

# THE MANHATTAN MIDTOWN

The Official Newsletter of Community Board Five  
February 2007

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## COMMUNITY BOARD FIVE

Dear Friends,

Winter may be taking its sweet time getting going, but **CB5** is well underway with a busy agenda for the new year. In an effort to make all meetings as accessible to the public as possible, **CB5** is currently looking for new spaces in which to hold its monthly committee and Full Board meetings.

If you have space that is available one day per month, please contact the CB5 office.

Thanks for your help!

Sincerely,  
Gary Parker, District Manager

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## Community News and Events



**Find Out More!** – We all love going to the **Union Square Greenmarket**, but while you're picking through the fresh produce and tasting the locally grown wines, did you ever stop to wonder where Union Square got its name? Or did you know that Vaudeville first began in the opera houses along 14th Street? The Union Square Partnership offers a free, 90-minute, guided walking tour that delves into Union Square's rich history and explores its transformation into one of Manhattan's favorite neighborhoods, offering the real stories of Union Square - the ones left out of the history books. *Tours meet every Saturday at 2:00PM* in front of the Lincoln Statue near the Pavilion Building. For more information visit the Union Square Partnership website at <http://www.unionsquarenyc.org/> or call (212) 460-1200.

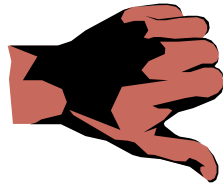
**Fight the Good Fight** – You are invited to attend a **Worker's Rights Workshop** being co-sponsored by the *Manhattan Borough President's Domestic Violence and Immigrant Rights Task Forces*. It will be held at the Manhattan Borough President's Office at 1 Centre Street, 19th Floor, Tuesday, January 30, at 3 p.m. The workshop will be facilitated by Julia Rosner of Manhattan Legal Services, Coordinator of the Workers' Rights Project and Employment Law Specialist. She will present on topics such as: an overview of requirements to receive EITC (earned income tax credit); NY as an employment-at-will state; unpaid wages; illegal deductions; Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA); Workers' Compensation; and discrimination. For more information and to RSVP visit [spongnon@manhattanbp.org](mailto:spongnon@manhattanbp.org) or call (212) 669-2094.



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## City Agency Announcements

**It Ain't Art** - The **Department of Buildings** (DOB) announced the launch of a new enforcement campaign designed to combat illegal advertising signs posted on sidewalk sheds, aka scaffolding. As part of the pilot program, **DOB** will cover illegal advertising signs that building owners have failed to remove despite prior notification and warnings. "Posting advertising signs on sidewalk sheds is always illegal...It is now time for these illegal signs to come down," said the Commissioner of Buildings, Patricia Lancaster. **DOB** conducted intensive sweeps to locate, photograph, and record illegal advertising signs on sidewalk sheds, and as of the beginning of January, 70 illegal signs have been voluntarily removed by building owners. If building owners continue to flout the law, the illegal advertising signs will be covered. In three months, the Department will review the success of the enforcement campaign and reallocate resources as needed to continue to ensure compliance with the law. To report illegal advertising signs posted on sidewalk sheds, New Yorkers are encouraged to call 3-1-1.



**Don't Lose Your Voice** –No one can say there aren't a lot of problems with the state of voting in this country. But it takes more than just complaining to make a difference. On **January 23, 2007 at 4pm**, the NYC Board of Elections (BOE) will hold a public hearing on the proposed voting systems. The hearing is open to all members of the public to enable them to provide their thoughts and feedback to the Board's Commissioners regarding the proposed voting systems. The hearing will be held at the **NYC Board of Elections, 42 Broadway, 6th Floor**.

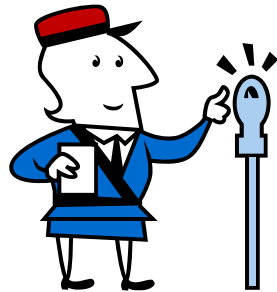


For more information call 866-868-3692 or visit their website at [www.vote.nyc](http://www.vote.nyc)



**Thinking of Starting your Own Business?** – The **Department of Small Businesses** is offering a three-hour course which covers the basic elements of starting and operating a small business. Participants will learn how to organize business ideas, develop a business plan, market a business, and maintain business books and accounts. This event is free and will be

held at **110 William Street, 4th Floor**. RSVP required, so please call 311 and ask for small business seminars and classes.



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

***Monday, February 2 - Lincoln's Birthday***  
***Sunday, February 18 - Asian Lunar New Year***

***Monday, February 19 - President's Day***  
***Wednesday, February 21 - Ash Wednesday***

For more information on Parking Regulations, visit the DOT Parking Calendar at [www.nyc.gov/finance](http://www.nyc.gov/finance). Information can also be obtained by calling 311.

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## *On Board - Meeting the Interns of CB5*

### ***Gretchen Minneman***

So what exactly is Urban Planning? Gretchen Minneman knows: "Urban Planning covers everything from where new buildings go, to transportation usage, to development and its impact on city services." A Chicagoan, Gretchen holds a Bachelor's Degree in Urban Planning and Sociology from the University of Illinois, and is currently a Master's Candidate in City and Regional Planning at Rutgers University. Twice weekly, Gretchen rides the rails from New Brunswick to Midtown as part of Borough President Scott Stringer's *Land Use Fellowship Program*, a program in its first year designed to put Urban Planning students in every community board to assist with land use issues.

As part of that program, Gretchen works closely with CB5's Land Use and Zoning committee. Because land use can be an exacting

the Board each month, Gretchen sifts through the voluminous information sent by applicants (charts, architect's renderings, maps, etc.), summarizing all the information for committee members, so they can make informed decisions.

Though not originally from NYC, Gretchen chose to apply to the program to get a new perspective on how cities other than Chicago work. "There are no Community Boards in Chicago. I didn't even know what a Community Board was before I started [the internship]."

In addition to her work in the office, Gretchen visits the Borough President's office once a month to meet with the Director of Land Use, Anthony Borelli, to discuss the issues that come up. One of the trends Gretchen is studying is the growing number of conversions from commercial to residential use, usually with high-end rents. While the concern around lack of affordable housing may be great, there is also the loss of commercial interests within the CB5 district and its economic impact. She's putting together a report "documenting where the conversions are and their impact on small businesses, and city services." More residents means more demands on city services like FDNY, NYPD, Sanitation, schools, etc.

After graduation, Gretchen hopes to remain in the public/non-profit sector, perhaps working for a large municipality. And she'd like to stay in New York for a few years, something that pleased her mother, because "now she'll have somewhere to stay when she comes shopping!"

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## Check This Out!



Uptown, downtown, East side, West. At any given moment, New York City is bustling with events – readings, concerts, parades, public art works, and other adventures. But how does even a seasoned New Yorker find out about everything that's going on? Use the **NYC Events Calendar!** The [NYC Events Calendar](http://www.nyc.gov/calendar) provides details on activities in City parks, volunteer opportunities, public meetings and hearings, gatherings, happenings, and a whole bunch more. Fully interactive, the Events Calendar lets you search by keyword(s), or browse by category, borough, or date. Plug in the information and up pops a listing of free events for you, your friends, and family. So do something different this weekend– you're a New Yorker, after all! To access the Events Calendar, visit [www.nyc.gov/calendar](http://www.nyc.gov/calendar)

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## Precinct Community Council Meetings

Each month local Police Precincts hold **Community Council Meetings** where community members can voice their concerns for 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. Contact: Det. Mike Petrillo at 212-741-8226
- **13th Precinct** - Every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm. Contact: P.O. Mike Hnatko and Joe Abruzzese at 212-477-7427
- **Midtown North Precinct** - Every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm. Contact: Det. Stephen Giaco or Det. Diane Menig at 212-767-8447
- **Midtown South Precinct** - Every 3rd Thursday at 7pm. Contact: Det. Adam D'Amico at 212-239-9846

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## Liquor License Applicants

Attached is a spreadsheet listing this month's 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.