



THE MANHATTAN MIDTOWN

The Official Newsletter of Community Board Five
Vikki Barbero, Chair

February 2009

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COMMUNITY BOARD FIVE

Dear Friends –

This week and next you can go see any one of a batch of off-Broadway shows for a mere \$20, thanks to a program called **20at20**. All you have to do is go to the box-office of a participating show 20 minutes before curtain and say "20at20" for your \$20 ticket. I have to admit that most of these shows are not, strictly speaking, in our district; but theatre and the people who make theatre are the life-blood of our area, so any time you go see a show you *are* supporting our district and the folks who live here. And at \$20 a pop, you can go for an early (or late) dinner at a lovely restaurant in our district (see the irresistible **Restaurant Week** offer below) AND see a show, while still spending less than you would for a full price ticket on Broadway [we LOVE Broadway, but as Fred Ebb once wrote, "a fact is still a fact." Speaking of which, the great Kander and Ebb's final collaboration, "The Scottsboro Boys," begins its world premiere on February 12th at **The Vineyard Theatre**, which is a beloved theatre in our district, just steps from Union Square Park].

Even in a deep recession, it's good to be alive and living in New York.

Sincerely,
Wally Rubin
District Manager

News and Events



Divine, Superfluous Beauty - You've seen them all over, the beautiful mosaics that dot NYC subway stations. Or perhaps you've noticed the little bronze characters that crawl out from under faux manhole covers being chased by imaginary alligators. Admit it, they make you smile! Well, NYC is calling all interested artists to submit proposals to be

considered as finalists for the commission of permanent artwork for **DOT** plaza sites throughout the city. These projects are site-specific and engage a variety of media—painting, mosaic, glass, textiles, sculpture, and works that are integrated into infrastructure and architecture. One of the locations currently under consideration is right here in Midtown (Pershing Square West Plaza - nestled in the southbound lanes of Park Avenue between 42nd and 41st Streets)! The projects come with a \$100,000 budget and are part of the **Percent for Art** program, which sets aside 1% of the budget for city-funded construction projects to be used to establish permanent public art works. Who knew? The *deadline for submissions is February 22, 2010* so visit the **NYC Dept. of Cultural Affairs** and go forth and make art!



permanent public

One Small Step – The disaster in Haiti is overwhelming in its scope.



The size of the devastation and the scale of human suffering can seem impossible for someone far away to effect. But, time and again we see that it's the small things that carry the most impact. In the spirit of using what you have,

Eneslow Shoes, a retailer with a shop located in Midtown, is making this offer: bring in any pair of shoes for donation to the **Haitian Relief Effort** and receive a 20% discount on a same-day purchase. This offer is in conjunction with **Soles4Souls**, an organization that collects and distributes shoes free of charge to people in need, regardless of race, religion, class, or any other criteria. Such a simple concept. **Eneslow Shoes** is located in Midtown at 470 Park Avenue South @ 32nd Street. The offer is good through the end of January, though you can continue to donate through **Soles4Souls**. One small step to help so many.



Where Does The Money Go? - In 2008, more than 485,000 Social



Security checks were reported lost or stolen and had to be reissued. Why, that's just all kinds of wrong! With everything else you've got to worry about, you shouldn't have to fret over getting YOUR money! Direct Deposit can ease the anxiety – one simple step to insure that your money goes where you want it to go. There are two ways to have receive federal benefit payments that are safe and reliable:

- With **Direct Deposit**, money goes straight into your checking or savings account at the same time every month. No worries, no questions. You can get more information about **Direct Deposit** by calling 800.333.1795, go to www.GoDirect.org
- **Direct Express Debit MasterCard** is a prepaid debit card that lets you make purchases, get cash and pay bills. No fees, no hassle. To sign up for the card, or to learn more about its features and fees, call 877.212.9991, go to www.USDirectExpress.com

Stand Up And Be Counted – When drafting the Constitution, the founders of this nation put in a requirement that the government take a head-count every ten years. Now, there are over 300 million people in the land. How do you count *that*? Between February and March of this year, your household will receive a form with 10 questions that will be asked about each person living in the house. That form is to be completed and mailed back by April 1, 2010. **The Census** is a source of vital information used by the government to allocate funds to states and municipalities. **The Census** is also instrumental in the configuration of congressional districts, so our representation is affected. The information supplied on the questionnaire *will not be shared* and is for statistical purposes only. If no questionnaire is returned, a Census taker will visit the household to obtain the necessary information. Ten questions, ten minutes, tens of millions of dollars. Not a bad deal for your city. For more information about **the Census** (as well as temporary Census jobs) visit **NYC's website**.



Stop Eating Stew! – Everyone hibernates in the winter – warm socks, wooly sweaters and big bowls of soup. That's all well and good, but by this time of year, you start getting a little antsy, don't you? Well, brush off your socialization skills and get ready for **Restaurant Week Winter 2010!** The

festivities take place between January 25 and February 7, and more than 250 restaurants will offer three-course prix-fixe lunches for \$24.07 (not \$20.10?!), and three-course prix-fixe dinners for \$35 (well, it is dinner). A number of restaurants in the Midtown area are participating, including such local favorites as **Allegretti, Bar Stuzzichini, Tabla, Blue Smoke** and many more. For more details about restaurant week, including restrictions (you knew there had to be restrictions), visit **NYC & Co** for a full listing.

Out With The Old . . . - Spring is nearing and with it comes visions of making room for all things new in our humble NYC abodes. February 2010 marks the beginning of the **NYS Great Appliance Swap-Out!**

As part of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*, this program is designed to provide a boost to New York's economy while providing an incentive for consumers to reduce their energy consumption. If you have an older, less efficient appliance, you can get a rebate in exchange for buying a newer, more energy efficient model. Refrigerators, washers and freezers are

eligible for a \$75 rebate (more, with proof of recycling). C'mon, you know you want to! For more detailed information, visit **www.NYApplianceSwapOut.com**



Parking Calendar

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



Asian Lunar New Year – Sunday, Feb. 14
Washington’s Birthday – Monday, Feb. 15
Ash Wednesday – Wednesday, Feb. 17
Lincoln’s Birthday – Friday, Feb. 21
Purim – Sunday, Feb. 28

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.

