

HELPING OUR COMMUNITY'S SENIOR CITIZENS

Assembly Member

REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT

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Dear Neighbor,

I am pleased to once again share an exclusive newsletter update for my senior citizen constituents. As your State Assembly Member, I work to pass legislation and a budget to address our community needs.

Since assuming office, I have secured 6 million dollars in capital funding for the district. This includes senior centers and non-profit organizations who work tirelessly on behalf of senior citizens in our community. I encourage you to explore the services provided by the organizations that have received funding from our office including Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, Carter Burden Network, Roosevelt Island Senior Association, Search and Care, and Health Advocates for Older People.

I hope you find this update and the enclosed resources to be informative and helpful. I am proud of what we have accomplished together for our community. Please continue to voice your concerns, support, and ideas with our district community office. We are located at 1485 York Avenue, between 78th and 79th Streets, or call 212.288.4607. We are here to serve you!

Best Wishes,

Rebecca A. Seawright
Member of Assembly 76th District

Special Programs for Senior Citizens

Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption

A rent freeze for rent regulated tenants in New York City aged 62 and older with a total household income of \$50,000 or less.

Senior Citizen Homeowners Exemption (SCHE)

Sliding Scale real estate sliding exemption of 5% to 50%.

Reduced-Fare and MetroCard Bus/Van

You can refill your card or buy a full range of MetroCards. Senior Citizens 65+ and people with disabilities, who have a Medicare card and a valid photo ID, such as a driver's license, can apply for a Reduced-Fare Metro Card. Reduced fare in 2017 is \$1.35.

The MetroCard Bus/Van Locations

Carnegie Hill at 92 St & Lexington Ave (YM/YWHA)

2nd & 4th Tuesday
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Lenox Hill at 68 St & 1 Ave (near Memorial Sloan Kettering)

1st Friday; 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Lenox Hill at 68 St & Lexington Ave

2nd & 4th Tuesday; 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Lenox Hill at 72 St & York Ave

1st & 3rd Wednesday; 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Roosevelt Island Senior Association (546 Main St)

2nd Monday; 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Upper East Side at 79 St & 3 Ave

1st & 3rd Wednesday
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Seawright's District Community Office

Upper East Side at 79 St & York Ave

1st & 3rd Wednesday
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Yorkville at 86 St & Lexington Ave

2nd & 4th Tuesday
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Yorkville at 91st St & York Ave

1st Thursday
7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.



Seawright speaks to the seniors about her 3-D Mammogram bill that was signed into law. She wished everyone and their loved ones a happy holiday season.



Seawright Speaks to Lenox Hill Neighborhood House Senior Citizens at the Annual Thanksgiving Celebration.

HEAP is here to help make heating bills more affordable

HEAP, a federally funded program, provides financial assistance to both renters and homeowners and can be used to help cover the costs of electricity, propane, natural gas, wood, oil, kerosene, coal or other heating fuels. Eligible families can also apply for funds to help pay for home heating equipment and repairs.

Eligibility for HEAP relies on a number of factors, including income, household size, primary heating source and whether a member of the household is under the age of 6, over the age of 60 or permanently disabled. For the upcoming winter, a family of four that has a household income of up to \$4,457 a month may qualify for help. Applications are now being accepted, and please note that assistance is granted on a first-come, first-served basis. This year, households can receive up to \$726 in assistance. An extra emergency payment is also available to households that are out of fuel or going to have their service shut off. Applications for an emergency benefit open on Jan. 2, 2018.

Contact the Heat Line if you are having trouble paying your utilities bill 212-331-3150.

Housing

New Tenant Harassment Regulation

New Legislation Would Broaden and Strengthen Existing Tenant Harassment Laws, Make It Easier To Criminally Prosecute Landlords Who Force Rent-Regulated Tenants To Vacate

Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman unveiled new legislation on April 12, 2017 aimed at holding the city's most unscrupulous landlords criminally accountable for tenant harassment. Current state law demands prosecutors reach an inexplicably high bar in order to criminally charge landlords with harassment of rent-regulated tenants—which is why in the past twenty years, not a single landlord has ever been convicted of the crime of Harassment of a Rent Regulated Tenant. The AG's legislation would change that, by setting a more reasonable standard that removes the need to prove physical injury to a tenant, and opens the door to prosecutions arising out of more commonplace and insidious tactics, such as turning off heat and hot water, exposing young children to lead dust, and making rent-stabilized buildings deliberately uninhabitable for current tenants and their families.

The legislation introduced is just the most recent action taken by the AG to stem a rising tide of tenant harassment complaints across New York City. The AG's other work includes:

- Launching a new team to enhance and streamline the office's resources to combat tenant harassment, deceptive lending practices, deed theft, bank fraud, and other housing issues facing constituents.
- Charging landlords and management companies for alleged illegal practices to harass or endanger rent-regulated tenants.
- Filing felony charges against landlords who allegedly commit mortgage fraud or fraudulently refinance loans.
- Formed the Tenant Harassment Prevention Task Force with city and state officials.

“My office is constantly receiving complaints from residents about landlords who use unethical and inhumane tactics such as not providing heat and hot water to force eviction,” Assembly Member Seawright said. “I will always stand up for the victims of ruthless landlords. We must preserve affordable housing in our community and give tenants the rights they are entitled to,” said Seawright.

Please contact our district community office for assistance in dealing with housing matters.

Consumer Corner

Seawright Supported Bills Signed into Law Impacting Consumers and Patients

Amendment to the General Business Law, Public Health Law, and Insurance Law Relating to Pre-Need Funeral Services

The purpose of this bill is to extend, until June 30, 2022, sections 3 and 4 of chapter 557 of the laws of 2001, which prohibit funeral directors, undertakers and embalmers from accepting any consideration from an insurer to sell, offer or promote pre-need funeral insurance, and any insurer from paying such consideration.



A meeting in the district office on York Avenue with Roosevelt Island leaders to discuss the Roosevelt Island town hall which was cosponsored by Seawright with Community Coalition Chair Ellen Polivy, Christina Delfico, RIOG Board Member Margie Smith, Seawright Chief of Staff Audrey Tannen, Assembly Member Seawright, and New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer.



Community activist Frank Wilkinson attends the senior citizen job resource fair and luncheon hosted by Seawright at the Webster Library.

Local Senior Citizen Centers

Carter Burden Network

Case Management Unit ***New Location***

445 East 85th Street (between 1st & York Aves.)
New York, NY 10028 646-504-4999

Carter Burden Luncheon Club & Senior Program

351 East 74th Street (between 1st and 2nd Avenues)
Tel: 212-535-5235

The program also delivers daily meals to homebound individuals. Case assistance is offered to members/participants who need help in applying for government benefit programs, addressing landlord/tenant disputes, or accessing medical care.

Hours of operation: 9:00am-5:00pm
Lunch served M-F: 12:00pm-1:00pm

Roosevelt Island Senior Center

546 Main Street, Roosevelt Island
Tel: 212-980-1888

Hours of operation: M-F, 9:00am-5:00pm
Lunch: 12:00pm-1:00pm

Lenox Hill Neighborhood House

343 East 70th Street (between 1st and 2nd Avenues)
Tel: 212-744-5905

Lenox Hill Neighborhood House is a multi-service community-based organization that serves people in need on the East Side of Manhattan and on Roosevelt Island.

Hours of operation: Every day 8:00am-8:00pm
Breakfast at 8:15am, lunch at 11:30am & dinner at 5:30pm

Transportation

Seawright Supports Transit in the 2018-2019 Executive Budget

Mass transit delays have tripled since 2012 due to our aging infrastructure and deferred maintenance, and without a sustainable revenue source the system will continue to deteriorate. Subway delays have tripled in just five years, rising from approximately 20,000 monthly in 2012 to more than 67,000 in May of this year. Millions of commuters suffer the consequences as they miss work, get docked pay and lose their jobs while they wait for public transit. The MTA needs a vision to upgrade and modernize the transit system, replacing 80-year-old signal technology and 50-year-old subway cars with modern equipment that will improve performance and reduce overcrowding. Funding is critical to make such a plan a reality. That is why Assembly Member Seawright along with her colleagues are fighting for a fair and sustainable revenue source for public transit in the FY 2018-2019 Executive Budget. She signed onto a letter to Governor Cuomo urging him to support the 9 million daily subway, bus, and commuter rail riders who depend on our mass transit system for their livelihood with a solution. Seawright is ready to work with her colleagues and the Governor this legislative session to fix the transit crisis that New Yorkers are facing.

Seawright Says “NO to Bus Cuts!”

New York City Transit proposed bus service reductions to the M31, M66, and M72 routes in the summer. Since then Assembly Member Seawright, Upper East Side elected colleagues, and neighbors have not stopped fighting to eliminate the cuts. Constituents contact the community office every day to tell us about their experiences with the lack of reliability of local lines. We believe strongly that New York City Transit should be doing everything in its power to improve bus service, not reduce it. Thanks to the efforts of Manhattan Community Board 8, the East 72nd Street Neighborhood Association, and local community activists the cuts have not been implemented and service on the lines is being more closely monitored for ridership.

As Featured in the Wall Street Journal...



Seawright, Chair of Subcommittee on Consumer Fraud Protection holds a press conference in District Office on York Avenue.

Beware of Hurricane Charity Scammers, N.Y. Officials Warn

Assembly Member Seawright held a press conference at the district community office with ABC7, Wall Street Journal, Newsday and AM NY. She warned those who are making donations to hurricane victims to ‘care with care!’ She was joined by Community Leader Jean Shafiroff who informed us of the ways we can safely donate to ensure that our efforts are impacting those who need help. Helene Goldfarb, a constituent, testified to receiving several scam calls per day and let others know that she often asks callers to send her the information so she can fully vet the organization or cause before making a donation.



Lenox Hill Neighborhood House Executive Director Warren Scharff presents the Elizabeth Rohatyn Award to Assembly Member Seawright.



Seawright Hosts Free Rat Academy for the Upper East Side with the New York City Department of Health. Supers and tenants walked away with a free rodent resistant trash can for their property.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Monthly allotment of benefits through a debit card system for purchasing nutritious food items; dollar value depends on household size and income.

Eligibility: Based on income, family size and household composition.

Income Limits: Monthly Gross Income for Individuals: \$1,276. Monthly Gross Income for Households with Elderly or Disabled Member and Households with Dependent Care Expenses: \$1,962

Lifeline Telephone Service

Reduces the cost of basic telephone service to as little as \$1 a month.

Eligibility: Persons with an income at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or who are eligible to receive assistance benefits from at least one of these programs: Medicaid, SNAP, SSI, HEAP, Section 8, Veterans' non-service related Disability Pension and Veterans' Surviving Spouse Pension, TANF or Head Start.

Access-A-Ride (AAR)

Provides transportation for people with disabilities who are unable to use public bus or subway service for some or all of their trips. It offers shared ride, door-to-door paratransit service. Provides "feeder service" – trips to and from fixed-route MTA NYC Transit bus stops – for people able to walk or wheel between 1 and 5 blocks. MTA NYC Transit administers AAR; private carriers under contract to NYC Transit to provide service.

Eligibility: Disabled riders. Eligibility is determined on a periodic basis, after review by independent medical professionals in consultation with disabled riders' medical provider.

School Tax Relief (STAR) Exemption

Note changes to the program: For those who have already received Basic and Enhanced STAR, eligibility and application requirements will remain the same. New applicants will receive an income tax credit via a check-off box on the New York State income tax return instead of an exemption. A separate form will be available for those who are not required to file taxes.

Note for Basic STAR only: All homeowners receiving a Basic STAR exemption must register with the New York State Tax Department in order to receive STAR exemptions.

Benefits: Provides property tax exemption (also known as the homestead exemption) for all NYS homeowners.

Eligibility: Must own home (includes one-, two- and three-family homes and home must be primary residence).

Enhanced STAR: Persons who are 65+ by December 31 of the year in which the exemption will begin.


Income Limits: Basic STAR: \$500,000 or less combined household income.

Enhanced STAR: \$84,550 or less for all owners, and owner's spouse residing at property.

New York State Elder Abuse Hotline

To report adult abuse, including physical, sexual, emotional, and financial abuse or self-neglect call 1-844-697-3505.

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



**A SPECIAL REPORT FOR
SENIOR
CITIZENS**

from Assembly Member
**REBECCA A.
SEAWRIGHT**

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Seawright and Upper Green Side's Sarah Gallagher Welcome Neighborhood Gardeners at Mount Vernon Hotel and Museum Garden Party. Seawright thanked the community of gardeners for their dedication to preserving nature and for coming together to beautify our neighborhood.



Assembly Member Seawright hosted a Crime Prevention Forum with the Officers of the 19th Precinct. Crime Prevention Officers Larkin and Nuccio, Assembly Member Seawright, and Commanding Officer Inspector McPherson.