



# TURTLE BAY NEWS

From the Turtle Bay Association, neighborhood association for Manhattan's Turtle Bay, East Midtown, home of the United Nations.

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## LAND USE MATTERS DO MATTER – AN UPDATE

When the Turtle Bay Association (TBA) was founded in 1957, it was created in response to the growing need to protect the residential neighborhood from the surging development pressures associated with the City's Central Business District just to the West. Today, more than 60 years later we still find ourselves in that same role—working to offset those same development pressures, now not only from the West, but every direction.

Case in point: In August 2017, the New York City Council approved the Greater East Midtown Rezoning, an effort to revitalize the area just to the West of Turtle Bay, by changing the zoning to allow not only denser cont.

## SAVE THE DATES

National Night Out Against Crime  
Tuesday, August 6th - 5-8PM  
Dag Hammarskjold Park

TBA Annual Meeting  
Monday, November 11th - 6:30-9PM  
Vanderbilt YMCA

Holiday Party  
Sunday, December 1st - 3-5:30PM  
Parnell's Restaurant



## TBA STREET FAIR

By any measure, the June 22nd Turtle Bay Street Fair was a huge success, with hundreds partaking under sunny skies along Lexington Avenue from 42nd to 52nd Streets.

Generous raffle prize sponsors were: Pescatore Restaurant; Vanderbilt YMCA; Salon Amici; Ekavi Boutique; Da Raffaele Restaurant; Parnell's Restaurant; Press Box Restaurant and Chateau 49 Wine Bar & Restaurant.

All proceeds from the fair go back into the community. Some of the beneficiaries include the Vanderbilt YMCA, Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza and the Turtle Bay Tree Fund.

A very big thank you to all of our raffle donors, those who supported the raffle and the dozens of tireless volunteers who made the day possible!

### Land Use Matters cont.

construction, but what is now called supertall buildings. JPMorgan Chase at 270 Park was the first to take advantage of the plan, and is in the process of demolishing their 40 story building, and replacing it with a new 70 story behemoth. Others are following. The City's development of this rezoning effort took a number of years and two Administrations, and as it happens, the TBA was hard at work during all that time making the case for exempting the east side of Third Avenue from the upzoning that could over-crowd, over-shadow and otherwise impact the historic brownstones, NYC landmarks, and the Turtle Bay Gardens Historic District that lay just beyond. We are happy to say however that in the final hours, the TBA was granted an exemption from the upzoning in the area on the east side of Third Avenue, from 46th Street to 51st Street.

While the Greater East Midtown Rezoning was developed for the purpose of revitalizing the existing office district mostly to the west of Turtle Bay, there has been no shortage of development in Turtle Bay itself — witness at 138 East 50th Street the very recent debut of Cerruzi Properties' The Centrale residential tower — a supertall topping out at 803 feet. In recent years much development activity has taken place in the area near Grand Central Terminal, the area surrounding Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, and along Second Avenue as well — and it is expected that there will be more development to come on or near Second Avenue as there appears to be a number of potential sites there. Note that Minrav Holdings' luxury condo development is already underway on East 52nd Street, only the site just off Second Avenue where the Turtle Bay Music School was (it having moved to East 38th Street).

As a matter of fact, the Second Avenue corridor has increasingly become the subject of TBA's concern, and it is considering ways in which residents, merchants and the City can be organized in order to help keep the area clean, repair infrastructure, replace trees, and create public amenities. It should be noted that TBA has begun the process, as we are sure you have

seen that we maintain trash receptacles with scheduled pick up service along the Avenue. We are sorry to say that in the recent City budget process however, TBA's suggested projects regarding the rejuvenation of Second Avenue did not make it into the finals (with the exception perhaps of some tree replacement). It has to be said though that TBA will continue to press for change because the conditions along the Second Avenue corridor are the second most heard complaints from our Membership — next to that of bikes.

We have all seen the surge in the use of bicycles in the city, the development of bike-sharing programs, and the construction of protected bike lanes on the avenues. All of these projects have been well planned and strongly supported by the City's Department of Transportation, and the Community Boards have generally approved them as important environmentally friendly projects. And so it goes that at this writing there is a proposed second phase for the construction of protected bike lanes which are to go cross town on 55th and 52nd Streets — similar to ones already established in the East 20's. Since all three Community Boards, which span the island cross town from river to river have approved the project, we consider the proposal a fait accompli. In CB5's case however, it did add a strongly worded resolution on the need for bike safety regulations, and TBA has adopted that resolution, and is vigorously seeking support for it. The feeling is that the construction of miles of bike lanes and rental racks, and the surge in biking itself, has reached a pivotal point where the issue of bike etiquette and safety regarding the well-being of the community (not to mention the bikers themselves) have to be newly addressed.

We should take a moment here to mention land use matters that are affecting TBA's neighbors. We support the Sutton community's effort to scale back the planned 800 foot supertall residential tower at 432 East 58th Street, into a more scaled back design more in keeping with the Sutton neighborhood. We also support the coalition of groups in the Sutton area that are trying to have the proposed bridge into Clara

### Land Use Matters cont.

Coffey Park from the future East River Greenway redesigned or relocated. And in the Beekman neighborhood, hats off to the Beekman Place Association and Community Board 6, which finally got the City to install the long sought after gates at the 51st Street stairs, and on the bridge to the esplanade in Peter Detmold Park.

Much of the past year has been a year of land use changes, that is to say that TBA has joined with other groups — like the Historic District Council and Community Board 6 to name just two out of many — in advocating improved land use practices; such as:

- Strengthening the New York City Landmarks Commission proposed rules that govern and maintain the landmarking process (the initial proposed rules would have dramatically weakened the City's ability to preserve its architectural history).
- Advocating that the new 2019 Charter Revision Commission maintain a strong public review process within the Community Boards (TBA felt that the 2018 Commission had somewhat limited the public review process).
- Supporting the City Council's efforts to place limits on developers' use of so called "voids" to construct supertall buildings (these empty lobby, floor, or mechanical spaces do not count in the allowable zoning calculations); and
- Joining with a coalition of Eastside residential groups to advocate for a full, or partial exemption for long time residents from the proposed Congestion Pricing rules which are planned for cars traveling below 61st Street Manhattan.

Land use does matter in the preservation and enhancement of the quality of life in our communities — office and residential towers can crowd out brownstones, community facilities can erode residential tranquility, and gentrification can change the character and diversity of neighborhoods. We care about how land use changes our community, because it is our belief that great cities, like New York City, are cities that have as an integral part — vigorous, involved communities where people both live and work.

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## SPOTLIGHT ON TBA BUSINESS MEMBER

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by Michael Zullo



The **Chateau 49 Wine Bar & Restaurant** opened on July 23, 2018 by Florianne and Rocco, co-owners. They have worked in our Turtle Bay neighborhood for the past 7 years in the restaurant business since arriving from Europe 10 years ago. They bring their experience to this 49th Street corner French bistro & Wine Bar at 2nd Avenue providing delicious cuisine, a selection of fine wine of which 70% come from France, soft music and a longer than usual 'happy hour' - from 12 noon to 7:00 pm - 7-days a week - (Saturday & Sunday included) - whereas a normal happy hour along Second Avenue and its side streets which many other restaurants offer - starts at 5 & ends at 7 pm - Mon-Fri.

In addition to their dinner menu there's a pre fixed luncheon that includes 1 appetizer, 1 main dish and 1 dessert for \$24.95.

The dinner menu offers classic bistro dishes such as escargots, quiche, coq au vin, moules frites, steak au poivre, creme carmel.

Florianne & Rocco welcome you to come in and join many neighborhood regulars to enjoy a cozy and comfortable atmosphere & delicious French cuisine.



## Chateau 49 Wine Bar & Restaurant

**Chateau 49 Wine Bar & Restaurant offers TBA members a 10% discount.**

924 Second Avenue

917 261 6022

contact@chateau49nyc.com

chateau49nyc.com



## Don't let your purchase become a steal for someone else.

- Select the option to require someone to sign for the package and show their ID.
- Consider providing the shipping address of someone who will be home on the estimated delivery date.
- Place insurance on the package, if costly.
- Leave instructions regarding where you'd like your packages to be delivered.



**NYPD**

## LATEST NEWS ON TURTLE BAY'S PARKS

by Marie-Louise Handal

### Peter Detmold Park Certified as Wildlife Habitat



Thanks to the efforts of a local Girl Scouts troop working in cooperation with the Turtle Bay Association Parks Committee, Peter Detmold Park has qualified to be officially designated as a Wildlife Habitat. Under the leadership of Troup Leader Joanna Stanberry, the members of Troop #3776 completed a specific set of wildflower plantings in Peter Detmold Park. They have also put in a bird bath.

These are all improvements which were needed to make Peter Detmold Park more inviting to birds and Monarch butterflies, among others. These improvements, while not immediately visible to park visitors, all make the space more inviting to potential wildlife “residents”. More details to follow. This park has been taking on increased popularity among the neighborhood’s youth, and we are pleased and grateful to this wonderful group of generous pre-teens.



### Improvements on Footbridge above Peter Detmold Park

In other Peter Detmold Park News, thanks to the successful collaboration of the Beekman Place Neighborhood Association and CB-6, two new gates have been installed on the footbridge above Detmold Park, as pictured here. The renovation is expected to significantly improve security in the park.

### Peace Garden Vegetarian Café Opens at Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza



The new restaurant will serve a variety of vegetarian and vegan dishes and will offer coffee, fruit drinks and ice cream for visitors to the park. Currently, installation of outdoor seating, bordered by greenery and colorful flower boxes, is being completed. Try it out. Let us know how you enjoyed it.

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## Update Regarding Adult Use of the Rest Rooms in MacArthur Playground

The debate continues on both adult presence in the Playground and taxis parking inappropriately in front of the Playground. The Parks Department has not taken an official stand, pending further fact-finding and a search for more appropriate rest-room options for taxi drivers. This issue is further complicated by the still unclear status of the Playground as an official playground (along with all the special rules that apply) or as a regular park, which was never its original status. It is possible that our Playground was at some point confused with another uptown park, named MacArthur Park. Some pages on the NYC Parks website mix information about the two parks on the same pages. We are in conversation with various City officials to clarify this.

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## Expanding Parks Committee Membership and Networking with Other Community Organizations & Parks Groups

As we begin the new season, we are reaching out to coordinate with various Friends groups, PDP-ARF, and other local parks groups, as well as NYC Parks & Recreation and our two community relations police officers in mutual support of 2019 parks efforts and projects. Several new members of TBA have opted to join the efforts of the Parks Committee. If you would like to become a member of the TBA Parks Committee, please contact the TBA office.

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## In Memoriam – Henry Stern

We are sad to note that one of our greatest supporters in the old days, former Parks Department Commissioner, Henry Stern, died on March 28, 2019, after a long battle with Parkinson's. It is with the deepest gratitude that we recognize his lifelong service to NYC parks, as well as his exceptional support of our

own efforts to preserve and improve green spaces here in Turtle Bay.

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## ROUNDUP FROM TURTLE BAY'S ELECTED OFFICIALS

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With the State Legislature on hiatus until autumn, lawmakers state Sen. Liz Kruger (D) and Assembly Member Dan Quart (D) reported on accomplishments in the past legislative session to constituents in community bulletin updates.

City Councilmember Keith Powers (D) also shared Council news with Turtle Bay residents.

Among the highlights:

Sen. Kruger noted passage of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, to address the effects of climate change, and the Driver's License Access and Privacy Act, to restore the right to obtain a license regardless of immigrant status.

Both Sen. Kruger and Assembly Member Quart pointed to the first legislative hearings in nearly three decades on sexual harassment and assault experienced by legislative employees, culminating in legislation aimed at ensuring a safe workplace environment.

Assembly Member Quart also flagged state election law reform that includes early voting; pre-registration for 16 and 17 year olds; consolidated state and federal primaries and same-day voter registration.

In City Council business, Councilmember Powers noted ongoing efforts on helicopter safety and operations and discussions on curbing flights over parts of Manhattan, pegged most recently to the fatal hard-landing on a West Midtown office building in June.

Elsewhere, Councilmember Powers pointed to passage of criminal justice reform measures that will streamline how those incarcerated access healthcare and file 311 complaints.



During the summer, Sen. Kruger sponsored a legal clinic for seniors and teamed with Councilmember Powers to conduct a forum on phone scams. Councilmember Powers also held a bike helmet giveaway.

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## FIRST HALF OF 2019 SETS NEW RECORD-LOW FOR INDEX CRIME IN THE COMPSTAT ERA

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July 8, 2019

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### City Achieves Historic Reduction in Murder as Crime Falls in Every Major Category

The NYPD announced today that year-to-date index crime is down by almost 2,500 complaints, or -5.4%, a new record-breaking low for any first half of any year in the CompStat Era. Murders in the city also fell to a new first half record-low of 135, a 15.5% reduction over 2018 that broke the previous first half record-low of 136, which was set in 2017.

Index crime for June 2019 (8,032) is down by 321 complaints, or -3.8%, compared to June 2018 (8,353). Murder for the month of June 2019 (26) was also down -25.7%, or 9 fewer lives lost, compared to June 2018 (35). Shooting incidents for June 2019 are up +27.1% and year-to-date shootings are up +7.1%. The department is addressing this violence in a number of different ways, including precision policing, Summer All-Out targeted deployments and working with the District Attorneys on gun prosecutions.

"New York City is the safest big city in America, and it's as safe as it's ever been in modern times," said **Police Commissioner James P. O'Neill**. "But the hardworking members of the NYPD know that to make our achievements meaningful for everyone we have

to make this record-breaking safety a reality in every community we serve. We're going to do that by continuing to build strong relationships, by relentlessly pursuing those who commit violent crime, by deploying our resources effectively and by constantly evaluating our performance in an effort to do even better."

"It's been another record-breaking month for the NYPD and the people of New York City," said **Mayor Bill de Blasio**. "With the close of the first half of the year, we've again set a new record-low for crime - but we didn't get this far to rest on our laurels. Until every person on every street corner feels the effects of being the safest big city in America, there's more work to do and our officers will continue to rise to the challenge."

Key highlights from this month's crime statistics include:

- Record-breaking first-half-of-the-year lows in robbery, burglary and grand larceny auto.
- Reductions in every Major Crime category, year-to-date.
- Double-digit reductions in burglary for the month of June and year-to-date, -17.5% and -13.5% respectively.
- A -2.0% reduction in rape, year-to-date. Rape continues to be underreported. If you have been a victim of sexual assault, please come forward. The NYPD's Special Victims Division 24-hour hotline is 212-267-RAPE (7273)

# What's Happening Here?

Organize and Calm Traffic

Install Protected Bike Lanes



Update Parking Regulations

Increase Intersection Safety

## NYC DOT will implement safety improvements on 52nd St. and 55th St. from Sutton Pl. to the Hudson River Greenway:

- Install parking protected bike lane on the south side of 55th St. from Sutton Pl. to 12th Ave., with delineator protected bike lane between Lexington and Park Aves. and standard lane between 11th and 12th Aves.
- Install parking protected bike lane on the south side of 52nd St. from 12th Ave. to 1st Ave., with a curbside bike lane between Broadway and 7th Ave., delineator protected bike lane between 6th and 5th Aves., Park and Lexington Aves., and 3rd and 1st Aves., and shared lanes from 1st Ave. to the FDR Dr.
- Update parking regulations on both corridors to increase turnover and reduce double parking
- Install offset crossings, slow turning treatments, and turn bays for vehicles at select intersections

## Implementation begins in July



For additional information about this project, contact the DOT Manhattan Borough Commissioner's Office at [212.839.6210](tel:212.839.6210) or visit our website: [nyc.gov/dot](http://nyc.gov/dot). To sign up for DOT updates, visit: [nyc.gov/dotnews](http://nyc.gov/dotnews)

