



# THE TURTLE BAY ASSOCIATION

The Neighborhood Association for Manhattan's Turtle Bay, East Midtown Area, Home of the United Nations

## Turtle Bay News, May 2024

### UPDATE ON CONGESTION PRICING

By: Meryl Brodsky

The MTA board officials approved congestion pricing, and barring some ongoing lawsuits, the program will be live effective June 30th. The affected area concerns Manhattan's central business district below 60th Street. That means every car entering every single street and avenue south of, and including 60th Street will be charged a toll.

Here's what you need to know about the fares:

- The base fare will vary from \$15 for a car, up to \$36 for a truck, and taxi drivers will be \$1.25 per ride.
- These fares will be in effect weekdays from 5am to 9pm, and on weekends from 9am to 9pm. Off hour fares will be about 75% less than the full fee.
- Vehicles will only be charged when entering the toll zone. Drivers with an E-Z Pass will automatically be charged the fee and those who do not have an E-Z pass will be mailed a bill to the address of the registered vehicle.
- Vehicles will only be charged once a day.
- "Crossing credits" will be applied to vehicles that drive into the congestion zone from the four tunnels that already have a toll, such as the Queens-Midtown tunnel. The amount will be \$5 for a car.
- DOE contracted yellow school buses, commuter buses, and certain essential city vehicles are the only exceptions at this time.

Ultimately, congestion pricing will remove about 153,000 vehicles from the streets of Manhattan below 60th Street, which will speed the drive for everyone and lower air pollution. Additionally, it will generate billions of dollars for the MTA to invest in the vital but aging transit infrastructure with the goal to provide more reliable service.



### PLAQUE TO COMMEMORATE STEPHEN SONDHEIM

By: Michael Zullo

The historical plaque to commemorate Stephen Sondheim, a resident and ardent supporter of the Turtle Bay Association, was installed at 246 East 49th Street, where he lived for more than 60 years.

He purchased the row house in 1960, calling it "the house that Gypsy built", referring to his earnings from the hit musical.

### SAVE THE DATE

#### TBA ANNUAL STREET FAIR

Saturday, June 15, 10am-6pm

43rd to 54th Streets on Lexington Avenue

# WELCOME NEW TBA BUSINESS MEMBERS



WINES TO GO  
933 Second Avenue  
212 832 5080  
<https://www.winestogo.com>



CHASE THE FOX  
229 East 53rd Street – Basement  
646 930 2025  
<https://www.chasethefox.com>



WILLNER CHEMIST  
100 Park Avenue  
212 682 2817  
<https://www.willner.com>



CAMOUFLAGE COIFFURES  
875 Third Avenue  
917-439-5559  
[camouflagecoiff@aol.com](mailto:camouflagecoiff@aol.com)



## SPRING CLEANING INSIDE AND OUT!

By: Cindi Buckwalter

With Spring upon us, it's a great time for spring cleaning! While many of us think of indoor spring cleaning, it's also a great time for outdoor spring cleaning.

What is outdoor spring cleaning? It can take many forms, but one easy way we can all participate is to pick up litter as we're walking around the neighborhood or in our local parks. With the warmer weather, longer days, and beautiful flowers and trees blooming all around us, it's a wonderful time to enjoy walking in Turtle Bay and the surrounding area. The beautiful new East Midtown Greenway and Waterfront Park, accessible from 54th Street and Sutton Place, is also a great venue for walks along the water.

One easy way to do outdoor spring cleaning is to carry rubber gloves and a small bag with you when you go for a walk. The produce bags from grocery stores are perfect for this, as it gives them a second life, and they are easy to carry in your pocket or tote bag until you need to use them. As you walk around, you can pick up small non-hazardous items such as plastic wrappers, cups, lids, straws and more, and put them into your bag until you can dispose the whole bag into a trashcan.

This is not only a great form of exercise as you lean down to pick up items during a walk, but you are also beautifying your neighborhood and reducing the amount of plastic and other trash that ends up in the water. It's a very rewarding activity to do alone, and you can also make it more fun by inviting your friends and family to join in, and for those with



dogs, you can even do this on your regular walks.

Fun fact: Merriam-Webster has now officially recognized the term for "outdoor cleaning." If you pick up trash while walking, it's called "Plalking." If you pick up trash while jogging, it's called "Plogging" and if you pick up trash while hiking or biking, it's called "Pliking." You can learn more about the interesting origination of these words [here](#).

## NEWS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

### Coming Soon

A new Cafe in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza - OASIS JIMMA JUICE BAR. Specializing in healthy juices and other healthy food choices.

### Illegal Cannabis Shops Closed

2 Illegal Cannabis shops, one located at 933 Second Avenue & one located at 348 East 49th Street were closed by our own 17th Precinct. Thank you New York's Finest.

### Neighborhood Construction

Construction of 300 East 50th Street reaches its halfway mark.

Permits have been filed for a 32 story building located at 401 East 51st Street, on First Avenue. Demolition is projected to begin in late May or June.

## MEET & GREET CONGRESSMAN JERROLD (JERRY) NADLER



*By: Phyllis Gitomer*

A continental breakfast honoring Congressman Jerry Nadler, representing the 12th Congressional District of NY was held at Copinette Restaurant on Thursday, April 4th. Representative Nadler addressed the well-attended group about the current issues facing Congress. He followed with a question and answer period and then spoke with individual TBA members. An informative and enjoyable morning was had by all.

## TBA VOLUNTEER EVENT

We had a big turnout at the TBA Volunteer event held in February. Thank you to the TBA members who attended, met with TBA committee chair persons, learned more about TBA, and signed up to volunteer for various TBA committees.

We are always seeking volunteers to work on our committees, Special Events, Parks, Safety/Clean & Green, Membership, Communications/Social Media and Land Use. Join our efforts to keep our neighborhood safe, clean and beautiful, and to make TBA a better place to live and visit.

If you are interested in volunteering, email your contact information to [office@turtlebay-nyc.org](mailto:office@turtlebay-nyc.org) and we will be in touch with you,



HELP KEEP OUR  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
CLEAN AND BEAUTIFUL

## EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

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