



# THE MANHATTAN MIDTOWN

The Official Newsletter of Community Board Five  
Vikki Barbero, Chair

July 2011

## Inside:

[Welcome](#)

[www.cb5.org](http://www.cb5.org)

[Schedule and Agendas](#)

[News and Events](#)

[Precinct Community  
Councils](#)

[Liquor License  
Applicants](#)

[Contact Us](#)

## COMMUNITY BOARD FIVE

Dear Friends –

Every once in a while a call to our office brings unexpected good news. Such was the case last month when one afternoon we received a call from someone who said that he and his partners wanted to lease a location in our district which had been, for years, a club that had given us nothing but trouble...serious trouble...shut the block down kind of trouble.

He was calling, he said, because he knew of the spot's reputation and wanted our help in setting up a meeting with neighbors - even before anything was signed and sealed - to meet everyone and assure them that he was legitimate, concerned, and interested in being a cooperative and welcome neighbor on the block.

Time, of course, will tell, but all the partners came to the meeting, listened intently to all the concerns expressed by the very weary, gun-shy (and I mean literally gun-shy!) neighbors. They even brought along pages of testimony from their neighbors at another location, who raved of their experience with this group of gentlemen.

As everyone who works in government knows, such experiences, rare as they are, put a little lilt in your step.

On that note, have a wonderful summer; enjoy our parks and the glorious daily parade of folks on our streets and sidewalks all summer long. And if you haven't seen the enormous, spellbinding new sculpture in Madison Square Park, don't waste a second and go go go!

Sincerely,  
Wally Rubin  
District Manager

## News and Events

Healthcare. The word is enough to send a shiver down your spine. While politicians and pundits wax philosophic on how to overhaul the nation's healthcare system, your elderly neighbor wonders how to pay for her medication each month. In any great journey, it's the little steps that add up and make the difference. NYC has teamed up with **HealthTrans**, a company that administers discount health plans nationwide to offer **The Big Apple Discount Prescription Card**. The idea is simple: go to the website, print the card and start saving up to 47% on prescription drugs. But wait – you're a savvy New Yorker; there's got to be a catch, right? No. The card is for use by anyone without insurance or prescription drug coverage. Participating pharmacies (and there are thousands citywide!) have entered into agreement with **HealthTrans** to offer discounted medications to those who present the Big Apple Prescription card. There are no forms to fill out, no fee for using the card, and no obligation to do anything other than save money. Really, there's no catch? No. Really. [Click here to be taken to the website](#) and take a look around, read the FAQ's, and when you're satisfied it's all kosher, print the card!



**Don't Shoot The Messenger** - OK, we're just letting you know. May 23<sup>rd</sup> marked the start of a smoking ban within New York City's parks. Yep, that's right, voted on and everything. The scope of such a ruling requires a little clarification, so to be specific, smoking is prohibited at or in:

- All city parks
- Beaches and boardwalks
- Public golf courses
- The grounds of sports stadiums
- Pedestrian plazas



For Midtown, that means no smoking on the plazas at Herald Square, Times Square, Greeley Square, or Duffy Square. You can smoke *outside* the outdoor plazas (Note to all you smokers: be careful while you stand in the middle of the street to puff away!), but lighting up in a restricted area can snare you a \$50 fine. Sigh . . .

**Speaking of Parks . . .** - **The City Parks Foundation** is the only independent non-profit organization that offers park programming in all five boroughs in NYC. And most of it is absolutely free. Free! From arts, sports and education programs to community-building initiatives and neighborhood revitalization projects, City Parks Foundation is active in ensuring NYC's parks live up to their full potential. For example, did you know that kids can take free golf lessons? And free tennis lessons? And free track & field lessons?! Well, now you do! In addition to sports



activities, City Parks also sponsors free concerts and cultural events all through the summer. So, the stay-cation may not be so bad after all. For more information and a calendar of events, visit the [City Parks Foundation](#) website.

**Music Hath Charms** - Walking through Midtown you hear the roar of buses, the honk of horns, and the cries of traffic cops giving someone the what-for. But then, the tinkle of music floats above it all. You turn your eyes in the direction of the sound and there you see in the middle of the plaza . . . a piano! All painted up and tricked out, someone is plinking the keys while another person dances behind them. Then you realize that those two people don't even know each other! Ah, the magic of music. **Sing for Hope** has installed 88 pianos across NYC once again this summer, plunked down on plazas and sidewalks, for anyone to play. The pianos were decorated by NYC artists, and once their work is done, they'll be donated to schools and hospitals around town. So the next time you're weaving in and out of the tourists on the Broadway plaza, take a moment to listen to one of your fellow New Yorkers belting out a tune . . . just because.



**Happy 235<sup>th</sup> Birthday!** - Or 224<sup>th</sup> Birthday, depending. If you accept the Declaration of Independence as the start of the United States, then we clock in at 235. But, if you see the ratification of the Constitution as the beginning of the Union, well, then we're a mere 224! But whichever way you go, it's time to celebrate the birth of something great. **Macy's** is all set to light up the skies over NYC once more this July 4<sup>th</sup> with a rousing 25 minute firework extravaganza! The rocket's

red glare will be visible over the Hudson starting at 9p on Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. For the best views, head over to 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue (boy, how often do you do that?!) below 59<sup>th</sup>. Given the expected high turnout, the best access can be had at the following locations:

- 24th Street
- 26th-30th Streets
- 34th Street
- 40th-44th Streets
- 47th-52nd Streets
- 54th-57th Streets

For more information on how to get there, [click here to go to the official site](#).

---

## 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 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 P.O. Mike Dugan 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. 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](mailto: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](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.