

UPDATE FROM

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MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

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New report on urban agriculture, *How our Gardens Grow*.

My office has just issued [How Our Gardens Grow](#), a report with recommendations for helping grow the urban agriculture movement. New York City is home to an array of urban plots, hydroponic farms, and greenhouses in addition to more than 170 community gardens. This “urban agriculture” yields tremendous benefits for our neighborhoods, our economy, and the environment: it teaches valuable skills and sustainably produces fresh, healthy, locally-grown food.

In addition, my office is committing funding of up to \$1 million in grants to establish or expand urban agriculture projects in schools and will sponsor an Urban Farming Symposium this fall in cooperation with Cornell University Cooperative Extension.

Community Board Leadership Development Series courses announced.

With hundreds of new and reappointed members taking seats on Community Boards May 1, the second semester of my office’s “continuing education” program has been announced. Two new courses, Landmarks 101 and Unlocking Open Data, are included in this spring’s courses, along with old favorites Land Use and Zoning 101, Advanced Land Use & Zoning, the NYC Budget Process and the Role of Community Boards, Community Planning Tools, Conflicts of Interest and Freedom of Information, and Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity. Please [register online](#).

Solid Waste Advisory Board composting grants announced.

The Citizens Committee for New York City, the [Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board \(SWAB\)](#), and my office have selected those neighborhood composting grant winners. Grants are used to purchase materials to start or expand upon a composting program. This year’s winners total 13 groups: 6th Street & Avenue B Garden, Battery Park School, Chencita’s Community Garden, Children’s Magical Garden, Enviharlem, Harlem Valley Garden,

Hudson River Park Trust, La Perla Garden, La Plaza Cultural de Armando Perez, Morris Jumel Community Garden, Project Harmony, Rodale Community Garden, and The Herb Garden.

Free high school internship sponsorships available.

The NYC Department of Education is seeking companies to host high school students studying information technology, advertising, media, and graphics as interns for the Career and Technical Education Summer Scholars Program from July 13 to August 21. The students are paid by the Department of Education; there is no cost to the company. Students spend Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at their internship and Thursday and Friday in class. To learn more, or to register to host students, visit www.ctesummerscholars.org or e-mail ctess@schools.nyc.gov.

EVENTS

May 13: Free eye screening at Manhattan Eye, Ear, & Throat Hospital.

More than ever, it's important to get the vision care you need; one in eight Americans has a common eye condition. Manhattan Eye Ear and Throat Hospital is offering free intraocular pressure tests (a common test for glaucoma) and general eye chart exams at this free event. 10am - 2pm, MEETH Great Hall (1st Floor), 210 East 64th Street. Please schedule an appointment by calling (212) 702-7676.

May 18: Grand Opening of my new storefront office!

Please join me and my staff at 431 West 125th Street from 4 - 8pm as we inaugurate our new storefront office. It's a brand new space, and fulfills a promise I made when I first sought to become Borough President: more-accessible services for the community. We'll cut the ribbon around 5:00 pm, and hold small-group tours every 15 minutes.

May 25: Memorial Day commemoration in Riverside Park.

The City's historic Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument in Riverside Park will be the location for a commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, coinciding with the US Navy's annual Fleet Week visit to New York City. Hundreds of visiting service members, in addition to numerous dignitaries and more than 1,000 New Yorkers will come together to

honor those who died in active military service for their country. Please join us at 10am in Riverside Park.

May 27: Forum on postal service in Harlem, Washington Hts. and Inwood.

Come and share your concerns with representatives from the United States Postal Service as we seek a resolution to issues that affect this crucial service. My office, in cooperation with Congressman Rangel, NYS Senator Espaillat, NYS Assembly Members Farrell and Linares, Council Members Levine and Rodriguez and Community Boards 9, 10 and 12, is sponsoring a Community Forum on uptown postal service in Harlem and Washington Heights/Inwood. 6pm - 8pm at Seymour Milstein Family Heart Center, 173 Ft. Washington Ave. (near W. 168th Street). RSVP to gpuello@manhattanbp.nyc.gov or 212-669-2258.

May 27: Suicide prevention and crisis response workshop for professionals.

I'm proud to co-sponsor this workshop mounted by The Samaritans of New York, the City's Suicide Prevention Center. Professionals working in the mental health and health fields in Manhattan are invited to a free, all-day suicide prevention professional development workshop. PS 40/Salk School of Science rear entrance on 19th Street (btw 1st & 2nd Aves.). [Register today.](#)

All month in the MBPO Gallery: Peter Neumann photography.

Peter Neumann's abstract photographs of Manhattan will be on display in the month of May in the MBPO Gallery. Neumann's work is included in the permanent collection of the Brooklyn Museum as well as in private and corporate collections. See more at www.peterneumann.com.