



Community Board Six Manhattan

East Midtown News and CB 6 Activities - 8/04/14

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News: *Rising rent threatens small business, temporary art in vacant retail stores, upgrading underground infrastructure, improving public housing, paid sick leave now in effect, street safety managers on 1st Avenue. **Events:** National Night out Against Crime, NYC's Summer Streets. **Services:** CB6 flyer about contacting 311 for quality of life complaints.*

News

Rising rent puts small businesses in crisis



Given the recent focus on residential tenants and affordable housing, many don't realize the plight of the city's small businesses, especially low-profile mom-and-pop type stores and restaurants. Many landlords are tempted by the higher rent offered by corporate chains or banks. They opt not to renew the leases of small businesses or triple or quadruple their rents. Ron Shiffman, founder of the Pratt Center for Community Development, says it's a crisis with a dramatic impact on neighborhoods and the lower income people who rely on inexpensive stores. [Some Councilmembers](#) [advocate](#) legislation to allow for fairer lease negotiations between commercial tenants and landlords. (Note: The store above has no problems we know of.)

Putting temporary art exhibits in vacant retail spaces



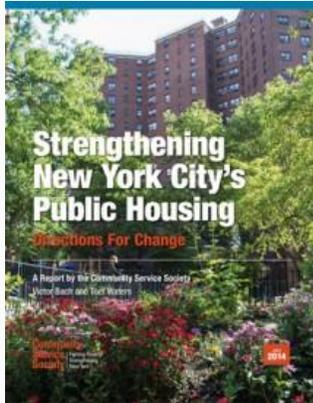
Our summer interns found a number of vacant retail spaces in the district, and put their rental agents in touch with Chashama. This nonprofit group beautifies empty storefronts while they are in between tenants by filling them with temporary art exhibits. The group pays the insurance for the space during the projects, which increase area foot traffic and make the property more appealing to potential renters. Is there an unsightly vacant storefront near you? Leave a message for the realtor. Ask them to [contact Chashama](#) at 212-391-8151.

Upgrade NYC's underground infrastructure, says report



Center for an Urban Future's recent [Caution Ahead report](#) on our water, sewer and gas pipes. estimated that \$47 billion is needed over the next four to five years simply to bring the city's aging infrastructure to a state of good repair.

Improvements needed for NYC public housing



From 2001 to 2011, living conditions in New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) apartments deteriorated severely, according to a Community Service Society report, [“Strengthening New York City’s Public Housing: Directions for Change.”](#) Against the backdrop of Mayor de Blasio’s ambitious affordable housing plan, and a yet-to-be-released city plan to address NYCHA issues, the report examines the factors involved in this decline, and asks how NYCHA can again provide minimally decent housing and become financially solvent.

Comptroller Stringer reported that NYCHA did not always use contractors who hire public housing residents and employ low income workers, and [recommended ways to create more jobs for NYCHA residents.](#)

Paid sick leave law now in effect

Over one million New Yorkers can now start using earned sick leave today through the [Paid Sick Leave Law](#), which allows employees to take care of themselves and their families when they’re sick. Visit the [Department of Consumer Affairs website](#) for more information.

Street safety managers on 1st Avenue

NYC Dept. of Transportation will be sending out street safety managers to distribute safety materials to cyclists. From July 28 - August 1, they were on 29th and 30th Streets between Park and Second Avenues. From August 4 - 8, they’ll be along 1st Avenue through the 50s and 60s.

Events

Summer Streets, Saturdays August 2, 9, and 16



On Saturdays August 2nd, 9th and 16th, from 7 AM to 1 PM, [nearly seven miles of NYC streets will be open](#) in which to play, run, walk and bike. Summer Streets will run between Central Park and Brooklyn Bridge along Park Avenue. Many free programs and activities are scheduled.

National Night Out Against Crime, Tues., August 5

Join the [17th Precinct Community Council](#) from 5 - 9 PM in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza. Free barbecue compliments of Ali Baba Turkish Restaurant, crime prevention info and live music.

The [13th Precinct](#) has their event from 5 - 8 PM at the Simon Baruch MS 104 playground, at 20th Street and 2nd Ave., with hot dogs, burgers, halal food and ice cream. Kid's activities and DJ.

Enjoy free midtown jazz at Midday

Hear [well regarded artists](#) every Wednesday afternoon at 1 PM in the Sanctuary of St. Peter's Church at Lexington and E. 54th St.

Aging Smart in NYC: A CB6 Senior Issues Forum, Monday, September 15

NYU Langone Medical Center, 550 1st Avenue at E.30th Street, Alumni Hall B, 6 - 8 PM. Issues to be discussed by our expert panel include emergency preparedness, health care resources, technology and lifelong learning, and senior housing options. [Flyer here.](#)

Everything You Want to Know About Rental Housing in NYC

Thursday, September 18, 6:30 – 8:30 PM, Lighthouse Guild International, 111 East 59th St. Hosted by NYS Senator Liz Krueger. Please contact krueger@nysenate.gov for more info.

Services

Our summer interns are wrapping up a survey and report on the state of the district's 70+ Privately Owned Public Spaces, as well as a survey of the area's newsracks, many of which are dirty and not well maintained. Details to follow.

Download our 311 Flyer



Post or forward [our flyer](#) that explains how calling 311 can help keep our neighborhood clean and orderly. You can also enter 311 requests online at www.nyc.gov/311 or from a smartphone. Contact office@cbsix.org with the 311 request number you are given to expedite service. Call 911 to report emergencies or crimes in progress. [Download the flyer here.](#)

Learn More about CB6 and Community Boards

Go to our [resources page](#) to learn about how CB6 and community boards work. While there you will also find directories of community organizations, senior services and elected officials.

Submit your Questions and Complaints

Please contact CB6 at office@cbsix.org with your comments, suggestions, questions and service requests.

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