

April 18, 2019



Happy Easter



Rebecca Seawright



Dear Neighbor,

Happy Passover, Chag Sameach, and Happy Easter! To all who will celebrate, I wish you and yours a holiday that is rich with meaning and filled with joy! In observance of legal State Government Holidays, our community office will be closed on Friday April 19, we will re-open on Monday April 22 at 9:30am.

Many community events happened this week including the widely attended annual Roosevelt Island Cherry Blossom Festival and a Campus ERA Day at Hunter College.

Please join me at one of the upcoming events that I am pleased to sponsor:

- Thursday, May 2- **Opening Reception for "Capturing Moments in Time,"** a photography exhibit by Anthony Morenzi at the Community Office, 1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets) from 5:30pm-7:30pm
- Friday, May 17- **Department of Finance Enrollment Event for the rent freeze and homeowners exemptions** at the Community Office, 1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets) from 10:00am-1:00pm

If our office may be of service, remember that we are just a call, email or visit away!

Sincerely,

Rebecca



[Click to Visit Our Website](#)

In our Community

Monday April 22 is Earth Day



Make sure to think about our planet as Earth Day is approaching this coming Monday. Assembly Member Seawright is proud to co-sponsor 14 bills that have been introduced by the Assembly Member Englebright, Chair of the Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee.

There is an upcoming shredding and recycling event happening on Friday, April 26 on East End Ave between 84th and 85th Streets. You can bring your old documents and electronics to be recycled and disposed of properly.

Roosevelt Island Cherry Blossom Festival



The Annual Roosevelt Island Cherry Blossom Festival was this past weekend, drawing a large crowd to the usual sleepy island in the East River. It was a beautiful spring day for the festival where attendees were able to enjoy Roosevelt Island's necklace of blooming cherry trees. The day was filled with cultural events showcasing traditional Japanese cherry blossom festivals. Local Community Board 8 Member Peter Patch attended the event and addressed the crowd on behalf of Assembly Member Seawright.



Community Board 8 Member Peter Patch Addressing the crowd and welcoming everyone to Roosevelt Island.



A traditional Japanese dance is performed at Four Freedoms Park for people attending the festival.

Hunter College Campus ERA Day

The Grove Fellowship program at Hunter College organized a Campus ERA Day to promote the need for



an Equal Rights Amendment. The Grove Fellowship Program provides mentorship and professional development to students who are committed to public service, public policy and human rights.

The event started with remarks by Representative Jerrold Nadler, Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, where he announced Hearings of the Judiciary Committee on the Equal Rights Amendments. This important hearing is scheduled to happen on April 30th of this year.

On March 19, Assembly Member Seawright passed a resolution in the Assembly with bipartisan support calling on the United States Congress to pass the Equal Rights Amendment. The ERA has been reintroduced in Congress every session and has not been voted on. By passing the Equal Rights Amendment Resolution, New York State is calling on Congress to act.

The Equal Rights Amendment is a proposed amendment to the United States Constitution that would expressly prohibit discrimination against women on the basis of sex. The Constitution does not guarantee equal rights for women.

“I made a promise to my friends and neighbors in the 76th district, as well as to all women, that I would fight tirelessly for women’s equality. This year marks the 100th Anniversary of the Women’s Suffrage Movement. How can a document written to protect American citizens be a safeguard when there is no language in place to prevent discrimination against half the population? Equality between women and men is a fundamental human right that should be guaranteed in the Constitution,” Seawright said.

The Campus Era Day also consisted also of a panel discussion with moderator Carol Jenkins, ERA Coalition Co-President and CEO. On the panel was Congresswomen Carolyn Maloney, Playwright Heidi Schreck, Sen. Patricia Spearman from Nevada, Del. Jennifer Carroll Foy from Virginia, and actress and activist Patricia Arquette. The panel discussed the need for an Equal Rights Amendment and what must be done to accomplish the passage.



Panelists answer questions presented by the Grove Fellowship Students from Hunter College



Musical and Activist group BETTY perform a musical selection for the attendees

We Must Protect Children Mutilation

In 1996, the Criminalization of Female Genital Mutilation Act was signed into federal law. Two decades later, Dr. Jumana Nagarwala was charged with performing the procedure on at least 9 girls in a clinic in Livonia, Michigan. The federal district court judge presiding over the case dismissed the charges, ruling that the federal law was unconstitutional. Rather than defend the law, the United States Department of Justice refused to uphold it.

“The United States Department of Justice must reverse its disgraceful decision to decline appealing a Michigan federal court ruling that invalidates constitutional protections for minor female children from barbaric genital mutilation for non-medical reasons,” said Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright. **“This ill-conceived action is further evidence of why the time is now to amend the federal and New York State constitutions and pass equal rights amendments that protect our children.”**

The prevalence of female genital mutilation is stark. Since the 1990s, the number of women and girls who remain at risk or have undergone the appalling practice has tripled to over 500,000 in the United States. Not every state has taken the measures for its prevention and prosecution. Alarming, 23 states lack the legislation necessary to protect the rights of over 100,000 women and girls.

Failure to uphold federal law subjects countless women and girls to gender-based violence. The Equal Rights Amendment is a proposed amendment to the United States Constitution that would help combat these human rights abuses by expressly prohibiting discrimination against women on the basis of sex.

Community Board 8

Manhattans Community Board 8 held their monthly full board meeting this week on Roosevelt Island. Office staff Jack Robbins represented Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright at the meeting and presented two longtime members of the community board with proclamations recognizing them for their service. Dave Liston and Nick Viest have both served as Chair for Community Board 8 and have been active members for many years, they are now not seeking reappointment to the Community Board and this week's meeting was there last.



Community Board 8 Member Dave Liston is presented a proclamation on behalf of Assembly Member Seawright.

Community Board 8 Member Nick Viest is presented a proclamation on behalf of Assembly Member Seawright

The Community Board at the meeting passed a resolution to support legislation in New York State that aims at decreasing mechanical void spaces in buildings. Often times developers use loopholes and create access mechanical void space in buildings to boost the overall height of the building. This legislation, co-sponsored by Assembly Member Seawright and sponsored by Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal aims to remove that loophole by amending the multiple dwellings law.

In Albany

Specialized High Schools Public Hearing on May 10 in NYC

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright is a member of the Assembly Standing Committee on Education and announces that the Committee has scheduled a public hearing in New York City regarding the Specialized High School admissions process. The purpose of this hearing is to hear from various stakeholders and to have an open dialogue on the admission process and access to the specialized high schools.

There are nine specialized high schools in New York City: Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts; The Bronx High School of Science; The Brooklyn Latin School; Brooklyn Technical High School; High School for Mathematics, Science and Engineering at the City College of New York; High School of American Studies at Lehman College; Queens High School for the Sciences at York College; Staten Island Technical High School; and Stuyvesant High School. Admission to these selective public schools is based solely on the Specialized High School Admissions Test (SHSAT), except for the Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School, which is based on a competitive audition and review of student records. The SHSAT is an examination which measures a student's ability to comprehend English prose, demonstrate understanding of revising and editing skills central to writing in English, and the use of problem-solving skills in mathematics.

The hearing will be held in New York City:

**Friday, May 10, 2019
10:00 A.M.**

Assembly Hearing Room
Room 1923, 19th Floor
250 Broadway

We encourage you to attend the hearing and be heard on the issues that are important to you! [Click here for the full hearing notice and reply form.](#)

Upcoming Events

SHRED IT! RECYCLE IT!



RECYCLE

YOUR E-WASTE

SHRED YOUR OLD DOCUMENTS

Friday 04/26/2019 10am – 4pm Rain or Shine

Avoid a fine: It's now illegal to discard electronics in the trash !

DROP OFF

Carl Schurz Park
East End Ave b/w E 84th & E 85th Streets

WE

Working & non-working

computers, monitors, printers/scanners, keyboards, mice, cables, TVs, VCRs & DVD players, phones, audio/visual equipment, cell phones & PDA's and papers for shredding

Hosted by **Lower East Side Ecology Center**
Co-hosted by City Council Member Ben Kallos, The Chapin School & The Brearley School, Friends of Carl Schurz Park and NYC Parks

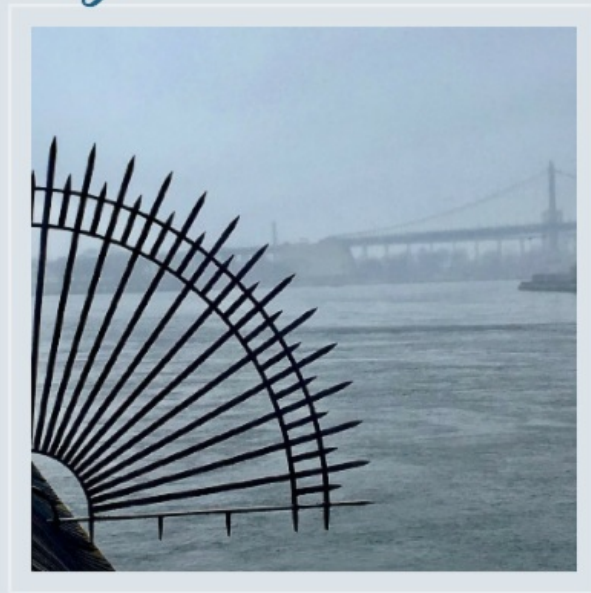
For more information:

The electronic waste collection program is made possible by:



Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright

*Invites You To An Opening Reception For
"Capturing Moments In Time"*



Piercing the Mist

Exhibit of Photographs by Anthony J. Morenzi

Thursday, May 2
5:30pm - 7:30pm

District Community Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright
1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets)

Viewing Hours: 10:30am to 5:30pm
Monday - Friday

Exhibit: May 2- August 31, 2019

RSVP: Call 212-288-4607 or email SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov



State Assembly Member
Rebecca Seawright

Homeowners & Tenants Enrollment Event

Sponsored by NYC Department of Finance and State Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright



HOMEOWNERS

Apply for an exemption and lower
your property tax bill.

- **STAR:** homeowners with an annual income of \$500,000 or less.
- **E-Star:** seniors age 65 and over with annual incomes of \$86,300 or less.
- **SCHE/DHE:** seniors age 65 and over, or disabled homeowners with annual incomes of \$58,399 or less.
- **Veterans:** who served in the U.S. military during designated periods of conflict, their unmarried surviving spouse and Gold Star parents.
- **Clergy:** for active and retired members of the clergy and their unmarried surviving spouse. Must be NYS resident.

To Apply Please Bring

- Picture ID
- 2018 tax returns or income documents for all owners
- DD214 or discharge papers (for veterans)
- Trust documents (if applicable)
- Clergy verification letter on official letterhead (clergy)

For more information, visit nyc.gov/finance



TENANTS

Seniors and people with disabilities
apply for SCRIE or DRIE and keep your
rent from increasing if you:

- Are at least 62 years old or 18 years old with a qualifying disability.
- Have a household income of \$50,000 or less.
- Live in a rent-regulated apartment.
- Spend more than 1/3 of your income on rent.

****NYCHA AND SECTION 8 RECIPIENTS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE****

To Apply Please Bring

- Picture ID
- 2018 tax returns, W2, or 1099 statements
- Income documents for all household members
- Copies of your 2 most recent leases
- Social Security disability award letter (if applicable)

MAY 17 AND JUNE 14, 2019

10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

1485 York Avenue, New York, NY 10075
(between 78 and 79 Streets)



We're on social media, too!



For more information and to RSVP please call 212-288-4607
or email SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov



If due to a disability you need an accommodation in order to apply for and receive a service, or to participate in a program offered by the Department of Finance, please contact the Disability Service Facilitator at nyc.gov/contactdofeeo or by calling 311.

SATURDAYS 1-4 PM

APRIL 27, 2019 (RAIN DATE APR 28)

MAY 18, 2019 (RAIN DATE MAY 19)

JUNE 1, 2019 (RAIN DATE JUNE 2)

JUNE 8, 2019

60th Street &
The East River
Waterfront
Esplanade

🌐 EsplanadeFriends.org

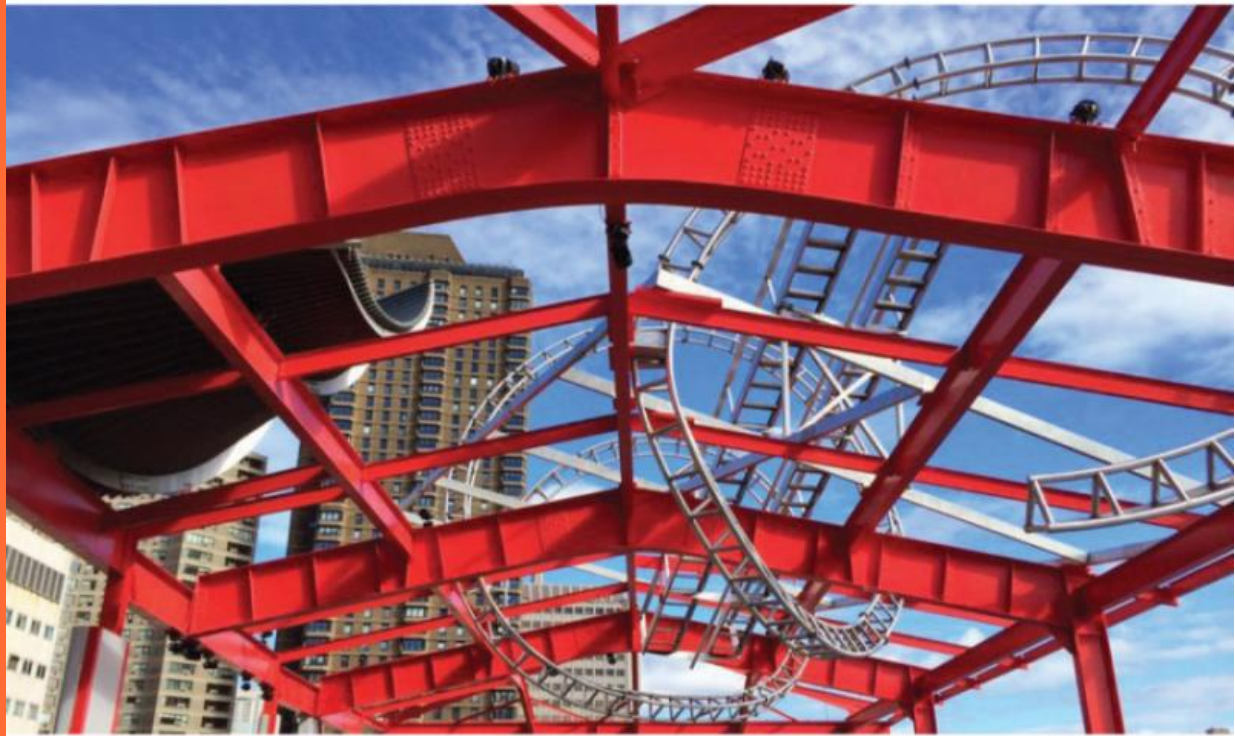
✉ EastRiverEsplanade@gmail.com

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CELEBRATE SPRING AT THE ALICE AYCOCK PAVILION

FREE! MUSIC, KIDS ACTIVITIES, ICE CREAM, AND MORE!



SPONSORED BY

**FRIENDS OF THE EAST RIVER
ESPLANADE 60TH - 120TH ST.**

Events will be canceled for inclement weather. Rain dates will be the following Sunday's (4/28, 5/19, 6/2), there will be no rain date for the June 8th Event. **Be sure to check EsplanadeFriends.org and [@EsplanadeFriends](https://www.instagram.com/EsplanadeFriends) for updates!**