

THE MANHATTAN MIDTOWN

The Official Newsletter of Community Board Five
February 2005

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COMMUNITY BOARD FIVE

Dear Friends,

In New York City, housing issues are never as simple as just finding a place to live. It is increasingly hard for New Yorkers to find and keep housing that is both up to standard and affordable. With Community Board Five's residential base steadily expanding, we wanted to offer information on housing issues that impact the lives of New Yorkers. We will be hosting an Affordable Housing Clinic, bringing together experts in the housing field with residents who have questions. For more information, see the listing below.

Regards,
Gary Parker, District Manager

Community News and Events

Come Learn the Facts --

Manhattan Community Board Five is hosting an **Affordable Housing Clinic** on *Tuesday, February 28th, 2006 at 6p.m. at The Fashion Institute of Technology*. The event is designed to provide a direct service to constituents and residents who are experiencing problems with their housing. Experts in senior and supportive housing, rent stabilization and low-income housing, as well as condo/co-op conversions will be on hand to answer your specific questions. For more information, please contact Ammu Prashantini, at 212-465-0907, or email: ammu@cb5manhattan.org



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To Tax . . . – As tax season approaches **Community Tax Aid, Inc. (CTA)** launches its 37th year of free tax preparation for New York City's low-income families. Many people with low incomes face special tax situations and do not receive the refunds they are entitled to unless they file. From mid-February to April 15th, **CTA** invites single New Yorkers with incomes under \$25,000 and families with incomes under \$35,000 to receive free tax preparation by trained

volunteers. In addition to services during tax-time, **CTA** is available year round to help with tax-related inquiries. The ten sites are located throughout the city and are open in the evening and on Saturdays. For more detailed information on locations, hours, and public transit information, visit the **CTA** website at <http://www.communities.msn.com>

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Live in the Heart of Chelsea –

Chelsea Associates, LLC is pleased to announce that a waiting list is being opened for affordable studio, one and two bedroom rental apartments at the **Vanguard Chelsea**, located at 6th Avenue and 24th Street. This building operates under the Mixed Income Rental Program of the **NYS Housing Finance Agency**, and as such those applicants who meet the income and household size guidelines will be given a place on an occupancy waiting list. As vacancies arise, applicants on the list will be notified and required to send in supporting data regarding household income and composition. All applicants will be selected by lottery. To request an application, send an email or letter/postcard to Chelsea Associates, LLC, and P.O. Box 1876, New York, NY 10156 or send an e-mail to Chelseaassoc@hotmail.com **by January 31, 2006.**



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Apartments for All -- The City of New York has announced the creation of the online **Affordable Housing Resource Center**, which aims to dramatically increase New Yorkers' access to information from more than a dozen City agencies involved in housing matters. The Affordable Housing Resource Center can be found on the web at: www.nyc.gov/housing.

The site will provide information and advice on buying and renting

in the private market, legal rights and responsibilities, and health tips. In the same way that 311 brings together comprehensive information on City services through one telephone number, this Web site will provide New Yorkers with a single point of entry to affordable housing information. In addition to current lotteries of housing financed through City programs, this Affordable Housing Resource Center provides information on the following:

- * **Apartment and house hunting tips**
 - * **Down payment assistance**
 - * **Public housing**
- * **Emergency housing assistance**
 - * **Federal rental assistance**
 - * **Repairs and maintenance**
 - * **Tenants' rights**
 - * **Foreclosure prevention**
- * **Housing for people with special needs, and**

For more information on the Affordable Housing Resource Center Call 311 or visit their website.

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Committee Schedules and Agendas

Schedules and agendas are subject to change.

PARKS:

Monday, January 30th, 6:00 p.m.

Phil Beer chairing at F.I.T., 227 West 27th Street, 8th fl., Building "A", Rm. A802

Agenda:

- **Redesign of the northern end of Union Square Park**

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HUMAN SERVICES & YOUTH:

Tuesday, January 31st, 6:00 p.m.

Susan Baida chairing at the Donnell Library, 20 west 53rd Street between 5th and 6th Avenues, Conference Room (basement level).

Agenda:

- **To be announced**

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LANDMARKS:

Tuesday, January 31st, 6:15 p.m.

Joyce Matz and Layla Law-Gisiko co- chairing at Fashion Institute of Technology, 227 West 27th Street, Building "A", 8th fl., Rm. A802

Agenda:

- **130 West 42nd Street**, Certificate of Appropriateness application to install windows on the east side of the 10-story building
- **200 Fifth Avenue**, application to construct a rooftop addition and install mechanical equipment at the roof

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LAND USE & ZONING:

Wednesday, February 1st, 6:00 p.m.

Meile Rockefeller and Nancy Goshow co- chairing at Fashion Institute of Technology, 227 W. 27th St. Building "A", 8th fl., Rm. A803

Agenda:

- **Items to be announced**

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TRANSPORTATION/ENVIRONMENT:

Wednesday, February 1st, 6:00 p.m.

John Mills chairing at F.I.T., 227 West 27th Street, Building "A", 8th floor, Rm. A802

Agenda:

- **50th Street Ventilation Plant** for LIRR East Side Access Project
- **Additional items to be announced**

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EXECUTIVE:

Monday, February 6th, 12:00 p.m.

*David Diamond chairing at the Board Office, 450 Seventh Avenue, Suite 2109 (between 34th and 35th Streets) **Proper ID required to enter building***

Agenda:

- Ongoing discussions

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PUBLIC SAFETY & QUALITY OF LIFE:

Monday, February 6th, 6:00 p.m.

Vikki Barbero chairing at FIT, 227 West 27th Street, "A" Building, 8th fl., rm. A802

Agenda:

- **Manhattan Entertainment Enterprises LTD., 105 West 27th Street**, application for an On-Premises liquor license
- **Lonesome Dove Western Bistro of New York, LLC, 29 West 21st Street**, application for an On-Premises liquor license
- *Other items to be announced*

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CONSENTS & VARIANCES:

Thursday, February 9th, 4:00 p.m.

Mickey Schwartz and Lawrence Zucker co-chairing at F.I.T., 227 West 27th Street, Building "A", 8th floor, Rm. A802

Agenda :

Street Activity Permit Application :

- **Midtown North Explorers Club (NYPD)**, to hold street festival on 45th Street, between 6th and 7th Avenues, on Sunday, April 23rd, 2006
- **17th Precinct Community Council**, to hold a street festival on Lexington Avenue, between 42nd and 57th Streets, on Saturday, June 3, 2006
- **Pakistan Day Parade**, to hold a street festival on Madison Avenue, between 25th and 23rd Streets, on Sunday, September, 10, 2006
- **Muslim Foundation of America**, application for an event on Madison Avenue, between 25th and 23rd Streets, on Sunday, September 10, 2006

Distinctive Sidewalk:

- **47th Street BID** application to install two information kiosks at northeast corner of 47th Street and 6th Avenue and the southeast corner of 47th Street and 6th Avenue
- **American Folk Art Museum**, application to place an information kiosk on the sidewalk at 53rd Street in front of museum

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CONSENTS & VARIANCES and PARKS:

Thursday, February 9th, 4:00 p.m.

Mickey Schwartz, Lawrence Zucker, and Phil Beer co-chairing at F.I.T., 227 West 27th Street, Building "A", 8th floor, Rm. A802

Agenda :

Street Activity Permit Application:

- **Sikh Cultural Society**, application to hold an event in Madison Square Park combined with a street festival on Madison Avenue, between 23rd and 27th Street, April 24th, 2006
- **Big Apple Barbeque Block Party LLC**, application to hold a special event in Madison Square Park and on Madison Avenue, between 23rd and 27th Streets on Saturday, June 10th and Sunday, June 11th, 2006

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FULL BOARD MEETING:

Thursday, February 9th, 6:00p.m.

Fashion Institute of Technology, 227 West 27th Street, Building "A", 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 Diamond)
- District Manager's Report (Gary Parker)
- Adoption of December 2005 Minutes

Committee Reports:

Old Business/New Business:

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Community Spotlight



Autism is a developmental disability that is typically identified during the first three years of life. Over one million Americans have been diagnosed with this disorder, and many children in New York battle autism on a daily basis.

Quality Services for the Autism Community (QSAC) has been serving the community for over twenty-seven years by providing services to persons with autism and/or pervasive developmental disorders. **QSAC** was established in 1978 by a group of parents who were concerned about the lack of services available for their loved ones with autism. The founders of **QSAC** were determined to serve the needs of children by providing a cost-effective, community-based alternative to life long institutionalization. Through their commitment and energy, **QSAC** was born.

QSAC is a leader in the provision of services to persons with autism and their families. They provide direct services to more than 650 individuals with autism. All of the services provided by QSAC are geared towards providing consumers with a more independent, productive, and fulfilled life.

Today, in partnership with community-based organizations like the Autism Society of America, **QSAC** is a leader in providing services to persons with autism and their families. And what's more, their headquarters are located right in our Community Board!

For more information, to donate or volunteer, you can visit their website at www.qsac.com, or call (718) 7-AUTISM.

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On Board! - Meeting the Intern of CB5

Ammu Prashantini

"My commute is four hours a day." Talk about dedication! Ammu Prashantini is CB5's first-ever MSW Intern. A first-year graduate student in the Community Organizing & Planning Program at the Hunter College School of Social Work, Ammu, a resident of Staten Island, begins her trek at 7am, takes a bus, a boat, and a train before arriving bright and early at the Community Board Office. "It's difficult but I love working at CB5."

The program at Hunter is a wonderful mix of theory and practice, and "being at CB5 is valuable because of the hands-on experience of seeing the way communities operate. It is challenging to understand the whole process of government, and interesting to see how policy is always in balance with politics," Ammu says. Her first Board meeting was "very exciting, because it was my first time in attendance at a public function like that and it was interesting to see the members of the Board working together in that way."

Currently, Ammu is putting together a **Housing Preservation Clinic** (see above for details), which will bring together housing experts and tenants so that members of the community will have direct access to those who can answer their questions – a wonderful mix of theory and practice!

Ammu had always seen herself working in grass-roots advocacy, but it was a Policy class at Hunter that set her on a different path. And being assigned to CB5 has helped to illuminate a new focus in her work. "The brain is split between the Social Worker part and having to navigate the system. They need to work together." As for career goals, Ammu could see herself in the role of a Commissioner here in the City, but definitely with a Social Worker's perspective. "I want to infiltrate the system and help bridge that gap."

At the end of the school year, Ammu moves on to another internship and CB5 moves on to another intern. Having the distinction of being CB5's first intern means that all others will be measured by her standard. It's a high standard indeed.

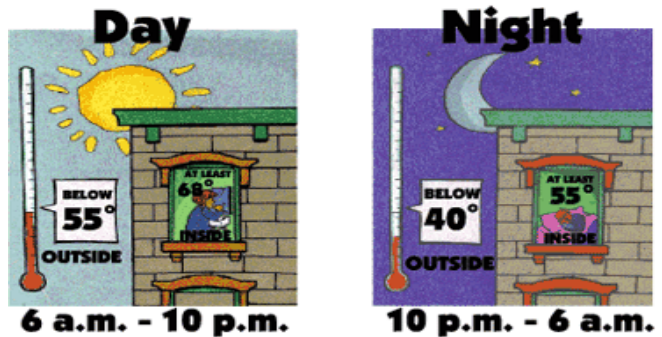
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City Agency Announcements

Tenants who are cold in their apartments should first attempt to notify the building owner, managing agent or superintendent. If heat is not restored, the tenant should call the City's **Citizen Service Center at 311** (311 can be accessed outside of New York City by dialing (212) NEW YORK).

For the hearing impaired, the **TTY number is (212) 504-4115**. The Center is open 24-hours a day, seven-days a week.

COLD WEATHER HEAT REQUIREMENTS **October 1st - May 31st**



Tenants Without Heat Should Call
(24 Hours a Day - 7 Days a Week)
3-1-1
Citizen Service Center

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... Or Not to Tax! -- From January 30th through February 5th, New York State is offering another week of tax-free shopping on clothing and footwear purchases of less than \$110. You may recall that New York City already permanently eliminated its portion of sales tax on these purchases in 2005. Examples of items that are sales-tax exempt are:

- ✓ **Clothing** – infant, child and adult, including sports uniforms
- ✓ **Footwear** – shoes, boots, slippers and athletic shoes
- ✓ **Clothing material** – fabric, thread, yarn, buttons, zippers, etc.
- ✓ **Hats and Neckwear** – ties and scarves
- ✓ **Diapers** – for children or adults, including disposables



Business owners in your community should not charge any NYS

sales tax on applicable purchases during that week, and shoppers are encouraged to take advantage of post-holiday sales and end-of-the-season winter clothing purchases. For more detailed information on sales tax and on the clothing exemption period, please contact the **State Department of Taxation and Finance** at 1-800-CALL-TAX or www.nystax.gov

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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. (April's meeting will be held at 343 W. 25th St.) Contact: Bob Cusick, 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 Abruzzi at 212-477-7427
- **Midtown North Precinct** - Every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm. Contact: Det. Stephen Giaco or P.O. Diane O'Connor 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. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to access this document. It is available free by clicking on the below icon.



If you have any questions regarding this list, please call the office or email cindy@cb5manhattan.org.

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Contact Community Board Five

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450 Seventh Avenue
Suite 2109

New York, NY 10123

Phone: 212-465-0907

Fax: 212-465-1628

E-mail: office@cb5manhattan.org

We're on the Web!

www.cb5manhattan.org

If your organization would like to publicize an event in **The Midtown Manhattan**, email your request to: office@cb5manhattan.org. To be considered for publication events must be free and open to the public.

To be removed from our mailing list, simply reply to this email with **"REMOVE"** in the subject line.