



# THE MANHATTAN MIDTOWN

The Official Newsletter of Community Board Five  
Vikki Barbero, Chair

January 2009

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## COMMUNITY BOARD FIVE

Dear Friends –

As we enter 2010, let's look forward to all that is new in the New Year, such as our new City Comptroller, John Liu, and our new Public Advocate, Bill de Blasio. There's a new ease to riding your bike to work and a new way to contact 311 (see below). We might even get some version of health care reform passed and, if not, the future full-body scans at the airport might turn up something interesting and be cheaper than an MRI!

I always love to watch CBS News Sunday Morning on the last Sunday of the year, when they feature many of the notable people who died. It's always a wonder to realize how many people we lose each year. So, here's a reason to celebrate – we are still here! Hug a loved one in honor of the occasion. And Happy New Year.

Sincerely,  
Wally Rubin  
District Manager

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## News and Events



**Willkommen, Bienvenue, Welcome!** - If you're anywhere in NYC on New Year's Eve, you should know what's going on. In a nutshell – lots of people. An estimated 1 million, actually. There's a certain protocol to the events of the day, and lots of things you need to know if you're going to partake in the festivities. The short of it is this: get there early;

once you're in, you're in; and no, there aren't public restrooms. But if you'd like more information on the Big Send-Off, you can visit the Times Square Alliance website and read some **Frequently Asked Questions** that can make the night a bit more



manageable. Things like what streets will be closed off, where to eat, and what the schedule of events is, can be accessed. It's almost here, so be prepared. 10...9...8...

### **Put The Rubber To The Road!**



– Since 2006 NYC has added over 200 new miles of bike lanes, and bike ridership has gone up 45% in the heart of the city. New Yorkers love their bikes (even those single-track ones with tiny handle-bars and no brakes)! Now, we can take them to work with us, as well. The **Bicycle Access in Buildings Law** went into effect on December 11 and is designed to allow building workers who ride

their little selves to work to park their bikes safely on the premises. Formal requests need to be made to building management by tenants of the building, and buildings are required to make accommodations within 30 days of the request, or file for an exemption. Not only is it good for the environment, but you get to work off all that holiday cheer! But don't start riding just yet. There are certain restrictions and requirements in requesting bike space, so make sure you visit the DOT [Bike in Buildings](#) page for all necessary information. Ride on!

### **Did Someone Say "Free?"**

– It may seem highly frivolous, given the economic situation of the day, to head out for an evening of arts and culture. When mortgage payments can feel like ransom, \$175 (or more) for a Broadway ticket may not seem reasonable. (Really, does it ever?) But, of course, New Yorkers have found a workaround for the hardship. Freebies! Nothing says excitement in this city like paying nothing for something, and there are far more opportunities to ride the freebie- train than you might think. All around the city, theatres, cultural centers and public spaces are offering performances at no or low cost. **Julliard** offers music recitals, dance performances and dramatic productions by students free of charge. Many museums, such as the **Rubin Museum** in Chelsea, have Friday evening happenings with film screenings, poetry readings and live music, many free or low cost. And the New **York Public Library** has all manner of events in various branches around the city. Just because the cold winds of economic upheaval are blowing, that doesn't mean your creative side should be left out in the cold. So, check out some of NYC's many cultural institutions for unique (and quite possibly FREE!) programming. And get your Art on!



**NYC 311**

### **On-Line? Really?** – Yes, really!

Now even complaints have gone viral. Noisy bars. Pot holes. Food vendors blocking the sidewalk. Street cleaning. For all of the wonder of NYC, life here has its challenges. At some point, you just need to say, "Enough!" You've heard about 311, you may have even called in a complaint (good for you!), but 311 has recently expanded its on-line presence. **311 On-Line** not only gives you information on a wide-range of city services and regulations, from alternate-side parking to licensing to bulk item disposal. But you can also make a complaint on anything from heat to housing, and even those annoying yellow curbs

that don't mean anything! Just visit [NYC.gov](http://nyc.gov) and click on the **311 icon** on the right side of the screen. The 311 homepage lists general categories to browse that help you find what you're looking for. Or you can type a keyword (like "noise complaints") into the search bar at the top.

In addition, 311 has made friends with the **iPhone!** An app is now available for your **iPhone** that allows you to report certain troublesome conditions or problems, and even upload photos and video to make it clear exactly what you're talking about. You can obtain the app by searching "NYC 311" in the App Store on your **iPhone**. Functionality on non-iPhones is in the offing. Sorry, non-Mac people, you'll just have to wait a little longer.

Though your issue may not be resolved immediately, the record that is generated can be helpful in following up with a persistent problem. So call or visit but let 311 help.

**A Moment Of Truth** - You're standing on the subway platform hoping that the next train to emerge from the darkness is yours. Suddenly, the person next to you falls to the ground and stops breathing. What do you do? You can now be a prepared bystander thanks to the FDNY. The **NYC Fire Department** is offering free bystander **CPR training** to all New York City residents. The program takes less than an hour and each participant is given a free CPR training kit. On January 5, 2010, they will begin offering training sessions once per week in each borough. These sessions are open to anyone and generally train groups of 20 or larger. Individuals and smaller groups who are interested in receiving training can partake. The sessions are administered by FDNY EMS personnel and can be taught in English or Spanish. Please e-mail [eichlem@fdny.nyc.gov](mailto:eichlem@fdny.nyc.gov) or call 718-999-2413 to reserve your spot today! Walk-ins welcome (space permitting)



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## Parking Calendar

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



**New Year's Day - January 1**  
**Martin Luther King Jr. Day - January 18**

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](http://www.nyc.gov).

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## 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> St.  
Contact: P.O. Mike Hnatko at 212-477-7427
- **Midtown North Precinct** - Every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm, 427 West 47<sup>th</sup> 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, 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 34<sup>th</sup> St.  
Contact: Det. Adam D'Amico at 212-239-9846

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## 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](mailto:office@cb5.org).

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## 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](mailto:office@cb5.org)**  
**We're on the Web!**  
**[www.cb5.org](http://www.cb5.org)**

If your organization would like to publicize an event in **The Manhattan Midtown**, email your request to: [office@cb5.org](mailto:office@cb5.org). To be considered for publication events must be free and open to the public.

