



THE MANHATTAN MIDTOWN

The Official Newsletter of Community Board Five
Vikki Barbero, Chair

April 2009

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COMMUNITY BOARD FIVE

Dear Friends –

Evidently, the **Department of Transportation (DOT)** has no intention of resting on its laurels, now that the Mayor has made the decision to make permanent the pedestrian plazas and other transportation changes on and around Broadway. Next up, 34th Street! Major changes are afoot with what is being called the **34th Street Transitway project**. The goal is to “significantly speed bus service along 34th Street” and “benefit the overall quality of life along the corridor.” The plan calls for a pedestrian plaza right on 34th Street among other “enhancements.” You can read about it by **34th Street Transitway Project**. To hear more, you can also come to our **Transportation Committee** meeting this Wednesday, March 31st at 6pm at the McBurney YMCA at 125 West 14th Street where DOT will be making a presentation.

One thing’s for certain, if all this works according to plan, we may be talking about a brand new Miracle on 34th Street. And guess who’s Santa Claus this time! OK, a trifle premature, but join us this Wednesday to cheer or holler. We, and DOT, need your input.

Sincerely,
Wally Rubin
District Manager

News and Events

Knowledge Is Power – Over the last few years, Midtown has been trending more and more toward a residential neighborhood. Bars and restaurants proliferate with the speed of fungus after a warm rain. But one thing that hasn’t quite kept up with the pace of development has been the growth of schools. There are numerous high schools in the district but the need for elementary schools continues to grow.



The **NYC Department of Education** is currently conducting **2010 School Survey**, a chance for all those with a vested interest in how NYC schools operate (and really, who doesn't have a vested interest in education?) voice their opinions and concerns. The survey questions assess the community's opinions on academic expectations, communication, engagement, and safety and respect. School leaders can use survey results to better understand their own school's strengths and areas for targeted improvement. It only takes a few moments to do on-line, comes in a variety of languages, and can make a huge difference in the make-up of schools in Midtown. Parents, students, teachers and paraprofessionals can all take the survey. To do so, [visit the DOE website](#).

The Tulips Are Coming! – And so are the lilacs, and the crocuses . . . Spring has just sprung so it's time for **Macy*s** to celebrate with their annual **Spring Flower Show!** From March 28th through April 11th, **Macy's Herald Square** (right in the heart of Midtown!) will be a sea of sights and scents as they transform their store into 10 different garden environments, including over 30,000 different varieties of



exotic trees and flowering plants. You can stroll through at your leisure or take a guided tour and learn all about the multitude of flora that surrounds you. Every 20-minute specially guided tours depart from inside the 35th Street and Broadway entrance between 11:00a and 4:00p. In addition to all the posies and pansies, there will be in-store events, sweepstakes, cooking demos, seminars and more! So venture into one of the icons of NYC and experience flowers as only NYC can do them. Now close your eyes and breathe deep. Smells good, right?! For more information, visit the [Macy*s website](#).

Don't Forget The Daffodils! – Did you know that the Daffodil is the



official flower of New York City? It's true, and that makes perfect sense given the rich Dutch history of this fine metropolis (it was originally called New Amsterdam, remember). Each year **New Yorkers for Parks** distributes daffodil bulbs to volunteers and groups around the city for planting in communal green spaces. **The Daffodil Project** is made possible in part by the generosity of a Dutch bulb supplier, Hans van Waardenburg of *B&K Flowerbulbs*, who has pledged to donate 500,000 daffodil bulbs to the project each year as long as there are volunteers willing to plant them. Feeling like you want to get your hands dirty and brighten up that little patch of grass in front of your building? Visit the [New Yorkers for Parks](#) website to find out about bulb distribution, and getting your group involved in the greening (and yellowing!) of NYC!

If You Build It . . . The **Department of City Planning** is currently preparing **Vision 2020: The NYC Comprehensive Waterfront Plan**, and they want your help. The plan will establish the city's long range vision for a 21st Century waterfront, identifying opportunities for improvement and the strategies necessary to move forward. Among the hopes for the plan are establishing greater public access to the waterfront, restoring ecologically important aspects of the coastline, and creating an environment that allows New Yorkers to safely and smartly make use of one of the city's best natural resources. To kick-off the process, there will be a city-wide public meeting on April 8th, from 6p – 8:30p at the **Murry Bergtraum High School at 411 Pearl Street**. You can also visit the **Vision 2020 website** for more information and to offer comments. Want a waterfront that's good for all of us? Then speak out on how *you* feel things should develop!



Are You Out There? - As the residential towers in Midtown rise, many co-ops, condos and block associations are forming to allow new and current residents to have a say in what happens in their neighborhood. If you'd like your *co-op, condo or block association* to be listed on CB5's website, please send complete name and contact information to office@cb5.org. Tell us who you are and let your neighbors know who's living in that glass and steel tower next to that other glass and steel tower.



Ask The Tough Questions - Climate change is happening; it's merely a matter of how, how fast, and what can be done about it. Can government take charge of the response to climate change, despite intensifying political and economic constraints? Or is true urban sustainability a question of good business practices and innovation driven by philanthropy and the nonprofit sector? Either way, how do we get there from here? These provocative questions and more will be explored at the public forum, **Cities Respond to Climate Change: Locating Leadership in an Uncertain World**, presented by **The New School for Management and Urban Policy**. The forum will host a variety of experts from all around the field, and will be moderated by NY Times staff writer David Owen. The event takes place on Monday, April 2, at 6p in the *Theresa Lang Community & Student Center* at 55 West 13th. Admission is free, but you must reserve a seat. [Click here to RSVP online](#) or call 212.229.5418.



The Environment Belongs To You - Hydraulic fracturing is a process that results in the creation of fractures in rocks, used for the extraction of natural gas. Many people are concerned about the environmental impact of such a procedure, including potential for contamination of aquifers with fracturing chemicals or waste

fluids. On April 1 at 7p, a public forum co-sponsored by the **Manhattan Borough President's Office**, and consisting of several experts on this topic, will be held to detail the effects this process has on water supplies in New York State. The event will be held at the Gerald W. Lynch Auditorium at John Jay College, 899 10th Ave. @ 59th St. For more information call 917.923.2118.

Parking Calendar

NYC Parking Regulations – There are many legally recognized holidays on which parking regulations are suspended. For the month of April, parking regulations are officially suspended on the following days:



Thursday, April 4 – Holy Thursday
Friday, April 2 – Good Friday
Monday & Tuesday, April 5 & 6 – Passover

Changes occur often, so call 311 for daily updates. For more information on Parking Regulations, visit the [DOT Parking Calendar](http://www.nyc.gov) at www.nyc.gov.

Precinct Community Council Meetings

Each month local Police Precincts hold **Community Council Meetings** where community members can voice their concerns on local issues affecting their quality of life. Council meetings are open to all residents of the precinct. The four precincts located in **Community Board Five**, and their respective Council meeting times are:



- **10th Precinct** - Last Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm, 119 9th Avenue, Hudson Guild Senior Center.
Contact: Det. Mike Petrillo at 212-741-8226
- **13th Precinct** - Every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm, 230 East 21st St.
Contact: P.O. Mike Hnatko at 212-477-7427
- **Midtown North Precinct** - Every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm, 427 West 47th St.
Contact: Det. Stephen Giaco or Det. Diane Menig at 212-767-8447
- **Midtown South Precinct** - Every 3rd Thursday at 7pm at the Hotel New Yorker, 8th Avenue and 34th St.
Contact: Det. Adam D'Amico; Det. Joe Bunster at 212-239-9846

Liquor License Applicants

[Click here](#) to be taken to the CB5 website for information on Liquor License applicants.

If you have any questions regarding this list, please call the office or email office@cb5.org.

Contact Community Board Five

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We're on the Web!
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If your organization would like to publicize an event in **The Manhattan Midtown**, email your request to: office@cb5.org. To be considered for publication events must be free and open to the public.

