



THE MANHATTAN MIDTOWN

The Official Newsletter of Community Board Five
Vikki Barbero, Chair

May 2011

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COMMUNITY BOARD FIVE

Dear Friends –

It's finally Spring, and I couldn't be happier. The newly updated Southwest Porch in Bryant Park opened this past Monday and it is, more than ever, the best place outdoors in midtown to meet someone for a snack or a drink or just to sit and chat (there's absolutely no obligation to buy anything). And easily the highlight of my week is my ping pong match at the free ping pong tables in Bryant Park – all you have to do is sign up when you get there. Of course, the number of things one can do in Bryant Park is becoming almost endless, from official bird-watching tours to Pétanque to book events to movie nights. All this, under the sun or the stars in this immaculately kept little paradise right in the center of our district. Who could ask for anything more?

[Click this link](#) for more information about events in Bryant Park.

Sincerely,
Wally Rubin
District Manager

News and Events



Technology Is Your Friend - Android lovers unite! Now you, too, can download the **Official TKTS App** – take that iPhone! Theatre lovers with **Android** devices will be able to get the same TKTS information with the app, which lets customers know, in real-time, what shows are available at all three TKTS Discount Booths - Times Square,

South Street Seaport and Downtown Brooklyn. (Yes, there is life outside Times Square.) It's free through May 15, and after that you have to pony up \$0.99. Cheap at twice the price, given the discounts you can get via TKTS. Of course, you will still have to go to one of the booths to buy your ticket, but you can get accurate listings on all Broadway and Off-Broadway shows that are available because the app is connected directly to the big boards at the TKTS windows. Neat, huh? To download the app just [visit the TKTS website](#).

Chow Down! - When you think **Times Square** you think crowds, traffic, and tchotchkes. But do you think food? On June 6th these two worlds collide in an outdoor epicurean taste-fest that gets more popular by the year. **The 18th annual Taste of Times Square Outdoor Food and Music Festival** hits the Broadway Plazas between 42nd and 47th for a

foray into the sublime. Between the hours of 5p and 9p amble through crossroads of the world and taste a sampling of delights from area restaurants (a complete list of participating restaurants is in the making), listen to live entertainment and people watch to your heart's content. The event is FREE and each "taste" ticket is \$1, and dishes are anywhere from \$1 - \$5. Tickets will be available for purchase on the day of the food festival and in advance at the Times Square Visitor Center and Mini-Museum on 7th Avenue between 46th and 47th Streets. So go join the tourists and taste away! For more information, visit the [Times Square Alliance website](#).



And just to the south . . . Not to be outdone by all the nibbling happening to the north, **Madison Square Park** will be hosting a month-long foodie-festival from May 6th through June 3rd. **Mad. Sq. Eats** fills Worth Square with the diverse tastes of some of the city's most raved about eateries. Places like **Asia Dog**, **Bar Suzette**, **Breezy Hill Orchard**, and many more will be on hand to dish it up from 11a to 9p each day! Yum. So take a stroll out during lunch or after work and see more of Midtown than just the busses. For more information visit the [Madison Square Park Conservancy website](#).

The Streets They Are A-Changing –

Put pictures of Midtown 10 years ago side by side with pictures of it today, and you're likely to exclaim, "Really?!" The streetscape of NYC is in flux, what with the addition of bike lanes, pedestrian plazas and lanes of parking that "float."



Sometimes, all this change can feel disorientating, particularly for us old-timers. To help allay some of the anxieties that come with change, the **Manhattan Borough President's Office** will be hosting a forum for discussing **Pedestrian Safety in the Changing NYC Streetscape**. The forum takes place on Friday, May 13 from 9a – 12p at *Lighthouse International*, located at 111 East 59th St. There will be a keynote address, panel discussion, and audience Q&A to address issues near and dear to anyone who navigates the streets of New York. And, that's pretty much everyone, isn't it? That's why you need RSVP to castaff3@manhattanbp.org You can also call 212.669.4519 for more information.



Good For . . . Something, Actually! –

The **MTA** may be one of the most maligned agencies in the city. (Well, when the F-train you're riding suddenly becomes a B-train at the height of rush hour, how could they not be?) But, as if to reach across the platform and make amends, the **MTA** offers real-time updates that can be sent right to your phone. Think of it: there you are about to get on the N, when you get a text that says the N is temporarily suspended. You - being all informed and everything - catch the R and make your meeting on time. Go you! It's a free service (though text fees may apply through your carrier), and it's easy as pie to sign-up for. Just go to mymtaalerts.com and be in the know!

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 P.O. Mike Dugan at 212-767-8447
- **Midtown South Precinct** - Every 3rd Thursday at 7pm at the Hotel New Yorker, 8th Avenue and 34th 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.

Contact Community Board Five

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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.