



THE MANHATTAN MIDTOWN

The Official Newsletter of Community Board Five
March 2008

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www.cb5.org

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COMMUNITY BOARD FIVE

Dear Friends –

Just a friendly reminder that this will be the last month to receive a hard-copy of **The Manhattan Midtown**. Beginning with the April issue, we'll only be sending it out via e-mail. If you'd like to keep getting a paper copy, you must contact the Board office at 212.465.0907 and let us know. Once we have your mailing information, we'll send one out each month.

Thanks for your continued support!

Sincerely,
Wally Rubin
District Manager

Community News and Events

Be A Tourist in Your Hometown -



Be the highlight of the party! Discover the secrets of NYC by taking a walking tour of the Flatiron District. This 90-minute tour is free to the public and takes off every Sunday at 11 a.m. from the southwest corner of Madison Square Park, at 23rd Street and Broadway. Walkers will roam through streets that not only conjure images of a New York that used to be, but that continue to provide some of Manhattan's most impressive architectural attractions. See, for example, the site of Stanford White's love nest, and learn why he and his love had to gain access to their hideaway by slipping through the back of one of America's best-known toy stores, and discover the origin of the phrase "23-skidoo" and how it relates to New York's most unusual skyscraper, the world-renowned Flatiron Building. The tours are conducted by a rotating trio of guides, each well-versed in the lore that makes NYC the most fascinating city in the world.

Moving Down the Line - Celebrating the MTA's 25th year of operation, the New York Transit Museum Gallery Annex is presenting **A Railroad Reborn: Metro-North at 25**, an exhibition from February 12, 2008 through June 1, 2008. Through images and artifacts from the Museum's collection and those on loan from the railroad, ***A Railroad Reborn*** presents a comprehensive retrospective of how far the railroad has come. The exhibition is free and can be viewed in the New York Transit Museum's Gallery Annex next to the station master's office in Grand Central Station on Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more info call (212) 878-0801 or log onto www.mta.info/museum



Step Up and Get Involved -



Things go wrong. And when they do, people need to put them right. New York City's **Community Emergency Response Teams** (CERT's) are groups of community volunteers - your neighbors - trained to help in a disaster. After an intensive 11-week training course with

members of the *Fire and Police Departments, Department of Health and American Red Cross*, CERT's can assist emergency services personnel with initial emergency response. In quieter times, CERT's educate communities about emergency preparedness. If you're 18 years or older and interested in joining or establishing a CERT in your community, contact 311 or call the CERT hotline at 718.422.8585

City Agency Announcements



Don't Get Felled by the Flu -

It's not too late to catch the bug, so it's not too late to get a flu shot. The NYC Department of Health urges all New Yorkers to get their yearly flu shot. Especially vulnerable are children, those over the age of 50 and people with chronic ailments such as diabetes and asthma. And getting one is as easy as picking up the phone. Flu shots are offered free at all NYC Health Clinics and you can find one near you by calling 311. According to the Centers for Disease Control, each year more than 200,000 people nation-wide are hospitalized due to complications from the flu, and about 36,000 die. It's not just a bad cold. For more information on where you can get a flu shot in NYC, visit the Department of Health website at www.nyc.gov/health.

Find the Contractor that's Right for You -

Everywhere you look in NYC someone is building something. Scaffolds, sidewalk sheds, cranes – they're as much a part of the city landscape as the Empire State Building.

Most contractors are reputable business people, but some aren't. The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) is the NYC licensing agent for all home contractors in NYC. It's their job to set the business standards and practices that all home contractors must follow in NYC. Homeowners can gain quick access to much needed information regarding a contractor's license, complaints and business history by calling 311 or by using the DCA's *Instant License Check* at www.nyc.gov/consumers



Housing for All -

Finding an affordable home in NYC is a daunting task. Through May 23rd, 2008, applications are available for the waiting list for Section 8 housing, the federally subsidized housing program for people with limited incomes. Qualifications will be based on federal guidelines. Applications can be obtained by calling the managing agents for several NYC buildings, A.M.S. Realty Company, at **516.466.6527**, ext. 24, between the hours of 10a and 3p. No applications will be accepted after May 23rd, and only one application per family will be accepted.



Check It Out!



What is—or isn't—considered "art"? Who are the next generation of artists and what do they think? *Red Studio* is a website developed by **MoMA** in collaboration with area high school students which explores issues and questions raised by teens about modern art and today's working artists.

Interviews with artists, interactive design features, and creative activities allow teens to explore their imaginations, discover new trends and old traditions, and exchange ideas and opinions with other creative-minded youth. Check out their website at www.redstudio.moma.org

Cultural Calendar

There's so much culture in Midtown it's hard to keep track. Below are some current and recent events and openings.

- **Upcoming Openings**

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof – Broadhurst Theatre
In previews since: 12th February 2008
Opening night: 3rd March 2008

Gypsy – St. James Theatre
In Previews from: 3rd March 2008
Opening night : 27th March 2008

South Pacific – Vivian Beaumont Theatre at Lincoln Center
In Previews from: 1st March 2008
Opening Night : 3rd April 2008
Limited engagement to : 22nd June 2008

Cry Baby – Marquis Theatre
In Previews from: 15th March 2008
Opening night : 24th April 2008

- **Events**

***NYPL Donnell Library Center –
Meet The Actress/Teacher/Playwright Anna Devere Smith***
Friday, March 7@ 10:30am

Get the inside scoop on the theatre world with the visionary artist Anna Devere Smith. An actress, teacher, playwright, author and curator, Anna has two Obie Awards, several Tony nominations and a MacArthur Fellowship award, in addition to being a Pulitzer Prize finalist for her play *Fires in the Mirror*. The founder and director of the Institute on the Arts and Civic Dialogue, she teaches at New York University. This conversation takes place at the **Donnell Library** located at 20 West 53rd Street. For more information and a full calendar of events, visit their website at www.nypl.org/index

***NYPL Donnell Library Center –
Game On @ The Library***

Do your kids need a new challenge? Are you a game master just looking for the chance to strut your stuff?! At the NYPL, gamers and their friends can tackle Playstation 3 and Wii games such as *Guitar Hero* and *Mario Party*. Challenge yourself, your friends, and even create a tournament right on the spot! **Game On** events will be held during the month of March on the 6th, 13th, and 20th at 4pm in the *Nathan Straus Young Adult Center* of the Donnell Library Branch, 20 West 53rd Street. For more information and a full calendar of events, visit their website at www.nypl.org/index

MoMA Programs – Conversations with Contemporary Artists

Friday, February 29 at 6:30p

Leading contemporary artists discuss their work, the creative process, and issues in contemporary art. In February, the artist Berni Searle, whose work probes the processes of recollection and forgetting, will be featured. For more information on MoMA programs, visit their website at www.moma.org

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:



Thursday, March 20 – Holy Thursday
Friday, March, 21 – Good Friday & Purim

Changes occur often, so call 311 for daily updates. For more information on Parking Regulations, visit the [DOT Parking Calendar](http://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. Contact: Det. Mike Petrillo at 212-741-8226
- **13th Precinct** - Every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm. Contact: P.O. Mike Hnatko 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

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.

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.

Rcvd	Name	D/B/A	Address	New	Renew	SLA	Cabaret
2/11/08	Compass Group USA Inc	Bank of America	1 Bryant Park aka 1111 6 th Ave	CAT			
	47 th St Food Inc.	Blake & Co.	7 West 47 Street		BW		
	Zanaca Rest Corp	Cinquanta Ristorante	50 East 50 Street		OP		
	Hilton Hotels Corp	NY Hilton	1335 Ave of Americas		HL		
	49 th Broadway LLC	Dallas BBQ	241 West 42 Street		OP		
	CCKO Inc		25 Union Square West (b/t 15/16)		RW		
2/12/08	Taan East Inc		17 East 31 Street	RW			
	Kensington Hotel Associates	147 W 47 St Rest Corp	132 West 45 Street		HL		
2/13/08	Sofia 58 th Street Corp	Signor Ravioli	38 East 58 Street		OP		
	O'Reilly's Townhouse		21 West 35 Street		RL		
	Coam Enterprise Inc		5 West 36 Street		RW		
	Philka Grocery Corp	Little Italy Pizza	55 West 45 Street		WB		
	Don NYC Inc	Don Eui Bo Gam	15-17 East 32 Street		RW		

Manhattan Community Board Five, 450 Seventh Avenue, Suite 2109

March 2008 Preliminary Committee Meeting Schedule

(Agenda is subject to change, please call (212) 465-0907

or visit www.cb5.org for the latest meeting information)

**MARCH 3
MONDAY
6:00 PM**

Joint Parks and Transportation/Environment

Joe Hagelmann and Kevin Finnegan co-chairing at Madison Club, 5 East 22nd Street and Broadway, 30th Floor

Agenda:

- ***Greenmarket and the Union Square Construction Project***

**MARCH 3
MONDAY
6:10 PM**

Parks

Maxine Teitler chairing at Madison Club, 5 East 22nd Street and Broadway, 30th Floor

Agenda:

- ***International Council of Celebration of Buddha Birthday***, application for a birthday event in Union Square Park on Sunday, May 4, 2008
- ***Hillel at Baruch College***, application for a community concert in Madison Square Park on Friday, May 9, 2008
- ***2008 Calendar of Madison Square Park Conservancy Arts***
- ***To Be Announced***

**MARCH 4
TUESDAY
6:00 PM**

Landmarks

Howard Mendes chairing at Parsons School of Design 560 Seventh Avenue and 40th Street, Basement Level

Agenda:

- ***1164 Broadway, Madison Square North Historic District***, application for Certificate of Appropriateness to demolish and to construct on its site a new 12 story building, with a penthouse, which will be connected internally to 1170 Broadway; and
- ***1170 Broadway***, application to construct a rooftop addition.
- ***To Be Announced***

**MARCH 4
TUESDAY
6:00 PM**

Human Services & Youth

Susan Baida chairing at the Board Office, 450 Seventh Avenue, Suite 2109, between 34th and 35th Streets

Agenda:

- ***To Be Announced***

**MARCH 4
TUESDAY
6:00 PM**

Transportation/Environment

Kevin Finnegan chairing at the Flatiron/23rd Street Partnership BID, 27 West 24th Street, Suite 800B

Agenda:

- ***To Be Announced***

**MARCH 5
WEDNESDAY
6:00 PM**

Land Use & Zoning

John Mills chairing at FIT, 227 West 27th Street, "A" Building, 8th Floor, Room A803

Agenda:

Pending Certification Application:

- ***N080177ZAM, 080178ZSM, 080179ZSM, 610 Lexington Avenue/375 Park Avenue*** - Application seeking (1) a zoning text change to New York City Zoning Resolution ("ZR") Section 81-212, (2) a special permit pursuant to Sections 74-79 and 81-212 to allow the transfer of 200,965 square feet of floor area from the zoning lot containing 375 Park Avenue (a designated landmark known as the Seagram Building) to the zoning lot containing 610 Lexington Avenue and to modify ZR Sections 23-861 (Minimum Distance Between Legally Required Windows and Walls or Lot Lines/General provisions), 36-62 (Required Accessory Off-Street Loading Berths), and 81-45 (Pedestrian Circulation Space) and 37-07 (Requirements for Pedestrian Circulation Space), and (3) a special permit pursuant to ZR Section 81-277 to modify ZR Section 81-27 (Alternative Height and Setback Regulations - Daylight Evaluation).
- ***Other items to be announced.***

**MARCH 10
MONDAY
12 NOON**

Executive

David Siesko chairing at the Board Office, 450 Seventh Avenue, Suite 2109 (between 34th and 35th Streets)

Ongoing discussions

**MARCH 10
MONDAY
6:00 PM**

Public Safety & Quality of Life

Vikki Barbero chairing at the Fashion Center BID, 209 West 38th Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room.

Agenda Item:

- ***To Be Announced***

**MARCH 12
WEDNESDAY
6:00 PM**

Consents & Variances

Layla Law-Gisiko, chairing, at the Board Office, 450 Seventh Avenue, Suite 2109, between 34th and 35th Streets

Agenda :

Sidewalk Café Application:

- ***Abbey Restaurant, Inc., d/b/a Resto, 111 East 29th Street***, application for an unenclosed sidewalk café with 3 tables and 6 seats.

2008 Street Activity Permit Applications:

- ***Epoch Times***, on 36th Street, between Seventh and Eighth Avenues, on Saturday, October 4th and Sunday, October 5, 2008

Full Board Meeting

Thursday, March 13, 2007, 6:00 p.m.
Fashion Institute of Technology
227 West 27th Street, "A" Building, 8th Floor

Public Session:

- **Members of the public are encouraged to speak at either the Committee meeting or the Public Hearing session of the monthly Board meeting**

Business Session:

Chair's Report (David Siesko)
District Manager's Report (Wally Rubin)
Adoption of February 2008 Minutes

Committee Reports:

Old Business/New Business: