

THE MANHATTAN MIDTOWN

The Official Newsletter of Community Board Five
September 2005

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COMMUNITY BOARD FIVE IS HERE TO HELP

Dear Friends,

This is your Community Board office, and the Board, the office staff and I stand ready to assist you with any community concern you might have.

It can be challenging to navigate through the City's bureaucracy on your own. Community Board Five works closely with City agencies to find solutions to local community problems. Furthermore, we can provide information and referrals to resources that are available to you.

Feel free to [contact us](#) about your concerns, and we'll do our best to help you.

Regards,
Gary Parker, District Manager

Community News and Events



Read All About It! – *The Literacy Assistance Center (LAC)* announces the LAC *Hotline*, a service specializing in referrals for literacy programs. *The Hotline* database includes classes in adult basic education, pre-GED, GED, English for speakers of other languages, family literacy, and health literacy throughout the five

boroughs. The literacy referral specialists help callers determine what kind of program they would find most helpful, and advise them on where to go for information on other services, such as health insurance and job training.

The Hotline is one of the many free services the LAC provides for the community. Others include free professional development, technical assistance, record keeping and resource materials. The LAC Clearinghouse, open to the literacy community, contains the largest collection of literacy-related books, videos and other materials in New York City. The Computer Learning Center at LAC is a state-of-the-art laboratory for instruction in computer and internet skills. *The Hotline* number is 212.803.3333 or you can visit their website for further information, just click on www.lacnyc.org.

Safety in Numbers – The Joint Public Affairs Committee for Older Adults (JPAC) is a senior advocacy coalition of older adult representatives from over 700 community groups and senior centers throughout metropolitan New York. Eleven years ago, JPAC established the *Institute for Senior Action* based on the desire of JPAC members to become even more effective advocates. The Institute offers classes which focus on a wide variety of subjects including navigating the legislative process, public speaking, and learning about senior entitlements. In addition to honing the skills of longtime community activists, the course also serves as a vehicle for recent retirees and others to become more involved in social action. The Fall session begins Thursday, September 8th and is held on Thursdays from 10am until 2:30pm through December 1st, with the first class being held at the NYC Dept. for the Aging, located at 220 Church. Subsequent class will be held at the Hudson Guild, 441 West 26th St., between 9th and 10th avenues. For an application, contact Steve Swidler at 212.273.5261. More information can be found at www.jpac.org.

Help When it's Needed – *LawHelp* aims to provide legal and lawyer referral information, legal education and self-help information to people with low-incomes, as well as to provide support and information to attorneys and advocates serving them. Among the topics *LawHelp* provides information for are Consumer Affairs, Disability, Health, Housing, Immigration and Individual Rights law. For more information on the services provided and training about *LawHelp* visit their website at www.LawHelp.org/NY.



Committee Schedules and Agendas

Schedules and agendas are subject to change.

PARKS:

Monday, August 29 at 6:00 p.m.

Phil Beer chairing at Fashion Institute of Technology, 227 West 27th Street, "A" Building, 8th fl., Rm. A802

Agenda:

- Bryant Park's proposal for an Ice Skating Rink
- Discussion of the Madison Square Shake Shack
- Action Against Hunger, application to celebrate World Food Day in Union Square Park on Friday, October 14, 2005
- NYC Parks & Recreation, "Solidarity 25" exhibition and event at Union Square
- Union Square Partnership, application to hold Film Festival in Unions Square Park on Sunday, September 25, 2005

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TIMES SQUARE:

Tuesday, August 30th, 6:00 p.m.

Phil Beer chairing at FIT, 227 West 27th ST., "A" Building, 8th Floor, Rm. A802.

Agenda:

- Proposal for the removal of the Times Square BID floodlights
- Request to move the M6/M7 bus stop at Father Duffy Square one block north

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HUMAN SERVICES & YOUTH:

Tuesday, August 30th, 6:00 p.m.

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

Agenda:

- *To be Announced*

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LANDMARKS:

Tuesday, August 30th, 6:00 p.m.

Joyce Matz and Bonnie Williams co-chairing at Fashion Institute of Technology., 227 West 27th Street, Building "A", 8th fl., rm. A803

Agenda:

- **Central Park Precinct**, renovation and restoration presentation
- **7 West 54th Street** (The Lehman Mansion), application to construct penthouse addition, replace windows, construct six-story rear extension, install rooftop mechanical equipment and interior renovations
- **375 Park Avenue (The Seagram Building)**, application to install two security concierge desks in the lobby
- **Other items to be announced**

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LAND USE & ZONING:

Wednesday, August 31st, 6:00 p.m.

Meile Rockefeller and Nancy Aber 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, August 31st, 6:00 p.m.

John Mills chairing at Fashion Institute of Technology, 227 West 27th St., "A" Building, 8th fl., rm. A802

Agenda:

- Department of Transportation Traffic Study for Union Square Park
- Proposed Noise Code review

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EXECUTIVE:

Monday, September 5th, 12:00 p.m.

David Diamond chairing at the Board Office, 450 Seventh Avenue, Suite 2109 (between 34th and 35th Streets)

- *Ongoing discussions*

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PUBLIC SAFETY & QUALITY OF LIFE:

Monday, September 5th, 6:00 p.m.

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

Agenda: *To Be Announced*

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BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT:

Tuesday, September 6th, 6:00pm

Kyle Merker chairing at FIT, 227 West 27th Street, "A" Building, 8th Floor, Rm. A802

Agenda: *To Be Announced*

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CONSENTS & VARIANCES:

Thursday, September 8th, 5:00 p.m.

Mickey Schwartz and Lawrence Zucker co- chairing Fashion Institute of Technology, 227 West 27th Street, "A" Building, 8th fl., rm. A802

Agenda:

Street Activity Permit Application:

- ***Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center***, application to hold an event on Sunday, October 9, 2005, on 17th Street, between 5th and 6th Avenues

Unenclosed Sidewalk Application:

- ***Molo Lounge Inc.***, 676 6th Avenue, application for an unenclosed sidewalk café with 10 tables and 20 seats

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FULL BOARD MEETING:

Thursday, September 8th, 6:00 p.m.

Fashion Institute of Technology, 227 West 27th Street, "A" Building, 8th fl.

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)
- Special Presentation by Landmarks Preservation Commission
- Adoption of June 2005 Minutes

Committee Reports:

Old Business/New Business:

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On Board! - Meeting the Members of CB5

Bonnie Williams

Bonnie Williams sings the praises of Community Boards, which is easy for this one time opera singer. Originally from Chicago, Ms. Williams studied opera with the intention of becoming a professional singer. Having realized that a life on the stage was not for her, she pursued a Master's Degree in Library

Science from the University of Pittsburgh and was eventually recruited by The New York Public Library. That was 40 years ago.

It was her work at the library that started Ms. Williams on the road to community involvement. Due to the fiscal crisis facing NYC during the 1970's, The New York Public Library suffered severe cuts to services and funding. Determined to not go gently into that good night, she started attending Community Board meetings to advocate for the libraries. It was her constant presence at meetings during her eight year tenure at the Muhlenberg Branch Library in Chelsea that resulted in Ms. Williams being asked to become a Public Member of neighboring Community Board Four. After she transferred to the Donnell Library on West 53rd Street she was again asked to serve as a Public Member, this time on Community Board Five. Once retired from the library, she continued her work with the Community Board, eventually being appointed Full Board Member by Councilmember Christine Quinn. Since that time, Ms. Williams has served on several committees and is currently a member of the Land Use and Zoning Committee, as well as Co-Chair of the Landmarks Committee.

She acknowledges the time demands on members of the Board. "Many people work" and membership on the Board is "a lot of work!" She wishes that the existence of Community Boards was better known and that there was some mechanism in place for better publicizing the work of the Boards as well as the issues that come before them.

Ms. Williams sees Community Boards as the first step in city government, the closest things big cities have to a town meeting. She finds being a voting member intellectually stimulating and rigorous, requiring members to understand the myriad regulations that come to bear on any project being undertaken in the city. It has been her experiences on CB5 that have caused Ms. Williams to see the City differently. "I have grown personally" she says, and in her understanding of the way the city functions.

"When you sit and listen, you hear a lot and you see a lot." And what she has seen leads her to be proud of the work CB5 has done over the years, and equally proud of how professional and business-like committee and full board meetings are. "Community Board Five works very hard to remain fair and balanced, and is not so overwhelmed by politics."

Even though she is retired, she keeps herself very busy. In addition to being a CB5 Board member, she volunteers for the New York City Audubon doing bookkeeping. It is her love of New York City that gives her reason to continue her volunteer work for the Audubon and the Board.

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Community Spotlight



For the last twenty-five years the **Union Square Community Coalition** (USCC) has worked to reverse the deterioration of Union Square Park and revive its historically significant role as one of the great open spaces in New York City.

The USCC works to preserve the light, air, and green space that characterize this gracious locale. Preservation of the architecturally and historically significant buildings on and in the vicinity of the Square, which give the area its character and identity, is also a top priority. In 1998 they were instrumental in the designation of the park as a National Historic Landmark.

The Coalition contributes financially to the maintenance and beautification of the park, having just ordered bistro chairs and tables for much needed public seating. USCC was an active and visible presence during the many hearings regarding the redesign of the northern end of the park. They continue to advocate for improvements to the dog run, larger playgrounds, additional quiet seating areas, and vehicular and pedestrian traffic relief measures.

But it's not only advocacy that drives the USCC. Each year they host their free **Annual Children's Carnival**. This year the carnival will take place on *Sunday, September 18th from 11am until 3pm*, with a rain date of the following Sunday, September 25. Volunteers are needed, so please come help set up, tear down, run games or make cotton candy. You'll be a hero to the children of New York – and you might just have a good time!

For more information on the Union Square Community Coalition, including how to support their efforts to maintain the beauty of the Park or to become a member, you can visit their website at www.preserve.org/uscc

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City Agency Announcements

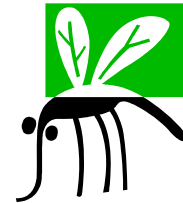
Calling All Cars! – *The New York City Police Department* continues its recruitment of the most qualified men and women to join the ranks of New York's Finest. **The next department exam will be held on October 28, 29, and 30, 2005.** Once again, the NYPD Recruitment will provide free tutorial sessions to all candidates throughout the five boroughs. These tutorial sessions are designed to enhance the candidate's test taking skills. For further information regarding the exam and tutorials, call 212-RECRUIT, or visit www.nyc.gov/nypd



Poison Control– Home health hazards can lead to serious illness, such as lead poisoning, asthma, allergies and chemical poisonings. **The Department of Housing, Preservation and Development (HPD)** has an interactive exhibit

that offers a combination of visual and audio elements to instruct both children and adults on the importance of lead prevention. HPD's *Storyboard* exhibit focuses on the hazards as well as the prevention of lead poisoning along with other environmental health related problems. This exhibit and presentation can be brought to group and community events by contacting HPD at 212.863.8029. Further information regarding HPD's Housing Education Program can be found on their website at www.nyc.gov/hpd

Protect Against West Nile Virus! – Anyone can be infected with **West Nile Virus (WNV)**, though most people will have no symptoms or only a mild illness. People infected with WNV who are over 50 (especially those 65 and older) and people who are immuno-compromised have the highest risk of severe disease. West Nile Virus is mostly spread to people by the bite of an infected mosquito and cannot be contracted directly from another



person. Though mosquitoes are everywhere in summertime, there are simple steps you can take to reduce the risk of contracting this illness. If you are outside at dusk or dawn when mosquitoes are most active, wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and try to use an insect repellent with DEET for best protection. Around the home, get rid of standing water where mosquitoes can breed, and put screens on windows and doors to keep mosquitoes outside. If you see dead birds or standing water in your neighborhood, report both by calling 311. For more information regarding West Nile Virus and ways to prevent it, visit the Department of Health's website at www.nyc.gov/health.

Time to Pay the Taxman – Most property owners who collect income from rent or the operation of a business at their property are required to file an annual Real Property Income and Expense form (RPIE) with the **NYC Department of Finance**. Owners with income-generating properties in New York City that have an actual assessed value of greater than \$40,000 are generally required to file the annual RPIE, unless they are specifically exempt from the filing based on the size and/or use of the property. The deadline for filing the RPIE-2004 is September 1, 2005. More detailed information on who is required to file and who is exempt from filing, as well as additional guidance, is available on the Finance website at www.nyc.gov/finance. Those with questions may also call Finance Customer Assistance at 212.504.4080.

Here to Help – New York City Comptroller William C. Thompson reminds New Yorkers that **The Community Action Center** (CAC) is open and available to assist anyone who needs help with problems related to the City government. **The Community Action Center** is an important and vital unit that helps thousands of New Yorkers annually to resolve their problems. The Center works with New Yorkers and former residents, contractors, elected officials, City employees and retirees to get information about the public pension system, city contracts, procurement policies, and information about filing claims. CAC works closely with the City's 311 unit and frequently serves as a back-up resource for information. The Center can be reached by phone at 212.669.3916 (TTY 212.669.3450), and by mail or in person at 1 Centre St., Room 835, NYC, NY 10007. Further information can be attained by e-mail at action@comptroller.nyc.gov.



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 7:30pm. 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.

Contact Community Board Five

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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.
