

THE MANHATTAN MIDTOWN

The Official Newsletter of Community Board Five
January 2009

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www.cb5.org

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COMMUNITY BOARD FIVE

Dear Friends –

With the inauguration of a new President just weeks away, there is much for us to anticipate in the New Year.

Closer to home, we expect that the controversial Hines/MoMA project will be coming before Community Board Five sometime in the coming months. The proposed new 75-story tower, designed by the celebrated architect Jean Nouvel, is slated to be wedged beside the Museum of Modern Art midblock on 53rd Street.

It's even possible that City Planning will finally report out a rezoning plan for the historic Garment District, after years of consideration.

So, if you thought that 2008 was fun, just wait for 2009! Join us for the debate and the unique chance to make a difference in the life of our district and city in the year ahead.

Sincerely,
Wally Rubin
District Manager

Community News and Events

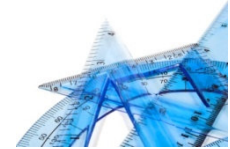
Seats Still Available - If you are the parent of a child who turned four years old during the 2008 calendar year, you can take advantage of free **Universal Pre-Kindergarten**. Seats are still available in public schools and community based organizations, and the enrollment deadline is **January 30, 2009**. Programs can be a half-day or a full-day and deliver vital early childhood education. If you are interested in taking advantage of this free program, you can get application and contact information by visiting www.schools.nyc.gov or e-mailing questions to ES_Enrollment@schools.nyc.gov



The Ax Falls Hard - Public hearings on proposed changes in fares and crossing charges for the **MTA** will be held during the month of January and into early February. A variety of increases in fares and charges are proposed, projected as high as 23%. Subway and local bus fares may go as high as \$3 for a single-ride and \$105 for a monthly Metrocard. Service changes are also being put forth, including decreases in subway and bus service, as well as elimination of certain lines altogether. These public hearings are designed to allow **MTA** riders to be an active part of this process and to voice their opinions, concerns and complaints regarding **MTA** services. The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 14 at the Hilton NY, 1335 Avenue of the Americas and beginning at 6p. To view the hearing notice [click here](#), or for more information visit www.mta.info



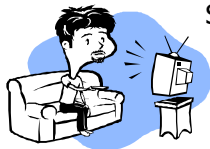
If You Build It . . . Even in tough times, NYC grows. There are all kinds of opportunities to have an impact on exactly how the city changes. High school students that have an interest in architecture or city planning can be part of the **Neighborhood Explorers** program at the *Museum of the City of New York*. This afterschool program (Wednesday's from 4:30p – 6:30p) allows students to learn skills in architecture, planning, and design aimed at devising a solution to a neighborhood issue, and culminates in the making of scale drawings and models. Students may even be able to receive community service credit for their participation. For more information [click here](#).



School's In Session – However you feel about development in NYC, one thing is certain, services have not kept up with building. Residential towers are springing up everywhere you turn, especially in midtown, putting a strain on sanitation, police and especially schools. There are currently no public elementary or middle schools in CB5. And surrounding neighborhood schools, both public and private, are at or above capacity. Community Boards need to advocate for increased school facilities to handle the increasing demand. In that effort, CB5 will be hosting **New Public Schools Now**, a forum to address concerns and strategize solutions. This forum will take place on **Monday, January 26th, from 6:30p – 8:30p** in Reeves Great Hall at F.I.T., 28th Street just off 7th Avenue. To RSVP for this event, e-mail newshoolsnow@cb5.org



It's Happening . . . – You've been hearing about it for the last year or so – your TV is going through an identity crisis. On **February 17th, 2009**, all broadcast television stations in the United States will stop broadcasting on analog airwaves and begin broadcasting only in digital. So, what does that mean to you? For most people, not much. But how can you be sure? To see how this transition affects you; to find out what you may need to do to prepare; or to see if you actually need to do anything, visit www.dtv.gov and be ready to go digital!



City Agency Announcements

Hope Springs Eternal - As if being at the crossroads of the world on New Year's Eve wasn't enough; this year marks the debut of the new *Times Square New Year's Eve Ball*. Covered with 2668 Waterford crystals and weighing in at 11, 875 lbs., the new ball can sparkle and twinkle in over 16 million color and design combinations. If you're planning on taking in the festivities in Times



Square for yourself this year, be smart and plan ahead. Millions of people descend on midtown every New Year's Eve, and if you're not ready for it, the melee can be overwhelming. So to get the information you need to have a fun and safe time, visit the **Times Square Alliance** website at



www.timesquarenyc.org and toast the New Year in style.

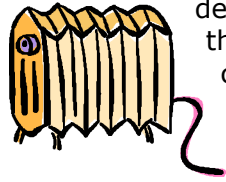
Walk the Walk - The **7th Annual Homeless Outreach Population Estimate** (*HOPE 2009*), a survey of individuals living on New York City streets, parks and subway systems, will be held on the night of Monday, January 26, 2009. The **Department of Homeless Services (DHS)** conducts the survey and it's a critical part of **DHS'** efforts to reduce chronic homelessness in the City. **DHS** is calling on New Yorkers to act as the more than 2,500 volunteers needed to canvass the city and count the number of individuals living unsheltered on the streets. Volunteers can sign up by visiting nyc.gov/dhs and clicking on the *HOPE* logo. Play an active part in this time of great change; volunteer your time and make an offering of hope.



A Place To Call Home - The **Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty** announces that applications are now being accepted for 18 affordable senior citizen rental apartments under construction at 228 East 46th Street in the Turtle Bay section of Manhattan. Prospective tenants must be 62 years of age or older at the time of application and meet specific income requirements. Applications can be requested by mail by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to **Met Council/228 East 46th Street Senior Residence, 80 Maiden Lane, 21st Floor, New York, NY 10038, no later than February 7, 2009**. Applications will be selected by lottery with eligible applicants residing in CB5 receiving priority. For more information you can contact the **Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty** directly at 212.453.9519 or e-mail them at housing@metcouncil.org



But Baby It's Cold Outside – The **Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)** is a federally funded program that assists eligible households with grants to pay regular and emergency energy heating costs. The benefit does not have to be paid back. **HEAP** eligibility is



determined by whether the household income is below the current New York State income guidelines that correspond to the household size and the household energy costs. **HEAP** may be able to offer a benefit even if heat and utilities are included in the rent or the applicant lives in subsidized housing and pays

directly for heating costs. For more information on HEAP and to see if you may be eligible, visit the Human Resources website at www.nyc.gov/hra

Parking Calendar

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

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 – Thursday, Jan. 1
Martin Luther King Day – Monday, Jan. 19
Asian Lunar New Year – Monday, Jan. 26

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.

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

[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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New York, NY 10123

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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.

