

THE MANHATTAN MIDTOWN

The Official Newsletter of Community Board Five
May 2009

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COMMUNITY BOARD FIVE

Dear Friends –

As many of you know, the New York Public Library sold the beloved Donnell Library on 53rd Street to a company planning to build a hotel on the site. The deal was that a reduced, but brand new, Donnell would be created for the NYPL on the ground and basement floors of the new building. Unfortunately, Donnell packed up and left but the hotel is now in limbo, its future – and therefore Donnell's future – unknown.

Trying to find answers, Community Board Five has written to Dr. Paul LeClerc, the President and CEO of the NYPL. A joint meeting of the Housing/Human Services/Youth and External Relations Committees of the Board is meeting this week to discuss this complicated issue further. As a boy, I used Donnell often, as a far less intimidating alternative to the Main Library on 42nd Street. Lately, I have discovered many native New Yorkers who have similar stories. If you are one of these folks, let your voice be heard now by the Mayor and the City Council and the NYPL itself. A place of learning and enrichment sits empty in the center of midtown, its fate hanging in the balance.

Sincerely,
Wally Rubin
District Manager

Community News and Events

A Real Second Chance – Many people who commit non-violent crimes learn from their mistakes and work to put their past behind them and move on. Though even with the best of intentions, sometimes things completely beyond their control can stand in the way. Rap Sheets should have information that is current and correct, but nearly 58% of criminal records contain at least one clerical error, such as information that is out of date, or that should have been removed. For example, a misdemeanor conviction that is erroneously listed as a felony can create barriers to employment, housing, and educational opportunities. The **Community Service Society** believes in second chances. Through their *Retired and Senior*



Volunteer Program, adults 55 and older can become *Record Repair Counselors*, able to spot and fix mistakes on rap sheets. Once trained, counselors will then provide assistance to individuals as they attempt to correct error, allowing those wishing to become productive members of society to take control of their histories and move toward positive goals. For information on becoming a Record Repair Counselor, call 212.614.5556 or e-mail hbeckles@cssny.org You can also visit their website at www.cssny.org

Throw The Doors Open! - The **Fund for Public**

Schools would like to invite all New Yorkers to participate in the *2nd Annual Madison Avenue Gallery Walk!* Hosted by the **Madison Avenue BID**, this event will highlight the world class art galleries located on Madison Avenue between East 57 and East 86 Streets and will raise critical funding for art education through The Fund for Public Schools. A series of **guided tours** of participating art galleries in Midtown are free and open to the public, conducted by highly experienced art teachers from the New York City public schools. In addition, to showcase the creative spirit of NYC school kids, some student creations will be on view at participating galleries. While you take in the art, each participating gallery makes a contribution to **The Fund for Public Schools**, which supports the NYC Department of Education's **Summer Arts Institute**, a free, four-week arts program for New York City public school students. The event takes place on Saturday May 16, between 11a and 6p, with tours departing from two Information Center locations: East 57 Street & Madison Avenue, and East 78 Street & Madison Avenue. For more information contact the Madison Avenue BID at 212-861-2055 or via e-mail at mbauer@madisonavenuebid.org.



How Green Is My City - NYC is often called The Concrete Jungle –



glass and steel everywhere you turn. But just around the corner, popping up where you least expect them – parks! Big parks, little parks, parks for playing, parks for sitting, and parks for just walking through. Even dogs have parks! If you love your parks (and who in NYC doesn't love their parks?!) attend the **Seventh Annual Parks Advocacy Day** on **Tuesday, May 19th**. In

attendance will be various candidates for numerous City Council seats and citywide positions. Midtown's green spaces are vital to the livability of this neighborhood; this is an opportunity to see where the candidates stand on New York City's green future. The event takes place at NYU Law School's Greenberg Lounge in Vanderbilt Hall, 40 Washington Square South, from 10a until 12p. Online registration at www.ny4p.org makes it easy and accessible for people to sign up and learn more.

Bang The Drum - **Make Music New York** (MMNY) returns for a third year of free concerts in public spaces throughout the five boroughs of New York City, all on **Sunday, June 21st**, the first day of summer. **MMNY** takes place simultaneously with similar festivities in more than

327 cities around the world — a global celebration of music making! From 11 in the morning to 10 at night, musicians of all ages, creeds, and musical persuasions — from hip hop to opera, Latin jazz to punk rock — perform on streets, sidewalks, stoops, plazas, cemeteries, parks and gardens. Midtown comes alive with the sounds of the city and you can take part. You can be a professional, amateur or simply a lover of music— anyone can participate and make Midtown musical! For information on how to participate and turn Midtown into a musical Mecca, visit the [MMNY website](#).



Why Let Wine Have All The Fun?! - Ok, it's not free and it's just barely in of our district, but it sounds like so much fun, we thought we'd include it! The **McBurney YMCA** will be presenting a beer tasting at the **Heartland Brewery** on Union Square West.

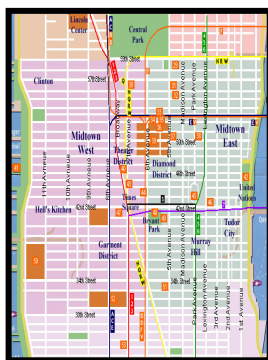


Designed as a fundraiser for the **Y**, you'll get to pair a series of delectable beers with tasty hors d'oeuvres and discover all the complexities that create a really good brew – and help a good cause while you're at it! The festivities take place on May 13, beginning at 6:30p at the Heartland Brewery. Space is limited so you might want to get your tickets in advance at the McBurney YMCA by May 8. For more information you can contact the Y at

212.912.2300 or jiteran@ymcanyc.org

City Agency Announcements

Map It Out - Department of Information Technology and



Telecommunications announced the launch of the newest version of *NYCityMap*, the City's web-based interactive mapping application, available at www.nyc.gov/citymap. The *NYCityMap2.0* provides information about your neighborhood's features and services. Enter what you're looking for and the map will show the locations that fit that criteria. For example, you can find the locations of all fire houses in your area, day care centers, and much more. You can even find all the wi-fi hot spots in Midtown – amazing how many of them are in a Starbucks! Access

restaurant inspection information and sanitation collection schedules, too. So take a peek at the map and find out about your 'hood!

A Time For Every Purpose – In difficult times, it may be easy to hunker down and focus only on personal concerns (understandably). But lending a hand to someone in need may just make things a little easier and make you feel a little better. In the spirit of community, NYC has recently launched **NYC Service**, an interactive website where concerned citizens can find volunteer opportunities around the city or right here in Midtown. The site is searchable by category, everything from education to health and the environment, with the chance to refine the search based on zip code and distance. Want to help at a senior center, type 'seniors' into the search box and up comes a list of organizations looking for assistance. You can even create your own volunteer opportunity. Sometimes it's good to remember that even in hard times, helping someone else helps us all. Visit the **NYC Service** website at www.nycservice.org



Parking Calendar

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



Thursday, May 21 – Solemnity of Ascension
Friday & Saturday, May 29 & 30 – Shavuot

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, 119 9th Avenue, Hudson Guild Senior Center.
Contact: Det. Mike Petrillo at 212-741-8226
- **13th Precinct** - Every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm, 230 East 21st St.
Contact: P.O. Mike Hnatko at 212-477-7427
- **Midtown North Precinct** - Every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm, 427 West 47th St.
Contact: Det. Stephen Giaco or Det. Diane Menig at 212-767-8447

- **Midtown South Precinct** - Every 3rd Thursday at 7pm at the Hotel New Yorker, 8th Avenue and 34th St.
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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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.