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FROM COUNCIL MEMBER

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JUNE COMMUNITY BULLETIN

Senior Discount Fair

Want to learn more about free or low-cost cultural offerings for older New Yorkers? Then come to our Senior Cultural Discounts Fair.

What: Join Council Member Lappin, Council Speaker Quinn, and Council Member Brewer as we co-host a forum with the American Museum of Natural History to provide seniors with information from citywide cultural and arts groups – theaters, museums, and more – about free or low-cost tickets and offerings for seniors.

Where: American Museum of Natural History. Please enter through the Weston Pavilion entrance located on Columbus Avenue at 79th Street.

When: Tuesday, July 19th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

Light refreshments will be served and there will be also be door prizes. **You must RSVP to attend: 212-980-1808 or lappin@council.nyc.gov**

Protecting Seniors from Financial Crimes

Crimes against the elderly can take many forms, including financial abuse and exploitation. Financial crimes are estimated to cost older Americans at least \$2.6 billion each year. This is an incredibly important issue. That's why I'm happy to co-host a forum with Community Board 8 entitled "Protecting Seniors from Financial Crimes."

The forum is scheduled for Thursday, June 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the Brick Presbyterian Church, located at 62 East 92nd Street (between Madison and Park). A representative from the Manhattan District Attorney's office will be there to speak about how criminals prey on the elderly, how to detect and prevent financial exploitation, and what to do if you or someone you know has been victimized. This is all vital information and I hope that you'll be able to attend.

TLC Passenger Rights

My office regularly gets complaints from people who have been refused rides in taxis based on their destination. In addition to being frustrating for would-be riders, this is against the law.

When you hail a cab, the law requires that the driver take you anywhere you'd like to go in the five boroughs, Westchester or Nassau County, or Newark Airport. It's even against the law for the driver to ask you where you're going before you are seated in the taxi. However, if a driver refuses to take you where you want to go, be sure to get their four-digit medallion number (it's on the vehicle and also the license plate number). Note the date, time, and location of where the driver refused to pick you up. Then, call 311 or go online to www.nyc.gov/311. After you submit the complaint, it goes to the Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC), who will investigate the matter and may ask you to testify either in person or over the phone at a hearing. If the driver is found guilty, the driver will face penalties that will keep him from refusing service to another passenger. The TLC is making a special effort to ensure that these rules are enforced, but they need your help.

Free Prescription Discount Card

Last month, New York City launched the Big Apple Rx prescription discount card. Using the card, any New Yorker, regardless of age, income, or health insurance status, will save an average of 47 percent on prescription medications. All you need is to get a card and go to a participating pharmacy.

To learn more about this program, you can go online to www.bigapplerx.com. To get a copy of the card for yourself, please contact my office or call 311. This is a very exciting program and I hope that you or someone you know is able to take advantage of it.

Recycle-O-Rama

Are you looking to do some spring cleaning in an environmentally-friendly way? Then get ready for the June Recycle-O-Rama!

Sunday, June 26

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

92nd Street Greenmarket (First Avenue between 92nd and 93rd Streets)

Bring your old electronics (computer equipment and accessories, network devices, TV and audio-visual equipment, cell phones, and telecommunication devices), paper, and the usual recycling material. Unfortunately, appliances will not be accepted.

For more information, visit <http://uppergreenside.org/blog/>

New York City Cool Roofs

Sometimes seemingly small steps can have a big impact. That's true in all walks of life, but can be especially true when we talk about making our city more sustainable.

During the summer, black asphalt roofing can get as hot as 190 degrees. All that heat gets absorbed into the buildings, increasing the amount of electricity needed to keep those buildings cool. One way to change that is simply to paint the roof of your building white.

Applying highly reflective white coatings make roofs and buildings much cooler, lowering air conditioning bills. It can also increase the life of the roof. As more roofs are coated, the entire city will be cooler in summer, use less energy, and lower both its carbon emissions and the risk of power outages.

In order to help encourage more buildings to paint their roofs, the City launched NYC CoolRoofs in 2009. For all building owners who agree to share their before and after energy bills with the City, NYC CoolRoofs will provide a free roof inspection, discounted purchase of roof coating, and will send a team of volunteers under professional supervision to apply the coating.

The program coated over 1 million square feet citywide in 2010, and is seeking new roofs to coat in 2011. To find out about getting your roof coated, contact www.nyc.gov/coolroofs. Together we can take this small step to keep our city cooler during these hot months.

Rent Guidelines Board Hearing

On May 3, New York City's Rent Guidelines Board (RGB) adopted and proposed a range of renewal lease guidelines. The board proposed allowing landlords to raise rents by up to 5.75 percent for one-year leases and up to 9 percent for two-year leases. These can be steep hikes, especially during these tough times.

Before the RGB votes to approve any increase, they will be holding a series of public hearings throughout the city. The Manhattan hearing will be held on Monday, June 20 at 10 a.m. at Cooper Union Hall, located at 7 East 7th Street (at Third Avenue).

If you are planning to attend to testify, you can pre-register by calling (212) 385-2934. I highly recommend pre-registering because of the huge number of people who often turn out to testify. If you are not able to attend that day, but would like to share your opinions, you can e-mail your written testimony to board@housingnyc.com. Written testimony must be received by June 20 in order to be considered.