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Dear Tallinn City Centre Residents,

International Women's Day is celebrated globally on March 8. This year is notable for Estonia, as two women currently lead the Estonian Republic: Kersti Kaljulaid as President, and Kaja Kallas as Prime Minister. A recent [survey](#) conducted by the National Statistics Board and published symbolically on March 8th shows that Estonian women are well-educated, hard-working, and in great physical shape. Our health is strongly connected to the environment we live in, which is why the webinar **“Waste Sorting and Recycling in Tallinn”** initiated by the City Center New Arrivals Council was particularly topical. If you missed the webinar, you can watch the recording [here](#).

In this newsletter, you will learn about the multiple lives of Tallinn's Christmas tree, how Tallinn's participatory budget will be implemented in the City Center, and how to furnish your life in Tallinn for under 200 euros.

Happy reading! 🌸 🌸

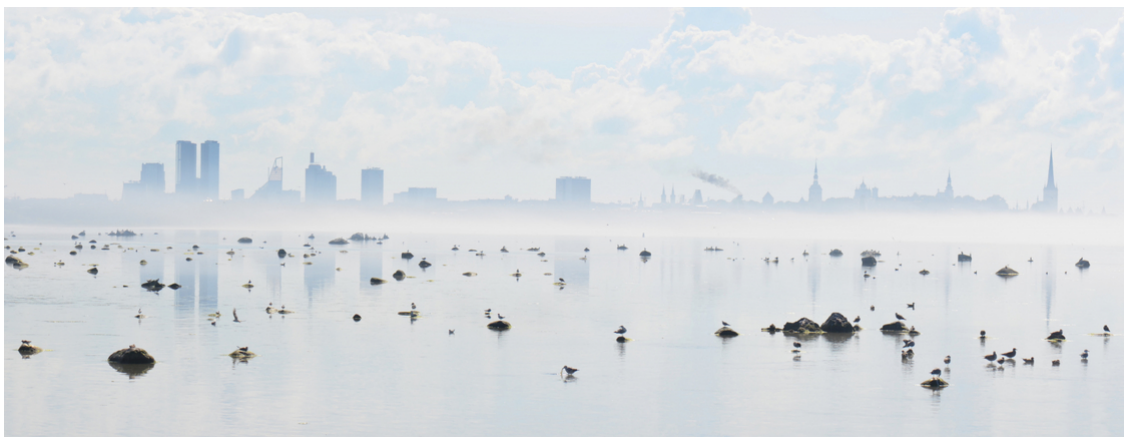
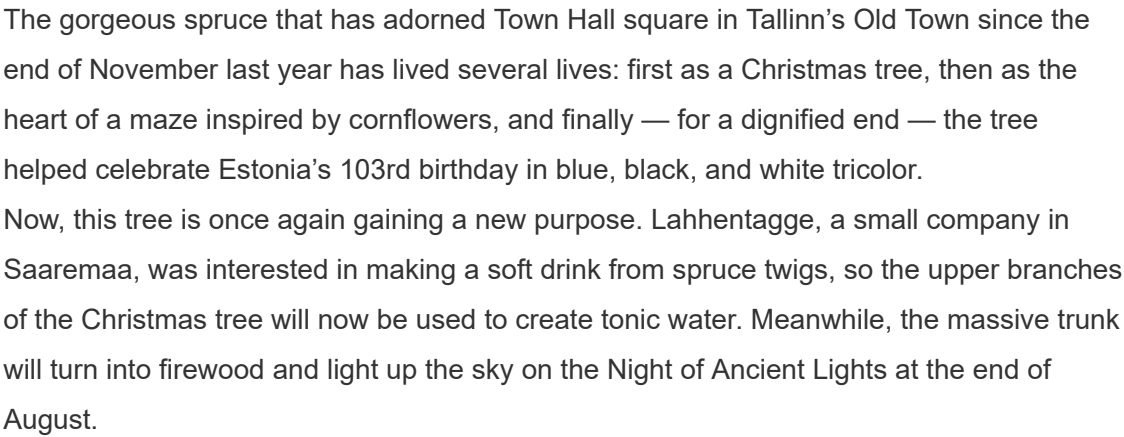


Photo by Külli Kittus

Several lives of Tallinn's Christmas tree



A 3x4 grid of 12 images showing various household items and furniture. The items include: a wooden cabinet with hanging clothes, a wooden storage unit with open shelves, a wooden cabinet with open shelves, a metal shelving unit with various items, a stainless steel pot on a wooden surface, a red electric kettle, a wooden desk with a chair, a wooden dining table with a bench, a white refrigerator, a white rice cooker, two black hair dryers, a black and white slow cooker, a wooden desk with a chair, a white washing machine, a wooden cabinet with hanging clothes, a pink hair dryer, a glass display cabinet, and a yellow and white iron.

I moved into my flat in Tallinn in November 2019. This was my very first housing rental experience in my whole life. Little did I know that properties for rent in Estonia usually come with all of the essentials so that the tenants can literally make themselves at home from day one. In Japan, nothing comes with a flat, so I was simply grateful that mine came with a king-sized bed, a washing machine, a dishwasher, a dining table, a sofa and two coffee tables in the living room. I had to urgently get everything else, but I did not wish to spend much, not being sure about whether I would live in Estonia after one year of sabbatical. Thankfully, Estonian society upholds the eco-friendly value of recycling quite extensively, so I was able to fully furnish my flat under XXX!

Uuskasutuskeskus (new usage centre = recycle shop)

This is the first place you should look when you want to start your new life without much expenditure. The last three business days of the month are the best time to go to Uuskasutuskeskus. Clothes are only €1 per piece and everything else is 50% off. On the very last business day before 4 p.m., they have this amazing offer: pay only €8 and bag any clothes, shoes and bags in a 150-litre plastic bag!

Online platforms: osta.ee / okidoki.ee / olio app

Locals offer giveaways or sell things on these platforms. Unfortunately, okidoki only works in Estonian and Russian languages, but the other two operate in English (although you need to manage communication with the owners, possibly in Estonian)

Maxima

Unlike normal Japanese people, I like second-hand goods because I feel as though I am inheriting the love from the previous owner and cherishing their used goods in my possession. But I still prefer buying certain items new and freshly out of the box, such as kitchen and beauty appliances, underwear and shoes. From my private field research and quality assurance tests, I can confidently recommend Maxima as a place where good quality products are sold at noticeably cheaper prices. Just like they say in their brand motto, Maxima is truly “See, mis vaja.” (Grammatically speaking, it would have been much clearer for Estonian learners like me if it were “See on, mida vajame. / It is what we need.”, but their motto is still linguistically correct and carries the meaning of “It is (our) need. / It is what is needed.”)

See my blog for the full list of items I got, from where and at what price, how I transported them to my flat and how I made the most of them!

By [Lady Wait-Rose from Japan](#)

City Centre to construct water fountains and Elizabeth's Dream Playground



This year, ideas for Tallinn's participatory budget were voted on, and the winner in the City Center was the project "Drinking taps by health trails". Taking into account the authors' recommendations as well as the location of the water lines, six initial locations for drinking fountains have been selected: Reidi Road promenade at the Ahtri Street intersection; near the Russalka monument on Reidi Road; Falgi Park; Tiigiveski Park; Towers' Square; and Järvevana Road. In addition, we also want to install a water fountain near the Maarjamäe memorial on Pirita Road.

Second place in the voting went to "Elizabeth's Dream: A playground for children aged 10+". The idea is to build a playground at Hirvepark for children over 10 years of age. The Tallinn City Center government held a virtual discussion with all local residents interested in the project to discuss possible locations for the playground and various construction details. Based on the feedback received, suggested locations will be considered in the coming weeks, and the most suitable location will then be selected. The project should be completed this year, and construction should finish by the end of next year.

City Centre's Population Register is temporarily closed



Due to the increased spread of COVID-19, the Tallinn City Center's Population Register at Pärnu mnt 9 will be closed from March 15–22. To change your residency addresses or handle other matters, please use the self-service portal at www.rahvastikuregister.ee or contact another population register in Tallinn. All necessary information and contact details are available via <https://www.tallinn.ee/Teenus-Elukoha-aadressi-muutmine-rahvastikuregistris>.

Let's not forget about culture

Entertainment opportunities are limited at the moment due to virus-related restrictions, but you don't have to stay bored at home. Consider exploring Tallinn Old Town's light installations with an audio guide in English: <https://vaatavanalinna.ee/en/see-the-old-town-in-new-light/>.



Did you know that Oleviste (St Olaf's) church in Tallinn was the highest building in the world from 1549 to 1625?



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