



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

State budget negotiations are underway through March with a deadline of April 1 mandated by the New York State Constitution. I rallied with student advocates for higher education in the Well calling for \$15 million in funding for students with disabilities.

I joined Eleanor Roosevelt High School PTA and school leadership on Leap Day for its annual fundraiser and auction to announce \$200,000 in state funding for the renovation of the school auditorium.

As previously reported in our community update, our office called on the Department of Labor's Industry Inspection Bureau to investigate the concerning reports of the Roosevelt Island tram swaying on ascent and descent to the station landings. As a result of our calls for inspection, new swing dampeners have been installed to steady the ride for passengers.

Please join us for an upcoming event our office is pleased to sponsor:

- **iDig2Learn's Bellies, Bins, and Beauty food series on Roosevelt Island, featuring local resident and chef Beatrice Ajaero** on Saturday, March 2, 9, and 16 from 1:00pm-3:00pm. Location provided upon RSVP. RSVP by emailing idig2learn@gmail.com.
- **Freeze Your Rent Enrollment Clinics** - Wednesday, March 6 and Wednesday, March 20 from 10:30am to 1:30pm at the Office of Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright, 1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets). RSVP by calling 212-288-4607 or email SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov.
- **No-Cost Thursday Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Giveaway**- Thursday, March 7 from 12:00pm-2:00pm at the Office of Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright, 1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets).
- **Book Drive in partnership with Project Cicero for kids in under-resourced schools** goes through March 7, 2024 at the Office of Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright, 1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets).
- **No-Cost Screening Mammograms**- Wednesday, April 10 from 9:00am to 5:00pm. The mammogram bus in partnership with the American Italian Cancer Foundation will be in front of the Office of Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright, 1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets).

More information on upcoming events, my work in Albany and our community is enclosed in this report. Please don't hesitate to reach out to our community office if we can be of assistance.

Phone: 212.288.4607

Email: SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov

Sincerely,



REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT

As Featured In ...

ROOSEVELT ISLAND DAILY
AM Seawright's Tram
Intervention Is Now Paying Off



Tram intervention: Learn how State Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright resolved issues with RIOC and Tram operator Leitner-POMA.

[Read More](#)



Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright
is seeking nominations for the

2024 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS



Nominations must be submitted by **03/20/24**.

To request a nomination form, contact my office at **212-288-4607**
or seawright@nyassembly.gov.

[Nominate a Woman of Distinction](#)

**Rallying with Students for \$15 Million in Higher Education
Funding for Students with Disabilities**



Assembly Member Seawright joined students with disabilities in higher education for \$15 million in the State Budget.

“On this Students with Disabilities Advocacy Day, I am honored to rally for vital state budget funding. We need to secure \$15 million for higher education resources including at SUNY and CUNY. This will enable the success of almost 95,000 college students with disabilities. We call on the public’s support,” said Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright



Coach Ryan Martin and Assembly Member Seawright.

Coach Ryan is the Director for the City University of New York. His portfolio includes a Men’s and Women’s wheelchair basketball teams, as well as an emerging wheelchair tennis and track program. Ryan was recognized as the 2022 College Coach of the Year by the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC). The CUNY Adaptive Sports program is the only intercollegiate adaptive sports program on the east coast.

Advocating for Community News in the Assembly



Assembly Member Seawright introduced Josh Schneps, Chief Executive Officer and co-publisher and Clifford Luster, Chief Operating Officer at Schneps Media. Josh followed in his mother, Vicki Schneps' footsteps as CEO of Schneps Media. Together, the family-run business developed into the largest media company in New York. Today, Schneps Media publishes over 93 newspapers and magazines, 15 local websites, and two daily newspapers to over two million New Yorkers.



Speaker Carl Heastie, Josh Schneps, Clifford Luster and Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright.

**Seawright Awards Eleanor Roosevelt High School Students
\$200,000 in Funding for Needed Renovations to its Auditorium**



Assembly Member Seawright celebrated Leap Day with Eleanor Roosevelt High School at its annual fundraiser auction held at Chioles Hall.

Damaris Frias, School Business Manager, Assembly Member Seawright and Anu Heda, PTA President.



Assembly Member Seawright, Rigo Sergeant, Assistant Principal, and Damaris Frias.

SUNY Chancellor Convenes Meeting on Higher Education Budget Priorities in Albany Residence



SUNY Chancellor John B. King invited members of the Higher Education Committee to his residence to discuss higher education funding in the State Budget. Assembly Member Seawright and colleagues are pressing to secure funding for the creation of the SUNY Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Leadership Institute.



SUNY Chancellor John B. King and Assembly Member Seawright.

Seawright Addresses Regional Developmental Disabilities Councils for Legislative Advocacy Day



Assembly Member Seawright spoke about her support for the 3.2% COLA, her sponsorship of the Direct Support Wage Enhancement legislation, and her rejection of changes to the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP) in the State budget.

Celebrating 46 Years of Local Business at Vartali Salon



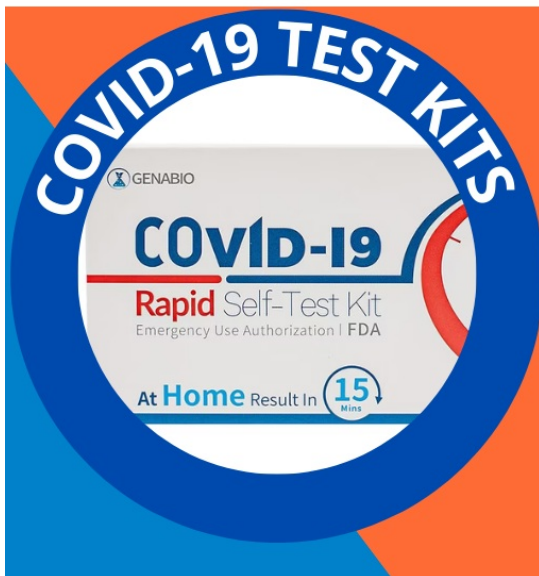
Assembly Member Seawright, stylist Piet Sintuchai and Assembly Member Bores.

Consider Our Office A Resource

Rebecca Seawright

ASSEMBLY MEMBER

NO-COST THURSDAY PPE GIVEAWAY



12:00PM - 2:00PM

COMMUNITY OFFICE
1485 YORK AVENUE
(78/79 STREETS)

212-288-4607

SEAWRIGHTR
@NYASSEMBLY.GOV

Updates on SNAP and Cash Benefits

Extended Deadline for Retroactive Requests for Replacement of Skimmed SNAP and/or Cash Benefits

Eligibility for replacement of SNAP and/or Cash Assistance benefits remains the same as initially described here. However, timeframes in which a household can submit an application for replacement of stolen benefits are being extended as follows:

Applications for SNAP benefits stolen between October 1, 2022, and August 20, 2023, and Cash Assistance benefits stolen between January 1, 2022, and August 20, 2023 (retroactive claims) can now be submitted through April 1, 2024. The original retroactive claim application deadline was extended from October 31, 2023, to December 31, 2023, and has now been extended to April 1, 2024.

All other applications must be submitted within 30 days from the date the household discovered the theft.

Note: Households whose SNAP benefits were stolen between October 1, 2022, and August 20, 2023, or TA cash benefits stolen between January 1, 2022, and August 20, 2023, who do not apply before April 1, 2024, still have the option to apply for replacement as long as the application is submitted within 30 days from the date the household discovered the theft.

This updated application deadline is effective retroactively to January 1, 2024. Applications for retroactive claim reimbursement submitted on or after the previous deadline will be considered against this new deadline. Any retroactive claims denied for untimely filing during this time will be reconsidered.

New Common Benefit Identification Card (CBIC)/ Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Card Lock Feature

Households will now have the ability to lock their EBT card, which prevents their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance (TA) cash benefits, or Home Energy Assistance

Program (HEAP) benefits issued as cash to a household, from being accessed. Cardholders must then unlock the locked card to make a purchase using their SNAP or cash benefits. This new feature is intended to be used as a tool to help prevent theft of benefits through skimming or other fraudulent methods. Locking and unlocking the EBT card has no impact on Medicaid or other benefits issuances, including restricted payments directly to a landlord, utility, or other vendor. The card lock feature will roll out in multiple phases over the course of the next three months as described below.

The locking feature cannot prevent card information from being skimmed if a household's card is used on a compromised device. However, if a card remains locked, remote fraudulent use of stolen information would be greatly restricted, limiting vulnerability to theft only at the time during which a household's card is unlocked for purchasing.

While card locking cannot completely prevent theft of information via skimming devices or other fraudulent methods, households whose EBT cards remain locked when not in use have a significantly lower chance of having their benefits stolen.

Implementation

Phase 1: As of February 20, 2024, households will have the ability to lock and unlock their cards via the ConnectEBT mobile application (available on the: [Google Play Store](#) and [Apple App Store](#)). Cardholders must have a ConnectEBT account. If they have not already created an account, they can set one up using the mobile app. The cardholder must have activated their EBT card to access the lock/unlock feature. On the ConnectEBT mobile app home screen, a radio button will allow the cardholder to lock or unlock the card with one click. During this initial phase of the card lock rollout, the only option available to households will be to completely lock the card, preventing purchases, balance inquiries and most other transactions until the card is unlocked. Cardholders will receive an email immediately upon locking or unlocking their card, confirming the action they took.

Phase 1 will also allow cardholders to call the ConnectEBT helpline at 1-888-328-6399 to check the lock/unlock status and speak to a representative to unlock the card (only the unlock function is available through the helpline).

Clients can lock their EBT card when it is not in use and then unlock the card to make a purchase by following these four simple steps:

Open or download the ConnectEBT app on their mobile device (available on the [Google Play Store](#) and [Apple App Store](#)).

Securely log in to their account.

Tap the new "Lock/Unlock Card" icon on the home screen.

Select "Lock My Card Everywhere" and click "OK."

Phase 2: The complete card lock functionality will be expanded to the web-based ConnectEBT New York EBT client portal. In addition to the ConnectEBT mobile application, households will have the ability to perform the same locking and unlocking functions via their internet browser at www.connectebt.com/nyebtclient/. Phase 2 is expected to be completed within three months of phase 1 and we will provide notification when it becomes available.

Phase 3: An additional, and separate, locking feature to both the mobile application and the web-based client portal will be available, allowing households the option to lock their card for out-of-state transactions. Selecting this option will block all out-of-state transactions but continue to allow in-state transactions. Phase 3 is also expected to be completed within three months of phase 1.

New Cards

When a new card is ordered, the system does not retain the locked status of the previous card and all new cards are issued unlocked regardless of whether the prior card was locked or not. Therefore, if the cardholder would like the new card locked, they must lock it. Households should be encouraged to lock their new cards immediately after selecting a Personal Identification Number (PIN). The EBT card carrier, included in new card mailings, will contain information about the card lock feature.

Transaction Types

The most common transactions that are rejected when a card is locked include: all purchases, balance inquiries, ATM withdrawals (TA cash benefits) and in-person returns/credits that require a card to be swiped.

The most common transactions that are still allowable when a card is locked include: returns/credits made online, and changes to an existing PIN.

Outreach

The OTDA website includes information on the card lock feature. OTDA will also release an outreach flyer on their website instructing cardholders how to use the new card lock feature. Later this Spring,

Upcoming Events



An initiative to more deeply value food.
Eat more, waste less, compost & restore beauty.

MARCH 2024: SATURDAY 1-3 PM EVENTS



Featuring **BEATRICE AJAERO**
of Nneji eatery in Astoria

Space is limited. RSVP a must to secure a spot.

Email the RSVP event keyword(s) to: idig2learn@gmail.com

Remember to include the number of people you wish to join.

Roosevelt Island location confirmed with reservation confirmation.

Bellies, Bins and Beauty is made possible from generous individual donations and grants awarded by ROC NYCT plus NY's Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright via the Office of Children & Family Services. idig2learn is a project of Open Space Institute a non profit 501(c)3 public charity.



MANHATTAN STATE OF THE BOROUGH

SUNDAY MARCH 3RD, 2024 DOORS OPEN AT 1:30PM



**THE KAYE PLAYHOUSE
HUNTER COLLEGE**

68TH STREET BETWEEN
LEXINGTON AVE. AND PARK



MARK LEVINE
MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

[Visit our Website](#)



ASSEMBLY MEMBER REBECCA SEAWRIGHT



BOOK DRIVE

for kids in under-resourced NYC Schools
through March 7, 2024

District Office of Assembly Member
Rebecca Seawright
1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets)

- ✓ **Yes:** new and gently used books for pre-school through high school
- ✗ **NO:** Adult books, textbooks, library discards, or out-of-date non-fiction/reference books

Want to order books from the Project Cicero wishlist?
Visit projectcicero.org/wish-list



**FREEZE YOUR RENT
ENROLLMENT CLINICS**

**WED. MARCH 6
WED. MARCH 20**

10:30 AM TO 1:30 PM

**1485 YORK AVENUE
(78/79 ST.)
TO RSVP**

**CALL 212-288-4607
OR EMAIL**

SEAWRIGHTR@NYASSEMBLY.GOV



Who is eligible:

- Are 62 years old +
- Live in a rent regulated apartment
- Have a household income of \$50,000 or less
- Spend more than 1/3 of your income on rent

Document checklist:

- Government issued ID
- Federal or state income tax returns with all schedules and 1099s.
- Current and prior leases, signed by you and your landlord.

Rebecca Seawright

ASSEMBLY MEMBER

NO-COST SCREENING MAMMOGRAMS

The Mammogram Bus



American-Italian
CANCER FOUNDATION

will be at your District Office
1485 York Avenue 10075

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024
9:00am to 5:00pm

For an appointment please call 212-288-4369

Eligibility:

- Open to women age 40 to 79
- Living in New York City
- No Mammogram in the past 12 months
- No pregnant or breastfeeding
- All insurance plans are accepted
- Bring your insurance card with you
- Co-payments and deductibles are waived
- No-cost for uninsured women



Funded by:



GABELLI Alexander Bodini Foundation
FUNDS



Bristol Myers Squibb™



Manhattan Community Board 8 Calendar

The Manhattan Community Board 8 (CB8M) represents the Upper East Side of Manhattan and Roosevelt Island. CB8M is comprised of 50 volunteer members who serve as advocates and service coordinators for the community and its residents, as well as help citizens resolve municipal service delivery complaints.

CB8M reviews and makes recommendations on various issues, including applications for Zoning Text Amendments, building variances and special permits, liquor licenses, sidewalk cafes and street fairs, changes to landmarked buildings or buildings in historic districts, traffic and transportation issues, and more.

Each month, CB8M committees meet to discuss and resolve issues in the community.

Full Board Meeting - 3rd Wednesday
Land Use Committee - 2nd Wednesday
Street Life - 1st Tuesday
Transportation - 1st Wednesday
Housing - 1st Thursday
Parks - 2nd Thursday
Landmarks - 3rd Monday
Social Justice - 4th Monday
Zoning and Development - 4th Tuesday
Youth and Education - 4th Thursday

[Read More](#)



NYC Parks is hiring for the summer!



Help keep Manhattan's green spaces beautiful and safe!



If you have a driver license, we are looking for City Park Workers at a salary of \$20.89 an hour. We also have City Seasonal Aide positions available for non-drivers at \$18.00 an hour.



For quick application to these positions, scan the code below or visit bit.ly/parks24mn



We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.



In Case You Missed It: Past Editions Of Our Community Update

[Community Update: February 16, 2024](#)

[Community Update: February 9, 2024](#)

[Community Update: February 2, 2024](#)

[Community Update: January 26, 2024](#)

 Share This Email

 Share This Email



New York State Assembly | 1485 York Avenue, New York, NY 10075

[Unsubscribe teamrebeccaseawright@gmail.com](mailto:teamrebeccaseawright@gmail.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by rebecca@teamrebecca.ccsend.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!