

Montague Street Business Improvement District

UPCOMING EVENTS

69 Meters Installation Event: May 13th, 6 p.m.

Make art happen on Montague Street! We're recruiting volunteers to help install knitted sleeves on all 69 of Montague Street's meter poles (see right). Visit our website to sign up, or call 718-522-3649.

12th Annual Meeting: June 4th, 4 p.m.



The BID's 2009-10 Board of Directors

The BID's annual meeting and cocktail reception will be held Thursday, June 4th, at Eamonn's (174 Montague Street). All property owners, commercial and retail tenants, local residents, and friends of the BID are invited to join us. Invitations will be mailed in May.

The purpose of the annual meeting is to review the past year's activities and financial information, elect the board of directors, and discuss the BID's budget and plans for the upcoming fiscal year.

All are welcome, but only registered BID members are eligible to vote. Contact us at 718-522-3649 for more information or to register as a BID member.

WHAT'S THE BID WORKING ON THIS SPRING?



We're Bringing Attention to Montague Street by Installing Public Art

The BID will be hosting a temporary public art installation by Magda Sayeg, an acclaimed textile artist and founder of Knitta Please, the guerilla knitting collective. On May 13th, Ms. Sayeg and local volunteers will wrap all 69 parking-meter poles on Montague Street with colorful handmade textile sleeves, created by over four-dozen knitters from Brooklyn and around the world. You can participate! Visit our website, montagueBID.com, for info.



We're Introducing Officer John Condon

There's a new officer on the Montague Street beat, Officer John Condon. Introduce yourself and let him know if you have any concerns about the security of your business, employees, or customers. Our thanks and best wishes also to Officer Kenny Ahmetaj for his service to Montague Street over the past years.

We're Protecting Our Street Trees

Last year, the BID worked with Council Member David Yassky to secure \$90,000 in funding for the Parks Department to install guards around our street trees. In April, Parks staff began marking and scoring the sidewalks. Next, new topsoil will be added to the tree pits, then the guards will be set in place. Installation should be complete in May.



We're Decorating Windows for Spring

Emily Krohn, a 2008 Pratt graduate, has been commissioned by the BID to create delicate, botanical illustrations on our storefront windows. The decorations are available for free for any district merchant. Participating shops include Korres Natural Products, James Weir Floral, Caffe Buon Gusto, Montague Arts, Hair Profiles, Housing Works, Taze, Mandalay One Cleaners, and Lantern Thai. Contact the BID if you'd like your own spring window!

RESOURCES FOR BID BUSINESSES

Want Free Summer Help? Enroll in the CB2 Summer Youth Employment Program

Brooklyn Community Board 2 wants to connect Montague Street BID members with the successful Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) run by the Department of Youth and Community Development. This program will provide neighborhood young adults with an opportunity to work for six weeks for the local business community *at no cost to the businesses*. This fully subsidized program provides young adults with a meaningful entrée into the 'world of work.' Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services Inc. will be responsible for participant recruitment and program management. For more information on how your business can participate, contact Chelsea Mauldin, Montague Street BID director, at 718-522-3649.



Sensitive Documents Headed for the Trash? Shred Them on May 3rd

Come to Shred Fest, sponsored by the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs. Bring personal and business records to Cadman Plaza on Sunday, May 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Industrial shredders will securely dispose of your old documents – for free – and you can enter to win one of 55 personal paper shredders donated by Staples.

Your Slice of the Pie? Check out Yassky's Guide

The stimulus package provides \$288 billion in tax relief to individuals and companies. Council Member David Yassky, Chair of the Council's Committee on Small Business, has created a guidebook that outlines the benefits of the programs for small businesses. Download the guide at <http://www.councilmemberyassky.com>.

More Finance News: Expanded City Funding for Small-Business Loans

The City's Capital Access Loan program provides loans ranging from \$5,000 to \$250,000, with the City guaranteeing up to 40% of the loans. The program is targeted to small businesses with up to 100 employees. A \$5 million funding increase now enables the program to help a greater number of businesses, including retailers, manufacturers, wholesalers, and even non-profit organizations. For information, contact the New York City Economic Development Corporation at 212-619-5000 or visit www.nyc.gov.



Help Make Montague Street Idle-Free

Asthma Free School Zone, a local non-profit, reminds us that it's against NYC law for a vehicle to idle at the curb for more than three minutes. Besides being illegal, tailpipe fumes foul the air, harm health, and contribute to climate change. For more info, visit the Idle-Free NYC website, www.idle-free.info, and be a good neighbor by:

- Posting signs to remind drivers to turn off their engines
- Asking delivery vehicles to turn off their engines when unloading
- Asking drivers waiting at the curb in front of your business to turn off their engines

MERCHANT NEWS

Let's Welcome Back Old Friends: Armando's and Taze

After a fire last year, Taze Turkish Cuisine has reopened upstairs at 140 Montague Street. Congrats to owners Michael and Nancy. Anticipation is also growing for the re-opening of Armando's, at 143 Montague. Restaurateur Peter Byros has come out of retirement, and he and his daughter Maria will be relaunching the neighborhood favorite this summer.

Yoga People Celebrates One Year on Montague: You're Invited to the Party!

Owner Wendy Chanelis and the Yoga People staff are having a celebration on May 17th to commemorate a successful first year in their Montague Street location. Local businesses and residents are invited to attend – see the studio website, www.yoga-people.com, for more information.

BHA Honors for Montague Street Newsstand Owner

The Brooklyn Heights Association awarded its annual community service award to Mohammed Afrahim, the longtime proprietor of the newsstand at the corner of Montague and Henry. Congrats to Mr. Afrahim, who joins Pet Emporium's Sahmi Elrumi as a BHA honoree.

ABOUT THE BID

What is the Montague Street BID?

The Business Improvement District is a three-block area covering Montague Street's commercial buildings. District property owners pay a special fee, which is used by the BID, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, to provide services for Montague Street. Contact us at 718-522-3649 or visit www.montagueBID.com for more info.

What services does the BID provide?

We provide street cleaning, landscaping, holiday decorations, and other initiatives to beautify Montague Street. We invest in permanent capital improvements, such as our historical lampposts and steel waste bins. We advocate for local businesses with New York City agencies and elected officials. And we promote Montague Street as a great place to live, work, and shop. Call us – we're happy to try to help with any of your city or business issues.

Who can be a member of the BID?

Any property owner, commercial tenant, or resident within the district boundaries can register as a BID member. Contact our office for more information.

What are the BID's boundaries?

On the south side of the street, the BID covers from 78 to 200 Montague Street; on the north side, the district runs from 89 to 205 Montague Street.

What if I have questions?

Please call Chelsea Mauldin, Executive Director, at 718-522-3649 or email her at cmauldin@montagueBID.com.

ARE YOU IN THE LOOP?



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