

# THE MANHATTAN MIDTOWN

The Official Newsletter of Community Board Five  
July 2005

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## COMMUNITY BOARD FIVE WANTS YOU!

Dear Friends,

Community Board Five is looking for new members. If you reside, work or have a significant interest within the district, you can apply to join us. As a member of Community Board Five you will have an important advisory role in dealing with land use and zoning issues, the City budget, municipal service delivery and many other matters relating to your neighborhoods' quality of life.

Each Board consists of up to 50 unsalaried members appointed by the Borough President, with half nominated by the City Council Members who represent the community district. Board members are selected by the Borough President from among active, involved people of each community, with an effort made to assure that every neighborhood is represented.

For an application or additional information on how to apply contact the Board office. We are happy to answer your questions and assist you with the application process.

Join CB5 and give back to your community!

Regards,

Gary Parker, District Manager

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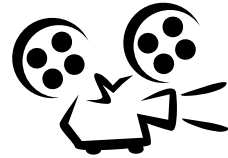
## Community News and Events



**The Plays the Thing** – The Madison Square Park Conservancy announces its Sixth Annual Summer **Madison Sq. Kids Performance Series**. Throughout the summer, performances ranging from music to puppet theatre will be presented, including such performers as Hayes Greenfield's Jazz-A-Ma-Tazz, Liz Joyce & A Couple of Puppets, and Audra Tsanos with Music for Aardvarks. After each performance, arts and

crafts activities will be offered at the park playground. The season opens on June 7 and runs through August 25 with performances beginning at 10:30am on the Oval Lawn. In case of rain, performances are held in the lobby of 11 Madison Avenue, at the corner of 24<sup>th</sup> St.) For more information visit the Conservancy's website at [www.madisonsquarepark.org](http://www.madisonsquarepark.org)

**Gentlemen Prefer Blondes** – The Donnell Media Center's July "Featuring" series is ***The Blonde in the Show***, an examination of three blonde actresses whose film work is as different from one another as night is to day – Alice Faye, Marilyn Monroe, and Margaret Sullivan.



Films to be screened include:

- **The Gang's All Here** (Directed by Busby Berkeley, 1943) – Thursday, July 14 at 2:30pm
- **Some Like It Hot** (Directed by Billy Wilder, 1959) – Thursday, July 21 at 2:30pm
- **The Shop Around the Corner** (Directed by Ernst Lubitsch, 1940) – Thursday, July 28 at 2:30pm

All programs are held in the Donnell Library Center Auditorium located at 20 West 53<sup>rd</sup> Street (between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenues). For more information call 212.621.0609 or visit the New York Public Library website at [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org) Admission is free.

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## Committee Schedules and Agendas

*Schedules and agendas are subject to change.*

### **PARKS:**

**Tuesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.**

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

#### **Agenda:**

- **Portraits of Mexico City**, proposed public art project in Union Square from September 30<sup>th</sup> until October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- **Union Square Partnership**, application to hold:
  - "Summer in the Square" in Union Square Park every Wednesday from June 29<sup>th</sup> until August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005
  - Fundraiser on September 22, 2005
- **Artrution**, application to hold performance in Union Square Park on July 26, 2005
- **TPN**, application to hold a Chihuahua race in Union Square Park on August 27, 2005
- **Request for Proposals** (RFP) for the operation and management of an outdoor holiday gift market at Columbus Circle
- **Central Park Conservancy**, reconstruction of the West 110<sup>th</sup> Street playground in Central Park

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## **HUMAN SERVICES & YOUTH:**

**Tuesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.**

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

### **Agenda:**

- Voting Rights Resolutions
- Forum on Safe Sex/AIDS Education
- Women in Need's Outpatient Day treatment Substance Abuse Program

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## **TRANSPORTATION/ENVIRONMENT:**

**Wednesday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.**

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

### **Agenda:**

- Intro. 511, coordinating a traffic safety and calming plan to identify intersections and adjacent blocks near senior citizen centers

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## **LAND USE & ZONING:**

**Wednesday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 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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**LANDMARKS: *This month the meeting will be held on: Thursday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 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. A802*

**Agenda:**

- **240 Central Park South**, application to install glazing and architectural lighting.
- **7 East 17<sup>th</sup> Street/10 East 18<sup>th</sup> Street**, application for the rehabilitation of the façade and masonry repairs.
- **32 West 22<sup>nd</sup> Street**, application for renovation
- **Other items to be announced**

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**EXECUTIVE:**

**Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 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, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.**

*Vikki Barbero chairing Fashion Institute of Technology, 227 West 27th Street, "A" Building, 8th fl., rm. A802*

**Agenda:**

- **Molo Lounge, Inc., 676 Sixth Avenue**, application for an on-premises liquor license.
- **J & S Restaurant Corp - 13 East 31 Street**, application for an on-premise liquor license.

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**CITY SERVICES & BUDGET:**

**Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.**

*David Siesko chairing at the Board Office, 450 Seventh Avenue, Suite 2109 (between 34<sup>th</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup> Streets)*

**Agenda:**

- FY 07 Statements of Community District Needs
- FY 07 Budget Consultation agendas

## **CONSENTS & VARIANCES:**

**Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 Applications:**

- ***NY Persian Parade***, application for a street festival on 21<sup>st</sup> Street, between Madison and Fifth Avenues on Sunday, March 19, 2006
- ***Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church***, application to hold coffee hour after morning worship in front of 7 West 55<sup>th</sup> Street and in front of 708 Fifth Avenue
- ***The Korea Times and Korean American Association of NY***, application to hold a street festival on Saturday, October 1, 2005 on 32<sup>nd</sup> Street between Broadway and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue

#### **Unenclosed Sidewalk Café Applications:**

- ***BLT Main Street LLC***, application for an unenclosed sidewalk café with 7 tables and 14 seats at 111 East 22<sup>nd</sup> Street

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## **FULL BOARD MEETING:**

**Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.**

Fashion Institute of Technology, 227 West 27<sup>th</sup> Street, "A" Building, 8<sup>th</sup> 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 regarding 74-711 and 74-79 process
- Adoption of June 2005 Minutes

### **Committee Reports:**

### **Old Business/New Business:**

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

### ***Doreen Seligson***

Doreen Seligson has served on Community Board Five for the last three years, and she intends to stay! Ms. Seligson joined Community Board Five at the suggestion of friends, who at the time were involved with community boards of their own. "They thought I would be a good match." At the time, she was working in the area and found the neighborhood to be a unique mix of commercial and residential uses. Currently a Systems Analyst, Ms. Seligson spent many years working in the fields of Human Resources and Labor Relations and currently serves on the Board's City Services and Quality of Life Committees, having also served on the Youth and Human Services Committee.

When asked if it was challenging being a member of a Community Board, Ms. Seligson answered emphatically, "Yes! But I do like meeting a wide variety of people and it gives you the chance to interact with people you probably wouldn't get to meet on a regular basis." As for the task of balancing the responsibilities of Board duties with a work schedule and a personal life, Ms. Seligson states that, although there is a lot to juggle, she's been able to strike a balance. "I've found a workable mix."

Quality of life for residents is one of the more important issues affecting the neighborhood, as Ms. Seligson sees it. "Finding a successful mix of commercial establishments and residential development" is a current and ongoing challenge. "The nature of the city is changing. There used to be distinct areas that were dedicated to specific functions, either business districts or residential districts. Today, neighborhoods are not so clearly defined."

"The function of the Community Board is increasingly important", states Ms. Seligson. "The Community Board offers a grass roots voice" for the people who live and work in the area – an important means of checks and balances. "I really enjoy it. It's very fulfilling and a wonderful way to give back to the community."

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## Community Spotlight



Like so many aspiring musicians, Eva Swan needs her waitress job to support herself. But despite her busy schedule recording and working, Swan finds the time to run a charitable organization that brings singers like her to hospitals, nursing homes and senior

groups. "I wanted to use my talent to benefit others," she says, "But I can't believe how much pleasure it gives me back."

Called **Vocal Ease**, the organization has been putting on cabaret shows for the sick and the elderly since 1999. The mission of **Vocal Ease** is to provide audiences with first-rate entertainment and enhanced quality of life, performing for hospitals and nursing homes, as well as senior centers and residences. In the past six years, a variety of performers have done more than 300 shows, reaching a total population of 15,000. Within Community Board Five, **Vocal Ease** performs for Encore Senior Center, The Partnership for the Homeless, St. Francis of Assisi, and The Times Square.

**Vocal Ease** operates with a rotating roster of professional and amateur singers and musicians who volunteer their time. "The singers get a lot out of this. It's a place for them to work on songs they haven't done before [and] it's a great way to volunteer, because the work you're doing is something you love to do." Shows usually run about an hour for audiences between 100 and 120, with programs comprised mostly of old standards, pop tunes, and show tunes, focusing on those that are more uplifting. The performances provide more than just musical entertainment; they offer the opportunity for human and emotional contact, something many residents of senior centers are in need of. But the benefits are shared equally by the performers. "It's a chance to feel [like] something more than just...a robot, going in [to an audition] and giving 16 bars," states Kristoffer Lowe, a member of the all-volunteer singing group.

**Vocal Ease** is looking to expand its number of performances and facilities. If you know of senior centers or hospitals that would benefit from their work, you are invited to spread the word. They are also looking for volunteers of all kinds, from fundraisers to singers and accompanists. So stop singing in the shower and let your voice ring out in places where it can be appreciated. If you're a singer with a least four different songs in your repertoire, or a piano player with a facility for accompaniment, come bust out a tune! No auditions are required – **Vocal Ease** trusts you to be as good as you say - and rehearsals are a quick affair, taking place right before the performances. For more information contact **Vocal Ease** founder Eva Swan at 212.579.5386 or visit the groups website at [www.vocaleaseinc.org](http://www.vocaleaseinc.org)

The group's motto, "Songs from the Heart" proves accurate at every performance. Recently, at The Hallmark, a senior apartment complex in Battery City Park, resident Sylvia Elias asked, "Why do they do this?" When told it is volunteer work, her face lit up. "They make us feel good. That's important."

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## City Agency Announcements








**They're on the move!** - **New York City Transit** began the first phase of a system-wide rollout of the *Station Customer Assistance Agent* (SCA) program on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Station Agents assigned to seven subway stations in Manhattan have been

redeployed as Customer Service Agents. Out of the token booths, agents will be better able to provide a greater range of services and assistance to customers, one on one.





SCA Agents will be easily recognizable by their burgundy blazers or vests. They will be positioned outside burgundy colored Station Kiosks to provide directions and to assist with MetroCard Vending machines, as well as issue maps, timetables, brochures and other customer service materials. While SCA Agents will be able to identify problems with MetroCard machines, they will no longer sell cards, make change or have access to money.

Deployment to all 156 locations system-wide is expected to be completed by next spring.

The seven stations in Manhattan are:

-  Delancey Street – F Train
-  Chambers Street – J, M, Z Trains
-  14<sup>th</sup> Street/Union Square – N, R, Q, W Trains
-  23<sup>rd</sup> Street – 6 Train
-  34<sup>th</sup> Street/Penn Station – A, C, E Trains
-  34<sup>th</sup> Street/Herald Square – N, R, Q, W Trains
-  47-50<sup>th</sup> Streets/Rockefeller Center – B, D, F, V Trains

**Quality Control** – The following is a brief summary of the enforcement activity that was done by the Department of Consumer Affairs in Manhattan for the months of March and April.

-  90 Licensing violations
-  187 Violations for failing to have a license
-  100 Consumer Protection Law violations
-  419 DCA violations

Additionally, the Department of Consumer Affairs worked with undercover teens to enforce DCA laws against the sale of tobacco products to minors, resulting in 62 violations. For more information or to make a complaint, please contact the DCA at 212.487.4341

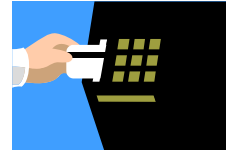


**Take Care New York!** – New Yorkers, especially those over the age of 50, may not be doing enough to keep themselves healthy. ***Take Care New York*** (TCNY), the City's health policy, provides a framework to improve the health of New Yorkers.

TCNY includes life-saving strategies such as cancer screenings, immunizations, keeping a healthy heart and living tobacco free. This year, the Department's *Summer Outreach Team* will conduct a range of presentations relevant to older adult health. To schedule a presentation to your organization or group, please contact the Outreach Coordinator, Rebecca Berger, at 347.723.1436 or e-mail her at [rberger1@health.nyc.gov](mailto:rberger1@health.nyc.gov) TCNY has a multi-lingual Speakers Bureau so please inform them of your language needs. For current information on TCNY as well as other health-related items, you may subscribe to receive updates on their website at [www.nyc.gov/health/email](http://www.nyc.gov/health/email)

## **Caveat Emptor!** - *The New York City Department of*

*Consumer Affairs* (DCA) fosters a marketplace that consumers can trust and in which honest businesses can thrive. Whether you are a business owner or a consumer, there are many things you should know about your rights and responsibilities. All businesses have the right to set their own return policy. However,



merchants who do not give cash refunds for non-defective, unused merchandise must conspicuously post a sign at the cash register, at the store entrance or at the point where goods are displayed, disclosing their refund policy, credit or exchange policy and the conditions under which it applies. If there is no sign, the business must give the consumer a refund within 20 days. All businesses must provide an itemized receipt for purchases more than \$20, as well as display all limitations on credit card purchases.

There are 55 different categories of businesses that need to be licensed. If you own a business, make sure you have a license to avoid fines or possible padlock. For a full list of businesses that require a license, to file a complaint or to request a free brochure, DIAL 311, the City's 24-hour citizen service hotline. Online, you can visit the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs web site to download brochures and sign up for regular consumer alerts at [www.nyc.gov/consumers](http://www.nyc.gov/consumers).

**The New York State Department of Transportation** has published the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement* for the Route 9A Project/Lower Manhattan Redevelopment. The document is posted on the project web site @ [www.route9a.info](http://www.route9a.info) Copies may also be requested by calling 212.201.0917. The FSEIS is also available for review at the following offices:

- *Community Board 1* – 49-51 Chambers St., Rm. 712
- *Community Board 2* – 3 Washington Square Village, Room 1A
- *Community Board 3* – 59 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street
- *Community Board 4* – 330 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite. 2618

**Don't Leave Home Without It** – The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), Bureau of HIV Prevention and Control announces the ***Free Condom Initiative***. HIV/AIDS prevention and care are among our most critical public health priorities. Condoms prevent the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, as well as unwanted pregnancies. Beginning immediately, organizations can order free condoms and lubricant for distribution in NYC. Orders will be sent to organizations within 10 days. All items ordered through this program must be distributed by groups ***free of charge***. Orders may be placed by groups online at [www.nyc.gov/health/condoms](http://www.nyc.gov/health/condoms) Individuals may order condoms and lubricant online at [www.nyc.gov/html/doh/std/std2.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/std/std2.shtml)

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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: Det. Mike Petrillo at 212-741-8226
- **13th Precinct** - Every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm. Contact: P.O. Scott Kimmins 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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## 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@cb5manhattan.org](mailto:office@cb5manhattan.org)**  
**We're on the Web!**  
**[www.cb5manhattan.org](http://www.cb5manhattan.org)**

If your organization would like to publicize an event in **The Midtown Manhattan**, email your request to: [office@cb5manhattan.org](mailto: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.

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