

THE MANHATTAN MIDTOWN

The Official Newsletter of Community Board Five
July 2006

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COMMUNITY BOARD FIVE

Dear Friends,

On June 15th, **Community Board Five** held *The Fake Take: A Forum on the Economic Affect of Counterfeit Goods*. This forum, the second community forum CB5 has had in the last six months, featured experts from several fields discussing the effects of counterfeit merchandise on the community, including NYC Comptroller William C. Thompson, Jr..

CB5 is dedicated to offering practical and pertinent information on issues that affect the overall quality of life in the Midtown neighborhood.

Our thanks to our panel of experts for their time and for making *The Fake Take* such a success.

Regards,
Gary Parker, District Manager

Community News and Events

The Kids are Alright – Each summer Madison Square Park Conservancy is host to a concert series in Madison Square Park designed just for the little ones.

Madison Square Kids, a series of free concerts, runs throughout the summer on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Performances are held on the oval lawn of the Park starting at 10:30 a.m., and each show runs for approximately 45 minutes with arts and crafts programs following each performance. Such kid-friendly performers as **Astrograss**, **John Carlin and Friends**, and **Jazz-A-Ma-Tazz** are schedule to perform. For more information and a full list of performers, visit www.madisonsquarepark.org



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Keep the Peace – The City University of New York is looking for a few good individuals to become *Campus Peace Officers*. Benefits include free college classes, health care, and a retirement plan. The application deadline is August 31, 2006, with a Civil Service exam scheduled for September. For more information on the job and application process visit www.cuny.edu and click on Jobs at CUNY, or call 212.794.5424.

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On Board! - Meeting the Staff of CB5

Cindy Perez



Always polite and quick to laugh, you would be hard-pressed to see Cindy Perez as a tough-as-nails advocate for the Midtown community. But for nearly six years, her charming style has softened the hardest of bureaucratic hearts. Her previous experience as office manager at a Wall Street brokerage firm taught her well the need to speak softly and carry a big stick, and it is that mix of patience and passion that Cindy brings to her role as CB5's Community Associate.

By far, one of the more challenging aspects of Cindy's job is dealing with the bureaucracy that is NYC. "It's frustrating to not be able to help constituents the way they want me to help them. The Community Board is an advisory board; I can make calls and deal with the City, but there are certain limits I have."

In her time with CB5, Cindy has seen this community undergo a sea-change from one that was predominately commercial to one where commercial enterprise and residential concerns are now locked in a struggle to exist side by side. "Commercially zoned areas are being consumed by residential buildings" and that brings a slew of issues to the forefront. "Noise complaints! So many noise complaints, with the increase of large clubs moving into what were once industrial spaces." Another result is the increase in congestion. Hard to believe there is even room for more congestion in Midtown, but sidewalks are becoming increasingly crowded with club goers, smokers, and people coming for the many attractions that are located in the area. "Midtown was always the area people passed through to go somewhere else, or came to for a while and then went home. Now, this is home."

A longstanding concern, and one that is once again in the spotlight, is affordable housing, especially for seniors. "With all the demolitions and renovations in various kinds of spaces, a lot of long-time residents, mostly low-income, are being pushed out, and sometimes in less than ethical ways."

In all this, Cindy believes it is more important than ever for people in the community to be aware of the Community Board and

what it does. "Residents and businesses need to communicate with the Community Board about issues affecting the community so that the Board can advocate to the city agencies and elected officials. The Board can advise on the budget, but if we don't know that there is an ongoing issue in the neighborhood, we can't advocate for increased services so that the issue can be taken care of before it becomes a problem."

A place for those in the neighborhood to start would be to come to a Community Board meeting and see how it all works. "I can advocate for people who need help, but they need to know how to advocate for themselves, too."

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City Agency Announcements



Help is Just a Click Away - The NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) has a new website feature that simplifies the process for property registration. At www.nyc.gov/hpd, owners of residential buildings can now fill out their annual property registration form on line. HPD sees this as an important step towards a fully electronic registration process. Registration

forms can be filled out, printed, and returned with payment to HPD. For more information, visit the HPD website at www.nyc.gov/hpd

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Fun in the Park! – City Parks Foundation is proud to present the **SummerStage Concert Series**. Each year,

SummerStage presents performances of outstanding artistic quality, free of charge to the people of NYC. Of special note this year is the abundance of renowned female

artists from around the world. Among the many women to grace the stage this season are fierce Canadian songstress **Feist** on June 25th and Tony Award winner **Audra McDonald** on June 29th.

SummerStage is located at Rumsey Playfield in Central Park. Enter the park at 69th Street and 5th Avenue on the east side or at 72nd Street and Central Park West on the west side. For a complete listing of artists and performances, visit www.summerstage.org or call 212-360-2777.



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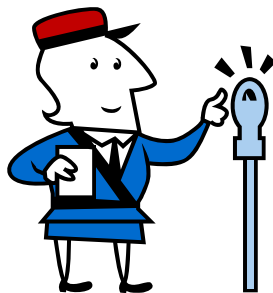
Yet More Fun in the Park!! -- In early May Mayor Bloomberg announced the launch of a six-month pilot traffic plan that would expand the number of hours that New Yorkers could enjoy both **Prospect Park** and **Central Park** *free of vehicular traffic*. As of Monday, June 5, 2006, vehicles will no

longer be allowed to use Central Park's East Drive north of 72nd Street in the morning or the West Drive in the afternoon, or Prospect Park's West Drive in the morning. These reductions will minimize potential conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles in the park, and make available additional space for non-vehicular uses. The new closures will remain in effect through mid-November 2006 when the **Department of Transportation (DOT)** will conduct an analysis of the closure impacts to determine whether they should be made permanent.

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Next Stop, Comfort! -- On May 15th the **Franchise and Concession Review Committee** unanimously approved the City's Coordinated Street Furniture Franchise Agreement. This was one of the final hurdles to be cleared before 3,300 bus shelters and 330 newsstands currently on the streets can be replaced. 20 public toilets will also be springing up around the city. This historic agreement will bring over \$100 million in private capital investment in needed public amenities and will generate roughly \$1 billion in new revenue for the City over the 20-year life of the contract. Aaaahhhh.

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

Independence Day – Tuesday, July 4

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

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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 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@cb5.org.

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We're on the Web!
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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.

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