

# THE MANHATTAN MIDTOWN

The Official Newsletter of Community Board Five  
April 2006

## Quick Links:

[Welcome](#)

[www.cb5.org](http://www.cb5.org)

[Schedule and Agendas](#)

[Community News and  
Events](#)

[Community Spotlight](#)

[On Board!](#)

[City Agency  
Announcements](#)

[Precinct Community  
Councils](#)

[Liquor License  
Applicants](#)

[Contact Us](#)

## COMMUNITY BOARD FIVE

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank everyone who contacted the office with compliments about the [new website](#).

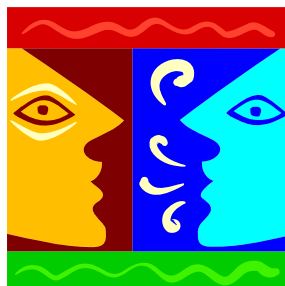
I am thrilled to report that in the one month since the launch of the new site, the number of daily visitors to the site has more than doubled. Additionally, requests to join the email list are coming in at over one a day. Over time the site will continue to evolve and prove a valuable resource to the community.

If your organization would like to publicize an event on the site, email your request to: [office@cb5.org](mailto:office@cb5.org). To be considered for posting events must be free and open to the public.

Regards,  
Gary Parker, District Manager

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## Community News and Events



**Talk Amongst Yourselves – The Milano School for Management and Urban Policy at The New School** will be hosting a forum entitled, *Urban Conversations: Cities at Risk*. As urban America increasingly focuses on threats of terror and natural disaster how are we addressing the challenges of readiness, recovery, and renewal? The forum will take place on Friday, April 7, 2006, from 8am until 1pm in the John L. Tishman Auditorium located at 66 West 12<sup>th</sup> Street (between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenues). Admission is free, but reservations are required. To reserve a place, please call 212.229.5400, ext. 1482 or send an e-mail to [urbanconversations@newschool.edu](mailto:urbanconversations@newschool.edu)

[Return to Quick Links](#)

**Let the Games Begin** - Each summer, New York City's **Community Assistance Unit** offers applications for *Playstreets*.

A summer playstreet is a city street reserved for recreation for school aged children and others during the weekday daylight hours of the summer. Playstreets operate, with adult supervision, Monday through Friday, between 8am and 5pm from July 3<sup>rd</sup> through September 1<sup>st</sup>. Once designated a playstreet, no parking and no through traffic is permitted on the block during playstreet hours. Before becoming a playstreet, these restrictions must be agreed upon by the residents of the block. A truly successful playstreet provides a continuous series of events and community activities such as sporting events, arts and crafts shows, and other recreational activities. Only authorized representatives of organized groups or block associations may apply. For further information, visit the CAU website at [www.nyc.gov/cau](http://www.nyc.gov/cau) **Community Board Five** has been given a limited number of applications. Contact the [Board Office](#) if you would like to receive one.



[Return to Quick Links](#)

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## Community Spotlight



Spring time is upon us, and what better way to celebrate the warmer weather than by celebrating Earth Day. Earth Day began officially on April 22nd, 1970,

when Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson proposed the first nationwide environmental protest. 20 million Americans gathered and organized from coast to coast, to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment.

Earth Day New York (EDNY) is an educational non-profit organization that promotes environmental awareness and solutions through a three-pronged program: 1) involving schools, teachers and students through the Earth Day Education Program; 2) educating public and private policymakers through conferences and publications; and, 3) involving the general public in annual Earth Day events.

EDNY was founded in late 1989 by a broad coalition of environmental groups to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Earth Day in New York City. Its initial geographic focus was city-wide. In 1991, it established the Earth Day Education Program to create an independent and effective mechanism for distributing environmental teaching materials directly into local public, private, and parochial schools. Its success literally demanded expansion nationwide.

EDNY focuses on the importance of preserving what we have. Rather than considering about environmental issues one day a year, EDNY's mission is to be more than a one-day event or annual environmental wake-up call. It is a catalyst for ongoing education, action and change. EDNY simultaneously broadens the base of support and rekindles old commitments through highly participatory strategies.

In celebration of Earth Day, EDNY is celebrating Earth Week at Grand Central Terminal from April 14<sup>th</sup> till April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Earth Week in Grand Central Terminal is the week-long celebration organized by Earth Day New York, consisting of [The Giant Earth Images](#), and the Earth Fair. Because there are many environmental organizations in and around New York City, there are always a wide range of Earth Day activities to attend.

For more information and a list of upcoming events, or to volunteer, visit their website at: [www.earthdayny.org](http://www.earthdayny.org).

[Return to Quick Links](#)

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## *On Board! - Meeting the Members of CB5*



**Howard Leib**

For four months, Howard Leib witnessed first-hand the role of Community Boards in day to day life in NYC. Howard, who lives in Chelsea, took a vested interest in the proposed idea of turning 27<sup>th</sup> street between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenues into a pedestrian mall. "I saw how involved the CB was in that debate and wanted to be a part of that involvement." So, in December of 2005, Howard was appointed to CB5 by then-councilmember Eva Moskowitz. Being the father of two, Howard chose to be on the Human Services & Youth and Parks committees "because they relate to kids in one form or another."

In private law practice since 1983 and a sole practitioner since 1993, Howard specializes in intellectual property and entertainment law. Having found that the kids' entertainment market was generally a nicer and friendlier area of the entertainment industry, he recognized that there was no sense of "industry" in the children's market. And so, in 1997 Howard created **BrainCamp** to provide a forum for executives in the children's entertainment field to meet, exchange ideas and socialize.

Howard feels one of the biggest challenges facing the Community Board is outreach, "getting the word out that we are here", and letting members of the community know "who we are and what we do." The recent Housing Clinic offered on February 28<sup>th</sup>, "was great! I would love to see [CB5] do more things like that." Of special concern this election year is voter registration and voter rights, an area Howard feels the Board can play a vital role in by disseminating important information.

Also, with the recent turn-over in Board membership as well as a new Manhattan Borough President, the opportunity arises to re-think some of the Board's practices and positions. "I'm not big on moratoriums – I understand why they're there – but I feel we need to re-think that. [The downside is that] new events may not be able to get started and old events will just keep going on."

Though Board membership can be difficult to juggle with other responsibilities, Howard made the concerted effort to pick committees that fit into his schedule. "Luckily, I'm organized. Though I'm still getting my feet wet, I'm thrilled [to be part of CB5] and looking forward to being active in the community."

[Return to Quick Links](#)

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## City Agency Announcements

### **Medicare Phone Scam –**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services warns seniors and people with disabilities to be aware of a scheme that asks Medicare beneficiaries for money and checking account information to help them enroll in a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan. This scheme is called the “\$299 Ring” for the typical amount of money beneficiaries are talked into withdrawing from their checking accounts to pay for a non-existent prescription drug plan. No Medicare drug plan can ask a person with Medicare for bank account, other personal information, or payment over the telephone. If you think you’ve been targeted, you can report such schemes to local law enforcement agencies or call 1.877.772.3379



[Return to Quick Links](#)

### **In Your Easter Bonnet**



- Easter Sunday has traditionally been the day to bring out your Spring finery. This tradition lives on in **New York’s Easter Parade**, an annual procession of folks decked out in their fanciest outfits, which dates back to the Civil War period. Especially fun to look at are the hats – there are usually some amazingly extravagant creations among the classic bowlers and berets. The parade takes place on Sunday, April 16, and begins at 49<sup>th</sup> Street, near Rockefeller Center and St. Patrick’s Cathedral (one of the main churches that the parade participants traditionally attend), continuing up Fifth Avenue to 57<sup>th</sup> Street. The festivities kick off at 10 AM and last until about 4 PM. **More Info: 212 397-8222**

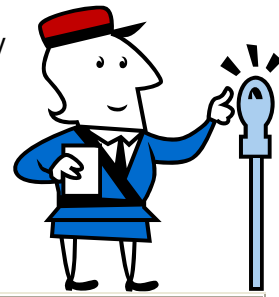
[Return to Quick Links](#)

### **It’s Your Money! - The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**

returns federal, state, and city tax dollars to qualifying families and individuals to help cover basic expenses. Working families earning less than \$35,000 a year could be eligible for as much as \$6,000. In order to claim the EITC, eligible taxpayers must have earned income and must file a tax return. New York City’s EITC Coalition is here to help qualifying New Yorkers file at free tax preparation sites citywide. For more information on the EITC, as well as tax preparation assistance, visit the Department of Consumer Affairs website at [www.nyc.gov/dca](http://www.nyc.gov/dca)

[Return to Quick Links](#)

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



<b>Passover: First/Second Days</b>	April 13-14, Thurs- Fri
<b>Holy Thursday</b>	April 13, Thurs
<b>Good Friday</b>	April 14, Fri
<b>Passover: Seventh/Eighth Days</b>	April 19-20, Weds-Thurs
<b>Holy Thursday (Orthodox)</b>	April 20, Thurs
<b>Good Friday (Orthodox)</b>	April 21, Fri

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

[Return to Quick Links](#)

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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 Abruzzese 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

[Return to Quick Links](#)

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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@cb5.org](mailto:cindy@cb5.org).

[Return to Quick Links](#)

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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 Midtown Manhattan**, 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.

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