

* To check your registration status, see:

<https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/>

Newsletter Archive Project

The MPTA needs your help. We are collecting old MPTA newsletters to expand our archives, and we seek copies of newsletters and/or flyers from 1977-1991, 1998-2001, and 2012. We would love to have any old copies you might want to give us (single or bulk), and we can return your original after copying if desired. Please email us at mptenants@gmail.com or leave a note with your contact information in the lobby box and a member of our Executive Committee will contact you to arrange safe collection. Thanks in advance for your consideration of our request.

News from elected officials

NYC Council Speaker Corey Johnson's Shred Days!

Shred the documents containing your personal/sensitive information. Free service, limit 3 boxes per household. Paper only. Please practice social distancing and wear a mask. With questions about accessibility, contact Speaker Johnson's office (212-564-7757).

November 7: 26th street between 8th and 9th Ave

November 14: 43rd street between 9th and 10th Ave

10am-2pm (or until truck is full)

Brad Hoylman's COVID-19 Constituent Resources

*Guide includes information on financial assistance for small businesses, freelancers, and artists; information on opportunities to work as a contact tracer; and how to get help from non-profits and community groups in addition to basic info:

www.tinyurl.com/hoylmanresources

* Help pick up or deliver groceries

www.tinyurl.com/hoylmangroceries

* Volunteer for Hoylman's neighborhood check-in program www.tinyurl.com/hoylmanneighbor

* If you or a member of your family is immunocompromised, do not have anyone to get food for you, and/or cannot afford it, you can get NYC Food Delivery Assistance, which delivers meals to your household: www.tinyurl.com/deliveryassistance

City Council calendar is available on the City Council Website

<https://legistar.council.nyc.gov/Calendar.aspx>

Determine your eligibility for programs like SNAP (food stamps) and Cash Assistance, and apply for them online.

** Benefits screening:

<https://access.nyc.gov/eligibility/#step-1>

** SNAP info:

<https://a069-access.nyc.gov/accesshra/>

** Cash assistance info:

<https://access.nyc.gov/programs/cash-assistance/>

Once you determine your eligibility, contact gottfriedr@nyassembly.gov for fast help!

Additional health resources

NYC Well: Free, confidential mental health support. Speak to a counselor via phone, text, or chat, and get access to mental health and substance abuse services (in more than 200 languages). Call 888-NYC-WELL (888-692-9355) or see www.nycwell.cityofnewyork.us

MPTA emails going to Promotions?

Many people report that MPTA emails go to spam folders or the 'Promotions' tab. Don't hesitate to reach out and we will try to help you resolve this issue. We want everyone to hear from us! If you use Gmail and find that MPTA emails go to the Promotions tab, you can try one of these strategies to see if it fixes the problem.

1) Click the empty check box to the left of the email message. Click the Labels button toward the top of the page that looks like a small pennant and unselect 'Promotions' from the dropdown menu.



2) Click and drag the email to the 'Primary' tab. Select 'Yes' when an automated prompt asks if you want future messages from mptenants@gmail.com to go to the Primary folder.

Floor captain program

The organization of floor captains has been going well. Want a floor captain for your floor? Email mptenants@gmail.com (subject: Floor captain), and we will send you information. Please volunteer.

Submit questions for MPTA meetings

We now collect questions in advance of MPTA general meetings. We will do our best to answer them as time allows. To submit questions for the October 19 meeting, please see www.tinyurl.com/MPTAquestions

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

Next MPTA meeting

Monday, October 19 at 7pm

ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9322480232>

Meeting ID: 932 248 0232

MP Halloween 2020

Saturday, October 31st on the MP playground

4:00pm-8:30pm, outdoor movie begins 7:30pm

*Rain Date: Sunday, November 1st

Election Day Voting

The Ellington Room will be open for voting on November 3 from 6:00am-9:00pm.

Remember: Early voting dates October 24-November 1, times vary, details above in "State and Federal Election"

NYC Council City Speaker Corey Johnson's Shred Days

November 7th: 26th street between 8th and 9th ave

November 14th: 43rd street between 9th and 10th ave

10am-2pm (or until truck is full)

Flu Shots in Ellington Room

By Appointment Only - October 21 & 22

calendly.com/rkcactivity/flu-shot

Featured small businesses

MPTA will highlight small businesses in the neighborhood. We are also looking for a young adult to help serve as the chairman of MP Small Business Coalition to act as a liaison to local establishments. Here are this month's Featured Small Businesses:

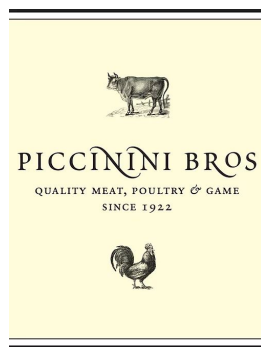
We are thrilled to welcome Big Apple Meat Market to their new space at 577 9th Ave on the corner of 42nd St. They've been hooking up deep discounts since 1992, and they have generously donated food for many MP parties and cookouts. We're lucky to have them nearby. Also, they're hiring!



Poseidon Bakery 629 9th ave Between 44th & 45th has been offering Hell's Kitchen authentic Greek pastries since 1923. Their cookies, strudels and savory pies are the ultimate treat!



Founded in 1922 as a wholesale meat distributor, Piccinini Brothers is now, a century later, offering their high quality grass fed meats and in-house made sausages to our wider community as a retail butcher. Their lamb merguez is not to be missed!



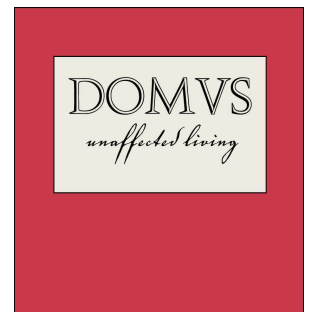
The Jolly Goat 151 west 47th street between 10th and 11th Ave. is a privately owned small business coffee shop offering delicious coffees, teas, bagels, and pastries. Or try the ice cream sandwiches! Get a 10% discount with MP ID.



Sullivan Street bakery 553 west 57th street between 10th and 11th is a Hell's Kitchen favorite! Husband and Wife Jim Lahey and Maya Joseph are Hell's Kitchen residents, their son attended 43rd street kids here at MP. They have offered their incredible breads and focaccia freshly baked on premises to many a fundraiser supporting us here at MP! Be sure to pop in for breakfast or lunch! Get a 10% discount with MP ID.



Domus (413 W 44th St. between 9th & 10th Ave) is a beautiful little shop filled lovingly by partners Luisa and Nicki. They offer fair trade items and are proud of paying what the artisans ask rather than imposing a low wage, which would devalue their work. They are our go-to gift shop in Hell's Kitchen!



Get 10% off online pickup orders of delicious dumplings, potstickers, pork buns, and more at [Stick to My Pot](#) (224 W. 35th St.) with promo code "manhattanplaza" on Grubhub, Seamless, Caviar, Doordash, Uber eats, etc. Follow owner David Wang on instagram @sticktomypot_potstickers

