



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Today Governor Hochul signed Executive Order No. 52 to ensure all New Yorkers—including children as young as three, pregnant individuals, and healthy adults under 65—can access the updated 2025–26 COVID-19 vaccine. The order responds to recent federal limits that restricted vaccine availability for certain groups. This 30-day measure helps New Yorkers stay safe and vaccinated while the state develops longer-term solutions.

In this edition of our community update, you will find updates on legislation I strongly supported to ensure that this school year is the best one yet, including increased funding for every school district, free meals for all students, and safer, more focused classrooms.

Roosevelt Islanders, consider filling out the “Living on Roosevelt Island” survey. Your input helps Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOCC) to respond to the needs of your community.

We are pleased to share the feature Inside Government, our Q&A series with PoliticsNY, offering a behind-the-scenes look at my work as Chair of the Aging Committee.

Please join us for a community event that our office is pleased to sponsor:

- **No-Cost Notary Public Service at the Community Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, 1485 York Avenue (78th/79th Streets)**
 - Mon, Wed, & Fri from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
 - Tues, Thurs from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
- Thursday, September 11 at 5:30 pm: **Lighting the Way Eastside 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony** at Carl Schurz Park, East 86th Street and East End Avenue.
- Wednesday, September 17, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm: **OMNY Bus** (York Ave/79th Street). Refill your OMNY card or apply for reduced fare.
- Thursday, September 18, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm: **No-Cost Community Shredding on Roosevelt Island** at the Motorgate Turnaround (688 Main Street).
- Friday, September 19, from 10 am to 5 pm: **No-Cost Flu Shot Clinic** at the Community Office of Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright, 1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets). Make your appointment [here](#).
- Save the Date! **Animal Care Centers of NYC (ACC) Mobile Adoption Event** on Sunday, October 12 from 12:00 pm-4:00 pm

As always, please consider our office your resource.

Phone: 212.288.4607
Email: SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov

Sincerely,

Expanded COVID-19 Vaccine Access in New York

We hear your concerns about recent federal changes to COVID-19 vaccine guidelines. Politicizing healthcare undermines trust and puts communities at risk. Every New Yorker should have access to recommended vaccines, especially the lifesaving COVID-19 vaccine.

That's why Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright supports critical legislation to protect access:

- AB 8824 – Requires insurance coverage for the COVID-19 vaccine.
- AB 3839 – Requires insurance coverage for all vaccines.
- AB A8383 – Allows the Health Commissioner to provide additional guidance when the FDA approves a vaccine.

Additionally, Governor Hochul's September 5 Executive Order allows pharmacists to administer the COVID-19 vaccine without a prescription, making it easier for New Yorkers—including our most vulnerable—to stay protected this fall and winter.

Immunization is the most effective way to fight infectious diseases. By trusting the science and ensuring equitable access, New Yorkers can help stop the spread and protect our communities.

INSIDE

GOVERNMENT

WITH **POLITICS**NY
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featuring



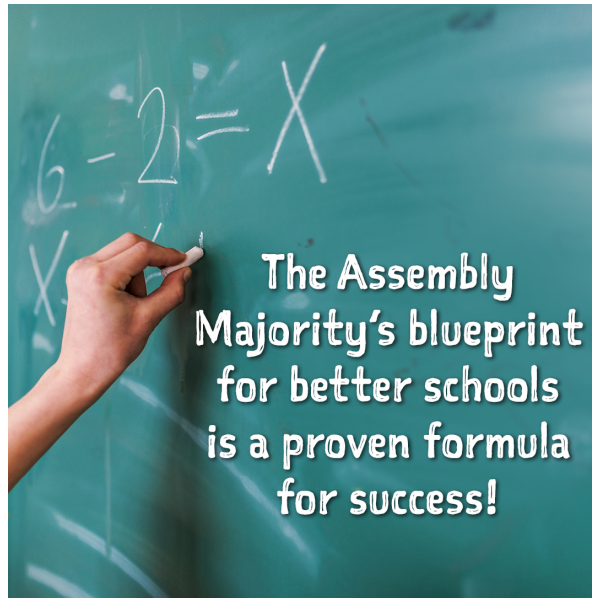
**Assembly Member
Rebecca Seawright**

Inside Government with PoliticsNY: A Q&A with Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright

Inside Government is a Q&A series that gives New Yorkers a glimpse inside the role of the elected officials who represent them. This edition of Inside Government with PoliticsNY features New York State Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright. Assembly Member Seawright represents the 76th Assembly District in Manhattan which includes the Upper East Side, Yorkville, and Roosevelt Island.

[Read More](#)

Back to School with Stronger Support for Students



Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright cosponsored and strongly supported legislation in the Assembly to make this school year the best one yet. The following measures championed by the New York State Assembly included:

- More funding for every district: Foundation Aid has increased by at least 2% for every school district, giving schools the resources they need to support students and teachers.
- Free meals for all students: Every child now has access to nutritious school meals, ensuring that no student goes hungry while learning.
- Safer, more focused classrooms: New laws ban cell phones during school hours and set limits on classroom temperatures, creating environments where students can focus, learn, and thrive.

By providing more resources, reducing distractions, and improving classroom conditions, we're building the foundation for better schools and brighter futures for every child in New York. Together, we're making sure this school year is a step forward for students, teachers, and families across our community.

Have Your Say: "Living on Roosevelt Island" Survey

Assemblymember Rebecca A. Seawright's office encourages all residents, workers, and visitors of Roosevelt Island to participate in the "Living on Roosevelt Island" survey.

This is your chance to share what's working, what could be improved, and your ideas for strengthening life on the Island.

The survey is short, anonymous, and open to everyone. Your feedback will help RIOC better understand the needs of the community.

[Take the survey here!](#)

Thank you for taking a few minutes to make your voice heard!

Consider Our Office Your Resource



NO-COST NOTARY PUBLIC SCHEDULE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
10AM-1PM	10AM-12PM	10AM-1PM	10AM-12PM	10AM-1PM



METROCARD/OMNY BUS

**STOPS HERE
(79/YORK):**

WED. 9/3, 9/17

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**REFILL YOUR
METROCARD/OMNY
CARD**

**APPLY FOR
REDUCED FARE**

Resources

Cash Assistance & Benefits Security

Cash Assistance Skimming Alert: Beware of electronic theft of EBT benefits via skimming or phishing. To learn more or file a claim for stolen Cash Assistance benefits, visit: nyc.gov/hra/benefitreplacement

Paid Family Leave

Since 2018, New York's Paid Family Leave program has supported thousands of working families. Benefits and wage replacements increase annually with the NY State Average Weekly Wage. Learn more about 2025 benefits at: paidfamilyleave.ny.gov/2025

Tax Credits & Financial Assistance

Empire State Child Credit: Over 1.5 million eligible New Yorkers will automatically receive supplemental payments based on this credit. No action needed. Details: [Additional Empire State Child Credit Payments](#)

Unclaimed Funds: Check for unclaimed money you may be owed at: osc.ny.gov/unclaimed-funds

Energy & Heating Assistance

Energy Affordability Program: Income-eligible consumers may get discounts on electric/gas bills. Info and forms: [ConEd Energy Affordability Program PDF](#) or call 800-752-6633 (seniors: 800-404-9097).

Regular HEAP Benefit: The 2024–25 season is open. Eligible households can get help paying heating bills. Details: otda.ny.gov/programs/heap

Cooling Assistance: HEAP also covers fans and AC units for qualifying households:

otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/#cooling-assistance

Health Insurance & Counseling

Qualified Health Plans: Enroll by the 15th for coverage the following month with new cost-sharing savings. Info: nyc.gov/health/healthcoverage or call 347-665-0214.

HIICAP: Free counseling on Medicare, Medigap, and long-term care insurance. Call 1-800-701-0501 or visit aging.ny.gov/hiicap.

Housing & Tenant Rights

Renters Rights: NYC tenants are protected against unsafe living conditions, harassment, and discrimination. See the [Tenant Bill of Rights](#).

Homeowner Handbook: A resource to help NY homeowners manage responsibilities and find assistance. View at homeownerhelpny.org/handbook.

Discrimination Reporting: File discrimination reports by phone at (844) NYS-DHR1 or (844) 697-3471.

Rent Protection & Resources: NYC tenants can check rent increase legality and get help at GoodCauseNYC.org.

Food Assistance

SNAP Benefits: Simplified one-page applications, longer recertification periods for seniors, and no interview needed for recertification. Learn more and apply online.

Health Bucks: At NYC farmers markets, spend \$2 in SNAP/EBT/Summer EBT and get \$2 bonus Health Bucks for fresh produce, up to \$10 per visit. Info: grownyc.org/greenmarket/ebt/nutritionprograms.

Transportation

MTA Reduced-Fare Program: Half-fare benefits are moving to OMNY. New cards should have arrived; continue using MetroCards meanwhile. Check updates at [MTA Reduced-Fare OMNY info](#).

MTA Mobile Sales: Services include reduced-fare applications, OMNY sign-ups, card balance transfers, and lost card reports. Schedule at mta.info/fares/mobile-sales.

Congestion Pricing: Tolls apply entering Manhattan south of 60th St. Discounts and exemptions available. Details: mta.info/discounts and congestionreliefzone.mta.info.

Emergency & Community Resources

Mental Health Hotline: Call 988 for mental health support; call 911 for emergencies.

Community Health Advocates: Help with medical bills and insurance issues at 1-888-614-5400.

NYC Emergency Alerts: Sign up for Notify NYC at nyc.gov/notify or call 311.

Animal Care Centers: Due to temporary dog intake suspension, ACC urges adoption. Visit local centers or website for info.

Curbside Composting: Available citywide weekly on recycling day. Details: nyc.gov/curbside-composting.

Identification

New York Mobile ID: Carry a secure digital ID or driver's license on your phone. Learn more and download the app.

NYC Infrastructure

NYCDOT Street Work Permit Maps: View active street work permits for your district at nycdot.info.

Upcoming Events

RESCUE EFFECT

Waived Fee* Adoption Event!

ACC is partnering with ASPCA for a day of waived adoption fees at our Manhattan Care Center!

Sunday, September 7

11am - 5pm

Waived Adoption Fees for all
Manhattan ACC animals!*

**Manhattan ACC
Pet Adoption Center**
323 East 109th Street
New York, NY 10029

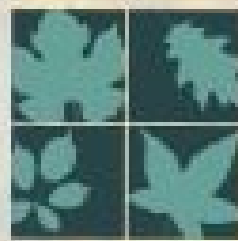
**View all pets available for
adoption at nycacc.app!**
Don't forget to filter for Manhattan ACC



*Does not include \$8.50 - \$34 NYC dog licensing fee.
Unaltered animals may require a \$150 spay/neuter deposit.



Toad
234268



Carl Schurz
PARK
Conservancy

Presents the 51st

GRACIE SQUARE ART SHOW



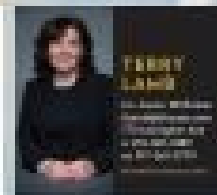
East End Avenue
84th to 88th Streets

Saturday & Sunday
Sept. 6th and 7th
10:00am - 5:00pm

Rain or Shine | Free Admission



**Yura on
East End**
50 East End Ave.
(212) 879-8730



www.graciesquareartshow.org



LIGHTING THE WAY EASTSIDE 9/11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

John Finley Walk at Carl Schurz Park
Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 5:30 PM

All Community Members are Invited - FREE (rain or shine)
Carl Schurz Park entrance, 86th St & East End Ave. // Wheelchair access 84th & 87th St



A community commemorative event showcasing music, poetry and reflections on September 11th. The Ceremony continues a tradition from the first years after 9/11 that drew together people from across the community and city.

9-11 CEREMONY COMMITTEE:

Chairs: Howard Teich, Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, Council Member Julie Menin

Partners: UES CommunityUnity Initiative, The Carl Schurz Park Conservancy, Manhattan Community Board #8, Borough President Mark Levine, Senator Liz Krueger, Assemblymember Alex Bores, Councilmember Keith Powers, Virginia Maloney, Commandant David Menegon and the Knickerbocker Greys, The Reverend Matthew Dayton-Welch, Rabbi Joel Mosbacher, Friends of the East River Esplanade, NYPD, FDNY, John Phillips and The Mansion Restaurant, Greater New York Chamber of Commerce, Patrick McCluskey, Ann Meschery, Valerie Mason, Alida Camp, Arlene Kayatt, Russell M Squire, Vanessa Aronson, Faith Bondy, Gavilan Longino.

OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER REBECCA SEAWRIGHT

1485 YORK AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10075 212-288-4607 SEAWRIGHTR@NYASSEMBLY.GOV



Roosevelt Island
Operating Corporation

ROOSEVELT ISLAND FALL FOR ARTS FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 13th

MEDITATION LAWN

Rain date: 9/14

This year's Fall for Arts has two themes: "Freedom of Fear" and "Freedom to Imagine".

Taking place on Meditation Lawn on September 13th from 10:00AM-5:00PM, this 20th annual festival will include eclectic live painting of original murals, jazz concerts, a live performance from MSTDA, kids activities with Island Kids and Girl Scouts, food vendors and more!



For more info,
scan the QR code.

<https://qrco.de/ffa2025>

EVENT SCHEDULE:

Fall For Arts

🕒 10:00AM-5:00PM

Jazzy Jam Session

🕒 11:15AM-12:00PM; 12:30-1:15PM

📍 Blackwell Plaza

MSDTA Community Drum Circle

🕒 12:00PM

Led by Brazilian artist Pena Verde

Jazz Concert

🕒 2:45PM-4:15PM

📍 Roosevelt Island Library Plaza

Featuring the Marianne Solivan Quartet

Hispanic Heritage Month
Sing-Along and Dance

🕒 3:00PM-5:00PM



All events and activities are open to the public and are held on Meditation Lawn unless otherwise noted.



New York
Public
Library



girl scouts
of greater new york




MAIN STREET
THEATRE
& DANCE
ALLIANCE

ALL EVENTS @:
Andrew Haswell
Green Park at 60th St &
the East River Waterfront
Esplanade



SPONSORED BY:

**FRIENDS
OF THE EAST
RIVER
ESPLANADE**

 EsplanadeFriends.org

 [@EsplanadeFriend](https://www.instagram.com/EsplanadeFriend)



ESPLANADE FRIENDS FALL 2025 EVENTS!

ALL FREE!

#SambaSunday!

Sunday, September 14 | 1-4PM

Samba with EsplanadeFriends!

Live 🎵 Music!

Free Ice Cream!*

Samba Dance Lessons!

Crafts and Other Fun For Kids(of all ages)!

Fun-Filled and Family-Friendly!

All With A Spectacular Water View!

Subject to weather cancellation. No rain date.

* While supplies last

EsplanadeBirding!

Sunday, September 21 | 11AM-12:30PM

Join EsplanadeFriends x NYC Bird Alliance
as we discover the birds that can be found
on the Esplanade and flying over the East
River!

Kids and adults welcome.

RSVP Required Email: ExecutiveDirector@EsplanadeFriends.org

UPCOMING OCTOBER EVENTS:

Saturday, October 11 2PM

EsplanadeYOGA! with IronStrengthNYC

Registration Required Email:

ExecutiveDirector@EsplanadeFriends.org

Sunday, October 19 | 11AM | CityParks PuppetMobile

production of Pippi Longstocking! (Rain date October 26)

Saturday, October 25 | 1-4PM |

EsplanadeHalloween Spooktacular!

Live Music by NOIZ! Face Painting!

Kids Activities! And more.



DONATIONS





Rebecca
Seawright
ASSEMBLY MEMBER



NO-COST COMMUNITY SHREDDING

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
ROOSEVELT ISLAND MOTORGATE
TURNAROUND (688 MAIN STREET)**

9AM TO 12PM

NO NOTEBOOKS, BINDINGS, OR X-RAYS

**OFFICE OF NYS ASSEMBLY MEMBER REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT
1485 YORK AVENUE
212-288-4607
SEAWRIGHTR@NYASSEMBLY.GOV**

QUEER VOICES: NEW YORK CITY FILM FESTIVAL

□ Exciting news! The Queer Voices NYC Film Festival is partnering with Reel Works to launch their brand-new Queer Youth Sector, amplifying the voices of emerging LGBTQIA+ filmmakers.

Free panels and workshops will help young artists build skills, share their stories, and advance their careers. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate creativity and community! □

- Festival: Sept 26–28, 2025
- NYC LGBT Center, Chelsea

queervoicesnyc2025.eventive.org/welcome

Carl Schurz Park Harvest Festival



Harvest Festival

Sunday, October 12, 2025
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Carl Schurz Park's annual Harvest Fest packs a punch with plenty of exciting fall activities for the whole family.

Visit the pumpkin patch on Gracie Oval at East End Avenue and East 88th Street. Pick your own pumpkin and decorate it. While supplies last.

Enjoy arts and crafts, tattoos, and take a stroll through the Spooky Trail.

Don't miss a family concert in the playground with Patrick and the Rock-a-Silly Band.

Halloween Howl & Healthy Hound Fair



Halloween Howl & Healthy Hound Fair

Sunday, October 19, 2025
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Location: basketball/hockey court and John Finley Walk

Not to be missed! The HOWL is the Conservancy's annual dog costume event. Over 200 creatively costumed pups strut their stuff before a blue-chip fashion industry coven of judges!

Construction Advisory



FOUR FREEDOMS PARK
CONSERVANCY

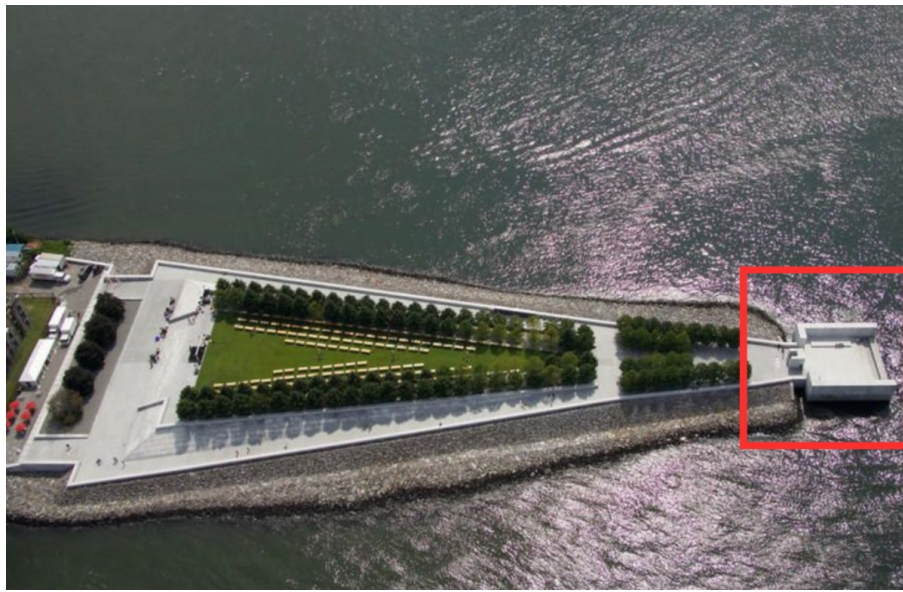
□ Temporary Closure Notice □

Please be advised that The Forecourt and The Room at Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms State Park will be closed from Wednesday, September 3 through Tuesday, September 9, 2025.

This closure is necessary as we put up a temporary installation at the Park. During this time, the rest of the Park will remain open to the public. Please see the map below for closure area.

We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your understanding as we work to bring this exciting installation to life.

Thank you for your patience, and we hope to see you at the Park soon!



Roosevelt Island Station Access

Weekend

Sep 5 – 8
Fri 6 AM to Mon 6 AM



DOOR REPLACEMENT

This entrance will be temporarily non-ADA accessible

Station will remain open for service via temporary entrance and stairs. Elevators will still be in service inside the station.

Alternate Accessible Travel Instructions:

For stair-free access to **F** service, take an Astoria-bound Q102 bus to 21 St-Queensbridge Station.

NOTICE 1
Post: Roosevelt Island  On exterior glass at entrance only. See location plan.
sn_270_25

Due to entrance door replacement, beginning Friday September 5th through Monday 6am, this entrance will be temporarily non-ADA accessible. Station will remain open for service via temporary entrance and stairs. Elevators will also be in service inside the station.

Weekend Impact (September 5–8, 2025):

The main entrance will be closed to the public. Temporary stairs will be installed for use by non-ADA residents/riders.

ADA access will not be available during this time due to limitations in providing alternate accessible options.

Riders requiring ADA access will be directed to use the Q102 Bus and the Roosevelt Island Tram as alternative routes.

[Community Update: August 22, 2025](#)

[Community Update: August 15, 2025](#)

[Community Update: August 8, 2025](#)

[Community Update: August 1, 2025](#)

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