

January, 2018 District Manager's Report

FDNY Reported on: The WASHINGTON HEIGHTS, 7-Alarm fire at a residential building located at 775 Riverside Drive. It was reported 17 people were hurt and dozens displaced in a fire that tore through a building in upper Manhattan Monday afternoon.

The flames broke out on the second floor of the six-story residential building the fire reached the roof, sending plumes of dark smoke billowing into the sky. The FDNY reported that all the victims suffered non-life-threatening injuries, and that no one is critical. Eight of the injured were civilians and nine were first responders.

More than 200 firefighters were working to get the blaze under control. According to investigators, the preliminary cause of the fire was accidental and it was electrical, caused by a toaster. Officials say a tenant was making toast when the appliance suddenly burst into flames that quickly spread throughout the kitchen and up a dumbwaiter to the upper floors.

FDNY Commissioner Daniel Nigro submitted reports that It was an open shaft that ran through the building and once fire got into that shaft it quickly traveled into the cockloft space, a smoke alarm was present and operational.

Morningside Heights Reported:

- Neighborhood libraries in the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island are hosting regular book discussion groups led by trained facilitators. The groups are open to anyone who loves to read and discuss books. Pre-registration is required for most groups - Morningside Heights Meets the second Thursday of each month at 5:30 PM.;
- Dangers of Lead Paint-Parent Workshop will be held on Tuesday, January 30th, at 11 a.m. discussions will take place on Lead Poisoning and its dangers, no registration is required. For further information contact Morningside Heights Library at (212) 864-2530.

George Bruce Branch Reported:

- The George Bruce Library in collaboration with the New- York Historical Society (N-YHS) offers FREE classes for permanent residents to prepare for the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) naturalizations exam. The 24-hour interactive course uses paintings, artifacts, and documents from the N-YHS collections and covers all 100 civics test questions. Courses state January 23rd – March 1st, for further information and registration visit N-YHS website: www.nyhistory.org/citizenship, or call (212) 873-3400 ext. 511.

Con Ed Reported: Customers set several records for natural gas usage during the weekend cold, prompting the company to remind people to save energy and money, and to call if they suspect a gas leak. Con Edison customers in New York City and Westchester County used 1.42 million

dekatherms of gas on Saturday, beating the record of 1.37 million dekatherms set just the day before.

Customers also set six new hourly records for gas demand on Saturday. Usage topped out at 62,750 dekatherms in the hour ending at 7 p.m., making that the new hourly record.

These are amounts of gas sent to distribution customers and do not include the gas sent to electric generating plants. It was the second straight weekend that Con Edison customers set various records for natural gas usage.

If you smell gas, treat it as an emergency. Do not turn a light switch on or off, turn on a flashlight, or even touch your phone inside the house. Go outside immediately and call 911 or 1-800-75-CONED (1-800-752-6633).

Con Edison strongly advises customers to clear snow and ice away from outdoor gas meters or appliance vents to avoid damage to equipment or blockages that could create carbon monoxide conditions in their homes.

Also, never use a gas oven or range, or charcoal grill to heat a room. This causes a potentially fatal carbon monoxide danger.

The cold blast also led to a new record for demand for electricity on a winter weekend. Con Edison distributed 360,858 megawatt hours of power on Saturday and Sunday.

And last Friday the company set a record for electrical sendout for a single winter day. Customers used 186,583 megawatt hours.

Con Edison reminds customers to conserve energy by following the energy company on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#) for energy savings tips. The company provides customers with rebates and incentives for upgrading their heating and cooling equipment, go to: coned.com/hvacrebate to learn more.

Con Edison suggests these steps to save on energy during the winter months:

- Use a programmable thermostat, and/or turn your thermostat down when you are not at home. Set the thermostat while you are home to a reasonable temperature that meets your comfort and health needs.
- Use weather-stripping in all attic stairwells and access openings. Stop cold air infiltration from electric outlets by using draft blockers.
- Open curtains and/or shades of east, south and west-facing windows on sunny winter days to let the sun help you heat your home. Close them at night. Keep draperies closed all day on north-facing windows.

- Close hot air vents or radiators in unused rooms. Then, close the doors to those rooms securely, using draft guards at the door bottoms if necessary. CAUTION: If you have a radiator-hot water system, be sure the unused room does not get so cold as the temperature falls below freezing.
- Check all places where heat enters the room. Make sure the draperies and furniture do not block the flow of heat.
- Check the filters on your forced-air furnace every month during the heating season. Replace as necessary.

Department of Health Reported: A computer system developed by Columbia University with Health Department epidemiologists detects foodborne illness and outbreaks in NYC restaurants based on keywords in Yelp reviews.

Using Yelp, 311, and reports from health care providers, the Health Department has identified and investigated approximately 28,000 complaints of suspected foodborne illness overall since 2012

Since 2012, 10 outbreaks of foodborne illness were identified solely through a computer system jointly created with Columbia University's Department of Computer Science. Launched in 2012, the computer system tracks foodborne illnesses based on certain keywords that appear in Yelp restaurant reviews. This strategy has helped Health Department staff identify approximately 1,500 complaints of foodborne illness in New York City each year, for a total of 8,523 since July 2012.

Improvements to the computer system are the subject of a joint study published this week by the Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association. The Health Department and Columbia continue to expand the system to include other social media sources, such as Twitter, which was added to the system in November 2016. The computer system allows the Health Department to investigate incidents and outbreaks that might otherwise go undetected. New Yorkers are encouraged to call 311 to report any suspected foodborne illness.

Each year, thousands of New York City residents become sick from consuming foods or drinks that are contaminated with harmful bacteria, viruses or parasites. The most common sources of food poisoning include raw or undercooked meat, poultry, eggs, shellfish and unpasteurized milk. Fruits and vegetables may become contaminated if they are handled or processed in facilities that are not kept clean, if they come into contact with contaminated fertilizer, or if they are watered or washed with contaminated water. Contamination may also occur if food is incorrectly handled by an infected food worker or if it touches other contaminated food.

Most restaurant-associated outbreaks are identified through the Health Department's complaint system, which includes 311, Yelp, and reports from health care providers. Since 2012, the Department has identified and investigated approximately 28,000 suspected complaints of foodborne illness overall. The Health Department reviews and investigates all complaints of suspected foodborne illness in New York City.

The symptoms, onset and length of illness depend on the type of microbe, and how much of it is swallowed. Symptoms usually include vomiting, diarrhea and stomach cramps. If you suspect you became sick after eating or drinking a contaminated item, call 311 or submit an [online complaint form](#).

New Yorkers should call their doctor if they experience a high fever (over 101.5°F), blood in the stool, prolonged vomiting, dehydration, or diarrhea for more than three days.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that there are 48 million illnesses and 3000 deaths caused by the consumption of contaminated food in the United States each year.

Flu Vaccine: This year's flu vaccine may not be as effective at protecting people against one of the most common, nasty strains of the flu. But that doesn't mean you should forgo the shot.

The flu vaccine generally reduces the risk of the overall population contracting influenza by 40-60%, but this year's shot isn't much help in protecting people from one of the most active, severe strains circulating: the H3N2 virus.

Labs have updated the part of the vaccine that protects against the H1N1 strain this year.

But the reason the 2017 shot isn't preventing as many cases of the H3N2 strain is that while scientists were growing the virus in chicken eggs, that strain mutated. It's not a harmful defect, but it means that the non-live strain of H3N2 influenza in the injection is slightly different than what's actually circulating in the human population.

Department of Health stated "it's still a good idea to get a shot". Roughly 40 percent of the US population opts for the vaccine every year, and the CDC estimates it prevents about 5 million flu cases annually across the country.

Flu vaccination can also come in the form of a live-flu mist, but the CDC is not recommending that anyone get that this year because it's been less effective than the shot in recent years.

In addition to lowering your chances of getting the flu, the shot can also make the illness milder if you do catch it. Studies of pregnant women who get the flu shot have also shown it can reduce their newborns' risk of catching the flu by half.

Getting the flu shot can also contribute to 'herd immunity' — less cases of the flu overall means more protection for the most vulnerable people in the population: the elderly, children, and individuals with certain allergies who can't get the vaccine.

Most importantly, a flu shot won't ever give you the flu, since the virus that's injected is not live. The shot can come with common side effects, however, including soreness, low-grade fever and muscle aches. But that's still a lot better than coming down with a full-blown flu, which can knock people out for over a week.

Sanitation Reported: The New York City Department of Sanitation announced starting immediately, people interested in working as emergency snow laborers for the upcoming snow season should register at their local Sanitation garage. Snow laborers are per-diem workers who shovel snow and clear ice from bus stops, crosswalks, fire hydrants and step streets in the City after heavy snowfalls.

Individuals interested in registering with the DSNY can do so weekdays between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. The list of garage locations can be found at www.nyc.gov/dsny and in the list below. Snow laborers will be paid \$15 per hour, and \$22.50 per hour after 40 hours are worked in a week.

Snow laborers must be at least 18 years of age, be eligible to work in the United States, and capable of performing heavy physical labor.

All applicants must bring the following items at the time of registration:

- Two small photos (1 ½ square)
- Original and copy of two forms of identification
- Social Security card

Individuals may also register at select Department of Transportation locations. The offices will be open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. and require the same photographs and identification. Locations are listed below.

DSNY Manhattan locations:

4036 9th Avenue

606 West 30th Street

650 West 57th Street

343 East 99th Street

110 East 131st Street

125 East 149th Street

301 West 215th Street

South St. Pier 36

353 Spring Street

Human Rights Commission Reported: The New York City Human Rights Law prohibits discrimination based on a person's disability and promotes independent and equal access for people with disabilities in New York City.

Things you Should Know:

- Housing providers, employers, and business owners must offer modifications or accommodations in their policies and/or physical space to allow a person with a disability to have equal use the rights;

- It is generally the responsibility of housing providers, employers, and business owners to cover the cost of the modification or accommodation;
- Even if a housing provider, employer, or business owner already complies with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA), the NYC Human Rights Law still requires them to provide modifications or accommodations that address an individual's needs, unless it would cause an "undue hardship," as defined under the law;
- Service animals are trained to perform specific tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability. Service animals must be permitted to accompany their owners into any area where the public is permitted and are not required to wear a vest, be specially licensed, or otherwise visibly indicate their status as service animals;
- Housing providers, employers, and business owners must engage in a conversations with the person with a disability to help determine what type of modification or accommodation the person with the disability needs.

Manhattan Borough President's Office Reported:

- The Manhattan Borough President's Office is now accepting applications for Community Board membership. Interested individuals living, working, or studying in one of Manhattan's 12 community board districts are encouraged to apply. Community Boards are the most grass roots form of local government, each composed of 50 volunteer members serving staggered two-year terms. The boards are pivotal in shaping their communities and they work to enhance and preserve the character of their neighborhoods.

If interested you may apply online or print and complete a paper application, at www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov/CBapply. Please note: you should read the PDF and prepare your answers in advance, since the online application must be completed in one sitting. Application must be submitted (or postmarked) before 5p.m. on Friday, February 9th, 2018;

Public Advocate Letitia James' Office Reported:

- Protecting Children in NYCHA – After learning about the NYCHA failure to perform legally mandated inspections for lead paint in thousands of homes, Public Advocate James called for an independent monitor and changes in leadership at NYCHA. For years, NYCHA has not tested apartments for this dangerous material that can cause serious developmental delays in children and NYCHA lied to officials, reporting that they had performed inspections. Not only has NYCHA's negligence put children and seniors at significant risk, but it has caused a terrible breach of public trust. In an effort to provide New Yorkers with Transparency and hold agency accountable, Public Advocate James has launched an investigation into this matter;

- **Combatting the Effects of Climate Change** – Public Advocate James hosted a hearing to discuss the potentially catastrophic consequences of climate change and how NYC can implement strategies and solutions to challenge its effects. The Hearing highlighted the consequences of human-induced climate change and proposed strategies and solutions that NYC can employ to prevent future damage;
- **Creating a Transparent Landlord Database** – Public Advocate James’ legislation to create a centralized database providing more transparency about landlords passed unanimously in the New York City Council last month. The database will allow New Yorkers to easily access a variety of information about their landlord, including the number of outstanding violations at each property owned by the landlord, and the number of harassment findings for each landlord. This easy-to-use database will allow individuals to identify patterns of abuse and harassment by landlords across buildings, further empowering and protecting tenants.

MTA Reported: Enhance Station Initiative has been approved for the 163rd St. (C) Line

DID YOU KNOW?

Most water meters and pipes are in basements, crawl spaces, and other unheated areas, where cold winter temperatures could cause them to freeze. Homeowners are responsible for protecting meters and pipes from freezing:

- If the meter freezes and breaks because of failure to take reasonable steps to protect it, DEP will repair or replace the meter and bill Landlord for the cost;
- If the service line or piping freezes and breaks, it is homeowner’s responsibility to have repairs made by licensed plumber

New York Weekend Walks: Weekend Walks are multi-block, multi-day events on commercial corridors that promote the use of streets as public space. Community based organizations apply to close commercial streets and provide programming that highlights local businesses and New York City’s unique neighborhoods.

Business Improvement Districts, cultural organizations, local merchants associations and community groups can apply to host Weekend Walks. They create wonderful opportunities for New Yorkers go gather and see their neighborhoods in a new way.

In 2018, NYC DOT is embarking on the 11th season of Weekend Walks. If you are interested in hosting a Weekend Walks event, go to:

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/weekendwalks/html/host/host.shtml>.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eutha Prince', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eutha Prince
District Manager

01/11/18



IN NYC, YOUR SALARY HISTORY WON'T HOLD BACK YOUR NEXT SALARY

JOB APPLICANT FACT SHEET:

Protections Against Inquiries into Job Applicants' Salary History

Starting October 31, 2017, employers in New York City cannot ask about or rely on your salary history during the hiring process. The law is aimed at disrupting the cycle of wage inequality for women and people of color and encouraging employers to set compensation based on qualifications.

Q. Who is protected?

A. Most applicants for new employment in New York City are protected, regardless of whether the position is full-time, part-time, or an internship. Independent contractors who do not have their own employees are also protected.

Q. Who is not protected?

A. The law does not apply to:

- Applicants for internal transfer or promotion with their current employer.
- Applicants for positions with public employers for which compensation is set pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement. However, City agencies are prohibited from inquiring about or relying on job applicants' salary history pursuant to Mayoral Executive Order 21, signed on November 4, 2016.

Q. What is prohibited?

A. Employers cannot:

- Ask you questions about or solicit information about your current or prior earnings or benefits, for example on job applications.
- Ask your current or former employers or their employees about your current or prior earnings or benefits.
- Search public records to learn about your current or prior earnings or benefits.
- Rely on information about your current or prior earnings or benefits to set your compensation.

Q. What is not prohibited?

A. Employers can:

- Make statements about the anticipated salary, salary range, bonus, and benefits for a position.
- Inquire about your expectations or requirements for salary, benefits, bonus, or commission structure.
- Ask about objective indicators of your work productivity in your current or prior job such as revenue or profits generated, sales, production reports, or books of business.
- Make inquiries to your current or former employers or search online to verify non-salary information, such as work history, responsibilities, or achievements. However, if this results in the accidental discovery of current or prior earnings or benefits, the employer cannot rely on this information in making salary or benefits decisions.
- Make inquiries about your current or prior earnings or benefits that are authorized or required by federal, state, or local law.
- Verify and consider current or prior earnings or benefits **only if you voluntarily provide it without prompting during the interview process.**

Q. What are the consequences for employers who are found to violate the law?

A. They may be required to pay damages, a fine, and/or be subject to additional affirmative relief such as mandated training and posting requirements.



If you have experienced salary history discrimination, we can help. Contact the NYC Commission on Human Rights by calling 311 or call the Commission's Infoline directly at (718) 722-3131. For more information, visit NYC.gov/HumanRights

#SalaryIsHistoryNYC

NYC Commission on Human Rights



@NYCCHR

NYC.gov/SalaryHistoryNYC



THE CITIZENSHIP PROJECT

FREE CIVICS CLASSES FOR GREEN CARD HOLDERS

Prepare for the civics test!



The George Bruce Library in collaboration with the New-York Historical Society offers FREE classes for permanent residents to prepare for the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) naturalization exam. The 24-hour interactive course uses paintings, artifacts, and documents from the N-YHS collections and covers all 100 civics test questions.

George Bruce Library
518 West 125th St.
New York, NY 10027

COURSE STARTS IN JANUARY!

January 23 – March 1
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6 – 8pm

INTERESTED?

Join us for a mandatory information session at the George Bruce Library before registering for the course.

Tuesday, January 9, 6 – 7pm
Thursday, January 11, 6 – 7pm

INFORMATION & REGISTRATION:

www.nyhistory.org/citizenship
(212) 873-3400 ext. 511

QUESTIONS:

thecitizenshipproject@nyhistory.org

Please note that at this time we offer this program only for permanent residents who are eligible for citizenship.



New York City Council Member
Mark Levine
District 7

Sponsored by Council Member Mark Levine



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The Citizenship Project is generously supported by the Ford Foundation, The JPB Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and The New York Community Trust.

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Des cours d'anglais gratuits • Klasa anglišt na pagesě
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دروس مجانية في الإنجليزية

- ① **New students MUST come to an Information Session first** (see boxes below)
Primero hay que asistir una sesión de información (vea abajo)
- ② **Return for testing**
Regrese para un examen
- ③ **Choose a class from over 40 locations in Manhattan/Bronx/Staten Island (see other side)**
Escoja una clase entre más de 40 lugares en Manhattan, El Bronx o Staten Island (vea el otro lado)

INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR NEW ADULT STUDENTS

HARLEM LIBRARY

9 West 124th Street (between Lenox & 5th Ave)
New York, NY 10027 212.369.2714

Saturday, January 6, 2018

10 AM OR 2 PM OR

Wednesday, January 10, 2018

12 PM OR 6 PM

*(2/3 to 125th Street or 4/5/6 to 125th and Lexington)
Space is limited to 100 per session*

TOMPKINS SQUARE LIBRARY

331 East 10th Street (near Avenue B)
New York, NY 10009 212.673.4528

Monday, January 8, 2018

12 PM OR 2 PM OR 6 PM

*(1/2/3 train to 14 St, then M14 to Ave A OR 6 train to Astor Place, then M8 bus to Ave B OR A/C/E train to W4 Street, then M8 bus to Ave B); L train to First Avenue
Space is limited to 100 per session*

BRONX LIBRARY CENTER

310 East Kingsbridge Road (at Briggs Avenue)
Bronx, NY 10458 718.579.4222

Monday, January 8, 2018

12 PM OR 3 PM OR 6 PM

Doors open one hour before each session

*(Subway D/B or #4 to Fordham Road)
Space is limited to 200 per session*

AGUILAR LIBRARY

174 East 110th Street
New York, NY 10029 212.534.1613

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

12 PM OR 6 PM

*(6 train to East 110th Street)
Space is limited to 60 per session*

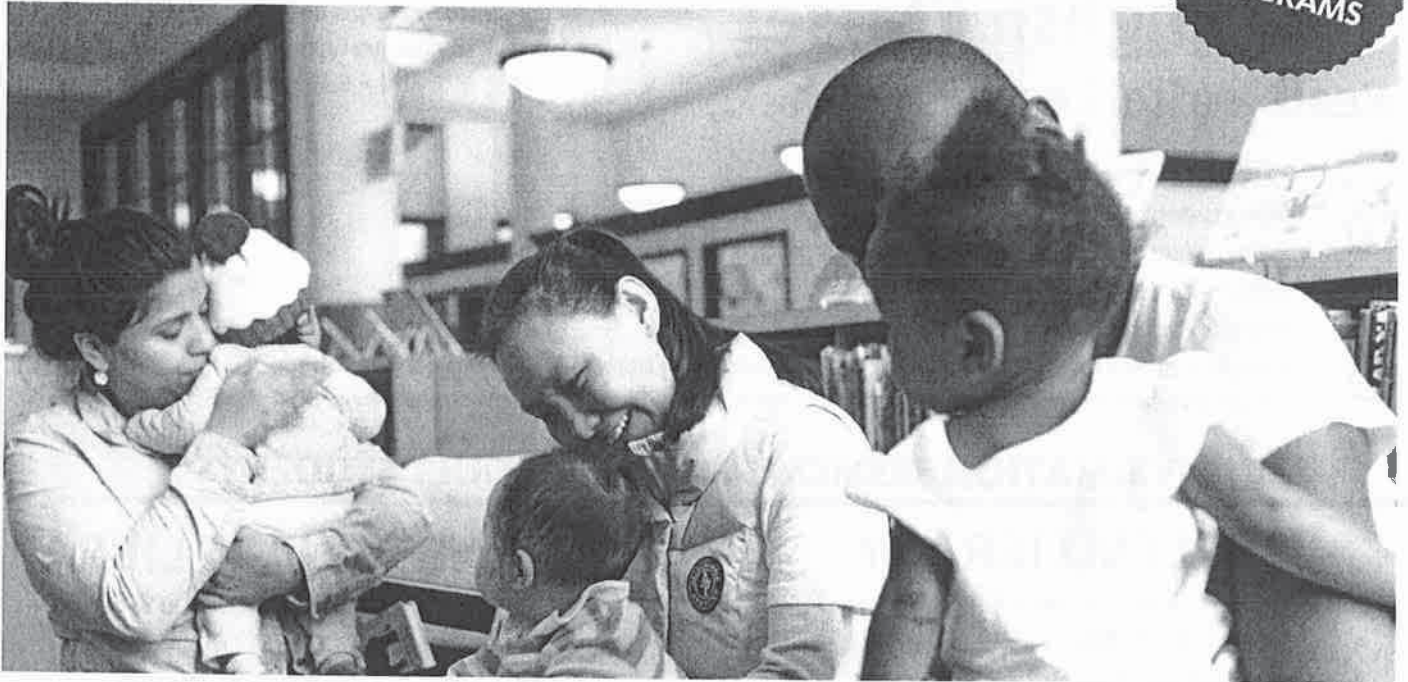
Major Support for the Library's adult literacy, English language programs and technology training is provided by the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development; Arthur W. Koenig; The Pascualano Foundation; NYC Connected Communities, a program of the New York City Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications; The Lois M. Collier Endowment Fund; The JPB Foundation; the Joseph and Sylvia Slifka Foundation, Inc.; and the Federal Workforce Investment Act, Title II funding administered through the New York State Education Department. Additional support provided by the New York City Center for Economic Opportunity; Altman Foundation; Funding from the Mayor's Young Men Initiative administered through the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development; the Kagan Fund; New York State Coordinated Outreach Services Program; Bank of America; The Bailey Endowment for English Language Learning Programs; New York State Library's Adult Literacy Library Services grant program; The Staten Island Foundation; Murray G. and Beatrice H. Sherman Charitable Trust; and anonymous donors.



New York
Public
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nypl.org/english

Morningside Heights Library



Dangers of Lead Paint- Parent

Workshop

Tuesday Jan 30 11 AM

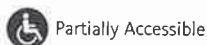
Lead Poisoning - What is lead poisoning? Why is lead a problem? How do children get lead poisoning? presented by NYC DOHMH, Healthy Homes Program

No Registration Required
Parents and Caregivers



New York
Public
Library

Morningside Heights Library
2900 Broadway, New York, NY 10025
212-864-2530



Connect with us:  

nypl.org/events