



THE MANHATTAN MIDTOWN

The Official Newsletter of Community Board Five
Vikki Barbero, Chair

March 2009

Inside:

[Welcome](#)

www.cb5.org

[Schedule and Agendas](#)

[News and Events](#)

[Precinct Community
Councils](#)

[Liquor License
Applicants](#)

[Contact Us](#)

COMMUNITY BOARD FIVE

Dear Friends –

We have a major ULURP (Uniform Land Use Review Process) coming our way this month. Vornado is proposing to build one of the tallest towers in all New York on the site of the Hotel Pennsylvania, on Seventh Avenue between 32nd and 33rd. They are requesting a rezoning of the block and, in addition, bonus floors for subway renovations they would make around Penn Station. **The Hotel Pennsylvania**, which CB5 requested be made a landmark in the fall of 2007, would be demolished if these plans move forward. As the City Charter mandates, we will be voting on whether to recommend approval or denial of this project (to be known as *15 Penn Plaza*) this coming month, and the applicants will be coming to our **Land Use and Zoning Committee** meeting to make their case next Wednesday, February 24th ([details here](#)). If you have an interest in how this process works, join us.

Sincerely,
Wally Rubin
District Manager

News and Events



A Dime Here, A Dime There - The unemployment rate fell last month. The snow fell this month. But next month here in Midtown parking meter rates are going up! Sad but true. Starting March 1, Muni-Meter rates are increasing by .50 cents, from \$2/hour to \$2.50 per hour. The conversion will take a few months, but most areas of Midtown will be affected, including Broadway from 37th to 41st, Chelsea and the Union Square area. Don't fret, though, single-space parking meter rates will stay the same. Thank heaven for the little things. Right? *Right?!*



Ah, The Joys Of Youth - Adults might have to drop \$125 or more for a ticket to a Broadway show, but teenagers rejoice! You need only pay \$5 for some of the best dance, music, theatre and visual arts in town!! **High 5 Tickets to the Arts** is a non-profit organization dedicated to making the arts affordable for teens, ages 13 to 18. A school ID is all a teen needs to purchase \$5 tickets for themselves and an adult companion (if, of course, they want to!). And if there's a group that would like to attend together, buy 5 tickets and get the 6th **FREE!** And if the deal wasn't good enough, if you're interested in the visual arts, tickets to museums are **two for \$5 every day**. Events on offer include theater, dance, symphonies, Hip-Hop, and film and spoken work. For a complete listing, visit the **High 5 Event Calendar**. You can **purchase tickets online** with a credit card or with cash at the **High 5** office located at 520 8th Ave, Ste. 321, 3rd Fl. Or call them at 212-750-0555, and go see something!



Graffiti Got You Down? - Well, perk up! NYC offers **free graffiti removal** services throughout Midtown and beyond. **Graffiti Free NYC** uses state of the art cleaning methods to remove all the "art" that some people feel other people want on their buildings. Really, can't they buy a sketchbook? You can request graffiti removal if you're the landlord of a building, or if you see a building in your neighborhood that needs some sprucing up. **Graffiti Free NYC** coordinates with building owners to secure waivers and schedule times for clean-up. Sounds good, yes?! For more information regarding this totally FREE way of cleaning up your 'nabe, visit the **Graffiti Free NYC website**.



It Does Take A Village - Continuing the theme of neighborhood improvement, **Citizens Committee for New York City** is giving away money! Well, in the form of grants. Don't get *too* carried away, people. Grants are for volunteer-led community groups who work to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods. Grants ranging from \$500 to \$3000 have previously been awarded to support efforts to introduce healthy food options in communities, start up gardens, and even start school recycling programs. In addition to doling out the cash, **Citizens Committee** offers one-on-one project planning help and a resource center with access to computers, conference space and an equipment lending library. If you want to give your community group a leg up, visit www.citizensnyc.org or e-mail grants@citizensnyc.org for more info. But hurry - the Spring deadline is March 14!

It's All About Hagglng - Quick, by a show of hands, how many people know someone in the arts? Really, the question should be: who *doesn't* know someone in the arts? This is NYC, after all, artists come with the territory. And with those artists comes an overwhelming need for space – space to create, rehearse and perform. The lack of affordable space is especially distressing in CB5; while the Theatre District is right in our backyard, it's almost impossible for emerging artists and companies to develop and practice their craft because of prohibitive prices. CB5's **Theater Task Force** recently presented a resolution to the Board in support of a tax incentive for landlords to offer affordable space to the city's struggling arts organizations in the hopes of preventing many from closing up shop. You can read the resolution in its entirety by [clicking here](#). And even though it may feel like swimming up-stream, there are organizations in NYC that are trying their best to alleviate the space crunch and make it possible for artists to be artists. One such organization is **The Field**, an artist run and operated collective in Chelsea that offers affordable space for artists to develop their work. The Field Artist Residency (FAR) space "aims to alleviate the financial and logistical burden of the 'space chase' so that artists focus can on their creative process." Imagine! Up to 45 hours of rehearsal time in a nicely appointed studio space is provided at a *greatly reduced price*. It's a start. For more information on this valuable Midtown resource, visit their website at www.thefield.org



Uncle Sam Wants You! – The **U.S. Census** is looking to hire Census-takers to do a head-count right here in Midtown (among other locations). Census offices in Flatiron, Chelsea and Clinton are in need of part-time workers to make the rounds and gather information for the 2010 Census. The work is flexible and training is paid. Nice combo. For more specific information, visit the Census website at www.2010census.gov



Parking Calendar

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



March 30 – 31: 1st & 2nd days of Passover

Changes occur often, so call 311 for daily updates. For more information on Parking Regulations, visit the [DOT Parking Calendar](#) 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

Community Board Five
450 Seventh Avenue
Suite 2109
New York, NY 10123
Phone: 212-465-0907
Fax: 212-465-1628
E-mail: office@cb5.org
We're on the Web!
www.cb5.org

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.

